



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. 1

January, 2019

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 24th @ 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

Hearty Beef Stew over Egg Noodles, Grilled Pork Tenderloin, and Four Cheese Lasagna

Our Speaker: **Spencer Barrett**, from the Capital-Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Topic: **The Impact of Invasive Species and Native Plants on Our Landscapes**

Please join us in January 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, November 11st, 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.

Thanks to Michele Peters for another awesome program



For those who were fortunate to attend last month's dinner presentation, you know what a treat it was to see our speaker put together some very festive holiday floral creations. **Michele Peters**, owner of **Ambiance Florist in Loudonville**, is an **award-winning floral designer** that has dazzled us all every time we have invited her to our club.

Right before our eyes, **Michele** put together six bold floral arrangements using containers and other décor you would never think to use. After she was done delighting us all, six random women in attendance had their lucky raffle numbers picked, allowing them to choose an arrangement to take home for their holiday table. Since it was "Ladies Night", all the women received a Poinsettia to take home, as well.

Thank you, Michele, for being a good friend to our organization, and for making our December meeting one of the highlights of the year for our club.

MEMBERSHIP

Joe Herman – Gardener Gone to Rest

I'm sorry to say that we have lost another fantastic person. We talked every day and I'm just now realizing how many volunteer activities he had been involved in over his 85 years of putting others before himself. Everyone that ever met **Joe** seems to feel that his gentle caring attitude made people gravitate to him. Even with all of the challenges he had, he somehow managed to continue to help others. As an example, he rarely missed any of our weekly sessions of the Gardening From the Heart at the Center for Disability Services.

We are working on putting together a proper tribute to **Joe Herman** ..

Tom Baker - 90 years young – is currently at The Atria - Guilderland, and hopes to return to his apartment at the end of the month. Tom would love a visit or phone call - (518) 690-4867.

Please keep **Tom Baker** in your thoughts and prayers.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

How to (Properly) Collect a Soil Sample

It's the New Year and you've made a resolution to not only get off your duff and do something useful, but also, for once in your life, to do it correctly. For most of us (moi included) this represents a tremendous leap into the unknown. But fear not, I will guide you through this fearsome, uncharted desert and deliver you safe and sound to the promised land.

Nearly all gardeners, when asked, will sheepishly admit that they've never done a soil test. This transgression is akin to invading a foreign country without a thought to what will happen in the subsequent occupation (here's to you W. and Dick). Most gardeners rationalize their negligence by declaring that their plants seem to grow well enough, so why bother. I give you one big reason why this line of reasoning can lead to monumental unhappiness-- heavy metals. Due to our industrial prowess over the past 200 years, some soils have been contaminated with heavy metals to unhealthy levels. Lead is the most notable pollutant. For example, orchards once used pesticides laced with lead compounds. Years later the land was sold to a developer who built your lovely development. When you start your vegetable garden without first testing the soil, you and your family will be unwittingly consuming lead-tainted produce. Even if you don't grow vegetables, merely digging in the yard can raise lead-contaminated dust.

Have I convinced you that you need to test your soil? The next step will be to gather a representative sample. Follow these steps:

1. Decide what portion of your property you want to test.
2. Mark 5 to 10 randomly located spots from which you will extract samples.
3. Unearth your trusty shovel from the garage and thoroughly clean it (no rust please). A large hand trowel will also serve.
4. At each test location push the shovel vertically into the soil about 6 inches. Then perform the same action 2 inches behind the first insertion.
5. Pull out the slice of soil between the two shovel insertions
6. Discard the top one inch of soil from the soil cross section and place the rest in a clean container (see picture below).
7. Once you have repeat the soil collection process for all sample sites, mix the samples together and dry.

At this point you're ready to send your sample to the testing facility. Good luck.



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**.

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.

History – 25 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 6, 1994

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men' Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, January 6, 1994 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Dick Weller** called the meeting to order at 7:40.

The Minutes of the December 2, 1993 meeting were approved as read by our Secretary **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as was presented by **Fred Day**, the Club Treasurer. As of December 31, 1993 there was a balance, including reserves of \$15,301.05. **Fred** also reported that the books will be audited in the very near future and that the 1994 Budget will be presented at the February 3 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Henry Fox has accepted the chairmanship of the Annual Plant Sale. This will be his third Plant Sale chairmanship. Many thanks go to **Henry** because it has become a major project.

In conjunction with the Plant Sale, **Don Stevens** notified the Board that the Key Bank in Delmar will once again allow us to use their parking lot.

Al Miller reminded the Board that the Plant Sale falls on the same day as the Regional Meeting in Rochester and that although the Regional is important, the Plant Sale should not be left short handed.

Rod Kermani reported for **Charlie Schade** that we still have 75 unsold Calendars.

Don Otterness reported that we have a Scholarship winner, a student at Williams College in Williams, Mass. By the name of **Dawn Biehler**. Her Major is in Environmental Studies. She is a Freshman who has also been very active in the 4H Program.

OTHER BUSINESS

The problem of **Ferd Johnson's** Memorial Chestnut Tree has been resolved. A hybrid Chestnut Tree which is disease resistant will be planted at the George Landis Arboretum. It was discovered that a native American Chestnut Tree would not survive because they are not disease resistant in our area

A group of seven Club Members presented **Connie Robert** and **Bill Taylor** with commemorative plaques at their respective residences.

Ballots for revising the By-laws of the TGOA-MGCA constitution will be available at the January Dinner meeting. Details will be found in the Dirt. **Al Miller**, the national Liaison will conduct the voting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04.

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



Ken Abele – Hard at work



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 This was our Memorial to **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**



Gardening from the Heart

at the

Center for Disability Services

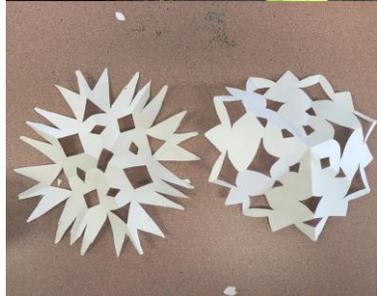
Volunteers include: Tom Baker, **Russ Greenman**, **Greg Goutos**, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and **Don Wrieden**.



Wrieden.

This month has been difficult with the loss of **Joe Herman** - a key member of our Gardening From the Heart program. We welcome, and thank, **Greg Goutos** for helping us during this time when so many are away or had other commitments.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
January 23 rd @ 6:30 pm	
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
February 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
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!!!**

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
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