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[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)



(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **77** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 76 NO. 8**

(First Chartered 1936)

**November, 2013**

## **November Dinner**

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30pm**

PLACE: Best Western Sovereign Hotel,  
1228 Western Ave., Albany

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Baked Chicken  
Seafood Stuffed Sole  
Meatloaf

DESSERT: Apple Pie                      Price: \$ 20.00

PROGRAM: **Climate change** – by: **Marty Teumin**, from Cornell Cooperative Extension.  
Word on the street is that this is a very interesting program.

### RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:

A caller should reach you prior to the meeting for your dinner reservation and your choice of entree. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group's reservations. If it's easier for you to email the dinner info – please send it to [MGCA1@verizon.net](mailto:MGCA1@verizon.net) (note: the character after MGCA in the email address is a Number "1")

You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

## Membership

We're looking forward to meeting the potential members that signed up at our booth at the Altamont Fair. We hope to see you on the 21st as we learn all about Climate change.

## October's Program

### **Asparagus – The Dream Investment by: Paul Zimmermann**

I'm not sure how he does it – but, **Paul Zimmermann** found the time to put together and present a very well thought out and informative presentation on Asparagus. He walked us through the process all the way from seed (or roots as he prefers) to eating them right out of the garden or cooking them. Apparently they taste great when picked just before eating and if purchased from a store they are basically tasteless – in comparison to fresh picked. During the harvest season you need to be out in the garden daily picking the tender asparagus or it will rapidly get to large. We learned about mulching and cutting down the 6' stalks after they have turned brown at the end of the season. Once established, Asparagus - a perennial - seems to require very little maintenance and it has plenty of vitamins and fiber to keep you going strong. Just look at **Paul** – he has gardens that are huge and well organized – so much so, that they look real cool from Google Earth. Not only does **Paul** find time for gardening, he finds time to write articles, and be our Web- Master for the MGCA website – Check it out by clicking on this link : [www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann** for a very interesting and informative program!!!

**Paul Zimmerman** also won this month's **Harris Memorial Centerpiece** that **Phil Harris** and **Dave Harris** brought to the dinner meeting. Each month, to honor their parents, the **Harris** family, **Phil**, **Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece that gets raffled off and the money earned is put into our memorial fund. The more I think about the more amazed I am at how much time, talent and money goes into each one of the centerpieces that **Phil** has been bringing for more years than I can remember. **Thanks** to the **Harris kids!**



## Website – MGCA

[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)

(just click on the link)

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

## November Garden Reminders

### **Plant Garlic**

Plant garlic now for harvesting next summer. Purchase garlic sold specifically for planting, or buy organic garlic. Commercial, nonorganic, supermarket garlic may have been treated to inhibit sprouting. Break the garlic head into individual cloves, keeping the largest ones for planting. (Use the small cloves for cooking.) Plant cloves about 3 inches apart with the pointy side up. Try some different varieties to see which you prefer. Mulch the bed well with straw.

## **November Garden Reminders- continued**

### **Hold Off on Pruning**

Avoid pruning woody plants now because it will encourage a flush of new growth that may be damaged by the upcoming cold temperatures. Instead, wait until late winter or early spring to prune most trees and shrubs. (Exceptions to this rule are spring-blooming shrubs, such as lilacs and azaleas, which should be pruned after flowering.)

### **Test Soil for Nutrients and pH**

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting when you are in the spring. Some amendments take time to break down and become available to plants. If you have a nearby Cooperative Extension Service office, you can take advantage of their low-priced soil testing service. If not, you can send a soil sample away to a soil lab, or get a do-it-yourself kit. Most plants prefer a slightly acidic soil with a pH of 6.5 to 6.8 (a pH of 7 is neutral). New England soils tend to be acidic and frequently require the addition of lime. But your soil can vary from location to location in your yard, so if you notice different characteristics of the soil in different beds, test them separately.

### **Cover Late Greens**

If you haven't yet done so, cover your late crops of lettuce and spinach with polyester row covers to keep them warmer as the night temperatures dip close to freezing. The covers also will keep the leaves from getting damaged by hurricane-related heavy rains.

### **Stop Cutting Rose Flowers**

Hard as it is to do, refrain from cutting any more roses and let the fruits (rose hips) form. This will signal to the plant that it's time to harden off for winter. Don't spread winter mulch around roses until after the ground freezes.

### **Forcing potted bulbs for winter color**

By potting bulbs now for forcing, you can have colorful blooms in your home from Christmastime until spring. Forcing is the process of stimulating plants to bloom out of season. Bulbs can be planted in pots during October or November to bloom from January through April.

Many popular flowering bulbs can be forced indoors, including daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and crocuses. Most of these take 10 to 20 weeks from planting to bloom. Paperwhite narcissus take only 6 to 8 weeks to bloom, however, so they are the best choice if you want flowers sometime around the holidays.

The key to success lies in the timing of each step in the forcing process. Here's a simplified outline of the process:

1. To plant your bulbs, select clean pots with drainage holes in the bottom. The pot should be at least twice as deep as the bulbs to allow good root development, though it's best to use a broad, shallow pot that won't tip over when the plants get top-heavy after blooming.

## Forcing potted bulbs for winter color - continued

2. Fill each pot loosely with a lightweight potting medium, leaving space for the bulbs to sit in the soil with their tips just below the pot rim. Do not compress the soil or press the bulbs into it. Cover the bulbs with potting mix up to the rim of the pot, then water. Watering will compress the potting mix enough to leave headspace for future watering.
3. Put pots of bulbs in a cool, dark place to prepare them for later leaf and flower growth. You can use any structure – such as a root cellar, an unheated basement, an old refrigerator – where you can keep the temperature between 35° and 50° F.
4. To force the blooms, bring the pots out of the cool environment into warmth and light to trigger the formation of leaves and flowers. For best results, give the bulbs a temperature of 60° F and direct sunlight. From the time you remove them from storage, the bulbs will require another three or four weeks to bloom. If you have prepared a number of pots for forcing, you can bring out one per week to provide a longer period of blooms.
5. Rotate the pots regularly so that all the leaves receive an equal amount of sunlight. To prolong the bloom, remove the plants from direct sunlight when they begin to flower. Keep the soil moist throughout the forcing period.

Note that paperwhite narcissus are best kept in a cool, but not so cold, spot (50° to 60°) in low light until they are well-rooted and shoots appear – usually in two to three weeks – before placing them in sunlight.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services



Volunteers during October included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and Bruce Wilcox.** The weather has been cooperating with us and we have been real busy working outside in the raised beds. We are still picking lettuce, radishes and turnips. After cleaning out each bed we have been planting Winter Rye that we will till back into the soil. The consumers potted up around 100 tulip, daffodil, and hyacinth bulbs that they buried in the empty raised beds. In the spring we will dig them up and the consumers will have some nice flowers to take home to their families. Once again, the great folks at **Becker's Farm** gave **Bruce Wilcox** a great deal on a truckload of pumpkins and he brought them to the Center For Disability Services and the consumers had a blast painting and decorating them for Halloween. Thanks **Bruce Wilcox** and **Becker's Farm!** Please support the growers - like **Becker's Farm** - that help support our activities!





Photos taken 10/23/2013 - We had a hard time convincing our part time cooper – **Jack Meagher** - that he should put soil in these barrels.



**History - 27 years ago this month**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 1986

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 6, 1986, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Ferd Johnson** called the meeting to order at 7:40.

The Minutes of the October 2, 1986 meeting were approved as read by the club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by the Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of October 31, 1986, there was a balance on hand of \$4,439.75.

**Joe Raggio** reported that the Club realized a profit from the Bulb Sale of approximately \$1,100. the Board voted to forward \$700.00 to the Berkshire Garden Center.

**Al Miller** gave an extensive report on the recent National Executive Committee meeting in San Antonio, Texas: National dues for 1987 will remain at \$10.00, these dues will advance to \$15.00 in 1988. Life membership will be \$150.00 in 1989. Four Local clubs may continue to admit women as associate members. This has been done on an experimental basis. Ladies may not hold office in either the local clubs or on the National level nor may they become Delegates at the National Convention. **WALLY DILLENBECK IS NEW LIFE MEMBER #6.**

This year's plans for Ladies Night were finalized, the date will be December 4, 1986 at 6:00 pm with a cash bar followed by Dinner at 7:00 pm in the Northway Inn. A major departure was agreed on, that being given a choice of three entrees to choose from instead of our usual two, the price will be \$12.50. **Wally Dillenbeck** volunteered to do the tickets for this function. The Choices, Roast Top sirloin, Stuffed Filet of Ocean Sole and Cornish Hen. The program will be a talk given on African Violets by **George Rodenhausen**.

At this meeting there will also be the election and installation of officers for 1987. **Paul Hughes** volunteered to call **Nancy Gordon** to have a Past President's Pin sent to us in time for our December Dinner meeting. No other business will be conducted at this meeting.

Directors: Jan.8,1987 at C.P.Center: Dinner Meeting Jan. 22,1987:Veeders Restaurant.

**Don Otterness** reported that Spirea (snow-mound) have each been planted as Memorials for the following deceased member, who died in 1984: **Henry Achordate** of Delmar, **Christian Ott-Hansen** of Elsmere and **Eugene Plante** of Clarksville. The Club Secretary was advised to notify the families of our actions.

Memorials will be planted in the Spring for **Bob McNitt** and **Herb Swane**. **Don Otterness** advised the Board of directors that **Mrs. Mandell** a neighbor of **Herb Swane** intends to make a cash donation to our Memorial Fund in memory of Herb.

All advertising space for the Dirt has been sold, reported **Jack Spear**.

**Ted Burns** would make more meetings if someone could pick him up. This possibility is being looked into with maybe a transportation committee.

Committee chairman are reminded to write up the duties of his committee to be included in a handbook. **Al Miller** will receive these write-ups.

**Wally Dillenbeck** is looking for more help in our Gardening from the Heart. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted by, **Tom Baker**, Secretary



Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago this month"

Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

## Do You Remember When...



**Berkshire Botanical Gardens – 1999**



**Gardening From The Heart**



**Adopt-A-Highway - Henry Fox & Carl Greenman**



**Dick Stankus at work in the Memorial Garden**



**Al Miller and Tom Baker –**

Founding Members  
Almost 30 years ago.

Carl Greenman – Youngest member of  
the GFTH Team.

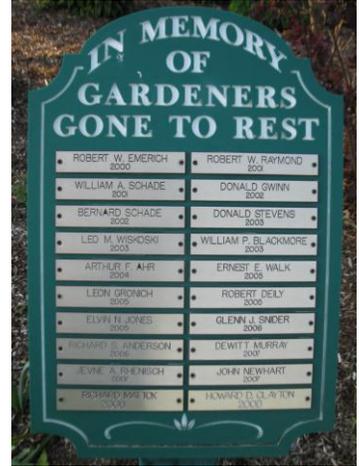
**Al Miller and Tom Baker supervising Carl Greenman**

## Memorial Garden

### At the Albany County Cooperative Extension



**Joe Huth / Chuck Scott**  
Memorial Garden Chairmen



## Adopt-a-Highway



## Albany International Airport Don Wrieden - Chairman



Please support research for **ALS** (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's disease) in memory of one of our most active members - **Mr. Bill Town** <http://community.als.net/teamtown>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>November 7<sup>th</sup></b> @ 7:30 pm <b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Director's meeting</b> – all members invited Center for Disability Services – Manning Blvd
<b>Every Wednesday :</b> @ 9:00 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
<b>November 21<sup>st</sup></b> @ 6:30 pm <b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b> @ 6:30 pm ** One week early **	<b>Dinner Meeting</b> Best Western Sovereign Hotel 1228 Western Ave Albany, NY

**Russ Greenman and Jack Meagher, Editors**

*In Memory*

*Of My*

*Loving Wife, Jessie*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Louis Meo  
&  
Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of*

*Ed Tompkins*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Avrom Koblenz*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Christian and Mildred  
Lebrecht*

*In Memory of*

*Al and Barbara  
Miller*

*In Memory of*



**Bill Town**

*Joe Herman*

*In Memory of  
my Dad*



**Carroll W. Greenman**

*Bob*

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*In Memory of*



*Grandpa & Great Grandpa*

*Carroll W. Greenman*

*Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*In Memory of my parents*



*John and Carrie Meagher*

*They both loved Plants and Flowers*

*Jack Meagher*