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www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com



(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 76 NO. 7

(First Chartered 1936)

October, 2013

October Dinner

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, October 24th @ 6:30pm**

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Parmigiana
Baked Tilapia

DESSERT: Carrot Cake Price: \$ 20.00

PROGRAM: Asparagus - The Dream Investment
By our very own expert - Mr. Paul Zimmermann

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, October 17th, please call **Russ Greenman** at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group's reservations. If it's easier for you to email the dinner info – please send it to MGCA1@verizon.net (note: the character after MGCA in the email address is a Number "1")

You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

Membership

We're looking forward to meeting the potential members that signed up at our booth at the Altamont Fair - yes, you know who you are... We hope to see you at our next meeting.

October's Harvest Auction

Harvest Auction – Featuring our favorite auctioneer – **Don Wrieden**



I want to thank all that purchased and/or brought goodies to sell. The items, especially the homemade goodies, were really were impressive. That's why we were making \$20 for a jar of jam - actually two jars were sold at \$20 each - or \$50 for apples. Fancy breads, Apple Butter Baskets and tomatoes were also big hits. **Ken York's** Flower arrangement belonged in the State Fair... it was loaded with a great variety of interesting flowers.

Unfortunately **Jack Meagher's** homemade wine wasn't ready yet or we would have easily broken the \$200 mark.

Don Wrieden - our auctioneer - had a lot to do with making it a fun and profitable evening out. We seemed to have much less to sell than we have had in previous years, but thanks to the high quality of the items and the generosity of our members and guests we made \$193 at the auction.

Having **Colleen** and **Gloria**, from the Center For Disability Services, joining us helped make the evening real enjoyable for all of us. I'm not sure what they did - but the **Abele's** - sitting next to **Colleen** and **Gloria** - said they had the best time ever at one of our auctions.

Thanks to all - especially **Don Weiden** - for a great evening!



Feature Article
By - Our own - Paul Zimmermann

Growing Garlic



Garlic in the spring



Garlic ready to be harvested

Garlic is perhaps the easiest vegetable to grow. If you have the space, here are the steps:

1. Prepare the soil in mid September (as always, a raised bed works best).
2. Right around Columbus Day (it can be even later) plant the cloves (pointed side up) about 4" deep, 6" apart.
3. Cover with a thin layer of straw or your favorite mulch.
4. When the ground freezes hard, cover the bed with 4" of mulch.
5. In the spring (late March or so) pull back the mulch.
6. Around Independence Day the tops of the garlic will be turning brown. It's time to harvest. Carefully remove the bulbs from the ground (a pitchfork works well to loosen the soil so you can gently remove the bulbs from the ground).
7. Dry in a dry, warm location for a few days. Avoid drying in mid-day sun.
8. Cut off the stalks and store the bulbs in a cool, dry location.
9. Save the largest bulbs and use the cloves for your next planting.

Notes

- The soil pH should be in the 6-7 range.

Feature Article - continued
By - Our own - Paul Zimmermann

Growing Garlic

- Cut off the flower buds (scapes) when they appear (usually in mid to late June) - they'll drain energy from the plant. Cook them up - they're considered a delicacy
- Garlic comes in 3 main types - hard neck, soft neck and elephant (elephant garlic is not a true garlic).
- Hard neck stores the best. Soft neck varieties are more suited to southern climates.
- You can buy your starter bulbs from the usual suspects, or attend a fall garlic festival and choose from several local varieties.
- Keep the soil cool as mid-summer approaches with mulch or companion plantings (such as lettuce).
- One of the neat aspects of garlic is that the garden space it occupies from October to July can be used for fall crops such as kale, chard, collards, etc.

Varieties

There are many varieties of garlic to choose from. Here are few I found in various seed catalogs (all are hardneck varieties)

- German Extra Hardy - stores well
- Purple Glazer - purple striped skin
- Shilla - earlier than most
- Chesnok Red - good cooking, stores well

Garlic Nutrition

Garlic is reputed to have anti-cancer properties. It's also quite good for you having the following nutrients.

- Vitamins B6 and C
- Selenium, calcium, manganese, phosphorous
- Protein - 12% by weight

Website – MGCA

www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

October Garden Reminders

Begin Harvesting Winter Squash

You can harvest winter squash and pumpkins any time they're mature -- that is, when the rinds are too tough to puncture with a thumbnail. Some gardeners wait until a light frost kills back the vines, to allow the squash as much time as possible to mature. To harvest, use a knife to cut the stem an inch or two above the squash.

Move Peonies -- If You Must

Peonies resist transplanting, so if possible leave them where they are. However, if you need to move your plants, early fall is a good time. Planting depth is critical: Place the buds, or "eyes" on the roots just 2 inches below the soil surface. Any deeper, and the plants may fail to bloom. Even with proper planting, transplanted peonies may not bloom for a few years.

Pot Up Bulbs for Forcing

As you begin planting your spring-flowering bulbs outdoors, consider planting a few in pots to force for late-winter bloom. Closely space the bulbs in a shallow container filled with potting soil, then add more soil until most of the bulb is buried. The bulbs will need to be chilled, either in the refrigerator or in a protected spot outdoors, for several months.

Divide Iris and Daylilies

Lift iris clumps with a shovel and break them apart. Save the plumpest, firmest rhizomes, and discard the old, leafless ones. Trim the leaves to about 6 inches long. Let the rhizomes air dry overnight before planting. Daylily clumps are so dense you'll need to slice through them with a shovel or spade. Separate them into smaller clumps, leaving at least three plants per clump. Trim leaves to about 6 inches long and replant.

Move Houseplants Indoors

Ready houseplants for winter by checking them for insects, trimming off dead foliage and stems, and repotting if necessary. Gradually move them into shadier conditions to get them used to less sunlight before bringing them inside when nights dip into the 40's.

Stockpile Pine Needles

Keep your eyes open for neighbors who think pine needles are trash, and offer to take the debris off their hands. To preserve the color of the needles, store your cache in a shady place protected from direct sun. Then use the needles to mulch azaleas, rhododendrons, blueberries, and other plants that prefer acidic soil.

Bring Houseplants Indoors

Begin bringing in tender houseplants that have spent the summer outside. First, carefully examine plants for signs of insect pests. A few mealybugs or spider mites can quickly multiply into a big problem when they're brought into a warm, dry, predator-free indoor environment.

Be Prepared for Early Frosts

Set aside some large cardboard boxes, old blankets, and tarps to cover tender plants if an early frost threatens. These early frosts are often followed by several weeks of warm weather. Cover plants in the late afternoon and remove the coverings the next morning after temperatures have warmed up.

Compost Old Mulch

To interrupt the life cycles of black spot and other fungal diseases, gather up old mulch from your rose garden and compost it. Replace it with fresh compost.

Dry Petals for Potpourri

Harvest a few of the last roses of summer and dry the petals for several days, then store them in airtight containers. Combine them with other fragrant flowers and herbs for winter potpourri. Red and dark pink petals dry better than light-colored ones, which show more bruises and brown spots. © 2009, National Gardening Association

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers during September included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and Bruce Wilcox.** Each week the consumers picked bags of produce that they had been carefully caring for over the Summer. As we cleared out the old

raised beds we planted lettuce and other things that like the cooler weather. One of our favorite events is to go out to **Goolds Orchards** and pick apples. What a blast! First, we took a tour and learned how the apples are picked. Who knew... One person picks five large crates of apples per day and each crate has 3,500 apples in it. Yup, that's 17,500 apples per day per person. Then we went 4 wheelin' to find the best apples and then we were treated to apple cider donuts and apple cider. Many of us purchased some goodies to take home. I am not sure what was the most popular... the cider, hard cider or the wide selection of wine. The great folks at **Goolds** really took care of us and we owe them a **big thank you!**



History - 25 years ago this month

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING - SEPTEMBER 29, 1988

IN LIEU OF THE OCTOBER 6, 1988 MEETING



The Regular October meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, September 29, 1988, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled. This meeting was in lieu of the October 6, 1988 meeting. Bulbs that were to be used at our Annual Bulb Sale at the Berkshire Gardens, were packaged at this time.

President **Joe Huth** called a business meeting to order at 9:45.

The minutes of the September meeting were not called for.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of October 1, 1988 there was balance of \$1,193.33 in the General Fund, \$547.07, in the Memorial Fund and in the Key Advantage Account there was \$5,289.33.

Joe Huth advised us that the Gardening From the Heart would like the Club to wind grape vines into wreaths so that the Clients at the Center could decorate them for their Winter Sale. This was agreed upon. It was decided that this would take place at the November Board Meeting beginning at 7:00.

Don Lewis, Chairman of the Program Committee, gave the following report. The October Dinner Meeting will be held in the Bavarian Chalet, at \$12.00. The guest speaker will be **Mal Downie** of the White Birch Nurseries. The November Dinner Meeting will be held at the Howard Johnson Restaurant just off the Exit #23. The speaker will be **Willard Ives** who will give a talk on native Trees.

Don Lewis has made arrangements for the Club to meet in the Wolfert's Roost for January, February and March. The cost will be \$12.00

Glenn Witecki, Chairman of the Name Change Committee reported that at this time, there should be no name change for the Club. The Board went along with this recommendation.

Joe Raggio felt confident that all was in readiness for the Bulb Sale. Reminder, the set-up time is 8:00 am. The Bulb Pricing Committee met at Joe's on 9-27-88.

Al Miller reported that the National Office has available pamphlets, an Introduction to the Garden Clubs of America, cost \$.30 each. The Board voted to order 200 copies. He also stated that **Bob Ireland has been elected to the National Board of Directors** representing our Region.

Bob Ireland, Chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that the membership stands at 115 Members.

The dues for the coming year were voted on, which will remain the same, at \$18.00, \$3.00 remain in the local Club and \$15.00 goes to the National.

Don Otterness has offered to do the Dirt for November since **Al Miller** our editor will be at the National Executive Board Meeting.

A discussion was held in regard to offering an honorarium for our guest speakers. This was voted down.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:14,

Respectfully submitted by **Tom Baker**, Secretary

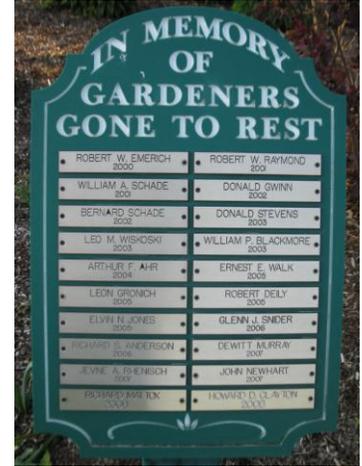
Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago this month"
Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension



Joe Huth / Chuck Scott
Memorial Garden Chairmen



Adopt-a-Highway



Albany International Airport

Don Wrieden - Chairman



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>

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 7th @ 7:30 pm	Director's meeting – all members invited Center for Disability Services – Manning Blvd
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
October 24th @ 6:30 pm	Dinner Meeting Best Western Sovereign

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