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<http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 78 years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 77 NO. 6

Summer, 2014

### MGCA Annual Picnic (Ladies Invited) & Memorial Service

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, July 24th @ 5:00 pm**

5:00 pm ----- Suggested Arrival Time

(or earlier if you want time to check out the many gardens)

5:30 pm ----- Memorial Garden to Remember 'Gardeners Gone to Rest'

6:00 pm ----- Pot Luck Supper

7:00 pm ----- Program

**PLACE:** Albany County Cooperative Extension Building  
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY

**PROGRAM:** "Tomatoes - how to double the growing season with 10 times the work".  
Our Very own – **Paul Zimmermann** will be covering all aspects of growing tomatoes, but will focus on how to harvest ripened tomatoes by June 1st.

### **Summer Picnic! - Thursday, July 24th @ 5:00 pm**

The club chairman, **Paul Zimmermann**, **Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman**, will arrange to provide: Lemonade, ice tea, coffee, rolls & butter, plates, cups, and utensils. You could bring a dish to share... some thoughts may include: a meat dish, potato dish, salad, pasta, baked beans, desert, or other appropriate picnic fare. **Maria Greenman** will be keeping track of your offerings to help insure that there is a good variety of food. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### **Reservations are recommended**

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation and offering. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Thursday, July 17th, please call **Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: callers – Please call Russ Greenman with your counts and contributions.** 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")

## MGCA Memorial Service July 24th

Four real gentleman that will be honored for their combined **120 years of service** to the MGCA and their communities.



**Ken York** 2/23/14  
Member since 1986



**Charles Ireland** 12/24/2013  
Member since 1983



**Jerome Flax** 3/2/14  
Member since 1984



**LeRoy Negus** 4/27/14  
Member since 1983

### May (Ladies night) Program

Our “Ladies Night” program was given by **Michele Peters** – owner of **Ambiance Florals** - [www.ambianceflorals.com/](http://www.ambianceflorals.com/) on 116 Everett Road in Albany, NY. I especially enjoyed how she tricked us into thinking we were having fun learning about floral arrangements while we really learned geography and history. I was amazed how she chose flowers from all over the world and had them rapidly shipped to her shop to make arrangements for us. I actually won one of the Orchid arrangements and I was impressed how long it lasted. She might even be an electrical engineer... she even had lights (without sparks) *in* the water. I think she made seven different arrangements that were given away to lucky attendees. We were honored to have our oldest and amazingly active **Mr. Ken Abele** and his wife **Thelma** joining us now that they are back from Florida.

**Michele Peters** certainly knows her stuff and I think if I ever need a good Floral Artist, I'll give her a call.

Thank you **Michele Peters** for a very enjoyable program.



### Membership

We were honored to have our oldest and amazingly active **Mr. Ken Abele** and his wife **Thelma** join us now that they are back from Florida.

## 2014 PLANT SALE: A Great success!

The 2014 Plant Sale was held the day before Mother's Day - May 10th  
 The weather wasn't perfect, but the sale was a huge success. It's really impressive to see how this club comes together to support our events. This was important to the club and to the Communities that benefit from the profits made at this sale. We raised money that will help us support activities like our weekly Gardening From The Heart program at the Center for Disability Services. Many club members worked together to make this event happen.

Members that helped at the Plant Sale, included **Tom Baker, Bill Danish, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Bob Ireland, Jack Meagher, John O'Grady** and his **Daughter, Gil O'Brien, Chuck Scott, Greg Shields, Gary Woods, Don Wrieden, Al Villeneuve, Bruce Wilcox, and Paul Zimmermann.**

This is our biggest – only – fundraiser of the year. We owe a BIG Thanks to **Don Wrieden** and **Jack Meagher** for organizing and donating their time and fuel to solicit and pick up donations from various growers.

Many of our members had been planning and planting for this event since early Spring. We certainly appreciate all the work you did to help make this the great success that it was.

**Henry Fox** will be proud of us. He was Mr. Plant Sale Chairman for a gazillion years. Thanks for teaching us well **Mr. Henry Fox.**

Special thanks goes to: **Delmar Dental Medicine** 344 Delaware Avenue Delmar, for allowing us to use their parking lot for our sale and **St. Thomas The Apostle Church** – for the use of their parking lot, facilities, and water for the plants. A number of local establishments gave plant donations to help our sale. The following businesses provided items:

**Please support these growers since they were so generous to donate items for our sale.**

<b>Constantine Farm</b> <a href="http://www.constantineenterprises.com/">http://www.constantineenterprises.com/</a> 564 Albany-Shaker Road Loudonville, NY 12211	<b>Faddegon's</b> <a href="http://www.faddegonslandscape.com/">http://www.faddegonslandscape.com/</a> *DIRT Advertiser* 1140 Troy Schenectady Rd Latham, NY 12110 (518) 785-6726
<b>Gade's Farm</b> <a href="http://www.gadefarm.com/">http://www.gadefarm.com/</a> *DIRT Advertiser* 2479 Western Ave. Guilderland, NY 12209	<b>George's Market &amp; Nursery</b> <a href="http://www.georges-market.com/spring/">http://www.georges-market.com/spring/</a> 240 Wade Road Extension, Opposite Target Latham, NY
<b>Krug Farms</b> <a href="#">65 Everett Rd</a> Albany, NY 12205 (518) 482-5406	<b>Pigliavento's Greenhouses</b> <a href="http://guilderlandflowers.com/">http://guilderlandflowers.com/</a> 3535 Lydius Street Schenectady, NY 12303
<b>Shaker Shed Farm Market</b> <a href="http://shakershedfarm.com/">http://shakershedfarm.com/</a> *DIRT Advertiser* 945 Watervliet-Shaker Rd Loudonville, NY 12205	<b>Troys Landscaping Supply</b> <a href="http://www.troyslandscapesupply.com/">http://www.troyslandscapesupply.com/</a> 1266 Loudon Rd Cohoes, NY
<b>Valoze's Greenhouses</b> <a href="http://valozesgreenhouse.com/">http://valozesgreenhouse.com/</a> 5 Grove Lane Cohoes, NY 12047	

**Feature Article - Growing Winter Squash**  
**Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann**

## Growing Winter Squash

Every year I grow enough butternut squash to harvest approximately 100 squash come September. I figure each vine will produce about 4 decent sized fruits, so 25 plants need to go into the garden in late May.

Most winter squash varieties produce long vines. I always devote the west side of our garden to my expansive friends. One year I'll plant them against the fence on the west side and train the plants to grow in an easterly direction. The next year I plant the squash 20 feet east of the west side fence and train the vines to grow towards California.

In the space where the vines will be growing toward I plant garlic. Since garlic goes into the garden in mid October (after the squash have been harvested) and come out in early to mid July (before the squash vines reach them), I find this is an ideal rotation. That's not to say there aren't other equally effective rotations possible, but this one seems to work well for me.

For no particular reason I always start my winter squash in two inch peat pots in early May and put them out approximately three weeks later. I space the plants about 15" apart, peeling back the top part of the peat pot before putting them into the ground. Since squash like warm soil, I spread clear plastic over the planting beds about the same time I start the seedlings.

Once the vines begin to lengthen I educate them to grow in that year's assigned direction. I mound a little soil over the vine 6 to 18 inches from the plant. This anchors the vine and also encourages the vine to develop additional roots at the spot of the soil mounding.

By late August the vines have taken over the west side of the garden. At this point, if I can do so without trampling the vines, I will remove flowers and undersized fruit in order to let the plant devote more of its energy toward the larger fruits.

Winter squash should be harvested before the first frost which is often toward the end of September in our locale. Cut the fruit off the vine with a pair of sharp hand clippers, leaving as much stem on the fruit as practical. Ideally the squash should be an even color (often tan) when harvested but don't be too concerned if some appear a bit mottled.

Winter squash should ideally be cured several days in a warm, dry location. A garden shed works well, but leaving them in the garden also works well for me (but not if a frost is forecasted).

Once cured, I carefully place the squash in 5 gallon buckets and place the buckets in a warm, dark location. Handle the squash gently to avoid bruising (which can lead to spoilage). Check the squash on a weekly basis – despite your best efforts some will spoil.

I'm still eating butternut squash (the best keeper) as late as June (that's 8 months). Most winter squash sweeten as they age in storage. Regardless, they're always delicious.



**Thanks to Paul Zimmermann!!!** Is there anything that man can't do?  
Oh yeah, he just built 10 fancy schmancy bluebird mansions that were sold at our **Plant Sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>** – I think he was going to try to build more – in his spare time between 2am and 4am – perhaps for the picnic.

## History - 25 years ago - June 29, 1989

### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING

President **Don Lewis** called a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, on Thursday evening, June 29, 1989 at his home at 7:00.

The express purpose was to resolve the proposition concerning the Local Scholarship, therefore, the regular meeting format was dispensed with.

Before the main topic was called for, **President Don** had several items to bring up.

- **Don** read a very thoughtful thank you note from **Agnes Leonard** for the memorial planting for **her late husband Al**, a Club member for many years.

- Next **Don** told of a letter received by **Paul Hughes** from a woman requesting a membership application, having heard that woman are now eligible to join Men's Garden Clubs. **Paul** will reply by saying that she is quite eligible to join the National Men's Garden Clubs of America, but that we are not accepting women at the present time.

- **Paul Hughes** received another letter which was much more disturbing, from **Everett Lattimore** complaining about the handling of the **Bob McNitt** memorial planting. As a result **Eve** will not be renewing his membership in September. The matter will be looked into by **Don Otterness**.

- **Al Miller** told the Board that **Mrs. Jaskoviak**, the wife of **Larry Jaskoviak** our National Club President, had died within the past few days. **Herm Mau** made a motion which was seconded and carried to send \$50.00 to the National Endowment Fund in her memory.

- It was noted that **Clark Zeh** has suffered a slight stroke and will be unable to drive to our meeting for a while. The chairman of the sunshine committee, **Tom Baker** was instructed to send Him a card from the Club.

- **President Don** passed around the Honor Certificate and letter from the National Office as a result of our continued growth in membership.

- **Joe Huth** produced the serving spoons which were reported as being missing. These were reported in the Dirt. **Joe** didn't even know that they were missing, however, **Wally Dillenbeck** has them now and will see that the rightful owner will get them.

The subject of the Local Scholarship was discussed. One point was made that there was never a question as to should we have a Scholarship Program, but are we ready to put one through in time for the up-coming school term. **Don Otterness**, author of the program, is confident that there is ample time to do this.

**Al Miller** questioned the financing of the scholarship. **Don Lewis** and others were very positive that we do indeed have enough money to get the program off the ground right now.

It was decided that we should publicize the program through the newspapers since our Publicity Director, **Tom Baker** has many newspaper connections. **Don Otterness** will give **Tom** all the necessary information including the date that the interviews are to be completed by August 15.

**Ken York** made the final motion which was carried, it read as follows:

I move that the Men's Garden Club of Albany should implement the Scholarship Program which has been worked on for several months. A committee should be appointed whose duties will be to appropriately advertise the scholarship and to recommend to the Board of Directors those students whom they have chosen to receive the awards. The amount of money to be used for the Scholarship should not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

There were six Board members present, all voted for the motion as was presented by **Ken York**.

The following is the list of the Board members who were present:	<b>President Don</b> appointed the following men to serve on the Scholarship committee:
<b>Don Lewis</b> President, <b>Tom Baker</b> Secretary, <b>Don Stevens</b> - Assistant Treasurer, <b>Herman Mau</b> 1989, <b>Ken York</b> 1991, and <b>Joe Huth</b> Past President	<b>Don Otterness</b> , Chairman, <b>Wally Dillenbeck</b> , <b>Paul Hughes</b> , <b>Lee Negus</b> , <b>Joe Raggio</b> , and <b>Don Lewis</b> - Ex-officio member

No other business was brought up, therefore, the meeting was adjourned.

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" **Thanks, Tom Baker!!!**

## **MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY** **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website <http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>

### **Albany International Airport**

#### **Don Wrieden – Chairman**

Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. (or was it 10:00am) **Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and Don Wrieden** all went to the airport to help plant various flowers planting at the Gardens we maintain near the wall leading to the short term parking lot (across from the terminal entrance). Check it out - they did a great job.

**Thanks!!!**



### **Gardening from the Heart**

#### **At the Center for Disability Services**



Volunteers during May and June included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Greg Shields, and Bruce Wilcox.** The consumers have been real busy planting, weeding and harvesting some of the early crops like radishes. We keep improving our throwing arms as we aim for **Bruce** but every once in a while we launch a trowel full of soil up into the air getting to make it look like we are all working real hard.

The cooking class is also beginning to benefit from the consumer's hard work. It's amazing what they can make with the veggies from the raised beds. We brought the remaining items from our plant sale down to the Center for Disability Services and we raised a few more dollars to help support the Gardening From The Heart program.

### **Altamont Fair – August 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Chairman – Joe Huth**

**Joe Huth** is planning to demonstrate container gardening that include flowers and an emphasis on vegetable plants. He has ordered a grow box as well as seeds for five different colored peppers. I'm sure he would love to hear your thoughts about making this a successful event.

### **Memorial Garden – Cleanup session July 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

#### **At the Albany County Cooperative Extension**

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



## Memorial Garden – Cleanup session July 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am continued

Please let **Chuck Scott** or **Joe Huth** know if you have any time to help spruce up our Memorial Garden. We certainly want it looking especially nice since we lost so many great members this year. I stopped by yesterday and it looks like we may need to some weeding as well as pruning of the many trees. I think that helping prepare this garden for our memorial service would be very rewarding and educational. The reward for helping your community, honoring such great friends and people, and working with fellow gardeners is priceless. I would like to know more about the right way to prune the various things we have planted in the Memorial Garden - perhaps this is a great opportunity that more of us could take advantage of. If we have enough people that can teach us as well as people willing to learn and help – it will be a win-win situation.



Please contact **Joe Huth** or **Chuck Scott** to see if we can make this a happen.



### Adopt-a-Highway



Greg Shields 12/2014



### DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
<b>July 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am</b>	<b>Memorial Garden</b> cleanup - Albany County Cooperative Extension 24 Martin Road Voorheesville,
<b>July 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am</b>	
July 24 <sup>th</sup> <b>5:00 pm</b> – Dinner @ 6:00pm	<b>MGCA Annual Summer picnic and Memorial Service</b> Albany County Cooperative Extension 24 Martin Road Voorheesville,
August 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Altamont Fair</b> – Container gardening
September 4 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm	<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b> 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited

Russ Greenman and Jack Meagher, Editors

**Please support research for ALS** (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's disease) in memory of one of our most active members - **Mr. Bill Town**

Click on this link to read his story: <http://community.als.net/teamtown>



2000 Plant Sale



Ken Abele - The man with the best toys



Joe Herman, Tom Baker (working) and Bill Danish  
May 2004



Memorial Garden  
Below: Rod Kermani @ 2000 Plant sale



Dick Stankus and Ken Abele cooking at  
our annual Summer Picnic  
Below, Joe Herman and Warren Abele



*In Memory*  
*Of My*  
*Loving Wife, Jessie*  
*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*  
*Louis Meo*  
*&*  
*Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of*  
*Al & Barbara*  
*Miller*  
*Christian and Mildred*  
*Lebrecht*  
*Ed Tompkins*  
*Avrom Koblenz*  
*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of my parents*  
*John and Carrie Meagher*  
*They both loved Plants and Flowers*  
*Jack Meagher*

*In Memory of*  
*Wally Dillenbeck*  
*and*  
*Don Otterness*  
  
*By Tom Baker*

*In Memory of*  
  
**Bill Town**  
*Joe Herman*

*In Memory of*  
*my Dad*  
  
**Carroll W. Greenman**  
*Bob*

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*Carroll W. Greenman*

*Russ, Maria, and Carl*

The following growers donated to our 2014 Plant Sale  
Please help support them with your purchases

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Constantine Farm  
Shaker Shed Farm Market  
George's Market and Nursery  
Valoze's Greenhouses  
Troys Landscape Supply  
The Gade Farm  
Pigliaventos Greenhouses  
Krug Farms