

July 2023



Welcoming Men & Women

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Vice President	Bruce Fraedrich
Secretary	Denie Crowder
Treasurer	Mary Ann Hipp

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 Mark Carlson
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Gardening & Beautification

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 Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

President's Corner

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

Linda McHam SMGC Speaker July 17, 2023

Fruits and Vegetables - Growing and Preserving



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

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

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





Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org



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Founded in 1948 as the "Dirt Daubers" the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club welcomes men, women and corporate members with an interest in nature.

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

Photography by Linda McHam



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



2023 Litter pickup schedule

Sept. 9 rain date **Sept 16**

Dec. 9 rain date **Dec 16**

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

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

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



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

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Biography

Jane & Jim Bagwell

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Biography

Linda Tiller McHam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Member Musing

By Charlie Crescenzi

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

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

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

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

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

History of the club continues on the following pages.

Chapter 12

Education and Beauty: THE ROSE SHOWS

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

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

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

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



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

conducted a small and bank. But the first

12 – THE ROSE SHOW

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

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



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

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

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

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

Mall closed in 1995, and then continued at Westgate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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