

March 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

Spring is near. The daffodils are blooming and we just started day light savings time. Our spring plant sale is only a month away. The plant sale provides the community with good plants at reasonable prices. It also provides our Garden Club and our Spartanburg Community College partners a chance to promote our respective organizations.

We will be placing an advertisement in newspaper and using social media to spread the word. Look for information about the plant sale, including the plant list, on the club website and our new Facebook page. We need to remind our family, friends and acquaintances about the plant sale and the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. An enthusiastic member is an excellent advocate for the SMGC. See you at the plant sale on April 12 & 13.

Our March program will feature Jon Stauffer and the Colonial Milling Company. Jon and Michelle live in a restored colonial home in the Pauline area and grow corn from heirloom seeds.



The best of the corn each fall is hand selected, and they grind it with a pink granite stone mill in small quantities to enhance the flavors. You will find their stone ground grits on many area restaurant menus. Come join us to learn more about Jon's farming adventures.



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



Post Office Box 1502
Spartanburg, SC 29304
DirtDaubers.org

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

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



2024 Litter pickup schedule

| | | |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| 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.)



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Upcoming Events

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club &
present our Tree, Plant and Shrub Sale!

complete plant list at
DirtDaubers.org
cash/checks/cards

*Hundreds of plants
Reasonably priced*

SPARTANBURG
Community College

at the Horticulture Gardens SOC I-85 Business at New Cut Road

Sale

**Friday April 12th
and Saturday April 13th
from 8 AM to 1:30 PM.**

Dirtdaubers.org

SO-04307321

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.

**Renew Now
2024 Membership**

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Joyce Crescenzi.



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Photography
by Linda McHam

Mahonia



Mary Ann Powell Kirby was our speaker in February. Denie Crowder and Beth Waddell helped Mary Ann improvise a floral arrangement.



Cornus mas, or Cornelian Cherry Dogwood.

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
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Member Musing

By Mary Ann Hipp

Camellias

One of the signature plants of the South is the camellia, although they are actually natives of eastern and southern Asia. These beautiful, evergreen, flowering shrubs are available in a wide range of sizes and colors and, depending on the species, enjoy full shade to at least part sun. They are supposedly deer resistant, although my neighborhood deer have obviously not read the plant tags.



There are several species of camellia that grow well in the Spartanburg area. *Camellia japonicas* are in full bloom right now and sport 3-5" blooms in every shade of white to pink to red with some bi-colors and tri-colors thrown in for good measure. Some of my favorites are 'Professor Sargent', the double red that we saw at the February meeting, 'White by the Gate', a double white, and 'Taylor's Perfection', a semi-double pink. Another popular camellia species in this area is *Camellia sasanqua*. These beauties bloom in the fall with slightly smaller blooms and smaller glossier leaves than the *japonicas*. 'C. Shishigashira' is a gorgeous 4-5" variety with rosy pink semi-double blooms. Another popular *sasanqua* is 'Yuletide' which has single red flowers with yellow centers.

Camellia sinensis is the shrub from which tea is made and is another widely grown variety in the area. The smaller young leaves and leaf buds are used for making green tea, the older larger leaves for oolong and black tea, and the flower buds for white tea. While I am not a tea maker, I do enjoy having some tea camellias in my yard. They have lovely white flowers in the fall, can grow in a good bit of sun, and make a great hedge.

I recently saw a *Camellia handelii* for sale in Greenville that looks remarkably like a mystery camellia that I have in my yard. When I bought mine, I was told "Some guy wanted me to order this and then he didn't end up buying it. I don't remember what variety it is". Always a sucker for something unusual, I took it home and planted it. It blooms in January to February with white blooms all up and down the branches.

If you are interested in camellias, there are some nice ones at Hatcher Garden, and the South Carolina Botanical Garden in Clemson has a beautiful collection. Be sure to buy your camellias in bloom so that you know exactly what you are getting.

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