

# August 2024

# Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



## *Welcoming Men & Women*

### Officers

President Phil Abers  
Vice President Beth Waddell  
Secretary Denie Crowder  
Treasurer Shelia Middlebrooks

### Directors

Charles Covert  
Darvin Helvy  
Curtis Marshall  
Joan Marshall  
Linda McHam

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### **Gardening & Beautification**

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

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

## President's Corner

Gardening is a hobby that gets high marks for being a healthy activity. Gardeners are usually outside breathing the fresh air and enjoying the sunshine. The physical activity keeps us in good shape. Most gardeners enjoy a good mental state of being. There is something about digging in the dirt that brings peace to our beings.

Gardening is wonderful, but there are risks that need to be managed. One obvious issue is sun damage to the skin. Those of us with Northern European ancestry, like me, are particularly susceptible to sun damage. The August meeting will have a very important presentation on protecting our body from too much sun. We hope to see you Monday, August 19.

## Christopher Thompson **SMGC Speaker August 19 2024**

### "Skin Care for Gardeners"



As avid gardeners, our skin is exposed to many hours of sunlight. Perhaps you have already been concerned about the effect upon your skin's health. Our August SMGC meeting will feature Christopher Thompson who is a certified physician assistant who specializes in both medical and surgical dermatology.

Chris is skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of all dermatological disorders, including skin cancer. Please join us as we learn how to protect our skin (the largest organ in the body) so that we can enjoy our gardening time to the fullest!



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



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

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

## Presentations for 2024

- September 16** Club Picnic
- October 21** Birds Irvin Pitts
- November** Annual meeting and installation of officers



## 2024 Litter pickup schedule

**September 7 "rain date"      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.)

## Candidate Slate for 2025

### Proposed Officers for the coming year

President: Phil Abers  
Vice President: Beth Waddell  
Secretary: Denie Crowder  
Treasurer: Sheila Middlebrooks

### Proposed Directors for the coming year

**Returning for 2nd year of a 2 year term**  
Darvin Helvy  
Charles Covert

### New directors for a 2 year term

Will Hawkins  
Charles Crescenzi  
Ben Waddell  
Mark Van Natta  
Ed White  
Roberta White  
Curtis Marshall

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

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

**Renew Now  
2024 Membership**  
Single \$20 Family \$28 Student \$5  
Corporate \$100

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

Bring check or cash & completed  
form to Shelia Middlebrooks.



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## Member Musing By Jim and Regina Weeks

When first married in 1972, we didn't have the conditions for the orchids we tried; Regina has done quite well with them here. Our first success was an African violet under a grow light. We were truly hooked when Crockett's Victory Garden appeared in 1975. We joined the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, allowing pre-admission to the Philadelphia Flower Show, the oldest and largest indoor show. Entering Medical School at age 31 didn't leave a lot of time to garden, although we had a perennial garden in Philly, getting plants mail order from an Ohio business that became Wayside Gardens in Hodges SC. A favorite was Lythrum, now known as a bane in wetlands. We did find time for frequent trips to Longwood Gardens, and later to the botanical gardens in Pittsburgh while I trained at Pitt.

Coming to Spartanburg in 1985, we became garden center groupies, frequenting Underwood and S. Pleasantburg nurseries in Greenville, in addition to those in Sparkle City. Woodlanders in Aiken provided a host of mail-order plants. After the Master Gardener course in 2006, I did PAR (Plant a Row for the Hungry) in Cowpens for 12 years. I distinguished myself as the only Master Gardener to run over his leg with a rototiller! We both also joined the Men's Garden Club and are long time members. These days are spent mostly fighting deer, which our neighbors are luring in with food.

*Some favorite plants on our property:*



**Golden Rain Tree**



**Grancy Graybeard**



**Morris Arboretum**



**Kolkwitzia Amabilis**



**Viburnum Carlcephalum**

History of the club continues on the following pages.

**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

## Appendix

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!