

January 2023

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
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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:
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President's Corner

It is here! 2023—the 75th year of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club! What can we do to make this a memorable year? What ideas do you have for the anniversary year? How can you promote the club? One easy action is to talk about the club whenever the opportunity presents itself. We have a great history and there are many knowledgeable gardeners in the club. Let's brag about the club and invite people to meetings and the plant sales. A goal for this year is to bring in 23 new members in 2023. If each current club member recruits one new member, that goal will be easily reached. Let's have a great 75th Anniversary year!



January Meeting

Please note that the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Meeting is **Tuesday, January 17th**, at 7 PM on the Spartanburg Community College Campus. Although our regular meetings are normally on the third Monday of each month, we moved it to Tuesday due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Linda Tiller McHam SMGC Speaker, January 16, 2023

Linda Tiller McHam has been a member of SMGC since 1989. She is a lifelong gardener coming from grandparents who were florists and agricultural chemical manufacturers. Martha and Wendell Tiller, her parents, instilled a love of the out-of-doors and growing plants as far back as the 1950s. Linda has operated several businesses and one of her most enjoyable ventures was taking people from the USA to Europe, primarily England, to see historic designs and cutting edge techniques in the horticultural world. One of the most memorable gardens she has visited is Great Dixter, the home of Christopher Lloyd (died 2006) and his protégé Fergus Garrett. Take a break from the dreary, cold, winter weather and bring a friend to refresh yourselves in the exquisite beauty of the gardens of Great Dixter, UK.

Greetings Members of SMGC:

This year is our 75th Anniversary as a club and we are excited to tell you that our theme for this year is Green and Clean: Making Spartanburg Better—75 Years. Our plan is to highlight our annual plant sales throughout the year, and to host an event for Spartanburg community families.

We also plan to highlight our history, current club activities, and promote a goal of 23 new members in 2023. Our final event is a dinner on November 9th, 2023 at the Piedmont Club for SMGC members and invited guests.



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



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As well as sharing gardening interests, the club has planted over 5,000 trees in Spartanburg, assists with many area beautification projects, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



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Photography by Linda McHam



2023 Litter pickup schedule

TBA

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.)



Lycopodium obscurum (ground pine)



Fagus grandifolia (beech tree) felled by a beaver.



Access to pond by beaver hauling felled trees

**Renew Now
2023 Membership**
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Peggy Wilson, Realtor
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Member Musing

By Phil Abers

Our common interest in the Garden Club is the great hobby we share. How do people get interested in gardening? I am sure there are many stories that explain how we became gardeners. Many stories include parents or grandparents, whose hobby was passed on to lucky folks like us.

Some people have not had the great opportunity to be exposed to gardening. Perhaps these people lived the city life. Maybe they live in an apartment or condominium that has no space for a garden plot. That is a sad thought for those of us who want to garden, but do not have a place for it.

Recently, the club was the recipient of a large donation of plants from Charlie Covert and his Creekside Nursery. He also entrusted us with an additional large number plants to maintain. These additional plants are being made available to Habitat for Humanity. We showed this bonanza to the construction manager for Habitat and she is very pleased to have these plants. She also saw plants in our container garden that Habitat may purchase for some of their new houses.

The Habitat houses are landscaped just before closing and the plants we have available are typically the ones chosen for those projects. It is great to be able to work with another non-profit organization to help improve Spartanburg.

I mentioned in the opening paragraphs about getting involved in gardening. Many of these new Habitat homeowners have never had a house before and do not have any gardening experience. Habitat has classes for homeowners on various gardening topics. These new owners are potential garden enthusiasts. With this generous donation from Charlie, we may have a new generation of plant lovers. What can be more exciting than bringing a new group of people into the gardening world!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Smith served as chairman for eight years. Julian Foster was chairman of the project from 1970 to 1975. During this period, evaluations were made in both spring and fall. Awards were presented in 1972 to 18 local firms and organizations during ceremonies at the Chamber headquarters by both Club and Chamber leaders. Recognized as top performers were Deering Milliken, Scharer Textile Machine Works Inc., The Erwin Company, Dr. Clyde O. Wells, Jr., Spartanburg County Health Department and Mary Black Memorial Hospital.

Spartanburg Herald-Journal, June, 1997

Businesses earn area awards for landscaping

Spartanburg businesses are reaping rewards from civic leaders for planting flowers, shrubs and trees to enhance and beautify the landscape around their offices.

The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Men's Garden Club presented awards recently to several companies in a landscape beautification contest. A reception was held for the winners last week at the Chamber.

Recognition was given to 20 companies for their landscaping efforts... "These winners are a big asset to the community because they go through a lot of trouble putting out mulch, shrubs and trees," said Jane Bagwell, chairwoman of the landscape judging committee. "The more landscaping work the businesses do, the better Spartanburg looks."

Bagwell said about 46 companies competed and 17 received first place awards or honorable mention.

Several achievement awards were given to Flagstar, Milliken & Co., and Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. "The achievement awards were given to these three businesses

A hundred landscapes were judged in 1974; twelve members constituted the judging team. Charlie Hart became chairman working with the Chamber for the spring and fall judging of 150 firms by 12 MGC teams in 1975. The Club's 1980 newsletter reported that approximately 1,000 man hours were contributed by members to the spring and fall judgments. A hundred firms were evaluated in 1976.

Two hundred landscapes were evaluated in 1982 by 30 members in the spring when Archie Lawson was chairman. Excellent and Good certificates were awarded. This was probably the year that spring and fall judging was abandoned in favor of judging in the spring only.

Tom Bartram became chair in 1985 and served for three years. His group evaluated 88 organizations in 1988. Perrin Hayes chaired the project in 1989, and John Fincher chaired in 1993 when 19 members evaluated in June; awards were made at the Chamber headquarters in July. In 1994, 14 members participated in landscape judging of 41 businesses, cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce. Jim Collier was chair. In 1995 and 1996, Bob Hamilton was the club leader.

Jane Bagwell chaired in 1997 when 50 businesses were evaluated by 32

members. Tom Bartram again directed the project in 1998.

Bob Almond became the long time project leader and served for eight years, from 1999 to 2006. During those years, 35 to 40 properties were appraised each spring by Club

9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

members. Terrie Rourke led in 2007 and Frank Faulk for the next three years, with similar business and Club participation.

Over time, the program has progressed. The rating standards have been more closely defined and the title of the program has changed from “Judging” to “Landscape Evaluation” and all participants are considered winners. Before the mid 1990s, the evaluation sheet was quite arbitrary. It involved checking Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor for Selection and Care of Landscape Areas, of Foundation Plantings, Lawns, Fence Plantings and Trees. Then, one of the Club’s early female members, Virginia Scott, developed the current, and much more discriminatory appraisal form¹ which gives specified maximum points for broad areas of excellence: 20 points for Design (5 each for Plant Selection, Color, Originality of Design and Unity of Planting), 30 for Execution (10 each for Placement, Vigor and Mulch), 30 for Maintenance (10 each for Removal of Weeds, Litter, Dead or Sick Specimens), and 20 for Overall Impression (Eye Appeal). Member evaluators are encouraged to add comments, with emphasis on encouragement and positive suggestions. The result is a more definitive report on how the property appears to the average discriminating citizen—perhaps a customer or client. Annual participation has increased to a range of fifty to sixty properties considered each spring. Outstanding properties are selected in a number of categories defined by business type and size. Plaques are now presented not just to the highest point participants, but to all participants.

Spartanburg Herald-Journal
June 16, 1998

When businesses take time to beautify, the entire community reaps the benefits

By Phillip Caston

Each year, a number of Spartanburg County businesses strive to beautify the landscape surrounding their buildings by creating gardens, building fountains and planting trees.

When Spring arrives, they reap the benefit of what they have sowed.

For some, the benefits include recognition of their efforts by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

For the past 26 years, the two groups have sponsored a beautification contest open to all Spartanburg County businesses.

The contest really benefits the community,” said Cindy Beacham, the chamber’s vice president of community relations. “We recognize businesses doing whatever they can do to make the city beautiful.”

Members of the Men’s Garden Club travel around Spartanburg County in groups of two visiting each of the contestants. They judge each entry on such aspects as vigor of plants, color of the plants, quality of the mulch and the landscape design, said George Gunter, president of the Men’s Garden Club.

(This article went on to announce these first place “winners”: Industry A and B – Kohler Co. and Zima/Kusters, Commercial – West Gate Mall, Professional – Henson Law Firm, Public Service A and B – Converse College and Spartanburg County Library, and Apartments/Hotels/Motels – Hunt Club Apartments.)

¹ A copy of this currently used evaluation form is shown in Appendix 26.

9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Many participating Companies have enthusiastically supported the evaluation program, including large operations like Milliken, the regional airport, Kohler, and non-profits such as First Presbyterian Church and Wofford College. Additionally, local motels, physician



offices, libraries, small businesses have received awards. Many Men's Garden Club members led and participated in the project.

Cyndi Beacham had been an active leader in the Chamber but is now Director of Promotion for the Charles Lea Center. "In the late 1990s or early 2000s it became evident that a few organizations were dominating the 'winners' each year— Milliken, GSP Airport. To generate more 'competition' they were given 'Lifetime Achievement Awards'; this allowed other organizations to be more properly recognized," said Beacham in an interview in 2008. She pointed out that even with this change, Milliken continued to respond to the Chamber's annual request for sign-ups with a request for evaluation because, "We can always improve!"

Beacham emphasized that the basic reason for the project was for owners to get suggestions and insight from "non-professional" gardeners and landscapers on how their property looked to the general public, and how it might be improved. Constructive comments were always the objective of the Club's evaluators. She pointed out that Kurt Zimmerli was an early supporter and participant (just as he was an early corporate member of the Club) and that it was common for him to join his grounds keeper, Ted Petoskey, at each Recognition Ceremony. Over the years, it has become much more common for the professional landscape maintenance contractors to attend the ceremony.

Surely, this cooperative program of the Men's Garden Club and the Chamber, plus the Club's multiple and major street and highway tree plantings, have combined to have Spartanburg nationally recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in the country! A recent example of this recognition was by a member of the Men's Garden Clubs of America who attended that organization's national convention here in Spartanburg in 2006. He was so impressed by the enhancements in this community that, two years later, he was instrumental in bringing some 150 young members of the National Junior Horticultural Association here for their four-day national convention.

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President's Corner

As you read the February 2023 Newsletter, you will see a couple of new sections. In conjunction with our 75th Anniversary, we will be featuring brief biographies each month. One biography will be about a past member of historical significance and one biography will be about a current member. This month will feature WO Ezell. I know the street in Spartanburg is named after him and I see references in the club history about his many contributions. I am curious to learn more about him.

The second new section is the one titled "Upcoming Events." This section will contain information about upcoming meeting presentations, garden tours and events relating to our 75th Anniversary Celebration. We already have a few events lined up and expect to have more as the year progresses. I hope you are able to come and participate in these events and make this a great year for the club.

Erin Howe SMGC Speaker February 20, 2023

"All About Peonies"



Our February presenter will be Erin Howe, owner and manager of Red Maple Flower Farm. On this eleven-acre family farm in northern Spartanburg County, Erin grows peonies for cut flower bouquets and offers more than ten varieties of peony plants for the home landscape. Erin will discuss peony varieties and culture for the South Carolina Piedmont.

Join us on Monday, February 20 at 7pm at the Health Sciences Building on the Spartanburg Community College Campus. The presentation is open to the public free of charge.



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2023 Litter pickup schedule

- March 11** rain date **Mar 18**
- June 10** rain date **Jun 17**
- Sept. 9** rain date **Sep 16**
- Dec. 9** rain date **Dec 16**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

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Corporate \$100

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Upcoming Events

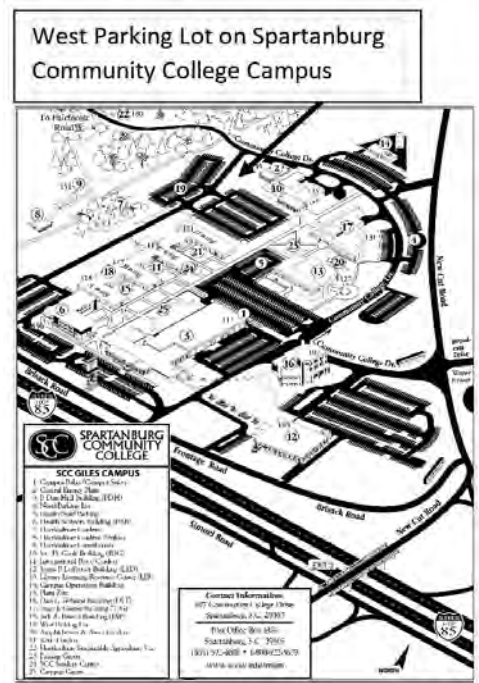
Garden Tour - Boris and Jane Bauer

On Wednesday afternoon, March 1, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will visit the garden of Boris and Jane Bauer in Easley, SC. This six-acre garden contains more than 180 Magnolia taxa as well as extensive collections of azalea and Rhododendron. This tour is scheduled to coincide with peak bloom of the Magnolias.

We plan to meet at the West Parking Lot at the Spartanburg Community College campus at 12:30 PM and car pool to the Bauer Garden in Easley.

We plan to be back in Spartanburg around 4:30 PM.

Bauer Garden Address: 112 Woodward Way. Easley, SC



Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

Betty's garden will be open on Saturday, April 15 for the Garden Conservancy, 10 to 4. See <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days> Her garden will also be open for special friends on Sunday, April 16 from 12 to 4. The Men's Garden Club is included on this date.

Save the Date – May 6, 2023 - Garden Tour

On May 6, 2023, Gardens of selected members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will be open to the public. We will be showcasing our gardening talents and raising the awareness of our Club. Please spread the word and make this a great event.



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Camellia japonica
'Pink Perfection'



Camellia japonica
'Leucantha'

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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Member Musing

By Bruce Fraedrich

Gregory Bald

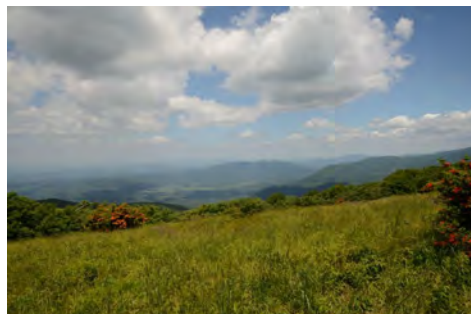
The Gregory Bald azaleas in the Great Smokies National Park are considered among the most unique and spectacular hybrids to be found in nature. In mid-June, Gregory (more correctly Gregory's) Bald becomes the Mecca for azalea geeks from places as far away as Europe and Asia. Hundreds of azaleas come into bloom across the ten-acre bald. The plants are natural hybrids between four species of native azaleas: *Rhododendron calendulaceum* (Flame azalea), *R. arborescens* (Sweet azalea), *R. viscosum* (Swamp azalea) and *R. cumberlandense* (Cumberland azalea.) These hybrids developed over centuries of cross-pollination of the four parent species to produce a wide diversity of flower colors including red, orange, yellow, pink and white. There are some unique bicolor flowers and some have a distinct fragrance that was likely inherited from the *R. arborescens* parent.



The hike to Gregory Bald is over eleven miles round trip with a 3000-foot elevation change. The Park Service rates the trail as "strenuous": as a 70-year-old, I thought the rating was completely understated. The trail takes you through a mixed hardwood forest that contains a diversity of woody and herbaceous plants that changes with elevation. The trail is not busy midweek, even in peak azalea season, and wildlife sightings, including black bear, are common. The Bald itself is interesting: the mountain top is covered by tall grass interspersed with azaleas and blueberries. This Bald existed when the first white explorers visited the area and no one is

certain whether these tree-less mountain tops were formed naturally from lightning fires or were intentionally burned by Native Americans to promote wildlife. Views of Cades Cove and Fontana Lake are spectacular from the tree-less Bald.

Horticulturalists have collected seed from the Gregory Bald azaleas and progeny can be viewed in public collections and selections are available for sale. If you are not into the hike to Gregory Bald, you can view an extensive collection at the Southern Highlands Reserve, a native plant arboretum in Lake Toxaway, NC. These ten-year old plants bloom in early June at the lower elevations of this Reserve. More information about the Southern Highlands Reserve can be found on their website: <https://southernhighlandsreserve.org/>





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Biography

W.O. Ezell



Walter Orlando (W.O.) Ezell (1891-1979) was a prominent Spartanburg business, civic and church leader. He was also one of the founders and a very active member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, serving as a Board Member and President. For 49 years, Mr. Ezell held various roles at the Geer Drug Co., concluding his career as Vice President. Prior to his retirement, before and after work, Mr. Ezell, with the back seat of his old green Desoto filled with cow manure, could be spotted working along the thoroughfares of Spartanburg planting and tending to flowerbeds and trees. His work enhanced the beauty of the city creating a more attractive place to live. During his retirement, his interest became a full-time endeavor. W.O. Ezell was recognized by Spartanburg and the State of South Carolina for his hard work in beautification projects throughout Spartanburg. Duncan and Cleveland Parks, Converse Heights, Pine Street, and the Downtown Airport are a few places that benefited from his efforts. Later in his life, Mr. Ezell offered handy gardening tips and solutions as a regular guest on WSPA radio. Mr. Ezell was honored to represent the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club at a White House event hosted by Lady Bird Johnson held in the Rose Garden to recognize outstanding garden clubs. In the 1970's, a two-mile section of Highway 29 in Spartanburg was named W O Ezell Boulevard in honor of his efforts to beautify the city.

Daphne Sawyer

Originally from Delaware, Daphne Sawyer grew up in her parents' garden, including her father's large beds of tall bearded iris, fruit trees, roses, lilies and any other blooming plant her father could lay hands on. Her grandfather had a magical Williamsburg style garden, laid out with brick lined beds and boxwood hedging, lattices and tons of places to hide. Her childhood paradise was Longwood Gardens and Winterthur (which do not grow iris!!!), just up the road.

Growing up in the Cold War and nuclear arms race, Daphne set out on her own détente mission in college. She studied all things Russian through graduate school, living and working in Russia as the Soviet Union slowly dissolved into the Russian Federation. Upon repatriation, she moved into information technology, focused on digital networks. Her first network engineering job was on the 101st floor of Tower Two in the World Trade Center, NY. She evolved into technology consulting and spent the remainder of her professional career working with clients transforming their businesses through technology.

She reconnected with iris when her father was diagnosed with stage four cancer and she relocated to southeastern Pennsylvania to be near. Father and daughter made iris their healing balm for the next 23 years, joining the American Iris Society, attending annual iris conventions and growing every kind of iris their climate would tolerate, including Louisiana Iris. Daphne eventually joined the Louisiana Iris Society and served twice on their Board. She is a member of the Historical Iris Preservation Society and introduced Louisiana Iris into that program in 2022.

When not obsessing about iris, Daphne obsesses over books. A lifelong book collector she began apprenticing in book repair, binding and marbling seven years ago. She has her own bindery in the back yard where she rescues all sorts of books from the abyss. For exercise and entertainment Daphne has two smooth fox terriers who demonstrate more energy than nuclear fission by 4pm daily. They keep her chasing balls and hate gardening and books.

Daphne transplanted to Travelers Rest in 2018 and once again, has reconnected with her iris passion thanks to Everette Lineberger, Phil Abers and Stan Gray at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden. Wherever she has worked and traveled she has sought out gardens and their gardeners for inspiration. A beautiful garden is her church. Locally, she is an active member of Spartanburg Mens' Garden Club and the Piedmont Iris Society. She has several iris projects in partnership with Hatcher Garden in the works.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 10

Something Bigger than Ourselves: THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA / MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

*How does one keep from "growing old inside"? Surely only in community.
The only way to make friends with time is to stay friends with people....
Taking community seriously not only gives us the companionship we need,
it also relieves us of the notion that we are indispensable.*

- Robert M. Brown

The affiliation of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club with the national organization, Men's Garden Clubs of America, in 1950 was a good move. It was good for the local club *and* the MGCA. Locally, the Club received much inspiration and service orientation. Nationally, the organization received considerable leadership, inspiration and guidance from the Club and many of its members.

The national organization was formed by a group of four local men's garden clubs from the Midwest in 1932 and later moved its headquarters to the Des Moines, Iowa, area. During its heyday, it grew to 10,000 nationwide members.

The Spartanburg group of men gardeners was organized in 1948 under the name The Dirt Daubers. It was renamed Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1950 when W. P Rich was President. The SMGC applied for affiliation with the MGCA in 1953. Application was made by Karl Selden who was president that year. The affiliation was quickly approved and became effective on February 15, 1953. Of the 27 names on the application, those probably

most well known, besides Rich, Selden, and Lea, include Luther Boswell, W. O. Ezell, R. L. Handall, Dr. George D. Johnson, Jack M. Lemmon, Frank Powell, and J. M. Culcleasure.¹

It is not known who promoted this national affiliation, but encouragement from the older Asheville MGC was undoubtedly a factor. MGCA was a well known 21-year old organization composed of some 50 men's garden clubs—unique clubs at that period of time.

Selden represented the Club that first year at the National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, in April of 1953. He was said to be one of six South Carolina residents in attendance (the other five are unknown). Of local interest was the fact that Converse College's Victor Montgomery Garden was included on a list of "Favorite Gardens in the U.S."

National conventions were a popular and valuable vehicle for growing and networking. Charles Lea and his wife attended the one two years later in Houston when there was a report of nine MGC clubs in South Carolina (these are also not known).

It was the Jackson, Mississippi, convention in 1959 which Lea attended with \$20 provided by the Club to help finance attendance. As detailed in the chapter on Iconic Members, he brought home the seedling Magnolia which is believed to be the magnificent tree in Duncan Park today. He wrote in his newsletter this good impression of the national organization and how important he thought it was to the local club:

I would like to say a word about the relationship of the national to the local club. No one can appreciate this relationship until he has attended at least one national convention. You have literally hundreds of men scattered all over the United States meeting to give and to receive information on horticulture and gardening that you cannot get in any other way except here. The national club has been set up to help the local club, and the annual dues could, not purchase one-thousandth of the by-products that come from membership. A local club could paddle its own canoe along life's journey sufficient unto itself, but when you are a member of the national organization you have a feeling that you are traveling down the garden paths of life hand in hand with a group that brings to you a fellowship and information that is beyond purchase by money.

The next year, the convention was held in Asheville and the friendship between the two clubs was strengthened. William Atkins, R. G. Tessner, Lea and Ezell represented the Spartanburg Club. This may have been the first time the Club was recognized nationally when Ezell was presented a certificate of commendation for his efforts in beautifying Spartanburg. Ezell and Lea were regular representatives at these national meetings for many years. More early honors followed—Lea, Ezell and E. L. McArthur accepted MGCA's Industrial Landscaping Beautification Award for the City of Spartanburg and a similar one for the relatively new Greenville-Spartanburg Airport. The Club received the prestigious Woodson K. Jones Award as the Outstanding Member Club for meeting many standards: for increased membership, sponsoring vegetable and flower shows, paying dues on time, organizing new clubs, and for having previously received a bronze medal. This was great recognition for a young club with fewer than 100 members!

It was in another national meeting—Atlanta in 1964—that Lea and Ezell were first given national leadership rolls. The former was appointed chairman of the National Projects Committee and the later became chairman of the National City Beautification Committee.

¹ A copy of the Charter Membership Roll as submitted to MGCA in 1953 appears in Appendix 16.

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President's Corner

We are definitely seeing signs of spring — that can only make a gardener happy. I saw the first tall bearded iris bloom at the end of February. Planting irises in a south facing raised bed with a brick wall behind it can do wonders for extending the bloom season. We also have two Oklahoma Red Buds that were recently planted and are now blooming. They had to be Oklahoma Red Bud, since that is Edie's home state.

Which plants in this spring season are your favorite? Which plant do you look forward to seeing bloom? How can we get others less familiar with gardening to enjoy plants as much as we do? The Club has a great container garden that is abundantly stocked this year with loads of new varieties. Invite friends, family and acquaintances to our spring plant sale on Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. We can spread the excitement of gardening with other folks in our community. See you at the plant sale!

Mary Snoddy SMGC Speaker March 20, 2023

"Gardening Trends and New Plants for 2023"



Landscapes evolve and change from season-to-season and year-to-year. The horticulture industry is constantly introducing new plant species and varieties as well as landscape design ideas. Mary will discuss popular new plants and trends in gardening for the coming year.

Mary Snoddy is known for her garden smarts, shared through her writing and speaking engagements. She is an adjunct instructor in the Clemson University Master Gardener program in Spartanburg and Laurens counties, and the Wofford College Life-Long Learning program. She is a frequent and popular presenter for garden clubs and civic groups. Mary is a life-long gardener and resident of South Carolina.



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



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Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Upcoming Events

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, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



2023 Litter pickup schedule

June 10 rain date **Jun 17**

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Renew Now 2023 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at **DirtDaubers.org/Membership** and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club & SCC present our Tree, Plant and Shrub Sale!

complete plant list at
DirtDaubers.org
cash/checks/cards

*Hundreds of plants
Reasonably priced*



at the Horticulture Gardens SCC I-85 Business at New Cut Road

Sale

**Friday, March 31 &
Saturday, April 1
at 8:00am-1:30pm**



Dirtdaubers.org

SC-34387321



Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

Betty's garden will be open on Saturday, April 15 for the Garden Conservancy, 10 to 4. See <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/open-days> Her garden will also be open for special friends on Sunday, April 16 from 12 to 4. The Men's Garden Club is included on this date.

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On May 6, 2023, Gardens of selected members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will be open to the public. We will be showcasing our gardening talents and raising the awareness of our Club. Please spread the word and make this a great event.



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**Photography
by Linda McHam**



Perfect weather made an afternoon trip to Easley, SC, spectacular. Left to right: Edie Abers, Mark Carlson, Jim Weeks, Mary Ann Hipp, Shelia Middlebrooks, Phil Abers, Darvin Helvy, Linda McHam, Bruce Fraedrich and Boris Bauer. Photo by Jane Bauer. March 1, 2023.

Nine members of SMGC wandered around 5 acres of deciduous magnolias, rhododendron, azaleas and many other woodland plants. The Bauers were generous by donating some of their plants to members. Everyone went home with prizes.



Boris Bauer explaining his "Extractigator" from Canada.
www.extractigator.com

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

Creekside Garden & Nursery
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Gardening & Beautification

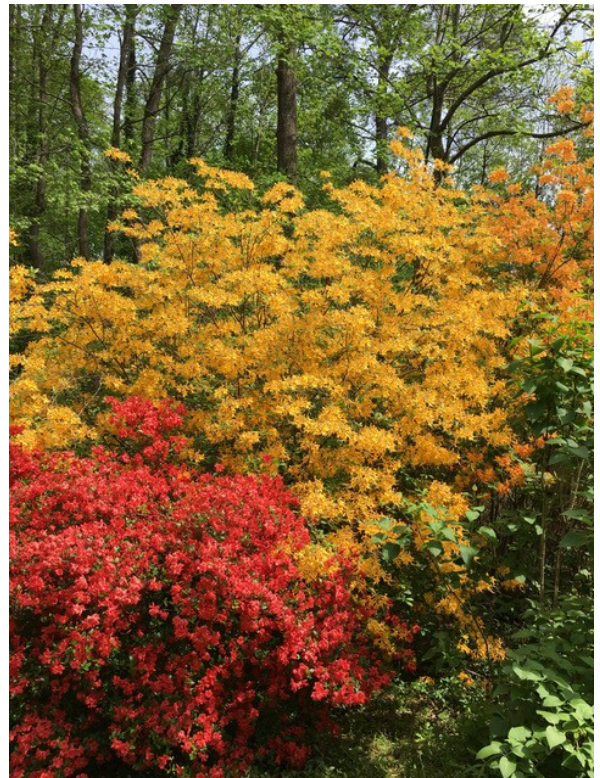
A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Member Musing

By Mary Ann Hipp

Visiting My Garden

Quite often in this column, members have described favorite gardens they have visited with the idea of encouraging the rest of us to visit those gardens. Today I would like to tell you about a garden that I visit regularly, every day in fact, and encourage you to come visit it. As one of the 75th anniversary events this year, my garden will be open on May 6th, the first Saturday in May, for anyone and everyone to come visit. I live in the Cherokee Springs community of northern Spartanburg county in a home that was built well over a hundred years ago, and my garden consists of 3 ½ acres of trees, shrubs, and flowers, some of which have been there for many years and some of which are newly added. From 1975-1995, this was the home of the Cherokee Springs Azalea Farm and there are over 100 azaleas on the property including both evergreen and deciduous ones. They bloom from March through June and one even blooms in August. I have quite a collection of viburnums and nearly every shrub the garden club has sold for the last ten years. I have also worked hard to include a lot of native North American species including perennials, shrubs and trees. There is nothing a gardener likes better than to share their garden with others, and I sincerely hope you, your family, your friends and neighbors, and anyone else will come get ideas about what can be grown in our own area without having a crew of workers and a massive budget. Hope to see you there!





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Biography

Dan Shook

Manager at Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve

Growing up in Anderson, SC, I developed a love of gardening from a neighbor gentleman who raised his three sons. Then, I came along. Common tasks were running corn to the boiling water, digging potatoes and cutting okra to help out.

I was a runner in high school and college, having held the state record in the mile as a senior for one week before coming in second at the finals. College and an internship with Milliken for two years introduced me to Spartanburg. Working directly with Mr. Milliken allowed me an inside look at the world of a wonderful visionary.

I spent four years as a horticulturist with Morgan Corp and was involved in the development of the Carolina Country Club golf course and subdivision. Later, I went on to start and operate Century Company, a residential and commercial landscaping business for 30 years. It was sold six years ago so that I could take a position at Hatcher Garden as manager.



My world today is education on outdoor environments and how to create a special place in Spartanburg for respite, education, and exercise. I will remain here as long as they will keep me. Our focus is on insect habitats and water run-off. I have a passion for trees which shows up throughout the year. I am married with numerous grandchildren. Life is dynamic.

I continue to design and serve residential clients through my small business to practice my craft. I am excited for the Men's Garden Club and the importance of the work we do.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Both of these leaders were featured in articles in National's bi-monthly magazine, *The Gardener*.

In order to develop more camaraderie and cooperation between local clubs, National organized *regional groups* composed of a half dozen or so clubs who were encouraged to develop regional sharing meetings and to elect a local member to serve on the MGCA Board of Directors. The Spartanburg club hosted the 1963 Blue Ridge Regional meeting with

The Paper, September 8, 1993
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club winds highest award
 By Della Tralnor

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club was the only affiliate of The Gardeners of America Inc. to receive a Certificate of Recognition at the organization's recent annual convention in Akron, Ohio.

The certificate is The Gardeners of America's highest award. Stephen Smith of Asheville, N.C., national director of the organization, recommended the Spartanburg club for this honor after a recent visit to the city, during which he observed the club's various activities.

"The certificate was awarded on the basis of outstanding achievement and service to the community," David Kennemur, club director, said. "Such services involved the beautification of the city by planting and maintaining 20 flower beds in highly visible areas and by growing and planting trees and shrubs along the principal streets and in the parks and school grounds of the city."

Kennemur said the club has planted or sold for planting more than 65,000 trees and shrubs during the last 12 years. This has contributed to Spartanburg being named "A Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation each of those years. And the club has been involved in other beautification efforts, as well.

- Continued

headquarters at the Cleveland Hotel and featured a tour of the landscaped grounds of the new Milliken facilities. Lea served as the region's representative on the MGCA Board. The annual Regional meeting was held in Greenville in 1965 when Ezell was its president, and he served as its representative as a National Director from then until 1967. He also served as chairman of MGCA's New

Clubs Committee beginning in 1968. Ezell received a significant honor—he was invited to be the featured speaker at the 1968 Carolinas/Virginia Regional Meeting in Chapel Hill, N.C.—and his topic was City Beautification!

Claude Sherrill led the Blue Ridge Region as its president in 1972 when the YMCA served as headquarters for the second meeting in Spartanburg. The "Garden Tips" newsletter reported:

Regional Meeting – Attached is a program and registration blank for the meeting on Saturday, September 30. Our club is host and Claude Sherrill, as General Chairman, has arranged a fine program for you and your lady. Those of you who heard Shirley Carter and Pat Fulmer at our Spring Garden Course know the high caliber of their presentation... .

The report the next month was, "A big success with 129 men and their ladies in attendance! All Regional Clubs were well represented. Hendersonville had over forty present. Congratulations and thanks to General Chairman, Claude Sherrill..." Other active clubs in the region at that time were Asheville, Easley, Greenville, and Greenwood; Tryon, Knoxville, Lebanon and Hickory became active later.

April 2023

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Welcoming Men & Women

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Ben Waddell
Beth Waddell
Sheila Middlebrooks

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Gardening & Beautification

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Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

March was a great month for the club. We had a great tour at Boris Bauer's home. The magnolia blooms were magnificent and the Bauers' were gracious hosts. To close the month, we had a fantastic spring plant sale surpassing all sales figures in recent years.

This month promises to be very busy. Members can tour Betty Montgomery's garden mid-month. April 22 is Community Day at Hatcher Garden with SMGC being a co-sponsor. In early May, Mary Ann Hipp's garden will be open for visitors. A number of people at the plant sale expressed interest in Community Day and visiting Mary Ann's garden. These events and the excitement they create for the club will propel us successfully into the future. Please participate in these upcoming events and invite your friends and family to join us. Let's keep the momentum going!

Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker April 17, 2023

"Landscape Pest Management"



This presentation will briefly discuss the fundamentals of managing pests in the landscape with emphasis on recent research into new products and procedures. The role of pesticides in pest management will be discussed including trends in product development and addressing public perceptions..

1948 **75th** 2023

Anniversary



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Biography

Jim Weeks

I worked as a physicist for the Army for 9 years and then entered Medical School at age 31. In Spartanburg, I practiced ophthalmology from 1985-2010, serving as president of the county medical society in 1999.

Since getting a pre-planted tray of Zinnias from Burpee as a child, I've always had an interest in gardening. I took the Master Gardener course in 2006-2007 and have served on the board of the Master Gardeners of the Piedmont since then, acting as president in 2016 and 2017. I volunteered with the Plant a Row for the Hungry for 12 years; age caused me to transition to staffing the Farmer's Market and, at times, the Clemson Extension Office in Spartanburg County. I was on the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club board as well for a few years, coordinating the club's Landscape Evaluation project for the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce.

I also volunteer with the American Cancer Society (ACS), serving on the local Relay for Life Committee as well as Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and as a volunteer lobbyist for ACS issues. I also usher at St. Paul's Catholic Church. I read constantly, work out at Planet Fitness and am a Villanova Basketball fanatic.



Henry Pittman: Director Emeritus Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Henry Pittman was raised on a farm in eastern South Carolina near Bishopville. As the youngest and only boy in a family of girls, Henry always received a lot of instructions. Sweet potatoes were a main winter meal. Potatoes were stored in a ground mound outside the house. He graduated from Clemson University after World War II with an engineering degree.

As an ROTC member, he was also a member of a special ROTC marching cadets' unit. He began working at the Milliken Pendleton plant, then moved to Spartanburg in the early 1960's to work for Milliken Chemical. Henry joined the SMGC and raised show quality camellias in a greenhouse beside his house. In 1967, he moved to Virginia to work for Burlington, then returned in the early 1970's to again work for Milliken Research. The first SMGC street tree planting in 1976 along North Pine Street was organized by Henry. The Sweet Gum trees, which were later cut down by a billboard company, were part of this planting. The Sweet Gum trees survived and are now fully grown. A cash payment was made to the SMGC for this act. Even before this event, Henry did not care for billboards.

Our first SMGC tree sale was organized by Henry. 'Carolina Beauty' Crepe Myrtles, white and pink Dogwoods were potted in Cryovac (porous) bags with leaf compost from Harold Hatcher's garden. In the early 1980's, Henry and Harold planted Crepe Myrtles and Oak trees from the SMGC tree bank along East Main Street. The next large planting was along Hwy 221 from I-26 to SC 295. Highway Beautification Funds were used to have a commercial vendor furnish and plant along this roadway. About half of these trees remain along the highway. The last planting was along Business I-85. Again, Beautification Funds were used for a commercial vendor to plant trees along this highway. After retirement, Henry started a small nursery on his rental property. The Chinese Fringe trees that were sold at the SMGC tree sale for several years came from this nursery.

For many years, Henry led an effort to reduce Crepe "Murder". This effort has had limited success as tops of Crepe Myrtles are still being cut off. Henry helped with organizing and planning for the National Men's Garden Club Convention held in Spartanburg in 2006. SMGC voted to leave the National organization shortly after this convention. Henry continues to remind our club of the SMGC past by his history book – "And The Trees Remain." For his many beautification efforts, Henry was awarded the "Order of the Palmetto" during the SMGC 60-year celebration dinner in 2008.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

The range of colors
of our native azaleas
is breathtaking.



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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Member Musing By Phil Abers

I am sure many of you have had a defining moment when you decided that you liked gardening. I have heard of mothers, fathers, and grandparents as inspiration for future gardeners. I can't remember a single event that triggered my interest in gardening. What follows is my path to the gardening world.

As a 4-year-old, I remember my mother planting marigolds. The bright color and strong scent were fascinating and every time I am around marigolds, I think of my mom. When we lived in Illinois, my parents had my brother, sister, and I plant a garden consisting of two tomatoes, two peppers, and two egg plants each. It was exciting to see produce from our little garden. We also went to the raspberry patch to pick raspberries for our cereal.

At my first house in Texas, I decided to plant a vegetable garden. We did not have the internet, and I was too impatient to study gardening techniques. I did know enough to add organic matter to the heavy alkaline soil of the Dallas area. I bought a couple of fruit trees without knowing what varieties grow best there. The peach tree was phenomenal. The pears from the pear tree could substitute for rocks.

When I retired, I was not sure how I would spend my time. I joined the SMGC after moving to Inman in 2015 and have been active ever since. I had a few suspicious plants on my property and made the mistake of asking Newt Hardie to identify the suspects. For those of you who knew Newt, you are not surprised that I was quickly drafted as a Trees Coalition volunteer. I have been removing invasive plants from public lands in Spartanburg for 7 years.

Late in 2015, I met Everette Lineberger at the Inman Farmers Market. Edie and I signed up for a tour of iris gardens and became members of the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society. Last year we were on the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society's garden tour and I had actually learned enough about irises to have a good display.

As I have gradually become more involved in gardening over my lifetime, I have found more enjoyment from the effort and results. What a lucky person to be able to plant and create spaces of enjoyment and beauty. This article has been written by one happy gardener!

History of the club continues on the following pages.

It was probably 1977 that Men's Garden Clubs of American initiated manning its Board of Directors with a representative of each Region. Everette Seixas was the first national director representing the Blue Ridge Region

Ezell's daughter Bertha and her husband Emmett McArthur were frequent representatives of the Club at national meetings. Other members who attended through the mid 1990s were John Cantrell and Arden Camp. Serving on the National Board of Directors over the years, in addition to Lea and Ezell, were Everette Seixas, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Henry Pittman and Jim Bagwell. Board meetings were conducted at each annual convention and the Board met in November each year. That fall meeting was hosted by the Spartanburg MGC in 1999 when Asheville's Steve Smith was national president; the Milliken Company was an important partner in that endeavor.

The MGCA published its first book, *A to Z Hints for the Vegetable Gardener*, in 1936. Originally the bimonthly magazine, *The Gardener*, published hints and suggestions on gardening which were included in the organized book of approximately 120 pages. Having gone through 17 printings in 1998, its popularity was, and is still, great. Many clubs regularly present a copy to new members, and take orders from older members.

National Director Bartram participated in the 1996 convention in Colorado Springs and again the next year in Spokane, Washington, when Linda McHam was a winner in National's photography contest. Pittman received one of National's two Presidential Citations for his work as Publicity/Public Relations chairman, for authorship of the brochure on Club Building, and for his Regional work in organizing new clubs.

The 1998 Convention was in Asheville, NC, and was attended by 10 members from the SMGC which was responsible for the Hospitality Room. Bob Almond was chairman of that committee. Bartram continued as National Director and Linda McHam received her second top award for her photograph which was published in the 1999 National Calendar.

The Club was represented by Pittman at the 2000 Green Bay, Wisconsin, Convention when

Charles Marley of the Asheville Club served as National Director. In 2002 at Minneapolis, based on the Club's nomination when Bill Wilson was president, Milliken & Co. was given the National Award for Outstanding Commercial Landscape. The much deserved plaque was presented to Mr. Roger Milliken at a large company sharing rally by Bartram and



Pittman later that year. The MGC was honored in 2003 when National President Honey Barnekoff visited Spartanburg in preparation for the 2006 Convention to be held in the city. She received good local newspaper publicity and was entertained at Wofford College and at the homes of Linda McHam and Jane and Jim Bagwell.

In 2004, the Kansas City convention was attended by Pittman as National Director. In 2005, the Bagwells, Don and Denie Crowder and President Everette Lineberger and his wife Ann attended the important convention in Juniper Beach, Florida. Attending members gleaned much valuable information and advice for preparation for the upcoming Spartanburg convention.

2006 was a significant year for both the City and the Club which hosted the three-day convention of The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America in April. McHam and Crowder served as co-chairs for the planning committee and did a magnificent job with support from the convention executive committee composed of Lineberger, Bagwell, and Bob Hamilton (Convention Treasurer with back up from Bob Almond and Bagwell) and some 20 committees.²

The theme of the convention was "Enhancing the Enhancements" in hopes that knowing how many Spartanburg organizations had worked on beautifications would be an inspiration for other clubs to encourage such activity in their communities. In addition to promoting the treescapes of the SMGC, the Spot of Pride program, the work of the group of One Hundred, the City, and other organizations, tours of Hatcher Garden, Milliken's Arboretum and landscape were featured. A daily four-page color newsletter, the *ETE Express: Enhancing the Enhancements, What Spartanburg Has Done* was written and published by Jeff Hayes. It was a valuable contribution to the meeting. Mr. Milliken's Noble Tree Foundation strengthened the convention by providing the presence of noted tree expert Dr. Mike Dirr who participated in the tours and was the feature speaker at the closing banquet. The Club managed the convention so successfully that excess funds remained;



The 2006 convention was considered a huge success.

they were contributed to the National Office for repair of its building

Following the convention, national activity continued. Dr. Dianne Fergusson was the chair of National's Book Review Committee, and Pittman was a national director

² The Convention's Planning Organization Chart is in Appendix 35

representing the Blue Ridge Region. Tasso Ghionis, local chair of the Club's Scholarship Committee, presented the top national scholarship winner, Clemson University horticulture senior Matthew Cousins, with TGOA /MGCA's \$1,000 award, plus Cousins and four other local students received \$250 each from the Spartanburg MGC. The Club's Jane and Jim Bagwell won the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for their outstanding home grounds and gardens.

The National Board of Directors Meeting held in Kendallville, Indiana, in November, 2006, was attended by Pittman who received many compliments on Spartanburg and the quality of the convention. He was officially replaced by Bagwell to represent the Club and the Region on the TGOA /MGCA Board. Bagwell and his wife, Jane, joined the former director at the 2007 National Convention in Rockford, Illinois, in July where Bagwell accepted the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for that year's winner, member Linda Cobb.

Bagwell had the honor at the 2008 National Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, of receiving another award for Linda Cobb; this one was the Golden Quill Award for her high quality horticulture-related writing. Perhaps of even greater significance, he accepted SMGC's National Award for the largest increase in membership. And that year, Bagwell began service on National's E&I Committee which manages the large endowment fund.

More Spartanburg recognition occurred at the 2009 National Convention in Santa Rosa, California, which was attended by the Bagwells and Dr. Bob Reynolds and his wife Ina. There, member Terrie Rourke received the National Home Landscape Award, analogous to Milliken's 2002 *commercial* landscape award.

National affiliation offered many material perks that were of local value. These included student scholarships awards, program and audio-visual aids, leader guides, individual member participation in the prestigious annual photography contest, and many others. But perhaps the most valuable from a monetary standpoint was the federal tax exemption for monetary contributors—the 501(c)3—which allowed financial contributors to the Club to properly claim tax exemption for their gifts. This not only encouraged contributions to the Club for its community enhancement projects, but was extremely beneficial to its Kudzu Coalition Project before the Coalition qualified for organizational independence and procured its own tax status in 2007.

As with most organizations, TGOA/MGCA underwent a declining membership and a tighter budget over the years. *The Gardener* magazine, while of significant value, was a large expense item which was considered for elimination. This was accomplished in 2005 in a positive way by Former National President Honey Barnekoff developing the valuable agreement between National and the prestigious American Horticultural Society. As a "Horticultural Partner" with AHS, TGOA /MGCA members were invited to join AHS at a very significant discount, and have all the many privileges of its membership, including reception of its very high quality magazine *The American Gardener*. Many members took advantage of this valuable opportunity.

May 2023

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President's Corner

Spring time is our time. To see the plants growing and the flowers blooming are the high point of the year for many gardeners. Our club is working hard to bloom along with nature. We had an excellent presentation at our regular club meeting by Bruce Fraedrich on Pest Management. We put on a good performance at the Community Day event on April 22 hosted by Hatcher Garden. While the weather did not co-operate, the club members came prepared and helped sell the club to the public.

We had a tree planting demonstration, a discussion on invasive plants and other activities for Community Day. We gave away packets of elderberry seeds, some trees and iris. Considering the weather, the event went very well. Thanks to Darvin Helvy for spearheading this effort. The garden tour at Mary Ann Hipp's house is the culmination of our spring activities. See the pictures from the event in this newsletter. Please share ideas for future events and ways to promote our club to the general public. We are worth the effort!

Dr Jon Storm SMGC Speaker May 15, 2023

"Raising Cane and Silk: How Giant Cane and White Mulberry Influenced the History of SC"



Our May presenter will be Dr Jon Storm, Associate Professor of Biology at USC Upstate and author of a Field Guide to the Southern Piedmont. His presentation entitled "Raising Cane and Silk: How Giant Cane and White Mulberry Influenced the History of SC" will discuss how two plants played key roles in the history of South Carolina.

Join us on Monday, May 15 at 7pm at the Health Sciences Building on the Spartanburg Community College Campus. The presentation is open to the public free of charge.

For the record: The May board meeting was canceled this month due to scheduling conflicts. Board reports were submitted to the Secretary and are on file.



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Upcoming Events

PLANT SWAP - Sunday, May 21

Sponsored by the Spartanburg County Library and Spartanburg Master Gardeners in the Headquarters Library Atrium, 151 S. Church Street, Spartanburg SC

- The event is free and open to the public.
- A participant is limited to three donations.
- At registration and in exchange for the donated plants, participant will be given tokens to claim three plants. Participants donating fewer than three plants will receive commensurately reduced tokens.
- Plants can be NO LARGER than one-gallon containers. Four-inch square or round pots are preferred.
- Donations are received 2:30p to 3:45p. Claims will take place from 4p to 5p.
- Only healthy plants with reasonable roots are allowed. Plants can be self-propagated, seed-sown, or purchased.
- All plants must be identified (shrub, tree, herb, etc) and labeled (for sun/shade/dry/wet). Volunteers will assist with labeling, if needed.
- To claim a plant, the token must be inserted into the plant. The chosen plant should be removed from the table to prevent double claims for the same plant.



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Biography

Phil Abers



Phil was born in the suburbs of Chicago. Just before 6th grade his family moved to California. Phil obtained a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of California Berkeley. While some people are aware of his engineering degree, they may not know that Phil received a varsity letter playing soccer. He was a starter on the team, but not a star.

After college, Phil escaped California and spent brief periods of time in Renton, WA and Lake Charles, LA. Phil met his wife, Edie, in Lake Charles. They lived in Garland, TX, a suburb of Dallas, for 10 years where their son, Lou, was born. Then it was back to California for 3 years to spend time with family when Phil joined Fluor Engineers. After re-escaping from California, Phil had a one-year assignment in Venezuela on a heavy crude oil project. He was there for just one month, when the country experienced an attempted coup. It was not the most comforting experience to hear gun shots and see a plane crash at the local city airport.

The family then moved to New Jersey and had the honor of paying their high taxes. He worked in the NJ area for 22 years with three years off for good behavior. Those three years were spent in South Africa executing oil refinery projects. There were many great things to see in Southern

Africa with the wildlife in the game parks being especially exciting.

For almost the entirety of Phil's career, he performed design work and supervised design for the oil refining industry. He did what was called plant design in reference to chemical plants and oil processing plants. Thus, his career did involve working with plants! Phil's expertise was in sulfur plant design. Removing the sulfur from the crude oil and products greatly improved the environment.

For many years, Phil and his brother, Larry, would take hiking, camping and rafting trips. They spent two weeks in Yellowstone/Grand Tetons one year. Another year, they rafted for two weeks on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Being outdoors is an amazing experience.

Their final escape was from NJ. Phil and Edie chose Inman, SC as a place to retire. They feel they made a good choice. The weather is great, the outdoor recreation is superb and the garden club is outstanding!

Everette Lineberger



The Rev. Everette Lineberger was born on February 16, 1929, near Dallas, NC. Having grown up on a farm, he developed a love for horticulture at an early age. Upon retirement, he followed in his parents' footsteps, who grew and sold flowers, and began his second career raising and growing irises, peonies, and daylilies.

A former president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Pastor Lineberger had many interests but was perhaps best known for his irises and daylilies which he and his wife grew and sold from Quail Hill Gardens in Inman from 1986 to 2009. He hybridized, named, and sold fourteen new iris cultivars and served as Board, and/or Committee member, of the American Iris Society for twelve years. In 2012, he was named Emeritus Member of the Men's Garden Club Board of Directors after previously being named an Emeritus Judge of the American Iris Society.

Everette was always eager to share his endless amounts knowledge about all living things with everyone. He truly was a great teacher and mentor to so many. He never seemed to be in a hurry when talking with you and was always there to lend a helping hand. He is truly missed, but his legacy lives on in all of us.



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**Photography
by Linda McHam**



Mary Ann Hipp (3rd from left) welcomes visitors to her open garden on Saturday, May 6. The weather was perfect.



The entrance to Mary Ann Hipp's house and garden was at peak bloom with irises and peonies featured near the drive.



Jim Weeks walks along the creek in the lower part of the garden

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Peggy Wilson, Realtor
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Member Musing **By Will Hawkins**

I have paid several visits to the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville during various times of year. It is located on land in the Pisgah National Forest with a special use permit issued by the National Forests in North Carolina. It truly is a delightful place to visit and stroll or take a picnic if you desire. With so many different areas and 434 acres, you will be able to get ideas and inspiration for your own gardens and landscapes.

The concept for the arboretum originally took place in 1898 by Frederick Olmsted. The Arboretum that exists today was established in 1986 by the General Assembly of North Carolina. The arboretum is continually developing. Even if you have visited before, schedule another visit because you will find new ideas, plants and garden vignettes to see and experience. Take a notebook and camera so that you can take ideas home with you.

Some of the unique gardens there include the Blue Ridge Quilt Garden, the Cliff Dickenson Holly Garden, the National Native Azalea Repository, Plant Professional Landscape Garden, Plants of Promise Garden, a Stream Garden and a Garden Railway. There is also a extensive Bonsai collection.

The main building has a museum shop and small cafe. If you are in the Asheville area, take a few hours to see all that the arboretum has to offer! See <https://www.ncarboretum.org/>.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 11

Controlling the Green Giant: THE KUDZU COALITION

Kudzu is a vine that when left uncontrolled will eventually grow over almost any fixed object in its proximity including other vegetation.

Kudzu, over a period of several years, will kill trees by blocking the sunlight and for this and other reasons many would like to find ways to get rid of it.

- Jack Anthony: jjanthony.com

In late 1997, a group of Men's Garden Club members met with City Manager Roy Lane and the city engineer, Mike Garrett. According to a club member's report of that November meeting, the purpose was "to review City landscape plans and [for them to] hear our input." Club members participating were George Gunter (Club president), Co Irwin (Club member, head of PRIDE Task Force and later organizer of Trees Spartanburg) and Henry Pittman (chairman of the Club's tree committee). In addition to complimenting Lane and Garrett for their "attitude and action toward beautification of Spartanburg," the report said, "We agreed the re-furbishing of the S. Pine Cherry/Dogwood plantings is an ideal one for the MGC to work on with the City. The layout I [Pittman] developed may be a beginning; George will appoint a committee to work on details which we will review with the City prior to execution. The idea is for the MGC to organize and manage, and for the City to finance." The existing cherry plantings referred to consisted of some 250 planted 10 or 15 years earlier, probably by the City, but possibly with Men's Garden Club assistance.

The appointed committee of the Club included Lyn Savor, Hollis Taylor and Pittman; it developed a plan for planting 120 new Yoshino Cherry Trees on South Pine and this was completed in early 1998. An additional 40 Cherry trees were added to this area in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2010. These new trees, and the old ones, prospered reasonably, even though

they were neglected, particularly with respect to two ongoing problems—litter and Kudzu infestations.

Both of these problems were worrisome to recently retired Milliken executive Newt Hardie who was an active member of the Men’s Garden Club. He had completed the local Clemson Extension Service’s Master Gardener Course, and selected improving the appearance of South Pine Street as his required 40-hours of community service in 2001.¹ It soon became apparent that the kudzu was a greater problem than the litter. It was engulfing and smothering many of the Yoshino Cherries, particularly those near the railroad overpass south of the former Draper plant.

Fearing damage to the cherries and wanting to avoid any contaminants running

THE GREEN MENACE / ITS EVERYWHERE

Coalition trying to strangle pesky vine.

By Like Cornell, Staff Writer

Newt Hardie is wringing the neck of the vine that swallowed the south. A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying

A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying and developing ways to force kudzu to cough up sections of Spartanburg’s landscape. And some researchers say Hardie’s efforts could have national implications in the fight against what is a growing problem for many Southern cities — urban kudzu.

Formed in October 2004, the Hardie-led Coalition to Control Kudzu has 20 kudzu-killing sites in and outside of Spartanburg.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club sponsors the coalition, which has participating members from various other groups including local master gardeners and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

Marked with signs, the test locations are a living laboratory for Hardie’s non-herbicidal approach to killing kudzu.

One method — covering patches with black and clear plastic tarps —appears to be an effective way to defoliate the vines. Another approach requires folks to get on their knees and dig out “crowns” by hand.

downhill into the nearby creek, Hardie decided to not use herbicides, but to emphasize mechanical methods that were more environmentally friendly. After searching the Internet for help in non-chemical methods, he was disappointed to find that little work had been done. In fact, many websites mentioned that digging up the entire kudzu root was necessary to completely kill it.

Hardie found this to be not true. He made a breakthrough in kudzu control when he noticed that kudzu plants did not survive after the crown was removed, the underground woody knot at the juncture of the root and the vines. He set up tests using construction flags to meticulously mark the locations where he decapitated crowns from the roots. After two years it was clear that the roots did not have to be dug up. The websites were wrong. Complete eradication did not require all roots to be removed.

After three years of attacking the Kudzu problem around the cherry trees across South Pine Street from Carolina Garden World using trial and error methods, success was noticeable even to those driving by. There was no kudzu in the grove of trees and the green monster no longer came to the edge of the street.

¹Newt Hardie became the main Men’s Garden Club member attending the beautification of South Pine Street, not only in fighting kudzu, but in picking up litter and as the Club’s leader in working with the City in planting an additional approximately 40 new or replacement Yoshino Cherry trees along this highway in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He, with help from an MGC team, also was the source of watering, pruning and maintaining the cherry trees, as well as learning to control the kudzu. He became the Club’s South Pine Street *Czar*. His *tree* work is covered in detail in Chapter 5 on treescaping.

June 2023

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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President	Phil Abers
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Secretary	Denie Crowder
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Charlie Crescenzi
Curtis Marshall
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Beth Waddell
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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

Gardening is a great activity and a wonderful way to relax, get some exercise, create beauty and make friends. We recently had an experience that illustrates why gardening is so special. I received an email from a woman whose son was getting married in Spartanburg on Friday, June 2. She learned that her future daughter-in-law's favorite flower is a bearded iris. The mother wanted to know if I had any bearded irises that were blooming. June is well past the time for bearded iris to bloom in our area, yet there was one bloom stalk out of the few hundred irises on the property.

I told her she could have the iris, but it may not be blooming. It turns out the family was from Michigan and they were driving down for the wedding. The family came over after the wedding on Friday and the tall bearded iris was blooming in all its glory. It is a striking iris, called Uprising, and it has a very large flower. It was truly special that this iris bloomed for the newlyweds.

How did this lady from Michigan get my name? Why would a tall bearded iris bloom in June? I think this couple is blessed. Nature can do some amazing things. We, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, also do amazing things. Let's continue the good work.

Drew Jeffers SMGC Speaker June 19, 2023



The speaker at the June meeting is Drew Jeffers who is the County Coordinator and Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent for Spartanburg County. Drew's presentation will focus on new pests of landscape plants in the Upstate. In the last few years, several invasive insect and disease pests have been introduced into South Carolina and several others can be expected in the near future. Drew will provide information on these invasives with emphasis on identification, biology and management.

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Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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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.

Photography by Linda McHam



Jones Cooley shows off his onions from his garden at Lake Cooley.



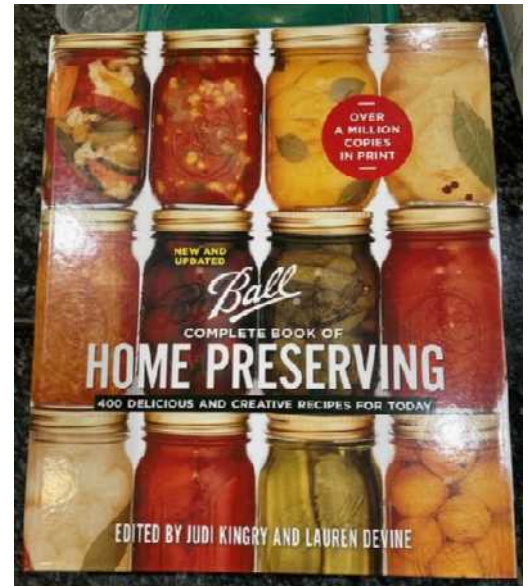
2023 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 9 rain date **Sept 16**

Dec. 9 rain date **Dec 16**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)



This summer will be a great time to start planning for canning and preserving fruit and vegetables. This is the one book you need.



Jones Cooley's vegetable garden.

Renew Now 2023 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at DirtDaubers.org/Membership and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Post Office Box 1502
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Biography

Don Crowder - Past President

Don joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1999. Neighbors, Jane and Jim Bagwell encouraged Don and his wife, Denie, to attend and join the club. The members were welcoming and soon Don was in with "both feet". His first position was on the Board of Directors and he served in this position until he was asked to serve as President in 2003.

Don was a member of the 2000-2001 Master Gardener class led by Joe Maple. There were many Monday nights that he would attend class then drive to Charleston for work. During the course he became interested in propagation. Winston Hardigree was his mentor in learning how to propagate many different plant materials. He supplied the Men's Garden Club with many crape myrtles for several years. Don had much success with many plants, but not so much with others. Our backyard and deck became his nursery. During the class, he was approached by Jess Taylor to help design the ponds at the entrance to Hatcher Gardens, and being a civil engineer, this was right up his alley.

The club has been fortunate for Don to serve several terms as president, 2003, 2004, 2015, 2018, 2019 and half of 2020. There were times when he was working out of town that Board meetings were held with Don on a speakerphone from out-of-state. There was no Zoom or Facetime apps during those years. He was instrumental in making the move from the nursery from Hatcher to Spartanburg Community College. With his engineering skills, handling the logistics of the move, setting up the irrigation and drip systems were just the challenge that he needed.

A few other highlights of his terms as president were the National Convention of The Gardeners of America. He and Linda McHam diligently planned an excellent convention attended by members from across the nation. There were educational and interesting break-out sessions, field trips and speakers. One of the highlights was the banquet with Dr. Michael Dirr as the keynote speaker. Another highlight was the planting of crape myrtles in the median of Highway 221 from the intersection of Blackstock Road to the new Dorman High School. Many of these plants remain today. During the Spring and Fall plant sales at SCC, he could be found directing traffic at the entrance to the nursery. Don was also instrumental in the club's move to the SCC campus. He worked diligently with the administration and the horticultural department to make this move successful. Many days he would be found propagating, repairing the irrigation system, and doing kudzu removal in the "pine grove".

Don grew up on a farm in Newberry County, South Carolina. The family raised some crops and cattle. They also gardened vegetables for themselves and neighbors. His sister has memories of growing cotton on their land. The children would come home from school and pick cotton for a nominal price for bag. Being the youngest of the children, Don always managed to get out of a lot of the work. A diehard Clemson Tiger, he graduated in 1973 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Lockwood Greene Engineers brought him to Spartanburg, where he and his family remain. Someone said of him when he passed in 2020, that he would do anything asked of him unless Clemson had a home game. Not only was he a devoted member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, he was husband, Dad and Pop. There were many days and evenings that he could be found on the soccer field, baseball or softball diamond coaching his children's teams.

The Club named our book fund for horticultural students at SCC, The Donald R. Crowder Book Fund in his memory.



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Biography

Charlie Crescenzi

I grew up in New Cumberland, across the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg, PA. After an uneventful childhood I graduated from Shippensburg University (it was Shippensburg State College way back then.) In the summer of 1968 I was hired as a Middle School American History teacher by the Dover Area School District and would stay there for the next 30 years. The faculty there was one of the finest groups of people I have ever known. In fact, I even married the French teacher in 1969. Joyce and I have been together since then. We have three kids, Charles, Robert and Eleanor, spread out from North Carolina, to Tennessee and Oregon.



By 2006 Joyce and I had gotten tired of snow, ice and shivering so we decided to head South. I had also decided to re-retire from my second job as Education Coordinator for the York County Heritage Trust. Joyce had gotten a tip about Spartanburg so we arrived on a Sunday and bought a house that day. No, we had never been in Spartanburg before, just lucky I guess. Not long after that, Joyce heard about the SMGC and the rest is history. The Club has become an important part of our lives. I had the honor of being President for two years and continue to serve on the board and bake brownies.



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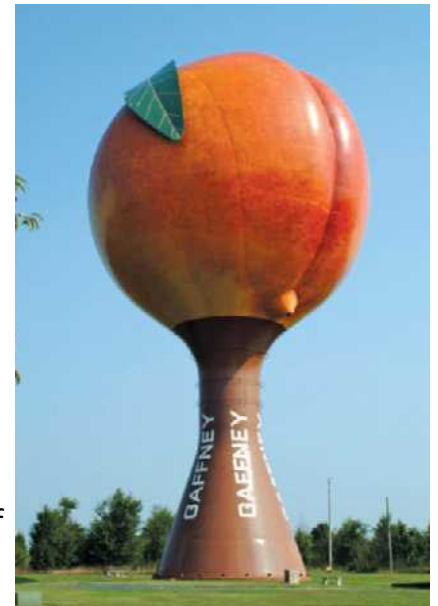
Member Musing By Beth Waddell

THE SOUTH CAROLINA PEACH

On a recent trip to a local farmers market, we were delighted by the “symphony of senses” that surrounded us as we opened the car doors. The delicious sights and smells of the strawberries, early peaches, cantaloupes and watermelons were intoxicating. I could hardly wait to touch and taste the fruits and produce that were so fresh that I could practically hear them growing.

My mind wandered to the importance of peaches for our state economy. As a child, there were peach orchards all around us owned by local farmers. Many of us had our first jobs working in the peach sheds, and quite a few of us even learned to drive cars along the dusty orchard roads. Research I recently read said that South Carolina is still one of the top three peach producing states in the US and the peach is listed as our state fruit. One article stated that South Carolina produces three times the amount of peaches (in pounds) than Georgia, “The Peach State”, during a typical season. Commercial peach farming began in Georgia and many varieties were hybridized there. That’s fine if Georgia gets the title since South Carolina got the history and the Peachoid, the peach shaped 135 ft. water tower filled with one million gallons of water, in Gaffney.

Peach trees are pruned in early spring before the sap runs to be less susceptible to infestation and disease. They are pruned before the leaves and fruits hide the shape of the branches. If you are pruning these trees, first look for the main branch connected to the roots, but trim off any “suckers” trying to grow beside it. Take off any dead, diseased or unhealthy branches as well as old dried fruits. Trim off the lesser important of all crossing branches and cut low to the ground the center vertical branch of the tree so that the tree begins to have the shape of your hand as you hold an imaginary giant peach. These five or six remaining low branches from the center root stem are angled at 45 degrees and evenly spaced around the tree and always angled upward. These main branches hold a hand-like smaller branch that produces, carries and bears the delicious fruits. This trimming allows sunlight to evenly hit the fruits for an abundant crop and sprays, if needed, to work best. The fruit develops on the new wood, so care should be taken in all of the trim work. When pruning, use common sense and observation to all angles of the tree to keep it looking balanced and healthy.



Don't worry. There is not a test on the above information, but take a moment to imagine that WE are the peach trees planted into God's beautiful orchard. We are constantly rooted in his fertile soil for substance and strength. Our “suckers” that tried to spring up from the roots to rob us of our joy and happiness have been eradicated. We are reminded to let our old bad habits and the baggage of former mistakes be cut off and destroyed as were the diseased limbs. All our actions and thoughts should be raised in an upward angle seeking the majestic sunshine through kindness and service to others. The fruits should be shared and enjoyed by those in need of a smile, a simple laugh or a new friendship. Enjoy a fresh peach as soon as possible and imagine the “symphony of senses” created just for you. May you be the pick of the crop!

History of the club continues on the following pages.

11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

Impressed by this, Milliken’s horticulturist, Stewart Winslow suggested that Hardie get in touch with Dr. Larry Nelson, a professor in Clemson’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, who was active in kudzu control research. Winslow thought each would find much of interest in the other’s work. He and Henry Pittman participated in the first sit down meeting with Hardie and Nelson at Billy D’s Restaurant in August of 2004. All agreed that control of kudzu should be a high priority for those who think trees are important and that kudzu should be destroyed. Nelson was not aware of anyone else working on manual control methods and encouraged Hardie’s continuance.

At that first meeting Nelson shared his plans for having a graduate student begin in 2005 to experiment with the use of sheets of plastic to kill the kudzu. Hardie immediately agreed to perform “quick and dirty” tests of this idea and within a month had some answers. Hardie bought black and clear sheeting from Lowe’s and with Pittman’s help, stretched it out at the same site across from Carolina Garden World. Within ten days it was clear that the heat under the sheeting would kill kudzu foliage but that the kudzu plants would recover when the sheeting was removed.

Newt Hardie and Clemson’s Dr. Larry Nelson consult in 2006.



Hardie was excited about the new findings (apparent success) and reported early successes and failures to Nelson at the next meeting in September. While the idea of “solarization,” using the heat of the sun to kill *weeds*, was not new, Hardie’s simple tests in August and September of 2004— now depicted on the Kudzu Coalition’s website—were the first experiments using plastic sheeting to attempt to kill *kudzu*. Research was under way.

Intrigued with the idea that there may be many ways to control the noxious vine—many that were not known—Hardie and his local colleagues were energized by the Nelson suggestion of forming a local “coalition” consisting of Spartanburg organizations and individuals who were interested in increasing Spartanburg’s beautification by fighting kudzu. This seemed to fit right in with the spirit embodied in the many Spots of Pride which were then being put into place through the leadership of Hans Balmer. Pittman and Hardie decided that the two primary organizations whose advice and support would be of the most importance were the Men’s Garden Club and the City of Spartanburg. If these two organizations would support a kudzu control initiative, Pittman and Hardie vowed they would start it.

Very significant to the formation of this coalition, was a review and advice meeting which they had a few weeks later with Mayor Bill Barnet and City Manager Mark Scott. The Mayor started the meeting by saying that the city did not have money for new activities. Pittman and Hardie assured him that “We are not here to ask for money.” From that point on, the meeting was a big success.

“We enjoyed our visit together Friday morning and the discussion regarding the effort to put together a coalition to consider ways in which we might control kudzu in our community,” wrote Barnet to Hardie. He continued, “I join with Mark Scott in enthusiastically supporting your vision and energy. I think it is a terribly important

11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

opportunity for us to begin to focus on this long-term problem and to come up with solutions that control this plant life before it has an even more adverse impact on the aesthetic and functional aspects of this city.”

Parallel with this important endorsement from the Mayor, the Men’s Garden Club’s board of directors approved helping organize and partially underwriting the proposed Coalition to Control Kudzu and it became an official MGC project. Tom Bartram’s newsletter of October, 2004, had this report: “Kudzu Coalition – We’ve agreed to join a collation of organizations to seek means of improved kudzu control. Newt Hardie is our prime representative in this and works with Dr. Larry Nelson of Clemson.”

The Club’s annual official list of accomplishments for 2005 included this important statement: “Kudzu Control. With early and ongoing encouragement and some financing by the SMGC, Newt Hardie has been the champion of this program.”

So, indeed, with the support of both the Club and of the City, a new and “unique in the world” movement entitled the *Coalition to Control Kudzu* was underway and it would have great influence not only on the Spartanburg community, but also on many areas and institutions across the south.

While, admittedly, neither the Club nor a large number of its members were exceedingly active participants in Newt Hardie’s new endeavor, the endorsement of and financial backing from the Men’s Garden Club as an *official project* gave an indication of special significance and power to the Coalition. But perhaps of even more importance was the fact that the Club’s official status as an organization to which tax deductible contributions could be made² resulted in the Coalition receiving significant financial support which was channeled through the MGC.

During this period, the Club’s Board regularly invited Hardie to report on the status of the kudzu project and to update the Club on the continuing progress in control methods and expanding work sites around the community.

Even though the *official* relationship as a project of the Club terminated in 2007 when the Coalition was granted its own 501(c)3 tax exemption status, the close bond remains intact. Many of the Coalition’s volunteer workers are members of the Club as are seven of its 19 current top leaders, including Hardie who continues to serve as the Coalition’s president.

Dr. Nelson was on the advisory board for the Club’s kudzu committee. He worked closely with Hardie for two years as the use of plastic sheeting was proven to kill kudzu plants when used for the full season and many improvements were made in the process – such as using sheeting with built in UV protection. Unfortunately, Dr. Nelson died unexpectedly in 2007.

Over the years, the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has been proud of its part in organizing and supporting this important group which has achieved national recognition (2009) and has been filmed in operation for broadcast in Korea (2009). Its official name is *Kudzu Coalition* although it is known on the website (www.kokudzu.com) as The Coalition to Control Kudzu Without Chemicals. It is run by a Board of Directors with approximately 17 members, but more importantly, it has hundreds of volunteers, many of whom are youth.

² As an active member of the national organization, The Gardeners of America / Men’s Garden Clubs of America, the SMGC was automatically a “501(c)3 organization” and as such received many contributions to support the work of the Coalition as an active program of the Club.

11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

Its educational program called “Kudzu Kollege” and its creative approach to making manual labor fun and enjoyable are major reasons for the Coalition’s success. Its work with non-chemical methods of controlling kudzu such as the use of barriers, scaffolding, fire, hot water and the use of continual innovations of ordinary farm equipment with unique attachments made in Spartanburg by Pressley Machine Works and designed to combat kudzu continue to produce success and attract attention.

The Kudzu Coalition considers the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club the “Mother Organization” and recognizes the birthing period on its website www.kokudzu.com. Many of the kudzu warriors regularly participate in the Club’s litter pick up events. The Coalition is now a valued corporate member of SMGC: brothers and sisters in spirit, love for the environment, appreciation for trees and garden sites, and activists in these pursuits.

July 2023



Welcoming Men & Women

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President Phil Abers
Vice President Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary Denie Crowder
Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp

Directors

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Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Curtis Marshall
Ben Waddell
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President's Corner

We are already half way through the year, which means it is time to plan for next year. We will accomplish this by finding candidates to become officers and directors for 2024. The nominating committee is headed this year by Ben Waddell. The committee is meeting to develop a slate of candidates. We will post the candidate list in the August and September Newsletters and vote for new officers and directors in October. If you are interested in serving the Club, please let Ben Waddell know. We need a strong board of directors and officers to build the club and continue our mission for another 75 years.

Linda McHam SMGC Speaker July 17, 2023

Fruits and Vegetables - Growing and Preserving



Linda McHam, a club member since 1989, has been growing fruit and vegetable for years. She recently got interested in long term preservation of food due to high food prices and periodic shortages that are increasing in frequency. Her sister-in-law talked her into getting a freeze dryer last summer and she has been experimenting with it. Linda has been also propagating fruit trees for 15 years and likes to share the plants, fruits and vegetables that she grows.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

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

1948 **75th** 2023
Anniversary



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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.

Photography by Linda McHam



Propagation of softwood cuttings has begun. Linda McHam, Will Hawkins and Darvin Helvy took 504 cuttings of 12 varieties of plants for our inventory on Friday, June 30.



2023 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 9 rain date **Sept 16**

Dec. 9 rain date **Dec 16**

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Frame A at the nursery is full and we managed to fill half of Frame B before we left.



One of the hydrangeas that we are propagating is a purple lace cap hydrangea, always a show-stopper!

**Renew Now
2023 Membership**
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

Forms are located at DirtDaubers.org/Membership and will be available at the next general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Biography

Jane & Jim Bagwell

Jane and Jim Bagwell joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1994. By 1997 Jim was Vice President of the Club and Jane was Secretary for the board. In 1997, Jane became chair of the Landscape Judging Program in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce. She took over for the Scotts when Walter had heart issues. That year there were 50 businesses who participated in the city-wide program with 22 members volunteering to do the judging.

When the club moved from the Church of the Advent to the Arts Center in 1997, Jane and Jim worked with Ricky McAbee of Roebuck Wholesale Nursery to plant six 'Little Gem' magnolias, 24 clyera, two doublefile viburnums, three aucubas and a handful of daphnes at the new site.

In November of 1997, The Blue Ridge Regional Meeting of the Gardeners of America (TGOA) met at Wofford College. All affiliated clubs in the area attended (70 students and guests), plus newly organized clubs from Greenwood and Isothermal. In addition, Harold Hatcher, the Bagwells, the Jordans and the Cobbs opened their gardens for tours.

In 1998, Jane and Jim served as co-chairs of the Landscape Judging contest and Jane suggested a tour of member gardens for that year. This was also the 50th year anniversary of the club. Jane took the initiative to write and mail 100 letters to solicit corporate memberships which netted nine new members.

Henry Pittman's history of the club ("And the Trees Remain") could not have been created without the help and encouragement of the Group which met for lunch in early 2008, and for the many knowledgeable and capable friends who have advised and suggested along the way. The Group, which consisted of Tom Bartram, Jess Taylor, Dr. Bob Reynolds, Jim Bagwell, Bob Hamilton, and Bob Almond, agreed to work together in helping document a proper history of the Club as a special gift at its upcoming 60th anniversary.

In the acknowledgements in the book (written in 2010), Henry wrote "Jim Bagwell may be the 'new boy' in the Club, having joined in 1994, but his contributions and knowledge are extensive. He was president in 1999 and 2000 and followed as treasurer for six years early in this decade (2002-2007) with Jane supplying the computer spreadsheets. He was our liaison board member with Hatcher Garden, and has served on the Board of Hatcher Garden for several years. The Bagwells found national conventions to be enjoyable and stimulating, and Jim has served National well as a member of its Board of Directors since 2007 and serves now as a member of its important financial Endowment and Investment Committee. He now is slated to become a vice president of National. Thanks to Jim for his help on the chapter about our relationship with the Men's Garden Clubs of America. No one has set such a high standard of personal home gardening as Jim and Jane Bagwell—they received the first place National Home Landscape Award from TGOA/MGCA in 2006".



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Biography

Linda Tiller McHam

I joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1989 – about the 9th or 10th woman to join. Gary and I had returned home after living in New York City for ten years (1975-1985). I tried a few garden clubs, but I knew I had found the right group when my parents told me about SMGC. They were members and so were their close friends Clyde and Margaret Wells. Margaret was the daughter of W. O. Ezell (founder) and was a talented gardener herself as was my mother, Martha Tiller.

When I joined, the group was meeting in the basement of the social hall at the Church of the Advent. I was asked to check into other locations that might be more accommodating. Bill Taylor at the Art Center on Spring Street had the perfect space for our growing group on the second floor. A few of us did a bit of planting enhancements to the front and back entrance to the building.

Henry Pittman got interested in improving the entrance drives into Spartanburg when funds from the state became available in the early 1990s. He also managed to get state funding for the new 13-mile bypass around Spartanburg. Over the years, Henry led the charge in planting over 5,000 trees and shrubs along South Pine, I-585 beside Milliken and various interchanges around the city. I helped on several crews pruning the trees and replacing them when they were occasionally mowed down by reckless drivers.

When we knew that, at some point, we'd have to leave Hatcher Garden, I approached Kevin Parris at SCC and asked if they would be interested in hosting the club. He and Jason Bagwell welcomed us and found a perfect location for our activities. It has been a win-win situation for all involved.

Don Crowder was President from 2005-2006. I only knew him from his voice on the speaker phone at the HG offices for our board meetings. I had worked with Don at Lockwood Greene but did not know him personally until we met through SMGC. Don did some finagaling and I wound up as the first female President of the club in 2007.

Don and I worked on a lot of projects together and made some long-term improvements by creating a board manual, a cash flow spreadsheet and improving the propagation efforts started by Jess Taylor.

When we made our move to the campus of SCC, Lou Adams and I got together and built our current website (dirtdaubers.org). Lou has been the webmaster since that time and will retire from this position in December 2023. He's done a superb job.

I'm proud of the work that the club has done over the 30+ years that I have been a member. I hope and pray that others will step up and continue to improve Spartanburg for all who call this place home.



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Member Musing

By Charlie Crescenzi

At the most recent Club meeting, Drew Jeffers presented an interesting program on garden pests and problems. This caused me to think about a garden pest that changed history. Those of us who study the past are prone to reflect. The pest I'm referring to is "phytophthora infestans". Let's go back nearly two centuries to Ireland and revisit the devastation caused by this blight.

At that time, Ireland was one of the poorest countries in Europe and much of the population depended on the potato for food.

Potatoes had come to Europe from America and the Irish had enthusiastically adopted it. In fact, it became the mainstay of their diet. The *P. infestans* blight probably arrived from America in 1845, and after a particularly wet spring, wiped out about half of the potato crop. The Potato Famine had begun. The next year about two thirds of the crop rotted in the fields. Starvation was running rampant as the desperate cottagers began to flee from their homes. Unfortunately, England, which ruled Ireland, did little or nothing to help the people and the crop failed again in 1847. By this time, tens of thousands had starved to death and a mass exodus was underway.

Hundreds of thousands fled to the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They were not always welcomed and had to overcome a great deal of prejudice. By the time the Famine ended around 1852, it is estimated that over one million had died and another million had fled. Ireland's population had been reduced by 25 percent. It would take a long time for the Irish to gain acceptance but now we celebrate St. Patrick's Day annually. John F. Kennedy became the first Irish-American to be elected president. Many villages that were abandoned still dot the landscape in Ireland and many ballads reflect the longing for a time and place that has passed into history.

The Irish added another ingredient in the rich mixture that is the United States of America. Others have followed and will continue to follow, each adding their unique contributions to our culture.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 12

Education and Beauty: THE ROSE SHOWS

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose
by any other name would smell as sweet.*

- William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* 2.1.1-2

Initiated in 1973 with a challenge from John Cantrell to the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the Rose Show became a popular annual event for over 20 years. He presented the club with a silver bowl which could be given as a Rose Show award. This bowl was later named in memory of Claude Sherrill—an accomplished gardener and early leader in the Men's Garden club. The Claude A. Sherrill Memorial trophy was given annually to a local rose grower who had the winning group of four different varieties of hybrid tea roses. This trophy was shared by several different rose growers in Spartanburg but mainly between Dr. Gilman Hooper, Jerry New. The Rose Shows objectives of the Spartanburg encouraging local and increasing interest in was known as “The City of 1970s when Mr. W. O. Ezell Show was growing in

In 1961, the Club *informal* rose show at a local *official* Rose Show was held in 1973 at the Citizens & Southern Bank; it was chaired by Snow Marshall. He was a good and enthusiastic gardener who entered roses over the next several years, but with never a win. He was a tremendous grower of greenhouse camellias,



Dobslaw, and Virginia complemented the Men's Garden club in beautification efforts gardening. Spartanburg Flowers” during the was active and the popularity.

conducted a small and bank. But the first

12 – THE ROSE SHOW

but he did not have a good growing area for his roses. However, one year he was quite proud to receive a blue ribbon on his Tropicana rose.

Four different Club members followed Marshall as chairman: Dick Sloan for the next

two years, George Drummond in 1975 and Dr. Bob Reynolds in 1976. Reynolds was the show chairman during all of the remaining years of the show.

Arthur Cottingham, a noted Rose Show judge from Greenville, suggested moving the show to a mall in order to display the roses to more visitors.

Consequently, the Show was moved to the Westgate Mall in 1976. After Hillcrest Mall was remodeled, the show alternated between these two malls until Hillcrest



Cover and Back of the 1976 program for the fourth show.

Mall closed in 1995, and then continued at Westgate.

The Club's show organization included a show chairman, and other leaders responsible for staging, paging and tallying awards and sponsors, flower identification, and publicity.

Staging: The biggest set up effort for the show involved the location and setup of the display tables within the mall area. Tables were borrowed from many different local churches over the years. There were usually at least 20 tables for the show. Arden Camp, a whirlwind worker, was staging chairman during almost all the Rose Show years. Only one year was there any difficulty in taking down the tables and returning them to the Church of the Advent. Marshall had arranged a time for the church to be open to return the tables that evening. Just as they started moving tables, a heavy rainstorm started and both Camp and Chairman Reynolds were thoroughly soaked that evening. Fortunately, Camp had an enclosed truck from Piedmont Feed and Seed, so the tables did not get wet during the transfer back to the church.

As part of the setup, white table cloths were placed over the tables. The Club rented the table cloths from a linen supply service in Greenville. The Milliken guesthouse was kind enough over the years to have these tablecloths delivered to its location for pick up and use over the weekend. Only one troubling incident occurred when the order was not delivered to the guesthouse as expected. A hasty trip to the linen rental service in Greenville was necessary to obtain the tablecloths for that show.

The tables were installed after the mall closed on Friday evening, but there never seemed to be enough tables to give the exhibitors work area as well as space for the

assembled exhibits. The scene was always a juggling act as exhibitors prepared their roses for display.

The Coca-Cola Company was the source of containers for the hybrid tea roses. Initially, the glass bottles were re-washed at the Coca-Cola plant after being returned. Later, Coca-Cola gave us disposable bottles which we retained. Winston Hardegree stored these bottles at his farm near Woodruff. The miniature roses were displayed in miniature bottles which were obtained from the White Horse Restaurant at the Hillcrest Mall. An insufficient number of bottles were initially obtained and when Rose Show officials sought to obtain more mini-bottles, they found that the material had been changed from glass to plastic. The plastic bottles were not heavy enough to hold the miniature roses. Different glass containers from the medical field were tried, but the exhibitors always liked the glass mini-bottles for their displays.

Another lesson learned from the first mall show was the need for water. The Coke bottles were filled with water before bringing to all the other shows. Extra five-gallon buckets were used to allow filling the mini-bottles for the miniature roses. Many paper towels were consumed to keep the area dry.

Pages and Tallying: Club members serving as pages placed the roses in their correct class area. Two Club members went with each team of judges while they were judging the roses. A ribbon was added to the entry tag based on the judges' award for that rose. Both the hybrid tea and miniature roses which were displayed as *individual* blooms, and which had a blue ribbon awarded, were gathered for a special competition as Queen, King and Princess of the show—in that order.¹ All the judges jointly selected the winners in these top three categories of hybrid teas and miniatures. Official American Rose Society certificates were awarded to the winners of these top three awards. Walter Soderberg, who had excellent penmanship, would fill out the certificates for the winners. A tally of the total points earned by each exhibitor was based upon four points for blue ribbon, three points red ribbon, two points yellow ribbon and one point white ribbon. The total earned points determined the show's *premier exhibitors*—the horticultural sweepstakes and the miniature horticultural sweepstakes winners for the show. Joe Maple tallied these points for many years at the Rose Show.

Awards: Many different Club members worked on the awards committee for the Rose Show: Dick Sloan, Jerry Dobslaw, Clayton Brown, Richard Gwinn, George Drummond, Sid Moorhead, and Tom Bartram. The awards were usually purchased from Belk's Department store which was one of the loyal show sponsors. The first year the awards were shipped to the winners, but this was a very expensive procedure. At later Rose Shows, the awards were given to the exhibitors at the completion of the awarding sequence. Presentation of the awards as part of the show added an element of drama that the participants appreciated and made for better publicity.

Show Sponsors: There was a fairly consistent list of sponsors for the Rose Show over the years: Belk- Hudson, CWS Insurance Agency, First Citizens Bank, First Federal Savings and Loan, Floyd's Mortuary, Fosters Garden and Landscaping Center, Kohler & Co. Metromont Materials, Milliken & Co., Odom Ace Hardware, Spartanburg Coca-Cola, and Kusters-Zima Corporation.

¹ Women members of the MGC will be pleased to see that, even in the 1970s, the Queen of the Show was the top award!

August 2023 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Secretary	Denie Crowder
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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 are headed toward the end of summer and looking forward to more outdoor activities with pleasant weather. We have three upcoming events this fall. These are: the September Picnic, the Anniversary Celebration Dinner and a Community Day co-sponsored by Hatcher Garden. We hope to have additional events and use these opportunities to recruit new members.

The Club has recently printed new business cards highlighting our 75th anniversary. A new brochure is being developed that gives an overview of the club and provides our contact information. The brochures are to be used to help recruit new members. Copies will be passed out to members attending the August general meeting. We ask that each member give these brochures to people you meet who expresses an interest in gardening. Let's fill up our meeting room with gardeners!

Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker August 21, 2023

"The Noble Tree Foundation"



The Noble Tree Foundation was established nearly twenty-five years ago with the vision to educate, inform and inspire people in the Spartanburg community about trees and their value to the environment. Since its inception, the foundation has partnered with many civic and government agencies to achieve those goals and continues to be an active force in promoting the value of trees in the Spartanburg community. The presentation will provide a brief overview of some of the projects completed by the foundation, discuss activities that are currently underway and provide ways that club members can get involved.



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Upcoming Events

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.

Garden Club Picnic, Monday, September 18 at the SCC Pavilion - The picnic will start at 6 PM. The club will furnish hamburgers, buns and fixings. It is suggested that members with last names starting from A through M bring side dishes and those with last names starting with N through Z bring desserts.

Fall Plant Sale will be Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14 from 8 AM - 2 PM both days.

75th Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the Piedmont Club - Thursday, November 9



Fall Community Day in partnership with Hatcher Garden - Saturday, November 11



2023 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 9 rain date Sep 16

Dec. 9 rain date Dec 16

Our area for litter control is Pine St. from Palmetto St. to McCravey Dr.

We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)



**Renew Now
2023 Membership**
 Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
 Corporate \$100

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Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

2024 Officer/Director Member Candidates

Club Officer Nominations:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Phil Abers
Beth Waddell
Denie Crowder
Sheila Middlebrooks

New Directors Nominations:

Darvin Helvy
Linda McHam
Curtis Marshall
Joan Marshall
Daphne Sawyer



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Biography

Jack Turner

On February 2nd, 1942, I was born at my grandmother's house. I was born at home in Milner, Colorado. The doctor and hospital were located 20 miles away, so you needed to drive there for medical problems including child birth. For major events the doctor would visit, but the snowstorm had blocked the roads so they could not take mom to the hospital. The doctor had come by earlier in the day and felt like mom would be fine. So, with grandma's help, I arrived in the world.

My dad was an underground coal miner. The company did not allow him time off for the birth of a child, so he was not there. We continued to live in Milner, Colorado until I was 10. My early education (grades 1,2 and 3) was in a one room schoolhouse with the same teacher. In 1950 dad left the mine and took over management of a cattle ranch in the town of Meeker, Colorado. This is where I learned about farming, ranching, hunting, fishing and machines.

It was in Meeker where I finished my early education and graduated from high school. After finishing high school, the major issue was whether I was going to continue with the ranch business or go on to college. I found a local two-year college which provided funds for scholarships, plus I discovered finding a job was not difficult. However, after two years of college I was left with the question "where am I going with my education."

This was 1962 and President John Kennedy was asking young people "ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country" and I answered that call by joining the Peace Corp and spent two years in Niger, a former French West African nation. This country was newly liberated from France and the primary industry was raising cattle and goats. My project was grassland fire control. We were looking for ways to reduce or eliminate grass fires. By eliminating grass fires the amount of forage for animals could increase. We used tractors to cut fire breaks and tried to use oxen to do the same job. The tractors were difficult to maintain and costly to fuel; the oxen were slow and often were stolen and used as a food supply. In general, this was not a very successful project.

When finished my time in Africa, I returned to college at Colorado State University to finish an under graduate degree in soil science. It was during my time at Colorado State that I met and married my wife. When I finished my degree, Jane and I moved to South Dakota State University where I finished a Master's degree in soil bacteriology. Our first winter in South Dakota saw the arrival of our first child.

When I finished my master's degree, we headed south to the University of Oklahoma where I finish a PhD. In Oklahoma we added another girl to our family. Then in 1974 the family headed east to Spartanburg SC. I took a job at a new University. This school, named University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, was a small two-year degree granting school and was one of several branch campuses of the University of South Carolina. The student body at the time was around 900 with a goal of a 1000. By state law when they reached 1,000 full time students, they could offer bachelor's degrees. Thus, our target was 1000 which we reached in 1975. Much of the next 4 years were spent designing and implementing degree programs.

In 1978 I helped in the design of a walking trail system for Spartanburg known as a Greenway for Spartanburg, but the opposition for the project was much more than I was willing to deal with, so I abandoned the project. At this point in time, I found that the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg provided an outlet for my desire for community involvement.

The most active projects at that time were tree planting and community gardens. Often the trees were grown by seedlings or cuttings until they were large enough to permanently plant them. This task was overseen by Harold Hatcher.

It was through the Men Garden Club that Jane and I met Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher and it was through the Hatchers that Jane became an active member of the MCG. Many of the trees that were planted are still standing and several of the mini-gardens are still present.

In the early 1990s, I had moved on to water quality studies in Spartanburg County. Most of this type of research was funded by SC DHEC, EPA and the local water districts. These studies became the foundation for the Watershed Ecology Center. The Center was designed to take information learned in the water studies and take them into schools. The K-8 water-based program was designed to provide information about water, watersheds, as well as the plants and animals living in these areas. All the programs are designed to meet state education standards. The programs are very popular with local schools. We contact over 20,000 students each academic year. These programs are free to the schools in the county and are funded mostly through private funds.

In addition to my work in the area of water quality, I like to carve wooden animals. I also like to work with hot irons in the forge. Jane and I have enjoyed our 58 years together and watching our daughters and their husbands achieve their dreams. Most of all, we have enjoyed watching the grandkids grow and mature.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

Lycoris squamigera (Resurrection
Lily, Surprise Lily)



Gardenia



Liriope
'Monroe's
White'

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

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Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
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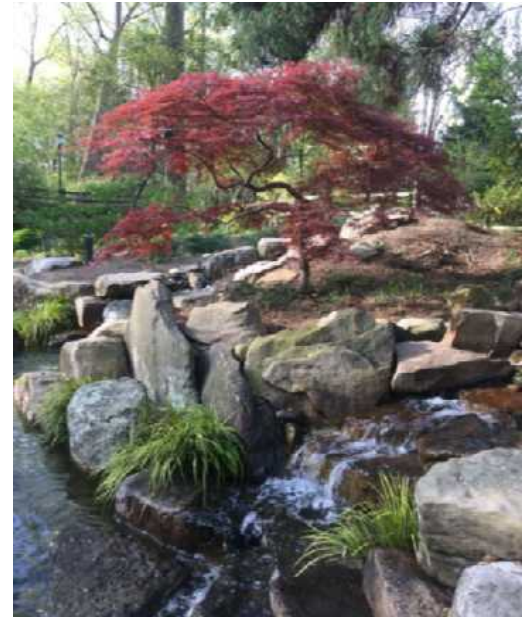
Gardening & Beautification

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Member Musing By Mark Carlson

There are two local botanical gardens that should be on your list to visit. Both are located on University of North Carolina campuses, Charlotte and Asheville. The gardens are both 10 acres in size, and the one in Charlotte also has a hothouse for tropical plants. They are each about an hour and a half drive from Spartanburg so they are easy day trips. It is interesting to note that neither of the universities offers a degree in horticulture. Asheville does offer a degree in environmental science with a focus on the Blue Ridge. The garden in Charlotte was started by a biology professor, and the one in Asheville is actually an independent nonprofit garden.

My first visit to the garden in Charlotte was this last June. (The free parking area is located in front of the hothouse.) As you would expect, there a lot of exotic plants in the hothouse that you will not find in our area. There are three separate gardens located in the botanical garden: the Susie Harwood Garden, the Van Landingham Glen, and the Mellichamp Native Terrace. The Van Landingham Glen is the largest section of the garden and is devoted mostly to natives. There are many paths wandering through this garden, so is possible to get a nice walk in while you are there. The Susan Harwood Garden is broken up into 36 separate areas that have between seven and 99 plants in them. This is a more formal garden with a great deal of plant material. You are sure to get some ideas from walking through this garden. The Mellichamp Native Terrace is a history of medicinal, economic, and food producing plants in the Piedmont. Most of the plants are labeled. One of the specimens that was not labeled was a northern water snake.



The garden in Asheville is dedicated to the study and promotion of the native plants and habitats of the Southern Appalachians. As such it is composed of native plants that support the local insects, birds and animals that make up the flora and fauna of the Blue Ridge. Their literature suggests visiting in mid-April to catch the ephemerals and spring blooming plants, and mid-August to catch the many sun-loving perennials. I have not been to this garden yet, but plan to within the next few weeks. For those that like to have a second reason to visit an area, there are reportedly a number of establishments in Asheville that specialize in making and selling foods containing chocolate.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Publicity: The show was fortunate to receive excellent local media coverage over the years. Many different club members were responsible for the publicity: Snow Marshall, Griff Smith, Sidney Dunlap, Henry Pittman and Sid Moorhead were some of the members who arranged publicity. A beautiful color photograph with Virginia New showing two of her roses was in the 1990 weekly newspaper, *The Paper*. A Rose Show schedule and invitation were mailed to each exhibitor who had participated in the previous two shows.

The schedule was initially printed by Julian Foster as a multi-page booklet with a full-color cover. This schedule was very expensive to produce. A single sheet, printed both sides, was the next schedule form selected. Later, availability of office copiers allowed the schedule to be printed on double-sided single sheets which greatly reduced the schedule cost. The early schedules listed the named rose *variety* as a rose class. Later this was expanded to also include a rose *color* within each given rose class. However, the color modification was not used and the table displays were arranged alphabetically by the general category of class.

Judges: All judges were accredited by the American Rose Society. Dr. Arthur Cottingham arranged for the judges for several years and was very helpful in scheduling the MGC Rose Show to avoid conflict with other shows within this area. This scheduling was essential for the success of the Club's smaller show, so most of the Club's shows were held in the fall to avoid conflict. Cottingham was also able to have the Men's Garden Club certified as an affiliate of the American Rose Society so the Club would be able to award its prestigious Rose Show Certificates to winners.

Each Rose Show had at least six judges. This allowed forming three teams of two judges each to judge selected rose classes. All the judges participated in selecting the Queen, King, and Princess of the show. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jeremias from Newberry were judges in most of the Club's shows over the years. Mrs. Allene Able, Mrs. Viola Langford, and Mrs. Hazel Chapman, all from Saluda, South Carolina, judged many of the shows.

Exhibitors: Local exhibitors who were most consistent in their participation were Dr. Gil Hooper, Jerry Dobslaw and Mrs. Alfred New. Dobslaw was perhaps the most exhibit quality rose grower. He won Queen of the Show in several neighboring Rose shows. His formula for success required consistent watering, fertilization, and spraying to achieve quality roses. After winning the top local award—the Claude Sherrill Trophy—several years in a row, he stopped entering this challenge class. Hooper was a big help in setting up and organizing the roses during the show, even though he was usually busy arranging his own roses for display. Mrs. New offered new help with this task after Hooper moved to Florida. Out-of-state exhibitors were not unusual, and were an essential part of the show's success.



Everything's rosy Dr. John A. Fincher, president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, examines roses from his garden in preparation for the club's 21st Rose Show. The show will be held from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday at Hillcrest Mall. Judging begins at 10 a.m. and prize roses will be sold to the public after the show at 7 p.m.

This appeared in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* September 6, 1993

12 – THE ROSE SHOW

The exhibitors were always ready to start at six o'clock as soon as the mall doors were opened. The exhibitors shaped and formed their roses to obtain their desired presentation configuration before placing the rose on the display table. Usually the exhibitors held the roses until time required them to place the rose on the exhibit table. The roses were sold at the end of the show just before the mall closed. George Drummond was chief sales auctioneer for this event for many years. Newspapers made handling the roses easier for the purchaser due to the thorns.

The annual Rose Show continued for 27 years (from 1973 through 1999)—24 years with Reynolds as its chairman—when it was finally discontinued. Dr. Gil Hooper had moved to Florida, Jerry Dobslaw was no longer able to exhibit and other local participation had waned. And there was an un-resolved potential liability issue at the mall. After much discussion by the Club's Board of Directors, the decision was made that Club members' participation time and sponsors' funds could better be used for other community oriented Club endeavors.

But it was clear that the Men's Garden Club Rose Show provided not just entertainment to the many viewers but inspired many new gardeners and gave great publicity to the mission of the Club. For years it had been a great show. In 1982, it was estimated that over 8,000 visitors viewed the display. In 1984, there were 300 blooms entered by 17 exhibitors. In 1986, 26 exhibitors participated, seven of whom were from Spartanburg. Reynolds did a magnificent job of managing the endeavor.

The rose has always been valued for its beauty and has a long history of symbolism. The ancient Greeks and Romans identified the rose with their goddesses of love referred to as Aphrodite and Venus. Roses are ancient symbols of love and beauty. The rose was sacred to a number of goddesses (including Isis and Aphrodite), and is often used as a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The rose is the national flower of England and the United States. In this light, promoting roses and their beauty, as the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club did, was an "almost" noble venture, one that gave much enjoyment to many local visitors to the shows, and also encouraged more interest in gardening.

September 2023

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

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Will Hawkins
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Curtis Marshall
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Sheila Middlebrooks

Communications

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Gardening & Beautification

is the newsletter of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. It is published monthly except in December, and is available to the public free of charge. Sign up for the emailed newsletter by sending your request to:
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

I just returned from a three week car trip to California. I drove through parts of the south, midwest, desert southwest and California. To me, the desert is an interesting place to visit with the unique plants and animals. However, living there I could not grow many of the plants I enjoy having in the Upstate. California has a great climate for growing, but has chronic water shortages. Most of my friends there have reduced or eliminated lawns and shrubs.

The people in the midwest must be tough just like the plants. Summer temperatures reach into the 100's with winter temperatures plunging to - 30 F. Our climate is relatively moderate and, in most years, we have an abundance of water. We have a great place to grow a variety of plants. Let's be thankful for our good fortune. Happy gardening to our members, friends and community in this, our 75th club anniversary year.

Garden Club Picnic, Monday, September 18 at the SCC Pavilion

- The picnic will start at 6 PM. The club will furnish hamburgers, buns and fixings. It is suggested that members with last names starting from A through M bring side dishes and those with last names starting with N through Z bring desserts.





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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

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Beth Waddell
Denie Crowder
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New Directors Nominations:

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Linda McHam
Curtis Marshall
Joan Marshall
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Biography

Darvin Helvy

I joined the SMGC around 1991. Recently I was looking at an old copy of our newsletter: Gardening and Beautification. There was an article in that issue about the Adopt-a-Highway Litter Pickup and it reminded me of when I led that program. In those early years as a club member, I also participated in the following activities: working at an Earth Day and Rose Show setting up displays at Westgate mall; helping at tree and plant sales; working on the Pine Street landscape upgrade and the I-85 bypass tree planting. I have successfully taken the Master Gardener program, enjoyed helping with the container plant and landscape evaluation programs, and volunteered with the Kudzu Coalition. I was actively involved in the early days of Hatcher Garden, volunteering with Harold Hatcher's many work teams. I really believe this club has made Spartanburg a great place to live through service, education, and beautification over the years. It's a part of who we are. Men and women dedicated to making a positive impact in our community.

I grew up in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, a small town outside of Pittsburgh. Coal and steel mills were the main employers. After high school I received a NROTC scholarship to Florida A&M University, where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and was commissioned in the US Navy as a naval officer. In the Navy I was stationed in Norfolk, VA, and assigned to the USS Neosho, a refueling ship, then to the USS Richard E. Byrd, a destroyer. After four years and two ships I returned to civilian life. I spent the next 33 years working for Michelin Tire Corporation in Spartanburg. During this time, I received an associate degree from Spartanburg Technical College in Horticulture. Due to my work schedule, I was not an active member of the SMGC for a while, but it wasn't long before I returned with the same excitement and enthusiasm. It was as if I'd never left.

As a Director, Vice President, and President in the years between 2014-2021, I gained a lot more appreciation for what our club was doing. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that our focus on being a dynamic, working organization will continue through our volunteer efforts. Currently I'm involved with a team working on our 75th Anniversary Celebrations throughout this year. We plan to have our final celebration enjoying dinner at the Piedmont Club in Spartanburg.

I married my wife Audrey in 1973 and we will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in August 2023. We have three grown sons, 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. We worship at the Central Church of Christ in Spartanburg.

When I'm not doing club work, I'm involved with Southeastern Children's Home, serving on their Board of Directors and I also work as a poll manager during elections. I've also enjoyed volunteer work for the United Way.

My favorite hobby is working in my vegetable garden all year long. We like to travel and I also like to run 5k's to help maintain a healthy lifestyle.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

Poncirus trifoliata, a
citrus tree native to
China and Korea



Hydrangea



Japanese Painted Fern

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Piedmont Farm & Garden
Peggy Wilson, Realtor
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Member Musing

By Denie Crowder

Pass-Along Plants

The term “passalong” plants is used frequently in gardening circles. For gardeners, it is a joy to share their gardens with friends or family. Or, as with the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club, it is propagating cuttings from favorites to sell at our spring and summer plant sales. To me, “passalong” plants are those that have been given to me by friends, or ones that I have propagated from family and friends. While I enjoy seeing well-manicured lawns and gardens with many new varieties of plants, nothing speaks to my heart as much as riding through Converse Heights in the late spring and seeing all the azaleas and hydrangeas in full bloom.

I remember seeing the blue mophead hydrangeas in full bloom at both my grandmothers’ homes in Greenville. A cousin gave me a cutting that she had propagated several years ago in a small Maxwell House coffee can. I was told this was the way Grandmama “rooted” it. It came from my mother’s family home. It has a new home now in my back garden at my bay window. I named it “Grandmama’s Hydrangea”. Another special hydrangea is one from my mother’s home. Mom would break stems from hydrangeas and azaleas, stick them in the ground and be able to get them to root and grow. This particular plant was my first successful effort at rooting a stem. In her honor, this hydrangea is named “Duchess”.

There are many other hydrangeas in my garden—some propagated—others purchased. Two of the more meaningful ones growing in the garden were gifts and a prize at one of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club meetings. The one given to me is a white mophead and was given by a dear friend when my dad passed in 2004. This past spring when all the other hydrangea did not bloom, this one had one bloom for the first time. The other one was propagated by Jess Taylor, a deceased member of the garden club.

A white hydrangea in the back corner of the garden bloomed prolifically this spring. It came from my daughter’s home in Aynor, SC.

Don, my late husband, grew up on a farm in Newberry County. There are many plants that we transplanted over the years from the property. A large pink crape myrtle, pink Camilla, and several of his grandmother’s iris are included in the landscape.

I would be remiss not to mention all the iris and daylilies that Don planted and tended. Many of these came from Everette Lineberger’s garden. Others came from friends. Don also propagated many crape myrtles and buddleias for the garden club sales. There are two Natchez crape myrtles in the landscape that he propagated and planted for me.

To be able to walk in my garden and remember family and friends from my garden of life brings joy to my heart and sometimes a tear to my eye.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 13

Sometimes We Lose Trees: THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

*I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree
Indeed, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.*
- Ogden Nash

The Club's 1976 Bicentennial planting project on North Pine Street (Interstate 585) involved some 400 trees planted on the intersections at US-221 (Chesnee Highway), at SC-9 (Boiling Springs Road) and at California Avenue adjacent to Milliken's outstanding landscaped area and a row of Sweetgum trees on the west shoulder between SC-9 and California Ave. The latter trees were planted as a double row, with trees in planned random spacing to give a somewhat natural look, and to make it less noticeable if an occasional tree were missing. They were planted as small seedlings, donated by Spartanburg Landscape and Nursery. Everette Seixas, the nursery's key horticulturist, provided a major part of the volunteer planting labor.

A few years later, it became obvious that the back row was so close to the fence that the Highway Department's grass cutters couldn't mow there, so that row was cut down. This created no problem because the remaining randomly spaced Sweetgums of the front row remained intact and were beginning to provide the desired improvement to this important highway. In fact, not a single tree had been lost due to drought or damage. They continued to grow and prosper. By 1986 they were healthy, approaching semi-maturity at almost six inches in diameter, and had become a significant enhancement to this primary entry highway into Spartanburg. These Sweetgums provided elegant green beauty in the summer, gorgeous color in the fall, and beautiful form and shape during the dormant season. The Highway Department was performing a fine job of grass mowing and maintenance.

13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

This shoulder planting was separated from the new Metro Business Center by a chainlink fence. Behind the fence was a thicket of weed trees and brush that Metro had not yet cleared. Also behind the fence was a large Naegele Billboard (Naegele was owned by the Morris Communication Company, an Augusta based outdoor advertising company of great stature and breadth of business, the largest billboard company in Spartanburg County. It was later sold to Fairway Outdoor Advertising Company, the current owner of the business.) In addition to the basic beautification the trees provided, they also supplied a view break to the weedy area behind the fence—and to the Naegele billboard.

It was somewhat of a shock on Sunday, May 20, 1986, for Henry Pittman to see an open, treeless gap of over 400 feet in the planting. He had been chairman of the Club's Bicentennial committee, had designed the staggered row plan, and had helped Seixas do the planting.

A quick meeting of other members of this committee was convened; Jess Taylor, John Nevison and Tom Bartram attended. They were as concerned as Pittman and easily decided

**From the SMGC's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter
of May, 1986**

NORTH PINE STREET BEAUTIFICATION. The area beautification project chairman, Henry Pittman, and his committee had a rude shock along with the rest of our membership about May 1. Fifteen of the North Pine Street Sweetgum trees, 3-1/2 to 6 inches diameter had disappeared! This in about a 130 yard stretch before a low standing billboard on the property west of the highway and between Route 9 and California Avenue intersections. These trees on the state highway roadside had been planted and nurtured by club members with the cooperation of the highway people over the past decade. More careful inspection revealed the trees cut from the highway right of way had been tossed over the border line chain link fence and dragged back into adjoining wooded areas. A triangular opening in the fence near the sign gives simple access to the highway property. Treelets and brush next to the sign had been cut about the same time. These cuttings occurred before leaf buds had opened, probably before or early April. The cut trees were not missed by passers until the remaining line of 18 to 23 foot trees had leafed out in late April. A county sheriff officer qualified this act as grand larceny. No request for permission to remove these trees had been filed with the Highway Department. A local nursery firm has quoted a price of \$450 per 3 to 4 inch diameter tree to replace those cut. The County Sheriff's office has assigned this case to an investigating officer. A number of contributions have been offered for use as an apprehension reward or for tree replacement this Fall.

John Nevison, Editor

this could not be allowed to go unchallenged. Nevison reported the destruction to the County Sheriff immediately.

Upon more careful investigation, the group found that the 15 trees had been cut flush with the ground, and the trunk stubs neatly covered with soil and grass clippings to make it appear that there had never been trees growing there. None of the tree remnants were in sight. The next day, however, a few of the "corpses" were found hidden in undergrowth behind the fence on Metro Center's property. By careful matching, it was possible to confirm which tree trunk matched which of the ground level

stumps. The other cut trees had undoubtedly been hauled away. It seemed quite clear that the tree cutting involved a deliberate effort to make their removal appear as if they had never been there.

October 2023

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Welcoming Men & Women

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President's Corner

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

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

SMGC Presentation October 16, 2023

"Restoring the American Chestnut"



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

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



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Photography
by Linda McHam



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



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



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

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Member Musing

By Phil Abers

Denver Botanical Garden

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

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

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

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



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

History of the club continues on the following pages.

13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

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



The missing trees! May, 1986

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

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

November 2023 Gardening & Beautification

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President's Corner

We have already reached the end of the year—our 75th as a club. It has been a memorable year. Early in the year we had a very interesting field trip to Boris Bauer's property over near Greenville. In April, we had a phenomenal plant sale, eclipsing all results during my time with the club. Darvin Helvy and his 75th anniversary team have done excellent work planning two community days with Hatcher Garden and working on the 75th anniversary dinner. I can't wait!

While this year has been one of reflection on our past successes, it is time to look forward in 2024. We need to renew our commitment to have a vibrant club. Let's redouble our efforts to expand the club and increase our community activities. With everyone's help another 75 years can be had. Who will join me at the 150-year celebration!

The November 9, 2023 presentation for our annual meeting will be made by two icons of the Spartanburg Gardening Community. The presentation is entitled "Travel Adventures of Rick McAbee Moderated by Stewart Winslow." Mr. McAbee is the highly successful owner of Roebuck Wholesale Nursery, who provides high quality plants to businesses and landscapers. Mr. Winslow is the Director of Horticulture and Landscape Design at Wofford College. These two gentlemen have been collaborating on projects to make Spartanburg beautiful since 1989.

THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9 IS OUR REGULAR MEETING FOR NOVEMBER. THERE IS NO MEETING ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 20.



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COMMUNITY DAY

HONORING VETERANS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10AM-1PM

HATCHER GARDEN

820 JOHN B. WHITE SR. BLVD., SPARTANBURG

PLANT GIVEAWAYS
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
TREE PLANTING IN HONOR OF VETERANS
BLOODMOBILE
& MORE!





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**Photography
by Linda McHam**



Linda Helianthus maximiliani
(Maximilian Sunflower)



Camellia sinensis
(the Lipton Tea plant)



Chrysanthemum 'Sheffield'
(Sheffield Daisy)

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Member Musing

By Curtis Marshall

When our 58th wedding anniversary arrived on August 28th, Joan and I left for two of our favorite places to visit: Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway is our nation's longest linear National Park, some 460 plus miles long. It connects the Shenandoah Valley which begins in Pennsylvania and passes into Virginia to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park in N.C. and Tennessee. The Blue Ridge Parkway passes through Pisgah National Forest which covers about 500,000 acres.

We usually approach the Parkway on US 276 which enters Pisgah Forest at Brevard N.C. US 276 parallels the Davidson River when you first enter the Forest. As you drive, you pass through what is mainly a hardwood forest. You pass Sliding Rock where you can sit on and slide over the rock in the Davidson River and then drop into a pool at the bottom into 50-something degree Fahrenheit water. It used to feel good on a hot summer day when I was younger. Just up the road you come to Looking Glass Falls whose mist feels nice on a hot summer day, now that I have gotten older. Further up the road, you pass the Pink Beds, a picnic area that gives meaning to the name because of the Mountain Laurel. They border the meandering stream and are covered with pink and white blossoms in the spring. You are now close to the Cradle of Forestry which pays tribute to the first school of forestry established in the United States. A bit further and US 276 ascends rapidly until you reach the Blue Ridge Parkway.



When we left Duncan, S.C., we left sweltering 90-degree temperatures. I had been watering the vegetable garden. The last thing Joan said to me before leaving was be sure to carry a jacket. Guess who forgot to take a jacket? As we ascended to the parkway a heavy rain fell turning into fog. By the time we got to the parkway the temperatures had dropped into the low 60's. Our destination that first day was the Inn on the Parkway where we had spent previous anniversaries. The trail leading to the summit of Mount Pisgah is a short distance to the east. We had intended to try and hike to the summit again, although Joan had noted some years prior, "Do you realize we are the oldest people on this trail?" Alas, it rained the entire time we were at the Inn. Being wet on a strenuous ascent was not as appealing as it was when we were younger. So, I didn't check out my new knees this time around.

However, we were awed, once again, looking down on the clouds, or being in the clouds, and by the spectacular views of botanical displays of the forest. I don't remember having noticed Sourwood blossoms before. Some variety of Sumac was also in bloom along with a plethora of wild flowers.

It's not a formal, human-designed garden, but for us it has been a reminder of how the Garden of Eden may have looked. The passage of the Blue Ridge Parkway through Pisgah National Forest is a place to pause, ponder, and even muse.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

13 – THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

John Nevison, a highly involved—and concerned—Club member, former president and current author of its monthly newsletter, voiced great concern in his May edition under the title, “North Pine Street Beautification.”

The area beautification project chairman, Henry Pittman, and his committee had a rude shock along with the rest of our membership about May 1. Fifteen of the North Pine Street Sweetgum trees, 3-1/2 to 6 inches diameter had disappeared! This is about a 130 yard stretch before a low standing billboard... A county sheriff officer qualified this act as grand larceny.... A local nursery firm has quoted a price of \$450 per 3 to 4 inch diameter tree to replace those cut. A number of contributions have been offered for use as an apprehension reward or for tree replacement this fall.

It was very fortunate that local County Agent (Clemson Extension Agent) Charles Gray was also a part-time deputy sheriff. As a great lover of trees and a professional on their importance and value, he reportedly took personal responsibility for the solution of the case.

While the solution to the crime was not evident, there was a growing public concern over billboard proliferation. In early June, the *Herald-Journal* published a pointed letter by well known Wofford College professor and outspoken naturalist, Dr.

Gibbs Patton on controlling the growing blight with these words, “If a determined special interest can take down trees illegally, then surely determined citizens can take down billboards legally.”

However, on June 10, the *Herald Journal* carried a very large front page story in its second section entitled, “Naegele Trio Charged With Cutting Trees.” Its opening statement was, “The general manager of Naegele Outdoor Advertising was charged Monday with conspiracy in connection with a tree-cutting and removing timber for their alleged participation in the same incident.” It reported further that after the arrests, the three men posted a \$4,000 bond and were released from jail. Ruth Ackerman, Naegele’s company attorney, announced that President William Morris of Naegele’s parent company, Morris Communications of Augusta, had issued a formal statement to the local newspaper which read, in part, “We are deeply grieved over the incident. It is a violation of the law and an affront to the community. This is a very clear violation of company policy which we will



Milliken's Jack Bracken matches a cut trunk to its flush cut stump. May, 1986

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not tolerate. We will be apologizing to the Men’s Garden Club of Spartanburg and plan to make amends.”

Tom Bartram secured local attorney Tim Cleveland to join John Nevison and Club President Frank Cunningham in a meeting with Morris. The meeting was quite cordial; Morris gave a strong and apparent sincere apology for the tree destruction and offered a \$6,000 contribution to the club. It was accepted, to be used for additional landscape projects by the Club. However, this was done only with Nevison’s strong contention that it was not a *contribution*, but *retribution*. Later in a letter-to-the-editor, he made a robust point that the payment was not a contribution, but it “has been made as an obligation to offset a misdeed.”

Again the local newspaper printed a major story in mid-July of the settlement with the opening comment, “What might have been labeled ‘the great tree controversy’ is apparently over” and reported that the local Magisterial District Court had dismissed the case earlier that month.

The incident continued high in public interest. In a live interview on WSPA-TV’s 6:00 PM news cast, the reporter made a brief update on the admitted involvement by the billboard company’s employees, and then turned to John Nevison¹ and asked, “Mr. Nevison, will the Men’s Garden Club forgive Naegele?” Nevison looked straight into the camera and said in a stern voice, “We’ll forgive—**but we won’t forget!**” And this reply characterized the attitude not only of the Club but also of much of the community. In the following months, there were dozens of letters to the editor published supporting the contributions of the Club and the concern for billboard proliferation. The following excerpt is from a typical letter published in late July.

From the SMGC’s Gardening & Beatification newsletter of August, 1986

TREE CUTTING INCIDENT: We shall not belabor this subject too long, but the members should know that after much discussion by your Board, it was decided to conclude the episode, with the approval of the legal authorities. The \$6,000 “amends” or restitution settlement will be used for future beautification projects in the Spartanburg area.

I think the people of Spartanburg, city and county, should be made aware of what is happening concerning the number of billboards being put up in our area....They tower over the rural terrain and in many places trees are being leveled so that motorists can see signs just behind. What happened to the 15 Sweetgum trees put up by the Men’s Garden Club is only a small example... . Wake up Spartanburg! I say down with billboards and up with trees.

Another letter expressed this sentiment. “The *Herald-Journal* has reported the illegal cutting of citizen-planted trees ... and the confession of the night-time act by a national billboard organization.... Billboards are a special kind of environmental impact. Their location, spacing, size, number and maintenance are changing Spartanburg County’s landscape rapidly... .” This writer continued by encouraging the County Planning Commission to seriously work on the environmental impact of these billboards and to

¹ John Nevison served as President of the Club for two years in the early 1980s, edited the Newsletter for over seven years, was a strong supporter of Hatcher Garden, and his strong will was a significant asset to the Club in many ways. In his honor, the Club financed and dedicated the amphitheater at Hatcher Garden in his memory in 1999.

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encourage citizen involvement. He concluded with this recommendation, “Let’s help the commission and the Council do this job right and soon. Which is growing faster in our county—trees or billboards?”

Dr. Bob Reynolds, as past president of the Club and ongoing strong leader, wrote a letter promoting the new Highway Beautification Act being considered by Congress. He said, “It is a bipartisan effort to clean up ‘billboard blight’ along America’s federal highways.” He pointed out the local proliferation and said the new legislation would ban all new billboards along federal highways as well as ban tree-cutting on public land done solely to make billboards more visible...” A tongue-in-cheek letter stated, “I feel it is in our best interests as well as in Naegele’s best interest that the company saw their own billboards off at ground level and plant some tall trees quickly.” Possibly the most clever letter author performed this new verb conjugation in August of 1986: “Naegele (nay’gle), v. tr. To cut down a tree, to remove all evidence of the tree, to deny all knowledge of the prior existence of the tree.”

But, not everyone sided with the Club and the community in preferring trees. A man who later became a prominent and respected county official wrote a letter thanking Naegele for its help in fundraising for a community cause, and continued with these comments: “While on the road, I look first to outdoor advertising to find a good meal, a place to stay, and places to shop... I use outdoor advertising to keep me alert as I travel. Our thriving business economy is just as important to the nation as a park. In fact, business enables us to have parks.” And another writer stated strongly: “It disturbs me to see a few narrow minded citizens over-reacting on the issue of billboard advertising. Let’s be fair and sensible. Billboards are good.... Regulations and laws should not be passed to satisfy a small handful of environmentalists who would like to see all of Spartanburg in a park-like atmosphere.”

So the discussion, and the controversy, continued during 1986. *Herald-Journal* headlines during the year included the following:

- City pondering billboard ban
- Billboards face ban in county
- County planners urge timeout for billboards
- Billboard moratorium urged
- Citizens to study billboards
- Sign action draws near
- Council to weigh billboard proposal
- City hedges on billboard restrictions, ponders restrictions.
- Cry goes out for zoning in county
- Billboard battle looms before Congress
- Council prefers to wait on signs
- Signs of controversy—The City wants billboards to come down; their owners want a big chunk of cash, and the law leaves room for debate—and lawsuits
- Constant controversy
- Revised billboard plan to undergo review
- Senate kills billboard ban affecting federal highways
- Signs facing opposition