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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. 8

October, 2018

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 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 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: Pumpkin Soup

ENTREE: Lasagna Bolognese (with meat sauce)
Shrimp & Crab Macaroni & Cheese
Maple Glazed Chicken

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

PROGRAM: "Mysteries of the Mabee Farm"

Speaker: **Michael Diana**, Programs and Education Manager at the Schenectady County Historical Society

Come to our October dinner meeting to marvel at the mysteries of the oldest farm in the Mohawk Valley. The program will uncover the story of the Mabee Farm, a 300 year old farmstead located in Rotterdam Junction. Founded in 1705, it is a site that is not only rich in history, but also surrounded by a cloud of myths and mysteries.

From the weathered pine floors in the home of settlers Jan and Annetje, to the hand-pegged Dutch barn, to the site's elusive 1600's fur trading post, what mysteries lay buried beneath the soil of Mabee Farm? Archaeology, research, and determination help us answer some questions—many more remain unsolved mysteries.

Michael Diana grew up in Guilderland and has long been fascinated with the natural and historic landscape of the Mohawk Valley. After attending Hamilton College, he returned to Schenectady where he currently works as the Programs and Education Manager at the Schenectady County Historical Society.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, October 21st, 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.

Thank you

Harvest Auction - We didn't sell anything for \$1.4 million and we didn't have any fancy remote-controlled shredders – but, we did make \$1.4 hundred. We owe a big thanks to all that brought things to sell as well as those that generously bid on the items. We couldn't without our very own auctioneer supreme, **Mr. Don Wrieden**

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. He would love a visit or phone call - (518) 690-4867. Please keep **Tom Baker** in your thoughts and prayers.

Allan Villeneuve

Allan has decided to live full time in Florida and he will be moving shortly before this month's MGCA dinner. We certainly enjoyed his company and all he did for the club. I was fortunate enough the bid on – and win – one of **Allan's** home-made pies that he brought to the harvest auction last month. At our annual plant sale - **Allan** would often bring us an assortment of tasty goodies that he baked. We're going to miss you and we'll look forward to seeing you again soon.

Thanks for being a great guy and a great friend to all!!!

Officers

If you're interested in helping guide the direction of this club in its 83rd year – please contact any board member. 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.

NYS Fair

Bill Hurst and **Joe Herman** chaired the Container gardening competition. A few of us went out to help **Joe** and again September for the Vegetable judging.



GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

The Dreaded Japanese Knotweed

My beloved wife donates much of her free time to maintaining the town park near our home. It's a thankless task, but she bravely battles the insidious weeds that constantly encroach on the periphery of the park. Many of these green devils such as poison ivy, black swallow wort and Virginia creeper, provide many hours of weeding pleasure. However, the ultimate Godzilla of weeds, Japanese knotweed, provides no such gaiety.

If Japanese knotweed was indicted, here's a list of its high crimes.

1. Spreading uninvited into private and public properties
2. Displaying aggressive behavior towards native plant species
3. Damaging asphalt and concrete
4. Failure to take no for an answer

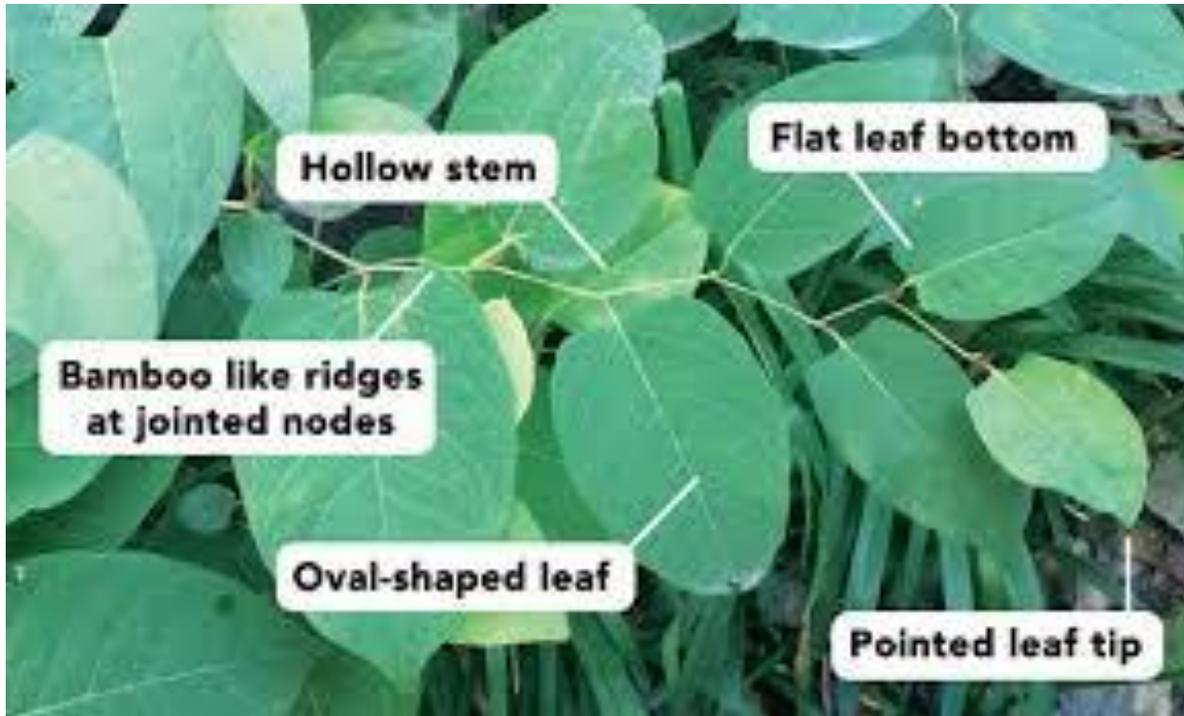
Japanese knotweed often invades disturbed soil beside roadways and stream banks. It can spread via seeds, rhizomes, or cuttings. Once established it requires heroic effort to eradicate. Difficult and tedious, but not impossible.



Your first task will be to provide positive identification (no DNA kit required). Here are some key identification keys:

1. Stems of mature specimens are hollow but not woody
2. Leaves are arranged on the stem in a zig-zag pattern
3. Leaves are oval in shape with flat bottoms. Young leaves have strong reddish tinge.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President) - continued
The Dreaded Japanese Knotweed



Several techniques have been used to eradicate Japanese knotweed. Let's review them here.

1. Digging. Great exercise, poor results. The roots can go down as deep as 6 feet and spread laterally as many as 20 feet.
2. Herbicides. Good results, but multiple applications are needed to complete the job. Many people inherently dislike spraying large quantities of herbicides but it is an effective technique. Be sure to follow the directions for application of the herbicide. You can also directly inject herbicides into the knotweed stem (search the internet for articles covering this technique).
3. Persistent trimming. Over time (and the emphasis here is time), you can weaken the knotweed, but much patience and ongoing effort is required. Be sure to bag the cuttings carefully as they can be the source of new infestations.

For most folks, I recommend herbicides.

Like politicians, Japanese knotweed has a small (very small) upside. Its spring shoots can be eaten like asparagus. Also like politicians, knotweed should be eliminated early in its career before it poisons the ecosphere.

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

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Boards of Directors of the Men’s Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, September 2, 1993 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the June 3, 1993 meeting were approved as read by our club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer’s Report, as presented by **Fred Day** our Club Treasurer was approved. As of August 31, 1993 the balance on hand including reserves was \$14,212.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The annual Bulb Sale will be Saturday, October 3, 1993 and the packaging date is set for September 30 starting at 6:30 in the Center for the disabled, followed by a Board meeting.

Our Annual Harvest Auction will be held on our regular meeting date, September 23.

The Subject of Adopt-a-Highway was brought up by **Russ Greenman** and after some discussion, **Tom Baker** made the motion that we as a club should undertake this project. **Henry Fox** seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Our assignment is a 2 mile stretch on I-90 between Exits 7 and 9 which is near Albany International.

The 1994 Calendars have been ordered by **Fred Day**. The Board decided to order the same number we have ordered in the past, which was 300.

The three Fairs which we take part in were manned with a goodly number of members. The Fairs were: The Altamont fair, the State Fair and the Schaghticoke Fair.

A September 11 field trip will be held at **Dr. Caroline Male’s** home at 2 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Gardening From the Heart: **Wally Dillenbeck**, Chairman, reported that the Center has bought a shade cover for the green house. The money was awarded to the Gardening Group at the Center by the J C Penny Heart Group.

Our Club will participate in the Annual Cerebral Palsy Phonathon on Monday evening, September 20 from 6 to 9 pm. All interested people should let **Wally Dillenbeck** know if you can help.

OTHER BUSINESS

The question of our general liability Insurance was brought up and it was decided that the coverage should be raised. The exact amount will be determined at a later date.

Bob Ireland reported that the Regional meeting would be held on Saturday, September 18 at Greene, N. Y. Near Binghamton. The cost will be \$11.00, all members are urged to attend.

Al Miller reported that the National office has many books to be given away free. Anyone who is interested may have some by letting Al know which ones you would like. He has a complete list of those which are available.

Also, the National office has a very good promotional brochure available. Our Club should look into the purchase of a number of them.

The Board voted not to raise the local dues for next year.

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!!!**

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

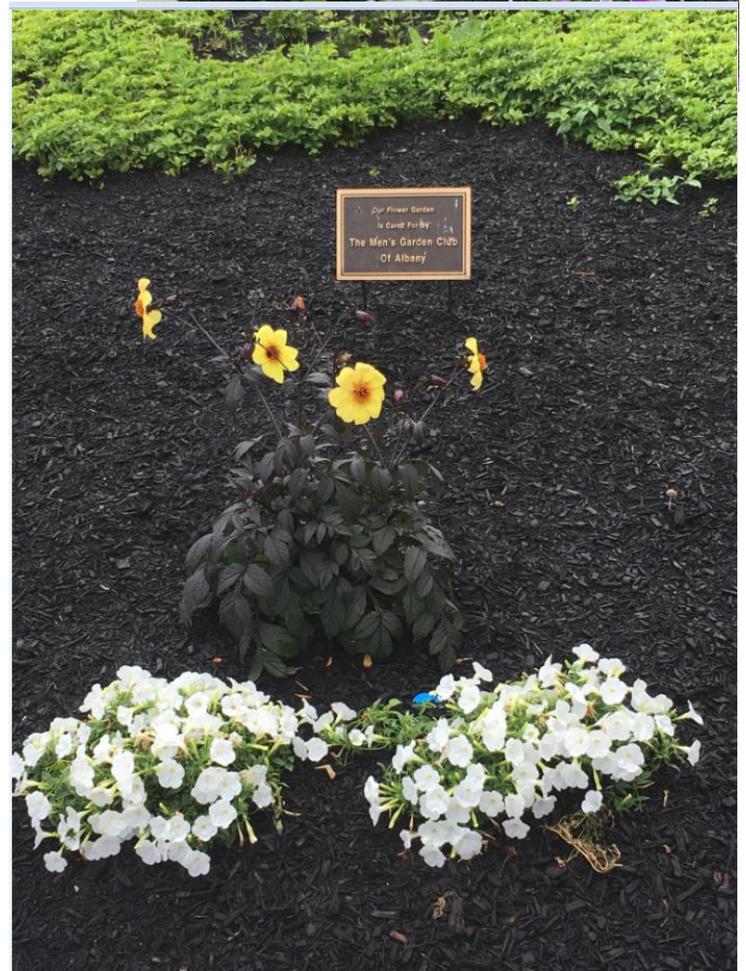
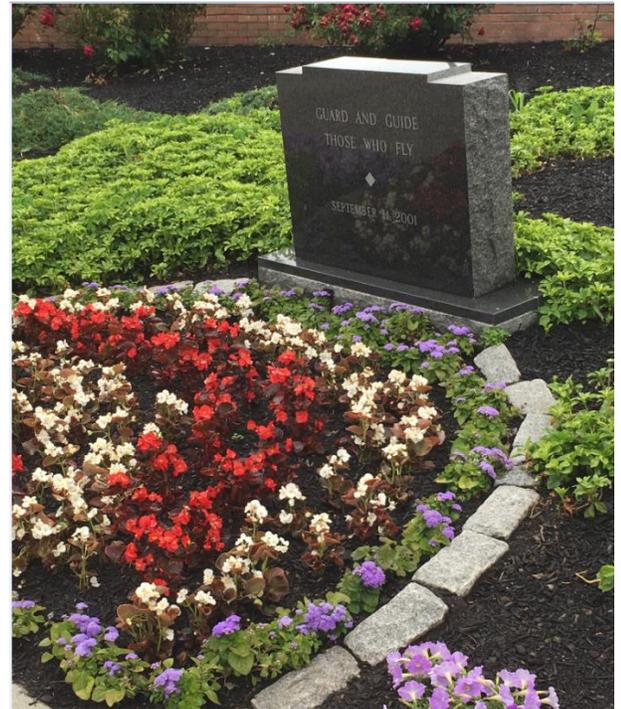
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of
ALBANY**

**CLUB ACTIVITIES
Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman**

Don Wrieden and Jack Meagher



recently did a lot of work at the gardens we support at the Airport International Airport - near the short term parking entrance to the terminals.



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele – Hard at work

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**



October 15th @ 9:30 am

Memorial Garden cleanup



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.**



Thanks to our woodchuck family – we’re running out of food to harvest as well as things to do outside. We’re beginning to do indoor projects and we need all the help we can get to come up with ideas for projects. Please let us know if you have any ideas for projects that our students can do. Our students continue to harvest a few things to be used in the cooking classes that are now held outside by our greenhouse. It is nice having the grocery store so close to the chefs.

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.



We continue to feed the woodchucks. Fortunately, the woodchucks are leaving the herbs alone so that the cooking class folks can pick fresh herbs daily.



Someone can't wait for Halloween

Thanks to **Don Wrieden** and **Home Depot** for the generous donation of Bird and Bat houses



Mr. Tom Baker -
Founding member of
our **Gardening From
The Heart** program just
celebrated his 45th x2
birthday and he says he
feels like he is 35
Congratulations and
thank you **Tom Baker**
for a lifetime of service
to the community.





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



October 15 th @ 9:30 am	Memorial Garden cleanup
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
October 15 th @ 9:30 am	Memorial Garden cleanup
October 25 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center
November 1 st @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
December 6 th @ 7:30 pm	
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
July 28, 2019	Summer Picnic / Memorial Service

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.

Thanks Paul Zimmermann!!!

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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