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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **81** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

**VOLUME 80 NO. 4**

**April, 2017**

**MGCA April dinner meeting**

**DATE & TIME:**

**Thursday, April 27th @ 6:30 pm**

**Ladies and the public are cordially invited**

**PLACE:**

**Prime at the Beltrone Living Center 6 Winners Circle Albany**

**Price: \$ 25.00**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES**

Roast Chicken and Mushroom Casserole

Seafood Stuffed Shells in Vodka Cream Sauce

Beer Braised Short Ribs

**PROGRAM:**

**Albany's Tulip Festival and the Garden Beds that Beautify the Capital City**

Presented by **Albany's City Gardener – Jessica Morgan**. Have you ever wondered how tens of thousands of Tulip bulbs get planted every year in hopes that they will look perfect for the weekend of Albany's Tulip Festival? But wait, there's more, **Jessica Morgan** is responsible for a very impressive list of gardening projects throughout the city. There is a tremendous amount of planning (and labor) that needs to take place to make these gardens the great success that they are. Please join us as we learn more about the gardens in NYS's capital.

**Reservations are required for the dinner**

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return the call. If a caller does not reach you by Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, please call **Russ Greenman** at 477-8321 – Note: Our intent is to call every member that is interested in our dinner meetings to get their reservation(s). If you are not getting called, and would like to be called prior to each dinner, please let Russ know.

## Membership

Please welcome the first two new members from the Capital District Garden and Flower Show

**Stephen Golas** of Delmar  
and  
**Robert Murphy** of Albany

We're looking forward to meeting these gentleman at our April 27th dinner meeting.

I'm sorry to report the loss of two terrific people:

**Sal Schiavo** and **Ruth Abele**

**Sal Schiavo** was an amazing person with a heart of gold. When he did something, he always seemed to go the extra mile to insure success. **Sal Schiavo** helped out with so many of our events and always made sure our plant sale was profitable and fun. From his obituary, you can see what kind of man he was and we are all very fortunate to have the honor of saying that we knew **Sal Schiavo**. At his wake, I overheard someone saying "I have never seen this many people in my life". That's no surprise, he was a great man with a terrific wife and family. We're going to miss **Sal** and his smiling face.

### Salvatore D. Schiavo



Schiavo, Salvatore D. DELMAR Salvatore Daniel Schiavo, "Sal," 89, of Delmar, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at St. Peter's Rehabilitation and Nursing Center surrounded by his loving family. Sal was born in Barker, N.Y. on October 1, 1927, to Carmella and Angelo Schiavo and was raised and educated in Buffalo. He was married in 1951 to his loving wife, Annette, with whom he enjoyed 65 wonderful years. Sal graduated from the University of Buffalo with an engineering degree in 1949 and subsequently served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950 to 1954, including one year of active duty in Korea during the war. He was awarded the Commendation Medal of Honor and retired as a staff sergeant. Sal worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 31 years and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for 12 years. He enjoyed tennis and

was an active member of the Bethlehem Tennis Association, at times serving as tournament director of the Town Tournament; he belonged to the Men's Garden Club of Albany and the Second Milers of Bethlehem. He volunteered at the Five Rivers Environmental Center for several years, where he helped maintain Blue Bird nests. Sal enjoyed spending time with his loving grandchildren, long walks with his dog Wilson, and, for his last 27 years, summers at the family camp on Hills Pond. In addition to his wife, Sal is also survived by three daughters, Lori Sheehan (Robert) of Dalton, Mass., Linda Frangella (Nicholas) and Angela McCarty (Keith), both of Delmar; nine grandchildren, Michael Sheehan (Kristyn), Daniel Sheehan, Mary Thomas (Tony), Laura Sheehan, Lisa and Jennifer Frangella, and Matthew, Gregory and John McCarty; and two great-grandchildren, Kate and Emma Sheehan. Sal's family would like to recognize the caring staff at St. Peter's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, especially the Staff of 1 West. Their compassion and concern for Sal was extraordinary. We would also like to thank Table 9 and its peanut gallery for being the highlight of Sal's days. You are truly special people. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday, April 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Applebee Funeral Home, 403 Kenwood Ave., Delmar. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 8, in the chapel at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 35 Adams Pl., Delmar. Those who wish may send a remembrance in his name to Ronald McDonald House, 139 S. Lake Ave., Albany, NY 12208. [applebeefuneralhome.com](http://applebeefuneralhome.com)

## Membership continued

**Ruth Abele** – **Ruth** was the husband of **Warren Abele**, quite a gardener, a fantastic person, very involved in her church and a gazillion other activities. **Warren Abele** was a great photographer that would often have two of his photos selected for the MGCA national calendar and would often present a slide show of some of his interesting photography. After **Warren** passed away **Ruth** took over and did a great job of presenting one of his slide shows at our picnic.

I think what I remember best about **Ruth** was her hospitality, friendliness, and great cooking ability. Every year we used to sell 10,000 flower bulbs at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens and donate the profits to the gardens. This was a two day event that required many volunteers that all got hungry around lunch time. **Warren** and **Ruth** would pick us up and bring us back to their home where we enjoyed hearing some fantastic stories as well as having a meal with several courses and many desert options. I don't know how she did it – but she did this every year - for two shifts each day for two days. We called it the Fall **Festival** and I also believe that numbers of volunteers was much larger because they all knew about **Ruth's** cooking. **Warren** would show us the cameras he used while in the **Battle of the Bulge** and some great photos. It was always an enjoyable visit with **Ruth** and **Warren**. We thank both **Warren** and **Ruth Abele** for all they did for us and their community.

## Capital District Garden & Flower Show – a Huge success

March 24-26, 2017

**Tom Baker, Bill Danish (2 days), Greg Goutos (2 days), Joe Herman, Greg Shields, Russ Greenman (3 days) and Bill Stoneman** all spent many hours trying to inform the public about all of the good community service projects that we do. One goal was to get members to join and possibly help with some of these projects. So, I expect my mailbox to soon be full with completed membership applications. We're not good salesman – but we sure enjoyed talking with so many fantastic people. One person offered to drop off some red leafed cannas for our plant sale and another guy (Dennis) got all fired up about helping us with a project at the Center For Disability Services and plans to join our club. He owns Maple Avenue Tree Nursery and has great ideas using wood for our Gardening From the Heart projects. It was real nice to catch up with members, Charlie Buchannan and Bob Talbot.

It looks like Spring is here... Inside – on the skating rink



## **March Program - Thank You!**

**Town of Bethlehem's Recycling at their award winning composting facility.**

### **Dan Lilkas-Rain**

**Dan Lilkas-Rain** updated Garden Club members on the Town of Bethlehem's recycling and composting programs, including the Town's new food scraps composting pilot.

We were very fortunate to have **Dan Lilkas-Rain** explain how the Town of Bethlehem is building a system to compost food scraps. They have perfected their technique of composting leaves and lawn clippings and now it is time for them to move on to more cutting edge recycling. The preferred method of recycling grass and leaves is to mulch them into the lawn or compost them on the homeowner's property. Some people prefer to take advantage of the Town's very efficient method of composting the yard waste and making the nice compost which is made available to those that live in Bethlehem. **Dan** and his team are developing various ways to gather food scraps and provide a drop off option that would save the Town some money. Overall, much work needs to be done to get the level of food scrap recycling up as compared to yard waste recycling which many already participate in. With local landfills reaching capacity - and one with a hard End of Life date set - Recycling becomes more of a necessity.

We owe **Dan Lilkas-Rain a big Thank You** for the very informative discussion about the latest recycling and compost developments in the Town of Bethlehem. **Thanks!!!!**

**Dan Lilkas-Rain** is the Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Bethlehem, NY, and serves on the Board of Directors for the New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3). He chairs the organization's 'Re-Clothe NY' EPA Award-Winning Statewide Textile Recovery Campaign, and was honored with the 2016 New York State Recycling Leadership Award.

**Dan** served as the most recent chair of the ad hoc Albany County Solid Waste Advisory Committee which finished its recommendations last year. He has a degree in Environmental Studies and Psychology from Alfred University, and a 20-year background in environmental education. **Dan** finds joy in working with local residents and businesses on recycling and composting issues, and lives in Delmar with his wife and three children. He and his wife enjoy gardening in their micro-community garden and new greenhouse (that they constructed last year from mostly reclaimed materials).

### **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 a high school senior 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 know of a neighbor that would qualify?** If so, please contact **Greg Goutos**, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052 for application details.

The deadline is May 31.

## GARDEN TALK

**DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY** – A satisfactory way to propagate many plants is by dividing them. Most perennials can be divided successfully and easily. This means cutting or pulling the mother plant crown into separate parts.

The usual reason for dividing a plant is to get more of it for your own garden or to share. Perhaps you want more of a certain daylily. A daylily several years old can easily provide three to six divisions – each with ample roots and growing ability to produce a lusty new clump.

Some perennial plants require frequent division just to do well or even to exist. Chrysanthemums are an excellent example. Small single divisions planted each spring make husky blooming clumps by fall. Clumps left undivided for several years gradually waste away and blooms become less and less. After three or four years, bearded irises begin to die in the center of clumps if they are not divided. Siberian iris and spuria types can thrive and bloom much longer without this attention. Shasta daisies, coral-bells, phlox, veronica and delphinium require frequent dividing – every few years – to keep the plants healthy and robust.

When lily bulbs become crowded, separate the bulbs and plant them singly. Do this in the fall or early spring before growth has started. The exception to this is the Madonna lily which goes dormant in August and if needed should be divided and replanted at that time.

Yucca, hosta, baptisia, daylilies, peonies and clematis are examples of plants that thrive nicely for many years in the same spot without dying or encroaching on their neighbors.

Plants that move beyond their allotted space have to be checked. Take a spade and dig those that are out of bounds, replant them at a new location, give them away or throw in your compost bin. Lily-of-the-valley, ground myrtle (vinca) are the worst offenders, but some sedum and hen-and-chickens also need watching.

The general rule for dividing is that early blooming plants best divide in the fall and late blooming plants wait until spring. Success, however, depends more on you than on the plant. Many plants can be divided at any time, but if you divide them just before or while blooming expect to lose the blooms for that year. To divide a plant properly; dig up the plant completely, shake or wash all the soil from the roots. Have wet burlap handy to cover the roots to keep them from drying out. Some roots part easily by pulling, others require a sharp knife or spade. Select only healthy divisions, discarding those that appear woody, hollow or decayed.

When replanting, water the hole well first, set the plant at the proper depth and water again, pulling dry soil around the plant. Cover with a light mulch to conserve moisture. If you want a larger clump, you may put two or more divisions into one hole. If plants are dormant when transplanting cut back tops to the ground; if they have green leaves shorten tops to about four inches. If possible it's best to pick a cool shady day to do your transplanting.

**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.

**Dues** (\$25) and advertisement payments were due by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

# GARDEN TALK

## Pruning Simplified

Besides fertilizer and water, pruning is one of the best things you can do for your plants. Pruning can be used to control the size of the plant, increase or decrease the density of the plant, maximize flowering, improve the health of the plant, remove a hazard and improve light and air penetration of your plant. Pruning can also be used to create special shapes such as bonsai and topiary. In addition, pruning often is used to achieve dual purposes such as opening up the center of a shrub for greater air circulation which in turn will reduce the likelihood of a fungal disease. With so many reasons for pruning you should be clear why you want to prune which in turn will help you choose the correct technique as well as the best time to prune.

Many novice gardeners are confused about pruning and tend to shy away from the activity ending up with an overgrown landscape. We've all seen the house hidden by landscaping. A few simple rules, should take the mystery out of pruning.

1. Any plant with damaged, diseased or dead branches can be pruned at any time. Do not remove fungal diseased branches during the time the fungus is sporing so that the new cuts are not infected. Disinfection of the cutting tools is important when removing diseased growth. Many gardeners use alcohol.

2. You can do light pruning anytime. You do not have to worry about timing if it is a stray branch you want to remove.

3. In situations, other than those above, you have to consider the reason you are pruning and the plant involved. Different techniques and time will apply. Here is a general summary for some common situations.

A branch over 3-inches in diameter should be cut back to a fork and leave the collar, a thick area at the base of the branch where it attaches to the trunk or another branch. This results in less cut area exposed and allows the cambium layer tissue, that is contained in the collar, to grow over the wound. The use of tree paint is not recommended.

Branches that are less than 3-inches in diameter should be cut out but close to a bud. A bud is a swelling on the side of a branch where a sprout will emerge. Don't leave a stub. Make a clean cut at a slightly upward angle so that the wound; heals quickly while the slanted cut prevents water from soaking into the wound.

Flowering or fruiting shrubs and trees should be pruned after they have flowered or set fruit. Citrus can flower while fruit is still on the tree so they are pruned after the fruit has been harvested. It is not unusual for a citrus tree to flower more than once in a season.

When pruning, it is not usually advisable to remove more than 1/3 of the above ground growth. Some plants are such vigorous growers, to keep the plant in check, you may have to exceed that limit. Just be sure the plant is healthy.

This is by no means the last word on pruning but it should get you started as spring approaches. There are many good books specifically written about pruning and the newer ones have excellent graphics. If you want more specific information, visit your local library and check out one of those books. Also, the local Cooperative Extension Service should be able to answer your questions.

**History – 25 years ago APRIL 2, 1992**

**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, April 2, 1992 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Herman Mau** called the meeting to order at 7:32.

The Minutes of the April 2, 1992 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer`s Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Fred Day**. As of March 31, 1992, including reserves, the balance on hand was \$12,924.99.

\* Concerning future directions of the Club: **Russ Greenman** and **Joe Raggio** are working on an information flier to be presented to the General Membership which will be completed in the near future.

\* Regarding the Plant Sale: Chairman, **Henry Fox** reported that he got word from the Hudson Correctional Facility that they can offer many plants for our Sale. These plants must be picked up on Thursday before the Sale. **Henry** and **Tom Baker** will do this. The plants will then be stored at **Al Miller`s** until Saturday.

\* **Don Otterness** assured the Board that all is in readiness in Altamont.

\* **Lee Negus** thanked the group who packaged the seeds for the Youth Gardening Project. Club members will be needed to distribute the seeds. Check the Dirt for time and locations.

\* The Board also passed the motion to reimburse **Lee** for this and previous Projects which he had to pay for out of his own pocket.

\* **Bob Ireland** distributed information sheets concerning the April 25, 1992 Regional Meeting in Owego, N.Y.

\* **Joe Raggio** and **Al Miller** will work on a Committee to come up with some guidelines on how to acknowledge the death of long time members who were not members at the time of death. Two cases in question are the recent deaths of **Wally Campbell** and **Bill Harnow**. For now, **Tom Baker**, chairman of the Sunshine Committee was instructed to at least send Sympathy cards to the families of the deceased members.

\* **Joe Raggio** made the motion which was passed that the board should allocate \$75.00 for the Memorial Tree for **Dwight Morton** to be planted on the Cooperative Extension Grounds. A good representation from the Club should be present at the planting. Trees may be planted wherever the family, with-in reason, decides.

\* **Jim Tate** made a request for plants from Club members for the Audubon Society. Details will be found in the Dirt.

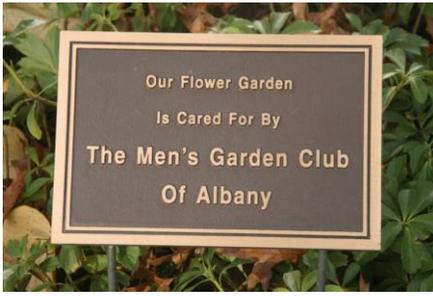
\* **Fred Day** made the motion which was passed that the Club should become a member of the Five Rivers Association at a Cost of \$25.00.

Also, **Fred** made a motion to make **Halil, Don`s** Russian friend, a life member of the Men`s Garden Clubs of America. This was passed. (Upon re-typing the minutes, the Secretary is uncertain about this motion.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00

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

\*\* Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had a 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** 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 while working on the bridge? Thanks!!!



Built to last...  
Destroyed in hours  
This was our Memorial to **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**



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

Volunteers this March included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**

Our projects last month includes taking cuttings from Coleus

and Philodendron plants that we gave away at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show, and working on our Color-ons that we received from national. They are stencils of various gardening symbols that the garden club attendees colored in with crayons. First they colored the stencils with crayons and they either ironed them onto a Tee shirt or Tote bag.

We always welcome any ideas for hands on projects that we can do inside during the winter months. Or, better yet, we could use your help to lead an indoor gardening project.

**Greenhouse** – We will soon begin to develop a plan to fix up our 25 year old greenhouse and

possibly make it more wheelchair friendly by putting raised beds in the greenhouse and/or lowering the legs on the tables. This will probably include replacing the door with a wider one (or two), some new clear siding, and replacing the rotted wood along the lower portion of the greenhouse.

As it gets warmer we will be replacing some of our oldest raised beds and will need some strong backs to transfer the soil from the old beds to the new raised beds.

If you have free time on Wednesday mornings – you could consider helping us out – I bet it will do as much good for you as it does for the individuals. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.





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



**Harris Memorial Centerpiece**

Thanks to the **Harris** kids!

Each month, the **Harris family, Dave** and his sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents and their brother **Phil**. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 37 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 **Harris** centerpieces that **Phil** and now **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!**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Plant Sale - May 13th** - Please consider helping out at our biggest and only fund raiser of the year. Volunteers are needed to setup tables, help our customers and to be customers.

**Plant Sale**

Men's Garden Club  
Of Albany

**Sat May 13**  
(Day before Mother's day)  
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
catering lot at  
Delmar Dental Medicine  
(next to St Thomas the Apostle Church)  
344 Delaware Ave, Delmar

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
May 13 th 8:00am – 2:00pm	<b>PLANT Sale</b> 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar
April 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm	<b>Dinner meeting</b> - @ the Beltrone Center – 6 Winners Circle Albany, NY - May 25 <sup>th</sup> is Ladies night
May 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm	
April 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b> All members are invited
May 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany

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*

*Phil Harris*

*Bill Barr*

*Christian & Mildred Lebrecht*

*Ed Tompkins*

*Avrom Koblenz*

*In Memory of my parents*

*John and Carrie Meagher*

*They both loved Plants and Flowers*

*Jack Meagher*

*In Memory of*

*Grandpa & Great Grandpa*

*Carroll W. Greenman*

*Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*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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**Pigliaventos Greenhouses**  
**Krug Farms**  
**Hewitts Garden Center**

*Prime at the Beltrone Living Center* 6 Winners Circle Albany

The votes are in and we unanimously agreed that the *Prime at the Beltrone Living Center*, atmosphere, food quality (by Prime catering), and the efficient and friendly staff have made our meetings very enjoyable. We look forward to many more meetings at the **Beltrone Living Center**.

From Wolf Road turn East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Speed Way Gas Station that is on the West side of Wolf Rd.) Take a LEFT onto Winners Circle. At the stop sign take a RIGHT continuing on Winners Circle and Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the #1 South entrance