

July 2024



Welcoming Men & Women

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Gardening & Beautification

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A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

President's Corner

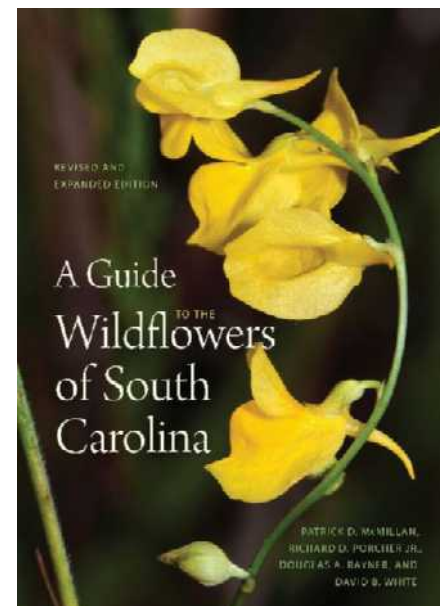
We are now more than half way through the year. This means our nominating committee is springing into action to provide a good slate of candidates to lead the club in 2025. Again this year, Ben Waddell has agreed to chair the nominating committee. We expect to have many of the current board members and officers sign on for another year. The nominated slate of candidates needs to be set by early August, so that it can be published in the August and September newsletters.

We do need to get some members who have not served on the board previously to consider doing so this year. Our bylaws do include term limits, so we will have some turn over by 2026 at the latest. It is not too soon to show interest in becoming a board member. Please let Ben or one of the board members know if you are interested. If we are fortunate, we may finally get a dynamic president to come in and lead the club. Let's hope so!

Dr. Doug Rayner SMGC Speaker July 15 2024

"A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina"

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is delighted to have Dr. Douglas Rayner as the guest speaker for our July program. Dr. Doug was the first botanist hired by the Heritage Trust in South Carolina and was a beloved professor at Wofford College for thirty-one years. During these years, he taught ten different courses, including field courses studying plant and animal recognition. He inspired and motivated many students about the study of science and nature. Along with the talents of Patrick D. McMillan, Richard D. Porcher and David White, their wonderful research guide entitled, "A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina" has been revised and expanded. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Rayner and get excited about this amazing research guide!





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

- August 19** Skin Care for Gardeners **Dr. Christopher Thompson**
Dermatologist
- September 16** Club Picnic
- October 21** Birds **Irvin Pitts**
- November** Annual meeting and installation of officers



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.)



Mark Carlson, in charge of the SMGC nursery, also took time to stick cuttings for the plant sales.



Will Hawkins helps stick cuttings to provide plants for our plant sales.

Renew Now
2024 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 Shelia Middlebrooks.



<https://facebook.com/groups/smgc1948>



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Photography
by Linda McHam



A tomato variety from Pam Datwyler at the April SMGC meeting: she gave me this whopper called 'Goat Bag'!



My first attempt at growing chick peas (aka garbanzos). Lesson learned: you need to plant a lot.



Another first attempt: Elderberries. This variety is called 'Ranch'. *Sambucus canadensis* 'Ranch'.

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 Will Hawkins

Pittsburgh

In May I took a trip to Pittsburgh, which is a city I have wanted to visit for a few years. The images I have seen of Pittsburgh looked like it is a beautiful city with its three rivers and beautifully designed bridges, in addition to being located near Mount Washington. Plus, I wanted to visit Pittsburgh as it is the home of one of my childhood heroes, Mister Rogers. I also wanted to see the Braves play the Pirates there.

While I was in Pittsburgh, I paid two beautifully landscaped areas a visit. Point State Park is right at the confluence of the three rivers (where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio River. Point State Park commemorates and preserves the historic heritage of the area during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). There are three granite tracteries present in the park, marking the former Fort Duquesne (1754) and Fort Pitt (1759) and outlining the original confluence of the three rivers and the point. The Fort Pitt Museum located there gives you plenty of details about the War and Forts. Surrounding Point State Park are not only the three rivers and fort, but there are woodlands and forested areas along the riverfront promenades.

Over 54,000 native trees, shrubs and flowers with identifying signage can be found here. The 2009 renovation of the woodlands received over 7,000 new plantings such as blooming phlox, dogwood, redbud, honey locust, blueberry, hydrangea, wild phlox, mayapple, wild geranium and hay-scented fern, just to name a few, and an irrigation system and new stone edging along the walkways. Point State Park really is a gardener's delight in addition to having an historic aspect. Right at the confluence of the rivers is a majestic fountain which shoots 150 feet in the air. It operates seasonally, but it is a must-see feature in the warmer months.

I also rode up to Mount Washington on the Duquesne Incline. From there, you get a wonderful view of Pittsburgh, the rivers and Point State Park. Mount Washington also has many beautiful trees and shrubs. It is beautiful to see any time, but I am sure if a trip is timed to Pittsburgh at the peak of fall foliage or spring blooms, it really would be a sight to behold.

To get another great view of Pittsburgh, I recommend taking a Gateway Clipper River Cruise. The cruise covers all of Pittsburgh's rivers and you can get a view everything I mentioned while learning all kinds of Pittsburgh history.

Pittsburgh has made an effort to become more "green." In recent years, they completed a "Pittsburgh Redbud Project" in which the city planted 3,770 redbud trees! If I take another trip to Pittsburgh, on my bucket list will include a visit to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.



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

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Ezell Spot of Pride Dedication Remarks

This is a copy of Henry Pittman's presentation at the official dedication ceremony of the Ezell Spot of Pride on West Main St. on June 1, 2001.

THE SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB'S "SPOT OF PRIDE" PROJECT

The Spartanburg (South Carolina) Men's Garden Club has been heavily involved in community beautification for over 50 years. So, it is natural that it should enthusiastically get on-board and support a new beautification project initiated by another closely associated organization, "Spartanburg PRIDE Task Force". PRIDE is a very loosely organized group of folks interested in saying thank you to organizations that are found doing something good and right, and not afraid of occasionally rapping knuckles of those who litter, fail to maintain their landscape, leave abandoned buildings unattended, etc.

The new project is public/private cooperation between the City and private organizations. It involves locating dozens of areas in the community that have landscape potential, developing preliminary landscape plans for those areas along with estimated costs for both initial construction and annual professional maintenance, and soliciting local organizations to adopt the areas. Plans, photographs, maps, cost sheets, etc. comprise promotional notebooks which are used to explain and sell the project.

In order to insure quality construction and ongoing maintenance, sponsoring organizations must agree to up-front depositing of substantial funds in a special account administered by a local endowment group—these funds equal costs for initial construction plus three years of maintenance. The City and PRIDE jointly handle and supervise contracts with professional maintenance companies.

The Men's Garden Club had no trouble in deciding to sponsor an early demonstration "Spot" using funds from its treasury and a matching grant from a philanthropic fund established by its beloved deceased member and former MGCA Director, W. O. Ezell. This was done cooperatively with the City which not only added additional funds, but also managed construction and will provide ongoing maintenance.

This demonstration "Spot of Pride" is on a prominent 250 foot long triangle on West Main Street which was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" a number of years

Appendix

ago; the street is a memorial to this MGC member who was instrumental in giving Spartanburg the reputation of being "the city of flowers". This new SOP not only contains flowers, shrubs, trees, lawn and oriental grasses, and has an automatic irrigation system, but the large granite Ezell commemorative marker has been relocated to a prominent area in the garden.

Currently, over 40 potential new SOPs have been identified in Spartanburg, six have been adopted and a dozen have been reserved by potential sponsoring organizations. So the MGC is enthusiastic that with its demonstration Spot of Pride officially dedicated in May, it will become one of many to be developed in the community over the next few years—and will indeed serve as a reminder of the great beautification work of "Mr. W. O."