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<http://www.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org>

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **85** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 84 NO. 6**

(First Chartered 1936)

**June, 2021**

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

Members and non-members are encouraged to attend any of our events

This opportunity to have a guided tour is something you and your friends won't want to miss

**Program:**

**Tour of the Schenectady Rose Garden**

You won't want to miss the opportunity to join club members and guests as we take a guided tour of the magnificent Rose Garden at the peak of the blooming season in Schenectady's Central Park. Mark your calendar now for **Thursday, June 24 at 6:30pm**, to enjoy this free evening out with your gardening friends. Bring another gardening enthusiast or other family members, for this fun event.

The Schenectady Rose Garden is a real treat—a hidden gem right in our own backyard! It boasts over 4,000 bushes with 300 rose varieties. It is one of 8 AARS (All American Rose Selections) accredited public gardens in New York State.

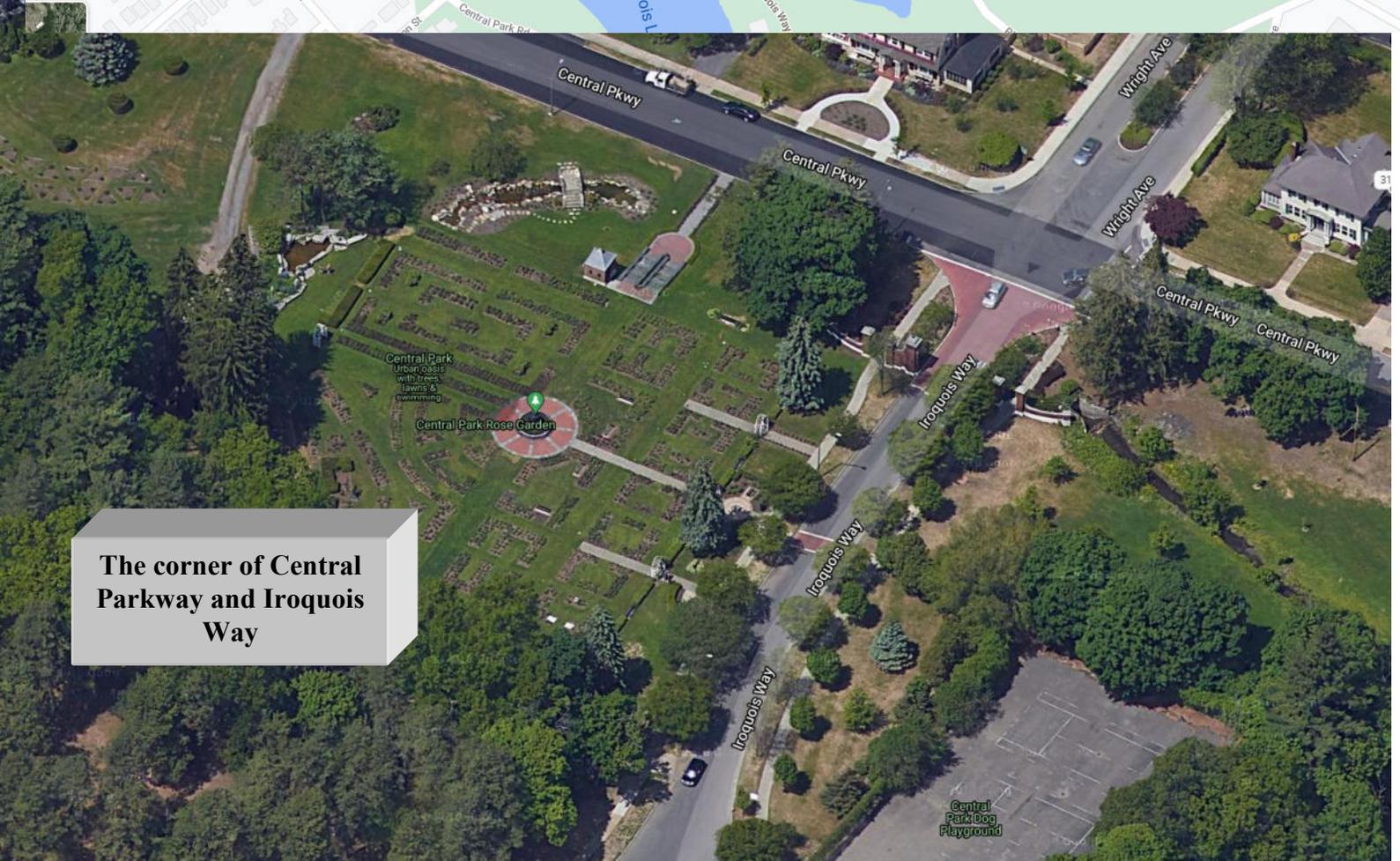
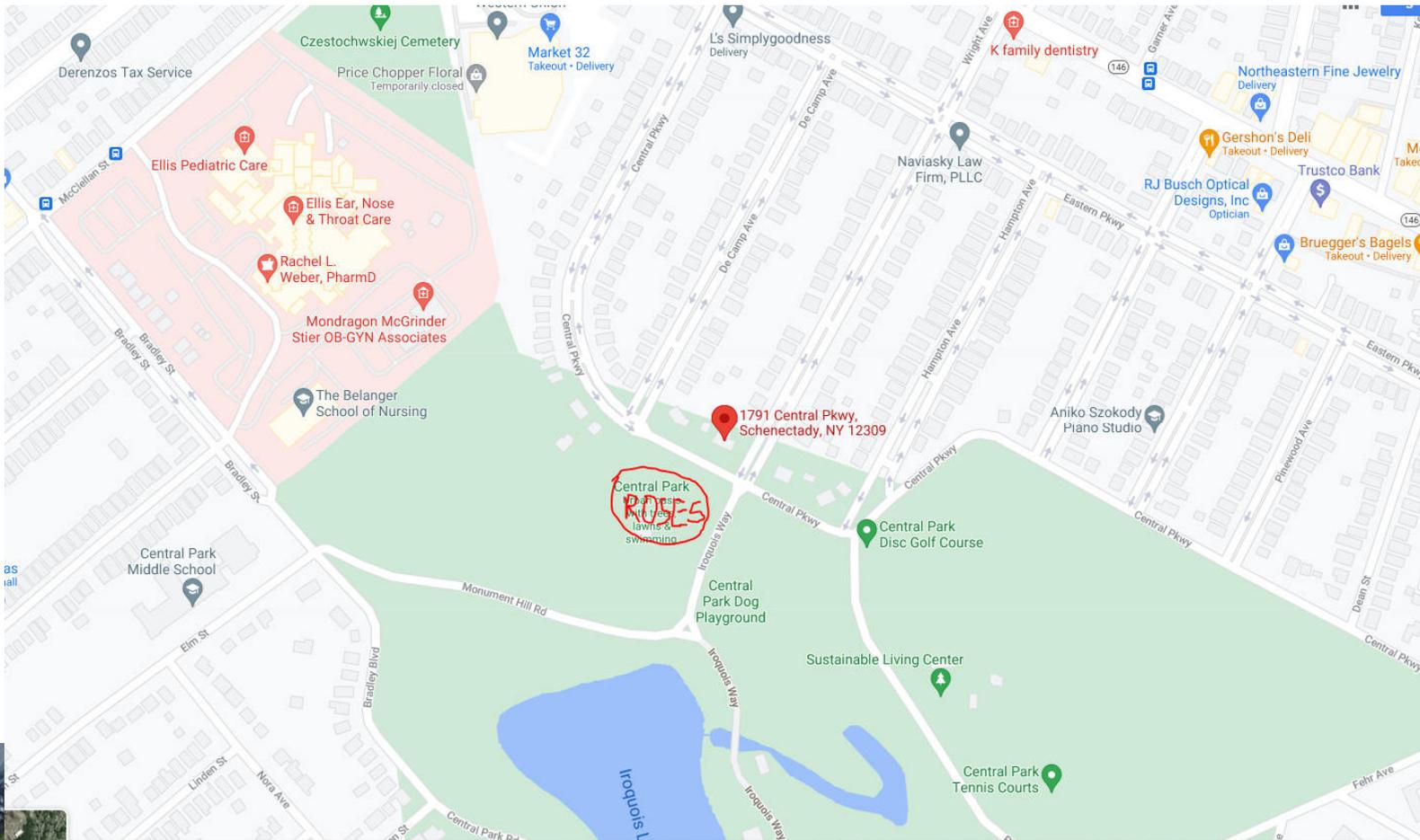
Our tour guide will be **Dave Gade**, who just happens to be the cousin of the late **Jack Gade**, whom some of you may recall was a long-time member and supporter of our club from The Gade Farm in Guilderland. **Dave** is a founding member of the Rose Garden Restoration Committee, which was formed in 1995. He has served as the garden operation supervisor from that time until now.

**Dave Gade** has been growing roses since 1973, and is an American Rose Society member since 1976. He is also an accredited rose judge and a consulting Rosarian.

The Rose Garden is located in a corner of Central Park at 1791 Central Parkway. The park is a bit tricky to find the first time, so we recommend you Google it for directions. Try to be there at 6:15 so we can start on time and have at least an hour or so to enjoy this special event.

# Tour of the Schenectady Rose Garden

Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm



The corner of Central Parkway and Iroquois Way

# Volunteers keep rose garden alive in Schenectady

By SYLVIA WOOD  
Gazette Reporter

SCHEENECTADY — There were 3,000 thirsty rose bushes waiting for a drink when David Gade, hose in hand, started serving among the Ladies of the Dawn.

"Roses like a lot of water," he said, after moving onto the Gardens of the World, a variety with pink blooms. "They'll take everything I can give them."

Gade delivered 600 gallons of water last Sunday to the bushes at the Central Park Rose Garden before retiring from the midday sun.

The Gypsies, Mister Lincolns and 1,000 or so other roses that Gade didn't sprinkle on this turn with the water truck would have to wait until next week—or for Mother Nature.

"We're going to hope it rains tomorrow night," Gade said. "It takes so long doing this. For a garden this size, we need an irrigation system."

Last summer, the garden didn't like Gade to ensure the roses got their weekly water fix.

Survival for the 4,000 or so bushes has been an uphill battle since the garden's original irrigation system broke down three summers ago and proved too costly for the city to replace.

The garden, once the city's favorite backdrop for wedding and prom portraits, risked fading into old family photo albums.

Anne Hotaling recalled when her father, Joseph Formosa, used to walk all eight of his children from their Linden Street home, dressed in their Easter best, to the garden.

"We could probably make a collage of all the photos we took there," she said.

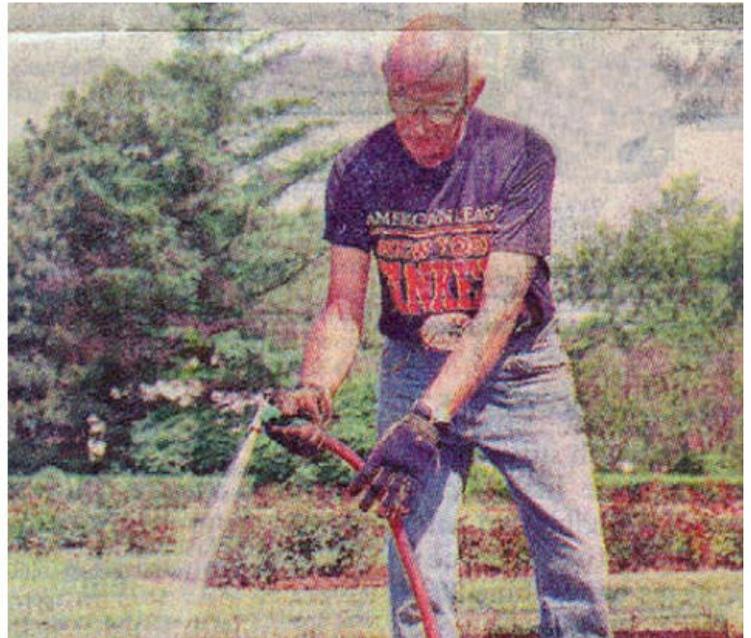
Hotaling's two younger sisters, Patricia Patterson and Mary Houlihan, had their wedding portraits taken at the rose garden during the Augusts of 1982 and 1988, respectively.

"It's just a beautiful place when it's in full bloom," Hotaling said.

Now, Gade and a group of about 50 volunteers are trying to keep the garden in bloom for future generations by raising funds for a new irrigation system and by taking over the garden's intensive upkeep.

The Rose Garden Restoration Committee, organized last year, has held a dozen work days since April to weed, mulch, fertilize and water the bushes. Over the last several weeks, volunteers have planted about 200 new rose bushes and are planning to put in 300 more by the fall.

This Thursday, the committee is



## Follow-up to recent club activity

### Tour of the Vegetable Project

Garden Club members visited the garden at **Stephen & Harriet Middle School in Albany** on May 27, where club member **Bill Stoneman** and the nonprofit that he leads, **the Vegetable Project**, have been digging in the dirt with kids since 2009. **Stoneman** showed club members a mix of edibles the school garden program is growing, including perennials (strawberries), fall plantings (garlic and walking onions) overwintered members of the cabbage family and early greens started from seed in hoop houses during the winter and more recently in uncovered soil.

And **Stoneman** explained that the **Vegetable Project**, which also has a garden at **Albany High School**, sees gardening as an educational tool, with an ability to help create opportunities for students to do and touch and taste and experience. And he talked about the organization's proposal to develop an outdoor classroom at the school, to encourage bringing a bit of teaching and learning outside and promote contact with nature.

More about the Vegetable Project can be found at <https://vegetableproject.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/vegetableproject>.

**Follow-up to recent club activity**  
**Tour of the Vegetable Project**



**From the Al Miller archives:**  
**WHAT EVERY GARDENER SHOULD KNOW**

1. Plants require everything that we do – food, light, air and water. Too much or too little will have an adverse effect.
  - a. Too much food (fertilizer) will produce plants with bush foliage and little or no fruit. Too little will produce weak plants or even kill them
  - b. Too much water will drown many plants, while too little will cause them to dry up And wither.
  - c. Practically all plants require light; some full sunshine, some shade and others will do well in partial shade or sun
  - d. Air is extremely important to prevent many plant diseases and ventilation for the foliage.

**From the Al Miller archives: continued**  
**WHAT EVERY GARDENER SHOULD KNOW**

2. Soil preparation – 1/3 peat moss; 1/3 vermiculite; 1/3 perlite  
or  
1/2 potting soil & 1/2 perlite or vermiculite  
or  
1/2 potting soil & 1/2 promix
3. For best results change soil in containers every year as the soil does not retain the nutrients necessary for good growth
4. Use fertilizer in containers more often with a weaker solution – recommended 1/4 regular strength every time they are watered.
5. Water containers more often, but do not over water. Be sure containers have good Drainage.
6. General Tips:
  - a. Prune Forsythia, Lilac and other spring flowering shrubs before the end of July – in late Summer they form buds for next years blossoms. Also prune old wood from inside the Bush – pruning the tops encourages side shoots and does not allow new growth to come from the roots.
  - b. Pinch back Chrysanthemums until July 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Prune rose bushes back to set of three leaves for continuous blooms.
  - d. Move houseplants outside gradually – keep in shade for a while – they too can get sun or wind burned.
  - e. Dead head most annuals to encourage continuous blooms- be sure to take part of the stem.
7. Tomato Planting:
  - a. By starting tomatoes from seed you can get the variety you want- Better Boy, Early Girl, late or early etc.
  - b. Be sure to use collars to deter cut worms.
  - c. Plant tomatoes as deep as possible. If plants become leggy dig a trench and plant the entire stem up to the first set of leaves into the trench, being careful not to break the stem. Roots will develop along the stem producing a much stronger plant.
  - d. Liquid dish washing detergent ( 1 tsp to a quart of water plus 2 drops of Listerine will kill aphids, mealy bugs and mites.
8. Vacation Tips;
  - a. Water all plants well. If containers can be moved, put them in a shady location
  - b. Small pots can be put in a plastic bag – inflate the bag and tie it. When home again, open bag and let plants become acclimated before removing them.
  - c. Pick off flowers of all annuals – pansies, petunias etc.- when you arrive home they will be in full bloom.

## **Mizuna**

We should be open to new experiences, or at least that's what I'm told. That maxim applies to vegetables as well. In the past I've been stuck in a rut when it comes to greens. Collards, kale, Swiss chard and lettuce pretty much filled my universe when it comes to leafy greens.

Well I've now broken my fetters, and my first venture into the great unknown focuses on Mizuna. I suppose the best summary description of Mizuna is to compare them to mustard greens. The deeply fringed leaves have a sharp taste, although not to the same degree as arugula. I cook them either by stir frying or heating in the microwave. They make a yummy addition to chicken soup.

Mizuna is about as easy a green to grow as greens come. I start them in six packs and then either transplant to larger containers or place them directly in the ground. They grow ridiculously quickly, and in a few weeks you'll have a full sized plant. Like most greens, you can harvest the outside leaves and the plant will continue to generate new leaves in the middle.

Unless you have a large family or run a restaurant, just a couple of plants will be adequate. Mizuna goes to seed fairly quickly so I recommend starting new plants every six weeks or so to provide a continuous harvest. I've also grown Mizuna very successfully in 6" pots under lights.

You can grow Mizuna pretty much the entire growing season. They'll go to seed faster during the hot months.

Mizuna is attractive enough to grow as a border plant.

The Mizuna in the photo below measured 32" in diameter and 15" high. In case you were wondering, the yellow flower in the picture is a marigold.



# 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 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



**Someone that was working on the bridge at Exit 7 of I-90 knows where it is.  
This was our Memorial to Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**

## Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman



**Joe Herman** planting bulbs at the Albany International Airport

## 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



**Memorial Service At CCE Albany**

## **Memorial Garden continued**

Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there are plaques that lists the names of our club members that have Gone to Rest.

A Big Thank You to **Greg Goutos, Joe Huth, Chuck Scott, Russ Greenman, and Bill Stoneman**

for sprucing up our Memorial Garden on June 2<sup>nd</sup>



**Chuck Scott, Joe Huth, Bill Stoneman, Greg Goutos and Russ Greenman**

**These guys do good work!**



**Memorial Garden  
At CCE Albany**



**Memorial Garden  
minus lots of weeds**



**Elder Berry**



**Wild Geranium**



**Coreopsis Grandiflora**

Thanks to **Joe Huth** for purchasing and planting many new plants



## Gardening from the Heart - 35

years  
at the  
Center for Disability Services



Joe

Volunteers include: **Russ Greenman, Greg Goutos, Huth, Jack Meagher, and Don Wrieden.**

35 = years supporting one location and for years, two locations Every Wednesday

4 = the (low) average number of MGCA volunteers on site

50 = sessions per year and for years 100 sessions per year (50 /site)

2 = Hours on site per session – 9:00am – 11:00am

= ~15 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 2 sites === 6000 volunteer hours

PLUS

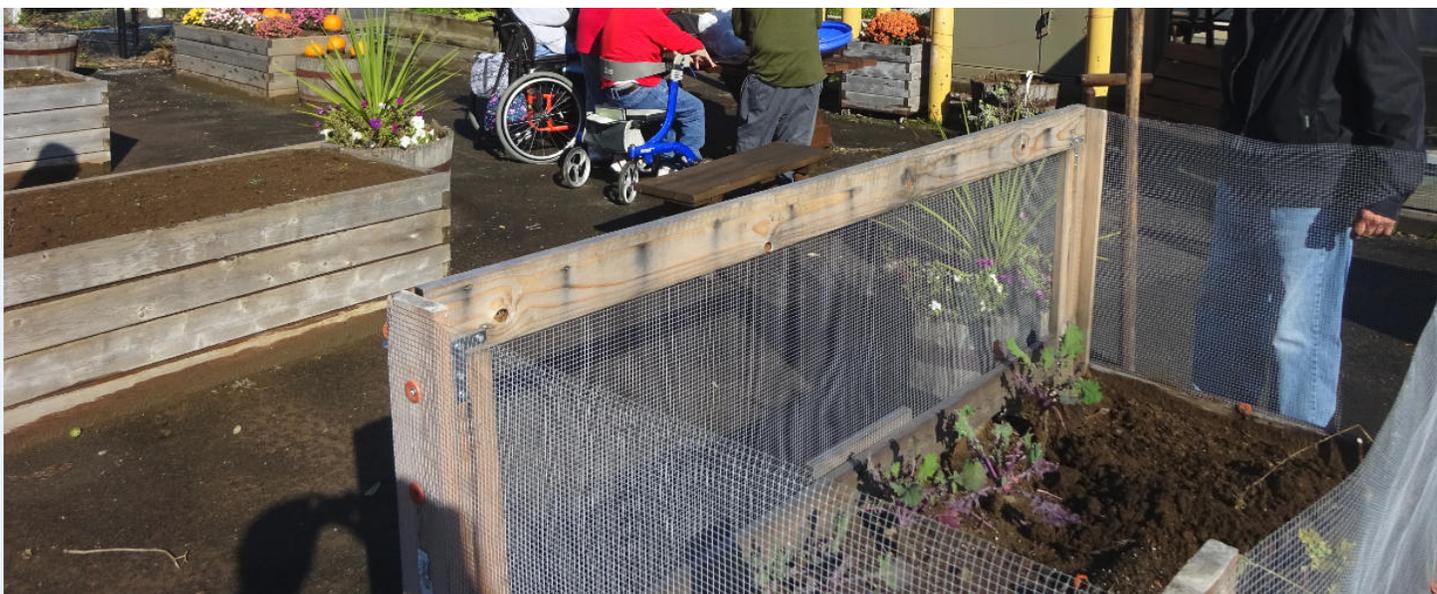
= 20 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 1 sites === 4000 volunteer hours

===== **10,000 hours of volunteer's time supporting the Gardening From The Heart program at the Centers for Disability Services by members of the Men's Garden Club of Albany.** =====

Add to that, prep time, construction of a huge greenhouse and many raised beds and you'll see that the 10,000 hours is only a portion of the time our members have spent supporting this great program.

We owe a big thanks to **Al Miller** and **Tom Baker** for initiating this project back in 1984.

**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 our club had two teams of members that would teach classes, every Wednesday, at two locations with the adults at 700 S. Pearl St. in Albany and with the children at 314 Manning Blvd in Albany, NY. COVID-19 restrictions kept us out of the building, and we're waiting to hear what the next steps are for our activities at the 700 South Pearl St. location.



## History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker

### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 6, 1991

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, June 6, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

**Joe Raggio**, President, presided over the meeting.

The Minutes of the May 2, 1991 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the Club Treasurer, **Fred Day**. There was a balance in the General Fund, as of May 31, 1991 of \$5, 570.61 and in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$808.60. In the Endowment and Investment fund there was a balance of \$6,202.50.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

\* **PLANT SALE:** **Fred Day** reported that the 1990 Plant sale netted \$1,431.91 with two locations, whereas in 1991, with one location, which was in Delmar we netted \$1,492.91.

\* **PROGRAM:**

1. June 29: The club will hold a Field Trip at Seagroatt's, Commercial Rose Grower and Mineke's Meadow Lark Gardens. Full details will be found in the June Dirt. However, **Wally Dillenbeck** will be in charge of receiving information from the regular callers instead of **Al Miller**.

2. August 4: The Annual Summer Picnic will be held at the George Landis Arboretum, details in the June Dirt.

\* **GARDENING FROM THE HEART:** A major part of the Greenhouse at the South Pearl Street Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled will be completed in the near future.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Don Lewis** reported that **Burt Smith**, a longtime former member, has died and he, **Don**, feels that we should plant something in his memory as we do for current members. He suggested that a plant be planted at the Wellspring House where **Burt's** widow will be able to see it. **Don** also suggested that the Board develop a policy for former longtime members who pass away. No definitive solution was arrived at, at this meeting.

The Board voted that we should plant a shrub in Memory of **Burt Smith** at the Wellspring House if it is permitted by the management of the institution. The amount should not exceed \$35.00.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

The Albany Institute of History and Art is celebrating its 300th Anniversary with a Festival of Trees at Christmastide, entitled "Hudson Valley Christmas Memories." We have been invited to take part in the Festivities. The Board has agreed that this could be an excellent opportunity to become much more visible to the community at large. Therefore, the Board voted to allocate \$80.00 for this venture. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50, Respectfully submitted by, **Tom Baker**, Secretary

\*\* Editor's note: **Tom Baker** faithfully documented our minutes since way before he had a personal computer - somehow he managed to digitize all of the minutes he had taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 30 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

## Youth Gardening

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support. Check out our very own - **Bill Stoneman's** [The Vegetable Project](#) -

**Bill Stoneman** scheduled a work / learn day (June 5th ) for the Vegetable Project's garden at Albany High School. It was amazing how many folks were there to help with the many projects that were simultaneously going on. Kids planted seeds in pots and took them home, painted signs, planted a garden to attract pollinators, built and installed a raised bed, and by 6:00pm we were thoroughly cooked and ready to call it a day.

Special thanks to **Jack Meagher** from the Garden Club of the Capital District for, working so long out in the hot sun, weeding strawberry patches and so much more. A big thanks goes to **Carl Greenman** and his friends **Richard** and **Melissa** for helping out from the very beginning to the very end. **Carl Greenman** led the planting initiative and was brave enough to let someone swing a big hammer while he held the signs in place. **Melissa** led a team of people planting seeds to take home and **Richard** worked on the Pollination garden and put his knowledge of power tools to use.

**Bill** wrote: That was a lot of fun today. But more important than having fun, we offered kids wonderful opportunities for doing and touching and tasting and experiencing. Thanks so much to all of you!



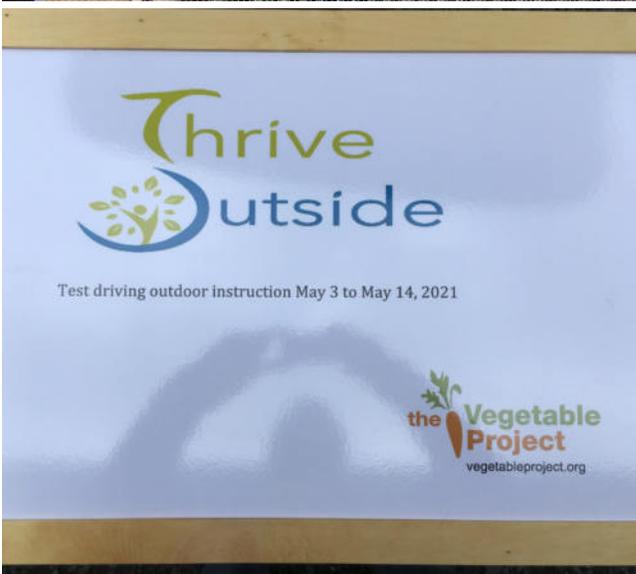
## Youth Gardening continued



The kids enjoy tasting things that grow in the garden - so do the woodchucks



Perhaps we need to build something like these removable sides that we used at the Center for Disability Services to keep the woodchucks out.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
Tuesday, June 22 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm - 8:00pm AND Every Tuesday evening	The Vegetable Project at Myer's Middle School
Thursday, June 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm	<b>Central Park Rose Garden tour</b>
Thursday, July 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Director's meeting</b> – via Zoom Members are welcome to join in. reply to this email and we'll send you the link when it becomes available.

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

### Amazon purchases can support or club

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Log into your Amazon account and Select **Men's Garden Club of Albany**  
Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

**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.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org/>

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

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



*In Memory*  
*Of My*  
*Loving Wife, Young*  
*Bruce Wilcox*

*In Memory of*  
*Louis Meo*  
*&*  
*Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of*  
*Al & Barbara Miller*  
*Dave & 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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