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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **83** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 82 NO. 4**

(First Chartered 1936)

**April, 2019**

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

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, April 25<sup>th</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.

**Mazzone Catering** will feature a nice Buffet with a variety of entrees: **Price: \$ 25.00**

**PROGRAM:** “ Learning More About Bees, Beekeeping & Pollination”

**April Speaker: Dean Haskin**, operator of **Mickle Hollow Maple & Honey** located in Cobleskill

Our April program will be perfect timing as we all start to get out into our yards and gardens. Here is a chance for you to learn everything you wanted to know about bees and the vital role they play in our gardens and the ecological system.

**Dean Haskin** is an expert in the field, who for the past 8 years has grown his operation to be one of the largest suppliers of bees in our area. **Mickle Hollow Maple & Honey** in Cobleskill currently runs approximately 100 production colonies during the season. They maintain a home yard where they produce young nucleus colonies and maintain a queen rearing operation; shipping queens throughout the northeastern United States. **Dean** just completed giving a 6-hour presentation on advanced beekeeping for SUNY Cobleskill.

**PROGRAM:** continued

**Dean** will speak on the general make-up of a honey bee colony, the members of its workforce, their duties, and what they do throughout the year. He will also discuss what beekeepers have to do to ensure that their colonies are built strong enough to survive our northern winters. He will talk about pollination and provide insights on best gardening practices that can affect promoting a healthy bee population. He will bring handouts of plantings that are beneficial to pollinators and answer any questions you may also have.

**Reservations are required for the dinner**

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, April 21<sup>st</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.

**March Speaker Follow-up:**

Last month was a real treat for all in attendance, as we got a first-hand look into what it takes to operate a successful certified organic farm CSA; one that supplies shares to 400 families at 12 locations located throughout the Capital District.

**Raymond Luhrman**, the operator of **Fox Creek Farms** based in Gallupville in Schoharie County, shared his personal story of how he somewhat accidentally became a farmer for a living. **Raymond** grew up in The Netherlands, living in the city of Rotterdam, but met his future American wife while on a long trip to another continent just after college. They got married and moved to Schoharie County to start their life and pursue job opportunities. They lived on a farm, but neither of them had any prior farming experience. Another nearby larger farm became available and soon they found themselves trying their hand at running a 20-share farming business. They never looked back and persevered to become full-time farmers, now operating the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest CSA farm in our area!

**Thank you, Raymond**, for sharing your gardening insights, while interjecting your presentation with humorous anecdotes of what it took for you and your wife to overcome obstacles and find success through hard work. We all certainly can agree that we are grateful for our farmers and all they endure to provide us with healthy food!

**Membership**

**Dues are past due**

**\$25** = \$10 local and \$15 national

Please send them and any 501(c)3 deductible donations to **Russ Greenman** MGCA Treasurer  
Please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 477-8321 for details

## Joe Herman

Joe Herman's memorial service was on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at:

Dufresne Funeral Home

There was a nice service that included some of his favorite songs as well as memories that all seemed to have the same theme of giving, caring, mentoring and his concern for others. This is why it was so appropriate to re-name our Scholarship fund - to the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**

Following the service we all drove up to Saratoga for **Joe Herman's** Interment @ Saratoga National cemetery

As you might expect - this was really quite an impressive, and a very nice way to honor our friend **Joe Herman**.



**Joe Herman supporting ALS research with the Ice Bucket Challenge**

## Tom Baker

90 years young – is currently at the Atria - Guilderland, and he would love a visit or phone call - (518) 649-3868.

**Herm Mau** has been in and out of Hospice

**Bruce Wilcox, Tom Baker, Bill Danish, and Bob Ireland** have also had stays in various hospitals and rehab centers.

Please keep our friends in your thoughts and prayers.

## Joe Herman Scholarship Fund 501(c)3

We want to thank the many folks that made tax deductible donations to the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

We continue to welcome 501(c)3 deductible donations that can be dedicated to support our **Memorial Garden, Gardening From the Heart program** at the Center for Disability Services, or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

## Seeking Candidates for our 2019 Scholarship

Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? This year the Scholarship Committee would like to ask all our members to consider a personal family member or friend who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or a high school senior registered to begin a college program this fall. Ideally, they should be pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field, including agriculture, environmental studies, forestry or natural resource management. Applicants need not live locally, and can be male or female. Perhaps you have a child, grandchild, nephew or niece, or know of a neighbor that would qualify?

For more information and an application, **please contact Greg Goutos, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052, or at ggoutos @nycap.rr.com.** The deadline is May 31.

## Plant Sale

**Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>** is the date of our annual **Plant Sale** and only fundraiser. Please consider donating some of the plants you have or will start from seed. Any **donations are welcome and encouraged.**

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019

As we have for more years than I can remember – we were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the **32<sup>nd</sup> Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019**

Thanks to **Greg Goutos** for having a replacement MGCA banner made up for the show as well as printing membership and plant sale flyers.

We wouldn't have been able to do this without the help from **Bill Stoneman, Gary Woods, Dave Jennings, Maria Greenman, Russ and Carl Greenman** and especially **Greg Goutos** for covering our booth for so many hours / days.



<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>



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

### **Pumpkins**

Raising happy, well-adjusted pumpkins doesn't require an advanced degree in horticulture, but it does require a great deal of garden space, especially for the super-sized varieties. If you do have the space and the inclination, growing pumpkins can be a rewarding and relatively low effort experience.

First, let's start with the fundamentals. Are you growing pumpkins for show or for eats? Pie pumpkins tend to be much smaller than their Jack-O'-Lantern brethren.

Pumpkins come in basically three colors – traditional orange, yellow(ish) and white (I'm not including gourds here – they come in every color under the rainbow). If you grow the white varieties, you'll need to shade them to prevent sun scalding which turns them off-color.

Growing pumpkins isn't particularly difficult. They appreciate fertile soil, full sun and lots of water. Plant once the soil has warmed up (probably June around here). You can plant them in hills or in a row, but in either case give them (particularly the larger varieties) plenty of space. If you're aiming for large specimens, eliminate all but one fruit per vine.

'Bush' (read short vine) varieties take up quite a bit of space. The space taken up by the long vine types can't be underestimated. Of course you can always trim the vines once they reach a reasonable length to prevent crossing into neighboring zip codes.

Harvest your pumpkins before the first frost. Be sure to leave as much handle on the pumpkin as possible but avoid lifting them by said stem.

I find pumpkin plants to be relatively disease free. Once in a while they develop downy mildew (you'll recognize it when you see it), but I'm much too lazy to do anything about it.

Otherwise, your county extension office should be able to provide a fungicide recommendation.

One cannot blaviate about pumpkins without mentioning the Atlantic Giant variety. If you wish to truly impress your acquaintances, a couple of Atlantic Giant pumpkins on your front lawn at Halloween surely will do the job. The world record stands somewhere north of 2000 lbs, but you'll need to engage in some serious behavioral abnormalities to enter this universe. As always, check YouTube to meet these people. For mere mortals, growing 100 lb specimens shouldn't cause you to break a sweat, and with a little TLC 200 lbs should be achievable.

You'll need some serious muscle to move them around, although it is possible to roll them if you're especially careful. A chainsaw is handy when carving time comes.



muscle to move possible to roll careful. A carving time

**History – 30 years ago –**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**APRIL 6, 1989**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held Thursday evening April 6, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

In the absence of President, **Don Lewis**, **Wally Dillenbeck**, First Vice President opened the meeting at 7:37.

The Minutes of the March 2 meeting were approved as emended by our club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Assistant Treasurer, **Don Stevens**. As of March 31, 1989 there was a balance on hand of \$1,360.50 in the General Account, in the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$328.91 and in the Key Advantage Account there was \$5,185.95.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** **Al Miller** reported that the previously announced unpaid members have sent in their dues. With one new member our roster adds up to 114.

**Awards:** **Don Stevens** reported that he has several application forms for those members who have prospective candidates in mind. **Ferd Johnson** is considering Albany Felt.

**Program:** Chairman **Wally Dillenbeck** reported that the April 27 dinner meeting will be held at Veeders. The guest speaker will be **Ronald McLean** from the Albany College of Pharmacy with Plants and Medicine as his subject.

- Ladies Night, May 25 at the Turnpike will have **Evelyn Sturdevan** as guest speaker.

- June 20, **Richard Anderson** will host the meeting in his back yard at 7:00.

- **Don Stevens** reported that the Club had to pay \$38.00 over our initial total cost because a number of reservations were not honored.

- **Bob Ireland** suggested that something besides a picnic might be considered this summer. **Joe Huth** suggested that the Club could visit the Flower Gardens of the Cooperative Extension.

- **Joe Raggio** reported that a number of our new members would like to hear about gardening problems. Suggestions:

1. A table with gardening information might be set up.

2. **Al Miller** said that he would publish any questions sent into the Dirt with the answers coming the following month.

3. A question and answer period might be conducted at each meeting.

**Youth Gardening:** **Joe Huth** reported that 78 Junior Grange youths are interested in participating in the Sunflower and Pumpkin growing contest. The total is 210 in all. Tomato plants will be available this year.

**Don Otterness** reported that the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Society is looking for people who would be interested in writing and presenting papers on Youth Gardening. See **Don** for further information.

## History – 30 years ago – continued

**Publicity:** Chairman **Tom Baker** reported that he had press releases published in the following papers: The Times Union, Troy Record, Schenectady Gazette, Altamont Enterprise, and the Spotlight. As a result, two men joined us at the dinner meeting.

**Memorial:** Chairman **Don Otterness** is getting prepared to plant four trees in the near future.

**Transportation and Dirt:** No reports.

**Plant Sale:** **Joe Raggio** reported that Gladiola and Lilly bulbs have been ordered for the Sale. They will be sold loosely instead of being prepackaged.

**Don Otterness** would like to have us set up a second selling operation, on the same day, preferably in the Guilderland area.

**Joe Huth** would rather have any left over plants sold at the Delmar Methodist Church Farmer's Market on May 20, for our own benefit with a percentage going to the Church.

**State Museum:** Our Club will once again have the month of July to provide a Floral Exhibit in the Main Lobby.

**Budget and Finance:** Chairman **Paul Hughes** reported that we are back to square one in regard to our State Tax Exemption Number.

**Scholarship:** **Don Otterness** and **Joe Huth** presented a well-organized prospectus, patterned after the National Scholarship program. Notices will be given the general membership in the Dirt. A Committee will study the possible sources of monies for this project. The Board will study the feasibility and desirability of the project in the first place.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**George Landus Arboretum.** **Don Otterness** would like to have our Club become active in the Arboretum functions. They are thinking of putting on a Fall Festival on the order of the Berkshire Harvest Festival but on a much smaller scale, at least for the first time.

- **Joe Huth** made the motion which was carried to have some representatives from the Club attend the planning committee at the Arboretum.

**Local Constitution By-laws.** As was reported in the March 2 Board of Directors minutes, **Al Miller** and **Bob Ireland** are looking into the possibility of a double life Membership for our club. **Bob** Presented a well written and organized proposal to amend our Constitution and By-laws which will be necessary since the dues structure will of necessity be changed.

- **Joe Huth** made the motion which was carried to present the above proposal (Which is attached) to the general membership. This should appear in the Dirt which in turn will be taken up at the next general meeting.

There being no further business of significance, 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 -or 30 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

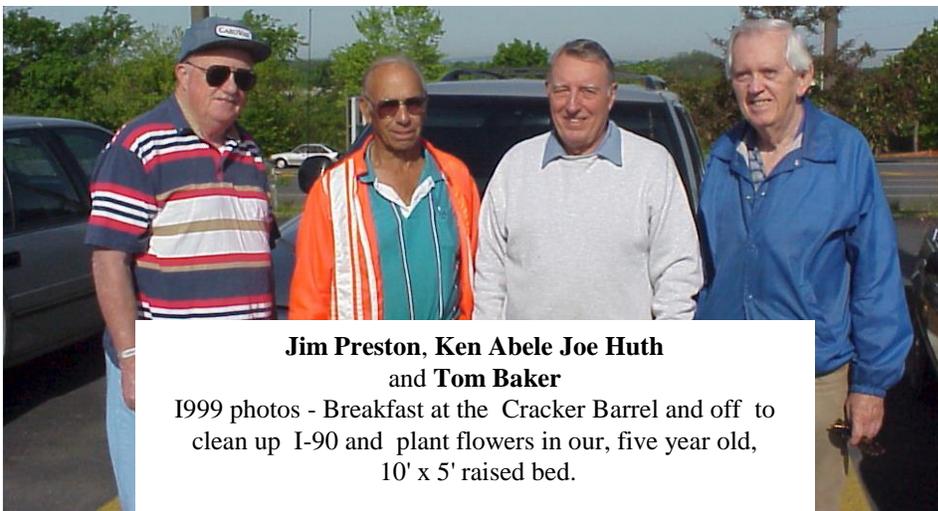
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY  
CLUB ACTIVITIES  
Adopt-a-Highway - 25 years**



**Ken Abele – Hard at work**



We had a good run... We started our Adopt A Highway program back in 1994 by building a raised bed out of Hemlock and lots of rebar. Ten years later in 2004 - we built a raised bed that would last a lifetime. Unfortunately when construction started on the Exit 7 bridge off of I-90 our concrete base, block structure, soil and flower bulbs mysteriously disappeared leaving only the steel we drove down 5 feet to keep the Very thick concrete base from heaving.. **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



**Jim Preston, Ken Abele Joe Huth  
and Tom Baker**

1999 photos - Breakfast at the Cracker Barrel and off to clean up I-90 and plant flowers in our, five year old, 10' x 5' raised bed.



**Albany International Airport  
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



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



We plan on having a work party at the Memorial garden shortly after this month's Dinner meeting. Details and a signup sheet will be at the April 25th dinner. The first week in May was discussed at the last board meeting. We'll see how the weather cooperates.



# Gardening from the Heart - 34 years

at the

## Center for Disability Services

Volunteers include: Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Greg Goutos, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.

### Wrieden.

Our recent sessions have included planting coleus cuttings in St. Patrick's Day hats and decorated them with gold coins, planting lots of seeds and transplanting some of the vegetables. We hope to get out in the greenhouse in the next week or two as it looks like it may finally begin to feel like Spring around here. 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 our students. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.



TODAY  
Today, I will be too calm for worry  
too noble for anger, and too strong for  
defeat.  
Today, I will believe anything is possible  
I will walk through fear without hesitation  
Today, I will stand for something.  
TODAY, I WILL MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!





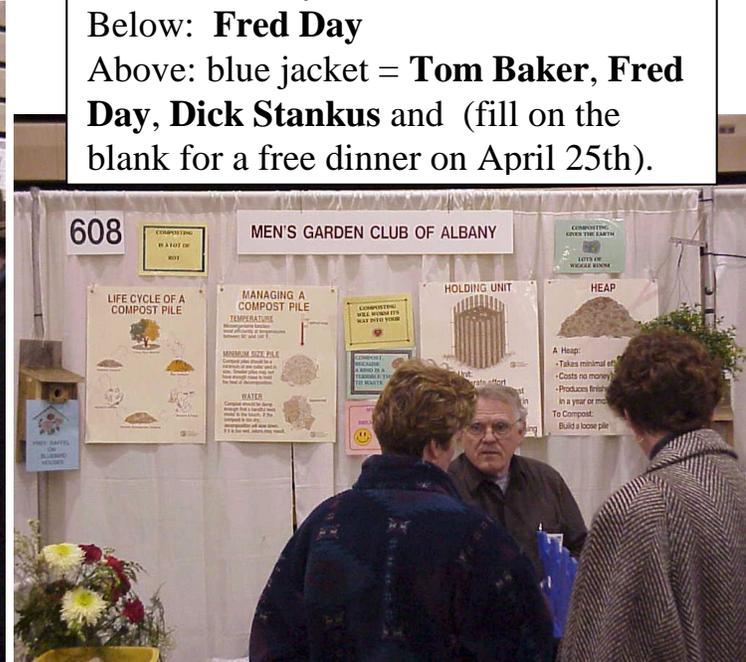
**A Blast from the past  
1999 Garden and Flower show**



Somehow **Dick Stankus** got away with keeping his pet red wigglers under the kitchen sink without **Janice** throwing him out of the house.



**Left: Fred Day and Dick Stankus**  
**Below: Fred Day**  
**Above: blue jacket = Tom Baker, Fred Day, Dick Stankus and (fill on the blank for a free dinner on April 25th).**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
April 25 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm May 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly dinner and program</b> Beltrone Living Center
April 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm May 2 <sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 pm June 6 <sup>th</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
July 28, 2019	Summer Picnic / Memorial Service – mark your calendar

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!!!**

### 501(c)3 Donations

We are especially interested in finding 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.



The Vegetable Project in Albany, N.Y., established in 2009, creates hands-on learning opportunities that involve science, the environment, entrepreneurship, tasting really fresh food and responsibility for care of living things by growing vegetables and other plants.

Check out our very own -

**Bill Stoneman's** [The Vegetable Project](#)

Digging in the dirt at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School and Albany High School, the Vegetable Project is a collaborative effort of parents, faculty and other staff members and community partners that supports after-school and summertime Garden Clubs, presents classroom lessons and brings families together for occasional weekend events. The Vegetable Project is a 501c3 tax-exempt nonprofit corporation.

[Here's our brochure with more.](#)

*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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