

## Hotel – Schedule of Events – Convention Information

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### 2006 National Convention

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Thursday, April 20- Saturday, April 22

The Spartanburg Men's Garden Club invites you to join us this spring during cherry blossom time. We've designed a fun-filled, educational, and, we hope, inspirational program for everyone.

Our convention will be headquartered in one of the newest additions to downtown Spartanburg, the Marriott Hotel ([www.spartanburgmarriott.com](http://www.spartanburgmarriott.com)). The hotel has nine floors and 240 rooms. The convention rate is \$84.00 per room (single, double or triple) plus taxes and includes breakfast daily. The rate is good for 3 days before and after our convention, based on space available. The continental breakfast is good only during the convention. The code for this special rate is **TGOA**. To register with the hotel online use **mngcmgca** for the group code. Please call the hotel directly at 864- 596-1211 or 1-800-327-6465 and ask for the Spartanburg Marriot at Renaissance Park.

#### Registration:

Please print the form from this website, fill it out and return as soon as possible. The convention fee is \$185 per person with lunches and dinners included. The form is available at National's web site: [www.tgoa-mgca.org](http://www.tgoa-mgca.org).

**Tentative Schedule: See Final Schedule posted separately on 03/21/06.**

#### Wednesday, April 19

9:30 am-8 pm Registration Open  
10:30-12:00 TGOA-MGCA E & I Committee  
1:00-4:00 TGOA-MGCA Executive Committee

#### Thursday, April 20

7:00 am Registration Opens  
8:00-5:00 Hospitality/Merchandise open  
7:00-8:30 am Breakfast, Awards  
9:00-11:45 National Committee Meetings  
9:00-11:30 Self-guided Walking Tours (2)  
9:00-10:00 Choice of 4 Seminars  
10:30-11:30 Choice of 4 Seminars  
12:00-1:00 Lunch, Awards, Announcements  
1:15-4:00 pm National Director's Meetings  
4:00-6:00 pm Free Time  
6:30 Dinner, Photography Awards

#### Friday, April 21

7:00-8:30 am Breakfast, Awards  
8:15-8:30 am Overview of the Day's Program  
9:00-12:00 Group A to Hatcher Garden, Group B to Milliken & Co.  
12:15-1:15 Box Lunch at USC-Upstate's Arboretum  
For those who do not attend the tours, lunch is on your own.  
1:30-4:30 Group A to Milliken & Co., Group B to Hatcher Garden  
6:00-8:30 BBQ Dinner at First Presbyterian Church, Awards

## **Saturday, April 22**

7:00-8:30 am Breakfast, Memorials

9:00-11:30 Membership Meeting/Roll Call

11:30-2:30 Green Marketplace open

12:00-1:30 Lunch, Awards

1:30-2:30 Choice of 4 Seminars

3:00-4:00 Choice of 4 Seminars

1:30-4:15 Concurrent National Seminars (3)

4:15-6:00pm Free Time

6:00 pm Dinner, Awards and Special Speaker, Dr. Michael Dirr. Michael Dirr is a professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia. He is the author of eleven books — including *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs* and *Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates*, both published by Timber Press, and the text and reference book, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. His teaching, lectures, seminars, garden study tours, and plant introduction programs have contributed enormously to greater horticultural awareness.

### **General information on Spartanburg, SC:**

According to Hotwire.com's Travel Value Index, the Greenville-Spartanburg area is ranked second in the USA behind Denver for offering the best value to travelers (based on airfare, hotel and car rental rates, plus availability of affordable attractions)! Our Convention & Visitor's Bureau has lots of general information that will be useful ([www.VisitSpartanburg.com](http://www.VisitSpartanburg.com)) but you can expect temperatures in the 50s-70s during the day and 40s-50s during the night in late April. Our last frost is April 15. We are located at the crossroads of I-85 (N/S) and I-26 (E/W). We are also at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains (hence the nickname "Piedmont") and just 3-4 hours from the coast. Our Greenville-Spartanburg international airport (GSP) has won landscape recognition and is 40 minutes from the hotel. If you are flying, include your details so that someone will be able to meet you. The City of Spartanburg also has an outstanding web site: [www.cityofspartanburg.org](http://www.cityofspartanburg.org). Wikipedia also has a good summary: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spartanburg\\_SC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spartanburg_SC)

If you have questions, please contact one of our convention co-chairs: Don Crowder (864-580-1829), [Don.Crowder@LG.com](mailto:Don.Crowder@LG.com) or Linda McHam (864-582-1498), [LTMcHam@copper-beech.com](mailto:LTMcHam@copper-beech.com).

### **Focus on Tour Day Venues:**

In addition to Milliken & Co., Inc and Hatcher Garden, which were described in previous newsletters, the Spartanburg tour day will also feature **USC Upstate's Susan Jacob Arboretum**. A place of natural beauty, the 12-acre arboretum is named for Susan Jacobs, who is a graduate of The Mary Black School of Nursing at USC Upstate. It features a 300-seat amphitheater, lighted walkways, and foliage indigenous to the area. A meandering creek lined with boulders completes this tranquil setting, providing an aesthetic backdrop, bridging the rapidly growing north-end of campus. The Arboretum also serves as the center of gravity for campus life and student activities and provides a place for relaxation, advancement of academic studies, contemplation, and for cultural and social events.

En route to the gardens, our local **Spots of Pride** beautification efforts will be pointed out. Small, under-utilized medians and intersections have been identified and selected for horticultural makeovers. Crape myrtles, daylilies and dwarf nandinas are among the "tough" plants selected for these high-traffic areas. This effort sprang from Spartanburg's

Pride Task Force, a community-based group formed to spruce up commercial areas. Hans Balmer, who runs the Spot of Pride program on a volunteer basis, spends 700 hours a year between overseeing maintenance, new construction and soliciting sponsors.