



313 Bery Way, Watervliet, NY 12189 * (518) 785-7496

DonCWrieden@gmail.com

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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 82 NO. 2

February, 2019

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 28th @ 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.

This month **Mazzone Catering** will feature a Buffet that includes:

Price: \$ 25.00

Caesar Salad

Crispy Orange Chicken with Rice & Grilled Pork Tenderloin & Pasta Puttanesca

Chefs Choice Dessert

PROGRAM:

The Impact of Invasive Species and Native Plants on Our Landscapes

Please join us as we learn from an expert in the field about the growing environmental concerns related to the invasive species found in our region. The presentation will be on the impact of invasive species on our landscapes and gardens, with specific threats to those of us in the Capital region. Some of the topics will be about native plant impacts in the garden, especially on insect populations.

Bio: Spencer Barrett is the Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator for the Capital-Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM). He attended DePaul University in Chicago and works out of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County where his duties involve most anything regarding land-based invasive species. First focusing on invasive species as a Preserve Assistant with The Nature Conservancy, **Spencer** moved to New York to work with the Lower Hudson PRISM as the crew leader of the Invasive Strike Force. He now works to apply what he learned in the Lower Hudson Valley to the Albany area through early detection and rapid response to invasive species as well as public education regarding the threats they pose to the ecosystem and the economy.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, February 23rd, 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.

MEMBERSHIP – Dues are Due

James O. Preston

I'm sorry to report that **Jim Preston** has been added to the Gardener's Gone to Rest. **Jim** was a real cool guy that generously donated his time and talent for our many projects. We always had fun cleaning up the highway as part of our Adopt-A-Highway program that we started back in 1994. Jim certainly did his share to make this world a better place and we owe him a big thanks!



Preston, James O. BETHLEHEM James O. Preston, 91, formerly of Voorheesville, died Saturday, February 2, 2019, at the Kingsway Arms Nursing Center in Schenectady. Born in Middletown, Conn., James moved to Voorheesville in 1970 and then to the Beverwyck Community in 2008. He was a veteran of both the [United States Navy](#) and Army. After a brief term in the Navy, he graduated from of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University and then was drafted into the Army, serving from 1951-1953. He began his career working at a Firestone Rubber Plant in Liberia, West Africa and in 1957 became a junior forester for the N.Y.S. D.E.C. He held various positions in the Division of Lands and Forest before his retirement in 1987. James was a member of the Albany Garden Club and member and former elder and trustee of the New Scotland Presbyterian Church. James married Beverly Eckstedt on April 16, 1960, and prior to her death in 2006, he lovingly took care of her so she could stay in her home. He is survived by his children, Stephen Preston (Bonnie) of Northville and Megan Vail (Peter) of Stillwater; grandchildren, Michael and Katherine Vail; sister, Barbara Bradley; and dear friends, Pauline Martin and Betsy Hoffman. He was predeceased by his brothers, Robert and Frank Preston. A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 13, in the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, 2010 New Scotland Rd., Slingerlands, NY, 12159. All other services will be private at the convenience of the family. For those who wish, memorial contributions to the New Scotland Presbyterian Church would be appreciated. reillyandson.com

Tom Baker

- 90 years young – is currently at The Atria - Guilderland, and he would love a visit or phone call - (518) 690-4867.

Please keep **Tom Baker** 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**.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Growing Tomatoes from Seed

It's February and you're raring to start gardening. Take a deep breath Wild Bill and relax – it's way too early for the pitchfork and rake. But you can still get your hands dirty and start your tomatoes from seed rather than trundling down to the nursery in May. Several benefits arise from raising your own seedlings:

1. You can select **exactly** the varieties you wish to grow. By now you've been inundated with catalogs from Burpee, Johnny's, Stark, etc., so your choices abound.
2. You can avoid the root bound specimens that most often grace the shelves of any nursery (and heaven forbid that you cast your already tenuous fortunes with the Big Box stores).
3. If you're uber ambitious, you can start a handful of tomatoes really early and have ripe tomatoes starting in June (yes this is possible – I've done it at least ten times).

The most important element to consider is light. Not enough light and you end up with pale, leggy seedlings. Florescent lights do nicely as do the newer LED bulbs. The key to success with indoor lights is to keep the light one to three inches above the plants. As the plants grow, raise the lights, although I let the tomatoes grow until they're touching the bulbs before readjusting the gap. Putting the lights on a timer (16 hours of light per day) will allow you to wander a bit further from the house.

In my book, the second key is transplanting the tomato seedlings at least once before placing them in the ground. Start with the small-cell six packs, migrate the large-cell six packs, and finally (if your New Year's resolutions haven't already fallen into the ditch), a third time into 4 inch pots. Plant the tomatoes a little bit deeper each time, and by planting time you'll have industrial-grade transplants with robust root systems.

For early tomatoes, start them in February. For others, start in March. Use a good potting mixture and plant two seeds per cell. Make sure the potting mixture has been firmly tamped down to eliminate any large air spaces. Place the six packs in trays and water from the bottom. Give your little darlings a weekly dose of half strength fertilizer after the first true leaves appear.

When you transplant, use your best surgical technique. I run a butter knife around the insides of each cell, and then gently lift the seedling out using the knife as a lever. Avoid pulling on the stem. Wear gloves to avoid spreading disease (yes, your fingers are a veritable Amazon warehouse of microorganisms).

Unless you are willing to go to the effort of building protective enclosures to protect your juvenile tomatoes, wait until June to transplant outside. I always remove the lower branches before placing them in the garden so that none of the leaves drag on the ground (some blights overwinter even in Northern climes). Placing a layer of newsprint provides additional insurance against early blights. That's it. Your life during February and March again has purpose.



History – 30 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, February 16, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled. This was a make up meeting due to the ice storm on February 9.

Wally Dillenbeck, acting president for **Don Lewis**, opened the meeting at 7:40.

The Minutes of the January 5, 1989 meeting were approved as read by our club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by **Don Stevens**, Assistant Treasurer. As of January 31, 1989 there was a balance on hand of \$2,412.09 in the General Fund. In the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$328.91 and in the Key Advantage Account there was a balance of \$5,161.99

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gardening from the Heart: **Al Miller**, Chairman, reported that the client's gardening project will be moving to its new location at 700 So. Pearl St. It has been suggested by the Center and by at least one of our cooperating members that we as a club might start another project with the incoming clients. This will entail recruiting more people from the Men's Garden Club. More thought should go into the feasibility of running two sections simultaneously

At this point, **Ferd Johnson**, interjected this bit of information. In the process of trying to get a club started in the Glens Falls area, a gentleman offered the CP Center another greenhouse.

Calendar: **Charlie Schade**, Chairman, said that several people asked for more calendars and **Joe Raggio** came up with a bunch that he found with the Bulb Sale equipment. These will satisfy **Charlie's** needs.

Youth Gardening: **Don Otterness**, Co-chairman, reported that the National committee is working on a follow-up slide program to go along with the Booklet which they have already produced. Also in the works, youths may be put through a three-year program and some of these youths may then be used as mentors for younger youths.

Local Scholarship Proposal. **Don** next brought up the idea of a scholarship fund for students going into Horticulture in memory of **Al Leonard** who did a lot of work in youth gardening. Four or five hundred dollars was a suggested amount. **Wally** appointed **Don** to look into the matter and report back to the Board.

Transportation: **Charlie Kenyon**, Chairman, would like to see more people being involved in this project. It would be a shame to have anyone not getting to the meetings because of a lack of a ride.

Calling: **Al Miller** reporting. All is running smoothly

Plant Sale: **Don Stevens**, Chairman, reported that Key Bank has set aside May 15 for us.

Awards: **Glen Witecki**, Chairman, has made up application forms for prospective winners. These will be available for all members at the dinner meetings.

Membership: **Al Miller** reported for **Bill Blackmore**. Our membership stands at 113. Add **Bert Isens** to your directories. We have lost nine members through resignations.

Wildwood Flower Show: The Club is not participating this year.

History – 30 years ago –continued

Program: Chairman **Wally Dillenbeck** reported that all is set through September 28. Due to the National Convention being held in August the year, our Summer Picnic will be held on September 10 at the George Landus Arboretum.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bus Trip: The bus to the Boston Flower Show, March 7 is on but since only 18 people have signed up to date, it looks like we will be opening the trip to the public. Members, sign up before the seats are all taken.

Berkshire Garden Center: The Center asked us for a donation over and above our support that we give through our Bulb Sale at their Harvest Festival. The Board voted not to comply. The Board did, however, note to renew our regular membership.

Tax Exempt Status: **Wally Dillenbeck**, who does a lot buying for our project at the C P Center would like to know how we stand. **Al Miller** said that we still have the Federal number but don't have the State one. We will have to wait until our regular treasurer come back to complete the transaction.

Board Minutes at the Dinner Meetings! **Don Otterness** said that several members asked why the club couldn't be brought up to date on the proceedings of the Board meetings. After some discussion, the Board voted to have the Secretary read the highlights only of the minutes. One Board member was very much opposed to having a lengthy business meeting at the end of a delightful dinner meeting. Timing was another consideration. The older men don't want to be out any later at night.

** 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 Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman





Gardening from the Heart

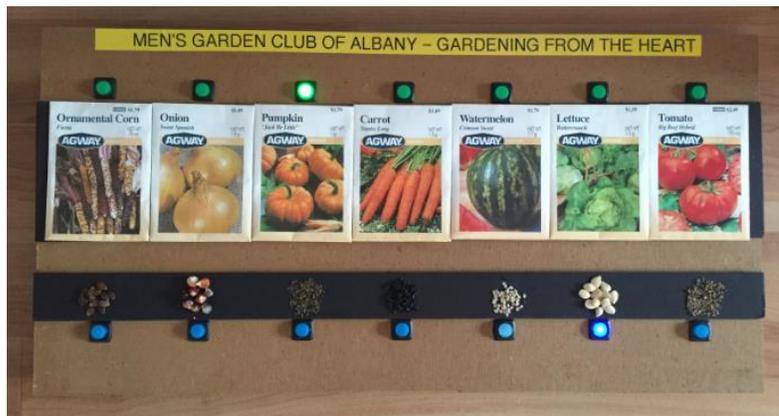
at the

Center for Disability Services

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



Wrieden.

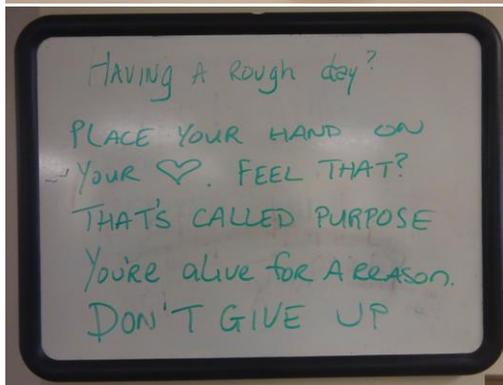


A few weeks ago I was having luck with my Dad - **Bob Greenman** - Yup, **Carroll Greenman's kid** - and I mentioned that I wanted to make something that could help our students learn about various seeds. That afternoon he had found some scrap wood and a link to some cool LED lights with built in switches. **Bob Greenman** volunteers at the 5 Rivers Environmental Education Center and he researched the best way to wire this device for

learning. The folks at **Becker's Farm** in East Greenbush, NY donated seeds that we glued onto the board. What a big hit! Now we know what an onion seed looks like. The seeds and seed packets are on foam board strips that can be swapped out with herbs, leaves, wood from Maple or Black Walnut trees, etc.

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.



2019 Slate of Officers

President

Bruce Wilcox

Vice President	Greg Goutos	2021 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2020 Directors	Gary Woods and Dave Jennings
Assistant Recording Secretary	Jack Meagher Bill Stoneman	2019 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

Cathedral in Bloom



Cathedral in Bloom

Here's your chance to see more floral arrangements made by our friend, **Michele Peters**, owner of **Ambience Floral Designs** in Loudonville...

ALBANY, NY- The Cathedral of All Saints is pleased to announce the inaugural "Cathedral in Bloom" to be held **February 22nd through February 24th at the historic Cathedral of All Saints** in Albany, New York. The three-day floral event will focus on the artistry of the Capital Region's finest florists as they adorn the historic interior of the nation's first

Episcopal Cathedral. Highlights of the event include dozens of breathtaking floral displays, workshops and presentations by the region's leading florists, a public flower market, tours of the Gothic cathedral, an organ recital, Champagne Gala Reception, and Afternoon Tea among the flowers.

Tickets are available for one-day admission and for admission that includes the Champagne Gala reception or the Afternoon Tea. One -day admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and free for children under 10. Friday tickets that include the Champagne Gala Reception are \$25: Saturday tickets that include Afternoon Tea are \$30. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door on the day of the event (advance tickets are required for the Afternoon Tea). For more information and to purchase tickets, visit cathedralofallsaints.org or brownpapertickets.com/event/4047382. The Cathedral of All Saints is located at 62 South Swan Street in Albany.

32nd Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019



<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 32nd **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** which will be held in **March 22-24 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 2, 2019, 9:45 AM - 3:30 PM**

March 02, 2019 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 [Spring Garden Day](#) for full brochure and registration form.

Thank You - TSA Food donation

January's Dinner meeting was canceled because of the threat of icy roads. This is the first dinner cancellation that I remember in 30 years. We had made the reservations and the food was being prepared as the decision was made to cancel the dinner.. **Don Wrieden** suggested donating the food to the **TSA staff at the Albany International Airport** .

Blanchard (Mazzone Hospitality) agreed to pack up the dinners in microwavable containers and he and his staff loaded up my van with all of the complete hot dinners.

Blanchard also contacted the airport and made arrangements for **Mary** and the TSA supervisor to bring the food from my van into the airport.

Mary was very grateful for our donation.

Speaking of donations... **Blanchard** knocked off the cost of his staff to help keep our cost down.

Maria Greenman made phone calls to folks to let them know that the board felt it was best to cancel the meeting due to areas that may be hit with bad weather.

Thanks to all that made this happen.

I reminded them that we maintain the garden - and I pointed to it - right across from the terminal entrance passenger drop off section.

Thanks to all that helped!!!

Russ



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
February 22 nd through February 24 th	Cathedral in Bloom @ the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany, New York
February 28 th @ 6:30 pm March 28 th @ 6:30 pm April 25 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center
March 7 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
March 22 nd through February 24 th	Capital District Garden and Flower Show
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



420 Columbia Turnpike | 518.477.4163 • Fax 518.477.1360
 Rensselaer, NY 12144 | Email: info@beckersfarm.com
 East Greenbush - Across from Columbia Plaza

1140 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 - (518) 785-6726
 www.faddegons.com - 3 miles west of Northway Exit 6 on Rte. 7



- *Landscape Design & Build*
- *Garden Center*

Family Owned
 And Operated
 Since 1920

Emil Nagengast
FLORIST

Celebrating 104 years
 434-1125

Stuyvesant Plaza &
 169 Ontario St. Albany



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

The Gade Farm

-A Century Farm Est. 1878-
 Open Easter through Christmas
 Vegetable & Bedding Plants
 Perennials, Shrub & Trees
 Bulk Mulch & top soil
 Farm Fresh Produce
 Fresh, local baked goods
 Seasoned firewood



Rt. 20, Guelderland
 (just past 146)
 www.gadefarm.com
 like us on Facebook
 869-8019

Please support our
 advertisers

The following growers donated to
 our 2018 Plant Sale
 Please help support them with
 your purchases

Faddegon's Nursery

Valoze's Greenhouses

Troys Landscape Supply

The Gade Farm

Krug Farms

Hewitts Garden Center

Constantine Garden Center

- Locally Grown Annual, Perennial, & Vegetable Plants
- Huge Selection of Hanging Baskets
- Mulch, Top Soil, & Stone - Delivery available
- Seasonal Farm Fresh Produce
- Family Owned and Operated



554 Albany Shaker.
 Rd.
 Loudonville, NY
 12211
 518-458-8294

