

August 2023 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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

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

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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

We are headed toward the end of summer and looking forward to more outdoor activities with pleasant weather. We have three upcoming events this fall. These are: the September Picnic, the Anniversary Celebration Dinner and a Community Day co-sponsored by Hatcher Garden. We hope to have additional events and use these opportunities to recruit new members.

The Club has recently printed new business cards highlighting our 75th anniversary. A new brochure is being developed that gives an overview of the club and provides our contact information. The brochures are to be used to help recruit new members. Copies will be passed out to members attending the August general meeting. We ask that each member give these brochures to people you meet who expresses an interest in gardening. Let's fill up our meeting room with gardeners!

Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker August 21, 2023

"The Noble Tree Foundation"



The Noble Tree Foundation was established nearly twenty-five years ago with the vision to educate, inform and inspire people in the Spartanburg community about trees and their value to the environment. Since its inception, the foundation has partnered with many civic and government agencies to achieve those goals and continues to be an active force in promoting the value of trees in the Spartanburg community. The presentation will provide a brief overview of some of the projects completed by the foundation, discuss activities that are currently underway and provide ways that club members can get involved.



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

Sept. 9 rain date **Sept 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

Garden Club Picnic, Monday, September 18 at the SCC Pavilion - The picnic will start at 6 PM. The club will furnish hamburgers, buns and fixings. It is suggested that members with last names starting from A through M bring side dishes and those with last names starting with N through Z bring desserts.

Fall Plant Sale will be Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 from 8 AM - 2 PM both days.

75th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Piedmont Club - Thursday, November 9



Fall Community Day in partnership with Hatcher Garden - Saturday, November 11





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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

2024 Officer/Director Member Candidates

Club Officer Nominations:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Phil Abers
Beth Waddell
Denie Crowder
Sheila Middlebrooks

New Directors Nominations:

Darvin Helvy
Linda McHam
Curtis Marshall
Joan Marshall
Daphne Sawyer



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Biography

Jack Turner

On February 2nd, 1942, I was born at my grandmother's house. I was born at home in Milner, Colorado. The doctor and hospital were located 20 miles away, so you needed to drive there for medical problems including child birth. For major events the doctor would visit, but the snowstorm had blocked the roads so they could not take mom to the hospital. The doctor had come by earlier in the day and felt like mom would be fine. So, with grandma's help, I arrived in the world.

My dad was an underground coal miner. The company did not allow him time off for the birth of a child, so he was not there. We continued to live in Milner, Colorado until I was 10. My early education (grades 1,2 and 3) was in a one room schoolhouse with the same teacher. In 1950 dad left the mine and took over management of a cattle ranch in the town of Meeker, Colorado. This is where I learned about farming, ranching, hunting, fishing and machines.

It was in Meeker where I finished my early education and graduated from high school. After finishing high school, the major issue was whether I was going to continue with the ranch business or go on to college. I found a local two-year college which provided funds for scholarships, plus I discovered finding a job was not difficult. However, after two years of college I was left with the question "where am I going with my education."

This was 1962 and President John Kennedy was asking young people "ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country" and I answered that call by joining the Peace Corp and spent two years in Niger, a former French West African nation. This country was newly liberated from France and the primary industry was raising cattle and goats. My project was grassland fire control. We were looking for ways to reduce or eliminate grass fires. By eliminating grass fires the amount of forage for animals could increase. We used tractors to cut fire breaks and tried to use oxen to do the same job. The tractors were difficult to maintain and costly to fuel; the oxen were slow and often were stolen and used as a food supply. In general, this was not a very successful project.

When finished my time in Africa, I returned to college at Colorado State University to finish an under graduate degree in soil science. It was during my time at Colorado State that I met and married my wife. When I finished my degree, Jane and I moved to South Dakota State University where I finished a Master's degree in soil bacteriology. Our first winter in South Dakota saw the arrival of our first child.

When I finished my master's degree, we headed south to the University of Oklahoma where I finish a PhD. In Oklahoma we added another girl to our family. Then in 1974 the family headed east to Spartanburg SC. I took a job at a new University. This school, named University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, was a small two-year degree granting school and was one of several branch campuses of the University of South Carolina. The student body at the time was around 900 with a goal of a 1000. By state law when they reached 1,000 full time students, they could offer bachelor's degrees. Thus, our target was 1000 which we reached in 1975. Much of the next 4 years were spent designing and implementing degree programs.

In 1978 I helped in the design of a walking trail system for Spartanburg known as a Greenway for Spartanburg, but the opposition for the project was much more than I was willing to deal with, so I abandoned the project. At this point in time, I found that the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg provided an outlet for my desire for community involvement.

The most active projects at that time were tree planting and community gardens. Often the trees were grown by seedlings or cuttings until they were large enough to permanently plant them. This task was overseen by Harold Hatcher.

It was through the Men Garden Club that Jane and I met Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher and it was through the Hatchers that Jane became an active member of the MCG. Many of the trees that were planted are still standing and several of the mini-gardens are still present.

In the early 1990s, I had moved on to water quality studies in Spartanburg County. Most of this type of research was funded by SC DHEC, EPA and the local water districts. These studies became the foundation for the Watershed Ecology Center. The Center was designed to take information learned in the water studies and take them into schools. The K-8 water-based program was designed to provide information about water, watersheds, as well as the plants and animals living in these areas. All the programs are designed to meet state education standards. The programs are very popular with local schools. We contact over 20,000 students each academic year. These programs are free to the schools in the county and are funded mostly through private funds.

In addition to my work in the area of water quality, I like to carve wooden animals. I also like to work with hot irons in the forge. Jane and I have enjoyed our 58 years together and watching our daughters and their husbands achieve their dreams. Most of all, we have enjoyed watching the grandkids grow and mature.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

Lycoris squamigera (Resurrection
Lily, Surprise Lily)



Gardenia



Liriope
'Monroe's
White'

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



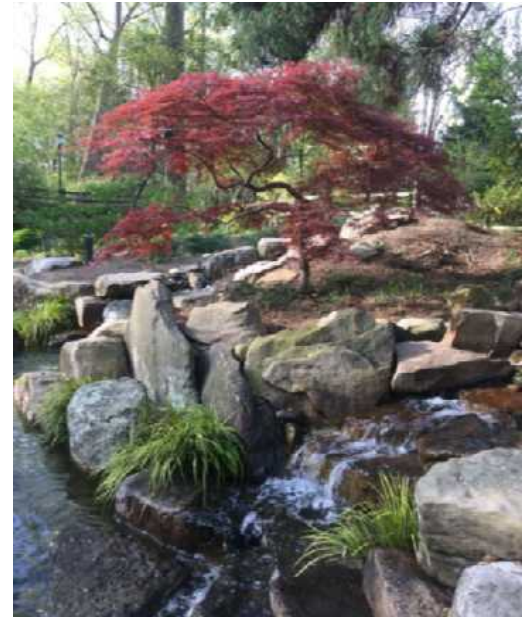
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Member Musing By Mark Carlson

There are two local botanical gardens that should be on your list to visit. Both are located on University of North Carolina campuses, Charlotte and Asheville. The gardens are both 10 acres in size, and the one in Charlotte also has a hothouse for tropical plants. They are each about an hour and a half drive from Spartanburg so they are easy day trips. It is interesting to note that neither of the universities offers a degree in horticulture. Asheville does offer a degree in environmental science with a focus on the Blue Ridge. The garden in Charlotte was started by a biology professor, and the one in Asheville is actually an independent nonprofit garden.

My first visit to the garden in Charlotte was this last June. (The free parking area is located in front of the hothouse.) As you would expect, there a lot of exotic plants in the hothouse that you will not find in our area. There are three separate gardens located in the botanical garden: the Susie Harwood Garden, the Van Landingham Glen, and the Mellichamp Native Terrace. The Van Landingham Glen is the largest section of the garden and is devoted mostly to natives. There are many paths wandering through this garden, so is possible to get a nice walk in while you are there. The Susan Harwood Garden is broken up into 36 separate areas that have between seven and 99 plants in them. This is a more formal garden with a great deal of plant material. You are sure to get some ideas from walking through this garden. The Mellichamp Native Terrace is a history of medicinal, economic, and food producing plants in the Piedmont. Most of the plants are labeled. One of the specimens that was not labeled was a northern water snake.



The garden in Asheville is dedicated to the study and promotion of the native plants and habitats of the Southern Appalachians. As such it is composed of native plants that support the local insects, birds and animals that make up the flora and fauna of the Blue Ridge. Their literature suggests visiting in mid-April to catch the ephemerals and spring blooming plants, and mid-August to catch the many sun-loving perennials. I have not been to this garden yet, but plan to within the next few weeks. For those that like to have a second reason to visit an area, there are reportedly a number of establishments in Asheville that specialize in making and selling foods containing chocolate.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Publicity: The show was fortunate to receive excellent local media coverage over the years. Many different club members were responsible for the publicity: Snow Marshall, Griff Smith, Sidney Dunlap, Henry Pittman and Sid Moorhead were some of the members who arranged publicity. A beautiful color photograph with Virginia New showing two of her roses was in the 1990 weekly newspaper, *The Paper*. A Rose Show schedule and invitation were mailed to each exhibitor who had participated in the previous two shows.

The schedule was initially printed by Julian Foster as a multi-page booklet with a full-color cover. This schedule was very expensive to produce. A single sheet, printed both sides, was the next schedule form selected. Later, availability of office copiers allowed the schedule to be printed on double-sided single sheets which greatly reduced the schedule cost. The early schedules listed the named rose *variety* as a rose class. Later this was expanded to also include a rose *color* within each given rose class. However, the color modification was not used and the table displays were arranged alphabetically by the general category of class.

Judges: All judges were accredited by the American Rose Society. Dr. Arthur Cottingham arranged for the judges for several years and was very helpful in scheduling the MGC Rose Show to avoid conflict with other shows within this area. This scheduling was essential for the success of the Club's smaller show, so most of the Club's shows were held in the fall to avoid conflict. Cottingham was also able to have the Men's Garden Club certified as an affiliate of the American Rose Society so the Club would be able to award its prestigious Rose Show Certificates to winners.

Each Rose Show had at least six judges. This allowed forming three teams of two judges each to judge selected rose classes. All the judges participated in selecting the Queen, King, and Princess of the show. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jeremias from Newberry were judges in most of the Club's shows over the years. Mrs. Allene Able, Mrs. Viola Langford, and Mrs. Hazel Chapman, all from Saluda, South Carolina, judged many of the shows.

Exhibitors: Local exhibitors who were most consistent in their participation were Dr. Gil Hooper, Jerry Dobslaw and Mrs. Alfred New. Dobslaw was perhaps the most exhibit quality rose grower. He won Queen of the Show in several neighboring Rose shows. His formula for success required consistent watering, fertilization, and spraying to achieve quality roses. After winning the top local award—the Claude Sherrill Trophy—several years in a row, he stopped entering this challenge class. Hooper was a big help in setting up and organizing the roses during the show, even though he was usually busy arranging his own roses for display. Mrs. New offered new help with this task after Hooper moved to Florida. Out-of-state exhibitors were not unusual, and were an essential part of the show's success.



Everything's rosy Dr. John A. Fincher, president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, examines roses from his garden in preparation for the club's 21st Rose Show. The show will be held from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday at Hillcrest Mall. Judging begins at 10 a.m. and prize roses will be sold to the public after the show at 7 p.m.

This appeared in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* September 6, 1993

12 – THE ROSE SHOW

The exhibitors were always ready to start at six o'clock as soon as the mall doors were opened. The exhibitors shaped and formed their roses to obtain their desired presentation configuration before placing the rose on the display table. Usually the exhibitors held the roses until time required them to place the rose on the exhibit table. The roses were sold at the end of the show just before the mall closed. George Drummond was chief sales auctioneer for this event for many years. Newspapers made handling the roses easier for the purchaser due to the thorns.

The annual Rose Show continued for 27 years (from 1973 through 1999)—24 years with Reynolds as its chairman—when it was finally discontinued. Dr. Gil Hooper had moved to Florida, Jerry Dobslaw was no longer able to exhibit and other local participation had waned. And there was an un-resolved potential liability issue at the mall. After much discussion by the Club's Board of Directors, the decision was made that Club members' participation time and sponsors' funds could better be used for other community oriented Club endeavors.

But it was clear that the Men's Garden Club Rose Show provided not just entertainment to the many viewers but inspired many new gardeners and gave great publicity to the mission of the Club. For years it had been a great show. In 1982, it was estimated that over 8,000 visitors viewed the display. In 1984, there were 300 blooms entered by 17 exhibitors. In 1986, 26 exhibitors participated, seven of whom were from Spartanburg. Reynolds did a magnificent job of managing the endeavor.

The rose has always been valued for its beauty and has a long history of symbolism. The ancient Greeks and Romans identified the rose with their goddesses of love referred to as Aphrodite and Venus. Roses are ancient symbols of love and beauty. The rose was sacred to a number of goddesses (including Isis and Aphrodite), and is often used as a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The rose is the national flower of England and the United States. In this light, promoting roses and their beauty, as the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club did, was an "almost" noble venture, one that gave much enjoyment to many local visitors to the shows, and also encouraged more interest in gardening.