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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **84** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 83 NO. 1**

(First Chartered 1936)

**January, 2020**

**Dinner (Members, guests and the public are invited)**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 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 entrances.

**Mazzone Catering** will feature a nice Buffet that includes:

**Price: \$ 25.00**

Cincinnati Style Chili,

Cowboy Chicken Casserole (baked with black beans and BBQ sauce) &

Tuscan style Trout Fillet

**PROGRAM What do members of the Men's Garden Club of do?**

Presented by: **Russ Greenman**

This program will highlight some of our many community service activities. Photos will go back 30 years – prior to that we had to use film in our cameras. Perhaps you will recognize people in the photos that will bring back some good memories.

**Reservations are required for the dinner**

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

## Thank You - December program



At our December meeting, we were very fortunate to once again have **Michele Peters** of **Ambiance Floral Design** come to do a demonstration of how to make unique and bold floral holiday arrangements.

If you were lucky enough to be at the meeting, you were probably amazed at how quickly she took ordinary containers, such as an old wine box, and turned them into magnificent floral displays that were anything but ordinary! After she completed the six arrangements right before our eyes, there were six very happy free raffle winners whose names were drawn one by one. Each woman excitedly got to choose which one they wanted to take home. Since it was Ladies Night, all the women went home winners, as the club gave each of them a beautiful Poinsettia plant, as well.

**We thank Michele** for taking an evening out of her busy December schedule to help us end our yearly holiday meeting on such a high note.

## Membership

**Bruce Wilcox** – I'm sorry to report that we have lost a real good friend to all. Bruce was very knowledgeable about gardening and he was very generous in sharing his time, talent and treasure with his fellow gardeners and friends. Every Wednesday he helped with our Gardening From the Heart program at the Center for Disability Services. **Bruce** didn't let anything stop him from helping others and he never complained about things that he certainly had a right to complain about. For as long as I can remember, **Bruce** has been on the board of directors for MGCA and helping out with our many community-oriented functions. Life won't be the same without **Bruce Wilcox**. We miss you!



**Bruce Wilcox** continued

**Bruce D. Wilcox**, 69, of East Nassau passed away at home on December 20, 2019. Bruce was an Army Veteran having served during the Vietnam War as a Military Police Officer. He was predeceased by his loving wife **No Young Wilcox** and is survived by his children **Matt** and **Teresa** as well as several other loving family members.

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/9870785/Bruce-Wilcox> There will be a service for **Bruce on January the 11th from 10:00am - noon.**

The service will be held at:

Thomas P. Mooney Funeral Home

11 Elm Street Nassau, New York 12123 Phone: (518) 766-3828

We hope to see you there

**John O'Grady** – Last year we lost a terrific person who was a great gardener, intelligent and active in many of our activities. Every time I open the MGCA database I'm reminded of **John** because he was the one that arranged and coordinated our dinners at the Best Western Sovereign. **John** had a team of people that made the calls for dinner reservations each month. **John** helped to arrange our Annual Summer Picnics, helped with the plantings at the Albany International Airport, and John volunteered to help out at our Annual bulb sale to raise money for the Berkshire Botanical Gardens I think our annual Plant sale in Delmar NY was a family event for the **O'Grady's**. Every year we always looked forward to their arrival - for two reasons – they're a great family, that always attended our Christmas dinner, and that they would bring enough plants to fill a table. That's a big reason why the Plant sale was so profitable. I still have raspberry plants that their daughter dug up, delivered and donated to the sale. On top of this – **Emily O'Grady** and **their family** have made a **huge donation** to the **MGCA Scholarship** fund in memory of **John C. O'Grady**

We miss **John** and wish his family the best

Special thanks to the **O'Grady's** for all they have done to improve the lives of others.

**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.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ \$25 **Dues** and **Ad** payments are due to MGCA \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 33<sup>rd</sup> **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** which will be held in **March 27-29 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.

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

### The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

This month's nominee for nasty little sap sucker award is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Closely related to the beloved aphid, the Woolly Adelgid threatens hemlocks across the Eastern United States, particularly (but not limited to) the southern Appalachian Mountains. Although I really don't need to say this, but like the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer, these little buggers are imports from East Asia.

Less than a millimeter in length, the Woolly Adelgid sucks sap from its hapless victims while injecting a toxin at the same time. Over time (4 to 10 years) the infected hemlock (size is immaterial) loses vigor, turns a pale green, and often dies. The easiest way to detect an infestation is to look for the egg sacks which resemble cotton candy (See photo below).



Many people may not be aware that the hemlock is more than a landscaping ornamental, but an important member of the Northeast forest family. In Vermont hemlocks are the third most populous tree. Hemlocks serve as food and shelter for wildlife as well as an important lumber tree. There are four basic approaches to battling Woolly Adelgid infestations.

1. Spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil. These applications will suffocate the Woolly Adelgid and would work well for the homeowner with small hemlock specimens.
2. Soil drenches that are absorbed through the tree roots.
3. Direct injections into the hemlock. Like drenches, injections most likely need to be repeated each year.
4. Biological controls like a black lady beetle (*Sasajiscymnus tsugae*) an import from Japan where it is a natural predator of the Woolly Adelgid. The larvae of the black lady beetle perform the handiwork, consuming eggs and larvae of the Woolly Adelgid.

Populations of the Woolly Adelgid can be significantly reduced by prolonged cold snaps. Unfortunately with climate moderation in our future, it appears the Woolly Adelgid's happy hunting grounds will be expanding ever northward. Let's hope their enemies can move along with them.

**History – 30 years ago –**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JANUARY 4, 1990**

Neither the Secretary nor the Assistant Secretary were present at this meeting, However, **Don Otterness** volunteered to supply some notes for the record.

The Treasurer's Report was approved after some minor corrections were made. Cash available was \$1,696.02, in the Memorial Fund there was \$603.27 and the Certificate of Deposit amounted to \$5,267.45. The balance in all accounts was \$7,567.24.

A motion was made and carried to return \$100.00 to the General Account which was earmarked for the Scholarship Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gardening From the Heart: **Al Miller** Chairman, reported that there is \$288.00 in the Kitty. The Plant Sale at the Center went well. Over \$500.00 were taken in. This will be used to support the Clients Garden Club.

Budget and Finance: Given by **Herm Mau** was moved and approved.

Scholarship: Given by **Don Otterness**. Money has been sent to Cobleskill college to cover our Scholarship Award.

Endowment and Investment: Given by **Al Miller**. Handouts were given to the members for a discussion at the next meeting.

Committee Chairmen: President **Wally Dillenbeck** Announced the Committee Chairmen for the coming year.

Program Committee: January 25 - At Tom Sawyer on Route 20 in Guilderland. The price is set at \$15.00. The guest speaker will be **Paul Winkeller**, Coordinator for New York State Community Gardens. Full details will be found in the Dirt.

We are still having a problem of some people who don't show up for dinner after they have made reservations. These people will be charged in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. A motion was made and carried to order 20 National Brochures on The Introduction of new members to the activities of Men's Garden Clubs of America.
2. The Regional Meeting will be once again hosted by our local club. The date has not been formalized as yet. Always read your Dirt for all pertinent information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted by

**Tom Baker for Don Otterness**

\*\* 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

**Youth Gardening**

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support

**The Vegetable Project – Bill Stoneman**

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.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**



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.

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm February 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly dinner and program</b> Beltrone Living Center Members, guests and the public are invited
February 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
March 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Capital District Garden and Flower Show @ HVCC</b> <a href="http://gardenandflowershow.com/">http://gardenandflowershow.com/</a>

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!!!**



## Gardening from the Heart - 35 years

at the

### Center for Disability Services

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



### Wrieden.

During December we sacrificed some high quality firewood that was used as a base for Christmas tree pine cones. We also made terrariums out of Mason jars, snow, more firewood, and whatever their imagination could think of. I'm always amazed how cool these projects turn out. We have a basic thought – and each person comes up with a plan that works for their individual project.

**Tom Baker** and **Al Miller** started working on 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 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. This Winter we really need help – Four of our volunteers are currently unavailable and we just lost **Bruce Wilcox**. 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 one of our volunteers to find out 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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