

January 2020

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Everette Lineberger
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp
Past President	Don Crowder

Directors

Will Hawkins
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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: Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

Welcome to 2020. We are excited to be starting a new year at the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. We are lining up programs that we hope will provide gardening insights while being entertaining. Our mission is to "educate and inspire the public about better gardening practices and products." To help us achieve our mission, please invite guests to our meeting so that they may learn from our speakers.

This year we are focusing our club efforts on "growing" our membership. Please talk up our club when the opportunities arise. Regarding individual membership, we are setting a goal for each member to recruit one new member.

We also want to rebuild our corporate membership. At our January Board Meeting Charlie Crescenzi agreed to work on getting new corporate members. If you have any ideas on companies we should solicit to become corporate members, please contact Charlie or me.

If you have other suggestions for improving the club, please contact one of the board members. Let's have a great year!

A SERIES OF PROGRAMS for the new year has been announced by Program Chair, Everette Lineberger. Our January meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 pm** instead of Monday when we originally meet. Everette will speak on "The Sex Life of Plants – Reproduction and Propagation." Or "Birds, Bees and what?"

Future programs already scheduled are:

February 17 – "Growing Organically" with Ethan Jarrett of Cragmoor Farms. This is a USDA organically certified farm operated by District Six Schools and a private farm.

March 16 – "Looking Forward to Spring Bloom" to be presented by Betty Montgomery, MGC member and syndicated garden writer whose column appears in the Herald Journal. She is the author of Hydrangeas: How to Grow, Cultivate & Enjoy, and A Four-Season Southern Garden

April 20 – "Apples for Everyone" including information on new cultivars and new ways of growing them in a small space. The program will be presented by Jon Klimstra of TK Family Farm in Rutherfordton, NC.

Everette Lineberger SMGC Speaker January 21, 2019

Everette is the current Vice President and Program Chair, and is a former President and is an Emeritus Member of our Board. From 1988 to 2008 he and his wife, Ann, operated Quail Hill Gardens, specializing in irises and daylilies. He has had a life long interest in gardening, grew up on a farm in North Carolina, and is a previous Regional Vice President and Board Member of the American Iris Society. He has won numerous ribbons and medals for entries in iris shows and at one time grew 750 cultivars of irises, 500 daylilies, and 50 peonies.



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Photography by Linda McHam



Camellia cuttings taken in 2018.

This is the result when you take your own cuttings: *Camellia japonica* 'Nuccio's Pearl'.



Our history of the club continues on the following pages.



L-R: Don Crowder, Bruce Fraedrick, Will Hawkins, Alan Lemieux, Mary Ann Hipp, potting up rooted cuttings.

**Renew Now
2020 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.

ALL MEMBERS of SMGC should join the **SpartanburgMGC Yahoo Group**. It's the only way for members to know what is going on on a timely basis. It can be useful for reminders of upcoming events, to ask for help with various projects, and to be notified of last minute changes of schedules and venues. Only half the membership has joined, which means that YOU may be missing out on our activities! Send an email to (Linda McHam) and she will send you an invitation to join. You need to complete the process by signing up and joining the group after you receive your invitation.44

CHAPTER 3

Gardening Together: MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

Perhaps our best hope for gardening as an art is that gardening is an activity whose never-achieved aim is progress towards a never-completed work of art.

— Geoffrey Charlesworth

Membership in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has always had a certain prestigious connotation. Its members come from all walks of life. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, landscape architects, nursery men and women, public servants, writers and others who are successful in their careers and interested in their community have been members through the years. Many members are well known personalities in Spartanburg and others are low-profile individuals interested in gardening. As a group, SMGC members are respected for their high interest in making their homes and the community better with trees and shrubs and flowers and grasses and fruit, making things green, beautiful and good for the environment. They have loved growing in knowledge of plants and how to use them, and the friendships made with fellow gardeners have been important and valuable.

While an official roster of those Dirt Daubers who were the charter members in 1948 is no longer available, the following were part of the original organization and are considered "Charter Members": W. P. Rich, the first president; A. T. Gant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, treasurer; Clyde Burwell, historian; L. B. Boswell; W. G. Dobson; Guy Gowan, George Ladd; Paul Tysinger; Maj. M. L. Craine; Lamar Knox and Ernest Burwell. There are other records that indicate that Karl Selden may have been a charter member. Henry Pittman says that of these, only Jim Culcleasure was still active in the 1960s when he joined and Mr. Culcleasure was a pallbearer for Charles Lea's funeral in 1967. But Pittman says he knew of Clyde and Ernest Burwell of Burwell Chevrolet and somewhere along the way met

3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

the first president, W. P. Rich. This small group of men began an active and productive organization that has grown to include almost 200 men, women and corporate members today.¹

It is interesting that the Club was originally limited to 25 members; it is obvious that this rule didn't last long. Fortunately, two important men—W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea—joined soon after the chartering of the Club, probably about 1950 or '51. Their contributions and leadership were essential to the growth of the Club, and to the quality growth of Spartanburg.²

While it may not be clear that the Club grew steadily from those first twelve members, or how soon the maximum of 25 was achieved, it clearly prospered and strengthened over the years, and the community benefited from its growth. The member limit had obviously been abandoned in 1958 when there were 34 members paying the four dollar dues and meeting in the basement Community Room of First Federal Building and Loan's headquarters on North Church Street. That remained the meeting location until it was moved to the Piedmont Natural Gas Building near First Presbyterian Church on East Main Street in 1972 with 177 members.

An existing record indicates the 1959 roster included Rich, Culcleasure, and Gowan, but also newer members—Charles Lea, Karl Selden, John Cantrell, J. P. Carlton, W. O. Ezell, Dr. Wardlaw Hammond, M. P. Nantz, Claude Sherrill, Dr. W. A. Wallace, William B. Littlejohn, Jack Lemmon, Dave Kennemur, Tom Butler and, Dr. David Stoltz and others for a total of 35. David Stoltz, the most senior member, is still active in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Charles Lea deserves special credit in that he served both as Secretary of the Club, and also as its newsletter editor during the formative years from 1957 or 1958, when John Cantrell and Tom Butler were presidents, until 1966. In addition, he was an early leader of the important Spartanburg County Foundation and he held many community positions supporting the Boy Scouts and other youth-oriented organizations.³

The Club year of 1964 was interesting from the perspective of past, current and future performance. An old roster of 1964, when W. W. "Buster" Walker was president, shows the total membership was a high of 101. It included eight former presidents (Tom Butler, John Cantrell, Jim Culcleasure, W. O. Ezell, Wardlaw Hammond, Charles Lea, Jack Lemmon, and Karl Selden). Also active that year were six future presidents (Dr. Paul Cook, Gil Hooper, Willard Morgan, Sid Moorhead, Henry Pittman and Claude Sherrill). In 1965 there were 88 members five of whom are current active members.

¹ Appendix 2 contains a chart of SMGC presidents and other leaders by year.

² Chapter 2 on Iconic Members pays great tribute to these two men, and provides considerable details on their work and contributions.

³ Charles Lea is featured in Chapter 2 on Iconic Members

3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

1969 was a very good year for the Club—Dr. Bob Reynolds and Harold Hatcher joined. Recruitment of new members exploded that year under Julian Foster’s presidency. A membership roster is not available, but National’s magazine, *The Gardener*, reported in January, 1970, “W. O. Ezell has run the membership of the Spartanburg, S. C. club up to 227 members.” This is a 158% increase over the 88 members in 1965. (However only 35 of those 88 were active in 1970, so retention had not been good.) *The Gardener* reported in April 1970 the recruiting technique:

Our friends in Spartanburg, S. C. took a different tack. They cleaned up some eyesores around town and planted them, and other areas to grand floral displays. Then they asked luncheon clubs to give them five minutes to tell about the work they had done, and about men’s garden clubs. At every program they brought in new members: seven, nine, as many as fifteen at a time. That’s hard to beat.

THE PAPER/Wednesday, January 15, 1992



ON THE GRILL — Above, members of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club annual picnic committee gather near the grill. Committee members from left are David Kennemur, Harold D. Hatcher, John Fincher, Jack Turner, Walter Soderberg, John Welsh and Tom Bartram. Below, the 87 members and guests of the club relax and enjoy food prepared by club members Jack Turner and Robert Almond, the chief hot dog and hamburger cooks. The event took place at Hatcher Horticulture Center.



Camaraderie has always been important in the MGC.

That summer, Ezell attended the Convention in Des Moines and led a workshop on his favorite subject, “The City Beautiful.” *The Gardener* reported, “...his beautification projects are so successful that W. O. has outstripped everyone in gaining new members and new clubs in MGCA.” While a bit confusing, it reported another high compliment in August, that the SMGC, with 178 members, was the second largest; Syracuse was the largest and Des Moines and Chapel Hill, N. C., followed Spartanburg. An available 1970 Club roster lists 191 men. It was probably Ezell’s growing reputation as a leader in city beautification that attracted so many new members.

Membership didn’t grow continuously; in 1975 it was down to 76, but up the next year to a healthy 143 when dues were \$14.00, \$7.50 of which went to National. In 1977, Jess Taylor, a very valuable addition to the roster, joined, and four years later, Tom Bartram became a member.



December 2, 2019

Mr. Phil Abers
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club
PO Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304-1502

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your charitable gift of \$500.00 to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation for the Horticulture Textbook Fund. Scholarships play an important role in the financial package of a student and every dollar is appreciated.

The SCC Foundation is providing student support through scholarships at a level never before possible; nurturing businesses and the minds through many programs; graduating more students across all disciplines: mechatronics, health care, horticulture, cyber security and many more. SCC provides over 70 programs in the three county area of Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee.

Your gifts to the SCC Foundation make you a shareholder in our success. Together we are expanding higher education's potential to inspire change and transform lives.

Thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bea'.

Bea Walters Smith
Executive Director

A handwritten note in cursive script that reads 'Thanks a bunch - Happy Holidays!'.

No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation. All gifts to the SCC Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our tax ID is 57-0751500.

February 2020

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President's Corner

Thanks to Everette Lineberger for an inspiring January Program to kick off our 2020 year. We have a great list of programs planned through June. Please look at the program listing and mention our upcoming programs when inviting guests to attend our club meetings.

Speaking of guests, it was great to see that we had three guests at the January Meeting. Having guests is a very good sign for our club's future and having some younger folks involved is especially significant. Please try to bring a guest to one of our upcoming meetings.

We are working on rebuilding our corporate membership as mentioned in our January Newsletter. Letters soliciting corporate members have been sent to recent corporate members. We are open to all suggestions on adding corporate members. Please let the board members know who we can solicit.

I am also encouraging members to contribute articles to the newsletter. Have you travel to an area with unique fauna? Have you been to a botanical garden that you found interesting? Let us know by writing a brief article for the SMGC newsletter. Please see my contribution in this month's newsletter about plant life in South Africa.

Ethan Jarrett



SMGC Speaker February 17, 2019

Mr Jarrett is the Farm Manager of Cragmoor Farm, a 49 acre Certified Organic source of fresh vegetables for 15 District 6 schools. The farm is located near the Walnut Grove Plantation and is a cooperative effort of Cragmoor, District 6 Schools, Spartanburg County Foundation, and Upstate Forever. Jarrett is expected to answer such questions as:

- 1) What kind of organic fertilizer do you use?
- 2) How do you control insect pests?
- 3) Do you sell produce to the public?
- 4) How difficult are the requirements to be declared "certified organic"?

Future programs

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Photography by Linda McHam



Squash being grown in 15 gallon containers.



Tomatoes and Kale grown in containers.



A simple composting bin.



5 gallon buckets to hold rainwater from the downspout.



2020 Litter pickup schedule

March 14 rain date **Mar 21**

June 13 rain date **Jun 20**

Sept. 12 rain date **Sep 19**

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Member Musing By Phil Abers

South Africa

From June 2002 into early 2005, Edie and I lived in South Africa. Besides the wild animals, the coast line with two oceans and the Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa has interesting flora. My brother, Larry, was a phenomenal amateur botanist. When he came to visit us, he chose the month of September, because that is the beginning of spring and a time when the flowers are at peak bloom in this mild climate.

Our first stop was at Kirstenbosch Garden, which is just outside of Cape Town and is on the backside of Table Mountain. The Protea bloom was spectacular in September 2004. The Protea plants range from shorter shrubs to small trees in size and have a wide range of colors. The King Protea is the national flower of South Africa.

From Cape Town, we drove north to Namaqualand, which is a semi-desert area. When the winter rainfall is sufficient, the spring wild flower bloom is breathtaking. The year we went, there were some fields of wildflowers in certain areas, but it was not as impressive as the years with the super bloom.

South Africa is also home to many species of cycads. These prehistoric plants grow in a columnar shape with leaves only at the top of the plant. South Africa has 38 species of cycads. It is also home to a collection of plants called fynbos. The "biome" of coastal South Africa is the home to the fynbos. Indicator plants that are a core part of the fynbos include heath, protea, iris, lilies.

If you are a plant lover and would like to see some unique plants, consider visiting there.



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

3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

But the big change in Club membership, not so much numbers but quality, began in the 1980s. The national organization, MGCA, lead the way in responding to pressure, both legal and political, to open membership to women and this major change in its bylaws occurred in about 1985. Women, mostly spouses of members, had long been active in local Club activities in a kind of auxiliary capacity, but they were not formal members of the Club. Some wives attended (some to drive at night), but were not active in project or program work. But Linda McHam and Jane Turner—and others—were exceptions; they helped with MGC projects prior to becoming official members.

It may have been the result of local member John Nevison representing both the Club and the Blue Ridge Region as National Director at the November Board meeting in San Antonio, or the forward attitude of Tom Bartram (and his legal background and influence)



Monthly meetings were held in the Arts Center on Spring Street in 2005

that encouraged the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club to open its membership to women. “Probably the most compelling reason for admitting females was not just John’s and my feelings, but was the new federal law—Title VII of the Civil Rights Act,” Bartram recalls. “This had resulted in many organizations modifying their requirements for membership.”

3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

Before official approval, the proposed change was discussed both openly and formally, and brought to a proper vote of the Club at its March, 1989, meeting. Even with obvious strong support for the change, Pittman says he “stood tall” in opposition and presented a carefully prepared paper consisting of seven hopefully well-thought-out points.⁴ These included the uniqueness of the Club, the physical hard work desired from members, and the sad demise of other *men-only* clubs in the Blue Ridge Region that had integrated. Mr. W. O.’s often repeated advice of “work with the ladies, but don’t get too close” was cited, along



The November “Annual Meeting” was held in the Downtown County Library in 2005.

with the opinion that court action was unlikely. Other suggestions included the possibility of organizing a new “Men’s Garden Club” for women, and the opinion that an occasional “men’s night out” was important. These arguments were of no avail, however. As anticipated, the sage advice of Bartram and other major leaders prevailed and the change of the Bylaws to eliminate reference to gender was approved by a significant majority of the voting members at that March meeting of the Club.

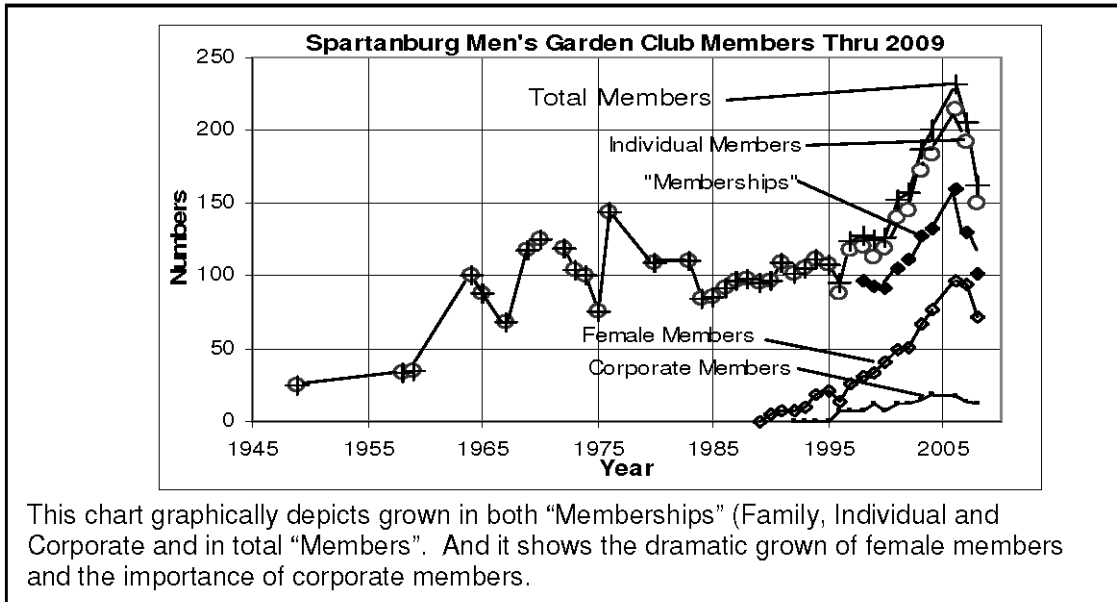
It was a good change. Pittman, and almost everyone else, admits it was a good change. While many lady members are “tag-alongs” of their husband’s Family Memberships, there are more who are hardworking, dedicated gardeners who have added quality talents and leadership to the Club for many years.

The 1990 Club roster shows there were 96 members including these five women: Wayne Burdell, Martha Edwards, Shirley Marshall, Sandra Powell and Jane Turner. By 1991 there were 109 members, seven of whom were women. Dianne Mallory, Linda McHam and Virginia Scott had joined the ranks. Female membership has continued to grow. Counting spouses of the new “Family Memberships” plus individual women, almost half of the Club members are now female.

⁴ A copy of his paper on objections is available in Appendix 35.

3 - MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

The Club broke another boundary in 2007 when it elected its first woman President, early member Linda McHam. Women have disproved Pittman's concern about the "physical hard work" required of Club members by participating fully in the work of the



Club. From 2006 – 2008, the most labor-intensive project of the Club, its Container Garden and Plant Sales, was capably directed by two women members, Dr. Dianne Fergusson and Valerie Hare.

Another category of club membership that has evolved is the Corporate Membership. In the 1980s, the Club had no formal corporate members but was fortunate to have ongoing support and encouragement from organizations including Kurt Zimmerli's Zima Corporation, Mr. Roger Milliken and TV Station WSPA. The Corporate Member category was officially initiated in 1996 with solicitation of businesses and other organizations to join and strengthen the Club. Dues were established at \$100 per year and appointment of an organization employee to directly participate in Club activities was encouraged. Corporate Members that first year were First Federal S&L; Henson Law Firm; Drs. Hull, Green, Woods, McLeod & Cothran; Kohler Company; Milliken & Company; Piedmont Natural Gas and Zima Corporation.

It was in 1996 that "Family Memberships" were begun to encourage husband and wife *teams* and to provide a slight reduction in dues. While this has resulted in some problem of identifying the size of the Club, two counts are usually specified: Memberships (singles plus couples plus corporate) and Members (singles plus the number of couples multiplied times two plus corporate).

Members are, of course, the backbone of the organization, and the Club needs as many as it can get. Some join for various reasons. More often than not, *gardening together* stimulates their interest which grows as they see how personal plant growing can improve living, and how community plant growing can enhance an even larger quality of life. Like many organizations, a large number of members has always been important to this Club and it has often promoted the concept of three member types: those who join primarily to show support of the Club's objectives, those who occasionally attend meetings, and those who

3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

actively work on projects to strengthen the Club and enhance the community—all three types have always been welcomed in the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

One of the most important membership benefits was bestowed on Mort Sams and Martha Smith. In 1994, they were working with Newt Hardie on the Club’s important South Pine Street’s treescape of Yoshino Cherry Trees when they realized they not only loved trees but also each other. They were married shortly afterwards--a unique and cherished membership benefit!

This history should place great emphasis on and give loud praise to the *quality* of MGC members over the years. They have included a broad range of citizens who have combined a love of personal gardening with the desire to use it as a tool to build a better community. They have been, and are, citizens from all walks of life, from the newcomers and unknowns to the top business and civic leaders of the community.

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President's Corner

We have now had two very good presentations to start the year. We have also started the year with some new members. We have added three regular members and three corporate members. Let's continue to work hard to attract additional members. Please share the program listing when inviting guests to attend our club meetings. We are working to get the monthly newsletter transmitted a week before the meeting so that members not only have a chance to read the newsletter, but to share it with others who have an interest in gardening.

March 14 is our litter pick up date. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has adopted a section of Pine Street that crosses Main Street. Please come out at 8 AM on the 14th and help keep our city clean.

We are working on rebuilding our corporate membership as mentioned in our recent Newsletters. We are open to all suggestions on adding corporate members. Please let the board members know who we should solicit or you can call 864-708-3114 or email me (philip.abers@gmail.com).

Betty Montgomery

"Looking Forward to Spring Bloom"

Our March program for the Men's Garden Club will be given on Monday, March 16, by well known Club member and garden writer, Betty Montgomery.

Betty was in the first Spartanburg Master Gardener class in 1985 and is interested in all types of gardening. You may have seen her recent article about pruning trees and shrubs in a recent article in the Spartanburg Herald Journal or her article in the March issue of the "Spartanburg Magazine" on blooming cherries.

She is planning a visual presentation for us about spring blooming flowers. Remember – Monday, March 16 at 7:00 pm in the Health Sciences Building of the Community College.

Future Programs

April 20 – "Apples for Everyone" including information on new cultivars and new ways of growing them in a small space. The program will be presented by Jon Klimstra of TK Family Farm in Rutherfordton, NC.

May 18 – "Making Good Soil" Speaker will be Leslie Rodgers, Director of Education of Atlas Organics. Program will be about recycling garbage in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

June 15 – "The Greening of Spartanburg" with Ricky McAbee, owner of Roebuck Nursery. What makes Spartanburg the beautiful city it is?



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Photography by Linda McHam



Forsythia



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



Deciduous
Azalea



Deciduous
Magnolia
'Elizabeth'

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Member Musing By Phil Abers

Presby Iris Garden

Nearly every year we lived in New Jersey, Edie and I went to Presby Iris Garden. The garden is located in Monclair, which is in northern New Jersey not too far from Newark. The Presby Iris Garden was established in 1927 and has over 10,000 iris encompassing 1500 varieties. The heirloom iris bed has one iris from the 1500's! There are 26 beds with bearded iris. The garden also has Siberian, Japanese and Louisiana Iris. The Louisiana Irises are planted in a small creek bed that traverses the garden.

This year is a special year at Presby. The American Iris Society is hosting its annual convention in Newark and is celebrating 100 years as an organization. Presby has the guest iris beds for this year's convention and for the first time will have irises from around the world. A guest iris is an iris that a hybridizer submits for planting in the guest iris bed for the convention. The hope is that the iris lovers see the guest iris, which are typically new introductions, and will be inspired to buy the iris rhizomes.

If you are not able to travel to New Jersey in May, there is a local option available to you. The Piedmont Carolina Iris Society (PCIS), which is our local club, is having an iris show on Wednesday, April 29, from 1 – 3:30 PM at the Cowpens Library. Next year PCIS will be hosting the region 5 iris convention around the first of May, 2021. That event will include a tour of local iris gardens. Stay tuned for more information.



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

Chapter 4

Enhancing the Enhancements: SPARTANBURG BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

*Everyone can identify with a fragrant garden,
with the beauty of sunset, with the quiet of nature.*
– Thomas Kinkade

It is not clear when or how the strong emphasis on “beautification” began in Spartanburg. Surely, this community, with its heritage of quality, has always had such an emphasis. If not, how would the great street trees of Converse Heights have been planted or how would the Wofford Campus have had such a fine landscape plan? How, or why, would Duncan Park have developed and what would have brought about the architectural excellence of the old County Library building on Library Street, or the quality structures and layout of Converse College, and of Wofford? Surely, this community had a background of loving and appreciating beauty.

It may have been when W. O. Ezell joined the new Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in about 1951 that the trend toward horticultural beautification really began. Mr. Roger Milliken's love for trees and excellent landscaping set a high standard, beginning in the late 1950s, just as Hans Balmer later demonstrated his passion for beautification by developing spots of beauty around the community. And Newt Hardie is currently living a mission of eliminating the ugliness caused by the kudzu vine. It was, however, in the early 50s that “Mr. W. O.” began a trend of floral beauty that has made Spartanburg a very special place. The Men's Garden Club was a part of it and has proudly continued that emphasis.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

Recently retired from Geer Drug Company, Ezell not only encouraged the relatively young Men's Garden Club to begin a program of beautification, but led the program with his personal labor until his health began to fail in the early 1970s. He was chairman of the Spartanburg City Beautification Committee in 1956 when a newspaper article stated, "Spartanburg is now a City of Flowers." He continued that leadership, along with being Projects Chairman of the Club, until the late '70s. It is not clear when or how the Piedmont Beautification Committee was organized in Spartanburg; it replaced the City program in the 1980s with somewhat broader goals.

Gardens apparently existed at Cleveland Park and Duncan Park earlier, but they were improved by the City (and probably the Club) adding roses and mums in 1958 under Ezell's leadership. Flowers along city streets began to appear at that time, due to the same guidance. While no detailed documentation is available, extensive landscaping of Duncan Park was probably the major and largest beautification project of the Club at that time.

Charles Lea, long-time secretary and editor of the monthly "Gardenettes" newsletter, reported these complimentary remarks about the Club's association with Ezell's city beautification work in June, 1959. "W. O. Ezell gave a fine progress report on the work of his committee on the 'City Beautiful.' It will pay our members to check the parks and city intersections of streets to see what has been done this spring. It will bring pride to your hearts in appreciation of what has been accomplished by so few, with so little. Again, we take our hats off to our fellow-member, W. O. Ezell, for his untiring efforts to complete the project 'City Beautiful'." Lea went on to say, "Visit Duncan Park and see the part *your club* had in this project. In two or three more years Duncan Park at least the eastern end, is going to be the beauty spot of Spartanburg. Let us keep up the good work."

The next month, Lea commented, "The Men's Garden Club should be proud of their work in Duncan Park, and should visit there each month in order to see the continuous blooming that takes place. Remember that the north end of Duncan Park, from the old arena to the Union Road [Street], *is a special project of the Men's Garden Club.*"

Dr. Bob Reynolds remembers, "W. O. Ezell had started flowerbeds at the entrance of Duncan Park. These had become neglected when he was no longer able to care for the beds. Clayton Brown wanted to restart the beds at this location. Clayton started with four beds where WO had originally had his beds. After a few years the city built a cinderblock raised bed on each side of the entrance road. Bradford pear trees were added one in each bed and along the road. The Bradford Pear trees required a lot of water to keep the flower beds functioning. The Spartanburg Water Works initially furnished water for a number of years, but terminated this "free water" later. Recently, the Bradford pear trees were removed and knockout roses were added in the bed. That special love for and association with Duncan Park continued as Reynolds maintained the Union Street entrance garden for many years as a Club project.

Charles Lea was the official delegate from the MGC to the national convention of The Men's Garden Clubs of America held in Jackson, Mississippi, May 5-8, 1959. He made a detailed and very positive report in his "Gardenettes" newsletter of this, his first convention participation. The following related to the Magnolia tree he was given.

Last, but not least, the Jackson Men's Garden Club gave to each representative present a small Magnolia Grandiflora seedling from the new big champion tree located in Pascagoula, Miss. Its circumference is 13 ft. 7 in., height 52 ft. with a

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

branch spread of 92 feet. This tree replaces the old champion, a Florida magnolia now dead, and grows within sight of the Spanish Fort just off U. S. Highway 90.

I want the seedling to belong to the Club—to be planted in one of our parks, preferably in Duncan Park, properly labeled, where the Club has done so much beautification work.

Unfortunately, the desire for proper labeling was not accomplished, but this is probably the large Magnolia standing in the landscaped area of Duncan Park today.

The city's first "Spring Flower Festival" was sponsored by the Club in 1959, and again the next May. While no details currently exist of either its extensiveness, or its success, it is an indication of growing interest in community beautification and horticultural education.

In April, 1960, Charles Lea's "Gardenettes" reported on Morgan Square beautification, and on other activities:

W. O. and his Beautification Committee ought to feel mighty proud. Their work is paying dividends all over the city. Every member of the Men's Garden Club should take pride in the wonderful improvements to the barren corners of our streets and the forlorn look of our parks. Morgan Square was a sight for sore eyes during the past ten days. General Morgan, will never gaze on a more delightful picture than he did Easter Morning, no matter where they move him. The Square must have known this would be its last opportunity because as soon as the tulips are through blooming it becomes another parking area." Lea continued with this encouragement, "It will pay you to visit all the beauty spots of the city during these spring weeks. Follow the flower trails through the city. Have you noticed the hanging baskets on Main Street? The frost did not seem to hurt them that Sunday night before Easter.

Flowers and new landscaping of Morgan Square formed a significant Club effort in 1960 along with many new "garden spots" around the area. As reported earlier in the April 1960 newsletter, Morgan Square was approaching its height of beauty in 1961, when it was partially destroyed while a new parking lot was constructed by the city. This cycle of "build and destroy" continues to this day and may be an inevitable part of progress!

1961 was a busy year for the Club and for Mr. W. O.'s Spartanburg City Beautification group. Along with J. P. Carlton and Red Arnold, Club leader Claude Sherrill organized and led the Club's new "Yard of the Month" project in 1961. It promoted broad citizen participation in home landscape improvement. This program continued for several years.

A step forward in "hands on" beautification was taken in 1961. Charles Lea, secretary and editor of the monthly newsletter reported on recent board action with this paragraph in the June edition "It was also decided that the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club should beautify a vacant lot in the city, and a committee, W. O. Ezell, Jack Lemmon and Charles Lea, was appointed to proceed to select and plant such a lot in the name of the Club."

The result of that assignment was probably what Lea reported later that fall. "Have you seen the new project on [South] Pine Street? Claude Sherrill and W. O. Ezell have already begun work getting ready for the plantings. Claude handles the tractor and farm implements just like he had been raised on the farm. We expect to have an up-to-date report at our next meeting on the work and the financing." In December, he reported good progress and anticipation that it "has the promise of being the show-place of the city when completed." Subsequent newsletters aren't available, but this was undoubtedly the beginning of the

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

Club's *Selecto Garden*, its largest and most ambitious landscape project, the South Pine Street garden across from the Pine Street School.

Unfortunately, Lea's newsletters aren't available after December 1961, so details of the progress are not available. This 3,000 foot long multi-hundred rose, azalea, shrub and bulb garden on South Pine Street extended from the condominium complex north of St. Andrews Street, past Boyd Street and the school, past Twin Drive, Sunset Drive, and Crystal Drive, and almost to Morningside Baptist Church. It was clearly the best known beautification project of the Club at that time. Although quite modified today, it continues as an asset to the community.

The outstanding color tri-fold, published by the Beautification Committee and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Spartanburg, entitled "Spartanburg - South Carolina - The Floral Showplace of The Piedmont" was a significant promotional feature.

A commercial post card was also published at about the same time with the label "*Lusterchrome Reg. U.S. Pat. Office, Made only by Ticnnor Bros Inc., Boston 15, Mass.*" It identifies the face of the card with this garden description:

Spartanburg, S. C. – The City of Flowers – The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club's *Selecto Garden* CONTAINS:

- 686 Labeled Hybrid Teas, Grandiflora, & Florabunda Roses, 140 varieties.
- 80 Azaleas, 40 varieties.
- 101 Labeled Beds of Tulips and Daffodils containing 21,000 bulbs.
- 1100 Assorted Shrubs. Located on Pine Street.

The descriptions on these publications seem almost unbelievable, but their pictures, along with the many photographs of Ezell taken there, confirm the garden's magnificence. Although the two descriptions don't agree exactly, they are similar. And they, and much other documentation, confirm that the Club was clearly its primary developer and received invaluable publicity from it.

The local *Herald-Journal* newspaper ran an extremely positive article in September of 1961. It opened with these words; "The male greenthumbers are on the march here again." It continued:

This time the prolific planters have picked a project so big it requires reinforcements. 'Its 3,000 foot long,' Men's Garden Club President Jim Culcleasure reported Saturday. 'That's substantially larger than the Duncan Park and other beautification projects these volunteers have completed around Spartanburg in recent years.... Since the project will cost several hundred dollars [today, this sounds like a monumental understatement]...a program is being organized for local businesses to provide funds by acquiring memberships at \$5 each for groups of their employers. Geer Drug Co. and Community Cash Stores have started the ball rolling by taking out 30 memberships.

The next month, the newspaper reported that the response from businesses had been excellent with participation by 16 sponsor firms, "...but we need and invite others to join in our beautification work," said Culcleasure. "The gardeners are doing all the work during off hours from their store, office and other jobs...The project will require several weeks to complete...It will beautify one of the most important approaches to the city."

April 2020

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

<i>President</i>	Phil Abers
<i>Vice President</i>	Everette Lineberger
<i>Secretary</i>	Denie Crowder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mary Ann Hipp
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Sami Elhassani
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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:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

Life has changed over the last month. Let's hope that a return to normal happens soon. As many of us are mostly confined to home I have noticed the garden centers to be very busy on my infrequent shopping trips. Many people are looking for activities to keep themselves busy and gardening seems to be a new favorite. Let's use this renewed interest in gardening help "grow our club".

Besides gardening, I believe many people will have the neatest, freshly painted houses they have had in years. In the spirit of organizing, cleaning and decluttering I would like to do the same with the Garden Club. When you are sitting home at a loss for what to do, I have a suggestion. Go to the Club website and review our content. We welcome suggestions for making the website even better than it is now. While at the website, take a look at our by-laws. Comments on the by-laws are also appreciated. Remember your social distancing, stay safe and hopefully we will all be together at our monthly meeting soon.

SMGC Membership Committee – Joyce Crescenzi

The SMGC Membership Committee is monthly responsible for updating the membership report. This list includes current members, new members and corporate members. A list reflecting membership changes is annually produced and is available to members at each meeting.

The new 2020 members are Christopher Brenner, David A. Price, Chris and Stephanie Rice, Gary Smiley, DDS, MOS and James West. Our corporate members are Creekside Garden & Nursery, Hatcher Gardens and Inman Lawn and Garden.

Our club welcomes new members. Please invite anyone interested in gardening to attend any of our meetings or reach out to businesses to invite them to become corporate members.

Future Programs

May 18 – "Making Good Soil" Speaker will be Leslie Rodgers, Director of Education of Atlas Organics. Program will be about recycling garbage in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

June 15 – "The Greening of Spartanburg" with Ricky McAbee, owner of Roebuck Nursery. What makes Spartanburg the beautiful city it is?



Post Office Box 1502
 Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

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.



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Photography by Linda McHam



"Jack in the Pulpit"
 Arisaema triphyllum

Brick colored azalea (non-native)



Deciduous
 (native)
 azalea



2020 Litter pickup schedule

June 13 rain date **Jun 20**

Sept. 12 rain date **Sept 19**

Dec. 12 rain date **Dec 19**

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

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

Renew Now 2020 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.

Please support our corporate members including;

Creekside Nursery – Located on Drayton Road in Spartanburg. The nursery has an interesting selection of plants for purchase.

Hatcher Gardens – A Public Botanical Garden & Wooldand Preserve.

Inman Lawn and Garden – Authorized distributor of Stihl, Bad Boy Mowers and SCAG Mowers. They also offer small engine repair.



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Member Musing By Phil Abers

Maine

When it gets hot during the South Carolina Summer do you wish to get away? One place in the US with mild summer weather is Maine. You can visit Acadia National Park near Bar Harbor or go to Portland, see Longfellow's Home and visit the historic Portland Head Light House that was commissioned during George Washington's administration.

About 1 hour north of Portland, ME and on your way to Bar Harbor is the town of Boothbay. Now you normally don't think of Maine and gardening in the same sentence. The town of Boothbay is home to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden. This lovely garden is the largest botanical garden in New England. Because Boothbay is on a Peninsula, the growing zone is 6A, which allow them to grow many of the plants I was familiar with in New Jersey.

The garden has 295 acres including 17 acres dedicated to plants from Maine. The garden is a charming place with paved paths and plenty of color flowers and shrubs. The Botanical Garden is in the process of adding a large conservatory and bog gardens. If you are going to coastal Maine, a trip to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden is must see. For more information go to <https://www.maine gardens.org> .



History of the club continues on the following pages.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The *Herald-Journal* in May, 1966, related this story about Ezell and Lea: “Ezell was in Selecto Garden telling his close friend and comrade, Charles Lea, about a favorite rose when they looked up and saw a line of cars led by a city police vehicle.” Moments later, President Harry P. Williams of the Spartanburg Sertoma Club stepped up to present Ezell with the club’s *Service to Mankind Award*. The article continued with a description of the garden and the many contributions of Ezell. Williams said, since he was appointed in 1957 to the City Beautification Commission with his fellow member Lea, “the City Beautification



Committee and the Men’s Garden Club have converted many barren areas to garden spots about the city.”

The local newspaper reported on this national Men’s Garden Clubs of America award in August, 1963:

Spartan Male Gardeners Given Top National Award

The Woodrow K. Jones Memorial Plaque was awarded to the [Spartanburg] Men’s Garden Club in recognition of projects and outstanding service to the community and the Men’s Garden Clubs of America.

The award was received at the recent annual convention in Rockford, Ill by W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea, both past presidents of the local club.

This long article concluded with this paragraph, “Among the projects accomplished by the local club were the Pine Street and Duncan Park beautification” and a number of other activities including “the organization of the Blue Ridge Regional Club” as part of national Men’s Garden Clubs of America.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The next year, the paper promoted a story “Garden Lovers Meet in City” which



announced that William Hull, president of the national organization, was in Spartanburg for the meeting of the Blue Ridge Region's two-day annual convention. "Included in Saturday's activities was a tour of the flowers along Pine Street, Duncan Park and the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corp." Also, J. G. Norton, chairman of the board of Milliken's Pacolet Industries was awarded a certificate of commendation for the beautification of the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corporation. W. W. "Buster" Walker was president of the Club at that time.


"Mr. W. O.", after suffering from health problems for some 18 months, recovered enough in 1974 to re-activate his personal beautification activity and, with some help, he put out over a hundred plants and did some weeding along the thoroughfares during the year. Earlier, in 1974 he had been honored by the Club for his beautification leadership at a dinner at Dorman High School attended by many community leaders and dignitaries. Vice President Snow Marshall made a highly complimentary presentation on Ezell and his importance to both the community and the Club.¹ The next year, Ezell was awarded the national Men's Garden Club's of America Medallion Award by Mayor Bob Stoddard for his tremendous accomplishment in City beautification.

¹ A copy of Show Marshall's presentation is contained in Appendix 3.


4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

Almost as unbelievable as was the Pine Street Garden and its extensive beauty is the fact that it was nearly destroyed in the summer of 1973 (shortly after the garden began to reach maturity) when South Pine Street was widened by the Highway Department. Claude Sherrill's "Garden Tips" newsletter reported in May, "The highway widening at Pine Street

This tri-fold brochure was a popular Spartanburg promotional document for Mr. W. O. Ezell's "City of Flowers" in the early 1970s. Note the center back picture of the Club's "Selecto Garden" with the heading "Men's Garden Club which reads, "This beautiful mile long strip bordering S. Pine Street in Spartanburg is planted and maintained solely by a group of dedicated men who contribute their time and resources to this project. Here you find 1,500 shrubs, 1,339 roses, 21,000 bulbs, 180 azaleas, 140 labeled varieties of 686 roses, 40 labeled varieties of 80 azaleas, and 75 labeled running roses with 101 beds of labeled tulips and daffodils."



MORGAN SQUARE
The heart of Spartanburg is dominated by a series of magnificent fine line Colonial Revival houses. The area surrounding the structure and grounds is bordered with well kept lawns and gardens in the foreground.




CLEVELAND PARK
There are many beautiful specimens in the vicinity of Spartanburg. It is a children's playground, containing fine old oaks, maples, elms, a large chestnut tree, a large sycamore tree, a large white oak and a large white pine tree.


ABOUT CITY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM
Resistant to all weather — sprays, sunlight, pollution.
Resistant to insects, birds, mice, rats, dogs, cats, etc.
Resistant to fire, lightning, wind, hail, etc.
Resistant to all weather — sprays, sunlight, pollution.
Resistant to insects, birds, mice, rats, dogs, cats, etc.
Resistant to fire, lightning, wind, hail, etc.

SPARTANBURG SOUTH CAROLINA

City of Flowers




MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
This beautiful mile long strip bordering S. Pine Street in Spartanburg is planted and maintained solely by a group of dedicated men who contribute their time and resources to this project. Here you find 1,500 shrubs, 1,339 roses, 21,000 bulbs, 180 azaleas, 140 labeled varieties of 686 roses, 40 labeled varieties of 80 azaleas, and 75 labeled running roses with 101 beds of labeled tulips and daffodils.



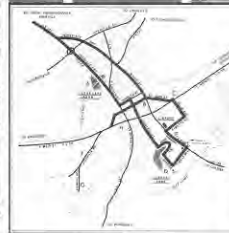
Spartanburg is noted for its good business climate and flexibility. The arts, culture and education flourish, contributing richly to the "good life." Good homes, churches and schools endow our residents with the heritage of a good community and good citizenship. These factors, coupled with the many assets pictured in this folder, make Spartanburg a good place in which to live and do business.


This brochure published as a joint project of the City of Spartanburg Beautification Committee and The Chamber of Commerce of Greater Spartanburg.




SPARTANBURG PARK
Spartanburg Park is a beautiful recreational area located in the heart of the city. It features a large swimming pool, tennis courts, and a playground. The park is surrounded by mature trees and a well-maintained lawn.

CITY MAP OF SPARTANBURG







COUNTY COURTHOUSE




SPARTANBURG JUNIOR COLLEGE, CONFERENCE CENTER




CONVERSE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN



SPARTANBURG COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM




SPARTANBURG MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM




WOFFORD COLLEGE THE NEW

City of Spartanburg South Carolina



SPARTANBURG GREENVILLE, ILL. AIRPORT



SPARTANBURG FAIR GROUND

KEY TO SPECIAL POINTS OF BEAUTY:

- A. Elmwood Park
- B. Brown Wood on Dr. John St.
- C. Converse College — E. Main St. or St. John St.
- D. Simpson Park, Entrance — Union St. at Park Dr.
- E. Pine Street
- F. Rollins Road at Converse Road
- G. Archer Entrance
- H. Proctor Square

School has temporarily wrecked our beautiful garden area there. Most of the shrubs and bulbs are heeled-in for replanting in the fall; Roy King [a Club member and City beautification employee] and his city crew have done this work. We have a committee

Boxwoods Resistant to Boxwood Blight

Bruce Fraedrich

Research that evaluated resistance of boxwood species and varieties to boxwood blight indicates that resistance is largely related to geographic origin of the plant. Asian species generally exhibit greatest resistances while European species the greatest susceptibility. Hybrids between Asian and European plants exhibit intermediate resistance. Form and size also appears to have some influence on blight susceptibility. Boxwood selections with compact forms that exhibit slow growth are generally more susceptible than cultivars that have an open and larger form. The following boxwood species and cultivars exhibited the highest level of resistance in research conducted by North Carolina State University. Unless noted, these selections are suitable in hardiness zones 6 through 8.

Resistant Varieties

***Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty'**
Green Beauty Boxwood

A large maturing species, this Japanese boxwood selection attains a height of six –to-eight feet after fifteen years in the landscape. The plant has a mounded, loose open form. Susceptible to boxwood leafminer. Remains green through winter.



***Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana'**
Dwarf Korean Boxwood

This cultivar is a dwarf slow growing selection with a mounded form that is suitable as an edging boxwood. Attains a height of two feet with a potentially wider spread after 15 years. It is resistant to boxwood leafminer. Exhibits foliage yellowing in winter.



***Buxus microphylla* 'Golden Dream'**
Golden Dream Littleleaf Boxwood

This cultivar has leaves with gold variegation. The form is rounded and compact and reaches a height of two-three feet in ten-to-fifteen years. Foliage may bronze to some extent in winter especially in full sun and colder regions. Resistant to boxwood leafminer.



Buxus harlandii

Harland Boxwood

Harland boxwood has a mounded, but loose, open form, that attains a height of two to three feet in ten-to-fifteen years. The crown tends to be wider than tall. Harland box has an elongate, deep green leaf that tends to bronze/yellow in winter. This cultivar is also resistant to leafminer.

Plant in zone 7 or warmer.



Buxus 'Green Gem'

Green Gem Boxwood

A hybrid between *B. sempivirens* and *B. microphylla*, Green Gem exhibits good resistance to boxwood blight but is susceptible to leafminer. This cultivar is rounded and compact with a height and spread of about two feet after fifteen years. The foliage will bronze in winter when planted in full sun.



Buxus microphylla 'John Baldwin'

John Baldwin Littleleaf Boxwood

A large maturing boxwood with a conical to columnar form reaching ten feet or more after fifteen-to-twenty years. John Baldwin retains a deep green foliage color through winter and is resistant to boxwood leafminer.



Buxus sempivirens 'Dee Runk'

Dee Runk Boxwood

Dee Runk boxwood is an upright variety that exhibits good resistance to boxwood blight and to boxwood leafminer. Growth is relatively rapid and plants can attain a height of eight feet in ten years. Dee Runk holds its deep green color with little bronzing in winter, even when planted in full sun. *Buxus sempivirens 'Fastigiata'* has similar growth characteristics to Dee Runk and exhibits good boxwood blight resistance.



***Buxus microphylla* 'Winter Gem'**

Winter Gem Littleleaf Boxwood

Winter Gem boxwood has a rounded form that grows relatively rapidly to a height and width of four feet after ten-to-fifteen years. New foliage is lime green turning deep green at maturity. Foliage tends to bronze in winter when planted in full sun especially in hardiness zones 6. Not recommended in zone 5 or colder.



***Buxus microphylla* 'Little Missy'**

Little Missy boxwood is a recent introduction and is a good choice for an edging boxwood in formal gardens or as a foundation plant where space is limited. Little Missy has a compact, rounded form with a mature size of approximately 2' X 2'. This cultivar tolerates full sun and shearing when a formal appearance is desired.



Susceptibility of Commercial Varieties to Box Blight (analysis based on final disease assessment)

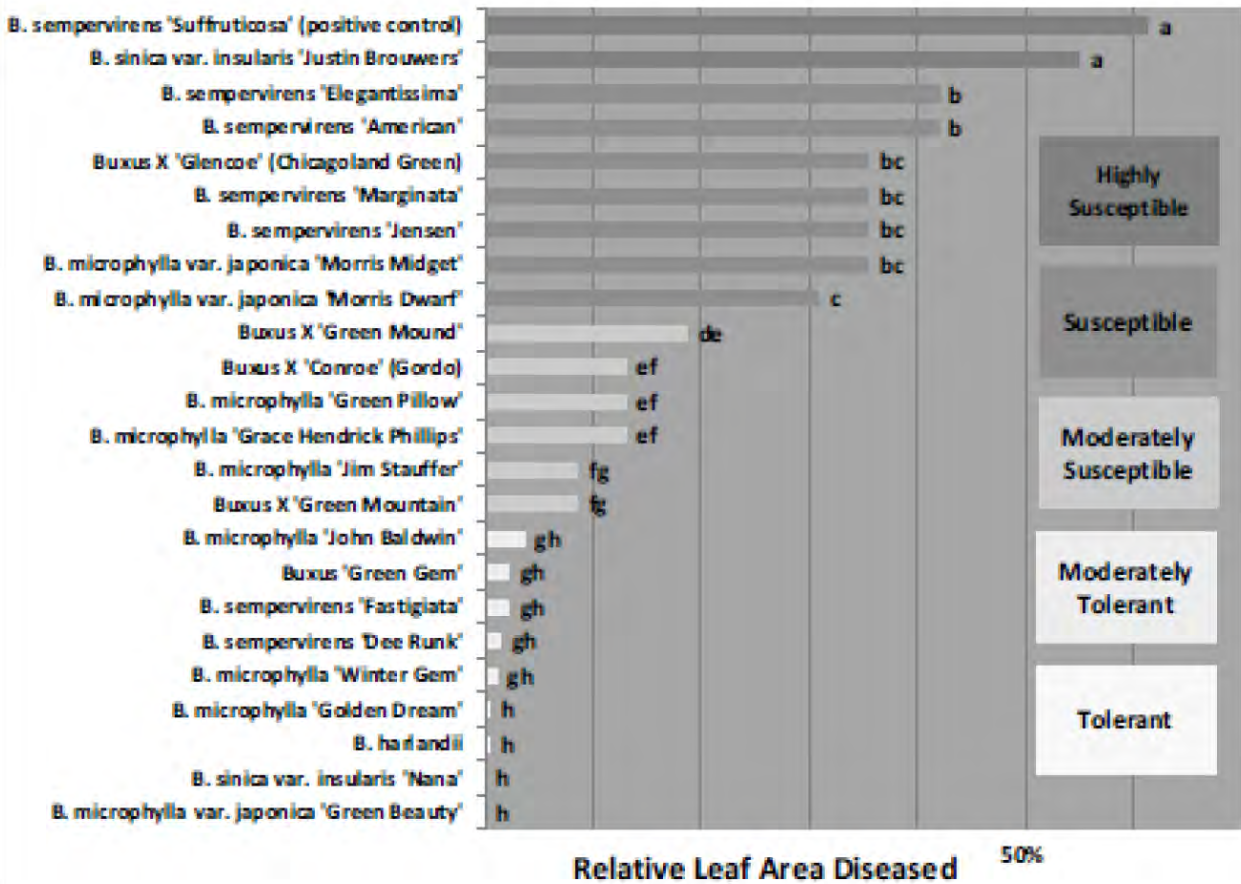


Chart courtesy of NC State University

May 2020

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



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Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp
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Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

We have endured another month away from our routine activities (unless you are a hermit). With the corona virus restrictions still in place for the "high risk" population, which includes most of our members, we will not have a regular meeting in May. We also canceled the board meeting considering the stay at home orders and the fact that SCC is closed through May 11. The trend is improving and we can hopefully meet in June. Our meeting room certainly has enough space for us to practice social distancing. Take care, be safe and we hope to see all of you in June.

Future Programs

June 15 – "The Greening of Spartanburg" with Ricky McAbee, owner of Roebuck Nursery. What makes Spartanburg the beautiful city it is?

July 20 – "Propagation of Plant Cuttings" to be given by our own Linda McHam, Master Gardener, former M.G.C. President, landscape design specialist and much more.

August 17 – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.

September 21 – Annual Picnic at Spartanburg Community College Pavilion for members and guests.

October 19 – "The Planting and Care of the 9/11 Memorial", Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, one of our newer members and a specialist in Arboriculture.

November 16 – Installation of Officers for 2021 and a challenging message from Pastor Erin Morris of Saint John's Lutheran Church.



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Photography by Linda McHam



Philadelphus coronarius
(aka English Dogwood)



2020 Litter pickup schedule

June 13 rain date **Jun 20**

Sept. 12 rain date **Sep 19**

Dec. 12 rain date **Dec 19**

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

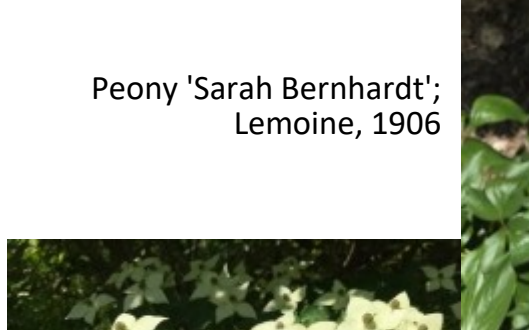
We meet at 8 AM in parking area behind Chamber of Commerce (off Oakland Av.)

Renew Now 2020 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.



Peony 'Sarah Bernhardt';
Lemoine, 1906



Cornus Kousa
(aka Japanese Dogwood)

Please support our corporate members including;

Creekside Nursery – Located on Drayton Road in Spartanburg. The nursery has an interesting selection of plants for purchase.

Hatcher Gardens – A Public Botanical Garden & Wooldand Preserve.

Inman Lawn and Garden – Authorized distributor of Stihl, Bad Boy Mowers and SCAG Mowers. They also offer small engine repair.



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

Carolina Silverbell

Bruce Fraedrich

Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) is an underutilized native that can be used for naturalizing in a woodland border or used as a feature tree in the landscape. Silverbell produces white, bell-shaped flowers in early spring about the same time as dogwood. Foliage is dark green in spring and summer turning brilliant yellow in fall. Trees typically reach a height of thirty feet in twenty years. The fruit is a dry capsule that has four “wings” (edges). *Halesia diptera* is a related species that also grows in the piedmont. As the botanical name suggests, the fruit of this species has two wings.



Silverbell transplants best from container grown nursery stock. The cultural demands of this species is similar to dogwood: it grows best in acid, well-drained moist soil that has plenty of organic matter. The tree establishes best in partial shade; exposures with morning sun and afternoon shade are optimal. Unlike dogwood, silverbell is not host to many insect pests or diseases. Japanese beetles will feed on the foliage when outbreaks of this pest are severe.

Silverbell can be difficult to source from local nurseries and the species does not establish well from bare-root stock available from mail order providers. Nurseries that specialize in natives are the best source of silverbell. Several pink flowering varieties are available in the trade but these cultivars are even more difficult to source.





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Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Member Musing By Phil Abers

Grand Rapids Michigan

Have you been to the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park? You probably have not heard of this Garden/Park. It is located in Grand Rapids Michigan. You say you don't plan to travel to Michigan. You will normally find it to be much more pleasant in the summer than South Carolina. We came upon this park on a trip from New Jersey to Chicago. As a history buff, I wanted to stop in Grand Rapids to visit the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum. The Garden and Sculpture Park, although an after thought, was a great stop.

The Gardens/Sculpture Park are named after Frederik Meijer who owned a large chain of "big box" stores, predominately located in the state of Michigan. The garden opened in 1995 and new sections have been added over the years. The highlights of this 158 acre garden are many. As the name implies there are many sculptures including the 30 acre sculpture park within the garden. There are a number of modern sculptors who are exhibited in the park and some famous 19th century sculptures including Auguste Rodin and Edgar Degas.

There is a 5 story high, 15000 sq ft conservatory housing tropical plants. A recent addition is the 8 acre Japanese Garden. There is a Carnivorous Plant House, a Seasonal Display Garden House, a Woodland Shade Garden and a Children's Garden. Is a 158 acre site too much to walk? There are guided bus tours through the Gardens. Let's not hesitate, it is time to visit the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

At the end of the 10 weeks, the members had planted 274 ornamental shrubs, approximately 3,000 cannas, tulips, daffodils and daylilies, and 100 pounds of grass seed, all in soil enriched by cow manure, rotted sawdust and high analysis fertilizer.

This article went on to say that the Club "... had provided thousands of travelers on Highway 176 a drink of natural beauty—and within the \$250 appropriated [by the Club Board] for the project." This made all of the effort worthwhile.

For years, Reynolds volunteered many hours to the upkeep of this garden strip without much additional help from other Club members but with much ongoing maintenance assistance from the City. During at least one summer, the Club and the City organized a group of underprivileged high school students who provided valuable weeding and litter control in this garden strip.

Over these years this South Pine Street garden had remained a genuine community asset. But an equally great—or greater—improvement was begun in 1998 when the PRIDE Task Force encouraged the City, with a Federal funds grant through the County's SPATS Road Enhancement Committee, to upgrade and refresh the landscape with many new plants, including Yoshino Cherry trees, and paved walking paths. It was officially dedicated in 2001 and since has been called the "PRIDE Trail." This area received another uplift of importance after the railroad was abandoned, and its property was converted into the currently famous and much used walking "Rail Trail" which parallels the garden on the back side. This provides Spartans the opportunity of hiking through this beautiful landscaped area, or above it, to look down into the garden.

Another active Club member was later honored with a granite marker for his beautification work in the City. "The Claude Sherrill Garden" the garden spot that he had developed and maintained for so many years on East Main across from the Hillcrest Shopping Center was officially named by City Council after Sherrill's death in 1973. It was primarily managed for many years by club member Roy King who professionally directed the City's landscape program. Later it and the Club's "Ezell Spot of Pride" on West Main (W. O. Ezell Boulevard) became the responsibility of many Club members, and that has continued.

The very active Spartanburg Beautification Committee headed, since its inception in the early or mid 50s by Ezell, was probably replaced in 1975 with Piedmont Beautification which had a broader scope of responsibility. Corrie Whitlock was president and these six MGC members were active members: John Cantrell, W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Snow Marshall, Henry Pittman and Everette Seixas.

Earlier, in 1956, the tone of community beautification was changed significantly. Milliken & Company (then, named Deering Milliken Inc.) moved its renowned research organization to Spartanburg that year (and later expanded to include its corporate headquarters there) and it began setting a high standard for business property landscaping. The orchard, formally known as "Peach Queen Farms," was aggressively converted into an award winning landscaped property by Mr. Roger Milliken and his prestigious landscape designer, Richard Webel of New York. Initially, Willow Oaks and Darlington Oaks were planted as shade trees in the parking lots and on the long driveways. And soon afterwards, Willow Oaks were planted on both the west and the east sides of the frontage roads parallel to the newly constructed Interstate-85 highway. Then shrubs, flowering trees, ponds and

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

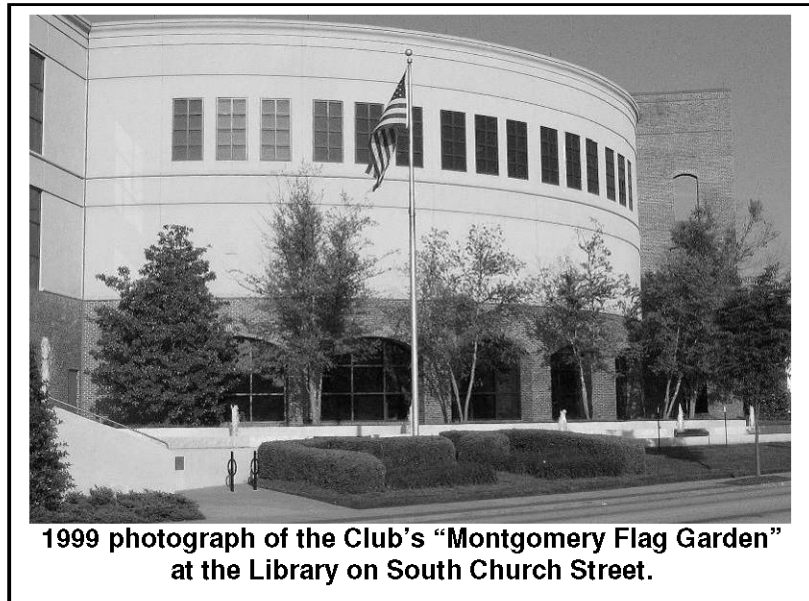
water features—and more trees—were added. Someone once said somewhat with tongue-in-cheek, “Mr. Milliken had two weaknesses—trees and water.” *What blessed weaknesses!*

The relation between the Club and Milliken has always been extraordinary with great mutual respect and admiration. Much of the Club’s enhancement work over the years has benefited from Mr. Milliken’s encouragement by praise, his demonstration by performance, and from his generous financial gifts. Harold Hatcher’s MGC newsletter of April 1976 made this announcement pertaining to his friendship with the Club:

YOU ARE INVITED TO A THRILLING DISPLAY – Deering Milliken, Inc., is extending a special invitation to the Men’s Garden Clubs of Spartanburg and of Greenville to visit its beautiful and enlarged plantings and gardens at this peak of their blooming season.” The newsletter continued with driving directions and a listing of plants to be enjoyed which was said to include, “100,000 Pansy blossoms, 18,000 Tulips – red, yellow and pink, hundreds of blooming azaleas including the new Mother’s Day Red, Japanese Kwanzan Cherries, Dogwood, Flowering Peaches, etc.

Milliken support and encouragement has continued. It served as headquarters for many of the Club sponsored weekend conventions of the national organization’s Blue Ridge Region and the company opened its facilities as the meeting headquarters for the annual November Board Meeting of the Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America which the Club hosted 1999. At the Club’s 1999 November Annual Meeting, members were inspired by a presentation of the Noble Tree Foundation’s video of “Visions” depicting the recent community improvements and those forecast to come. This presentation was made by the company’s noted landscape architect, Rick Webel.

Milliken’s support continued when the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club served as host for The Gardeners of America / Men’s Garden Clubs of America’s 2006 national convention in Spartanburg. Serving as a substantial financial underwriter for the convention, Milliken also made its arboretum available for tours by convention goers.



When Bill Wilson was president in 2001, the Club nominated Milliken & Co. for TGOA/MGCA’s top national award for Outstanding Commercial Landscaping. Milliken won the award and it was officially presented to Mr. Milliken at a large company sharing rally by Tom Bartram and Henry Pittman that year.

In the 1970’s, after the North Spartanburg Rotary Club planted the Bradford Pears in the North Pines Street medians, on more than one occasion when the trees were at their height of spring bloom, Mr. Milliken would remark to Pittman when passing in the hall at

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

Milliken Research something like, “The Men’s Garden Club’s Bradford Pears are really beautiful.” Pittman’s stock answer was, “Thank you, Mr. Milliken, but we didn’t plant those trees; the North Spartanburg Rotary Club did.” He would quickly respond, “Oh, if it hadn’t been for your Club, they wouldn’t have known how to do it!”

The other “textile giant” in Spartanburg was Mr. Walter Montgomery of Spartan Mills. In addition to his solicitation of the Club to use his funds to landscape his Beaumont Mill on North Pine Street with some 100 trees in 1991,² he was an amazingly active and strong supporter of the Club, often attending Club meetings. When he died in 1996, his will provided \$10,000 to the Club for its discretionary use. The new Spartanburg County Headquarters Library on South Church Street was under construction the next year and when it became known that entrepreneur and civic leader Kurt Zimmerli was financing most of the exceptional landscaping, the Club’s board of directors decided to support this effort. It contributed the Montgomery funds to create the special garden which included the flag pole at the Church Street main entrance. Professional designers Innocenti & Webel, George Betzel from Columbia and Henry Pittman designed this small garden with valuable input from Linda McHam, Jack Turner, and Milliken horticulturist Stewart Winslow. It was named the Montgomery Flag Garden. Tom Bartram and Pittman were the early maintenance managers of this garden to which Everette Lineberger contributed dozens of quality daffodil bulbs. Currently, it is maintained by the Library’s professional landscape crew.

In addition to the major beautification projects described above, the Club and its members have also been responsible for other beautification projects on a lesser scale. For years, Dr. Bob Reynolds managed the Club’s annual Rose Show³ (a significant encouragement for community beautification) as well as flowers at the entrance to Duncan Park. And there were many other activities.

- It participated in the county schools’ Beautification Poster Contest in 1985,
- It planted 3,000 pansies in the fall of 1989, continued its enhancement of Glen Park under the leadership of Bill Otts, Bob Powell and Joe Maple in 1990,
- It landscaped the Safe Home and T.O.T.A.L. Ministries building in 1991 through the work of Darvin Helvy and Henry Pittman, planted 50 trees and shrubs at the Civitan Rehab Center through efforts of Harold Browning,
- It developed plans for and executed planting of 11 Red Maples at the Newport Apartments of the New Day Clubhouse organization off of Asheville highway in 1994,
- Between 1994 and 1997 it performed many landscape improvements to the Arts Center on South Spring Street (the Club’s regular meeting location at that time) by the work of Browning, Linda McHam, Steve Patton and Jim and Jane Bagwell. The latter plantings utilized funds from a \$1,500 Tourism Grant.
- Multiple Habitat for Humanity houses have been landscaped by the Club and even more have benefited from trees and shrubs contributed from the Club’s plant sale nursery. Members who have led these initiatives include Beth Sabin Hardegree, Reynolds, Don Crowder, Harold Wolfe, and Pittman.

² This project is covered in detail in Chapter 5 on the club’s many treescaping activities.

³ See Chapter 12, “Education and Beauty: The Rose Show” for details on this important beautification project.

June 2020

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Everette Lineberger
Secretary	Denie Crowder
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Past President	Don 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:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

As with the rest of the country, we are starting to return to normal. Since our June Speaker has graciously invited us to his place of business, we will have a June meeting. We may need to continue to look for alternate locations for board meetings and regular meetings, so keep wearing your thinking caps.

We had a good start to this year adding new members. Now that we should start meeting on a regular basis again, it is time to invite people to our upcoming meetings. We have listed the July and August meetings in the Newsletter for your reference. As a goal, try to invite at least one guest to a meeting before the end of the year. New members are crucial to the ongoing vitality of the club.

This Saturday is our quarterly litter pick up on Pine Street. Please come out at 8AM if you can.

Members of the Men's Garden Club will have a special treat for our June meeting which will be very appropriate and very welcome during this pandemic when we are spending more time at our homes.

Rick McAbee, owner of [Roebuck Nursery](#) will give us a tour of his nursery, answer horticulture questions and tell us about some of the landscape projects his company has completed in the Spartanburg area. Rick, more commonly called "Ricky", grew up in the family business near Roebuck.

The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Don't miss the opportunity to invite visitors to attend this special meeting. And, more importantly, invite some of our own members whom we haven't seen in a long time. They may not have seen this newsletter!

Everette

PS Next month's program will feature our own Linda McHam speaking about plant propagation from cuttings. You too can save money by propagating your own plants.

Roebuck Greenhouse 864.576.0875
2980 Stone Station Rd
Roebuck, SC 29376

Directions:

(from Spartanburg)
Head south on US-221 South
Continue to follow US-221 S 6.0 mi
Turn left onto SC-215 S/Stone Station Rd 0.8 mi
Turn right onto State Rd S-42-9287
Destination will be on the right.



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

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.



Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Photography by Linda McHam



2020 Litter pickup schedule

June 13 rain date **Jun 20**

Sept. 12 rain date **Sep 19**

Dec. 12 rain date **Dec 19**

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
2020 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.



Blueberries are coming in!



Magnolia grandiflora seedling



Hydrangea 'Nikko Blue'

Future Programs

July 20 – "Propagation of Plant Cuttings" to be given by our own Linda McHam, Master Gardener, former M.G.C. President, landscape design specialist and much more.

August 17 – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.



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Gardening & Beautification

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Member Musing By Phil Abers

On a trip to the Dakotas, Edie and I decided to make a detour through Winnipeg, Manitoba. While Manitoba would never be classified as a bucket list item, we were close enough to go there. We stayed in Bismark the previous night and had an interesting drive meandering through North Dakota. We went through Rugby, North Dakota, which is about 25 miles south of the Canadian Border. The US Geological service has designated Rugby as the geographical center of North American.

From Rugby it was a short trip to the Canadian and the International Peace Garden, which is located on the border. The park has 1451 acres in Manitoba and 888 acres in North Dakota. While this park is off the beaten path, it has many interesting features. There is a 120 foot tall Peace Tower representing immigrants from around the world. There is a very nice Interpretive Center and Conservatory that house numerous cacti, succulents and orchids. There are large plantings of annual flowers and an elaborate floral clock. A Peace Chapel is a nice place to sit and reflect on the Gardens and Park. There is also has hiking, camping and biking available within the park. Come visit the gardens and pick your activity of choice.

Floral Clock



History of the club continues on the following pages.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The efforts of the Club and this coalition were quite successful. Wal-Mart agreed to complete compliance with the City's new landscape ordinance on planting multiple shade

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* 12-25-2009

CITY FORTUNATE TO CARE ABOUT TREES

By Betty Montgomery

Spartanburg is fortunate to have many individuals and organizations interested in landscaping our community with trees.

Trees are planted for the enjoyment and enhancement they bring today and will bring in the future. Many residents over the years have taken pride in Spartanburg, and you can see the difference they have made throughout the city. They have planted willow oaks, maples, ginkgos and others that Spartanburg now enjoys.

With their hard work, we continue to be a city of trees.

Henry Pittman, Hans Balmer Roger Milliken, in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club, Spots of Pride and the Noble Tree Foundation, have been dedicated to planting trees that we enjoy as we drive from place to place.

With Pittman's leadership, the Men's Garden Club planted willow oaks on East Main Street, maples on North Pine Street, maples and dogwoods on Drayton Avenue, a variety of trees by Highway 221 and about 7 miles of trees on 1-85, just to name a few of the tree-planting projects.

Balmer came up with the idea of beautifying our city by planting traffic islands and areas around town. After an ice storm in 2005, he took on the planting of trees in Converse Heights to make sure there were trees for future enjoyment in this area.

Milliken is responsible for the willow oaks on 1-85, and these trees have made for a lovely entrance to Spartanburg. He has also been involved with planting other areas around the town and for providing educational forums on the value of trees.

Harold Hatcher, W. O. Ezell, Coe Irwin, George Johnson, Kurt Zimmerli and the city of Spartanburg have also made a difference in beautification with the planting of trees.

Trees have benefits

There are many benefits, some unforeseen, of planting trees. Trees prevent us from becoming a heat island, essentially an upside-down bowl of heat over our city. People often forget that trees help prevent flooding, as they break the force of rain as water comes down through the leaves and branches.

Tree roots help absorb water and slow its force. This helps prevent erosion. Trees also absorb the pollinates and debris in the air.

Several years ago, Atlanta was growing at such a fast pace that the removal of trees caused a heat and air quality problem. The city ultimately lost federal highway funding. To curb the problem, Atlanta planted trees.

Atlanta also had recent problems with flooding. At one time, according to Marcia Bansley, head of Trees Atlanta, the city was losing 50 acres a week to development. Now you realize why Atlanta is battling -continued

trees in the parking lots, creating an enhanced building facade, and in saving of many trees at the entrance. The entrance street is officially named "Dawn Redwood Drive" in honor of the six ancient trees located there. They were planted by property owner, Cane, from some of the earliest seedlings available in the United States after the Oriental species was re-discovered in the 1940s after having being thought to be extinct. Landscape designer Kevin Parris led the way in saving these magnificent Redwoods. The pond behind the building remains pristine and is now a part of the adjacent homeowners' neighborhood.

Although the Club has been busy with beautification projects in the city for over 60 years, it is not the only organization to have contributed to the beauty of Spartanburg. Under

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the remarkably well-organized and successful leadership of Hans Balmer, the Spot of Pride project was initiated in 2000 as an outgrowth of the PRIDE Task Force. The SOP project



now consists of over 80 sponsored garden spots in the greater Spartanburg community. The first two SOPs were created as demonstration gardens. One is at the intersection of North Church Street and Asheville Highway. This garden was sponsored and financed by the County and PRIDE Task Force.

The other—and perhaps the finest SOP in the city—is the Ezell Spot of Pride, a cooperative venture of the City and the Club; it is located on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. The professional plan was improved a bit by the

Club's input and was funded by \$2,000 from the Club and an equal amount from the W. O. Ezell Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation plus City funds. The Ezell granite marker was moved by the SC Department of Transportation from its original location further west on the Boulevard near the original location of Dorman High School, to this garden. This MGC/City Ezell Spot of Pride was officially dedicated on April 26, 2001, with a large crowd in attendance. City Manager Roy Lane along with MGC president Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman gave presentations honoring Ezell who had set such a high standard for city beautification.⁴

The Club added the three magnificent Chinese Fringetrees and roses around the Ezell monument and maintains annuals along its face. The City provides excellent ongoing maintenance to the entire garden which has an

automatic irrigation system. In 2001 a background of Loropetalum was added adjacent to the marker, and five Green Giant Arborvitae were planted at the west end of the SOP to block the view of the adjacent laundry building; these Arborvitae are now some 50 feet tall and provide the envisioned background and view break. The added plants were financed by a \$400 Club contribution.



The Club's Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.

⁴ A copy of this presentation at the Ezell Spot of Pride dedication is located in Appendix 4.

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This Ezell Spot of Pride and the Sherrill Garden Spot of East Main Street are the two areas still maintained regularly by Club volunteers. And both are genuine enhancements to the community. Dr. Bob Reynolds, Don Crowder and Charlie Covert have been active on West Main, and Jess and Allene Taylor, Tasso Ghionis, Joyce and Charles Crescenzi, Meg Hollaway and Henry Pittman—and others— have provided caretaking of the East Main garden.

The Club has continued to provide ongoing support and encouragement to Hans Balmer's Spot of Pride program. In 2003, the Club sent a "thank you" letter to the some 60 Spot of Pride sponsors to encourage their continued support. It worked closely with Balmer in the 2006 planning and later execution of his median gardens on Business Interstate-85 as the Club's 300-tree shoulder treescape project was underway. In fact, Balmer's voluntary agreement to provide the required ongoing maintenance for the Club's shoulder trees saved the project from possible default.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has been one of the leaders in community beautification, but Spartanburg's great beautification is the result of an almost unbelievable combination of private and public organizations working for years, often completely independent of each other, to accomplish not so much a current "City of Flowers," but an extensive "City of Plants, Water Features and Beauty."⁵ The spontaneity of much of these organizations over the past decade was encouraged by the foresight, vision and perseverance of two individuals whose efforts have been particularly fruitful and appreciated—the former city manager, Roy Lane, and the former city mayor, Bill Barnet.

In a thank-you letter to a Club member who had made a contribution to the Noble Tree Foundation a few years ago, Mr. Milliken said, "Spartanburg is changing, is becoming even more beautiful, and we hope this trend will continue for years to come." The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club should be proud of its legacy and contributions to this change. But the job is not completed; all should realize that it must continue.

⁵ Many of these organizations and individuals are cited in Appendix 20.

July 2020



Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

<i>President</i>	Phil Abers
<i>Vice President</i>	Everette Lineberger
<i>Secretary</i>	Denie Crowder
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mary Ann Hipp
<i>Past President</i>	Don 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:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

This month's presentation will be held in the Pavilion. Bring a lawn chair and be prepared for an informative evening.

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

President's Corner

This year has not been the best one for many of us. The good news is that we are able to have both our board meeting and the regular meeting this month. SCC has given us permission to meet at the Pavilion for both events, although we may choose to have the regular meeting adjacent to the propagation frames of the container garden.

On a sad note, we lost one of our stalwart members, Don Crowder. Don passed away unexpectedly on June 29. He will be greatly missed in the many circles he traveled including the Men's Garden Club. Don was President in 2003, 2004, 2015, 2018 and 2019. He held other offices and worked hard at the container garden. We worked together on a number of projects, especially irises. In recent years we helped maintain iris beds at Everette Lineberger's and Don helped me plant the Iris Beds at my home. Don was a happy fellow, typically had a smile on his face and loved working outdoors.

The anecdote I heard that describes Don was very telling of his personality. Don was asked why he helped a woman in the neighborhood who was such a difficult lady. Don's answer was "because she needs help". What a great statement! Perhaps we can modify that statement for the Garden Club to say "Plants – Because we need them".

June Meeting Highlights

We had a great restart to our regular meeting program. We had 19 members and one guest come out to Roebuck Wholesale Nursery for a presentation by the owner, Ricky McAbee. Mr. McAbee discussed his business operation and then led us on a tour through a small section of his vast nursery. It was a great evening and a chance to get out and see our fellow members. A special thanks to Mr. McAbee for agreeing to host us. We should have a meeting at the presenter's site at least once a year. Thanks to Beth Waddell for this excellent suggestion.

Linda Tiller McHam

SMGC Speaker July 20, 2020

Linda has been a Club member since 1989. She is a past president of the club. Her career has ranged from graphic design to developing custom garden tours in England. Following in her grandparent's steps, she has been propagating plants for the club since 2007. Each year volunteers help cut and stick hundreds of cuttings (if we are lucky) to grow on for the plant sales. Growing our own plants is part of the mission of the club to educate the community, and it also helps the club by keeping costs low on the plants we sell and raising funds to support our other projects. With a few simple tools and techniques, just about anyone can grow plants. Like the vegetables that we grow in our gardens, growing plants and passing them along is a way to share a love of gardening. Cultivating an appreciation for our surroundings reminds us to be good stewards so that those who come after us will have the opportunity to do likewise.



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Remembering Don Crowder



We were all shocked to hear that Don Crowder passed away suddenly at his home on Friday, June 26. He had been working in the mountains for a friend as he did on many occasions, and had come home to finish mowing his grass for his wife, Denie. He died doing work that he loved to do and doing it for people he cared about. But, that was typical for Don. He was always willing to volunteer for a project and spent hours making sure that the projects were carried out professionally and with an attitude of joy. I worked with Don for many years on countless numbers of projects, from the National Convention held in Spartanburg in 2006 (we were co-chairs) to moving the club from Hatcher Garden in 2009, to building a shed for the club and developing board manuals and spread sheets to help manage the club... we spent hours trying to do what we could to improve all aspects of club activities. He never failed to volunteer to help me with propagation. He repaired the water lines and sprayed the weeds, directed traffic at the plant sales (except for dates when Clemson was at home) as well as helped to install the large shade structures at the nursery. Wherever Don went, there was going to be fun. His death has left a large hole in his family's hearts, his friends lives - mine in particular - and the many communities of people who knew him. I am thankful that he was part of my life for so many years, and I look forward to seeing him again when that time comes. Please join me in keeping Denie, their children and family members in your prayers.

- Linda McHam

Photo taken by Don Davidson

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

As no doubt all of us already know, long time member and twice president of the Men's Garden Club, Don Crowder, died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, June 26, 2020. After working all day at a home on Lake Lure helping a client beautify his property, Don was doing another of his favorite things when he died, cutting his manicured lawn.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Spartanburg First Baptist Church on July 2. It was a wonderful tribute of remembrances and recognition of Don's relationships with family and friends. Those of us who were there were reminded to think about the uncertainty of human life.

I first met Don at a M.G.C. meeting. At that time, he was working at Lockwood-Green Engineering Firm as a civil engineer. When he became president of the M.G.C. and was assigned to work out of town in Louisiana and Missouri, I was impressed that he always fulfilled his duty as President by presiding at club meetings on the third Monday of each month and then driving all night to be "on the job" the following day.

When I was physically unable to do the work which needed to be done at my home and garden, Don became a volunteer to help me do whatever needed to be done, whether it was cutting down a tree, working on machinery, or maintaining the garden and farm.

Later, when I regained my strength, he became a co-laborer and life-long friend when we worked together as officers of the M.G.C. I'm certain my relationship with Don was not exceptional. I am only one person who was touched by his love for beautifying God's green earth and volunteering to help anyone in need. More than once I have heard persons say, "Don will do anything he can for you". Don packed a "lot of living" into a "too short" life. Another reminder that we too should consider the quality of life more important than the length of the days between our birth and our death. Don was born on December 29, 1950 and was 69 when he died. May he rest in peace.

Submitted by Everette Lineberger



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 Spartanburg, SC 29304
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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, teaches a gardening class to the public, and conducts a twice-yearly Tree & Shrub sale.



Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Photography by Linda McHam



Althea - solid white form from Joe Maple



2020 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 12 rain date **Sept 19**

Dec. 12 rain date **Dec 19**

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.)



Buddleia 'bicolor' selected by Michael Dirr



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Lady in Red' developed by Michael Dirr

**Renew Now
 2020 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.

Future Programs

August 17 – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.

September 21 – Annual Picnic at Spartanburg Community College Pavilion for members and guests.



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Member Musing By Phil Abers

A visit to Quebec, Canada should include a stop in Montreal. The City has a large Botanical Garden that contains 10 greenhouses that are open year round. Theme gardens within the Botanical Garden include;

- Chinese garden
- Japanese garden
- Shade garden
- Water garden
- Lily garden
- Rose garden
- Arboretum
- First Nations garden

The "*Jardin Botanique de Montréal*" is a lovely place within the city. The garden has almost 200 different bird species and approximately 22,000 types of plants, flowers, and trees. The Montreal Botanical Garden is more than a summer tourist destination, it's a retreat for locals needing a to get away from stressful big city life. One of the annual events is the [Gardens of Light](#). This festival is also called the Chinese Moon Festival, which happens during the harvest season of September/October.

Edie and I stumbled upon the Gardens of Light by chance, but only had time to see it in the daylight. Montreal's Gardens of Light lanterns are strikingly similar to typical Chinese Moon Festival lanterns, because they are one and the same. The lanterns are constructed in Shanghai based on the theme and designs of Montreal Botanical Garden artistic designer My Quynh Duong. Then they are shipped to Canada and assembled. Anywhere from 900 to 1,000 lanterns are displayed on garden grounds. More recently the Japanese Garden although not having lanterns, does use multicolored lights that bring a darkened garden to life. The First Nations Garden is also lit during the festival.

Also located at the Botanical Garden site is the Montreal Insectarium. It has the largest insect collection in North American. There are many colorful, striking insects. Before deciding the insects are to be avoided, remember that many plants would not survive without them. Next time you wish to practice your French, plan a trip to Montreal and their Botanical Garden.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 5

“But the Trees Remained...!”: TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

*Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone
planted a tree a long time ago.*

- Warren Buffet

Spartanburg is known in the upstate and throughout South Carolina as a “city of trees.” While this community has been blessed with an environment that supports many varieties of trees, the efforts of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club have gone a long way toward increasing the number and quality of trees in both the City and County. From encouraging neighborhoods to plant trees (the Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association promoted tree planting and worked with the SMGC in one of its earliest tree sales which was reported in *Southern Living* in September, 1982, and in encouraging the Converse Heights’ second-generation tree planting in 2004), to treescaping of many major thoroughfares in the area, to sponsoring tree sales twice a year to encourage homeowners to plant trees, and in setting an example for other organizations and institutions by actually planning and planting thousands of street and highway trees in the area, the SMGC has been a leader in providing *green* shade for the coming generations.

Planting of street and highway trees seems to have begun in the 1970s, while Mr. W. O. Ezell was extremely active in developing many beautiful garden spots around Spartanburg. Although *color* was his emphasis in the dozens of gardens he and the Club planted and maintained around the city, he did also plant a few trees.

MGC Treescape Projects	
1976	— N. Pine
1978	
1980	
1982	
1984	
1986	— N. Pine
1988	— W. Main @ I-26
1990	— E. Main
	— N. Pine @ Beaumont
1992	
1994	Heron Traffic Circle
	I-85 Bypass (Relocation)
	N. Pine Extension
1996	S. Pine
	Drayton Rd / Isom
1998	US -176 @ I-26
	Drayton Rd / Isom
2000	N. Pine Extension
	Drayton Rd / Isom
2002	Drayton Rd / Isom
	SC-195
2004	S. Pine
	US-221 Phase I
2006	US-221 Phase II
	I-85 Business
2008	

Harold Hatcher, as a new member of the Club, began an emphasis on trees in 1972 and led the club in planting hundreds of trees in local parks, around schools, public buildings, etc, and he was active in the Club’s Bicentennial project on North Pine Street. The Club’s real emphasis on community tree planting probably began one year in the ‘80s when Hatcher reported at a Club meeting on a recent trip back to his former home in Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. That night, he said, with obvious sadness, that all the garden spots of flowers, shrubs and grasses which he had been involved in planting had been neglected and no longer existed (this is exactly what happened here when Mr. W. O. was no longer able to maintain the many garden spots he developed with the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club in the 1960s and ‘70s). But then, with a smile on his face, Hatcher stood tall, lifted his arms and continued with great enthusiasm, *“but the trees remained...!”*

While trees aren’t forever and aren’t without some problems and aren’t maintenance free, they are relatively low maintenance and many

are long lived—and are very important to both the landscape aesthetics and the environment. While Hatcher had been active in the early 1970s in leading the Club in planting many trees in public areas of the community, it was his Indiana observation that set the tone for the Club’s street and highway treescaping. The Club picked up on Hatcher’s observation and began a treescape program that continues today.

The 15 major treescape projects of the Men’s Garden Club are detailed in the following sections of this chapter. Related treescape project information is presented in the Appendix.¹

¹ The “MGC Tree Planting Procedure” folder is in Appendix 6. The City Map of MGC planted trees is in Appendix 31, and the Master Street Tree Planting List is in Appendix 32.

August 2020

Gardening & Beautification

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Welcoming Men & Women

Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Everette Lineberger
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp
Past President	Don Crowder

Directors

Will Hawkins
Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Sami Elhassani
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell
Linda Savoie

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Linda McHam
Yahoo! Group
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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:
Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

The world is continuing to slowly return to normal. We have one more example of normalcy in that we will be meeting at room 115 of the Health Sciences Building (our normal meeting location) for our regular August meeting. Our VP, Everette Lineberger, has arranged for another interesting program. These excellent programs will help us attract new members. With our large meeting room and interesting programs, now is the time to invite guests and bring in new members.

When coming to meetings, please remember to abide by the Covid-19 protocol. This includes social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands.

Our nominating committee is working to develop the officer/director slate for the year 2021. If you have interest in being on the board, please contact nominating committee members Darvin Helvy, Linda McHam or Mark Carlson.

Stay safe. I hope to see you all at our August Meeting.

Kirk Neely

SMGC Speaker August 17, 2020



"The Garden of Sacred Space."

Dr. Neely is a Spartanburg native and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church where he served as Senior Pastor for eighteen years. He is a Master Gardener, author, freelance writer, counselor, noted speaker, community and ecumenical activist, and at heart, a dedicated gardener. He is an inspired and inspiring speaker and we look forward to hearing his message.

Be sure to invite at least one visitor to attend this meeting where we will do everything possible to ensure that all attendees wear masks and observe social distancing protocol in the large room provided by the Community College.

Future Programs

September 21 – Annual Picnic at Spartanburg Community College Pavilion for members and guests.

October 19 – "The Planting and Care of the 9/11 Memorial", Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, one of our newer members and a specialist in Arboriculture.

November 16 – Installation of Officers for 2021 and a challenging message from Pastor Erin Morris of Saint John's Lutheran Church.



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Photography by Linda McHam



Dr. Bob Reynolds, Past President of the club, emptying pots into a pile to solarize the potting media. Covering the soil with black plastic and letting it bake for a period of time kills weed seeds. (August 2014)

Mary Ann Hipp and Tim Hemphill working with the first shade tunnel that the club got from Jason Bagwell. (August 2014)



Dr. Ed Wilde, another Past President of the club, pruning in the nursery. (August 2014)



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Corporate Members - Please consider doing business with our corporate sponsors

Creekside Garden & Nursery	1940 Drayton Rd	Spartanburg
Hatcher Gardens	P.O. Box 2337	Spartanburg
Inman Lawn and Garden	13725 Asheville Hwy	Inman
Legacy Real Estate	205 Bentway Ln	Spartanburg
Piedmont Farm & Garden	7043 Howard St	Spartanburg



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Member Musing By Phil Abers

We moved to the Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) Area in 1978. When looking for sightseeing opportunities, we saw an article in the paper describing the daffodil bloom at the historic DeGolyer estate. Not only were the daffodils spectacular, but we were able to tour the mansion. Mr. Everette DeGolyer (nice name!) was a geologist who help develop the use of seismology to find oil. He and his wife built a 21,000 square foot house on a 44 acre site. The setting is enhanced by the presence of White Rock Lake at the back of the property



Dallas was looking to build a Botanical Garden and chose the DeGolyer Estate as the location. An additional purchase of 22 acres brought the Botanical Garden to a total of 66 acres. The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden opened in 1984, 5 years after we first visited the DeGolyer Estate. I returned to the Garden most recently in 2012 when in Dallas on business. I was amazed how the site had been transformed. There are numerous theme gardens, but what struck me most was the colorful displays of flowers in the summer. Having gardened in Dallas, I know how difficult the summer heat can be. The garden areas I liked best are the 6.5 acre Margaret Elizabeth Jonsson Color



Garden, the DeGolyer Estate and Garden, the McCasland Sunken Garden, the Lay Family Garden and the Chandler Lindsley Shadow Garden. There is also a Trial Garden for testing plants in the intense heat of the Dallas summer.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is one of the top attractions in DFW. Although one of the younger Botanical Gardens, it is certainly worth the visit. We recommend it.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

1 North Pine Street “Bicentennial Project” - 1976

In the late 1950s, North Pine Street (also known then as Byrnes Boulevard, named for Spartanburg’s native James M. Byrnes,² underwent heavy construction and emerged as Interstate-585. It was a new name and a new highway, but a highway with an unattractive look. There were no trees. There were weeds but no landscaping, all of which provided a pretty dismal look for such an important entry-way into Spartanburg. Through a unique effort of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club and a number of other cooperating organizations, an extensive *Bicentennial Landscape Project* involving planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on North Pine Street was completed in 1976. The idea evolved in 1974 as the Club worked to restore a much earlier beautification project of W. O. Ezell on *South Pine Street* (across from Pine Street School) which had been wrecked by highway widening and a thoughtless property owner in 1973. As that project was being brought back in control under the chairmanship of Harold Hatcher and Ezell, the need on the other end of Pine Street became obvious.

North Pine Street—this rapidly growing main entry into Spartanburg from the new Interstate-85 highway—had been completely neglected landscape-wise, except for the outstanding work by the large and influential Milliken Company. So here was a natural challenge for a major new project.

The *ad hoc* Street Trees Chairman for the Club, Henry Pittman, developed a preliminary approach and gained approval of the Club’s Board of Directors to investigate designing a long-range plan for such a project. Mr. W. O., Frank Cunningham and Roy King were included in the initial committee and a number of approaches were initiated.

First, contact was made with the Horticulture Department of Clemson College, now University, and then with David Dunn, the Landscape Architect of the South Carolina Highway Department (this was before the more “federal” name, SCDOT, was adopted) in Columbia. During the next year, Club members met with Dunn, wrote many letters and made telephone calls, and created a Master Plan for the area. This big plan evolved from being a long range plan for all of North Pine Street, to a more reasonable one including the clover-leaf areas at US-221 (Chesnee Highway) above what was then Joe King Oldsmobile, at Highway SC-9 (Boiling Springs Road) and at California Avenue (joining the Milliken landscaped area), and the wide shoulder on the west side of North Pine between California and SC-9.

The basic concept of the plan was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs in order to provide beauty and a sense of order, but with low maintenance requirements. The Club believed then, as now, that minimum maintenance is of importance to all landscape programs, private and public. The MGC was to provide the plan, planting material, guidance and general supervision, with the Highway Department supplying the labor and future maintenance. Consultations with the County Agent (Crayton McCowan who gave encouragement and practical advice), S. C. Forestry Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture were invaluable in completing

² U. S. Senator, U. S. Supreme Court Justice, “Assistant President” to FDR during World War II, and later, South Carolina Governor.

the plan. Milliken's horticulturist, Jack Bracken, was also an important advisor, promoter and encourager.

The Club purchased seven-hundred seedlings—100 each of seven native S.C. trees—from the S. C. Forestry Commission and distributed them to 12 volunteer members in early

The 'Natural Look' Tribute To Cooperation, Much Work

By DEBBIE DALHOUSE
Staff Writer

A combination of private and public efforts has resulted in the planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on Spartanburg's North Pine Street.

Over the past three years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has worked with the North Spartanburg Rotary Club, Converse College, Clemson University Horticultural Department and County Extension Office, S.C. Highway Department, S.C. Forestry Commission S.C. Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to beautify the northern entrance to the city.

A preliminary plan was developed in early 1974 by Men's Garden Club member Henry Pittman and approved by the Board of Directors.

During the next year, a plan was created for the clover-leaf areas at Whitney Road, Bolling Springs Road, California Avenue joining the Deering Milliken landscaped area, and on the west side of N. Pine between California Ave. and Bolling Springs Road.

Pittman says, "The concept was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs to provide beauty and a sense of being cared for, but with low maintenance requirements."

The Men's Garden Club provided the planting material, guidance and supervision. The Highway Department supplied the labor and maintenance.

Other agencies were consulted to select the most suitable plants.

In 1975, seven hundred seedlings of native South Carolina trees were purchased and distributed to a dozen volunteer members of the Men's Garden Club to be raised in the edges of vegetable gardens, old cans and arbor houses.

"Many of these trees were of adequate size to be used in the Pine Street project only one year later," Pittman notes. "The redbud and sycamore grew particularly well, the latter adding three feet or more during that year."

Other varieties grown at members' homes were dogwood, sweetgum, yellow poplar, red cedar and pine.

The volunteer gardeners were W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Rodney Moon, Ernest Halstead and Gil Hooper.

Over 100 of the homegrown trees have been transplanted to the Pine Street landscaped areas. Others are growing for future use on Pine Street and other projects.

While the original plan was to implement the project over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger, "we just couldn't let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project," Pittman says.

The home grown plants were supplemented by 100 dogwood, Japanese black pine, loblolly pine, magnolia and maple trees which the Men's Garden Club purchased to meet the Bicentennial celebration deadline.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six each of three types of newly developed disease resistant elms to be tested in this area.

Club member W. L. Ward donated dogwood trees which he had grown from seed, a local nursery provided 100 sweetgum and bald cypress seedlings, and the garden club transferred 50 crepe myrtle bushes from another site to further enhance the Bicentennial planting project.

A total of 390 plants were used in the project, at a cost of only \$170 which included herbicide, Pittman points out with pride.

Most of the heavy planting work was done by local Highway Department personnel under resident maintenance engineer Miles A. (Red) Fleming. Club members Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorehead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith and Everett Seixas, along with the tree growers, supervised the layout and planting.

"Federal grants, Revenue Sharing and direct government implementation aren't the only way to get things done. Many civic and garden clubs can put together similar programs," Pittman said.

Further cooperation in beautifying North Pine came from the North Spartanburg Rotary Club which financed purchase of pear trees for city planting in the median of North Pine earlier this year and from Converse College's landscaping program.

1975. These men planted the small trees at their homes, in the edge of vegetable gardens, or in containers, and grew them with the care and expertise and love that only an amateur gardener can give. Many of these trees were of adequate size a year later to be used in this Pine Street project. Redbud and Sycamore grew particularly strong, the latter adding three feet or more during that year. Indeed, the availability of these "home grown" plants was the basis for the entire program.

Other varieties grown at home by members were Dogwood, Sweetgum, Yellow Poplar, Red Cedar and Pine. The "home nurserymen" included Mr. W. O., Harold Hatcher, Julian Foster, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Henry Ramella, Rodney Moon, Ernest Hallstead, and Gil Hooper. Others active in the project were Everette Seixas, Frank Cunningham, Julian Foster, Snow Marshall, W. L. Ward, Griff Smith and Pittman. Club members transplanted over 100 of these trees to the North Pine Street landscaped areas in the fall of 1976 and used others for later community projects.

Originally, treescaping of North Pine was intended to occur over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger and men



LOOKING OVER WORK at one of the North Pine Street beautification sites are Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members Henry Pittman, left, and Everett Seixas. Judson McCaleb, Lewis Bailey and Roney Moon work in the background. (Photo By LaRue Cook Of B&B Studio)

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

could be recruited to work. But, “We just couldn’t let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project.” Pittman was quoted as saying, “This project became an official part of Spartanburg’s official bicentennial project.”

The home grown planting material was supplemented by the Club’s purchase of 100 each of Dogwood, Japanese Black and Loblolly Pine, Magnolia and Maple trees. The USDA Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six-each of three types of newly developed Dutch-elm-disease-resistant Elms for evaluation. Club member W. L. Ward donated Dogwood trees which he had grown from seed and had root-pruned during the summer to facilitate transplanting during the winter. A local nursery provided 100 Sweetgums and Bald Cypress seedlings, a number of which were used. Many Crape Myrtles which the MGC had purchased a number of years earlier were moved from a location they had outgrown in the city.

The project used a total of 390 plants. Because of the active involvement of members, the cost to the Club was only \$270, which included a few dollars for herbicides to fight grass and kudzu—kudzu was vigorous then, also!

The Highway Department provided some help in digging the planting sites which had been carefully located and staked by volunteers from the Club. MGC supervision for the layout and planting included many of the tree growers plus Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorhead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith, Everett Seixas and Pittman.

Mayor Bob Stoddard, Spartanburg’s Bicentennial Chairman, officially congratulated the Highway Department, the MGC and all participants by saying, “What a fine Birthday Gift—400 beautiful trees and shrubs.” Gil Hooper, president of the Club in 1976 and 1977, observed the next year, “Even though it was a hot, dry summer, our men and the Highway Department people planted this material so well and pruning was so effective that the loss has been minimal. A great number of the Sweetgum seedlings died back, but put up new shoots and survived. A few Dogwoods died and, a number of plants were stolen.”

In the early 2000s, the PRIDE Task Force’s “Spot of Pride” project, implemented so effectively by the late Hans Balmer, found sponsors to adopt and further enhance these North Pine Street intersections with additional plants among the MGC trees and improved maintenance, making this street even more beautiful. These areas are evidence of Harold Hatcher’s statement made in the early 70s: “...but the trees remained!”

Recently, the Club rediscovered that this project had resulted in the Club having been singled out by the Arbor Day Foundation for its 1977 national award. The award was accepted for the Club by MGCA’s executive director, Lyman Duncan, at the ceremonies in Nebraska. The whereabouts of the large plaque is unknown. For many years, Spartanburg has been recognized as a Tree City by this foundation, possibly initiated by this project.

The Club is proud of the way the local Bicentennial program expanded and to have been a part of it. It is an example of how a number of agencies and organizations—private and public—can be brought together to contribute to a community project of significance with surprisingly little cost. Federal grants, revenue sharing and direct government implementation aren’t the only ways to get these things done. The Club hoped this project would serve as a catalyst for many civic and garden clubs to create similar programs—and it did!

The North Spartanburg Rotary Club is an example of how this idea caught on. It purchased Bradford Pear trees for City planting in the median of a section of North Pine

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Street in 1976. These trees performed beautifully for some 20 years and were a major asset to this important street. The unfortunate destruction of many of the Sweetgum trees on the west side of North Pine between US-176 and California Avenue is covered in detail in Chapter 13 on the billboard problem

This North Pine “Bicentennial Project” began a 40-year saga of street and highway treescaping by the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

2 North Pine Street “Beautiful North Pine” - 1986

After the successful treescaping of the north end of this highway in 1976 as the “Bicentennial Project,” the Club began thinking of additional ways to improve the quality of North Pine Street. In March of 1985, a committee consisting of Frank Cunningham, Jack Bracken of Milliken, Julian Foster and Henry Pittman began dialogue with many organizations and groups on improvements needed. Contacts were made with Converse College, the Highway Department, the three banks on the street, Richard Kelly Oldsmobile, Milliken & Co., the Naegele billboard people and others.

The results were encouraging. In early 1986, a letter from the Club to a large group of property owners included this information:

North Pine is looking better

- The Highway Department has cleared fence lines and other areas of weeds, trees and undergrowth; mowed the banks at the crossovers at California, SC 9 and US 221 and has generally improved maintenance from the city limits to I-85.
- University Lawn & Garden Care contributed labor for extensive herbicide treatment following the SCD clearing (many of you contributed to the MGC to help pay for the chemicals.)
- Milliken has cleared the banks at I-85 and plans additional cloverleaf landscaping.
- Pinewood Shopping Center has cleared the shoulder bank.
- Naegele has made some improvement around their signs.
- SCN purchased and is maintaining the corner at St. John.
- The City continues to maintain the Bradford Pear median and other areas superbly.
- Many of you continue to do a super job of landscape maintenance on your property and on to the highway.

But we still have a long way to go to bring this most important Spartanburg entry up to the level of excellence it deserves.

Two suggestions followed: “Look critically at your property and begin improvements, and contact one of our committeemen and pledge your moral support—and a monetary contribution.” Over the months, many businesses responded to the Club’s request for funding assistance, including Milliken with \$3,500. The MGC Board approved an additional \$3,000 for the project.

September 2020

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President's Corner

We have some exciting activities for our Garden Club over the next few weeks. We made a donation to the SCC Arboretum Adventure. This is an annual event sponsored by SCC that showcases their students and faculty. Each year there is a keynote speaker for the event. This year it is Dr. F. Todd Lasseigne, the executive director of Bellingrath Gardens and Home located in Theodore, Alabama. Dr. Lasseigne's presentation is entitled "Building a Better World, One Botanical Garden and Arboretum at a Time". Because of our donation, we have been provided a link to the virtual presentation. This presentation will take place on Thursday, September 17th at 7 PM. We have reserved our regular meeting room for that date and will have the presentation available for all club members. Please plan to attend.

We have also made all the arrangements for the annual picnic which will be held Monday, September 21 at 6 PM in the SCC Pavilion. Come and join us for this event.

Finally, we will have our fall plant sale. We have many attractive, healthy plants for sale. The plant sale will be held on Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3. Invite your friends and family to come take advantage of our reasonably priced plants. Please consider coming out to help us with the plant sale. We look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

September 17 – Arboretum Adventure – 7 PM in our regular meeting room HSC – 115

September 21 – Annual Picnic at Spartanburg Community College Pavilion for members and guests.

October 2–3 Fall Plant Sale

October 19 – "The Planting and Care of the 9/11 Memorial", Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, one of our newer members and a specialist in Arboriculture.

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Photography by Linda McHam



Lycoris radiata
 (Red Spider Lily)



Lycoris aurea
 (Yellow Spider Lily)



Osmanthus fragrans
 (Fragrant tea olive)



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Legacy Real Estate	205 Bentway Ln	Spartanburg
Piedmont Farm & Garden	7043 Howard St	Spartanburg
Shrub and Tree Care	864-505-3443	



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Member Musing **By Phil Abers**

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum displays the Sonoran Desert region, home to over 2,000 species of plants. Did you know that a desert is defined as an arid area receiving sporadic annual rainfall of less than 10 inches? The Sonoran Desert is known as the lushest desert on earth because of its bi-seasonal rainfall. Winter storms from the Pacific Northwest provide gentle rains to support the desert plant life. In the summer months of July and August, monsoons from the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California bring humid air and the occasional heavy thunderstorms.

The Desert Museum gardens showcase this unique ecosystem and represent a variety of biotic communities highlighted by the Saguaro Cactus and the yellow-green Palo Verde Tree. The Museum has 1,200 different plant types with 56,000 individual specimens planted on the grounds.



The Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum is one of my favorite places to visit. It focuses solely on the Sonoran Desert environment and does a great job. If you do not have time to visit the desert, you can get a great understanding of what it is like just by visiting this Museum.

My favorite exhibit is the Hummingbird Aviary. When you go inside the aviary you can watch the hummingbird birds buzzing around you. Some of the hummingbird species that you will see include Costas, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Anna's, and Calliope.

The Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum is located just outside of the Tuscon Area. It is close to the Saguaro National Park. If you visit the Tuscon Area, I highly recommend a visit to the Museum.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club 2021 Slate – Board Nominations

The officers and directors put forth by the nominating committee for the 2021 year are;

Club Officer Nominations

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Everette Lineberger**
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

New Director Nominations: 2 year term

Bruce Fraedrich

Current Directors: 1 year remaining

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Current Directors to rotate off at the end of 2021

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Charles Crescenzi

Sami Elhassani

Jack Turner

Ben Waddell**

** Indicates that Ben and Everette will work together to procure speakers for 2021

- Recommended slate of Officers and Directors for 2021

- Nominating Committee Members: Linda McHam, Mark Carlson, Darvin Helvy (Committee Chair)

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The Club has continued to receive awards in recognition of its beautification efforts. One such award was reported in the weekly newspaper *The Paper* in September, 1993.

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club wins highest award

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 he said the club has been involved in other beautification efforts, as well.

Broad based beautification continued by the Club. George Gunter led the Club's work on developing a special garden at the SC School for the Deaf and Blind in 1999. This garden included plants from his new nursery and from the Club's nursery, plus thousands of donated bulbs.

Beginning a new century, the Club stretched its influence (and perhaps flaunted it) when Wal-Mart Stores purchased the east-side property of Spartanburg's leading landscape nursery, Dwight Cane's Spartanburg Landscape, and began plans for building a super store in the late 1990s. Tom Bartram's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter had this report in its July 2000 issue.

Wal-Mart Landscaping – Our Club is actively participating with [it actually organized] an *ad hoc* committee that is encouraging Wal-Mart to make special efforts as they develop plans for their new large store to be constructed on the beautiful property that was Spartanburg Nursery and Landscaping (East Main opposite Lan Yair golf course). Among other features, the property contains a pristine pond, and attractive trees (e. g.: dawn redwood) which should be preserved. Committee participants include the Women's Garden Club Council, SPACE, the PRIDE Task Force and Trees Spartanburg. The landscape architectural firm Wal-Mart retains has indicated they will take the committee's recommendations into account. We're hoping for a review before the project proceeds.

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The efforts of the Club and this coalition were quite successful. Wal-Mart agreed to complete compliance with the City's new landscape ordinance on planting multiple shade

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* 12-25-2009

CITY FORTUNATE TO CARE ABOUT TREES

By Betty Montgomery

Spartanburg is fortunate to have many individuals and organizations interested in landscaping our community with trees.

Trees are planted for the enjoyment and enhancement they bring today and will bring in the future. Many residents over the years have taken pride in Spartanburg, and you can see the difference they have made throughout the city. They have planted willow oaks, maples, ginkgos and others that Spartanburg now enjoys.

With their hard work, we continue to be a city of trees.

Henry Pittman, Hans Balmer Roger Milliken, in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club, Spots of Pride and the Noble Tree Foundation, have been dedicated to planting trees that we enjoy as we drive from place to place.

With Pittman's leadership, the Men's Garden Club planted willow oaks on East Main Street, maples on North Pine Street, maples and dogwoods on Drayton Avenue, a variety of trees by Highway 221 and about 7 miles of trees on 1-85, just to name a few of the tree-planting projects.

Balmer came up with the idea of beautifying our city by planting traffic islands and areas around town. After an ice storm in 2005, he took on the planting of trees in Converse Heights to make sure there were trees for future enjoyment in this area.

Milliken is responsible for the willow oaks on 1-85, and these trees have made for a lovely entrance to Spartanburg. He has also been involved with planting other areas around the town and for providing educational forums on the value of trees.

Harold Hatcher, W. O. Ezell, Coe Irwin, George Johnson, Kurt Zimmerli and the city of Spartanburg have also made a difference in beautification with the planting of trees.

Trees have benefits

There are many benefits, some unforeseen, of planting trees. Trees prevent us from becoming a heat island, essentially an upside-down bowl of heat over our city. People often forget that trees help prevent flooding, as they break the force of rain as water comes down through the leaves and branches.

Tree roots help absorb water and slow its force. This helps prevent erosion. Trees also absorb the pollinates and debris in the air.

Several years ago, Atlanta was growing at such a fast pace that the removal of trees caused a heat and air quality problem. The city ultimately lost federal highway funding. To curb the problem, Atlanta planted trees.

Atlanta also had recent problems with flooding. At one time, according to Marcia Bansley, head of Trees Atlanta, the city was losing 50 acres a week to development. Now you realize why Atlanta is battling -continued

trees in the parking lots, creating an enhanced building facade, and in saving of many trees at the entrance. The entrance street is officially named "Dawn Redwood Drive" in honor of the six ancient trees located there. They were planted by property owner, Cane, from some of the earliest seedlings available in the United States after the Oriental species was re-discovered in the 1940s after having being thought to be extinct. Landscape designer Kevin Parris led the way in saving these magnificent Redwoods. The pond behind the building remains pristine and is now a part of the adjacent homeowners' neighborhood.

Although the Club has been busy with beautification projects in the city for over 60 years, it is not the only organization to have contributed to the beauty of Spartanburg. Under

4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

the remarkably well-organized and successful leadership of Hans Balmer, the Spot of Pride project was initiated in 2000 as an outgrowth of the PRIDE Task Force. The SOP project



now consists of over 80 sponsored garden spots in the greater Spartanburg community. The first two SOPs were created as demonstration gardens. One is at the intersection of North Church Street and Asheville Highway. This garden was sponsored and financed by the County and PRIDE Task Force.

The other—and perhaps the finest SOP in the city—is the Ezell Spot of Pride, a cooperative venture of the City and the Club; it is located on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. The professional plan was improved a bit by the

Club's input and was funded by \$2,000 from the Club and an equal amount from the W. O. Ezell Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation plus City funds. The Ezell granite marker was moved by the SC Department of Transportation from its original location further west on the Boulevard near the original location of Dorman High School, to this garden. This MGC/City Ezell Spot of Pride was officially dedicated on April 26, 2001, with a large crowd in attendance. City Manager Roy Lane along with MGC president Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman gave presentations honoring Ezell who had set such a high standard for city beautification.⁴

The Club added the three magnificent Chinese Fringetrees and roses around the Ezell monument and maintains annuals along its face. The City provides excellent ongoing maintenance to the entire garden which has an

automatic irrigation system. In 2001 a background of Loropetalum was added adjacent to the marker, and five Green Giant Arborvitae were planted at the west end of the SOP to block the view of the adjacent laundry building; these Arborvitae are now some 50 feet tall and provide the envisioned background and view break. The added plants were financed by a \$400 Club contribution.



The Club's Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.

⁴ A copy of this presentation at the Ezell Spot of Pride dedication is located in Appendix 4.

October 2020

Gardening & Beautification

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Welcoming Men & Women

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Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

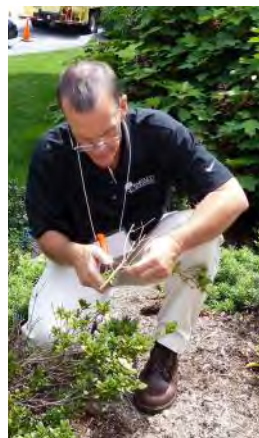
President's Corner

September was a good month for the club. We had 7 members attend the Arboretum Adventure Presentation on September 17. We all enjoyed the presentation very much and learned about some of the excellent arboretums in our country. A few days later, we had a very nice picnic and a chance to visit.

October has started off great. Our fall plant sale went well with a steady stream of customers. The four best selling plants by volume were all grown by our members either by separating and transplanting or by propagation. If you have some plant material that can be donated to the SMGC container garden please let someone on the board know.

I am excited about our October Presentation. Dr. Bruce Fraedrich will be speaking on the 9/11 memorial. Please come listen to this interesting presentation and bring a guest. We need to continue recruiting new members. After a good start, the Covid 19 virus slowed down our effort to add new members. Let's regain that momentum! See you and your guest at the October meeting.

Dr. Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker October 19, 2020



"The Planting and Care of the 9/11 Memorial"

Our MGC speaker for October 19 will be one of our newer members, Dr. Bruce Fraedrich. Bruce is an arborist who was Vice President of Bartlett Tree Experts in Charlotte. A research scientist with a doctorate in Plant Pathology, he has received the prestigious Award of Merit from the International Society of Arboriculture. Spending 42 years in research has led him to discover advanced techniques in the care and management of a natural resource which means so much to our daily lives. Bruce has been deeply involved in the September 9/11 Memorial Project and he will speak to us on that topic.

Upcoming Events

October 19 – "The Planting and Care of the 9/11 Memorial", Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, one of our newer members and a specialist in Arboriculture.

November 16 – Installation of Officers for 2021 and a challenging message from Pastor Erin Morris of Saint John's Lutheran Church.

January 2021 – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.



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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



Morning glories at the plant sale.

Mark Carlson, Phil Abers and Bruce Fraedrich at the plant sale.



With perfect weather on both days, a large number of people turned out to get some great deals on our plants.



2020 Litter pickup schedule

Dec. 12 rain date Dec 19

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
 2020 Membership**
 Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
 Corporate \$100

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Member Musing By Phil Abers

The presentation by Dr Todd Lasseigne for the Arboretum Adventure was very interesting. He spoke about some of the great gardens in the United States. One of the gardens mentioned was The Huntington. This garden is located in San Marino, California, which is near Pasadena. The San Gabriel Mountains form the back drop for these impressive gardens.

During my engineering career, I spent almost a year in Southern California. Of all the great attractions there, my favorite place is the Huntington. Besides a fantastic garden, The Huntington has a phenomenal library and art museum.

The Huntington is named for Henry E Huntington, nephew of Collis Huntington, who was one of the "Big Four" who funded the Central Pacific to create the first Transcontinental Railroad.



The Huntington is located on 207 acres. The Art Museum is housed in the Huntington Mansion. It consists of 42,000 works of art, specializing in British and French artists. The Blue Boy, painted by Thomas Gainsborough, is housed there. The library has 430,000 books. Included in the collection is one of 48 copies of the Guttenburg Bible, Audubon's' Birds of America and the Canterbury Tales Manuscript.

We are a garden club, so I must mention the excellent gardens there. My favorite gardens there are the Cactus Garden, the Japanese Garden and the 16,000 ft² conservatory. The gardens also have impressive collections of Bonsai, Camellias and Cycads. There is a 3 acre Rose Garden there. The Huntington's are buried in a mausoleum on the property. It was designed by John Russell Pope, who also designed the Jefferson Memorial. If you are visiting Southern California, I suggest you put a visit to the Huntington at the top of your list.

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Chapter 5

“But the Trees Remained...!”: TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

*Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone
planted a tree a long time ago.*

- Warren Buffet

Spartanburg is known in the upstate and throughout South Carolina as a “city of trees.” While this community has been blessed with an environment that supports many varieties of trees, the efforts of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club have gone a long way toward increasing the number and quality of trees in both the City and County. From encouraging neighborhoods to plant trees (the Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association promoted tree planting and worked with the SMGC in one of its earliest tree sales which was reported in *Southern Living* in September, 1982, and in encouraging the Converse Heights’ second-generation tree planting in 2004), to treescaping of many major thoroughfares in the area, to sponsoring tree sales twice a year to encourage homeowners to plant trees, and in setting an example for other organizations and institutions by actually planning and planting thousands of street and highway trees in the area, the SMGC has been a leader in providing *green* shade for the coming generations.

Planting of street and highway trees seems to have begun in the 1970s, while Mr. W. O. Ezell was extremely active in developing many beautiful garden spots around Spartanburg. Although *color* was his emphasis in the dozens of gardens he and the Club planted and maintained around the city, he did also plant a few trees.

MGC Treescape Projects	
1976	— N. Pine
1978	
1980	
1982	
1984	
1986	— N. Pine
1988	— W. Main @ I-26
1990	— E. Main
1992	— N. Pine @ Beaumont
1994	Heron Traffic Circle
1994	I-85 Bypass (Relocation)
1996	N. Pine Extension
1996	S. Pine
1998	Drayton Rd / Isom
1998	US -176 @ I-26
2000	Drayton Rd / Isom
2000	N. Pine Extension
2002	Drayton Rd / Isom
2002	SC-195
2004	S. Pine
2004	US-221 Phase I
2006	US-221 Phase II
2006	I-85 Business
2008	

Harold Hatcher, as a new member of the Club, began an emphasis on trees in 1972 and led the club in planting hundreds of trees in local parks, around schools, public buildings, etc, and he was active in the Club's Bicentennial project on North Pine Street. The Club's real emphasis on community tree planting probably began one year in the '80s when Hatcher reported at a Club meeting on a recent trip back to his former home in Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. That night, he said, with obvious sadness, that all the garden spots of flowers, shrubs and grasses which he had been involved in planting had been neglected and no longer existed (this is exactly what happened here when Mr. W. O. was no longer able to maintain the many garden spots he developed with the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in the 1960s and '70s). But then, with a smile on his face, Hatcher stood tall, lifted his arms and continued with great enthusiasm, "*but the trees remained...!*"

While trees aren't forever and aren't without some problems and aren't maintenance free, they are relatively low maintenance and many

are long lived—and are very important to both the landscape aesthetics and the environment. While Hatcher had been active in the early 1970s in leading the Club in planting many trees in public areas of the community, it was his Indiana observation that set the tone for the Club's street and highway treescaping. The Club picked up on Hatcher's observation and began a treescape program that continues today.

The 15 major treescape projects of the Men's Garden Club are detailed in the following sections of this chapter. Related treescape project information is presented in the Appendix.¹

¹ The "MGC Tree Planting Procedure" folder is in Appendix 6. The City Map of MGC planted trees is in Appendix 31, and the Master Street Tree Planting List is in Appendix 32.

November 2020

Gardening & Beautification

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Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

The first year of my presidency is ending. It is not what I envisioned. We missed the February Board Meeting due to bad weather. We missed all meetings from March through May. Then we lost a great resource and devoted member of our club, Don Crowder.

Even with the problems with the Covid 19 virus, we did have some successes. Our corporate membership went from one to six. We have also added new members to our club, including four after our fall plant sale. The fall plant sale was another success. The container garden looked great in large part due to the leadership of Mark Carlson.

In 2021 we will hopefully return to our normal activities and routines. We need to build our membership. Did you invite a guest to a meeting this year? If so, that is great and we hope you will invite more guests in 2021. If you were unable to invite a guest in 2020, make it your goal to invite at least two guests in 2021. We hope to build club membership and stay an important contributor to our community.

Here is a wish for Good Health and a Great 2021.

Phil .

Rev. Erin Morris SMGC Speaker Nov 16, 2020



Rev. Morris is a native of Ohio who served in Minnesota before coming South in 2019. At Saint John's she works in every phase of congregational life with an emphasis on youth work, young adult ministries and community outreach. Catered refreshments will be served, and you are encouraged to bring a guest with you.

Upcoming Events

January 19 – "The Garden of Sacred Space" by Dr. Kirk H. Neely, Master Gardener, Author, Counselor, Bible Teacher and former pastor of Morningside Baptist Church.

February 15 - "Looking Forward to Spring Bloom" to be given by Betty Montgomery, a well-known garden writer.



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Photography by Linda McHam

Japanese maple in orange color.



Sugar maple tree in golden yellow.



Blueberries in fall color.

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Dec. 12 rain date **Dec 19**

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

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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club 2021 Board of Officers

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Sami Elhassani
Jack Turner
Ben Waddell**

****Ben and Everette will work together to provide speakers for 2021**
Nominating Committee Members: Darvin Helvy (Chair), Mark Carlson, Linda McHam

We want to welcome our new member, Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, to the board and thank all those who are returning for their work this past year and their work to come in 2021. We are looking forward to lots of club activities and educational programs. Please support our leaders in every way that you can by pitching in and making a difference.



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Gardening & Beautification

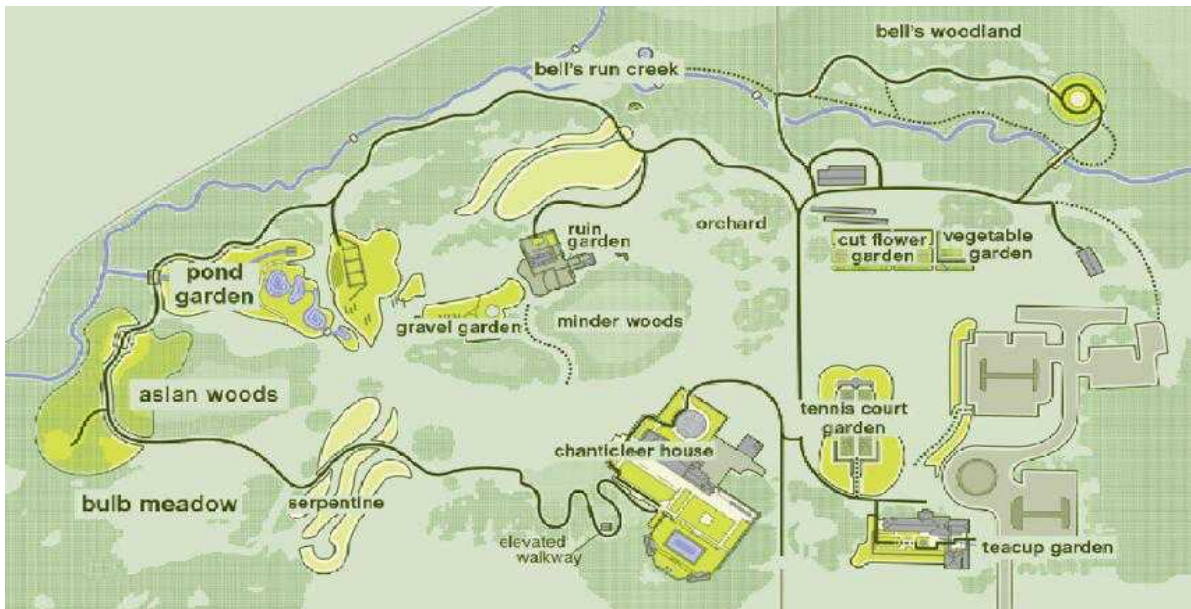
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Member Musing By Phil Abers

When visiting the Philadelphia Area, most garden aficionados think of Longwood Gardens. There are many great gardens in the Philadelphia Area including a relatively new garden named Chanticleer. This garden is not far from Villanova University in Wayne, PA.

The garden was the estate of Mr. and Mrs Rosengarten. They made their money in the pharmaceutical industry and eventually sold their company to Merck. The estate was passed on to Adolph Rosengarten Jr. who left the entire property for the enjoyment and education of the public following his death in 1990.

When Edie and I were living in New Jersey, we saw an article in the newspaper about Chanticleer and the spring daffodil bloom. Our first visit to Chanticleer was in 1994. While the gardens were very nice, most of the property was in its natural state. Many improvements have been made since then.



The Chanticleer Foundation has 47 acres of which 35 acres are open to the public. One of the most interesting areas is the Ruin Garden. It is located on the foundation of Adolph Jr.'s Home. The Ruin Garden has fountains and plants throughout the "house".

There are seven horticulturalists on staff, each with their own area to maintain. This provides an interesting variety of plants and landscape design. The gardens are open from about the first of April to the end of October. If you are visiting Philadelphia during the spring, summer or early fall, a visit to this newer garden will be well worth your while.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

1 North Pine Street “Bicentennial Project” - 1976

In the late 1950s, North Pine Street (also known then as Byrnes Boulevard, named for Spartanburg’s native James M. Byrnes,² underwent heavy construction and emerged as Interstate-585. It was a new name and a new highway, but a highway with an unattractive look. There were no trees. There were weeds but no landscaping, all of which provided a pretty dismal look for such an important entry-way into Spartanburg. Through a unique effort of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club and a number of other cooperating organizations, an extensive *Bicentennial Landscape Project* involving planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on North Pine Street was completed in 1976. The idea evolved in 1974 as the Club worked to restore a much earlier beautification project of W. O. Ezell on *South Pine Street* (across from Pine Street School) which had been wrecked by highway widening and a thoughtless property owner in 1973. As that project was being brought back in control under the chairmanship of Harold Hatcher and Ezell, the need on the other end of Pine Street became obvious.

North Pine Street—this rapidly growing main entry into Spartanburg from the new Interstate-85 highway—had been completely neglected landscape-wise, except for the outstanding work by the large and influential Milliken Company. So here was a natural challenge for a major new project.

The *ad hoc* Street Trees Chairman for the Club, Henry Pittman, developed a preliminary approach and gained approval of the Club’s Board of Directors to investigate designing a long-range plan for such a project. Mr. W. O., Frank Cunningham and Roy King were included in the initial committee and a number of approaches were initiated.

First, contact was made with the Horticulture Department of Clemson College, now University, and then with David Dunn, the Landscape Architect of the South Carolina Highway Department (this was before the more “federal” name, SCDOT, was adopted) in Columbia. During the next year, Club members met with Dunn, wrote many letters and made telephone calls, and created a Master Plan for the area. This big plan evolved from being a long range plan for all of North Pine Street, to a more reasonable one including the clover-leaf areas at US-221 (Chesnee Highway) above what was then Joe King Oldsmobile, at Highway SC-9 (Boiling Springs Road) and at California Avenue (joining the Milliken landscaped area), and the wide shoulder on the west side of North Pine between California and SC-9.

The basic concept of the plan was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs in order to provide beauty and a sense of order, but with low maintenance requirements. The Club believed then, as now, that minimum maintenance is of importance to all landscape programs, private and public. The MGC was to provide the plan, planting material, guidance and general supervision, with the Highway Department supplying the labor and future maintenance. Consultations with the County Agent (Crayton McCowan who gave encouragement and practical advice), S. C. Forestry Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture were invaluable in completing

² U. S. Senator, U. S. Supreme Court Justice, “Assistant President” to FDR during World War II, and later, South Carolina Governor.

the plan. Milliken's horticulturist, Jack Bracken, was also an important advisor, promoter and encourager.

The Club purchased seven-hundred seedlings—100 each of seven native S.C. trees— from the S. C. Forestry Commission and distributed them to 12 volunteer members in early

The 'Natural Look' Tribute To Cooperation, Much Work

By DEBBIE DALHOUSE
Staff Writer

A combination of private and public efforts has resulted in the planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on Spartanburg's North Pine Street.

Over the past three years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has worked with the North Spartanburg Rotary Club, Converse College, Clemson University Horticultural Department and County Extension Office, S.C. Highway Department, S.C. Forestry Commission S.C. Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to beautify the northern entrance to the city.

A preliminary plan was developed in early 1974 by Men's Garden Club member Henry Pittman and approved by the Board of Directors.

During the next year, a plan was created for the clover-leaf areas at Whitney Road, Boiling Springs Road, California Avenue joining the Deering Milliken landscaped area, and on the west side of N. Pine between California Ave. and Boiling Springs Road.

Pittman says, "The concept was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs to provide beauty and a sense of being cared for, but with low maintenance requirements."

The Men's Garden Club provided the planting material, guidance and supervision. The Highway Department supplied the labor and maintenance.

Other agencies were consulted to select the most suitable plants.

In 1975, seven hundred seedlings of native South Carolina trees were purchased and distributed to a dozen volunteer members of the Men's Garden Club to be raised in the edges of vegetable gardens, old cans and around houses.

"Many of these trees were of adequate size to be used in the Pine Street project only one year later," Pittman notes. "The redbud and sycamore grew particularly well, the latter adding three feet or more during that year."

Other varieties grown at members' homes were dogwood, sweetgum, yellow poplar, red cedar and pine.

The volunteer gardeners were W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Rodney Moore, Ernest Halstead and Gil Hooper.

Over 100 of the homegrown trees have been transplanted to the Pine Street landscaped areas. Others are growing for future use on Pine Street and other projects.

While the original plan was to implement the project over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger, "we just couldn't let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project," Pittman says.

The home grown plants were supplemented by 100 dogwood, Japanese black pine, loblolly pine, magnolia and maple trees which the Men's Garden Club purchased to meet the Bicentennial celebration deadline.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six each of three types of newly developed disease resistant elms to be tested in this area.

Club member W. L. Ward donated dogwood trees which he had grown from seed, a local nursery provided 100 sweetgum and bald cypress seedlings, and the garden club transferred 50 crepe myrtle bushes from another site to further enhance the Bicentennial planting project.

A total of 300 plants were used in the project, at a cost of only \$170 which included herbicide, Pittman points out with pride.

Most of the heavy planting work was done by local Highway Department personnel under resident maintenance engineer Miles A. (Red) Fleming. Club members Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorehead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith and Everett Seixas, along with the tree growers, supervised the layout and planting.

"Federal grants, Revenue Sharing and direct government implementation aren't the only way to get things done. Many civic and garden clubs can put together similar programs," Pittman said.

Further cooperation in beautifying North Pine came from the North Spartanburg Rotary Club which financed purchase of pear trees for city planting in the median of North Pine earlier this year and from Converse College's landscaping program.

1975. These men planted the small trees at their homes, in the edge of vegetable gardens, or in containers, and grew them with the care and expertise and love that only an amateur gardener can give. Many of these trees were of adequate size a year later to be used in this Pine Street project. Redbud and Sycamore grew particularly strong, the latter adding three feet or more during that year. Indeed, the availability of these "home grown" plants was the basis for the entire program.

Other varieties grown at home by members were Dogwood, Sweetgum, Yellow Poplar, Red Cedar and Pine. The "home nurserymen" included Mr. W. O., Harold Hatcher, Julian Foster, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Henry Ramella, Rodney Moon, Ernest Halstead, and Gil Hooper. Others active in the project were Everette Seixas, Frank Cunningham, Julian Foster, Snow Marshall, W. L. Ward, Griff Smith and Pittman. Club members transplanted over 100 of these trees to the North Pine Street landscaped areas in the fall of 1976 and used others for later community projects.

Originally, treescaping of North Pine was intended to occur over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger and men



LOOKING OVER WORK at one of the North Pine Street beautification sites are Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members Henry Pittman, left, and Everett Seixas. Judson McCaleb, Lewis Bailey and Roney Moon work in the background. (Photo By LaRue Cook Of B&B Studio)

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could be recruited to work. But, “We just couldn’t let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project.” Pittman was quoted as saying, “This project became an official part of Spartanburg’s official bicentennial project.”

The home grown planting material was supplemented by the Club’s purchase of 100 each of Dogwood, Japanese Black and Loblolly Pine, Magnolia and Maple trees. The USDA Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six-each of three types of newly developed Dutch-elm-disease-resistant Elms for evaluation. Club member W. L. Ward donated Dogwood trees which he had grown from seed and had root-pruned during the summer to facilitate transplanting during the winter. A local nursery provided 100 Sweetgums and Bald Cypress seedlings, a number of which were used. Many Crape Myrtles which the MGC had purchased a number of years earlier were moved from a location they had outgrown in the city.

The project used a total of 390 plants. Because of the active involvement of members, the cost to the Club was only \$270, which included a few dollars for herbicides to fight grass and kudzu—kudzu was vigorous then, also!

The Highway Department provided some help in digging the planting sites which had been carefully located and staked by volunteers from the Club. MGC supervision for the layout and planting included many of the tree growers plus Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorhead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith, Everett Seixas and Pittman.

Mayor Bob Stoddard, Spartanburg’s Bicentennial Chairman, officially congratulated the Highway Department, the MGC and all participants by saying, “What a fine Birthday Gift—400 beautiful trees and shrubs.” Gil Hooper, president of the Club in 1976 and 1977, observed the next year, “Even though it was a hot, dry summer, our men and the Highway Department people planted this material so well and pruning was so effective that the loss has been minimal. A great number of the Sweetgum seedlings died back, but put up new shoots and survived. A few Dogwoods died and, a number of plants were stolen.”

In the early 2000s, the PRIDE Task Force’s “Spot of Pride” project, implemented so effectively by the late Hans Balmer, found sponsors to adopt and further enhance these North Pine Street intersections with additional plants among the MGC trees and improved maintenance, making this street even more beautiful. These areas are evidence of Harold Hatcher’s statement made in the early 70s: “...but the trees remained!”

Recently, the Club rediscovered that this project had resulted in the Club having been singled out by the Arbor Day Foundation for its 1977 national award. The award was accepted for the Club by MGCA’s executive director, Lyman Duncan, at the ceremonies in Nebraska. The whereabouts of the large plaque is unknown. For many years, Spartanburg has been recognized as a Tree City by this foundation, possibly initiated by this project.

The Club is proud of the way the local Bicentennial program expanded and to have been a part of it. It is an example of how a number of agencies and organizations—private and public—can be brought together to contribute to a community project of significance with surprisingly little cost. Federal grants, revenue sharing and direct government implementation aren’t the only ways to get these things done. The Club hoped this project would serve as a catalyst for many civic and garden clubs to create similar programs—and it did!

The North Spartanburg Rotary Club is an example of how this idea caught on. It purchased Bradford Pear trees for City planting in the median of a section of North Pine

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Street in 1976. These trees performed beautifully for some 20 years and were a major asset to this important street. The unfortunate destruction of many of the Sweetgum trees on the west side of North Pine between US-176 and California Avenue is covered in detail in Chapter 13 on the billboard problem

This North Pine “Bicentennial Project” began a 40-year saga of street and highway treescaping by the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

2 North Pine Street “Beautiful North Pine” - 1986

After the successful treescaping of the north end of this highway in 1976 as the “Bicentennial Project,” the Club began thinking of additional ways to improve the quality of North Pine Street. In March of 1985, a committee consisting of Frank Cunningham, Jack Bracken of Milliken, Julian Foster and Henry Pittman began dialogue with many organizations and groups on improvements needed. Contacts were made with Converse College, the Highway Department, the three banks on the street, Richard Kelly Oldsmobile, Milliken & Co., the Naegele billboard people and others.

The results were encouraging. In early 1986, a letter from the Club to a large group of property owners included this information:

North Pine is looking better

- The Highway Department has cleared fence lines and other areas of weeds, trees and undergrowth; mowed the banks at the crossovers at California, SC 9 and US 221 and has generally improved maintenance from the city limits to I-85.
- University Lawn & Garden Care contributed labor for extensive herbicide treatment following the SCD clearing (many of you contributed to the MGC to help pay for the chemicals.)
- Milliken has cleared the banks at I-85 and plans additional cloverleaf landscaping.
- Pinewood Shopping Center has cleared the shoulder bank.
- Naegele has made some improvement around their signs.
- SCN purchased and is maintaining the corner at St. John.
- The City continues to maintain the Bradford Pear median and other areas superbly.
- Many of you continue to do a super job of landscape maintenance on your property and on to the highway.

But we still have a long way to go to bring this most important Spartanburg entry up to the level of excellence it deserves.

Two suggestions followed: “Look critically at your property and begin improvements, and contact one of our committeemen and pledge your moral support—and a monetary contribution.” Over the months, many businesses responded to the Club’s request for funding assistance, including Milliken with \$3,500. The MGC Board approved an additional \$3,000 for the project.