

February 2025 Gardening & Beautification

A Publication of the Spartanburg Men's Garden Club



Welcoming Men & Women

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Gardening & Beautification

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

Webmaster@DirtDaubers.org

President's Corner

Our club has been involved in community projects since 1948. The South Pine Street cherry trees plantings were a big project for us in the past. We have worked on beautification of some of the major intersections in Spartanburg including I-26 at US 29. In recent years our projects have been of a smaller scale. Last year we planted trees at the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and did landscaping for the St Luke's Free Medical Clinic campus. Please see the certificate of appreciation we received from the VFW in this newsletter.

The changing demographics of our club and COVID have negatively impacted our project work. One of our goals this year is to do more projects. We are talking with PALS (Play-Advocate-Live Well) about a tree planting event. We may also do more work at the VFW. If you have a project in mind, please bring it to the attention of one of our Board Members. Let's stay involved with our community!

Deb Vararo SMGC Speaker February 17, 2024

Are you searching for more information on the importance of pollinators? Deb Vararo, also known as "Miss Bee Haven", will delight us with "Getting to Know Beekeeping" at our February 17th meeting. She specializes in local honey and bee pollen, and she also creates a variety of natural products for dog care. Don't miss this program as it will "bee" amazing.

Veterans of Foreign Wars



Presented to

Spartanburg Men's Garden Club

"We appreciate your Club and are
thrilled to see the final results of your
new outdoor space. Thank you!"

Your new landscape design
came out beautifully.

Thank you for choosing us to
Bring your vision to life.



In witness whereof we have hereunto set our
hands and the official seal of the Veterans
of Foreign Wars of the United States, this
day of

Edward Z. Martin
VFW Post 9539 Commander 24-25
[Signature]
VFW 9539 Sr. Vice Commander 24-25



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.



2025 Litter pickup schedule

March 8	rain dates	Mar 15
June 14	" "	Jun 21
September 13	" "	Sep 20
December 13	" "	Dec 20

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 2025 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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Upcoming Events

Presentations for 2025

February 17-Deb Vararo, Beekeeping

March 17- The Happy Berry

April 21- Linda McHam "The Chelsea Flower Show"

May 19- Christopher Thompson, "Bugs and Crawly Things vs Skin Care"

June 16- Nicole Goodman, Urban Horticulture Agent

July 21- Hallman Farms and grafting

August 18- Dan Whitten, "Highlights of 2023 Plant Survey of Glassy Mountain"

September 15- Picnic

November 17- Joyce Harrison, "Conservation, Litter and Microplastics"

Our Corporate Members are listed below. Please support them.

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



<https://www.instagram.com/spartanburgmensgardenclub/>



<https://facebook.com/groups/smgc1948>



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**Photography
by Linda McHam**



**Camellia japonica
'October Affair'**



Camellia japonica 'Governor Mouton'



**Camellia
japonica
'Leucantha'**



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Member Musing

By Linda McHam

The Spectacle that is the Chelsea Flower Show & the gardens of England

What a pleasure and a thrill to be able to see the Chelsea Flower Show! As a garden tour designer and director in the past, I have had the opportunity to see the show about seven times. My husband, Gary, and I first attended the show in 1995. I had started teaching the Landscape Design section of the Master Gardener program here in Spartanburg and, through my research for the class, I learned that the really FABULOUS gardens were in England. So, I made up my mind to take a trip there to see as many of the best gardens I could.

In order to see the Chelsea Flower Show, it's best to become a member of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and purchase tickets in advance. The show is always held the third week in May. It runs for six days: Monday is for Royals only; Tuesday and Wednesday are for members of the RHS. Thursday, Friday and Saturday are for the public; sales of the items at the show start at 4:00 PM on Saturday. As I wanted to see the show on Members Days, I joined the RHS and ordered my tickets when they went on sale in November of 1994.

Gary and I planned a trip to England for 17 days, minus going over and coming back. This left me 15 days to see the flower show and as many gardens as possible. I made a notebook of all our confirmations. Gary made the hotel reservations and I contacted the gardens. Keep in mind this was before email was ubiquitous, so snail mail and faxes were our means of correspondence. I had a large number of books on the gardens which gave open days, facilities and

other information. Every day in the notebook had its own page which listed our check out (from the hotel); the four or five possible gardens we might be able to see near us; and the next overnight accommodations. At the end of the day, I wrote what we actually did, including the gardens, the meals and hotels, as well as interesting stops along the way. Local pubs are a great way to meet the locals and to sample the food.

The Chelsea Flower Show is overpowering. It is in the middle of London, located on the Royal Hospital grounds on the Thames Embankment. It is also walking distance to the Chelsea Physic Garden, the oldest garden in London, established in 1673. You can purchase food to eat, gifts galore, use the rest area facilities, and sit and watch the parade of people go by. The crowds are limited on each day, but there are still a lot of people to see and meet. I have met several friends there unexpectedly. Try your best to rest up the day before, wear your most comfortable shoes, and do dress with a modicum of decorum. Brits look at Americans like we are poor relations, with good reason. Americans tend to be very rude and sloppy. So, go and enjoy. Do your best to be a good representative of the USA and sit and rest when necessary. I've never lasted more than four hours.

PS Plan to attend our April monthly meeting. I'm going to show photos of the show. Come join me!



History of the club continues on the following pages.

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...

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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.

Appendix

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 2nd 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*