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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

**VOLUME 82 NO. 5**

(First Chartered 1936)

**May, 2019**

**Dinner and Program (Ladies night)**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</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**

**Glazed Pork Chops, Chicken Parmesan, and Baked Salmon**

**PROGRAM:** Designing Your Garden: Tools & Tips

**Presented by: Judith Fetterley**, Master Gardener with Albany County  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

It is perfect timing to hear from our next speaker, as we all roll up our sleeves and plant our gardens for another growing season. This talk covers some fundamental, but simple, principles of garden design that will enable the average gardener to have an above-average garden.

Say the words “garden design” and we often think of large spreads in fancy magazines showing off gardens that none of us could imagine creating, owning, or caring for. But in fact we all are constantly designing our gardens, whether we call it that or not. Understanding some of the fundamental principles of garden design can help us with this process and can make it possible for the average gardener, which is most of us, to have a garden that is more exciting than ever.

## **Designing Your Garden: Tools & Tips - continued**

**Judith Fetterley** has been a Master Gardener with Albany County since 2012. She serves on the Master Gardener Advisory Board, where she co-manages the amazing demonstration gardens at the CCE in Voorheesville, and gives talks wherever possible that promote good horticultural practices.

Pre-retirement, **Judith** teaches American Literature, Writing Studies and Women's Studies at the University at Albany where she serves as a Distinguished Teaching Professor. She also owns and manages a small perennial garden design business, Perennial Wisdom (see [perennialwisdom.net](http://perennialwisdom.net)). **Judith's** own gardens have been on the Bethlehem Garden Tour and on the Garden Conservancy Open Days.

Be sure to mark your calendars today to join us for our May dinner meeting, where a real gardening expert will be on-hand to answer some of your design questions and provide a hand-out of other helpful information.

### **Reservations are required for the dinner**

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, May 19<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.

### **April Speaker Thank You:**

At our April dinner meeting last month, we were fortunate to have an avid beekeeper from Cobleskill, **Dean Haskin**, speak about honey bees and the dynamics of running a large beekeeping operation.

Those in attendance were fascinated to learn about Drones, Worker Bees, and especially to hear about the incredible role the Queen Bees play in making their hives viable and be able to also survive our northeast winters. **Dean** is both knowledgeable and passionate about his growing beekeeping operation, which he runs in addition to other business ventures.

**Thank you, Dean**, for an informative and enlightening program that showed us all that honey bees, which are not only a wonder of nature, but truly a gardener's best friend for the vital role they play in pollination.

### **Membership**

**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.

## 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> was of our annual Plant Sale and only fundraiser. The weather finally cooperated and we owe a big thanks to **Jack Meagher, Don Wrieden, Greg Goutos, Bill Stoneman, Gary Woods, Joe Raggio, Chuck Scott, Maria Greenman, and Felice Pascarella** for their contributions to making this successful.

Of course, we couldn't do this without the support from **Delmar Dental Medicine** (we have used their

parking lot for many years) and **St. Thomas the Apostle Church** for the use of their water, facilities, and parking lot for our customers.



**A big THANKS to all**

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

### Rhubarb

Personally, I can't stand the taste of rhubarb. Add 2 pounds of sugar to a rhubarb pie and a mountain of ice cream on top, and I'll eat the ice cream.

But many people do claim to enjoy rhubarb, so here's how to grow it. Call me if you're serving ice cream.

First – a health alert. Rhubarb leaves contain toxic amounts of oxalic acid. The stalks however are good to go. You probably already knew that, but it's worth repeating.

Second – rhubarb is a cool weather plant. It distinctly dislikes temperatures over 90 degrees and needs a cold dormant period (heretofore to be known as winter) in order to grow vigorously.

Third, let's talk about rhubarb varieties. It's easy enough to get roots from a friend or neighbor, but pause for moment. Do you know the variety you're getting? If no, then open your musty wallet and purchase either Canada Red or Valentine rootstock – they are less likely to bolt than the older varieties such as Victoria or MacDonald.

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

### Rhubarb - continued

You can count on a rhubarb planting lasting up to 15 years, so choose a spot that you won't regret in a year or two. Rhubarb loves a rich loam so amend the soil appropriately before planting your roots. A soil pH between 6 and 7 is ideal, but rhubarb can tolerate slightly more acidic soil. Full sun is preferred, but slight shade will be tolerated. Although it is possible to grow rhubarb from seed, buying rootstock will speed up the time your rhubarb is ready to eat by a couple of years. Plant in early spring or late fall.

Rhubarb has a disagreeable habit of flowering and then going to seed. There's no way to prevent it, but cutting off the offending stalks persistently will eventually dissuade the plant from producing more flowers. If you allow the flowering to continue, the plant will be less productive, but the plants will remain in their orbits and the plant will survive.



### History – 30 years ago – MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MAY 4, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, May 4, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Don Lewis** opened the meeting at 8:04 after the packaging of the seeds to be used in the Sunflower and Pumpkin growing contest. Packaging started at 6:30.

The Minutes of the April 6, 1989 meeting were approved as amended by our Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

### History – 30 years ago – continued

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of April 30, 1989 there was a total of \$850.64 in the General Fund, (in 1988 it was \$547.07). In the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$475.59, (in 1988 it was \$547.07). In the Key Advantage Account the balance was \$5,232.22, (in 1988 it was \$5,196.38).

**Ferd Johnson** advised the Board of the meeting with the group in Glens Falls for the purpose of starting a new club in that area. He will meet with anybody who would like to assist in this venture on May 24, 1989 at the Howard Johnson's on route 7. At this point, we can all go in a couple of cars rather than have a lot of cars going. All members are welcome to come.

**Lee Negus** thanked the group for counting and packaging the seeds which will be used by the youth gardening program. This project was done before the regular meeting.

The Scholarship proposal was once again presented. Many suggestions were made. **Don** will have to incorporate these in a redrafting of the proposal.

The Tax Exempt status is still in the works.

The Board decided that the Ladies Night dinner should be moved to 7:00 instead of 6:30. Full details will be found in the Dirt, the date of which is May 25.

**Joe Raggio** reported that he had been contacted by some interested parties from the Bethlehem Middle School concerning landscaping their grounds. They would like any interested man or men to be advisors for a group of students and parents in this landscaping project. The discussion resulted in a recommendation that an announcement be put in the Dirt asking for any one willing to do this.

**Don Stevens** reported on plans for the Plant Sale. The bank is all set. **Rod Kermani** has flyers. **Charley Schade** will check with **Rod** and assist with flyers and plants. **Don** is still taking orders for Begonias.

**Bill Krug** gave tomato plants for the Youth Gardeners. The Secretary should write a letter of thanks to him.

**Ken York** mentioned that we should start making plans for Fair activities. He also stated that we should ask member for some slides of gardening activities so that a slide-tape show could be developed. **Al Miller** asked that a paragraph be given to him for the Dirt.

**Herm Mau** recommended that the Club consider putting some of our funds in a 6 month or one year C D. **Herm** made the motion that the Key Bank Advantage Account be rolled over into a 6 month CD. **Ken York** seconded it and the motion was passed.

**Ken York** asked members to look around for possible landscaped areas worthy of Awards. We should be getting more visibility and publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

With the able assistance of the Assistant Secretary, **Lee Negus**, the minutes are  
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



**Albany International Airport  
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



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

**MGCA Memorial Garden**





## 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, planting lots of seeds and transplanting some of the vegetables. A couple of us got out to the greenhouse and did some planting as well as cleaning up a little. In the coming weeks, we'll be cleaning up the raised beds and planting the many vegetables, herbs and flowers that are now in the greenhouse. 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.



**A Blast from the past**  
1999 Bulb Sale @ the Berkshire Botanical Gardens



**Left middle, Henry Fox, Warren Abele, Joe Huth, Tom Baker, Al Miller and Wally Dillenbeck**

**Lower left - Tom Baker, Al Miller, Joe Huth, Wally Dillenbeck**

This was back in the day when we ordered around 10,000 bulbs from Holland that the club members would count, bag, and label them for the sale. The profits were given to the **Berkshire Botanical Gardens**

## Volunteer opportunity

Where else would you get a chance to participate in something that is  **Globally Rare, Nationally Significant & Locally Distinct**

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our Certified Seed Collector volunteer program. These volunteers help us scout for native seed patches in the preserve, hand-collect ripe native seed, and lead other volunteers on weekend seed collection trips.

Participation in this volunteer opportunity includes 3 mandatory training sessions held in early June (the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>). You can find a much more detailed description of the position, as well as registration, at [this link](#)

# Volunteers Needed

## Certified Seed Collectors

- In order to maintain the unique ecotypes of plant species located in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, we have committed to utilizing only sources of seed that originate in the Glacial Lake Albany footprint for all of our restoration work. This means that the many pounds of native seed required for restoration planting must be hand collected by preserve staff and volunteers.
- The Certified Seed Collector helps scout for native seed patches throughout the Albany Pine Bush Preserve, collects ripe native seed, and leads volunteers on weekend seed collecting trips.



- Training includes three mandatory sessions:  
**Tuesday, June 4th 6:30- 8:30pm**  
**Thursday, June 6th 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Saturday, June 8th 9am-12pm**



For more information visit [AlbanyPineBush.org](http://AlbanyPineBush.org) or contact Jodi Nash, Volunteer and Community Engagement Specialist  
518.456.0655 x1217  
[volunteer@AlbanyPineBush.org](mailto:volunteer@AlbanyPineBush.org)

<https://www.albanypinebush.org/events/detail.cfm?id=2552>

**The Men's Garden Club of Albany has been supporting our community for 83 years - here is another way we can help give back to our community.**

**Thank You to the Guilderland Garden Club**

We want to thank **Linda Miller** - President of the Guilderland Garden Club for inviting us to a fantastic seminar on LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES.

If you didn't get there early - you probably had to park out in the sticks - they had a very nice turn out for the very intelligent well spoken panel of speakers.



When: Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 1-4 PM

Where: Farnsworth Middle School  
6072 State Farm Road (Route 155), Guilderland, New York 12084  
(in the Cafetorium)

Hosted by: Guilderland Central School District

Sponsored by: Guilderland Garden Club  
Town of Guilderland  
Guilderland Historical Society

Speakers: **Dr. Holly Ahern**, Microbiologist, SUNY Adirondack Comm. College, AND Vice President and Co-Founder, LYME ACTION NETWORK

**Chris Fisk**, President and Co-Founder, LYME ACTION NETWORK

**Jennifer Baer**, Nurse Practitioner and Lyme Disease Specialist

**Joellen Lampman**, Community IPM Extension Specialist, NYS Integrated Pest Management Program, Cornell University

**Linda Reeves**, Lyme Disease Patient/Advocate, Guilderland Garden Club Member

The first 100 guests will receive a tick removal kit. All guests will receive information on the prevention and treatment of Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

For additional information, please go to: [www.guilderlandgardenclub.com](http://www.guilderlandgardenclub.com)

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly dinner and program</b> Beltrone Living Center
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
<b>July 28, 2019</b>	Summer Picnic / Memorial Service – mark your calendar Albany County Cooperative Extension

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!!!**

**Joe Herman Scholarship Fund      501(c)3**

We want to thank the many folks that made – and continue to make - 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**.

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

**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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The following growers donated to  
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