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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. 3

March, 2015

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, March 26th @ 6:30 pm -
Ladies - please join us - we need you**

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Pasta Alfredo with Chicken
Baked Tilapia
Meatloaf

DESSERT: Chocolate Cake

Price: \$ 22.00

PROGRAM: From Seed To Transplant by Master Gardener - Doug Pratt

Grow from seed with greater success. This in-depth program will help you understand the mystery of life from seeds. Learn the requirements of germination and the conditions young plants need. Rensselaer County Master Gardener **Doug Pratt** will share his years of seed starting experience.

People are raving about this program already - get your reservations early to insure a seat.

Doug is knowledgeable in many fields and some of his activities include: Farm youth, Nursery man, Landscaper, Hybrid seed sales, Master Gardener 37 years, Production manager, Wholesale greenhouse owner, Owner "IMP Seeders", and Grower for the F.B. Peck Fire Department plant sale.

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, March 19th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group's reservations. You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

February's Program - Thank You!

Beekeeping and the Beekeeping Industry by **Mr. Paul Cappy**, New York State Apiculturist.

With 56 years of experience in the beekeeping industry **Paul Cappy** is a wealth of knowledge. **Paul** gave a very interesting talk that covered the importance of bees for pollination and their need for good nutrition so that we can enjoy nutritious fruits and vegetables. 1/3 of the food we consume requires pollination, and honey bees pollinate over \$500,000,000 of fruits and vegetables in NYS alone. It sure was interesting to hear about how these bees are transported to different parts of the country and the care taken to protect the bees on these long trips. It was also interesting to learn why the beekeepers evacuate so quickly when they release the bees after a long trip. Is that rain?

Thanks Paul Cappy for a very informative and enjoyable evening out!

Membership

Bob Pratt – Well - We can't get thru on his new phone # . Anyone with information about which beach he is sitting on would be greatly appreciated.

Phil Harris is now in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](#), Troy, NY 12180. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend.

Garden & Flower Show at HVCC

As we have for many many years, we will have an Educational booth at the Capital District Garden & Flower Show that will be held **March 27 – 29** at Hudson Valley Community College. This is a great opportunity to let the community know how much we do and how rewarding it would be if they joined the MGCA. We are looking for volunteers to man the booth on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You can decide what time is best for you.

When can *you* be there? For information contact **Paul Zimmermann** pmzimmy@gmail.com or leave a message at 465-1095.

Friday 10-8 | Saturday 9-7 | Sunday 10-5

Upstate NY's premiere garden & flower show. There's over 17,000 square feet of beautifully designed, fully blooming landscape exhibits. The creatively designed gardens are packed with shrubs, mature trees, colorful flowers & tranquil water features. A floral design competition has 100 brilliant displays from professional & amateur arrangers. Plus 150 garden themed exhibits, wine tastings & hourly lectures and cooking demonstrations. All offered free with paid admission. Partial proceeds benefit Wildwood Programs.



Seeking Candidates for Scholarship

Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? This year the Scholarship Committee would like to ask all our members to consider a personal family member or friend who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or registered to begin a college program this fall. Ideally, they should be pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field, including agriculture, environmental studies, forestry or natural resource management. Applicants need not live locally, and can be male or female. Perhaps you have a child, grandchild, nephew or niece, or other extended family member that would qualify? If so, please contact Greg Goutos, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052 for application details. The deadline is May 31.

Feature Article - The Humble Bean

Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

We'll be talking here about regular old bush and pole beans. Easy to grow, prolific, and tasty – most vegetable gardeners include a row or two each year. However you may be stuck in a rut, growing the same varieties year after year. I'll give enough information to break some new ground and discover the diversity of the common bean. First, let's go over the basics. Beans are a tender annual. They should be planted after all danger of frost has past and the soil has warmed up to at least 60 degrees F. If you've never grown beans in the site you've selected, then inoculating the seeds with nitrogen-fixing bacteria will improve yields, but not enough, in my opinion, to be worth the bother. It's also possible to start bean seeds indoors in peat pots a couple of weeks before outdoor planting time, although my experience with indoor starts is spotty – they start producing only a couple of days before direct seeded plants. Row covers can also provide protection from cool nights at the beginning of the growing season.

Bush beans are the easiest to grow and the earliest to harvest. Once the beans reach harvest size, then you need to make regular visits to the bean patch to keep the harvest going. Like many vegetables, failure to harvest on time results in poor quality produce and reduced yields. For round-type beans, rather than focusing on the length of the pod when deciding when to harvest, pay attention to the diameter – about the thickness of a pencil is just about right. Filet beans should be harvested when they're quite thin – about 1/8th of an inch.

Harvesting is a two handed maneuver. Trying to yank the pods off with one hand will result in damaged plants.

I shouldn't have to say this, but avoid the bean patch when the plants are wet – it's an infamous way to spread plant diseases. (This advice applies to nearly all vegetables, but beans in particular).

Pole beans take longer to mature than their bush brothers, but once there're in production you'll be harvesting them for many weeks. The significant downside of pole beans is the need to provide a strong support structure to keep the vines off the ground. I use polypropylene netting, 7 feet high strung between two sturdy poles. It's reusable from year to year and provides excellent support. I typically plant a row of pole beans on either side of the netting. The resulting tangle can make finding the ripe beans a bit of a challenge, but the yields per row foot are really impressive. By the way, pole beans only attach to vertically strung supports.

It's time to talk about varieties.

Beans come in several varieties and sub varieties. There are green beans, wax beans (yellow), purple beans, Romano, French filet, lima, fava, etc. Most are available as either bush or pole beans.

My favorite pole bean variety by far is Fortex. It grows up to a foot long, is very prolific, and the harvest lasts for several weeks. They are at their tender best when harvested between 7 and 8 inches, but are still quite edible when harvested as long as 12". Because of their length, Fortex beans are somewhat easier to spy when harvesting. Another pole bean favorite of mine is Scarlet Runner Beans. Their red flowers can attract hummingbirds and the beans, when harvested early, are delicious. Other pole bean varieties to consider are lima and Romano types. Lima beans do not like cool weather. If you live in a cool summer area, consider substituting fava beans for lima beans.

For green bush beans, Provider has been a favorite of mine for years. Prolific, tasty and somewhat tolerant of cool weather, Provider, like most bush types, will provide 3 weeks of ongoing output. Vernandon is a French-filet variety that easily passes the taste test. A yellow Romano bean worthy of consideration is Capitano.



MGCA Eastern Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force Report

The Capital District EAB Task Force met once again on 12-Feb-2015. MGCA was invited to attend and participate by National Grid Arbor Aric A. Dicruttalo - Senior Supervisor Forestry for National Grid. In addition to National Grid, among the many other parties attending were Davey Tree Service, NYS DEC, NYS DOT. About half of the attendees were local municipalities, including Arbors from the City of Albany, the Town of Colonie, and several other towns and villages.

The Task Force format has been proven in other areas as being highly effective at managing the effects of the EAB. The Task Force approach joins many elements including state technical resources, private party solutions providers, as well as municipalities, and private community organizations. All parties collaborate and focus on proven methods for controlling EAB, as well as monitoring the spread of EAB and its effects. Increasing public awareness of the problem is critical to the Task Force and its activities.

The presence of the cities, towns and villages at the meeting alludes to the dramatic effect EAB will have on these municipalities. Increased tree cutting costs estimated at ~20%, as well as conspicuous removal of Ash trees are in the near future for everyone who lives and works within sight of the trees. The costs of action are high, but the cost of inaction can be exponentially higher if property and lives are damaged. Treating Ash trees, called "injection" will be a new cost, but much preferable to the uncertainty of property damaged, and lives ruined. Infection rates of the Ash trees have proven to be 100% in the states to the west of us, like Ohio, and Michigan, so the problem cannot be neglected.

The essence of the problem with EAB is that once EAB kills a tree, the tree becomes highly unstable and usually collapses catastrophically within 1-2 years. This ruthlessly quick timeline will catch most off guard, unless vigilance is practiced in recognizing, and dealing with the problem. It is almost as if the tree were cut down while no one was looking without concern as to what it is going to fall on. No trimming to reduce the size, it all falls at once, and smashes everything, and everyone in its path!

The catastrophic collapse of these dead ash trees often happens spontaneously and unpredictably, winds even light breezes do not have to be present, as the weight of the tree, and gravity are the main loads involved. Eye witness accounts often attest that there were no winds present! The spontaneous and unpredictable nature of the dead ash collapse is a new liability lurking relentlessly for tree stewards and owners.

Ultimately what needs to be decided by those responsible for the Ash trees is when they will be cut. Some trees can be injected with insecticide agents if they are scenic, or difficult to access. Insecticide injection must be done every two years. It is estimated that the treatments must be continued for more than 15 years until the EAB has cleared the area.

Costs of injection will dictate that most trees will be cut. Timing is critical, as a healthy live tree is much cheaper to have cut than a dead tree. The cost of cutting a live healthy tree by a man with a saw is typically in the hundreds of dollars, while costs for cutting a dead tree will be in the thousands of dollars as heavy equipment needs to be used. It is much safer and cheaper to cut the Ash trees while they are healthy and unaffected.

We will certainly all begin to see these remediation activities of cutting and injecting trees ramping up and increasing. We may all witness removal of seemingly healthy non-threatening trees and even denuding of some forested areas, and the EAB is most likely why. Awareness, and understanding of these activities may help with these transitions, and remind us that vigilance is required in keeping our homes, property and lives safe from the newly developing, and unpredictable falling ash tree hazard.

History - 25 years ago - MARCH 1, 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, March 1, 1990 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 7:45.

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

There was no formal Treasurer's Report because it was inadvertently left on the Treasurer's desk at home. However, **Al Miller** the Treasurer was able to state that there was on hand a balance of \$1,562.88 as of February 28, 1990, the CDS remain the same and the sum of \$12.15 was added to the Memorial fund from the last centerpiece raffle. These figures came from the Club's checkbook.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Spring Plant Sale - Delmar Location: **Don Stevens**, Chairman with **Rod Kermani** and **Herm Mau** assisting. The Key Bank has given permission to use their grounds but not the conference room nor the lavatory. The reason for the decision is liability insurance. The Town of Bethlehem has given us a Sale permit. **Joe Raggio** will make all fliers.

* **Don Stevens** has made it official that this will be his last year as Chairman.

Spring Plant Sale - Guilderland Location: **Don Otterness**, Chairman with **John Piechnik**, **Joe Huth**, and **Fred Day**. Both sales will be on Saturday, May 12, from 9-1. **Don** asked for and got approval to spend \$11.15 for 1,000 pricing markers. **Tom Baker** was asked to do the advertising. (Discuss WGY with **Wally**). **Russ Greenman** will be asked to supply spring bulbs for both Sales. **Al Holmes** will be the cashier for the Guilderland Sale.

Wildwood Flower Show: **Don Otterness**, our liaison for the Show, discussed his concerns for the Show. **Joe Raggio** made a motion which was carried to donate \$50.00 to Wildwood in this endeavor. It was also suggested that since we are not-for-profit organization, that we should not have to pay an entrance fee. This will be looked into.

Program Committee: **Joe Raggio** Chairman.

1. March 26 - At Ponderosa in Delmar. No alcohol served. May bring our own, but no Social Hour. Come early so that we can start on time and the cost is \$8.50. Program will be members discussing their gardens especially raised beds. Bring slides and pictures.
2. April 26 - Century House is are possible meeting place.
3. May Meeting - Ladies Invited Night. Crossgates Banquet House is being considered.
5. August 5 - Annual Picnic - **Don Otterness** has offered to put on are Lamb Roast.

Gardening From The Heart: **Joe Huth**, for the time being is are new volunteer. Grossman's Lumber Co. has made an offer of lumber for the greenhouse. Still pending.

Regional Meeting: **Bob Ireland** Chairman. are tour is planned at **Paul Steinkamp's** Nursery.

Photography: **Bill Philippi**, Chairman along with **Warren Abele**, **Cliff Rice** and **Ken York** are making big plans for the future.

New Business - The Secretary is directed to send are note of thanks to **Dave Gade**, GREAT JOB! There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

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

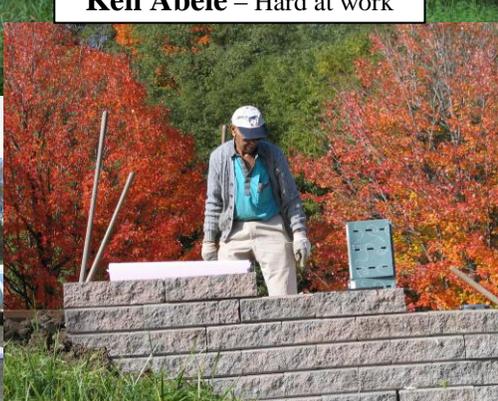
Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele – Hard at work



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 stole this - please ask them to return it
Thanks!!!

Spring Garden Day Tamarac / Brunswick High School

March 7th – Lots of good programs!

Oh yeah, - **Mr. Paul Zimmermann** - will be giving a lecture on tomatoes at the Spring Garden Day on March 7th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
March 7 th 9:45am to 3:30 pm	Spring Garden Day Tamarac / Brunswick High School http://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/events/2015/03/07/spring-garden-day
March 26 th @ 6:30pm	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany
March 27 th - 29 th	Garden and Flower Show @ Hudson Valley Community College - See / support MGCA Educational Booth http://gardenandflowershow.com/
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
April 2 nd @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited
May 9 th 8:00am - 2:00pm	MGCA Plan Sale - Our only fundraiser for the year
May 28 th @ 6:30pm	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany

Editor: Russ Greenman

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>

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website

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

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

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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Grandpa & Great Grandpa

Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

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

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