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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 78 NO. 10

December, 2015

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 17th @ 6:30 pm (one week early)
Ladies and the public are cordially invited

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Prime Rib
Stuffed Sole
Chicken Bruschetta

DESSERT: Chocolate Lava Cake

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: Floral Arrangements

Our “**Ladies Night**” program will be a demonstration of how to make beautiful floral arrangements. **Michele Peters** – owner of **Ambiance** <http://www.ambianceflorals.com/> - will make different arrangements that will be given away to lucky attendees. Your chances of winning here are much better than the lottery.

We're so fortunate to have such a fantastic floral artist find time in this busy season to teach us how to make unique arrangements. There is something different about her arrangements and the materials she uses from all over the world that will certainly keep your interest.



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 their call. If a caller does not reach you (**one week prior to the meeting**) by **Thursday, December 12th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

Thanks for a Great Program

Wine About Your Garden

Presented by: **Roger Savoy, President of Home Brew Emporium in Rensselaer**

We were so happy to have **Roger Savoy** join us at our November meeting. First we enjoyed some great conversations with him over dinner and then he gave a great talk about the history of alcoholic beverages. It was amazing to learn about the many different ways of making wine and beer and how the ingredients play a big part in the final result. Hops are grown to make beer and they grow very fast (perhaps a foot a day). I was amazed to learn that you can make wine from almost anything in your garden. Fruit, berries, vegetables and flowers harvested from your garden can be used to make delicious and unique libations. I think **Roger Savoy** said that a 200 year old beer (Albany XX Ale) was recently reproduced and the hops were grown by our friends at the Indian Ladder Farmstead Brewery And Cidery. **Roger** showed us some photos of his yard and I really liked his attitude toward yards. He says that everything grown should either provide food, something to make alcohol out of, or have a visual appeal.

Thanks to **Roger Savoy** for making our evening a very enjoyable and educational one!

beerbrew.com



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BREWERY & CIDERY



Meet our \$500 Scholarship Winner

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

This year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship is **Matt Gade** of Guilderland. **Matt** is a Freshmen attending SUNY Cobleskill, where he is majoring in Agricultural Engineering and Power Machinery. He attended Guilderland High School and managed to maintain a 92 average, while working long hours on his family's landmark farm and Garden Center on Western Avenue. Also noteworthy is that **Matt** is the grandson of **Jack Gade**, a longtime member and supporter of our local club until he passed away this past April. After pursuing his bachelor's degree at Cobleskill, **Matt** plans to become a partner on the family farm, which would make him the 5th generation to do so. Congratulations **Matt**, and we look forward to meeting you when you come to our December dinner meeting!

Greg Goutos

Scholarship Committee Chair

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>

Membership

2016 Officers

DIRECTORS

President **Paul Zimmermann**

1st V.P. **Greg Shields**

Rec. Sec'y **Thomas Baker**

Treasurer **Russ Greenman**

2018 - **Jack Meagher - Chuck Scott**

2017 - **Bruce Wilcox - Don Wrieden**

2016 - (**Joseph Huth / Greg Goutos - shared**)

2016 - **Joe Herman**

REGIONAL DIRECTORS - **Thomas Baker** and **Robert Ireland**

Thanks Mrs. Abele

We received a very nice note from Mrs. Abele with a very generous donation in memory of a fantastic person - **Mr. Ken Abele**. Our MGCA members as well as **Mrs. Abele** really miss seeing **Ken**, enjoying his great stories, and all the great things he did for the club and the community. We'll put this money to good use to honor such a great gentleman.

Thank you, **Mrs. Abele!**

Dues are due

Dues are due in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – mailed to **Russ Greenman** \$15 pays for your national membership in the MGCA/TGOA, \$.50 pays for the regional dues, and the remaining \$9.50 pays your local dues. A large percentage of our members are Life members and can ignore this notice.

Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

Each month, the **Harris family, Phil, Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents. Since **Phil** is in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 he was unable to attend our meeting. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 35 Years!!!** and the money goes into our Memorial fund. The more I think about it, the more amazed I am at how much time, talent and money goes into each one of the centerpieces that **Phil** and **Dave** have been bringing, to every meeting, for more years than I can remember. What talent and generocity that family has. We can't

begin to thank all of you for all you have done for us over the years.

Thanks again to the Harris kids!



**Harris Memorial Centerpiece
Made and donated by the Harris
family**

Ed Brohm should be improving but could use your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.

Phil Harris is doing well in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2920+Tibbits+Avenue,+Troy,+NY+12180), Troy, NY 12180. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend.

Feature Article - The Humble Carrot

Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

Growing carrots may seem like a waste of time and garden space when they are so readily available in the supermarket at very reasonable prices (even the organic ones). But fresh carrots do taste better than their supermarket counterparts, so if you're up for a minor challenge, here's how to proceed. First however, we digress to enumerate the modest nutritional merits of the modern carrot. Most people are aware that carrots are an excellent source of beta carotene (night and maybe xray vision). They are also a decent source of vitamin K. Beyond that carrots don't have much to recommend themselves nutritionally. As a side note, you need to cook your carrots to release significant amounts of beta carotene.

Most commercial farming of carrots is done in places like Long Island, which is essentially a 118 mile long sand bar left by the retreating glaciers of the last Ice Age. Carrots are very sensitive to soil composition - the roots need to be able to easily displace the soil as they push down or you will end up with misshapen roots. In the Albany area there are many places with very sandy soil. However if your soil contains significant amounts of rocks or has a clayey composition, success will depend on amending the soil. Probably the best and longest lasting technique is to build a raised bed for your little orange friends. The raised bed doesn't need to be more than 6 inches high. Fill in the raised bed with high quality, sifted (for rocks) soil and you've created a good environment to grow carrots. Aim for a pH of around 6 although I've had success with a more neutral mixture. Full sun is recommended.

Secondly, you want to select the right variety of carrot. Nantes, in my opinion is the way to go. They are sweet and crisp with a blunt tip. Nelson, Bolero, Negovia, and Romance are all Nantes varieties available through my favor seed source, Johnny's. Other varieties include Imperator (very long and slender), Chantenay, Danvers, and Mini. For variety, try planting a purple or scarlet variety. Carrot seed has the well-earned reputation for being a pain to handle. One solution that I like is to purchase pelleted seed – its larger size makes it much easier to handle with my not-so-nimble fingers. You can also purchase seed tapes for the more popular varieties. Seed should be covered by a quarter to half inch of fine soil and then lightly tamped down to insure good contact between the seed and the soil. Keep the soil moist until germination.

Regardless of the way you plant, carrot seed is notoriously slow to germinate, particularly if the soil is on the cool side. I highly recommend waiting until mid-June to plant for two reasons. One reason is faster germination. Two (and possibly more importantly), carrots planted later seem to avoid burrowing pests that plague crops started in early spring.

Once germinated, it's time to thin the carrot seedlings. To avoid damage to neighboring plants, a sharp pair of scissors works well. Mulch with straw or leaves to aid in keeping the soil moist and suppressing weeds. Mulching is also important for keeping the soil cool since soil temperatures over 70 make for unhappy carrots. Carrots don't need too much water but keep an eye on them to insure the soil doesn't get too dry.



Harvesting is easy – just pull them up. Fresh carrots taste better than stored carrots, so only harvest what you need for the next couple of days.

History - 25 years ago – DECEMBER 1990
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 29, 1990 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled. This was one week early because it would have been too close to the December Dinner meeting.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 1, 1990 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**. The balance in the General Account was \$7,250.80, the balance in the Memorial fund was \$742.29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Program: Ladies Night being held in Wolfert's Roost will cost \$15.00 per dinner. A Keyboardist will perform for two hours at a cost of between \$175.00 and \$200.00 as an added attraction for this Dinner, which is to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a Club. **Don Otterness** is giving a year's membership to the George Landis Arboretum as a prize.

The Board voted to spend \$450.00 at the Roost for Poinsettias and what ever else is needed for decorations, and the like. Also, **Edgar Tompkins** was given the OK to spend up to \$350.00 for the printing of the 50th Anniversary Booklet, written by **Edgar** and **Tom Baker**.

* The January Dinner Meeting will be held in the Italian American Community Center.

* Bulb Sale: The Bulbs have not been paid for to date. We received extra bulbs and the question is, are these free or do we owe money for them. Also, what about a refund for bad bulbs of last year.

* Dirt Ad Committee: **Ferd Johnson** reported that we have one more Ad than last year.

* Auditing: **Charlie Schade** and **Ferd Johnson** will meet with **Al Miller** to do the job.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ferd Johnson brought up the question of doubling our Club's membership. **Ferd** has several ideas as to how this can very easily be accomplished. No action was taken at this time because another question was also raised, "Do we want to double the size of the Club?" This will be given further study.

Al Miller reported that the directory will be out at the usual time, that is, along with the January edition of the Dirt.

Don Lewis made a strong proposal, suggesting that the Directory contain wives names as well as the Date when each member joined the club. **Al** made it very clear that if these suggestions are to be carried out, he will no longer do the Directories. **Don** further suggested that since the Club is not hurting for funds, that it might be feasible to have a professional printer do the Directory. **Don** also volunteered to look into costs and any other particulars.

Mrs Haker has made it known that she would like a tree or a bush planted in the Delmar area for Willis' living Memorial.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

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
Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



Ken Abele during construction of our second raised bed on I-90 at Exit 7 Westbound. Built to last with lots of steel, many yards of concrete, some fancy filter material that **Ken Abele** found to keep the soil from washing out between the blocks, 2" foam insulation (allows us to plant tulip bulbs closer to the edges), many blocks hauled by **Ken Abele** and many yards of nice soil from **Osborne Mills Nursery** on Everett Road in Albany. And most importantly, this was build as a Memorial to an outstanding member - **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**. This project took years to get State and Federal approvals and lots of hard work from members of the Men's Garden Club of Albany. ps. If you know who borrowed this - please ask them to return it. Someone with big boy toys on site?
Thanks!!!





Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this November included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox**, our past President – **Mr. Don Wrieden** and current President – **Mr. Paul Zimmermann**.

November isn't always the warmest in upstate NY... but, we had one real nice day that we spent out in the gardens. The consumers picked the last few remaining veggies and cleaned out the raised beds. We planted some Winter Rye that we will till in next Spring. On Veterans Day we honored all Veterans and especially those in attendance - **Tom Baker, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden**. Again, some high quality firewood was sacrificed to make some cool table centerpieces and a friend (**Randi**) donated the battery operated candles. These were designed so that they can easily be modified for various occasions.

Colleen organized a great pottery project for the consumers. We took clay snowflakes and trees and painted them with special paint so that they could be put into a kiln to give them a nice shiny finish. Note: We're looking for prizes to give out to the Bingo winners (everyone).

Please consider joining us - we have a blast! Our consumers are amazing and they really help us to have a better attitude toward life.



Finished product
after painting and a visit to the kiln

Ceramics prior to painting



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

Memorial Garden
At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen



Ken Abele – Hard at work
 Or should I say, making hard work fun?

Memorial Garden cleanup days

In an effort to help our members plan ahead, we have set the following work days to work on the Memorial Garden. We picked the 2nd Monday of each of the following months - March 14th (prune), April 11th (prune and mulch), May 9th and July 11th to prepare for our annual Memorial service and picnic.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Thursday, December 17th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Christmas Dinner Meeting (everyone invited)
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St.
January 7 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Thursday, January 28th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA dinner meeting (everyone invited)

Editor: Russ Greenman

In Memory
Of My
 *Loving Wife, Young* 
Bruce Wilcox

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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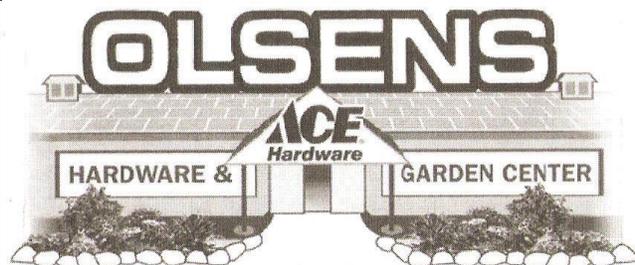
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In Memory of



Grandpa & Great Grandpa

Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

The following growers donated to our 2015 Plant Sale
Please help support them with your purchases

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