

# June 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

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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

Section 2 of the Club's By-Laws states "The objectives of the Club are..." Item 2.4 states: "to promote community beautification through charitable, educational and scientific means". Our club has had a great history of doing community beautification work. You can read about many instances of our work in the club history written by E. Henry Pittman in "And the Trees Remain".

We have not executed many projects in recent years. However, this year we are working with St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic. We have put some nice plants into their landscape in the Meditation area and are working to provide benches for the site. This week we will discuss a new project for the Spartanburg VFW. The project will include planting some under-story trees like dogwoods and red buds. Various shrubs will also be planted. The area in front of the VFW is large and we can do modest size projects over the years. It is great to be getting involved in community projects again. Please come out and help when you can.

## Linda Tiller McHam SMGC Speaker June 17, 2024

### "Japanese garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden"



Linda Tiller McHam has been a member of SMGC since 1989. She was the first female President of the club in 2007 and 2008.

She comes by her love of gardening naturally from her parents and grandparents. Her mother's parents owned Albemarle Greenhouses in Albemarle, NC, specializing in carnations.

Her father's parents founded Southern Agricultural Chemicals, based in Kingstree, SC with a satellite operation in Hendersonville, NC.

Linda has traveled the world photographing amazing gardens as well as taking small groups of avid gardeners to England, Scotland, France and the Netherlands. Join Linda as she gives us a walking tour of a magnificent Japanese garden in the heart of Fort Worth, Texas.



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



Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304

**DirtDaubers.org**



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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.

## Presentations for 2024

**July 15**                      A Guide to Wildflowers of SC    Dr. Douglas Rayner

**August 19**    Skin Care for Gardeners    Dr. Christopher Thompson  
Dermatologist

**September, 16**                      Club Picnic

**October 21**                      Birds                      Irvin Pitts

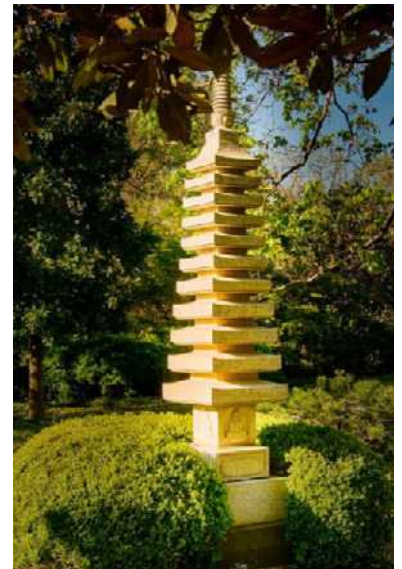


## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

**September 7 "rain date"      Sep 14**  
**December 7 "snow"          Dec 14**

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.)



Photos are from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in Texas.

Join us for a slide show on Monday, June 17th, featuring the Japanese garden.

**Renew Now**  
**2024 Membership**  
 Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5  
 Corporate \$100

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](http://DirtDaubers.org/Membership) and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Shelia Middlebrooks.



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Photography  
by Linda McHam



Spaghetti squash are easy to grow.  
Just give them room to spread



Hydrangeas, yellow day lilies and Italian cypress  
look great in May.



Tomatoes are  
beginning to turn  
red. Tomato  
sandwiches  
coming soon!

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

Creekside Garden & Nursery  
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve  
Piedmont Farm & Garden  
Peggy Wilson, Realtor  
Wofford College



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## Member Musing

By Beth Waddell

### REPOTTED

One of my favorite friends that I am blessed to know recently gave me a tea towel that reads, "I'M NOT OLD. I JUST NEED TO BE REPOTTED!" After a round of laughter and childlike giggles from the group, I am proud to announce that she is still one of my most favorite friends. After the lunch meeting, I resumed thinking about the possible wisdom from the towel. I looked up the words repotted and potted in the dictionary (and even thought of many definitions after that dictionary edition was printed), all ranging from nouns and adjectives to verbs.



So, what is the purpose of repotting a plant? Perhaps it has grown so profusely that the roots are bound by the pottery sides. Possibly it is repotted to make several plants from the one that was enclosed to spread throughout your garden or share with friends. Maybe the soil needs to be replaced because there are no longer any nutrients or minerals to sustain the plant's life. Possibly the plant was ailing or dead from neglect and needed to be separated from the other healthy plants.

So how can I repot myself into a more effective and efficient individual? Possibly, I should dig myself up and start anew with a soil test of my attitudes, strengths and desires. Old baggage and behaviors should be thrown out like the soil that has lost its nutrients. Innovative ideas should replace the old tried and true methods for life choices. Kindness and compassion could rain upon the newly repotted plant to be shared with the community. Roots could be free to grow into new directions and into new missions of service. Gone are the dead and ailing excuses or desires, and they should be replaced with new and inspiring dreams for a better world.

I shall smile each time I encounter the tea towel, and I will remember the purpose of a life repotted daily.

History of the club continues  
on the following pages.

**Appendix**

**Appendix 3**

**Marshall's 1973 Presentation re Ezell**

This is a copy of President E. W. (Snow) Marshall's presentation to Mr. Ezell on November, 1973, at a "thank-you" dinner at Dorman High School sponsored by the City.

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Ladies and gentlemen, welcome again to Ladies Night Annual Meeting of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

I want to thank Henry Pittman with all my heart for the privilege of recognizing one of our pioneer leaders in the beautification of the City and County of Spartanburg-- Mr. Walter Orlando Ezell.

May I tell you a little bit about his background. He was born in Cross Keys, N. C., June 30, 1891 and his family moved when he was a baby to Landrum, S. C. and later to Chesnee. His mother was a great gardener, and W.O. (as we all call him) immediately became interested, in helping his mother while his brother was off hunting. The records do not show how many of the flowers he pulled up in place of weeds when he was a small boy.

Mr. Ezell moved to Spartanburg in 1912 to work or the Geer Drug Co. on Magnolia Street and after 50 years he retired as Vice President and Sales Manager of the Company. He is recognized as one of the standing authorities in wholesale drugs all over the United States.

In 1951 Geer Drug Co. moved to its present location on W. O. Ezell Boulevard, and then Mr. Ezell showed his real talent as a flower lover. I was working at the Fairforest Finishing Division of Reeves Brothers at the time and saw the building going up, and a bulldozer leveling off a red clay gully which ran across the East side of the lot.

Slowly but surely and under the close supervision of Mr. Ezell this red ugly gully was transformed into a lovely flower garden with blooming flowers from early spring to late fall. I believe I saw Mr. Ezell performing all types of jobs except driving the bull dozer, and he might have been doing this.

The story is told that one day his preacher came along after the garden was so beautiful and said, "Mr. Ezell, look what the hand of the Lord can do," and Mr. Ezell's answer was, "You should have seen it when the Lord had it by himself".

After completing the garden at the Geer Drug Co., he continued his plantings and beautification westward until it now reaches the Blackstock Road just beyond Dorman High School.

A granite marker was erected near Dorman in 1970 which reads as follows:

*W. O. Ezell Boulevard*

*Dedicated in 1970*

*By appreciative officials and citizens to W. O. Ezell  
for making Spartanburg the City of Flowers*

May I inject at this time what a happy family occasion is approaching form Mr. and Mrs. Ezell, for on Christmas day, they will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary—and that is the Diamond one.

## Appendix

May God bless you with many more.

Mr. Ezell's local, state, national and international honors are too many to relate during my limited time.

He was a charter member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club when it was organized in 1936

He was a Charter Member of the City's Beautification Committee with 2 other members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and 2 other interested citizens.

He was instrumental in beautifying Cleveland Park, Duncan Park and many cross streets in the city where the right of way permitted.

And Oh! How we loved his radio program which continued for years.

He published this book entitled "Carolina Garden Guide" which now is a collector's item. To indicate Mr. Ezell's wonderful humor this quote is on the cover

"Old gardeners never die - they just spade away"

And to show his love for his Lord and Savior this lovely poem:

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth."*

Mr. Ezell traveled to many places in the United States for he served on the National Board of the Men's Garden Council, and he went to Europe twice, especially to Holland to study their famous tulip gardens. My wife and I were at the Charles Towne Landing during the Tri-Centennial Celebration, and in the parking lot started talking to a family from Michigan. The man of the family asked us where we were from in South Carolina, and when we answered Spartanburg, he said "Do you know Mr. W. O. Ezell? I went out of my way to visit him in Spartanburg, because I had met him at one of the National meetings and loved him like everyone else does."

Before closing I would like to read these two short poems, some of the words you have heard all your life.

First from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life"

*Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Foot prints on the sands of time."*

And second from John Keats

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever,  
Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness;  
but still will keep a bower of quiet for us and a sleep full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing."*

Mr. Ezell, Mrs. Ezell, and their daughter Mrs. Bertha McArthur—  
And now may I present this plaque which has the National Men's Garden Council Bronze Medallion showing a gardener with his big hat on, a flower in one hand, and a hoe and rake in the other.

This plaque reads,

*IN TRIBUTE TO W. O. EZELL  
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION IN CITY BEAUTIFICATION.  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB, 1973*

Congratulations, Sir. May God Bless you all.

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