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[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)



(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **77** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 76 NO. 4**

(First Chartered 1936)

**May, 2013**

**May Meeting - Ladies invited night!**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm**

**PLACE:** Best Western Sovereign Hotel,  
1228 Western Ave., Albany

**APPETIZER:** Garden Salad

**ENTREE:** Salmon Filet  
Pork Loin with Apple Walnut Dressing  
Eggplant Parmigiana

**DESSERT:** Apple Pie                      Price: \$ 20.00

**PROGRAM:** **Spring arrangements for doors and tables** by **Kate Ebbeson**

**RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:**

A caller should reach you prior to the meeting for your dinner reservation and your choice of entree. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, please call **John O' Grady** (372-5356). You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

**Membership Directories**

The membership directories have been printed and we are trying to hand deliver as many as possible to our *paid* and Life members. If you haven't already received yours – we will mail it to you sometime soon.

**Plant Sale – May 11th**

## Membership

Last week I received a very nice note, from **Henry Fox**, that really made my day. **Henry Fox** has done so much for our club – including, being chairman of our annual plant sale and co-chairman of our annual bulb sale that raised thousands of dollars over the years for the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. Now that he and his wife (**Alberta**) are 90<sup>+</sup> years young, he has moved to New Hampshire to be closer to family. I'm sure he would love to hear from you as much as I appreciated hearing from him.

### **Henry and Alberta Fox**

43 Ledge Wood Bay Room 321  
Milford, NH 03055  
(603) 554-1811

## **Welcome back!**

It sure was nice to see **Ken and Thelma Abele**, **Herm Mau**, and **Jack Meagher** at our April dinner meeting. I guess they decided to come back to visit – at least until it gets cold again. We're glad you're back. Thanks!!!

## April Program

### Thanks! Bill Getz, Professional Dowsler

**Bill Getz** came in with a “Y” shaped branch, two “L” shaped brass rods, two coat hangers and a lot of experience and knowledge. **Bill** seems to have a gift that allows him (as the instrument) to ask questions about water and read the results from the object (branch or rods) held in his hands. He may start out asking “Where is the best place to drill with the most water?”. He may also ask how many gallons per minute, at what depth and will there be sulfur in the water. I thought it was interesting that a couple of wells that seemed to have a poor recharge rate, greatly improved after hurricane Irene. Since counties, like Albany, require a well to produce greater than 5 gallons of water per minute it may be well worth the time to get advice from **Bill Getz** to help insure that you will get good clean water, something that many people in the world don't have access to. The American Society of Dowsers is raising money to provide funding for the development of dug and drilled wells in many parts of the world. The program is called Water For Humanity and more information can be found at [www.dowsers.org/wfh](http://www.dowsers.org/wfh) . I'm sure a few dollars may go a long way to help others in the world get cleaner water.

Thanks **Bill Getz** for a very interesting and informative program!

## Website – MGCA

[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)

Hey, it's not every day I get a phone call from the President... Yup, Jim Bagwell who is the national president of MGCA / TGOA called me the other day and stated that he had checked out our website and he seemed impressed with the club activities we are involved in. Without such a cool website he may not have realized what we do and I may not have received a call from someone so high up in the organization.

What I'm really trying to say is that we owe **Paul Zimmermann** a big thank you. One way to thank him and to help out the organization is to supply him with articles or even thoughts about what you would like to see on our website. We have a worldwide audience now – let's make the best of it.

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

Plant Sale – May 11th

Adopt-a-Highway



### Airport

Albany County Airport where we maintain a 9/11 Memorial Garden.



Garden and Flower Show at HVCC – A great success - March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.gardenandflowershow.com>

As we do every year, the MGCA set-up an educational booth to inform the public about our club and all of the great things we do for our members as well as our many community service activities. **Bill Danish** chaired this event - as he has in the past - and scheduled members to setup and tear down as well as man our educational exhibit, answer garden questions. Among the members who offered to help out, during the three day event, were: **Tom Baker, Larry Biggins, Bill Danish, Greg Goutos, Russ Greenman, Dave Harris, Philip Harris, Joe Herman, John O'Grady, Chuck Scott, Greg Shields, Bruce Wilcox, Gary Woods, and Paul Zimmermann.**

Thanks to all.

**Gardening from the Heart**  
**At the Center for Disability Services**

Volunteers during April included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, and Bruce Wilcox.** Finally we're working outside on a regular basis. We have relocated the whiskey barrel planters and have tilled in the winter rye back into the soil. In the past weeks we have planted peas and a flat of lettuce that was donated by **Krug Farms** on 65 Everett Rd. Actually, **Bill Krug** is a member of the MGCA and he donated the greenhouse to the



GFTH program many years ago.

Thanks **Bill Krug!**



## Scholarship

### **Seeking Candidates for 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 who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or registered to begin a college program this fall. Additionally, 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 other extended family member that would qualify? If so, please contact **Greg Goutos**, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052 for application details. The deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Youth Gardening

As we do every year, we will be distributing Big Pumpkin, Giant Sunflower, Howden Pumpkin, and flower seeds as well as tomato plants to youth from three local counties. In the fall we will bring them back to judge the Big Pumpkins and Giant Sunflowers.

### History - 25 years ago this month

#### **MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MAY 5, 1988**



The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, May 5, 1988 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

The meeting was called to order by President **Joe Huth** at 7:34.

The Minutes of the April 7, 1988 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by **Paul Hughes** our Club Treasurer. As of April 30, 1988 there was balance on hand of \$901.81 in the General Fund. In the

Key Advantage Account, there was a balance on hand of \$5,196.38 and in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$547.07.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Plant Sale:** Co-chairman **Herm Mau** and **Don Stevens** reported that all is in readiness, anticipating a lot of help from club members, hoping for members home grown plants alleviating the necessity of buying commercial plants. Set up time is 7:00 am.

**Membership:** **Bob Ireland** reported as of this date our membership stands at 110 with 36 Life Members.

**Memorial:** No report.

**Program:** **Don Lewis** reporting:

1. The next General meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26 at **Paul Steinkamp's** Helderledge Farms, on Picard Rd., outside of Voorheesville at 7:00. A business meeting will be held in the Cooperative Extension Building, a short distance from the H. Farms following a guided tour by the proprietor. A video from the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens will be shown.
2. August 7 is the date of the Annual Picnic. We will visit the Osborne Mushroom House and **Storey Nursery** in Freehold, Green Co. New York. Chartering a bus was out weighed in favor of going in cars. Look for further details in the June 2 Dirt.

## History - 25 years ago this month - continued

3. The September 22 meeting will be held at the Cooperative Ext. Bldg. with our Annual Auction, followed by a tour of the Memorial Trees planted in memory of our deceased members.
4. October 1, is the date set for the Annual Berkshire Garden Center bulb sale.
5. October 27 General Meeting program has a number of possibilities: The White Birch Nursery, the Landis Arboretum, and others.
6. The Ladies Night will be December 15.

**Youth Gardening:** **Lee Negus**, chairman, reported that to date 13 young people have signed up to receive seeds for the Sunflower and Pumpkin growing contest

**Awards:** No report.

**Museum:** **Wally Dillenbeck** reported that the Wild Flower exhibit has been completed. Summer and Fall exhibits will replace the Present Spring Exhibit. **Don Otterness** would like to have 4 H Clubs use 3 of the boxes and plant vegetables. He will look into this matter.

**Fair Committees:** No reports.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Al Miller** reporting:

1. **Al** advised the Board that we must make a Federal Tax return by May 15 as a non-profit organization.
  2. The 1989 Calendars are ready for distribution.
  3. As of this date 5 people are planning to attend the National Convention, July 3-6 at Minneapolis, Minnesota.
  4. This is a reminder, that the Regional Meeting this year is on the same day as our Plant Sale; therefore, this time only we are not pushing the Regional.
  5. Another reminder, just so that we are all aware! A number of women have formally applied for membership in the Green Bay Men's Garden Club.
  6. In the National Constitution, a by-laws change has been proposed, that the General membership be given the right to vote when dues changes are proposed.
  7. The National Committee is still waiting for a photograph of the N. Y. State Flower.
- The Name Change Committee Chairman, **Glenn Witecki** was absent, therefore the question was put off until a later date.

**Al Miller** did report that a second Bronze Plaque at \$18.52 was sent to us. The Board decided to let the Chairman of the Awards committee decide whether to keep it for a future presentation or send it back.

**Joe Huth** invited us to meet at his house for the June 2 meeting even though strawberries may not be available for strawberry short cake!!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted by  
**Tom Baker**, Secretary

### Notes from the May 26, 1988 General Membership Meeting At Paul Steinkamp's Helderledge Farms

After a wonderful guided tour, a short business meeting was held.

**Joe Huth**, President, welcomed our new member, **John Piechnik**. **Ken Abele** was announced as a new Life Member. The treasurer reported that the net proceeds of the Plant Sale were \$1,113.05.

**Wally Dillenbeck** will have a sign-up sheet for the Altamont Fair at the Picnic. The summer picnic isn't quite settled yet.

The men who volunteer at the CP Center received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Center at the Sunday Brunch at the Mariott.

**Glenn Witecki** outlined the procedure for selecting awards from here on in.

**Bob Ireland** said that we are now up to 111 members. Also, there will be a judging school.

Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had 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 this month"

Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

**Memorial Garden**  
**At the Albany County Cooperative Extension**

**Joe Huth**

Memorial Garden Chairman



**Memorial – Harris Parents**

Thanks to **Phil Harris**, his brother **Dave** and their **sister**, for making a centerpiece every month in

memory of their parents. It's really hard to imagine how much work and money must go into getting the materials and the artistic ability to make such beautiful centerpieces. The **Harris's** have been making these in memory of their parents for as long as I can remember. **Phil and Dave Harris** bring one to every meeting and it is raffled off to raise money to support our memorial gardens. What a nice way to remember your parents. We thank **Phil** for starting this and **Dave** and their **sister** for helping to continue the tradition.



I won!  
Russ 4/2013

**Thanks!!!**

**Plant Sale – May 11th**

Please plan on helping out with our biggest – and only – fund raising event of the year. Since we're losing \$2,000 per year by supporting our Many community service activities – we need all the help we can get. We solicit donations from local growers, purchase vegetables and flowers, and depend on our members to bring whatever they can. **John O'Grady** and his family have been known to bring raspberry bushes and **Gill O'Brien** has been known to bring a truckload of tomato plants. To be fair, there are too many great members to list here – but to all that have helped and plan to help this year, Thanks!!!

I'm sure that **Don Wrieden** and **Jack Meagher** would love to hear that you can help out this year. I know they need help transporting items – ranging from plants to tables. Some work needs to be done on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as Saturday morning and afternoon to bring the unsold items to the Center for Disability Services.

<b>May 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 2:00 pm</b> The day before Mother's Day	<b>Plant Sale – 344 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY</b>
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Please support research for **ALS** (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's disease) in memory of one of our most active members - **Mr. Bill Town** <http://community.als.net/teamtown>

## Garden Tips

### **Overseed Bare Spots in Lawn**

Dense turf makes it harder for weeds to get a toehold in a lawn. Keep weeds at bay by overseeding thin or bare spots as soon as you notice them. Loosen the soil in these areas with a steel rake, mix in some compost and a small amount of nitrogen-containing fertilizer, then sow grass seed. Keep the area moist until seeds sprout.

### **Choose Alternatives to Invasives**

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) are once popular landscape shrubs that have proved to be invasive across New England. States in our region now ban or discourage their sale, but lots of these plants are still thriving (and sending out seeds) in many landscapes. Consider replacing them with some better behaved alternatives. *Fothergilla gardenii* 'Mt. Airy' has colorful fall foliage like burning bush, as well as white spring flowers; highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and chokeberry (*Aronia spp.*) are other possibilities with vivid fall foliage. For shrubs with purplish foliage like many of the popular Japanese barberry cultivars, consider dark-leaved ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) cultivars such as Summerwine ('Seward') or Diabolo ('Monlo').

### **Keep Wood-Based Mulch Away from Structures**

Good advice from the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal: "Mulch [made from wood products] is a combustible material that can be easily ignited by improperly discarded smoking materials. Hundreds of small and large fires are started this way every year. The risk is that what starts as a small outdoor mulch fire can quickly spread to buildings." He recommends keeping wood-based mulch at least 18 inches from combustible building materials such as wood, vinyl siding, and decks, as well as gas meters. Use a non-combustible mulch such as rock or pea stone near combustible portions of a structure and around meters. Article submitted by **Bill Danish** - Thanks **Bill!**

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**Members** – If you have any information about a member that hasn't been feeling up to par lately, please let us know, so we can include something in the DIRT and/or have our Sunshine committee get a card to him.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<u><b>Plant Sale – May 11<sup>th</sup></b></u>	<u><b>Plant Sale – May 11<sup>th</sup></b></u>
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Director's meeting</b> – all members invited Center for Disability Services – Manning Blvd
<b>May 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 2:00 pm</b> The day before Mother's Day	<b>Plant Sale</b> – 344 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY
<b>Wednesdays :</b> <b>May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup></b> @ 9:00 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
<b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b> @ 6:30 pm ( <b>Ladies Invited night</b> )	<b>Dinner Meeting</b> Best Western Sovereign
<b>June 27 – 29, 2013</b> MGCA / TGOA	Land of Lincoln 2013 <b>National Convention</b> in Springfield, IL <a href="http://www.tgoa-gca.org/Convention2013.htm">http://www.tgoa-gca.org/Convention2013.htm</a>

**Russ Greenman and Jack Meagher, Editors**

*In Memory*

*Of My*

*Loving Wife, Jessie*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Louis Meo  
&  
Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of*

*Ed Tompkins*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Avrom Koblenz*

*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*

*Christian and Mildred  
Lebrecht*

*In Memory of*

*Al and Barbara  
Miller*

*In Memory of*



**Bill Town**

*Joe Herman*

*In Memory of*

*my Dad*



**Carroll W. Greenman**

*Bob*

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*In Memory of*



*Grandpa & Great Grandpa*

*Carroll W. Greenman*

*Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*In Memory of my parents*



*John and Carrie Meagher*

*They both loved Plants and Flowers*

*Jack Meagher*