

April 2023

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Will Hawkins
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Curtis Marshall
Ben Waddell
Beth Waddell
Sheila Middlebrooks

Communications

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org
Phil Abers
President@DirtDaubers.org
Mark Carlson
PlantSales@DirtDaubers.org

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is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

March was a great month for the club. We had a great tour at Boris Bauer's home. The magnolia blooms were magnificent and the Bauers' were gracious hosts. To close the month, we had a fantastic spring plant sale surpassing all sales figures in recent years.

This month promises to be very busy. Members can tour Betty Montgomery's garden mid-month. April 22 is Community Day at Hatcher Garden with SMGC being a co-sponsor. In early May, Mary Ann Hipp's garden will be open for visitors. A number of people at the plant sale expressed interest in Community Day and visiting Mary Ann's garden. These events and the excitement they create for the club will propel us successfully into the future. Please participate in these upcoming events and invite your friends and family to join us. Let's keep the momentum going!

Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker April 17, 2023

"Landscape Pest Management"



This presentation will briefly discuss the fundamentals of managing pests in the landscape with emphasis on recent research into new products and procedures. The role of pesticides in pest management will be discussed including trends in product development and addressing public perceptions..

1948 **75th** 2023

Anniversary



<https://www.facebook.com/SMGCDirtDaubers/>



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.

As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



2023 Litter pickup schedule

June 10 rain date **Jun 17**

Sept. 9 rain date **Sep 16**

Dec. 9 rain date **Dec 16**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Renew Now 2023 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Upcoming Events



Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

Betty's garden will be open on Saturday, April 15 for the Garden Conservancy, 10 to 4. See <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days> Her garden will also be open for special friends on Sunday, April 16 from 12 to 4. The Men's Garden Club is included on this date.

Save the Date – May 6, 2023 - Garden Tour

On May 6, 2023, the gardens of Mary Ann Hipp will be open to the public. We will be showcasing her gardening talents and raising the awareness of our Club. Please spread the word and make this a great event.





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Biography

Jim Weeks

I worked as a physicist for the Army for 9 years and then entered Medical School at age 31. In Spartanburg, I practiced ophthalmology from 1985-2010, serving as president of the county medical society in 1999.

Since getting a pre-planted tray of Zinnias from Burpee as a child, I've always had an interest in gardening. I took the Master Gardener course in 2006-2007 and have served on the board of the Master Gardeners of the Piedmont since then, acting as president in 2016 and 2017. I volunteered with the Plant a Row for the Hungry for 12 years; age caused me to transition to staffing the Farmer's Market and, at times, the Clemson Extension Office in Spartanburg County. I was on the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club board as well for a few years, coordinating the club's Landscape Evaluation project for the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce.

I also volunteer with the American Cancer Society (ACS), serving on the local Relay for Life Committee as well as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and as a volunteer lobbyist for ACS issues. I also usher at St. Paul's Catholic Church. I read constantly, work out at Planet Fitness and am a Villanova Basketball fanatic.



Henry Pittman: Director Emeritus Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Henry Pittman was raised on a farm in eastern South Carolina near Bishopville. As the youngest and only boy in a family of girls, Henry always received a lot of instructions. Sweet potatoes were a main winter meal. Potatoes were stored in a ground mound outside the house. He graduated from Clemson University after World War II with an engineering degree.

As an ROTC member, he was also a member of a special ROTC marching cadets' unit. He began working at the Milliken Pendleton plant, then moved to Spartanburg in the early 1960's to work for Milliken Chemical. Henry joined the SMGC and raised show quality camellias in a greenhouse beside his house. In 1967, he moved to Virginia to work for Burlington, then returned in the early 1970's to again work for Milliken Research. The first SMGC street tree planting in 1976 along North Pine Street was organized by Henry. The Sweet Gum trees, which were later cut down by a billboard company, were part of this planting. The Sweet Gum trees survived and are now fully grown. A cash payment was made to the SMGC for this act. Even before this event, Henry did not care for billboards.

Our first SMGC tree sale was organized by Henry. 'Carolina Beauty' Crepe Myrtles, white and pink Dogwoods were potted in Cryovac (porous) bags with leaf compost from Harold Hatcher's garden. In the early 1980's, Henry and Harold planted Crepe Myrtles and Oak trees from the SMGC tree bank along East Main Street. The next large planting was along Hwy 221 from I-26 to SC 295. Highway Beautification Funds were used to have a commercial vendor furnish and plant along this roadway. About half of these trees remain along the highway. The last planting was along Business I-85. Again, Beautification Funds were used for a commercial vendor to plant trees along this highway. After retirement, Henry started a small nursery on his rental property. The Chinese Fringe trees that were sold at the SMGC tree sale for several years came from this nursery.

For many years, Henry led an effort to reduce Crepe "Murder". This effort has had limited success as tops of Crepe Myrtles are still being cut off. Henry helped with organizing and planning for the National Men's Garden Club Convention held in Spartanburg in 2006. SMGC voted to leave the National organization shortly after this convention. Henry continues to remind our club of the SMGC past by his history book – "And The Trees Remain." For his many beautification efforts, Henry was awarded the "Order of the Palmetto" during the SMGC 60-year celebration dinner in 2008.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

The range of colors
of our native azaleas
is breathtaking.



Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

Creekside Garden & Nursery
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Member Musing

By Phil Abers

I am sure many of you have had a defining moment when you decided that you liked gardening. I have heard of mothers, fathers, and grandparents as inspiration for future gardeners. I can't remember a single event that triggered my interest in gardening. What follows is my path to the gardening world.

As a 4-year-old, I remember my mother planting marigolds. The bright color and strong scent were fascinating and every time I am around marigolds, I think of my mom. When we lived in Illinois, my parents had my brother, sister, and I plant a garden consisting of two tomatoes, two peppers, and two egg plants each. It was exciting to see produce from our little garden. We also went to the raspberry patch to pick raspberries for our cereal.

At my first house in Texas, I decided to plant a vegetable garden. We did not have the internet, and I was too impatient to study gardening techniques. I did know enough to add organic matter to the heavy alkaline soil of the Dallas area. I bought a couple of fruit trees without knowing what varieties grow best there. The peach tree was phenomenal. The pears from the pear tree could substitute for rocks.

When I retired, I was not sure how I would spend my time. I joined the SMGC after moving to Inman in 2015 and have been active ever since. I had a few suspicious plants on my property and made the mistake of asking Newt Hardie to identify the suspects. For those of you who knew Newt, you are not surprised that I was quickly drafted as a Trees Coalition volunteer. I have been removing invasive plants from public lands in Spartanburg for 7 years.

Late in 2015, I met Everette Lineberger at the Inman Farmers Market. Edie and I signed up for a tour of iris gardens and became members of the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society. Last year we were on the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society's garden tour and I had actually learned enough about irises to have a good display.

As I have gradually become more involved in gardening over my lifetime, I have found more enjoyment from the effort and results. What a lucky person to be able to plant and create spaces of enjoyment and beauty. This article has been written by one happy gardener!

History of the club continues on the following pages.

It was probably 1977 that Men's Garden Clubs of American initiated manning its Board of Directors with a representative of each Region. Everette Seixas was the first national director representing the Blue Ridge Region

Ezell's daughter Bertha and her husband Emmett McArthur were frequent representatives of the Club at national meetings. Other members who attended through the mid 1990s were John Cantrell and Arden Camp. Serving on the National Board of Directors over the years, in addition to Lea and Ezell, were Everette Seixas, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Henry Pittman and Jim Bagwell. Board meetings were conducted at each annual convention and the Board met in November each year. That fall meeting was hosted by the Spartanburg MGC in 1999 when Asheville's Steve Smith was national president; the Milliken Company was an important partner in that endeavor.

The MGCA published its first book, *A to Z Hints for the Vegetable Gardener*, in 1936. Originally the bimonthly magazine, *The Gardener*, published hints and suggestions on gardening which were included in the organized book of approximately 120 pages. Having gone through 17 printings in 1998, its popularity was, and is still, great. Many clubs regularly present a copy to new members, and take orders from older members.

National Director Bartram participated in the 1996 convention in Colorado Springs and again the next year in Spokane, Washington, when Linda McHam was a winner in National's photography contest. Pittman received one of National's two Presidential Citations for his work as Publicity/Public Relations chairman, for authorship of the brochure on Club Building, and for his Regional work in organizing new clubs.

The 1998 Convention was in Asheville, NC, and was attended by 10 members from the SMGC which was responsible for the Hospitality Room. Bob Almond was chairman of that committee. Bartram continued as National Director and Linda McHam received her second top award for her photograph which was published in the 1999 National Calendar.

The Club was represented by Pittman at the 2000 Green Bay, Wisconsin, Convention when

Charles Marley of the Asheville Club served as National Director. In 2002 at Minneapolis, based on the Club's nomination when Bill Wilson was president, Milliken & Co. was given the National Award for Outstanding Commercial Landscape. The much deserved plaque was presented to Mr. Roger Milliken at a large company sharing rally by Bartram and



Pittman later that year. The MGC was honored in 2003 when National President Honey Barnekoff visited Spartanburg in preparation for the 2006 Convention to be held in the city. She received good local newspaper publicity and was entertained at Wofford College and at the homes of Linda McHam and Jane and Jim Bagwell.

In 2004, the Kansas City convention was attended by Pittman as National Director. In 2005, the Bagwells, Don and Denie Crowder and President Everette Lineberger and his wife Ann attended the important convention in Juniper Beach, Florida. Attending members gleaned much valuable information and advice for preparation for the upcoming Spartanburg convention.

2006 was a significant year for both the City and the Club which hosted the three-day convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America in April. McHam and Crowder served as co-chairs for the planning committee and did a magnificent job with support from the convention executive committee composed of Lineberger, Bagwell, and Bob Hamilton (Convention Treasurer with back up from Bob Almond and Bagwell) and some 20 committees.²

The theme of the convention was "Enhancing the Enhancements" in hopes that knowing how many Spartanburg organizations had worked on beautifications would be an inspiration for other clubs to encourage such activity in their communities. In addition to promoting the treescapes of the SMGC, the Spot of Pride program, the work of the group of One Hundred, the City, and other organizations, tours of Hatcher Garden, Milliken's Arboretum and landscape were featured. A daily four-page color newsletter, the *ETE Express: Enhancing the Enhancements, What Spartanburg Has Done* was written and published by Jeff Hayes. It was a valuable contribution to the meeting. Mr. Milliken's Noble Tree Foundation strengthened the convention by providing the presence of noted tree expert Dr. Mike Dirr who participated in the tours and was the feature speaker at the closing banquet. The Club managed the convention so successfully that excess funds remained;



they were contributed to the National Office for repair of its building

Following the convention, national activity continued. Dr. Dianne Fergusson was the chair of National's Book Review Committee, and Pittman was a national director

² The Convention's Planning Organization Chart is in Appendix 35

representing the Blue Ridge Region. Tasso Ghionis, local chair of the Club's Scholarship Committee, presented the top national scholarship winner, Clemson University horticulture senior Matthew Cousins, with TGOA /MGCA's \$1,000 award, plus Cousins and four other local students received \$250 each from the Spartanburg MGC. The Club's Jane and Jim Bagwell won the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for their outstanding home grounds and gardens.

The National Board of Directors Meeting held in Kendallville, Indiana, in November, 2006, was attended by Pittman who received many compliments on Spartanburg and the quality of the convention. He was officially replaced by Bagwell to represent the Club and the Region on the TGOA /MGCA Board. Bagwell and his wife, Jane, joined the former director at the 2007 National Convention in Rockford, Illinois, in July where Bagwell accepted the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for that year's winner, member Linda Cobb.

Bagwell had the honor at the 2008 National Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, of receiving another award for Linda Cobb; this one was the Golden Quill Award for her high quality horticulture-related writing. Perhaps of even greater significance, he accepted SMGC's National Award for the largest increase in membership. And that year, Bagwell began service on National's E&I Committee which manages the large endowment fund.

More Spartanburg recognition occurred at the 2009 National Convention in Santa Rosa, California, which was attended by the Bagwells and Dr. Bob Reynolds and his wife Ina. There, member Terrie Rourke received the National Home Landscape Award, analogous to Milliken's 2002 *commercial* landscape award.

National affiliation offered many material perks that were of local value. These included student scholarships awards, program and audio-visual aids, leader guides, individual member participation in the prestigious annual photography contest, and many others. But perhaps the most valuable from a monetary standpoint was the federal tax exemption for monetary contributors—the 501(c)3—which allowed financial contributors to the Club to properly claim tax exemption for their gifts. This not only encouraged contributions to the Club for its community enhancement projects, but was extremely beneficial to its Kudzu Coalition Project before the Coalition qualified for organizational independence and procured its own tax status in 2007.

As with most organizations, TGOA/MGCA underwent a declining membership and a tighter budget over the years. *The Gardener* magazine, while of significant value, was a large expense item which was considered for elimination. This was accomplished in 2005 in a positive way by Former National President Honey Barnekoff developing the valuable agreement between National and the prestigious American Horticultural Society. As a "Horticultural Partner" with AHS, TGOA /MGCA members were invited to join AHS at a very significant discount, and have all the many privileges of its membership, including reception of its very high quality magazine *The American Gardener*. Many members took advantage of this valuable opportunity.