

1603 Best Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144 \* 286-2791 \* e-mail: [wd12@cornell.edu](mailto:wd12@cornell.edu)  
[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com)

(Serving the greater capital region)

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



**VOLUME 76 NO. 5**

(First Chartered 1936)

**Summer, 2013**

DATE & TIME: **Summer Picnic! - Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm**

PLACE: **MGCA Annual Picnic (Ladies Invited) & Memorial Service**  
Albany County Cooperative Extension Building  
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY

PROGRAM:

5:00 pm ----- Suggested Arrival Time

5:30 pm ----- Gather at Memorial Garden to Remember 'Gardeners Gone to Rest'

**F. Donald Lewis** 12/29/2012

**William C. Robinson** 2/29/2012



6:00 pm ----- Pot Luck Supper

7:00 pm ----- Program      Moscow - Cuba - North Pole \* Adventures of a  
Local Single Engine Aircraft Pilot

Presented by **Dr. Millard Harmon**

A quick Google search results in letters from **Dr. Millard Harmon** to many interesting people including: The Honorable **Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz**, The Honorable **Mikhail Gorbachev**, and President **William J. Clinton**. We're in for a real treat! Please don't miss this opportunity to hear this world-class humanitarian speak.

Check out <http://tenromeo.com/oped.php> and you will be willing to drive for hours to hear **Dr. Millard Harmon**.

## Summer Picnic! - Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm

The club chairman, **Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman**, will arrange to provide: Lemonade, ice tea, coffee, rolls & butter, plates, cups, and utensils. You could bring a dish to share... some thoughts may include: a meat dish, potato dish, salad, pasta, baked beans, desert or other appropriate picnic fare. **Russ Greenman** will be keeping track of your offerings to help insure that there is a good variety of food. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Reservations are recommended

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation and offering. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Thursday, July 18th, please call **Russ Greenman** at **477-8321** - **Note: callers – Please call Russ Greenman with your counts and contributions.** If it's easier for you to email the dinner info – please send it to [MGCA1@verizon.net](mailto:MGCA1@verizon.net) (note: the character after MGCA in the email address is a Number “1”)

### May Program

At our Ladies invited night, we were fortunate enough to have **Kate Ebbeson** show us how to make arrangements for doors and tables. Her method includes many silk flowers to insure many years of enjoyment. Thanks **Kate!**



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Adopt-a-Highway



**Paul Zimmermann and Bill Danish**  
cut and bailed 6 bales of hay



**Jack Meagher and Joe Huth**  
weeded and planted geraniums

## Airport

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



## Gardening from the Heart

### At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers during May and June, included: **Tom Baker, Carl Greenman, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Marilou Town, and Bruce Wilcox.** All staff and volunteers (us) are required to attend a training class prior to working with any consumers. The class is required by law so that we know how to report any unacceptable



behavior. Contact **Russ Greenman** to schedule a class that should take less than 1.5 hours.



Carl Greenman



## Website – MGCA

[www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com](http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.com) Thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** we have a very impressive series of web pages that are loaded with good information. You can find contact information, past copies of the DIRT, gardening tips, and an impressive article about Asparagus – authored by **Paul Zimmermann.**

## Youth Gardening

Keep caring for those Big Pumpkins, Giant Sunflowers, and Howden Pumpkins and plan on bringing them to the Albany County Cooperative extension for judging sometime in October.

**Plant Sale – May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**2013 PLANT SALE: MAY in DELMAR**

The 2013 Plant Sale was held the day before Mother's Day - May 11th

The weather wasn't perfect, but the sale was a success. Many club members worked together to make this event happen. This is our biggest – only – fundraiser of the year. We owe a BIG Thanks to **Don Wrieden** and **Jack Meagher** for organizing and donating their time and fuel to solicit and pick up donations from various growers.

Special thanks goes to: **Delmar Dental Medicine** 344 Delaware Avenue Delmar, for allowing us to use their parking lot for our sale and **St. Thomas The Apostle Church** – for the use of their parking lot, facilities, and water for the plants. A number of local establishments gave plant donations to help our sale. The following businesses provided items: Please support these growers since they were so generous to donate items for our sale.

**Constantine Farm** <http://www.constantineenterprises.com/>

564 Albany-Shaker Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211

**Faddegon's** <http://www.faddegonslandscape.com/>

1140 Troy Schenectady Rd Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 785-6726

**Gade's Farm** <http://www.gadefarm.com/> \*DIRT Advertiser\*

2479 Western Ave.  
Guilderland, NY 12209

**Kobler's Deer Run Farm**

Rt. 9 W  
Selkirk, NY 12158

**Pigliavento's Greenhouses** <http://guilderlandflowers.com/>

3535 Lydius Street  
Schenectady, NY 12303

**Shaker Shed Farm Market** <http://shakershedfarm.com/> \*DIRT Advertiser\*

945 Watervliet-Shaker Rd  
Loudonville, NY 12205

**Troys Landscaping Supply** <http://www.troyslandscapesupply.com/>

1266 Loudon Rd  
Cohoes, NY

**Verstanding's Greenhouses** <http://www.verstandigsfloristinc.com/>

139 Creble Rd, Long Lane  
Selkirk, NY 12158

**History - 25 years ago this month**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JUNE 2, 1988**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, June 1988 in the Home of President, **Joe Huth**. Coffee and desert was graciously provided.

The usual starting time of 7:30 was delayed by one hour because several of the members attended a Memorial Service for **Ray Lewis**, a deceased member. The Meeting was called to order at 8:40 by President **Joe**.

The Minutes of the May 5, 1988 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of May 31, 1988 there as balance of \$1,803.97 in the General fund. In the Memorial Fund there was balance of \$547.07. And in the Key Advantage Account there was a balance of \$5,196.38

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**State Museum: Don Otterness** and the Voorheesville 4H Club put in a vegetable garden in the raised beds in the Lobby of the State Museum.

**Name Change: Glenn Witecki**, Chairman, reported no progress. The question was raised. Will we have to change our Club name if and when the National Organization allows women in the National Club? The answer seems, at this point, to be no.

**Program: Chairman Don Lewis** outlined the summer Picnic which will include tours of the Story Nursery, the Catskill Ginseng Farm and the Osborn Mushroom Farm. More in the Dirt.

**Calendar:** The Board voted to order 250 calendars to be sold a \$3.00

**Bulb Sale:** The Chairman, **Joe Raggio** was absent. **Bob Ireland** suggested that since we have a lot of bulbs left over, that we should order less. **Joe** will be advised of this suggestion.

**Altamont and State Fairs: Wally Dillenbeck**, would like to see more men taking part in the Altamont Fair so that no one has to take more than one turn to fill all of the spots. The concern at the State isn't that crucial because a group of regulars seem to always go, but don't hesitate because with more, the men can take turns going out and around the Fair Grounds.

**Schaghticoke Fair: Ken York**, chairman, is hoping for a lot of support since this is a new venture for our club. Call **Ken** if you are interested in helping. 1-974-9547.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Regarding the extra Bronze plaque that the National Office sent us, the Board voted to keep it.

Therefore, **Paul Hughes** has been instructed to remit the \$18.52.

2. **Al Miller** once again advised the Board that a change in the National by-laws is being sought after, making it possible for the general membership to vote on any changes in the dues.

3. The National A.V. Committee is still looking for photos of State birds, flowers and trees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

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**"

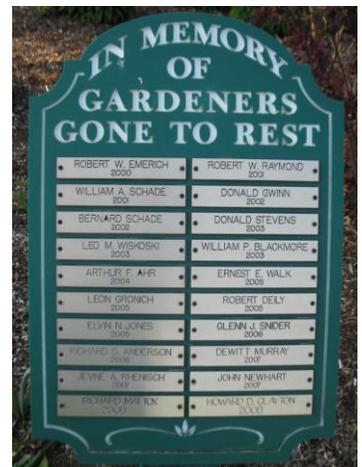
Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

**Memorial Garden**

**At the Albany County Cooperative Extension**



**Joe Huth / Chuck Scott**  
**Memorial Garden Chairmen**



## Garden Tips By: Mr. Bill Danish

### **Prune Spring-Blooming Clematis**

Clematis vines that bloom once in the spring can be pruned right after they finish blooming. These include the small-flowered *Clematis alpina* and *C. macropetala*, both hardy to zone 4. These form compact vines that generally don't need a great deal of pruning, just a light trim to stimulate the new growth that will bear the flowers the following spring.

### **Raise Containers on Pot Feet**

To allow for good drainage in your container plantings, raise the pots off the ground so water can seep out the drainage holes. This also will reduce the staining that can occur when pots sit directly on wooden steps or a deck. You can purchase pot feet from garden supply stores, or make your own using flat stones of similar size, rubber bumpers from the hardware store, or even old checkers from the game you never play anymore. Anything that will elevate the pot a bit should work.

### **Watch for Aphids**

Keep an eye out for aphids on your lettuce, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes. Knock aphids off plants with a strong stream of water. But don't be too quick to bring out the spray. Often the aphids' natural enemies will bring them under control without action on your part. If pest numbers are still high after 4-7 days, then use a spray of insecticidal soap to bring numbers down.

### **Keep Up with Mowing**

Lawn grasses are growing vigorously at this time of the year. Mow frequently enough that you are not removing more than one-third the height of the grass blade at each cutting. And leave the clippings on the lawn -- they will return nutrients to the soil and do not contribute to thatch formation. © 2013 National Gardening Association

### **Mowing Tips to Improve Your Lawn**

Mow taller. You hear experts say to mow your grass tall. You see your neighbors mow at different heights. So the question comes up: "What is a good mowing height for my grass?" Different kinds of grass types like different mowing heights, so here are some guidelines for how tall your grass should be after you mow. The higher end of the range is good during the hot summer months. Then around September you could drop down to the lower end of the range for your grass type leaving the setting at that level until next summer.

2-1/2 to 3 inches for Bluegrass, Ryegrass and Fine Fescue

3 to 4 inches for Tall Fescue and Buffalograss

3 to 4 inches for St. Augustinegrass

1-1/2 to 2 inches for Bermudagrass, Centipedegrass and Zoysia

Don't cut more than one-third. Many folks cut off TOO MUCH grass when they mow. Your lawn suffers when you mow off more than 1/3 of the top growth at a time because you force it to scramble to create more leaf growth to survive. This extra energy to create leaf growth comes at the expense of root growth. If you mow frequently enough so that you never cut off more than 1/3 of the leaf growth you will not "shock" your grass plants and stunt their root system.

## Pruning of Tomato Plants

Tomatoes are surprisingly easy to maintain. Young tomato plants will need some initial pruning early in the season. Here's how to ensure that your tomatoes remain healthy and produce delicious fruit.

Step 1: Remove all of the branches below the first flower cluster.

You'll know it's time to start pruning your tomato plants when you notice your plant's first flowers. Remove all of the branches that are growing below the first set of flower buds. While it may seem drastic, there are two good reasons to do this: First, low-growing branches tend to become diseased because they're so close to the soil. And second, since none of the lower branches will produce fruit, those branches will just drain the plant of its energy.

Step 2: Remove all suckers.

Suckers are small, secondary branches, or side shoots, that appear in the crotch area, or axil, between the branches and the main stem. Suckers drain the tomato plant of precious energy that would be better used producing tomatoes for you to eat.

Once you've completed these maintenance tasks, your tomatoes will be off to a great start.

Thanks **Bill Danish** for the article

## Judges Training Program

The Upstate New York Region needs certified flower show judges. To meet this need the region is running a judging class leading to certification.



The Upstate New York Chapter of the Men's Garden Club/Gardeners of America will be holding a Judges Training Program. Upon successful completion of this Program you will be a trained and certified judge for GOA/MGC sponsored Flower and Vegetable Shows.

There Program will consist of a total of 3 or 4 classes held in different locations in central New York (Syracuse, Ithaca, Auburn). These classes will be held during coming year. The first class will be held July 27, 2013 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM in Syracuse, New York

There will be a total charge of \$50.00 (to cover training material, Judges Badge, and National Fees). If you are interested in becoming a certified judge for GOA/MGC please register now for this class! To register please send a check for \$10.00 to Treasurer, 107 Juniper Lane, Syracuse, New York 13219. Please make the check payable to Upstate New York Regional Chapter. **The check should be postmarked by July 15.** If you have further questions, **Robert Ireland** [rfireland@juno.com](mailto:rfireland@juno.com)

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>July 15</b> - \$10 Registration fee postmarked	Judges Training Program
<b>Wednesdays :</b> <b>July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> &amp; 31<sup>st</sup></b> @ 9:00 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
<b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b> @ 6:30	Memorial Service, Picnic and a program by Humanitarian, <b>Dr. Millard Harmon</b> that will have you sitting on the edge of your seat.
<b>July 27<sup>th</sup></b> , 2013	Judges Training Program
<b>Sept 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Director's meeting</b>
<b>Sept 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dinner and Harvest Auction - Best Western Sovereign - 1228 Western Ave.</b>

Russ Greenman and Jack Meagher, Editors

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>

*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*

# BECKER'S FARM



"Since 1870"

**EAST GREENBUSH**  
(across from Columbia Plaza)

420 Columbia Turnpike      Greenhouse: (518) 477-4163  
Rensselaer, NY 12144      Fax: (518) 477-1360  
info@beckersfarm.com

# OLSENS



1900 New Scotland Rd.  
Slingerlands, NY 12159  
(518) 475-9483

# Emil Nagengast FLORIST

*Celebrating 100 Years*

**434-1125**

Stuyvesant Plaza &  
169 Ontario St. Albany

## Shaker Shed Farm Market

FARM FRESH PRODUCE & FLOWERS  
ANNUALS & PERENNIALS  
CHRISTMAS TREES & WREATHS

CAFE OPEN Monday thru Saturday

Ben Brizzell  
Laura Lind

945 Watervliet-Shaker Rd.  
Albany, NY 12205

## THE GADE FARM

- A Century Farm Est. 1878 -

Hanging Baskets  
Vegetable & Bedding Plants  
Farm-fresh Produce  
Seasonal Trimmings  
Garden Supplies

RT. 20, GUILDERLAND, N.Y.  
OPEN APRIL - DECEMBER  
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

869-8019



Carol Robinson  
Director of Sales

Best Western  
**SOVEREIGN HOTEL**  
ALBANY

1228 Western Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203  
(518) 489-2981 Fax (518) 489-2712  
Direct Line: (518) 618-1122  
For Reservations Call 1-800-WESTERN  
e-mail: crobins@sovereignhotels.com  
www.sovereignhotels.com

*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***