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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. 10

December, 2017

Christmas Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 14th @ 6:30 pm

PLACE: [PBD at Beltrone Living Center](#) 6 Winners Circle Albany

From Wolf Road go East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Hess Station) Take a LEFT onto Winners Circle. At stop sign take a RIGHT continuing on Winners Circle Following the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

APPETIZER: Vegetable Soup

ENTREE: Breaded Chicken Cutlet
Baked Fillet of Cod
Braised Short Ribs

DESSERT: Apple Pie ala Mode

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: "The Care and Feeding of Christmas Plants", presented by **Martha (Martie) Teumim**, Albany County Master Gardener

We're sure you will find our December speaker to be very informative in her very timely presentation regarding Christmas plants. It's always delightful to purchase or receive those attractive plants at Christmas time; such as Poinsettia, Christmas Cactus, Amaryllis and Anthurium. They are lovely to look at, but how do you care for them afterward to keep them looking great beyond the holidays?

The program will not only cover the care of those plants, but will offer general tips for all houseplants. So, be sure to bring your questions to ask our gardening expert!

Martha (Martie) Teumim has been an Albany County Master Gardener off and on since 1982. **Martie** is a retired English teacher who, now that the two girls are grown, lives with her husband, cat, and her many houseplants.

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 Friday, December 8th, please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 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.

November Program - Thank You!

Traditional Holiday Flavors in New Ways

Our November program was not only interesting and informative, but offered up some delicious culinary delights just in time as we prepare for the holiday entertaining season.

Blanchard Kenney, the General Manager for Mazzone Hospitality's PRIME at the Beltrone Living Center, did a live cooking demonstration for us, in a presentation of "Traditional Holiday Flavors in New Ways."

We all enjoyed a three course holiday-themed meal, while **Blanchard** demonstrated how each course was prepared using some out-of-the-ordinary ingredients and techniques. At the end, we all enjoyed the minted Christmas Tree desserts, which were so nice to look at that we were hesitant to actually eat them!

Thank you, Blanchard, for taking the time from your busy schedule to teach us a few of your cooking secrets. But it is no secret that the food and service you and your staff has offered our club this past year or so since we started coming to the Beltrone, has been very commendable.

Blanchard has had an extensive career in the hospitality and culinary industry in the Capital Region. He spent many years as Executive Chef at two area country clubs, has been an adjunct culinary instructor at Schenectady County Community College, as well as a culinary arts instructor for a local job training program. Over the last 16 years he has worked in management for Normanside Country Club in Delmar, The Ausable Club in Keene Valley, NY, and for Mazzone Hospitality.

2018 Slate of Officers			
President	Don Wreiden	2020 Directors	Gary Woods and Bruce Wilcox
Vice Presidents	Greg Goutos and Joe Herman	2019 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish
Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2018 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

All-American Selections

- Many of the vegetables that we've come to know and love have, at one time, been designated All-American Selections (AAS). Each year the committee announces new winners. In this article I highlight some of the recent winners (and one oldie but goodie) that caught my attention. If you want to search the AAS site, hop over to
- <http://all-americanselections.org/>
- **Tomatoes**
- Tomato worshippers (and who isn't) will recognize many past awardees: Celebrity, Big Beef, Juliet. The 2017 winner was Chef's Choice Yellow, a yellow beefsteak variety. Fruits weigh in at about 10 ounces, and you can expect to harvest approximately 30 fruits from a 5 foot indeterminate vine. As with most modern varieties Chef's Choice Yellow boasts resistance to the usual tomato disease suspects - Fusarium Wilt, Verticillium wilt, Tomato Mosaic Virus, Crack, and Scab. Flavor is described as sweet and citrus-like.
- **Peppers**
- I like my peppers warm, but without excessive heat. Given the erratic summer weather we experience, Aji Rico provides an excellent solution: a hybrid hot pepper that typically matures 50+ days from transplanting. You can expect to harvest at least 40 fruits from each plant. It can be eaten fresh or used in salsas and hot sauces. Adjust the 'heat' by incorporating more or less seeds into the receipt. You can also concoct a homemade paprika from dried Aji.
- **Kale**
- Most sane people steer wide of kale, but I happen to enjoy kale, particularly in the winter months. Maturing in about 40 days from transplants, Kale Prizm F1 can be harvested continually throughout the growing season. Prizm's nearly stemless stalks overcome a frequent complaint about kale's excessively thick stems. The plants themselves are compact – about 15" tall by 12" wide and can be grown successfully in containers.



Butternut Squash

In our household butternut squash sits atop the vegetable totem pole. I've grown butternuts for decades and the variety I declare to be the hands-down best is Waltham Butternut. Way back in 1970 Waltham was designated an AAS and in my opinion it has never been bested. Besides producing about 5 healthy sized fruits per vine, Waltham is highly resistant to the stem borer, a pest that cannot stay away from other squash varieties that I've tried. We store the squash in 5 gallon pails after washing them in a dilute bleach solution. Most years we usually consume the last survivor in April or May, so you can see that their staying power is superb.

History – 25 years ago - DECEMBER 3, 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 December 3, 1992 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Herman Mau** called the meeting to order at 7:37.

There were no minutes for the November meeting since most of the officers were not present. Therefore, there being no quorum present, no official business could be transacted.

The Treasurer`s Report for December was approved as was presented by **Fred Day** our Treasurer. As of November 30, 1992 there was a balance on hand including all reserves of \$15,530.06. The books had been audited by **Joe Huth** and **Wally Dillenbeck**, who found everything to be in order.

- * The Board voted to remit \$850.00 to the Berkshire Gardens from the proceeds of our Bulb Sale. The Berkshire Gardens had already sent us a letter thanking us for our participation in their Annual Harvest Festival.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * Scholarship: As of yet, **Don Otterness**, chairman had not received any applications, even though **Tom Baker** sent out many notifications to radio, television and newspapers.
- * Gardening from the Heart: **Al Miller** notified the Board that he was resigning as the Chair-man.
- * Calendar: **Charlie Schade**, Chairman said that we still have many calendars yet to sell.
- * Advertising for the Dirt: **Don Stevens** reported that we had 24 advertisers last year with 23 this year. Twenty one have already paid.
Al Miller got permission from the Board to put a paid ad in the Dirt proper concerning Gardening.
- * **Bob Ireland** reported that the Regional Meeting would be held in Syracuse .
- * National Youth Gardening: **Don Otterness** is our representative on this committee. **Don** is anxious to get a Sponsorship Program started in our Local Club. This is where one member would sponsor one child.
- * Budget: The Committee presented a budget for 1993 which was passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- * 1. The Town of Bethlehem is celebrating Two Hundred years since its founding. Our Club as a group or individuals are invited to participate. This will be taken up at our Dinner meeting for the general membership to consider.
- * 2. This year`s Daffodil forcing contest date has been set for the March 25th Dinner Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03.

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 –
On hold until our raised bed is returned



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 our several thousand pound raised bed - **please ask them to return it.**



Someone that was working on the bridge at Exit 7 of I-90 knows where it is.

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 in November included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher,**

Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden. Now that it is getting colder out, we are spending most of our time either in the greenhouse planting

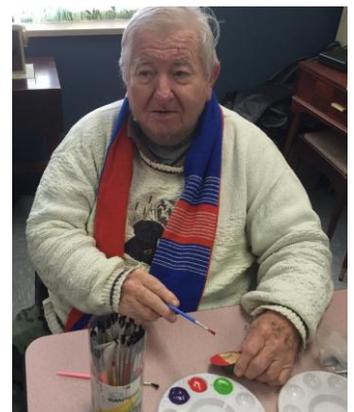
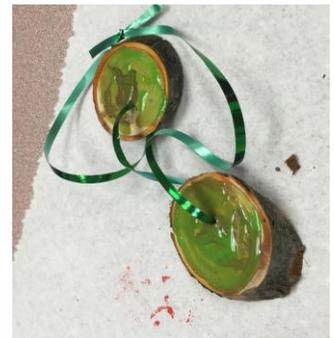
bulbs or inside where it is warm. We spent two weeks making bird treats that were taken home as well as saved for an upcoming fund raiser. Our team of experts wrapped wire around a large pine cone, covered the pine cone – and everything within three feet – with peanut butter. Then they put the pine cone in a bucket full of black oil sunflower seeds and - after putting the lid on tight – they shook it up well to completely cover the room, I mean pinecone, with seeds.

Now that we're inside – we could certainly use ideas for projects.

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.

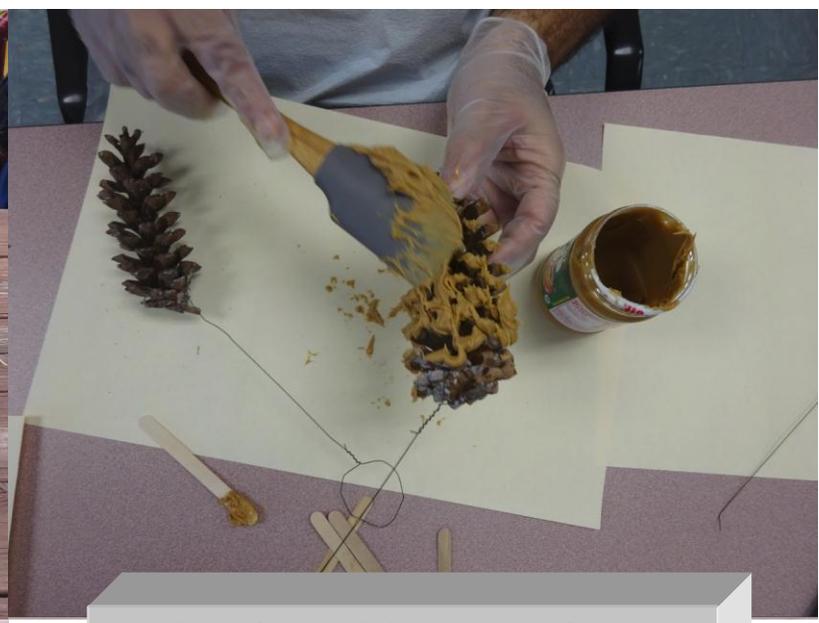


Greenhouse and raised beds at the Center For Disability Services 700 S. Pearl St.





The last of our harvest



Some for the birds - and some for us



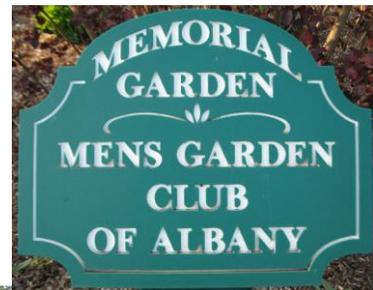
We must have filled up on peanut butter
Nobody tried eating this



Bob Pratt (left) discussing his Patriot Flight to
Washington DC



**Memorial Garden
At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
Joe Huth / Chuck Scott - 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 generosity 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!**

Scholarship Winner Announced

This year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship is **Emily Lewis** of Round Lake, NY. **Emily** just completed her senior year at Shenendahowa High School, where she maintained a 98 average while also an outstanding athlete on the Track & Field Team. She just started her first semester at the University of Delaware, where she is majoring in Environmental Studies, with a focus in Geology.

Emily is the Niece of our club Vice President, **Greg Goutos**. It is always nice to award the scholarship to a person with a connection to our club, and she is the first female to receive it in many years. Congratulations and good luck to her, and be sure to meet **Emily** when she is an honored guest at our Christmas dinner meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
December 4 th @ 7:30 pm January 4 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
December 14 th @ 6:30 pm January 25 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting Monthly Dinner meeting

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*

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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