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

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

(First Chartered 1936)

**VOLUME 81 NO. 1**

**January, 2018**

**Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 25th @ 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:** Mushroom Barley Soup

**ENTREE:** Braised Pot Roast  
Seafood ala Newburg  
Chicken Gumbo

**DESSERT:** Gingerbread Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream **Price:** \$ 25.00

**PROGRAM "Take a trip to the Rose Parade in Pasadena!"**

This month's program will be sure to brighten up the dark, long days of January, as we take a look at all that goes into constructing those beautiful floral displays that make up the floats at the Rose Parade each New Year's Day.

Last January, our own club Vice President, **Greg Goutos, and his wife, Nellie**, booked a gardener's dream trip of a lifetime to Pasadena. Their tour group went behind-the-scenes to see close-up how volunteers put the finishing touches on each float on the days prior to the parade. After experiencing the Rose Parade first-hand from prime reserved bleacher seats, they later had the opportunity to walk around all the floats after they were on display in a nearby park right after the event.

Their many colorful photos and the insider information they will share with all of us, will surely make you feel like you went on the trip with them.

**“Take a trip to the Rose Parade in Pasadena!” – continued**

**Greg and Nellie Goutos** live in Altamont, where they have a large vegetable garden and many flower beds. **Greg** operates his own landscape business. He has a degree in ornamental horticulture and landscape design from SUNY Cobleskill, and is also a graduate of Union College.

**Nellie Goutos** is an accountant/auditor with the State Education Department, and earned an MBA degree from The College of Saint Rose. She enjoys being involved with Toastmaster’s International, where she is currently serving as President of one of the Albany chapters.

**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, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**December Program - Thank You!**

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

A very festive meeting was held last month, as our presenter discussed the many helpful tips to maintain the beautiful Christmas plants we purchase or receive during the holiday season.

Long-time Albany County Master Gardener **Martie Teumim**, did a great job of talking about the care and feeding from everything from Mistletoe, Christmas Peppers, and of course, Poinsettias. Her enthusiasm was obvious, as was her vast knowledge shared for all, including a detailed four-page hand-out provided to all in attendance.

What a perfect way to end the evening, as it was Ladies Night, and all the women were treated to a Poinsettia plant of their own to take home and enjoy, compliments of our club.

**2018 Officers inaugurated by Mr. Joe Raggio**

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



## GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

### Seeds for the Home Garden– A Very Brief Guide

Based on the number of catalogs I receive every winter, the seed business continues to thrive. Starting plants from seed can be time consuming and frustrating, but if you want complete control over the varieties you grow and the conditions under which the plants are grown (kinda like home schooling), then raising plants from seed is the way to go. But what type of seed is best? Here's a quick summary. (Warning-categories overlap).

#### **Organic versus non-organic**

Organic seeds, not amazingly, come from plants grown organically. Organic methods cost more, and thus organic seeds carry a price premium. Now you ask “Do organic seeds perform better and thus justify the price differential?” I couldn't find any definitive studies that would indicate that organic seeds are intrinsically superior to their non-organic brethren. Since my motto is “If you can't prove it, it ain't so.”, I'll go with a “no”. Or course if you think it's important to support the organic movement, or don't mind a spending a little more money for peace of mind, then by all means buy organic.

#### **Pelleted seed**

Pelleted seed contains an inert material that surrounds the actual seed. For some types of seeds, mechanical seeders function much better with pelleted seed. For the home gardener who plants by hand this doesn't add up to much of an advantage. But some seeds (think carrots) are so small that pelleted seed can reduce much of the frustration and waste.

With pelleted seed you need to be more vigilant with your watering practices during the germination period (which for carrots is about six years). Pelleted seed tends to be more sensitive to drying out than ordinary seed, so water frequently and use a little mulch to keep the soil moist. Pelleted seed also suffers from a very short shelf life – typically about one year.

In conclusion, pelleted seed probably doesn't make much sense for most home gardeners.

#### **Treated seed**

Some seed is treated with a fungicide or an antimicrobial to reduce seedling loss. It will be labeled as such. I couldn't locate any studies that indicate that treated seed will result in contaminated produce, but I would wear gloves when handling it.

Unless your garden where soil borne diseases present insurmountable problems, treated seed isn't needed in the home garden.

#### **Primed Seeds**

In order hasten germination (this can be a big deal for commercial growers) primed seeds are partially hydrated so that germination is initiated. Because primed seeds have been “woken up”, their shelf life tends to be very short – generally a single season. Primed seeds can also be pelletized for easier handling.



## **GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President) - continued**

### **Seeds for the Home Garden– A Very Brief Guide**

#### **Film-coated seeds**

Another form of seed enhancement, film-coating, surrounds seeds with a substance that can improve seed handling in a number of different ways. Sometimes the coating augments the ease with which seeds “flow” over each other and/or through mechanical seeders. Other coatings make seed identification easier.

#### **Seed tapes**

I once believed seed tapes were for wimps and dilettantes, but advancing age has convinced me that I was too quick in my judgement. Laying down a seed tape may feel a bit like cheating the agricultural gods of your sweat and toil, but I’m all about easy in my dotage.

One severe limitation with seed tapes, alas, is a very limited selection of vegetable varieties. I was able to turn up seed tapes for radish, carrot (of course), lettuce, chard, arugula, spinach, and beets.

#### **Open-Pollinated**

Open-pollinated varieties reproduce true to kind, that is, as long as they are pollinated from the same variety, the same plant will be reproduced. How the pollination occurs (wind, insects, self) is immaterial. If you want to save seeds, you’ll need to start with an open-pollinated variety and then take the necessary measures to insure that cross pollination does not occur.

#### **Heirlooms seeds**

Heirlooms are open-pollinated seeds that have stood the test of time. There’s no formal definition of “the test of time”, but many seeds labeled heirloom have been bred for decades. Most seed catalogs will identify what they consider to be heirloom varieties.

#### **Hybrid seeds**

Hybrids, being a cross between two varieties, do not (very often) reproduce true to kind. Many of the seeds you’d want to plant are hybrids because they possess characteristics such as disease resistance, uniformity, early maturity and vigor that their heirloom ancestors lack. In the seed catalogs you’ll see varieties labeled as F1. These are hybrids

#### **GMO seeds**

At this time GMO vegetable seeds for the home garden are not available. This may change in time, particularly since recent advances in gene modification considerably lower the cost and complexity of genetic manipulations. Although many people recoil at the mention of GMO food, genetic modification techniques are really nothing more than hybridization on steroids (OK – there’s an exception. Some genetic modifications involve moving genes from one species to another, something that doesn’t often happen in nature - except between some dogs and their owners).

#### **References**

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/about-us/about-our-seed/about-our-seed.html?q=hybrids>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed\\_treatment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed_treatment)

<https://www.thespruce.com/hybrid-vs-heirloom-vegetables-1403361>

[https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.vegetablegardener.com/assets/uploads/posts/12858/188514\\_151511364908620\\_143917039001386\\_305874\\_2327063\\_n.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/12858/storing-your-vegetable-seeds&h=411&w=548&tbnid=uoYE6lne0uIUUM:&tbnh=194&tbnw=259&usq=x2V\\_Ztdc-nRh8mmCoK14J2ddHk%3D&vet=1&docid=vPBmAUf-4gV4iM&hl=en](https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.vegetablegardener.com/assets/uploads/posts/12858/188514_151511364908620_143917039001386_305874_2327063_n.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/12858/storing-your-vegetable-seeds&h=411&w=548&tbnid=uoYE6lne0uIUUM:&tbnh=194&tbnw=259&usq=x2V_Ztdc-nRh8mmCoK14J2ddHk%3D&vet=1&docid=vPBmAUf-4gV4iM&hl=en)

**History – 25 years ago -**  
**MEN`S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JANUARY 7, 1993**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men`s Garden Club of Albany, was held on January 7, 1993 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** opened the meeting at 7:33.

The Minutes of the December 3, 1992 meeting were approved as read by the Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer`s Report was approved as was presented by **Fred Day** our Treasurer, as of December 31,1992 there was a total balance on hand, including all reserves of \$14,599.63.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- \* Youth Gardening: Took up a lions share of the meeting.
  1. **Don Otterness** showed a Video which he produced for the National Youth Gardening Program.
  2. **Don`s** guest was **Dave Hillmann**, the 4H representative who will assist in implementing a Sponsorship Program in our Local Club, if and when it is started.
  3. **Lee Negus** is also very much involved in this program.
- \* Sunflower and Pumpkin Contest: Seed packaging will be on April 1, 1993 during the regular Board meeting, starting at 6:39.
- \* Scholarship: No candidate as yet.
- \* Awards Committee: The Chair is vacant, and the Board is interested in filling this position. If anyone has any good ideas for such a candidate, please see **Russ Greenman**.
- \* Grow Light Project: **Ken York** is interested in working with members who are willing to assist in this note-worthy project.
- \* Schaghticoke Fair: We are still without a Chairman.
- \* Capital Flower Show: We are without a Chairman. Anybody interested?
- \* Gardening from the Heart: **Wally Dillenbeck** has accepted the Chairmanship of the Committee. **Edgar Tompkins** is the spokesman for the Manning Blvd. Facility.
- \* Plant Sale: **Henry Fox** will Chair this Committee for another year. **Don Stevens** has made arrangements for us to use the Key Bank parking lot, however, we will not be allowed to use the indoor facilities. In that case we will rent a Port-a-John at a cost of \$90.00.
- \* Dinner Meeting; the January meeting will be held in the Italian- American Community Center. All information will be found in the January Dirt.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

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 December included:  
**Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.** Now that it is below zero out, we are spending our days inside where it is warm. During this very cold December we sacrificed

valuable firewood and turned it onto wooden snowmen. We had power tools, hammers, and files and we all had fun without drawing any blood. **Joe Herman** brought in his ukulele and played and sang some Christmas and other holiday songs got everyone feeling good and even singing along. Thanks **Joe!** **Joe Herman** has a fantastic deep base singing voice the Festival Choir will benefit from this year. **Tom Baker** also has a fantastic singing voice and he is also a very active member of the Festival choir that consists of about 60 singers. Unfortunately, **Tom Baker** couldn't attend this session since he was in the hospital with pneumonia. 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.



Which snowman is better looking?







**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 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!**

## Pine Hollow Arboretum



Owned by our **Dr. John Abbuhl**

In addition to owning and operating a very impressive Arboretum, **John and his wife** do many other nice things for the community. For example, groups of individuals from the **Center For Disability Services** go to the Pine Hollow Arboretum as part of the **Pine Hollow Unity Weavers**. Here are some examples of their work.

Please visit <http://www.pinehollowarboretum.org/> and you will be amazed what a gem we have right in our back yard

The Pine Hollow Arboretum is a 25-acre, member-supported, not-for-profit arboretum and nature preserve situated five miles from downtown Albany, in Slingerlands, New York. The arboretum's cataloged collection consists of over 3,300 unique trees, shrubs and other woody plants from around the world. This living collection is aesthetically arranged in a natural setting that includes 12 ponds and a natural succession forest. These marvels are all easily accessed by a network of walking trails and bridges throughout the preserve.

The arboretum is organized by geographic areas of the world, such as China, Japan and Russia. There are also areas devoted to certain species, such as fir and magnolia. Still other areas represent specific soil requirements.

We encourage all types of exploration at the arboretum including photography, plein air artistry, meditation and overall enjoyment of nature. Please come and see what nature has to offer!

The grounds of the arboretum are open dawn to dusk, 365 days per year. A self-guided tour of our 30 Significant Trees is available [online](#) and guided tours can be arranged in advance by calling (518) 439-6472.



## Scholarship Winner Announced

At this month's meeting please be sure to congratulate our 2017 scholarship winner, **Emily Lewis**, who will be in attendance with members of her family.

**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! We look forward to honoring you further at our January meeting.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
February 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm March 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b> All members are invited
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
January 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm February 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly Dinner meeting</b> <b>Monthly Dinner meeting</b>

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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