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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

(First Chartered 1936)

**VOLUME 81 NO. 3**

**March, 2018**

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

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 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.

**APPETIZER:** Garden Salad with White Balsamic Vinaigrette

**ENTREE:** Pork Souvlaki with Tzatziki Sauce  
Eggplant Parmesan with Pasta  
Honey Mustard Glazed Chicken Breast

**DESSERT:** Norwegian Apple Pie **Price:** \$ 25.00

**PROGRAM: Learning More About the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy by Mark King**

Join us at our March dinner meeting to hear from **Mark King**, the Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (MHLC), who will be doing a presentation about the latest developments and opportunities that the MHLC has to offer.

The MHLC was founded in 1992 and has since then acquired more than 5,000 acres in Albany, Schenectady and Montgomery counties. The organization oversees 18 public preserves, which offer recreational opportunities, such as hiking and cross-country skiing. These conservation lands protect the natural resources, and thereby ensure that clean water, clean air, and working landscapes for farming and forestry are available for current Capital Region residents, as well as for future generations.

## **Learning More About the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy by Mark King - continued**

**Mark King** joined the Conservancy as Executive Director in 2013, but his history of involvement with the organization goes back much further. As one of the founding board members in 1992, he has had a hand in many of the organization's conservation successes. **Mark's** early work with the Land Conservancy led to a 17-year career with The Nature Conservancy, serving as Director of Land Protection for the Eastern New York Chapter. Prior to that, he was a Senior Natural Resource Planner with Albany County.

**Mark** first began his career working for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, helping with the State's Bald Eagle reintroduction program. A life-long resident of the Capital District, **Mark** is passionate about sharing an appreciation for the natural beauty of the area by helping to conserve our open spaces.

### **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, March 18<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.

### **Membership**

**Tom Baker** came down with pneumonia before Christmas and, as of 2/14/2018, **Tom** is regaining his strength at home. **Tom** is getting stronger every day and expects to return to his normal life real soon. It wasn't that long ago that his normal life included walking 2 miles / day / 365 days / year. And, if you know **Tom**, when he says he is going to do something – he does it. 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.

### **February Program - Thank You!**

#### **“A Toast to the Liberty Bell” By Nellie Goutos**

Those who were in attendance at our February dinner meeting were treated to a rather special impromptu presentation, as our originally planned speaker was not feeling well and was unable to attend. **Nellie Goutos**, wife of Co-Vice President, **Greg Goutos**, stepped to the plate on several hours notice and gave a wonderful speech about the fact that there is a replica of the original Liberty Bell on display in the NYS Education Building in Albany. **Nellie** has worked in the Education building for more than two decades, and always wondered why this bell was there and the story behind its coming to be.

We sure want to thank her for her interesting talk about not only the mystery of the little-known NYS Liberty Bell, but for sharing many other insights into the beautiful and historically significant artifacts and architecture of the building itself.

**History – 25 years ago –**  
**MEN`S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 1993**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men`s Garden club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, February 4, 1993 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** opened the meeting at 7:35.

The Minutes of the January 7, 1993 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer`s Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Fred Day**. As of January 31,1993 the balance on hand including reserves was \$15,521.54.

**Fred** Advised the Board that we should begin to use some of our assets before we lose our "not for profit" category with the IRS.

President **Greenman** has been approached by the East Greenbush Garden Club, asking if when we order bulbs for our annual bulb Sale that we order bulbs for their Club`s Bulb Sale. They would schedule their sale before ours and any bulbs they couldn`t sell they would return to our club.

The Board went along with this proposition. **Russ** will let the club use our Catalogs to pick from. The Board also suggested, that since their club has men and women members it might be advisable for them to become affiliated with Gardeners of America which also allows women, as well as, men members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- \* Awards: Fred Day has assumed the Chairmanship of this Committee.
- \* Bulb Forcing Contest: **Lee Negus** suggested that ribbons or some such award be given to the winners, this is being looked into. the contest will be held during the March Dinner meeting.
- \* The Board has made a definite decision not to run a second Plant Sale. We will continue with the one in Delmar. Also, we will have a Port-a-John for the day.
- \* Flower Show: We will participate in the Show with **Edgar Tompkins** as General Chairman, assisted by **Tom Baker**. The Board has authorized sending in \$150.00 for our allotted space.
- \* Schaghticoke Fair: Good news!! **Charlie Ireland** will Chair this committee.
- \* Judging School: **Bob** will be planning such a school to begin sometime in May. Anyone interested should contact **Bob**.
- \* Upstate Regional Organization: The Spring meeting will be April 17, 1993 in the Forestry School in Syracuse. More information will be found in the Dirt.  
The Regional Flower and Vegetable Show will be in Morrisville on August 14.  
**Bob Ireland** would like to see more men from our Club entering the Show.
- \* **Al Miller** is starting a Lending Library with books from the National Office. Anyone having any book that they would like to add to the Library should contact Al.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

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!!!**

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

### **March of the Seedlings**

March marks the time to start your spring vegetables under lights. No need to wait for the Ides. For greens such as lettuce, kale, chard, and broccoli that you'll be looking to put into the ground in late April/early May, two months should be enough time to produce robust seedlings. For tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants that you'll be transplanting to the garden in late May/early June, 3 months with some TLC will give you a chance to begin harvesting by mid-summer.

You'll need grow lights of course. My experience with south facing windows has been suboptimal. I use shop lights hung from wire shelves.

Next, you'll need some starter mixture (I like Pro-Mix), some starter plug packs (use the larger size as they give the roots more space to spread out). And finally, some plastic trays to hold the plug flats.

Grab your seeds and let's begin. Fill the plug flats to the top with the starter mix. Using the bottom of another plug flat, moderately compress the soil. Then create two small depressions in each cell of the plug flats. Place a seed in each depression, and then cover with more starter mix, right up to the top. Finally, perform a second compression to bring the soil in good contact with the seeds.

Next, place the plug flats in the trays, and place the trays under your grow lights. Add warm water to the trays (NOT the plug flats). You can cover the trays with cellophane to create a moister environment. It'll take a few hours for the water to wick up from the trays to the top of the soil in the cells, but resist the temptation to water from the top.

Keep the soil moist until germination. Place the seedlings as close to the lights as practical. Putting the lights on an 18 hour timer helps keep everyone on schedule. When the weather warms, I bring the trays outside for a sunning, going easy at first. And I'll leave them out overnight if nighttime temperatures remain moderate.

For greens, it's usually unnecessary to repot the seedlings before they go into the garden. I do like to repot the warm weather vegetables at least once since it'll be a good three months until they're finally outside for good.

#### **Notes**

I give the seedlings some liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks.

Always water with warmish water. You don't (I'm just guessing here) take cold showers – why should your little darlings?

Don't blindly transplant into the garden on a fixed date. Make sure the soil is warm enough and the forecast for the next few days is benign. If you shock your seedlings, they will be set back several days and will be unwilling to celebrate your birthday.



MEN`S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 4, 1993

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men`s Garden club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening March 4, 1993 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** opened the meeting at 7:36.

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

The Treasurer`s Report, given by **Fred Day**, our Treasurer was approved as presented. As of February 28, 1993 the balance, including reserves was \$14,007.07

**Fred** also handed out copies of the Budget with the actual expenditures there of.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

\* Bulb Forcing Contest: **Bob Emerik** has promised that the Ribbons for the winners at the contest would be ready on time for the occasion.

\* **Edgar Tompkins** reported that all was in readiness for the Capital District Garden and Flower Show. Full details will be found in the Dirt. Club members will be issued passes at the main entrance.

\* Plant Sale: **Henry Fox** Chairman, made an urgent plea for members to grow plants for the sale so that we won`t have to buy so many plants.

**Norm Hulme** has the material for the tables and he expects to have them ready in plenty of time for the Plant Sale.

\* Membership: The Board voted to pay the regular membership for life, for **Connie Robert** and **Bill Taylor**. They both have each been in the Club for fifty years. A plaque will be presented to each.

**Bob Ross** resigned from the Club because he is a vegetarian and we were not interested enough in Organic Gardening!!

\* The Board voted to present **Ken York** with \$130.00 for two grow light tables @ 65.00 each. These are for the educational project "Gardening in the Classroom"

\* Regional Meeting: This will be on April 17, 1993 in Syracuse. Full details will be found in the Dirt.

\* Judging School: **Bob Ireland** reminded the Board that the School will begin on Saturday, May 15, 1993.

\* Seed Packaging: The Board was reminded that seed packaging will be done at the next Board Meeting beginning at 6:30.

\* Guest Speakers: It was suggested that certificates of appreciation and one year local membership be given to all guest speakers. This would cause a problem since some of our speakers are women. This suggestion was left unresolved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

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 February included:  
**Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox,**  
and **Don Wrieden.** **Tom Baker** is walking to  
regain his strength so that he can return to the  
GFTH project that **Tom Baker** and **Al Miller**  
founded back in 1984-85



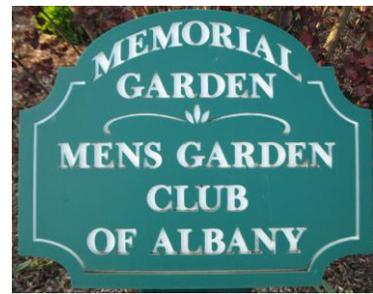
Greenhouse and raised beds at the Center For  
Disability Services 700 S. Pearl St.

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**



**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/>

2018 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show " Wonders of Water" March 3 - 11, 2018 & 2018 Boston Flower & Garden Show "Savor Spring" March 14-18, 2018

"The 2018 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, "Wonders of Water," will celebrate the beauty and life-sustaining interplay of horticulture and water.

America's leading floral and garden designers will create tropical jungles, temperate forests, native woodlands and arid landscapes, showcasing the astounding plants that thrive in each environment, from exquisite orchids and flowering vines to luminescent desert blooms.

The annual Flower Show is a top destination and "must experience" horticultural event, attracting 250,000 visitors annually to the Pennsylvania Convention Center, a showcase of excellence that dates back to 1829."

## **2018 Boston Flower & Garden Show "Savor Spring"**

**March 14-18, 2018**

**Seaport World Trade Center, Boston.**

The Boston Flower & Garden Show is about inspiring, educating and motivating the region's gardeners. Whether for curb appeal, backyard, kitchen, indoor, rooftop or community gardens, this is where New England's green lovers go to discover new ideas while having fun with family and friends.

This March, as winter wanes, the Boston Flower & Garden Show's designers, exhibitors, and marketplace vendors will whet your appetite for the sumptuous joys of the season ahead. Colorful life-sized gardens, intricate floral arrangements, informative lectures and demonstrations and exciting special events will incorporate elements of the popular food gardening trend. Learn about organics, small-space gardens, homesteading hobbies, edibles as ornamentals and family-friendly spaces for outdoor dining and entertaining. Enjoy the first taste of Spring while gathering the recipes and ingredients you'll need for this year's successful garden.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>	
April 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	May 3 <sup>rd</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	
<b>March 23-25, 2018</b>	<b>Capital District Garden and Flower Show</b> <a href="http://gardenandflowershow.com/">http://gardenandflowershow.com/</a>	
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm	April 26 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly Dinner meeting</b>
May 24 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	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>

### **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.



**31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> **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.

*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**

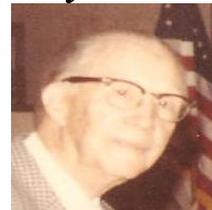
*In Memory of*



**Bill Town**

*Joe Herman*

*In Memory of  
my Dad*



**Carroll W. Greenman**

*Bob*



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