

Gardening & Beautification

A publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, founded 1948

January 2012

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, January 17

**Reminder: This is a change of date:
We will be meeting on Tuesday, not
Monday. Please mark your calendar!**

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room

Betty Montgomery



Betty is a life-long gardener and writes a bi-weekly column for the Spartanburg Herald Journal. She gardens in Campobello and Tuxedo, NC and has a special interest in hydrangeas and camellias.

Refreshments

Charlie Crescenzi and Peggy Romine

Upcoming Events

Jan. 20-22: Rose Conference, Asheville

Feb. 20: Jerry Blackwell, Bud Grafting

Mar. 19: Jay Moore, Weed Science

Apr. 16: Joe Maple, Plants of the Bible

Membership Renewal for 2012

2012 renewal period is now! Half of our members have renewed. We hope that the rest of our members will continue to support the Club. We need not only your check – we need your participation! Please bring your completed application and dues to the next meeting or mail your check to the address on the application. You can find the form here:

<http://dirtdaubers.org/Shared/PDF/MembershipApplication.pdf>

Website Updates

We have an outstanding website so it makes sense to use it to find out what the Club is doing. Our sale dates are listed on the Plant Sales page and the countdown is on the home page. It's about three months until our Spring sale and a lot needs to be done – a few people pitching in can make a big difference.

Community Garden Spots

The Sherrill Garden spot across from Hillcrest Shopping Center is recovering from the run-in it had with a vehicle in the fall. The damaged rose appears to be recovering and pansies, snapdragons and ornamental cabbages have been added. The loropetalums were trimmed and the roses will be pruned in late February. Thanks to the Crescenzis and Charles Covert who have worked to make this a lovely spot.

Propagation/Container Nursery

Dedicated volunteers have been preparing the nursery for the winter and the upcoming growing season.

Don Crowder, Lou Adams and Ben Waddell have revised some of the irrigation to make it easier to drain the system. They installed automatic drains and a shut off valve near the shed. This will allow us to keep watering longer through the winter without having to worry as much about freezing temperatures.



Detail of the automatic drain valve recently installed at the nursery. Photo by Don Crowder, 2012.

Notes from the Board

If you are on a committee and have receipts for funds that you have spent on behalf of the Club, please turn them in to our Treasurer. While it is kind of you to do this, most of our committees have money set aside in the yearly budget to accommodate general expenses such as stamps, perennials for the community garden spots, etc. It helps if you will turn your receipts in within a week or two of the purchase so that it can be recorded. Ben Waddell, our Treasurer notes, "I think over the long term, it makes the financial picture for the club more accurate. And, when some future person takes a position of responsibility for one of these areas, they won't be surprised to think that nothing happened in these areas."

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping

If you have time this spring, set aside a few hours to assist the Club in planting shrubs and trees at Habitat homes. The dates tentatively are: January 21st, February 28th and March 2nd. Those who want to assist should contact Lisa Lassiter at 591-2221, ext. 105, or 504-0291 (office cell).

Community Gardener Class (SCC)

As of Monday, January 9, the class is completely filled! Thirty students have signed up for the spring class that will be held at Spartanburg Community College. The first class will begin on Feb. 7. The sessions will include basic information on soil, fertilization, grasses, insects (good and bad), pruning and design. Other topics will cover plant growth, annuals, perennials and houseplants, vegetables, and ornamental trees and shrubs as well as natives. There are ten classes of two-hour sessions. All are held at Spartanburg Community College. A free one-year membership to SMGC is included.

Linda Cobb has written an article about the class and it has been posted on our website. For more details, see Linda's article on our website: http://dirtdaubers.org/Shared/PDF/Press/HeraldJournal_12-01-06.pdf

How to Grow Kousa Dogwood From Seed

Henry Pittman has long been interested in growing *Kousa* dogwood. They are unusual because their blossoms appear after the foliage, unlike our native *Cornus florida*, which blooms in April around Easter and then the leaves emerge. Henry asked Kevin Parris, director of the arboretum at SCC to give us some guidelines for growing these trees from seed. Here are Kevin's recommendations for growing *Kousa*:

1. Peel away outer covering.
 2. Clean "fruit" to remove pulp material from the seeds within.
 3. Rub remaining pulp away from seed in a weak detergent solution.
 4. Soak for a few minutes in a 10% bleach solution. Then rinse away excess bleach in tap water, at this time discard any floaters as they are not filled with embryo or endosperm and will not germinate. Save only the sinkers.
 5. Place seed in Zip-loc bags with peat or finely milled sphagnum moss that is moist but not damp.
 6. Store in the fridge for 2-4 months, to allow embryo maturation and unify germination
 7. Plant in 4-6" deep open flats or in individual cells- like the 38 cell cone flats we have used to stick cuttings in.
 8. Ideally, keep on a bench and in a greenhouse.
- Some of this may be overkill, but I get nearly 100% success with dogwood and *magnolia* with this process (except I don't eat the "fruit" of magnolia, and you don't have to eat the *kousa* fruit either, but it is tasty.



Above, on the left are the round fruit of the *Cornus kousa* dogwood. On the right are the cleaned seeds. Photo by Henry Pittman, 2012.

Volunteers in the Nursery

Charlie Crescenzi has done a great job of organizing volunteers to help in our Container Program. In addition to potting sessions, members have been assigned a slot to monitor the water system two times a month each. This includes making certain that all the plants are getting water because dry plants don't survive cold as well as ones that have enough moisture. The volunteers also check to make sure that plants have not been blown over. A "plant corral" was made from plastic fencing found in the dirt piles near the shed. This seems to have kept most of the plants upright except from the strongest wind. The following people have made time to check on the plants and we greatly appreciate their help! They are: Lou Adams, Chuck Covert, Charlie Crescenzi, Don Crowder, Frank Falk, Tim Hemphill, Linda McHam, Gail McCullough, Lyn Pesterfield, Peggy Romine, Prafull Gajendragadkar and Jim Weeks.



The windbreak helps keep plants from blowing over.



Bob Reynolds and Linda McHam visited three area nurseries to ask for unused pots for our propagation. The effort netted several hundred pots in varying sizes (one, two and three-gallons). Photos by Linda McHam, 2012.

New Nursery Grounds Committee

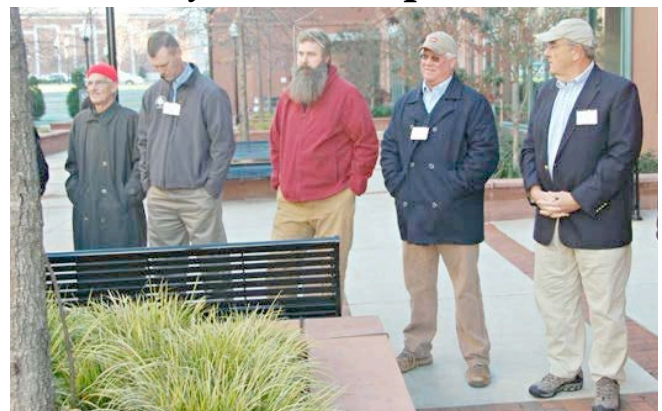
Don Crowder will be directing a new committee. He will coordinate tasks that are required to be consistent with both the SMGC and SCC environment. This includes proper maintenance of the grass, the landscaped area as well as other general maintenance issues. Also, the landscape fabric will need to be assessed and repaired periodically.

Although Lou Adams has disbanded the "Kudzu Irregulars", he will coordinate with Don to keep an eye on control of the kudzu. Spraying with Milestone VM has dramatically reduced its presence. It has taken many hours of volunteer labor but the rewards are visible: very little kudzu remains. Thanks to the following people who helped: Charles Crescenzi, Don Crowder, Tasso Ghionis, Newt Hardie, Tim Hemphill, Gail McCullough, Linda McHam, Henry Pittman, Bob Reynolds, Peggy Romine and Ed Wilde.

If you would like to be involved in keeping our site in top-notch shape, please contact Don at 864-580-1829. Otherwise, he will be calling to request your help.

SMGC is lucky to have the amazing facilities that we do. Let's keep them looking great!

Arbor Day at USC-Upstate



Above, Bob Reynolds (president of SMGC), Jason Bagwell and Jay Moore of SCC, Bruce Suddeth of USC-Upstate and Dr. Michael Dirr, featured speaker at Arbor Day, listened as Junie White, mayor, gave his opening remarks at the dedication of a Chinese Fringe Tree (Chionanthus retusus 'Tokyo Tower') at the George Dean Johnson School of Law Building. Photo by Linda McHam, 2011.

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February 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 20

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room

Speaker: Jerry Blackwell

Jerry is a master propagator who works for Gilbert's Nursery in Chesnee, SC.

He will demonstrate bud grafting.



Refreshments

Bill and Mary Frances Cantrell and
Everette and Ann Lineberger

Upcoming Events

March 19: Jay Moore, Weed Science

April 14: Spring Plant Sale

April 16: Joe Maple, Plants of the Bible

Membership Renewal, 2012

Dues are past due for 2012. You can print a copy of the application from our website (DirtDaubers.org) and either mail it or bring it with you to a meeting.

All 2011 and 2012 new members, including the new members of the latest Community Gardener class at SCC, will receive a copy of Henry Pittman's history book *And The Trees Remain*. We hope that many of the people taking the class will attend our monthly meetings.

Landscape Evaluations in Spring

Jim Weeks has contacted Claire Hess of the Chamber of Commerce and will discuss possible dates with the board as well as gain more information on the categories and number of businesses that have typically been evaluated. April is too full of other activities, so it was suggested that a date in May be chosen for the evaluations. Although April is a peak bloom time, May should work just as well since the evaluation criteria focus on upkeep and maintenance. It was also requested that the judges use digital cameras rather than cell phones to improve the quality of the digital photos submitted for the web site.

SMGC Community Garden Spots

The Crescenzis will begin pruning the roses and other shrubbery soon. They have done some work on the boxwoods and added 18 additional pansies to the Claude Sherrill Garden. The board decided that the best time to prune roses would be between late February and March 15. The W.O. Ezell Garden Spot will receive pruning and maintenance as well..

In Memoriam: Tom Bartram

Tom joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1982 and died November 23, 2011. He was a Club member up until the time of his death.

A review of Henry Pittman's history book *And The Trees Remain*, shows that Tom was a very active member of the club during the past 30 years. Tom helped transfer the title of Harold Hatcher's private garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation and he was a member of the first Hatcher Garden's Board of Directors. In the 1980's, he was instrumental in helping women gain membership in Club and he was very active in the 2006 Convention planning when Spartanburg hosted the National Convention at our downtown Marriott.

He was Newsletter Editor for 16 years and a dedicated volunteer in the ongoing Tree Planting project. Tom was Landscape Evaluation Chairman and a National Director to MGCA. He spent many years in Club leadership serving as Secretary, Vice President, and as President for three years. He was elected Director Emeritus in 2005. His wife is Marianne Bartram who is still an active member.

Southern Spring Home & Garden Show

The Spartanburg Garden Club Council is sending an invitation to our Club to join them on a bus trip to the Southern Spring Home and Garden Show in Charlotte, NC on Friday, March 2, 2012. The bus will leave from the First Baptist Church lower level parking lot at 9:00AM and will return by 6:00PM. The cost is \$40 per person which includes transportation, ticket to the show and snacks aboard the bus. Please contact Mary Snoddy immediately either by phone (439-6958) or at mnsnoddy@aol.com if you are interested in going.

This show is now larger than the Atlanta show and will have something for everyone. This might also be a good chance to get some ideas for that new patio or plant bed that you were thinking about this winter.

A Member Asks...

Do you know someone who might be able to bring Ernest Skalitzky to our club meetings? Ernest is a member and he would enjoy coming to the meetings, but, due to illness, he cannot drive. They live in the Twin Lakes subdivision in Moore and wondered if anyone from this area who goes to the meetings could pick him up? They will pay for the gas. Please call Betty Skalitzky at 864-884-4197 if you can help.

Community Gardener 101 at SCC

The Community Gardener 101 class now has 30 members registered with 10 on the waiting list. This is a remarkable effort spearheaded by Joe Maple. Linda Cobb's article in the newspaper brought in many of the registrants. The class began on Feb. 7, 2012. The fall class will be limited to 24 so there are only 14 spots left to fill.

Each member of the class is now a SMGC member and will be added to the membership list. They will receive a copy of the Club history book if they attend a member meeting. Please be sure to look for these new members and make them feel welcome at Club meetings.



The Community Gardener 101 class is a ten-week course taught at Spartanburg Community College by many well-known local gardeners and master gardeners. You can call the College to register for the full course. Photo by Linda McHam, 2011.

Spring Plant Sale: April 14

Make plans now to be available to help on Friday (set-up) and Saturday (sale). There is a huge selection of plants and there will be plenty of blueberries to go around. Mark your calendar and sign up at the next meeting. Your help is greatly appreciated and will make the event successful!

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March 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, March 19

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room, Health
Science Building

Speaker: Jay Moore

*Demystifying Weeds: Taking the
Guess Work Out of Weed Control.*

Jay will introduce us to weeds, weed id and control of weeds in the Carolina Landscape.



Refreshments

Prafull Gajendragadkar and Will Hawkins.

Upcoming Events

April 14: Spring Plant Sale

April 16: Joe Maple, Plants of the Bible

Membership Renewal, 2012

Dues are past due for 2012. You can print a copy of the application from our website (DirtDaubers.org) and either mail it or bring it with you to a meeting. **Please note:** Dues for 2012 were due in the fall of last year. Those who have not paid their dues are reminded that you must be current with your dues to remain on the email distribution list.

Community Garden Spots

Charles Covert has pruned and fertilized the W.O. Ezell garden spot and it is looking great. The Claude Sherrill garden spot is also looking good with the pink tulip magnolia in full bloom. Thanks to all who have helped.

In Memoriam: Ed Griffin

Former SMGC member, Ed Griffin passed away February 27, 2012. Ed retired as Communications Manager of Spartan Mills in 1996 where he was employed for 46 years. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1946 and served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Europe.

In 2005, SPACE named the land surrounding its popular Cottonwood Trail the "Edwin M. Griffin Nature Preserve" in honor of his service in creating, maintaining and enhancing many of the trails, calling him the "Pied Piper" of the Cottonwood Trail. Among his many efforts, he led the project to build and install a popular wetlands boardwalk to better observe different ecosystems and to design and install the Frisbee Golf Course. His deep love of nature and generous spirit has benefitted thousands of people in Spartanburg who enjoy this urban oasis along Lawson's Fork near Spartanburg High School.

Litter Pickup

Charles Covert reports that the March date for Litter Pickup is Saturday, March 17. The rain date is March 24. We meet at 8 AM at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot located on Oakland Ave.

Yahoo! Group Update

Two new members joined the group this month. They are members of the Community Gardener Class 101. By the way, any Club member *who is current on dues* and wants to know what is happening should join the Yahoo! Group. You can ask gardening questions, find out when potting and propagation sessions are being scheduled and keep in touch with other members. Visit SpartanburgMGC on Yahoo! and sign in. **Note:** members must be current on dues to remain on the list. Check to see that you are paid up!

Community Gardener 101 at SCC

The class is underway and there are quite a few people signed up for the next class session. See Joe Maple if you want to add your name to the list for the next series.

Spring Plant Sale: April 14

Make plans now to be available to help on Friday (set-up) and Saturday (sale). There is a huge selection of plants and there will be plenty of blueberries to go around. Mark your calendar and sign up at the next meeting. Your help is greatly appreciated and will make our fundraiser successful!



Honeybee on a dwarf peach blossom. Photo by Jeff Hayes, 2012.

Container Nursery

Tim Hemphill reports that irrigation repairs have been made by Don Crowder and David Settle to Zones 1 & 2. Don and Tim have reviewed the sprinkler heads several times after the repairs and they seem to holding. These will be monitored weekly to assure no leaks.

Weekly monitoring has started up again and dates up to our April plant sale have been assigned for biweekly (Monday & Thursday) site visits. It would be good to get additional volunteers signed up to help monitor this area.

The irrigation runs early Monday & Friday AM – when warmer weather hits, we’ll run the irrigation on Wednesday morning also.

A truckload of Gardener’s Choice topsoil has been delivered. A potting session took place on Thursday, Feb 23rd. We will need more potting sessions when our shipment of plants arrives. An inventory of our plants on hand for the Plant Sale will need to be developed for a Plant List and plant tags.

Board Notes

The Men’s Garden Club signs honoring Bill Wilson have been installed at each end of the cherry trees planting on South Pine Street.

Two Dogwoods trees were given to the Spartanburg Garden Club Council for the East Piedmont District Spring 2012 Meeting.

Who Makes a Garden

Douglas Malloch (1877 - 1938)

*Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
The rain has always found it,
The sun has always known;
The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds;
Whoever makes a garden
has all the help he needs.*

*Whoever makes a garden
Should surely not complain,
With someone like the sunshine
And someone like the rain
And someone like the breezes
To aid him in his toil
And someone like the Father
Who gave the garden soil.*

*Whoever makes a garden
Has, oh, so many friends;
The glory of the morning
The dew when daylight ends.
For rain and wind and sunshine
And dew and fertile sod;
And he who makes a garden
Works hand in hand with God.*

Poem submitted by Joe Maple.

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April 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, April 16

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room,
Health Science Building

Speaker: Joe Maple

*Plants of the Bible, the Koran
and the Apocrypha*



Refreshments

Frank Falk

Upcoming Events

April 14: Spring Plant Sale

May 21: Cheryl O'Hara, Home Garden Herbs

June 18: Bob Bourguignon, Urban Farming

Membership Renewal, 2012

Dues are past due for 2012. You can print a copy of the application from our website (DirtDaubers.org) and either mail it or bring it with you to a meeting. **Please note:** Dues for 2012 were due in the fall of 2011. If you wish to remain on the email list, you must be current with your dues.

Yahoo! Group Update

There are now 70 members in the Yahoo! Group. Keep up with SMGC events by joining us on the web at *SpartanburgMGC*.

Spring Plant Sale: April 14

Make plans now to be available to help on Friday, April 13 at 8:00 am (set up) and Saturday (sale). There is a huge selection of plants and there will be plenty of blueberries to go around. Your help is greatly appreciated and will make our fundraiser successful!

SCC will hold their plant sale on Friday while we are setting up so there will be an opportunity to entice those buyers to come to our sale.

On Saturday, April 14, our sale will run from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. We will need volunteers to help buyers with plant selections, carrying plants and general information on caring for plants. The parking committee can use help as well.

Linda Cobb will be on hand to describe the types of plants we have and will make suggestions on how to use these plants in the garden. It should be a terrific day all the way around!

Landscape Evaluations

Jim Weeks of SMGC and Claire Hess of the Chamber have agreed on Saturday, April 28 as the date for the evaluations. The Club has been doing evaluations for 52 years, having started the program in the fall of 1960.

Each year businesses and public entities are evaluated on the success of their landscaping. Pairs of SMGC members are assigned a handful of places to visit on the designated date and the members photograph and make notes on the landscaping efforts. On a later date in the spring, awards are presented to the winners in various categories along with a reception that is held in their honor. Be sure to give Jim a hand on the 28th.

In Memoriam

Long-time SMGC member and past President Bill Wilson passed away peacefully at his home on March 17th, 2012. Bill had suffered from a debilitating illness for several years but made an effort to come to as many meetings and plant sales as he could.

Bill was born in New York City December 4, 1928. He graduated from Rutgers University in 1950 and served his country as a 1st Lieutenant in the Army during the Korean War. After the army, Bill was Vice President and General Manager of Riegel Textile. He relocated to Spartanburg in the 1960's to join Spartan Mills and was responsible for many manufacturing divisions during his 30-year tenure.

Bill was Scout Master for 10 years of Troop 1 at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. He was the recipient of Scouting's prestigious Silver Beaver Award.

Many people know Bill from his avid love of golf. He played thousands of rounds (293 in one year) and participated in competitive events throughout the state. In 1998 Bill and his playing partner won the S. C. Senior Golf Tournament.

Bill was past president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and in 2007 was honored as Director Emeritus for his service to the club. The Yoshino Cherry Drive on South Pine Street was dedicated in his honor. He was a certified Master Gardener. Like planting a garden, Bill cultivated friendships, was always encouraging, and had a way of bringing out the best in those around him, in his profession, as a community volunteer and on the golf course.



Peggy and Bill Wilson (striped shirt, center) at a SMGC picnic in 2008. Photo by Linda McHam.



One of the new signs on South Pine Street honoring Bill Wilson. Photo by Henry Pittman 2012

Fall Plant Sale Photos



Jim Weeks helps Linda Cobb load her dwarf Japanese maples at the plant sale in October, 2011. Photo by Linda McHam 2011.



Customers head for the checkout line in the fall. This spring there will be a lot of new plants to consider. Photo by Linda McHam.

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May 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, May 21

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room,
Health Science Building

Speaker: Dan Whitten

Native Plants

Dan Whitten is a naturalist and President of the Upstate Master Naturalist Association, one of the chapters in the Master Naturalist Program run by Clemson University.



Refreshments

Earl and Cindy Quillen

Upcoming Events

June 18: Bob Bourguignon, Urban Farming

Membership Renewal, 2012

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Litter Pickup

Charles Covert has the new dates for the next litter pickup on Pine Street. Saturday, June 9 is the next date for the pickup with June 16 as the rain date. If you have any questions, please contact Charles at 542-3587.

Website Update

Lou Adams reported that Linda Cobb's article in the Herald-Journal about April's plant sales and the Home Hazardous Waste collection was posted on the SMGC-in-the-News page. Linda McHam's photos of the Spring Plant Sale were posted on the Photo Albums page. The Wikipedia article "The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America" was modified to satisfy editorial objections. Progress continues on creating a Photo Archive for the website.

Propagation Committee

Don Crowder and Linda McHam recommended that the Club purchase a section of a hoop house from Jason Bagwell. The pieces are already on our site and will be assembled in the next week or two to provide shade for our new cuttings. We are achieving a high rate of success with our cuttings (95%) but we are losing too many to the heat of the summer sun. As soon as the shade house is set up we will begin our 2012 schedule for taking cuttings. All help is appreciated.

Container Nursery

Tim Hemphill reports that the Plant Sale has now passed us by and thanks everyone who helped out. However, work continues at the Container Nursery Area and more volunteers are needed to help monitor the area. This is a very easy assignment and new people are encouraged to help. All that is required is to visit the site once or twice during the month and stand up/downed plants, review the

plants to see if all of them are getting water (some hand watering may be needed) and in general keep an eye on the area.

Please let Tim (tphemp@att.net) know if you are able to help out. He will send out a Monitoring Schedule shortly.

Spring Plant Sale: Ben Waddell helps a customer check out while Frank Turner looks on. Middle: Bob Reynolds, President SMGC, helps a customer find hydrangeas. Bottom: Joe Maple and Henry Pittman discuss the new cuttings. Photos by Linda McHam.



Landscape Evaluations

Jim Weeks provided a disk of photos to Claire Hess of the Chamber on Thursday, May 10. At some point, winners will be determined and an awards program scheduled.

Photos from the evaluation on April 28: Top: Spartanburg Community College; Middle: J.M. Smith; Bottom: Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.



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June 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 18

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room,
Health Science Building

Speaker: Bob Bourguignon

Topic: Urban Farming

Club member Bob Bourguignon presents a program on how cities use vacant spaces to provide people with land to cultivate. This provides a better diet and uses otherwise ignored resources. Bob Bourguignon is Principal Architect at Sustainable Architecture, LLC.



Refreshments

Jack and Jane Turner

Upcoming Events

July 16: Henry Pittman will recount the history of the SMGC. Members who have Henry's book are asked to bring their copies.

August 20: Luther Norman will bring us up to date on the youth gardening project.

September 17: the Annual Picnic will be held in the pavilion at SCC.

Propagation Committee

The propagation committee (Linda McHam, Don Crowder) has assembled the hoop house with the help of Lou Adams, Bob Reynolds and Ben Waddell. The area has been cleaned up with the help of Lou Adams, Don Crowder, Bob Reynolds and Tim Hemphill and all heat tolerant plants that can be sold have been moved up the hill. Those that are not ready yet are in a zone behind the hoop house at the bottom of the hill. All plants that require shade are between the propagation tunnels and the hoop house. Many of the newly rooted cuttings are in the hoop house to help them survive the summer. Don, Bob and Linda have added two additional bows to the hoop house which give us approximately 30 feet by 16 feet of space in the shade. It's a relief to have this done before the heat of the summer sets in. Propagation sessions will begin shortly.



New Hoop House for shade: Top: Don Crowder and Bob Reynolds put the final screws into the pipe. Bottom: The finished shade house ready for action. Thanks to those who helped with the installation! Photos by Linda McHam.

Container Nursery

Tim Hemphill has developed a list of volunteers who will check on the container nursery through the summer. This takes very little time and each person is on call only two times. Thanks to Tim for making the list and to those willing to help.

Website Update

Photo Albums for the Spring Plant Sale (photos by Linda McHam), Street Trees Program (photos by Henry Pittman; unattractive tree pruning in City), and Plant Propagation Project (photos by Linda McHam; hoop shade house construction) were added to the website. A new web page describing the Community Gardener 101 class was added to the website, with a link to the SCC website for class registration and a link to the schedule for the Fall class. A paragraph was added on the FAQ page which describes how to use Google to search our website.

Community Gardens

Charles Covert reports that the Sherrill Garden at Hillcrest is looking good from the care received by the Crescenzis. They recently planted vinca to replace the pansies. The snap dragons, lantana and lamb's ears are coming back. The roses have been pruned again. The Ezell monument site will soon be ready for another pruning session.

How to Prune Hedges

Landscaping Tips 101 by Linda McHam

I have a lot of hedges on my property because I enjoy the look of them. I've learned some tricks to manage them that make the job easier.

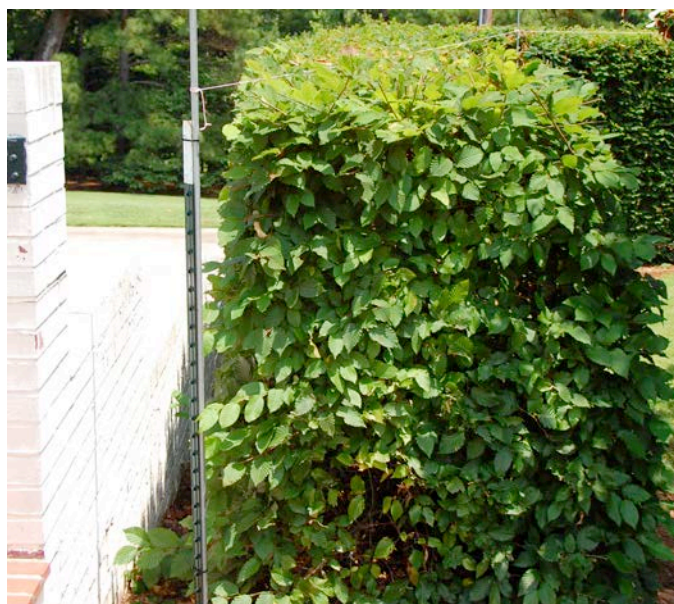
Most hedges can get by with one trim a year, unless you are very particular about their look. Here's the best way to trim them. Get several pieces of 18" long rebar, a spool of brightly colored string, a yardstick and an inexpensive line level (for the top of the hedge). Put a string near the ground to give you a visual guideline. This is for a straight hedge. If you have a curved hedge, you can use flags.

The top of the hedge should be narrower

than the bottom of the hedge on each side. This means the sides will slope toward the top which will allow sunlight to reach the bottom limbs. This slope is called the "batter" of the hedge.

Ideally, you should allow the width and height of the hedge to grow a very few inches each year but if yours is overgrown, you may have to butcher it the first year. Depending on the plant material, it will spring back. The best time to clip is in the spring or early summer.

If you have a tall hedge, you can place a string across the top of the hedge to make sure it's level. You'll need two metal "T" posts and a 10 ft. galvanized pipe or long piece of bamboo, a couple of electrical ties or other rope and a string level. Ram the T-posts into the ground and mark your pipe or bamboo at the height you want to cut your hedge. Attach the pipe to the post at two points. Attach the string to the pipe. If you want the slope to run downhill, then make sure the pipe is marked the same at both ends. Then, clip away. You'll have a neat, straight hedge.



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July 2012

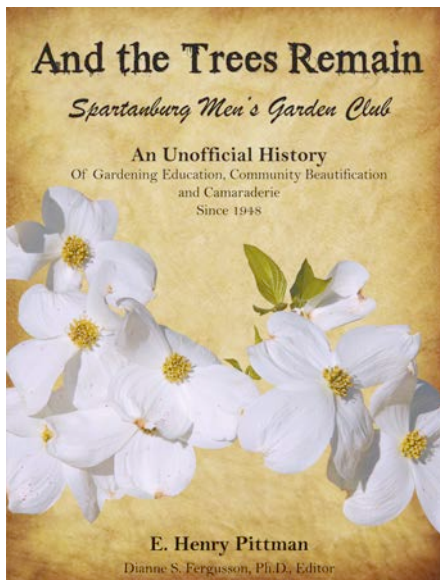
Monthly Meeting: Monday, July 16

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room,
Health Science Building

Speaker: Henry Pittman

Topic: SMGC History

Club member Henry Pittman will speak on the long history of SMGC using his book, *And the Trees Remain*, published in 2010. Be sure to *bring your copy to the meeting*. Books should be available for purchase as well.



Refreshments

Ben and Beth Waddell

Upcoming Events

August 20: Luther Norman will bring us up to date on the youth gardening project.

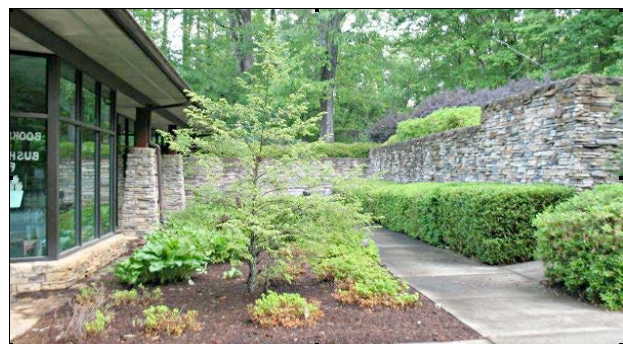
September 17: the Annual Picnic will be held in the pavilion at SCC.

October 15: Voting on new officers and board.

November 19: Annual Meeting and Installation of officers and board.

Landscape Evaluation

Jim Weeks, who arranged the 52nd Landscape Evaluation program this year, reported that the awards ceremony was held at the Chamber of Commerce on June 26. This program began in 1960 with the cooperation of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce with the purpose of promoting and recognizing the landscaping efforts of our community's public and private sectors. Bob Reynolds helped with the presentation of the awards. Joyce and Charlie Crescenzi made business cards and applications available and Henry Pittman's book, *And the Trees Remain* was referenced. Sixty-three photos by the volunteers who evaluated the sites can be seen at DirtDaubers.org/Albums. First place winners are as follows: Public Service (large): SRHS; Public Service (small): George Dean Johnson School of Business; Professional (tie): Champion Investment and CWS Insurance; Commercial (large – tie): QS/1 Building Grounds, QS/1 Parking area and Denny's; Commercial (small): JM Smith Corporation at Spartan Center; Commercial (banks): First Citizen's Bank, 105 W. Church St., Cowpens; Branch Libraries: Spartanburg County Library, Chesnee. Thanks to all the companies who entered the evaluation and whose properties make Spartanburg a more beautiful environment in which to live.



First Place Winner in Branch Libraries: Spartanburg County Library (Chesnee). Photo by Jim Weeks.

Propagation Committee

The propagation committee held a propagation session on Friday, July 6. Don Crowder made the propagation mix for us and filled 21 trays. Henry Pittman, Jim Weeks and Prafull Gajendragadkar brought plants to make cuttings from and did the prep work which included cutting the stems into sections, wounding them and then dipping the ends into a rooting hormone. Linda McHam kept records of each plant and made tags for the trays. Thirteen trays of plants were “stuck”. One frame is filled and there are three more to do. It’s an easy task and there’s generally a breeze under the trees. The highlight of the propagation session was the fire that broke out at the Butte Knit plant on Fairforest Road at Business 85. Kevin Parris first thought that the greenhouses were on fire but was relieved to find out otherwise!



Nursery Grounds Committee

Lou Adams and Don Crowder have spent many hours and days at the Pine Grove next to our nursery, clearing the undergrowth and checking on the plants that have recently been planted there. It looks much better than just a year ago. We hope that it will be a place to demonstrate some of the plants that we grow for our sales. In order for that to happen, it will need to be maintained and cared for. It will take more than two people to look after this project so please volunteer some time to help out or possibly volunteer to take it on as a personal project.

Community Gardener 101

Joe Maple reports that the fall class of the Community Gardener program has only nine places left. There is a limit of 24 students per class so if you are interested in brushing up on your horticultural skills, contact SCC for details. The new course flyer is also on our website, thanks to Lou Adams. You can find it by going to: DirtDaubers.org/CommunityGardener101. Click on the image of the poster and you can print a PDF with all the information on it. The course is \$155 and starts September 11. Join the fun!

Litter Pickup

Charles Covert arranged a Litter Pick up for June 9 and several members helped out. Bob Reynolds, Charlie Crescenzi, Peggy Wilson, Gail Rodgers and Charles Covert collected six bags of trash and were finished by 9 AM. Gail and Peggy took the South Pine Street section and Bob, Charlie and Charles took the North Pine Street portion. Since Pine Street is a major artery into Spartanburg, this small effort yields big rewards in making Spartanburg a more attractive and enjoyable place to live. The next pickup will be on September 15. Save this date and help out.

Landscape Design Tips

The best tip for this time of year is to water early before the heat sets in. Mulch your plants well and they should survive the heat. Don’t cut your grass as often and mow right after a rain.

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August 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, August 20, 2012

7:00 PM SCC, Community Room,
Health Science Building

Speaker: Luther Norman

Topic: Youth Gardening

Club member Luther Norman brings us up to date on the youth gardening project, an activity of the Spartanburg County Foundation's Youth Sports Bureau. Read an article by Linda Cobb about Luther's work and the Club's involvement on our website.



Photo by John Byrum, ©Spartanburg Herald-Journal

Refreshments

Jim Weeks and Peggy Romine

Upcoming Events

September 17: the Annual Picnic will be held in the pavilion at SCC.

October 15: Voting on new officers and board.

November 19: Annual Meeting and Installation of officers and board.

December: No membership meeting.

Propagation Committee

The propagation committee has finished filling the propagation frames for this summer. We have numerous new plants we are trying (Pearl bush, Fragrant Wintersweet and Abelia 'Kaleidoscope' to name a few). There are approximately 1,850 cuttings in the four

frames. Even with the extreme heat this summer, our propagation sessions were enjoyable because our tables are in the shade and there is usually a breeze on top of the hill. If you haven't helped out and would like to learn how to take your own cuttings, join us next summer. We would like to thank the following people who came out to help us: Bob Reynolds, Lou Adams, Ben Waddell, Jim Weeks, Joe Maple, Henry Pittman, Ed Wilde (tireless weeder, too!), Prafull Gajendragadkar, Denie Crowder, Earl Quillen and Peggy Romine.



*Close-up of some of the new cuttings in the frame.
Photo by Linda McHam, 2012.*

Website Garden Shop

The clothing with our Club logo embroidered on it was located and is in the possession of Charles Covert. The board has decided not to re-order more clothing so if you are interested in hats, knit shirts, and aprons for men and women, please contact Charles to see what he has. The Garden Shop website will be cleaned of all clothing in the near future although the two garden books will stay on for a while. Henry Pittman's "And the Trees Remain" is \$7 and the "Carolina Garden Guide" by W.O. Ezell is \$5.

September Picnic in Pavilion

Peggy Romine is developing a list of items to bring to the picnic assigned by alphabet. Look for the list in the next newsletter!

Board Nominations for 2013

The following slate has been proposed for the board positions for 2013. The membership will vote in October at the membership meeting to accept the slate and the new members of the board will be installed at the Annual Meeting in November. Since there is no meeting in December, the board will resume in January.

Officers:

President	Charlie Crescenzi
V. President	Charles Covert
Secretary	Gail Rodgers
Treasurer	Peggy Wilson

Directors:

Bob Bourguignon	2 years
Kathy McKay	2 years
Tim Hemphill	2 years
Jim Weeks	2 years
Joe Maple	1 year remaining
Joyce Crescenzi	1 year remaining
Peggy Romine	1 year remaining
Linda Cobb	1 year remaining
Prafull Gajendragadkar	1 year remaining

Please note: Officers are always elected for one year terms. This does not mean that they will only serve one year. We hope that many will continue for as long as the bylaws permit. (Please see the bylaws for details. You can find them on our website.) Here is an excerpt: "The Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and six to 12 Directors."

The Club welcomes your participation and is always seeking members who will serve in various positions. If you are new to the Club, ask someone about the committees that you can become involved in and get started. You may find that you have a talent for a lot of things that are desperately needed by the Club! Don't sit back and wait to be asked!

If you think there is a need, you can be assured that THERE IS! Volunteering may not get you a lot of thanks but it is done because there is gratification in doing a job that needs to be done and doing it well. SMGC has been around for 60 years but it can all disappear very quickly if there are only a few volunteers. Be one of those people who jump in and do what they can!

Timely Garden Tips

The first days of fall have tiptoed in. Soon it will be time to get the plants you purchased this spring into the ground. This is a great time to scout the nurseries looking for end of summer bargains, too. The end of September and all of October are great times to plant. The plants get the benefit of an extra six months growing time in the ground over the winter. Plants don't stop growing in the winter although they may lose their leaves. The roots are working to provide nourishment and stability for next year.

Also, think about whether you need to renovate your fall grasses. October is ideal to plant fescue for the same reason as putting plants in the ground. They can get a jump on next year's heat by developing good roots now.

Shape up plants but don't prune them hard until after they bloom (whenever that may be!). The best general advice is to prune after flowering, not four months later. Pruning hard in the fall encourages growth and that growth may not be hardened off by the time cold weather arrives. If you wonder why you get die-back in the winter, this might be the reason.

Board Manuals Reminder

Board manuals are updated each year so that the new board is "up to speed" on the requirements of board service. The manual has names, contact information, bylaws, policies and much more. It also has COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS so that every board member will know what is expected of him/her.

It is especially important that these committee descriptions are reviewed by the current board members, edited, corrected and included in the new manuals for 2013.

The manuals should be turned in to the President in November. The manuals are loaned to board members each January and must be returned in November. This saves money for the Club and makes it easier to update them.

The Secretary's board manual should be saved for the archives so that there is a record of the year's work. This and financial records are required by the IRS to be permanently retained. 2

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September 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, Sept. 17, 2012

6:00 PM SCC Pavilion,
Horticultural Gardens

Annual Pot Luck Supper

For the picnic, please note the following so that you know what to bring. Last names that start with:

A-H Bring a Side Dish

I-R Bring a Dessert

S-Z Bring an Entrée



Photo by Linda McHam, © 2010

Refreshments

The entire club; check above for assignments.

Upcoming Events

October 13: SMGC Fall Plant Sale!

October 15: Voting on new officers and board.

November 19: Annual Meeting and Installation of officers and board.

December: No membership meeting.

Litter Pickup

Charles Covert announced the new dates for the fall litter pickup. The next scheduled session is Saturday, September 15. Volunteers will meet at the parking area behind the Chamber of Commerce at 8:00 am. Those helping with the pickup are invited to meet at Charles' Creekside Nursery afterwards for coffee. The rain date is September 22.

Board Nominations for 2013

The following slate has been proposed for the board positions for 2013. The membership will vote in October to accept the slate and the new members of the board will be installed in November at the Annual Meeting. Since there is no meeting in December, the board will resume in January.

Officers:

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V. President Charles Covert

Secretary Gail Rodgers

Treasurer Peggy Wilson

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Joe Maple 1 year remaining

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Please note: Officers are always elected for one year terms each year. This does not mean that they will only serve one year. We hope that most will continue for as long as the bylaws permit. Please see the bylaws for details. Find them on our website – DirtDaubers.org.

Community Gardener 101

Joe Maple reports that the Community Gardener class starts Tuesday, September 11. Twenty-three participants are registered; one seat is available. This is a great class. Enjoy it while you can!

Timely Garden Tips

Have you decided what new plants you are going to try? Make up your mind and start planting. The cooler days have arrived and it's the perfect time to get them in the ground. Don't let the fall pass without trying at least one new plant. Experimentation will make you a better gardener.

2013 Dues Reminder

Joyce Crescenzi would like to remind everyone that dues renewal starts at the picnic. The 2013 application is on the website. Please print out a copy and then fill it out completely (current members as well as new members). Forms are also available at the picnic. Gail Rodgers will bring history books to the picnic. All new members receive a copy of Henry Pittman's *And the Trees Remain*. Be sure to ask for yours.

SMGC Fall Plant Sale October 13!

If you want some really great looking plants, now is the time to start thinking about where to put them. The Club has an awesome collection of great looking plants for sale this fall: dwarf crape myrtles, butterfly bushes, magnolias, blueberries, conifers, abelia, and more. Be sure to sign up to help with the setup on Friday and the plant sale on Saturday. It's a fun way to help the Club and enjoy the cooler fall weather.

We have a great facility and the plants have never looked better thanks to Tim Hemphill and Bob Reynolds. It's also due to all the rain... and the only drawback to that is - the weeds! There have been a very few faithful "weeders" but a big push from the Club is needed.

Tim Hemphill is asking for help on Saturdays between now and then to make the pots and nursery look as good as possible for our customers. Many hands make light work!



The container nursery in August. The color and health of the plants is outstanding but the weeds are really healthy, too. Be sure to lend a hand in getting the plants ready for the sale! Photo by Linda McHam, 2012.

Grounds Committee Update

Lou Adams and Don Crowder cut the tall weeds in the pine forest on two occasions. Lou also removed briars and privet from the area. In addition, Lou "patrolled" the kudzu line on the south side of the container area, and Don sprayed kudzu with Milestone on all areas. The last spraying seems to be killing the kudzu. The earlier spraying, using Milestone mixture from last year, appeared to not be very effective. The only thing we can attribute that to is the possibility of the surfactant separating from the mixture over the winter. Keeping the nursery and pine grove free of kudzu is important to the operation of the plant sales.

Arbor Day at USC-Upstate Dec. 7

The *Well-Designed Mixed Garden* is the presentation topic of the featured speaker, Tracy DiSabato-Aust of Horticulture Classics & Consultations. She has earned international acclaim as one of America's most entertaining and knowledgeable garden writers and professional speakers. Her experience includes stints at Longwood Gardens in the U.S., The Montreal Botanical Garden in Canada, the Kalmthout Arboretum in Belgium, and Knightshayes Court in England. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in horticulture from The Ohio State University.

DiSabato-Aust is a frequent guest on national garden television and radio gardening shows and has contributed articles or been featured in numerous national and international magazines, books, and newspapers. She is also a well-known triathlete. Her website is: tracylive.com.

Each year's event features a gardening expert who shares their expertise, strategies and inspiration for the novice and experienced gardener. Whether you have a green thumb or not, this is one event you shouldn't miss.

Tickets are \$25 for the presentation and lunch. Copies of DiSabato-Aust's books will be available for purchase.

Contact Bea Walters Smith at (864) 503-5235 for more information or tickets.

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October 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, Oct. 15, 2012

7:00 PM SCC Community Room,

Speaker: **Beth Button,**

Watershed Ecology Center



Photo by Linda McHam, © 2010

Refreshments

Peggy Romine and Charlie Crescenzi

Upcoming Events

October 13: SMGC Fall Plant Sale!

October 15: Voting on new officers and board.

November 19: Annual Meeting and Installation of officers and board. Jim Weeks will speak on the Plant-a-Row Program.

December: No membership meeting.

Garden Club Council Tour

The Garden Club Council is having their garden tour on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

Tickets are \$15.00. The tour runs from 10:00AM – 4:00PM and Ben and Beth Waddell's garden is one of the four private gardens that will be open. The other three are Wayne and Nan Breon in Londonderry, Glen and Peggy Melton in Twin Lakes and Susan Collins in River Falls Plantation.

Tickets can be purchased at Hatcher Garden, Carolina Garden World, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Panache and any of the open gardens. The ticket contains a map of the locations.

SMGC Plant Sale October 13!

The Club has an awesome collection of great looking plants for sale this fall: azaleas, dwarf crape myrtles, various butterfly bushes, beautyberry, weeping cherries, deciduous and evergreen magnolias, blueberries, conifers, abelias, Knockout roses, Hinoki cypresses, Japanese maples, viburnums and more.

Many hands are needed to help with the sale. Please set aside October 12 (Friday) and October 13 (Saturday) to help. It's a fun way to help the Club and enjoy the fall weather. You might find something you need!



Above: Tim Hemphill, top, completes the list of plants so that tags can be made. Middle: Prafull Gajendragadkar pulls weeds from the plants in the shade area. Bottom: Peggy Romine helps weed the blueberries for the sale. Photos by Linda McHam, 2012.

Grounds Committee Update

Lou Adams and Don Crowder pulled weeds from the landscape fabric on two (or more) occasions, and used a weed eater around the perimeter of the fabric. SCC also used a bushhog attachment on a Bobcat and cut a large area of the weeds directly south of the fabric. SCC is going to try to get the weeds cut near the trees just south of the propagation area, the weeds on the northwest side of the pine forest (where Don and Lou had used a weed eater to cut them first and checked the area for large objects) and a path near the small grove near the SCC greenhouses. A business in Boiling Springs loaned them this attachment free-of-charge to use for a limited period of time.

The committee also sprayed a small amount of kudzu in the pine grove and the small grove, as well as the other two areas of trees. There was only one plant to spray in the pine forest – YEAH! They also disposed of four or five carts of weeds and other debris.

Arbor Day at USC-Upstate Dec. 7

The *Well-Designed Mixed Garden* is the topic of the featured speaker, Tracy DiSabato-Aust of Horticulture Classics & Consultations.

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2013 Dues Reminder

Joyce Crescenzi would like to remind everyone that dues renewal has started. The 2013 application is on the website. Please print a copy and then fill it out completely (current members as well as new members). All new members receive a copy of Henry Pittman's *And the Trees Remain*. Be sure to ask for yours.

New Tree Restoration Project

Newt Hardie is spearheading a new effort to restore the approximately 7,000 trees that have been planted around Spartanburg over the last 35 years. Some of the trees are "ageing" out and many need a little "TLC" in the way of pruning, weeding, mulching and fertilizing.

Newt is organizing a wide-ranging group of people to help give input and support to this effort. There have been many groups over the years that have taken part in the tree effort such as Trees Spartanburg, SPACE, the Noble Tree Foundation, SMGC, Clemson Extension Service, and more, not to mention all the individuals, such as Henry Pittman and Hans Balmer (d. 2007), who have been involved in making Spartanburg a "greener" city and a more wholesome place to live. This new group will be in the news and making an impact on the landscape all over Spartanburg. If you are interested in being involved, contact Newt by email at NewtHardie@aol.com.



Left to right: Jimmy Kelly, Andre Anderson, Newt Hardie, Roy Mortimer and Don Crowder. Newt and his Kudzu/ Trees Coalition crew stopped by the SMGC nursery to lend a hand with the weeds before the plant sale. Photo by Linda McHam, 2012.

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November 2012

Monthly Meeting: Monday, Nov. 19, 2012

7:00 PM SCC Community Room,

Speaker: **Jim Weeks,**

Plant-a-Row Program Update



Photo by Linda McHam, © 2008

Refreshments

The entire Club is requested to bring a favorite appetizer or dessert. Drinks and paper items will be supplied.

Upcoming Events

November 19: Annual Meeting and Installation of officers and board. Please wear your name badges to the meeting!

December 1: Litter pick up. Rain date is Dec. 8.

December: No membership meeting.

January, 2013: Joe Maple, Spartanburg's Arboretums.

Arbor Day, USC-Upstate Dec. 7

This is a final reminder that *The Well-Designed Mixed Garden* is the topic of the featured speaker, Tracy DiSabato-Aust of Horticulture Classics & Consultations. Tickets are \$25 for the presentation and lunch. DiSabato-Aust's books will be available for purchase. There is always a good turnout for this event so call and reserve your place today. Contact Bea Walters Smith at (864) 503-5235 for more information and tickets.

2013 Dues Reminder

Dues renewal began in September 2012. The 2013 application is on the website. Please print a copy and then fill it out completely (current members as well as new members). All new members receive a copy of Henry Pittman's *And the Trees Remain*. Be sure to ask for yours.

Community Garden Spots

Charles Covert has been monitoring the two garden spots for which the Club has responsibility. The Claude Sherrill Garden Spot at Hillcrest is still looking good with the Knockout roses and the summer plants. Pansies will be added shortly to go through the winter. The W. O. Ezell monument was cleared by Charles and Linda McHam in September and then again by Linda McHam and Alan Lemieux. The tress and shrubs were cut back severely. The two large Knock Out roses which were hiding the monument were removed and planted near the propagation area at SCC. Linda purchased three small roses that she and Alan planted at the foot of the monument. They should not grow over 24 inches tall. Hopefully they will survive the current drought and make it through the winter.



The W. O. Ezell Monument garden spot was pruned hard and the Knockout roses were removed in October. Three small roses ('Borderer') from the Antique Rose Emporium were planted in their place. The new roses should not grow over 24 inches tall. The rest of the trees and shrubs will be pruned more over the winter to get them in good shape for the spring. Photo by Linda McHam, October 2012.

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