

# October 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Beth Waddell
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Shelia Middlebrooks

### Directors

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvy  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

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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 concluded a successful plant sale last weekend. Although our revenue was not as high as recent plant sales, we did quite well, considering the short notice, due to rescheduling because of Hurricane Helene. We had some of our regular customers, but also a number of new clients. It is encouraging that we are reaching an ever-increasing clientele.

One memorable event during the sale occurred when a large van representing a senior community stopped to shop. The driver, who worked for the facility, was there to buy a few plants. She brought a couple of the residents along with her for an outing. One lady was very happy to be among all the plants. She reminisced about the garden she and her husband had at their home. We talked about what a great hobby gardening is and that it provides enjoyable physical activity. Gardening also gives its participants a life time of wonderful, happy recollections. Let's continue to create cherished memories as we share this great hobby.

We are excited to have Irvin Pitts as our guest speaker for the meeting on October 21. Irvin is a native of Spartanburg and has a lifelong love for birds. He retired from the SC State Park Service as Chief of Resource Management, and he served as a State Parks Biologist working as a Ranger/Naturalist. Earlier in his career Irvin worked at both Table Rock and Caesar's Head State Parks. Invite your friends to join us as we learn more about inviting beautiful birds into our gardens.



Table Rock State Park



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

<b>October 21</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Irvin Pitts</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Phil Abers (Annual meeting and installation of officers)</b>	<b>Alaska</b>

## Candidate Slate for 2025

### Proposed Officers for the coming year

President: Phil Abers  
Vice President: Beth Waddell  
Secretary: Denie Crowder  
Treasurer: Shelia Middlebrooks

### Proposed Directors for the coming year

**Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term**  
Darvin Helvy  
Charles Covert

### New directors for a 2 year term

Will Hawkins  
Charles Crescenzi  
Ben Waddell  
Mark Van Natta  
Ed White  
Roberta White  
Curtis Marshall



## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

**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.)

### Renew Now 2025 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

Several of the 30 trees that came down during Hurricane Helene.



Clean up of a very large (5 ft diameter) oak tree that came up from its roots. This one tree took an entire day to remove

A group of young men from Rome, Georgia, came to Spartanburg to help with the clean-up the day after the storm. I was fortunate to work with them for four days while they cut and moved the fallen trees from around our property to the road for the City to pick up at some future date. The owner, Michael Hogan, is at the left.



**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 Darwin Helvy

### *Vegetable Gardening is more than low cost, great taste or freshness*

Summer or winter, gardening is just good fun for gardeners. Only a few enterprises about the home give as much satisfaction and big net returns as the vegetable garden. I often think about the low cost, taste and freshness as I look at what's growing in my garden each year. There is a lot that goes into gardening. All the planning, using the 3 S's (seeds, sun and soil), recording or tracking in a garden diary year-to-year, loving the harvest time and reflecting on all the work that goes into making your garden a success. The best part is enjoying eating and sharing the bounty throughout the gardening season.

For the last 3-4 years I have just tried to keep it simple by selecting plants that I believe will grow well from seed and flourish in this climate. The plants I choose are tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, green beans, lettuce, basil, parsley, and oregano. All fresh vegetables are high in vitamins and nutrients, but we generally are not aware of their nutrient value ([Vegetables\\_122107\\_S \(fda.gov\)](http://Vegetables_122107_S(fda.gov))). I know vegetable are good for me, but "why" is the question. There is no single most healthy vegetable, but eating a variety of vegetables can improve health and well-being. All vegetables contain healthful vitamins, minerals, and [dietary fiber](#) — but some stand out for their exceptional benefits. I did not grow the above list of veggies for their nutritious options. I grew them because it's what we like and for the low cost, great taste and freshness, but I will take the extra health benefits.



Two of my favorites (peppers and tomatoes) have the following benefits ([15 healthiest vegetables: Nutrition and health benefits \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](#)) For example, bell peppers contain 38.7 calories, 190 mg of vitamin C, 0.434 mg of vitamin B6, folate, and beta carotene, which the body converts into vitamin A. How to eat bell peppers? Bell peppers are extremely versatile and are easy to incorporate into many dishes, such as pasta, scrambled eggs, or a salad.

Tomatoes are technically a fruit, but most people treat them like vegetables and use them in savory dishes. Each cup of chopped, raw tomatoes contains 32.4 calories, 427 mg of potassium, and 24.7 mg of vitamin C. Tomatoes also contain lycopene, a powerful antioxidant. Research Trusted Source suggests that lycopene may help prevent prostate cancer, and the beta carotene in tomatoes also helps combat cancer. Meanwhile, other potent antioxidants in tomatoes, such as lutein and zeaxanthin, may protect vision. How to eat tomatoes? People enjoy tomatoes raw or cooked, and cooking them releases more lycopene. They are also great sliced with a side of guacamole or my wife's favorite – a tomato sandwich.

Eating vegetables every day is important for health. They provide essential vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, such as antioxidants and fiber. Research consistently shows that people who eat at least five servings of vegetables a day have the lowest risk of many diseases, including cancer and [heart disease](#). Enjoy a range of vegetables daily to reap as many health benefits as possible.

P.S. Your Peppers may even smile for you 😊

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

## Appendix 7

### Additional “Minor” MGC Tree-Related Projects

In addition to the Club’s “major” tree planting projects described in Chapter 5, there are many other “minor” landscape enhancements of value to the community, and possibly of historical significance.

This group includes these projects:

- US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.
- Trees Spartanburg.
- Professional Pruning – E. Main and North Pine.
- Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape
- Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping
- Tree Planting Bi-Fold
- Crape Myrtle Maintenance and Brochure
- Landscaping of the Georgia Cleveland House (now the St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic on Dean Street in mid 80s
- Landscape enhancement of Glen Park
- Treescaping of the New Day Clubhouse near Asheville Highway in the 90s.
- Landscaping of T.O.T.A.L. Ministries on S. Pine Street and the Safe Home in the 90s.

Many of these are briefly described below:

**US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.** The Club was an encourager and members were consultants to Sally Peak, Wellford’s Mayor, as she began promoting landscaping the six-mile-long medians on US-29 toward Greenville. Mayor Peak had identified the location of potential planting sites and requested help in plant selection and other details. Jack Turner, George Gunter and Henry Pittman developed a list of 29 suggested suitable trees—small, medium, and large growing—and they and other SMGC members met with Peak in 1999 for encouragement and a discussion of procedure and maintenance.

The project was financed with Federal TEA-21 and the City of Wellford funds. Spartanburg City engineer Mike Garrett developed the final detailed plans and worked with Wellford officials on the implementation. Turner continued as prime consultant to Peak and Garrett through installation in 2000. This median treescape is a significant enhancement to that part of Spartanburg County.

**Trees Spartanburg.** For a number of years in the 1990s when hardware store owner Co Irwin was its chairman, the PRIDE Task Force discussed how an expansion of, or complement to, the Men’s Garden Club’s tree planting program might be created to enhance Spartanburg even more. PRIDE members including Tracy Hannah, Julie Lowry, Hans Balmer and Henry Pittman joined Irwin in strongly endorsing and supporting the new exploration. PRIDE had developed great respect for the extensive treescaping done by Trees Atlanta under

## Appendix

the leadership of Marsha Bansley who was also a consultant to Mr. Milliken's Noble Tree Foundation.

Following the success of Atlanta's "Trees Atlanta," Irwin was successful in putting the new organization named "Trees Spartanburg" together as a functioning group with new ties to SPACE (the Spartanburg Conservation Endowment) in 1998. Gary Henderson's newspaper article of July, 1998, praised the new program and its planned Willow Oak plantings on the new library grounds.

The first large project of Trees Spartanburg was the planting of rows of Willow Oaks on the shoulders of the entry and exit ramps of all four clover-leaves of the I-26 highway at US-29 (West Main Street) in 1999. With Club encouragement, Pittman worked with Irwin in creating the design for the project which was similar to the Club's 1989 treescape of East Main Street. The row of European Hornbeams on the shoulder by the warehouse at the corner of Union and Kennedy Streets was another early TS project.

Many other successful street tree plantings were completed by Trees Spartanburg, most with cooperation and help from the City of Spartanburg, but many were planted by local volunteers. But, unfortunately, the trees organization was not a good fit with SPACE and the partnership was terminated in the early decade.

**Professional Tree Pruning.** Without the financial underwriting of Mr. Roger Milliken and the W. O. Ezell Beautification Fund at the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Club would not have been able to organize and manage the professional pruning of its 1989 Willow Oaks on E. Main Street or its 1986 Red Sunset Maples by the professional arborist, John Martin in 1998-1999.

**Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape.** The influence of the Men's Garden Club was strong in the minor treescaping of Reidville Road (SC-296) from Anderson Mill Road, west to SC-290 in 2000. This road was being widened and the SPATS Road Enhancement Committee wanted it treescaped as Southport Road (SC-295) had been done earlier. But SCDOT wanted trees to be secondary to bridge enhancements.

With Club help and encouragement, Bill Lonon of the County and Pittman developed a plan which was executed in 2004 with some 100 shoulder trees. Not heavily planted with trees, the beauty of this highway was improved considerably by this project and input by the Men's Garden Club.

**Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping.** During the summer of 2000, the Club took the leadership in organizing an *ad hoc* coalition to work with the City and Wal-Mart's management, and its landscape architect, to insure the company's new proposed East-Side store would be properly landscaped and existing trees would be saved. The location is at the site of the community's oldest and largest plant nursery—the former Spartanburg Nursery and Landscape. The coalition consisted of representatives of the Garden Council, SPACE, Trees Spartanburg, PRIDE Task Force and the SMGC. While the grading and destruction of existing trees was extensive, the coalition's objectives were generally met and many trees were saved—particularly the specimen Dawn Redwood trees which Kevin Parris championed. Wal-Mart agreed to a significantly improved building facade and followed the City's requirement for parking lot shade trees. This is a rare example of early and constructive "preventive action" that would not have occurred without the early action of the Club.