

# April 2024



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

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### **Gardening & Beautification**

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

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

## President's Corner

One of the missions of our club is to educate the public. How can we accomplish this mission? A number of options are available to help the club attain this goal.

We:

1. Provide presentations at our regular monthly meetings
2. Assist customers with advice at our biannual plant sales
3. Impart knowledge when working on community projects
4. Make presentations to organizations interested in gardening

If you see an opportunity for the club to be involved in a project or a presentation opportunity, please let the board know. Spartanburg County will benefit from our knowledge and the community will reap the benefits of the gardening world. Let's help make Spartanburg a hot bed of horticulture!



Our April 15 meeting will be a gardening delight! Our own Spartanburg Men's Garden Club member, **Dan Shook**, will be our speaker on "The Children's Garden" located at the Hatcher Gardens and Woodland Preserve.

Dan owned a very successful landscape business for thirty years and later moved to Hatcher Gardens to become the Garden Manager. His children and grandchildren have been part of his inspiration for the playful garden, and it is his hope that it will be shared with children of all ages. Choose a day soon to walk through "The Children's Garden" to admire the latest developments and enjoy being surrounded by the fantasy and whimsy that awaits you.



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



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

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

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



### 2024 Litter pickup schedule

June 8	" "	Jun 15
September 7	" "	Sep 14
December 7	snow "	Dec 14

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

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

**Renew Now  
 2024 Membership**

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

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

Bring check or cash & completed form to Shelia Middlebrooks.



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### Upcoming Events

**The Piedmont Carolina Iris Society iris show is on Thursday, April 25, from 1 - 5 PM at the St. Johns Lutheran Church on South Pine Street.**

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

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

### Presentations for 2024

<b>May 20</b>	<b>Native Perennials</b>	<b>Davis Sanders</b>
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Highlights of 2023 Plant Survey of Glassy Mountain</b>	<b>Dan Whitten</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>A Guide to Wildflowers of SC</b>	<b>Dr. Douglas Rayner</b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Skin Care for Gardeners</b>	<b>Dr. Christopher Thompson Dermatologist</b>
<b>September, 16</b>	<b>Club Picnic</b>	
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Birds</b>	<b>Irvin Pitts</b>





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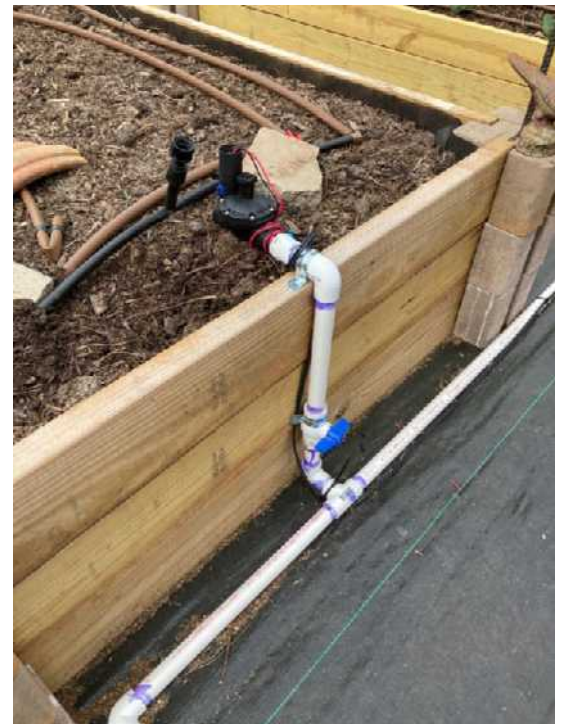
### Member Musing By Linda McHam

It's April: time to prepare your vegetable garden! April 15 is the last frost date in our area. It should be safe to set out your tomatoes and other vegetables and/or seeds on or after this date. Whether you have a lot of space, or your space is very limited, here are some ideas for making the most of what you have. Assess how many beds (or containers) you want to work with. Check your water supply and see if it is convenient to make a connection for your beds. Draw a simple sketch and measure it so that you know how much lumber or containers you need. You will also need to know how much potting mix and compost you need. If you are starting a vegetable garden for the first time, don't make it too complicated. Using this modular method, you can make tweaks and improvements each year. The important thing is to just GET STARTED!



This is the configuration for my vegetable garden. I installed these raised beds around 2005. I would not recommend making them this deep (approximately 36 inches deep) now, unless you have health issues. Half that height is plenty of soil to grow most vegetables. Plus, the amount of money to purchase enough soil to fill these is not worth spending. Each year about two inches of mushroom compost is needed to top up the beds due to leeching.

A close-up of the irrigation solenoid and piping arrangement for my sister's raised beds.



The solenoid is not necessary but makes things easier for you if you choose to go that route.





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### Member Musing By Linda McHam



Using a modular layout, you can create any kind of configuration that works for your setting. It is not necessary to use 8 or 10 ft boards. You can cut each board in half and make a 4 X 4 container.



Detail of a modular method of making raised beds. These can be assembled easily and dismantled and moved when necessary.

History of the club continues on the following pages.

## 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.