

# February 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

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

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

## President's Corner

At the January meeting, I passed out envelopes containing 5 club brochures and two club business cards. I asked that everyone distribute these cards and brochures to folks you meet who express an interest in gardening. Have you had a chance to hand out any cards and brochures yet?

Don't worry if you did not attend the January meeting because I have more envelopes to pass out!

It is very important that this and other initiatives we pursue this year help us add members to the club. We are looking at a few projects and have a container garden to maintain. Please help us bring in new members and grow the club. We have much to offer.

## Mary Ann Kirby SMGC Speaker February 19, 2024 "Floral Design"



SMGC welcomes Mary Ann Kirby, a Master National Accredited Flower Show Judge, as our February guest speaker. She is a native to our area and has held many positions in district, state and national garden clubs. Mary Ann searches for beauty in her surroundings, and her floral designs reflect her artistry.





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

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

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



## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

March 9	rain date	Mar 16
June 8	" "	Jun 15
September 7	" "	Sep 14
December 7	snow "	Dec 14

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 2024 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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## Upcoming Events

### Betty Montgomery Garden Tour

April 13, 10 AM - 4 PM, and April 20, 10AM - 2 PM.

### Dr. Parris has agreed to lead a plant tour of the SCC Campus

May 11 or a rain date of May 18 at 10AM.  
Club members will meet in front of the Health Science Building.

## Presentations for 2024

February 19	Floral Design	Mary Ann Kirby
March 18	Modern Day Farming	Jon Stauffer
April 15	Children's' Garden/Hatcher	Dan Shook
May 20	Native Perennials	Davis Sanders
June 17	Highlights of 2023 Plant Survey of Glassy Mountain	Dan Whitten
July 15	A Guide to Wildflowers of SC	Dr. Douglas Rayner
August 19	Skin Care for Gardeners	Dr. Christopher Thompson Dermatologist
September, 16	Club Picnic	
October 21	Birds	Irvin Pitts



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**Photography  
by Linda McHam**

Time to start planting your  
onion sets and garlic bulbs.  
Photo by unknown.



Mary Ann Hipp' s *Camellia oleifera* (Tea-oil camellia). Photo by Mary Ann Hipp.



Yoshino cherries at the Horticultural Garden's at SCC. Photo by Linda McHam 2/7/24.

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

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



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## Member Musing

By Dan Shook

I was asked recently, by a person who is not a gardener, what I did in the winter at Hatcher Garden. I am sure that we have all been asked that question once in our gardening lives. My answer, depending on my mood, usually leads to a short educational process. Doug Talamy stated in his book "The Living Landscape" that "No matter how much any individual garden may seem like a separate place, a refuge, or an island, it is in truth part of the larger landscape, and that in turn is made of many layers." It is the many layers that keep us busy all the time.

What are some of those layers? His was a reference to the various habitats that show up in a garden, from the soil to the tops of the trees. But a garden also has emotional layers that help us live our lives at a higher level. I planted trees for caterpillars over ground cover that gave them wintering cover to support our birds and pollinators. Today, a daffodil greeted me which was planted to let me know spring is coming. Visitors to the garden bring with them lives that are often difficult, and a garden is a place that does not judge us. As we explore our styles, it also reminds us that patience is a virtue.

A garden is a place that will teach you something every day if you are paying attention. Early one spring I watched a turtle and a snake travel around our upper pond together for several days. I learned that the snake was following the turtle to see if it laid eggs so it could have a meal. Contrast that situation with a child blind since birth who finds a garden to be a noisy place. I had to learn how to create quiet spaces that served him well.

I know that we fail to learn from the garden to our peril in both physical and emotional ways. Why do we garden? I don't know about you, but I garden because I have no choice!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

## Chapter 14

### Keeping in Touch: THE NEWSLETTER

*If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it.*  
- Margaret Fuller

The Club's newsletter, now titled "Gardening and Beautification," has an important and invaluable history of publication since the mid 1950s, not long after the Club's founding in 1948. And it is, in many respects, responsible for the high regard and respect the Spartanburg community has for the Club.

The early mission of the Club apparently was to bring a group of men together who were interested in gardening, and becoming better gardeners; gardening *education* was the orientation. The first newsletters were, therefore, rather informal letters to members by officers containing gardening hints and reports concerning new plant availability

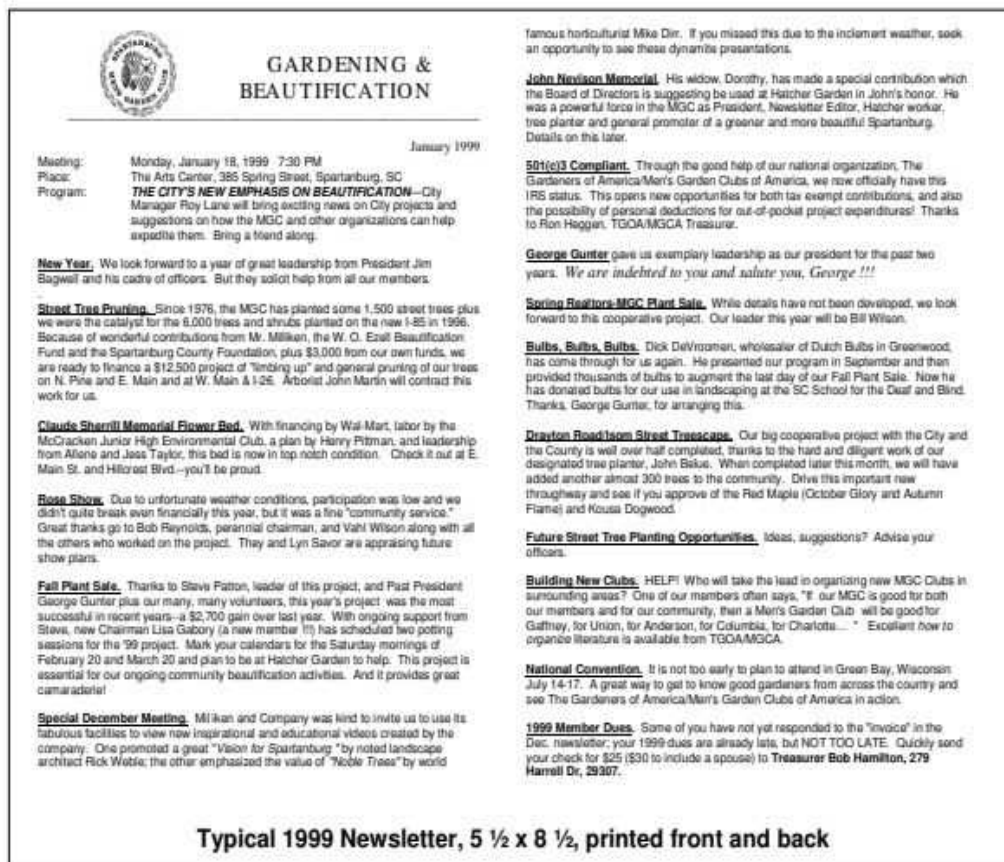
Charles Lea served as Club Secretary as well as newsletter editor for at least ten years, probably from 1957 until 1966. His predecessor is not known, but Sid Dunlap may have followed him. Lea was a prolific writer, first with letters to members on various horticulture subjects, he then evolved into publishing a scheduled, detailed newsletter including Club activities and projects as well as community beautification activities. Various titles "The Gardenettes" or "The Grapevine," and often signed "Your Glowworm," the newsletter kept members informed and connected. Some articles were written by members and others were copies of published pieces. Lea often wrote long detailed accounts (sometimes a half dozen or so pages) and covered a wide variety of subjects.

It is not clear if Sid Dunlap edited the newsletter after Lea (he was known to be Treasurer in the early 1970s), but clearly it was continued on a fairly regular basis by W. O. Ezell and Claude Sherrill under the name "Garden Tips." These men, two of the Club's best known early leaders, edited it from 1972 until Harold Hatcher became its editor in 1974.

Hatcher re-titled the publication “Gardening and Beautification,” its present name. Hatcher edited the newsletter on a near-monthly basis for 12 years until 1986, when John Nevison began to assist him, and then Nevison assumed the editor’s role in 1989. At this juncture, the newsletter began to be regularly written over the weekend following the Club’s monthly Board of Directors meeting and was hand delivered on Mondays to Bomar Printing of Spartanburg for photo-setting and printing on various shades of green paper stock. For many years, Walter Soderberg not only sorted and transported the printed copies to the Post Office for delivery before the upcoming Monday evening membership meeting, but also carefully maintained a list of members and also of the many area luminaries who were recipients of the regular distribution.

John Nevison had a unique friendly style of composition, often with pleasantly candid humor. His knowledge of details about Club activities and individual members was an especially important feature of his writing.

In 1991, Nevison’s good friend, Tom Bartram, began assisting in the preparation of the newsletter (or bulletin, as it is often called) and eventually assumed the editor’s job.



Bartram’s editorship of “Gardening and Beautification” continued faithfully until 2007—some 16 years—and Soderberg continued to be the Club’s liaison with the Post Office. Bartram was succeeded by the very talented Dr. Dianne Fergusson who faithfully maintained the tradition of timely and factual reporting for two years.

Immediate Past President Linda McHam became editor in 2009. That was the year that the Board and the membership approved a number of changes in the operation of the Club to improve its financial conditions. These changes included terminating the 57-year affiliation with the national organizational, The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America, and also the termination of the widespread US postal distribution of the newsletter. In its stead, an upscale color version of "Gardening and Beautification" was developed by McHam. It is now emailed to most members, while members who so request and community leaders receive copies by mail. So, in a different format, the newsletter/bulletin continues its mission. Jeff Hayes assumed the position of Editor beginning in 2010.

Another form of communication for the Club was created in 2007 when Karen Ward, with limited assistance from a small committee (Nancy Williamson, Jeff Hayes, Lou Adams and Linda McHam), created the Club's first web site, [www.dirtclub.org](http://www.dirtclub.org), honoring the Club's original 1948 name. This site contained approximately seven primary pages (fifteen total) and was simple in its goals. Ward and her husband, Jim, moved from Spartanburg after two years and the Club has missed their involvement. The web site languished for six months, until Linda McHam and Lou Adams began a six-months ambitious revamping of the site. What they created together was a central database of the history, activities and projects of the Club as well as a single point source to provide educational instruction for members and the public. It contains copies of all of the available newsletters, including Charles Lea's "Gardenettes" of the 1950s and 60s. McHam developed the design, style palette and chose the template while Adams optimized the coding of the content. Adams also became the web master and gatekeeper, ensuring standardization of all materials and fast loading. The new web site was taken online in July 2009. It is hoped that it will supersede other forms of documentation and communication to further the "green" component of the Club and make all of the data accumulated available to the entire membership as well as the public.

A related communication feature for SMGC, developed by McHam, is the "Spartanburg MGC Yahoo Group" an Email news group with approximately 60 members. It provides quick and efficient communication between members on meetings, projects, activities, etc.

Over the years (particularly with the reduced postal-rate permit which the Club enjoyed when the mailing list for an issue exceeded 200), the mailing list was greatly expanded beyond active members to include former and national leaders and members, a large group of local businesses and government leaders, and other "movers and shakers" of the community. This broad distribution of the newsletter promoted not only club business, but also broad community activity, particularly associated with beautification enhancements, making the newsletter an essential tool in the SMGC's success.

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The newsletter has been instrumental in not only the internal growth and health of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, but also for the high and valuable regard and respect the organization has in the community. It has provided not only "connectivity" for Club members but also exposure of the Club and its goals to the community.