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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. 7

September, 2017

MGCA Harvest Auction (everyone invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 28th @ 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: Caesar Salad

ENTREE: Honey Glazed Ham
Shrimp Scampi with Angel Hair Pasta
Maple Marinated Chicken Breast

DESSERT: Apple Cobbler **Price:** \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: **Harvest Auction** - *Items to auction off are needed – but not required*

This is the meeting where we bring items to sell and the money raised is used to support our Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Please join us for our September dinner and auction at the PBD at the Beltrone Living Center 6 Winners Circle Albany on September 28th at 6:30PM. Following tradition, there will be an auction following the dinner, hosted by our very own auctioneer supreme, Don Wrieden. Please bring your finest garden produce, family heirlooms, barnyard animals etc. for this fun-filled event.

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, September 22nd, 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

National membership – All regional and national dues have been paid and you should be receiving the email version of the national newsletter that is published 6 times per year.

At our Memorial service on August 3rd, we honored five real first class gentleman that we all feel honored to have known.

Thank You!

Capital District Patriot Flight taking Veterans to Washington DC

Presented by: Frank DeSorbo and Paul Bedard

At our annual Summer Picnic, held on August 3 at the Albany County Cooperative Ext. Building in Voorheesville, the program presentation was about supporting our veterans by the Capital District Patriot Flight organization. **Frank DeSorbo** of Delmar serves as the President of this federal, non-profit organization, whose mission is to honor our veterans by taking them on a day-long trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the War Memorials.

The presentation began with another volunteer from the organization and a distinguished vet himself, **Paul Bedard**, who played a rousing version of the “Star Spangled Banner” on his harmonica. We watched a couple of videos, one of which showed the appreciation of the veterans as they participated in one of the recent Patriot Flights.

Both **Frank** and **Paul** are members of the Stratton VA chapter of Toastmasters. We welcomed several other members of their club and their spouses, as they joined us at our picnic this year.

It certainly was a patriotic and spirited evening as we took the time to salute our veterans! Also, it was amazing to see how many of our own club members in attendance that have served our country in various capacities.

Picnic and Memorial Service

What a team effort we had to insure our annual picnic was a great success. We had a terrific turnout, a great program, lots of good food and the best company anyone could ask for.

Tom Baker and **Joe Herman** co- chaired the event, **Joe** and **Barbara Huth** did a lot of prep work and, as always, were the last to leave after cleaning up. **Greg and Nellie Goutos** helped and arranged for **Nellie’s** Toastmaster members to present a fantastic program. **Maria Greenman** kept track of the food offerings to insure we had a nice variety of food. **Joe Herman** honored our Gardener’s Gone to Rest – **Edwin A. Brohm 2/7/2016, Henry (Hank) Fox 1/16/2017, Salvatore D. Schiavo 3/30/2017, Robert Smith 4/25/2017, and James G. Tate 2/12/17.** Our Memorial Garden looked great because of dedicated members that include active supporters: **Joe Huth, Gill O’Brien, Chuck Scott, Jack Meagher, and Greg Goutos.** **Joe Huth** and **Bill Danish** worked to get name tags made for the five members we added to our Memorial plaque. **Tom Baker** arrived around 3:00pm to set-up the room and place tablecloths on the food tables. Of course, we owe a big thanks to all that brought food and by being there made this event very enjoyable. Thanks!!!!



Gardening tips - By Paul Zimmermann

Putting Your Vegetable Garden to Bed for the Winter

I am, admittedly, for the most part, chronically lazy and undisciplined. My college degree was in Procrastination. Straight A's throughout. But experience has taught me that some chores can't be ignored.

Settling your garden in for the winter requires effort and discipline, but pays big dividends in the long run. Sort of a "pay me now, or pay me much more later on". In reality you can put off some or all of the tasks until spring, but the results will be substantially suboptimal.

Step 1: Clean up

After the first hard frost most vegetable plants give up the ghost and wither away. Even perennials such as asparagus turn brown and require attention.

One of the big reasons to perform a fall cleanup is to remove pernicious insects that might otherwise overwinter in plant debris and then reemerge bright and early in the spring, ready for active duty.

My particular nemesis, the asparagus beetle, cozies up inside asparagus stems when winter approaches. Cutting asparagus stems off at ground level and then disposing of them in some faraway galaxy helps reduce the population of this noisome pest.

As for most annuals such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, greens of all sorts etc., I favor the technique of cutting the stem off at ground level and leaving the roots in the ground. The worms really love to chomp down on the roots, and I never want to discourage our little wiggly friends from their appointed rounds. Use a sharp knife, wear thick gloves, and cut away from yourself (blood meal will enrich the soil if you really do insist). Again, toss the plant debris somewhere far away and downwind.

Step 2: Check the soil pH and fertility

Fall is by far the best time to adjust your soil pH if it has gotten out of whack. If you're concerned about overall soil fertility, I recommend using the University of Massachusetts soil testing service. For \$15 you can't beat it. Fire up your browser and go to: <http://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory/ordering-information-forms>. Be sure to follow the instructions and thoroughly dry out your soil sample.

Step 3: Add compost and organic matter

Fall is the ideal time to augment the organic matter in your soil. If you have compost, by all means use it. No compost? No problem! Leaves, particularly if they're chopped up a bit, will fit the bill quite nicely. I happen to live in a town that asks residents to bag their leaves and leave them at curbside for pick up (by me). Folks who use their lawn tractors to sweep up the leaves make my day. Otherwise a quick pass over the leaves with your own mower will do the trick. Dry leaves work much better than wet ones. No need to emulsify the leaves, but if you have time on your hands or maybe you're having a particularly difficult day

I don't expend much energy digging the leaves into the soil since I'm a big believer in disturbing the soil only to aerate. And I'm terminally lazy.

I aim to collect at least 50 bags of leaves for my 4000 square foot vegetable garden (approximately 2 bags per raised bed). When particularly ambitious, I collect additional leaves and spread them in the paths around the raised beds (whole leaves work best here since you want a mat of leaves to suppress the weeds). A thorough soaking will help keep the leaves in place.

Gardening tips - By Paul Zimmermann - continued
Putting Your Vegetable Garden to Bed for the Winter

You might ask “What about cover crops?” I’m sure they work very well, but I’ve never felt the need, and thus have no first-hand experience with them. If I did grow a cover crop, I’d be sure to use one that didn’t survive the winter (again, that adversity to turning over the soil).

Step 4: Straw as icing

I grow vegetables as a hobby, not as a business. I don’t aim to “break even” in my endeavors, any more than if I climbed mountains or rode dirt bikes as a hobby. So I indulge myself occasionally, and laying down a layer of straw over my garden beds in the fall is one such monstrous indulgence. Straw serves two purposes. First, it helps hold the leaves in place. Secondly, and more importantly, a layer of straw makes the garden much more visually pleasing in the off season (which, sadly, is half the year).

Follow these steps and your garden soil will be ready in the spring to grow luxuriant and delicious vegetables.

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.

History – 25 years ago
MEN`S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 1992

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men`s Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, September 3, 1992 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Herman Mau** opened the meeting at 7:40.

The Minutes of the June 4, 1992 meeting were approved as read by our Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

Fred Day presented an abbreviated Treasurer's Report. There was a sum total in all accounts of \$12,700.00.

* Future meetings:

a. September 24: This will be our Annual Members Harvest Auction with ladies invited.

b. October 22: Dinner meeting at the Italian American Community Center.

* Bulb Sale: **Russ Greenman** said that the Bulbs are already here.

Bulb packaging will take place on the Regular Board Meeting, October 1, 1992.

The Sale will be on October 3 and 4. Saturday from 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 4.

* Gardening from the Heart: More men are needed to run a full program at the Center.

* **Al Miller** has prepared a letter which may be sent out to any individuals and/or clubs who request information about our Club's purposes and general activities. Anyone wishing copies should see **Al**.

* **Wally Dillenbeck** will take orders for shirts and jackets in the next couple of regular meetings. These items will be cheaper when ordered in bulk lots rather than single orders.

* Schaghticoke Fair: We did not participate this year due to the lack of a committee to run the affair. It was suggested that the General Membership be petitioned to find out if we should participate in the future. If the answer is yes, "Who will be willing to Chair the Committee?"

* Membership questionnaire: **Joe Raggio** and **Russ Greenman** have prepared a questionnaire concerning what direction the Club should take in the future! This will be in the September Dirt.

* **Al Miller** is working on a Tree Memorial for **Paul Hughes** which will be located at the First Church in Albany. Al assured the Board that all trees are properly signified on a plaque in the church. Question, "Is there a marker at the tree also?"

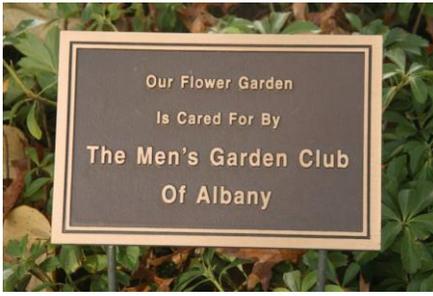
^ **Fred Day**, Chairman of the Altamont Fair Exhibit, thanked **Wally Dillenbeck** and **Tom Baker** for helping him put up the Exhibit. By the way, **Fred** designed the entire exhibit by himself. He also thanked all members who manned the booth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08.

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 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**

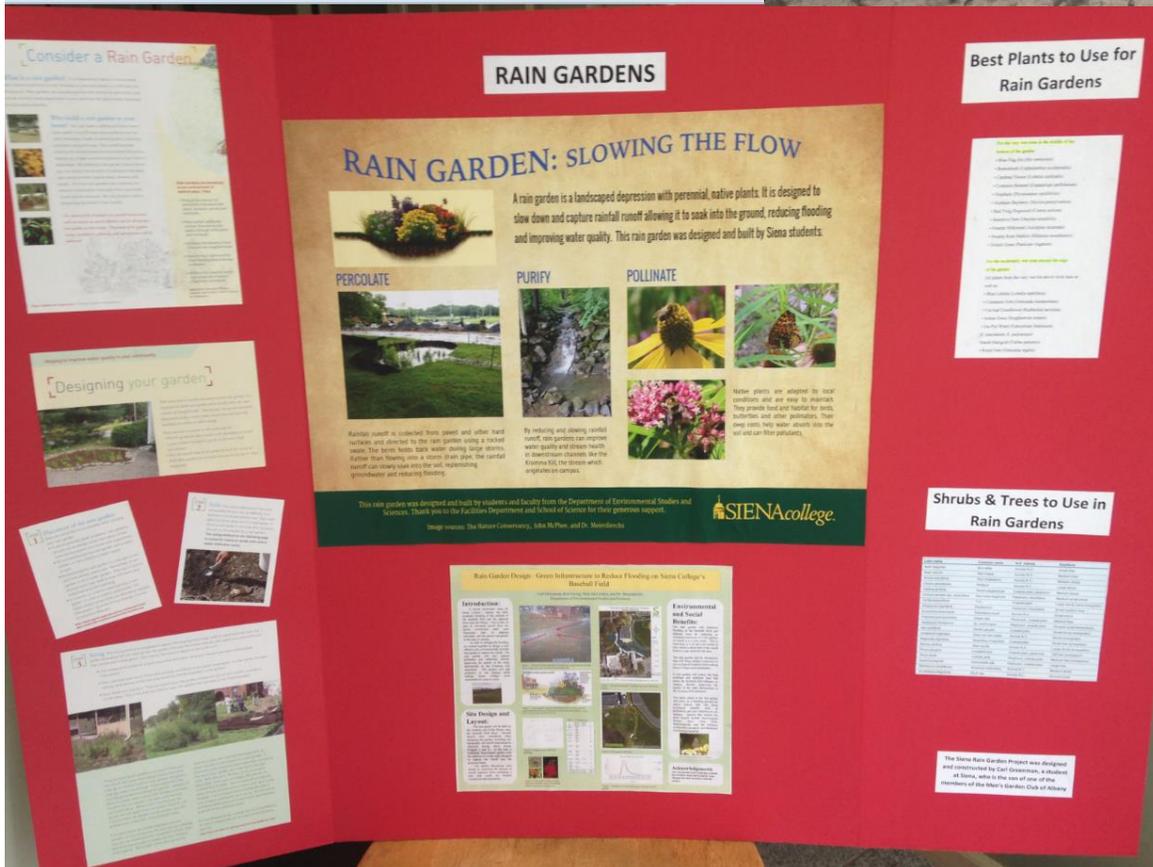
MGCA Altamont Fair Exhibit

August 15-20

This year's fair exhibit was built on the presentation that **Carl Greenman** gave a year ago at our 2016 picnic on Rain Gardens. **Carl's** presentation focused on the specific rain garden he designed to help prevent flooding at Siena College's ball field in times of heavy rain.

Our exhibit used the same principles **Carl** developed but made a more general display. **Greg Goutos** designed this exhibit and made use of **Carl's** pictures and information. **Joe Huth** took care of the details of arranging and helping to set up the exhibit and seeing that the booth was staffed each afternoon. Those who helped staff the booth were: **Allan Villeneuve, Herm and Mary Mau, Bill Stoneman, Jack and Janet Meagher, Greg Goutos** and **Steve Golas**.

Greg Goutos and Joe Huth





Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this Summer included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.** We have been real

busy outside working in the many raised beds that contain, flowers, squash, brussel sprouts, herbs, eggplant, peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and even a few weeds. Now is a good time of year because the folks we work with are now



harvesting the things that they grew. Some were started from seeds and others from plants. **Mary**, from the Center, gave us a cart full of coffee grounds to work into the soil and **Sam**, one of our helpers (a young MacGyver), devised a way for one of our guys to spread the grounds in the gardens from his wheel chair. We

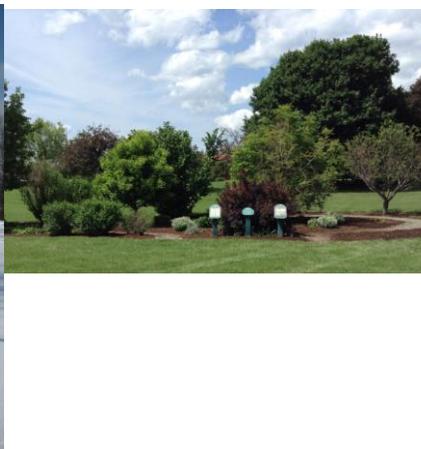


also have a variety of garden tools that let wheelchair bound folks work in the soil. Our herb garden continues to be very popular with the folks that are in the cooking class that is often held outside by our greenhouse.

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 - Chairmen



NYS Fair

On the first day of the fair, **Joe Herman** chauffeured part of the team from Albany team (**Bill Danish** and **Tom Baker**) of Judges and clerk for the Vegetable show. Of course – **Mr. Bob Ireland**, a long time nationally accredited judge did his part to help manage the judging at the NYS Fair.



On the last day of the fair, **Joe Herman** and **Russ Greenman** went to the fair so that **Joe Herman** and **Bill Hurst** could co-chair the Container Plant competition.



Grown by Bill Hurst

CONTAINER PLANTS - COURT OF HONOR 2017

TAG #	AWARD	EXHIBITOR	VARIETY
	BEST of SHOW Stanley Munro Trophy	Alex Jackson	Living Succulent Wreath
FLOWERING			
1	Queen	Kelly Bolton	Bromeliad
2	King	Ed Stoudemire	Orchid
3	Princess	Dottie White	Fibrous Begonia
FOLIAGE			
4	Queen	Alex Jackson	Living Succulent Wreath
5	King	Robert Kenyon	Boston Fern
6	Princess	Barbara Hall	Succulent
7	Merit Award	Dorothy Brock	Planter
8	Merit Award	Nancy Hurst	Gerber Daisy
9	Merit Award	Barbara Hall	Cactus
10	Merit Award	Dorothy Brock	Coleus
11	Merit Award	Tom Hall	Dracaena
12	Merit Award	Dorothy Brock	Croton
13	Merit Award	Dottie White	Spathiphillum
14	Merit Award	Kelly Bolton	Hoya

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

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
October 5 th @ 7:30 pm November 2 nd @ 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
September 28 th @ 6:30 pm October 26 th @ 6:30 pm November 16 th @ 6:30 pm December 14 th @ 6:30 pm	Harvest Auction Monthly Dinner meeting 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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