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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 82 NO. 9

(First Chartered 1936)

November, 2019

Dinner (members, ladies and guests invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 21st @ 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**

Baked Ham with Pineapple Craisin sauce, Maple Glazed Chicken, and Stuffed Shells with Marinara Sauce

PROGRAM: ; Go Green with Solar Energy!

Dave Hochfelder and other volunteers from the nonprofit, Solarize Albany, will discuss how you can go green and save money by going solar. Options include rooftop solar, community solar, community-wide renewable energy options, and electric vehicles and charging stations.

Solarize Albany is a local nonprofit serving the communities of the Capital Region, run solely by volunteers. The organization promotes the use of renewable energy with you, the consumer, in mind. Their goal is to provide you with knowledge of how renewable energies will benefit your life and lower cost options through their bulk purchase model.

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 17th, 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.

Thank You Amy Howansky of Backyard Solutions:

Our October speaker, **Amy Howansky** of Backyard Solutions in Niskayuna, did a fantastic job of educating all in attendance of how to properly select trees and shrubs to match the size of the spot where it will be planted. Choosing the right plant for the right place really makes more sense than severely pruning it to limit its growth.

We thank **Amy** for sharing her expertise and for explaining in a very clear presentation of how our smaller yard sizes require more thinking when it comes to selecting the right plants for our landscapes. Her informative hand-out gave all of us many great suggestions for good cultivars to seek out when looking for smaller trees and shrubs to fit into limited space locations.

Thank You:

Thank you to **Barbara Huth** for her generous donation to the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund** -
In memory of **John O'Grady**

Membership

John O'Grady – I'm sorry to report that **John O'Grady** has joined our Gardeners Gone to Rest.

John was a true gentleman that raised a great family and lived to make this world a better place. **John** ran our Scholarship committee for years and was always there to help with our many community service projects. Our thoughts and Prayers are with **Emily** and his family.

Tom Baker - 91 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 and he's currently at home being cared for by **Mary**. I'm sure she would welcome your calls and perhaps a visit.

2020 Officers

Below is the proposed slate of officers. Please let a current officer know if you or someone you know would like to run for one of these highly competitive positions.

2019 Slate of Officers			
President Joe Raggio			
Vice President	Greg Goutos	2021 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Honorary Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2020 Directors	Gary Woods and Dave Jennings
Co- Recording Secretaries	Jack Meagher Bill Stoneman	2022 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bruce Wilcox
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)
Leaves Enrich the Soil, Don't They?

It's fall, and you're wondering how to bed down your garden for the winter. And you're curious – are leaves alone good enough to enrich your soil without additions such as rock dust, compost, and lime?

We'll explore these questions in the paragraphs that follow. But first, let me add a disclaimer. If you have compost available to add to your garden, then by all means proceed and apply. A two inch layer will do wonders for soil fertility and tilth. Add a 6 inch layer of leaves on top of the compost and you're in double heaven.

But are leaves by themselves sufficient to do the job? To answer this weighty question I headed off into the Internet and found a very interesting article that seems to answer many of the most pressing questions. Here's the link in case you want to read the article yourself -

https://www.spectrumanalytic.com/support/library/ff/Plant_Nutrients_in_Municipal_Leaves.htm

But first, a quick commentary on Internet sources. Due to the plethora of fools, frauds and self-promoters that gravitate to the world's biggest waste disposal site, you need to sift through the available material with a very skeptical attitude. The article quoted here was based on research done by Rutgers University and is science based. Always be wary of your sources (especially social media).

So back to our original question – do leaves provide significant level of nutrients to the soil? I filched a summary table from the above mentioned article.

Table 1 Nutrient concentrations in municipal leaves (dry weight basis).				
Nutrient	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Average
	Concentration %			Lb.ton
Carbon	36	52	47	940
Nitrogen	0.66	1.62	1.00	20.0
Phosphorous (P2O5)	0.02 (0.05)	0.29 (0.66)	0.1 (0.23)	2.0 (4.6)
Potassium (K2O)	0.09 (0.11)	0.88 (1.06)	0.38 (0.46)	7.6 (9.1)
Calcium	0.13	3.04	1.64	32.8
Magnesium	0.02	0.46	0.24	4.8
Sulfur	0.01	0.21	0.11	2.2

**GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)
Leaves Enrich the Soil, Don't They? Continued**

Table 1 Nutrient concentrations in municipal leaves (dry weight basis).				
Nutrient	Parts per million			Lb/ton
Boron	7	72	38	0.076
Iron	46	9800	1461	2.922
Manganese	19	1845	550	1.100
Zinc	22	392	81	0.162
Sodium	36	325	110	0.220
Chlorine	68	3995	1264	2.528
Copper	2.8	31.5	8.1	0.016
Cobalt	0.9	10.9	2.7	0.005
Nickel	1.1	57.9	5.3	0.0106

As you can see, the answer is an emphatic YES! Not only do leaves provide primary nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulfur, calcium, etc., but also contain trace elements such as copper, iron, boron and the like.

But there's a caveat. If you look at the carbon and nitrogen lines in the table, you can see that the average ratio between carbon and nitrogen is 47:1. This is not ideal (compost, for example, has a 25:1 CN ratio) and means that when the leaves are being broken down there will be a nitrogen deficiency as the microorganisms feeding on the leaves take up all available nitrogen for their own growth.

To sidestep this problem, I pull aside the leaves from my raised beds about a week before planting and then add a mild nitrogen source after planting. I then use the left-over leaves as mulch later in the summer to suppress weeds and keep the top layer of soil from drying out. If I am not planting in certain portions of the garden then I just leave the leaves in place.

Bottom line – leaves are a great (and inexpensive) source of

Youth Gardening

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support

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.



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.

History – 30 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 2, 1989, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President **Don Lewis**.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented by our Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of October 31, 1989 there was a total balance on hand in the General Fund of \$1,622.74 (1988 it was \$3,989.08). In the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$4,590.02. The Certificate of Deposit will mature on November 15 at \$5,511.45, which shows an interest growth of \$244.45. The Board instructed **Paul** to transfer the earned interest to our General Fund account and to renew the Certificate at \$5,267.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee: **Wally Dillenbeck**, Chairman;

1. November 16 - Meeting will be in the Wolfert's Roost, cost \$14.00. The speaker will be Norm Sebastian, weatherman from Channel 10.

2. December 14 - This will be Ladies Invited Night and Awards Ceremony, cost \$14.00.

A Barbershop Quartet will provide entertainment.

Gardening From The Heart: **Don Otterness** reported that he and **Wally Dillenbeck** will take the ground measurements for the CP Greenhouse. The plastic covering will not be installed until this spring.

Bulb Sale: **Don Stevens** will try to sell unsold bulbs and those he is unable to sell will return them to Chairman **Joe Raggio** who will also try to sell them.

The Money taken in at the Berkshire Garden Center amounted to \$2,327.90. The Board voted to send \$700.00 to the Center as our Annual Contribution.

Scholarship: One of the two Scholarship candidates dropped out of the competition because he changed his Major course of study. The remaining candidate, a girl from Scotia will be interviewed soon. It was decided that the scholarship money should be sent directly to the Cobelskill College.

Calendar Committee: **Scott**, our staff coordinator at the CP Center has asked for 24 calendars that he will sell at the Center. These will be delivered to him by one of our members.

Plant Sale: **Don Otterness**, Chairman asked for a co-chairman, **Joe Huth** volunteered to assist.

A second location in Guilderland has not been selected as yet.

Membership: Our total paid membership stands at 120.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was decided that the next Board meeting should be November 30 instead of December 7, because that date would be too close to the December 14 Ladies Invited Night.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01.

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

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



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

For many years, our club has maintained a beautiful Memorial Garden as a tribute to our “Gardeners Gone to Rest.” The garden is located in Voorheesville on the grounds of the Albany County Cooperative Extension



MGCA Memorial Garden continued

Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there is also a plaque that lists the names of our club members who have passed away in recent years.



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 your 501(c)3 tax deductible donation to **Russ Greenman** MGCA Treasurer

Please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 477-8321 for details



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.

October was spent doing final cleanup of the gardens, and making a Halloween decoration and cards for **Tom Baker** - **Tom Baker** and **Al Miller** started working founding the Gardening From the Heart program way back in 1984 but he may say that it really didn't start until 1985. Originally the MGCA had two teams of members that would teach classes, Every Wednesday, at two locations every Wednesday. For many years now we work with the adults at 700 S. Pearl St. in Albany and not with the children at 314 Manning Blvd in Albany, NY.

If you have free time on Wednesday mornings – you could consider helping us out. We need help finding indoor projects that are gardening related. – 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.

We painted pumpkins and made Get well cards for **Colleen** and made thank you cards for our founding member **Mr. Tom Baker**



Gardening from the Heart - October's activities



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
November 21 st @ 6:30 pm	Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center
December 19 th @ 6:30 pm	December is a special meeting especially geared to thank the ladies for putting up with us
December 5 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

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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