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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 81 NO. 2

(First Chartered 1936)

February, 2018

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 22nd @ 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 continuing on Winners Circle. Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

APPETIZER: Caesar Salad

ENTREE: Grilled Salmon with Candied Lemons
Baked Meatloaf and Gravy
Lemon-Garlic Roasted Chicken

DESSERT: Forestberry Pie

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM "A Father Remembers"

This month's program will be very memorable and will surely touch all our hearts. **John McKenna III** will be presenting his very personal story of how he led the effort to create a military courtesy room for travelling military personnel at Albany international Airport, which opened in April 2010. His son, **John McKenna IV**, served in the United States Marine Corp. When he left in 2004, he joined the Marine Reserves, and went on to become a New York State Police Trooper. In 2006 his son was serving as a Captain for the USMC, while still a State Trooper, when he was tragically killed in action.

PROGRAM “A Father Remembers” continued

John decided to retire and devote his time to volunteering and working on special projects involving public service, especially those where he would be helping veterans. Besides the airport courtesy room, John also chaired the committee to construct a Gold Star Family Memorial monument in Lafayette Park in Albany. In March 2017, the monument was dedicated as a tribute to all families who had lost a loved one in military service.

John himself is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1963-1966 with ARADCOM C Battery 3rd Missile Battalion 51st Artillery Brigade. He spent most of his career managing computer centers that provided financial information services to the Wall Street industry. After going on to work as a private contractor, he decided to change career paths later in life and become a math and computer science high school teacher.

February 22 just happens to be George Washington’s birthday, so it is rather fitting that we will talk this evening about honoring our active military and veterans, especially those who were killed in action.

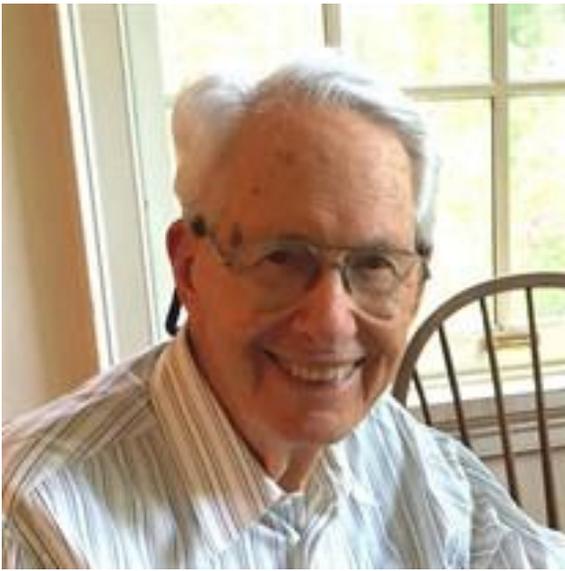
Reservations are required for the dinner

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 Sunday, February 18th, 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.

Membership

Tom Baker came down with pneumonia before Christmas and is now regaining his strength in the Atria Guilderland. He has access to e-mail and a phone with a very low volume ringer. He is in room D408 and I’m sure he would love visitors. Tom is getting stronger every day and expects to return to his normal life real soon. Please let **Russ** know if you would like his **Tom's** email and/or phone number.

Herm Mau has been battling cancer and is now at home under the care of Hospice. Please include **Herm** and his wife **Mary** in your thoughts and prayers.



I'm sad to say that we have lost another real gentleman and valuable member of the MGCA. **Dr. John Abbuhl** was an amazing person with a smile that welcomed you and when talking with him you quickly realized his great qualities. **Dr.**

Abbuhl created the **Pine Hollow Arboretum** that is a public, member-supported, not-for-profit arboretum and nature center includes over 3,300 specimens on 25 acres in the heart of Slingerlands. The vast majority of these were planted by **John's** own hands over his 50 years of loving tenure of his land. **John's** public minded spirit led to his active support of several local organizations. **Dr. John Abbuhl** used this as one of the many ways to share his wealth of knowledge with folks young and old. Our January 2018 edition of the DIRT featured the work that **John and**

his wife were doing at the arboretum. We all looked forward to seeing **Dr. Abbuhl** at our meetings because we could learn so much from him and even our guest speakers learned from his wealth of knowledge he had gained over his 91 years of active life. There is no doubt that **Dr. John Abbuhl** contributed in countless ways to make this world a better place to live. It is also very clear that he instilled those values in his terrific family.

Pine Hollow Arboretum



Dr. John W. Abbuhl M.D.

Abbuhl, Dr. John W. M.D. SLINGERLANDS John Willmott Abbuhl M.D., 91, a founding partner of Schoolhouse Road Pediatrics and visionary behind the Pine Hollow Arboretum and the Cornwallville Conservation Corporation, died peacefully surrounded by family at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital, on January 6, 2018. Prior to being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October, John enjoyed remarkably vigorous health and was fully engaged in his many passions. His life was marked by devotion to family and exceptional community service, conservation and philanthropy. When John was four, the family purchased an old home in Cropseyville. In recent discussions with his millennial-generation grandchildren, he amazed them with tales of home improvements over the early summers when the family would add some new accoutrement to the house: electricity, indoor plumbing, central heat, and so on. John graduated from The Albany Academy in 1943. As part of the wartime Navy V-12 program, he attended college at R.P.I. and Harvard University. John was blessed to enjoy his many diverse passions until shortly before his death. He was able to hike, fish, hunt and even alpine ski into his eighties, displaying a vivaciousness that characterized his life and spirit. It was his passion for old fashioned long bow hunting, -"none of this compound bow stuff," -that led him to form a group of like-minded individuals with a goal of acquiring and preserving land in the Northern Catskill Mountains in the late 1960s. Today the Cornwallville Conservation Corporation has successfully preserved over a thousand acres of land in perpetuity.

Dr. John W. Abbuhl M.D.

In keeping with his love of and respect for the natural world, one of John's chief pleasures was horticulture, a passion that literally blossomed when in 1966 he moved his family from New Scotland Avenue in Albany to Pine Hollow Road in Slingerlands. There John began to spend his free time assiduously collecting and planting tree and woody plant specimens from all over the world. Over the years, he was able to slowly acquire adjacent property, build 11 ponds, and intensify his planting efforts. At some point, he realized that this hobby had amassed such a unique collection of trees that it should be shared and preserved, - a labor of love which is now The Pine Hollow Arboretum. This public, member-supported, not-for-profit arboretum and nature center includes over 3,300 specimens on 25 acres in the heart of Slingerlands. The vast majority of these were planted by John's own hands over his 50 years of loving tenure of his land. John's public minded spirit led to his active support of several local organizations. He was a founding member and Advisory board member of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy which now preserves more than 5,000 acres of land in our region. Ever a proponent of the crucial but unheralded role Albany played in national history, John was also a Trustee Emeritus of Historic Cherry Hill in Albany. Through the years he supported and was on the boards of many other worthy local organizations, too numerous to recount. John loved nothing more than to finish a day of outdoor endeavors with a gourmet meal and fine wine, preferably at a traditional French restaurant and with the company of his large family of children and grandchildren. His other passions are too many to enumerate (travel, the Adirondacks, history, physics, non-fiction reading, etc.), but he explored and examined them deeply in his own writings. He edited his poetry and philosophical essays from his hospital bed until his death.

January Program - Thank You!

“Take a trip to the Rose Parade in Pasadena!” presented by our own club

Vice President, Greg Goutos, and his wife, Nellie

Normally the Rose Parade in Pasadena is held on January 1st of each year. In 2017, when **Greg** and **Nellie** went, it was held on January 2nd so that it didn't conflict with church services on Sunday. Back when the parade first started in the 1890's, if your horse was tied up out in front of the church, you might have been interrupted to check on your horse that may have been distracted as the parade went by. That is why the “Never on Sunday” tradition first started, and continues to this day.

We learned this and so much more about the background of the parade, as **Greg** and **Nellie** had prime bleacher seats to the parade and were also treated to a behind-the-scenes tour. This allowed them to see how detailed these floats, that can approach \$1,000,000.00 each, are meticulously constructed. Each float is made of natural materials and their close-up photographs revealed that things like seeds were used to make the different colors for the life-like objects on the float. Each individual rose is kept in its own vial of water to keep it looking at its best, and some floats can have up to 60,000 roses!

Next year when we all watch the parade, we will appreciate all we learned from **Greg** and **Nellie** about the floats and all that goes into making the Rose Parade so spectacular.



31st Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 23-25, 2018

<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 31st **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** which will be held in **March 23-25 at HVCC** Hudson Valley Community College, in Troy, NY. We're tossing around ideas for a theme and would love to hear your recommendations. Please consider spending some time at our booth - It really can be a lot of fun as we are in a very high traffic location and everyone attending the show is interested in gardening.

Spring Garden Day

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9:45 AM - 3:30 PM

March 03, 2018 from 9:45am to 3:30pm at the Tamarac/Brunswick High School, Troy, NY. Special Keynote Session, **Exploring The Farm To Table Revolution**. A variety of available classes, lunch, book & plant sale and auction. \$30 per person includes up to 3 classes, the keynote session and lunch. Register by filling out the registration form and returning it to Attn: SGD, CCE Rensselaer, 61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180. For questions call 518-272-4210. Click here for full brochure and registration form.

Scholarship Winner Announced



We were honored to have **Emily** and a family member join us so that we could formally recognize **Emily Lewis** as our 2017 Scholarship winner.

Emily is in her Freshman year at the University of Delaware, where she is majoring in Earth Sciences and Geology. She is from Round Lake in Saratoga

County, and graduated with highest honors from Shenendahowa High School last June with a 98 average. Having just completed her first semester at college, **Emily** continues to maintain a straight A average. **Emily** is the one of the first female scholarship winners from our club in many years, and is the Niece of **Greg Goutos**, who serves as Co-Vice Chair of our club this year.

Congratulations, **Emily**, and we wish you continued success on your college journey!

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

The American Chestnut Tree – R.I.P?

It's 1900 – what did America look like nearly 120 years ago?

- The total population was 76 million. A grand total of 42,000 lived in Nevada.
- Fifty percent of the workforce still labored on the farm.
- America was the world's foremost steel producer. America had many more miles of railroad (193,000) than any other country.
- Our army totaled 100,000 soldiers.
- Government expenditures (all levels) were less than 7% of Gross National Product.
- Less than 10,000 automobiles competed for the road with horses, bikes and pedestrians.
- Over 90% of the work force lived within 5 miles of their workplace.
- Over 4 billion American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) trees flourished in the forests of eastern United States.

So what has changed?

Well, for one thing, nearly all American chestnuts have succumbed to a blight which was first discovered in 1904. And that's a shame, because the American chestnut was a truly magnificent tree. Growing to a height of over 90 feet, a diameter of nearly 10 feet and with a wingspan that could shade an entire lawn, their loss was a national disaster. And in addition to the aesthetic loss, American chestnuts were a valuable hardwood, prized by cabinetmakers, and their abundant fruit was a boon to wildlife and farmers alike.

But all is not necessarily lost, and there's good reason to believe that the American chestnut can rise phoenix-like again. As the Emerald Ash Borer decimates our native ash trees, maybe the chestnut can fill in some of the gaps (actually, not so much - the range of the American chestnut was much smaller than the ash tree.)

Because the blight afflicting the American chestnut does not kill the roots, you can still find live chestnuts in the wild. They will grow a few feet tall (more like shrubs), and then re-succumb to the blight.

Leading the crusade to bring back the American chestnut, not surprisingly, is the American Chestnut Foundation. Their initial goal is to breed a blight resistant American chestnut, which in turn will be the basis of a massive reforestation effort. The work to produce a blight-resistant chestnut has two main thrusts:

1. Cross breeding with blight resistant Chinese chestnuts.
2. Genetic engineering.

My sense is that, given the recent advances in genomic manipulation, the genetic engineering effort will bear fruit first. Cross breeding can be effective, but also can drag on interminably. Hopefully some day in the not too distant future we can purchase from our local nursery an American chestnut that will grace our properties for generations.

History – 25 years ago -



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 January included:
Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox,
and **Don Wrieden.** Unfortunately, **Tom Baker**
couldn't attend this session since he was in the
hospital with pneumonia.

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.

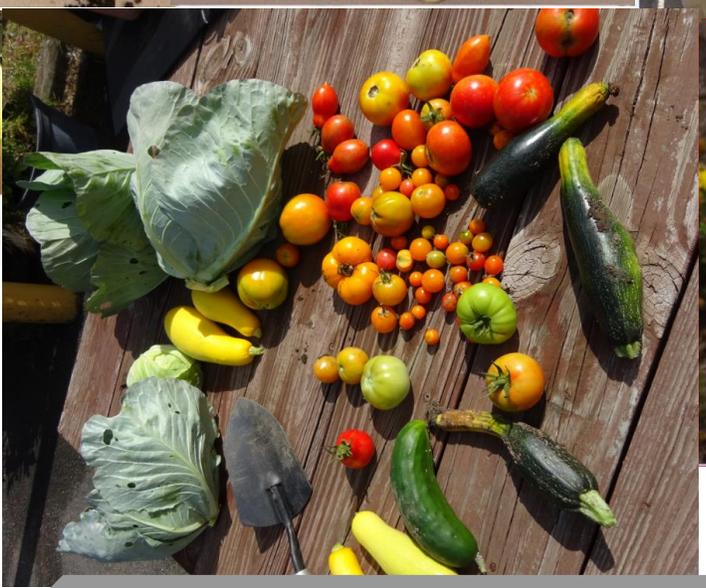
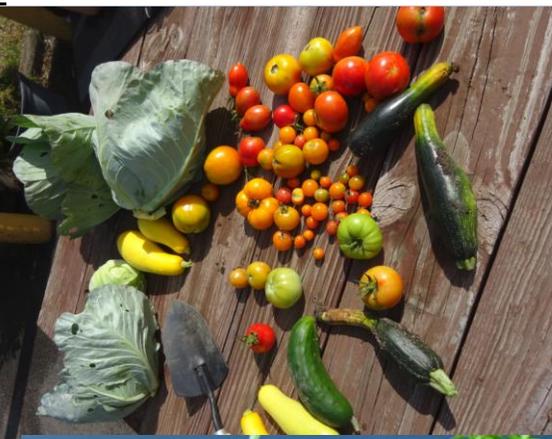


Greenhouse and raised beds at the Center For
Disability Services 700 S. Pearl St.



A good October day at Goolds Orchard





Gardening From The Heart Activities during 2017

Testing the soil's pH



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 38 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!**



<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!		Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
March 1 st	@ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
April 1 st	@ 7:30 pm	
March 3 rd	9:45am - 3:30pm	Spring Garden Day Tamarac/Brunswick High School 3992 NY 2 Troy, NY 12180
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am		Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
February 25 th	@ 6:30 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting Monthly Dinner meeting
March 22 nd	@ 6:30 pm	

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>

Are you ready for the Hot Pepper ALS challenge?

Challenge Guidelines:

Anaheim Pepper: \$20 minimum donation

Jalapeno Pepper: \$10 minimum donation

Habanero Pepper: \$5 minimum donation

Anything Spicer: \$0 minimum donation

+ Nominate 3 friends

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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