

# October 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

### Directors

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

### Communications

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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

Our fall plant sale is occurring days after this newsletter is issued. We have a very good supply of plants and the nursery looks great, thanks to the leadership of Mark Carlson. In addition to a great selection of plants, the plants are reasonably priced and we have a number of members who can offer excellent advice on gardening.

The plant sale is our primary funding tool. We also use it to show off our gardening skills to attract new members. A new brochure has been developed and our business cards have been updated. These promotional materials will be available to our customers at the plant sale. It would be great if all our members could stop by and be involved in this experience. Make sure you take a few brochures and business cards to hand out when you meet someone interested in gardening. We are great at growing plants. Let's grow the club!

## SMGC Presentation October 16, 2023

### "Restoring the American Chestnut"



The American Chestnut Tree has been "functionally extinct" for many decades. The American Chestnut was historically one of the most important trees in the Eastern Forests. Scientists are looking for ways to reintroduce the American Chestnut to the wild.

Please join us to view the documentary film "Clear Day Thunder", Rescuing the American Chestnut this coming Monday, October 16.



<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

**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

**Fall Plant Sale will be Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 from 8 AM – 1:30 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  
Charles Covert



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Photography  
by Linda McHam



Native persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*) are falling in October. Persimmon pudding is amazing!



Goldenrod (*solidago*), a native that flourishes everywhere.



Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*) seeds at the SMGC nursery.

**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

### *Denver Botanical Garden*

A couple of years ago we heard a presentation from Rev. Kirk Neely. He talked about his favorite botanical gardens in the United States. He listed Atlanta, Denver and Dallas as three of his favorites. I have written about Dallas and Atlanta in previous member musings. This May while on a trip to Colorado with my little sister, I make a stop at the Denver Botanical Garden. They were claiming to be the #2 garden in the country based on a recent survey.

The Denver botanical garden is east of downtown Denver. It is on a 24-acre site surrounded by development. There are seven diverse gardens that include many plants indigenous to Colorado and neighboring states. The Denver Botanic Gardens has a large collection of plants from cold temperate climates around the world as well as those from the Denver and Rocky Mountain Area. Seeing native plants on display is very interesting.

Being in Denver in early May, I was able to see the tulips at peak bloom. Our South Carolina tulips had finished blooming in March. It is a real reminder how climate affects the growing season.

Besides the tulips, the highlights to me were the Gardens of the West that showcase the plants of the desert and mountain west and the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory. The conservatory was awarded landmark status way back in 1973.



The one disconcerting aspect of the Denver Garden is that it is tucked into the city. Behind the Bonsai Garden and Tea Garden is a high-rise condominium that does not lend itself to the garden atmosphere. At the Atlanta Botanical Garden, looking out past the conservatory are the skyscrapers of the Atlanta skyline. The Dallas Botanical Garden has a man-made White Rock Lake as the backdrop to the garden. Because of its more natural surroundings, I choose the Dallas Garden as my favorite of this trio.

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

### 13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

How information on this damage reached the local newspaper, the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* is not known, but the paper ran a major headline story by Lou Parris on the following Friday entitled “Who Cut Down the Trees?” It was quite accurate and emphasized the great concern of the Club and clarified that the SC Highway Department had



The missing trees! May, 1986

not given the required permission for the trees to be cut. Parris further noted, “Naegele Outdoor Advertising of Spartanburg owns a sign that was obscured by the trees on I-585, and Naegele is mentioned in the larceny report filed with the sheriff’s department, but a company spokesman said Thursday that the firm is not involved” with the atrocity.

The *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* ran a second article the next day, Saturday, May 3, on the top of the front page of the Upstate/Carolinas section entitled “No Leads Have Turned Up on Illegal Tree-Cutting Incident.” It mentioned the obvious—the view of the Naegele billboard was blocked by the trees, but that a “company spokesman said the firm did not remove the trees.” MGC members were reported as being upset and one was quoted as saying, “The whole reason for concern is that landscaping and highway beautification are important to the community, and respect for property that doesn’t belong to you is important.” The sheriff had no leads to report and the local maintenance engineer of the SC highway Department had no new information. These two stories created a huge public interest in the case. Interest was heightened a few days later by a letter to the editor in the *Herald-Journal* about the “proliferation of enormous billboards which are being erected everywhere in our community” The ugliness of billboards was obviously a concern. On May 20, an ad taken out by the local Crime Stoppers organization offered a \$1,000 reward for information about the Pine Street crime.