

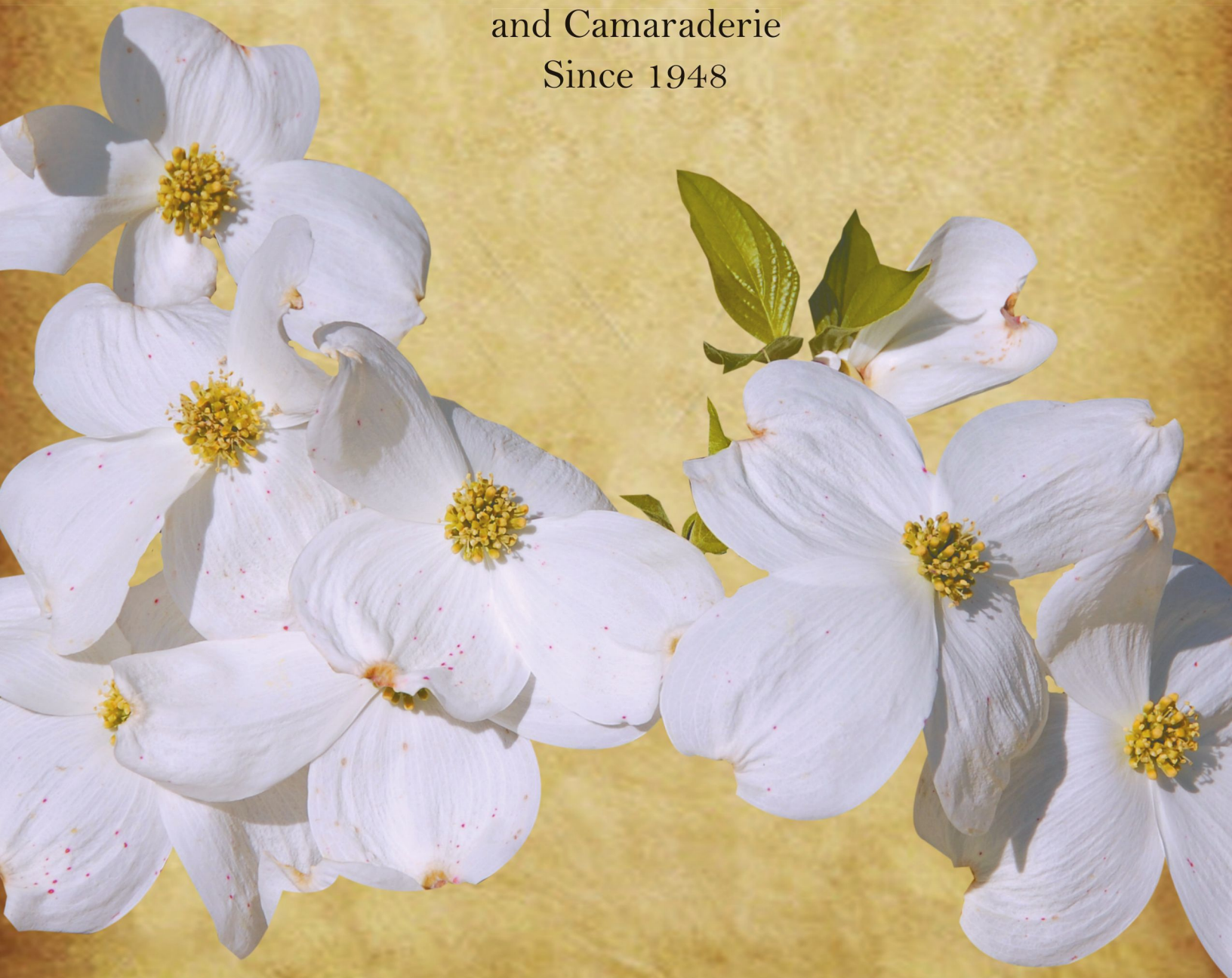
# And the Trees Remain

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

## An Unofficial History

Of Gardening Education, Community Beautification  
and Camaraderie

Since 1948



**E. Henry Pittman**

Dianne S. Fergusson, Ph.D., Editor

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Cover photo of *Cornus florida* by Linda McHam.

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# NOTES ABOUT THE CLUB FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

This history captures, with pride and deserved satisfaction, the efforts of a group of caring Spartanburg citizens whose contribution to the aesthetic attractiveness of their community was, and is, quite remarkable. If you want to know how terrific people can make a difference and build a lasting legacy for those who follow, read this compendium of good deeds and consider what you might do to further support their vision.

Bill Barnet  
Former Mayor, City of Spartanburg

For more than 60 years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has partnered with the City and led efforts to make this community more attractive. The club's work on litter control, garden spots and street tree plantings has enhanced the quality of life for all citizens and is a legacy of beautification and conservation that will serve the City and its citizens for future generations. The City is grateful for the work of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and looks forward to continued future collaboration and partnership.

Junie White  
Mayor, City of Spartanburg

I commend the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club for its contribution to the beautification of our community for the last 60 some years. Your organization did much to raise the awareness by the public at large to recognize the positive impact the planting of trees, bushes and flowers has on our environment.

The results can be seen all over our community.

Kurt Zimmerli

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has supported USC Upstate in many ways. It has donated many plants for our new arboretum, it has lent its efforts and expertise to the University's pursuit of the "Tree Campus USA" designation of the National Arbor Day Foundation, it always participates in our Arbor Day festivities in December and it is a strong promoter of our campus green space throughout the community. It is a great partnership.

Congratulations on your 62 years of service and we look forward to many more years of making our community, the University and the Upstate of South Carolina green.

Dr. John Stockwell  
Chancellor, University of South Carolina Upstate



I've applauded the Men's Garden Club over the years for its many contributions to our community—for its valuable partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in landscape evaluations and encouragements to local businesses and organizations to improve, for its many street and highway tree planting projects, for its support in building Hatcher Garden, for making Spartanburg "The City of Flowers" in the 1950s and 60s, for its ongoing fight against litter—and its many other enhancement activities.

Roger Milliken  
Chairman, Milliken & Company

The Spartanburg Men's Garden club has played a major role over the years in the vastly improved physical appearance of not only the city of Spartanburg, but also in all business sites as well. Gibbs International is proud to be a supporter of the Men's Garden Club, and the tireless efforts of the Club have aided us in our awareness and pride of our campus appearance. Their annual evaluation project of business sites, along with their recommendations for improvements, is deeply appreciated and something that we, as well as our ground maintenance crew takes great pride in.

J. Brian Honeycutt  
Executive Vice President, Gibbs International, Inc.

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# INTRODUCTION

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club was formed in 1948. For the past 62 years, it has been a leading force for the beautification and the greening of Spartanburg. I have had the pleasure of being associated with it for 49 years, although I was away from Spartanburg for four of those years. This Club has been a vital part of my life, but more important, of the life of the Spartanburg Community.

In early 2008, as the Club approached its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was planning a big celebration at the Piedmont Club, someone suggested I try to develop a detailed history of the Club and its activities for distribution at the celebration. Well, that deadline was missed by a couple of years! If I had known the time and anguish (and, yes, mixed with joy and excitement) of the work ahead, I may not have asked five of our oldest members to join me for lunch and plan a "writing group." But they were enthusiastic and probably as naïve as I, so we began thinking back, reviewing old files, talking and listening to others—and writing. But it was the influence, help and guidance of one of our newer very active female members who, with her English teaching background, agreed to join us as our chief editor and advisor of what was proper and what would not pass a ninth grade writing assignment that made the project work. With draft after draft, we now have a real book, a *history* book, of an important Spartanburg organization and its many activities and accomplishments.

This history is an effort to preserve that legacy and pass on to future generations of Spartanburg gardeners the story of how the Club was formed, how it evolved, and how it has influenced the appearance of Spartanburg. Some of the major public landscaping projects in Spartanburg, both in the City and in the County, have been either the result of direct involvement of the Club or have been influenced by the Club's work. Just as with a good garden, SMGC has grown and developed over the years, growing from a small group of probably 13 men in 1948 to today's membership of over 150, comprised almost equally of men and women gardeners and would-be gardeners. The original emphasis on education for the members continues but has been expanded to include service to the community as well.

As the author of this history, I have availed myself of the great knowledge and experience of many other members of the Club. The acknowledgments page contains a list of all those who have helped with the development of this book. As the author, however (and even with the dedicated "editing and advising" service mentioned above), I have reserved to myself some "authorial license," and I take full responsibility for any quirks and deviations of punctuation that the reader may note in these pages (capitalization of all tree names, for example).

I hope this history will be of value in influencing and promoting at least another 62 years of quality gardening education and community beautification. Please read it with care and excitement.

Best Regards—and go plant a tree,  
Henry Pittman April, 2010





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This history could not have been created without the help and encouragement of the *Group* which met for lunch in early 2008, for the *special one* who joined our ranks later, 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 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They all are personal friends and long-time club members, as well as long-time leaders of the club.

Dr. Bob Reynolds is the “senior” in Club membership, having joined in 1959, and served as president in 1978, ’79. He also chaired and ran the Rose Show from 1982 until 1999 and worked single handedly on maintaining our entry garden spot at Duncan Park for many years. His help on writing the Rose Show chapter was indispensable. Bob is currently serving as Club’s vice president and the leader of our essential plant propagation and sale project.

Tom Bartram joined in 1982 and has been a proven leader in many areas—as president for three years (1990-1992), as secretary for two years earlier, and as editor or assistant newsletter editor from 1991 until 2006, for 16 years. And like the old Milliken saying about meetings, “He who holds the chalk, controls the meeting.” He was also our Board member with the additional responsibility on the Hatcher Garden Board as liaison, and was an active Garden contributor in many ways, even a new one to be announced later this year. He was my main back-up on the Newsletter chapter and he contributed and helped edit a number of others. Tom served on National’s board for two years and was active in the Club’s leadership in the Blue Ridge Region

Jess Taylor, good old friend Jess, was essential in both writing and encouragement. His membership goes back 25 years to 1985. Jess was a close confidant, friend and worker with Harold Hatcher in the Garden and served as Club treasurer from 1987 through 1992 when he led the Club into developing and contributing many of the buildings and hardscapes of the Garden. Propagation of plants has been a gifted hobby and he continues to use it prolifically in enhancing the Clubs plant sales. His hobby of writing personal memoirs, many of which revolved around his Club and his Garden involvements, served as a great background for his writing contributions to multiple chapters and his early editings of this history book.

Bob Hamilton’s membership began in 1986 and it has been highly productive. Bob was the faithful treasurer of the Club from 1997 through 2001, was treasurer of the Blue Ridge Region for years, as well as of the national convention we hosted in Spartanburg in 2006. I thank Bob for his help on the TGOA/MGCA chapter and for background on the Region. We will miss Bob; he is now in the process of moving back to his old home in Minnesota.

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. He was our liaison board member with Hatcher Garden, and has served on the Board of Hatcher Garden for several years. Jim found national conventions to be enjoyable and stimulating, and 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—and 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.

Long time friend and colleague Newt Hardie provided important help in writing the chapter on the Kudzu Coalition and its relationship with the Club.

Recently, we welcomed Gail McCullough as somewhat of an “honorary member” of the Group, representing the Club’s Board. Surely, the Board must have questions about the possibility of ever getting this history completed. But soon!

Last, but not least, that *special one* mentioned earlier is Dr. Dianne Fergusson who, after teaching English at Irmo High School in Columbia, moved to Spartanburg and became a leading member of the Club. She served on the Club’s board, led many of its youth-oriented projects, edited the newsletter, co-chaired the essential plant sales for two years and was the organizer and hostess of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary “bash” dinner celebration at the Piedmont Club in 2008. (Did someone say this history was supposed to be available then?).

But the most “special” thing about Dianne is that, even though she moved last year from Spartanburg to Mississippi to be nearer her family, she continued her pledge to be the chief editor of this history book. And what an essential service this has been, not only *editing*, but *guiding* and *advising* in so many ways to help this country boy become a reasonable writer. Not only I, but the entire Men’s Garden Club owe her a huge thank you!

During the writing, I was fortunate to have Ed Wilde, Tom Bartram, and Jess Taylor review and advise on a few special chapters. And for an important final edit, a huge thanks go to Allene Taylor, Joyce Crescenzi, Gail McCullough and Ed and Tom. A special thanks to my Milliken friend, Lou Adams, for his help in scanning so many old documents and for his invaluable leadership and perseverance in solving the many computer-related problems that plagued the final preparation for printing.

How did it all get finalized, printed and bound? Lyn Murajda volunteered to represent the Club in working directly with the printer, solving all the last minute formatting problems with the assistance of one of her artists, and supplying copies to the Club for distribution.

My good wife, Margaret, has had amazing patience with the days and days I’ve spent at the computer when I could have been being a better husband, and she has continued to wonder, “Who do you think is going to read all of that?” But it is about finished, Honey, and I’ve enjoyed every tiring hour of it—well almost.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has earned a wonderful reputation in this community, and its name is highly respected. So, I’m sure all the Group and Dianne join me in hoping this non-author’s literary work (ha!) will be of value in showing the value of where this Club has *been*, but, even more important, where *it might, and should, go*. Spartanburg is counting on you!

Thanks for this opportunity—and, yes, go plant a tree,

Henry  
July 2010

# CHAPTER 1

## Dirt Daubing: THE EARLY YEARS

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Meade

The original "Dirt Daubers Club" organized in 1948<sup>1</sup> was renamed "Spartanburg Men's Garden Club" in 1950. The past 62 years have been significant and beneficial for the Club and for Spartanburg.

An early handwritten document of unknown authorship lists the charter members as W. P. Rich<sup>2</sup> as president through 1951; A. T. Grant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, Treasurer; and Clyde Burwell, Historian. Others at the first meeting were L. B. Boswell, G. G. "Pat" Dobson, Guy Gowan, George Ladd, Paul Tysinger, Major M. L. Craine, Lamar Knox, Ernest Burwell, and probably Charles Lea. W. O. Ezell is often thought to have been a charter member, but he joined later, probably in 1951 when his friend, Charles Lea, was president.

In January, 1953, probably because of encouragement from Lea and Ezell, the Club affiliated with the national organization, The Men's Garden Clubs of America. There were 26 members' names on that charter list.<sup>3</sup>

Membership was limited to 25 men at the Club's inception, but there is no indication of this numerical limit in later documents. The Club changed its bylaws many times but probably the most significant was in 1989 to eliminate its gender requirement or reference.

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<sup>1</sup> Some documents indicate The Dirt Daubers Club was organized in 1949, but prevailing evidence indicates 1948 is the organizing year. This history is based on that year.

<sup>2</sup> Early records show his name spelled both Rich and Ritch, the later being on the MGCA Carter Membership Roll of January 1953, but the former is most prevalent.

<sup>3</sup> This MGCA Charter Membership Roll is in Appendix 16.



## 1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

In 2009, the Club had almost 150 enthusiastic men and women members as well as many corporate members.

Early emphasis of the club was gardening education for members, apparently the basic reason for its formation. While education continues as a primary objective, community beautification, which began in the '50s, rivals it in importance. Beautification efforts were initiated by early MGC leaders W. P Rich, Charles Lea, and Karl Selden, but particularly by early member W. O. Ezell, "Mr. W. O." He was indeed a giant and inspirational leader in this movement here in Spartanburg. In recognition of the importance of Mr. W. O.'s leadership in enhancements, West Main Street was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" in 1970, and the MGC and City designed and financed the second Spot of Pride (the first was at the fork of N. Church and Ashville Highway) in 2001 on "his highway"—and in his honor.

The club has continued garden spot creation and maintenance, albeit at a hugely reduced effort from Mr. W. O's. At one time in the 1990s, more than 20 small beautification spots, including the entrance to Duncan Park and the Club's 1997 Montgomery Flag Garden at the headquarters of the public library, were maintained by the Club. With the current great emphasis on Spots of Pride, the Club now has fewer community garden spots than in early years. The two most prominent that are currently actively maintained are the Ezell Spot of Pride and the Claude Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.

Garden seminars and training courses were provided to the community in the 1970s, and during that time an annual Rose Show was initiated that continued under Dr. Bob Reynolds' chairmanship for 27 years—until 1999.

Mr. W. O. knew that no public garden spot could be beautiful if it were surrounded by refuse and debris, so he began a massive litter control program in local schools in 1972. This program was later expanded to public streets and has helped to greatly reduce public litter and increase awareness of the problem. Litter pickup by Club volunteers on North Pine Street began in 1974 and continues multiple times per year.

In the 1970s the Club shifted its emphasis from community garden spots toward trees, propagation, growing, and planting. This shift was prompted in part by the influence of



### **Gardening Course Planned**

The Men's Garden Club is sponsoring a Gardening Short Course which begins March 29 at Spartanburg High School. Roy King, left, chairman, Frank Cunningham, center, and George Drummond, right, open mail and handle pre-resistance forms for the course. Sessions covering a wide variety of 'how to do it' subjects such as lawns, landscaping, flowers, vegetables, botany, soils, fruit, shade and wild flowers will be presented by a group of lecturers from Clemson and Spartanburg. (Photo By B&B Studio)

**Spartanburg Herald Journal, March 1973**

## 1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

Harold Hatcher, a retired social worker who moved to Spartanburg in 1969 from Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. Just as Ezell's flowers and shrubs deteriorated when he was no longer able to physically provide his special maintenance, Hatcher reported sadly to the club that, during a trip back to Indiana, he found all of his former garden spots abandoned—"but the trees remained!"

Hatcher was the instigator of growing of trees from low cost seedlings and by root propagation and their free distribution to schools and public parks. During the 70s, thousands were donated by him and with help from Club members. About 1980 the Club began a tree and shrub nursery in the old "gas bottoms" area on North Pine Street. That project was shifted to and greatly enlarged on City property near Fairforest Creek behind The Beacon in 1986, and then to Hatcher Garden in 1994 until its move to Spartanburg Community College in 2010. Periodic public plant sales have become a hallmark activity for the MGC and are its primary source of income for community beautification.

From growing, contributing and selling trees and shrubs, the Club moved on to street and highway treescaping. This project now totals almost 2,000 trees planted along the streets of Spartanburg, both ends of Pine Street, East Main, Business I-85, US-221, and the I-26 interchanges on West Main Street and on US-176 plus another 3,000 as a direct influence of the Club. As a continuing expanding aspect of the emphasis on gardening education, the Club has emphasized proper tree planting and maintenance as a high priority.

While most of the projects of the Club have been very "hands on," one of its most productive projects is less labor intensive. Begun in the very early 1960s with the Chamber of Commerce, the cooperative evaluation of institutional landscapes is a program to encourage local institutions and businesses to enhance their properties through landscaping for the beautification of the community. The Club continues to work in close cooperation with the Chamber on this annual event. Early on, Club volunteers painstakingly documented the strengths and suggested possible improvements in both spring and fall; now it is a May activity. An awards ceremony at the conclusion of the evaluation celebrates all of the participants while acknowledging the winners.

These many Club activities and projects have had a significant influence on community beautification, but MGC is not alone in working for the improvement of Spartanburg. In recent years many other garden clubs and The Garden Club Council, the PRIDE Task Force, the former Trees Spartanburg (it was created by the PTF and was a sub-committee of SPACE), the anonymous Group of 100, the Graffiti Group, and the Master Gardeners—and

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

# DIRT Daubers

Meet the group that's beautifying our city with projects and education

During these winter months, sharpening tools, pruning, reroadwork and feeding azaleas keep gardeners busy in anticipation of crocuses bursting from the soil. "It's an exciting time to be a member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club," said club president Everett Lindeberger.

Seeing the fruit of their labors in flowering azaleas, trees and bulbs are not the only reward.

Plans are being finalized to host the 2006 National Convention of The Gardeners of America Men's Garden Club of America at the Marriott Renaissance Park on April 20-22.

The closest annual convention has been to Spartanburg previously is Asheville.

The Spartanburg club with 190 members and a dozen corporate supporters is the only one in the state.

Lindeberger said most of the national organization's strength is in the Midwest, but the local club with its 55-year-old history is making its mark.

He joined the club shortly after moving to town in the 1960s.

"I was impressed by the new gardens that Mr. Woz. Ezell (a charter member of the garden club) had access from our church (St. John's Lutheran). I saw him working there all the time. That was my first exposure to the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club," he said.

Lindeberger retired as minister of the church in 1995.

"I found that since then I have been able to plant more and more flowers. It's quite rewarding," he said.

And for 50 years, he has grown tired and shared his expertise at monthly programs for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

"We have quite a variety of program topics from Common minimum qualifications to hybridizers. Presentations on

Harold Wolfe and Susan MacIverell prepare pots for the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club annual container spring sale at Hatcher Garden.

By Janet S. Spencer  
Photography by Gerry Pate

SPARTANBURG MAGAZINE

The original name still has descriptive appeal.

## 1 -- THE EARLY YEARS

many others<sup>4</sup> have all been engaged in this on-going enhancement. The City of Spartanburg has made great strides in tree planting and general beautification. Probably the greatest single influence and example has come from Mr. Roger Milliken and his demonstrated dedication to world class beautification at the Milliken grounds, the Airport and Wofford College through his personal leadership activity and the work of his promotional organization, "The Noble Tree Foundation."

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America in 1952 (now named The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America) and retained that valuable affiliation until 2009. Many of the Clubs members have served on the Board of Directors of that national organization as well as in various other leadership capacities, and have matured as gardeners by participation in national conventions around the country.

The Club's success and fine reputation are due to its dedication to enhancing gardening education, to its many community beautification projects and to its strong leadership from many outstanding Spartanburg citizens.<sup>5</sup>

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Sixty years after its founding, Spartanburg Men's Garden Club continues to work for the beautification of Spartanburg. Post cards and color folders depicted the City as the "City of Flowers" in the 1950s and '60s, and it surely was. Through the work of MGC and many other dedicated gardening and environmental groups, Spartanburg will continue to be a "City of Flowers" AND of *Trees*! This history presents a portrait of the men and women and activities that have made Spartanburg Men's Garden Club one of the most well known and respected civic organizations in the county.

The writers of this history believe Spartanburg will continue to benefit if this Club will continue to grow and prosper for another sixty years!

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<sup>4</sup> Many of these other groups and organizations are discussed in Appendix 20.

<sup>5</sup> All Club presidents and leaders are included in the chart in Appendix 2.

## CHAPTER 2

### Early Iconic Leaders: LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

*Leaders can conceive and articulate goals that lift people out of their petty preoccupations and unite them in pursuits worthy of their best efforts.*

- John Gardener

**S**urely the original organizers of the “Dirt Daubers” in 1948<sup>1</sup> had not only a personal love for gardening but also a desire for promoting its importance beyond the home garden and into the community.

Spartanburg is a better place because those early members founded an organization that has been an important source of gardening education and a great influence on the beauty and environment of the community. They set in motion an organization that has grown in numbers and strength due to the leadership of many men and women over the years. But there are three early members who made such a profound impact on Club and community that they must be highlighted in this history: Charles Lea, W. O. Ezell and Harold Hatcher.

#### Charles Lea

Current Spartanburg citizens know the name *Charles Lea* because of the highly respected Charles Lea Center which is so very important in the life of our special youth who need special care. He had a great interest in these needy young people and worked in many

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<sup>1</sup> Most documents list 1948 and the founding year, however others list 1949. The former is the most likely and is used in this history.



## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

ways for their care and betterment in organizing the Center in the early 1970s in Spartanburg. His influence and contributions go much beyond this organization, however.

Born in England in 1886, he came to America in 1898, worked in banking in Texas, and came to South Carolina in 1920. He served many organizations as a volunteer. He was extremely active with the Boy Scout movement in Texas and North and South Carolina; he served as Scoutmaster and Executive in multiple Councils in South Carolina and was a member of the Executive Board of the Palmetto Council for 11 years. He was an active member of the Spartanburg Rotary Club and served as secretary for many years and taught the Bible Class of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg for 29 years.

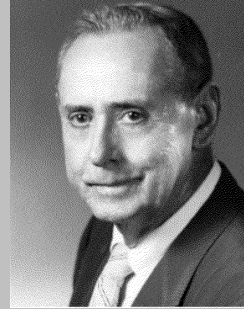
He became Executive Director of the six-year-old Spartanburg County Foundation in 1949 and led its growth to become the 31<sup>st</sup> largest among American community foundations. He held that important position until his death at age 80 in 1967.

These activities were indeed important for the entire Spartanburg community and equally important are his leadership contributions to the newly formed Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. He joined, when it was a year or two old, probably in about 1950 while the original president, W. P. Rich, was still the leader. This was the year the name was changed from "Dirt Daubers." He replaced Rich in 1951 and served as the second president for two years. His friend W. O. Ezell probably joined the Club in 1951.

He also quickly became active in the national organization, Men's Garden Clubs of America, and spearheaded the Club's participation with it. A biography obtained from the Spartanburg County Foundation dated 1964 states, "he ... has been a member of the national Projects Committee [of the Men's Garden Club's of America] since 1958, and Chairman of that committee for three years. He is also President of the Blue Ridge Regional, and has been since it was organized two years ago."

Unfortunately, there is little documentation of activities of those early years of the Club other than its initiating affiliation with the national organization during his presidency in the fall of 1952. There were 27 member names on the Application Form.<sup>2</sup> This was approved

### NOTES and NEWS about and for MGCA Members



Charles Lea of Spartanburg, S.C., was for years the organizer and "push" that made MGCA National Projects a reality. Asked year after year to allow his name to be placed in nomination for president of MGCA, Charlie consistently demurred, asking instead that he be allowed to continue to serve MCCA in the job he new best, chairman of the MGCA National Projects Committee. He gave unstintingly of his energies, even long after his physical strength was low. Only when the end was near did he ask for relief. At the Kansas City meeting of the directors Charlie was named Permanent Honorary Chairman of the MGCA Special Projects Committee. Charlie died on Jan. 21. A Charles Lea MGCA Memorial Fund is being established.

<sup>2</sup> This original application form to the MGCA is shown in Appendix 16, "Charter Membership Roll"

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

in February, 1953, when Karl Selden was president. This association was a major undertaking which had great positive influence on the Club over the years.

During those early years of the Club, apparently the major interest and objective was education—to share gardening experiences and to work toward improving the personal gardening expertise of the members. Camaraderie must have been important also during the time when all other garden clubs were women's clubs.

Lea's greatest contribution to the Club probably began in the late '50s when he began a nine or ten year stint as secretary of the club and editor of its newsletter called "Gardenettes" which he signed as "Glowworm." This monthly publication covered Club activities and was strong in multi-page (often four type-written pages) education-oriented articles on specific garden topics. Probably of most importance, the newsletter undoubtedly served to keep the members informed of Club and community garden-related activities just as its current newsletter, "Gardening and Beautification," does. The newsletter can probably be credited with bringing the group together as a coherent organization on a mission, as well as promoting that mission to the broader community. Fortunately, copies of these publications from 1957 through 1961 are available.

W. O. Ezell became a member in about 1951 and spearheaded the beginning of Spartanburg's many-faceted beautification program. This gave the Club clout and recognition. Lea and Ezell, working together as they did, were a powerful team. In addition to their Club leadership and partnership, Lea served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Spartanburg Beautification Committee when Ezell was chairman. They were growth-oriented leaders and partners of great consequence.

Lea wrote a highly complimentary article about the Men's Garden Clubs of America after attending his first national convention hosted by the Jackson, Mississippi, club in 1959; he had brought home a cherished seedling of a champion Southern Magnolia which he planted in Duncan Park. That is undoubtedly the magnificent Magnolia in a central location of the park today. It should be recognized as a memorial to this Spartanburg leader.

Charles Lea died in 1967 after great service to both the local Club and to the national organization. A tribute article in *The Gardener* magazine praised his service and the high regard with which he was held, and it reported that he had rejected the many attempts to place his name in nomination for president of MGCA in hopes of continuing his leadership of the National Projects Committee.

An icon in the Club, in National, and in the Spartanburg Community, his contributions will be long remembered and appreciated. Spartanburg would not be such a special and quality community, and surely the Club would not have grown as it did, if it had not been for Charles Lea's quiet but insightful leadership.

### W. O. Ezell

A well known name today in Spartanburg, this is due to W. O. Ezell's high profile involvement in the early years of the Men's Garden Club. Not a charter member, he joined the Club in about 1951 just after the current name was adopted, and just before it affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

Until the time he joined the Club, its orientation was primarily education—personal education and encouragement of members to become better home gardeners. But his special and unquenchable “fire-in-the-belly” for planting flowers and shrubs to make Spartanburg beautiful added a new dimension to the Club and made him an authentic famous citizen. He

### Men’s Garden Club Organized Here in 1949

*[Editor’s Note: Other documents show the club was organized in 1948. EHP]*

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club began life under another name when it was organized in October 1949. It was organized as the “Dirtdaubers.”

W. B. Rich was the first president and other charter members included: A. T. Gant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, treasurer; Clyde Burwell, historian; L. B. Boswell; W. G. Dobson; Guy Gowan, George Ladd; Paul Tysinger; Maj. M. L. Craine; Lamar Knox; and Ernest Burwell.

Membership was limited to 25.

W. B. Rich served as president until 1951 when Charles Lea took over and the membership was enlarged. W. O. Ezell became active in the club at this period and later both he and Lea served as directors for the National Club, Ezell serving for six years.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club became affiliated with the National Garden Club of America. Carl Selden was president at the time.

In 1961 the club undertook the ambitious project of beautifying the 3,000 foot strip of land between Southern Railroad and Pine Street across from Pine Street School. J. M. Culcleasure was president at the time and many businessmen and firms contributed to the beautification effort. Club members worked on the strip during their off hours.

The club is now the sponsor of a number of such beautified strips throughout the city, including W. O. Ezell Boulevard.

Past Presidents include: W. B. Rich, Charles Lea, Carl Selden, W. O. Ezell, Grady Stewart, Wardlaw Hammond, Tom Butler, Jack Lemmon, James M. Culcleasure, M. Nance, W. M. Walker, Willard Morgan, S. K. Moorhead, Dr. Paul Cook, Julian Foster, Claude Sherrill and Henry Pittman.

served the Club in many leadership rolls, including its presidency in 1954 and became chairman of Spartanburg’s new City Beautification organization in 1956.

This amazing man had multiple names—Walter Orlando Ezell, but usually W. O. Ezell. He was affectionally known as “Mr. W. O.” by his young admirers and on at least one public appearance, was called “Mr. Beautiful.”

Born in 1888 (two years after Charles Lea), he moved from Landrum to Spartanburg in about 1912 when he joined Geer Drug Co. where he later became head of the marketing operation. While his job undoubtedly consumed much of his time, gardening was not only an avocation, but was entrenched in his children; Margaret (Mrs. Clyde Wells) was an avid gardener with leadership in the PRIDE Task Force. Bertha and her husband Emmett McArthur possibly

attended more national conventions of the Men’s Garden Clubs of America than any other Spartanburg members, and his sons, Frank and Earl, were strong supporters of their father in MGC activities and in community service

The Men’s Garden Clubs of America was also served well by this man. In 1964 he was chairman of the National City Beautification Committee where he shared Spartanburg’s enhancement activities and learned from other communities. At the national convention in Asheville four years earlier, he had been awarded MGCA’s Certificate of Commendation for

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

this local beautification success. During the 1960s he served on the MGCA Board of Directors. His knowledge was shared as the feature speaker at the 1968 MGCA's Carolinas-Virginia Regional meeting. He was a very busy man!

Mr. W. O.'s work on developing gardens in Duncan Park, Cleveland Park, Morgan Square, the libraries, and more and more, as well as his leadership as head of the City

***Herald Journal, November 23, 2008***

**Nov. 17 named Men's Garden Club Day  
Jess Taylor Award of Merit presented.**

Founded in the fall of 1948 through the effort of a small group of talented and dedicated gardeners, Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is celebrating 60 years of service to the community.

These services include community beautification projects, from garden spots to Habitat Villages to tree-scaping projects, landscape design awards, scholarships for horticultural students, and support of individual gardeners with spring and fall plant sales offering good-quality trees and shrubs to the community at low prices.

Mayor Bill Barnet honored the club with notification of the Men's Club Day proclamation during the club's 60th anniversary gala dinner Nov. 13 at the Piedmont Club.

Club member Jess Taylor was awarded the club's newly instituted Award of Merit, henceforth to be known as the Jess Taylor Award of Merit, for his high standard of participation, dedication and enthusiasm.

He served as club treasurer from 1986 to 1992.

A retired engineer, Taylor has overseen many projects for both the Men's Garden Club and Hatcher Garden. He has shared his knowledge of propagation techniques with club members and has provided innumerable plants for the club's plant sales. His generosity and enthusiasm inspire club members to get involved and give back to the community.

Beautification Committee are presented in detail in the Chapter Four, "Spartanburg Beautification and MGC Garden Spots." He was truly an iconic leader of not only the Men's Garden Club, but also the entire community and of the national organization.

A new young president of the Club recalls visiting with Ezell for council and advice in 1972. The advice that Pittman received, and rather unsuccessfully passed on to the Club in 1989 when it was discussing admitting women was, "Cooperate with the women, but keep your distance." In Mr. W. O.'s hey-day that was perhaps good advice—advice that he had indeed followed in his highly successful cooperative work with so many women, men and organizations. But there comes a time to make important changes, and that was done.

The City of Spartanburg honored Ezell at a dinner at Dorman High School in 1973. Mayor Bob Stoddard praised him highly as did other speakers. Club President Snow Marshall made a moving tribute which Mr. W. O. seemed to particularly appreciate.<sup>3</sup>

His great contributions brought many personal reorganizations and awards—national, state, regional and local. Presenters included Sertoma, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs, Woodmen of the World,

the national Men's Garden Club, and local and state governments. Wofford College named him the prestigious Algernon Sidney Sullivan award recipient. In 1970, the important highway entrance, West Main Street, was re-named W. O. Ezell Boulevard and it was in 2001 that the city and the Club created the Ezell Spot of Pride on his highway.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> See the Appendix 3 for Marshall's presentation at the Ezell dinner in November, 1973

<sup>4</sup> See the Appendix 4 for Pittman's presentation at the dedication of this Spot of Pride on April 26, 2001.



## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

Even though he slowed from his beautification efforts in the early 1970s due to a severe case of shingles, he continued to care about the beautification of Spartanburg until his death in 1979 at age 91. The Club has been blessed with unique leaders like Mr. W. O. Ezell, leaders interested in and gifted in a love of gardening and horticulture, but also leaders who were highly respected community citizens. This was true from the beginning, and it is true today.

### Harold Hatcher

It was in 1969 that Harold Hatcher and his wife, Josephine, moved from Indiana to Spartanburg. That was a very good year for Spartanburg and the Men's Garden Club.

Harold joined the Club shortly afterwards, probably in 1971 because he is listed on roster the next year. He and Josephine, in 1972, purchased their home on Briarwood Road which adjoined a desolate 6 1/2 acre tract of badly eroded scrub-tree gullies, an absolute wasteland. Two years later, he retired from his city job as director of the Piedmont Community Action program (he was a professional in helping people) while Josephine continued teaching at Spartanburg Methodist College

About this time they began the project that would consume the remainder of their lives—the clearing and transformation of this worn out property behind their home into a lush horticultural park. He graded, built dams and ponds and paths, and planted countless azaleas, hundreds of Dogwood, and dozens of other types of trees and shrubs. Bob Powell, Club member and retired head of the Botany Department of Converse College, once said, “He took a sow's ear and turned it into a silk purse.” His work in developing Hatcher Garden is covered in detail in Chapter 6

But this garden could not have been created without the help of the MGC which was a strong contributor of both labor and encouragement during the garden's early days. The Club's Walter Soderberg was a special volunteer laborer and later members including Jess Taylor, Tom Bartram, Dick Look, John Nevison, Jack Turner, and many others were partners with Hatcher as were supporters from many women's garden clubs, civic and nature groups, and the public in general. It was a special labor of love for Harold Hatcher as well as many Club members

As important as the relationship between the Club and the creation of Harold's public garden was, his leadership in the Club was hardly in second place of importance. From the mid '70s until his death at age 96 in 2003 he was the undisputed most active member of the Men's Garden Club. While never agreeing to serve as official president, he was an ongoing director (later emeritus) and edited or co-edited the club's monthly newsletter for 13 years. In addition, he was active in many other community groups concerned with beautification and preservation of things green.

Harold was responsible for re-orienting the club's interest and objectives in about 1972 or 1973 when he made a report to the club on his recent trip back home to Indianapolis. Henry Pittman recalls that, “He stood with shoulders bent a bit and with facial sadness, and related, ‘All of the flower beds, the shrubs, the roses, etc. that I was a part of planting all around the city have been neglected and abandoned—they are all gone.’” Mr. Ezell might have had similar remarks about the neglect and demise of dozens of the gardens he had developed somewhat earlier in Spartanburg. “But then, Harold stood tall and with a smile, and with a thrust of his fist into the air, said ‘But the trees remained!’” This observation had

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

profound influence on Pittman—and on the Club. Trees have been a priority project, for both community enhancement and for fund raising, since then.

Early in his Club membership, his interest in propagating and raising plants to beautify the community and to help fund projects was evident. While some of this was done in the Garden, he was instrumental in getting a cooperative project with the City of Spartanburg established on city property on North Pine Street a few blocks from East Main—Gas Bottoms, it was called. Rooted plants and tree seedlings were purchased, or grown by members or cooperatively with the State Forestry Commission, and planted there. Chapter 7, “Plant Propagation and Plant Sales,” details much of Hatcher’s influence on that area of activity.

“Harold organized and led other club members, most of them older, retired men, in tending these plants until they were sufficiently mature for moving to permanent planting sites in the community,” recalls Jess Taylor who was one of those faithful Club helpers. Until the late 1970s, most of these trees were contributed to and planted on public property, primarily school yards and parks. The total at that time to the city and county was thousands of trees.

Hatcher initiated the Club’s community tree and plant sale program in 1979, was an asexual propagator of plants for both the Garden and the Club, and provided space in the Garden for many Club activities. The Club thrived due to his leadership and participation.

The importance of Harold Hatcher, when he was club secretary in 1974 and replaced Ezell and Claude Sherrill as editor of the monthly newsletter, was evident when the publication’s name was changed from “*Garden Tips*” to “*Gardening and Beautification*” in 1975. Harold continued giving garden advice, but with more emphasis on Club and community activities. More information on his editorship is given in Chapter 14, “The Newsletter.”

### **Spartanburg MGC Member Receives Highest SC Award**

**Spartanburg Herald-Journal article dated Nov. 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!

## 2 - LEA, EZELL AND HATCHER

As if the Garden wasn't enough to fill his time, he was chairman of the City-County Beautification Committee for many years in the 1970s. He was the driving force behind the county-wide litter and trash pick-up program. One year, as chairman, he arranged employment of a dozen underprivileged youths to not only collect litter, but to analyze it in a scientific manner for valuable statistics on its origin. He was a prime mover and organizer in Spartanburg County's participation in the state competition called the Governor's Award for Community Improvement and Beautification through which the county was honored many years. Of major importance is his and Mrs. Hatcher's leadership in founding and nurturing the County's Nature Science Center where he served as both Director and as Treasurer.

He received many awards and recognition, most of which were a result of his creation of Hatcher Garden, but all also included his important contributions to the community through his work with the MGC. All the Sertoma Clubs in Spartanburg selected him for their joint "Service to Mankind Award" in 1988.<sup>5</sup> But the most significant was South Carolina's highest civilian award—the Governor's Order of the Palmetto — sponsored by the Club and presented at its Annual Meeting in November 2001.

As a volunteer, he set the highest example of dogged giving of one's self to the community since the late beloved W. O. Ezell; Harold Hatcher's stamina, ambition, foresight and vision will be seen, felt and realized in the quality of life in Spartanburg for decades to come.

After his death in 2003, the Club, under the leadership of Bob Almond, presented a permanent memorial to Harold Hatcher—the beautiful memorial stone mounted in the Garden under his favorite tree, the huge old pecan. The bronze plaque not only lauds Hatcher for the Garden contribution, but cites that, "His example inspired the community of Spartanburg that now takes great pride in maintaining and expanding the gift he gave us."

Yes, Harold Hatcher was indeed an early and important iconic leader of Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has been blessed with unique leaders like Mr. Charles Lea, Mr. W. O. Ezell and Mr. Harold Hatcher, leaders interested in and gifted with a love of gardening and horticulture and the ability to share that gift and inspire others. The fact that such leaders have also been highly respected community citizens has enhanced the Club and increased its impact in Spartanburg. This was true from the beginning, and it is true today.

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix 5 for a copy of the text of the Sertoma nomination.

## CHAPTER 3

### Gardening Together: MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

*Perhaps our best hope for gardening as an art is that gardening is an activity whose never-achieved aim is progress towards a never-completed work of art.*

— Geoffrey Charlesworth

Membership in the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has always had a certain prestigious connotation. Its members come from all walks of life. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, landscape architects, nursery men and women, public servants, writers and others who are successful in their careers and interested in their community have been members through the years. Many members are well known personalities in Spartanburg and others are low-profile individuals interested in gardening. As a group, SMGC members are respected for their high interest in making their homes and the community better with trees and shrubs and flowers and grasses and fruit, making things green, beautiful and good for the environment. They have loved growing in knowledge of plants and how to use them, and the friendships made with fellow gardeners have been important and valuable.

While an official roster of those Dirt Daubers who were the charter members in 1948 is no longer available, the following were part of the original organization and are considered “Charter Members”: W. P. Rich, the first president; A. T. Gant, Secretary; James M. Culcleasure, treasurer; Clyde Burwell, historian; L. B. Boswell; W. G. Dobson; Guy Gowan, George Ladd; Paul Tysinger; Maj. M. L. Craine; Lamar Knox and Ernest Burwell. There are other records that indicate that Karl Selden may have been a charter member. Henry Pittman says that of these, only Jim Culcleasure was still active in the 1960s when he joined and Mr. Culcleasure was a pallbearer for Charles Lea’s funeral in 1967. But Pittman says he knew of Clyde and Ernest Burwell of Burwell Chevrolet and somewhere along the way met

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

the first president, W. P. Rich. This small group of men began an active and productive organization that has grown to include almost 200 men, women and corporate members today.<sup>1</sup>

It is interesting that the Club was originally limited to 25 members; it is obvious that this rule didn't last long. Fortunately, two important men—W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea—joined soon after the chartering of the Club, probably about 1950 or '51. Their contributions and leadership were essential to the growth of the Club, and to the quality growth of Spartanburg.<sup>2</sup>

While it may not be clear that the Club grew steadily from those first twelve members, or how soon the maximum of 25 was achieved, it clearly prospered and strengthened over the years, and the community benefited from its growth. The member limit had obviously been abandoned in 1958 when there were 34 members paying the four dollar dues and meeting in the basement Community Room of First Federal Building and Loan's headquarters on North Church Street. That remained the meeting location until it was moved to the Piedmont Natural Gas Building near First Presbyterian Church on East Main Street in 1972 with 177 members.

An existing record indicates the 1959 roster included Rich, Culcleasure, and Gowan, but also newer members—Charles Lea, Karl Selden, John Cantrell, J. P. Carlton, W. O. Ezell, Dr. Wardlaw Hammond, M. P. Nantz, Claude Sherrill, Dr. W. A. Wallace, William B. Littlejohn, Jack Lemmon, Dave Kennemur, Tom Butlerand, Dr. David Stoltz and others for a total of 35. David Stoltz, the most senior member, is still active in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

Charles Lea deserves special credit in that he served both as Secretary of the Club, and also as its newsletter editor during the formative years from 1957 or 1958, when John Cantrell and Tom Butler were presidents, until 1966. In addition, he was an early leader of the important Spartanburg County Foundation and he held many community positions supporting the Boy Scouts and other youth-oriented organizations.<sup>3</sup>

The Club year of 1964 was interesting from the perspective of past, current and future performance. An old roster of 1964, when W. W. "Buster" Walker was president, shows the total membership was a high of 101. It included eight former presidents (Tom Butler, John Cantrell, Jim Culcleasure, W. O. Ezell, Wardlaw Hammond, Charles Lea, Jack Lemmon, and Karl Selden). Also active that year were six future presidents (Dr. Paul Cook, Gil Hooper, Willard Morgan, Sid Moorhead, Henry Pittman and Claude Sherrill). In 1965 there were 88 members five of whom are current active members.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix 2 contains a chart of SMGC presidents and other leaders by year.

<sup>2</sup> Chapter 2 on Iconic Members pays great tribute to these two men, and provides considerable details on their work and contributions.

<sup>3</sup> Charles Lea is featured in Chapter 2 on Iconic Members

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

1969 was a very good year for the Club—Dr. Bob Reynolds and Harold Hatcher joined. Recruitment of new members exploded that year under Julian Foster’s presidency. A membership roster is not available, but National’s magazine, *The Gardener*, reported in January, 1970, “W. O. Ezell has run the membership of the Spartanburg, S. C. club up to 227 members.” This is a 158% increase over the 88 members in 1965. (However only 35 of those 88 were active in 1970, so retention had not been good.) *The Gardener* reported in April 1970 the recruiting technique:

Our friends in Spartanburg, S. C. took a different tack. They cleaned up some eyesores around town and planted them, and other areas to grand floral displays. Then they asked luncheon clubs to give them five minutes to tell about the work they had done, and about men’s garden clubs. At every program they brought in new members: seven, nine, as many as fifteen at a time. That’s hard to beat.

THE PAPER/Wednesday, January 15, 1992



**ON THE GRILL** — Above, members of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club annual picnic committee gather near the grill. Committee members from left are David Kennemur, Harold D. Hatcher, John Fincher, Jack Turner, Walter Soderberg, John Welsh and Tom Bartram. Below, the 87 members and guests of the club relax and enjoy food prepared by club members Jack Turner and Robert Almond, the chief hot dog and hamburger cooks. The event took place at Hatcher Horticulture Center.



Camaraderie has always been important in the MGC.

That summer, Ezell attended the Convention in Des Moines and led a workshop on his favorite subject, “The City Beautiful.” *The Gardener* reported, “...his beautification projects are so successful that W. O. has outstripped everyone in gaining new members and new clubs in MGCA.” While a bit confusing, it reported another high compliment in August, that the SMGC, with 178 members, was the second largest; Syracuse was the largest and Des Moines and Chapel Hill, N. C., followed Spartanburg. An available 1970 Club roster lists 191 men. It was probably Ezell’s growing reputation as a leader in city beautification that attracted so many new members.

Membership didn’t grow continuously; in 1975 it was down to 76, but up the next year to a healthy 143 when dues were \$14.00, \$7.50 of which went to National. In 1977, Jess Taylor, a very valuable addition to the roster, joined, and four years later, Tom Bartram became a member.

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

But the big change in Club membership, not so much numbers but quality, began in the 1980s. The national organization, MGCA, lead the way in responding to pressure, both legal and political, to open membership to women and this major change in its bylaws occurred in about 1985. Women, mostly spouses of members, had long been active in local Club activities in a kind of auxiliary capacity, but they were not formal members of the Club. Some wives attended (some to drive at night), but were not active in project or program work. But Linda McHam and Jane Turner—and others—were exceptions; they helped with MGC projects prior to becoming official members.

It may have been the result of local member John Nevison representing both the Club and the Blue Ridge Region as National Director at the November Board meeting in San Antonio, or the forward attitude of Tom Bartram (and his legal background and influence)



**Monthly meetings were held in the Arts Center on Spring Street in 2005**

that encouraged the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club to open its membership to women. “Probably the most compelling reason for admitting females was not just John’s and my feelings, but was the new federal law—Title VII of the Civil Rights Act,” Bartram recalls. “This had resulted in many organizations modifying their requirements for membership.”

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

Before official approval, the proposed change was discussed both openly and formally, and brought to a proper vote of the Club at its March, 1989, meeting. Even with obvious strong support for the change, Pittman says he “stood tall” in opposition and presented a carefully prepared paper consisting of seven hopefully well-thought-out points.<sup>4</sup> These included the uniqueness of the Club, the physical hard work desired from members, and the sad demise of other *men-only* clubs in the Blue Ridge Region that had integrated. Mr. W. O.’s often repeated advice of “work with the ladies, but don’t get too close” was cited, along



**The November “Annual Meeting” was held in the Downtown County Library in 2005.**

with the opinion that court action was unlikely. Other suggestions included the possibility of organizing a new “Men’s Garden Club” for women, and the opinion that an occasional “men’s night out” was important. These arguments were of no avail, however. As anticipated, the sage advice of Bartram and other major leaders prevailed and the change of the Bylaws to eliminate reference to gender was approved by a significant majority of the voting members at that March meeting of the Club.

It was a good change. Pittman, and almost everyone else, admits it was a good change. While many lady members are “tag-alongs” of their husband’s Family Memberships, there are more who are hardworking, dedicated gardeners who have added quality talents and leadership to the Club for many years.

The 1990 Club roster shows there were 96 members including these five women: Wayne Burdell, Martha Edwards, Shirley Marshall, Sandra Powell and Jane Turner. By 1991 there were 109 members, seven of whom were women. Dianne Mallory, Linda McHam and Virginia Scott had joined the ranks. Female membership has continued to grow. Counting spouses of the new “Family Memberships” plus individual women, almost half of the Club members are now female.

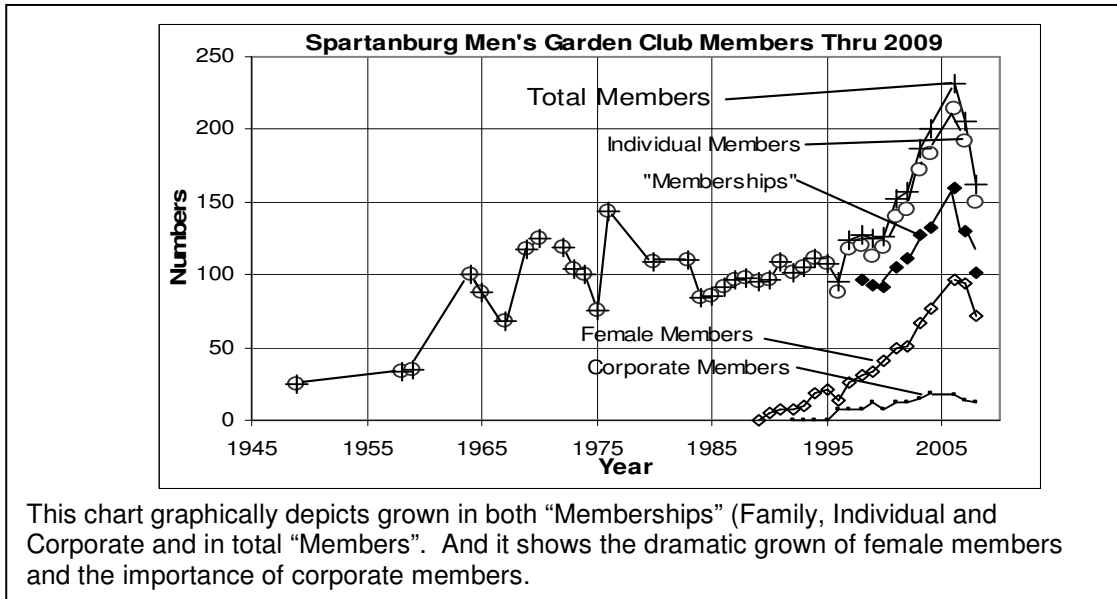
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<sup>4</sup> A copy of his paper on objections is available in Appendix 35.



### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

The Club broke another boundary in 2007 when it elected its first woman President, early member Linda McHam. Women have disproved Pittman’s concern about the “physical hard work” required of Club members by participating fully in the work of the



Club. From 2006 – 2008, the most labor-intensive project of the Club, its Container Garden and Plant Sales, was capably directed by two women members, Dr. Dianne Fergusson and Valerie Hare.

Another category of club membership that has evolved is the Corporate Membership. In the 1980s, the Club had no formal corporate members but was fortunate to have ongoing support and encouragement from organizations including Kurt Zimmerli’s Zima Corporation, Mr. Roger Milliken and TV Station WSPA. The Corporate Member category was officially initiated in 1996 with solicitation of businesses and other organizations to join and strengthen the Club. Dues were established at \$100 per year and appointment of an organization employee to directly participate in Club activities was encouraged. Corporate Members that first year were First Federal S&L; Henson Law Firm; Drs. Hull, Green, Woods, McLeod & Cothran; Kohler Company; Milliken & Company; Piedmont Natural Gas and Zima Corporation.

It was in 1996 that “Family Memberships” were begun to encourage husband and wife *teams* and to provide a slight reduction in dues. While this has resulted in some problem of identifying the size of the Club, two counts are usually specified: Memberships (singles plus couples plus corporate) and Members (singles plus the number of couples multiplied times two plus corporate).

Members are, of course, the backbone of the organization, and the Club needs as many as it can get. Some join for various reasons. More often than not, *gardening together* stimulates their interest which grows as they see how personal plant growing can improve living, and how community plant growing can enhance an even larger quality of life. Like many organizations, a large number of members has always been important to this Club and it has often promoted the concept of three member types: those who join primarily to show support of the Club’s objectives, those who occasionally attend meetings, and those who

### 3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS

actively work on projects to strengthen the Club and enhance the community—all three types have always been welcomed in the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

One of the most important membership benefits was bestowed on Mort Sams and Martha Smith. In 1994, they were working with Newt Hardie on the Club’s important South Pine Street’s treescape of Yoshino Cherry Trees when they realized they not only loved trees but also each other. They were married shortly afterwards--a unique and cherished membership benefit!



This history should place great emphasis on and give loud praise to the *quality* of MGC members over the years. They have included a broad range of citizens who have combined a love of personal gardening with the desire to use it as a tool to build a better community. They have been, and are, citizens from all walks of life, from the newcomers and unknowns to the top business and civic leaders of the community.

### **3 – MEMBERSHIP OVER THE YEARS**

## Chapter 4

# Enhancing the Enhancements: SPARTANBURG BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

*Everyone can identify with a fragrant garden,  
with the beauty of sunset, with the quiet of nature.*  
– Thomas Kinkade

It is not clear when or how the strong emphasis on “beautification” began in Spartanburg. Surely, this community, with its heritage of quality, has always had such an emphasis. If not, how would the great street trees of Converse Heights have been planted or how would the Wofford Campus have had such a fine landscape plan? How, or why, would Duncan Park have developed and what would have brought about the architectural excellence of the old County Library building on Library Street, or the quality structures and layout of Converse College, and of Wofford? Surely, this community had a background of loving and appreciating beauty.

It may have been when W. O. Ezell joined the new Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in about 1951 that the trend toward horticultural beautification really began. Mr. Roger Milliken's love for trees and excellent landscaping set a high standard, beginning in the late 1950s, just as Hans Balmer later demonstrated his passion for beautification by developing spots of beauty around the community. And Newt Hardie is currently living a mission of eliminating the ugliness caused by the kudzu vine. It was, however, in the early 50s that “Mr. W. O.” began a trend of floral beauty that has made Spartanburg a very special place. The Men's Garden Club was a part of it and has proudly continued that emphasis.

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

Recently retired from Geer Drug Company, Ezell not only encouraged the relatively young Men's Garden Club to begin a program of beautification, but led the program with his personal labor until his health began to fail in the early 1970s. He was chairman of the Spartanburg City Beautification Committee in 1956 when a newspaper article stated, "Spartanburg is now a City of Flowers." He continued that leadership, along with being Projects Chairman of the Club, until the late '70s. It is not clear when or how the Piedmont Beautification Committee was organized in Spartanburg; it replaced the City program in the 1980s with somewhat broader goals.

Gardens apparently existed at Cleveland Park and Duncan Park earlier, but they were improved by the City (and probably the Club) adding roses and mums in 1958 under Ezell's leadership. Flowers along city streets began to appear at that time, due to the same guidance. While no detailed documentation is available, extensive landscaping of Duncan Park was probably the major and largest beautification project of the Club at that time.

Charles Lea, long-time secretary and editor of the monthly "Gardenettes" newsletter, reported these complimentary remarks about the Club's association with Ezell's city beautification work in June, 1959. "W. O. Ezell gave a fine progress report on the work of his committee on the 'City Beautiful.' It will pay our members to check the parks and city intersections of streets to see what has been done this spring. It will bring pride to your hearts in appreciation of what has been accomplished by so few, with so little. Again, we take our hats off to our fellow-member, W. O. Ezell, for his untiring efforts to complete the project 'City Beautiful'." Lea went on to say, "Visit Duncan Park and see the part *your club* had in this project. In two or three more years Duncan Park at least the eastern end, is going to be the beauty spot of Spartanburg. Let us keep up the good work."

The next month, Lea commented, "The Men's Garden Club should be proud of their work in Duncan Park, and should visit there each month in order to see the continuous blooming that takes place. Remember that the north end of Duncan Park, from the old arena to the Union Road [Street], *is a special project of the Men's Garden Club.*"

Dr. Bob Reynolds remembers, "W. O. Ezell had started flowerbeds at the entrance of Duncan Park. These had become neglected when he was no longer able to care for the beds. Clayton Brown wanted to restart the beds at this location. Clayton started with four beds where WO had originally had his beds. After a few years the city built a cinderblock raised bed on each side of the entrance road. Bradford pear trees were added one in each bed and along the road. The Bradford Pear trees required a lot of water to keep the flower beds functioning. The Spartanburg Water Works initially furnished water for a number of years, but terminated this "free water" later. Recently, the Bradford pear trees were removed and knockout roses were added in the bed. That special love for and association with Duncan Park continued as Reynolds maintained the Union Street entrance garden for many years as a Club project.

Charles Lea was the official delegate from the MGC to the national convention of The Men's Garden Clubs of America held in Jackson, Mississippi, May 5-8, 1959. He made a detailed and very positive report in his "Gardenettes" newsletter of this, his first convention participation. The following related to the Magnolia tree he was given.

Last, but not least, the Jackson Men's Garden Club gave to each representative present a small Magnolia Grandiflora seedling from the new big champion tree located in Pascagoula, Miss. Its circumference is 13 ft. 7 in., height 52 ft. with a

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

branch spread of 92 feet. This tree replaces the old champion, a Florida magnolia now dead, and grows within sight of the Spanish Fort just off U. S. Highway 90.

I want the seedling to belong to the Club—to be planted in one of our parks, preferably in Duncan Park, properly labeled, where the Club has done so much beautification work.

Unfortunately, the desire for proper labeling was not accomplished, but this is probably the large Magnolia standing in the landscaped area of Duncan Park today.

The city's first "Spring Flower Festival" was sponsored by the Club in 1959, and again the next May. While no details currently exist of either its extensiveness, or its success, it is an indication of growing interest in community beautification and horticultural education.

In April, 1960, Charles Lea's "Gardenettes" reported on Morgan Square beautification, and on other activities:

W. O. and his Beautification Committee ought to feel mighty proud. Their work is paying dividends all over the city. Every member of the Men's Garden Club should take pride in the wonderful improvements to the barren corners of our streets and the forlorn look of our parks. Morgan Square was a sight for sore eyes during the past ten days. General Morgan, will never gaze on a more delightful picture than he did Easter Morning, no matter where they move him. The Square must have known this would be its last opportunity because as soon as the tulips are through blooming it becomes another parking area." Lea continued with this encouragement, "It will pay you to visit all the beauty spots of the city during these spring weeks. Follow the flower trails through the city. Have you noticed the hanging baskets on Main Street? The frost did not seem to hurt them that Sunday night before Easter.

Flowers and new landscaping of Morgan Square formed a significant Club effort in 1960 along with many new "garden spots" around the area. As reported earlier in the April 1960 newsletter, Morgan Square was approaching its height of beauty in 1961, when it was partially destroyed while a new parking lot was constructed by the city. This cycle of "build and destroy" continues to this day and may be an inevitable part of progress!

1961 was a busy year for the Club and for Mr. W. O.'s Spartanburg City Beautification group. Along with J. P. Carlton and Red Arnold, Club leader Claude Sherrill organized and led the Club's new "Yard of the Month" project in 1961. It promoted broad citizen participation in home landscape improvement. This program continued for several years.

A step forward in "hands on" beautification was taken in 1961. Charles Lea, secretary and editor of the monthly newsletter reported on recent board action with this paragraph in the June edition "It was also decided that the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club should beautify a vacant lot in the city, and a committee, W. O. Ezell, Jack Lemmon and Charles Lea, was appointed to proceed to select and plant such a lot in the name of the Club."

The result of that assignment was probably what Lea reported later that fall. "Have you seen the new project on [South] Pine Street? Claude Sherrill and W. O. Ezell have already begun work getting ready for the plantings. Claude handles the tractor and farm implements just like he had been raised on the farm. We expect to have an up-to-date report at our next meeting on the work and the financing." In December, he reported good progress and anticipation that it "has the promise of being the show-place of the city when completed." Subsequent newsletters aren't available, but this was undoubtedly the beginning of the

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Club's *Selecto Garden*, its largest and most ambitious landscape project, the South Pine Street garden across from the Pine Street School.

Unfortunately, Lea's newsletters aren't available after December 1961, so details of the progress are not available. This 3,000 foot long multi-hundred rose, azalea, shrub and bulb garden on South Pine Street extended from the condominium complex north of St. Andrews Street, past Boyd Street and the school, past Twin Drive, Sunset Drive, and Crystal Drive, and almost to Morningside Baptist Church. It was clearly the best known beautification project of the Club at that time. Although quite modified today, it continues as an asset to the community.

The outstanding color tri-fold, published by the Beautification Committee and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Spartanburg, entitled "Spartanburg - South Carolina - The Floral Showplace of The Piedmont" was a significant promotional feature.

A commercial post card was also published at about the same time with the label "*Lusterchrome Reg. U.S. Pat. Office, Made only by Ticnnor Bros Inc., Boston 15, Mass.*" It identifies the face of the card with this garden description:

**Spartanburg, S. C. – The City of Flowers** – The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club's *Selecto Garden* CONTAINS:

- 686 Labeled Hybrid Teas, Grandiflora, & Florabunda Roses, 140 varieties.
- 80 Azaleas, 40 varieties.
- 101 Labeled Beds of Tulips and Daffodils containing 21,000 bulbs.
- 1100 Assorted Shrubs. Located on Pine Street.

The descriptions on these publications seem almost unbelievable, but their pictures, along with the many photographs of Ezell taken there, confirm the garden's magnificence. Although the two descriptions don't agree exactly, they are similar. And they, and much other documentation, confirm that the Club was clearly its primary developer and received invaluable publicity from it.

The local *Herald-Journal* newspaper ran an extremely positive article in September of 1961. It opened with these words; "The male greenthumbers are on the march here again." It continued:

This time the prolific planters have picked a project so big it requires reinforcements. 'Its 3,000 foot long,' Men's Garden Club President Jim Culcleasure reported Saturday. 'That's substantially larger than the Duncan Park and other beautification projects these volunteers have completed around Spartanburg in recent years.... Since the project will cost several hundred dollars [today, this sounds like a monumental understatement]...a program is being organized for local businesses to provide funds by acquiring memberships at \$5 each for groups of their employers. Geer Drug Co. and Community Cash Stores have started the ball rolling by taking out 30 memberships.

The next month, the newspaper reported that the response from businesses had been excellent with participation by 16 sponsor firms, "...but we need and invite others to join in our beautification work," said Culcleasure. "The gardeners are doing all the work during off hours from their store, office and other jobs...The project will require several weeks to complete...It will beautify one of the most important approaches to the city."

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The *Herald-Journal* in May, 1966, related this story about Ezell and Lea: “Ezell was in Selecto Garden telling his close friend and comrade, Charles Lea, about a favorite rose when they looked up and saw a line of cars led by a city police vehicle.” Moments later, President Harry P. Williams of the Spartanburg Sertoma Club stepped up to present Ezell with the club’s *Service to Mankind Award*. The article continued with a description of the garden and the many contributions of Ezell. Williams said, since he was appointed in 1957 to the City Beautification Commission with his fellow member Lea, “the City Beautification



**Ezell and Lea in the Club’s “Selecto Garden” on South Pine Street before the highway widening.**

Committee and the Men’s Garden Club have converted many barren areas to garden spots about the city.”

The local newspaper reported on this national Men’s Garden Clubs of America award in August, 1963:

#### **Spartan Male Gardeners Given Top National Award**

The Woodrow K. Jones Memorial Plaque was awarded to the [Spartanburg] Men’s Garden Club in recognition of projects and outstanding service to the community and the Men’s Garden Clubs of America.

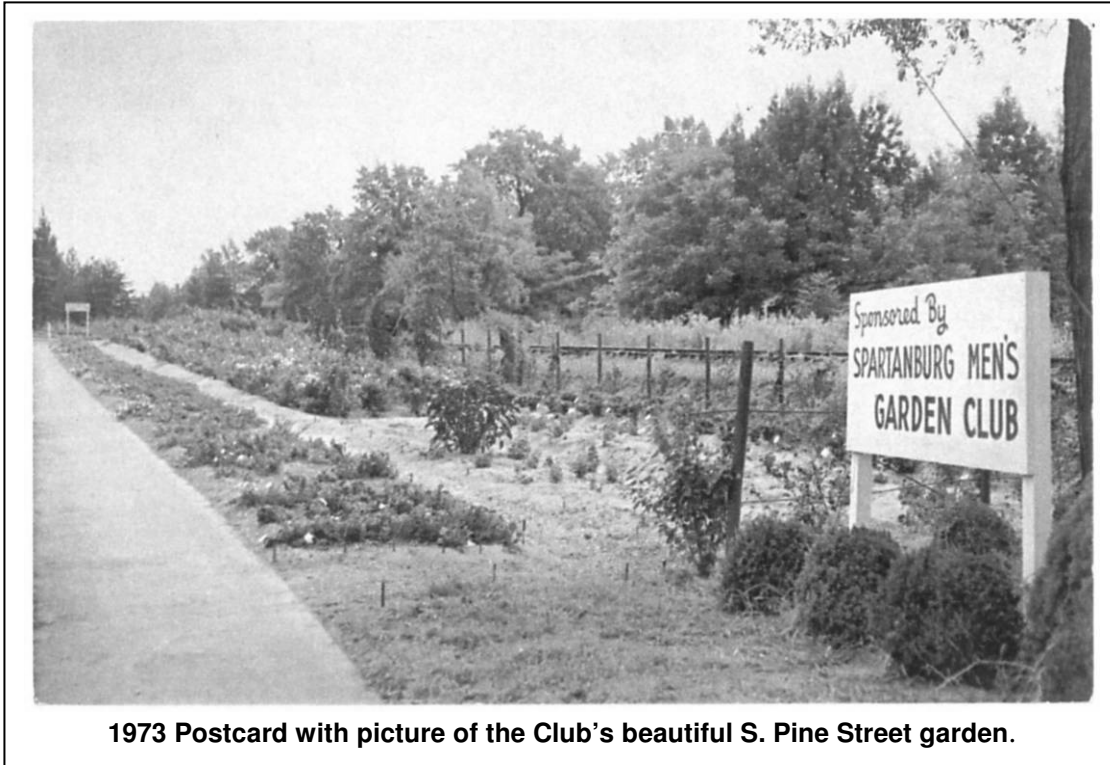
The award was received at the recent annual convention in Rockford, Ill by W. O. Ezell and Charles Lea, both past presidents of the local club.

This long article concluded with this paragraph, “Among the projects accomplished by the local club were the Pine Street and Duncan Park beautification” and a number of other activities including “the organization of the Blue Ridge Regional Club” as part of national Men’s Garden Clubs of America.



#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

The next year, the paper promoted a story “Garden Lovers Meet in City” which



announced that William Hull, president of the national organization, was in Spartanburg for the meeting of the Blue Ridge Region's two-day annual convention. “Included in Saturday's activities was a tour of the flowers along Pine Street, Duncan Park and the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corp.” Also, J. G. Norton, chairman of the board of Milliken's Pacolet Industries was awarded a certificate of commendation for the beautification of the grounds of Deering Milliken Research Corporation. W. W. “Buster” Walker was president of the Club at that time.

“Mr. W. O.”, after suffering from health problems for some 18 months, recovered enough in 1974 to re-activate his personal beautification activity and, with some help, he put out over a hundred plants and did some weeding along the thoroughfares during the year. Earlier, in 1974 he had been honored by the Club for his beautification leadership at a dinner at Dorman High School attended by many community leaders and dignitaries. Vice President Snow Marshall made a highly complimentary presentation on Ezell and his importance to both the community and the Club.<sup>1</sup> The next year, Ezell was awarded the national Men's Garden Club's of America Medallion Award by Mayor Bob Stoddard for his tremendous accomplishment in City beautification.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of Show Marshall's presentation is contained in Appendix 3.

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Almost as unbelievable as was the Pine Street Garden and its extensive beauty is the fact that it was nearly destroyed in the summer of 1973 (shortly after the garden began to reach maturity) when South Pine Street was widened by the Highway Department. Claude Sherrill's "Garden Tips" newsletter reported in May, "The highway widening at Pine Street

This tri-fold brochure was a popular Spartanburg promotional document for Mr. W. O. Ezell's "City of Flowers" in the early 1970s. Note the center back picture of the Club's "Selecto Garden" with the heading "Men's Garden Club which reads, "This beautiful mile long strip bordering S. Pine Street in Spartanburg is planted and maintained solely by a group of dedicated men who contribute their time and resources to this project. Here you find 1,500 shrubs, 1,339 roses, 21,000 bulbs, 180 azaleas, 140 labeled varieties of 686 roses, 40 labeled varieties of 80 azaleas, and 75 labeled running roses with 101 beds of labeled tulips and daffodils."



**MORGAN SQUARE**  
This focal point of Spartanburg is dominated by a statue of Revolutionary War hero General Daniel Morgan. The area was built and planned by the city and is a beautiful garden spot.



**CLEVELAND PARK**  
This area was created for enjoyment by the citizens of Spartanburg... a children's playground, swimming pool, the Flower Show, a glass garden, lake, tennis courts and a lovely Azalea bed.

**ABOUT CITY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
Beautiful in all seasons — spring, summer, autumn.

**Spring:** Flowering crab, peach, cherry, dogwood, redbud, azaleas, camellias, 21,000 tulip-bulbs, 2,000 iris, 30,000 perennials.

**Summer-autumn:** 2,100 roses, 6,000 hybrid perennials, rose moss, spider flowers, azalea, mountain hibiscus, lilac, clematis, columbine, annuals, other perennials, dahlias.

**Other beautiful spots:** F. J. Hunter Park, a beautiful recreational area, Mills Avenue Recreational Area, the Bicentennial Garden, Byrnes Boulevard off E. Main Street, Old Brickyard, Orange Blossom Boulevard off S. John Street, E. Main Street and St. John's intersection of N. Church Street and Adelaide Highway, Airport Road, entrance to city, E. Main and W. Main Streets.

**SPARTANBURG**  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
City of Flowers



**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB**  
This beautiful mile long strip bordering S. Pine Street in Spartanburg is planted and maintained solely by a group of dedicated men who contribute their time and resources to this project. Here you find 1,500 shrubs, 1,339 roses, 21,000 bulbs, 180 azaleas, 140 labeled varieties of 686 roses, 40 labeled varieties of 80 azaleas, and 75 labeled running roses with 101 beds of labeled tulips and daffodils.

Spartanburg is noted for its good business climate and livability. The arts, culture and education flourish, contributing richly to the "good life." Good homes, churches and schools endow our residents with the heritage of a good community and good citizenship. These factors, coupled with the many assets pictured in this folder, make Spartanburg a good place in which to live and do business.

This brochure published as a joint project of the City of Spartanburg Beautification Committee and the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Spartanburg.

**SPARTANBURG**  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
The Floral Showplace of The Piedmont



**DUNCAN PARK**  
Sitting amidst its completely landscaped and beautiful... grounds for its numerous beautiful diamonds and other recreational facilities.

CITY HALL OF SPARTANBURG



**KEY TO SPECIAL POINTS OF BEAUTY**

- A. Cleveland Park
- B. Byrnes Blvd. at St. John St.
- C. Converse College — E. Main St. at St. John St.
- D. Duncan Park Entrance — Union St. at Park St.
- E. S. Pine Street
- F. Seaside Road at Crescent Road
- G. Airport Entrance
- H. Morgan Square



COUNTY COURTHOUSE



SPARTANBURG JUNIOR COLLEGE, CO-EDUCATIONAL



SPARTANBURG COUNTY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



CONVERSE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN



SPARTANBURG MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM



WOFFORD COLLEGE FOR MEN



SPARTANBURG-GREENVILLE JET AIRPORT



SPARTANBURG HIGH SCHOOL

City of  
*Spartanburg*  
South Carolina

School has temporarily wrecked our beautiful garden area there. Most of the shrubs and bulbs are heeled-in for replanting in the fall; Roy King [a Club member and City beautification employee] and his city crew have done this work. We have a committee

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

composed of Frank Cunningham, Griff Smith and W. O. Ezell to prepare a great new plan to utilize our plants....” Dr. Bob Reynolds recalls that moving of the power lines back from their original location caused many of the original trees, as well as new ones and shrubs, to be destroyed. Professor Emory Jones of the Clemson Horticulture Department assisted in developing this plan for salvaging trees and shrubs and, while greatly downgraded, this important landscape area survived and these enhancements have continued over the years.

Another blow was dealt this garden later in 1973 when the owner of a very narrow section between Pine Street and the railroad south of St. Andrews Street insisted on the removal of all landscape plants on his property. He proceeded to destroy all the trees in hopes of establishing a commercial development. Only after the City refused to allow building on such a narrow and restricted property was the Club able to re-beautify the area. Professor Jones’s plan included re-planting this important part of the garden strip. The Club’s newsletter, edited at the time by Harold Hatcher after Claude Sherrill’s death, reported in March of 1974 that many of the plants “heeled-in” during the previous summer were being replanted, that contributions had been made to assist in the restoration and that, “At the February meeting, 30 of the 47 persons present signed up to help do this replanting. In the following three weeks, 20 men worked 95 hours moving roses, azaleas, leucothoes, sasanquas, ligustrum, etc.” Hatcher further wrote that three companies had agreed to contribute digging equipment or fill-dirt to speed up the job before spring, and he emphasized that the Club hoped to “establish an attractive ‘Parkway’ by the volunteer efforts” of those who “feel that a beautiful city is worth some sacrifice.” Hatcher provided the major leadership of this re-building effort which involved adding some 200 tons of fill-dirt. A great deal of the essential work was done by many City departments.

Recovery effort on this garden continued according to the next newsletter:

**Spring Planting Completed on South Pine Street.** Rather than have what was formally a beautiful planting on South Pine Street turn into an ugly eyesore, 30 members put on their work clothes, got out their spades and spent approximately 300 hours as manual and skilled laborers in March and April.

The club was fortunate in getting a lot of cooperation from others including \$250 in unsolicited cash contributions and discounts on purchases.



**W. O. Ezell Presented Bronze Medallion Award**

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club recently honored Walter Orlando Ezell for his work in beautifying the city and county of Spartanburg. Ezell, who is a charter member of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club organized in 1936, was presented the National Men’s Garden Council Bronze Medallion showing a gardener with a big hat, a flower in one hand and a hoe and rake in the other. The plaque read “In tribute to W. O. Ezell for his tremendous accomplishment in city beautification.” From left to right are Mrs. Bertha McArthur, (Ezell’s daughter), Mrs. Ezell, W. O. Ezell, and E. W. Marshall who presented the award. (Photo by B&B Studio)

SMGC honors “Mr. W. O.” for his devotion to city beautification. With MGCA Bronze Medallion Award  
*Spartanburg Herald-Journal, 1974*

(Note: The original local organization was The Dirtdaubers, organized in 1948. The name was changed to SMGC in 1950. Ezell probably joined in 1951.)

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

At the end of the 10 weeks, the members had planted 274 ornamental shrubs, approximately 3,000 cannas, tulips, daffodils and daylilies, and 100 pounds of grass seed, all in soil enriched by cow manure, rotted sawdust and high analysis fertilizer.

This article went on to say that the Club "... had provided thousands of travelers on Highway 176 a drink of natural beauty—and within the \$250 appropriated [by the Club Board] for the project." This made all of the effort worthwhile.

For years, Reynolds volunteered many hours to the upkeep of this garden strip without much additional help from other Club members but with much ongoing maintenance assistance from the City. During at least one summer, the Club and the City organized a group of underprivileged high school students who provided valuable weeding and litter control in this garden strip.

Over these years this South Pine Street garden had remained a genuine community asset. But an equally great—or greater—improvement was begun in 1998 when the PRIDE Task Force encouraged the City, with a Federal funds grant through the County's SPATS Road Enhancement Committee, to upgrade and refresh the landscape with many new plants, including Yoshino Cherry trees, and paved walking paths. It was officially dedicated in 2001 and since has been called the "PRIDE Trail." This area received another uplift of importance after the railroad was abandoned, and its property was converted into the currently famous and much used walking "Rail Trail" which parallels the garden on the back side. This provides Spartans the opportunity of hiking through this beautiful landscaped area, or above it, to look down into the garden.

Another active Club member was later honored with a granite marker for his beautification work in the City. "The Claude Sherrill Garden" the garden spot that he had developed and maintained for so many years on East Main across from the Hillcrest Shopping Center was officially named by City Council after Sherrill's death in 1973. It was primarily managed for many years by club member Roy King who professionally directed the City's landscape program. Later it and the Club's "Ezell Spot of Pride" on West Main (W. O. Ezell Boulevard) became the responsibility of many Club members, and that has continued.

The very active Spartanburg Beautification Committee headed, since its inception in the early or mid 50s by Ezell, was probably replaced in 1975 with Piedmont Beautification which had a broader scope of responsibility. Corrie Whitlock was president and these six MGC members were active members: John Cantrell, W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Snow Marshall, Henry Pittman and Everette Seixas.

Earlier, in 1956, the tone of community beautification was changed significantly. Milliken & Company (then, named Deering Milliken Inc.) moved its renowned research organization to Spartanburg that year (and later expanded to include its corporate headquarters there) and it began setting a high standard for business property landscaping. The orchard, formally known as "Peach Queen Farms," was aggressively converted into an award winning landscaped property by Mr. Roger Milliken and his prestigious landscape designer, Richard Webel of New York. Initially, Willow Oaks and Darlington Oaks were planted as shade trees in the parking lots and on the long driveways. And soon afterwards, Willow Oaks were planted on both the west and the east sides of the frontage roads parallel to the newly constructed Interstate-85 highway. Then shrubs, flowering trees, ponds and

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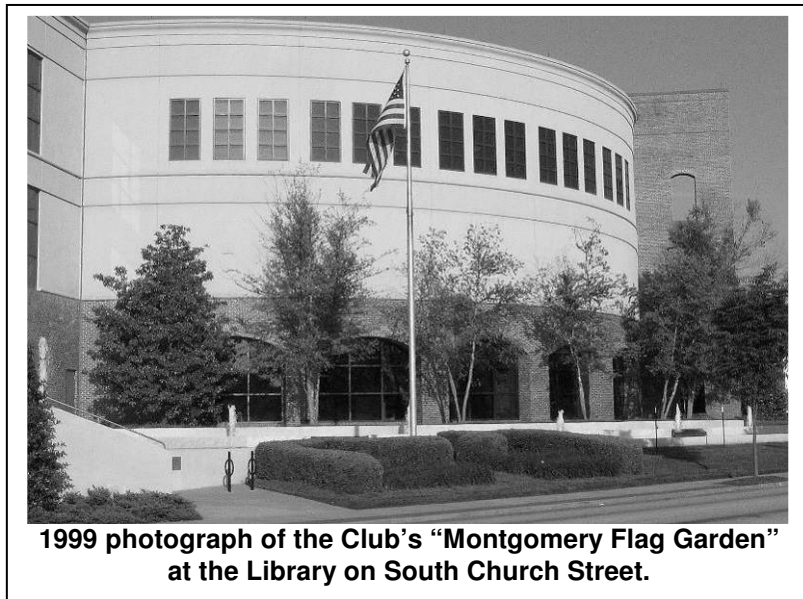
water features—and more trees—were added. Someone once said somewhat with tongue-in-cheek, “Mr. Milliken had two weaknesses—trees and water.” *What blessed weaknesses!*

The relation between the Club and Milliken has always been extraordinary with great mutual respect and admiration. Much of the Club’s enhancement work over the years has benefited from Mr. Milliken’s encouragement by praise, his demonstration by performance, and from his generous financial gifts. Harold Hatcher’s MGC newsletter of April 1976 made this announcement pertaining to his friendship with the Club:

YOU ARE INVITED TO A THRILLING DISPLAY – Deering Milliken, Inc., is extending a special invitation to the Men’s Garden Clubs of Spartanburg and of Greenville to visit its beautiful and enlarged plantings and gardens at this peak of their blooming season.” The newsletter continued with driving directions and a listing of plants to be enjoyed which was said to include, “100,000 Pansy blossoms, 18,000 Tulips – red, yellow and pink, hundreds of blooming azaleas including the new Mother’s Day Red, Japanese Kwanzan Cherries, Dogwood, Flowering Peaches, etc.

Milliken support and encouragement has continued. It served as headquarters for many of the Club sponsored weekend conventions of the national organization’s Blue Ridge Region and the company opened its facilities as the meeting headquarters for the annual November Board Meeting of the Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America which the Club hosted 1999. At the Club’s 1999 November Annual Meeting, members were inspired by a presentation of the Noble Tree Foundation’s video of “Visions” depicting the recent community improvements and those forecast to come. This presentation was made by the company’s noted landscape architect, Rick Webel.

Milliken’s support continued when the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club served as host for The Gardeners of America / Men’s Garden Clubs of America’s 2006 national convention in Spartanburg. Serving as a substantial financial underwriter for the convention, Milliken also made its arboretum available for tours by convention goers.



When Bill Wilson was president in 2001, the Club nominated Milliken & Co. for TGOA/MGCA’s top national award for Outstanding Commercial Landscaping. Milliken won the award and it was officially presented to Mr. Milliken at a large company sharing rally by Tom Bartram and Henry Pittman that year.

In the 1970’s, after the North Spartanburg Rotary Club planted the Bradford Pears in the North Pines Street medians, on more than one occasion when the trees were at their height of spring bloom, Mr. Milliken would remark to Pittman when passing in the hall at

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Milliken Research something like, “The Men’s Garden Club’s Bradford Pears are really beautiful.” Pittman’s stock answer was, “Thank you, Mr. Milliken, but we didn’t plant those trees; the North Spartanburg Rotary Club did.” He would quickly respond, “Oh, if it hadn’t been for your Club, they wouldn’t have known how to do it!”

The other “textile giant” in Spartanburg was Mr. Walter Montgomery of Spartan Mills. In addition to his solicitation of the Club to use his funds to landscape his Beaumont Mill on North Pine Street with some 100 trees in 1991,<sup>2</sup> he was an amazingly active and strong supporter of the Club, often attending Club meetings. When he died in 1996, his will provided \$10,000 to the Club for its discretionary use. The new Spartanburg County Headquarters Library on South Church Street was under construction the next year and when it became known that entrepreneur and civic leader Kurt Zimmerli was financing most of the exceptional landscaping, the Club’s board of directors decided to support this effort. It contributed the Montgomery funds to create the special garden which included the flag pole at the Church Street main entrance. Professional designers Innocenti & Webel, George Betzel from Columbia and Henry Pittman designed this small garden with valuable input from Linda McHam, Jack Turner, and Milliken horticulturist Stewart Winslow. It was named the Montgomery Flag Garden. Tom Bartram and Pittman were the early maintenance managers of this garden to which Everette Lineberger contributed dozens of quality daffodil bulbs. Currently, it is maintained by the Library’s professional landscape crew.

In addition to the major beautification projects described above, the Club and its members have also been responsible for other beautification projects on a lesser scale. For years, Dr. Bob Reynolds managed the Club’s annual Rose Show<sup>3</sup> (a significant encouragement for community beautification) as well as flowers at the entrance to Duncan Park. And there were many other activities.

- It participated in the county schools’ Beautification Poster Contest in 1985,
- It planted 3,000 pansies in the fall of 1989, continued its enhancement of Glen Park under the leadership of Bill Otts, Bob Powell and Joe Maple in 1990,
- It landscaped the Safe Home and T.O.T.A.L. Ministries building in 1991 through the work of Darvin Helvy and Henry Pittman, planted 50 trees and shrubs at the Civitan Rehab Center through efforts of Harold Browning,
- It developed plans for and executed planting of 11 Red Maples at the Newport Apartments of the New Day Clubhouse organization off of Asheville highway in 1994,
- Between 1994 and 1997 it performed many landscape improvements to the Arts Center on South Spring Street (the Club’s regular meeting location at that time) by the work of Browning, Linda McHam, Steve Patton and Jim and Jane Bagwell. The latter plantings utilized funds from a \$1,500 Tourism Grant.
- Multiple Habitat for Humanity houses have been landscaped by the Club and even more have benefited from trees and shrubs contributed from the Club’s plant sale nursery. Members who have led these initiatives include Beth Sabin Hardegree, Reynolds, Don Crowder, Harold Wolfe, and Pittman.

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<sup>2</sup> This project is covered in detail in Chapter 5 on the club’s many treescaping activities.

<sup>3</sup> See Chapter 12, “Education and Beauty: The Rose Show” for details on this important beautification project.

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The Club has continued to receive awards in recognition of its beautification efforts. One such award was reported in the weekly newspaper *The Paper* in September, 1993.

##### **Spartanburg Men's Garden Club wins highest award**

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club was the only affiliate of The Gardeners of America Inc. to receive a Certificate of Recognition at the organization's recent annual convention in Akron, Ohio.

The certificate is The Gardeners of America's highest award. Stephen Smith of Asheville, N.C., national director of the organization, recommended the Spartanburg club for this honor after a recent visit to the city, during which he observed the club's various activities.

"The certificate was awarded on the basis of outstanding achievement and service to the community," David Kennemur, club director, said. "Such services involved the beautification of the city by planting and maintaining 20 flower beds in highly visible areas and by growing and planting trees and shrubs along the principal streets and in the parks and school grounds of the city."

Kennemur said the club has planted or sold for planting more than 65,000 trees and shrubs during the last 12 years. This has contributed to Spartanburg being named "A Tree City" by the National Arbor Day Foundation each of those years, and he said the club has been involved in other beautification efforts, as well.

Broad based beautification continued by the Club. George Gunter led the Club's work on developing a special garden at the SC School for the Deaf and Blind in 1999. This garden included plants from his new nursery and from the Club's nursery, plus thousands of donated bulbs.

Beginning a new century, the Club stretched its influence (and perhaps flaunted it) when Wal-Mart Stores purchased the east-side property of Spartanburg's leading landscape nursery, Dwight Cane's Spartanburg Landscape, and began plans for building a super store in the late 1990s. Tom Bartram's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter had this report in its July 2000 issue.

**Wal-Mart Landscaping** – Our Club is actively participating with [it actually organized] an *ad hoc* committee that is encouraging Wal-Mart to make special efforts as they develop plans for their new large store to be constructed on the beautiful property that was Spartanburg Nursery and Landscaping (East Main opposite Lan Yair golf course). Among other features, the property contains a pristine pond, and attractive trees (e. g.: dawn redwood) which should be preserved. Committee participants include the Women's Garden Club Council, SPACE, the PRIDE Task Force and Trees Spartanburg. The landscape architectural firm Wal-Mart retains has indicated they will take the committee's recommendations into account. We're hoping for a review before the project proceeds.

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The efforts of the Club and this coalition were quite successful. Wal-Mart agreed to complete compliance with the City's new landscape ordinance on planting multiple shade

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* 12-25-2009

#### CITY FORTUNATE TO CARE ABOUT TREES

By Betty Montgomery

Spartanburg is fortunate to have many individuals and organizations interested in landscaping our community with trees.

Trees are planted for the enjoyment and enhancement they bring today and will bring in the future. Many residents over the years have taken pride in Spartanburg, and you can see the difference they have made throughout the city. They have planted willow oaks, maples, ginkgos and others that Spartanburg now enjoys.

With their hard work, we continue to be a city of trees.

Henry Pittman, Hans Balmer Roger Milliken, in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club, Spots of Pride and the Noble Tree Foundation, have been dedicated to planting trees that we enjoy as we drive from place to place.

With Pittman's leadership, the Men's Garden Club planted willow oaks on East Main Street, maples on North Pine Street, maples and dogwoods on Drayton Avenue, a variety of trees by Highway 221 and about 7 miles of trees on 1-85, just to name a few of the tree-planting projects.

Balmer came up with the idea of beautifying our city by planting traffic islands and areas around town. After an ice storm in 2005, he took on the planting of trees in Converse Heights to make sure there were trees for future enjoyment in this area.

Milliken is responsible for the willow oaks on 1-85, and these trees have made for a lovely entrance to Spartanburg. He has also been involved with planting other areas around the town and for providing educational forums on the value of trees.

Harold Hatcher, W. O. Ezell, Coe Irwin, George Johnson, Kurt Zimmerli and the city of Spartanburg have also made a difference in beautification with the planting of trees.

#### Trees have benefits

There are many benefits, some unforeseen, of planting trees. Trees prevent us from becoming a heat island, essentially an upside-down bowl of heat over our city. People often forget that trees help prevent flooding, as they break the force of rain as water comes down through the leaves and branches.

Tree roots help absorb water and slow its force. This helps prevent erosion. Trees also absorb the pollinates and debris in the air.

Several years ago, Atlanta was growing at such a fast pace that the removal of trees caused a heat and air quality problem. The city ultimately lost federal highway funding. To curb the problem, Atlanta planted trees.

Atlanta also had recent problems with flooding. At one time, according to Marcia Bansley, head of Trees Atlanta, the city was losing 50 acres a week to development. Now you realize why Atlanta is battling -continued

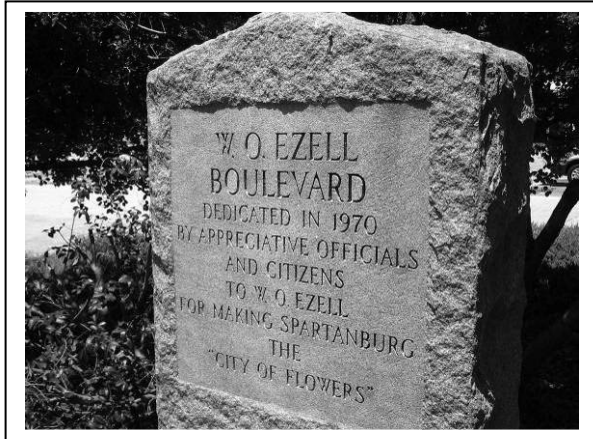
trees in the parking lots, creating an enhanced building facade, and in saving of many trees at the entrance. The entrance street is officially named "Dawn Redwood Drive" in honor of the six ancient trees located there. They were planted by property owner, Cane, from some of the earliest seedlings available in the United States after the Oriental species was re-discovered in the 1940s after having being thought to be extinct. Landscape designer Kevin Parris led the way in saving these magnificent Redwoods. The pond behind the building remains pristine and is now a part of the adjacent homeowners' neighborhood.

Although the Club has been busy with beautification projects in the city for over 60 years, it is not the only organization to have contributed to the beauty of Spartanburg. Under



#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

the remarkably well-organized and successful leadership of Hans Balmer, the Spot of Pride project was initiated in 2000 as an outgrowth of the PRIDE Task Force. The SOP project



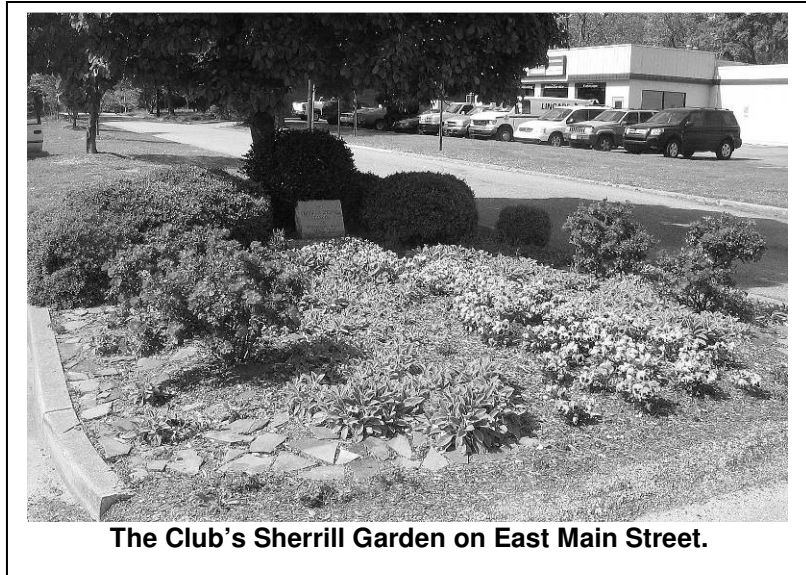
now consists of over 80 sponsored garden spots in the greater Spartanburg community. The first two SOPs were created as demonstration gardens. One is at the intersection of North Church Street and Asheville Highway. This garden was sponsored and financed by the County and PRIDE Task Force.

The other—and perhaps the finest SOP in the city—is the Ezell Spot of Pride, a cooperative venture of the City and the Club; it is located on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. The professional plan was improved a bit by the

Club's input and was funded by \$2,000 from the Club and an equal amount from the W. O. Ezell Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation plus City funds. The Ezell granite marker was moved by the SC Department of Transportation from its original location further west on the Boulevard near the original location of Dorman High School, to this garden. This MGC/City Ezell Spot of Pride was officially dedicated on April 26, 2001, with a large crowd in attendance. City Manager Roy Lane along with MGC president Bill Wilson and Henry Pittman gave presentations honoring Ezell who had set such a high standard for city beautification.<sup>4</sup>

The Club added the three magnificent Chinese Fringetrees and roses around the Ezell monument and maintains annuals along its face. The City provides excellent ongoing maintenance to the entire garden which has an

automatic irrigation system. In 2001 a background of Loropetalum was added adjacent to the marker, and five Green Giant Arborvitae were planted at the west end of the SOP to block the view of the adjacent laundry building; these Arborvitae are now some 50 feet tall and provide the envisioned background and view break. The added plants were financed by a \$400 Club contribution.



**The Club's Sherrill Garden on East Main Street.**

<sup>4</sup> A copy of this presentation at the Ezell Spot of Pride dedication is located in Appendix 4.

#### 4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS

This Ezell Spot of Pride and the Sherrill Garden Spot of East Main Street are the two areas still maintained regularly by Club volunteers. And both are genuine enhancements to the community. Dr. Bob Reynolds, Don Crowder and Charlie Covert have been active on West. Main, and Jess and Allene Taylor, Tasso Ghionis, Joyce and Charles Crescenzi, Meg Hollaway and Henry Pittman—and others— have provided caretaking of the East Main garden.

The Club has continued to provide ongoing support and encouragement to Hans Balmer’s Spot of Pride program. In 2003, the Club sent a “thank you” letter to the some 60 Spot of Pride sponsors to encourage their continued support. It worked closely with Balmer in the 2006 planning and later execution of his median gardens on Business Interstate-85 as the Club’s 300-tree shoulder treescape project was underway. In fact, Balmer’s voluntary agreement to provide the required ongoing maintenance for the Club’s shoulder trees saved the project from possible default.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has been one of the leaders in community beautification, but Spartanburg’s great beautification is the result of an almost unbelievable combination of private and public organizations working for years, often completely independent of each other, to accomplish not so much a current “City of Flowers,” but an extensive “City of Plants, Water Features and Beauty.”<sup>5</sup> The spontaneity of much of these organizations over the past decade was encouraged by the foresight, vision and perseverance of two individuals whose efforts have been particularly fruitful and appreciated—the former city manager, Roy Lane, and the former city mayor, Bill Barnet.

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In a thank-you letter to a Club member who had made a contribution to the Noble Tree Foundation a few years ago, Mr. Milliken said, “Spartanburg is changing, is becoming even more beautiful, and we hope this trend will continue for years to come.” The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club should be proud of its legacy and contributions to this change. But the job is not completed; all should realize that it must continue.

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<sup>5</sup> Many of these organizations and individuals are cited in Appendix 20.

#### **4 - BEAUTIFICATION AND MGC GARDEN SPOTS**

## Chapter 5

### **“But the Trees Remained...!”: TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

*Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone  
planted a tree a long time ago.*

*- Warren Buffet*

**S**partanburg is known in the upstate and throughout South Carolina as a “city of trees.” While this community has been blessed with an environment that supports many varieties of trees, the efforts of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club have gone a long way toward increasing the number and quality of trees in both the City and County. From encouraging neighborhoods to plant trees (the Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association promoted tree planting and worked with the SMGC in one of its earliest tree sales which was reported in *Southern Living* in September, 1982, and in encouraging the Converse Heights’ second-generation tree planting in 2004), to treescaping of many major thoroughfares in the area, to sponsoring tree sales twice a year to encourage homeowners to plant trees, and in setting an example for other organizations and institutions by actually planning and planting thousands of street and highway trees in the area, the SMGC has been a leader in providing *green* shade for the coming generations.

Planting of street and highway trees seems to have begun in the 1970s, while Mr. W. O. Ezell was extremely active in developing many beautiful garden spots around Spartanburg. Although *color* was his emphasis in the dozens of gardens he and the Club planted and maintained around the city, he did also plant a few trees.

5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

MGC Treescape Projects	
1976	— N. Pine
1978	
1980	
1982	
1984	
1986	— N. Pine
1988	— W. Main @ I-26
1990	— E. Main
1992	— N. Pine @ Beaumont
1994	— Heron Traffic Circle
1994	— I-85 Bypass (Relocation)
1994	— N. Pine Extension
1996	— S. Pine
1996	— Drayton Rd / Isom
1998	— US -176 @ I-26
1998	— Drayton Rd / Isom
2000	— N. Pine Extension
2000	— Drayton Rd / Isom
2002	— Drayton Rd / Isom
2002	— SC-195
2004	— S. Pine
2004	— US-221 Phase I
2006	— US-221 Phase II
2006	— I-85 Business
2008	

Harold Hatcher, as a new member of the Club, began an emphasis on trees in 1972 and led the club in planting hundreds of trees in local parks, around schools, public buildings, etc, and he was active in the Club’s Bicentennial project on North Pine Street. The Club’s real emphasis on community tree planting probably began one year in the ‘80s when Hatcher reported at a Club meeting on a recent trip back to his former home in Indiana where he had been active in community beautification. That night, he said, with obvious sadness, that all the garden spots of flowers, shrubs and grasses which he had been involved in planting had been neglected and no longer existed (this is exactly what happened here when Mr. W. O. was no longer able to maintain the many garden spots he developed with the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club in the 1960s and ‘70s). But then, with a smile on his face, Hatcher stood tall, lifted his arms and continued with great enthusiasm, *“but the trees remained...!”*

While trees aren’t forever and aren’t without some problems and aren’t maintenance free, they are relatively low maintenance and many

are long lived—and are very important to both the landscape aesthetics and the environment. While Hatcher had been active in the early 1970s in leading the Club in planting many trees in public areas of the community, it was his Indiana observation that set the tone for the Club’s street and highway treescaping. The Club picked up on Hatcher’s observation and began a treescape program that continues today.

The 15 major treescape projects of the Men’s Garden Club are detailed in the following sections of this chapter. Related treescape project information is presented in the Appendix.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The “MGC Tree Planting Procedure” folder is in Appendix 6. The City Map of MGC planted trees is in Appendix 31, and the Master Street Tree Planting List is in Appendix 32.

## 1 North Pine Street “Bicentennial Project” - 1976

In the late 1950s, North Pine Street (also known then as Byrnes Boulevard, named for Spartanburg’s native James M. Byrnes,<sup>2</sup> underwent heavy construction and emerged as Interstate-585. It was a new name and a new highway, but a highway with an unattractive look. There were no trees. There were weeds but no landscaping, all of which provided a pretty dismal look for such an important entry-way into Spartanburg. Through a unique effort of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club and a number of other cooperating organizations, an extensive *Bicentennial Landscape Project* involving planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on North Pine Street was completed in 1976. The idea evolved in 1974 as the Club worked to restore a much earlier beautification project of W. O. Ezell on *South Pine Street* (across from Pine Street School) which had been wrecked by highway widening and a thoughtless property owner in 1973. As that project was being brought back in control under the chairmanship of Harold Hatcher and Ezell, the need on the other end of Pine Street became obvious.

North Pine Street—this rapidly growing main entry into Spartanburg from the new Interstate-85 highway—had been completely neglected landscape-wise, except for the outstanding work by the large and influential Milliken Company. So here was a natural challenge for a major new project.

The *ad hoc* Street Trees Chairman for the Club, Henry Pittman, developed a preliminary approach and gained approval of the Club’s Board of Directors to investigate designing a long-range plan for such a project. Mr. W. O., Frank Cunningham and Roy King were included in the initial committee and a number of approaches were initiated.

First, contact was made with the Horticulture Department of Clemson College, now University, and then with David Dunn, the Landscape Architect of the South Carolina Highway Department (this was before the more “federal” name, SCDOT, was adopted) in Columbia. During the next year, Club members met with Dunn, wrote many letters and made telephone calls, and created a Master Plan for the area. This big plan evolved from being a long range plan for all of North Pine Street, to a more reasonable one including the clover-leaf areas at US-221 (Chesnee Highway) above what was then Joe King Oldsmobile, at Highway SC-9 (Boiling Springs Road) and at California Avenue (joining the Milliken landscaped area), and the wide shoulder on the west side of North Pine between California and SC-9.

The basic concept of the plan was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs in order to provide beauty and a sense of order, but with low maintenance requirements. The Club believed then, as now, that minimum maintenance is of importance to all landscape programs, private and public. The MGC was to provide the plan, planting material, guidance and general supervision, with the Highway Department supplying the labor and future maintenance. Consultations with the County Agent (Crayton McCowan who gave encouragement and practical advice), S. C. Forestry Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture were invaluable in completing

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<sup>2</sup> U. S. Senator, U. S. Supreme Court Justice, “Assistant President” to FDR during World War II, and later, South Carolina Governor.

the plan. Milliken's horticulturist, Jack Bracken, was also an important advisor, promoter and encourager.

The Club purchased seven-hundred seedlings—100 each of seven native S.C. trees— from the S. C. Forestry Commission and distributed them to 12 volunteer members in early

## The 'Natural Look' Tribute To Cooperation, Much Work

By DEBBIE DALHOUSE  
Staff Writer

A combination of private and public efforts has resulted in the planting of some 400 trees and shrubs on Spartanburg's North Pine Street.

Over the past three years, the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has worked with the North Spartanburg Rotary Club, Converse College, Clemson University Horticultural Department and County Extension Office, S.C. Highway Department, S.C. Forestry Commission S.C. Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to beautify the northern entrance to the city.

A preliminary plan was developed in early 1974 by Men's Garden Club member Henry Pittman and approved by the Board of Directors.

During the next year, a plan was created for the clover-leaf areas at Whitney Road, Boiling Springs Road, California Avenue joining the Deering Milliken landscaped area, and on the west side of N. Pine between California Ave. and Boiling Springs Road.

Pittman says, "The concept was to create a natural woodland appearance with hardy native trees and shrubs to provide beauty and a sense of being cared for, but with low maintenance requirements."

The Men's Garden Club provided the planting material, guidance and supervision. The Highway Department supplied the labor and maintenance.

Other agencies were consulted to select the most suitable plants.

In 1975, seven hundred seedlings of native South Carolina trees were purchased and distributed to a dozen volunteer members of the Men's Garden Club to be raised in the edges of vegetable gardens, old cans and arbor houses.

"Many of these trees were of adequate size to be used in the Pine Street project only one year later," Pittman notes. "The redbud and sycamore grew particularly well, the latter adding three feet or more during that year."

Other varieties grown at members' homes were dogwood, sweetgum, yellow poplar, red cedar and pine.

The volunteer gardeners were W. O. Ezell, Harold Hatcher, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Rodney Moore, Ernest Halstead and Gil Hooper.

Over 100 of the homegrown trees have been transplanted to the Pine Street landscaped areas. Others are growing for future use on Pine Street and other projects.

While the original plan was to implement the project over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger, "we just couldn't let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project," Pittman says.

The home grown plants were supplemented by 100 dogwood, Japanese black pine, loblolly pine, magnolia and maple trees which the Men's Garden Club purchased to meet the Bicentennial celebration deadline.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Tree and Ornamental Plan Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six each of three types of newly developed disease resistant elms to be tested in this area.

Club member W. L. Ward donated dogwood trees which he had grown from seed, a local nursery provided 100 sweetgum and bald cypress seedlings, and the garden club transferred 50 crepe myrtle bushes from another site to further enhance the Bicentennial planting project.

A total of 390 plants were used in the project, at a cost of only \$170 which included herbicide, Pittman points out with pride.

Most of the heavy planting work was done by local Highway Department personnel under resident maintenance engineer Miles A. (Red) Fleming. Club members Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorehead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith and Everett Seixas, along with the tree growers, supervised the layout and planting.

"Federal grants, Revenue Sharing and direct government implementation aren't the only way to get things done. Many civic and garden clubs can put together similar programs," Pittman said.

Further cooperation in beautifying North Pine came from the North Spartanburg Rotary Club which financed purchase of pear trees for city planting in the median of North Pine earlier this year and from Converse College's landscaping program.

1975. These men planted the small trees at their homes, in the edge of vegetable gardens, or in containers, and grew them with the care and expertise and love that only an amateur gardener can give. Many of these trees were of adequate size a year later to be used in this Pine Street project. Redbud and Sycamore grew particularly strong, the latter adding three feet or more during that year. Indeed, the availability of these "home grown" plants was the basis for the entire program.

Other varieties grown at home by members were Dogwood, Sweetgum, Yellow Poplar, Red Cedar and Pine. The "home nurserymen" included Mr. W. O., Harold Hatcher, Julian Foster, Bob Reynolds, Bill Morgan, Dick Sloan, Bill Nicholson, Bill Clement, Henry Ramella, Rodney Moon, Ernest Hallstead, and Gil Hooper. Others active in the project were Everette Seixas, Frank Cunningham, Julian Foster, Snow Marshall, W. L. Ward, Griff Smith and Pittman. Club members transplanted over 100 of these trees to the North Pine Street landscaped areas in the fall of 1976 and used others for later community projects.

Originally, treescaping of North Pine was intended to occur over a number of years as the seedlings grew larger and men



**LOOKING OVER WORK** at one of the North Pine Street beautification sites are Spartanburg Men's Garden Club members Henry Pittman, left, and Everett Seixas. Judson McCaleb, Lewis Bailey and Roney Moon work in the background. (Photo By LaRue Cook Of B&B Studio)

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

could be recruited to work. But, “We just couldn’t let the Bicentennial year go by without trying to complete the entire project.” Pittman was quoted as saying, “This project became an official part of Spartanburg’s official bicentennial project.”

The home grown planting material was supplemented by the Club’s purchase of 100 each of Dogwood, Japanese Black and Loblolly Pine, Magnolia and Maple trees. The USDA Tree and Ornamental Plant Laboratory in Delaware, Ohio, supplied six—each of three types of newly developed Dutch-elm-disease-resistant Elms for evaluation. Club member W. L. Ward donated Dogwood trees which he had grown from seed and had root-pruned during the summer to facilitate transplanting during the winter. A local nursery provided 100 Sweetgums and Bald Cypress seedlings, a number of which were used. Many Crape Myrtles which the MGC had purchased a number of years earlier were moved from a location they had outgrown in the city.

The project used a total of 390 plants. Because of the active involvement of members, the cost to the Club was only \$270, which included a few dollars for herbicides to fight grass and kudzu—kudzu was vigorous then, also!

The Highway Department provided some help in digging the planting sites which had been carefully located and staked by volunteers from the Club. MGC supervision for the layout and planting included many of the tree growers plus Charlie Hart, Snow Marshall, Sid Moorhead, Lewis Bailey, Griff Smith, Everett Seixas and Pittman.

Mayor Bob Stoddard, Spartanburg’s Bicentennial Chairman, officially congratulated the Highway Department, the MGC and all participants by saying, “What a fine Birthday Gift—400 beautiful trees and shrubs.” Gil Hooper, president of the Club in 1976 and 1977, observed the next year, “Even though it was a hot, dry summer, our men and the Highway Department people planted this material so well and pruning was so effective that the loss has been minimal. A great number of the Sweetgum seedlings died back, but put up new shoots and survived. A few Dogwoods died and, a number of plants were stolen.”

In the early 2000s, the PRIDE Task Force’s “Spot of Pride” project, implemented so effectively by the late Hans Balmer, found sponsors to adopt and further enhance these North Pine Street intersections with additional plants among the MGC trees and improved maintenance, making this street even more beautiful. These areas are evidence of Harold Hatcher’s statement made in the early 70s: “...but the trees remained!”

Recently, the Club rediscovered that this project had resulted in the Club having been singled out by the Arbor Day Foundation for its 1977 national award. The award was accepted for the Club by MGCA’s executive director, Lyman Duncan, at the ceremonies in Nebraska. The whereabouts of the large plaque is unknown. For many years, Spartanburg has been recognized as a Tree City by this foundation, possibly initiated by this project.

The Club is proud of the way the local Bicentennial program expanded and to have been a part of it. It is an example of how a number of agencies and organizations—private and public—can be brought together to contribute to a community project of significance with surprisingly little cost. Federal grants, revenue sharing and direct government implementation aren’t the only ways to get these things done. The Club hoped this project would serve as a catalyst for many civic and garden clubs to create similar programs—and it did!

The North Spartanburg Rotary Club is an example of how this idea caught on. It purchased Bradford Pear trees for City planting in the median of a section of North Pine



## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

Street in 1976. These trees performed beautifully for some 20 years and were a major asset to this important street. The unfortunate destruction of many of the Sweetgum trees on the west side of North Pine between US-176 and California Avenue is covered in detail in Chapter 13 on the billboard problem

This North Pine “Bicentennial Project” began a 40-year saga of street and highway treescaping by the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

### 2 North Pine Street “Beautiful North Pine” - 1986

After the successful treescaping of the north end of this highway in 1976 as the “Bicentennial Project,” the Club began thinking of additional ways to improve the quality of North Pine Street. In March of 1985, a committee consisting of Frank Cunningham, Jack Bracken of Milliken, Julian Foster and Henry Pittman began dialogue with many organizations and groups on improvements needed. Contacts were made with Converse College, the Highway Department, the three banks on the street, Richard Kelly Oldsmobile, Milliken & Co., the Naegele billboard people and others.

The results were encouraging. In early 1986, a letter from the Club to a large group of property owners included this information:

#### **North Pine is looking better**

- The Highway Department has cleared fence lines and other areas of weeds, trees and undergrowth; mowed the banks at the crossovers at California, SC 9 and US 221 and has generally improved maintenance from the city limits to I-85.
- University Lawn & Garden Care contributed labor for extensive herbicide treatment following the SCHD clearing (many of you contributed to the MGC to help pay for the chemicals.)
- Milliken has cleared the banks at I-85 and plans additional cloverleaf landscaping.
- Pinewood Shopping Center has cleared the shoulder bank.
- Naegele has made some improvement around their signs.
- SCN purchased and is maintaining the corner at St. John.
- The City continues to maintain the Bradford Pear median and other areas superbly.
- Many of you continue to do a super job of landscape maintenance on your property and on to the highway.

But we still have a long way to go to bring this most important Spartanburg entry up to the level of excellence it deserves.

Two suggestions followed: “Look critically at your property and begin improvements, and contact one of our committeemen and pledge your moral support—and a monetary contribution.” Over the months, many businesses responded to the Club’s request for funding assistance, including Milliken with \$3,500. The MGC Board approved an additional \$3,000 for the project.

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

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

THE PAPER Wednesday, January 14, 1987

## Men’s GC completing North Pine Street beautification’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

business property—a “win-win” situation.

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

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

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



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

### 3 West Main Street at Interstate-26 - 1988

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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



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

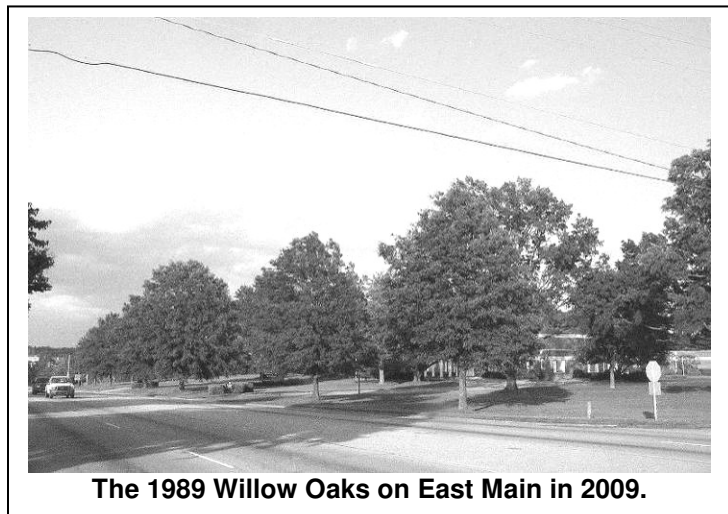
Club volunteers included Jess Taylor, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Harold Hatcher, Bob Powell, Walter Soderberg, and Pittman. The planting was completed in early 1990.

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

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

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

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



**The 1989 Willow Oaks on East Main in 2009.**

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

## **5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

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

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

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

### **5 North Pine at Beaumont Mill - 1991**

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

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

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

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

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



**Stitched 2003 photographs of the Club's landscaping of Mr. Montgomery's Beaumont Mill on North Pine Street.**

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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



The Club's "Montgomery Flag Garden"

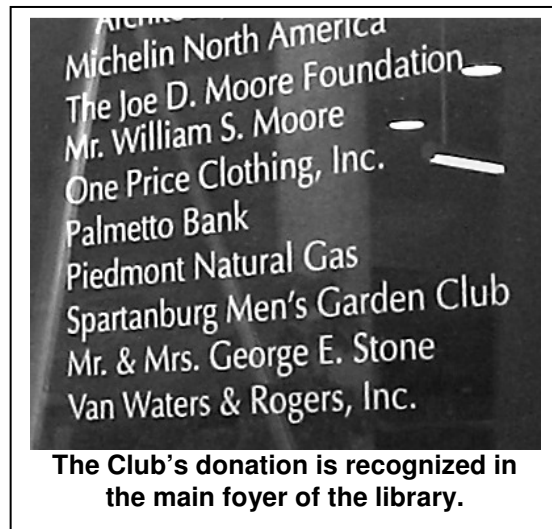
1996, his will included a generous \$10,000 gift to the Club. The next year, Kurt Zimmerli was in the process of providing quality professional landscaping to the new main Spartanburg County Library on South Church Street. The SMGC Board enthusiastically agreed to honor Mr. Montgomery by using his entire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

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

## 6 Hearon Traffic Circle - 1994

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

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



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

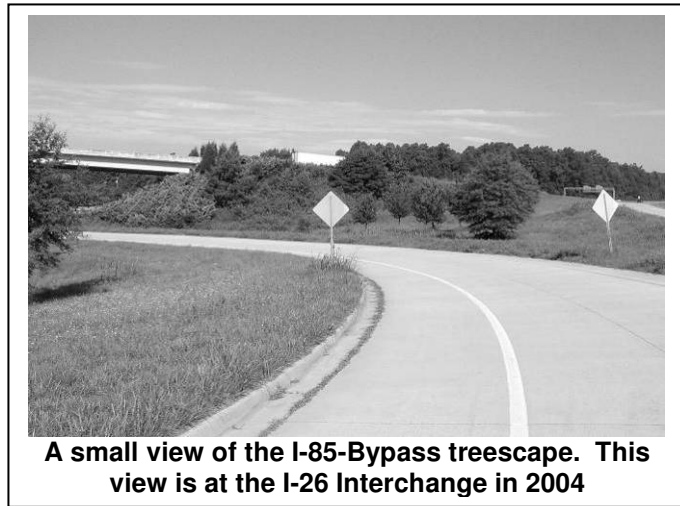
## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

## 7 New Interstate-85 Bypass - 1996

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

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



**A small view of the I-85-Bypass treescape. This view is at the I-26 Interchange in 2004**



## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

By ERIK NEELY

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

"We'll have long rows of trees on straight-aways, clusters of foliage at the interchanges and native grasses blowing in the breeze," the 68-year-old co-president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club said. "It's going to be very handsome."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Published in *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* 3-5-1996

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

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

Based on competitive bids solicited by the SCDOT,

<sup>4</sup> A Summary Memorandum on the I-85 Bypass project is in Appendix 18

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

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

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

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

## 8 North Pine Street Extension - 1996, 1997, 1999

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

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

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

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

### Planters beautify gateway to city

By LINDA CONLEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

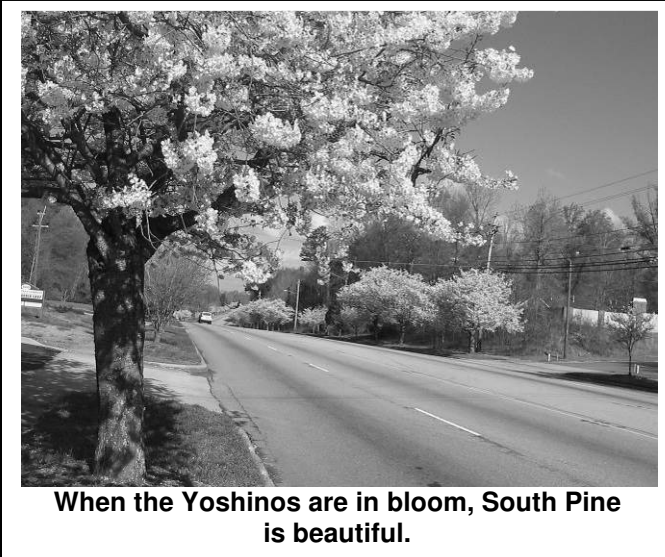
In 1998, considerable damage was done by the DOT grass cutters, this time, to these two-year-old trees. As a partial solution, plastic collars were attached to each tree by Club members Val Wilson and Tom Fridy. Co Irwin contributed the material and Jess Taylor cut the collars. These collars serve two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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The important short-cut between East Main Street and North Pine Street, Drayton Road and Isom Street, was re-constructed by the SCDOT into a five-lane highway and with a new bridge over the Southern Railroad near Skylyn Drive in 1997.<sup>6</sup> As this work was nearing completion, it became evident that it was a great candidate for tree beautification. Based on SCDOT drawings, Pittman created a CAD design of a proposed shoulder treescape for the Club.

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<sup>5</sup> Chapter 11 The Kudzu Coalition covers this development in detail.

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

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

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

### *Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

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

**1998 Summary—**

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

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

**1999 Proposal—**

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

Henry Pittman. May 26, 1999

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

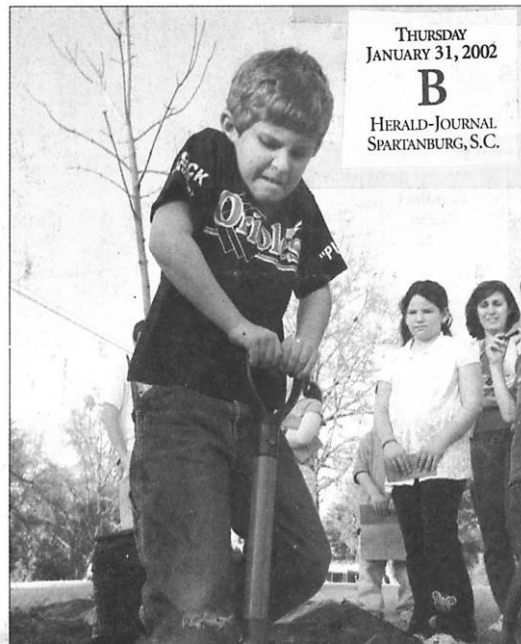
Belue was again engaged to do the planting and mulching, and container-grown trees were ordered from Phillips Tree Farm in Campobello.

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

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

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

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



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

By Debra g. Lester

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

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

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

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

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

- Continued

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

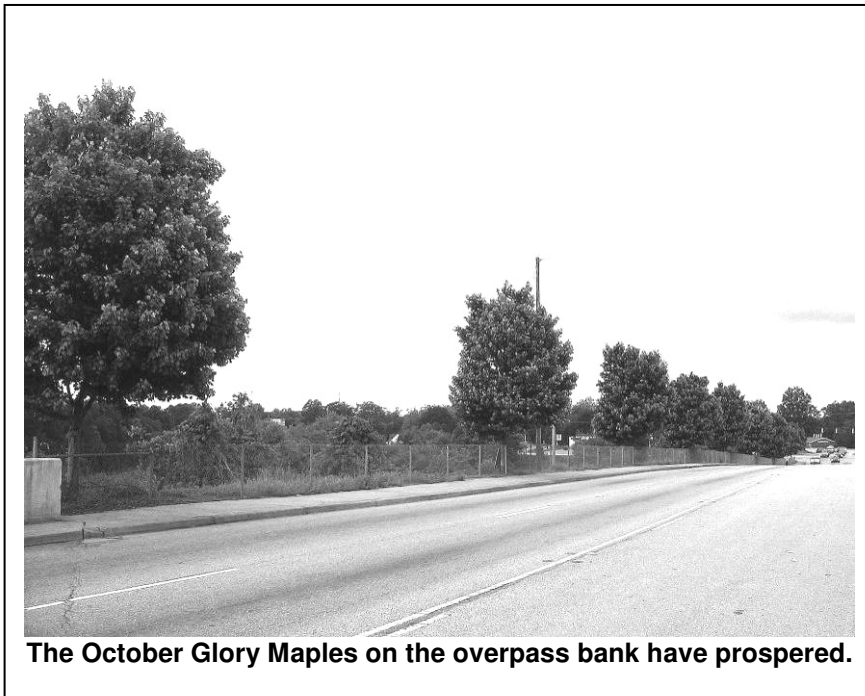


## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **TREESCAPING—AFTER DRAYTON ROAD, WHERE?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 12 SC-295, Southport Road - 2002

As the Club's Drayton Road-Isom Street project was being completed in 1999, the SPATS<sup>9</sup> Road Enhancement Committee was discussing the SCDOT's plan for five-lane widening of Southport Road (SC-295) between Reidville Road (SC-296) and its intersection with South Church Street Extension (US-221). Both the committee and the DOT project

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





## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

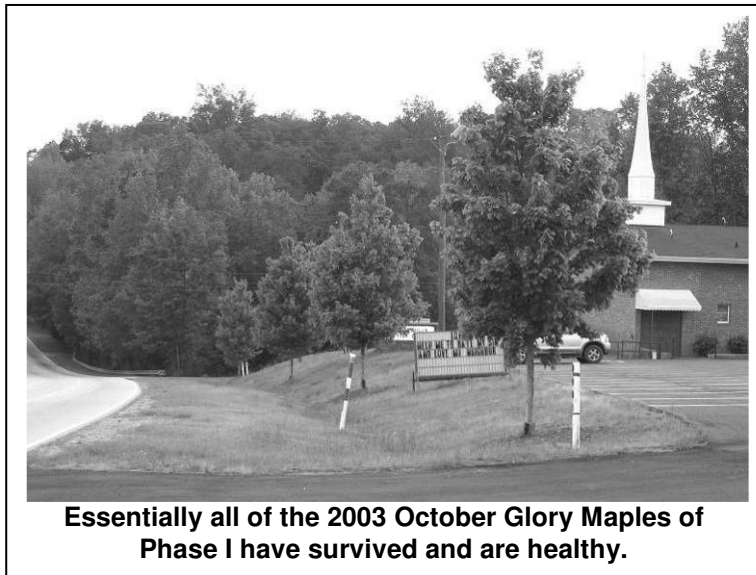
## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

After weeks of discussion and pushing, a “tide-turning” meeting with many local and state leaders<sup>10</sup> was held at Dorman High School on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002. This resulted in a special visit two weeks later by Jim Feda, SCDOT Director of Maintenance from Columbia, along with his colleagues Fred Fleming, Jeff Zittle and Steve Weathers. Feda agreed that the ongoing tree maintenance, grass cutting, etc, would be provided by the DOT.<sup>11</sup> This saved the project!



**Essentially all of the 2003 October Glory Maples of Phase I have survived and are healthy.**

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

<sup>11</sup> See a copy of the confirming memo to Frieda and his Email agreement in the Appendix 23.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Thanks for all your help and support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHJ 8/5/04

**BLOOMING SUCCESS NEAR ROEBUCK**



WEB PHOTOGRAPHY

Kelly Banks checks the position of a sign that will be placed along Highway 221 in the Roebuck area as part of a beautification project.

**Green thumbs beautify Highway 221**

BY TERESA KILLIAN  
Staff Writer

A willow oak, a koussa dogwood and about 400 other trees did not grow overnight along Highway 221 near Roebuck—a stretch of highway that leads visitors into Spartanburg from the south. Four years of planning and fundraising preceded the extensive landscaping project between I-26 and Highway 295.

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

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

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

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

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

"They saw the value of what we were trying to do," Banks said of the ease with which he and Jimmie Dun-

han of Lanford-Dunbar Funeral Home acquired financial commitments.

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

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

"Everyone who looks at 221 knows we are on the verge of exploding development from a residential and a business standpoint," Banks said.

This kind of beautification project sets the tone for what will bloom there, he said.

"It should make this a more attractive setting."

Teresa Killian can be reached at 562-7216 or [teresa.killian@shj.com](mailto:teresa.killian@shj.com).

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

June 4, 2004  
5:00 PM

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

Comments  
Kelly Banks  
*Roebuck Improvement Association*

Comments  
Lisa Bollinger  
*Spartanburg County*

Comments  
Fred Fleming  
*South Carolina Department of Transportation*

Comments  
Bob Almond  
*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

Comments  
Jim Ritchie  
*South Carolina Senator*

Closing Prayer of Dedication  
Fred Thompson  
*Roebuck Improvement Association*

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

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

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

## **5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

Myrtles, and Pines in the flat areas, plus mulch spread around all the plants.

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

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

### GREEN THUMBS BEAUTIFY HIGHWAY 221

By TERESA KILLIAN, Staff Writer

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

**From The Spartanburg Herald-Journal June 5, 2004**

**5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY**

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

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

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

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

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

There were multiple meetings

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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



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



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

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

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

Second to continuation of the Spot of Pride program<sup>13</sup> was improving Interstate-85 Business, the important corridor around the north side of Spartanburg. It was the original I-85, but renamed I-85 Business when the new I-85 Bypass was completed in 1995.<sup>14</sup>

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> This list is a part of Appendix 29.

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

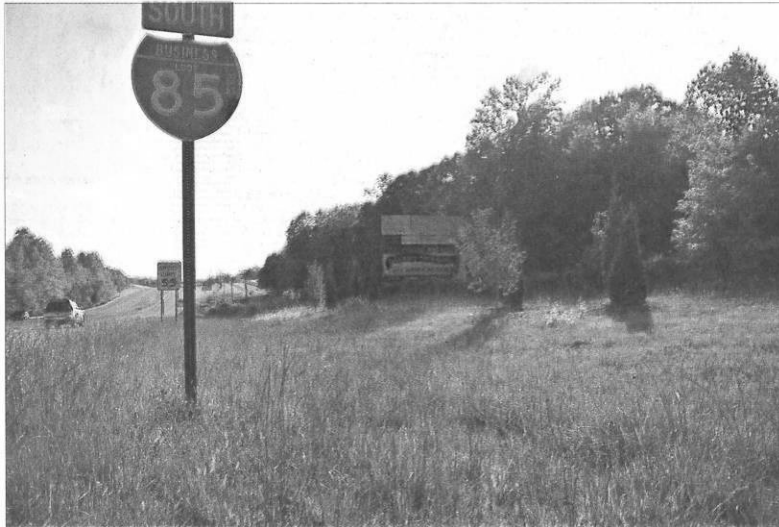


**...that looked like this on the back.**



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

# Trees leaving



By Rachel R. Leonard, Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5 – TREESCAPING IN CITY AND COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

### ***TREESCAPING OF THE SHOULDERS OF INTERSTATE-85 BUSINESS***

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

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

The program for the evening is shown below:

### **Dedication of the Interstate-85 Business Treescape Project of 2007**

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

*5:00 PM, May 3, 2007*

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

*Comments  
Councilman Dale Culbreth  
Spartanburg County*

*Comments  
Fred Teeter  
South Carolina Department of Transportation*

*Comments  
Hans Balmer*

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*Spot of Pride*

*Comments*

*Representative Scott Tally  
South Carolina Legislature*

*Comments*

*Ed Wilde  
Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

*Closing Prayer of Dedication*

*Everette Lineberger  
Immediate Past President, Men's Garden Club*

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*Please stay awhile for visiting and light refreshment.*

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.

## 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."

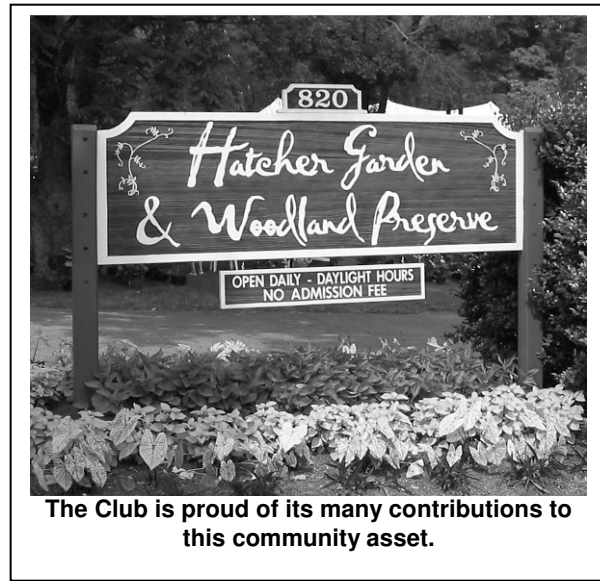
## 6 – HATCHER GARDEN AND THE MGC

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>

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

## 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



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

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

## 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.

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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.

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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!

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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 Barnett, 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.

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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.

## 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 Gravelly 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.

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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.

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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

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<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.

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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.

## 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.

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<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.

## 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.

It 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 Land-scaped Streets  
... Hundreds of Shrubs, Thousands of Blossoms And Acres of Grass

**BUT WHAT IS OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM?**  
**LITTER!**

**Please Help Make Spartanburg Clean And Beautiful**  
**YOU CAN DO IT! . . . ONLY YOU CAN DO IT!**

and Men Join Our Club Not Only For Community Service, But Also:  
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**YOU CAN JOIN**

Write to: 637 Perrin Drive  
Spartanburg, S. C. 29302  
Or Call: 579-0532

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

**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 65 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.

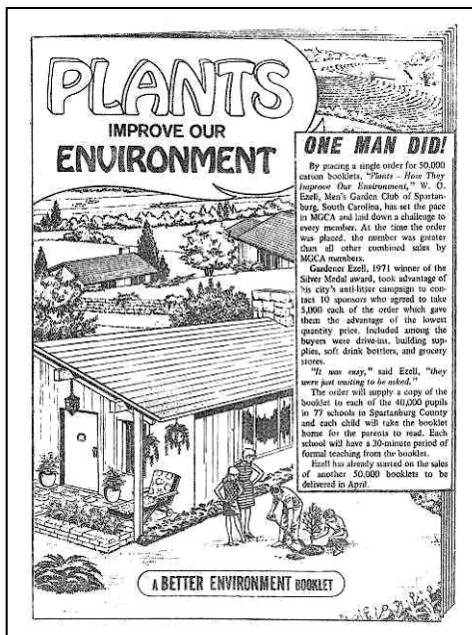
Dorman Principal Allen O. Clark welcomed the guests, and Pittman acted as master of ceremonies.

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.”

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.



## 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 DUIs 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 DUIs 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.

## 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 a Garden Club.

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Smith served as chairman for eight years. Julian Foster was chairman of the project from 1970 to 1975. During this period, evaluations were made in both spring and fall. Awards were presented in 1972 to 18 local firms and organizations during ceremonies at the Chamber headquarters by both Club and Chamber leaders. Recognized as top performers were Deering Milliken, Scharer Textile Machine Works Inc., The Erwin Company, Dr. Clyde O. Wells, Jr., Spartanburg County Health Department and Mary Black Memorial Hospital.

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*, June, 1997

### **Businesses earn area awards for landscaping**

Spartanburg businesses are reaping rewards from civic leaders for planting flowers, shrubs and trees to enhance and beautify the landscape around their offices.

The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and Men's Garden Club presented awards recently to several companies in a landscape beautification contest. A reception was held for the winners last week at the Chamber.

Recognition was given to 20 companies for their landscaping efforts... "These winners are a big asset to the community because they go through a lot of trouble putting out mulch, shrubs and trees," said Jane Bagwell, chairwoman of the landscape judging committee. "The more landscaping work the businesses do, the better Spartanburg looks."

Bagwell said about about 46 companies competed and 17 received first place awards or honorable mention.

Several achievement awards were given to Flagstar, Milliken & Co., and Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. "The achievement awards were given to these three businesses

A hundred landscapes were judged in 1974; twelve members constituted the judging team. Charlie Hart became chairman working with the Chamber for the spring and fall judging of 150 firms by 12 MGC teams in 1975. The Club's 1980 newsletter reported that approximately 1,000 man hours were contributed by members to the spring and fall judgments. A hundred firms were evaluated in 1976.

Two hundred landscapes were evaluated in 1982 by 30 members in the spring when Archie Lawson was chairman. Excellent and Good certificates were awarded. This was probably the year that spring and fall judging was abandoned in favor of judging in the spring only.

Tom Bartram became chair in 1985 and served for three years. His group evaluated 88 organizations in 1988. Perrin Hayes chaired the project in 1989, and John Fincher chaired in 1993 when 19 members evaluated in June; awards were made at the Chamber headquarters in July. In 1994, 14 members participated in landscape judging of 41 businesses, cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce. Jim Collier was chair. In 1995 and 1996, Bob Hamilton was the club leader.

Jane Bagwell chaired in 1997 when 50 businesses were evaluated by 32

members. Tom Bartram again directed the project in 1998.

Bob Almond became the long time project leader and served for eight years, from 1999 to 2006. During those years, 35 to 40 properties were appraised each spring by Club

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

members. Terrie Rourke led in 2007 and Frank Faulk for the next three years, with similar business and Club participation.

Over time, the program has progressed. The rating standards have been more closely defined and the title of the program has changed from “Judging” to “Landscape Evaluation” and all participants are considered winners. Before the mid 1990s, the evaluation sheet was quite arbitrary. It involved checking Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor for Selection and Care of Landscape Areas, of Foundation Plantings, Lawns, Fence Plantings and Trees. Then, one of the Club’s early female members, Virginia Scott, developed the current, and much more discriminatory appraisal form<sup>1</sup> which gives specified maximum points for broad areas of excellence: 20 points for Design (5 each for Plant Selection, Color, Originality of Design and Unity of Planting), 30 for Execution (10 each for Placement, Vigor and Mulch), 30 for Maintenance (10 each for Removal of Weeds, Litter, Dead or Sick Specimens), and 20 for Overall Impression (Eye Appeal). Member evaluators are encouraged to add comments, with emphasis on encouragement and positive suggestions. The result is a more definitive report on how the property appears to the average discriminating citizen—perhaps a customer or client. Annual participation has increased to a range of fifty to sixty properties considered each spring. Outstanding properties are selected in a number of categories defined by business type and size. Plaques are now presented not just to the highest point participants, but to all participants

Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*  
June 16, 1998

**When businesses take time to beautify, the entire community reaps the benefits**

By Phillip Caston

Each year, a number of Spartanburg County businesses strive to beautify the landscape surrounding their buildings by creating gardens, building fountains and planting trees.

When Spring arrives, they reap the benefit of what they have sowed.

For some, the benefits include recognition of their efforts by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

For the past 26 years, the two groups have sponsored a beautification contest open to all Spartanburg County businesses.

The contest really benefits the community,” said Cindy Beacham, the chamber’s vice president of community relations. “We recognize businesses doing whatever they can do to make the city beautiful.”

Members of the Men’s Garden Club travel around Spartanburg County in groups of two visiting each of the contestants. They judge each entry on such aspects as vigor of plants, color of the plants, quality of the mulch and the landscape design, said George Gunter, president of the Men’s Garden Club.

(This article went on to announce these first place “winners”: Industry A and B – Kohler Co. and Zima/Kusters, Commercial – West Gate Mall, Professional – Henson Law Firm, Public Service A and B – Converse College and Spartanburg County Library, and Apartments/Hotels/Motels – Hunt Club Apartments.)

<sup>1</sup> A copy of this currently used evaluation form is shown in Appendix 26.

## 9 – LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Many participating Companies have enthusiastically supported the evaluation program, including large operations like Milliken, the regional airport, Kohler, and non-profits such as First Presbyterian Church and Wofford College. Additionally, local motels, physician



**Bob Almond conducts the awards presentation at the Chamber in 2004.**

offices, libraries, small businesses have received awards. Many Men’s Garden Club members led and participated in the project.

Cyndi Beacham had been an active leader in the Chamber but is now Director of Promotion for the Charles Lea Center. “In the late 1990s or early 2000s it became evident that a few organizations were dominating the ‘winners’ each year— Milliken, GSP Airport. To generate more ‘competition’ they were given ‘Lifetime Achievement Awards’; this allowed other organizations to be more properly recognized,” said Beacham in an interview in 2008. She pointed out that even with this change, Milliken continued to respond to the Chamber’s annual request for sign-ups with a request for evaluation because, “We can always improve!”

Beacham emphasized that the basic reason for the project was for owners to get suggestions and insight from “non-professional” gardeners and landscapers on how their property looked to the general public, and how it might be improved. Constructive comments were always the objective of the Club’s evaluators. She pointed out that Kurt Zimmerli was an early supporter and participant (just as he was an early corporate member of the Club) and that it was common for him to join his grounds keeper, Ted Petoskey, at each Recognition Ceremony. Over the years, it has become much more common for the professional landscape maintenance contractors to attend the ceremony.

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Surely, this cooperative program of the Men’s Garden Club and the Chamber, plus the Club’s multiple and major street and highway tree plantings, have combined to have Spartanburg nationally recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in the country! A recent example of this recognition was by a member of the Men’s Garden Clubs of America who attended that organization’s national convention here in Spartanburg in 2006. He was so impressed by the enhancements in this community that, two years later, he was instrumental in bringing some 150 young members of the National Junior Horticultural Association here for their four-day national convention.

## Chapter 10

# Something Bigger than Ourselves: THE GARDENERS OF AMERICA / MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

*How does one keep from “growing old inside”? Surely only in community.  
The only way to make friends with time is to stay friends with people....  
Taking community seriously not only gives us the companionship we need,  
it also relieves us of the notion that we are indispensable.*

- Robert M. Brown

The affiliation of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club with the national organization, Men's Garden Clubs of America, in 1950 was a good move. It was good for the local club *and* the MGCA. Locally, the Club received much inspiration and service orientation. Nationally, the organization received considerable leadership, inspiration and guidance from the Club and many of its members.

The national organization was formed by a group of four local men's garden clubs from the Midwest in 1932 and later moved its headquarters to the Des Moines, Iowa, area. During its heyday, it grew to 10,000 nationwide members.

The Spartanburg group of men gardeners was organized in 1948 under the name The Dirt Daubers. It was renamed Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1950 when W. P Rich was President. The SMGC applied for affiliation with the MGCA in 1953. Application was made by Karl Selden who was president that year. The affiliation was quickly approved and became effective on February 15, 1953. Of the 27 names on the application, those probably

most well known, besides Rich, Selden, and Lea, include Luther Boswell, W. O. Ezell, R. L. Handall, Dr. George D. Johnson, Jack M. Lemmon, Frank Powell, and J. M. Culcleasure.<sup>1</sup>

It is not known who promoted this national affiliation, but encouragement from the older Asheville MGC was undoubtedly a factor. MGCA was a well known 21-year old organization composed of some 50 men's garden clubs—unique clubs at that period of time.

Selden represented the Club that first year at the National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, in April of 1953. He was said to be one of six South Carolina residents in attendance (the other five are unknown). Of local interest was the fact that Converse College's Victor Montgomery Garden was included on a list of "Favorite Gardens in the U.S."

National conventions were a popular and valuable vehicle for growing and networking. Charles Lea and his wife attended the one two years later in Houston when there was a report of nine MGC clubs in South Carolina (these are also not known).

It was the Jackson, Mississippi, convention in 1959 which Lea attended with \$20 provided by the Club to help finance attendance. As detailed in the chapter on Iconic Members, he brought home the seedling Magnolia which is believed to be the magnificent tree in Duncan Park today. He wrote in his newsletter this good impression of the national organization and how important he thought it was to the local club:

I would like to say a word about the relationship of the national to the local club. No one can appreciate this relationship until he has attended at least one national convention. You have literally hundreds of men scattered all over the United States meeting to give and to receive information on horticulture and gardening that you cannot get in any other way except here. The national club has been set up to help the local club, and the annual dues could, not purchase one-thousandth of the by-products that come from membership. A local club could paddle its own canoe along life's journey sufficient unto itself, but when you are a member of the national organization you have a feeling that you are traveling down the garden paths of life hand in hand with a group that brings to you a fellowship and information that is beyond purchase by money.

The next year, the convention was held in Asheville and the friendship between the two clubs was strengthened. William Atkins, R. G. Tessner, Lea and Ezell represented the Spartanburg Club. This may have been the first time the Club was recognized nationally when Ezell was presented a certificate of commendation for his efforts in beautifying Spartanburg. Ezell and Lea were regular representatives at these national meetings for many years. More early honors followed—Lea, Ezell and E. L. McArthur accepted MGCA's Industrial Landscaping Beautification Award for the City of Spartanburg and a similar one for the relatively new Greenville-Spartanburg Airport. The Club received the prestigious Woodson K. Jones Award as the Outstanding Member Club for meeting many standards: for increased membership, sponsoring vegetable and flower shows, paying dues on time, organizing new clubs, and for having previously received a bronze medal. This was great recognition for a young club with fewer than 100 members!

It was in another national meeting—Atlanta in 1964—that Lea and Ezell were first given national leadership rolls. The former was appointed chairman of the National Projects Committee and the later became chairman of the National City Beautification Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Charter Membership Roll as submitted to MGCA in 1953 appears in Appendix 16.

Both of these leaders were featured in articles in National’s bi-monthly magazine, *The Gardener*.

In order to develop more camaraderie and cooperation between local clubs, National organized *regional groups* composed of a half dozen or so clubs who were encouraged to develop regional sharing meetings and to elect a local member to serve on the MGCA Board of Directors. The Spartanburg club hosted the 1963 Blue Ridge Regional meeting with

**The Paper, September 8, 1993**  
**Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club winds highest award**  
 By Della Tralnor

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club was the only affiliate of The Gardeners of America Inc. to receive a Certificate of Recognition at the organization’s recent annual convention in Akron, Ohio.

The certificate is The Gardeners of America’s highest award. Stephen Smith of Asheville, N.C., national director of the organization, recommended the Spartanburg club for this honor after a recent visit to the city, during which he observed the club’s various activities.

“The certificate was awarded on the basis of outstanding achievement and service to the community,” David Kennemur, club director, said. “Such services involved the beautification of the city by planting and maintaining 20 flower beds in highly visible areas and by growing and planting trees and shrubs along the principal streets and in the parks and school grounds of the city.”

Kennemur said the club has planted or sold for planting more than 65,000 trees and shrubs during the last 12 years. This has contributed to Spartanburg being named “A Tree City” by the National Arbor Day Foundation each of those years. And the club has been involved in other beautification efforts, as well.

- Continued

headquarters at the Cleveland Hotel and featured a tour of the landscaped grounds of the new Milliken facilities. Lea served as the region’s representative on the MGCA Board. The annual Regional meeting was held in Greenville in 1965 when Ezell was its president, and he served as its representative as a National Director from then until 1967. He also served as chairman of MGCA’s New

Clubs Committee beginning in 1968. Ezell received a significant honor—he was invited to be the featured speaker at the 1968 Carolinas/Virginia Regional Meeting in Chapel Hill, N.C.—and his topic was City Beautification!

Claude Sherrill led the Blue Ridge Region as its president in 1972 when the YMCA served as headquarters for the second meeting in Spartanburg. The “Garden Tips” newsletter reported:

**Regional Meeting** – Attached is a program and registration blank for the meeting on Saturday, September 30. Our club is host and Claude Sherrill, as General Chairman, has arranged a fine program for you and your lady. Those of you who heard Shirley Carter and Pat Fulmer at our Spring Garden Course know the high caliber of their presentation... .

The report the next month was, “A big success with 129 men and their ladies in attendance! All Regional Clubs were well represented. Hendersonville had over forty present. Congratulations and thanks to General Chairman, Claude Sherrill...” Other active clubs in the region at that time were Asheville, Easley, Greenville, and Greenwood; Tryon, Knoxville, Lebanon and Hickory became active later.



It was probably 1977 that Men’s Garden Clubs of American initiated manning its Board of Directors with a representative of each Region. Everette Seixas was the first national director representing the Blue Ridge Region

Ezell’s daughter Bertha and her husband Emmett McArthur were frequent representatives of the Club at national meetings. Other members who attended through the mid 1990s were John Cantrell and Arden Camp. Serving on the National Board of Directors over the years, in addition to Lea and Ezell, were Everette Seixas, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Henry Pittman and Jim Bagwell. Board meetings were conducted at each annual convention and the Board met in November each year. That fall meeting was hosted by the Spartanburg MGC in 1999 when Asheville’s Steve Smith was national president; the Milliken Company was an important partner in that endeavor.

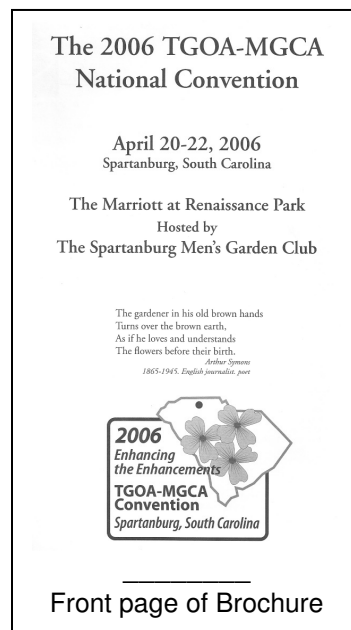
The MGCA published its first book, *A to Z Hints for the Vegetable Gardener*, in 1936. Originally the bimonthly magazine, *The Gardener*, published hints and suggestions on gardening which were included in the organized book of approximately 120 pages. Having gone through 17 printings in 1998, its popularity was, and is still, great. Many clubs regularly present a copy to new members, and take orders from older members.

National Director Bartram participated in the 1996 convention in Colorado Springs and again the next year in Spokane, Washington, when Linda McHam was a winner in National’s photography contest. Pittman received one of National’s two Presidential Citations for his work as Publicity/Public Relations chairman, for authorship of the brochure on Club Building, and for his Regional work in organizing new clubs.

The 1998 Convention was in Asheville, NC, and was attended by 10 members from the SMGC which was responsible for the Hospitality Room. Bob Almond was chairman of that committee. Bartram continued as National Director and Linda McHam received her second top award for her photograph which was published in the 1999 National Calendar.

The Club was represented by Pittman at the 2000 Green Bay, Wisconsin, Convention when

Charles Marley of the Asheville Club served as National Director. In 2002 at Minneapolis, based on the Club’s nomination when Bill Wilson was president, Milliken & Co. was given the National Award for Outstanding Commercial Landscape. The much deserved plaque was presented to Mr. Roger Milliken at a large company sharing rally by Bartram and



Front page of Brochure



Past president Honey Barnekoff visited before the 2006 convention.

Pittman later that year. The MGC was honored in 2003 when National President Honey Barnekoff visited Spartanburg in preparation for the 2006 Convention to be held in the city. She received good local newspaper publicity and was entertained at Wofford College and at the homes of Linda McHam and Jane and Jim Bagwell.

In 2004, the Kansas City convention was attended by Pittman as National Director. In 2005, the Bagwells, Don and Denie Crowder and President Everette Lineberger and his wife Ann attended the important convention in Juniper Beach, Florida. Attending members gleaned much valuable information and advice for preparation for the upcoming Spartanburg convention.

2006 was a significant year for both the City and the Club which hosted the three-day convention of The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America in April. McHam and Crowder served as co-chairs for the planning committee and did a magnificent job with support from the convention executive committee composed of Lineberger, Bagwell, and Bob Hamilton (Convention Treasurer with back up from Bob Almond and Bagwell) and some 20 committees.<sup>2</sup>

The theme of the convention was “Enhancing the Enhancements” in hopes that knowing how many Spartanburg organizations had worked on beautifications would be an inspiration for other clubs to encourage such activity in their communities. In addition to promoting the treescapes of the SMGC, the Spot of Pride program, the work of the group of One Hundred, the City, and other organizations, tours of Hatcher Garden, Milliken’s Arboretum and landscape were featured. A daily four-page color newsletter, the *ETE Express: Enhancing the Enhancements, What Spartanburg Has Done* was written and published by Jeff Hayes. It was a valuable contribution to the meeting. Mr. Milliken’s Noble Tree Foundation strengthened the convention by providing the presence of noted tree expert Dr. Mike Dirr who participated in the tours and was the feature speaker at the closing banquet. The Club managed the convention so successfully that excess funds remained;



**The 2006 convention was considered a huge success.**

they were contributed to the National Office for repair of its building

Following the convention, national activity continued. Dr. Dianne Fergusson was the chair of National’s Book Review Committee, and Pittman was a national director

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<sup>2</sup> The Convention’s Planning Organization Chart is in Appendix 35

representing the Blue Ridge Region. Tasso Ghionis, local chair of the Club's Scholarship Committee, presented the top national scholarship winner, Clemson University horticulture senior Matthew Cousins, with TGOA /MGCA's \$1,000 award, plus Cousins and four other local students received \$250 each from the Spartanburg MGC. The Club's Jane and Jim Bagwell won the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for their outstanding home grounds and gardens.

The National Board of Directors Meeting held in Kendallville, Indiana, in November, 2006, was attended by Pittman who received many compliments on Spartanburg and the quality of the convention. He was officially replaced by Bagwell to represent the Club and the Region on the TGOA /MGCA Board. Bagwell and his wife, Jane, joined the former director at the 2007 National Convention in Rockford, Illinois, in July where Bagwell accepted the National Home Beautification Landscape Award for that year's winner, member Linda Cobb.

Bagwell had the honor at the 2008 National Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana, of receiving another award for Linda Cobb; this one was the Golden Quill Award for her high quality horticulture-related writing. Perhaps of even greater significance, he accepted SMGC's National Award for the largest increase in membership. And that year, Bagwell began service on National's E&I Committee which manages the large endowment fund.

More Spartanburg recognition occurred at the 2009 National Convention in Santa Rosa, California, which was attended by the Bagwells and Dr. Bob Reynolds and his wife Ina. There, member Terrie Rourke received the National Home Landscape Award, analogous to Milliken's 2002 *commercial* landscape award.

National affiliation offered many material perks that were of local value. These included student scholarships awards, program and audio-visual aids, leader guides, individual member participation in the prestigious annual photography contest, and many others. But perhaps the most valuable from a monetary standpoint was the federal tax exemption for monetary contributors—the 501(c)3—which allowed financial contributors to the Club to properly claim tax exemption for their gifts. This not only encouraged contributions to the Club for its community enhancement projects, but was extremely beneficial to its Kudzu Coalition Project before the Coalition qualified for organizational independence and procured its own tax status in 2007.

As with most organizations, TGOA/MGCA underwent a declining membership and a tighter budget over the years. *The Gardener* magazine, while of significant value, was a large expense item which was considered for elimination. This was accomplished in 2005 in a positive way by Former National President Honey Barnekoff developing the valuable agreement between National and the prestigious American Horticultural Society. As a "Horticultural Partner" with AHS, TGOA /MGCA members were invited to join AHS at a very significant discount, and have all the many privileges of its membership, including reception of its very high quality magazine *The American Gardener*. Many members took advantage of this valuable opportunity.

But for the national organization and the local Club, as with all living organisms, change is inevitable. In the past few years, many local clubs have decided to disaffiliate from the national organization. Asheville elected to disaffiliate in about 2002 and the other clubs in the Blue Ridge gradually collapsed. This left the Spartanburg club as the only active club in the Region. But this did not deter Spartanburg. It re-organized the Region in 2005 by electing Don Crowder president and Bob Hamilton treasurer and it continued as an active region with a representative on the National Board of Directors. Even with Spartanburg being the only surviving club in the Blue Ridge Region, there was so much national respect for the Spartanburg Club that National did not enforce its rule that regions need to consist of four or more clubs to support a Director on the TGOA /MGCA Board; it wanted to maintain the valuable expanding service of Jim Bagwell.

Time does make changes. The Club board waged an active campaign in 2008 to change the name of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club (it consisted of almost half women) and to disaffiliate from National; both attempts failed. The name, with much prestige and community respect, was considered too valuable to lose, and National was believed to be worth the cost.

However, the next year, the Board found its treasury being depleted (primarily due to declining profit from the two annual plant sales without a reduction in expenditures and contributions) and it began again promoting the idea of disaffiliating with National to save the external dues. The much discussed vote was finally taken in May, 2009, and disaffiliation was approved. The major loss of the use of National’s tax status was over come in 2010 through Steve Heller’s meticulous work by which the Club attained its own 501(c)3 status.

So an important relationship of 56 years came to an end in 2009.



**SUBMITTED**  
**Jim Bagwell, national director of TGOA/MGCA, presents Terri Rourke with the Home Landscape Beautification Award.**

Terri Rourke received the National Home Landscape Beautification Award from The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America during the national convention held recently in Santa Rosa, Calif. The award recognizes an individual TGOA/MGCA member for efforts in contributing to the quality of the local community and our national environmental beauty. Only one of these national awards is given annually. Rourke is a member of the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club.

Published Sunday, June 28, 2009, in the  
 Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club will survive and continue to be of value to its members and to its community. The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America will undoubtedly survive and continue to promote its special form of camaraderie and service-oriented gardening. But only time will tell if each will have as bright a future *separately* as they might have had as *ongoing partners*.

## Chapter 11

# Controlling the Green Giant: THE KUDZU COALITION

*Kudzu is a vine that when left uncontrolled will eventually grow over almost any fixed object in its proximity including other vegetation.*

*Kudzu, over a period of several years, will kill trees by blocking the sunlight and for this and other reasons many would like to find ways to get rid of it.*

- Jack Anthony: [jjanthony.com](http://jjanthony.com)

In late 1997, a group of Men's Garden Club members met with City Manager Roy Lane and the city engineer, Mike Garrett. According to a club member's report of that November meeting, the purpose was "to review City landscape plans and [for them to] hear our input." Club members participating were George Gunter (Club president), Co Irwin (Club member, head of PRIDE Task Force and later organizer of Trees Spartanburg) and Henry Pittman (chairman of the Club's tree committee). In addition to complimenting Lane and Garrett for their "attitude and action toward beautification of Spartanburg," the report said, "We agreed the re-furbishing of the S. Pine Cherry/Dogwood plantings is an ideal one for the MGC to work on with the City. The layout I [Pittman] developed may be a beginning; George will appoint a committee to work on details which we will review with the City prior to execution. The idea is for the MGC to organize and manage, and for the City to finance." The existing cherry plantings referred to consisted of some 250 planted 10 or 15 years earlier, probably by the City, but possibly with Men's Garden Club assistance.

The appointed committee of the Club included Lyn Savor, Hollis Taylor and Pittman; it developed a plan for planting 120 new Yoshino Cherry Trees on South Pine and this was completed in early 1998. An additional 40 Cherry trees were added to this area in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2010. These new trees, and the old ones, prospered reasonably, even though

they were neglected, particularly with respect to two ongoing problems—litter and Kudzu infestations.

Both of these problems were worrisome to recently retired Milliken executive Newt Hardie who was an active member of the Men’s Garden Club. He had completed the local Clemson Extension Service’s Master Gardener Course, and selected improving the appearance of South Pine Street as his required 40-hours of community service in 2001.<sup>1</sup> It soon became apparent that the kudzu was a greater problem than the litter. It was engulfing and smothering many of the Yoshino Cherries, particularly those near the railroad overpass south of the former Draper plant.

Fearing damage to the cherries and wanting to avoid any contaminants running

**THE GREEN MENACE / ITS EVERYWHERE**

Coalition trying to strangle pesky vine.  
By Like Cornell, Staff Writer

Newt Hardie is wringing the neck of the vine that swallowed the south. A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying

A retired Milliken & Co. employee and master gardener, Hardie has spent the past four years studying and developing ways to force kudzu to cough up sections of Spartanburg’s landscape. And some researchers say Hardie’s efforts could have national implications in the fight against what is a growing problem for many Southern cities — urban kudzu.

Formed in October 2004, the Hardie-led Coalition to Control Kudzu has 20 kudzu-killing sites in and outside of Spartanburg.

The Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club sponsors the coalition, which has participating members from various other groups including local master gardeners and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service.

Marked with signs, the test locations are a living laboratory for Hardie’s non-herbicidal approach to killing kudzu.

One method — covering patches with black and clear plastic tarps —appears to be an effective way to defoliate the vines. Another approach requires folks to get on their knees and dig out “crowns” by hand.

downhill into the nearby creek, Hardie decided to not use herbicides, but to emphasize mechanical methods that were more environmentally friendly. After searching the Internet for help in non-chemical methods, he was disappointed to find that little work had been done. In fact, many websites mentioned that digging up the entire kudzu root was necessary to completely kill it.

Hardie found this to be not true. He made a breakthrough in kudzu control when he noticed that kudzu plants did not survive after the crown was removed, the underground woody knot at the juncture of the root and the vines. He set up tests using construction flags to meticulously mark the locations where he decapitated crowns from the roots. After two years it was clear that the roots did not have to be dug up. The websites were wrong. Complete eradication did not require all roots to be removed.

After three years of attacking the Kudzu problem around the cherry trees across South Pine Street from Carolina Garden World using trial and error methods, success was noticeable even to those driving by. There was no kudzu in the grove of trees and the green monster no longer came to the edge of the street.

<sup>1</sup> Newt Hardie became the main Men’s Garden Club member attending the beautification of South Pine Street, not only in fighting kudzu, but in picking up litter and as the Club’s leader in working with the City in planting an additional approximately 40 new or replacement Yoshino Cherry trees along this highway in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He, with help from an MGC team, also was the source of watering, pruning and maintaining the cherry trees, as well as learning to control the kudzu. He became the Club’s South Pine Street *Czar*. His *tree* work is covered in detail in Chapter 5 on treescaping.

## 11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

Impressed by this, Milliken’s horticulturist, Stewart Winslow suggested that Hardie get in touch with Dr. Larry Nelson, a professor in Clemson’s Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, who was active in kudzu control research. Winslow thought each would find much of interest in the other’s work. He and Henry Pittman participated in the first sit down meeting with Hardie and Nelson at Billy D’s Restaurant in August of 2004. All agreed that control of kudzu should be a high priority for those who think trees are important and that kudzu should be destroyed. Nelson was not aware of anyone else working on manual control methods and encouraged Hardie’s continuance.

At that first meeting Nelson shared his plans for having a graduate student begin in 2005 to experiment with the use of sheets of plastic to kill the kudzu. Hardie immediately agreed to perform “quick and dirty” tests of this idea and within a month had some answers. Hardie bought black and clear sheeting from Lowe’s and with Pittman’s help, stretched it out at the same site across from Carolina Garden World. Within ten days it was clear that the heat under the sheeting would kill kudzu foliage but that the kudzu plants would recover when the sheeting was removed.

**Newt Hardie and Clemson’s Dr. Larry Nelson consult in 2006.**



Hardie was excited about the new findings (apparent success) and reported early successes and failures to Nelson at the next meeting in September. While the idea of “solarization,” using the heat of the sun to kill *weeds*, was not new, Hardie’s simple tests in August and September of 2004— now depicted on the Kudzu Coalition’s website—were the first experiments using plastic sheeting to attempt to kill *kudzu*. Research was under way.

Intrigued with the idea that there may be many ways to control the noxious vine—many that were not known—Hardie and his local colleagues were energized by the Nelson suggestion of forming a local “coalition” consisting of Spartanburg organizations and individuals who were interested in increasing Spartanburg’s beautification by fighting kudzu. This seemed to fit right in with the spirit embodied in the many Spots of Pride which were then being put into place through the leadership of Hans Balmer. Pittman and Hardie decided that the two primary organizations whose advice and support would be of the most importance were the Men’s Garden Club and the City of Spartanburg. If these two organizations would support a kudzu control initiative, Pittman and Hardie vowed they would start it.

Very significant to the formation of this coalition, was a review and advice meeting which they had a few weeks later with Mayor Bill Barnet and City Manager Mark Scott. The Mayor started the meeting by saying that the city did not have money for new activities. Pittman and Hardie assured him that “We are not here to ask for money.” From that point on, the meeting was a big success.

“We enjoyed our visit together Friday morning and the discussion regarding the effort to put together a coalition to consider ways in which we might control kudzu in our community,” wrote Barnet to Hardie. He continued, “I join with Mark Scott in enthusiastically supporting your vision and energy. I think it is a terribly important



## 11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

opportunity for us to begin to focus on this long-term problem and to come up with solutions that control this plant life before it has an even more adverse impact on the aesthetic and functional aspects of this city.”

Parallel with this important endorsement from the Mayor, the Men’s Garden Club’s board of directors approved helping organize and partially underwriting the proposed Coalition to Control Kudzu and it became an official MGC project. Tom Bartram’s newsletter of October, 2004, had this report: “Kudzu Coalition – We’ve agreed to join a collation of organizations to seek means of improved kudzu control. Newt Hardie is our prime representative in this and works with Dr. Larry Nelson of Clemson.”

The Club’s annual official list of accomplishments for 2005 included this important statement: “Kudzu Control. With early and ongoing encouragement and some financing by the SMGC, Newt Hardie has been the champion of this program.”

So, indeed, with the support of both the Club and of the City, a new and “unique in the world” movement entitled the *Coalition to Control Kudzu* was underway and it would have great influence not only on the Spartanburg community, but also on many areas and institutions across the south.

While, admittedly, neither the Club nor a large number of its members were exceedingly active participants in Newt Hardie’s new endeavor, the endorsement of and financial backing from the Men’s Garden Club as an *official project* gave an indication of special significance and power to the Coalition. But perhaps of even more importance was the fact that the Club’s official status as an organization to which tax deductible contributions could be made<sup>2</sup> resulted in the Coalition receiving significant financial support which was channeled through the MGC.

During this period, the Club’s Board regularly invited Hardie to report on the status of the kudzu project and to update the Club on the continuing progress in control methods and expanding work sites around the community.

Even though the *official* relationship as a project of the Club terminated in 2007 when the Coalition was granted its own 501(c)3 tax exemption status, the close bond remains intact. Many of the Coalition’s volunteer workers are members of the Club as are seven of its 19 current top leaders, including Hardie who continues to serve as the Coalition’s president.

Dr. Nelson was on the advisory board for the Club’s kudzu committee. He worked closely with Hardie for two years as the use of plastic sheeting was proven to kill kudzu plants when used for the full season and many improvements were made in the process – such as using sheeting with built in UV protection. Unfortunately, Dr. Nelson died unexpectedly in 2007.

Over the years, the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has been proud of its part in organizing and supporting this important group which has achieved national recognition (2009) and has been filmed in operation for broadcast in Korea (2009). Its official name is *Kudzu Coalition* although it is known on the website ([www.kokudzu.com](http://www.kokudzu.com)) as The Coalition to Control Kudzu Without Chemicals. It is run by a Board of Directors with approximately 17 members, but more importantly, it has hundreds of volunteers, many of whom are youth.

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<sup>2</sup> As an active member of the national organization, The Gardeners of America / Men’s Garden Clubs of America, the SMGC was automatically a “501(c)3 organization” and as such received many contributions to support the work of the Coalition as an active program of the Club.

## 11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

Its educational program called “Kudzu Kollege” and its creative approach to making manual labor fun and enjoyable are major reasons for the Coalition’s success. Its work with non-chemical methods of controlling kudzu such as the use of barriers, scaffolding, fire, hot water and the use of continual innovations of ordinary farm equipment with unique attachments made in Spartanburg by Pressley Machine Works and designed to combat kudzu continue to produce success and attract attention.

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The Kudzu Coalition considers the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club the “Mother Organization” and recognizes the birthing period on its website [www.kokudzu.com](http://www.kokudzu.com). Many of the kudzu warriors regularly participate in the Club’s litter pick up events. The Coalition is now a valued corporate member of SMGC: brothers and sisters in spirit, love for the environment, appreciation for trees and garden sites, and activists in these pursuits.

## 11 – THE KUDZU COALITION

## 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

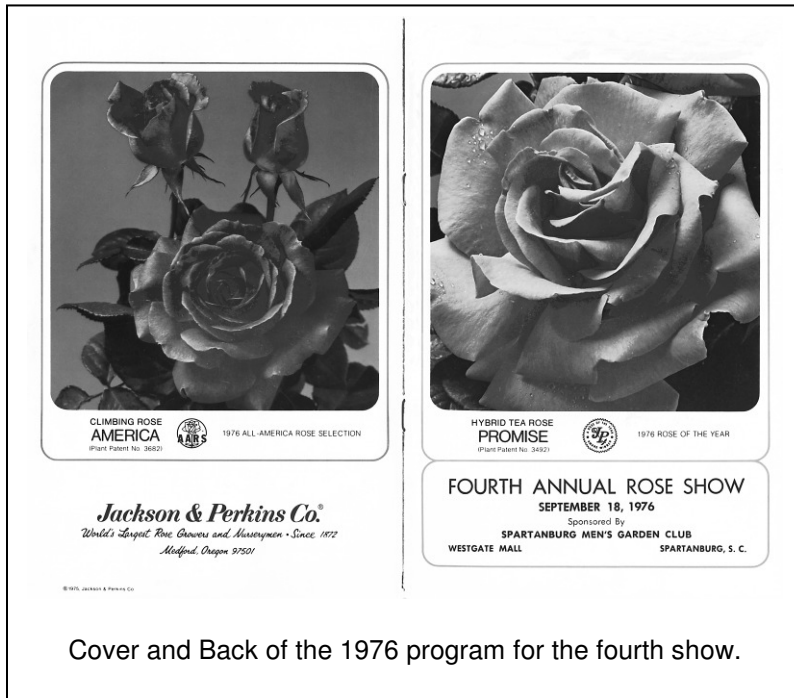
but he did not have a good growing area for his roses. However, one year he was quite proud to receive a blue ribbon on his Tropicana rose.

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

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



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

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

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

## 12 – THE ROSE SHOW

**Publicity:** The show was fortunate to receive excellent local media coverage over the years. Many different club members were responsible for the publicity: Snow Marshall, Griff Smith, Sidney Dunlap, Henry Pittman and Sid Moorhead were some of the members who arranged publicity. A beautiful color photograph with Virginia New showing two of her roses was in the 1990 weekly newspaper, *The Paper*. A Rose Show schedule and invitation were mailed to each exhibitor who had participated in the previous two shows.

The schedule was initially printed by Julian Foster as a multi-page booklet with a full-color cover. This schedule was very expensive to produce. A single sheet, printed both sides, was the next schedule form selected. Later, availability of office copiers allowed the schedule to be printed on double-sided single sheets which greatly reduced the schedule cost. The early schedules listed the named rose *variety* as a rose class. Later this was expanded to also include a rose *color* within each given rose class. However, the color modification was not used and the table displays were arranged alphabetically by the general category of class.

**Judges:** All judges were accredited by the American Rose Society. Dr. Arthur Cottingham arranged for the judges for several years and was very helpful in scheduling the MGC Rose Show to avoid conflict with other shows within this area. This scheduling was essential for the success of the Club's smaller show, so most of the Club's shows were held in the fall to avoid conflict. Cottingham was also able to have the Men's Garden Club certified as an affiliate of the American Rose Society so the Club would be able to award its prestigious Rose Show Certificates to winners.

Each Rose Show had at least six judges. This allowed forming three teams of two judges each to judge selected rose classes. All the judges participated in selecting the Queen, King, and Princess of the show. Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jeremias from Newberry were judges in most of the Club's shows over the years. Mrs. Allene Able, Mrs. Viola Langford, and Mrs. Hazel Chapman, all from Saluda, South Carolina, judged many of the shows.

**Exhibitors:** Local exhibitors who were most consistent in their participation were Dr. Gil Hooper, Jerry Dobslaw and Mrs. Alfred New. Dobslaw was perhaps the most exhibit quality rose grower. He won Queen of the Show in several neighboring Rose shows. His formula for success

required consistent watering, fertilization, and spraying to achieve quality roses. After winning the top local award—the Claude Sherrill Trophy—several years in a row, he stopped entering this challenge class. Hooper was a big help in setting up and organizing the roses during the show, even though he was usually busy arranging his own roses for display. Mrs. New offered new help with this task after Hooper moved to Florida. Out-of-state exhibitors were not unusual, and were an essential part of the show's success.



**Everything's rosy** Dr. John A. Fincher, president of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, examines roses from his garden in preparation for the club's 21<sup>st</sup> Rose Show. The show will be held from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday at Hillcrest Mall. Judging begins at 10 a.m. and prize roses will be sold to the public after the show at 7 p.m.

**This appeared in the *Spartanburg Herald -Journal* September 6, 1993**

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The exhibitors were always ready to start at six o'clock as soon as the mall doors were opened. The exhibitors shaped and formed their roses to obtain their desired presentation configuration before placing the rose on the display table. Usually the exhibitors held the roses until time required them to place the rose on the exhibit table. The roses were sold at the end of the show just before the mall closed. George Drummond was chief sales auctioneer for this event for many years. Newspapers made handling the roses easier for the purchaser due to the thorns.

The annual Rose Show continued for 27 years (from 1973 through 1999)—24 years with Reynolds as its chairman—when it was finally discontinued. Dr. Gil Hooper had moved to Florida, Jerry Dobslaw was no longer able to exhibit and other local participation had waned. And there was an un-resolved potential liability issue at the mall. After much discussion by the Club's Board of Directors, the decision was made that Club members' participation time and sponsors' funds could better be used for other community oriented Club endeavors.

But it was clear that the Men's Garden Club Rose Show provided not just entertainment to the many viewers but inspired many new gardeners and gave great publicity to the mission of the Club. For years it had been a great show. In 1982, it was estimated that over 8,000 visitors viewed the display. In 1984, there were 300 blooms entered by 17 exhibitors. In 1986, 26 exhibitors participated, seven of whom were from Spartanburg. Reynolds did a magnificent job of managing the endeavor.

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The rose has always been valued for its beauty and has a long history of symbolism. The ancient Greeks and Romans identified the rose with their goddesses of love referred to as Aphrodite and Venus. Roses are ancient symbols of love and beauty. The rose was sacred to a number of goddesses (including Isis and Aphrodite), and is often used as a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The rose is the national flower of England and the United States. In this light, promoting roses and their beauty, as the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club did, was an "almost" noble venture, one that gave much enjoyment to many local visitors to the shows, and also encouraged more interest in gardening.





## Chapter 13

### **Sometimes We Lose Trees: THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT**

*I think that I shall never see  
A billboard lovely as a tree  
Indeed, unless the billboards fall,  
I'll never see a tree at all.*

- Ogden Nash

**T**he Club's 1976 Bicentennial planting project on North Pine Street (Interstate 585) involved some 400 trees planted on the intersections at US-221 (Chesnee Highway) , at SC-9 (Boiling Springs Road) and at California Avenue adjacent to Milliken's outstanding landscaped area and a row of Sweetgum trees on the west shoulder between SC-9 and California Ave. The latter trees were planted as a double row, with trees in planned random spacing to give a somewhat natural look, and to make it less noticeable if an occasional tree were missing. They were planted as small seedlings, donated by Spartanburg Landscape and Nursery. Everette Seixas, the nursery's key horticulturist, provided a major part of the volunteer planting labor.

A few years later, it became obvious that the back row was so close to the fence that the Highway Department's grass cutters couldn't mow there, so that row was cut down. This created no problem because the remaining randomly spaced Sweetgums of the front row remained intact and were beginning to provide the desired improvement to this important highway. In fact, not a single tree had been lost due to drought or damage. They continued to grow and prosper. By 1986 they were healthy, approaching semi-maturity at almost six inches in diameter, and had become a significant enhancement to this primary entry highway into Spartanburg. These Sweetgums provided elegant green beauty in the summer, gorgeous color in the fall, and beautiful form and shape during the dormant season. The Highway Department was performing a fine job of grass mowing and maintenance.

### 13 -- THE BILLBOARD CONFLICT

This shoulder planting was separated from the new Metro Business Center by a chainlink fence. Behind the fence was a thicket of weed trees and brush that Metro had not yet cleared. Also behind the fence was a large Naegele Billboard (Naegele was owned by the Morris Communication Company, an Augusta based outdoor advertising company of great stature and breadth of business, the largest billboard company in Spartanburg County. It was later sold to Fairway Outdoor Advertising Company, the current owner of the business.) In addition to the basic beautification the trees provided, they also supplied a view break to the weedy area behind the fence—and to the Naegele billboard.

It was somewhat of a shock on Sunday, May 20, 1986, for Henry Pittman to see an open, treeless gap of over 400 feet in the planting. He had been chairman of the Club's Bicentennial committee, had designed the staggered row plan, and had helped Seixas do the planting.

A quick meeting of other members of this committee was convened; Jess Taylor, John Nevison and Tom Bartram attended. They were as concerned as Pittman and easily decided

**From the SMGC's "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter  
of May, 1986**

NORTH PINE STREET BEAUTIFICATION. The area beautification project chairman, Henry Pittman, and his committee had a rude shock along with the rest of our membership about May 1. Fifteen of the North Pine Street Sweetgum trees, 3-1/2 to 6 inches diameter had disappeared! This in about a 130 yard stretch before a low standing billboard on the property west of the highway and between Route 9 and California Avenue intersections. These trees on the state highway roadside had been planted and nurtured by club members with the cooperation of the highway people over the past decade. More careful inspection revealed the trees cut from the highway right of way had been tossed over the border line chain link fence and dragged back into adjoining wooded areas. A triangular opening in the fence near the sign gives simple access to the highway property. Treelets and brush next to the sign had been cut about the same time. These cuttings occurred before leaf buds had opened, probably before or early April. The cut trees were not missed by passers until the remaining line of 18 to 23 foot trees had leafed out in late April. A county sheriff officer qualified this act as grand larceny. No request for permission to remove these trees had been filed with the Highway Department. A local nursery firm has quoted a price of \$450 per 3 to 4 inch diameter tree to replace those cut. The County Sheriff's office has assigned this case to an investigating officer. A number of contributions have been offered for use as an apprehension reward or for tree replacement this Fall.

John Nevison, Editor

this could not be allowed to go unchallenged. Nevison reported the destruction to the County Sheriff immediately.

Upon more careful investigation, the group found that the 15 trees had been cut flush with the ground, and the trunk stubs neatly covered with soil and grass clippings to make it appear that there had never been trees growing there. None of the tree remnants were in sight. The next day, however, a few of the "corpses" were found hidden in undergrowth behind the fence on Metro Center's property. By careful matching, it was possible to confirm which tree trunk matched which of the ground level

stumps. The other cut trees had undoubtedly been hauled away. It seemed quite clear that the tree cutting involved a deliberate effort to make their removal appear as if they had never been there.

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How information on this damage reached the local newspaper, the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* is not known, but the paper ran a major headline story by Lou Parris on the following Friday entitled “Who Cut Down the Trees?” It was quite accurate and emphasized the great concern of the Club and clarified that the SC Highway Department had



The missing trees! May, 1986

not given the required permission for the trees to be cut. Parris further noted, “Naegele Outdoor Advertising of Spartanburg owns a sign that was obscured by the trees on I-585, and Naegele is mentioned in the larceny report filed with the sheriff’s department, but a company spokesman said Thursday that the firm is not involved” with the atrocity.

The *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* ran a second article the next day, Saturday, May 3, on the top of the front page of the Upstate/Carolinas section entitled “No Leads Have Turned Up on Illegal Tree-Cutting Incident.” It mentioned the obvious—the view of the Naegele billboard was blocked by the trees, but that a “company spokesman said the firm did not remove the trees.” MGC members were reported as being upset and one was quoted as saying, “The whole reason for concern is that landscaping and highway beautification are important to the community, and respect for property that doesn’t belong to you is important.” The sheriff had no leads to report and the local maintenance engineer of the SC highway Department had no new information. These two stories created a huge public interest in the case. Interest was heightened a few days later by a letter to the editor in the *Herald-Journal* about the “proliferation of enormous billboards which are being erected everywhere in our community” The ugliness of billboards was obviously a concern. On May 20, an ad taken out by the local Crime Stoppers organization offered a \$1,000 reward for information about the Pine Street crime.

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John Nevison, a highly involved—and concerned—Club member, former president and current author of its monthly newsletter, voiced great concern in his May edition under the title, “North Pine Street Beautification.”

The area beautification project chairman, Henry Pittman, and his committee had a rude shock along with the rest of our membership about May 1. Fifteen of the North Pine Street Sweetgum trees, 3-1/2 to 6 inches diameter had disappeared! This is about a 130 yard stretch before a low standing billboard... A county sheriff officer qualified this act as grand larceny.... A local nursery firm has quoted a price of \$450 per 3 to 4 inch diameter tree to replace those cut. A number of contributions have been offered for use as an apprehension reward or for tree replacement this fall.

It was very fortunate that local County Agent (Clemson Extension Agent) Charles Gray was also a part-time deputy sheriff. As a great lover of trees and a professional on their importance and value, he reportedly took personal responsibility for the solution of the case.

While the solution to the crime was not evident, there was a growing public concern over billboard proliferation. In early June, the *Herald-Journal* published a pointed letter by well known Wofford College professor and outspoken naturalist, Dr.

Gibbs Patton on controlling the growing blight with these words, “If a determined special interest can take down trees illegally, then surely determined citizens can take down billboards legally.”

However, on June 10, the *Herald Journal* carried a very large front page story in its second section entitled, “Naegele Trio Charged With Cutting Trees.” Its opening statement was, “The general manager of Naegele Outdoor Advertising was charged Monday with conspiracy in connection with a tree-cutting and removing timber for their alleged participation in the same incident.” It reported further that after the arrests, the three men posted a \$4,000 bond and were released from jail. Ruth Ackerman, Naegele’s company attorney, announced that President William Morris of Naegele’s parent company, Morris Communications of Augusta, had issued a formal statement to the local newspaper which read, in part, “We are deeply grieved over the incident. It is a violation of the law and an affront to the community. This is a very clear violation of company policy which we will



Milliken's Jack Bracken matches a cut trunk to its flush cut stump. May, 1986

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not tolerate. We will be apologizing to the Men’s Garden Club of Spartanburg and plan to make amends.”

Tom Bartram secured local attorney Tim Cleveland to join John Nevison and Club President Frank Cunningham in a meeting with Morris. The meeting was quite cordial; Morris gave a strong and apparent sincere apology for the tree destruction and offered a \$6,000 contribution to the club. It was accepted, to be used for additional landscape projects by the Club. However, this was done only with Nevison’s strong contention that it was not a *contribution*, but *retribution*. Later in a letter-to-the-editor, he made a robust point that the payment was not a contribution, but it “has been made as an obligation to offset a misdeed.”

Again the local newspaper printed a major story in mid-July of the settlement with the opening comment, “What might have been labeled ‘the great tree controversy’ is apparently over” and reported that the local Magisterial District Court had dismissed the case earlier that month.

The incident continued high in public interest. In a live interview on WSPA-TV’s 6:00 PM news cast, the reporter made a brief update on the admitted involvement by the billboard company’s employees, and then turned to John Nevison<sup>1</sup> and asked, “Mr. Nevison, will the Men’s Garden Club forgive Naegele?” Nevison looked straight into the camera and said in a stern voice, “We’ll forgive—but we won’t forget!” And this reply characterized the attitude not only of the Club but also of much of the community. In the following months, there were dozens of letters to the editor published supporting the contributions of the Club and the concern for billboard proliferation. The following excerpt is from a typical letter published in late July.

**From the SMGC’s *Gardening & Beatification* newsletter of August, 1986**

**TREE CUTTING INCIDENT:** We shall not belabor this subject too long, but the members should know that after much discussion by your Board, it was decided to conclude the episode, with the approval of the legal authorities. The \$6,000 “amends” or restitution settlement will be used for future beautification projects in the Spartanburg area.

I think the people of Spartanburg, city and county, should be made aware of what is happening concerning the number of billboards being put up in our area....They tower over the rural terrain and in many places trees are being leveled so that motorists can see signs just behind. What happened to the 15 Sweetgum trees put up by the Men’s Garden Club is only a small example... . Wake up Spartanburg! I say down with billboards and up with trees.

Another letter expressed this sentiment. “The *Herald-Journal* has reported the illegal cutting of citizen-planted trees ... and the confession of the night-time act by a national billboard organization.... Billboards are a special kind of environmental impact. Their location, spacing, size, number and maintenance are changing Spartanburg County’s landscape rapidly... .” This writer continued by encouraging the County Planning Commission to seriously work on the environmental impact of these billboards and to

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<sup>1</sup> John Nevison served as President of the Club for two years in the early 1980s, edited the Newsletter for over seven years, was a strong supporter of Hatcher Garden, and his strong will was a significant asset to the Club in many ways. In his honor, the Club financed and dedicated the amphitheater at Hatcher Garden in his memory in 1999.

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encourage citizen involvement. He concluded with this recommendation; “Let’s help the commission and the Council do this job right and soon. Which is growing faster in our county—trees or billboards?”

Dr. Bob Reynolds, as past president of the Club and ongoing strong leader, wrote a letter promoting the new Highway Beautification Act being considered by Congress. He said, “It is a bipartisan effort to clean up ‘billboard blight’ along America’s federal highways.” He pointed out the local proliferation and said the new legislation would ban all new billboards along federal highways as well as ban tree-cutting on public land done solely to make billboards more visible... .” A tongue-in-cheek letter stated, “I feel it is in our best interests as well as in Naegele’s best interest that the company saw their own billboards off at ground level and plant some tall trees quickly.” Possibly the most clever letter author performed this new verb conjugation in August of 1986: “Naegele (nay’gle), v. tr. To cut down a tree, to remove all evidence of the tree, to deny all knowledge of the prior existence of the tree.”

But, not everyone sided with the Club and the community in preferring trees. A man who later became a prominent and respected county official wrote a letter thanking Naegele for its help in fundraising for a community cause, and continued with these comments: “While on the road, I look first to outdoor advertising to find a good meal, a place to stay, and places to shop... I use outdoor advertising to keep me alert as I travel. Our thriving business economy is just as important to the nation as a park. In fact, business enables us to have parks.” And another writer stated strongly: “It disturbs me to see a few narrow minded citizens over-reacting on the issue of billboard advertising. Let’s be fair and sensible. Billboards are good.... Regulations and laws should not be passed to satisfy a small handful of environmentalists who would like to see all of Spartanburg in a park-like atmosphere.”

So the discussion, and the controversy, continued during 1986. *Herald-Journal* headlines during the year included the following:

- City pondering billboard ban
- Billboards face ban in county
- County planners urge timeout for billboards
- Billboard moratorium urged
- Citizens to study billboards
- Sign action draws near
- Council to weigh billboard proposal
- City hedges on billboard restrictions, ponders restrictions.
- Cry goes out for zoning in county
- Billboard battle looms before Congress
- Council prefers to wait on signs
- Signs of controversy—The City wants billboards to come down; their owners want a big chunk of cash, and the law leaves room for debate—and lawsuits
- Constant controversy
- Revised billboard plan to undergo review
- Senate kills billboard ban affecting federal highways
- Signs facing opposition

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And so it went though to the end of 1986.

This is not the end of the story, however. Sweetgums are tough trees. They put up suckers from the flush-cut trunk stubs during the summer and after a couple of years, with some pruning to create a single trunk, they were *real* trees again! After an amazingly short period of time, with a little probable fertilizer pushing by Club members, they essentially caught up with their un-cut siblings. Today, they are equal in all respects.

Certainly the destruction of the MGC's row of Sweetgums on North Pine Street was a catalyst for the issue of billboards vs. trees in both the Club and in the community. Controversy and unhappiness are not to be sought after, and the Club would not want to undergo another tree cutting episode, but the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club received a huge amount of publicity—most of it excellent publicity—over this. The incident, and its ensuing controversy, enhanced the name and reputation of the Club, probably almost as much as did Mr. W. O. Ezell's great beautification efforts in the 1960s and 70s. So, good can come out of bad.

Interestingly, an *ad hoc* group called "Citizens Group for Sign Control" formed later in 1986 with Ann S. Allen as its leader and member participants including noted Wofford professor Dr. Gibbes Patton, Corrie Whitlock, Dr. Bob Powell, architect Al Jolly, Sid Moorhead, Dave Kennemur, Dr. Gil Hooper, Art Justice, Margaret Wells, Margaret Hayslip, Claire Sasser, Jim Wagner, and Henry Pittman. In August, Allen sent a letter to many citizens with the opening statement, "A group of concerned citizens has organized recently to combat one of the area's most blatant abuses—the proliferation of giant BILLBOARDS along our roadways. The May incident of Naegele's tree cutting on 585 prompted our action. Fearing that the scenic beauty of our countryside is seriously threatened by this type of commercial onslaught, we are uniting our efforts to halt and eliminate BILLBOARD growth."

The September, 1986, "Gardening & Beautification" newsletter reported the upcoming Club meeting with the announcement that Ann Allen, Jim Wagner and Pittman would make a presentation on "Billboard proliferation." It brought members' attention to the fact that, "The topic is an active one in conversations, news media articles, letters and legislative action. The speakers will present an awareness slide program and up-date on local control activities and report on county inventory of billboards." The October newsletter reported, "We commend those [who] brought us up-to-date on Billboard Proliferation concern at our September 16 meeting. We follow further regulation development—local, state and national—with interest."

That fall, an interesting survey had been made by Allen's group which reported a count of 985 billboards in the City and County and an estimate that the total number was actually over 1,000. Naegele owned over 50% of them, followed by Carolina Poster, Daisy, National 3M, Ed Yarborough, Abbot, and eight others. Examples of "billboard blight" were the 22 on Drayton Ave (equivalent to 24 per mile), and 37 on South Pine St. (25 per mile). On I-26 between US-29 and I-85 and on North Pine St. between Milliken and Main there were 14 billboards per mile.

The group worked closely with the national organization "Coalition for Scenic Beauty" (now named "Scenic America") and made personal pleas to City and County organizations and to the U. S. Congress to develop ways to control the proliferation of the signboards. It



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was a part of the national effort to further improve the “Lady Bird Johnson” highway beautification effort. Unfortunately, however, little progress was made.

The conflict between trees and billboards hasn’t been solved or ended, but the attitude of both the general public and Club members may not be as “anti-billboard” as it was earlier. However, in 2007, the Club’s large treescape project on Interstate-85-Business triggered a conflict. This discord was between the Club and Spartanburg County (partners in the project), and the SC Department of Transportation and its agreements with the outdoor advertising industry. Through the effective efforts of the latter’s strong lobby in Columbia and Washington, the SCDOT has a strong agreement to protect billboards. It insures a 150-foot open viewing window for each billboard face—no trees, no obstructions on the shoulders (public property) of the highways. Some of the Club’s 2007 shoulder trees were erroneously planted inside the sacred windows, and some were purposely planted in front of two billboards which had been abandoned and were in shambles—genuine highway eyesores. The DOT forced the project’s contractor to move them all, even though there are even larger “weed trees” still growing in those “windows.” The Club’s trees were all moved successfully and are enhancing this important highway in different locations without disturbing billboards.

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Surely there are differences of opinion about billboards today as there were in the 1980s. The Men’s Garden Club board, and many of its members, may not publicly promote billboards as a type of *highway litter*, as proclaimed by the national organization, *Scenic America*. There may be a general or even widespread uneasiness about the proliferation of these highway structures, particularly as huge electronic ones are becoming more popular.

While the early motto of the Noble Tree Foundation was, “Trees are the answer!” may be questioned by some, the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has continued its tree planting projects not to compete with billboards, but to beautify and improve our ecology. Ogden Nash’s chapter opening quotation indubitably has some ongoing value.

## 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.



## GARDENING & BEAUTIFICATION

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January 1999

Meeting: Monday, January 18, 1999 7:30 PM  
 Place: The Arts Center, 385 Spring Street, Spartanburg, SC  
 Program: **THE CITY'S NEW EMPHASIS ON BEAUTIFICATION**—City Manager Roy Lane will bring exciting news on City projects and suggestions on how the MGC and other organizations can help expedite them. Bring a friend along.

**New Year.** We look forward to a year of great leadership from President Jim Bagwell and his cadre of officers. But they solicit help from all our members.

**Street Tree Pruning.** Since 1976, the MGC has planted some 1,500 street trees plus we were the catalyst for the 6,000 trees and shrubs planted on the new I-85 in 1996. Because of wonderful contributions from Mr. Milliken, the W. O. Ezell Beautification Fund and the Spartanburg County Foundation, plus \$3,000 from our own funds, we are ready to finance a \$12,500 project of “limbing up” and general pruning of our trees on N. Pine and E. Main and at W. Main & I-26. Arborist John Martin will contract this work for us.

**Claude Sherrill Memorial Flower Bed.** With financing by Wal-Mart, labor by the McCracken Junior High Environmental Club, a plan by Henry Pittman, and leadership from Allene and Jess Taylor, this bed is now in top notch condition. Check it out at E. Main St. and Hillcrest Blvd.—you’ll be proud.

**Rose Show.** Due to unfortunate weather conditions, participation was low and we didn’t quite break even financially this year, but it was a fine “community service.” Great thanks go to Bob Reynolds, perennial chairman, and Vahl Wilson along with all the others who worked on the project. They and Lyn Savor are appraising future show plans.

**Fall Plant Sale.** Thanks to Steve Patton, leader of this project, and Past President George Gunter plus our many, many volunteers, this year’s project was the most successful in recent years—a \$2,700 gain over last year. With ongoing support from Steve, new Chairman Lisa Gabory (a new member !!!) has scheduled two potting sessions for the ‘99 project. Mark your calendars for the Saturday mornings of February 20 and March 20 and plan to be at Hatcher Garden to help. This project is essential for our ongoing community beautification activities. And it provides great camaraderie!

**Special December Meeting.** Miliken and Company was kind to invite us to use its fabulous facilities to view new inspirational and educational videos created by the company. One promoted a great “*Vision for Spartanburg*” by noted landscape architect Rick Weble; the other emphasized the value of “*Noble Trees*” by world

famous horticulturist Mike Dirr. If you missed this due to the inclement weather, seek an opportunity to see these dynamite presentations.

**John Nevison Memorial.** His widow, Dorothy, has made a special contribution which the Board of Directors is suggesting be used at Hatcher Garden in John’s honor. He was a powerful force in the MGC as President, Newsletter Editor, Hatcher worker, tree planter and general promoter of a greener and more beautiful Spartanburg. Details on this later.

**501(c)3 Compliant.** Through the good help of our national organization, The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America, we now officially have this IRS status. This opens new opportunities for both tax exempt contributions, and also the possibility of personal deductions for out-of-pocket project expenditures! Thanks to Ron Heggen, TGOA/MGCA Treasurer.

**George Gunter** gave us exemplary leadership as our president for the past two years. *We are indebted to you and salute you, George !!!*

**Spring Realtors-MGC Plant Sale.** While details have not been developed, we look forward to this cooperative project. Our leader this year will be Bill Wilson.

**Bulbs, Bulbs, Bulbs.** Dick DeVroomen, wholesaler of Dutch Bulbs in Greenwood, has come through for us again. He presented our program in September and then provided thousands of bulbs to augment the last day of our Fall Plant Sale. Now he has donated bulbs for our use in landscaping at the SC School for the Deaf and Blind. Thanks, George Gunter, for arranging this.

**Drayton Road/Isom Street Treescape.** Our big cooperative project with the City and the County is well over half completed, thanks to the hard and diligent work of our designated tree planter, John Belue. When completed later this month, we will have added another almost 300 trees to the community. Drive this important new thoroughway and see if you approve of the Red Maple (October Glory and Autumn Flame) and Kousa Dogwood.

**Future Street Tree Planting Opportunities.** Ideas, suggestions? Advise your officers.

**Building New Clubs.** HELP! Who will take the lead in organizing new MGC Clubs in surrounding areas? One of our members often says, “If our MGC is good for both our members and for our community, then a Men’s Garden Club will be good for Gaffney, for Union, for Anderson, for Columbia, for Charlotte...” Excellent *how to organize* literature is available from TGOA/MGCA.

**National Convention.** It is not too early to plan to attend in Green Bay, Wisconsin July 14-17. A great way to get to know good gardeners from across the country and see The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America in action.

**1999 Member Dues.** Some of you have not yet responded to the “invoice” in the Dec. newsletter; your 1999 dues are already late, but NOT TOO LATE. Quickly send your check for \$25 (\$30 to include a spouse) to **Treasurer Bob Hamilton, 279 Harrell Dr, 29307.**

**Typical 1999 Newsletter, 5 ½ x 8 ½, printed front and back**

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.

## 14 – THE NEWSLETTER

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.dirtdaubers.org](http://www.dirtdaubers.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.



**Appendix**

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## Appendix 1

### History Summary

- 1. The Early Years.** The Dirtdaubers was organized in 1948 with W. P Rich as president. The club's name was changed in 1950 to the Men's Garden Club, and in 1953, it affiliated with The Men's Garden Clubs of America.
- 2. Early Iconic Leaders.** No organization can be truly great without great leaders. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club surely has had great leaders, those who not only have been dedicated to strengthening the Club, but who have been broadly respected community leaders. This combination has been a win-win for the Club and the community. Chapter 2, Early Iconic Leaders, emphasizes the importance of Charles Lea, W. O. Ezell and Harold Hatcher.
- 3. Membership Over the Years.** Until the By-Laws were amended in 1992 it was an organization of all men. While the change was resisted by many (including the writer), it has been proven to be a valuable change to include women as not only spouses, but active members. The current membership of over 150 is composed of almost half women. Details of the growth of the Club are found in the Membership Chapter.
- 4. Spartanburg Beautification, and MGC Garden Spots.** W. O. Ezell—"Mr. W. O."—is undoubtedly the father of Spartanburg beautification having labored both personally and corporately for some two decades as both a pace setter for the SMGC, but also for the early, local Piedmont Beautification Committee. He created the *City of Flowers*. The Leaders Chapter is rich in details of this great gardener. Over the years, many individuals and organizations have not only kept the movement alive, but have "fanned the flame"—these include Harold Hatcher, Roger Milliken, Hans Balmer and his Spot of Pride movement, the Garden Council, the PRIDE Task Force, the Group of One Hundred, the Graffiti Group—and the MGC with its emphasis on "garden spots" and treescaping.
- 5. Treescaping in City and County.** The Club began an extensive street and highway tree planting program in 1976 which has continued to the present. While Mr. Ezell developed garden areas, and Mr. Hatcher was an avid propagator, distributor and planter of trees in parks, school yards, it was Harold's heart-felt proclamation that "the trees remained" that really moved "street trees" to the forefront of Club projects. Details of the nearly 2,500 street trees are given in the Treescaping Chapter and a tabulation is in the Appendix.
- 6. Hatcher Garden and the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.** Spartanburg has never been the same since Harold Hatcher bought the 6 acres adjoining his home in 1970, joined the Men's Garden Club and began what has become a tremendous asset to the community—the 13-acre Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. Chapter 6 on the Garden and the Club gives details of the ambitious personal challenge of Harold and his wife, Josephine, and the strong influence the Club had on the undertaking, particularly the help and underwriting of members like Walter Soderberg, Jess Taylor and so many others.
- 7. Plant Propagation and Plant Sales.** Mr. Hatcher may have been the Club's "father" of multiplying plant numbers, and passing them in volume via free distribution and income producing plant sales, but Jess Taylor has followed him and become the Club's great teacher, promoter and practitioner. Internally member-propagated plants plus those grown from purchased liners and seedlings—and more recently, fully mature plants—have been the basis



## Appendix

of the Club's annual public plant sales. These sales have not only provided "quality plants at reasonable prices" that have encouraged and enhanced landscapes across the community, but they have been the main source of income to the Club for other projects. Jess Taylor has provided many of the details for the main Hatcher Garden chapter.

**8. Litter Control.** Mr. W. O. Ezell probably was responsible for the emphasis on "cleanliness" in the first decade of the Club. In the 1970s, he and the Club distributed some 90,000 "comic books" on the importance of environmental responsibility to local school children. Soon after that, probably 1974, North Pine Street became, and continues to be, the favorite street for litter pick up and other enhancements over the years

**9. Landscape Evaluation With the Chamber.** It is the writer's opinion that this 47-year continuous project, run cooperatively with the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce which probably began in 1962 has been one of the major influences in the growth of quality corporate and private landscaping in Spartanburg. Bob Almond has written much of Chapter 9 on this subject.

**10. TGOA/MGCA National Organization.** The local Club was the 50<sup>th</sup> American club to affiliate with the Men's Garden Clubs of America in 1952 and has been one of the largest and leading clubs of the organization. The Club has provided many members of National's Board of Directors as well as committee leaders. Not only have local members enjoyed and participated in many of the MGCA's nationwide conventions, the Club hosted a very successful one here in 2006. Conventions always provide new insights into personal gardening as well as community beautification, and are the source of many quality friendships. At its height, there were at least six active Men's Garden Clubs in the Blue Ridge Region of MGCA. The Spartanburg club was a leader in hosting and participating in many of the Region's annual sharing and learning meetings. Great inner-club camaraderie and friendships resulted from this association. Unfortunately, particularly for the other cities, ours is the only active club in the region, and it disaffiliated with national in 2009.

**11. The Kudzu Coalition.** The Coalition was created as a Club project in 2004 because of kudzu invading the Club's Yoshino Cherry Trees on S. Pine. The Kudzu Coalition that Newt Hardie built is an amazing organization of adults and youth who fight this invasive vine.

**12. The Rose Show.** Officially began in 1973 with the encouragement of John Cantrell and "Snow" Marshall, and it was an annual exhibit for the next 27 years, most of which were chaired by Dr. Bob Reynolds.

**13. The Billboard Conflict.** While a negative Club attitude on billboards has never been an official Club position, it began to be the general point of view that billboards oppose community beautifications. This attitude began in 1986 when the largest local billboard company willfully destroyed 15 of the Club's almost-mature bicentennial trees on N. Pine St. No other action has provided the Club as much media attention.

**14. The Newsletter.** While probably not published every month, they began in the 1950s by the multi-year Secretary, Charles Lea. Leading editors have been Harold Hatcher, John Nevison, Tom Bartram, Dr. Dianne Fergusson, Linda McHam, and now, Jeff Hayes. Newsletters are considered essential for maintaining a coherent, knowledgeable membership. Not just supplied to members, but to a large group of community leaders, newsletters are a prime reason for the MGC's prestigious reputation.

**Appendix**

**Appendix 2**

**Club Presidents and Leaders**

Updated 3, 2010, ehp

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>V. PRES.</b>	<b>SEC.</b>	<b>TREAS.</b>	<b>EDITOR</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
1948	W. P Rich		A. T. Grant	Jas. Culcleasure		Organized as "Dirt Daubers"
1949	W. P Rich					
1950	W. P Rich (?)					Name changed to SMGC
1951	Charles Lea					W. O. Ezell joined
1952	Charles Lea		Karl Selden			
1953	Karl Selden		Frank Powell			Affiliate with MGCA.
1954	W. O. Ezell					
1955	Grady Stewart					
1956	Wardlaw Hammond					WOE Chair of City Beautification
1957	John Cantrell		Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes" ?	
1958	Tom Butler	Jack Lemmon	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea "Gardenettes"	32 members
1959	Jack Lemmon	Jas. Culcleasure	Charles Lea	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	34 members
1960	Jack Lemmon	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	David Stoltz joined
1961	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	S. Pine Beautification, Landscape Judging with Chamber of Commerce
1962	Jas. Culcleasure	M. P. Nantz	Charles Lea	Ray Tessmer	Charles Lea	WOE Kiwanis Citizen of Year.
1963	Clyde Burwell		Charles Lea			
1964	W. W. Walker		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney		Henry Pittman joined
1965	Willard Morgan		Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Charles Lea	
1966	Sid Moorhead	Bob Hickland	Charles Lea	Cecil Haney	Lea/Dunlap	Bob Reynolds joined
1967	Paul Cook					
1968						WOE Blvd. named
1969	Julian Foster					
1970						Walter Soderberg joined
1971	Claude Sherrill					Harold Hatcher joined
1972	Henry Pittman	John Cantrell	Everett Seixas	Sid Dunlap	Ezell & Sherrill	Begin public garden course
1973	Henry Pittman	Gil Hooper	Gil Hooper	Sid Dunlap	Claude Sherrill	

## Appendix

	PRESIDENT	V. PRES.	SEC.	TREAS.	EDITOR	NOTES
1974	Ed "Snow" Marshall	Gil Hooper	Gil Hooper		Sherrill & Hatcher	
1975	Ed "Snow" Marshall	Gil Hooper	Harold Hatcher	Geo. Drummond	Harold Hatcher	
1976	Gil Hooper	Bob Reynolds	Harold Hatcher	Geo. Drummond	Harold Hatcher	N. Pine Bicentennial Proj.
1977	Gil Hooper	Bob Reynolds	Wm. Morgan	Henry Ramella	Harold Hatcher	
1978	Bob Reynolds			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	1st year of Plant Sale
1979	Bob Reynolds			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1980	Charles Hart			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1981	Charles Hart			Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1982	John Nevison	Pat Moore		Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	Tom Bartram joined
1983	John Nevison	Pat Moore	Morris Chesney	Clayton Brown	Harold Hatcher	
1984	Pat Moore	Frank Cunningham	Raymond Tessmer	Harold Fredrickson	Harold Hatcher	
1985	Pat Moore/Frank Cunningham		Tom Bartram	Harold Fredrickson	Harold Hatcher	
1986	Frank Cunningham	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram	Harold Fredrickson	Hatcher/John Nevison	Potting Shed at H Garden
1987	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram		Jess Taylor	Hatcher/Nevison	Equip. Building At Hatcher Garden
1988	Walter Soderberg	Tom Bartram	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	
1989	Tom Bartram	Bob Powell	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	Bylaws changed to eliminate gender reference
1990	Tom Bartram	Charles Burdell	Dick Look	Jess Taylor	John Nevison	
1991	Tom Bartram	John Fincher	John Nevison	Jess Taylor	Nevison/Bartram	Geo Gunter and Winston Hardegree join
1992	John Fincher	Bob Almond	Darvin Helvy	Jess Taylor	Nevison/Bartram	Paving at H. Garden
1993	John Fincher/Bob Almond	Bob Almond	Shirley Marshall	Winston Hardegree	Nevison/Bartram	
1994	Bob Almond	Winston Hardegree	Ben DeLuca/Paul Dingler?	George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1995	Bob Almond	Winston Hardegree		George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1996	Almond, Bartram, Pittman, Soderberg	George Gunter	Jane Bagwell	George Wegrzyn	Tom Bartram	
1997	George Gunter	Jim Bagwell	Jane Bagwell	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Greenhouse at H. Garden, Flag Garden at Library
1998	George Gunter	Jim Bagwell	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Nat. Convention at Asheville
1999	Jim Bagwell	Clyde Wells	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	Nat. Directors S'burg. Nevison Amphitheater

### Appendix

	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>V. PRES.</b>	<b>SEC.</b>	<b>TREAS.</b>	<b>EDITOR</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
2000	Jim Bagwell	Bill Wilson	Dottie Scott	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	
2001	Bill Wilson	Jack Turner	Henry Pittman	Bob Hamilton	Tom Bartram	WOE Spot of Pride
2002	Bill Wilson	Jack Turner, Don Crowder	Henry Pittman	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	
2003	Don Crowder	Everette Lineberger	Henry Pittman	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	H. Hatcher died
2004	Don Crowder	Everette Lineberger	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Walter Soderberg died
2005	Everette Lineberger	Harold Wolfe	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Gil Hooper died
2006	Everette Lineberger	Harold Wolfe	Linda McHam	Jim Bagwell	Tom Bartram	Nat'l Convention in S'burg
2007	Linda McHam	Tasso Ghionis	Don Crowder	Jim Bagwell	Bartram / Dianne Fergusson	Hatcher Memorial dedicated
2008	Linda McHam	Ed Wilde	Tasso Ghionis	Ben Waddell	Dianne Fergusson	
2009	Ed Wilde	Bob Reynolds	Lyn Murajda	Ben Waddell	Linda McHam	
2010	Ed Wilde	Bob Reynolds	Lyn Murajda	Ben Waddell	Jeff Hayes	Moved meetings to SCC

## Appendix

### Appendix 3

#### Marshall's 1973 Presentation re Ezell

This is a copy of President E. W. (Snow) Marshall's presentation to Mr. Ezell on November, 1973, at a "thank-you" dinner at Dorman High School sponsored by the City.

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Ladies and gentlemen, welcome again to Ladies Night Annual Meeting of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club.

I want to thank Henry Pittman with all my heart for the privilege of recognizing one of our pioneer leaders in the beautification of the City and County of Spartanburg-- Mr. Walter Orlando Ezell.

May I tell you a little bit about his background. He was born in Cross Keys, N. C., June 30, 1891 and his family moved when he was a baby to Landrum, S. C. and later to Chesnee. His mother was a great gardener, and W.O. (as we all call him) immediately became interested, in helping his mother while his brother was off hunting. The records do not show how many of the flowers he pulled up in place of weeds when he was a small boy.

Mr. Ezell moved to Spartanburg in 1912 to work for the Geer Drug Co. on Magnolia Street and after 50 years he retired as Vice President and Sales Manager of the Company. He is recognized as one of the standing authorities in wholesale drugs all over the United States.

In 1951 Geer Drug Co. moved to its present location on W. O. Ezell Boulevard, and then Mr. Ezell showed his real talent as a flower lover. I was working at the Fairforest Finishing Division of Reeves Brothers at the time and saw the building going up, and a bulldozer leveling off a red clay gully which ran across the East side of the lot.

Slowly but surely and under the close supervision of Mr. Ezell this red ugly gully was transformed into a lovely flower garden with blooming flowers from early spring to late fall. I believe I saw Mr. Ezell performing all types of jobs except driving the bulldozer, and he might have been doing this.

The story is told that one day his preacher came along after the garden was so beautiful and said, "Mr. Ezell, look what the hand of the Lord can do," and Mr. Ezell's answer was, "You should have seen it when the Lord had it by himself".

After completing the garden at the Geer Drug Co., he continued his plantings and beautification westward until it now reaches the Blackstock Road just beyond Dorman High School.

A granite marker was erected near Dorman in 1970 which reads as follows:

*W. O. Ezell Boulevard*

*Dedicated in 1970*

*By appreciative officials and citizens to W. O. Ezell  
for making Spartanburg the City of Flowers*

May I inject at this time what a happy family occasion is approaching for Mr. and Mrs. Ezell, for on Christmas day, they will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary—and that is the Diamond one.

## Appendix

May God bless you with many more.

Mr. Ezell's local, state, national and international honors are too many to relate during my limited time.

He was a charter member of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club when it was organized in 1936

He was a Charter Member of the City's Beautification Committee with 2 other members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and 2 other interested citizens.

He was instrumental in beautifying Cleveland Park, Duncan Park and many cross streets in the city where the right of way permitted.

And Oh! How we loved his radio program which continued for yeas.

He published this book entitled "Carolina Garden Guide" which now is a collector's item. To indicate Mr. Ezell's wonderful humor this quote is on the cover

"Old gardeners never die - they just spade away"

And to show his love for his Lord and Savior this lovely poem:

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth."*

Mr. Ezell traveled to many places in the United States for he served on the National Board of the Men's Garden Council, and he went to Europe twice, especially to Holland to study their famous tulip gardens. My wife and I were at the Charles Towne Landing during the Tri-Centennial Celebration, and in the parking lot started talking to a family from Michigan. The man of the family asked us where we were from in South Carolina, and when we answered Spartanburg, he said "Do you know Mr. W. O. Ezell? I went out of my way to visit him in Spartanburg, because I had met him at one of the National meetings and loved him like everyone else does."

Before closing I would like to read these two short poems, some of the words you have heard all your life.

First from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life"

*Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Foot prints on the sands of time."*

And second from John Keats

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever,  
Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness;  
but still will keep a bower of quiet for us and a sleep full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing."*

Mr. Ezell, Mrs. Ezell, and their daughter Mrs. Bertha McArthur—  
And now may I present this plaque which has the National Men's Garden Council Bronze Medallion showing a gardener with his big hat on, a flower in one hand, and a hoe and rake in the other.

This plaque reads,

*IN TRIBUTE TO W. O. EZELL  
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION IN CITY BEAUTIFICATION.  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB, 1973*

Congratulations, Sir. May God Bless you all.

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**Appendix**

**Appendix 4**

**Ezell Spot of Pride Dedication Remarks**

This is a copy of Henry Pittman's presentation at the official dedication ceremony of the Ezell Spot of Pride on West Main St. on June 1, 2001.

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***THE SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB'S "SPOT OF PRIDE" PROJECT***

The Spartanburg (South Carolina) Men's Garden Club has been heavily involved in community beautification for over 50 years. So, it is natural that it should enthusiastically get on-board and support a new beautification project initiated by another closely associated organization, "Spartanburg PRIDE Task Force". PRIDE is a very loosely organized group of folks interested in saying thank you to organizations that are found doing something good and right, and not afraid of occasionally rapping knuckles of those who litter, fail to maintain their landscape, leave abandoned buildings unattended, etc.

The new project is public/private cooperation between the City and private organizations. It involves locating dozens of areas in the community that have landscape potential, developing preliminary landscape plans for those areas along with estimated costs for both initial construction and annual professional maintenance, and soliciting local organizations to adopt the areas. Plans, photographs, maps, cost sheets, etc. comprise promotional notebooks which are used to explain and sell the project.

In order to insure quality construction and ongoing maintenance, sponsoring organizations must agree to up-front depositing of substantial funds in a special account administered by a local endowment group—these funds equal costs for initial construction plus three years of maintenance. The City and PRIDE jointly handle and supervise contracts with professional maintenance companies.

The Men's Garden Club had no trouble in deciding to sponsor an early demonstration "Spot" using funds from its treasury and a matching grant from a philanthropic fund established by its beloved deceased member and former MGCA Director, W. O. Ezell. This was done cooperatively with the City which not only added additional funds, but also managed construction and will provide ongoing maintenance.

This demonstration "Spot of Pride" is on a prominent 250 foot long triangle on West Main Street which was renamed "W. O. Ezell Boulevard" a number of years

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ago; the street is a memorial to this MGC member who was instrumental in giving Spartanburg the reputation of being “the city of flowers”. This new SOP not only contains flowers, shrubs, trees, lawn and oriental grasses, and has an automatic irrigation system, but the large granite Ezell commemorative marker has been relocated to a prominent area in the garden.

Currently, over 40 potential new SOPs have been identified in Spartanburg, six have been adopted and a dozen have been reserved by potential sponsoring organizations. So the MGC is enthusiastic that with its demonstration Spot of Pride officially dedicated in May, it will become one of many to be developed in the community over the next few years—and will indeed serve as a reminder of the great beautification work of “Mr. W. O.”



**Appendix**

**Appendix 5**

**HATCHER AWARD NOMINATION – SERTOMA**

This is a copy of Henry Pittman's public citation when Mr. Hatcher was presented the "Service to Mankind" award by the eight Sertoma Clubs of Spartanburg on Feb. 10, 1988.

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NOMINATION OF MR. HAROLD O. HATCHER  
FOR THE  
SERTOMA SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD  
by  
Piedmont Sertoma Club

Shortly after moving to Spartanburg in 1969 from Indiana, Harold O. Hatcher joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and began an avocation of community beautification and concern that has had everlasting benefit.

Sixteen years ago he purchased a home on Briarwood Rd. which adjoined a desolate 6 1/2 acre track of badly eroded scrub tree gullies- -an absolute wasteland. After retiring in 1972, he, along with his wife, Josephine who recently retired from a teaching career at Spartanburg Methodist College, envisioned transformation of this worn out property into a lush horticultural park. He graded, built dams, installed pumping systems, terraced and eventually formed five ponds which not only use water from a stream which passes through the property, but collects and controls street water from the surrounding residential area. An extensive irrigation system moves this water and provides sustenance for the thousands of native and improved plants which he has added to the area. He built two miles of natural winding paths, many built along steep banks and the rolling hillsides adjoining the ponds; they join areas containing 200 hybrid rhododendrons, countless azaleas, hundreds of dogwood, and dozens of other types of trees and shrubs. A large area is devoted to native wild flowers, another is the home of dozens of varieties of perennials, and yet another is a pond-side grass terrace where numerous marriages and other ceremonies have been held. Garden clubs, civic and nature groups, and the public in general have been welcomed by the Hatchers to tour his park at will. Most of the vast improvements made in the Hatcher park were from the personal labor of Mr. Hatcher. He has converted a large area on the back side of the property adjoining Reidville Road into a combination vegetable garden and an auxiliary tree farm for the Men's Garden Club; literally hundreds of loads of waste leaves from the city have been used to improve the soil and drainage of this nursery section.

While still in good health (he had multiple heart bypasses two years ago) and while continuing to work personally many hours each week improving the park, Mr. Hatcher has in December set up a trust into which the ownership of the park was donated. The Spartanburg County Foundation is the holder of the Trust with Spartanburg Technical College as the planned primary recipient. The college plans to not only maintain the property and use it for horticultural teaching purposes, but to eventually make it a full public park. Mr. Hatcher donated an adjoining house and lot on the Reidville road side of the property which can become the public entry.

Mr. Hatcher has been the undisputed most active member of the Men's Garden Club over the past years. While never agreeing to serve as official president, he has

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been an ongoing director (now emeritus) and has edited or co-edited the club's monthly newsletter for years and has directed many committees and work groups. He initiated the MGC's massive community tree sale program in 1979 through which 20-thousand dogwood, crape myrtles and other trees were purchased wholesale and passed on to citizens, schools and civic groups at almost cost. He then envisioned and has been the prime mover in developing the MGC Tree Bank, where tree seedlings are purchased, or grown from seed cooperatively with the State Forestry Commission, and planted on City property in cooperation with the Parks~ and Recreation Department. He organizes and leads other club members (most of them older, retired men) in tending these plants until they are sufficiently mature for moving to public areas for community beautification projects. Over 600 of these trees have been planted on City or County public property at no cost to the recipient during the past five years. An additional 12,500 have been provided at low cost to citizens, neighborhood associations, community groups, schools, etc. for landscaping. In total, Mr. Hatcher is directly and personally responsible for the successful planting of at least 40-thousand trees in the Spartanburg community in the past 8 years.

Mr. Hatcher continues to serve on the City-County Beautification Committee where he was chairman for a number of years.

He has for many years been the driving force behind the county-wide litter and trash pick-up program. One year, as chairman, he arranged employment of a dozen underprivileged youths to not only collect litter, but to analyze it in a scientific manner for valuable statistics on its origin.

He has been a prime mover and organizer in Spartanburg County's participation in the state competition called the Governor's Award for Community Improvement and Beautification through which we have been honored as a winner the past six years.

Mr. Hatcher's creativity, imagination and determination for getting the job done efficiently is demonstrated by his initiating the successful use of Community Service Personnel (persons convicted of DUI, etc.) as supplementary labor in many of his tree-planting projects and clean-up projects.

He serves on the Spartanburg City Tree Board which has broad responsibility for protection and enhancing of trees in the city. Also, he has had many personal activities pertaining to the Tree City Award which Spartanburg has been awarded six times, commencing when he was chairman of the City Beautification Committee. Indeed, we would not have received these recognitions had it not been for Harold Hatcher's activity.

In addition to his example of horticultural stewardship, Mr. Hatcher initiated a community-wide oil reclamation program in 1984 which has been conducted successfully with the Spartanburg City Fire Department.

Of major importance is his and Mrs. Hatcher's leadership in founding and nurturing the County's Nature Science Center. He has served as both Director and as Treasurer. This organization has been and will continue to be a recipient and user of Hatcher Park.

He is an active member of the local Unitarian Church.

Prior to his retirement (can this be called retirement??) 14 years ago, he directed the Piedmont Community Action program in Spartanburg where he was a professional in helping people.

Now, as a volunteer, he has set the highest example of dogged giving of one's self to the community since the late beloved W. O. Ezell. Mr. Hatcher's stamina, ambition, foresight and vision will be seen, felt and realized in the quality of life in Spartanburg for years to come.

Thank you, Harold O. Hatcher!

Appendix 6

**MGC Folder “Tree Planting Procedure”**

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*



**TREE PLANTING PROCEDURE**

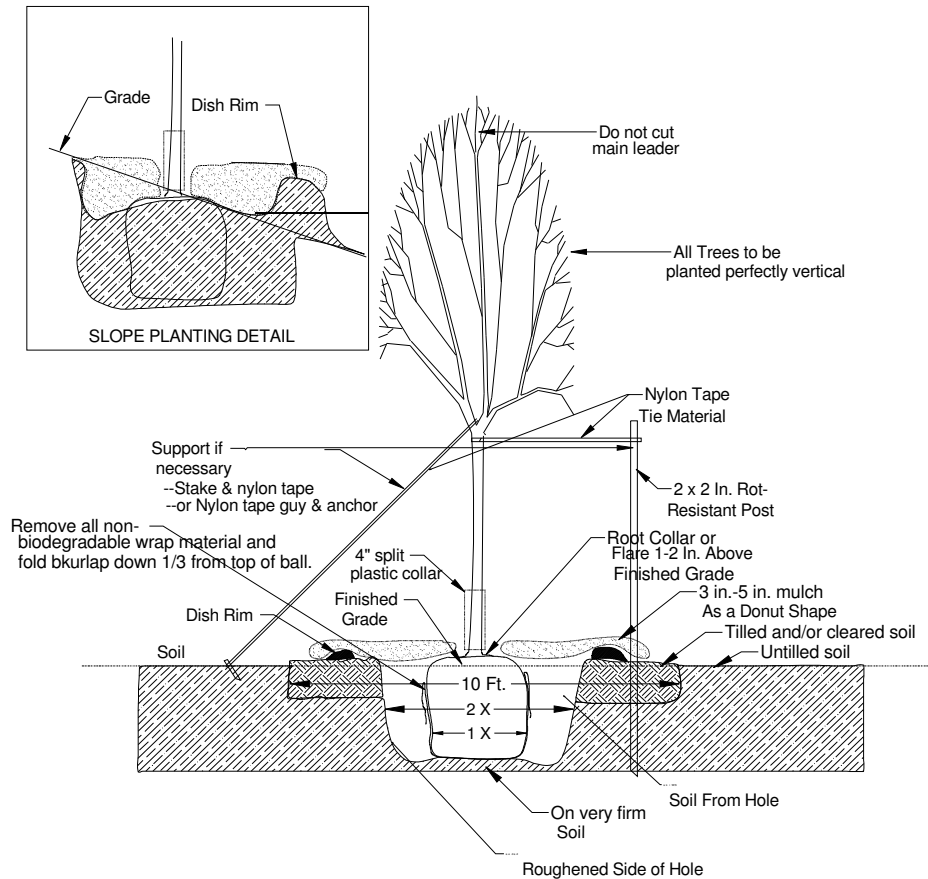
*Trees are important! If they aren't properly planted, they may die; they certainly won't prosper. This procedure is based on the best currently available professional advice.*

1. Planting Period is between Nov. 21 and Feb. 1, unless special provisions are made for watering and protection.
2. Pre-Watering. Before moving plant material to the planting area, make sure it is well hydrated.
3. Nutrients (optional). Normally withhold until tree is established. *Use no nitrogen at planting.*
4. Clear an area of weeds and brush in a 10 ft. area around planting site.
5. Till (optional) a 6-8 ft. diameter area around the planting location, 6 inches deep--unless this tilling will damage nearby plants. Modify till area as necessary to avoid damage. Rake the area level.
6. Locate Root Flare. Before digging the planting hole, **locate the top of root flare** carefully as follows...
7. B&B Plant--Loosen tie material from around the trunk, and turn down wrap material if necessary (avoid breaking root ball).
8. Container Plant--Remove the root ball from the container if necessary for examination.
9. Carefully remove soil from the top of the root ball to locate the root flare or root collar. (The root flare or collar is where the large roots join the wide part of the bottom of the trunk.). Remove soil so the root flare is exposed and visible--*it must not be covered.*
10. Interior Circling or Girdling Roots. Check carefully at and under the root flare and close to the trunk for indication of circling/girdling roots. Cut these circling roots, or *reject the plant.*
11. Measure the new depth of the root ball from the exposed root flare (Par. 4, above) to the bottom of the root ball. This dimension is necessary to know how deep to dig the planting hole. If this dimension is significantly less than the original root ball depth (i.e., it may be a smaller root ball), the root system may be insufficient--*consider rejecting the plant.*
12. Dig the planting hole depth to the new dimension of the root ball (*shallow*) so the root ball will sit in it with the **root flare 1 or 2 inches above the finished grade**. Dig the hole with *sloping sides* and at least *twice as wide* as the ball. *Roughen the sides* of the hole.
13. Roughen and taper augured hole sides before planting
14. Check depth. If the planting hole is too deep, back fill and pack the bottom *very firm* to assure proper depth.
15. Container Grown Plant--
16. Remove the root ball from its container.
17. Circling roots. Make 3 cuts 1-2 inches deep down the side of the root ball through the surface roots.
18. Bottom roots. Make 2 cuts 1-2 inches deep across the bottom of the root ball through the surface roots.
19. Protect roots from drying out. Do *not* allow roots to be exposed to drying conditions. Keep root ball moist and minimize sun exposure.
20. Set the root ball in the hole in proper upright position.
21. Check planting depth and if too deep (Par. 7, above), stabilize root ball to avoid breaking, lift and adjust as necessary. Assure root ball rests on undisturbed or very firmly packed soil.
22. Back fill 1/2 the hole. Use native excavated soil (normally *not amended* with humus unless it is of unusually poor quality) and work soil around the root ball carefully to eliminate voids or air pockets.

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23. Remove all straps, cord, wire, wrap, etc. from the top half of the root ball. Assure there are no restraints around the trunk.
24. Turn burlap wrap (biodegradable) fabric down to side of ball so it will be completely buried.
25. Remove any synthetic wrap (non-biodegradable) fabric completely. Handle the root ball carefully to not break it.
26. Check root flare location again. Remove any soil above the root flare carefully and check to make sure the root flare is 1 or 2 inches above the surrounding soil elevation. Correct the planting depth if necessary.
27. Complete backfilling and firm with moderate foot pressure. **Do not fill above root flare.**
28. Water retention ring. Rake the top of the backfill soil to form a raised ring of soil outside of the edge of the planting hole and 2 to 3 inches high. Make sure this ring is level so that it will hold water.
29. Water thoroughly (desirable, but optional depending on weather and season). Do not damage water retention ring.
30. Protective Collar. Place a 12 in. long 4 in. diameter slit plastic collar around base of tree.
31. Mulching. Add 6-foot diameter, 3-5 inches (not more) thick of hardwood chip or bark mulch inside and outside the water retention ring. Keep mulch 6 inches *away from trunk* ("donut" shape). Where tree is adjacent to fence, add mulch to fence as a sweeping line to make grass mowing efficient.
32. Tree Supports (avoid if possible). If truly necessary, install guys *or* stakes immediately after planting. Exercise care to avoid injury to trunk or crotches. Remove after first year.
  - A. Guying--Attach 3 nylon tape guys to the tree 6-8 ft. above ground. Attach guys firmly to 3 stakes located around tree to form a 45° angle with the ground.
  - B. Staking--Drive approximately 8-ft. long stakes 2 ft. deep into firm soil outside of the planting hole. Secure the tree to these stakes with nylon tape.
23. Destroy the water ring after the third year (pull away from trunk and use care to not fill soil over root flare). Correct mulching as necessary.

8-15-06, ehp



Pittman Gardens, 8-15-06

Appendix 7

**Additional “Minor” MGC Tree-Related Projects**

In addition to the Club’s “major” tree planting projects described in Chapter 5, there are many other “minor” landscape enhancements of value to the community, and possibly of historical significance.

This group includes these projects:

- US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.
- Trees Spartanburg.
- Professional Pruning – E. Main and North Pine.
- Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape
- Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping
- Tree Planting Bi-Fold
- Crape Myrtle Maintenance and Brochure
- Landscaping of the Georgia Cleveland House (now the St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic on Dean Street in mid 80s
- Landscape enhancement of Glen Park
- Treescaping of the New Day Clubhouse near Asheville Highway in the 90s.
- Landscaping of T.O.T.A.L. Ministries on S. Pine Street and the Safe Home in the 90s.

Many of these are briefly described below:

**US-29 Treescape, South to Wellford.** The Club was an encourager and members were consultants to Sally Peak, Wellford’s Mayor, as she began promoting landscaping the six-mile-long medians on US-29 toward Greenville. Mayor Peak had identified the location of potential planting sites and requested help in plant selection and other details Jack Turner, George Gunter and Henry Pittman developed a list of 29 suggested suitable trees—small, medium, and large growing—and they and other SMGC members met with Peak in 1999 for encouragement and a discussion of procedure and maintenance.

The project was financed with Federal TEA-21 and the City of Wellford funds. Spartanburg City engineer Mike Garrett developed the final detailed plans and worked with Wellford officials on the implementation. Turner continued as prime consultant to Peak and Garrett through installation in 2000. This median treescape is a significant enhancement to that part of Spartanburg County.

**Trees Spartanburg.** For a number of years in the 1990s when hardware store owner Co Irwin was its chairman, the PRIDE Task Force discussed how an expansion of, or complement to, the Men’s Garden Club’s tree planting program might be created to enhance Spartanburg even more. PRIDE members including Tracy Hannah, Julie Lowry, Hans Balmer and Henry Pittman joined Irwin in strongly endorsing and supporting the new exploration. PRIDE had developed great respect for the extensive treescaping done by Trees Atlanta under

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the leadership of Marsha Bansley who was also a consultant to Mr. Milliken's Noble Tree Foundation.

Following the success of Atlanta's "Trees Atlanta," Irwin was successful in putting the new organization named "Trees Spartanburg" together as a functioning group with new ties to SPACE (the Spartanburg Conservation Endowment) in 1998. Gary Henderson's newspaper article of July, 1998, praised the new program and its planned Willow Oak plantings on the new library grounds.

The first large project of Trees Spartanburg was the planting of rows of Willow Oaks on the shoulders of the entry and exit ramps of all four clover-leaves of the I-26 highway at US-29 (West Main Street) in 1999. With Club encouragement, Pittman worked with Irwin in creating the design for the project which was similar to the Club's 1989 treescape of East Main Street. The row of European Hornbeams on the shoulder by the warehouse at the corner of Union and Kennedy Streets was another early TS project

Many other successful street tree plantings were completed by Trees Spartanburg, most with cooperation and help from the City of Spartanburg, but many were planted by local volunteers. But, unfortunately, the trees organization was not a good fit with SPACE and the partnership was terminated in the early decade.

**Professional Tree Pruning.** Without the financial underwriting of Mr. Roger Milliken and the W. O. Ezell Beautification Fund at the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Club would not have been able to organize and manage the professional pruning of its 1989 Willow Oaks on E. Main Street or its 1986 Red Sunset Maples by the professional arborist, John Martin in 1998-1999.

**Reidville Road (SC-296) Treescape.** The influence of the Men's Garden Club was strong in the minor treescaping of Reidville Road (SC-296) from Anderson Mill Road, west to SC-290 in 2000. This road was being widened and the SPATS Road Enhancement Committee wanted it treescaped as Southport Road (SC-295) had been done earlier. But SCDOT wanted trees to be secondary to bridge enhancements.

With Club help and encouragement, Bill Lonon of the County and Pittman developed a plan which was executed in 2004 with some 100 shoulder trees. Not heavily planted with trees, the beauty of this highway was improved considerably by this project and input by the Men's Garden Club.

**Coalition to Encourage Wal-Mart Landscaping.** During the summer of 2000, the Club took the leadership in organizing an *ad hoc* coalition to work with the City and Wal-Mart's management, and its landscape architect, to insure the company's new proposed East-Side store would be properly landscaped and existing trees would be saved. The location is at the site of the community's oldest and largest plant nursery—the former Spartanburg Nursery and Landscape. The coalition consisted of representatives of the Garden Council, SPACE, Trees Spartanburg, PRIDE Task Force and the SMGC. While the grading and destruction of existing trees was extensive, the coalition's objectives were generally met and many trees were saved—particularly the specimen Dawn Redwood trees which Kevin Parris championed. Wal-Mart agreed to a significantly improved building facade and followed the City's requirement for parking lot shade trees. This is a rare example of early and constructive "preventive action" that would not have occurred without the early action of the Club.

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**Tree Planting Tri-Fold.** During 2000, another Club “tree enhancement” was accomplished. Pittman created the Club’s “Tree Planting Procedure” tri-fold. He sent a draft copy to five of the leading local nurserymen with the request, “. . . you would be a great help to this project if you would review the attached draft procedure and drawing, mark errors or modifications clearly and fax it back to me in a few days. Among the problems we have documented at some 18 rather recent tree planting sites are Planting too deep (root flare many inches below soil and/or below existing grade), Excess mulch over root ball area and around trunk, Circling roots, Improper removal of burlap/jute, and No removal of non-Biodegradable wrap, cord, tape, etc.”

All responses to the above were positive. The Club first distributed the tri-fold broadly at the fall plant sale 2000, and it continues to be widely used. The brochure is currently available on the Club’s website.

**Crape Myrtle Maintenance and Brochure.** In addition to planting trees, the Club has been diligent in educating not only members, but **also** the public about proper planting, pruning, and maintenance of trees. And for many years, pruning of Crape Myrtle trees has been a particularly active topic with the Club. It is unfortunate, but true, that severe cutting back of these great and important small-growing trees of the southern landscape has been an “old southern custom.” But it is wrong and a bad thing to do for both the aesthetics of these trees and their health. A number of years ago, Southern Living magazine created the descriptive name “CREPE MURDER” (yes, they spell it with an ‘e’) for the multiple forms of bad pruning—flat topping, hat racking, and other forms of large limb and trunk severing. This is often done to enhance flowering (or to force it to become a shrub or small tree), but it has limited success in that, and it ruins the form and shape of the tree forever. The appearance might not be so objectionable during the summer when foliage hides the grotesque form and masks the “pom-pom effect” from the multitude of suckers which grow around the large cut limbs or trunks, but the “murdered” tree is ugly for the remaining seven months of the year.

In spite of the many letters-to-the-editor, Master Gardener courses, and MGC promotions, it appeared the Club was losing the battle, so in March 2004, the club embarked on a rather massive “Save the Crape Myrtle” program. This involved a media education program with the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*, WSPA-TV Channel 7, and more letters-to-the-editor.

A special highlight of the program was a Life Section front page story in the April 21 *Herald-Journal* with a strong write-up containing many local examples of bad pruning (called “Crape Murder”) and strong advice on good maintenance practices. Another highlight was a noon special on WSPA-TV on March 31 of that year.

But the main feature of the 2004 “Save the Crape Myrtle” program was the community crape myrtle maintenance clinic held in October at Spartanburg Technical College (now named Spartanburg Community College). This seminar or clinic was developed in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Milliken’s Noble Tree Foundation. The Chamber promoted the seminar and encouraged its members to insist that their landscape maintenance people attend. Most of the approximately 50 persons in attendance were landscapers (professional or home) along with Spartanburg Community College students and faculty. Milliken’s primary contribution was to encourage Dr. Bruce Fraedrich, noted horticulturist/arborist with Bartlet Tree Experts in Charlotte as the key speaker, a strong proponent of proper maintenance.

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Lyn Murajda with help from Milliken's Stewart Winslow and Henry Pittman created "Crape Myrtles: Four Seasons of Beauty," a six-page color brochure on selection and maintenance for this 2004 clinic. Seventeen of the community's leading landscape designers, maintenance companies, horticulture educators, garden writers, retail and wholesale outlets officially endorsed the contents and advice in the brochure. A thousand copies were printed pro-bono by Keys Printing Company as a courtesy to the SMGC. It was a key hand-out at the clinic and continues to be distributed broadly by the Club, in print form and electronically from the Club's website [www.dirtdaubers.org](http://www.dirtdaubers.org).

The Crape Myrtle Brochure was so popular and the SMGC's program so impressive that Steve Bender, Senior Garden Editor of *Southern Living* magazine featured it in a three-page article entitled "Stop! Don't Chop!" in the February 2005 issue. The article's theme was a picture story of Winslow giving new life to a previously mutilated Spartanburg Crape Myrtle by careful pruning to remove the unattractive multiple suckers and encouraging more natural future growth. The magazine installed the Club's brochure on its website for download by readers. Club members have received many dozens of telephone calls and Emails from readers across the south seeking copies of the brochure and advice on Crape Myrtle selection and maintenance.

Noted Spartanburg garden columnist, Linda Cobb, discussed the article in her bi-weekly column, a part of which is shown below.

For many years, people have spent time each spring sawing off all of the limbs of the crape myrtle flowering tree leaving a single stump about 3- to 4-feet tall. The goal was to have a tight, almost topiary shape to the tree.

In retrospect, we know that using this severe pruning method has several flaws. First and foremost, this tree is meant to be a tree, not a shrub. If you want a shrub, then plant one of the Petite Series that grows to only 12 feet or less. Secondly, it makes the branches weak and breakable. The beautiful mottled bark of the crape myrtle will never emerge. The bark of the crape myrtle is one of its best features, next to the superb flowers.

Local horticulturalist Stewart Winslow is shown in the article pruning the crape myrtle properly. Stewart advises pruning in late winter, such as February; to remove suckers at the base of the tree, and as the tree grows, gradually removing all side branches from the main trunk up to about 5 feet. He advises removing unwanted branches before they get thicker than a pencil. And the old seed heads can be cut off, but it is not necessary.

Winslow, head horticulturalist for the Milliken Arboretum, thinks it is great that the magazine has noticed something that has bothered a lot of tree people for many years.

"The crape myrtle is such a stable tree that we use a lot in the South," Winslow said, because it offers such a wide range of bloom colors and sizes.

He said the first crape myrtle was planted in Charleston at Middleton Place in the 1700s and is still alive, making it hundreds of years old.

The Southern Living article said it is not too late to start pruning the right way. If you have already "crape murdered" your trees for the coming season, you still have time to rectify the situation. You can cut the plant to the ground.

Next winter, select three to five trunks and cut off any others at the ground. If you nurse those trunks through the next growing season, you will be on your way to recovery. The crape myrtle is meant to be a tree, so let it do its thing.

Linda Tiller McHam, president of the Men's Garden Club, said the article is great publicity for the club and, most importantly, for the trees.

"Henry Pittman has been involved for years in caring for trees," she said. "This is a continuation of his interest in using trees and shrubs to enhance the quality of life in our community."

Linda Cobb is a master gardener who lectures, teaches and designs garden in South Carolina



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Letters-to-the-editor of the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* by Club members discouraging “Crape Murder” have been published many times. The most recent was one by Club President Ed Wilde published in early 2009. Educational activity to “Save the Crape Myrtle” continues, even though sometime it appears to be a losing battle.

Appendix 8

**Convention Newsletter Article “Enhancing The Enhancements”, 2006**

This was the feature article in the April 20, 2006, edition of the first day’s copy of this daily newsletter, *The ETE Express*, which the club printed for the 2006 National Convention of TGOA/MGCA. Jeff Hayes was the Editor. It gives a broad view of the many organizations and individuals active in community beautification.

**Enhancing the Enhancements...**

*We share this information with our TGOA/MGCA visitors in hopes there may be some ideas that you can take home to “enhance your enhancements.”*

Spartanburg’s “vision” for enhancements was shaped in the 50s and 60s by Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club member W. O. Ezell. “Mr. W.O.” was not only an early member of the Club, but was a national director of the Men’s Garden Clubs of America. In retirement, he worked diligently on behalf of our MGC to make Spartanburg “The City of Flowers.”

Mr. Roger Milliken, in an entirely different fashion by word, deed and vision has set a landscape standard that many businesses, organizations and individuals have striven to emulate. Every community should have a “Mr. Milliken!”

And MGC member Harold Hatcher demonstrated not only how community beautification should be done, but created, by the sweat of his brow, our great community garden, Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve.

Our community continues on a roll! Why? Who is responsible? Who are the current players in “Enhancing the Enhancements” of Spartanburg? *They are individuals, companies, organizations of many types and City and County leaders — sponsors of great public/private initiatives!* Here are a few of them...



**PRIDE Task Force:** This informal organization has for some dozen years made a practice of spontaneously thanking organizations who were doing a good job of beautification, litter control, etc.—and also occasionally rapping knuckles of those who weren’t performing up to standard. A number of organizations have grown out of PRIDE.

**Spot of PRIDE:** Some 100 potential “garden spots” have been identified in the community, some on street shoulders, triangles, etc, and some in existing or future street medians. To date more than 50 have been sponsored privately and constructed — A rigorous procedure. The City has designed most of the SOPs, but Sponsors pay *up-front for both initial professional installation of the garden, and for 3 years of professional maintenance.* The Spartanburg County Foundation (a 501(c)3 community trust) handles the contributions and expenditures. Hans Balmer has championed this program with great enthusiasm

**Downtown Hanging Baskets:** PRIDE initiated this program, which cooperatively with the City and business leaders, provides and maintains these enhancements

**Trees Spartanburg:** Now a part of the SPACE conservancy organization, it is another outgrowth of PRIDE. Managed by local businessman, Co Irwin, PRIDE has planted hundreds of street trees, many cooperatively with the City.

**Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve:** Shortly after moving to Spartanburg in 1969 and joining the Men’s Garden Club, Harold Hatcher began salvaging 10 acres of weed-infested, wooded gully behind his house and, primarily through personal labor, turned it into a beautiful community garden. He and Mrs. Hatcher donated the Garden to the Spartanburg County Foundation in 1997.

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Continually improved by the current Trustees and with years of support by the MGC, it is a jewel for our community. You will spend time there on Friday.

**Our Colleges:** Wofford College, University of South Carolina-Upstate, Converse College, Spartanburg Methodist College and Spartanburg Technical College have all been exemplary in their landscape enhancements. Wofford, USC-Upstate and Spartanburg Tech now have arboretums, in addition to Hatcher Garden and the Milliken Research property.

**Our Hospitals:** Spartanburg Regional Medical Center and Mary Black Hospital have set high standards for beautification.

**Committee of 100:** The 100 anonymous members of this group reportedly contribute \$1,000 annually toward local beautification. Its specialty has been water features and many new landscaped fountains are now in existence, plus other significant enhancements which you will see.

**Graffiti Group:** A younger group of citizens has created a private enhancement fund and has specialized in landscaping railroad underpasses along city streets. You will see many of these on tour.

**Master Gardeners:** Sponsored by Clemson University Extension, but managed by an enthusiastic group headed by Joe Maple, this organization has taught the strenuous course to hundreds of local adults who are now not only better gardeners, but also continue to be great sources of community improvements.

**City Renaissance:** The City, in cooperation with private initiative, is responsible for the new downtown Marriott and the magnificent landscaping that will soon surround it.

**City Enhancements:** In addition to the Renaissance project, the City has aggressively emphasized and implemented community beautification. Hundreds of street trees have been planted during the past few years and Spartanburg has just completed the landscape make-over of our downtown Morgan Square, which you will see.

**SPATS Road Enhancements:** Federal TEA21 funds are allocated to this local county group by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are annually allocated to public and private groups for “transportation-related” enhancements in Spartanburg County.

**Barnet Park/Zimmerli Amphitheater:** This beautiful park is a venture financed privately by Mayor Bill Barnet’s foundation and the City. The outstanding amphitheater was contributed by local retired businessman Kurt Zimmerli. You’ll see both of these great assets.

**Cultural Center:** Private contributions have made this \$38-million work-in-progress, adjacent to Renaissance Park, possible.

**Spartanburg County Library:** This quality landscaping was contributed by local businessman Kurt Zimmerli while the Flag Pole and adjacent garden was a \$10,000 contribution from the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club

**Milliken Arboretum, Guest House and Landscape:** National headquarters for this private textile and chemical company, it has set the highest standard for quality landscaping for the past 40 years. The influence of noted landscape architect, Rick Webel, and nationally-known tree expert, Dr. Mike Dirr, is highly evident. You will tour these grounds on Friday — and get to meet Dr. Dirr during the convention.

**Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP):** Largely due to the leadership and vision of Mr. Milliken, this is said to be one of the most beautiful airports in the country—surely the only one whose terminal’s most valuable plane-parking-area is occupied by a water and sculpture garden. Please spend some time there if possible.

**Noble Tree Foundation:** An initiative by Mr. Milliken, this group by deed and by encouragement is emphasizing the importance of those large, beautiful, magnificent trees like White Oak, Hickory, Dawn Redwood, Southern Magnolia, etc. to be planted more generously. His influence on the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, the colleges and community as a whole has been enormous.

**Converse Heights 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Treescaping:** This historic residential community is completing a \$300,000 privately financed planting of street trees that will insure the presence of magnificent “noble trees” for generations. The Noble Tree Foundation was a contributor. You will tour some of this project.

**Garden Council:** This coordinating group and the many women’s garden clubs in Spartanburg have set high examples for support financially and by personal labor for the community, through Hatcher Garden, the Spot of Pride project and particularly in sponsoring and managing the annual House of Flowers at the county fair.

And last, but not least...

## Appendix

**Spartanburg Men's Garden Club:** In addition to our monthly educational meetings, our 190 men and women members stand proud of the accomplishments of our club. They include –

- Continued strong support of the late Harold Hatcher's initiative; we have contributed more than \$54,000 to numerous capital projects plus \$3,000/year for the operating budget of Hatcher Garden over the past number of years. A permanent stone memorial is currently being sculptured for his memory.
- More than 2,200 street and highway trees have been planted since 1976. These projects include the just-completed 360-tree landscaping of US-221 south of Spartanburg toward I-26, plus trees on East Main Street, North and South Pine Street, I-26/US-176, and I-26/West Main Street.
- We continue to provide volunteer labor for pruning and other maintenance of these trees.
- For 35 years we have conducted "Adopt a Highway" litter pick up on North Pine Street multiple times per year.
- We continue to plant and maintain a number of garden spots in the City, one of which is the Flag Garden at the new County Library (we contributed \$10,000 for its construction), and also the Sherrill Garden on East Main and our Spot of Pride Ezell garden on West Main Street
- A strong supporter and participant in the Spot of Pride project, with the City we provided a \$12,000 sponsorship of the beautiful Spot of Pride on West Main in which the W. O. Ezell Memorial Monument is located.
- For 27 years we have conducted Annual Plant Sales to encourage both home and community landscape enhancement. This is the primary source of income for the Club's community beautification. It is conducted cooperatively with Hatcher Garden at the garden.
- We regularly contribute and install plants at Habitat for Humanity locations as well as at other locations in the community.
- For 37 years we have conducted our Annual Landscape Evaluation cooperatively with the Chamber of Commerce to recognize and encourage better corporate and business landscaping
- Our "Save the Crape Myrtle" project continues with broad community support. A clinic (sponsored cooperatively with Chamber of Commerce with support from Noble Tree Foundation) was conducted by Dr. Bruce Fraedrich of Bartlett Tree Research in Charlotte. A 6-page color brochure on selection and maintenance has been developed and widely distributed.
- Under the leadership of Newt Hardie, a new Kudzu Control Coalition has been organized and is demonstrating in many areas that this dangerous invasive plant can be controlled, even without chemicals
- And the highlight of 2006 is our ability to host our National Convention and bring some 200 gardeners to our small city from across the country!

BUT the things the MGC has done are small compared to the tremendous improvements that have been made—and are being made in Spartanburg beautification by so many

...We applaud the individual and business spirit that has helped make all this happen!

***What tremendous examples of Public/Private initiative!!!***

Henry Pittman — *Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

Appendix 9

**Birmingham Article “Spartanburg Boasts of MGC”. 1973**

This article appeared in *The Birmingham News* in 1973. Birmingham’s interest in this activity in Spartanburg was probably because Joyce Ezell Kidd (Mrs. Benny Kidd, III) is a citizen of Birmingham and also a native of Spartanburg, a daughter of the famed W. O. Ezell of the article.

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**Spartanburg boasts of Men's Garden Club**

Nov. 14, 1973 *The Birmingham News*

BY ELMA BELL News staff writer

DON'T LAUGH at the idea of a men's garden club until you have been to Spartanburg, S. C. What visitors see there sends them home determined to get a men's garden club started in their city.

“We get credit for a lot of things we don't really do,” Henry Pittman, president of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, modestly says. However, he admits the club is the catalyst that causes a lot of good things to be done.

The driving force behind the garden club is W. O. Ezell—a little man with white hair and twinkling blue eyes. “He towers over all of us,” Pittman says. “His great ability to work with people lies in the fact that he may do 99 per cent of the work, but he likes to give credit for it to the people who do the other one per cent.”

Ezell became the unpaid city beautification director a number of years ago. He had no official status, but he had statue and willingness and he wasn't just a director—he was a gardener also. When the townspeople saw the changes in their city—streets free of litter, highways beautified, pocket gardens where a field of weeds had been—they began to refer to Ezell as “Mr. Beautiful.”

“It's a term of endearment,” Pittman says. “Everyone loves Mr. W. O.”

This is evident when you enter the city on the highway that joins Spartanburg and Greenville, S. C., and realize you are on W. O. Ezell Boulevard. “It used to be West Main, but the Spartanburg Lions Club, the Men's Garden Club and a lot of other clubs joined in having it renamed as a living tribute to Mr. W. O.,” Pittman explains.

Now retired, Ezell came to Spartanburg in 1912 and was in the wholesale drug business. One of his daughters is Mrs. B. E. Kidd III of Birmingham.

James E. King, a member of the board of directors of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, joined Pittman in outlining the club's work.

“WE HAVE three -kinds of members,” Pittman explained. “A great many men pay dues and never come to meetings. They want their names on the roll and they want to back the work the club does. We don't complain about this group ...they are very valuable. They add clout.

“Then we have men who come to the monthly meetings to hear the horticulture oriented programs given by authorities, and third, we have the hard-core working group of members. It is a relatively small, dedicated group that really keeps the program going. Each group is important . . . there is a place for everyone and each group gives something.”

In an effort to bring together all groups interested in beautification, the city formed Piedmont

## Appendix

Beautification, Inc. A coordinator is appointed by the mayor of Spartanburg.

“This eliminates overlapping. The chairman of the Woman’s Garden Club Council and a representative from the Men’s Garden Club and all other interested groups attend.”

Projects carried out by the Men’s Garden Club include an annual industrial landscape rating and awards program.

“It is sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce,” King said. “Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, about 150 large businesses, professional buildings and government buildings are surveyed by club members. Their grounds are rated—good, bad, medium— and suggestions are made on what can be done to improve them.”

“The awards have become highly coveted citations,” Pittman added. “They are always hung in a very prominent place by the firms that receive them. This is an example of being a catalyst . . . we don’t do the actual work here, but we like to think we inspire it being done.”

The club sponsors an annual community garden course open to the public for a very small fee. It is a two-hour course, one night a week for four or five weeks.

“The course has become very popular. We lean heavily on Clemson University, local county agents and our own members who are authorities to teach the course,” Pittman says.

Booklets published by the Men’s Garden Club of America and the Soil Conservation Society of America to give young people a better understanding of environmental problems and programs are provided for 48,000 high school pupils in Spartanburg County by the club. The booklets are paid for by ads sold to local businesses. Mr. Ezell sold enough to pay for 101,000 booklets, more than half of the total sold by the membership of the national organization in the year.

CLUB MEMBERS work individually and collectively on beautification. Duncan Park, 50 acres of city-owned property, has become an area of rolling lawns dotted with flower beds and trees due to beautification initiated by the club.

William J. Neisel of Hendersonville, N. C., a director of Men’s Garden Clubs of America, describes the work done by the Spartanburg club as terrific. The national organization puts out a little card that reads, “Give us your tired, your tense, your up-tight executives. We will put the spring back in their step, the light in their eyes, the tone in their muscles, the charm in their smiles and the dynamism in their personalities.”

To which Ezell adds, “It is the most rewarding hobby of anything you can find. It helps children, it makes your city beautiful and people do seem to appreciate it. When I had my shoulder operated on, 1,605 people sent me get well folders.

## Appendix 10

### **Tribute to Hans Balmer's "Spot of Pride Program"**

This article, written by Mayor Bill Barnet, appeared in the Spartanburg Herald Journal on September 13, 2007. It is a fine and fitting tribute to this man who has worked so hard, and been so effective, in beautifying Spartanburg.

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#### **Balmer's handiwork and energy have changed the face of our community**

Published: Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*  
Thursday, September 13, 2007  
Bill Barnet, Mayor of Spartanburg.

This community is a very special place in which to live. While we can both identify our assets and recognize our challenges, we are enriched by a unique blend of thoughtful and caring people, philanthropy, faith-based initiatives and, happily, momentum.

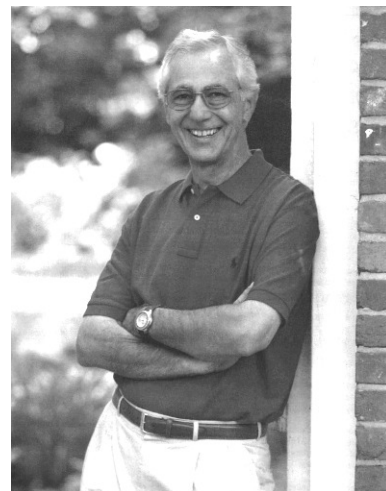
I hope my children return here to live their lives. I would bet that many of the people reading this op-ed piece would want no less. We are especially well-served by the coming together of cultures and people from many places, brought about in large part by worldwide business investment.

I also recognize that singling out an individual is somewhat dangerous, particularly for a politician. There are many great people living in Spartanburg who deserve mayoral attention and the recognition of their fellow citizens. There are men and women - be they African-American, Hispanic or Caucasian - who every day do heroic and important things for their fellow citizens.

My spirit, however, moves me to pen this brief commentary about Hans Balmer. Hans passed away this month. His handiwork and energy have changed the face of our community in a special way that each one of us can see and appreciate every day.

While there are special people who initiated the Spot of PRIDE program, Hans Balmer perfected it. What we see across the face of Spartanburg has changed the way we look at ourselves and the way those who visit us perceive our sense of pride in our shared space, our energy and our appreciation for aesthetic beauty.

Hans was not born here. Like many of us, he came here and chose to live among us for a business purpose. He created a successful business model based on providing service to both world-class suppliers of machinery products and their customers.



## Appendix

Hans Balmer cared about many things. Through his and his wife Lucia's foundation, he supported a unique set of interests, including the education of our population on our responsibility to support the Humane Society and the respect we owe our pet population.

Several years ago, Hans, as an individual, came to realize that Converse Heights was populated by trees that were planted 100 years ago and would, in due course, begin to fail. He began a movement to repopulate that part of our community with a new planting of trees. He attracted large and small donors to privately fund a vision that will advantage future generations.

That leads me to the Spot of PRIDE program. If you knew Hans, you knew that often he would come to you with a green binder full of completed, current and future Spots of PRIDE coupled with an enormous amount of detail associated with each effort. While many of us drive by these spots and see them as relatively simple physical assets, the interaction with SCDOT, the city, the private donors and so many other constituencies was really, simply put, complex. Every day he and his team, importantly including Patricia Home in his office, worked to build these spots and maintain them. He single-handedly raised the private dollars necessary to achieve this end result.

If you want to see a great representation of Hans Balmer and his vision for our shared community, drive down South Pine Street and see the most recent Spot of PRIDE that he and Lucia supported. It changed the entire experience of driving that route. Consider what Asheville Highway, north of Cleveland Park up toward Hearon Circle, might look like with that kind of attention, caring and vision.

Hans is gone now. His last wish, as any one of us might have expected, was that we would all continue to maintain and respect this huge investment in our community.

Recently, a fellow member of our community, who has been here far longer than I have, came to me. He said that when the Spot of PRIDE projects first appeared, he was frustrated and thought they were a ridiculous expenditure of time and civic resources. He told me that today he feels they may be the most important effort at "branding" our community that we have in place. He said he is now a committed supporter of Hans' vision.

I know there are many among us who have supported Hans and have given their money to make these things happen. Like everything else in our community, good things come from many individuals, some of whom get credit and some of whom are never known.

I don't know that Hans would have ever liked to have run for public office. If you like Hans' vision for the future, however, and if you support his remarkable efforts at beautification and pride, you could "vote" for Hans Balmer even though he is not with us anymore and would not know of your specific contribution. If you believe in his legacy, you can vote for him today with your dollars.

There are many great needs throughout Spartanburg, and you must choose how you would support any one of them. I am not trying to tell people how to spend their money or practice philanthropy, but if you have some cash or finally understand the true value of Hans Balmer, our community's Johnny Appleseed, you might send a contribution to the Spot of PRIDE fund at the Spartanburg County Foundation. You would be honoring a person who loved Spartanburg and did something very special for all of us and, more importantly, for our children.

We miss Hans as a friend and as a contributor to Spartanburg. We will miss his vision and his energy. We won't forget the lessons he taught us and the service to Spartanburg that his life has come to represent.

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"Hans Balmer is a unique example of the foreign influence of our community. He made a unique and lasting contribution to the makeup of Spartanburg," Barnet said. "He took up the idea of Spots of



## Appendix

PRIDE and single handedly proliferated that idea across the face of Spartanburg. This community lost a remarkable contributor and a very special citizen. And everybody in Spartanburg ought to be very thankful for the fact that he ended up in our presence.”

When Spots of PRIDE was launched by Balmer in 2000, he took an enthusiastic approach to cleaning up the city’s thoroughfares by getting local groups and businesses to sponsor a right-of-way or street median garden. Nowadays, it’s difficult to drive anywhere without running into a “spot” filled with greenery and colorful flowers.

His desire to improve the city was something longtime friend and businessman Kurt Zimmerli found most promising about Balmer 25 years ago.

“We both were in the textile machine business. We had a friendly relationship. I was like his mentor,” Zimmerli said, recalling his first impression of Balmer. “I just saw a lot of potential in him. He was a young man who was willing to make an impact, and I appreciated the work he did.”

The city of Spartanburg appreciated his work, too, Barnet said, showing that gratitude can be done each day by continuing Balmer’s dearest projects.

“Donating resources to the (Spartanburg) County Foundation - the funds that have been set up for the continuation of this Spot of PRIDE movement - and including the assurance that we maintain these items, can all be a memorial to him,” Barnet said. “He cared deeply about building (the Spots of PRIDE).

“This will be Hans’ greatest legacy.”

Appendix 11

Jess Taylor's Contributions to Hatcher Garden

Copied from the Hatcher Garden newsletter, Summer 1999

The Second Wave of Volunteers: Jess Taylor

*Director's Note: This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to those individuals and groups whose commitment and vision have made Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve what it is today. I wish that I could thank them all individually. Read on...*

The beauty of Hatcher Horticulture Garden began to attract visitors in the early 1980s. The skeleton paths had been built, and many of the woody ornamentals were in place. The original ponds had been dug, dammed, and filled. The original volunteer, Walter Soderberg (see spring 1999 newsletter), was still hard at work. It was now time to start adding the flesh and cosmetics to the garden.

"The Garden" started to draw the attention of some well-known organizations. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club was one of those organizations that began to vote money for "The Garden," and with the money came the second wave of volunteers. Some of their names were Jess Taylor, John Nevison, Dave Kennemur, Gil Hooper, Tom Bartram, Richard Look, Henry Pittman, and Charlie Burdell. Jess Taylor was one of the leaders of this group.

My interview with Jess took place at his new home on Lake Saranac. Jess sat down in his den/dining room overlooking Lake Saranac and began talking about the "Second Wave" at Hatcher Garden. As he talked I was reminded of the line from *The Night Before Christmas*, "His eyes how they twinkled." Another thing Jess has in common with Santa Claus is his giving personality. Jess is first in line to volunteer his strength and talents. He has the physique, patience, and calm demeanor of an active outdoorsman. Jess is an avid gardener and one of the leading plant

propagators in the area. His tanned and lined face topped by a shock of iron gray hair testifies to the outdoor life he has led.

Jess joined the Spartanburg Men's Garden club in 1982, became Treasurer in 1986, and served in that position until 1992. As club Treasurer and retired Lockwood Green engineer, he was in an excellent position to head up many of the building projects at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. He had the technical experience to oversee the projects and the authority to write the checks.



Jess Taylor consults with Mr. Hatcher while sitting underneath the service building he helped design and build.

The first major project that Jess was involved in was establishing a plant nursery. In the early 1980s the city allowed Hatcher Garden to use property in the Fairforest flood plain, behind the Beacon Drive-in. The city installed an irrigation system. Harold Hatcher, Jess Taylor, and volunteers from the Men's Garden Club prepared the land and planted crape myrtle, dogwood, river birch, red maple, and several other kinds of woody ornamentals in the rich black ground.

After growing, the plants were dug and bagged. Schools and other public organizations were invited to come to Hatcher Garden for free dogwood and crape myrtle plants. The remaining plants were sold at the Men's Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. Most of the proceeds were authorized by the Board of "The Club" to be used for projects at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve.

About 1992 it became evident that this program was too labor intensive,

and Jess Taylor, Dick Look, Ben DeLuca, and Winston Hardegree were appointed to a committee to solve the problem. The committee developed the container-grown program now located at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. This program continues to be the primary source of income for the Men's Garden Club. "The Club" votes money from their fund each year to sponsor one major building project at Hatcher Garden.

As one of "The Second Wave," Jess led numerous other projects at Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve. Among them were the service building that adjoins the parking lot, the observation deck, the paved walkways and parking lot, the dismantling of a brick garage at the Reidville Road entrance to make way for a larger paved entrance, the equipment building, the greenhouse, the gazebo, and the benches and tables throughout "The Garden."

As we approach the end of the century, other organizations are now supplying volunteers and money. All the factors are in place for "The Garden" to enlighten and add joy for many generations to come.

Winston Hardegree

Winston Hardegree is a retired executive, avid gardener and writer. In future newsletters, Winston will profile other early volunteers.



Jess Taylor (wearing straw hat) joins other volunteers and staff consulting with USDA Department of Natural Resources about the ponds.

Appendix 12

**Spartanburg Magazine Article "Women Are Attracted" 2005**

This article appeared in the Spring issue of *Spartanburg Magazine*.

32 Upstate Woman ♦ Spring 2005

CLUBS/Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

# Gardening

The great equalizer

By Beverly Knight  
Photography by Holly Bomar

The Men's Garden Club is not just for men anymore.

In fact, female members of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club have found gardening to be an equalizer in more ways than just gender.

"At our monthly meeting you might be sitting next to a Ph.D. or an M.D., but you wouldn't know it because everyone looks the same. They all look like gardeners," Jane Bagwell, an eight-year member of the Men's Garden Club and business manager for Carolina Surgical Specialists, said.

And it doesn't take long to figure out what holds the group's 227 members together. They love to dig in the dirt.

Bagwell feels the hands-on focus draws members of all ages and genders together the third Monday of each month.

Linda McHam, a landscape designer and secretary of the Men's Garden Club board, said that when she joined in 1991, there were "only a handful of women." Over the years that "handful" has grown, to the

**Women are attracted because of the 'get down in the dirt and dig' quality that separates most men's garden clubs from women's.**

point that this year there are almost as many women members as men, and the women get dirty right alongside their male counterparts.

According to Bagwell, some women join with their husbands, as she did with her husband Jim, but even more are singles who join because they want to be part of an organization that offers so many resources. Though her friends weren't quite sure what to think when they heard she was joining the Men's Garden Club, it's provided exactly what she needed.

"My mother was an avid gardener, so I've been interested in gardening since I was a child," Bagwell said. "My hus-

band told me he wouldn't mind helping me in the yard, but he just didn't know what to do. Now we enjoy doing it together."

The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America (TGOA/MGCA), which boasts over 4,800 members, emphasizes gardening education and community beautification. The group adopted its current name, in place of Men's Garden Club of America, to recognize the growing diversity in membership.

TGOA/MGCA past president Honey Barnekoff of Kansas echoes the idea that women are attracted because of the club's "get down in the

dirt and dig quality that separates most men's garden clubs from women's clubs." Membership has afforded Barnekoff, the first woman to hold the presidency, the opportunity not only to grow in gardening knowledge but to enjoy the "camaraderie that builds among gardeners."

Betty Ball, a Spartanburg District 5 school nurse, is a relative newcomer to both Spartanburg and the Men's Garden Club, but not a newcomer to gardening. Her parents were chiropractors, and she grew up on a farm in Ohio where the family grew both vegetables and flowers. Gardening was more than a hobby for them, she said, because the family "ate nothing but vegetables and milk from the cows."

As a hospice nurse, Ball found gardening to be therapeutic, a way to relieve the stress of her job. Then her husband died, and six years ago she relocated to the Spartanburg area to be near her older son.

A friend urged her to take



**Linda McHam, Betty Ball and Jane Bagwell dig in while repotting plants at Hatcher Gardens.**

filled the space succumbed to pine beetles, and she seized the opportunity to design a garden to reflect her feelings.

"Life, death, sun, shade all have subtle symbolism in a garden," McHam said, explaining how the recent death of her brother, Howard Tiller, brought home to her the importance of valuing life. The design incorporates that symbolism, and she's looking forward to the process that will bring her design to life, one that she expects will take years.

Though many Men's Garden Club members are Master Gardeners, McHam said, novices are embraced. "Come and try it out. There's no need to feel intimidated or out of place. If you're interested in gardening, this is the place to come."

the Master Gardener's course. She was sure she'd never make it through. But she did, and then she joined the Men's Garden Club. Now she helps with beautification projects and works in her own cottage garden. But Ball's anticipating expanding her efforts at home

when her new house near Woodruff is completed. It sits on nine acres that are just waiting to be gardened.

Expanding seems inevitable for these serious gardeners, because they're energized by physical activity. "I love doing the work myself

because it's a spiritual activity for me," McHam explained. "Of course, if I need an earth mover or stump grinder, I bring in extra help."

Currently, McHam's focus is a one and one-half acre piece of land behind her house. The pines that once

Appendix 13

Newspaper Article "Woman Takes Over the MGC" 2006

This article appeared in the Spartanburg Herald Journal on November 21, 2006

Linda McHam has spent years preparing for this new role in her life.

On Monday, Linda took over the presidency of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is a long-standing institution in Spartanburg started in the 1950s by W. O. Ezell and a few civic-minded men dedicated to making Spartanburg a better place to live. Almost 60 years later, the organization has 190 individual and corporate numbers, of which almost half are women. The term "men's garden club" originated in the '60s and has stuck even though the club is made up of both men and women.

But what qualifies McHam to assume the job as president? She comes from a long line of gardeners, three generations to be exact.

From the beginning

Linda's maternal grandfather owned Albemarle Greenhouses, just outside of Charlotte, N.C., which Linda spent her time there as a child. Her paternal grandfather owned an agricultural chemical plant called Southern Ag in Kingtree. And there was Linda's maternal grandfather, who was crazy about wildflowers and taught she was in high school. Linda to identify many by the time she was in high school. McHam's parents, Martha and Wendell Tiller, both took the master gardener course and are active participants today.

Linda, the oldest of five children, spent her time riding on horseback from the east side of town to Duncan Park. Being outdoors, hearing the sound of the horses and discovering different types of wildflowers made her appreciate nature and all that it has to offer.

"Trees see the big picture. They are here so much longer than we are. Their roots bind into the earth while their leaves reach up to heaven. They are so strong and silent. These are the qualities that I admire in life," she said.

A passion for plants

Linda and her husband, Gary, have lived on Andrews Farm Road since 1987. They have planted many more trees than they have cut down on the property. Linda is the proud owner of an Acer rubrum red maple that Mike Dirr is interested in. He has taken cuttings and has sent them to Schmidt Nurseries in Oregon for growing trials. This tree is special because it is a male tree (no seedlings), has wider crotch angles, making it sturdier, and the fall color is incredible. If the tree survives the growing trials, Linda will name the tree 'Howard Tiller' in honor of her brother, who died a few years ago.

Linda also organizes garden study trips through her company, Copper Beech Garden Tours. She and her husband traveled to England many years ago and she loved it so much that she wanted to take groups of people there. She will take a group of people to some of England's best gardens in May. For details on this leisurely trip, log on to her Web site at www.copper-beech.com.

A symbolic garden

The death of her brother Howard has been the impetus for many things. She has begun making her garden of Christian Symbolism. She has completed the Clemson Certificate of



LINDA COBB GARDEN CAMEOS

Woman takes over Men's Garden Club

assume the job as president? gardeners, three generations

owned Albemarle Charlotte, N.C., which Linda spent her time there as a child. Her paternal grandfather owned an agricultural chemical plant called Southern Ag in Kingtree. And there was Linda's maternal grandfather, who was crazy about wildflowers and taught she was in high school. Linda to identify many by the time she was in high school. McHam's parents, Martha and Wendell Tiller, both took the master gardener course and are active participants today. Linda, the oldest of five children, spent her time riding on horseback from the east side of town to Duncan Park. Being outdoors, hearing the sound of the horses and discovering different types of wildflowers made her appreciate nature and all that it has to offer.

## Appendix

Appreciation in Landscape Design with Mary Palmer Dargan and traveled to Italy with Penelope Hobhouse in 2003. She wants her garden to be a teaching, spiritual and recreational garden. But she said it is most important that the garden visitor come away with a better understanding of the cycle of life and how the seed of a plant must fall into fertile soil before it will grow.

Linda says you could see the whole range of human experience in the garden, from birth to death, and she wants to give you eyes to see it. There is a temple in the center of the garden with a shadow alee and a water feature. In the light alee, there are Italian Cypress, known in Italy as the eternal flame because they are evergreen and live for hundreds of years. Her garden, so far, is two years in progress and probably will take an additional five years to complete.

When Everette Lineberger, recent president of the Men's Garden Club, handed over the gavel during the meeting, Linda became the first woman president. She wants people to realize that volunteering is how things get done. The group will continue to do landscape judging in the community, with Bob Almond as chairman of that committee. Henry Pittman is Chairman of the Street Tree Projects. And the most well known projects of the Men's Garden Club are the spring and fall plant sales, with Jess Taylor in charge of plant propagation.

"It is truly a team of very capable people," she says looking to the future of the club.

*Linda Cobb is a master gardener who lectures, teaches and does garden design in South Carolina.*

**Appendix**

**Appendix 14**

**Letter of Thanks to Mr. Milliken**

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*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

January 22, 1999

Dear Mr. Milliken,

Your support of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club continues! We are particularly appreciative of your help in our project for pruning some 500 street trees we had planted over the years.

The Club thanks you for the \$2,500 from you and for the additional \$3,000 from the Romil Foundation. These funds along with some from the Spartanburg County Foundation and the W. O. Ezell Beautification Fund, plus help from Wal-Mart, have reduced the amount the Club had to add from its treasury. So we will be able to continue to seek new community beautification projects.

This tree pruning contract has been given to the low bidder, John Martin, certified arborist, of Eastern Tree Service. He will get this work underway within the next week or so. Areas include North Pine, East Main and West Main at I-26.

Our Draper Road/Isom Street tree landscape project is almost completed. We invite you to inspect our work on this important new throughway and hope you like the results.

Again, our thanks for your ongoing support of the MGC.  
Respectfully—and for a more beautiful Spartanburg,

[Henry Pittman]

PS--My Piedmont Sertoma Club will use Rick Weble's "Visions" video for our meeting February 4. We hope Stewart will be able to introduce it. Thank you for that great contribution also.

cc Mr. Jim Bagwell, MGC President,  
Mr. Tom Bartram, and Dr. Clyde Wells, MGC Committee

**Appendix**

**Appendix 15**

**Examples of Correspondence re Treescaping**

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EMAIL

MGCA Leaders (or at least those who have EMail)--

Ms. Paula Wayne, Deputy County Administrator, returned my call today to say County Council has approved \$15,000 for another "cooperative" tree planting project somewhere in the County. She was not aware of any of Council members having suggestions on location, even though I had stated in both my presentation and letter to them earlier, that their suggestions would be welcomed.

Ms. Wayne understood that this was to be a Spartanburg MGC project, as was the Drayton Road project, and that we would make the decisions, design and execute the project with the County reimbursing us for our actual out-of-pocket costs.

Let me ask for advice on the following aspects of the project.

1. Location should not be US-29/Welford area. This is a separate project already identified and under way. It will be executed by Ms. Peake's committee.
2. Location should not be the ramps at US-29 (west Main) and I-26. I am independently working with Co Irwin who will execute this project for *Trees Spartanburg*.
3. Location might be the large clover leafs at US-176 and I-26. We have talked about this for some time and it would be a good and rather easy project to design and execute. I have a design partially completed.

But this project would not be nearly large enough to spend \$15,000, so we need others also.

4. Maybe I should write Council members again, thank them and solicit their ideas and suggestions. The problem with this is "if we ask for suggestions, we may be required to follow them". I would personally prefer to report to them the locations we have selected.
5. So, we need internal recommendations. These should probably be locations outside the City.
6. I-85 Business needs trees badly
7. Clover leaf at I-85 Business and I-26 needs trees
8. US-221 (South Church St.) toward Roebuck and I-26 could probably be treescaped
9. US-29 (East Main) from the end of our current plantings at Zion Hill Road to Cowpens has been suggested by folks like Bob Almond. There are, indeed, some plantable sections for oak or crape myrtle.

New-Cut Road (north toward Campebello) has some historic value

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FAX

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

**TO:** Dr. Mike Garrett--City  
Fax 596-222

**FROM:** E. Henry Pittman

**SUBJECT:** South Pine Tree Project

**DATE:** December 8, 1997

**CC:** Lyn Savor  
Hollis Taylor  
George Gunter



## Appendix

Our MGC committee (Lyn, Hollis and I) spent Fri. AM reviewing this area, correcting my drawing, meeting with Draper reps, etc. I will have my CAD drawing brought up to date by tomorrow and will send you a copy.

Points and items for discussion with and clarification by you:

1. How many empty spots should be replanted? (My drawing shows all plus multiple new.)  
OK?
2. What variety of tree to use? (Must be small-growing--Yoshino Cherry or Dogwood, but I lean toward Kousa rather than native White Dogwood; K. would be longer lived and more reliable--- ??? I am seeking opinion of Mike Dirr and Stewart Winslow).  
Your opinion?
3. What is the best aesthetics re locating new trees? (There is no pattern now; maybe we would want to always have at least two or three of a like kind side-by-side—or use all Kousa-???)  
Your advice?
4. You agreed to prepare the shoulder south of the underpass.  
OK?
5. Draper-Textmaco is very cooperative. They will prepare the un-planted shoulder north of the underpass for our planting. Also, the truck exit there has a bad sight and safety problem, so we proposed a circular planting there with Draper paying for trees on private property.  
OK?
6. Draper wants, at their main entry, a wider space with no street trees. We think this ok in view of the great new landscaping they are doing. This would involve removing one cherry.  
OK?
7. What official approval and agreement do we need from City to initiate planting? We want to complete during Dec. (Survival next summer will be much better if planted now!)  
Can we move fast?
8. What do you need to get approved, the Encroachment Permit from DOT?  
You will expedite?
9. Hollis and I will flag all specific planting sites.  
What are location ground rules re safety, etc.?  
Do you want to approve after flagged?
10. We have arranged for the man who has planted MGC street trees for us previously to do this for \$12 each. He does a great job.  
OK?
11. Total per tree will be about \$60 - \$65 from Roger Phillips.  
OK?
12. Number of trees may be about 140 or so. Total cost will be \$8000- \$10,000.  
OK?
13. What else?  
Call me when you have had a chance to review, please

### *Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

**TO:** Ms. Lyn Savor  
Mr. Hollis Taylor  
**DATE:** December 3, 1997

**FROM:** E. Henry Pittman  
**CC:** George Gunter

**SUBJECT:** South Pine Tree Planting

Attached is my CAD layout of the area we need to look at and plan refurbishing the current street tree

## Appendix

plantings. I thought you might want to review this a little prior to our meeting Fri. morning (9:30 in front parking lot of old Library on Pine).

Roy Lane, new City Manager, is quite “tree oriented” and has suggested we find ways for the MGC (and other organizations) to work cooperatively with the City to increase beautification projects. He is particularly keen on some quick action as an example of this initiative and thinks replacing many or all of the missing trees which the city planted on the south end of S. Pine about 15 or so years ago is a great place to start. If we will organize and manage this project, the City will pay for it. Sounds like a win-win for everyone.

Current trees are a mix of Cherry and Dogwood.

I have contacted John Belue (works at Milliken) who has planted our previous 300 or 400 trees on E. Main and N. Pine and he is willing and available to do the work. His fee is, I think, \$12 per tree—I need to confirm this.

I have talked again to Roger Phillips who has supplied all our previous container-grown trees and he quotes the following--

Yoshino Cherry	7 ft, 1 ¼ in.	15 gallon \$40	B&B \$35
Wh. Dogwood “Cherokee Princess”	5 ½ ft., 1 ¼ in.	15 gallon \$40.	
Kousa Dogwood	5 ft.	\$40	
	6 ft.	\$50	

So, we can get finished job for less than \$60 each; I’ll bet a contractor would charge the City way over \$100 ea.

We need to consider and decide things like—

- How many empty spots should be replanted
- What variety of tree to use (must be small-growing, and I would think Cherry or Dogwood, but maybe Kousa rather than native White Dogwood---???)
- What is the best aesthetics re locating each variety? (There is no pattern now; maybe we would want to always have at least two or three of a like kind side-by-side---???)
- Do we ask the City or DOT to clear weed trees and bushes from areas currently not planted, but plantable?
- Do we solicit help from adjacent property owners? (I have talked to Jay Moore at Mark’s Garden World and Sherry Cook of Draper-Textmaco.)
- What feed-back and approval from the City is necessary before planting?
- When to plant? (Our experience is planting in Dec. yields much better survival than planting later.)
- How to lay-out specific planting sites? (Hollis and I can probably do this for John to plant.)
- Others???

Look forward to working with you on this. See you Fri. morning.

**Appendix**

**Appendix 16**

**MGCA CHARTER MEMBERSHIP ROLL**

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**CHARTER MEMBERSHIP ROLL**

[Circa January 1953]

We, the undersigned, all being interested in gardens, plants, shrubs, and trees, are desirous of knowing more about them. Having pride in our community, and wishing to further our horticultural knowledge and interest in our respective neighborhoods, as well as a fraternal spirit among ourselves, agree each with the other to form an organization to be known as

Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, S. C.

We agree to abide by the By-laws of this Club when formed, and to support any civic project wherein our particular talents are indicated.

In appreciation of united effort, we agree that affiliation with the

**MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**

will give us prestige; a broader field for developing friendships; benefits of wider sources of information, and a closer contact with other Men's Garden Clubs and their activities throughout North America.

To this end, we commit our President and Secretary, when elected, to make formal application for membership and affiliation in said National organization.

Name	Address
B. B. Bobo	652 Norwood St.
Luther Boswell	397 Forest Ave.
Dr. Sam Black, Jr.	197 N. Park Dr.
J. M. Culcleasure	682 Converse St.
W. H. Caban	601 Rutledge St.
R. L. Dargan	710 Palmetto St.
G. B. Eaker, Jr.	Brentwood Dr,
W. O. Ezell	674 Rutledge St.
W. Guy Gowan	459 Marion Ave.
P. D. Gilreath	115 Ponce de Leon Ave
L. E. Gibson	212 Nelson Ave.
R. L. Handell	110 Ponce de Leon Ave
Dr. Geo. D. Johnson	157 Pine St.
Charles Lea	RFD, Rt. 5
L. T. Lister	331 Mills Ave.
Geo. Ladd	479 Perrineau
Jack M. Lemmon	Lakewood Drive
Wm. M. Miller	456 S. Converse St.
M. R. Price	706 Springdale Dr.
Dr. Chas. H. Poole	Greenville Highway
Frank Powell	503 S. Converse St.
W. P. Ritch	368 Winsmith St.
Grady Stewart	Montgomery Building
Karl Seldon, Jr.	721 Palmetto St.
D. Perry Slaughter, Jr.	Greenbriar Rd.
Paul T. Tysinger	703 Springdale Dr.
R. M. Watson	Drayton, S. C.

Appendix 17

**Newspaper Article "Crape Murder" 2004**

From the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal* Wednesday, April 21, 2004

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**"Crape Murder"** The case against pernicious pruning  
*Investigators: too many copycats make criminals tough to stop.*

By SUELLEN E. DEAN, Staff Writer

**A**long Spartanburg's side-walks, in restaurant parking lots and throughout neighborhoods, a crime is being committed: "crape murder." Dozens have been killed — well, almost killed — along Main Street and all over Spartanburg County in the past few months. Chopped to stumps. Lopped off at the top.

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club has been fighting this crime for years. But they are afraid they are losing this war. The evidence of this crime, they say, is everywhere. As soon as one homeowner or landscaper does it, others seem to think they need to copy the crime.

The new ammunition is the Men's Garden Club's latest project: "Save the Crape Myrtles."

The names of most of the "murder" suspects in this article will be withheld to prevent embarrassment.

Butchered. Amputated. Dismembered. Molested. Hat-racked. Topped. These are just a few of the strong adjectives they use when examining the crime scenes. The suspects' weapon of choice: the chain saw. They cut crape myrtles back to large branches and trunks, creating disfigured trees that will develop ugly knuckles and never again be attractive trees, the gardeners report. "We don't know why we do it; we just do it because our neighbors and some professional landscapers do it," witnesses have reported to Henry Pittman, a longtime member of the Men's Garden Club and a crape myrtle savior.

"A crape myrtle is beautiful 12 months of the year," according to garden reports. "It has bright green leaves in the spring, bright red, pinkish flowers most of the summer. A crape myrtle has good fall leaf color, and has a beautiful silhouette and an attractive trunk with exfoliating bark in the winter — if it hasn't been mutilated."

While they do bloom on new wood, they create it naturally and don't need special pruning to bloom, Pittman said. "Look at the beauties at Milliken & Co.'s grounds," the former Milliken engineer said.

**There ought to be a law**

Pittman and club vice president, the Rev. Everett Lineberger, drove East Main Street recently, identifying rows of survivors and victims, including a few in the yards of area churches. "Here are examples of nice, properly maintained trees," Pittman said as he passed City Hall, headed to the east side. "If you prune them, prune them properly, cutting limbs no larger than a pencil size."

The ones in front of First Presbyterian Church have been left "unmolested," they both agreed as they passed by. But farther down the street, in front of the Village Inn, the city-owned crape myrtles appeared to have been mutilated, leaving ugly stubs.

"In Charlotte, N.C., that property owner would be fined," Pittman said, referring to Charlotte's free Ordinance that prohibits the "topping" of crape myrtles in an approved plan.

"Here's a good example of 'crape murder' coming up at Hardee's. They didn't want it to cover their sign," he said, pointing out trees cut to large, ugly stumps.

## Appendix

“Ugh — just butchered,” he said of other trees with large knuckles from previous bad pruning at the nearby BP station, banks, the Herald-Journal office, restaurants and shopping centers. They are all suspects of crape murder, said crape myrtle investigator Pittman, who has been known to write letters to the editor protesting this assault and frequently speaks to civic groups about the crime. Right now — today — the blooms on these crape myrtles will appear on weak “pom-pom” suckers on the end of the stubs.

Father down the road, the garden expert took time to brag.

Perhaps because Pittman goes to Trinity United Methodist Church in Converse Heights, the crape myrtles that he had a hand in planting have avoided mutilation. Lineberger’s former church, however, is now recovering from an assault a number of years ago. And on the east side, an unidentified Baptist church has both good and bad trees.

### Administering first aid

But these sins can be forgiven. With time. And proper pruning. In contrast, a nearby Presbyterian church has maintained their crape myrtles in top fashion.

In reality, it’s very hard to murder a crape myrtle. It is one of the toughest, most drought-resistant and finest small-growing trees for the Piedmont. Other than dangerous pruning sessions with a chainsaw, mildew and fungi are what some older varieties suffer from.

The National Arboretum, however, has recently developed a line resistant to such ailments. All have Indian names such as Natchez, Tuskegee, Acoma.

Like most trees, these don’t normally require much pruning, according to the Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club. “If you err, err in under pruning,” Pittman said of this crime.

The Men’s Garden Club and the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a seminar on crape myrtle care in the fall.

Before then, here are some tips from Pittman on saving your crape myrtles when pruning:

- Remove broken, dead or badly crossed limbs.
- Remove suckers at the base and on the trunk. (About the only weakness of crape myrtles is that they sometime tend to sucker, and if they are left unattended, the form of the tree suffers.)
- Limb up to maintain the proper and desired tree form: Most people prefer a tree with 1/3 of the height as the trunk, 2/3 as canopy.
- Spent flower heads shouldn’t be removed, they add to winter aesthetics. They cause no problems and leaving them avoids “busy work.”
- If the owner insists on other pruning, limit it to limbs no larger than pencil size to generally shape the tree to its natural form.
- Avoid significant pruning until late winter, just before leafing out. Maintain the nice natural winter shape and form as long as possible.
- Don’t be a “copycat” pruner. Don’t do it just because your neighbor or the bank down the street did it.
- Don’t prune any tree unless you know specifically why you are pruning.
- A good pruning job, like a good haircut, doesn’t look like it has just been done.
- Avoid cuts on limbs larger than pencil size — absolutely avoid limbs that are much larger.
- Cutting large limbs results in a great number of suckers to grow from the cuts producing the “pom-pom” effect — and formation of ugly knots and knobs.
- Don’t “pay your landscape maintenance person to devalue your property.”

If the crape myrtle is truly too large for the site, consider this: Move it to another site, because they are tough and hard to kill. Or cut it to the ground and trim resulting shoots the second year to 3 or 5 new trunks. Or replace it with a cultivar that matures to an acceptable size. There are crape myrtle cultivars that mature from a few feet tall to 25 feet.

Appendix

Appendix 18

Interstate 85 Bypass Summary Memorandum

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

**TO:** Hans Balmer Fax 578-7107 **DATE:** January 19, 2001  
Jeff Caton 596-3737  
Jim D'Amato 596-3018 **CC:** Doug Nash  
Jerri Green 594-5055 Stewart Winslow  
Bill Wilson  
**FROM:** Henry Pittman Bob Almond

**SUBJECT:** Enhancements Of I-85 (By-Pass) By Spartanburg Men's Garden Club and SCDOT

There seemed to be some lack of info yesterday about the landscaping on the new I-85. Let me review briefly--

In Spring 1994, while the new I-85 By-Pass was under construction, the Men's Garden Club developed a rather extensive "treescape" plan for this new highway. It included some 852 large-growing deciduous trees plus Loblolly Pines and many small-growing trees. We envisioned it having "SC Scenic Highway" potential, but billboards were already installed, even then.

Our plan was accepted by the SCDOT (Timothy Edwards, et al) in principal, but required being re-done by a registered landscape architect--Arbor Engineering in Greenville was given the contract. Arbor added significantly to the plan which finally included 2,276 trees and 3, 785 shrubs and small plants--6,055 total plants.

SCDOT financed the \$360,000 project with special ISTEAFunds which they controlled out of Columbia.

Installation was contracted by Justice General Contractors out of Fair Play and was completed in March 1996.

While many of the plantings didn't survive, the most outstanding areas on I-85 (By-Pass) are the two intersections with I-85 Bus--at the south end and the north end. Also outstanding are the interchanges at I-26, US-176 (N. Pine) and SC-9. And many trees rows (including a lot of "screening" Red Cedar) are beginning to show up well on the shoulders.

Most overpasses are planted with the "signature" design of 3 Native Red Cedar in a bed of Grey Owl Juniper.

Much of the 13 miles is poorly maintained, but it is still a significant beautician project for which we are indebted to the SCDOT.

There are good locations for "Welcome to Spartanburg via Veterans Parkway" signs and lighted American Flags at each of the Parkway entrances. This could be very effective.

Take a look and evaluate. We need to continually appraise past work to make sure we improve.

The PRIDE Task Force "Spot" project is good and we need to encourage the Noble Tree Foundation to partner in this project--yesterday's presentation by Stewart and Doug was exciting! And they are right--"trees are much more efficient to maintain than shrubs and flowers". As you know, my personal preference is TREES.

How can our Enhancement group underwrite the Spot of Pride project broadly? It needs financial help.

Regards,

Encl: Herald-Journal Article of 3-5-96, List of I-85 Bypass Plants, MGC Street / Highway Tree Planting List

## Appendix 19

### Propagation and Plant Sale Memoirs by Jess Taylor

Joining the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club in 1985, Jess Taylor has been one of its strongest leaders—and workers. Two of his many essays pertaining to the Club are reproduced below. These two particularly relate to the important propagation and sale of trees and shrubs which is a hallmark of the Club.

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#### The Plant Sale Program:

A History and Analysis by Jess Taylor

I have developed this memo to acquaint new board members with background information regarding the plant sales program. I have been involved in this program for the last 15 years and this is my recollection of the past successes and failures of the program.

MGC plant sales for the last 15 years have generated over \$100,000 in revenue for the club. In the early 1990s we were netting about \$18,000 annually from the program. Currently the figure is about \$8,000 annually. This money has been used primarily to finance the following activities.

- Plant trees on Pine Street and Main Street.
- Provide for capital improvements at Hatcher Gardens. These include, but are not limited to, the observation deck (the Garden Club Council helped fund), utility building, storage building, green house, area irrigation, parking lot paving, path paving, and the John Deere tractor.
- Buy plants for numerous flowerbeds around town. These beds were planted with summer flowering annuals in early spring.
- Cover operating expenses for the club.
- From this program we also donated plants to schools and other beneficial public organizations. Club dues, the other source of revenue, essentially all goes to support the national organization.

Antecedent programs to the current plant sales program go back a bit longer than 20 years.

Harold Hatcher and other club members began propagating white dogwood trees and crape myrtle trees in the area now occupied by Vic Bailey Ford on North Pine Street. These two items were bagged in plastic bags, as bare root plants, and sold in much the same manner as we sell our container grown plants now.

Business development on the North Pine Street site made it necessary to move the tree bank activity to another location. The City allowed the club to use the Fairforest Creek flood plain (behind the Beacon) for the tree bank. This move took place about the time I came on board. Harold Hatcher was the prime mover of the program at this time. He collected dogwood seeds from members and arranged for the State Forestry Service to grow the seeds into liner plants, which John Nevison and I would pick up at the forestry tree farm and bring to the club for re-planting at the tree bank. Harold would also lead a team of members to stick crape myrtle cuttings, which grew into saleable plants. Eventually the program was enlarged to include Bradford Pears and several other varieties of trees.

The sales at that time were mainly trees, including river birch, dogwood, red maple, Bradford pear, and crape myrtle. Our method of producing inventory for the fall tree sale was extremely labor intensive. Weeding during the summer, and digging and bagging for fall sale stretched the member's volunteering spirit to the maximum. Sometimes a dozen people would show up to work on this project and sometimes only one or two would show up.

## Appendix

Over the 5 or 6 years that this phase of the plant sales program was active Harold Hatcher was being worn down to a frazzle. It was imperative that an alternative to this method of raising money for the club be developed. Many of the old timers were also getting tired of weeding, digging and bagging, and showing up on Saturday mornings to help with the sale.

A committee consisting of John Nevison, Winston Hardegree, Dick Look, and Jess Taylor was appointed to make recommendations. This group met at Hardee's on Reidville Road some time in 1990 to map out a more practical plan to provide plants for the annual October-November plant sale.

The plan was to follow a two-track course—

- The first course was to encourage club members to propagate and raise to saleable size a variety of shrubs in their own gardens and then turn them over to the MGC for the annual sale. A dozen 4' by 8' cold frames were built and distributed to club members who wished to participate in this program to use for propagation purposes.
- The second course was to supplement this effort by buying liner plants from nurseries for growing in containers at Hatcher Gardens. Harold Hatcher ordered the liner plants and under the leadership of Winston Hardegree club members gathered on Saturdays as the seasons required to pot the liners, weed, and fertilize. Harold looked after the watering of the growing trees and shrubs.

After 2 or 3 years Steve Patton took over from Winston in bird-dogging the program and after another 2 or 3 years George Gunter took over from Steve. Now Bob Sutherland has picked up the ball and is running with it.

My analysis of the results of the container-growing program is that it has been a mixed bag of success and failure. At this time only 2 or 3 club members are propagating and growing plants for the club. The container/liner part of the program has been hindered by lack of support of club members volunteering to work, as well as by lack of proper watering of the inventory during the hot summer days.

The energy and effort expended by Winston, Steve, and George over the last 10 years, and now Bob Sutherland, has enabled the program, envisioned in 1990, to survive, but it may now be time for the club to re-examine ways and means to improve the container growing program, or to explore other sources of income, if we are to continue to be a factor in our often stated mission of helping to beautify our community.

Jess Taylor, 1-4-2000

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Jess Taylor is a skilled and experienced writer, having published dozens of papers of his personal memoirs for his family. Interesting details on the evolution of the plant propagation program are revealed in the following 2008 memoir:

### PLANT PROPAGATION

By Jess Taylor

Here are my memories of the MGC plant propagation activities that may be helpful in stitching together the history of the club

I joined the club in the late 1970s. At that time there were 25- 30 members, about 10 were active.<sup>52</sup> Harold Hatcher led the plant propagating and the plant and tree sales activities

Frank Cunningham tapped me on the shoulder to become club treasurer. I did a six-year stint and turned it over to Winston Hardegree.<sup>53</sup> During this time I was intimately involved with the plant and tree growing operation as well as the sales activities.

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<sup>52</sup> Actually, in the late 1970's the membership averaged well over 100. But workers, particularly on this propagation project, were scarce.

<sup>53</sup> Taylor served as SMGC treasurer from 1987 when Walter Soderberg was president, and under Tom Bartram's presidency until 1992 when John Fincher was president.



## Appendix

During my tenure as treasurer in the 1980's the annual plant sales netted about \$17,000. During that time period the sales funds added capital improvements to Hatcher Gardens that included building the Pavilion, green house , new tractor irrigation system, Gazebo (with Garden Club Council), parking lot, storage building, path paving observation deck ( with Garden Club Council) the John Nevison Amphitheater and new entrance to the Gardens,

I believe the original tree-growing bank was located on North Pine Street where Vic Bailey Auto Sales offices are now located. The tree bank was subsequently moved to the Fairforest Flood Plain behind the Beacon. I remember on one occasion when Linda McHam showed up with her roto-tiller on a trailer and roto-tilled the flood plain for planting treelets. At that time the plant sales were essentially dogwood trees propagated from seeds collected by club members and propagated by the State Nursery. John Nevison dedicated his pick-up truck for hauling the 2-foot specimens from the State Nursery near Columbia.

Crape Myrtles specimens were propagated from hardwood cuttings prepared by Harold Hatcher and planted in the flood plain by club members. Bradford pear and a few other tree liners were grown from plants purchased from commercial nurseries. During the growing season club members and a few DUI prisoners procured by Harold weeded the inventory.

The area of the flood plain devoted to propagating was equipped with an irrigation system paid for by the club. It used town water from a water main nearby. Mike Garrett, City Works Manager, helped the club get the system installed

The six-foot trees were dug bare root and taken to Hatcher Gardens for bagging in polyester bags with mulch. All year Harold took orders. Sales and deliveries for pick-up at the Gardens were made during the four day sales in the spring and fall sale periods.

The plant growing activities continued at the flood plain for about five years, but were abandoned by the club when DEHEC condemned the area due to flood runoff. In addition, the planting, weeding and digging were getting to be too much for the few club members who showed up on work days.

This fund raising activity was labor intensive even though Harold worked out a plan with the county to use DUI prisoners to help out. Many active club members became over worked, and Harold was beginning to run out of steam.

A committee consisting of Dick Look, John Nevison, Winston Hardegree and Jess Taylor met at Hardee's on Reidville Road to look for alternatives to the existing practices to raise club funds.

We decided to forego the bare root regime and buy liners to upgrade in containers. We also planned to expand the variety of plants and trees for sale. We worked out a handshake deal with the expanding Hatcher Garden Trustees to headquarter the container growing activity in an isolated area of the Gardens.

In addition, we built 12 propagation boxes and furnished soil and fungicides to members who wished to grow and propagate plants at their homes for club sales. The "at home" propagating plan died on the vine but the container growing program is still alive

The container area has been upgraded with irrigation facilities and is operated in conjunction with Hatcher Gardens' annual plant propagating and sales activities.

This program now is the club's main source of revenue. Over the last few years several hard-working club members volunteered two year periods to mastermind the container growing program.

Jess Taylor, 2-26-2008

## Appendix 20

### Organizations and Individuals Who Contribute to Community Enhancement

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#### Other Organizations and Individuals Involved With Treescaping

The Men's Garden Club is by no means the only organization in Spartanburg with an historical impact on the community's love for and emphasis on the value of landscaping and trees. These are a few of the giants in this endeavor.

**The City of Spartanburg** has long been active with the National Arboretum Society and is an official *Tree City*. Indeed, trees have been an important ingredient in the City's growth and beautification since the 1960s.

**Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve** and the great contributions of Harold Hatcher are covered in detail in Chapters 2 and 6

**Mr. Roger Milliken's** love and respect for trees began as a youngster and blossomed in the late 1950s when he moved the Deering Milliken Research Trust to Spartanburg and began an exemplary tree planting program on the site of the old peach orchard where he built the new research building. The tree planting has expanded over the years into one of the South's outstanding arboretums containing thousands of named tree varieties. Mr. Milliken has also been instrumental in creating the emphasis on trees at Wofford and Converse Colleges and at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport where he continues as a leading board director. In the late 1990s, he created the Noble Tree Foundation with a sizeable endowment for teaching and promoting the importance of trees—particularly those large, magnificent ones that will be so important to future generations. The Foundation was an essential participant in the second-generation tree planting program of the Converse Heights Neighborhood Association in 2005 as it has been in most of the major tree projects of the greater Spartanburg area since the late 1990s.

**The Colleges - Wofford College, The University of South Carolina-Upstate, Spartanburg Community College, Converse College, and Spartanburg Methodist College** have all been active in developing outstanding tree planting programs. And the first three named have even developed arboretums recognized by the national arboretum organization.

**The PRIDE Task Force** has been a strong proponent of trees as an important factor in community beautification. Out of that organization grew the Trees Spartanburg program under the leadership of Co Irwin (see details on it in the preceding pages), and the Spot of Pride program led so forcibly and effectively by the late Hans Balmer. While Balmer's program primarily emphasized "garden spots" with shrubs, grasses, and colorful plants, trees are also an extremely important part of his program.

**The Hospitals - Spartanburg Regional and Mary Black**, have high quality landscapes, using trees as a highlight.

## Appendix

**The Group of One Hundred, while anonymous,** has enhanced the community in many ways—water features, an art park, statues and hard art—and with trees.

**The Graffiti Group** is a smaller organization which has done a great job of landscaping and tree planting, with an emphasis on railroad underpasses in the community.

**The Kudzu Coalition** and its emphasis on saving trees are covered in Chapter 11.

**Barnet Park and Zimmerli Amphitheater** are magnificent creations, through the generosity and foresight of Kurt Zimmerli and former mayor Bill Barnet, and are loaded with many trees.

**Morgan Square** and the **Renaissance Project** are responsible for the great renovation of downtown Spartanburg. They have set a high standard for tree planting throughout the entire city.

**The Master Gardener** program of Clemson University’s Extension Service has trained hundreds of citizens to be proficient gardeners, and great emphasis has always been on the importance of trees. For many years, Joe Maple was the pilot of this educational program

**Chapman Cultural Center.** While trees are not the main feature at this major enhancement to the community, they are there and are high quality.

**The Libraries of Spartanburg County,** the main and multiple community libraries usually get high ratings from the annual Club-Chamber Evaluation, partly because of the emphasis on trees. Kurt Zimmerli is greatly responsible for this.

**Converse Heights Community,** set a high example for the importance of maintaining magnificent trees by its “second generation” tree planting project in cooperation with the Noble Tree Foundation and Hans Balmer.

**The Spartanburg Garden Council** and the many affiliated garden clubs in the area have surely been an important factor in emphasizing the importance of trees in both home and community beautification.

Undoubtedly, many others should be cited here because the “greening of Spartanburg” has become contagious. Truly this community is an active planter of trees, and Spartanburg is an *authentic* Tree City, as recognized by the National Arbor Day Society.

In many ways, this Spartanburg Men’s Garden Club has set the high standard.

Appendix 21

**Newspaper Article “SMGC’s Recognition in Southern Living Magazine” 2007**

**Garden club featured in *Southern Living* magazine  
Published: Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*, Friday, February 2, 2007  
By Linda Cobb**

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club is a well-established institution in Spartanburg, but lately, the old dog is trying to teach Southern gardeners some new tricks.

Southern Living magazine is running an article in its February 2007 issue about the garden club's efforts to teach proper pruning methods of the crape myrtle tree.

Henry Pittman, a member of the club for more than 30 years, is written up in the article on page 58 titled "Stop! Don't Chop!"

Pittman has made this issue his mantra for many years and is working to end the slaughter of innocent crape myrtles.

Around town, Pittman is known as "the tree man" and has always worked to ensure healthy, strong and properly planted trees. He said that club members are all proud of their efforts and hope the article will be educational and beneficial to everyone's effort to use this tree in landscapes.

For many years, people have spent time each spring sawing off all of the limbs of the crape myrtle flowering tree leaving a single stump about three- to four-feet tall. The goal was to have a tight, almost topiary shape to the tree.

In retrospect, we know that using this severe pruning method has several flaws. First and foremost, this tree is meant to be a tree not a shrub. If you want a shrub, then plant one of the Petite Series that grows to only 12 feet or less. Secondly, it makes the branches weak and breakable. The beautiful mottled bark of the crape myrtle will never emerge. The bark of the crape myrtle is one of its best features, next to the superb flowers.

Local horticulturalist Stewart Winslow is shown in the article pruning the crape myrtle properly. Stewart advises pruning in late winter, like February, to remove suckers at the base of the tree, and as the tree grows, gradually removing all side branches from the main trunk up to about five feet. He advises removing unwanted branches before they get thicker than a pencil. And the old seed heads can be cut off, but it is not necessary.

Winslow, head horticulturalist for the Milliken Arboretum, thinks it is great that the magazine has noticed something that has bothered a lot of tree people for many years.

"The crape myrtle is such a stable tree that we use it a lot in the South," Winslow said, because it offers such a wide range of bloom colors and sizes.

He said the first crape myrtle was planted in Charleston at Middleton Place in the 1700s and is still alive, making it hundreds of years old.

The Southern Living article said that it is not too late to start pruning the right way.

If you have already "crape murdered" your trees for the coming season, you still have time to rectify the situation. You can cut the plant to the ground. Next winter, select three to five trunks and cut off any others at the ground. If you nurse those trunks through the next growing season, you will be on your way to recovery. The crape myrtle is meant to be a tree, so let it do its thing.

Linda Tiller McHam, president of the Men's Garden Club, said the article is great publicity for the club and, most importantly, for the trees.

"Henry Pittman has been involved for years in caring for trees," she said. "This is a continuation of his interest in using trees and shrubs to enhance the quality of life in our community."

A brochure titled "Crape Myrtle: Four Seasons of Beauty" is available at [www.southernliving.com/february2007](http://www.southernliving.com/february2007). Written by Lyn Murajda, the brochure addresses proper pruning methods and is very educational.

The February issue of Southern Living Magazine is available at all newsstands and bookstores.

Appendix 22

**Southern Living Magazine Article  
"Plant Sale in Hillbrook Forest" 1982**

*In the  
Community*

*A local resident's garage became the staging ground for a massive tree-planting program in Hillbrook Forest subdivision in Spartanburg, South Carolina.*

*The saplings were ordered through local nurseries and picked up by members of the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, who had sponsored several citywide plantings.*



*While no more than saplings now, the trees will eventually provide substantial understorey color. Plantings were installed so that they are actually on the resident's property instead of the city's right-of-way.*

**Spartanburg  
Plants for the Future**

The weekend of March 7 was a big event for the residents of Hillbrook Forest subdivision in Spartanburg, South Carolina, for they realized the benefits of a neighborhood cooperative program that had been initiated only three months before.

Residents of almost 1,100 homes in the area convened early in the morning at the home of Henry Pittman, chairman of the beautification committee of the Hillbrook Forest Neighborhood Association, to pick up saplings that were to become the theme plantings for several Hillbrook Forest streets.

This first-time effort was an extraordinary success—approximately 2,000 trees, mostly crepe myrtles and dogwoods, were planted in Hillbrook Forest in the two weekends set aside for the venture. The plantings were coordinated by a sketch plan designed by Spartanburg Landscape Architect Shirley Carter, ASLA. Local nurseries helped with ordering the trees.

"Shirley Carter provided us with a good guideline sketch," commented

Henry Pittman. "It was not a rigid plan, but a concept that would guide participants, yet provide some uniformity along the entire street as the plants matured. Importantly, it will look good even if a few residents decide not to participate in the program."

Since this was their first venture of this kind, the neighborhood association worked in conjunction with the Men's Garden Club of Spartanburg, who estimated the number of trees that would be needed. Before the weekends of the planting, several streets in Hillbrook Forest were staked out according to Shirley Carter's plan, as a method of encouraging participation. The effort apparently paid off, for participation in the program along prestaked streets averaged 75% of the households.

"We were extremely happy with the results," declared Henry Pittman. "I guess the enthusiastic response is due in part to how new the neighborhood organization is. Our next task is to bring in the rest of the residents and continue the success."

Appendix

Appendix Number 23

**Maintenance Agreement from SCDOT  
Re US-221 Treescape**

This is the confirming agreement from the South Carolina Department of Transportation that it will provide the required maintenance for the MGC treescape on US-221.

---

**TO:** Mr. Jim Feda  
SCDOT Director of Maintenance

**DATE:** October 2, 2002

**FROM:** Henry Pittman

**CC:** Bill Wilson  
Bob Almond  
Kelly Banks  
Glenn Breed  
Fred Fleming, et al  
Jim Ritchie  
Vivian Patterson  
Timothy Edwards  
Bill Barnet  
Lee Blair

**SUBJECT:** Treescaping of US-221 Understanding

On behalf of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, the Roebuck Improvement Assn. and the County of Spartanburg, thank you for coming from Columbia for the meeting re the SCDOT's partnership in this project. And thanks to Fred, Steve Weathers and Jeff Zettle for their participation. It was a good meeting.

It was agreed with Kelly Banks that the meeting planned for next Tues., Oct. 8, is now unnecessary. It is cancelled.

As we agreed, I document the discussion and agreements as follows:

1. The DOT will continue maintenance after the trees are planted, even though this will increase cost somewhat and involve some special care. It is understood this maintenance need not be "park standards", but "good highway standards".
2. DOT will NOT maintain trees on steep banks where equipment mowing is not practicable.
3. I will make sure the contract includes large, 6-foot diameter mulched areas around each tree, re-furbished at the end of the first and second year by the contractor.
4. We will try to inform all owners of developed adjacent property of the plan and solicit objections or suggestions. This will probably involve a mailing to property owners (tax office information) plus promotion through the Roebuck Improvement Assn. of a public meeting where the plan will be shown and discussed. I believe the RIA will handle this chore. You made a strong point that while this is not "the law", but it is the proper and courteous action to take. [Is scheduled 4-7-03, ehp]
5. Fred will have the regular mowing completed as well as the annual "30-foot" mowing of the shoulders completed by early December. He will also attempt to clear special

## Appendix

- areas where tree plantings will be advantageous.
6. I will arrange for temporary flagging of examples of both good and questionable planting sites after Fred's mowing—probably during the winter. Final and complete flagging will be done by the contractor with oversight from the DOT and our volunteers.
  7. You and/or others of the DOT will review the temporary and final flagged sites for comment.
  8. I will review the few planting sites shown on the plan which you questioned as unsatisfactory, and modify, the plan as needed.
  9. Reduction of speed limit on much of this 5-mile section of US-221 eases restrictions re set-backs, etc. somewhat and may eliminate some problems. I will explore this.
  10. You agreed that there are some sites where groups of trees much closer than the standard spacing of 100 feet will be advantageous if they are mulched together to minimize maintenance.
  11. You emphasized that plants in the medians should be located to avoid the drainage swale, and those on the shoulders to avoid drainage ditches. We will make sure this is done.
  12. Fred will work with Glenn Breed of the county re obtaining prison labor for some special maintenance.
  13. Glenn Breed will be asked to proceed with developing the Encroachment Permit, the Landscape Contract and bidding procedure, and necessary work pertaining to the 80% Federal funding by January, 2003. Our volunteer group will help as needed. The 20% match from local private sources (SMGC, RIA and Roebuck businesses) is available.

We agreed that we will not be able to complete contract letting, etc. for planting this winter, so will shoot for Nov. 2003—Feb. 2004 for planting.

I believe all of us here in the Spartanburg area are delighted with the good attitude and help from our highway friends. We all support highway beautification.

Special thanks to Vivian Patterson and Timothy Edwards—and to Elizabeth Mabry and all the others who have supported this project.

Beat regards—and for more treescaped highways,  
Henry Pittman

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**This confirmation of the maintenance agreement came from Jim Feda on Oct. 19, 2002.**

Juno E-mail printed Thu, 10 Oct 2002 10:39:54, page 1

From: "Feda, Jim" <FedaJJ@dot.state.sc.us>  
To: 'Henry Pittman' <henrypittm@juno.com>  
Date: Mon, 7 Oct 2002 08:13:36 -0400  
Subject RE: SC-221 Meeting Notes from 10-2-02

Your notes are accurate. Let me know if you have any further questions or concerns regarding this or any other issue you believe I can help you with.

Jim Feda, Director of Maintenance SCDOT

Appendix

Appendix 24

2003 Fall Plant Sale List

*Spartanburg Men's Garden Club*

Grid	Avail.	Name	Size, Gals.	Selling Price
D2	2	Abelia	3	\$5
Tree	40	Abelia, Little Richard	3	\$15
C3	3	Almond, Flowering	2	\$5
	21	Althea (Rose of Sharon)	1	\$2
	1	Althea (Rose of Sharon)	3	\$3
A4	35	Althea (Rose of Sharon)	1, 3	\$3
A1	5	Anise	1, 3	\$5
B2	50	Arbovitae, Green Giant	1	\$5
B4	2	Ash, Green	1	\$6
B4	8	Ash, Green	3	\$8
D2	23	Aucuba	1	\$5
		Aucuba japonica 'Gold Blotch'	1	\$3
C2	8	Aucuba, green	3	\$6
C1	1	Azalea	1	\$3
C1	21	Azalea	3	\$4
C1	21	Azalea	1, 2	\$2
E2	10	Baldcypress	2, 3	\$7
	3	Barberry	3	\$5
A1	25	Bayberry	3	x
	1	Beautybush, American	1	\$4
B1	12	Beautybush, American	3	\$6
A3	22	Birch, River	1	\$4
C4	16	Birch, River	3	\$6
C4	2	Birch, River	5	\$10
A3	100	Birch, River	1, 3	\$5
B1	19	Birch, River [ weak ]	1	\$2
		Blackgum--see Tupelo, Black		
	2	Blueberry???	3	\$5
B2	25	Burning Bush	1	x
E2,F1	72	Butterfly Bush yellow, wh, purple	3	\$8
E1,F1	284	Butterfly Bush yellow, wh, purple	1, 2	\$6
C2	4	Carolina Sapphire	3	\$7
B1	5	Catalpa	3	\$5
B2	1	Cedar, Red	3	\$7
B4	5	Cherry, Black	2, 3	\$3
C4	9	Cherry, Yoshino	1	\$4
C4	3	Cherry, Yoshino	3	\$6
D4	10	Chestnut, Chinese	2, 3	\$5
Tree	20	Cleyera	3	\$12

Grid	Avail.	Name	Size, Gals.	Selling Price
D1	5	Holly, Japanese 'Beehive'	3	\$5
F2	3	Holly, Japanese 'Glory'		\$4
F2	4	Holly, Nelli Stevens	1, 2	\$4
F2	8	Holly, Nelli Stevens	3	\$4
C3	14	Holly, Nelli Stevens	1, 2	\$6
Tree	30	Holly, Sky Pencil	3	\$15
Tree	30	Hydrangea, Annabelle	3	\$15
		Hydrangea, Big Leaf [30 later]	3	\$7
C2	2	Hydrangea, Blue	1	\$5
C2	40	Hydrangea, Blue	1	\$5
D2	22	Hydrangea, Blue	1	\$5
C2	11	Hydrangea, Blue	3	\$7
D2	3	Hydrangea, Oakleaf	1	\$6
Tree	50	Hydrangea, Show Queen	3	\$16
	1	Hydrangia, Mountain	5	\$7
F3	13	Ice Plant	1	3
	5	Itea, Henry's Garnet	3	\$6
Tree	20	Jasmine, Carolina	2	\$7
G1	8	Jasmine, Winter (Feb)	1, 3	\$4
		Jessamine, Swamp Yellow	3	\$6
C2	10	Juniper, Andora Creeper	1	\$5
		Juniper, Andora Creeping	3	\$6
B1	12	Juniper, Skyrocket	3	\$20
Tree	10	Juniper, Skyrocket	3	\$20
C2	8	Juniper, spreading	1	\$4
B3	6	Ligustrum lucidum (Glossy Privet)	3	\$5
D2	5	Ligustrum, Wax Leaf	3	\$5
Tree	20	Loropetalum, Pizzaz	3	\$15
Tree	50	Loropetalum, Ruby	3	\$15
		Magnolia, Claudia Wannemaker	3	\$20
F1	25	Magnolia, D.D. Blancher	3	\$20
F1	12	Magnolia, D.D. Blancher	2	\$20
E1	24	Magnolia, D.D. Blancher	3	\$20
B1	25	Magnolia, Little Gem	3	\$20
C2	10	Magnolia, Star (Stellata)	1, 2	\$6
		Mahonia, St'berry Bush (Montrovia)	2	\$5
A4	3	Mahonia, St'berry Bush (Montrovia)	2	\$5
A4	2	Mahonia, St'berry Bush (Montrovia)	3	\$5
D3	12	Maple, Japanese	2	\$6
D1	100	Maple, Red	1, 3	\$5
F2	100	Maple, Sugar	1	\$4
C3	1	Mock Orange	1	\$4
B2	12	Nandina, Domestica	1	\$2



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F3	17	Coreopsis	1	\$2
A2	100	Crabapple, Japanese Flowering	3	\$5
D3	11	Cherry, Kwanzan	1, 2	\$6
A2	1	Crabapple	1	\$5
A2	4	Crabapple	3	\$7
B1	13	Crape Myrtle, Dwarf	1	\$8
G	120	Crape Myrtle, red, lav., pk, red	1	\$4
G	72	Crape Myrtle, red, lav., pk, red	2	\$5
G	73	Crape Myrtle, red, lav., pk, red	3	\$6
A1	5	Cryptomeria	3	\$7
E2	8	Cypress, Bald, Native	2, 3	\$7
Tree	20	Cypress, Gold Mop	3	\$15
C1	25	Cypress, Gold Thread	1	\$4
D3	14	Cypress, Leland	1	\$4
	9	Cypress, Leland	3	\$5
B3	100	Cypress, Leyland	1, 2, 3	\$5
F3	5	Dianthus	1	\$3
C3	12	Dogwood, Kousa (Chinese)	3	\$10
D3	50	Dogwood, Kousa (Chinese)	3	\$10
E2	10	Dogwood, White Native	1	\$4
D2	45	Dogwood, White Native	3	\$7
E2	50	Dogwood, White Native	3	\$7
D3	5	Elaeagnus, Japanese	1, 3	\$4
B2	4	English Dogwood (Sweet Syringa)	1, 3	\$4
D3	115	Euonymous, variegated	1	\$4
D1	4	Fig		\$5
	5	Flametree, Chinese(Koelreturea bipinnata)	1	\$2
B3	11	Flametree, Chinese(Koelreturea bipinnata)	3	\$8
	7	Flametree, Chinese(Koelreturea bipinnata)	2, 3	\$8
	2	Forsythia	3	\$5
B2	25	Forsythia, 'Lynwood Gold'	1	\$4
B2	3	Forsythia, 'Lynwood Gold'	2	\$3
E3	50	Fringetree, Chinese	3	\$8
G1	6	Gardenia	1	\$5
G1	7	Gardenia	3	\$7
	2	Gardenia	3	\$7
C2	100	Ginkgo	2, 3	\$5
C2	10	Ginkgo	3, 5	\$10
F4	13	Golden Raintree	1	\$5
F4	14	Golden Raintree	2	\$5
F3	30	Grass, Liriope	1	\$1
F3	23	Grass, Liriope	3	\$4
F3	15	Grass, Miscanthus	1, 3	\$4
Tree	20	Grass, Miscanthus, 'Morning Light'	3	\$15
F3	2	Grass, Pampas	2	4
A1	50	Hawthorn, Washington	3	\$4

B2	1	Nandina, Domestic	3	\$6
B1	4	Nandina, Dwarf	1	\$3
D1	20	Maple, Red	3	\$7
Tree	30	Nandina, Dwarf	1	\$5
	4	Nandina, Fire Power	1, 2	\$3
F4	13	Oak, Cherry Bark	1, 3	\$6
	6	Oak, Chestnut	1, 3	\$5
E3	16	Oak, Laurel and Willow	3	\$7
E4	10	Oak, Sawtooth	1, 3	\$6
E2	20	Oak, White	3	\$7
E3	6	Oak, Willow [ with Laurel ? ]	1, 3	\$7
B3	2	Osmanthus	1, 3	\$5
D2	1	Osmanthus, Fortune	2	\$6
Tree	30	Osmanthus, Goshiki	3	\$20
D2	6	Osmanthus, Holly (heterophyllus)	3	\$7
D2	9	Osmanthus, Tea Olive	3	\$7
A1	4	Pacasandra		\$3
Tree	10	Palm, Windmill	3	\$20
C3	13	Persimmon	3	\$7
C1	2	Photenia, Red Tip	1	\$4
B1	25	Pieris Japonica, 'Mountain Fire'	1	x
C3	26	Pine (Pond?)	3	\$4
Tree	20	Privet, Swift Creek	3	\$15
A3	1	Pomegranate	3	\$7
A4	13	Poplar, Yellow (Tulip)	3	\$7
A3	4	Pyracantha	1	\$5
A3	24	Pyracantha	2	\$5
A3	3	Pyracantha	1, 3	\$5
D1	16	Redbud	1	\$5
D1	1	Redbud	3	\$8
		Rose of Sharon (see Althea)		
Tree	10	Rose, Lady Banks	3	\$15
B3	3	Sasanqua	1	\$3
B3	2	Sasanqua	3	\$5
B3	25	Sourwood	1, 2	\$4
A1	2	Spirea, Bridal Wreath	3	\$5
C3	1	St. John's Wart	1	\$5
		Tea Olive -- see Osmanthus		
C1	25	Tupelo, Black (Blackgum)	1	\$6
C1	75	Tupelo, Black (Blackgum)	3	\$6
F4	10	Tupelo, Water	3	\$8
C1	25	Tupelo, Black (Blackgum)	2, 3	\$8
D2	2	Viburnum, Doublefile	3	\$5
B4	20	Viburnum	3	\$5
E3	7	Viburnum, Doublefile	1	\$5
Tree	10	Viburnum, Spring	3	\$15

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D1	1	Holly tall	3	\$4
C3	8	Holly, Chinese (Burford?)	1	\$4
F2	1	Holly, Emly Bruner	1	\$4
F2	9	Holly, Foster	2	\$4
D1	4	Holly, Japanese (Helleri)	3	\$5

Bouquet				
E3	14	Viburnum, Burkwood	1	\$3
E4	17	Vinca, variegated	2	\$3
C3	10	Walnut, Black	3	\$7
G1	10	Weigela	3	\$6
F2	4	Willow, Pussey		\$5

Appendix 25

**Newspaper Article “Hatcher Creates a Garden” 1997**

The following article appeared in the Spartanburg *Herald Journal* on November 11, 1977. The garden seems to be amazingly mature at this time, and there is no mention of the tremendous assistance given to Harold Hatcher by Men’s Garden Club members.

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**Beauty Abounds on Briarwood  
HATCHER CREATES A GARDEN**

By DOLLY DARE  
Staff Writer  
11-11-1977

Just driving along Briarwood Road, you may not even guess what lies beyond the driveway and privacy plantings at number 124.

As they say in the car and real estate ads, it has to be seen to be appreciated.

To the uninformed, it appears to be a small house on an average lot. In reality, it is an eight-acre conservation and beautification project.

You have to know the story from the beginning.

Back in the 1930s, the acreage was part of a cotton field. When the soil was depleted, it wasn’t replenished. Eventually, pine and other trees were planted or they sprouted from seedlings on the slopes. Poplars grew tall along the banks of a frequently swollen creek bed.

With construction of and around Reidville Road, more and more surface water washed down into the woods. Erosion caused deep ravines. The land became virtually worthless.

In 1969, Harold and Josephine Hatcher moved from Indianapolis to Spartanburg, after having often visited a daughter and her family here.

Retirement was imminent. The Hatchers looked forward to more free time for their hobby, gardening. The climate, ideal for growing a larger variety of evergreens, made Spartanburg their choice.

They bought the house at 124 Briarwood Rd. as a temporary home, since Hatcher continued to work (he was director of the anti-poverty program for Piedmont Community Actions) until 1973. They planned to build or buy a home with some acreage later.

When they learned that the land behind their Briarwood house was available at moderate cost, they felt challenged to salvage it from the ravishes of neglect.

They stayed and they conquered.

Now it is a setting befitting a castle on the Rhine.

There are landscaped areas of rhododendrons, azaleas, hydrangeas, and ornamentals of many descriptions, set off by wandering stretches of rich green lawn.

There are nature Trails that pass gardens of still-blooming perennials, newly blooming Camellias and an area of Carolina wildflowers.

There are wilderness trails through woods including towering poplars and pines, underscored with young copper-leafed beeches and red-leafed dogwoods.

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There is a half-acre sunny spot that is devoted to fruits and vegetables in season. A quaint wooden bridge over a creek, a waterfall overlooking a creek, complete with stone fireplace. There are ponds stocked with fish, untold thousands of plants, rock gardens, propagation beds, potting sheds.

Everywhere, there are vistas of beauty and serenity, and evidences of the contentment of man and nature when they work together.

This contentment of man and nature was not easily accomplished, however; it took study, a plan, and long, hard work.

As often happens, this once scrubby woods had become a dumping ground. The Hatchers had to remove old stoves, refrigerators, washers, tires, and trash of unbelievable proportions before they could even begin their project.

Their next problem was to stop the erosion and find a way to channel or store the surface water from the Reidville Road area. "The day we saw cement blocks floating in the galleys on our land toward the creek below, we started work on some dams," said Mrs. Hatcher.

They filled in ravines and channeled the water into seven separate ponds. Through an ambitious undertaking, this previously destructive water is used by the Hatchers to irrigate their plantings.

A system of underground plastic pipes was installed by Hatcher, to which he can attach 12 garden hoses at the same time. The water flows by gravity to all landscaped sections of his land that are too distant from the house for hose connections. A natural spring feeds a creek branch on the low point of their property; when the water level gets low on the upside ponds, a pump installed by Hatcher refills them.

To control erosion on hillsides, some areas were heavily mulched with groundcover including ivy, ajuga, pachysandra and myrtle.

Visitors to the Hatcher property often ask how the couple developed their landscape plan.

"We can't take credit for most of it. Circumstances and what seemed like bad luck at the time did it for us."

The first year after they bought the acreage, pine beetles attacked and killed nearly 200 trees, already weakened by drought and poor soil.

The Hatchers admit they probably never would have had the courage to cut that many trees. But after it became necessary, they took advantage of the sweeps of open spaces for landscaped gardens. They propagate most of their own plants for these gardens.

It isn't surprising that the Hatchers have frequent visitors to their property. They are hosts to the annual picnic of the Spartanburg Methodist College Faculty, of which Mrs. Hatcher is a member. The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, of which Hatcher is a member, visits the garden several times a year. The AAUW, local garden and civic clubs and other groups are invited to tour the gardens.

"Even with five colleges in the Spartanburg area, there isn't a single botanical garden," the Hatchers point out. So they are labeling the plants and trees in their gardens, making them available for nature studies "and for everyone who loves gardening or simply wants to get away from traffic noises."

Hatcher sums up the continuing conservation and beautification project. He calls it the "woods that builders rejected, that previous owners neglected, that dreamers selected, that gardeners protected."

Appendix

Appendix 26

Landscape Evaluation Form

2006  
LANDSCAPE JUDGING AND EVALUATION TOUR

A JOINT PROGRAM OF THE  
SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND THE  
SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

EVALUATION SHEET

\*Judging will be made of the following components: Foundation plantings, lawns, perimeter and other plantings, trees.

Design 20				Execution 30			Maintenance 30	Overall Impression 20
Plant Selection	Color	Originality of Design	Unity of Planting	Placement	Vigor	Mulch	Removal of Weeds, Litter, Dead or Sick Specimens	Eye Appeal
5	5	5	5	10	10	10	30	20

COMMENTS

(Evaluator) \_\_\_\_\_

(Evaluator) \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix

Appendix 27

**Brochure “Crape Myrtles: Four Seasons of Beauty”**

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Six-Page folder written by Lyn Murajda in  
2004

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**CRAPE MYRTLES:  
FOUR SEASONS OF BEAUTY**



"I have often thought that if heaven had given me choice of my position and calling, it should have been on a rich spot of earth, well watered, and near a good market for the productions of the garden. No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. Such a variety of subjects, some one always coming to perfection, the failure of one thing repaired by the success of another, and instead of one harvest a continued one through the year. Under a total want of demand except for our family table, I am still devoted to the garden. But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

Thomas Jefferson to Charles Willson Peale  
Poplar Forest, August 20, 1811

## Appendix

# CRAPE MYRTLE SELECTION

First select the right size and shape of crape myrtle for your location. Plan for the tree's full size at maturity, rather than relying on severe pruning to keep it within bounds. This will ensure a graceful silhouette all year round. Select named and labeled varieties from a reliable nursery to be certain of the plant's final size and to ensure healthy stock.

## Characteristics of Crape Myrtle Varieties

<u>NAME OF CULTIVAR</u>	<u>APPROX. HEIGHT IN FEET AT MATURITY</u>	<u>GROWTH HABIT</u>	<u>FLOWER COLOR</u>	<u>MILDEW RESISTANCE</u>	<u>FALL LEAF COLOR</u>	<u>EXFOLIATING BARK</u>
Centennial	2 - 3	Dwarf, round shrub	Bright Purple	Good	Orange	No, Smooth
Chickasaw	2 - 3	Miniature	Pink - Lavender	High	N / A	N / A
Pocomoke	2 - 3	Miniature Weeping	Red	Good	N / A	N / A
Tightwad Red	2 - 4	Dwarf	Light Red	High	N / A	N / A
Velma's Royal Delight	2 - 4	Compact	Purple	Good	Yellow orange	Average
Victor	3 - 5	Upright Dwarf	Deep Red	Good	Yellow	No, Smooth
Acoma	6 - 10	Low, spreading, arching	White	High	Purple red	Great
Hopi	8 - 10	Low, spreading	Medium Pink	High	Orange red	Great
Pecos	8 - 10	Low globose	Medium Pink	High	Maroon	Good
Prairie Lace	8 - 10	Upright, semi dwarf shrub	Medium Pink edged in White	Fair	Red to Red Orange	No, Smooth
Centennial Spirit	8 - 12	Upright	Dark Red	Good	Red orange	Average
Tonto	8 - 12	Compact globose	Red	High	Bright maroon	Good
Zuni	9 - 12	Globose	Medium Lavender	High	Red orange	Good
Regal Red	10 - 12	Upright, rounded tree to 12' wide	Deep Red	Good	Red orange	No, Smooth
Yvonne	10 - 15	Compact globose	Pink - Lavender	Good	N / A	N / A
Catawba	12 - 15	Upright	Violet Purple	Good	Red orange	Average
Conestoga	12 - 15	Open arching	Pale Lavender	Good	Yellow	Average
Sioux	12 - 15	Upright	Vibrant Pink	High	Maroon	Good
William Toovey, aka Watermelon Red	12 - 15	Vase-shaped small tree	Watermelon Red	Good	Red orange	No, Smooth
Byers Wonderful White	15 - 20	Upright small tree	White	Good	Yellow	No, Smooth
Choctaw	15 - 20	Small tree	Bright Pink	High	Maroon	Great
Comanche	15 - 20	Broad crown	Coral Pink	High	Orange red	Great
Lipan	15 - 20	Broad upright	Medium Lavender	High	Orange	Best
Near East	15 - 20	Open spreading	Light Pink	Moderate	Yellow orange	Average
Osage	15 - 20	Arching, open	Clear Pink	High	Red	Great
Potomac	15 - 20	Upright Small Tree	Clear Pink	High	Orange	No, Smooth
Raspberry Sundae	15 - 20	Upright	Cardinal red to pink	Good	Orange red	Average
Seminole	15 - 20	Compact globose	Medium Pink	Good	Yellow	Average
Yuma	15 - 20	Broad upright	Medium Lavender	Good	Yellow orange	Good
Tuskegee	15 - 25	Broad spreading	Dark Pink	High	Red orange	Great
Dynamite	20 - 25	Upright	Red	Good	N / A	Average
Tuscarora	20 - 25	Broad vase	Dark Pink	High	Red orange	Great

## Appendix

### Characteristics of Crape Myrtle Varieties, Cont.

<u>NAME OF CULTIVAR</u>	<u>APPROX. HEIGHT IN FEET AT MATURITY</u>	<u>GROWTH HABIT</u>	<u>FLOWER COLOR</u>	<u>MILDEW RESISTANCE</u>	<u>FALL LEAF COLOR</u>	<u>EXFOLIATING BARK</u>
Natchez	20 - 30	Broad tall tree	White	High	Red orange	Great
Carolina Beauty	20+	Very upright	Park Red	Poor	Orange	Average
Dallas Red	20 +	Broad upright	Red	High	N / A	N / A
Miami	20 +	Upright	Dark Pink	High	Orange	Great
Red Rocket	20 +	Upright	Cherry Red	High	N / A	Average
Basham's Party Pink	25 +	Broad tall tree	Light Lavender	Good	Orange red	Good
Muskogee	25 +	Broad tall tree	Light Lavender	High	Red / Orange	Good
Biloxi	30 +	Upright vase	Pale Pink	High	Orange red	Great

List compiled from Southern Living Garden Book; Fanick's Garden Center in San Antonio, TX; University of Georgia website; Auburn University website.

### CARE OF CRAPE MYRTLES

Crape myrtles are one of the Southeast's most beautiful small trees and were introduced into the United States in 1747 from China, Korea, and later on from Japan.

Their excellent drought resistance, fast growth, beautiful flowers, and low maintenance requirements make them very popular. Many cultivars have superb bark interest and great fall leaf color as well. About their only drawbacks are a tendency to grow suckers at the base that need removing on tree-shaped cultivars, and a tendency for some cultivars to be susceptible to mildew.

**LOCATION:** They are hardy in Zones 7-9, and ideal for Spartanburg. Crape myrtles prefer a hot climate and need full sun to bloom. Select a southern or western exposure whenever possible, for best flowering and to reduce problems with powdery mildew.

**PLANTING:** Able to survive in almost any type of soil, crape myrtles do best in well-drained locations. For clay soils mix in pea gravel or very finely ground pine bark to improve drainage. Place the tree into a hole dug twice as wide as the root ball, with the top of the root collar (the part where the trunk flares out into the root system) level with, or 1-2" above, ground level. Best times to plant are Fall and early Spring, with Fall being preferred, as the roots will continue to grow during the warmer parts of the dormant seasons.

**WATERING:** For the first season, a newly planted tree from a 5 gallon container needs 10 gallons of water per week, if there is no rain, and preferably delivered in 2 applications of 5 gallons each. Larger transplants would need more. Water as needed during droughts. Crape myrtles are very drought resistant once established.

**FERTILIZING:** Apply a slow release fertilizer with a 3-1-1 ratio of nitrogen to phosphorous and potassium. Examples include a 12-4-4 or 18-6-6 fertilizer, applied in late Winter or early Spring as leaves emerge, and again in July. For a 6-10' tall crape myrtle, 2-3 cups of an 18-6-6 should be applied uniformly beneath the canopy. For a 15-25' tall tree, 1-2 quarts of fertilizer should be used. Do not fertilize after Labor Day. Note that excessive nitrogen (runoff from turf fertilizers) can delay flowering and reduce cold hardiness. (ANSI A-300 and International Society of Arboriculture.)

**MULCHING:** A 2-4" deep (maximum) layer of pine bark or hardwood mulch or pine needles around the tree base, spread all the way out to the edge of the tree canopy (the dripline), helps control weeds and conserve moisture. Leave a 4" open space on all sides of the trunks, to avoid stressing stem tissues. Avoid 8-10" tall mulch "volcanoes", which can provide housing for rodents, cause root rot, and cause adventitious roots (out-of-place roots that grow into the mulch rather than into the ground).



## PRUNING OF CRAPE MYRTLES “DO’S”

The thoughtful gardener or landscaper strives to provide welcoming beauty and architectural elegance year-round in outdoor living spaces, and proper pruning techniques help achieve these goals.

For crape myrtles, pruning should be minimal, to remove basal suckers and damaged or crossed limbs. The natural round shrub or tree-form shape provides the best silhouette all year, promotes the healthiest growth of the plant, and costs the least amount of time and money to maintain.

- **DO** prune when the tree is dormant, just before bud break, in the late Winter or early Spring, but only if the sap is not frozen. Best time to prune is January through April. Pruning between August and December has been shown to significantly reduce the cold hardiness of crape myrtles, increasing the risk of killing the tree during winter. (C. Haynes, PhD., 1991 *Hort. Science* 26:1381-1383).
- **DO** remove broken, dead and crossed limbs. Remove suckers at the base of the tree and at the trunk.
- **DO** limb up the tree, by pruning off the side branches, if a tree form is desired, instead of a rounded shrubby shape. Try to do this before limbs get bigger around than a pencil, to avoid leaving a scar. Small cuts do less damage to the tree than large cuts, and heal more quickly as well.
- **DO** limit pruning to no more than 25% of the live branches in a single year. If necessary, prune neglected plants over a period of years to obtain the desired appearance.
- **DO** know that excessive pruning does not induce heavier flowering, but rather reduces it, due to the removal of significant plant carbon and nutrient reserves. (Texas A&M University, <http://dallas.tamu.edu/woody/cmyrtle/pruning.html>) Do encourage repeat flowering (if desired, and if you can reach!) on cultivars that bloom in May/June, by removing seed heads just as they are forming. Leave the late summer seed heads from all varieties to fall naturally, as pruning these in late Summer or Fall reduces cold hardiness.
- **DO** refrain from pruning if in doubt. Under-pruning is easy to correct; over-pruning causes permanent damage.

### TREE FORM: Beautiful year-round architectural silhouettes



## PRUNING OF CRAPE MYRTLES “DONT’S”

- **DON'T** “top” the tree or “round over” the shrub by sawing off all the branches except the main trunks. Topping is perhaps the most harmful pruning practice known, according to the International Society of Arboriculture. Topping can cause immediate dieback and/or the growth of a “broom” or “pom pom”, which are long thin shoots that are grown from just under the bark. These are poorly attached and easily broken off, and a very dense “broom” can cause the tree to topple in high winds. Additionally, topping lowers the life expectancy of a tree by at least one-third and destroys its beauty. (*Pruning Techniques*, 1991, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record, p.15 and “Why Topping Hurts Trees”, Int'l Society of Arboriculture's website - <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/topping.asp>)
- **DON'T** “pollard” the crape myrtle. This pruning method, along with “topping”, is called “Crape Murder” by Steve Bender, *Southern Living* magazine's senior garden writer. Pollarding involves cutting off all the previous year's branches to a “knuckle” or “knob” at or close to the main trunks. This type of pruning produces similar stresses to that of “topping”, including a shorter life span and an ugly tree silhouette before leaf-out. Some Southern cities, such as Charlotte, NC, have ordinances against this type of pruning because it costs extra money for “unnecessary” pruning, it makes the tree unattractive while dormant, and it costs money to replace the trees more frequently. It is better to purchase appropriately-sized cultivars to begin with or to relocate a tree if it gets too large for the site. (Crape myrtles are very resilient and tough, and are fairly easy to move.)

### RENOVATING A POORLY PRUNED CRAPE MYRTLE:

- a) Let a “murdered” tree with large diameter trunks (1” caliper or more) grow out for a season, and in early the following Spring, select one, two or possibly three dominant branches per trunk to grow out over time. Prune off smaller side branches, taking out no more than 25% of the live branches in a single year. You may need to prune side branches over several years to allow the tree form to develop and to allow evidence of the big cuts to grow over.
- b) Smaller-trunked trees that need corrective pruning can be cut flush with the ground in early Spring, and an odd number of trunks (3, 5 or 7) allowed to regrow in the natural tree form.

### “CRAPE MURDER”: 6 Months of Ugly



“Don't pay your landscaper to devalue your property.” -Kevin Parris, Parris Landscape Design

# CRAPE MYRTLES: FOUR SEASONS OF BEAUTY



The pruning style in the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club Crape Myrtle brochure is endorsed by the following professionals:

- Barrie Bain, Garden Writer
- Jeff Caton, Spartanburg County
- Linda Cobb, Master Gardener and Garden Writer
- Lynne Fairfield, Carolina Garden World
- Charles Godfrey, landscape architect
- Charlie Gray, Clemson University Extension, retired
- George Gunter, Gunter's Garden
- Jeff Hall, Hatcher Garden & Woodland Preserve
- Douglas Jones, City of Spartanburg
- Joe Maple, Master Gardener
- Rick McAbee, Roebuck Wholesale Nursery & Landscaping
- Eddie McDowell, The Plant Outlet
- Jimmy Painter, Spartanburg Technical College
- Kevin Parris, Parris Landscape Design
- Bob Polomski, Clemson University Extension
- Charles Reid, The Sodfather
- Greg Shurburt, Shurburt Corporation



... that if heaven had given me choice of my position  
... it should have been on a rich spot of earth, well watered,  
and near a good market for the productions of the garden. No occupa-  
tion is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture  
comparable to that of the garden. Such a variety of subjects, some  
one always coming to perfection, the failure of one thing repaired by  
the success of another, and instead of one harvest a continued one  
through the year. Under a total want of demand except for our family  
table, I am still devoted to the garden. But though an old man, I am but  
a young gardener."

Thomas Jefferson to Charles Willson Peale  
Poplar Forest, August 20, 1811

**Appendix**

**Appendix 28**

**Club Contributions to Hatcher for Buildings and Hardscape**

**MGC MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO HATCHER GARDEN  
FOR BUILDINGS AND HARDCAPE FEATURES**

By Jess Taylor, Jim Bagwell et al

	<i><b>MGC \$</b></i>	<i><b>Project Manager</b></i>
Item 1. Service Building (Potting Shed—later named the Taylor Pavilion). 1986. This building replaced an old chicken house which was used for storage and supplies. Termites had done an effective job of making it unsafe as well as it was a humongous eye sore. Building erection, electrical, and plumbing components were contracted out. MGC 100% financed.	\$12,000	Jess Taylor with John Nevison, Walt Soderberg, Charlie Burdel and Dick Look Plus septic tank, plumbing fixtures and installation and water fountain—ask Jim Bagwell
Item 2. Observation Deck. 1988. This structure was contracted out to the ArchDeck Co. Financed jointly by the MGC and the Garden Club Council	\$5,000	Jess Taylor
Item 3. Paved Walkways to Observation Deck. 1989. Contracted out to Inman Paving Co. 100% financed by the MGC.	\$2,000	Jess Taylor
Item 4. Entrance: Gateway. 1989. Contracted out. A brick garage had to be dismantled as it was in the way of the paved entrance. Harold and his service workers salvaged the brick. A light pole had to be relocated on the street. Mike Garrett of the City gave us assistance in working with the City on this item. Tom Bartram and John Nevison helped on this project.	\$200	Jess Taylor with Tom Bartram and John Nevison
Item 5. Equipment Building. 1990. The pole structure was contracted out. The building was 100% financed by the MGC	\$7,000	Jess Taylor with Dick Look, John Nevison, Walter Soderberg and others
Item 6. Gazebo. 1991. This was contracted out to ArchDeck Co. It was jointly financed by the MGC and Garden Club Council.	\$3,000	Jess Taylor
Item 7. Parking Lot Paving 1992. This was 100% financed by the MGC.	\$6,000	Jess Taylor with Henry Pittman and others
Item 8. Benches and Tables. 1992. About a dozen of these items were built of	\$300	Jess Taylor with Winston

### Appendix

pressure treated lumber by members of the MGC to replace and add to seating capacity in the Garden. These items were 100% financed by the MGC		Hardegree, John Nevison and others
Item 9. Irrigation System. 1993. This involved a pump, taking suction from one of the ponds for plant irrigation. . It was 100% financed by the MGC.	\$1,500	Robert Odom
Item 10. Green House. 1997. It was 100% financed by the MGC.	\$4,500	George Gunter
Item 11. John Deere Tractor and Implements. 199?. This item replaced two old worn out tractors. It was 100% financed by the MGC	\$5,000	John Nevison and others
Item 12. John Nevison Amphitheater. 1999. Named in honor of a strong and important contributor of labor and leadership to the Garden. The Nevison family contributed approximately \$1,200 to the club for this project; the remainder was from the MGC.	\$7,000	Bob Almond with Kelly P. Reid, Jess Taylor, Linda McHam, Henry Pittman and others
Item 13. Garden Paths Repaving. 1999 After funds were provided, it was decided to postpone re-surfacing the paths until pond renovation and other work was completed. Re-surfacing was complete in 2003. Financed jointly by the MGC and the Civitans.	\$1,500	Bob Almond, George Drummond and others
Item 14. Storage Building, Water Meter, Back Flow Valve, etc. in Container Plant Area. 2000. These and multiple other improvements have been made in this area. Storage Building is owned by the Club. These items were financed by the MGC.	\$1,500	Bob Sutherland
Item 15. Irrigation System in Container Plant Area. 2005 Jointly financed with Hatcher Garden and installed by Hatcher Garden.	\$1,000	Don Crowder
Item 16 Signage, mostly for the new Walter Soderberg Memorial Garden 2006	\$3,000	Club Board and Hatcher Garden
Item 17 MGC Memorial Stone to Harold Hatcher 2006 \$2,000 contributions, \$2.600 Club Treasury	\$4,600	Bob Almond
Item 18. Fence Around Container Plant Area. 2007 Financed with a contribution from Alice Hatcher Henderson.	0	A Hatcher Garden project.
Item 19. Multiple special events at Hatcher 2006. 2007, 2008	\$2,600	
Item 20 Annual Gifts Toward Operating Budget 1997 thru 2009	\$33,000	Club Board
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,700</b>	

**Appendix**

**Appendix 29**

**I-85 Business Treescape Tree List**

This list was a part of the final approved plan, and was a part of Spartanburg County's Contract.

**I-85 BUSINESS SHOULDER TREESCAPE PLANT LIST**  
9-15-06, ehp

Quantity	Common Name	Botanical Name	Size	Package	Mature Ht
<i>Large-Growing--</i>					
25	Red Maple 'October Glory'	Acer rubra 'October Glory'	2-2.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	30-50
18	Black Gum (Black Tupelo)	Nyssa sylvatica	2-2.5 in. caliper		30-50
6	Overcup Oak	Quercus lyrata	2-2.5 in. caliper		40-50
21	Willow Oak	Quercus phellos	2-2.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	50
<i>Small-Growing</i>					
3	Holly 'Nellie R. Stevens'	Ilex 'Nellie R. Stevens'	6-8 ft. ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	10-20
42	Kousa Dogwood	Cornus kousa	8-10' ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	25
35	Crape Myrtle 'Catawba'	Lagerstroemia indica 'Catawba'	6-8 ft. ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	10-15
58	Crape Myrtle 'Sioux'	Lagerstroemia indica 'Sioux'	6-8 ft. ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	12-15
<i>Conifers-</i>					
3	Dawn Redwood 'Gold Rush'	Metasequoia glyptostroboides 'Gold Rush'	6-8 ft. ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	14' 10 years
40	Arborvitae 'Emerald Green'	Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'	6-8 ft. ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	15
15	Eastern Redcedar 'Hillspire'	Juniperus virginiana 'Hillspire'	8-10' ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	40
9	Crytomeria 'Yoshino'	Crytomeria japonica 'Yoshino'	8-10' ht., 1-1.5 in. caliper	B&B or 30" WB	45
276	<b>TOTAL</b>				

Appendix

Appendix 30

**I-85 Business TreescapE Dedication Remarks**

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Interstate-85 Business TreescapE Dedication  
Opening Remarks

After over 2 ½ years of enjoyable work, this project is drawing to a close. I say enjoyable, but I know that for some of our partners, it has been *just plain WORK!* But in any event, we've all gotten through it, and we come today to celebrate this enhancement—the addition of some 360 new trees on the shoulders to one of our most important highways—the 7.3 miles of Interstate-85 Business, known affectionately as “Veteran’s Highway”.

As with our previous highway project on US-221 south of Spartanburg, Spartanburg County has been an essential partner. Without Lisa Bollinger’s guidance and help, we would never have gotten the project off the ground. And a huge thank-you to Head County Engineer Mike Garrett—he has carried a heavy load in helping develop specifications, creating and executing the outside contract and handling so very many of the engineering details of the project. We thank County Council for agreeing to be the “official sponsor” of the project—so it is really not a Men’s Garden Club project, but a County project. Thank you Lisa, Mike and County Council!

Our hats are off to Fred Fleming, Jason Allison and others in the SC Department of Transportation for their guidance—and much patience—in helping put this complex project together. Thank you, Fred...

Our local SPATS Road Enhancement Committee and its parent (the SPATS Committee) provided the first step in financing—they approved our application for federal funds for this almost \$60,000 project. Final approval came from the SCDOT. The required local 20% match of funds was supplied by the Men’s Garden Club, and the required agreement for ongoing maintenance of the trees was supplied by Hans Balmer and his Spot of Pride program. In addition to his ongoing maintenance of the trees, we celebrate his multiple new median plantings—these add even greater beauty and quality to this highway. So, to Hans, a huge “thank you”!!!

And we have gotten great support and many “atta-boys” from owners of property which adjoins this highway. We believe the beauty which develops over the years will add to the value of their property. We particularly thank Spartanburg Technical College for its early encouragement—and for providing this beautiful site, in view of the highway, for our ceremony today. Thank you, Dr. Terhune and Jimmy Painter.

You might want to take a look later at some of the pictures and the landscape plan—there.

We are pleased to have a number of community leaders to participate in the program. So, let’s proceed...

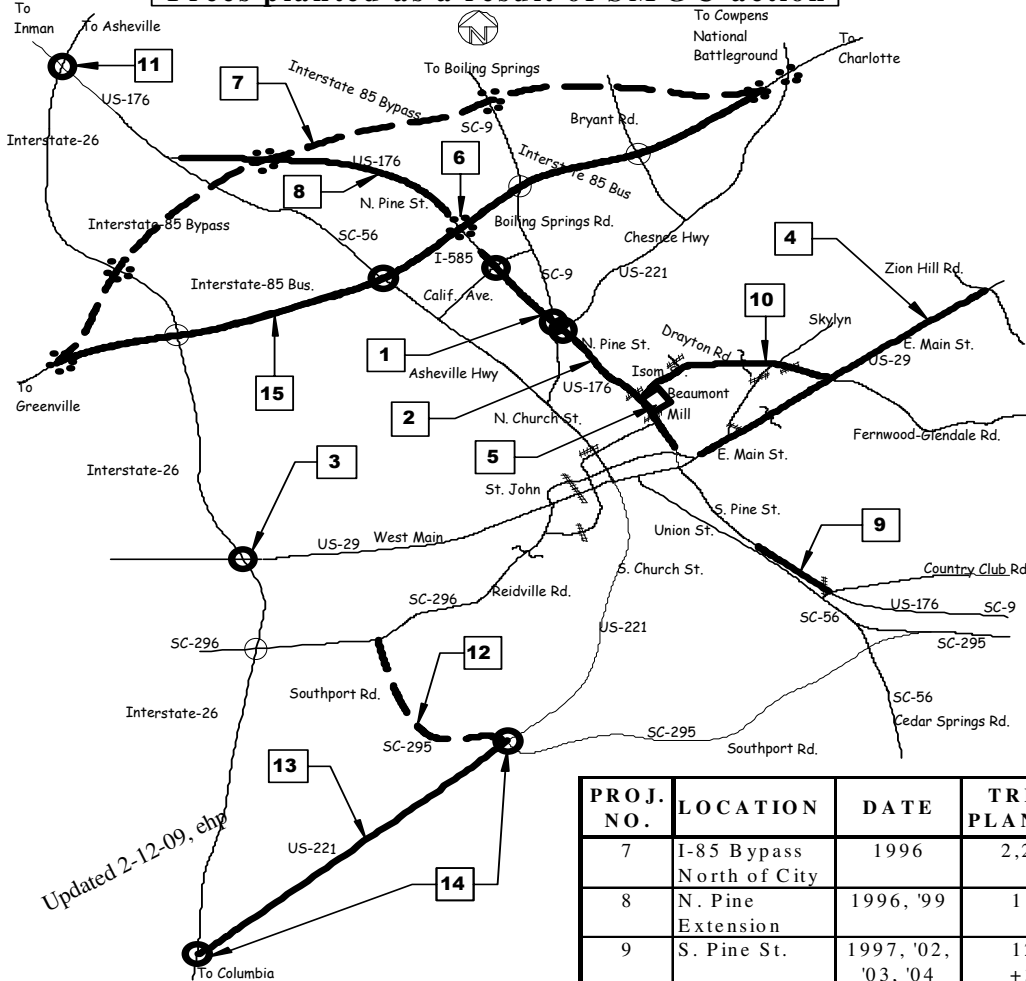
Henry Pittman  
May 7, 2007

Appendix

Appendix 31

City Map of MGC Trees

**Spartanburg Men's Garden Club**  
**Tree Planting List, 1976-2008**  
**Trees planted as a result of SMGC action**



PROJ. NO.	LOCATION	DATE	TREES PLANTED
1	N. Pine "Bicentennial"	1976	~150
2	N. Pine, "Beautiful N. Pine"	1986	186
3	W. Main at I-26	1988	~200-300
4	E. Main, "Beautiful E. Main"	1989	219
5	N. Pine at Beaumont	1991	~100
6	Herron Traffic Circle	1994	24

PROJ. NO.	LOCATION	DATE	TREES PLANTED
7	I-85 Bypass North of City	1996	2,270
8	N. Pine Extension	1996, '99	118
9	S. Pine St.	1997, '02, '03, '04	120 +38
10	Drayton Rd. and Isom St	1998, '99, '00, '01	315 +42
11	US-176 at I-26	1999	144
12	SC-295	2002	313
13	US-221 Phase-I	2003-'07	400
14	US-221 Phase-II at I-26 and SC-295	2004-'07	179 +Juniper, Grass, etc.
15	Business I-85 North of City	2006-'07	276
<b>TOTAL =</b>			<b>~5,167</b>



**Appendix**

**Appendix 32**

**Master Street Tree Planting List**

Master Tree Planting List, 1976-2009  
Trees planted as a result of SMGC action

Update 3-10, ehp

<b>PROJ. NO.</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREES PLANTED</b>	<b>MAP KEY</b>
1	N. Pine "Bicentennial"	1976	~150 Sycamore, Sweetgum, Dogwood, Crape Myrtle, etc	1
2	N. Pine, "Beautiful N. Pine"	1986	186 Red Maple 'Red Sunset'	1
3	W. Main at I-26 Interchange	1988	~200-300 multiple varieties (by Harold Hatcher, et al)	2
4	E. Main, "Beautiful East Main"	1989	210 125 Willow Oak and 85 Crape Myrtle 'Natchez'	3
5	N. Pine at Beaumont	1991	~100 Red Maple, Magnolia, Pine, etc. (financed by Mr. Walter Montgomery)	4
6	Hearon Traffic Circle	1994	24 Sweet Gum and Crape Myrtle	
7	I-85 Bypass North of City	1996	2,270 trees ( + 3,785 shrubs) (Financed by SCDOT to MGC design, plans, encouragement and assistance)	11
8	N. Pine Extension	1996, '97, '99	118 Trees--61 Red Maple 'Red Sunset', 51 Red Maple 'Oct. Glory' and 6 Sweetgum 15 Replacement, Oct. Glory Maple added in 1997	5
9	S. Pine St.	1997, '02, '03, '04, '09	120 Yoshino Cherry (Financed by City) 38 Replacement, Yoshino Cherry added '02, 4 in '04 (Hardie) and 10 in '09 (Crescenzi)	6
10	Drayton Rd. and Isom St	1998, '99, '00, '01	285 Trees (114 Maple, 166 Kousa Dogwood, 5 Cypress).Financed by City and County 42 Replacement, Maple, Kousa Dogwood, etc. added 1999 10 Replacement Maple and Dogwood (Financed by Duke Power and MGC) added 2000 13 New Glory Maple (Financed by B'nai Israel and MGC) added 2001	7

**Appendix**

11	US-176 at I-26 Interchange (toward Inman)	1999	144 Multiple trees--Red Sunset, October Glory and Trident Maple, Willow Oak, Loblolly Pine, and Yarwood London Planetree	8
12	SC-295 (Southport Road)	2002	333 Shoulder and Interchange Trees--Oak, Maple, Chinese Elm, London Planetree, Pine, Crape Myrtle, Kousa Dogwood, and Yoshino Cherry 25 Replacements in '03 (In cooperation with SPATS, financed by SCDOT, designed and managed by MGC))	12
13	US-221 Phase-I South of City-- 5 miles medians and shoulders	2003-'07	367 Median and Shoulder Trees 15 Replacements in '05 (Financed by ISTEA funds + MGC & Roebuck Improvement Assn. with County and SCDOT Funds with County and SCDOT partnership.)	9
14	US-221 Phase-II South of City-- Interchanges at I-26 and SC-295	2004-'09	106 Trees plus 1,190 shrubs + Grass 15 Trees added in '08 (Financed by ISTEA funds + MGC & Roebuck Improvement Assn. Funds with County and SCDOT partnership)	9
15	Business I-85 North of City-- 7 miles shoulders	2006-'07	276 Shoulder Trees--Red Maple, Black Gum, Oak, London Planetree, Holly, Kousa Dogwood, Crape Myrtle, Dawn Redwood, Arborvitae, Red Cedar, And Cryptomeria. (Financed by ISTEA funds + MGC funds with County, Spot of Pride and SCDOT partnership)	10
<b>TOTAL=</b>			<b>~5,127 Trees</b>	

## Appendix

### Appendix 33

## US-221 Treescape Dedication Remarks

### US-221 Treescape Dedication Project History

Some four years in the making, this project originally was a vision of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club, but it is the result of a great cooperative effort by many others. For this five miles of US-221, the Club developed a design and an estimated cost of \$100,000 which was submitted to and approved by our local SPATS Road Enhancement Committee in 2002. County Council agreed to be the required "sponsoring local government entity", but with the understanding that it could not be responsible for either the required 20% local match of funds, or for ongoing maintenance of the project.

The Men's Garden Club agreed to provide 1/4 of the required matching funds, and the Roebuck Improvement Association the other 3/4. The SCDOT approved the plan and agreed to continue its maintenance responsibility of the landscaped highway. So this great partnership provides a super example of a private-public initiative to accomplish an important community enhancement.

The County and the Men's Garden Club jointly developed detailed specifications for the project based on DOT requirements and followed the County's standard procedure for seeking bids. The contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, Charles Reid's "Sodfather, Inc.", last summer.

The local DOT maintenance shop has provided a number of valuable shoulder improvements and maintains them and the medians in a quality manner. The Sodfather personnel have now completed installation in a timely first class manner and will nurture this treescape for 3 years to assure good establishment of the plants.

The project consists of some 400 trees—large-growing Willow Oak, October Glory Redmaple and London Planetrees on the shoulders where there are no power lines, and small-growing trees including Kousa Dogwood, Redbud and a number of varieties of Crape Myrtle in the medians and shoulders where there are obstructions. The project has already received many compliments—and it will only grow more and more beautiful and valuable over the years.

This treescape enhances not only this important South Carolina highway, but also the thriving community of Roebuck and Spartanburg County--and it improves an important, major entry-way into the City of Spartanburg.

--Join me in thanking those organizations and individuals with the foresight and energy and responsibility for this great project.

Henry Pittman  
June, 2004

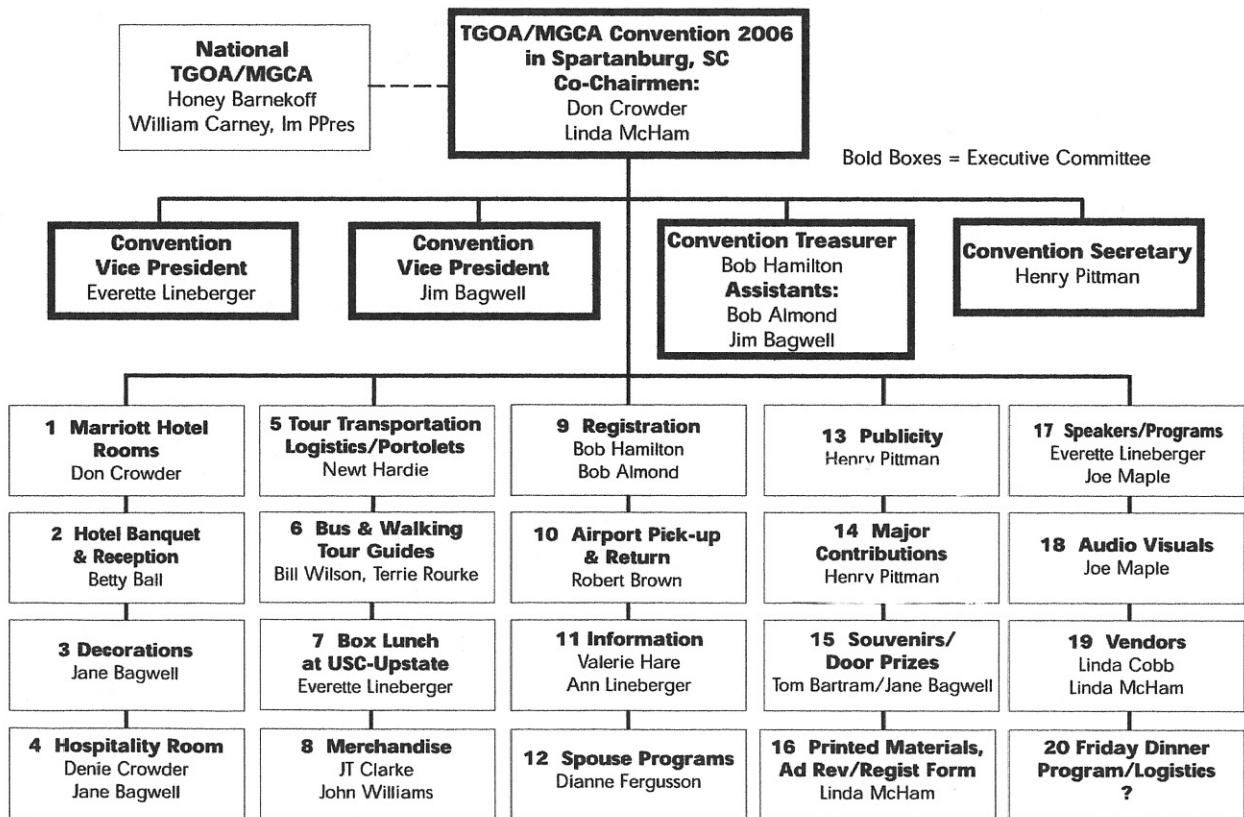
Appendix 34

**Convention Planning Organization Chart of 2006**

Organization Chart for planning the 2007 TGOA/MGCA

**Organizational Chart for the Steering Committee for the TGOA/MGCA 2006 Convention**

September 7, 2004  
 June 16, 2005  
 July 6, 2005  
 July 8, 2005



by the SMGC host club

## Appendix

### Appendix 35

## Objection to Bylaw Change of 1989 re Women Members

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**This paper was presented at the March meeting, respectfully received  
and then soundly rejected.**

There are a number of reasons for believing the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club would be a stronger and more effective organization by maintaining its present by-laws and not modifying to include women. Among them are:

1. The MGC is a very unique and special organization—there is none more respected in Spartanburg. We combine the love for growing plants of all kinds, respect for the environment, active community beautification- -all with the “toughness” of being men. I think we have always had a special pride in the masculine combination of interests we have. And these have always been brought together in a very “gentlemanly” manner.

2. We are a working club--and for many members, a hard working club. That is one of the options of membership, and indeed one of considerable attraction to many. We have no corner on this attribute, however, for there are many “working” women's garden clubs--those with strong interests and activities in horticulture, landscaping and beautification, litter control, etc.

3. Experience with integration of women into men's garden clubs is said to be very sad. The Hendersonville, Tryon and Greenville clubs are no longer in existence, at least in part because of this.

4. Our early leader, mentor and work example, Mr. W. O. Ezell, cautioned us many times to “not get too close to the ladies”. He advised love and respect, but avoidance of entanglements. Good advice.

5. We are not being required or forced to admit women. While clubs of many types have elected to do so, some even because of court action and some because of advice from their national counterpart (in our case, the Men's Garden Club of America), this is not a requirement of our club. If we elect to maintain our present status, the worst that could probably happen is court action might be brought against us at some future time; at that time we would re-appraise our priorities and decide whether to capitulate or not. There may be no over-riding reason for maintaining an affiliation with the MGC of America; indeed many of our local members prefer not to do so.

6. As a number of civic clubs have done where there are women interested in the ethic of the organization, we might help an interested group of women organize another Men's Garden Club. There is no reason for not having a number of Men's Garden Clubs in our community, just as there are many Lions, Rotary, Sertoma clubs--some of which are all female.

7. I am told many men, particularly those who are retired, appreciate an occasional “men's only” opportunity. And equally, many of those men's wives like getting them out of the house for a while.

We respect and love our ladies--our wives, or friends and those in the community. We particularly appreciate their attendance at our special “Ladies Night” program in Nov. each year. And we welcome them at other meetings as guests. And, very important, we specially appreciate them driving or providing other help for members to attend.

Henry Pittman  
March 9, 1989

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