

January 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Communications

Darvin Helvy

Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam

IO User Group

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

Newsletter@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

We start the new year with much hope. Almost everyone I have corresponded with is happy that 2020 is over and are looking forward to 2021. The SMGC is also looking forward to a great 2021. We have added both regular members and corporate members last year and expect to do even better this year.

Our programs for the year are nearly finalized. When talking to prospective members, please share our program schedule for 2021. The most important action we can take this year is to continue to build membership.

We have also organized a committee to review our participation in the Street Tree Program on South Pine. The committee is looking at ways to upgrade the quality of trees to some appropriate for our growing zone. The goal is to have great looking street trees that the SMGC is proud to sponsor.

The January Program will be presented remotely, however we still plan for those who prefer, to meet in person at the SCC Health Science Building. For the remote presentation, Stephanie Rice will send two links. The first link will be for 7 PM to discuss the club business. The second link will be for 7:30 when Dr Neely will make a presentation to the club. Let's make 2021 a great year for the SMGC!"

Phil

Kirk Neely



SMGC Speaker January 19, 2020

"The Garden of Sacred Space."

Dr. Neely is well known locally as the retired pastor of the Morningside Baptist Church, Adjunct professor of USC Upstate, author of several widely circulated books, pastoral counselor, and of special interest to all of us, Master Gardeners. His presentation will be given virtually because of the Covid-19 Virus. Be sure to invite someone to attend with you. For several meetings now, we have had a good response to the necessity of wearing masks and keeping a safe distance from others. We thank you for keeping others and ourselves as safe as we can.



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

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



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Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7PM, except there is no meeting in December. They take place in the Community Room of the Health Sciences Building at Spartanburg Community College.

Future programs already scheduled are:

January 19 – (Tuesday) “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 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*

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Check us out, <https://dirtclub.org>



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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

Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia' with Cedrus deodara in the snow.



2021 Litter pickup schedule

March 13 rain date **Mar 20**

June 12 rain date **Jun 19**

Sept. 18 rain date **Sep 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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 2021 Membership

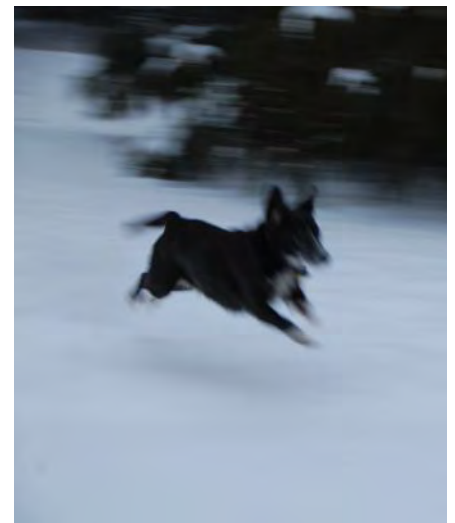
**Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100**

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.



Amaryllis 'Super Star'.



**Canine Border Collie x Hound
'Lily McHam' playing in the snow.**



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Member Musing By Phil Abers



This month we are still in the Philadelphia PA area. This time a trip to the Morris Arboretum is on the agenda. The Arboretum is located in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia on the northwest side of town. The Arboretum was found by a brother and sister team of John and Lydia Morris. The Morris's money came from an iron manufacturing firm started by their father.

John and Lydia traveled the world and brought back many plants in addition to the art work they collected. The Morris's had plans to for a school and laboratory on their estate. In 1932 the site became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Arboretum is home to over 13000 identified plant of 2600 varieites. The plants are from around the world especially from North America, Europe and Asia. The Arboretum has many of the local area tallest trees (trees of record), much like Congaree NP has many trees of record for South Carolina. The Morris Arboretum notes the Katsura, Engler Beech and Trident Maple as three of the most notable "Trees of Record". The Arboretum is home to the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery, the only remaining freestanding Victorian fernery in North America.

We first learned of the Morris Arboretum in 1994 when they hosted a Mother's Day plant sale. We purchased a small oak and an old fashion rose bush. Both were flourishing when we escaped New Jersey in 2015. Besides the impressive trees, (I like the weeping beech), there are events throughout the year. There is a Garden Railroad that is operational during the summer and the Christmas Season.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

With encouragement which resulted from this letter, the committee—and particularly Milliken's landscape horticulturist Jack Bracken—asked Pittman to develop a treescape plan for all of North Pine Street. The fact that the Milliken Research property bordered that street may have been a minor reason for Bracken's encouragement, but he surely had a greater mission in mind. A November letter to Red Fleming, local Highway Department head engineer, stated in part, "...the Men's Garden Club would like to continue landscaping and beautification of I-585/US-176/North Pine Street from I-85 to E. Main." This letter documented the review with the State Highway Landscape Architect, Timothy Edwards and City Manager Wayne Bowers, both of whom had enthusiastically approved the proposal.

The Club applied for and received the required Highway Department Encroachment Permit in December. The Committee then ordered 15-gallon-sized trees and made arrangements with a recently retired Milliken employee, John Belue, to plant them for \$10 each. Belue had a background of plant handling, having been a former employee of Spartanburg Landscape. He did a first class job of planting and mulching. The long, 100-foot center placements worked well and became the standard for future SMGC street and highway planting projects. This method combines good, professional-looking enhancement with enough space to minimize blocking of the view of adjacent

THE PAPER Wednesday, January 14, 1987

Men's GC completing North Pine Street beautification'

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is completing an extensive tree planting landscaping project on North Pine Street (I-585, U.S. 176) from Interstate 85 to Main Street.

About half of these trees are on private property and half on public property. Excellent cooperation has been received from the City of Spartanburg and the South Carolina Highway Department, both of which have fully approved the project, and from the dozens of private property owners along this heavily traveled artery into Spartanburg, according Walter Soderberg, club president.

Most of the trees used are an improved and patented variety of red maple called Red Sunset which is known for its excellent bright red foliage in the fall. Where planting space was limited or overhead power lines encroached, a smaller growing red maple named Trident was used.

Where space was available and with consent of the property owner, these new trees were planted on both sides of North Pine Street. The spacing is 100 feet apart which is close enough to give a feeling of continuity and good planning, but not so close as to impair view of businesses or reduce safety.

This is part of an ongoing community beautification project called "Beautiful North Pine" which the MGC initiated three years ago (1984) to encourage property owners on that street to work toward improving the landscaping, up-keep and general appearance of their property.

North Pine is one of the most important entry-ways into Spartanburg and its appearance influences the general opinion of many people about the entire Spartanburg Community, Soderberg said.

With success on this project, the MGC would like to continue this concept of community beautification to other parts of Spartanburg.

Financing of this project was a joint and cooperative effort involving contributions from many of the private property owners on North Pine, from the Spartanburg Board of Tourism, and from the MGC.

They have planted 173 trees. About 15 others are awaiting permission of private property owners. A few have been approved for planting, but are being held until site construction is completed (SCN Bank, Daniel Morgan Associates and Dr. John Guthrie).

This is the first time the Spartanburg MGC has undertaken a tree planting project where all the planting labor I was contracted out.

"This one was just too big for us to handle with our volunteer labor. And I was such a great opportunity to continue Spartanburg beautification, we didn't want to wait," said Soderberg.

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business property—a “win-win” situation.

In late 1986 and early the next January, implementation of the project was completed with more than 190 Red Sunset cultivars of Red Maple trees (strongly recommended by Bracken) on the three miles of shoulders of North Pine from St. John Street northward to I-85. This project was called “Beautiful North Pine.”

A news release was issued in January of 1987 and the local weekly *The Paper* published a fine article describing the project. The Club received many compliments and “thank-yous” for this large tree-planting project. Club implementation participants in addition to the committee included Club President Walter Soderberg, Julian Foster, Don McClure, Jess Taylor, John Nevison and Bob Almond.

A huge boost in value and health of these trees was the gift of funds from Mr. Milliken in 1999 for professional pruning of these Red Sunset Maples as well as the Club’s later-planted Willow Oaks on East Main Street. These are referred to as “SMGC” trees, but actually they are on public rights-of-way and are the property of the city.



Like this ramp on North Pine at SC-9, many of the Clubs 1976 projects have been updated as Spots of Pride.

3 West Main Street at Interstate-26 - 1988

Harold Hatcher took the lead—and did most of the work—in treescaping a number of the cloverleaf areas of the interchange at West Main Street (US-29 toward Greenville) and I-26 in 1988. Almost 300 hardwood trees, including Oaks, Maples, and Crape Myrtles, were planted.

A significant enhancement to this interchange was made in 1999 by the new Trees Spartanburg organization created by the PRIDE Task Force and headed by Co Irwin. Some 50 Willow Oaks were planted on the shoulders of the ramps. This area was upgraded again in 2004 by the SCDOT and it is a great asset to the community.

4 East Main Street “Beautiful East Main” - 1989, 1992, 1994

This major project began in 1989 and involved advice and help from the City, the Highway Department and Milliken. Hand-drawn plans by Henry Pittman, with valuable advice from and consultation with the S. C. Highway Department Landscape Architect, Timothy Edwards, involved 125 Willow Oaks (purchased in 15 gal. containers) and 85 Natchez Crape Myrtles (grown in the SMGC nursery at Hatcher Garden by Harold Hatcher from his rooted cuttings).

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All of the planting sites were flag marked by volunteer Club members. Most were planted on the "MGC standard 100-foot centers,"³ six feet from the curb on the highway right-of-way, but a few were planted on adjacent private property with permission. Planting labor was again contracted to John Belue. Financing was from a tourism grant and contributions from adjacent property owners, the Milliken Foundation and the Club. Major



The Club's 1989 Natchez Crape Myrtles on East Main Street in 2007

Club volunteers included Jess Taylor, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Harold Hatcher, Bob Powell, Walter Soderberg, and Pittman. The planting was completed in early 1990.

Even with no watering, 90% of the trees survived the first year. In late 1992, an additional 6 Willow Oaks and 11 Crape Myrtles were planted as replacements

Club members performed light pruning and fertilization of the trees in 1992 and 1993, and have continued such attention most years since. Major professional pruning of the Willow Oaks (along with the

Red Sunset Maples on North Pine Street), was contracted to local professional arborist John Martin, and was completed in January 1999. The \$12,500 cost was underwritten by Mr. Milliken and the W. O. Ezell fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation, plus \$3,000 of Club funds.

McCracken Junior High School students added to "Beautiful East Main" on a Saturday in December 1994, by planting 10 additional Willow Oaks in front of Wal-Mart on East Main Street (now the location of the Lowe's Home Improvement store). About 30 students, 10 parents and several teachers worked with Club members on the project. Sheila Sistare, science teacher and sponsor of the school's Science Club, told the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* reporter, "I am pleasantly surprised at the large number of students. When I



The 1989 Willow Oaks on East Main in 2009.

³ While leading a group of volunteers marking planting sites for the Crape Myrtles under the high voltage power lines at Halfway Creek, Jess Taylor said, "Oh, let's plant them a lot closer here under the power lines." And this was a good idea; they have done well.

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mentioned the project to them, they were very excited.” Paul Teodorie, local Wal-Mart manager, contributed these trees as part of the company’s emphasis on protection and enhancement of the ecology and environment. All of these trees have survived and flourished which is quite a compliment to “student labor!”

When the John Floyd property east of Halfway Creek was developed, grading resulted in the destruction of seven or more of the Oaks there. Fortunately, new treescaping has been added to the shoulders at that location by the new developer.

In summer of 2002, Duke Power did a massive pruning of some of the Club’s Willow Oaks near power lines adjacent to the LanYair Golf Course. While citizens were vocal with complaints and unhappiness about the damage to the symmetry and beauty of these near-mature trees, Pittman voluntarily admits these pruned trees were planted too close to the Duke lines and had become possible sources of damage to the utility and its customers. Fortunately, today the trees have overgrown the distorted shape and are again very handsome, but this probably means a second, and more aesthetically damaging, pruning will occur. The Club made a proposal to Duke for a cooperative project involving planting small-maturing trees such as Crape Myrtles and Kousa Dogwood in between the Oaks as “second generation” trees and as they matured after a few years, removing the Oaks. Duke never agreed. Perhaps the best solution to this conflict is for the utility lines to be moved underground; this would be a major beautification enhancement. But now the former golf course is being considered for business and residential development; this may result in elimination of the power-line conflict.

5 North Pine at Beaumont Mill - 1991

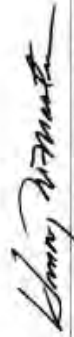
1991 was the year the Club took the leadership in improving the landscape of the Beaumont Mill campus on North Pine Street. A year earlier, Mr. Milliken had suggested to Henry Pittman that there was a great opportunity for the Club to improve the beauty of the area by adding landscape plants to the old, but active, mill site—at the corner of North Pine and Isom Street—to block or soften the view of the unattractive white wooden frame warehouse on the corner of the Beaumont complex. Mr. Milliken advised that his landscape architect, Rick Webel of the New York firm Innocenti & Webel, might volunteer to help develop a plan. And, indeed, he did; he worked with Pittman in completing the initial proposed plan.



Appreciation of Service

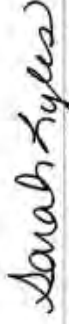
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

in recognition of your 31 years with Adopt-A-Highway



Henry McMaster

Governor of South Carolina



Sarah Kyles

Executive Director, PalmettoPride

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President's Corner

This month we see the first hint of spring and the wonderful rebirth of our gardens. The daffodils are visible and have received a dose of fertilizer at our home. What a joy to be a gardener!

We will be working over the next couple of months to prepare the container garden for the spring plant sale. We will have some weeding, repotting and other chores to complete. Please come help us get ready for the April Plant Sale.

We are working to revitalize the street trees along South Pine. Our committee has done excellent working developing a plan for the future of the street trees. Come to the monthly meeting for an update on our progress.

Our Monthly Meeting Presenter for February is Betty Montgomery. She is a very well known local columnist and gardener. We are lucky to have her talk to our club. Please use this great opportunity to recruit new members for the Garden Club. Share our list of programs by hard copy, email or other means. To have a viable club, we must continue to add new members. I hope to see you on February 15.

Betty Montgomery SMGC Speaker February 15, 2020

"Looking Forward to Spring Bloom"



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

for us about spring-blooming flowers.

Remember to bring a guest with you. Perhaps they will want to join our group of men and women, like recent guests, who have become members in the last two months.



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Photography by Linda McHam



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**Renew Now
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 Corporate \$100**

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Galax leaves in the winter.



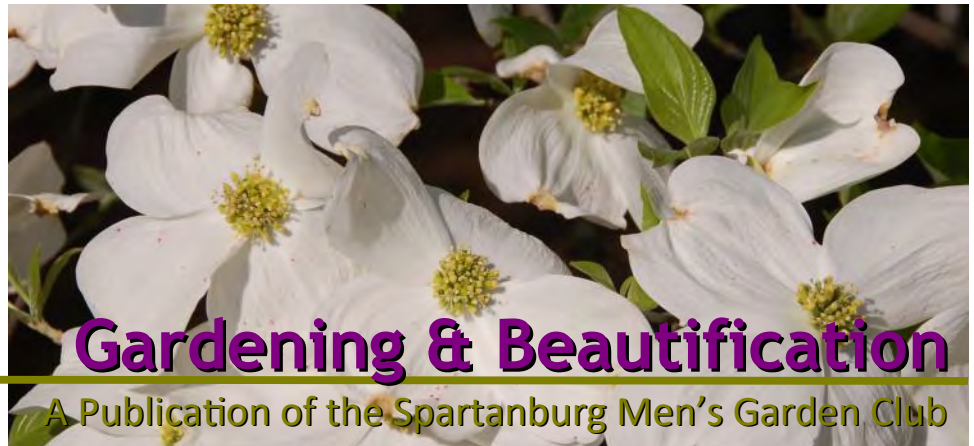
Hellebores (Lenten Rose) start flowering in February.

Crocus are some of the early signs of spring.





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Member Musing By Phil Abers



A three hour-forty five minute drive from the San Francisco Airport takes you to the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. Once north of Marin County, the drive takes you into the Sonoma Valley and then to the Pacific Coast along Scenic Highway 1. The Garden is located between Highway 1 and the Pacific Ocean. How many botanical gardens are on the ocean? The Botanical Garden is just south of Fort Bragg, where you can have a nice meal overlooking the small harbor. If you watched the movie, "The Russians are Coming", you have seen Ft. Bragg.

The Botanical Garden is situated on 47 acres and has some very unique garden areas. The climate is zone 9B, but the weather almost never gets hot due to the coastal location and the summer fog. Mendocino Botanical Garden is home to one of the largest collections of rhododendrons. These bloom from April until June. The rhododendron collection includes 124 species and over 1000 plants. About 40 miles south is Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve, where you can see native rhododendrons blooming in the wild.

Some of the garden areas you can visit include the native forests and bluff plants, heaths and heathers, Rhododendrons, Camellias, Fuchsias, Dahlias, Magnolias, Maples, Succulents, Begonias and Conifers. How many botanical gardens have a Fuchsia Garden? There are a variety of activities throughout the year. Bird watching seems especially popular. If you need a break, you can visit Rhody's Cafe for food and drink. A small nursery and gift shop are on the Garden Grounds. There are a number of other attractions on the north coast of California including the Skunk Train and the Coastal Redwoods. Check before you go as some areas have suffered fire damage in recent years. Enjoy your trip.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Beaumont was one of the leading manufacturing plants of the large Spartan Mills textile company and was headed by President and CEO Walter J. Montgomery, Sr., of Spartanburg. Mr. Walter was a member of the Club and occasionally attended meetings.

The original plan was one with a Pittman-flavor, i.e. low key with modest cost. It and the proposed project were reviewed with Mr. Montgomery who seemed quite pleased with the suggested concept. But the modest plan was immediately rejected by him as inadequate; he wasn't interested in a minor, low-cost tree planting project but wanted a major top quality enhancement. Rick Webel worked with Pittman in completing the upgraded plan.

Mr. Walter further expressed the opinion that his employees would not be as enthusiastic about Spartan Mills financing such a project, so he wanted to make a personal financial contribution to the Club and have it developed and executed as a Club project. This challenge was accepted.

The final plan included a "grove" of Pine trees on the bank at the street corner (to block the warehouse view), a row of Red Sunset Maples inside the fence parallel to North Pine St. (continuing the "Beautiful North Pine" theme), groups of other large growing trees in the expansive area between the fence and the plant, special Chinese Elms near the office buildings, and Southern Magnolia between the Chinquapin Creek (it is actually a wide ditch at this location) and the plant. Working with the plant engineer, Lester Edge, Webel and



Pittman added an irrigation system to the plan, primarily for the row of Maples. Tom Bartram provided much advice and help on both the design and the selection of a contractor for plant material and planting. Bartram was responsible for adding the large evergreen Hollies on each side of the main entry gate. Other Club members active on the project included Gil Hooper, Darvin Helvy, and Jess Taylor. The total cost was well under the \$15,000 donated by Mr. Montgomery, but he insisted the MGC keep the entire contribution and use the extra on additional community beautification. The Club enthusiastically accepted this gift.

Today, the property is owned by Jimmy Gibbs who has removed all the buildings except the main multi-story and very handsome brick plant structure, which has been beautifully remodeled. When the unsightly warehouse was removed, the Pines were removed (there was no reason to block any of the handsome site), as well as the Elms and the Magnolias. But the row of Red Sunset Maples remains—100% intact—along with most of the groups of sycamore and other trees behind them and Bartram's entry holly shrubs. This landscaping adds a strong element of landscape quality to the section of North Pine Street.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Mr. Montgomery was a strong encourager of the Club over the years. When he died in



The Club's "Montgomery Flag Garden"

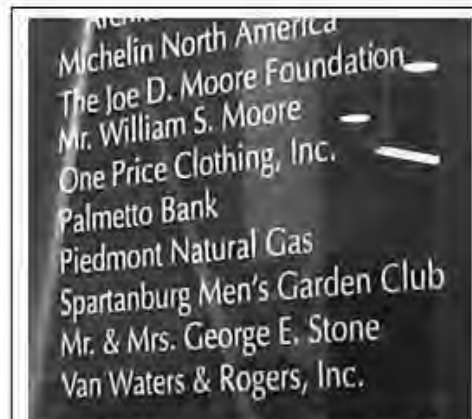
1996, his will included a generous \$10,000 gift to the Club. The next year, Kurt Zimmerli was in the process of providing quality professional landscaping to the new main Spartanburg County Library on South Church Street. The SMGC Board enthusiastically agreed to honor Mr. Montgomery by using his entire gift to create the Flag Garden at the library's front entrance. It was designed with help from the Columbia landscape architect George Betsill who was working with Zimmerli, and it was

planted in November 1997. For many years, the garden was maintained by Club volunteers but later was included in the responsibility of the library's regular grounds maintenance contractor. Known as the "Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Montgomery Flag Garden," it is a major asset to the Library—and the community. The Club is cited for this enhancement on the permanent wall recognitions in the main entry hall of the library. Mr. Montgomery's legacy lives on in so many ways.

6 Hearon Traffic Circle - 1994

It was in 1994 that the Club decided to provide a landscape upgrade to the important north side Hearon Traffic Circle at Asheville Highway and Interstate-85. This highly visible and very active intersection was completely void of plants other than weeds. The simple plan that included some two dozen trees, primarily Sweetgums, Crape Myrtles and Dogwoods, was planted by club volunteers under the leadership of Harold Browning and Henry Pittman, with some assistance from a local garden center owner.

Browning was also the leader in mulching the Hearon Circle trees with multiple loads of wood chips; others active in this were John Fincher and Tom Bartram. Even with the mulching and watering multiple times by the local fire department the first summer, some of the trees died, and follow-up maintenance was neglected. Of the many treescape projects of the Club, this may have been the least successful.



The Club's donation is recognized in the main foyer of the library.

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President's Corner

We are actively working to prepare the container garden for the plant sale on April 2-3. We can use your help weeding, re-potting existing plants and potting up new plants this month. We are also excited to report to the club that we have made our first street tree plantings this year. Two Fringe Trees were planted in front of Wade's Corporate headquarters and 7 Parrotia's near Morningside Baptist Church.

I wish to thank Mary Ann Hipp for writing the Member Musings article for this month's newsletter. I want to discuss our community gardens in Spartanburg. The Men's Garden Club has been responsible for three garden plots in Spartanburg. These are: 1) At the WO Ezell marker on West Main 2) At the entrance to Duncan Park and 3) The Sherrill Garden across the Street from Hillcrest Shopping Center.

Recently I was driving down West Main/WO Ezell Road. I noticed a Spot of Pride Sign that says Men's Garden Club. The sign is in a grassy area with mud in the back ground and recently pruned cedar trees. The WO Ezell monument and plantings are in a triangle shaped area before the Spot of Pride Sign is reached. The location of the sign does not project a good image of the Club.

When driving in town, please take the time to pass by these garden areas. I think you will agree that we need to do some work to make them a source of pride for the Men's Garden Club. Please come to the Monthly Meeting prepared to discuss the community gardens.

Jon Stauffer SMGC Speaker March 15, 2020

"Home Gardening Exemplified"



Our guest speaker this month will be Jon Stauffer, a 1996 graduate of Boiling Springs High School where he met his wife and excelled in sports. He attended Spartanburg Methodist College on a soccer scholarship, but felt led to start a landscape construction company. He learned to design and install beautiful landscapes ranging from irrigation, planting trees and shrubs, hard scapes, garden ponds

and concrete to repairing drainage problems and other gardening issues. In March of 2007, he sold Springs landscaping and began selling commodities full time. November 2011 began a new vision. He and his wife, Michelle, purchased a farm in Pauline and followed their life's dream of working the soil as farmers. Heirloom corn became their focus with two very old varieties - Cox's Prolific (a white variety) and Golden Ticket (a yellow variety) dating back to the early 1800's.

The Stauffers grow, mill and package their corn on their Pauline farm. It is then shipped to consumers all across the United States where it is featured on store shelves and restaurants menus. The Piedmont Club of Spartanburg proudly offers Colonial Milling grits as a featured menu item. Jon's vision led him to be the owner and developer of his ultimate dream - a farm and home for his wife and two sons and a chance to grow and mill the heirloom corn once forgotten.



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

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club – Organized in 1948, where local gardeners – male and female – come together to fellowship, learn and volunteer their talents to make Spartanburg a special place to live.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7PM, except there is no meeting in December. They take place in the Community Room of the Health Sciences Building at Spartanburg Community College.

Future programs for 2021 already scheduled are:

March 15 – “Home Gardening Exemplified” with **Jon Stauffer**, Colonial Milling Co.

April 19 – “Growing Bonsai Plants” speaker will be **Dan O’Neal**

May 17 – “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 21 – “New Plants for Today’s Garden” with **Davis Sanders**, South Pleasantburg Nursery, Greenville

July 19 – “The Fall Garden” with **Phil Abers**, our President

August 16 – “Controlling Unwanted Visitors in Your Garden” with **Drew Jeffers** Clemson Extension Service

September 19 – (Sunday) with annual picnic to TK Family Farm in Rutherfordton, NC

October 18 – “Gardening for Life – Transforming Your Landscape”, **Dr. Patrick McMillian**, virtual presentation

November – Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2022

Be sure to put all of the above dates on your refrigerator or message board!

Check us out, <https://dirtdaubers.org>



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



2021 Litter pickup schedule

- March 13** rain date **Mar 20**
- June 12** rain date **Jun 19**
- Sept. 18** rain date **Sep 25**
- Dec. 4** rain date **Dec 11**

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
 2021 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.



Cornus mas
 (Cornelian
 cherry)



Sanguinaria
 canadensis
 (Bloodroot)



Erythronium
 americanum
 (Dogtooth
 violet,
 Trout lily)



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Gardening & Beautification

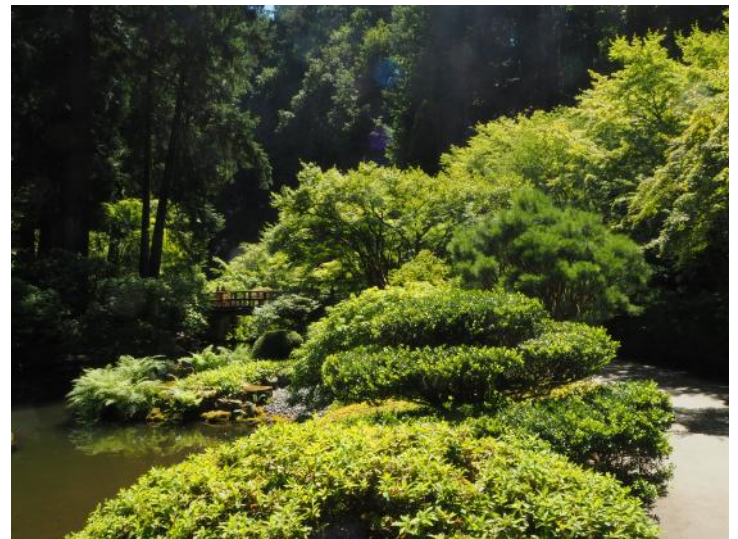
A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

If you are ever in the Portland, Oregon area, make sure to visit Washington Park. Located on a ridge just west of the city, the park includes several distinct areas. The International Rose Test Garden, instituted in 1917 as a safe haven during World War I for hybrid roses grown in Europe, includes many acres and thousands of roses. The scent is almost overwhelming on a sunny midsummer day. One section of the rose garden, known as the Shakespeare garden, was originally intended to include only trees, shrubs, and flowers mentioned in William Shakespeare's plays.

Next, make sure to visit the Portland Japanese Garden, said to be "the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside of Japan." It is spread over 12 acres and includes a Japanese teahouse and a spectacular view of Mt Hood.

Another section of Washington Park is the Hoyt Arboretum encompassing 190 acres, 12 miles of trails, and 2300 species of trees. A leisurely walk through the arboretum to the top of the ridge will bring you to Pittock Mansion overlooking downtown Portland and the distant Cascade mountains. The mansion was built in 1912 by Henry Pittock, owner of The Oregonian newspaper, and his wife Georgiana, and is open to the public today as a house museum. While I'm sure the house is fabulous, I've never made it past the gardens. Since the Portland area is in winter hardiness zone 7, many of the plants in the mansion's gardens can be grown here in South Carolina. I have had all kinds of inspiration just wandering around this garden. One last place to visit in Washington Park is the Oregon Zoo. Besides the obvious attraction of the animals, the zoo has been beautifully landscaped with native plants of the Pacific Northwest and is well labeled. I always try to get to Portland in July or August when it is utterly miserable here in South Carolina. In the City of Roses, warm sunny days are followed by refreshingly cool nights, and humidity and mosquitoes are non-existent.

Member Musing By Mary Ann Hipp



History of the club continues on the following pages.

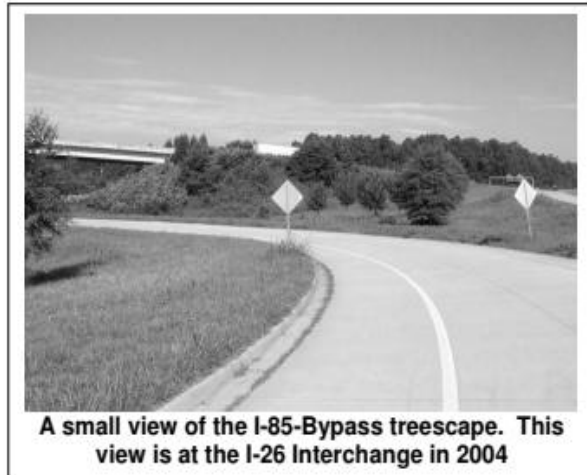
5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

But fortunately, Mr. Milliken and his Noble Tree Foundation adopted Hearon Traffic Circle as a special Spot of Pride in 2000 and completely re-planted it with large, top quality specimen trees, many of which are conifers Mr. Milliken has introduced and promoted to the community. Today this is one of the finest Spots of Pride in Spartanburg and a great enhancement to that busy and important highway intersection.

7 New Interstate-85 Bypass - 1996

In 1994, as this major 13-mile relocation of the highly important Interstate 85 to the north of the city was still under early construction, Bob Almond, Tom Bartram and Henry Pittman began unauthorized (and potentially dangerous) driving of this construction project and realized how important treescaping would be to its beauty and quality and how important such enhancements would be to the entire Spartanburg community. Unfortunately, these Club leaders were late in this realization because Naegele billboards were already—months ahead of highway opening—being installed on the roadsides. Nevertheless, they saw a great opportunity for enhancement and developed a detailed treescape plan.

Pittman obtained a copy of the official design of this new highway from the SCDOT and developed a proposed plan. Consultations with, and sage advice from, Milliken's new horticulturist Stewart Winslow and from Clemson's Jim Aiken gave important encouragement. With Almond's help and after review with the MGC Board—and after months of work including many trips to review and understand the site—the plan was completed. Its *theme* was "Trees, trees, trees, with splashes of fall color." The design consisted of Legacy Sugar Maples and Black Gums, with rows of Willow Oaks and large areas of Loblolly Pine and special view-break rows of Burford Hollies, native Red Cedars, Crape Myrtles and other small trees. More than 1,000 large-growing deciduous trees plus many Pines and smaller varieties were included in the design, quite an ambitious proposal for the Club.



5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

In April, 1995, the Club submitted this plan to Timothy Edwards, SCDOT Landscape Architect in Columbia, for advice. Apparently he and the SCDOT liked the concept. Edwards rather quickly arranged for a \$260,000 funding (probably a federal ISTE grant)

Interstate BEAUTY to Bloom Garden Club planted vision for I-85

By ERIK NEELY

Henry Pittman talks about the state's plans for landscaping the new 1-85 bypass with vision that would be the envy of any presidential candidate.

"We'll have long rows of trees on straight-aways, clusters of foliage at t~ interchanges and native grasses blowing in the breeze," the 68-year-old co-president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club said. "It's going to be very handsome."

In this political season, the Men's Garden Club has shown what impact individuals can make on the government.

The club sold the state Department Transportation on the beautification project, which commits \$360,000 to the 13-mile stretch of highway.

Pittman led the effort, which included drawing up a 27-page project proposal, turning out reams of paperwork, and gaining support from area legislators and state officials.

He said he was "pleasantly surprised" at the DOT's willingness to fund the landscaping plans the club presented.

I'm very proud that the Men's Garden Club saw fit to be the catalyst to bring this about," Pittman said. "There's a tremendous opportunity for individuals and groups to be involved in making Spartanburg a quality community."

The DOT will put more than 6,000 plants to root at the site.

The project, which remains true to the Garden Club's original proposal despite modifications by a professional landscape architect, will focus on low-maintenance native plants and grasses.

This approach is expected to hold down the cost of upkeep and produce stronger plants.

"These plants will virtually take care of themselves," said Tom Bartram, co-president of the club.

Varieties of plants will include crepe myrtle, juniper, broomsedge, red cedar, river birch, hickory, several varieties of oak, red maple, poplar, loblolly, Virginia pine and willow trees.

The project is due to be finished by the end of March.

"I think it's going to add an air of elegance to this thoroughfare that will reflect very favorably on Spartanburg," Pittman said. "In general, it ought to enhance the whole Spartanburg community."

Bartram said he is proud of the role the Garden Club played in this project.

"This is something we worked on for some time and then sold the state on," he said. "If we hadn't been after them, I don't know how much they would have done. We feel pretty good about our role in it."

Published in Spartanburg Herald-Journal 3-5-1996

for the project. Pittman's "amateur plan," however was not qualified for use. A professional firm, Arbor Engineering in Greenville, was contracted by the DOT to authenticate the plan. Arbor assigned the project to Randy Burrows, a registered Landscape Architect, who worked very closely with Pittman over most of the next year.⁴

Burrows' plan was completed in October of 1995 and approved by the DOT and the Club. It maintained the original MGC theme and concept but made changes, all of which were constructive. The Club's group continued to monitor and make suggestions in that it was the catalyst for the project and felt a significant ownership as well as responsibility for its success. Burrows said in a letter that, "It is our goal to bring forward a landscape that will proudly reflect South Carolina's natural heritage." The MGC fully agreed. Randy Burroughs made an excellent detailed presentation at the Club's February meeting, giving details, showing drawings and rendering details of the plan.

Based on competitive bids solicited by the SCDOT,

⁴ A Summary Memorandum on the I-85 Bypass project is in Appendix 18

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the installation contract was awarded to Justice Construction who began planting in early 1996 and completed it in April. Justice did a very professional job of planting and mulching.

Disappointedly but not surprisingly, even the final professional design of Arbor Engineering placed trees too close to a Naegele billboard. As a result, the contractor was required by the SCDOT to move some 47 native Red Cedar trees to maintain the required open view windows of the sign board faces.

As with most SMGC projects, this one received excellent media coverage. The Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* published the story by Erick Neely in March along with two photographs of planting action by the contractor.

While, as expected with only natural irrigation, many of the original 2,270 trees and 3,785 shrubs and the many wildflowers and grasses have not survived, it still is a handsome 13 miles that is a significant quality augmentation to Spartanburg. The interchanges, particularly south at I-26, at the I-85-Business and on the north end toward Charlotte, are heavily planted and are exceptionally attractive. They are consistently well maintained by SCDOT. The Club can be rightfully proud of causing this massive treescape to happen.

8 North Pine Street Extension - 1996, 1997, 1999

In July 1996, the MGC Board approved the proposal to extend its 1986 Red Maple shoulder treescape of US-176 / I-585 called “Beautiful North Pine” from its previous northern point at the I-85 Business intersection (near Milliken Research), to go in front of the campus of the University of South Carolina Spartanburg (now USC Upstate), across the new I-85 Bypass to the intersection with SC-56. With consulting and advice from the SCDOT, and Club and university leaders, Henry Pittman again created a plan that was approved by the DOT and the University. Unfortunately, after all the planting sites had been marked with flags by Club members, the DOT’s grass mowing contractor worked over the area and destroyed all the flags. But they were replaced promptly by Club volunteers.

Approximately 118 trees were planted. All were purchased from grower Roger Phillips in 15- or 20-gallon containers at \$40 each. Again, John Belue was the contract planter at \$12 each. Total cost of the project, including mulch and fertilizer and other materials, was less than \$6,500—a huge bargain for the community. Planting was completed in December 1996 and received good publicity by Linda Conley in the local newspaper.

To continue the Red Sunset Maple theme of the Club’s 1986 “Beautiful North Pine” project on the city end of this highway, 61 of these Red Maple cultivars were used, plus 51 similar, but more hardy, October Glory Maples plus a few Sweetgums. The latter two were used primarily at the interchanges rather than on the shoulders.

April 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



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Bruce Fraedrich

Communications

Darvin Helvy
Publicity@DirtDaubers.org

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Linda McHam
GroupMail@DirtDaubers.org

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:
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President's Corner

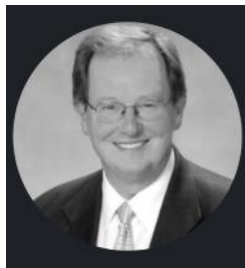
April has arrived with mild weather and a multitude of blooming plants. I am excited to see the first iris blooms of the season. We had a very successful spring garden sale thanks to all who participated in the container garden upkeep and plant sale. A special thanks goes to Mark Carlson, who has done a great job in managing our container garden. We sold so many plants that we are having to work very hard to have enough inventory for the fall plant sale!

Now is a great time to enjoy being outdoors and visiting botanical gardens in our area. In addition to the big botanical gardens, some local gardens may be opened for visitors. See the newsletter item on Betty Montgomery's Garden. Everette Lineberger and I will have our properties open to see the iris bloom on the weekends of April 24 and May 1. Please see more information later in this newsletter. May you all enjoy the wonderful hobby of gardening this spring.

Dan O'Neal

SMGC Speaker

April 19, 2020



"Growing Bonsai Plants"

Dan O'Neal, a member of our Garden Club, will be making the April presentation entitled "The Art and Science of Bonsai." Dan is a Clemson Graduate with a BS and MS in Natural Resource Management. He has worked as an Associate Director for the US

Fish and Wildlife Service and a Senior Director of Ducks Unlimited. Dan has studied Bonsai for 35 years. Among his favorite plants for Bonsai Trees are Japanese Maples, Satzuki Azaleas, Bald Cypress and Beech. Dan currently has about 75 Bonsai Trees.



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



YOU ARE INVITED

Are you ready to take a brief break from dodging the Corona Virus? Do you not think that this year's bloom of spring flowers and flowering trees has been the best in many years? Do you want to see more not far from where you live?

If you answered "yes" to at least two of these questions, we have an invitation for you!

We regretted that our American Iris Society Region 5 meeting couldn't be held the last year, or at least be postponed to this year. Our irises here in the Spartanburg area are probably the best we have ever had. It would be such a shame to have no one come to see them, including our neighbors from the Spartanburg area.

Therefore we, The Abers and The Linebergers, are hereby inviting you to tour our two gardens on either of two weekends: April 24th & 25th and May 1st & 2nd. Our two homes are less than 4 miles apart outside Inman, SC. The Abers are at 450 Gowan Road, just off Highway 176 N. The Lineberger's are at 2460 Compton Bridge Road, three miles from Inman.

Now, would you believe, between the two home gardens we have more than 550 clumps of irises; mostly tall bearded, but including more than 25 Spurias and 50 Louisianas.

We suggest you get some iris friends together and bring a car or two to see what we have. Why not bring a picnic lunch along? We will have tables and chairs available for your use. We will be at our homes from 9-5 on both weekends.

For more information – Call Phil at 864-708-3114 or the Lineberger's at 864-472-3339.



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Photography by Linda McHam

SMGC Plant Sale, Friday morning: cold weather but a great turnout!



2021 Litter pickup schedule

June 12 rain date **Jun 19**

Sept. 18 rain date **Sept 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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.)



MaryAnn Hipp (green t-shirt) helps a customer with a plant selection.

Renew Now
2021 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.

On Saturday, Bob Reynolds and Bruce Fraedrich take some time to move some plants from one gallon pots up to two gallons.





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Gardening & Beautification

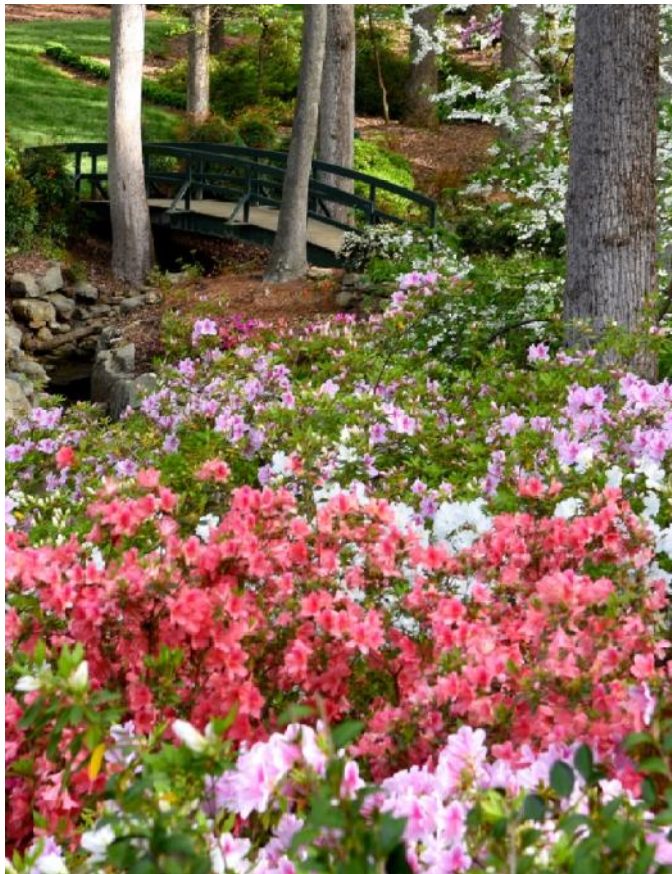
A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Betty Montgomery Garden Tour



If you have not been to Betty Montgomery's Garden you still have the opportunity to visit between 2 -6 PM on April 17. Betty is a distinguished member of our garden club and well known writer of garden articles for the newspaper. Betty has also published books on gardening.

Betty's address is **100 Forty Oaks Farm Road Campobello, SC. 29322**. When you see the white fence on Walnut Hill Church Road, you are about there. It lines her pastures.





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Member Musing By Beth Waddell

Imagine the exasperation of finding your husband and his crew demolishing and excavating almost all of your fifty-five acre home place with dynamite and heavy equipment! In reality, this happened to Jeannette Foster Kennedy Butchart, "Jennie" (1866-1950), who was an avid adventurer. She graduated from Brantford Young Ladies College earning a certificate in chemistry, but did not yet profess to be a gardener. She turned down a scholarship to study art in Paris to follow her heart and marry her true love, Robert Pim Butchart (1856-1943), owner of Portland Cement. Jennie's reaction to the total destruction and devastation of her home place was not typical because she looked past the scarred limestone quarry and war zone-like terrain, and she envisioned a beautiful garden featuring amazingly colorful landscapes, water features, vibrant flowers and trees.

Five years after the land purchase, in 1909, the limestone deposits were exhausted and the gardening dream began to take shape. Jennie had the vision but not the gardening skills, however she had the resources to hire the best landscapers and designers to bring her vision into a reality. Lakes were dug and tons of top soil were brought in by horse and carts. Trees and plants were positioned to be the anchors for the new designs. As Jennie began collecting plants, Robert became interested in birds and nature. The first garden, "The Sunken Garden", was completed in 1921 and guests began to arrive to their home named "Benvenuto" which means "Welcome" in Italian. In 1929, the tennis courts were replaced to become the stately and formal "Italian Garden". The kitchen and vegetable gardens evolved into the stunningly fragrant "Rose Garden." "The Japanese Garden" offered peace and solitude with bamboo, tranquil ponds and moss covered groundcover. "The Mediterranean Garden" offered a window into the tropical life and surroundings of the sunny Mediterranean with palms, banana trees and shockingly colorful blossoms.

Along with these magnificent five gardens, Butchart also featured ponds and fountains, notable statues from artists around the world, a Children's Pavilion, a beautiful carousel containing a menagerie of thirty handcrafted animals, illumination lighting, weekly music festivals and even seasonal firework shows. Crowds have flocked to the garden since its conception over one hundred years ago and it is now listed as a National Historic Site of Canada.

In 1939, Robert and Jennie gifted The Butchart Gardens, an ongoing and ever-changing paradise, to their grandson, Ian Ross (1918-1997) as a gift for his twenty-first birthday. Ian remained involved in the operations and promotions of the garden until his death. The "Ross Fountain" was installed in his honor at the 60th Celebration. The garden now displays over nine hundred flower varieties and one hundred twenty tree varieties including redwoods and majestic conifers. The ownership remains in the family and is now run by the great granddaughter, Robin Lee-Clarke.

The Butchart Gardens are located in Brentwood Bay, just outside of Victoria on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. If this essay has aroused your attention as Ben and I were drawn, there are easy steps in which you can visit. You can drive for many days to reach your destination or you can travel to GSP and reach the area in approximately four or five hours on a plane. Even easier and cheaper, google the world-renowned Butchart Gardens and salivate for hours at the unforgettable landscapes and historical pictures as you see the history of the garden unfold. It is much easier than demolishing and excavating your own backyard!

History of the club continues on the following pages.

The project was fully financed by the Club. The new president, George Gunter, emphasized that these funds came from the Club's annual plant sales—primarily plants grown by members from purchased seedlings.

Planters beautify gateway to city

By LINDA CONLEY

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club recently completed a beautification effort to plant more than 100 trees along Highway 176 at the entrance to the city

The club planted 118 trees along the highway from its intersection with I-85 Business, in front of the University of South Carolina—Spartanburg, beyond the Valley Falls Road interchange across the new I-85 to Highway 56.

Red maple cultivars called "Red Sunset" and "October Glory" were planted during the project, which started in mid-November.

"These plantings will enhance what is probably the main and finest gateway into Spartanburg and will improve the image of the community to visitors coming from I-26 as well as I-85 north and south," club member Henry Pittman said in a written news release. "This gateway route includes such star attractions as USCS, Milliken, Panthers training facilities at Wofford College and Converse College."

Pittman, chairman of the club's planning committee, said the project is one of several the club has organized in the area. It planted maples along North Pine Street in 1986 and conducted a similar project in honor of the 1976 Bicentennial. City officials believe the club's work will enhance their efforts to improve the appearance along the city's entranceway.

"Over the years, the Men's Garden Club has done a lot of things to beautify the city," said City Manager Roy Lane. "As the city gets further into its project to improve the city's entranceway, we will work with the garden club to coordinate our efforts."

George Gunter, newly elected president of the garden club, said the group raises money for the beautification initiatives by selling plants grown by club members.

The club organizes a fall and spring sale at its nursery at the Hatcher Horticulture Gardens.

"We don't like to say how much money we raise for these projects because numbers are not the issue," Gunter said. "We feel the work is so important."

The garden club, which has almost 100 members, was organized in the late 1940s by several community leaders. Members meet monthly to address topics on gardening, landscaping and community beautification.

Published by the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* on December 4, 1996

This project continued to receive attention from the Club. Five replacement October Glory Maples were approved by the Board for planting in early 1997.

In 1998, considerable damage was done by the DOT grass cutters, this time, to these two-year-old trees. As a partial solution, plastic collars were attached to each tree by Club members Val Wilson and Tom Fridy. Co Irwin contributed the material and Jess Taylor cut the collars. These collars serve two purposes—they protect the base of the trunk physically, and they serve as a visible marker that these are special landscape plants of value. In late 1999, the Club had excess county-approved funds from its US-176 at I-26 project and they were used to replace 10 October Glory Red Maples which had been lost at the SC-56 intersection.

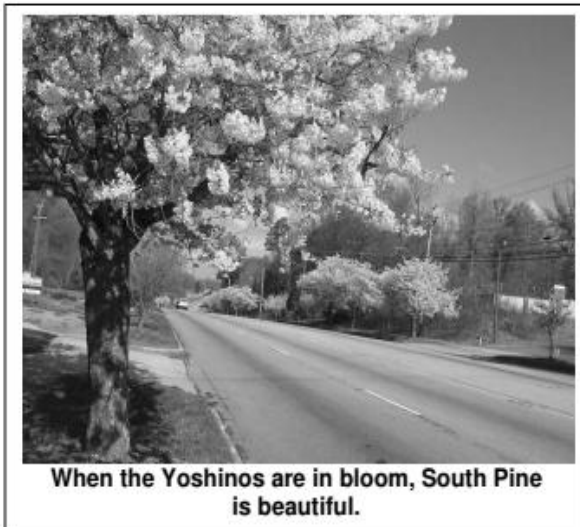
As an example of how good planning is necessary but sometimes not sufficient, in 2003 the SCDOT began a project of not only widening this highway but re-designing the interchanges to bring this section of US-176 up to interstate standards (to become

"I-585") out to the new I-85 Bypass. This resulted in essentially all of the Club's 1996 trees being "in the way." The MGC Board approved asking USC Spartanburg (now, Upstate) to move and use the trees before they were destroyed. Fortunately, Bruce Suddeth, the university's landscape horticulturist, was able to move most of them and effectively

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

incorporate them into the university's landscape plan. He recently reported, "Yes, they all survived and are an important part of our new and growing campus arboretum."

9 South Pine Street, Yoshino Cherries - 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004



While it is not clear who planted the original Yoshino Cherry trees on the shoulders of South Pine Street (from Sunset Drive south to Country Club Road), it was probably a city project, perhaps in the 1970s or '80s with the encouragement of W. O. Ezell or Harold Hatcher—and the SMGC. In November, 1997, when George Gunter was club president, he, Co Irwin and Henry Pittman had a beautification review meeting with City Manager Roy Lane. The group discussed many items: community beautification including a 5-year master plan for major entry highways,

City clean-up of the shoulders on North Pine Street, and ways for the MGC to work cooperatively with the city. More specifically, discussions zeroed in on re-furbishing the existing row of Yoshino Cherry trees on South Pine (which also contained a few Dogwoods) as an ideal project on which the Club and the city could cooperate. It was agreed that if the MGC organized and managed the project, the City would pay for it. The MGC members were impressed with Roy Lane's enthusiasm and were greatly pleased with his understanding of the value of trees as an integral part of community beautification.

Pittman developed an on-site evaluation and tree count, and a preliminary CAD drawing of the street with all the existing plants located. Lyn Savor (Murajda) and Hollis Taylor were consulted as active members of the Club's tree committee and gave enthusiastic support, as did President Gunter.

The Club sought advice from Dr. Mike Dirr, an active horticultural consultant to Mr. Milliken and nationally known tree expert. He gave great encouragement on the value of the Yoshino Cherry. Replacement and additions of these great spring blooming trees that are so popular in Washington became an obvious objective.

City Engineer Mike Garrett updated the original plan to a more professional format, and he and Pittman drove to Columbia and reviewed it personally with SCDOT's head landscape architect, Timothy Edwards. Edwards offered valuable suggestions (primarily set-back requirements) and approved the plan. Garrett updated the plan and executed the required SCDOT "Encroachment Permit" for the city in December 1997. The permit was approved in January, and the SMGC Board approved the project.

Leaders at South Pine Street's Draper-Textmaco complex were very positive on the program. They arranged for clearing of shoulders and banks adjacent to their property, and agreed to finance and plant the trees to be located on their property at their side entrance.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Quality but low-cost 15-gallon Yoshinos (6 to 7 feet tall) were again bought from local nurseryman Roger Phillips at \$40 each and arrangements were again made for the planting to be done by former Milliken employee John Belue at \$12 each. Taylor and Pittman staked the plant locations and planting began in January, 1998 and was completed in February. The total cost to the city, including mulch and fertilizer for the 120 new Yoshino Cherry trees at \$60, each was \$7,200—a huge bargain! Also, 12 Yoshinos were billed to the Draper- Texmaco property owners for their planting. The city and property owners were pleased with the extended planting, and the Club felt a great contribution had been made to community beautification.

South Pine Street Replacements and Expanding. In 2002, as plans were being developed for treescaping the five miles of US-221 south of the city (South Church Street extension), Newt Hardie, active club member and recently retired Milliken executive, was continuing his voluntary tending of the South Pine Yoshino Cherries. At the same time, he was continuing his two-year fight of Kudzu that was attacking them on that important southern entryway into Spartanburg. He began emphasizing to the Club that the treescape project needed further improvements including replacement of a number of dead cherry trees and filling in of open spots. His enthusiasm was contagious, so he and Pittman developed a replacement plan and presented it to the city and the MGC Board. The Board approved the project, city engineer Mike Garrett procured city agreement to reimburse the Club's out-of-pocket costs and City Landscape Manager Douglas Jones began removal of dead trees and other preparatory work.

Hardie and other Club volunteers marked the planting sites, 15-gallon trees were again purchased from Roger Phillips at \$55 each and arrangements were made for John Belue to plant them. Planting was initiated in late 2002 and completed in early 2003. The city paid the entire bill of some \$2,500.

The April 2003 "Gardening and Beautification" newsletter had this report on Street Tree Maintenance:

Street Tree Maintenance: Thanks to member Newt Hardie, all the Yoshino Cherry trees on S. Pine have been fertilized and given needed light pruning. Cooperatively with the City, he and his team arranged replanting of some 40 of these trees during the winter. When in bloom last month, they provided superb beauty to this important Spartanburg entryway.

And similar member teams are working on other of our plantings, i.e. the Willow Oaks and Crape Myrtles on E. Main, the Red Sunset Maples on N. Pine and the Kousa Dogwoods and Maples on Drayton Rd. Thanks for all this enhancement.

And in early 2004, Hardie took the initiative in replacing three additional Yoshinos on South Pine. Tom Bartram included this informative item in the club's April, 2004 newsletter:

South Pine Street Activities: You should take a drive along South Pine to see the results of considerable effort — particularly the Yoshino Cherries and dogwood. The Club team headed by Newt Hardie which included Dottie Broyles, Susan McDowell, Linda McHam, Mort Sams, Martha Smith, and Bill Wilson picked up trash, fertilized, pulled mulch away from the "volcano" mounds, and pruned during several strong work

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

days. One of the big lessons learned is that mounds of mulch five to ten inches high invite unhealthy roots from the tree to grow into the mulch. We understand that Mort was awarded a purple heart by the team for a bloody thumb acquired within five minutes of starting work.”

It was during one of these street work sessions that Mort Sams and Martha Smith got to know each other. They later fell in love and got married! Also, it was during this time that Hardie’s battle with kudzu resulted in creation of the Kudzu Coalition.⁵

During the summer of 2004, Hardie sought advice from Milliken Horticulturist Stewart Winslow and others on long-range plans for this South Pine Street treescape. In that a small percentage of Okame Cherries and White Dogwood were included among the Yoshinos, the obvious question arose on the necessity of “purity” of the planting. Knowing that “monoculture tree plantings” are discouraged by many experts, a survey of Club members on the long-term planting plan produced varied opinions, with a surprising percentage suggesting “Option C—an equal distribution of the three varieties.”

However in late 2009, when Hardie, Charlie Crescenzi (the Club’s tree committee chair) and Ed Wilde (its president) began consultation with the City on replacements of the oldest and weakest Yoshinos, it was decided that the spectacular beauty of the Yoshino Cherries in spring over-rides monoculture concerns! The City agreed and removed the old trees and their root systems, and 13 Yoshino Cherry and two Hybrid Dogwood replacements were planted, fertilized and mulched by David Settle Landscape Design for \$270. The trees were contributed from the Club’s container nursery and cost approximately \$150. So another low cost enhancement was conducted cooperatively with the City.

Additional replacements will be needed to maintain this important treescape. Indeed, there is no street in Spartanburg as beautiful as South Pine in the spring when these cherry trees are in bloom!

10 Drayton Road-Isom Street - 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001

The important short-cut between East Main Street and North Pine Street, Drayton Road and Isom Street, was re-constructed by the SCDOT into a five-lane highway and with a new bridge over the Southern Railroad near Skylyn Drive in 1997.⁶ As this work was nearing completion, it became evident that it was a great candidate for tree beautification. Based on SCDOT drawings, Pittman created a CAD design of a proposed shoulder treescape for the Club.

⁵ Chapter 11 The Kudzu Coalition covers this development in detail.

⁶ This widened shortcut has multiple names. It is Drayton Road from East Main St.to Boundary Road and is Isom Street from Boundary Road to North Pine St. (Earlier, the section between Lawsons Fork Creek near Drayton Mill to Boundary Road was officially identified as North Liberty Street)

May 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



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President's Corner

Have you been to the SMGC Container Garden recently? If not, please come by and see what your Garden Club Nursery looks like. You will see by the lack of plants how successful our spring plant sale was. We have purchased some plants from wholesale nurseries and have potted them for future plant sales. We will order more plants to help restock the nursery.

You may be able to help us with some plants from home. One Spartanburg homeowner emailed us asking if we needed any canna lilies. We will be potting her canna lilies shortly to prepare for the fall sale. Do you have plants that can be dug or separated for replanting? Please consider donating some good quality plants to the Container Garden. I plan to dig some re-blooming day lilies for the Container Garden. Do you have an interesting plant that can be sold? Let's fill up the container garden for the fall plant sale!

Leslie Rodgers

SMGC Speaker

May 17, 2021



"Making Good Soil"

Leslie is Education Director and Compost House Coordinator at Spartanburg-based Atlas Organics. The program is about recycling organic material in the Spartanburg-Greenville area.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

Creekside Garden & Nursery
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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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.



2021 Litter pickup schedule

June 12 rain date **Jun 19**

Sept. 18 rain date **Sep 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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 2021 Membership

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Photography by Linda McHam



The "sputnik" azalea: a native azalea from Beasley Nursery in Lavonia, GA.



Clematis 'Niobe'



Rosa 'Graham Thomas'



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Street Tree Purchase

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Persian Iron Wood, Parrotia



Oklahoma Red Bud



Tokyo Tower Fringe Tree



Kousa Dogwood



Murshino Zelcova

Would you like to help us with the Street Tree Project? A \$100 donation will allow us to plant one street tree. If \$100 is too much to ask a smaller donation will still help. While we are sourcing these trees from high quality nurseries, there is a small chance that an individual tree may not perform well. However, be reassured that the tree species being chosen should thrive in this area. Let's keep Spartanburg beautiful!



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Member Musing By Will Hawkins

May is one of my favorite months. The uncertain weather of early spring is a thing of the past, but the summer heat isn't here yet either. Days are long, trees and grass are green and flowers are blooming. What could be a better time to get reacquainted with the garden and what could be a better time to go to the beach. My family and I used to take annual beach vacations to Edisto Island each May. While there we discovered Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area.



Botany Bay Plantation began as Sea Cloud and Bleak Hall plantations or 2 separate entities. Both plantations grew Sea Island Cotton which was some of the finest cotton in the world. Both plantations endured and survived the Civil War. Cotton was grown there until 1917 until the boll weevil put an end to its production.

In the early 1930s, the 2 plantations merged to form one after the purchase by Dr. James Greenway. Botany Bay was purchased by John Meyer who bequeathed it to the state under the stipulation that it would remain home to his wife Margaret and that is what happened. She died in 2007 and in 2008 it became Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve/Wildlife Management Area. It is now managed by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



Botany Bay is covered with Spanish moss draped live oaks, pine needle cushioned trails and untouched beaches. The beach is accessible with a shell packed trail through marsh and a maritime forest. You will see plenty of beach wildlife on the hike and on the beach. The beach is sometimes referred as "Boneyard Beach" due to the fallen trees-whitened by the sun-that rest in the sand and weather-worn trees in the weather. The untouched beach shows fine nature like sun bleached white sand, sea creatures & seashells and awesome views.

Visitors can also expect to see crops of sunflowers, pine trees, palm trees, sea oats, wildflowers, and century-old live oaks as well as many animals. If you make it to the lower state, make sure you check out this awesome historic plantation!

History of the club continues on the following pages.

As the Club's South Pine Street Yoshino Cherry planting project was being completed in early 1998, the City was contacted through its head engineer, Mike Garrett, about another cooperative program—on the portion of the road within city limits, i.e. from E. Main Street north to Skylyn Drive.⁷

Garrett and City Manager Roy Lane gave their enthusiastic approval to a cooperative plan involving treescaping this portion of Drayton Road with the Club committee managing

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

**Men's Garden Club/Spartanburg County
1998 Cooperative Treescape Project
on
Drayton Road - Isom Street
and
Proposal For A 1999 Cooperative Project**

1998 Summary—

We in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club hope that County Council is as pleased as we are with the results of our 1998 "cooperative" tree planting project on Drayton Road-Isom Street.

Last fall we proposed we would do all the work if the county reimbursed us for our actual out-of-pocket expenses; we estimated this would be less than \$20,000 for the county's section from North Pine Street to Skylyn Drive (the City financed the section from Skylyn to E. Main). The actual total cost to Spartanburg County was \$12,234 (\$7,766 under budget) for an average cost of \$56 per tree; this included layout design, management, planting, mulching, fertilizing, etc.—a real bargain for our County.

1999 Proposal—

We suggest that this type cooperative program continue in 1999 and have asked that you make \$20,000 available. With your approval of the project and the funds, we will seek your advice on an appropriate planting site and begin working toward execution for late next fall. As in 1998, we will work with Mr. Bill Lonon on details of approval and execution.

Henry Pittman, May 26, 1999

the project and the City reimbursing it for all actual costs. Garrett's Encroachment Permit to the SCOT and Pittman's design were approved and the project was ready for implementation in late 1998.

Similar negotiations were begun mid-year with County leaders for their portion of this throughway. A huge number of letters, telephone calls and personal contacts were made by members of MGC Board to encourage County participation. The Club supported the project and Hollis Taylor, Jim Bagwell, and President George Gunter were active participants.

Jack Turner represented the Club as an active member of the local SPATS Road Enhancement Committee and the County gave consideration to seeking a Federal ISTE A grant to finance planting its section of

this throughway. However, it was soon decided that it would be much easier for the County to handle the project directly with the Club's management (as the City had done earlier on South Pine Street) and it began planning for its portion of Drayton Road.

In October, based on County Administrator Roland Windham's recommendation, Spartanburg County Council approved the cooperative project for their section of Drayton Road-Isom Street (the major portion), so the project was ready for implementation. John

⁷ The section of this highway between East Main St. and the Southern RR (near Skylyn Dr.) is in the city. The section adjoining that to Boundary Road intersection is in the County. The section adjoining that to North Pine St. is in the City.

5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Belue was again engaged to do the planting and mulching, and container-grown trees were ordered from Phillips Tree Farm in Campobello.

The initial and primary planting of 285 trees on the Drayton Road-Isom Street Project was completed in May, 1999. The City section included 67 trees (39 Red Maple cultivars—October Glory, Autumn Flame and Red Sunset—24 Kousa Dogwoods and four Shawnee Brave Bald Cypresses) for a total cost to the City of \$3,980.

The County planting included 218 trees (75 Maples, 142 Kousa Dogwoods and one Bald Cypress). The total cost to the County was \$12,234. These totals included tree and other material costs and planting labor. This total was under \$60 per tree, another landscaping bargain.

While a number of communications had been made with adjacent property owners to solicit their cooperation and support, John Woodward made personal contact with all of them in February of 1999 and hand delivered an informational flyer describing the project and not only its beautification value, but also its potential for property value appreciation. The flyer also solicited assistance in watering and maintaining the trees. Taylor and Pittman made a verbal report to County Council in May with the encouraging results, and a suggestion that another joint project be considered.⁸

The "Gardening and Beautification" newsletter of September 1999 reported on the project. "Our trees planted last November-January have been damaged severely by the drought and heat. The Kousa Dogwoods seemed hurt the most, but a number of the Red Maple cultivars have also been lost. This is in spite of multiple waterings by the City of Spartanburg and the Drayton Volunteer Fire Department. And the City also added heavy mulch to all the trees, those in the City and in the



Trees for the future B'NAI ISRAEL: Students observe Jewish Arbor Day at Hebrew school

By Debra g. Lester

Many people don't plant trees properly, 10-year-old Elizabeth Litoff learned Wednesday.

But Elizabeth and her classmates in Hebrew school at Congregation B'Nai Israel now know the correct planting technique and have hands-on experience.

The youngsters, ranging in age from 7 to 12, learned how to properly plant a tree from Henry Pittman, affectionately known as "Mr. Tree" by other members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

"I learned if a tree has roots wrapped around it, it can strangle," said Elizabeth, describing what had happened to at least one of the trees they were replacing.

Jacob Blumenfeld, 10, said he learned how to find the root flare—the widest part of the tree trunk — and how important roots are to a tree's health.

- Continued

⁸ Later this developed into the cooperative landscaping of the US-176 and Interstate-26 interchange in 1999, see details in the next section.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

County. Multiple members have worked at attaching watering bags and watering.”

This emphasizes the good cooperation between City, County, Fire Department and Club. The “watering bags” were the creative idea of a member—35-gallon black plastic garbage bags, tied securely to the trunk, filled with some 20 gallons of water and a small nail hole added at the bottom, allowed slow “drip irrigation” to feed the root ball. Without this device, and the help from the two fire departments, the summer drought would have done much more damage.

Drayton Road-Isom Street Replacements in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002. The hot, dry summers resulted in significant tree loss. Fortunately the Club was able to provide replacements over the years.



The October Glory Maples on the overpass bank have prospered.

In November of 1999, the Club provided funds for John Belue to replace 42 of the trees lost during the first year. He completed the planting, which included 13 Maples, 26 Kousa Dogwoods and three Bald Cypresses in December.

The March, 2001, newsletter reported this Drayton Road activity: “5 October Glory Maples and 5 Kousa Dogwood have been installed in spots where most needed. Let’s

hope for a better season than last year to save what we have.” These were financed by the Club using a \$600 contribution from Duke Power Co. to replace trees killed the previous summer by herbicide treatment at their transmission line area near Boundary Road.

A very special planting occurred on Drayton Road behind Hardee’s in January, 2002 B’Nai Israel Synagogue youth planted three October Glory Maples under the supervision of Jess Taylor and other Club members and adults from the synagogue. This project was covered by a major article and action picture in the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* on January 31. Rabbi Ben Romer was quoted as saying, “It shows our commitment to the community.” Financing of these trees which are located on the north side of Drayton Road was from Harry Price and the Club.

Also during that month, the Club financed replacing another five October Glory Maples and five Kousa Dogwoods on Drayton Road-Isom Street.

The County and the City maintain the shoulders of their sections of this throughway which is far more handsome today as the shoulder trees begin to mature.

June 2021

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President's Corner

We are halfway through the 2021 SMGC year and the year has been very good so far. We have mostly returned to normal after the pandemic. We are starting to do some projects and the general enthusiasm at the club's regular meetings seems to be building.

Highlights so far include a very successful spring plant sale. In fact, it was so successful that we are struggling to rebuild our plant inventory. We are also working toward a master plan for our Street Tree Project. A few trees were planted this past winter to demonstrate how they will enhance the diversity along South Pine Street. We are also making good progress in repairing our shed at the container garden. As we work to develop projects and improve the container garden, we must address another goal for 2021. Please bring a guest to a meeting this year. We need a vibrant membership to allow the club to perform projects, work in the container garden and educate the public. See you and hopefully your guest at the meeting, June 21.

Davis Sanders

SMGC Speaker

June 21, 2021



"New Plants for Today's Garden"

Davis Sanders, our June 2021 speaker, majored in Biology/Education at Presbyterian College. Mr. Sanders currently works at South Pleasantburg Nursery in Greenville, where he provides sales, consultations and design. Mr. Sanders owned and operated Th'Yardman Landscaping part-time since 1988 and full time from 1991-1993 and 2003-2007.

Mr. Sanders is a Master Gardener 1988, and a Certified Nurseryman in South Carolina 1990, Alabama 1992, and North Carolina 1995. He has been a tenor with the Greenville Chorale since 2007. In pre-pandemic times he was a frequent panelist and contributor on the SCETV's program "Making It Grow." His topic is "New Plants for Today's Garden".



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



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Photography by Linda McHam

Hydrangea macrophylla
 'Mariesii Variegata'



Hydrangea macrophylla
 'Queen of Pearls'
 (remains white)

Hydrangeas, hostas,
 boxwood and
 Thuja occidentalis
 'DeGroot's Spire'



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- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club – Organized in 1948, where local gardeners – male and female – come together to fellowship, learn and volunteer their talents to make Spartanburg a special place to live. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7PM, except there is no meeting in December. They take place in the Community Room of the Health Sciences Building at Spartanburg Community College.

Future programs already scheduled are:

June 21 – “New Plants for Today's Garden” with **Davis Sanders**, South Pleasantburg Nursery, Greenville

July 19 – “The Fall Garden” to be given by our own **Phil Abers**, our President

August 16 – “Controlling Unwanted Visitors in Your Garden” Clemson Extension Service

September 19 – Annual Picnic - T.B.A.

October 18 – “Gardening for Life – Transforming Your Landscape”, **Dr. Patrick McMillian**, virtual presentation

November 15 – Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2022

Be sure to put all of the above dates on your refrigerator or message board!

Check us out, <https://dirtdaubers.org>



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Member Musing By Bruce Fraedrich

There is a lot to see and do when visiting New York City: theater, restaurants, museums, parks and landmarks to name a few of the popular venues. However, no trip to NYC is complete without a visit to the High Line. This park is built on abandoned elevated railroad tracks that once transported the majority of life's necessities into the city. By the 1980s, rail traffic gave way to trucks and tracks were no longer used. By 2000, the rusting, unsightly tracks were scheduled for demolition. A group of visionaries stepped up and convinced city officials and private donors to convert the tracks to a park. The first section opened to the public in 2009 and today the High Line is one of the most popular attractions in the city.



This linear park runs 35 blocks (1.5 miles) on the west side of Manhattan (Hudson River side) between Gansevoort Street on the south and 34th street to the North. More than 110,000 plants representing over 500 species of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and grasses are planted in engineered soils beside walkways comprised of many different materials. Portions of the old railroad track and track bed were incorporated into the design. Walking two stories above busy streets, you will experience woodland forests, meadows with native wildflowers, grasslands, formal perennial gardens, water features and much more.

The gardens are exceptionally well maintained by a dedicated group of professional horticulturalists and volunteers. Artwork is incorporated into the gardens throughout the park. You may hear impromptu musicians or planned musical events in one of the outdoor venues. On one of my visits, a warm spring afternoon, I stopped to listen to performers from the Metropolitan opera practice for an upcoming event-unforgettable.



The gardens were designed to provide interest in all four seasons but spring through fall is the best time to visit. The High Line is usually open from dawn to dusk, seven days per week but check their website for details before you visit. During busy periods, reservations and timed entry may be required. Unlike most popular venues in NYC, entrance to the High Line is free.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

11 Interchange at US-176 and Interstate-26 - 1999

In 1998, as the Drayton Road-Isom Street project was underway, the Club began thinking of what other area might benefit from treescaping, and how it might be financed. The cooperative working relationship with the County had been not only efficient but also very enjoyable. The MGC Board encouraged the Tree Committee to seek ways to capitalize on this relationship.

The Club sent the following proposal to County Administrator Glen Breed in February, 1999, with copies to County Council Chair Karen Floyd and Planning Director Bill Lonon.

TREESCAPING—AFTER DRAYTON ROAD, WHERE?

The 1998 cooperative tree-planting project of the County and the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club on Isom Street / Drayton Road is almost complete. There are a few more trees to be purchased and planted; we hope to complete the project and submit the final invoice for our actual out-of-pocket costs within a few weeks. Thanks for the prompt payment of the first (partial) invoice. The total cost will be well under the approved \$20,000.

As we discussed a few days ago, and as we had said to County Council when this 1998 project was approved last year, the MGC looks forward to continuing this type of cooperative street and highway treescape program with Spartanburg County. We believe it is a way for the County to get a genuine bargain in a quality tree planting program, and it allows the MGC to continue its history of street landscaping—a win-win for all.

So, if the County is pleased with the results of the Isom Street / Drayton Road project, we propose that County Council add a \$20,000 item in its new budget for a similar project for later in 1999. We will look for suitable sites, and request the County to suggest sites; we can make a joint decision on the planting location later this spring or summer. Again, the MGC will—

1. prepare the plan
2. work with the County on getting the plan approved
3. purchase the trees
4. arrange for their planting and mulching
5. manage the project in general
6. invoice the County for only our actual out-of-pocket expenses:
(maximum \$20,000)

Please let us know how you and Council would like to proceed with this proposal. At any time, I will be glad to meet with you or others to ride Isom Street and Drayton Road and evaluate this project, or to review it, or to review the proposed project.

This proposal was approved. Breed reported in early April that the proposed \$20,000 was in the budget for another joint project, yet to be identified. The Club's July, 1999, newsletter included this report.

Thanks to the efforts of Henry Pittman and Hollis Taylor, we have been notified that County Council has approved another tree planting to be financed during the present fiscal year. It's evident that Council approved of the job we did on Drayton Road—and the relative low cost. We need input from our membership as to location of the next effort in the County. The US-176 / I-26 cloverleaf interchange near Inman has been

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

mentioned as well as a stretch of US-221 near Roebuck. Direct your ideas to Jim Bagwell, Henry and Hollis.

This was a very active year for MGC-related treescape projects. The massive pruning on East Main and North Pine, the replacement of Yoshino Cherries on South Pine, and replacement of October Glory Red Maples on N. Pine Extension, plus the multiple tree replacements on Drayton Avenue were all accomplished in 1999.

After this approval of funds by the county and ongoing discussion by the Club's board on the next tree project, the Club decided to accept the US-176 / I-26 challenge. But there was strong feeling that priority should also be given to trees on US-221 south of the city.

A proposed plan was developed by Pittman and Bill Lonon, Director of Planning for the county, who executed the SCDOT Encroachment Permit. The Club again approved purchase of container plants from Phillips and a planting agreement with Belue.

The October "Gardening and Beautification" newsletter reported, "The sizeable plantings to be funded by Spartanburg County at the intersection of 176 and I-26 will begin in early November. Some 130 trees including Pine, Trident Maple, Red Sunset Maple and London Plane Trees are planned."

December 1999 saw the planting of 144 trees. Total cost to the County was approximately \$5,000. The January 2000 newsletter provided more information about the project.

TREE PLANTINGS. Our tree planting program under Henry Pittman was in high gear during November and December. The County financed our planting of 144 new trees at the large intersection of I-26 and US 176 toward Inman: 26 Red Sunset Maple, 19 October Glory Maple, 3 Trident Maple, 37 Willow Oak, 49 Loblolly Pine, 10 Yarrowood London Plane trees. Along Drayton Road between N. Pine and E. Main, 42 replacement trees were installed to update this earlier planting (13 maples, 26 Kousa Dogwood, and 3 Bald Cypress). Also, our Club financed the planting of 10 replacement October Glory Maples at the intersection of routes 176 and 56.

In recent years our Club has been responsible for the planting of over 1500 trees in and around Spartanburg plus the 2,270 trees on the I-85 bypass project.

The completed interchange at US-176 and I-26 is quite handsome. While, as expected, a number of the trees have been lost due to poor irrigation, and some lost due to inadequate opening of the dense root ball of the container plants, most have survived and provide an enhancement to this important entry into Spartanburg from the Asheville area. The SCDOT is maintaining this interchange.

12 SC-295, Southport Road - 2002

As the Club's Drayton Road-Isom Street project was being completed in 1999, the SPATS⁹ Road Enhancement Committee was discussing the SCDOT's plan for five-lane widening of Southport Road (SC-295) between Reidville Road (SC-296) and its intersection with South Church Street Extension (US-221). Both the committee and the DOT project

⁹ The county's "Spartanburg Area Transportation Study" committee. The "Road Enhancement Committee" is actually a sub-committee.

July 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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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:

WebmasterSMGC@Use.StartMail.com

President's Corner

Can you believe that it is time to start planning fall gardening activities? The presentation this month at the regular meeting is "The Fall Garden". Planning is very important for gardening as there is no "instant gratification". Preparing the soil, weeding, ordering plants, watering during dry conditions are among many of the activities that we gardeners undertake to have lovely looking yards.

As with gardening, good planning is the key to success in many of life's endeavors. July is an important time for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (SMGC) to ensure the future success of the club. We will be looking for board members and officers this month, so that we can have an excellent slate of candidates to continue to lead the club into the future. Please consider becoming involved on the SMGC board. Please contact Darvin Helvy, nominating committee chairman, or any of the current board members to express your interest.

Phil Abers

SMGC Speaker

July 19, 2021



"The Fall Garden"

The speaker for the July 2021 regular meeting is our club President, Phil Abers. Phil has been gardening with modest success since owning his first home in 1978 at Garland, TX. After retiring to South Carolina, Phil has spent a good deal of time gardening and working with the community. He became a Master Gardener in 2016. He is an active participant and board member of the Trees Coalition pulling up invasive plants that would make the late Newt Hardie smile. In addition to gardening Phil likes trains and played soccer for many years. Phil's presentation will be about Fall Gardening.



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



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



Echinacea purpurea and white petunias



Arum italicum seed pods

2021 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 18 rain date **Sep 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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.)



Dwarf plumbago

Renew Now 2021 Membership

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Member Musing **By Mark Carlson**

There are 37 gardens in and around Philadelphia. Many of these gardens are less an hour's drive from each other. This makes it easy to visit a number of gardens and still stay in the same hotel. A well-known garden in this area is Longwood Gardens. The property was originally purchased in 1700 by George Pierce, a Quaker farmer, from William Penn's commissioners. Two of George's grandsons had an interest in natural history and started an Arboretum of native and non-native plants that eventually covered 15 acres. By the middle of the 1800s the Arboretum boasted an excellent collection of trees, and the locals enjoyed re-unions and picnics in what became Pierce's Park. In the late 1800s the heirs had little interest in the property and allowed the Arboretum to deteriorate, and eventually sold the property. In 1906 a subsequent owner contracted a lumber company to clear the land. Fortunately, Pier du Pont purchased the farm in July before any of the trees were removed. Initially du Pont's goal was just to save the Arboretum. A few years later du Pont decided to convert the Arboretum into a place where he could entertain his friends and turn the farm into a leading horticultural display garden.

Today the garden has over 1,077 acres. DuPont traveled extensively for business and pleasure. He was able to get ideas from all over the world and it is reflected in the variety of the different garden areas. There are over 40 different garden areas and collections. The gardens include formal, informal, natural, and indoor gardens, woodland areas, and meadows. They have over 12,000 taxa including the plants they have in their conservation and research areas. The current Conservatory is over 4 acres and includes the several areas of lawns.

What is unique about Longwood are the extensive fountains, and the number of different events and educational offerings. They have roughly 300,000 gallons of water circulating through two formal fountains, and water features in many of the gardens. The largest of the two computer controlled fountains covers a couple of acres and has hundreds of nozzles that can throw water 100+ feet into the air to put on quite a show. There are frequent daily performances of the fountains, and they can be accompanied by live music, light shows, and fireworks. Events include many kinds of live music, theater, and horticultural related events. They offer many horticultural related classes. The online classes include plant taxonomy of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vines, and cacti. I was pleased with the online course that I took on taxonomy of trees and shrubs last summer.

Longwood has an extensive endowment as a result of being a project of Pier du Pont. They are constantly in the process of rebuilding different gardens in creating brand-new gardens. The current project is called "Longwood Reimagined". They are totally changing 17 acres of the garden. Longwood has created a number of different videos available on YouTube that are quite interesting. Visitors are not allowed to bring food into the garden. The food offerings available are expensive.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

SPARTANBURG AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ROAD ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

366 North Church Street, Suite 700
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29303

TO: Property Owners on Southport Road **DATE:** March 14, 2000
FROM: Spartanburg Area Transportation Study (SPATS) Road
Enhancement Committee
SUBJECT: "Beautiful Southport Road" Treescape Project

As part of the widening project for Southport Road (Reidville Road to US-221), a plan of planting trees in the South Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-way is being prepared.

We believe this treescape plan will enhance the appearance of this highway corridor and generally strengthen the appeal of businesses in the area. Trees are great for the environment—they provide shade and moderate temperatures, absorb carbon dioxide, create oxygen, trap dust, block sound, etc.—they add aesthetic value to any community.

We invite you—and encourage you—to attend a brief meeting to review and comment on these landscape plans which will be available for viewing at the meeting.

Where: Woodland Heights Elementary School
When: Tuesday, March 21, 2000
Time: Anytime between 4:00 and 6:00 PM
Who: All property owners on Southport Road (SC-295) from Reidville Road to US-221

This proposed landscape plan is endorsed and encouraged by many groups in Spartanburg including the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the Spartanburg Pride Task Force, Trees Spartanburg, SPATS, the SPATS Enhancement Committee and others.

Your support of this project is most important.

Financing will come from Federal funds (80%) and Spartanburg County funds (20%). We are **not** asking for contributions. But it is important to have the enthusiastic support from you who own adjacent property on what we believe will become "Beautiful Southport Road".

If you have an opportunity before the meeting, take a new look at the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club's Willow Oaks on East Main St, particularly from Hillcrest to Zion Hill Rd; these are on the proposed 100-foot centers. And look at their new small-growing Kousa Dogwoods on Drayton Road; they are on the proposed 50-foot centers.

The final project plan consisted of 122 large-growing trees (Willow Oak, October Glory Red Maple, Chinese Elm, London Planetree and Loblolly Pine) and 211 small-growing trees (Natchez, Tuskegee and Osage Crape Myrtle, Kousa Dogwood and Yoshino Cherry).

The contract was awarded to Eagle Construction Company and the sub-contract for treescaping to Rod Wall, owner of Greenway Articulates Landscape of Greenwood. Planting began on schedule in late fall 2002 and was completed in December. Unfortunately, Wall was not aware of the requirements of the landscape specifications in the contract; this resulted in an awkward and somewhat difficult situation for Pittman, the volunteer manager. The project was successfully completed through the good management of DOT engineers

5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Dennis Garber and Jeff Jordan, and advice and council of the County's Jim D'Amato and with much consultation and advice from Club members.

In addition to the many shoulder trees, the clover leaf interchange at US-221 was landscaped, as well as a special circular planting of Kousa Dogwood was added above the interchange adjacent to the Dunbar Mortuary property. Because of many necessary on-the-spot modifications to the plan, extra trees were available. They were planted on the shoulders south of US-221; this extended the treescape some thousand feet. This project's landscaping of all four quadrants of the interchange at SC-295 and US-221 was further enhanced by Phase II of the Club's US-221 treescape project which followed in 2004. As required, the sub-contractor replaced a number of dead trees in late 2003 and early 2004. While DOT maintenance allowed a few of the shoulder trees to become weed infested, most of the trees survived and are maturing. This treescape is a great improvement to this important community highway and should result in appreciation of adjacent property.

13 US-221 Phase I - 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 Medians and Shoulders on South Church Street Extension

The Club's Board of Directors began discussing—and encouraging—the treescaping of US-221 south of the city in 1999, but the Club's projects on Drayton Road and Isom Street, on the interchange at US-176 and I-26 and on SC-295, took precedence. But in 2001, with strong support and help from fellow club members Hollis Taylor, Lyn Enderby and Bob Almond and important input from Jim D'Amato, Bill Lonon and Chris Story of Spartanburg County, Henry Pittman began consultations with SCDOT's landscape architect Timothy Edwards.

While the plan was slow in developing due to the other street treescaping projects, Pittman began to pull it together and his most massive and detailed plan was completed in early 2002. The CAD plan covered the five miles of US-221 from the intersection with SC-295 (Southport Road) southward past the new Dorman High School to the large interchange at Interstate-26 toward Columbia. This plan, which was later identified as Phase I, included some 400 trees—medium-growing Crape Myrtles for the medians, and small and large-growing trees for the shoulders. The initial plan did not include landscaping the two interchanges. As with other MGC tree projects, to minimize costs while providing the good aesthetics of a landscaped highway, all trees were planned to be planted on long, 100-foot centers.

Funding was discussed multiple times at MGC board meetings. The Club decided to apply for its first federal grant. The local county SPATS Committee that is responsible for advice to the SCDOT on highway planning has a sub-committee (the SPATS Road Enhancement Committee) involved with highway beautification and similar matters. This sub-committee was the primary approval group for Spartanburg's portion of the SC's TEA-21 funds from Washington. With assistance from other members, Pittman submitted a detailed application and preliminary plan for the estimated \$100,000 project, and it was approved.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

However, SPATS, SCDOT and TEA-21 rules require three critical commitments—1) that for 80% of the total funds to be approved, the remaining 20% must be provided locally, 2) that the project be approved and officially sponsored by a “local government entity,” and 3) that the local sponsor agrees to provide ongoing maintenance of the project. A proposal to Spartanburg County Council resulted in the County’s agreeing to be the official sponsor. However, the County would not provide the required 20% match and would not take on-going maintenance responsibility. So, there were two big hurdles to overcome. Almond joined Pittman in approaching the local community group, Roebuck Improvement Association (RIA) which represented the neighborhood adjacent to much of the highway, in supporting the plan. Alvin McAbee, owner of the Roebuck Greenhouse, came forward with the first encouragement and then Mark West, president of the RIA, and up-coming president Kelly Banks, manager of Arthur State Bank located in Roebuck, joined in.

After much discussion and consultation, the MGC Board agreed to provide \$5,000 toward the required match, and the RIA agreed to provide the remaining \$15,000. So that hurdle was accomplished.

The maintenance requirement was a significant problem. The DOT stood strong that there must be a clear agreement for local ongoing maintenance and responsibility for the trees. The argument and proposal was (with support from many City, County and State officials and friends of beautification) that the MGC, the RIA and County were providing a great service to the SCDOT in improving this five mile section of *their* highway with absolutely no cost to the DOT. The DOT should, therefore, welcome the opportunity to accept ongoing maintenance responsibility.

After weeks of discussion and pushing, a “tide-turning” meeting with many local and state leaders¹⁰ was held at Dorman High School on the 17th of September, 2002. This resulted in a special visit two weeks later by Jim Feda, SCDOT Director of Maintenance from Columbia, along with his colleagues Fred Fleming, Jeff Zittle and Steve Weathers. Feda agreed that the ongoing tree maintenance, grass cutting, etc. would be provided by the DOT.¹¹ This saved the project!



¹⁰ Local and state leaders at this meeting included: Sen. Jim Ritchie and Glen Breed (County), Bobby Welborn (City), Daryl Owings (Dorman High School), and Vivian Patterson, Timothy Edwards, Steve Weathers and Fred Fleming (SCDOT), Kelly Banks and Mark West (RIA), and Bob Almond, Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman (SMGC).

¹¹ See a copy of the confirming memo to Fieda and his Email agreement in the Appendix 23.

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Proposed Resolutions

Articles of Incorporation (Board and Members)-

WHEREAS, Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation (a 501(c)3 corporation)"; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article 6(b) shall read as follows:

"Upon dissolution of the corporation, consistent with law, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be distributed to: the Spartanburg Community College Foundation."

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Articles of Amendment consistent with the foregoing be prepared, executed and filed with the South Carolina Secretary of State by the President of the Club.

Bylaws (Board and Members)-

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation"; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article XII shall read as follows:

"The Board, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, may recommend that the Club be dissolved. Such recommendation shall be submitted in writing to all members and voted upon at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at this special meeting shall result in the dissolution of the Club. After all financial obligations have been paid, the remaining assets shall then be transferred to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Corporation, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund. "

August 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Vice President Everette Lineberger
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Treasurer Mary Ann Hipp

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

Communications

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org
Phil Abers
President@DirtDaubers.org
Mark Carlson
PlantSales@DirtDaubers.org

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President's Corner

Have you planned your fall garden activities yet? What kind of bulbs will you be planting? I plan to plant some vegetable seed this week. Irises have been dug and will be replanted soon. As we continually are planning our garden activities, so we are preparing the Men's Garden Club for our future.

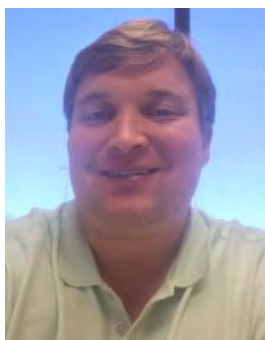
Thanks to Nominating Committee lead by Darvin Helvy, we have a good candidate slate for the year 2022. If you have interest, there is still time to become a board as we do not vote until October.

Please remember the fall plant sale is October 1 and 2. Come on out and volunteer for that event. By then we will have completed the painting of both sheds and have new signs identifying the SMGC Container Garden. Please invite friends, family and strangers to come to the plant sale. We hope to have another good sale, just like our spring sale. Be sure to remind folks you invite that fall is the best time for planting trees and shrubs.

Drew Jeffers

SMGC Speaker

August 16, 2021



"Controlling Unwanted Visitors in Your Garden"

Drew Jeffers has been the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service agent for Spartanburg County since the summer of 2016. Drew has been associated with gardening since he was a child as his grandparents were farmers in Eastern Tennessee. He majored in plants and landscaping at the University of Tennessee. After graduation Drew considered his options and decided to obtain a Master's Degree.

Drew has worked at a commercial greenhouse as a production manager for a bonsai nursery and grower for Van Wingerden International. He enjoys helping people when they call the extension office with questions. He likes it even more when he gets feedback.



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



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

2022 Officer/Director Member Candidates

Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Phil Abers
Bruce Fraedrich
Denie Crowder
Mary Ann Hipp

Directors - 1st Year of Term

Linda Savioe
Will Hawkins
Phillip Marchant
Curtis Marshall

Directors - 2nd Year of Term

Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Ben Waddell



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2021 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 18 rain date **Sept 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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 2021 Membership

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

Forms are located at
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and will be available at the next
general meeting.

Bring check or cash & completed
form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Gardening & Beautification

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Photography by Linda McHam



If you are a mushroom "geek", come to the meeting and let us know what these mushrooms are!

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

Creekside Garden & Nursery
Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
Piedmont Farm & Garden
Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
Wofford College



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Street Tree Purchase

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is working to revitalize the trees planted along South Pine St. The Cherry trees are beautiful in the spring for two weeks, but do not have much interest the remainder of the year. Cherry trees are not the best tree to use along a busy street. The Club is interested in adding diversity to the current cherry tree mono-culture. The trees listed below are better adapted to growing along a busy street. They also have multiple seasons of interest with interesting blooms, good fall color and bark that is interesting in the winter after the leaves are down. The thought is to add these new trees as the cherry trees reach the end of their lives. This will obviously take money to purchase new trees. The cost of each tree from purchase to planting is estimated to be about \$100. The trees we are considering include:



Persian Iron Wood, Parrotia



Oklahoma Red Bud



Murshino Zelcova



Tokyo Tower Fringe Tree



Kousa Dogwood

Would you like to help us with the Street Tree Project? A \$100 donation will allow us to plant one street tree. If \$100 is too much to ask a smaller donation will still help. While we are sourcing these trees from high quality nurseries, there is a small chance that an individual tree may not perform well. However, be reassured that the tree species being chosen should thrive in this area. Let's keep Spartanburg beautiful!



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Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

You paid HOW MUCH for that @#%&! Tulip?

Member Musing By Charlie Crescenzi

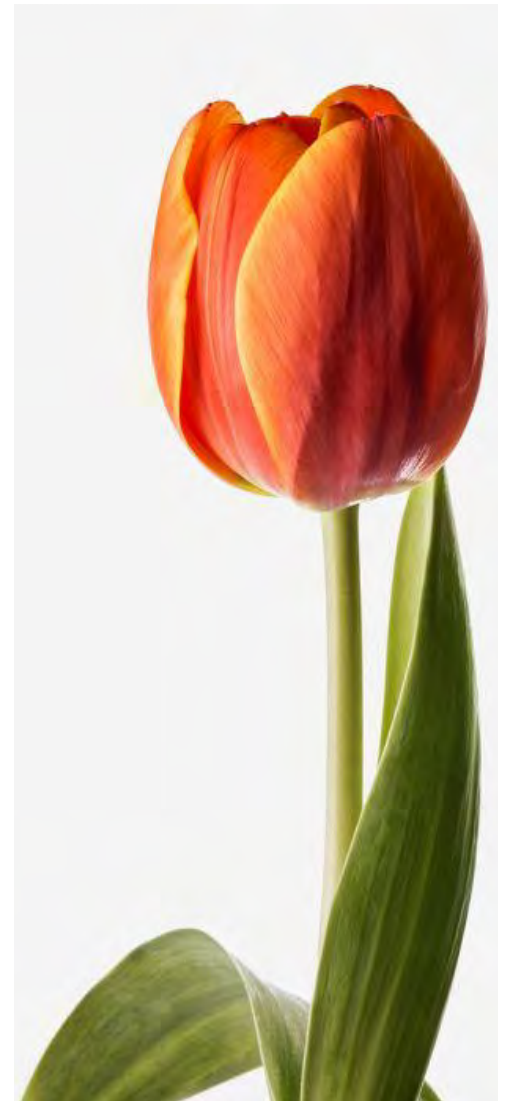
As we all know, gardeners can sometimes get carried away. OK, they OFTEN can get carried away. Nothing gives us a better example of this than the tulip mania that swept Holland in the mid-17th Century.

Tulips had been introduced to Europe by the Dutch in the mid-1500's and soon became popular for their colorful blooms. Multi-colored tulips were especially prized. Holland had a virtual monopoly on the tulip trade and became closely associated with the flower. In fact, Holland and tulips still are a duo.

People and their desire for money were just the same four hundred years ago as they are today and pretty soon some guy wearing a ruffled collar probably said the Dutch equivalent of "greed is good." Since Holland controlled the tulip trade with Turkey, where the tulip originated, the price went up and up and up. Demand was far greater than supply and people really, really wanted them. They became the 17th C. equivalent of Beanie Babies (remember them?)

The bulbs became so prized as an investment that they were sold and re-sold without ever leaving the ground. Stories of how a particularly prized type could bring \$500,000 per bulb in our modern money are exaggerated, but they could fetch as much as \$1,000 per bulb. In the year 1637, the price per bulb increased nearly 400% By now, you may be thinking: "hey, that sounds a lot like" (fill in the blank, as we have a lot of similar crazes going on right now.)

Well, what goes up, must, as the expression states, come down. 1637 saw the peak of the tulip mania, and also the inevitable crash. By the end of the year, prices had fallen to pre-craze levels. Does this mean that former millionaires jumped out of windmills to end it all? No, we would have been in no danger of being bashed by falling wooden shoes. Some people did lose a lot of money but the stories of families being wiped out and millions being lost are mostly based on the writings of Charles Mackay about 200 years later. Mackay never let accuracy stand in the way of a good story. The moral of our story is, tulips are pretty but not THAT pretty. Spend your bitcoins more wisely.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Initially, Dorman High officials had reservations about the plantings on the shoulders of the campus for fear they would conflict with the massive landscape plan they were



Timothy Edwards asked that only Crape Myrtles be planted in the medians. This was a wise choice.

anticipating in cooperation with the Noble Tree Foundation. But this problem was quickly solved when school officials saw and understood the quality and magnitude of the plan; it was fully approved and supported. The rows of shoulder trees in front of Dorman are some of the project's most attractive.

To illuminate how much work was yet to be done, and how many other obstacles were to be disposed of, one by one, Pittman sent the following Email to Glen Breed, County Administrator, on 11-19-02. All of these items were properly disposed of, one by one:

TO: Mr. Glenn Breed **CC:** Kelly Banks, Bob Almond, Jim
FROM: Henry Pittman D'Amato, Don Crowder, Jim Ritchie

A quick summary of the needed actions re treescaping of US-221:

1. Plan approved by SPATS Committee for \$1 00,000—80% Federal, 20% local.
2. Men's Garden Club committed \$5,000 and Roebuck Improvement Assn committed \$15,000 to cover the 20% local match.
3. County Council approved being the "Sponsor" of the project, but without obligation for ongoing maintenance.
4. Jim Feda, SCDOT Dir, of Maintenance, agreed for DOT to continue maintenance after planting. (This was the result of multiple meetings and requests for DOT partnership from many local sources—thanks!)
5. To be done (not sure of the order in which these should be done):
 - a. A number of changes need to be made to the plan re Mr. Feda's request — I will do.
 - b. A review of the plan with US-221 adjacent property owners and update should be held re Mr. Feda's request — Kelly Banks will organize.
 - c. Submit the standard Encroachment Permit to SCDOT noting the maintenance agreement. — You and County (I will help as needed)
 - d. A planting contract needs to be written for the project implementation to begin Nov. 2003 and completed no later than Feb. 2004. — You and the County should do ASAP (I will assist as needed re details.)
 - e. Bids for the contract received and contractor selected — You and the County
 - f. SPATS federal funds clarified as necessary - - You and Jim D'Amato
 - g. Determine if the landscape plan and other local work will serve as "in kind" local contributions — You, etc.
 - h. Advise when the \$20,000 from MGC and Roebuck I. A. should be contributed — You
 - i. Determine how the contract will be monitored and supervised. I assume this will be a proper responsibility of the County. I and MGC members will volunteer assistance as needed. — You and County

Pls advise if this looks like a reasonable plan for action.

The City may provide some assistance on this, but the primary participants are the County, the SCDOT, the MGC and the Roebuck Improvement Assn.

Thanks for all your help and support.

Adjacent property owners were invited via Kelly Banks' Roebuck Improvement Association letter to attend a review and discussion of the plans at a meeting in Roebuck Baptist Church in April. A significant number of people attended and most enthusiastically approved. One-on-one discussions turned the few negatives into positives.

It was not until May, 2003, that the DOT Encroachment Permit submitted by the county's Senior Transportation Planner, Jim D'Amato, was approved by SCDOT's Fred Fleming. And in September, the final and official approval of the federal "TEA-21" grant for the anticipated \$100,000 project was approved by the SCDOT.

So, it was time to start implementation. Again with much help and input from the Club, the County's Eddie Speed developed a contract and submitted it for bids in August. In order to maximize the survival of the trees and minimize the DOT's maintenance responsibility, Don Crowder and Jess Taylor helped modify the contract requirements to include not a one-year, but a three-year warranty and maintenance requirement. This modification specified

watering during the summers, replacing any dead or weak trees along with fertilizing, pruning, and any other necessary maintenance at the end of each of the three years. The idea was to insure healthy, established plants at the end of the three-year contract when maintenance responsibility would be transferred to the SCDOT.

Charles Reid's local and popular landscape firm, Sodfather Inc., was the low bidder and received the contract. His people attended the required pre-bid conference along with county officials Speed and Lisa Bollinger, and Club members Almond, Taylor and Pittman. Sodfather was awarded the contract for \$64,250—considerably lower than anticipated. This left funds for the later planted Phase II, landscaping of the two interchanges, at SC-295 and at I-26.

A very satisfying status review was held with Kelly Banks and other RBI members with Lyn Enderby, Almond, Taylor and Pittman. There was a great feeling that the project was finally ready to be implemented and would be a great asset to the Roebuck Community.



Club members helped stake the planting sites, and planting by the Sodfather group began in late 2003 and was completed early in 2004. The contract listed 367 trees: 50 Willow Oaks, 42 October Glory Red Maples, 33 London Planetrees, 56 Kousa Dogwoods,

5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

47 Oklahoma Redbuds, and 139 Crape Myrtles (Miami, Sioux, Tuskegee, Acoma, Hopi, Zumi and Dynamite Red). As expected, a number of modifications were made in the field and the total may have expanded to near 400 trees.

During over five years of planning and executing, and with dozens of trips to the site and to various meetings, Pittman generally managed the project for the County and the RBI. As expected, many MGC members gave valuable help. Kelly Banks' participation and the encouragement and support of the Roebuck group were essential, as was the ongoing support of Lisa Bollinger of the County's SPATS Planning Committee and of Fred Fleming, Maintenance Manager of the local SCDOT. Charles Reid and his Sodfather crew provided care and replacement over the required three years of the contract.

A dedication ceremony was held under a tent on the road side in front of Arthur State Bank in June. The program is shown below.¹²

**DEDICATION OF THE
US-221 TREESCAPE PROJECT OF 2004**

*A joint project of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the Roebuck
Improvement Association, Spartanburg County and the SCDOT*

June 4, 2004
5:00 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Henry Pittman
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Comments
Kelly Banks
Roebuck Improvement Association

Comments
Lisa Bollinger
Spartanburg County

Comments
Fred Fleming
South Carolina Department of Transportation

Comments
Bob Almond
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Comments
Jim Ritchie
South Carolina Senator

Closing Prayer of Dedication
Fred Thompson
Roebuck Improvement Association

400 trees to enhance this highway, this community and his state

Obviously, this was a joyous occasion for the four sponsors of the project (The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, The Roebuck Improvement Association,

¹² The only documented remarks available from the dedication are those of Pittman. Although it, very properly, didn't express the great frustration in getting the project approved, it is a reasonable summary of the project. It is shown in Appendix 33.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Spartanburg County, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation), and must have been gratifying for the contractor—Charles Reid and his Sodfather managers, Kerry Collins and Eddy Keenan.

A very complimentary letter shortly after the dedication from local residents Allen and Clara Mackenzie said, in part, “We who live in Roebuck and environs owe you and the Club a vote of thanks for making our area more beautiful and humane. Since very little advanced planning is done by county officials, the efforts of private groups have to come forward...We will work to keep this gateway to the city from becoming another with signs....And we will urge the trimmers to not ‘murder’ the crape myrtles!” Indeed, private/public initiatives are important in improving our community.

The Roebuck group has developed two small garden spots along the highway with small, neat signs which state that the highway beautification resulted from the partnership of their Improvement Association and the SMGC.

The survival rate of the shoulder and median trees of this section of US-221—called Phase I—was satisfactory and the result is an attractive five miles of highway beautification. Sodfather replaced multiple trees that failed during the three years of warranty. During the last year of warranty, it was decided to shift some Crape Myrtle replacements from this Phase I to the Phase II project, the two interchanges.

The shoulders and medians of this five mile section of US-221 are maintained by the SCDOT and they will improve in appearance every year as the trees mature. US-221 is a quality throughway of the Roebuck community, a fine Spartanburg entrance/exit and a significant enhancement of a South Carolina highway. The Club is rightfully proud of this project!

14 US-221 Phase II - 2004-2009 Interchanges on South Street Extension at SC-295 and I-26

Since the total cost of treescaping the five miles of medians and shoulders of US-221 called Phase I was considerably lower than the original anticipated \$100,000, the Club seized the opportunity to use the approximately \$29,000 of unexpended funds to landscape the two anchors, i.e. the clover leaf interchanges at each end. On the north end is the SC-295 (Southport Road) Interchange and on the south end the large Interstate-26 Interchange. The former was partially landscaped as part of the 2002 SPATS SC-295 treescape project which the MGC managed. The latter had NOT been landscaped and presented a poor Spartanburg entrance and exit.

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Proposed Resolutions

Articles of Incorporation (Board and Members)-

WHEREAS, Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation (a 501(c)3 corporation)"; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article 6(b) of the Articles of Incorporation of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article 6(b) shall read as follows:

"Upon dissolution of the corporation, consistent with law, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be distributed to: the Spartanburg Community College Foundation."

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Articles of Amendment consistent with the foregoing be prepared, executed and filed with the South Carolina Secretary of State by the President of the Club.

Bylaws (Board and Members)-

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (the "Club") provides that upon dissolution of the Club, the remaining assets of the Club shall be distributed to "The Spartanburg County Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation"; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Board to change the foregoing designation to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, which is also a 501(c)3 organization in compliance with the requirements incumbent on the Club, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund;

NOW THEREFORE, in furtherance of the foregoing, the following resolutions are hereby adopted:

RESOLVED, that Article XII of the Bylaws of the Spartanburg Men's Club be and the same is hereby amended by deleting The Spartanburg County Foundation therefrom and substituting therefore the Spartanburg Community College Foundation so that after amendment, said Article XII shall read as follows:

"The Board, by a two-thirds affirmative vote, may recommend that the Club be dissolved. Such recommendation shall be submitted in writing to all members and voted upon at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at this special meeting shall result in the dissolution of the Club. After all financial obligations have been paid, the remaining assets shall then be transferred to the Spartanburg Community College Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Corporation, said funds to be divided equally between the Jimmy Painter Horticultural Scholarship Fund, the Donald R. Crowder Book Fund, and the Arboretum Fund. "

September 2021

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Vice President	Everette Lineberger
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

Directors

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

Communications

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Phil Abers
President@DirtDaubers.org

Mark Carlson
PlantSales@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

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

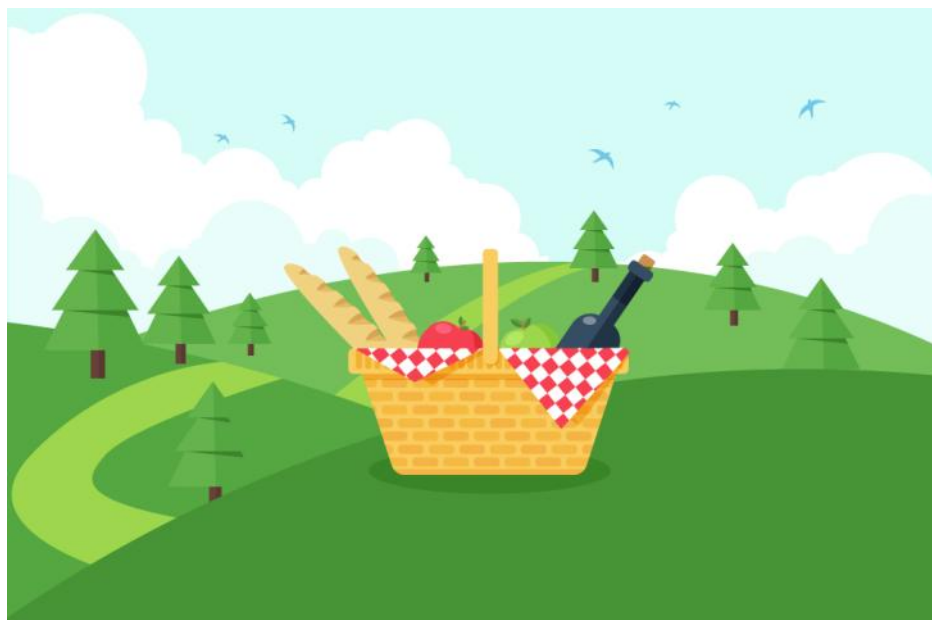
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

We are now less than one month away from our fall plant sale. The plants are looking good, and we will be ready our customers. The grounds will be looking better since we will have both sheds painted before the sale. The two signs that were on the shed are being remade and will proudly announce to the public that the container garden is operated by the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

We have our fall plant sale announcement finished and will send it electronically to all members. Do you have friends, family or acquaintances who need plants? Our fall plant sale is the answer. Please forward our plant sale announcement to everyone you can. Let's have another great plant sale!

We hope to see you at our picnic on Monday, September 20. It will start at 6 PM. The location for the picnic is the Pavilion on the SCC campus, located behind the green houses. Bring your appetite and enjoy the company of your fellow Garden Club Members.



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



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Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

2022 Officer/Director Member Candidates

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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Phil Abers
Bruce Fraedrich
Denie Crowder
Mary Ann Hipp

Directors - 1st Year of Term

Linda Savioe
Will Hawkins
Phillip Marchant
Curtis Marshall

Directors - 2nd Year of Term

Mark Carlson
Charlie Crescenzi
Ben Waddell



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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.



2021 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 18 rain date **Sept 25**

Dec. 4 rain date **Dec 11**

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 2021 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.



Gardening & Beautification

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Photography by Linda McHam



Pomegranate

Hearts-a-Bustin'
 (Euonymus americanus)



Spider Lily
 (Lycoris radiata)

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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Street Tree Purchase

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is working to revitalize the trees planted along South Pine St. The Cherry trees are beautiful in the spring for two weeks, but do not have much interest the remainder of the year. Cherry trees are not the best tree to use along a busy street. The Club is interested in adding diversity to the current cherry tree mono-culture. The trees listed below are better adapted to growing along a busy street. They also have multiple seasons of interest with interesting blooms, good fall color and bark that is interesting in the winter after the leaves are down. The thought is to add these new trees as the cherry trees reach the end of their lives. This will obviously take money to purchase new trees. The cost of each tree from purchase to planting is estimated to be about \$100. The trees we are considering include:



Persian Iron Wood, Parrotia



Oklahoma Red Bud



Murshino Zelcova



Tokyo Tower Fringe Tree



Kousa Dogwood

Would you like to help us with the Street Tree Project? A \$100 donation will allow us to plant one street tree. If \$100 is too much to ask a smaller donation will still help. While we are sourcing these trees from high quality nurseries, there is a small chance that an individual tree may not perform well. However, be reassured that the tree species being chosen should thrive in this area. Let's keep Spartanburg beautiful!



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Gardening & Beautification

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Member Musing

By Jack Turner

Let's go for a walk

Have you ever wondered what to do on an afternoon when you had a couple of hours but did not want to stay inside? During our current pandemic we found ourselves in isolation with no puzzles to work nor books to read with a bad case of "cabin Fever". This disease has one major cure and that is to get outside, to breathe some fresh air and to hear the songs of birds and insects.

We, in Spartanburg, are fortunate to have a number of outdoor facilities and of course the most popular ones are the trails, arboretums and facilities such as Hatcher Gardens. I think the most popular ones are the trails. Some, such as the Rail Trail and the ones in Hatcher Garden, are paved which makes them somewhat all season, plus they are available to persons with walking issues. Others trails, such as the Cottonwood Trail, are dirt or gravel. All of these trails are pet and kid friendly. They are used by a multiple of people from runners to walkers and from birders to botanists. It took many decades for Spartanburg to realize that this type of recreation could be enjoyed by everyone and required a very small investment of time and money.

Government organizations such as the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism have funded many of these trail systems. In Spartanburg we have others that have been built using private funds, such as the Cottonwood trail (SPACE), as well as the system in Hatcher Garden. In all cases these provide an opportunity to put on your walking shoes, go for a walk and enjoy the sight and sounds of the outdoors and breathe "fresh" air.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Henry Pittman quickly developed a preliminary plan for the two interchanges, and both the Club and the Roebuck neighbors were pleased that Spartanburg County agreed to cover the cost of this project extension as a “change order” to its original Phase I contract with Sodfather. Lisa Bollinger and Jim D’Amato were able to obtain approval from the SCDOT for the unused portion of the original TEA-21 funds to be used for Phase II. Sodfather enthusiastically agreed with the basic idea, as did the MGC board, which proposed providing up to an additional \$5,000, if needed. So Phase II was begun in the early fall of 2004.

After much conversation and design plan adjustments, the final plan was completed. It included improvements to the earlier SC-295 Interchange plantings of the 2002 SC-295 “SPATS” project by adding triple Red Cedars on the banks at the bridge (as was done on the I-85 Bypass project) along with Junipers, Abelianas and Love Grass, plus Yoshino Cherries, Crape Myrtles, and Pines in the flat areas, plus mulch spread around all the plants.

The I-26 Interchange had no existing landscaping. The plan for it included the same plants on the banks (triple Red Cedars, Junipers and Spireas) with Maples, Willow Oaks, Kousa Dogwoods, groups of triple evergreen Arborvitae, and mulch. The plans for both interchanges required groupings of trees to be mulched together as large beds to facilitate easy and efficient mowing and maintenance by the SCDOT.

Phase II was not executed efficiently and effectively because, to some degree, of funding questions which arose with the multiple changes in the planting plan, and also because the local DOT maintenance group did not clear the banks of weeds as requested. Unfortunately installation did not get underway until March of 2005. It was only partially

GREEN THUMBS BEAUTIFY HIGHWAY 221

By TERESA KILLIAN, Staff Writer

A willow oak, a Kousa dogwood and about 400 other trees did not grow overnight along Highway 221 near Roebuck—a stretch of highway that leads visitors into Spartanburg from the south.

Four years of planning and fund-raising preceded the extensive landscaping project between I-26 and Highway 295.

On Friday, a dedication ceremony celebrated the project's success through a collaboration of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, Roebuck Improvement Association, Spartanburg County and the state Department of Transportation.

The garden club initially prepared a design with an estimated \$100,000 price tag, said longtime club member Henry Pittman.

They sought sponsorship from Spartanburg County in order to qualify for government grants available for enhancement projects. Spartanburg County agreed to support the project but with the provision that the county not be responsible for 20 percent of the matching funds or ongoing maintenance.

The garden club raised one-fourth of the local match needed through fund-raisers such as plant sales, Pittman said.

The Roebuck Improvement Association contributed about 25 percent, and Roebuck area businesses committed the remaining funds needed within a matter of weeks, said Kelly Banks, past president of the association.

“They saw the value of what we were trying to do,” Banks said of the ease with which he and Jimmie Dunbar of Lanford-Dunbar Funeral Home acquired financial commitments.

The local match, approval from the state transportation department and DOT's agreement to maintain the landscaped highway propelled the project forward.

Charles Reid's Sodfather landscaping company won the bid to do the work.

“Everyone who looks at 221 know~ we are on the verge of exploding development from a residential and business standpoint,” Banks said.

This kind of beautification project sets the tone for what will bloom there, he said. “It should make this a more attractive setting.”

From The Spartanburg Herald-Journal June 5, 2004

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

completed by April, so the ideal and proper winter planting period was missed. However, in

INVOICES PAID SODFATHER 2005		
<u>US-221 at Interstate-26</u>		
7 Willow Oak	\$224	\$1,568
12 Arborvitae	83	990
24 Kousa Dogwood	52	1,245
600 Parsoni Juniper	11	6,367
12 Yoshino Cherry	118	1,415
12 Eastern Red Cedar	75	900
145 Abelia	9	1,282
1 HydroSeed		
1 Mulch	1,603	
TOTAL		\$17,965
<u>US221 at SC-295 (Southport Rd.)</u>		
12 Sioux Crape Myrtle		
360 Parsoni Juniper		
3 Yoshino Cherry		
9 Eastern Red Cedar		
1 Hydroseed		
1 Mulch		
Sub Total		\$14,576
15 Pine Trees		916
85 Abelia		995
TOTAL		\$16,487
Total at \$ I-26 & SC-295		\$34,453
Total Trees	106	
Total Shrubs	1,190	

that the three-year contract called for regular watering and care, there was little concern about the late planting. Nevertheless, considerable plant loss occurred during the summer of 2005. This loss, plus the incomplete initial planting, resulted in some confusion and disagreement on how the plantings would be completed.

The total paid to the contractor by Spartanburg County in 2005 was \$34,453 for the Phase II installation. This included the 106 trees and 1,190 shrubs planted and the love grass attempts.

This cost exceeded the available funds, so a fundraising campaign was initiated by Dr. Dianne Fergusson and Pittman. They sent letters and made personal contacts with neighborhood businesses and property owners. Contributions from Tom Moore Craig, Jordan Oil, Roebuck Builders, Roebuck Wholesale Nursery, Peggy Wilson of Weichert Realty, Jerry Wyatt and Fergusson totaled \$2,550. These funds, plus an additional \$3,000 contribution from the club, when added to the remaining TEA-21 funds fully paid the contractor.

There were multiple meetings with and considerable discussion between Sodfather, County Engineer Mike Garrett, and Ed Wilde, Don Crowder, Charles Crescenzi and Pittman about proper completion of this project. Under Crowder's leadership, compromises on both sides resulted in Sodfather agreeing to add specified new plants at I-26 during the '08-'09 winter and to divert many Crape Myrtles (which were to be replaced on the shoulders or medians to complete Sodfather's Phase I responsibility) to the I-26 Interchange. All of these added plants were to have a one year replacement warranty. So, late in 2009 and early 2010, the final contract planting and maintenance work was done and the contract was completed. Ongoing maintenance will be SCDOT's responsibility, but with a watchful eye of the Men's Garden Club leaders.

October 2021

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Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Phil Abers
President@DirtDaubers.org

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Gardening & Beautification

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

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

This October plant sale was a success. It was our best fall plant sale in recent years. That means we need to acquire more plants for future sales. About 70% of the plants sold were purchased and potted up by the club. The other 30% were either propagated by the club or given to the club.

Do you have plants that others may enjoy? Well, how about giving them to the club? This year we sold daylilies, Sheffield chrysanthemum, gardenias and other plants that were given to the club. If you need help digging plants, let Mark Carlson or me know. We can use all the plants we can get to restock the container garden nursery. Let's be prepared for more great plant sales in 2022.

Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation:

The board has agreed to submit the Articles of Incorporation to the State stating that the beneficiary upon dissolution of the SMGC will be the Spartanburg Community College Foundation. The allocation to the three sub-funds will be specified in the SMGC by-laws.

Patrick McMillan SMGC Speaker October 18, 2021



"Gardening for Life — Transforming Your Landscape"

The October meeting on October 18, as scheduled, will be a video presentation, "Gardening for Life— Transforming Your Landscape" by Dr. Patrick McMillan. Dr. McMillan was a former faculty member of Clemson University and host of a PBS program entitled "Expeditions." This particular program features hundreds of photographs of wildflowers and plants. Patrick's purpose is to show that we can have all types of "green space" in our home landscape instead of being satisfied with mulch. All of the photography was done at the Clemson Botanical Garden. Who knew they had a landscape copied from a Mexican desert? Come see for yourself and invite one or more friends!



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



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Photography by Linda McHam



2021 Litter pickup schedule

Dec. 4 rain date Dec 11

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
2021 Membership**
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

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Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



Propagation area cleanup

Lycoris aura
(yellow spider lily)



Callicarpa dichotoma
(beautyberry)

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- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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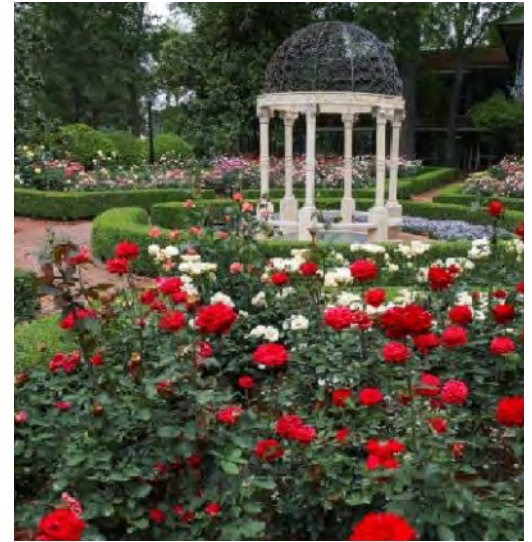
Member Musing

By Denie Crowder

Day Trips in South Carolina

This month I would like to introduce you to four gardens that are easy day trips from Spartanburg. You might read about a familiar garden or find a new one to visit.

The first garden is a very easy drive from Spartanburg. It is the Janie Earle Furman Rose Garden on the campus of Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. It features eight hundred (800) rose bushes, a 19th century gazebo and a charming fountain. Of course, you would want to visit it in the summer to enjoy the roses in bloom. Also, on the campus is the Bell Tower from the original campus. It is surrounded by the campus lake and views of the beautiful mountains of the upstate. You will also be able to enjoy the beauty of the entire campus.



The South Carolina Botanical Gardens on the campus of Clemson University is a diverse 295 acres of natural landscapes, display gardens, the Bob Campbell Geology Museum and the Fran Hanson Discovery Center which has exhibits by local artists. The garden offers adult education classes, children's programs, nature walks and museum tours. The Friends of the Garden also holds plant sales in the spring and fall to which members are allowed advance entry. There is no admission fee for the garden. When you finish your visit to the garden, be sure to drive over to the Hendrix Student Center and go to the '55 Exchange for a delicious ice cream treat.

Another day adventure is the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia. The Riverbanks Zoo is home to more than 2000 animals and the gardens are among the nation's most beautiful and inspiring. The grounds feature dynamic natural habitat exhibits, scenic river views, spectacular valley overlooks and significant historic landmarks. Also on the grounds is a children's garden. There is an admission fee for the zoo and gardens. While in Columbia, plan to visit the Memorial Garden at 1919 Lincoln Street (820 Calhoun Street on the GPS) which adjoins the Governor's Complex. It is owned by the Garden Club of South Carolina and is a memorial to World War II veterans. The garden has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places under three criteria 1) on landscape design of a master—Loutrel Briggs, 2) on the fact it was the first Memorial Garden to World War II veterans, 3) on the outstanding accomplishment of women.

Edisto Gardens in Orangeburg is another easy and enjoyable day trip. It is a 175-acre site with many rose varieties, themed-gardens and parks, plus disc golf and a fine arts center. It displays past and current award-winning roses. Included are 4800 plants representing at least 120 labeled varieties of roses. Winners are displayed in the main rose garden after the two-year evaluation.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

5 - TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Unfortunately, Phase II did not progress as smoothly and efficiently as Phase I—the Love Grass on the steep banks germinated poorly, many trees died and fewer trees than planned were planted at the I-26 Interchange, and some trees are missing at the SC-295 crossing. Maintenance by the

The Interchange at US-221 and SC-295 looks good.



The Interchange at I-26 had problems from the beginning, but Club work is improving it in 2010.



SCDOT has not been as consistent as expected. Nevertheless, both interchanges have been greatly improved. Even though execution of Phase II of the US-221 project was not easy or entirely satisfactory, the resulting enhanced beautification of these important Spartanburg entry sites adds greatly to the value of Phase I and was worth all of the effort.

15 Interstate-85 Business, 2006 – 2007 “Veterans Highway”

The county’s Intermodal Transportation Plan developed by the SPATS Committee in about 2004 was an important Long Range Enhancement Master Plan. It was developed by Jeff Caton with strong support from Lisa Bollinger. Its intent was to prioritize beautification projects related to transportation.

Second to continuation of the Spot of Pride program¹³ was improving Interstate-85 Business, the important corridor around the north side of Spartanburg. It was the original I-85, but renamed I-85 Business when the new I-85 Bypass was completed in 1995.¹⁴

The Club’s active representative on the SPATS Road Enhancement sub-committee for many years had been Dr. Jack Turner; he was replaced by Henry Pittman.¹⁵ Actively looking for a new Club tree project, Pittman began a proposed shoulder treescape plan for I-85 Business. He developed a detailed plan for the south half of the seven miles, and with MGC board approval, submitted it to the SPATS group in early 2005 with the request for approval of a TEA-21 federal grant of \$44,000. This was contingent upon County Council

¹³ This was an ongoing and very active program initiated in 2000 by the PRIDE Task Force and under the very able and active direction of Hans Balmer.

¹⁴ Treescaping of the new I-85 Bypass in 1996 is covered earlier in this chapter.

¹⁵ Club president Dr Ed Wilde replaced Henry Pittman as MGC representative to the SPATS Committee in 2008.

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approval as the “official local government sponsor.” SPATS approved and Pittman proceeded to complete the plan for the entire project.

County Council was enthusiastic in approving sponsorship of the project with the MGC as manager but as with the US-221 treescape project, it would provide neither the required 20% local dollar match nor the required ongoing maintenance responsibility. So, if the project were to be developed, the Club had to find a way to procure these necessities.

Parallel with the MGC funding request, Hans Balmer requested SPATS’s approval of \$90,000 for a Spot of Pride project involving creating multiple landscape areas on I-85 Business in existing medians protected by guard rails. The SPATS Sub Committee and the local full SPATS Committee approved both projects, and later they were both approved by the SC Department of Transportation. The prospects were bright for a significant enhancement of this important highway north of the City.

After multiple consultations and revisions, Pittman completed the plan for the Club’s entire project in September of 2006. It contained strict details on placement of MGC trees near billboards to insure the 300-foot non-planted open space for viewing of each active billboard side. This is a strong requirement of the SCDOT due to its special relationship



In addition to shoulder plantings, there are multiple groups like this one at Viaduct Road...

with the billboard industry. While the designer and, in general, the Club believed this to be an improper restriction which results in “dis-enhancement” of our highways, the plan clearly demanded respect for these requirements. SCDOT’s Joyce Gardener was the primary guide and consultant on the billboard protection requirements.

The plan also detailed the 100-foot spacing of trees and their placement relative to existing fences (at 3-foot distance, spaced like Milliken’s Willow Oaks of the 1960s) and specified mulching to be gradually widened and then

narrowed to minimize mowing difficulty. In addition to requiring that all trees be located at least 22 feet from the edge of the travel lane, the plan also specified they be located at least 80 feet in front of and 20 feet behind SCDOT road-signs. The plan also contained a listing with common and botanical names of the 276 trees specified.¹⁶

During the fall of 2006, multiple review meetings were held with local DOT Maintenance Manager Fred Fleming and his supervisor, District Engineer Jason Allison from Greenville. Mike Garrett, Spartanburg County Director of Public Works, was the County’s active representative in both planning and executing this project. Garrett’s input was extremely valuable and essential. Lisa Bollinger and Hans Balmer were frequent

¹⁶ This list is a part of Appendix 29.

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participants as was MGC President Everett Lineberger. In anticipation of the contract including plant warranty and maintenance for three years (as did the Club's US-221 project), the estimated cost of the project at that time was near \$64,000.

The two remaining problems to be solved were the source of the required 20% local



...but this group had to be moved because of this dilapidated billboard...

funding, and the guarantee of ongoing maintenance. The Club, under Lineberger's leadership, accepted the matching funds challenge and provided approximately \$12,000, but could not accept responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The SCDOT would not waive this requirement, as it had for the US-221 treescape project. But Hans Balmer, who was planning the companion project--the landscaping of

multiple *median areas* on this highway--volunteered his Spot of Pride program to provide this maintenance service for the MGC/County *shoulder* project. His confirming letter to Allison in August cleared the way for the September approval by the SCDOT of the required Encroachment Permit submitted by the County. This was a happy day for the County and the Club.

The original plan was to contract the project similar to the previous one for US-221, with three years of plant warranty and maintenance. However, Timothy Edwards, SCDOT Landscape Architect in Columbia, who, for years, had been such an ongoing source of encouragement and help to the Club in all of its street and highway projects, pointed out that maintenance was not

allowed to be financed by the Federal TEA-21 program. It was for implementation only and could not be properly used for ongoing maintenance, not even for two years of it.

In an attempt to solve this problem, two contracts were created, a basic one to cover implementation with a one-year warranty, summer watering and year-end maintenance (properly financed with the Federal Funds), and a maintenance contract to provide for a second and third year of warranty and maintenance (to be financed by Balmer's Spot of Pride program).



...that looked like this on the back.

November 2021 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

Directors

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

Communications

Louis W. Adams, Jr.
Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Phil Abers
President@DirtDaubers.org

Mark Carlson
PlantSales@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

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

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

We are ending a good year for the garden club. With the installation of new officers and board members for 2022, we are also starting the next year at the November Annual Meeting. I wish to thank my fellow officers, Everette Lineberger, Denie Crowder and Mary Ann Hipp for their help this year. I am also pleased with the support from our board members Jack Turner, Will Hawkins, Mark Carlson, Linda Savoie, Charlie Crescenzi, Bruce Fraedrich and Ben Waddell.

This year we have been able to complete maintenance projects in our container garden. We are also actively working on the replacing distressed street trees and are working with Hatcher Gardens on the Mary Wright School educational project. The Mary Wright project helps us to fulfill our mission to provide education about gardening. To continue our project work and maintain our container garden, we need to add new members to keep the club vibrant. If you get into a discussion with a friend, acquaintance or a stranger about gardening, put on your sales hat and invite them to a meeting. We are nice people to get to know!

Dr. Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker November 15, 2020



"The 2021 Noble Tree Contest"

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. The Noble Tree Foundation of Spartanburg County is again sponsoring a contest to nominate your favorite tree as the Best Noble Tree in Spartanburg County. Noble trees by definition are large, majestic, substantial trees that can endure and contribute to our environment for generations. This PowerPoint presentation will discuss the importance and benefits of large canopy trees to the urban environment and how this contest will help identify and preserve trees of prominence in our community. Details on how to submit your favorite tree will be discussed. This contest is an excellent way to get children (and grandchildren) engaged in their environment.



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



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



Japanese maple



2021 Litter pickup schedule

Dec. 4 rain date Dec 11

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.)



Osmanthus auranticus



Osmanthus fortunii

**Renew Now
2021 Membership**
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5
Corporate \$100

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Roebuck Wholesale Nursery
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



Post Office Box 1502
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Member Musing

By Phil Abers

You may realize that I like trains, since I occasionally wear a train t-shirt to a meeting. Besides trains and gardening, I also like history. With that in mind, I decided to visit Greenwood, South Carolina this past June. They have a very nice train museum where a tour guide led me through six restored train cars. My plan was to head from there to the nearby Ninety-Six National Historic Site Battlefield.

I had the good fortune of stopping at the Greenwood Visitors Center, which houses a nice local museum. I recommend spending some time there. When talking to the visitor center staff, I learned that I had fortuitously chosen June to visit Greenwood. It happens to be during their Festival of Flowers. Besides flowers, their main street has about four blocks of topiary billed as "44 unique living creations". As you can see from the photos, these topiary are quite imaginative.

Besides the topiary, Greenwood is a "Bee City". Bee City USA is an organization that encourages communities to establish gardens that attract pollinators. These pollinators are important to our ecosystem and ensure a healthy environment. The city of Greenwood has pollinator gardens planted in the city. A map of the pollinator gardens and of the topiary can be obtained online or at the Greenwood Visitors Center. If you prefer the water instead of trains and history, Lake Greenwood is close by. Take a day trip and explore the great state of South Carolina.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

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The County, with Club assistance, developed the detailed contract which required that all bidders participate in the Pre-Bid Conference prior to the contract submission deadline of October 31, to insure the requirements were fully understood. Five contractors submitted bids for the shoulder treescape; they were opened publicly on November 4. For the basic one-year contract they varied from \$49,000 to \$89,000 but the low bidder, J. Chris Pruitt,

Trees leaving



By Rachel R. Leonard, Staff Writer

Ed Wilde's request to the State Department of Transportation isn't one the agency often hears: "Slow down!"

At issue is when Spartanburg County, in conjunction with the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, must relocate three dozen trees the DOT says were planted too close to billboards, on the Business 85 corridor. Wilde, chairman of the garden club's tree committee, said he doesn't want the trees moved until winter, when they go dormant and hot days have passed.

"Let's not rectify a mistake by making a bigger mistake and moving the trees in the summer and watching them die," he said.

About 350 trees were planted along the interstate corridor this spring through a joint project of the county and the garden club. Some were planted next to four billboards that club members thought were abandoned, but the DOT maintains the billboards are active.

That means trees by the signs must not grow to block a mandated 300-foot open window that allows motorists to view the billboards—a window to ugliness, said Henry Pittman, a past president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. - Continued

From the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* on May 11, 2007.

was declared ineligible by the County due to his late delivery, so the contract for the shoulder project was awarded to the second low bidder, Roebuck Wholesale Nursery, for \$52,239. Roebuck was also the lowest eligible bidder on the Spot of Pride's median and was awarded that contract also.

Although Roebuck was the lowest eligible bidder for the second and third year of the maintenance contract for the shoulder trees, Balmer asked that it not be awarded so he and Spot of Pride would have flexibility in arranging ongoing maintenance of the shoulder trees. Based on previous association, he had great respect for Pruitt and planned to use his service for lower cost ongoing tree maintenance.

Unfortunately, Balmer's many business and community projects, and possibly his health problems, prevented him from establishing an ongoing maintenance program for the shoulder

treescape, and his very untimely and sad death in September 2007 left the shoulder project

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which had been completed the previous year without a maintenance program. But the Spot of Pride program, so very important to the quality and beautification of the Spartanburg community, was not allowed to falter. Local leaders including philanthropist Kurt Zimmerli, Mayor Bill Barnet and Dick Carr came to the rescue and developed plans for maintaining Balmer's commitment.

Roebuck implemented the shoulder tree plantings quickly (and also Balmer's median plantings) using quality plants and great efficiency with completion in early 2007, but there were problems—billboard problems. While it was the promised intent of both the Club and the County to maintain the SCDOT-required 300-foot open, non-planted window for the face of each billboard, there were four ugly, dilapidated and unused billboards on I-85 Business that were considered to be abandoned by Garrett, Pittman, the contractor, and probably others. They made the decision to continue the shoulder plantings at these billboards. But the DOT insisted the new trees be removed, not in the cool weather of late fall, but immediately! So the contractor readily agreed to remove these offending trees—27 of them—to other locations, most on the south and some on the north end at the I-85 Bypass intersection. And the debacle was enhanced further by the contractor's unintended violation of the open window at several other billboards, even though in many cases there were volunteer trees and other view obstacles present which were more potentially objectionable than the landscape trees. However, the DOT demanded relocation of these 13 trees, even though only a few feet for some. This was done.

The following April 2007 memo to Steve Gwinn from Pittman included a good summary of the situation, at least from the SMGC's perspective.

Thank you for arranging a meeting to review conflicts between new landscape trees and billboards. I hope the new time, 10:00 AM Tues, April 24 at the DOT Maintenance office on 85-Business, will be satisfactory.

Let me give some background for your consideration before we meet.

1. Some 2 ½ years ago the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club began a plan for treescaping this 7.3 miles of highway. These 360 shoulder trees bring the total street and highway trees this organization has planted over the past years to over 2,500.
2. The MGC developed the preliminary plan and got funding approved by the SPATS Enhancement Committee and the full SPATS committee. Spartanburg County Council approved becoming the official project sponsor, but without providing either the required 20% local match or ongoing maintenance. The MGC provided the match, and the Spot of Pride program is providing the ongoing maintenance.
3. The MGC worked with the County in developing the contract, selecting the contractor and managing the project.
4. I, as designer of the plan, assured the SCDOT that we would respect the required billboard view windows. Details from Ms. Gardener were clearly a part of the final design approved by SCDOT; this included location of all billboards, their window location code and a sketch explaining the location shorthand. This was discussed in detail with the contractor prior to his flagging the planting locations.
5. The plan and the Encroachment Permit were officially approved by SCDOT, as was the TEA-21 funding from Columbia.
6. Tree planting errors were made by both me and the contractor—indeed some trees were planted in the windows of *legal* billboards. Some are just a few feet inside the windows, others are more invasive. **Even though shown on the approved plan,**

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and staked in advance of planting, we will move these trees if DOT will not, or can not, allow slight adjustments to window locations.

7. Other trees, shown on the plan and staked before planting, were planted in front of four *abandoned and illegal* billboards. **We strongly protest moving these trees and exposing these billboards which are un-used, un-kept, dilapidated eyesores without ID identification—and therefore are *illegal – and have been illegal for over 2 ½ years—by your definitions.***

Three of the above “believed to be abandoned” billboards were renovated and two of them put back into advertising service; one with four faces has only one face in use and is still unsightly, and the one at the north end of the planting area is still a dilapidated eyesore with minimum use. Billboards, even at their best, are truly the antithesis to highway beautification. But we must learn to live with them, at least for the present.

In April, Lisa Bollinger mailed the following invitation to owners of property adjacent to the treescape, and local leaders and dignitaries. A quality and appreciative crowd attended the dedication.

*You are invited to attend the brief
dedication of the recent*

TREESCAPING OF THE SHOULDERS OF INTERSTATE-85 BUSINESS

*In the Pavilion
at Spartanburg Community College 5 PM, Thursday, May 3
Light refreshments will be served after the dedication*

*A joint project of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club,
Spartanburg County, the SCDOT, and Spot of Pride
350 quality trees to enhance this highway, this community and this state*

The program for the evening is shown below:

Dedication of the Interstate-85 Business Treescape Project of 2007

*A joint project of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club,
Spartanburg County, the SCDOT, and Spot of Pride*

5:00 PM, May 3, 2007

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Henry Pittman

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

Comments

Councilman Dale Culbreth

Spartanburg County

Comments

Fred Teeter

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Comments

Hans Balmer