

# May 2023

## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



### *Welcoming Men & Women*

#### **Officers**

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

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#### ***Gardening & Beautification***

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**

Spring time is our time. To see the plants growing and the flowers blooming are the high point of the year for many gardeners. Our club is working hard to bloom along with nature. We had an excellent presentation at our regular club meeting by Bruce Fraedrich on Pest Management. We put on a good performance at the Community Day event on April 22 hosted by Hatcher Garden. While the weather did not co-operate, the club members came prepared and helped sell the club to the public.

We had a tree planting demonstration, a discussion on invasive plants and other activities for Community Day. We gave away packets of elderberry seeds, some trees and iris. Considering the weather, the event went very well. Thanks to Darvin Helvy for spearheading this effort. The garden tour at Mary Ann Hipp's house is the culmination of our spring activities. See the pictures from the event in this newsletter. Please share ideas for future events and ways to promote our club to the general public. We are worth the effort!

### **Dr Jon Storm SMGC Speaker May 15, 2023**

#### **"Raising Cane and Silk: How Giant Cane and White Mulberry Influenced the History of SC"**



Our May presenter will be Dr Jon Storm, Associate Professor of Biology at USC Upstate and author of a Field Guide to the Southern Piedmont. His presentation entitled "Raising Cane and Silk: How Giant Cane and White Mulberry Influenced the History of SC" will discuss how two plants played key roles in the history of South Carolina.

Join us on Monday, May 15 at 7pm at the Health Sciences Building on the Spartanburg Community College Campus. The presentation is open to the public free of charge.

**For the record:** The May board meeting was canceled this month due to scheduling conflicts. Board reports were submitted to the Secretary and are on file.



<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

### PLANT SWAP - Sunday, May 21

Sponsored by the Spartanburg County Library and Spartanburg Master Gardeners in the Headquarters Library Atrium, 151 S. Church Street, Spartanburg SC

- The event is free and open to the public.
- A participant is limited to three donations.
- At registration and in exchange for the donated plants, participant will be given tokens to claim three plants. Participants donating fewer than three plants will receive commensurately reduced tokens.
- Plants can be NO LARGER than one-gallon containers. Four-inch square or round pots are preferred.
- Donations are received 2:30p to 3:45p. Claims will take place from 4p to 5p.
- Only healthy plants with reasonable roots are allowed. Plants can be self-propagated, seed-sown, or purchased.
- All plants must be identified (shrub, tree, herb, etc) and labeled (for sun/shade/dry/wet). Volunteers will assist with labeling, if needed.
- To claim a plant, the token must be inserted into the plant. The chosen plant should be removed from the table to prevent double claims for the same plant.



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## Biography

### *Phil Abers*



Phil was born in the suburbs of Chicago. Just before 6<sup>th</sup> grade his family moved to California. Phil obtained a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of California Berkeley. While some people are aware of his engineering degree, they may not know that Phil received a varsity letter playing soccer. He was a starter on the team, but not a star.

After college, Phil escaped California and spent brief periods of time in Renton, WA and Lake Charles, LA. Phil met his wife, Edie, in Lake Charles. They lived in Garland, TX, a suburb of Dallas, for 10 years where their son, Lou, was born. Then it was back to California for 3 years to spend time with family when Phil joined Fluor Engineers. After re-escaping from California, Phil had a one-year assignment in Venezuela on a heavy crude oil project. He was there for just one month, when the country experienced an attempted coup. It was not the most comforting experience to hear gun shots and see a plane crash at the local city airport.

The family then moved to New Jersey and had the honor of paying their high taxes. He worked in the NJ area for 22 years with three years off for good behavior. Those three years were spent in South Africa executing oil refinery projects. There were many great things to see in Southern

Africa with the wildlife in the game parks being especially exciting.

For almost the entirety of Phil's career, he performed design work and supervised design for the oil refining industry. He did what was called plant design in reference to chemical plants and oil processing plants. Thus, his career did involve working with plants! Phil's expertise was in sulfur plant design. Removing the sulfur from the crude oil and products greatly improved the environment.

For many years, Phil and his brother, Larry, would take hiking, camping and rafting trips. They spent two weeks in Yellowstone/Grand Tetons one year. Another year, they rafted for two weeks on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Being outdoors is an amazing experience.

Their final escape was from NJ. Phil and Edie chose Inman, SC as a place to retire. They feel they made a good choice. The weather is great, the outdoor recreation is superb and the garden club is outstanding!

### *Everette Lineberger*



The Rev. Everette Lineberger was born on February 16, 1929, near Dallas, NC. Having grown up on a farm, he developed a love for horticulture at an early age. Upon retirement, he followed in his parents' footsteps, who grew and sold flowers, and began his second career raising and growing irises, peonies, and daylilies.

A former president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Pastor Lineberger had many interests but was perhaps best known for his irises and daylilies which he and his wife grew and sold from Quail Hill Gardens in Inman from 1986 to 2009. He hybridized, named, and sold fourteen new iris cultivars and served as Board, and/or Committee member, of the American Iris Society for twelve years. In 2012, he was named Emeritus Member of the Men's Garden Club Board of Directors after previously being named an Emeritus Judge of the American Iris Society.

Everette was always eager to share his endless amounts knowledge about all living things with everyone. He truly was a great teacher and mentor to so many. He never seemed to be in a hurry when talking with you and was always there to lend a helping hand. He is truly missed, but his legacy lives on in all of us.



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Photography  
by Linda McHam



Mary Ann Hipp (3rd from left) welcomes visitors to her open garden on Saturday, May 6. The weather was perfect.



The entrance to Mary Ann Hipp's house and garden was at peak bloom with irises and peonies featured near the drive.



Jim Weeks walks along the creek in the lower part of the garden

**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 Will Hawkins**

I have paid several visits to the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville during various times of year. It is located on land in the Pisgah National Forest with a special use permit issued by the National Forests in North Carolina. It truly is a delightful place to visit and stroll or take a picnic if you desire. With so many different areas and 434 acres, you will be able to get ideas and inspiration for your own gardens and landscapes.

The concept for the arboretum originally took place in 1898 by Frederick Olmsted. The Arboretum that exists today was established in 1986 by the General Assembly of North Carolina. The arboretum is continually developing. Even if you have visited before, schedule another visit because you will find new ideas, plants and garden vignettes to see and experience. Take a notebook and camera so that you can take ideas home with you.

Some of the unique gardens there include the Blue Ridge Quilt Garden, the Cliff Dickenson Holly Garden, the National Native Azalea Repository, Plant Professional Landscape Garden, Plants of Promise Garden, a Stream Garden and a Garden Railway. There is also a extensive Bonsai collection.

The main building has a museum shop and small cafe. If you are in the Asheville area, take a few hours to see all that the arboretum has to offer! See <https://www.ncarboretum.org/>.



**History of the club continues on the following pages.**

## Chapter 11

### Controlling the Green Giant: THE KUDZU COALITION

*Kudzu is a vine that when left uncontrolled will eventually grow over almost any fixed object in its proximity including other vegetation.*

*Kudzu, over a period of several years, will kill trees by blocking the sunlight and for this and other reasons many would like to find ways to get rid of it.*

- Jack Anthony: [jjanthony.com](http://jjanthony.com)

In late 1997, a group of Men's Garden Club members met with City Manager Roy Lane and the city engineer, Mike Garrett. According to a club member's report of that November meeting, the purpose was "to review City landscape plans and [for them to] hear our input." Club members participating were George Gunter (Club president), Co Irwin (Club member, head of PRIDE Task Force and later organizer of Trees Spartanburg) and Henry Pittman (chairman of the Club's tree committee). In addition to complimenting Lane and Garrett for their "attitude and action toward beautification of Spartanburg," the report said, "We agreed the re-furbishing of the S. Pine Cherry/Dogwood plantings is an ideal one for the MGC to work on with the City. The layout I [Pittman] developed may be a beginning; George will appoint a committee to work on details which we will review with the City prior to execution. The idea is for the MGC to organize and manage, and for the City to finance." The existing cherry plantings referred to consisted of some 250 planted 10 or 15 years earlier, probably by the City, but possibly with Men's Garden Club assistance.

The appointed committee of the Club included Lyn Savor, Hollis Taylor and Pittman; it developed a plan for planting 120 new Yoshino Cherry Trees on South Pine and this was completed in early 1998. An additional 40 Cherry trees were added to this area in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2010. These new trees, and the old ones, prospered reasonably, even though

they were neglected, particularly with respect to two ongoing problems—litter and Kudzu infestations.

Both of these problems were worrisome to recently retired Milliken executive Newt Hardie who was an active member of the Men’s Garden Club. He had completed the local Clemson Extension Service’s Master Gardener Course, and selected improving the appearance of South Pine Street as his required 40-hours of community service in 2001.<sup>1</sup> It soon became apparent that the kudzu was a greater problem than the litter. It was engulfing and smothering many of the Yoshino Cherries, particularly those near the railroad overpass south of the former Draper plant.

Fearing damage to the cherries and wanting to avoid any contaminants running

**THE GREEN MENACE / ITS EVERYWHERE**

Coalition trying to strangle pesky vine.

By Like Cornell, Staff Writer

Newt Hardie is wringing the neck of the vine that swallowed the south. A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying

A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying and developing ways to force kudzu to cough up sections of Spartanburg’s landscape. And some researchers say Hardie’s efforts could have national implications in the fight against what is a growing problem for many Southern cities — urban kudzu.

Formed in October 2004, the Hardie-led Coalition to Control Kudzu has 20 kudzu-killing sites in and outside of Spartanburg.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club sponsors the coalition, which has participating members from various other groups including local master gardeners and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

Marked with signs, the test locations are a living laboratory for Hardie’s non-herbicidal approach to killing kudzu.

One method — covering patches with black and clear plastic tarps —appears to be an effective way to defoliate the vines. Another approach requires folks to get on their knees and dig out “crowns” by hand.

downhill into the nearby creek, Hardie decided to not use herbicides, but to emphasize mechanical methods that were more environmentally friendly. After searching the Internet for help in non-chemical methods, he was disappointed to find that little work had been done. In fact, many websites mentioned that digging up the entire kudzu root was necessary to completely kill it.

Hardie found this to be not true. He made a breakthrough in kudzu control when he noticed that kudzu plants did not survive after the crown was removed, the underground woody knot at the juncture of the root and the vines. He set up tests using construction flags to meticulously mark the locations where he decapitated crowns from the roots. After two years it was clear that the roots did not have to be dug up. The websites were wrong. Complete eradication did not require all roots to be removed.

After three years of attacking the Kudzu problem around the cherry trees across South Pine Street from Carolina Garden World using trial and error methods, success was noticeable even to those driving by. There was no kudzu in the grove of trees and the green monster no longer came to the edge of the street.

<sup>1</sup>Newt Hardie became the main Men’s Garden Club member attending the beautification of South Pine Street, not only in fighting kudzu, but in picking up litter and as the Club’s leader in working with the City in planting an additional approximately 40 new or replacement Yoshino Cherry trees along this highway in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He, with help from an MGC team, also was the source of watering, pruning and maintaining the cherry trees, as well as learning to control the kudzu. He became the Club’s South Pine Street *Czar*. His *tree* work is covered in detail in Chapter 5 on treescaping.