

# January 2022

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## Welcoming Men & Women

### Officers

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

### Directors

Will Hawkins  
Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Phillip Marchant  
Curtis Marshall  
Ben Waddell  
Linda Savoie  
Bruce Fraedrich

### Communications

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

With the holiday season coming to an end we are now entering the exciting time of year with our Garden Club Meetings. We hope to make this a great year with interesting presentations and a couple of field trips. Last year we were able to make some improvements to the container garden that make it more attractive to our customers. We also were able to make a change to our by-laws that reflects our commitment to our SCC partner.

With some new board members adding new ideas to compliment our experienced members, we are pleased with our 2022 leadership team. As always, our club is driven by member participation. We continually need to add new members and strive to involve our members in club activities. Please make it a goal to invite two friends (or strangers) to our monthly meetings this year. Talk about our club when the subject of gardening arises. We all need to sell our club to keep it great. Let's make 2022 our best year yet!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING THIS MONTH IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 18.**

**Joelle Teachey SMGC Speaker January 18, 2022**



### "Trees Upstate"

For the January Meeting, Joelle Teachey, Executive Director of Trees Upstate, will be the speaker. Joelle will discuss the history, mission and projects of Trees Upstate. She will provide information on opportunities to get involved with this organization.



**Spring Plant Sale**  
**April 1st - 2nd, 2022**  
Fri 8am-1pm and Sat 8am-1pm

*Hundreds of Plants*  
*Reasonable Prices*



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



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



## 2022 Litter pickup schedule

**TBA**

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

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

### Renew Now 2022 Membership

Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5  
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Photography by Linda McHam



Camellia japonica



Camellia sasanqua 'Setsugekka'



Camellia japonica 'Governor Mouton'

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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 Phil Abers

Previously, I have written about the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. If you drive about 40 miles west on Interstate 30, you can visit the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and see two great gardens in one day! We visited the Fort Worth Botanical Garden years ago when we lived in the Dallas Area. My brother went last year and reminded me how nice the garden is.

The Fort Worth Botanical Garden was established in 1934, making it the oldest major Botanical Garden in the State of Texas. The Garden is located near downtown in the Fort Worth Cultural District. The garden contains over 2500 plant species in twenty-five specialty gardens. Besides the Garden, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) is located on the property. BRIT specializes in education and research of all things plant related.

The two specialty gardens that I found most memorable are the Japanese Garden and the Rose Garden. The Japanese Garden was completed in 1973 and has winding paths around the ponds and traverses the landscape. There are 7.5 acres planted with cherry trees, Japanese maples, magnolias, and bamboo. There are also bridges and ponds filled with koi. The Rose Garden has a romantic setting and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The garden has the largest begonia collection in North American and is the only accredited begonia collection in the United States. You can also schedule a tour of the Philecology Herbarium (*philecology is a fondness for a better biosphere for the earth*), one of the largest in the US, which houses more than 1.5 million plant specimens from around the world. A tour of the BRIT Research Library with nearly 125,000 volumes of botanical books and journals can also be arranged.

Go visit the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. Fort Worth also has a couple of nice art museums and you can go visit Billy Bob's at the Stockyards (*a country music nightclub located in the Fort Worth Stockyards, Texas*).



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY



During 2008, multiple volunteers of the Club, under the leadership of Club President Ed Wilde and Tree Chairman Charles Crescenzi, provided selective pruning to the trees. Spot of Pride, under the new leadership of Kurt Zimmerli, and with a generous donation from Mrs. Hans Balmer, arranged valuable professional maintenance of the shoulder treescape in early 2009. Good cooperation between the Club and the Spot of Pride leaders will be necessary to insure the healthy growth of these important new shoulder trees. Already, the appearance of this valuable Spartanburg highway, Interstate-85 Business, is better—and its aesthetics and quality will only improve over the years.

### **Additional “Minor” Treescaping and Beautification Activities**

In addition to the many trees that the Club contributed to schools, parks and other public institutions through the work of Harold Hatcher, there are a number of additional treescaping activities of the Club. While they might properly be called “minor” they were—and are—important to the community.<sup>17</sup>

These include the following:

- Assistance to Mayor Sally Peake in treescaping US-29 south to Wellford.
- Work with Co Irwin and his Trees Spartanburg organization.
- Professional pruning of MGC trees on East Main and North Church streets.
- Planning and managing the Reidville Road (SC-295) treescape.
- Organizing the coalition to encourage Wal-Mart to properly plan and plant trees.
- Development of the Club's Tree Planting Bi-Fold Brochure.
- Landscaping of the Georgia Cleveland House (now St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic in the 1980s.
- Treescaping of the New Day Clubhouse near Asheville Highway in the 1990s.
- Development of, and wide distribution of Lyn Murajda's color brochure “Crape Myrtles: Four Seasons of Beauty” in 2004.

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<sup>17</sup> These other treescape and beautification activities are described in some detail in Appendix 7.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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While the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club’s strong emphasis on treescaping streets and highways, beginning in 1976, may not have brought the national attention to Spartanburg as did the Club’s magnificent garden developments during Mr. Ezell’s days of the 1950s and 60s, they will be more permanent. Trees are essential not just for our enjoyment and desire for beauty, but more importantly for our environment. Their functions are well known to MGC members—they clean the air, produce oxygen, moderate temperature, control erosion, provide habitat for wildlife—and they are beautiful. The trees planted by today’s gardeners will remain long after the gardeners are gone and will provide shade and beauty for future generations.

# February 2022 Gardening & Beautification

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## President's Corner

Have you visited our website recently? I know that my visits are too infrequent. Last year a neighbor gave me an old Spartanburg Magazine from the Spring of 2006. The reason he gave it to me was the article on page 40 about the Dirt Daubers. I thought this would be a great article to reprint in our monthly newsletter. I checked with the publisher about the approval needed to reprint the article. Unbeknownst to me, the publisher advised me that we have a link to that article on our website. I guess I need to spend more time looking at the website. Go to our DirtDauber.org website, look under the About tab, and click on SMGC in the News. Scroll down and there it is!

I doubt I am the only one in the club who does not regularly visit our website. Take the time to visit our website. We have good information there. Under the gardening help tab we have a number of articles about trees and propagation. There is a very good presentation on Roses by Vahl Wilson that Lou Adams posted a few years ago for our benefit. While visiting the website, make some notes and let us know of any updates, changes or additions you feel will enhance our website.

## Dr. Gillian Newberry SMGC Speaker February 21, 2022

### "The Making of Peter's Creek Heritage Trust Preserve"



Meet Dr. Gillian "Gill" Newberry, retired USC Upstate Professor and local champion for rare plants and nature. Dr. Newberry established the Upstate herbarium that has over 18,000 specimens and led research projects at the Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve. During her presentation, Dr. Newberry describes how she found this 180-acre site that is now open to the public and discovered its many natural attributes including rare plant species. See how one person can make a difference!

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Photography by Linda McHam



Hellebores



Hellebores



Narcissus 'Dutch Master'

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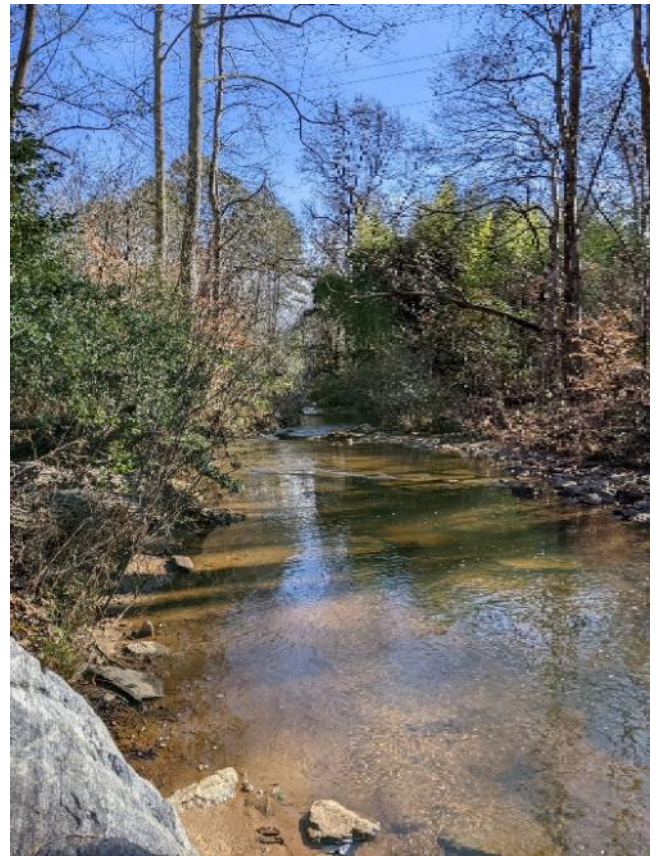
## Member Musing

By Bruce Fraedrich

### *Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve*

After moving to Spartanburg and buying a twenty-year-old house three years ago, I typically make the pilgrimage to the Home Depot several times a week. The route to the home improvement mecca takes me down Gossett Road to Cannons Campground Road on the east side of Spartanburg. Less than a mile from the turn off on Cannons Campground, there is a sign for Peter's Creek Heritage Preserve next to a gravel road. For years, I have been meaning to check out what is at the end of the gravel road and on a warm afternoon in late December, Lyn and I finally visited the site. We should have visited Peter's Creek sooner- it is a unique gem in Spartanburg.

The preserve is only 180 acres but contains many diverse and unique habitats. The north facing slopes above the creeks support a mature hardwood forest comprised mostly of oak, hickory, and beech. Several species of oak not normally found in Spartanburg are growing on these slopes. The young beech in the understory retains much of their foliage in the dormant season and the tan color provides considerable winter interest. Trees along the stream bottoms are sycamore, elm, sweetgum, and red maple. The understory has numerous American hollies with bright red berries in winter and stands of mountain laurel that typically blooms in late April. The site also supports several rare and endangered plants.



Over seven miles of trails meander through the preserve-most trails occur in loops so there is minimal back-tracking. Trails are wide and well-marked, and the slopes are rather gentle which provides for an easy hike. The trails cross the creeks in several locations, which requires a little dexterity to keep from getting your feet wet.

Peter's Creek was once the site of several water mills dating back more than 150 years. Remains of a mill dam and pond are present near the parking area at the preserve entrance. Many of the trails were once wagon roads leading to the mills.

Peter's Creek is open to the public free of charge daily from dawn to dusk. Learn more about Peter's Creek at the February meeting when Dr. Gillian Newberry, the force behind the preservation of this site, will be our guest speaker.

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



## Chapter 6

# Creating Spartanburg's Treasure: HATCHER GARDEN AND THE SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

*Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community.  
When people plant corn they are saying,  
"Let's stay here." And by their connection to the land,  
they are connected to one another.*

- Anne Raver

**T**here is no corn in Hatcher Garden, but the visitor will find many trees and flowers, shrubs and waterfalls, meandering streams and ponds, benches and picnic tables along shady winding paths throughout the ten acre public botanical garden just minutes from downtown Spartanburg. And there are many, many people for whom Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve has become a connection to Spartanburg and to each other.

Located at 820 John B. White Boulevard, the old Reidville Road, Hatcher Garden, as it is known by the locals, is an oasis in the middle of a mixed commercial and 1940's -1950's residential neighborhood. It came into being as a result of the vision, persistence and penny pinching of Harold Hatcher and his wife, Josephine. From the beginning, there has been a strong connection between Hatcher Garden and Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. Joe Mullinax, former Executive Director of Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve, credits the SMGC with being an essential part of the development of the garden. "I always say that this Garden would not be here without the involvement of the Men's Garden Club," Mullinax says. "This Garden is for the community and built by the community. The SMGC fingerprints are all over this place—from the nursery to the gazebo to the waterfall."

## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Alice Hatcher Henderson, Hatcher's daughter, agreed with Mullinax's sentiments. "Dad considered the help he got from Jess Taylor and other Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members to be the happiest surprise that resulted from moving to Spartanburg for he had labored on various smaller projects in Indiana by himself."

Over the years the Garden has been heavily landscaped with thousands of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual flowerbeds, and hardscaped with winding paths, rock-lined streams, numerous ponds and several buildings. Many of these additions have been a result of Club activity.

The development of the garden was begun shortly after 1969 when Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher moved to Spartanburg and started enlarging their "back yard." This was done slowly as adjacent property became available. As more and more houses and lots were acquired, Henry Pittman once jokingly accused Hatcher of, "You only want to own the *adjacent* property." The Garden now encompasses 10 acres along one of Spartanburg's busiest streets. Recent roadside enhancements attract Garden visitors with colorful perennial beds and ornamental trees, eye-catching sculptures and an ever-changing marquee sign announcing the latest events at Hatcher Garden. Visitors from every state in the United States and forty foreign countries have visited Hatcher Garden and have been impressed with its beauty and tranquility.

Hatcher was no neophyte gardener when he lived in Indiana. There, he was not only an active personal gardener, but a volunteer leader in community beautification projects. Relocating to Spartanburg in 1969 as the new director of the federally funded anti-poverty agency, "Piedmont Community Action," the Hatchers purchased the house and small lot at 124 Briarwood Road on Spartanburg's westside. The primary appeal of the property was the untamed woods in the back. In his wonderful book about Hatcher's life in Spartanburg, *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*, Mike Hembree describes what the land that is now Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve was like when the Hatchers bought it.



Potential—but little else. The land, once home to cotton fields, was badly eroded. Big gullies cut slashes across the property. The ravines had become dumpsites for refrigerators, mattresses, tires and other refuse. It was not a pretty sight, but it sparkled in Hatcher's mind's eye. He could see what it might become. . . . It was land that had been robbed of its nutrients by cotton farming and cleared of its topsoil by rushing rain waters. To Hatcher, though, it was magic waiting to happen."

<sup>1</sup> Hembree, Mike. *The Seasons of Harold Hatcher*. Spartanburg, SC: HubCity Writing Project, 2000: 3-4.

# March 2022

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## President's Corner

Article 2, Section 2.4 of the SMGC bylaws states as an objective of the club: "to promote community beautification through charitable, educational and scientific means." Our club has done beautification work as witnessed by our Street Tree Program and the Spots of Pride. Our donation of trees to the Mary Wright School Project and our contributions to SCC have been greatly appreciated. We also do quarterly litter pick up on Pine Street. On Saturday, March 5, we had an excellent turn out to remove invasive species at Peter's Creek Nature Preserve. We do excellent volunteer work and contribute financially to beautification projects.

Our main funding source for projects comes from our biannual plant sales. We need everyone to help make our plant sales successful. Would you like to come help us with the plant sale on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2? Do you have any plants that can be potted to fill up our container garden? Do you have friends, family or acquaintances who need plants or advice? Invite them to come to our plant sale. Who knows, you may have recruited the newest member of our club!

## Jason Bagwell and Kevin Parris, Ph.D.

### SMGC Speakers, March 21, 2022

### "The Sustainable Agriculture Program at Spartanburg Community College"

Sustainable agriculture is the production of food crops using environmentally friendly methods. Jason discusses the basic concepts of the program at SCC. Then straw bale gardening is presented by Kevin, which is ideally suited for small properties.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.

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**Photography by Linda McHam**

This garden belongs to Tylney Hall (Small Luxury Hotel) in Rotherwick, Hook, Basingstoke, England.

See <https://www.slh.com/hotels/tylney-hall-hotel-and-gardens>



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"Not many people are familiar with the name Gertrude Jekyll outside the world of gardening, but for those with green fingers and others in the know she is one of the great English garden architects and designers.

The years she spent replanting the gardens here at Tylney Hall represent a lifetime's achievement. So it is of little surprise that we have heaped just as much loving care on restoring the gardens and grounds as we have spent bringing the Hall back to its former glory.

Our Head Gardener, Paul Tattersdill, and his team have been tending the gardens for over 25 years, and his vision is only now nearing completion. At the last count, there were over 250,000 trees and shrubs on the estate which sprawls over 66 acres, and Paul and his team are never happier than when they are showing fellow garden enthusiasts around the estate."

Excerpt from the hotel's website.



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### Member Musing

By Will Hawkins

#### *Glencairn Garden*

I attended college at Winthrop University. While there I was delighted to find a beautifully landscaped public park in Rock Hill near Winthrop known as Glencairn Garden. It is a perfect place to go take a walk, have a picnic, for Winthrop University students to study and have weddings.

Glencairn was started back in 1928 by Rock Hill residents David and Hazel Bigger when they were given a few azaleas. By 1940, they had over 400 azaleas and in that year they opened Glencairn Garden to the public. It is named in honor of Dr. Bigger's Scottish origin. In 1958, Hazel Bigger deeded the 11 acre garden to the city of Rock Hill.

Landscape architect Robert Marvin further enhanced the botanical experience with a tiered fountain and a Japanese footbridge built over a brook that runs through the park.

Perhaps the best time of year to visit is the last week of March through mid April when over 3000 azaleas are in bloom. In addition to the azaleas, there are dogwoods, wisteria, camellias and hardwood trees that are planted on the grounds for visitors to enjoy.



Even though spring is the loveliest time of year to visit with all the azaleas, doublefile viburnums, tulips, dogwoods, redbuds and many other plants in bloom, visitors are sure to enjoy the garden any day of the year. In the summer, there is plenty of shade from the hardwood trees and the daylilies, crape myrtles, and annuals are blooming. In the fall, sasanqua camellias and pansies bloom to accent the changing foliage. In the winter, dozens of camellias will be found blooming along with daffodils and Lenten roses. Be sure to pay Glencairn Garden a visit if you are in Rock Hill!



### Betty Montgomery's Garden Tour

Betty Montgomery's garden will be open for visitors on Saturday, April 9 from 10 to 4 and Sunday, April 10 from 2 to 5. If it is raining on those dates, the garden will be open Saturday, April 16. Betty's garden is located at 100 Forty Oaks, Campobello, SC 29322.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 6 - HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

For the next thirty years Hatcher worked in conjunction with his wife, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, and many other volunteers and civic groups, to develop and expand the Garden into what we know and treasure today. Over the years, the Men's Garden Club has been a vital partner in Hatcher Garden and continues to support it with money and volunteers.

Hatcher joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in the early 1970s, about a year after moving to Spartanburg. He became a very active member right away. His garden was



**1992 Picture of John Nevison and Dave Kennemur—Two stalwart members of the MGC and supporters of the Garden**

in the early stages of development in 1974, and there was available space that could be used by the club for growing trees. Hatcher was the prime mover for propagating plants and trees for sale by the club. The spring and fall sales, which were very informal affairs in those days, consisted of bare root seedlings sold in plastic bags. These tree sales, which are treated in detail in the next chapter, produced the operating funds of SMGC, much of which was used to benefit the development of Hatcher Garden.

Never president of the SMGC, Hatcher nevertheless was a de-facto leader serving as secretary for two years and editor of the Club's monthly

newsletter for 13 years. Similar to the old business adage, "He who holds the chalk, controls the meeting," the newsletter editor had similar power.

Walter Soderberg was also new but quickly became an important member. He joined the SMGC in 1970, became a close friend of Hatcher and began a wonderful and close working relationship in the garden's development. Soderberg is said to have been the most active member of the club in helping Hatcher transform the eroded gully area into the Garden.

There are many great stories of the working relationship of Soderberg and Hatcher. Soderberg even rescued Hatcher from one of the Garden's ice covered ponds when Hatcher fell in while sawing down a cypress tree on a cold winter day. Joe Mullinax remembers this story told to him. "Walter Soderberg, SMGC member and close friend of Harold Hatcher, told me that he once saved Harold's life. He came out one winter day after an ice storm to the Garden and found Harold balancing on a downed tree in the Bald Cypress Pond with a chainsaw, trying to clean things up. He slipped and fell into the cold, icy water. Luckily, Walter was there to pull him out. Without that fortunate timing, we might not have Hatcher Garden today."

Mullinax continues, "Walter also told me the story of how he and Harold built the 10-foot waterfall, by hand, when they were both in their 70's. Walter said he used to like to smoke cigars, but his wife didn't like him smoking in the house, so he would come out to the Garden and Harold would let him smoke as long as he helped him. When they built the waterfall, Walter tied a rope around his waist, put the rope around a tree, tied the other end to a rock and lowered the rock down to Hatcher who was standing at the bottom of the waterfall. Hatcher then mortared the rocks into place. If you've seen the waterfall, you know those are some large rocks!"

## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Soderberg continued as an active member of SMGC and supporter of Hatcher Garden until his death in 2004. His family commemorated his love for the garden by donating a memorial Ericaceous Garden in his honor that was planted and dedicated in 2006.

As Hatcher worked in the Garden, he became known for his frugality almost as much as for his gardening expertise. His daughter, Alice, recalls how her father liked to put any spare money into additions to the garden. She remembers the story about when Hatcher was robbed. “Dad liked working at the Men’s Garden Club ‘tree farm,’ which was on some unused city property behind Prince Hall apartments. While working by himself one day, he was approached by a thief who took his wallet when no one else was in sight. Dad showed no concern for any physical safety issues (that worried my mother) when he returned to work in the same spot by himself the next day, but he regretted that he could have bought lots of baby trees with the \$40 that was taken from him.”

John Nevison, another enthusiastic leader of Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club for many years, became great friends with Hatcher after he joined the Club in 1969. Mike Hembree in page 53 of *Seasons of Harold Hatcher*, notes that Nevison was a dedicated worker at the garden:

“Nevison worked at Hatcher Garden two or three days a week, leaving home early in the morning to be in the garden soon after daylight. He and his blue pickup truck ran numerous garden-related errands, both in town and around the state.” In 1999, a permanent memorial from the Club to Nevison was erected and dedicated at Hatcher Garden: the *John Nevison Amphitheater*.

Although Hatcher was enjoying the physical and monetary support of SMGC in developing the garden, he still didn’t like to waste anything. Club members tell many stories about his use and re-use of things he found on the properties he bought along Reidville Road. One of the several houses Hatcher bought to expand the Gardens included an ancient, termite infested chicken house that he used to store building materials and garden tools for maintaining the adjacent houses. According to Jess Taylor, “this tumbled down shack was an eyesore.”

Taylor recalls this encounter with Hatcher: “One day in 1987 while I was visiting the area, Hatcher said to me, ‘Jess, why not just cover this building with 4 by 8 sheets of plywood so it won’t look so bad from the rest of the gardens.’ After examining the dilapidated structure, I replied, ‘this thing won’t survive another wind storm. Let’s demolish it and build a pole-type structure in its place. SMGC has plenty of funds to put up a real building.’ And so we built a substantial replacement with lavatories, work shop, and a drinking fountain especially for Hatcher’s use. As the old chicken house was demolished and hauled away to the dump, Hatcher stood by with a sad look on his face but later told me it was a good move.” In 2003, this pole structure known as the “Potting Shed” was officially named the “Jess Taylor Pavilion” by the Hatcher board in appreciation for



**The Club and the Garden Club Council financed the deck—one of the great additions to the Garden.**

## 6 - HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Taylor's many valuable contributions to the Garden. It is used today as an outdoor classroom and volunteer work station.

Taylor also recalls Hatcher's reluctance to demolish another original structure at the Garden. "One of the building lots Harold owned on Reidville Road contained a brick garage that was in the way of a new Garden entrance SMGC wanted to fund. Harold really didn't want to demolish it. John Nevison, Tom Bartram, and I were standing around the structure, discussing with Harold his approval to tear it down. Harold was reluctant. Then John knocked off some of the crumbling mortar revealing a salvaged used brick. Harold saw the recycling possibilities. He later assembled a group of 'judge appointed community service volunteers' and went about recycling the old garage." According to Joe Mullinax, the brick columns that are now on either side of the driveway at the entrance to the parking lot were built from those recycled bricks.

Hatcher was also known for being able to get the last possible use out of a piece of equipment. He preferred putting his money into land and plants, so he was always receptive to donations of tools and equipment to get the work done. An SMGC member recalls the difficulty of working with some of this *recycled* equipment. "Someone in the remote past donated two electric riding lawn mowers to the gardens. Volunteer SMGC work crews during plant sale seasons used these machines to haul plants and materials when assembling plants for sale. When pulling soil and plants up-hill, three or four members got behind the machine and helped push the struggling thing up-hill. The down hill trip was an altogether different matter. The machines had long ago worn out the brakes and it was 'Watch out! Every man for himself.' After several near accidents, the Club convinced Hatcher to junk the monsters and the SMGC funded a new John Deere tractor."

Linda McHam, who joined the Club in 1991 and later became the first woman president of the club, recalls introducing Hatcher to the value of the tiller attachment. "I took my riding mower which has a two-foot tiller attachment out to the tree nursery at Fairforest Creek and tilled up the hard clay for him. He couldn't believe how much work it did in two hours. It would have taken him about two days to do the same amount. Bob Almond told me that Harold immediately asked the SMGC to purchase a similar attachment for the Garden."

After heart surgery in 1985, Hatcher (probably reluctantly) began thinking of future plans for the garden's life. After so many years of "fire in the belly" personal development of the garden, it was probably hard for Hatcher to share responsibility with others. By the late 1980s, the work of maintaining the Garden—even with help from active SMGC members—was getting to be a bit much. By 1987 Hatcher was almost 90 years old and was concerned about the Garden's future. According to Hembree's book, Hatcher "was wondering all the time about what would happen when I was gone...Would there be enough people to appreciate it, to keep it up, to not let it grow up in vines again?"

In December 1986, he and his wife, Josephine, deeded the Garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation with an agreement with the leaders of Spartanburg Technical College (now Spartanburg Community College) that the college would provide ongoing maintenance. This maintenance cooperation began to wane after a year or so. For 10 years, there was essentially no change in the operation of the garden—and no contingency plan to carry it forward—or even maintain it without Hatcher. During this period, there were multiple *ad hoc* meetings at the County Foundation offices with Jim Barrett to coordinate



## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

activities at the Gardens. These meetings included club members Almond, Nevison and Taylor, along with Harold Hatcher and Barrie Bain. But no plan evolved then.

Even without a plan to insure future health and growth, the Club, based on faith that such an important venture would survive, continued strong support, both labor-wise and financial. In 1986, the first new building in the Garden—the Potting Shed, later named the Jess Taylor Pavilion in honor of its champion—was financed by the club. In the late 80s, it financed asphaltting of the garden paths and, with the Garden Club Council, provided funds for the Observation Deck deep in the wooded area. During the first half of the 1990s, the Club funded other multiple capital projects which included the pole-structured Equipment Building behind the Potting Shed, paving of the parking lot, some dozen benches and tables (constructed by Club members), additional paved paths, the first Irrigation System for the Garden's beds and the Club container garden, and partnered with the Garden Club Council in funding the Gazebo. This "hardscaping" was done while Frank Cunningham, Soderberg, Bartram, John Fincher and Almond shared the presidency and while Taylor was treasurer. They were the champions of this work along with Nevison and Bob Oldham. And in 1993, Hatcher donated to the County Foundation three of his houses fronting on Reidville Road which blocked viewing the garden from the street. This provided an important expansion to Hatcher Garden.

Pittman recalled a 1996 MGC Board meeting in the pavilion at Jim Bagwell's home during the "Almond-Bartram-Pittman-Soderberg Co-Presidency" when Jane Bagwell was secretary, that the very question that Hatcher was asking himself was seriously discussed. "*Why was there no long range plan? How would the garden survive without Harold?*" There was current discussion of the possibility of financing a greenhouse for Harold. Deliberation focused on the Club expenditures over the past decade totaling over \$40,000 "and now we are considering contributing a \$4,500 greenhouse—all of this with no idea of how the garden can possibly continue if something happens to Harold!" Clearly, a long range plan was in order! Bartram's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter of February, 1997, said, "In conjunction with the Spartanburg [County] Foundation, we're represented on a [new] committee undertaking the task of formulating plans for the future of the Garden. Our representatives are Bob Almond, Bill Gaston and Jess Taylor." Action was on the way!

This Advisory Committee formed by the Foundation began serious discussions on the future of the Garden when Harold would no longer be able to participate. The club decided to proceed with financing the greenhouse that year.

After a year of studying the question, "*Does Spartanburg need a public garden?*" the committee answered, "Yes!" So, in 1998: real success! The Foundation, under the directorship of Jim Barrett, created a Board of Directors for the Garden. It included active Club member Bartram, plus Barrie Bain, Gaston, and McHam (soon afterwards, they became Club members) and Jamie Cobb. Later that year another long range decision was made. The new Hatcher Board hired its first Executive Director, Kelly Petoskey. She was previously associated with the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson. In 1999, one of Spartanburg Tech's star graduates, Jeff Hall, was hired by Petoskey and became Hatcher's "star" horticulturist. Hatcher was pleased with this new organizational structure.

This was the beginning of present-day Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve which at that time was called Hatcher Garden, and previously Hatcher Horticulture Gardens.

# April 2022

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## Welcoming Men & Women

### Officers

President	Phil Abers
Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
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### Gardening & Beautification

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

## President's Corner

This first week of April I took a trip to Louisiana. The purpose of the trip was to attend the convention for the Society of Louisiana Irises (SLI). It was a good convention and do you know that we now have a celebrity in our club? Our very own club member, Daphne Sawyer, was elected President of the SLI. At the convention a session was held on how to grow the organization and attract new members.

There were a number of suggestions. Some suggestions were to develop a program with the 4H clubs, do community projects, and create videos on the Louisiana Iris and the SLI. Then one wise gentleman stated that all these ideas are good, but will not bring members into the society in the short term. He suggested pursuing these ideas, but having a short term plan. His short term plan was to have each member of the club invite someone new to join. I like his short term plan and hope that we can successfully follow it. Who will you invite to join the club?

## Stewart Winslow SMGC Speaker, April 18, 2022



### "Wofford Landscape Tour"

Join Stewart Winslow, Director of Horticulture and Landscape Design for Wofford College, for an evening tour of the campus landscape. **We will meet in the Admissions parking lot just west of the Church Street entrance to the Wofford Campus at 6:15pm.** Stewart will lead a tour of the Wofford Campus discussing the landscape with emphasis on new plant introductions and unique species that perform well in Spartanburg.

## Iris Gardens 2022

Do you enjoy irises in bloom? This year the irises at the Lineberger's and Abers' are open for visitors, from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, April 23, Sunday, April 24, Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. The Lineberger irises are located at 2460 Compton Bridge Road, Inman, SC. The Abers' irises are located at 450 Gowan Road, Inman, SC.



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



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 Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.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.*

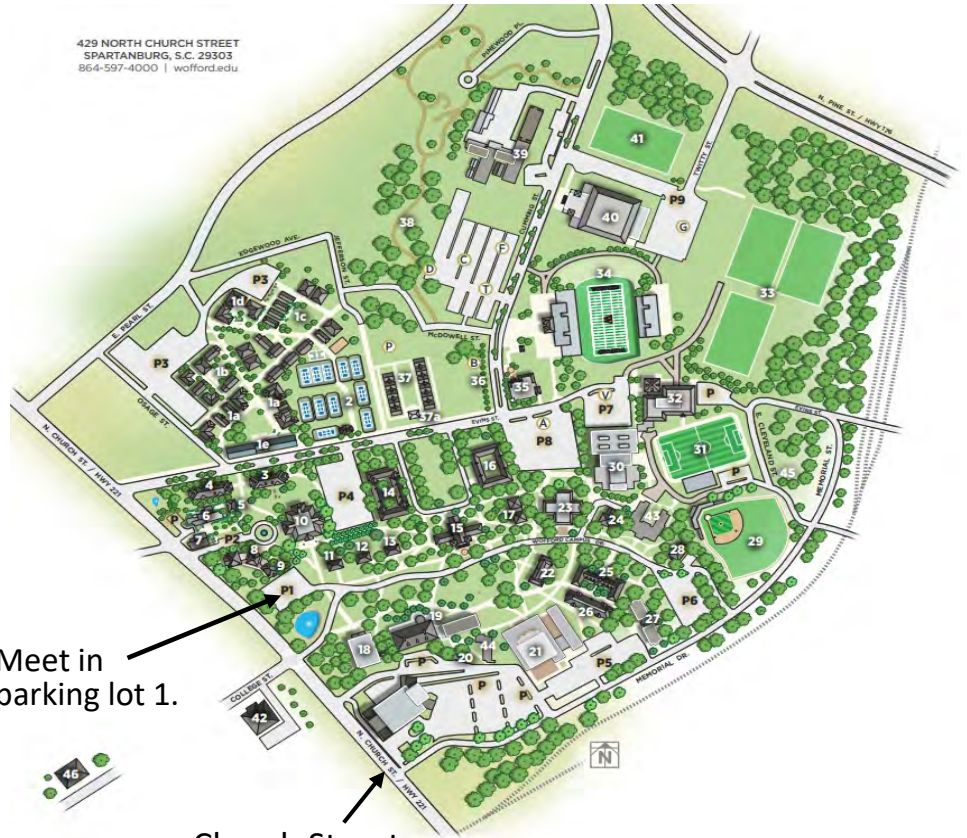


# Gardening & Beautification

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Enter the Wofford Campus from Church Street adjacent to the bookstore. The admissions parking lot is immediately to the left (west) of the fountain.

429 NORTH CHURCH STREET  
 SPARTANBURG, S.C. 29303  
 864-597-4000 | wofford.edu



## 2022 Litter pickup schedule

**June 18** rain date **Jun 25**

**Sept. 17** rain date **Sep 24**

**Dec. 3** rain date **Dec 10**

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 2022 Membership

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

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](http://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 Beth Waddell

### *The Friendship Garden*

Life began in a garden—God could have chosen a tundra, an island, a desert, a mesa or countless other landforms, but God chose a garden. My father came from a long line of ancestors who were farmers and gardeners who loved the feel and the smell of the earth. Many times my Daddy said that while he was growing up during The Great Depression, they grew or raised everything the family needed except for coffee and sugar. He grew up torn between his desire to become a farmer like his ancestors or acquiring a job working on the railroad. He spoke of plowing those red clay hills in Blacksburg, SC and hearing a train whistle blowing, and the debate would begin all over again in his mind. Later, he compromised and did both—he was a railroad engineer for thirty-eight years with Southern Railway and a backyard farmer. If Daddy was not on a train, he was found digging, planting or harvesting in the yard and taking fresh vegetables and produce to friends, family and neighbors. As a child, I thought he was a genius because he could speak to animals. Every spring he would rent a mule to plow the garden area and was fluent in “mule.” He would “gee” and “haw” and that old mule would know exactly how to turn. As a child, I always wondered what other animal foreign languages were taught at Blacksburg High School during his youth.

One spring when I was of preschool age, Daddy plowed a small area just for me as my very first garden plot. He said that I could plant all my favorite things. Boy, was I excited! One morning I went outside early in my pajamas and bedroom slippers and did exactly that—I planted all my favorite things in the garden’s fertile soil. I planted macaroni, popcorn, dimes, nail polish, a Coke bottle, Milk Duds and M&Ms. Needless to say, my first garden was a roaring disaster even though I watered it daily and checked on it first thing every morning! Too bad that I did not tell my parents of the early morning planting session, because they never knew that I had already planted nor the assortment that I had chosen. My parents were probably waiting for a list of needed seeds, and I guess they were disappointed at my disinterest in the gardening project.

This year I may try another garden and hope it is more successful than that first attempt. This year, I think I will plant a **FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**. My garden plans include planting the following:

- \* *Acres of acute listening ears for **UNDERSTANDING** all diversity due to age, race or color.*
  - \* *Plenty of **KINDNESS** and **COMPASSION** for others.*
  - \* *Several rows of **ORGANIZATION** to keep the world working well together.*
  - \* *Many rows of **HUMOR** to offset difficult moments*
  - \* *Meadows of vibrant spring and summer blooms for the **AESTHETIC BEAUTY** to delight the soul and*
  - \* ***PEACE** and **TRANQUILITY** for all who enter the garden.*
- My garden will be heavily fertilized with **LOVE** and watered daily with **PATIENCE**.*

A soil test may tell us the other needed elements for a successful garden. Perhaps if we all plant a Friendship Garden, the world may become a better place for all!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

Parallel to this organizational evolution, in 1998 Club President George Gunter was a one-man committee working diligently to control the problem of English Ivy attacking many of the Garden's trees. He had success. Other club members continued many types of volunteer work in Harold's garden.

In 1999, the Club designed and financed construction of another hardscape asset, the

### **Hatcher family donates garden to Foundation** **By A. J. Weichbrodt**

A garden tucked away in a corner of west Spartanburg, approximately 6 1/2 acres of cultivated woodland in the Park Hills area, recently was donated to the Spartanburg County Foundation to be used for the public's enjoyment and science education.

The property, with an assessed value of \$103,450, stretches from one part of Reidville Road to the west side of Briarwood Road.

Dr. Jim Barrett, executive director of the foundation, said the property was donated by the Harold Hatcher family in December. Hatcher has spent the past 17 years landscaping and cultivating the property. Now, in his 80s, he wanted to make sure that somehow the property would continue to be cared for.

"When we got it, it was almost wasteland," said Hatcher's wife Josephine. "After 17 years of work to stop erosion and replanting, you can't just face the fact that after your death it might all be destroyed by a bulldozer. We began to look around for ways it might be preserved."

- Continued

From the *Herald-Journal* in December, 1986

40- to 50-seat stone John Nevison Amphitheater.

Designed by a Club member, it was contracted for construction by Charles Reid, owner of "Sodfather Landscaping," who performed a quality job.

Hatcher was instrumental, along with Taylor, Almond and Soderberg, in converting the plant sale program from "in the ground" growing to "container growing" and began moving the operation to Hatcher Garden in an open area in front of Hatcher's favorite tree, the large pecan tree. (This tree later became the logo for the garden). Club members used that area for

plant sales, but Hatcher continued "in the ground" rooting and growing in the newly purchased lot west of Hughes Lane. It was in this area that he grew the Natchez Crape Myrtles that were used for the Club's treescaping East Main Street in 1989.

The great cooperative spirit continued between the Club and the Garden. The MGC potting area was moved from the pecan area to a much larger and more convenient area west of Hughes Lane at the rear of the Sikes property in 2000 after the wooded section of that lot was cleared. As chair of the plant program, Bob Sutherland enhanced the new container garden during the following year by installing ground cloth and arranging the purchase and installation of the MGC's own small storage building at the site.

Hatcher received many accolades, awards and citations over the years and many of them were either related to the work of the Club, or were initiated by the Club.

## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

In 2000, the Club's annual Spring Plant Sale—it had been very successful for many years as a cooperative effort with the Spartanburg Realtors—was terminated and the Spring Sale became a companion to the Club's Fall Plant Sale. In 2003, Hatcher Garden joined the Club in holding joint sales using Hall's propagated annuals, perennials, grasses, etc. This partnership was highly profitable for both organizations; the Club specialized in trees and shrubs, the Garden in annuals, perennials, vines and grasses. These sales were the primary source of funds for the Club's many community beautification projects, and for its yearly monetary contributions to the Garden. Again, cooperation between these two organizations proved healthy for both!

In early 2002 Kelly Petoskey Reid resigned to be with her young family. Later that year, the board hired Joe Mullinax as Executive Director and Hall continued as the full-time Horticulturist. A part-time office manager was also hired. Volunteers continued to devote countless hours to the Garden's upkeep. Interns from Spartanburg Tech gained horticulture experience working with Hall during the spring and summer.

In 2009, another significant change in garden management occurred. After the resignation of Joe Mullinax, Robin Vollmer became the new Executive Director with a high level of energy and creativity. She had returned to Spartanburg after an earlier career in technical and sales management with Hoechst in Spartanburg. Her last ten years have been in nonprofit business management and fundraising.

Money to support and improve the Garden continues to be provided by individual and business donations, local city and county tourist grants, foundation grants, and annual special events. For many years, the club made an annual contribution of \$3,000 or more to the Garden's general maintenance fund. In

### **SPARTANBURG MGC MEMBER RECEIVES HIGHEST SC AWARD**

*Spartanburg Herald-Journal*  
November 20, 2001

Harold Hatcher, 95 and a long time member of the Spartanburg (SC) Men's Garden Club, was given the Order of the Palmetto Award at the club's annual meeting on November 19. Presented by former Congresswoman Liz Patterson on behalf of the Governor of SC, it is the highest state award given to a civilian.

After "retiring" at age 65 in the '70s, he began work on restoring eight acres of eroded, red clay land that was behind his home in Spartanburg. The result is Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve—a site of beauty and serenity near downtown. Most of the planning and physical work on the conversion which includes six ponds, winding paths through recovered hardwood forests, and a huge perennial garden was done by Harold with help from many MGC members and other volunteers.

The MGC has also strongly supported the effort financially. Its additions include asphalt parking lot and garden paths, the two utility buildings, the greenhouse, the gazebo, and partial financing of the observation deck. And it has recently renovated and updated the area of the garden which is used for the club's annual plant sales.

In 1986, Harold and his wife, Josephine, donated the garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation to insure its community use in perpetuity.

While it is now governed by a volunteer board of trustees and is managed by an employed executive director and a professional horticulturist and assistant...Harold continues to work in the garden every day!

## 6 - HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

addition, from 1986 through 2008, the Club has contributed more than \$100,000 to buildings and hardscape features of the Garden. Additional personal donations and memorials by individual Club members bring that total even higher.<sup>2</sup>

After Hatcher's death in August 2003, the club began developing a fund to create a significant memorial to him in the Garden. Almond chaired this effort along with Bartram and Pittman. Local sculptor, Clint Button, was commissioned to create a natural granite monument to Hatcher. Button lived as a child in one of the Reidville Road houses, now a

### DEDICATION AT HATCHER GARDEN

PHOTO BY TOMMY WHITE FOR THE HERALD-JOURNAL



**G**ranite sculptor Clint Button chats with Alice Hatcher Henderson, daughter of the late Harold Hatcher, prior to the monument dedication at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve Monday evening. Button, a Boiling Springs resident, created a memorial stone in honor of Hatcher for his contributions to the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and to the community.

part of Hatcher Garden, and had a great fondness for Hatcher. The memorial stone was funded by contributions of \$2,600 and \$2,000 from the SMGC treasury. Button donated his professional labor to the project. The stone was located under Harold's favorite large pecan tree, with a public dedication ceremony during the Club's annual picnic on September 18,

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 28 for a detailed tabulation of these special financial contributions from the Club created by Jess Taylor and Jim Bagwell.

## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

2006. The program consisted of remarks from Myles Whitlock, Chair of Hatcher Garden and Joe Mullinax, Executive Director. Additional speakers were Spartanburg Mayor Bill Barnet, Clint Button, Bob Almond, Henry Pittman and Club President Everette Lineberger. The bronze plaque, mounted on the commemorative stone, is inscribed as follows:

**Harold Hatcher**  
1907 – 2003

Founder and developer of Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve,  
Harold Hatcher was a man of vision who looked at a weed-filled, litter-strewn lot and saw a garden.  
Working with his wife Josephine for 30 years, he used his  
horticultural skills and his unlimited capacity for labor, along with his limited  
funds, to turn his backyard into a haven for plants and people.  
His example inspired the community of Spartanburg that now takes great pride  
in maintaining and expanding the gift he gave us.

*Memorial by his fellow members  
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

For many years, the MGC had a gentleman's agreement with the Garden to share the behind-the-scenes area of the garden to conduct plant propagation and sales activity. As part of the cooperative arrangement between the two groups for many years, a member of the MGC's Board of Directors was elected to the Hatcher Garden Board of Trustees as a liaison between the two organizations. The Club had long known that some day the valuable space it was using at Hatcher Garden would be needed for expansion purposes. That occurred in 2010 and plans were developed to move the Club's container nursery and propagation facilities to space offered at Spartanburg Community College. SCC will also provide space for monthly general membership meetings (now held at Morningside Baptist Church) and board meetings (held in Hatcher's office building). These moves are seen as a "win-win-win"—the Garden gains space to expand, SCC acquires another horticulture-related associate, and the Club has room to grow and expand its important plant sale activities. This change marks the beginning of a new era for the Club but, surely, not the end of the nearly 38 years of co-beneficial association between it and Hatcher Garden. The relationship between the Club and the Garden will continue to be important to both organizations.

---

An unhurried stroll through the Garden at any time of the year provides an opportunity to appreciate what Harold Hatcher "HATH WROUGHT," along with some help from the Men's Garden Club.



# May 2022

## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

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Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

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### ***Gardening & Beautification***

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### President's Corner

Have you been to our container garden lately? We have finished repairing our sheds and they both look good. The last project was the addition of a metal roof on the wooden shed, so we are now better protected from the elements. Thanks to all who have participated in the shed repairs and housekeeping around the garden.

We still have a problem at the container garden. Because our last three sales have been so successful, we are short of plants for the fall sale. Row A is nearly empty! We have a number of plants ordered that will need to be potted this month. Can you help? We dug plants at Linda McHam's house recently and potted them for future sales. Do you have any salable plants to contribute? If so, let us know and we will send our army of plant gatherers to procure them.

### Phil Abers SMGC Speaker, May 16, 2022

#### "Growing Irises in the Upstate"



Club President Phil Abers is a member of the Piedmont Carolina Iris Society. His iris garden was on the American Iris Society Region 5 tour this year. Phil shares his knowledge of growing irises in the upstate that he has mostly acquired from mentors Everette Lineberger and Don Crowder.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.



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**Renew Now**  
**2022 Membership**  
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Corporate \$100

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Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Photography by Linda McHam



Philadelphus  
(English Dogwood  
or Mock Orange)



David Austin rose  
'Graham Thomas'



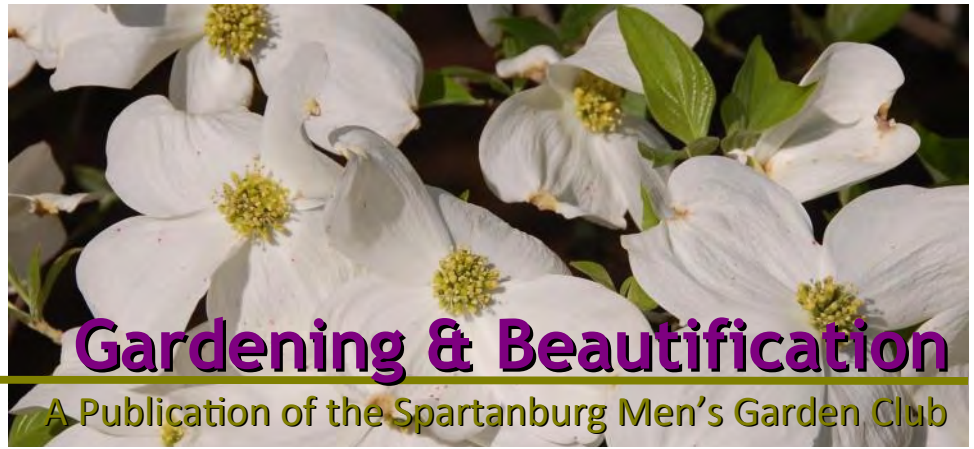
Frank Tiller's farm:  
getting ready for  
tomatoes and corn.

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- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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## Gardening & Beautification

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### Member Musing

By Phil Abers

### *Botanical Gardens*

In April I took a trip to Louisiana. It presented me the chance to visit some botanical gardens. I was able to visit the Birmingham Botanical Garden in Alabama, the LSU botanical garden in Baton Rouge and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. I have wanted to go to the Atlanta Botanical Garden since our presenter in January 2021 called it one of the best in the US.

The Birmingham Botanical Garden encompasses 67.5 acres. It is open all year and has free parking and admission. The highlights of the Birmingham Botanical Garden are the Japanese Garden, the formal Rose Garden and the Fern Glade located along a creek running through the garden. My favorite stop was the 7.5 acre Japanese Garden. It has a good bonsai collection, a large koi pond and typical Japanese Garden bridge. The facilities include a small conservatory, art gallery, cafe and a Garden Center Building that hosts meetings, classes and shows. The garden is mostly set among trees giving it a natural feel.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden is 30 acres and opened in 1976. The garden is open six days a week (closed on Mondays). An adult ticket is \$27 during the week and \$29 on the weekend with a \$7 parking fee. The more formal part of the garden has paved walks and finished borders. The highlights of this garden include the large conservatory that houses the Fuqua Orchid Center, the 600 foot long elevated sky walk and the Skyline Gardens that have downtown Atlanta as the backdrop. There is also a very nice man-made water feature. The orchid center is said to be the largest species orchid collection on permanent display in the United States. The Atlanta Botanical Garden has a number of facilities for meetings, classes and parties.

Which garden did I like better? I liked the Birmingham Botanical Garden better because of its more natural setting and the very nice Japanese Garden. While I like the Atlanta Botanical Garden very much, especially the orchid collection and the other conservatory plants, it seemed a bit too commercial for my taste. Two venues were closed for birthday parties and a group was doing yoga on the big lawn in front of the conservatory. While this is my reasoning, my wife would probably say I chose the Birmingham Garden because I am a cheapskate.



Birmingham Botanical Garden



Atlanta Botanical Garden

History of the club continues on the following pages.

## Chapter 7

# Sharing the Beauty and Funding the Programs: PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

*... even the smallest landscape can offer pride of ownership not only to its inhabitants but to its neighbors.*

*The world delights in a garden.... Creating any garden - big or small – is, in the end, all about joy.*

- Julie Moir Messervy

**W**hile enhancing community beautification may have been one of the primary objectives of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club over the years, its life blood—the financial basis for most of its programs—has been the propagation of plants and their sale to the public. This has provided great experience and education for our members, while making tremendous numbers and varieties of plants available to citizens at bargain prices. The slogan of the program has very properly been, “*Quality plants at reasonable prices.*”

While not plant *sales*, the exchange of plants for money to strengthen the Club treasury was begun, probably, in the late 1950s when plant auctions became an annual event for the Club. This activity continued into the ‘70s with George Drummond as the perennial auctioneer. The first actual sale of plants apparently began in a small way in 1961. Secretary and newsletter editor Charles Lea reported the following in his monthly “Gardenettes” in June. The success of this project was encouraging and it may have been the beginning of a large and important activity of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

The Plant Committee (R. B. Hines was the new chairman along with Jack Lemmon, Red Arnold, J. P. Carlton and M. P. Nantz) is to purchase various plants, shrubs, etc., to sell to the membership at cost, or for sale to the public, such as the tomato plant sale the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May. By the way, the Treasury was upped a little over \$100 by that sale.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

Not long after Harold Hatcher joined the Club in 1972, he began propagating HUNDREDS OF trees and planting them in public areas of the community. As W. O. Ezell had done earlier, Hatcher did this work in the name of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. Hatcher had previously been famous for this type work in Indiana.

It isn't clear how native white Dogwood, and Crape Myrtle<sup>1</sup> became favorites of Harold and his Club colleagues—perhaps because many landscapers, including the popular landscape architect Shirley Carter, promoted them as the two most valuable small growing flowering trees for the Piedmont.

In the mid to late 70s Hatcher made contact with officials in the South Carolina Forestry Department about help in growing Dogwood, and it was proposed that seedlings would be grown and shared with the Men's Garden Club--if the Club would supply large quantities of Dogwood seed. Club members collected and supplied seeds for a number of years during the fall, seeds by the multiple buckets full, and indeed the forestry propagationists at the Salem Nursery succeeded in growing thousands of seedling trees which were given to the Club. This was an extremely valuable partnership in that the nursery kept huge numbers of the seedlings for planting across the state—a win-win for Spartanburg and the state!

According to Bob Reynolds, Milliken's horticulturist, Jack Bracken, helped the Club develop a special relationship with a popular nursery down mid-state near Laurens and Clinton—Dayley's Nursery. Dayley's was a special source of the great watermelon red Crape Myrtle named "Carolina Beauty" which became the Club's favorite. So, Salem and Dayley's were the two sources of large quantities of quality low cost plants that allowed the Club to launch its community tree sale project.

A strong working relationship always existed between the City and the Club, mostly due to the beautification efforts led by W. O. Ezell. It was soon evident that the Club needed a tree bank or nursery area as a "home base" for the project. Sometime in the late 1970s the Club began use of the city's "Gas Bottoms" property on North Pine Street, then called James F. Byrnes Boulevard, near what is now the Vic Bailey automobile complex. Reynolds remembers, "The soil was excellent but had a lot of residual building debris. I recall a challenge between Harold on his old Gravley vs. John Nevison on his new tiller." The Parks Department was the Club's partner in this endeavor. The small Dogwood seedling trees, as well as a few young Pink Dogwood and other young trees and shrubs were grown there for later digging and planting around the community by Club volunteers, with Hatcher being the leader. Propagation of local Crape Myrtles was done there also.

The year 1979 was a milestone for the Club— in addition to continuing to supply free trees to schools, city parks, etc., its community plant sales began that year. Orders were taken by both volunteers and by Hatcher, plants dug by hand, packaged in plastic bags with damp compost and sold, mostly for one dollar each, mostly native white Dogwood and Carolina Beauty Crape Myrtles, three or four feet tall. That first year, Saturday sales were conducted by Club members at local retail outlets such as Community Cash grocery stores around the city. While that first year's sale was quite successful, Hatcher was said to have complained, "More trees were needed than were available."

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<sup>1</sup> Actually, it was the white blooming *Natchez* variety of Crape Myrtle that Harold Hatcher prized above almost all others. It is highly mildew resistant, tough and hardy, and has beautiful red-orange exfoliating bark and matures at 20-30 feet tall.

# June 2022

## Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



### *Welcoming Men & Women*

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Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

#### **Directors**

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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**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club (SMGC) will occur in 2023. Our garden club has a great history in Spartanburg. People like W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher and Henry Pittman have helped make Spartanburg an attractive city. The SMGC has contributed many hours of labor and money to Hatcher Gardens when it was in its infancy. Many projects have been done in the past to beautify the roadways in Spartanburg including our ongoing Street Tree Program on Pine Street.

We are planning to celebrate this wonderful past with a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala next year. Not only we will be celebrating our past, but we will be showcasing our future. We hope to use this event to attract attention to the club and gain new members. To make sure we have a successful celebration, we have formed a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. This committee is chaired by Darvin Helvy. Ben Waddell, Denie Crowder, and Charlie Crescenzi have agreed to assist. Do you have any ideas for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and would you like to join the committee? Let's make the next 75 years better than the first 75 years!

### **Dan Shook SMGC Speaker, June 20, 2022**

#### **"Plants, Programs, and Plans at Hatcher Gardens"**



Dan discusses Hatcher Garden's recent plant additions, educational programs, and plans for expansion. He has a special passion for educating children about gardening and nature, which is one of his major areas of emphasis at Hatcher.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.



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## 2022 Litter pickup schedule

**June 18** rain date **Jun 25**

**Sept. 17** rain date **Sep 24**

**Dec. 3** rain date **Dec 10**

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 2022 Membership

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

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](http://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



Hydrangea 'Lady in Red' lace cap in foreground; Nikko Blue in the background.



Buxus sempervirens suffruticosa, Hosta aureomarginata and Hydrangea lace cap.



Blueberries are starting to ripen. They will be ready on July 4.

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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### Member Musing

By Mary Ann Hipp

### *Viburnums*

Are you looking for a shrub that is a tall screening plant, or maybe a short specimen plant, or something in between? One that is deciduous, or evergreen? Grows in sun or shade? One with red berries, blue berries, black berries, or no berries? One with shiny leaves, or pleated leaves, or wrinkled leaves? Native or imported? There's a viburnum for that! Some viburnums have very fragrant flowers and some have no fragrance at all. Some have snowball flowers, some have a layered look more like a dogwood, and some have relatively insignificant flowers. I have at least fourteen varieties of viburnums in my yard and am always on the lookout for more.

One of my favorites is the Chinese evergreen snowball viburnum (*viburnum macrocephalum*). This is a semi-evergreen shrub that likes full sun and can get huge. Mine is at least 12' X 12' and is only nine years old. It is a showstopper, and we have them for sale in the container nursery. Other favorites are the *viburnum plicatum* with their pleated leaves and layered look. 'Shasta' has flowers similar to dogwoods and 'Popcorn' has snowball flowers. I also like the fragrant viburnums, *burkwoodii* 'Mohawk' and *carlesii*. These both have pink buds that are beautiful even before they open and smell fabulous. White Flower Farm describes *carlesii* as 'one of the most gloriously fragrant shrubs known to man. We will have some of these for sale this fall. 'Moonlit Lace' and 'Spring Lace' are two relatively new evergreen hybrids with shiny leaves and pretty white flowers. 'Moonlit Lace' is available in the nursery too as is *viburnum* 'Spring Bouquet' (*viburnum tinus*). Can you tell that I'm the one who orders in a lot of the plants we sell? So if you have an empty spot that needs a spring blooming shrub, consider a viburnum. And come to the club's plant sale this fall to get one!



History of the club continues on the following pages.



## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

The second year, the Club heeded his observation and was better prepared with both home grown and Salem Nursery grown White Dogwood and Dayley Crape Myrtles, and also with purchased grafted and more costly Pink Dogwood. That year the weather was very un-cooperative and sales volume was disappointing. Many of the unsold plants had to be heeled out and later planted for the year at the tree bank at Gas Bottoms and at the homes of members.

Not discouraged, in 1981, the Club purchased a truck load of grafted Pink Dogwood from a nursery in Tennessee for the sale to supplement the white ones and the Crape Myrtles. What happened? Hatcher explained in the “Gardening & Beautification” newsletter of March, 1981.

When prospective buyers got through filling their gasoline tanks and paying for their week's groceries, they decided the grafted pink dogwood, also at inflated prices, was a “luxury” they could do without, at least for this week. Instead they went for non-grafted white dogwoods and the red crape myrtles which were less than half the price of the pink dogwoods. So we sold out of the cheaper trees early in the sale. I presume we will go to the Tree Bank with the one-third of the truckload that was left over.

He went on to say that a significant development that added greatly to the success of this the third annual sale was the many advanced orders placed by neighborhood organizations in Hillbrook, Oak Forest, and Wood Winds and in the town of Wellford. Landscape Architect Shirley Carter had worked with the new Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association, on Spartanburg's east side, and developed a landscape theme including lazy triangles of either Dogwood or Crape Myrtles (depending on the amount of sunshine available) for both sides of front yards that had no major existing trees. Neighborhood leaders staked proposed planting sites at many homes in advance, and took many orders. On the May Saturday of the sale, John Nevison and his famous “little blue truck” were nearly overworked in delivering trees. *Southern Living* magazine covered this neighborhood activity and, in October 1981, ran a full page picture story on the 2,000 or so trees which were sold into the neighborhood from Henry Pittman's carport and Nevison's pick-up truck.<sup>2</sup>

Harold Hatcher reported, “These first three sales (years) have added over 15,000 flowering trees to the area, for which we are proud.” Proud indeed, this was considered a rather super accomplishment for a club of some 100 amateur men gardeners.

As it is today, the original purpose of the plant sale project was two-fold—to encourage community and personal property beautification and to provide Club funds for other projects (primarily those involving community beautification).

Before moving from Gas Bottoms in the fall of 1983 to the Fairforest Creek flood plain area of the city near the Beacon, the last trees—Sycamores—were planted at the parking lot where QS-1 is now located. Harold Hatcher's “Gardening & Beautification” newsletter dated November 17, had this report.

**TREE PROGRAM.** Responses to our treelet offering are still coming in, with total requested items now at about 850. These are from 25 towns, schools, neighborhood groups and individuals. These requests will be filled first to those planning Arbor Day plantings, then in order of receipt. Arthur Justice and Harold Frederickson lead in

<sup>2</sup> A page of this article is in Appendix 22.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

response from neighborhood groups. There will be a succession of therapy opportunities for willing members to get these orders filled.

A major change in Tree Bank operation is in the mill. The Pine Street property is to be sold by the city. The Bank will move to Fair Forest Park at the south end of Highland Ave. The city wishes to continue their cooperation with the Club in this project. About 1/4 mile of stoned roadway has been laid to facilitate access for city leaf dumping and tree culture. This 30+ acre park is the third largest in the city. Fair Forest Creek, considerable woods and about 10 acres of open flood plain suggest possible development of a city arboretum in this park. A committee of club directors was named to explore this possibility. (Hatcher, Chairman; Bob Powell, Bob Reynolds, D. P. Goodwin, Charles Frost and John Nevison.)

He reported in the newsletter of October, 1985, that this Fairforest Creek Nursery project was proceeding and he gave this optimistic summary: "The 71 treelet species available for plantings this '85/'86 dormant season have been listed in a September 30 memo forwarded to about 135 county schools, city & county offices, civic and neighborhood associations, local radio-TV stations and local newspapers." The newsletter also reported that approximately 3,000 treelets were available and that, "There is a very good supply of Crape Myrtles (2 to 8 ft.) this year: dwarf and regular white and red, and regular pinks. Dave Kennemur has handled the distribution and publicity effort on this year's tree list. The trees will be available from November 20, 1985, into March 1986." It is interesting to note the very long period—some three months—during which the sale continued.

The extremely valuable cooperative program with the South Carolina State Forestry Nursery continued for a number of years and returned huge numbers of young Dogwood seedling trees to the Club. In 1989, 4,500 of these small, one-year old Dogwood seedlings from the Salem State Nursery were ready for planting in the Fairforest Tree Bank, along with 5,000 Crape Myrtle cuttings for rooting, most of which were propagated by Hatcher.

Among the Club members active with Hatcher in the Fairforest Nursery were John Nevison and Jess Taylor. Taylor wrote in a 1999 memoir, "John had a blue pick-up truck that made several trips to the State Nursery at Sumter, S. C. We picked up dogwood and Leyland Cypress seedlings for transplanting in the MGC Fairforest Creek Nursery. I recall riding shot-gun on at least six occasions and listening to his tales of high adventure while he was bird-dogging Englehart Company interests in Europe." Taylor continued, "For many years John worked as a member of the four man digging team supervised by Harold Hatcher to scientifically dig up trees for the bare root tree sales program."

Originally the soil at Fairforest was poor, but over the years Hatcher's addition of leaf compost improved it greatly. Water for this new nursery was an ongoing problem. It was in 1989 that Jess Taylor considered solving this problem by engineering a pumping system for creek water. But city engineer Mike Garrett suggested that it would be much more efficient to pipe city water to the nursery; he engineered and provided this along with much valuable advice. This type of help and cooperation from Garrett and the city were common and extremely valuable.

Also that year, 85 six-foot tall white Natchez Crape Myrtles were dug from Harold's large rooting bed on the Sikes property in what is now the grass parking area in front of the fenced nursery area at Hatcher Garden; these bare-root trees were planted by John Belue as part of the Club's 1989 "Beautiful East Main" shoulder treescape project and they are an essential part of the beauty of that street today.

# July 2022

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### *Welcoming Men & Women*

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### **President's Corner**

The nominating committee led by Darvin Helvy has done a good job developing a slate of candidates for 2023. If you would also like to be on the board, let Darvin know.

To keep the SMGC viable, we must plan for the future. At the end of 2023 multiple directors will have served four years. We need other members to step forward. Our current officers are nearing their "term limits" at the end of 2023. The nominating committee and current board member may approach you about serving in 2024. Please keep an open mind. Besides, we are a fun group of people!

### **Lawson Revan SMGC Speaker, July 18, 2022**

#### **"Tyger River Foundation"**

The July meeting of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will feature a presentation by Lawson Revan who will discuss the mission and activities of the Tyger River Foundation. The Tyger River Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It is dedicated to long-term conservation efforts within the Tyger River Basin. The foundation promotes, protects, and restores the natural and historic resources of the Tyger River Basin. The Foundation encourages an active outdoor lifestyle.

All are welcome. The Seminar is open to the public free of charge.



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**Renew Now  
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Corporate \$100

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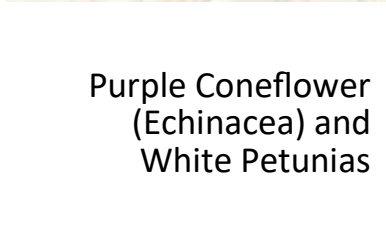
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**Photography by Linda McHam**



*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*  
(Plumbago)



Purple Coneflower  
(Echinacea) and  
White Petunias



Seed Pods from a  
Golden Rain Tree  
(*Koelreuteria elegans*)

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### Member Musing

By Mark Carlson



### Visiting Savannah

If you are looking for a spring getaway that does not require getting on an airplane, consider visiting Savannah, Georgia. The historic district in Savannah dates to the mid-1700s when Georgia was originally settled. There are many beautiful old houses that have been restored in the original residential area very close to the river. When the city was initially laid out, 20 mini parks were created in a grid pattern within the residential area. It is relaxing to stroll through the historic area taking in the different parks. The parks typically contain Live Oaks, Chinese Fringe Trees, azaleas, and frequently Giant Leopard Plant (*Farfugium japonicum* var. *giganteum*, formally *Ligularia*). To catch the azaleas in bloom plan to visit in late March or very early April. As a seaside tourist town there are lots of restaurants, and many of them offer fresh seafood.

The downtown area includes a maritime museum, art museums, and a history museum in the visitor center on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The railroad museum provides some of the finest remaining examples of Victorian railroad architecture and design, and is the most intact antebellum railroad repair complex in the country currently in operation. There are bus routes in the city that you can hop on and off at various points to take in all the sites. The Bonaventure Cemetery and Forsyth Park are also excellent places to wander through.

The Savannah Botanical Gardens are a modest affair on 10 acres that is not far from the city center. An excellent side trip for a morning or afternoon is the Wormsloe Historic Site on the Isle of Hope. The main entrance is set off by a 1.5 mile allée of live oaks. The remains of a fortified house built on the site are made from tabby (a crude type of concrete made from oyster shells and lime). The mountains of oyster shells left by Native Americans made it possible to utilize this type of construction. Walking through a Live Oak, Southern Magnolia and Sabal minor palm forest provides a very different experience compared walking through forests in the Upstate and the Blue Ridge.



Tybee Island is home to three miles of beautiful beaches, locally caught seafood and historic sites including a lighthouse. At Fort Jackson, live fire demonstrations of a muzzle loading cannon are available. Where else can you find someone wearing a backpack that is a plastic bubble which houses a parrot that can see the sights as you do?

History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

The Dogwood program was extremely successful. The Fairforest Nursery was essentially depleted of Dogwoods—some 2500-3000 trees were distributed in the spring, so collection of seeds for the Salem nursery was continued in 1991. During the spring of 1992, the Club received an additional 4,000 two-year old Dogwood seedlings from the Forestry Nursery for treebank planting. During the fall of 1992, 2,800 Crape Myrtles and Dogwoods from the State were sold.

A new marketing partnership was initiated in 1993 involving a cooperative *spring* plant sale with the Spartanburg Realtors Association. The Club supplied 2,000 bagged, bare-root native White Dogwood trees for that first sale. This became a “win-win-win” for the Club, the realtors and the community. This spring Realtor’s Sale was continued for many years while the Club continued its very successful fall sales, which ran for four and five Saturdays during the months of October and November. All of these trees from Fairforest were hand dug, and loaded into plastic bags<sup>3</sup> with damp mulch—this, along with the hours of volunteer time spent in planting, growing and tending became a huge chore for Club members, even though city jail prisoners were occasionally recruited for work. Most of the faithful member participants were rather mature retirees—almost none were youngsters! Evidently, a change of procedure and approach was needed.

It was in early 1993 that a committee consisting of Ben DeLuca, Dick Look and John Nevison, with Jess Taylor and Winston Hardegree as co-chairs, began work on developing an alternate program—and the current *Container Plant program* was born. Initially, it was thought of as a “cottage industry” whereby members would propagate from seed and rootings and grow container plants at their home, but over the years it has evolved to include purchase of professionally grown inexpensive liners and seedlings and even “ready to sell” potted trees and shrubs.

Beginning in the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, Taylor and Hardegree began the difficult job of replacing Hatcher in promoting and teaching asexual propagation of plants by stem and root cuttings. This type of propagation insures the true reproduction of the plant’s properties, while propagation from seed sometimes allows changes to occur in plant properties, particularly in hybrids and other improved cultivars. Promoting good propagation procedures and education has, over the years, been good for both the club and for the individual club members.

An experienced and gifted writer, Taylor has written many personal memoirs pertaining to his many years of providing leadership in the SMGC. Two of these essays which shed important light on the Club’s plant sales can be read in Appendix 19.

The newsletter of April 1993 presented the following report from the previous club meeting (it has been abbreviated a bit for this publication):

**Container Gardening Project** Winston Hardegree ably filled in with a rundown on the plans for our new major project. Dick Look enthusiastically related his experiences propagating a number of plants by the recommended procedures. All present seemed to enjoy the presentation of the new program, and, by show of hands, indicated that we will have sufficient participation to make the project financially worthwhile for the

---

<sup>3</sup> These bags were contributed by the Cryovac Division of W. R. Grace Company, a relatively new and highly respected technology related company in Spartanburg. Club member Jane Turner, a Cryovac employee, arranged the contribution. She was one of the five “pioneer” females who joined the Club in 1990 after the bylaws were changed.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

Club.

Since that meeting, our Chairmen, Taylor and Hardegree, have been busy and are ready to start the program. At this stage we need about 15 participants who will be supplied with the materials and methods by members of the committee to start about 100 plants each with the object of having plants for sale in spring, 1994. Additional growers will be accommodated later. Growers will need to commit an area about 15' x 15' in a partially-shaded area (some afternoon shade preferred) with a water supply nearby. Growers should be ready with materials in place by early June in order to start with softwood cuttings of their choice (azaleas, rhododendron, holly, forsythia, butterfly bush, weigelia, hydrangea— or whatever). *To volunteer, make an appointment with either Winston Hardegree (576-2347), or Jess Taylor (579-3880).* They will supply the materials and help with any information needed. The materials include a cold frame, rooting and growing medium, fungicide, and containers.

Some small trees ("liners") in larger pots will be made available for growers. The present supply is about 200 Leyland cypresses. More on this later.

And so, the new *container program* was under way, and with large and essential member participation. In Jess Taylor's home workshop, he, John Nevison and Dick Look constructed 12 propagation boxes designed with portable plastic covers and delivered them in Look's truck to the member propagators. The July, 1993, the newsletter reported, "Hardegree's and Taylor's cottage industry continues to show new growth with cold frame boxes now tended by the following: Ruth and Bill Hudnut, Virginia and Walton Scott, Dan Koshack, Mary Potter, John Nevison, Joe Maple, Linda McHam, Jess Taylor, Winston Hardegree, Doug Postell, Bob Almond, Harold Browning, Don Oldham, and Walt Soderberg.<sup>4</sup> Also, several [members] are tending liners of Dogwoods and Leyland Cypress. It's still not too late to start a box this summer, and in November you are invited to participate in the winter hardwood cutting gala."

Nevison's "little blue pick-up" was an invaluable asset to the Club's projects. During the three or four years when Dogwood seedlings were being provided by the Salem Forestry Nursery, Nevison delivered dozens of truck loads of plants to Spartanburg. Hardegree had an old truck that provided similar essential service including delivering rhododendrons from Asheville and transport of trees from the nursery to Hatcher Garden for processing and sale. It finally died on the highway during a Men's Garden Club mission.

Material for the fall 1994 plant sale came from the Fairforest nursery, with digging scheduled "for Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday Mornings to assure fresh trees for sale and pickup Saturday afternoons. Volunteer diggers please contact Harold Browning..." This highly successful, but also highly labor intensive program at Fairforest was phased out the next year.

Initially, and for many years, the sale area at Hatcher Garden was located in the grassy area in front of Harold's favorite tree—the large Pecan which later was used as the logo for the garden. This 16<sup>th</sup> Annual MGC Fall Plant Sale ran for 10 Saturdays in October and November of 1994 when there were some 2,000 potted plants available. Beth Sabin (later she became Mrs. Winston Hardegree) chaired the sale program that year.

Master Gardeners, trained by the Clemson Extension course, shared their required 40 hours of volunteer work with the Club in plant potting and preparation, and the next year there were another some 2,000 plants available for the fall sale; it included the last of the

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<sup>4</sup> Note the large number of women who were active in the club at this time.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

bare-root plants from the abandoned Fairforest nursery. Again, it ran for 10 consecutive Saturdays and again Beth Sabin led the effort.

The 18<sup>th</sup> fall sale included new plants—azaleas, butterfly bushes, rhododendrons, etc. The 1996 Spring Realtor's sale consisted of some 1,000 potted plants; this sale was managed by George Gunter. The following year, the spring sale was located at The Beacon and for the next few years was held at the old Piedmont Natural Gas building on Blackstock Road, north of Westgate Shopping Center.

Steve Patton and Walter Soderberg chaired this important fall sale in 1997 and Bob Fussell chaired the spring 1998 Realtors Sale. Steve Patton chaired the plant sale that October and November when not only shrubs and trees were sold for five Saturdays, but also thousands of bulbs from Dutch importer, Jack DeVroomen. Under Patton's leadership the next spring the Realtor's Sale was successful and almost a thousand commercial plant liners were purchased and potted by members for future sales. Another Realtor's Sale at Piedmont Natural Gas was managed by Bill Wilson in 1999; it included 150 Rhododendron plants.

In 2000, the Club's nursery was moved to the left of Hughes Lane at the back of the Sikes property which had then been purchased by Hatcher Garden. Most of the grove of trees near the rear of this property had been removed at that time. Bob Sutherland led the development of this program and transformed the previously very productive, but rather "amateur" project into a much more "professional" one by lining the entire plant lay-out area with fiber reinforced ground cloth, and, in 2001 leading the MGC Board into purchasing the wooden storage building that has since become the "headquarters" for all Club plant sales at Hatcher Garden. Also during that year it became evident that the irrigation system, designed and installed by member Bob Odom in 1993 for the watering of the potted plants, had outlived its usefulness and needed replacing. Sutherland led in developing the necessary improvement and its financing by the Board.

Four years later, the irrigation system was improved further to an even more professional level. And in 2007, Hatcher Garden added the fence to the nursery area to increase both security and aesthetics.

It was probably in 2001 that the Realtors Association decided to discontinue the joint Spring Sale and, under Sutherland's leadership, it became an exclusive Men's Garden Club sale supplemental to the historic Fall Sale. Over 700 plants were sold that spring at Hatcher Garden.



# August 2022 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

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

### **Directors**

Will Hawkins  
Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Phillip Marchant  
Curtis Marshall  
Ben Waddell  
Linda Savoie

### **Communications**

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

In this newsletter you will see the candidate list for 2023 officers and directors. Thanks to the Nominating Committee for coming up with this fine group (well, maybe not the president). Being a volunteer organization, it is gratifying to see members step up to volunteer for these positions.

Besides the board positions, we have other opportunities for volunteers. We have standing committees that are required to meet per our by-laws. We manage the container garden and run two plant sales each year. Occasionally we undertake a special project such as tree planting at the Mary Wright School. Please consider volunteering to help the club when it suits your talents and your schedule.

Special Note: The bylaws have been updated with the new amendment for Article XII concerning the Termination and Dissolution of the club and the designation of the receivers of any remaining funds of the Club. This was done to reflect the close relationship that the Club has formed with Spartanburg Community College. Once the bylaws have been signed by the club secretary, they will be posted on the website and a printed copy as well as a disk will be placed in the bank safety deposit box.

## **Bruce Fraedrich SMGC Speaker, August 15, 2022**

### **"Caring for Old Trees"**



Bruce is Vice President of the club. His presentation reviews contributions that old trees make to the landscape. Featured are case studies about local landmark trees. Care and maintenance promote health and longevity.

The public is always invited to attend meetings.



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



Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**



## **Spartanburg Men's Garden Club**

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**Renew Now  
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Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



# Gardening & Beautification

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**Photography by Linda McHam**



*Lycoris squamigera*  
(Surprise lily)



*Acer buergerianum*  
(Trident maple)  
with seeds



*Quercus robur fastigiata*  
(Fastigate English Oak)  
with acorns

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- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
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## Gardening & Beautification

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### Member Musing

By Phil Abers

### *Visiting Ashland*

On my last day of vacation this month I stopped at Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate in Lexington, Kentucky. I like history and it was a good place to stop and stretch my legs. Misreading the tour times, I missed the house tour by 5 minutes. Being older and now having little patience, I decided to look around the grounds. I saw the icehouse, the structure that housed Henry Clay's carriage and the house that was reconstructed by his son to look much like the original. While walking around reading the signs and taking pictures, I noticed some of the large trees had identifying labels. There was a huge American elm, a large tulip poplar and many other large trees on the estate. Some reportedly planted by Henry Clay.

As I was going around the grounds, a gentleman saw me taking pictures and came over to say hello. We started talking about the gardens. Joel is an arborist and the head gardener of the 16-acre estate. He pointed out the 300 year old blue ash tree and another very old one. He mentioned the ash borer and said that they spray to protect this treasure.

Ashland received arboretum status for the first time in 2018 with over 600 trees on the property. Joel said they are a Level 1 arboretum and that he wants to make it a Level 2 arboretum. I did not know arboreta had levels. To make Level 2, they need to go from the current 55 species to 100 species. Joel is researching the kind of trees planted in Henry Clay's time.



Besides the Arboretum, the Estate has formal and peony gardens. The garden was designed by Henry F. Kenney. The Garden Club of Lexington (Kentucky) maintains both gardens. In 2005 the garden club received a historic preservation award. Aren't garden clubs great! I recommend a visit to the Henry Clay Estate of Ashland in Lexington, Kentucky. If you plan better than I did, you can also tour the home.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 7 - PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

A significant change occurred for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Plant Sale in 2002<sup>5</sup> Under the leadership of David Kyle, it became a joint sale with Hatcher Garden. Horticulturist Jeff Hall and Hatcher volunteers propagated hundreds of annuals, perennials and grasses in small, one gallon containers for sale.

The Club continued its propagation and growing of trees and shrubs for sale; most of these were in three-gallon pots. This was a very complimentary arrangement that enhanced the sales of both organizations.

This first fall, the multi-day sale format continued, but beginning in

the spring of 2003, the Club followed the advice of Hatcher Garden's Executive Director, Joe Mullinax, and it became, and has continued to be, a one-day sale.

David Kyle managed the Container Plant project through the spring of 2003, and Harold Wolfe joined him as co-chair that fall. Wolfe managed it through 2006.

The Total Net Income from recent spring and fall sales has ranged from a low of \$4,000 in 1999 to a high of \$11,000 in 2004. While these sums are significant—and are essential to the stability of the Club and to its community beautification service—they are relatively small compared to the money earned in earlier years. Jess Taylor, long time Club Treasurer, reports annual plant sale income as high as \$18,000 in the early 1990s.

In the summer of 2004, member Jane Bagwell organized and managed a very successful bulb sale for the club. It attracted a large crowd and was not only successful, but gave the Club additional community exposure.

Harold Wolfe managed the Container Plant Project in a very professional manner through the spring of 2006. Then, Valerie Hare and Dr. Dianne Fergusson co-managed all phases of the project through the spring of 2007 and created a number of valuable innovations and many improvements. These sales were probably the most efficient the Club ever had in that they were highly organized in advance.



Potting and re-potting continues in March 2008.

<sup>5</sup> As an example of the diversity of plants offered by the Club, the Plant List for the fall 2003 sale is shown in Appendix 24.

## 7 – PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES

Under the leadership of Linda McHam, President in 2007, a revised organizational plan was initiated that fall for propagation and sale of plants. In order to further improve this essential program, three teams were organized to conduct the many activities involved with the two annual plant sales. One group, headed by Dr. Bob Reynolds and Steve Patton, was responsible for all of the plant activities—procuring, potting, tending, laying out the nursery and maintaining it. Another group responsible for setting up and running the sale was headed by McHam and Ben Waddell, while Nancy Williamson and her group were



**A full Plant Nursery in April 2007 managed by Valerie Hare and Dr. Dianne Fergusson**

responsible for publicity, promotion and information dissemination.

To further improve the container plant project in 2009, McHam led by emphasizing both the economic advantage to the Club as well as the educational growth of its members by promoting a more organized program of propagating more plants asexually from rooted cuttings. Several propagation boxes with an automated mist system were constructed in the nursery area at Hatcher Garden by a group of skilled Club members. A number of members prepared 1,300 cuttings of various trees and shrubs and “stuck” them during the summer and hundreds more were processed in late fall with indications of a high percentage of rootings which should result in over a thousand new plants being available in 2010.

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It should be clear that plant sales over the years have been essential to the health of the Club, to the education of its members and to accomplishing the Men's Garden Club's mission. These sales have provided funds to not only operate the club, but also to plant and maintain community garden spots, plant street and highway trees, develop youth gardening programs, support Hatcher Garden, maintain a quality newsletter and support the many other important Club activities. Membership dues have never come close to financing these activities. These sales have also provided members the opportunity to “get their hands dirty” and work closely with plants, thereby becoming more educated and experienced

## **7 - PLANT PROPAGATION AND SALES**

gardeners. Equally important has been the opportunity of providing "*Quality plants at reasonable prices*" which has resulted in making the entire community, including public and private spaces, a more beautiful place to live.

# September 2022 Gardening & Beautification

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### Gardening & Beautification

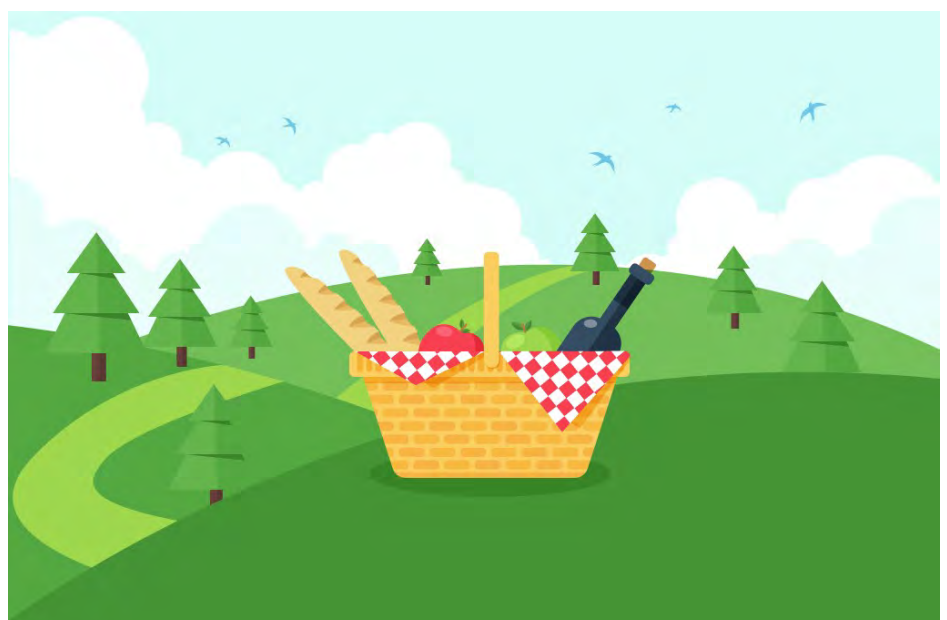
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## President's Corner

It is September, which is a big month for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. We will have our annual picnic on Monday, September 19th, at the Pavilion on the SCC Campus. It is a great time to celebrate our club and socialize with our fellow members. Please note that the picnic is at 6 p.m., not 7 p.m., a time change.

September 30 and October 1 are the dates for our plant sale. We have a good inventory of healthy plants. If you have not been to the container garden, stop by this month to see our plant selection and to help prepare for the plant sale. We will place an advertisement in the Spartanburg "Herald-Journal" and announce the plant sale online. Word of mouth is still a good way to get customers. For example, you could mention it to folks at church in the coming weeks. Please promote our club and our fall plant sale. Let's have another successful sale! **A map showing the location of the picnic is on the last page of this newsletter.**

We hope to see you at our picnic on Monday, September 19. 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.







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Photography by Linda McHam



Late blooming gardenia  
(Gardenia jasminoides)

Hearts-a-Bustin'  
(Euonymus americanus)



Hardy Orange  
(Poncirus trifoliata)

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- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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## Member Musing

By Denie Crowder

### *The Ginkgo Tree*

As you drive past the Chapman Cultural Center on St. John Street, you will see the beautiful ginkgo trees lining the curb. They are beautiful columnar trees with fan shaped leaves. There is another ginkgo tree gracing the front lawn of First Presbyterian Church on East Main Street with a rounder canopy. A third planting of the trees is at the intersection of Daniel Morgan Avenue and Henry Street. One spectacular aspect of these trees is the fall color. These are just three examples of these trees in Spartanburg; as you drive, try to find others in our landscapes. While leaves of other trees change colors in the fall and hold their leaves for several days, the ginkgo leaves magically change colors to a golden yellow and drop their leaves the next day. They create a golden pond on the ground.

While there are many trees that make a spectacular display of color in the fall, the ginkgo is my favorite. We planted one in our landscape shortly after we moved into our home. It was purchased from the SMGC tree sale. A fond childhood memory is gathering the golden leaves from a ginkgo tree planted in my Aunt's front yard. She lived in the Woodside Mill area in Greenville.

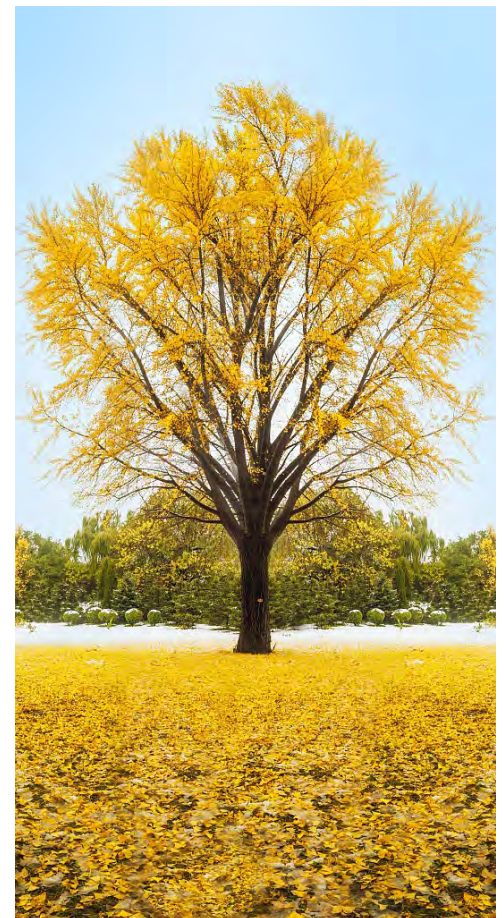
The ginkgo tree is also called maidenhair tree, a deciduous gymnosperm tree that is native to China. They have been planted since ancient times in Chinese and Japanese temple gardens. It has been valued as a fungus and insect ornamental tree.

Ginkgo has been used in traditional Chinese medicine. Toward the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, ginkgo extract became popular in many countries for its purported memory enhancing properties. The chemical constituents are being studied as a possible treatment for Alzheimer disease.

The ginkgo tree has been hailed as one of the most distinct and beautiful of all deciduous trees. It can tolerate many urban conditions including heat, air pollution, salt, and confined places.

In "The Tree Book", Dr. Michael Dirr tells of a 200 year-old ginkgo that is less than 1¼ mile from the site where the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. It survived and produced seeds; some resulting seedlings are planted at Batsford Arboretum, England. Dr. Dirr dedicated five pages to the ginkgo tree in his book describing several varieties with pictures.

The ginkgo tree is a very old species that is a beautiful addition to landscapes. I hope that you are able to catch the beauty of these trees in that one brief day that they show their color in the fall.



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

## Chapter 8

# Teaching and Demonstrating Cleanliness: LITTER CONTROL

*In the past 40 years, since 1968, the amount of litter in America has decreased by 61% nationwide, a change attributed to aggressive, long-term public education and cleanup programs. Yet litter remains a costly and often underestimated problem for the environment and quality of life.*

- Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

**I**t was probably earlier than 1967 that W. O. Ezell began promoting litter control as a Club project. As in his earlier years in promoting garden spots and community beautification, he had a passion for this work and pursued it both through the Club and through other organizations such as Spartanburg City Council, Piedmont Beautification and probably with any other group that would listen such as the organization of Drive-In Restaurants. Under leadership from Mayor Bob Stoddard and Coordinator Perrin Smith, "Mr. W. O." was chairman of the Drive-In Clean-Up committee of Piedmont Beautification. Litter in those businesses had been a huge problem—and Ezell made significant progress. For instance, he convinced his First Baptist Church friend, John White, to fence in the famous Beacon Drive-In to avoid street littering, and even to keep it clean inside the fence. Other restaurants soon followed the Beacon's lead.

One of the slogans which Piedmont Beautification promoted was "Litter breeds litter"—true then and still today! Other statements on a 1967 hand out included "It's a national disgrace," "It will ruin the value of your property," "Prevention is an educational program," and many more.

## 8 - LITTER CONTROL

Ezell was successful in developing a huge Men's Garden Club project on anti-litter cooperatively with all 46 public schools and most of the private schools in Spartanburg County. This involved distribution of over 40,000 "comic-book-type" booklets on litter control to these schools and he worked directly with these schools. The booklets were purchased from the national organization, Men's Garden Clubs of America.

A copy of this litter booklet is not available, but "Mr. W. O." followed its distribution with some 40,000 copies of another MGCA booklet entitled "Plants - How They Improve Our Environment." These booklets were financed by the Beacon Drive-In and by many other businesses.

Teachers were extremely active in teaching from these booklets and encouraging students to sign the Men's Garden Clubs pledge which read, "I pledge to help keep my state, community and school clean and as free of the damaging effects of litter as I can. I pledge to pick up some articles of litter each day. I pledge that I will not litter and will try to influence others not to litter also."

This project was hailed by school officials as very successful and it helped immeasurably in the teaching of environmental responsibility. Complimentary letters about the project were received from the County School Superintendent, Edwin Lake, and his Chairman of County Superintendents, H. E. Hipp. A rather gala dinner celebration of the project, sponsored by the City and the Club, was held at Dorman High School in February of 1972. Some 60 schools were awarded certificates by the Club president according to a Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* article on February 5.

Later in 1972, John Edmunds and James King joined Ezell, Dr. Bob Reynolds and John Cantrell in an expanded "round-two" of this Club project to include seeking local contributions to purchase another 40,000 or so of the newer MGCA litter and environment booklets for school use. Again, this was a very successful program.

Also in 1972 when Bob Stoddard was mayor, the Club's Board approved \$200 to underwrite "Keep America Beautiful Day" in April. This project of the Palmetto Scout Council was chaired by "Mr. W. O." It involved some 5,000 Boy and Girl Scouts (and others) mobilized for an all-out attack on trash and litter in Spartanburg. "There is no greater beautification opportunity than this," said the Club's newsletter editor, Claude Sherrill.

The club contributed \$200 to supplement other contributions for underwriting Ezell's ongoing "Keep America Beautiful" program which he conducted for the Boy Scouts' Palmetto Council. In a letter from the Club president in April, he said, "There is not a more important or timely beautification project, and we back you, the Scouts and the committee,

### **SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB** 22 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HELPING MAKE A MORE BEAUTIFUL SPARTANBURG!

Dozens & Dozens of Flower Gardens, Beauty Spots And Landscaped Streets  
Hundreds of Shrubs, Thousands of Blossoms And Acres of Grass

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Friendship - Fellowship - Recreation - Interesting Hobby

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**8 - LITTER CONTROL**

100%.” In an earlier letter, Ezell wrote, “The Scouts, with the help of their volunteer leaders, are planning to mobilize about 5,000 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to clean up roads, alleys, vacant lots, homes, and community neighborhoods.” He went on to state, “We have secured the cooperation of City and County schools to distribute printed flyers in the homes of Spartanburg. About 60,000 pieces of printed material are required. We also need 20,000 plastic bags to use in picking up the litter.”

**Spartanburg Herald-Journal**  
February 5, 1971

## Anti-Litter Awards Go To Many County Schools

Certificates for effective campaigns to reduce litter on their campuses were presented to several school officials at a meeting Thursday night at Dorman High School.

The meeting, sponsored by the city of Spartanburg in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club of the city, attracted some 80 school officials along with City Council members.

Approximately 60 school were awarded the certificates by E. Henry Pittman, president of the local Men's Garden Club.

Pledge sheets signed by students in individual classrooms affirming their support of the anti-litter drive were submitted to W. O. Ezell, a prime mover in the campaign to beautify Spartanburg and the surrounding area. Several principals told of what their students are doing to beautify school grounds.

Mayor Robert Stoddard presented a series of slides on the Model Cities and urban renewal programs in the city. He also saluted Ezell for his efforts in beautification of the area.

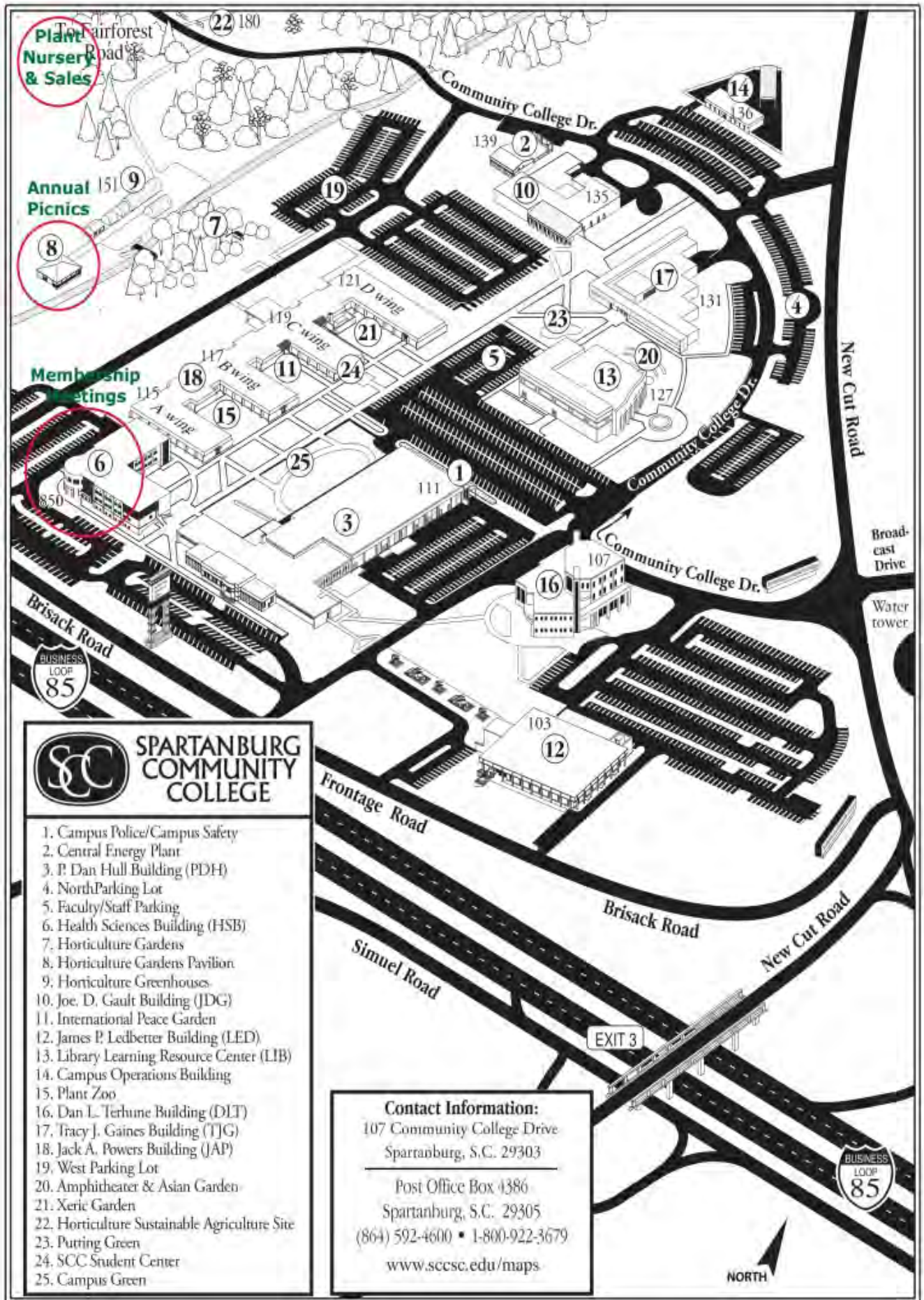
Dorman Principal Allen O. Clark welcomed the guests, and Pittman acted as master of ceremonies.

Club members began litter pick-up on city streets in the early 1970s—it was probably the first organization in the community to do so. This was many years before organization of the SCDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program with which the Club is involved today. There was a city wide litter clean up organized by Piedmont Beautification in 1974. Henry Pittman was chairman of the Club's committee that picked up litter on North Pine Street. Harold Hatcher was also active with the Pine Street litter campaign for many years; his daughter, Alice Henderson, was a recent chairman of the Club's

Litter Pick-Up Committee. As part of its expanding clean up campaign, the Club created a Litter Control Exhibit at the local Piedmont Interstate Fair in 1975.

Later in the '70s, Ezell's health declined and after an 18-month battle with shingles and other weaknesses, in 1975, he was ordered by his doctor to give up his heavy community beautification agenda. While this was a big loss to the Club—and for community beautification—Harold Hatcher had come on the scene and joined the Club in 1972. Hatcher not only became active in developing his personal west-side garden, but also in litter control. “Pitch In,” an amazing program headed by Hatcher cooperatively with a large group of sponsors including the Coca Cola Company, Clemson's Extension Service, Spartanburg Beautification Committee, the City and a huge group of teenagers began. It was oriented toward keeping litter from getting distributed in the first place. The June 25, 1976, *Herald-Journal* newspaper reported that the Club purchased 100 55-gallon drums which were prepared for the “Pitch In” litter collection program; they were distributed and managed by the youth, under Hatcher's direction during the summer. While probably successful, this *prevention* program did not solve the problem because litter continued to thrive.





Plant Nursery & Sales

Annual Picnics

Membership Meetings



**SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

- 1. Campus Police/Campus Safety
- 2. Central Energy Plant
- 3. P. Dan Hull Building (PDH)
- 4. North Parking Lot
- 5. Faculty/Staff Parking
- 6. Health Sciences Building (HSB)
- 7. Horticulture Gardens
- 8. Horticulture Gardens Pavilion
- 9. Horticulture Greenhouses
- 10. Joe. D. Gault Building (JDG)
- 11. International Peace Garden
- 12. James P. Ledbetter Building (LED)
- 13. Library Learning Resource Center (LIB)
- 14. Campus Operations Building
- 15. Plant Zoo
- 16. Dan L. Terhune Building (DLT)
- 17. Tracy J. Gaines Building (TJG)
- 18. Jack A. Powers Building (JAP)
- 19. West Parking Lot
- 20. Amphitheater & Asian Garden
- 21. Xeric Garden
- 22. Horticulture Sustainable Agriculture Site
- 23. Putting Green
- 24. SCC Student Center
- 25. Campus Green

**Contact Information:**  
 107 Community College Drive  
 Spartanburg, S.C. 29303

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# October 2022

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



*Welcoming Men & Women*

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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

Considering the weather, we had a good plant sale this fall. We had rainy weather during both days of the sale, otherwise we would have had a tremendous plant sale as our container garden looks great. It is in the best condition since I have been a member, primarily due to Mark Carlson. Please thank Mark when you see him.

To make sure the club is successful in the future we need new members. I have not been very successful in this endeavor. Hopefully I can help the club have a big recruiting year from now through 2023. I am very excited to see that our 75th Anniversary Committee has an initiative to recruit 23 new members in 2023. This work is being led by Darvin Helvy, assisted by Dan Shook. Please lend a hand to these two fine folks and make recruitment of new members a priority through 2023 and beyond.

## Dan Whitten SMGC Speaker, October 17, 2022

### "Waterfalls of the Upstate"



Dan is a naturalist who has lived in Spartanburg County since 1980. He is a South Carolina State Certified Naturalist and is an instructor in the certification program. Dan is a past president of the Upstate Chapter of the SC Native Plant Society and currently serves on the chapters board as Program Chair. He is also active in these non-profit organizations: Friends of Jocassee, the Tyger River Foundation and the Foothills Conservancy.







Post Office Box 1502  
Spartanburg, SC 29304  
**DirtDaubers.org**



## **Spartanburg Men's Garden Club**

### **2023 Officer/Director Member Candidates**

#### **Club Officer Nominations:**

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

#### **New Directors Nominations:**

Sheila Middlebrooke  
Beth Waddell

#### **Two year term Current Directors:**

Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Will Hawkins  
Curtis Marshall  
Ben Waddell



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## 2022 Litter pickup schedule

**Dec. 3** rain date **Dec 10**

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 2022 Membership

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

Forms are located at [DirtDaubers.org/Membership](http://DirtDaubers.org/Membership) and will be available at the next general meeting.

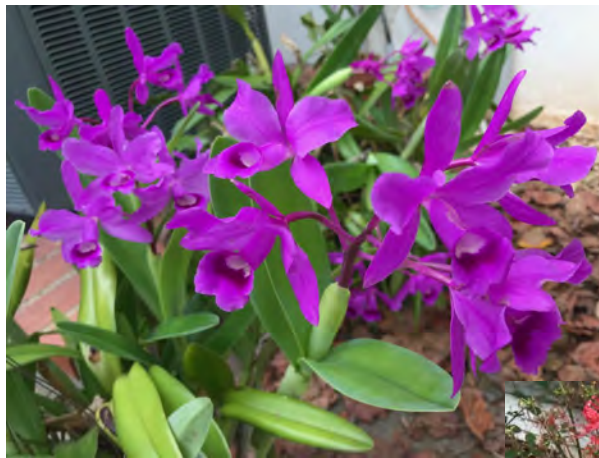
Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



# Gardening & Beautification

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Photography by Linda McHam



Cattleya orchids grown by my grandmother (who died in 1985) and passed down to my mother, Martha Tiller.



Lycoris radiata  
(Spider Lily)



Camellia sinensis  
(tea camellia)

**Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.**

- Creekside Garden & Nursery
- Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Piedmont Farm & Garden
- Legacy Real Estate
- Schneider Shrub & Tree Care
- Wofford College



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### Member Musing By Linda Tiller McHam

*Book Review: Secret Garden of Survival  
(How to Grow a Camouflaged Food Forest) by Rick Austin, 2014.*

In the mountains of North Carolina, a Prepper Camp (<https://www.preppercamp.com/>) was held on September 23, 24 and 25, 2022. For three days, a well-organized group of presenters and attendees reunited and learned the latest information on preparing for a catastrophic event. Eight tents held speakers for three hours in the morning and four hours in the afternoon, allowing approximately 56 topics to be heard each day. The weather was perfect.

One of the most informative speakers was the event organizer, Rick Austin, who is known as The Survivalist Gardener. He and his wife, Survivor Jane, gave slide presentations full of practical knowledge on how to protect your property, grow a sustainable garden and survive for a year or more, off the grid.

Rick has written three books, all of which should be required reading for anyone wanting to maximize an edible landscape in a minimal amount of space. On a half acre, he and his wife grow nuts, fruits, berries, herbs, and vines in a unique format he calls "guilds". Built around a central fruit or nut tree along with a vine (such as grapes), concentric circles surround the tree with companion plants. For example, beyond the tree and vine center is the shrub layer (blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, etc.).

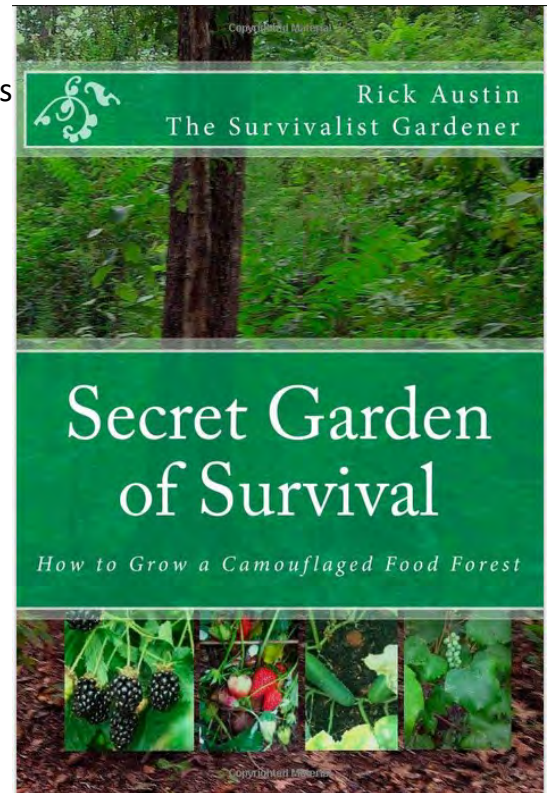
The next layer or circle is the herb layer with plants such as comfrey, bush beans, passion fruits, mint, mountain mint and oats. In the final, or outside layer, there are the ground covers such as clover and peanuts.

All of these concentric circles are grown with no fertilizer, no pesticides, no water and no weeding. The amazing part of this arrangement is that the garden produces approximately five times the amount of food per square foot than you could grow in a traditional row garden.

In addition to the plants, the Austins raise ducks, chickens, bees, goats and fish on this same half acre. The goats produce one and one half gallons of milk per day and Jane converts it to cheese and ice cream. They preserve and freeze dry all of their produce. They spent the entire Covid lockdown on their 55-acre mountaintop homestead without once leaving to go to the nearest town.

Rick and Jane's books can be found on Amazon for approximately \$30 each. [See this link.](#)

If you would like to watch an episode of Domsday Preppers that documents Rick and Jane's home and garden, you can watch it [here](#).



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

## 8 – LITTER CONTROL

Spartanburg had its first real *countywide* cleanup campaign on a Saturday in April 1976. This was a massive activity involving 112 clubs and organizations with approximately 1900 members participating. In his May MGC newsletter, Harold Hatcher estimated 20 tons of trash was removed from public areas to landfills—a great step toward cleanliness and community beautification!

It was probably this, or a similar community clean-up project, that the large and prestigious Spartanburg Rotary Club volunteered to physically help with. One of the members, a well known and highly respected businessman, was absolutely astounded at the amount of trash they encountered on their assigned street, and insisted that such littering should absolutely result in jail time. This type eye-opening *personal* experience was needed in the 1970s, just as it is today!

North Pine Street became the focal point of street cleanup for the Men's Garden Club after members conducted a trash pick-up on that important street again in February 1976. North Pine was a favorite then and it has continued as a special place in the hearts of Club members ever since. Regular cleaning of that main artery into the City has continued.<sup>1</sup>

One of the Club's "Gardening and Beautification" newsletters of 1986 had this report:

**Litter Pick-Up last March 29, 1986.** The following fourteen members, one visitor and DULs picked up 47 bags of litter on North Pine Street, California Avenue, Garner Road and Boundary Drive: Henry Pittman, Walter Soderberg, Walter's visitor Ben Barnes from New Hampshire, Harry Dallara, Harold Fredrickson, Joe Doherty, Jess Taylor, Dick Look, Harold Hatcher, Dan Mortimer, George Drummond, Sidney Moorhead, Everette Seixas, Dan Harris and David Kennemur. This good turn out was greatly appreciated [but] no money was found this year.

Hatcher, editor of the monthly newsletter, reported in May of that year that about 10 members picked up on North Pine. And he saluted Piedmont Beatification Chairwoman Leah Cheek with these words, "...for the effort and accomplishment she experienced over the entire week. She had the help of 25 or so DULs on three or four different days and their accomplishment was great." He went on to say, "Joe Doherty set a new record, finding a \$10 bill. This eclipsed Dave Kennemur's \$5 find last year."

And similar reports have continued over the years. Hatcher said in his MGC newsletter in 1991 under the heading Litter Pick Up, November 2, "Darvin Helvy thanks these participants: Tom Bartram, Dick Look, Walter Soderberg, Arden Camp, J. Foster and James Burgess. Speaking for several who didn't show, your editor apologizes and assures future support." Hatcher had reported earlier in April that pick-up had occurred, "Thanks to Darvin Helvy and about 10 members."

It is not clear when the organized street litter pick up program became known as the "Adopt a Highway" project whereby recognition signs were erected on the street to honor the volunteer organization, but the newsletter report on August, 1993, uses that title for this report:

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<sup>1</sup> North Pine was also the location of the Club's Bicentennial treescape project in 1976, and its extended tree plantings there, called Beautiful North Pine, began ten years later.

## 8 - LITTER CONTROL

**ADOPT A HIGHWAY**—Despite the heat, nine stalwarts on Helvy's crew did a first class job of freshening our section of Pine Street last July 17<sup>th</sup>. Those participating were Joe Maple, Julian Foster, Harold Browning, Tom Bartram, Henry Pittman, Frank Grimes, Arden Camp, Roger Campbell and Darvin Helvy.

Helvy continued to ably chair this activity for four years, from 1994 through 1998. Then in 1999, Jim Bagwell with strong back-up from his wife, Jane, became head of this committee and served through 2006. Tom Bartram's newsletter of October 2003 said, "For



the last pickup of the year on our assigned segment of Pine Street, six stalwarts appeared to collect twelve bags of trash: Valerie Hare, Gisela Otto, Charles Billeter, Jim Bagwell, Henry Pittman, and Susan MacDowell." Earlier that year only two members—Bagwell and MacDowell plus her daughter had participated in the pick-up. But the street was cleared of trash.

For the spring 2006 pick-up, Meg Stroupe, Otto, Nancy Williamson, Jane and Jack Turner, Howard Toole, Jeff Hayes, Mort Sams, Pittman and Don Crowder participated. But poor involvement occurred in June—only Sams, Adams and Pittman joined Chairman Bagwell in the pick-up.

J. T. Clark led the group in 2007, and Harold Hatcher's daughter, Alice Henderson, chaired the committee in 2008 with Lou Adams as her back-up. Charles Covert, a relatively new Club member, was chair during 2009 and 2010.

So the Club's emphasis on anti-litter which began in the 1960s continues. Member participation has become somewhat less enthusiastic and it is somewhat erratic, but the pick-ups continue. It is an important program and it will continue.

It was in the late 1990s when there was speculation—and hope—that the great German automobile firm, BMW, would build an automobile assembly plant in Spartanburg County, that two community leaders, Tracy Hanna and Julie Lowery, were astounded at the litter they saw on Interstate-85 as they returned home from a shopping trip in Greenville. Believing that Spartanburg would never succeed in its recruiting of BMW with such disrespect for cleanliness, they organized what is now the PRIDE Task Force. This rather informal group of citizens (it includes Men's Garden Club members) is known for its forwardness and sometimes aggressiveness to make one-on-one contacts with business and property owners—to rap the knuckles over litter, poor landscaping or ugly sign boards, as well as to give thanks and compliments for quality aesthetics. It is another organization that has been an effective ally in controlling community ugliness. Piedmont Sertoma Club began routine litter pick-up on the south end of Pine Street in 2009. And there are many others in the community that volunteer to regularly work to keep Spartanburg clean.

## 8 – LITTER CONTROL

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There is probably no organization in Spartanburg that has as consistently, and for so many years, participated in anti-litter projects—particularly the volunteer *walk-the-streets-and-pick-up-by-hand* projects—as has the Men’s Garden Club. This type beautification project, service by not only attempting to set a good example but also by teaching, is a hallmark of the Club which should continue.

# November 2022 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### **Officers**

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

### **Directors**

Will Hawkins  
Mark Carlson  
Charlie Crescenzi  
Phillip Marchant  
Curtis Marshall  
Ben Waddell  
Linda Savoie

### **Communications**

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

### ***Gardening & Beautification***

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## **President's Corner**

November marks the end of the year for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club with our Annual Meeting. It is also the beginning of the New Year as the newly installed board members and officers terms start immediately after the installation ceremony is complete.

What can we expect for 2023? We will be celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club and our Anniversary Committee is busy planning some fun events. Our container garden is looking great and some recent donations from Charlie Covert have made the container garden even better. Let's all show our pride in the Club and invite others to come to our club meetings. Here is to a great 2023!

## **November Meeting Announcement**

You are invited to our annual meeting on Monday, November 21 in the Community Room in the Health Sciences Building at Spartanburg Community College. There will not be a speaker this month, but we will provide updates on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans as well as the large influx of plants that occurred this month. The officer and board member installation is also part of the meeting. Afterwards, there will be plenty of time to visit and enjoy the catered hors d'oeuvres and beverages. This is an excellent time to bring a friend and introduce them to our Club. See you at the meeting.





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**Photography by Linda McHam**



*Persicaria longiseta*  
(Creeping smartweed)



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*Trichaptum* (mushroom)



*Diospyros kaki*  
(Asian persimmon)

**Renew Now**  
**2022 Membership**  
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5  
Corporate \$100

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Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.

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





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### Member Musing

By Curtis Marshall

### *Brookgreen Gardens*

Visiting Brookgreen Gardens in Georgetown County provides an eclectic experience. A premier botanical garden, outstanding American sculpture, low county history, and a low country zoo are all experienced on site. The largest sculpture on the garden is Pegasus that is carved from granite. Pegasus, the winged horse of mythology, is the ancient symbol of inspiration. It is a reminder that gardens are places that provide us venues to receive inspiration. In the garden you can see a live oak that was living there at the time of the signing of our national constitution in 1787. This botanical specimen serves to remind us that our experience with representative governance is not really all that old in terms of history. As I first entered the garden, I was reminded of my native state of Florida with the Spanish moss hanging from the live oaks and Palmetto Palms. My maternal grandmother used to cook the heart of palm from which the fronds emerge. We called the delicacy "swamp cabbage." My first experience with the Chinese fringe tree was at the SMGC container garden. The largest Chinese fringe tree that I have personally seen while in bloom was in this garden. Another visitor to the garden called our attention to this beautiful tree. In Myrtle Beach, I had encountered a vine climbing on brick walls whose leaves reminded me of loropetalum (in the mulberry family). At Brookgreen I learned that the vine goes by the common name of creeping fig and is an invasive species. Volunteers working in the garden told us that they had lost several trees to this plant, so they were trying to eradicate the vine like we try to eradicate kudzu here in the upstate. This leads to a theological question. "Are invasive plants part of the price we pay for our fall into sin?" They certainly bring sweat to our brows (Genesis 3:19). Our first trip to Brookgreen was several years ago during the Christmas season when lights adorn the trees. It's a beautiful night scene and worth experiencing. In fact, one might say its inspirational.

In the upstate we have the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University. This garden has inspired a variety of botanical research in an academic setting. It was started in 1950 as a camellia collection and has been structured around the motto, "A Garden for Life and Biodiversity." It's home to the Oconee Bell (*shortia galacifolia*), native to this area. The American botanist Asa Gray realized its uniqueness. However, this native plant inspired this poetic expression: "Found by a man who didn't name it. Named by a man who never saw it. Rediscovered by a man who could find it." Gardens inspire all manner of musings.



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## CHAPTER 9

### Promoting Landscape Pride: LANDSCAPE EVALUATION PROGRAM

*No two gardens are the same.  
No two days are the same in one garden.*  
- Hugh Johnson

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club began an ambitious program in 1960 in attempting to evaluate the landscape quality of some forty local businesses and organizations. It began encouragement of good commercial landscaping which has continued for 50 years continuing to emphasize the way *typical citizens* see and appraise business and public property, and using positive techniques to encourage improved beautification.

"If you were not present at the last meeting you missed one of the most important meetings of the year," wrote Charles Lea, secretary and editor of the Club's "Gardenettes" newsletter in November 1960. His apparent excitement continued, "Your Committee had inspected about 50 places of business in and around the City and prepared awards of Honor and of Honorable Mention. These were awarded at that meeting. Over 30 of the representatives were present to receive them." He continued, "Much favorable comment has been received that this recognition be made an annual affair, and a schedule of regular inspection with Judges be set up, with prizes for the best grounds. Your presence at our November meeting will help us decide."

Unfortunately, Lea's next newsletter is not available, but other documents make it clear that this first landscape judging was a huge success. A 1973 news article says that L. Perrin Smith was the chairman of that first evaluation and that W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea performed the judging.

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

So a project of great significance and importance to Spartanburg had been launched, but it got a boost of both prestige and influence the very next year—1961—when it developed a partnership with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Working together, the two organizations developed a program that continues to help improve the landscape quality of this community. Originally called “Landscape Judging,” the Chamber promoted and encouraged its members to participate in the evaluation, handled most of the paper work, and provided the awards and the recognition reception, while Men’s Garden Club members executed the on-site evaluations and provided constructive suggestions on possible improvements. Other than modifying the name to “Landscape Evaluation,” the cooperative program has continued to the present. It has been and is a win-win for both organizations, but more importantly, for the community.

The *Spartanburg Herald* published this account of the Club’s recognition ceremony in October of 1960

### **Men’s Garden Club Cites 21 Firms for Beautification**

Twenty-one Spartanburg firms and individuals received certificates of honor Monday night and 29 others got honorable mention scrolls from the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

Awards were presented for beautification and landscape programs. Col. Jack Lemmon, president, noted that the men’s club works closely with the City Beautification Committee in promoting grounds beautification.

Here are the awards given Monday night. Others will be given at future dates.

Certificates of honor will go Deering-Milliken Research Corp., Draper Corp., Professional Discount Co., Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp., Geer Drug Co., Kohler Co., the Citizens and Southern National Bank, Piedmont National Bank, Cudd and Coan, Spartanburg Concrete Co., Sears Roebuck and Co., Harley Bag Co., U. S. Army Reserve armory personnel, Noland and Co., Fiske-Carter Construction Co., M. W. Bobo Funeral Home, Floyd’s Mortuary, South Carolina School for Deaf and Blind, the Main Post Office on Magnolia Street, Drs. Hasting, Lyles and Hanna Catawba Street, and Drs. Hammond and Herbert, also on Catawba Street.

- Continued

Participating business and other organizations are of many types and sizes including colleges, civic organizations, hospitals, corporations. They voluntarily seek to be included in this evaluation by the Men’s Garden Club because they not only want to improve the appearance of their property (they know this is good business!), but they also know it helps create a more beautiful image of Spartanburg (they are good citizens!).

These evaluations are conducted using a standardized form giving points for the multiple important landscape features. These include freedom from litter, use of blooming flowers and shrubs, landscape design, maintenance, overall appearance.

Evaluations are conducted by teams of two or more experienced MGC judges. First-time judges are paired with an experienced team. Organizations seeking evaluation are placed into categories according to the type and size for final comparative evaluations, but grouped by geographic location for assignment to the judging

team. In the early years, this program was conducted twice per year, but now it is done once, usually around May Day.

Winners—no, organizations in each category with the highest scores, they are all winners—are recognized by the Chamber of Commerce at a wine and cheese awards’ reception a few weeks after the evaluations are completed. All entrants are considered winners because the positive suggestions made by the evaluation teams allow them to grow

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

and improve. Organizations with the highest point total are awarded plaques for display at their business.

For years, the report of this recognition ceremony was given prominent position in the local news media, but now it appears that excellent landscaping is considered just normal, expected, and not headline news-worthy. So, in many respects, this is a great compliment to both the Chamber and the Men's Garden Club, but more important to the growing quality of Spartanburg's businesses and other organizations.

Dick Tukey was the Chamber head at the beginning of that organization's participation, and Claire Hess, beginning in 1978, was the Chamber's coordinator for the project. Over the years, she, as senior member of the Chamber staff, has provided invaluable aid to the program: recruiting participants from Chamber members; arranging local news coverage; planning post-judging awards ceremonies and reception at Chamber headquarters and many essential activities that are not easily recognized. Many Chamber officials have had long-term positive influence on this program over the years. Cyndi Beacham joined the Chamber after Hess and was another important contributor to the program for many years.

L. Perrin Smith chaired the project for the Club in 1963, with W. O. Ezell, Charles Lea, Julian Foster, Charles Hart and Archie Lawson as active participants. Lawson developed a standardized rating form for participating judges, assigning two or more Club members to teams who carefully reviewed the properties registered for the event.

### *Spartanburg Herald-Journal in 1972*

In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Spartanburg, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club presented awards to 18 local firms and organizations in February as part of the annual landscape recognition program.

Julian Foster, who is a member of the Chamber, is chairman of this MGC committee. Eleven MGC members participated.

Judging is conducted during tours twice during the year by the Committee of MGC members. Each of the nearly 150 grounds visited is rated on condition and esthetic appearance of lawns, trees, foundation and fence plantings, etc. as well as general landscape plans and lay-out. Each organization is given a report on the evaluation; in many cases this is constructive criticism which is valuable in making improvements. Indeed, this is one of the prime objectives of the program.

During the six years since this program has been active, great progress has been made toward improved industrial and commercial landscaping and Greater Spartanburg is favorably compared with any area of the nation.

Judging is between organizations within six categories: Large and Small Industrial, Commercial, Office Professional and Large and Small Public Buildings.

This program is a major contribution toward a more Beautiful Spartanburg by the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.