



313 Bery Way, Watervliet, NY 12189 * (518) 785-7496

DonCWrieden@gmail.com

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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **82** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 81 NO. 10

December, 2018

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

This is our special "Ladies night"

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 13th @ 6:30 pm

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

From Wolf Road *turn* East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Speedway Gas Station) *turn* LEFT at the first stop sign. *Turn* RIGHT at the first stop sign and continue on Winners Circle. Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

Due to last month's 100% approval rating of the Buffet we will try it again.

The Buffet will feature:

Roast Sirloin of Beef, Honey Glazed Chicken, and Pasta Primavera

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: Creating Outstanding Holiday Floral Arrangements

by: Michele Peters, owner of Ambience Floral Designs in Loudonville

For our special December "Ladies Night" meeting, we welcome back award-winning floral designer, **Michele Peters**, who owns **Ambience Floral Designs** in Loudonville. **Michele** was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers in 2016, and is one of the few certified floral designers in the Capital Region. In years past she has dazzled us with her demonstration and tips in creating bold, holiday-themed arrangements. All the women who attend will have a good chance of taking home one of her arrangements that we will raffle off that evening.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, November 11st, 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.

Thanks to John McKenna III

Those who braved the wintry weather to attend last month's meeting were truly touched and inspired by our speaker's presentation. Being just a few days after Veteran's Day, how fitting it was to invite **John McKenna III** to talk about how he was instrumental in creating the military courtesy room at the Albany International Airport to honor the legacy of his son, **John McKenna IV**, who was tragically killed in action while serving as a Captain in the Marines in 2006. John also led the effort to construct a Gold Star Family Memorial monument in Lafayette Park in Albany in 2017.

It was fascinating to learn of the long-line of military service that **John**, an Army veteran himself, and generations of his family, have accomplished. **John** shared very personal stories about his son while growing up, as well as other relatives who served in the armed forces. It was an evening where we all gained a greater appreciation of the dedication of those who have served. We thank **John** for opening up his heart for what it is like to experience losing a son or daughter in action, and inspiring us all by seeing how he turned that tragedy into creating positive local projects that benefit those who serve our country.

MEMBERSHIP

Joe Herman – Gardener Gone to Rest

I'm sorry to say that we have lost another fantastic person. We talked every day and I'm just now realizing how many volunteer activities he had been involved in over his 85 years of putting others before himself. Everyone that ever met **Joe** seems to feel that his gentle caring attitude made people gravitate to him. Even with all of the challenges he had, he somehow managed to continue to help others. As an example, he rarely missed any of our weekly sessions of the Gardening From the Heart at the Center for Disability Services.

We are working on putting together a proper tribute to **Joe Herman** .. With any luck, we will be able to include it in the January DIRT mailing.

My Thoughts of Joe Herman **By: Mr. Joe Huth**

Joe's love of music was apparent. He loved to strum his guitar and lead sing alongs for friends, in nursing homes and at the Center for Disability Services for our gardening consumers at Christmas time. He and **Tom Baker**, among others, sang for many years in a non-denominational group that presented a few concerts each year. **Joe** also ushered at SPAC and shared tickets to attend rehearsals with **Barb** and **Joe Huth**, **Tom Baker** and **Bill Danish** on a Saturday morning. **Joe**, of course, was very active in the Albany Men's Garden Club of America. He had been president at least two different times and had filled in as treasurer when there was a vacancy. He continued on the board of directors for many years. He was also a regular each Wednesday morning when the Center of Disability Services garden club met with the consumers to plant our outdoor garden, start plants indoors, to call Plant Bingo or work on a project. **Joe** was also active in his church and served as President of their congregation for several years.

Signed, **Joe Huth**



[Joe Herman - Link to Obituary](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesunion-albany/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-r-herman&pid=190876534&fhid=14311)

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Joseph R. Herman

Joseph R. Herman, 85, of Cohoes passed away at Diamond Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Friday, November 23, 2018. He was born in Buffalo, NY and was the son of the late **Joseph** and **Margaret Duttry Herman**. **Joe** graduated from Lafayette High School in Buffalo and Buffalo State Teachers College. He taught at Forts Ferry Elementary School from 1955-1988. He was a US Army veteran stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas from September 1957 to March 1958. **Joe** was very active in several civic and choral groups in the area. He was predeceased by his sister and her husband **Norma (Glenn) Owen**. He is survived by his nephews, **Tom (Cheryl) Owen** of Akron, NY, **Jim Owen** of Akron, NY and **Jack (Kelly) Owen** of Fl, also survived by 2 great nieces and 1 great nephew. At the family's request, services will be held in the spring at a time to be announced. Those who wish to remember **Joe** in a special way may donate to the Science of Mind Center, 501 New Karner Road, Suite 2, Albany, NY 12205 or the Men's Garden Club of Albany, 25 Worthman Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144 in his memory.

Note: The board voted to rename our Scholarship fund to be the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**. This is very appropriate because **Joe** was Co- Chairman of the scholarship fund for years and a teacher that never stopped teaching. For as many years as I can remember we have donated \$500 per year to a student in or entering a horticultural related program. Donations are also deductible as we are a 501(c)3 organization.

You'll never believe how many people reached out to me with such nice words and memories about **Joe Herman**.

Comments (partial) included:

a gentle soul, Sad to see the "older generation" disappearing.

He was a helpful colleague and made my first years of teaching much easier due to his help and guidance

We even worked together to provide a camping/ outdoor education experience for our students

After his retirement, he organized a ukelele group that performed at nursing and retirement homes. I joined them on occasion with either a guitar or a washtub bass.

Always jovial, **Joe** would host Halloween parties for faculty and friends in the early days.

His New Year's Day open houses were always a gathering of friends from all walks of life.

We will miss **Joe's** good nature and kindness.

Never once did we hear him complain

I have never come across a more caring and helpful person

Joe was a great man. I had the privilege of knowing **Joe** through the garden club at the Center for Disability Services. He really helped our guys come to like gardening planting and watching things grow. I used to like talking with him he told some great stories. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. Sleep in peace **Joe** and continue to watch us as we plant. My deepest sympathies to the family. May you find comfort in knowing **Joe** was an inspiration to many people and brought a lot of joy to them. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Joe always loved coming to the Center for Disability Services every Wednesday for garden club. Our folks LOVED him so much. He was always so kind. We especially loved when he would play his Ukulele for us and sing. We will miss you **Joe Herman**, RIP. Colleen and your friends at the Center

Tom Baker

Tom Baker - 90 years young – is currently at Our Lady of Mercy nursing home, where he has volunteered every week, for the last 20 years. Tom has been cleared for surgery to improve circulation to his foot. He would love a visit or phone call - (518) 690-4867.

Note: 12/11/18 **Tom** will be moving to the Atria Guilderland for a Respite care - perhaps for four weeks.

Please keep **Tom Baker** in your thoughts and prayers.

Officers

If you're interested in helping guide the direction of this club in its 83rd year – You'll have your chance to add your name to the slate on 12/13/2018. We are especially interested in folks that may help us leverage our 501 (C) 3 status to raise funds for our annual **Scholarships, Gardening from the Heart** program at the Center for Disability Services, and for our **Memorial Garden** at the Albany County Cooperative Extension.

| 2019 Slate of Officers | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| President Bruce Wilcox | | | |
| Vice President | Greg Goutos | 2021 Directors | Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott |
| Recording Secretary | Tom Baker | 2020 Directors | Gary Woods and Dave Jennings |
| Assistant Recording Secretary | Jack Meagher Bill Stoneman | 2019 Directors | Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish |
| Treasurer | Russ Greenman | Regional Directors | Tom Baker and Bob Ireland |

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President) Choosing a Christmas Tree

In our family, we have an artificial Christmas tree that been in the family for decades. We love it although the setup and disassembly is a bit of a pain. Usually we put it up right after Thanksgiving and only reluctantly take it down in mid-January. If I had my way I'd leave it up until spring – winter is such a grey and blah season.

But many (most) folk prefer a live tree. So what should you look for when you go out tree browsing? Fresh is what you want, but how can you tell?

First, seeing is believing. A dark green color is preferable – avoid specimens that have yellowing needles or brown spots.

Second, engage the nose. The tree should smell fresh. Bend a branch or two and take a good sniff.

Third, rub the needles gently. Do they drop in quantity? Move on. Bend small branch or two. Do they break? Skip it.

What variety of tree should you consider? Douglas Fir and Blue Spruce smell the best. A spruce variety works best if you laden down the boughs with heavy ornaments.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)
Choosing a Christmas Tree continued



When you get the tree home, try and get it set up quickly and keep it well watered (this is important for needle retention and fire prevention).

There are alternatives. First you could opt for a live tree. When I was about 10 we went this route two years running. After Christmas we moved the tree outside, mulched around it and waited until spring to plant. Both survived brilliantly and 30 years later both had grown so large that they needed to be removed (a typical error of

forgetting that trees actually grow). One disadvantage is that live trees can't be all that large (the root ball would become impossibly heavy).

A second alternative that many people find attractive is a tree farm where you choose your tree in the ground and it is cut down right in front of you. Although more expensive, going this route assures you of the freshest tree possible and gives you an opportunity to drag the kids away from the TV and out into the fresh air.

Regardless of the route you take, Merry Christmas!



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.

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

History – 25 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 1993

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, December 2, 1993 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** called the meeting to order at 7:45,

The Minutes of the November 4, 1993 meeting were approved as read by **Tom Baker**, the Club Secretary.

Fred Day's Treasurer's Report was approved, As of November 30, 1993, the balance on hand including reserves was \$15,426.81.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The question of a Chestnut tree for **Ferd Johnson's** memorial, as yet, has not been resolved. **Dick Weller** will further pursue the matter.

The Capital District Flower Show will be chaired by **Edgar Tompkins** assisted by **Tom Baker**. **Lou Meo** has volunteered his services. Also, the Bulb forcing contest will definitely be held during the Flower show.

The Awards Committee Chairman, **Fred Day** has advised the Board that awards will be given out honoring many club members. Some people outside the Club are also being considered, such as, **Paul Jeffers** for his assistance in putting the greenhouse together at the Center. This will be at the Spring Meeting. **Bill Krug** and the Seed Contest winners will be awarded at the Christmas dinner meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wally Dillenbeck and **Joe Huth** will audit the Treasurer's books.

Fred Day will prepare a Budget for 1994.

Three financial matters were voted on:

- a. To renew our Five Rivers membership at \$25.00
- b. To renew our Arboretum membership at \$100.00
- c. To make an additional \$100.00 donation to the Arboretum in memory of

Elizabeth Corning.

Member profile questionnaires will be found in the December Dirt. These should be turned in by December 31, 1993.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

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 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**. Perhaps someone with big boy toys on site while working on the bridge knows. 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 included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**



This month has been difficult with Thanksgiving, a snow storm, and the loss of **Joe Herman** - a key member of our Gardening From the Heart program. The gang made a nice memory book and a photo collage in memory of **Joe Herman**. For Halloween, **Joe** made a kitty cat - and he is hiding behind it in this photo.



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.

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



DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Today! | Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards |
| December 13 th @ 6:30 pm | Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center |
| January 3 rd @ 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 13 th @ 6:30 pm | special "Ladies Night" meeting, we welcome back - award-winning floral designer, Michele Peters , who owns Ambience Floral Designs |
| July 28, 2019 | Summer Picnic / Memorial Service – mark your calendar |

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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