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chuckscatlady@nycap.rr.com



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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 78 years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 77 NO. 10

December, 2014

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 18th @ 6:30 pm -
Ladies -This night is to honor you**

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Pasta Alfredo with Chicken
Eggplant Parmesan
Seafood Stuffed Sole

DESSERT: Carrot Cake

Price: \$ 22.00

PROGRAM: Our “Ladies Night” program will be a demonstration of how to make beautiful floral arrangements. **Michele Peters** – owner of **Ambiance** - will make six or eight different arrangements that will be given away to lucky attendees. Your chances of winning here are much better than the lottery.

Michele Peters recently made some arrangements for us and there is something different about her arrangements and the materials she uses - from all over the world - that will certainly keep your interest.



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 their call. If a caller does not reach you by **Thursday, December 11th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group’s reservations or email the dinner info 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

Dues are due in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – mailed to **Russ Greenman** \$15 pays for your national membership in the MGCA/TGOA, \$.50 pays for the regional dues, and the remaining \$9.50 pays your local dues. A large percentage of our members are Life members and can ignore this notice.

November's Program

We were fortunate enough learn so much about Bonsai from **Pauline Muth** who was our guest speaker. As a biology teacher she understands what makes these things tick as well as knowing how to present the material in a way that we could all understand. We learned the history of Bonsai as well as the different types and their requirements to live in our environment. Who knew that a Bonsai apple tree will produce a full size apple that probably needs to be removed since the tree may be too small to support a full sized apple? The website for her business is: <http://www.pfmbonsai.com>

Thanks **Pauline Muth** so much for a very enjoyable program!

Slate of Officers

President **Paul Zimmermann**
1st V.P. **Greg Shields**
Rec. Sec'y **Thomas Baker**
Treasurer **Russ Greenman**

DIRECTORS

2017 - **Bruce Wilcox - Don Wrieden**
2016 - **Joseph Herman**
2015 - **Jack Meagher - Paul Zimmermann**

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Thomas Baker
Robert Ireland

Advertisements

The 2014 Advertising campaign has started. Earlier in November, The Club sent letters to about 20 businesses requesting their support by purchasing an ad in our DIRT and on our website. The typical cost for a business for the year is \$60. Last year we had 6 businesses buy advertisements that were mailed and emailed each month, and placed on every page of the Men's Garden Club of Albany's website.

We also had about 10 businesses that donated plants for our plant sale but they did not all agree to purchase an ad. Perhaps we will do better this year with ads.

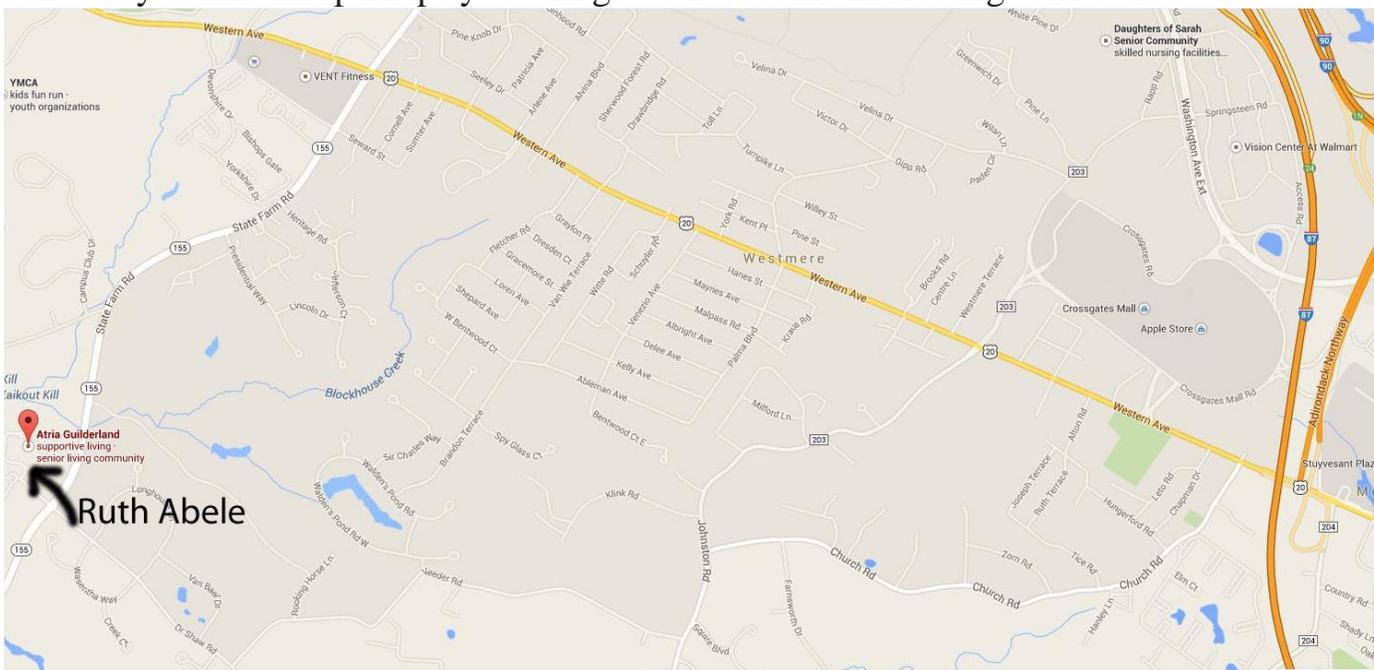
If any member knows a business that may want to advertise in the DIRT, please let me know or let of the officers know and I will send a request to the business.

Jack Meagher my email: jack12047@nycap.rr.com



Phil Harris is now in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend.

Ruth Abele is now in an assisted living facility; the address is Atria Guilderland, 300 Mill Rose Court, Slingerlands, NY 12159 - I'm getting hungry thinking of all of the great meals we had over at the **Abele's** during our annual bulb sale at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. It's hard to imagine how much work they did to plan out meals with multiple courses and desert choices for two shifts of MGCA worker two days / year every year for as long as I can remember. I always enjoyed listening to the stories that could range from how **Warren Abele** survived the Battle of the Bulge to taking a ride to see where **Warren Abele** took some of the photos that won a spot or two every year in the national MGCA Calendar. Stop by or call to say thanks and perhaps you will get to hear some interesting stories also.

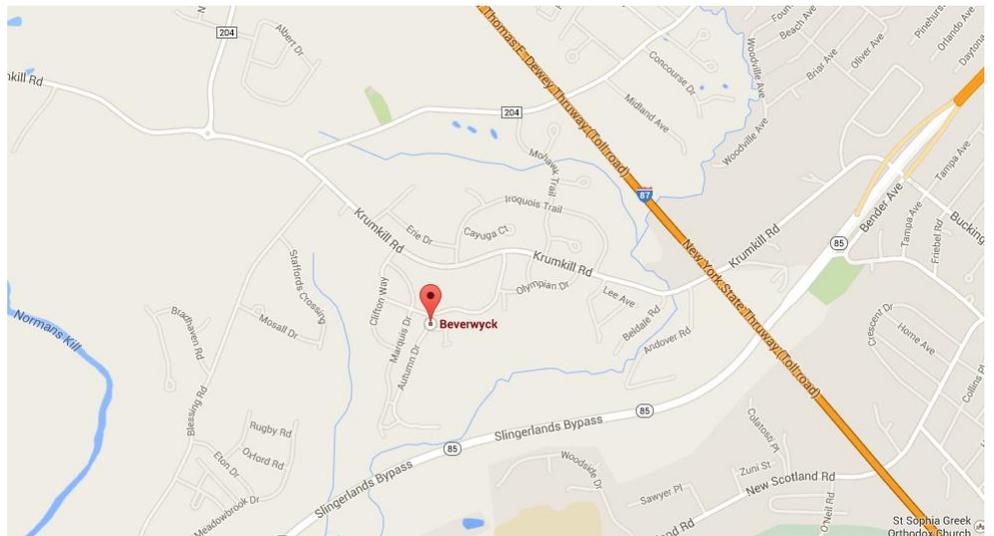


Bill Barr – Just a shout-out to say we're thinking of you in San Clemente, CA

Henry Fox - Just a shout-out to say we're thinking of you in Milford, NH

Jim Preston – Hey, this guy is local – let's go see what trouble he is getting into
JAMES O. PRESTON
40 AUTUMN DR. APT. 135
SLINGERLANDS, NY 12159
269-4997

[Click this link for a map of Jim's place](#)



Feature Article -

Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

I've been a vegetable gardener for 40 years. For the last 30 I've used raised beds and I've found them to provide a huge boost to the productivity of the garden. Such is our enthusiasm for raised beds that we successfully raised our two daughters in them.

The advantages of raised beds include:

- Deeper topsoil layer that delivers more nutrients to the vegetables and results in improved yields
- Ability to concentrate soil amendments (compost, fertilizer, lime, etc.) exactly where the vegetables grow
- Improved ability to suppress weeds
- Far less soil compaction which in turn negates the need to rototill
- Ease of management - you know exactly where vegetables grew the previous year and thus can practice crop rotation with 100% certainty.

Yes, there's usually a cost to raised beds. Let's examine a relatively high cost alternative. You purchase 3 eight foot two by sixes - enough to build a 4' by 8' raised bed. Total cost - about \$15. Most of the raised beds in my garden (24 in total) were constructed from 1 by 6 rough cut pine at a cost of \$.25 per board foot (\$8 for a 4' by 8' enclosure). Of course if have access to used building materials, the cost can be even lower. Avoid pressure treated lumber however - in my opinion, it's not worth the risk.

A height of 6" seems reasonable for a raised bed, but you might decide to go higher if the underlying soil is completely devoid of merit. Regardless, the soil underneath the bed should be loosened before adding topsoil to fill the raised bed.

Feature Article - continued Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

Once you have built your raised bed(s), you'll want to begin filling them with:

- soil from the surrounding paths
- purchased topsoil
- compost

I'll cover two of the most common scenarios encountered by gardeners starting with raised beds:

1. Existing garden
2. Existing lawn

When you are adding raised beds to an existing garden, you have just a little work to do. Noodle out where the raised bed should go taking into consideration that you'll probably be adding additional raised beds in the future. Once the location has been set and the bed structure in place, remove topsoil from the area around the bed (the pathways) and toss it into the bed. When starting where a lawn exists, you have a bit more work to do. I'd recommend that you start the work the previous year, but it's not an absolute requirement. Here are the steps:

1. Mark the spot where the bed will go
2. Dig up the turf and turn it upside down. Cover with additional topsoil and/or compost. You can then wait a couple of months or just go ahead and start planting. Alternatively, you can shake out the dirt from the all the turf clods (really good, gritty exercise) and then add additional topsoil/compost.

What you do around the new bed is a matter of personal taste. You can leave the existing turf in place or alternatively, cover it with plastic/landscaping cloth/newspapers/cardboard. I went the landscape cloth route, followed by a layer of wood chips.

Finally I'll say a bit about layout. Don't feel that you're restricted to rectangular beds laid out side by side. Some of my raised beds run north/south, and some run east/west. Some are slightly oblong and their lengths vary. And you're going to need pathways between the beds wide enough for a wheelbarrow or a garden cart to traverse.

Thanks to Paul Zimmermann!!! Is there anything that man can't do?



History - 25 years ago
MEN' GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, December 7, 1989, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Don Lewis** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 2, 1989 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**. There was a balance in the General Fund excluding reserves of \$1,583.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee: **Don Otterness**, Chairman, reporting. **Susan Raffon** of Scotia was selected as our first Scholarship winner. She is a two year Horticulture Major at Cobleskill. Her interview went very well and she expressed a financial need

Don Otterness made the motion, seconded by **Joe Raggio** and carried, that our Club award **Susan Raffon** the \$500.00 which will be forwarded directly to Cobleskill.

Susan will be invited, along with one guest, to our Ladies Invited Night for a formal recognition.

Bulb Sale: **Joe Raggio**, Chairman, reporting. The final tally shows that the Club cleared \$1144.24. The Club has already sent \$700.00 to the Berkshire Gardens. Therefore, our actual profit was \$444.42.

Gardening from the Heart: Regarding the Greenhouse: The ends will cost \$400.00, sills will cost

\$325.00 and the 2 thickness Plastic cover will cost \$100.00. **Paul Jeffers** has volunteered to help put up the greenhouse in the Spring

Guilderland Plant Sale: **Don Otterness** who is in charge reported that the Town of Guilderland has issued us a Sales Permit. As yet the location has not been decided on. **Don** would like to sell Rare Plants. Does anyone have any?

Ladies Invited Night: Will be held in the Turf Inn on December 14, 1989. This is typically an Awards Night and Installation of Officers. Look for full details in the Dirt.

Calendar Committee: There still 67 Calendars left, of these 24 will be given to advertisers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Al Miller suggested that we hold a second Awards Night. He is thinking of major Awards such as the Regional Bronze Award.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by **Tom Baker**, Secretary

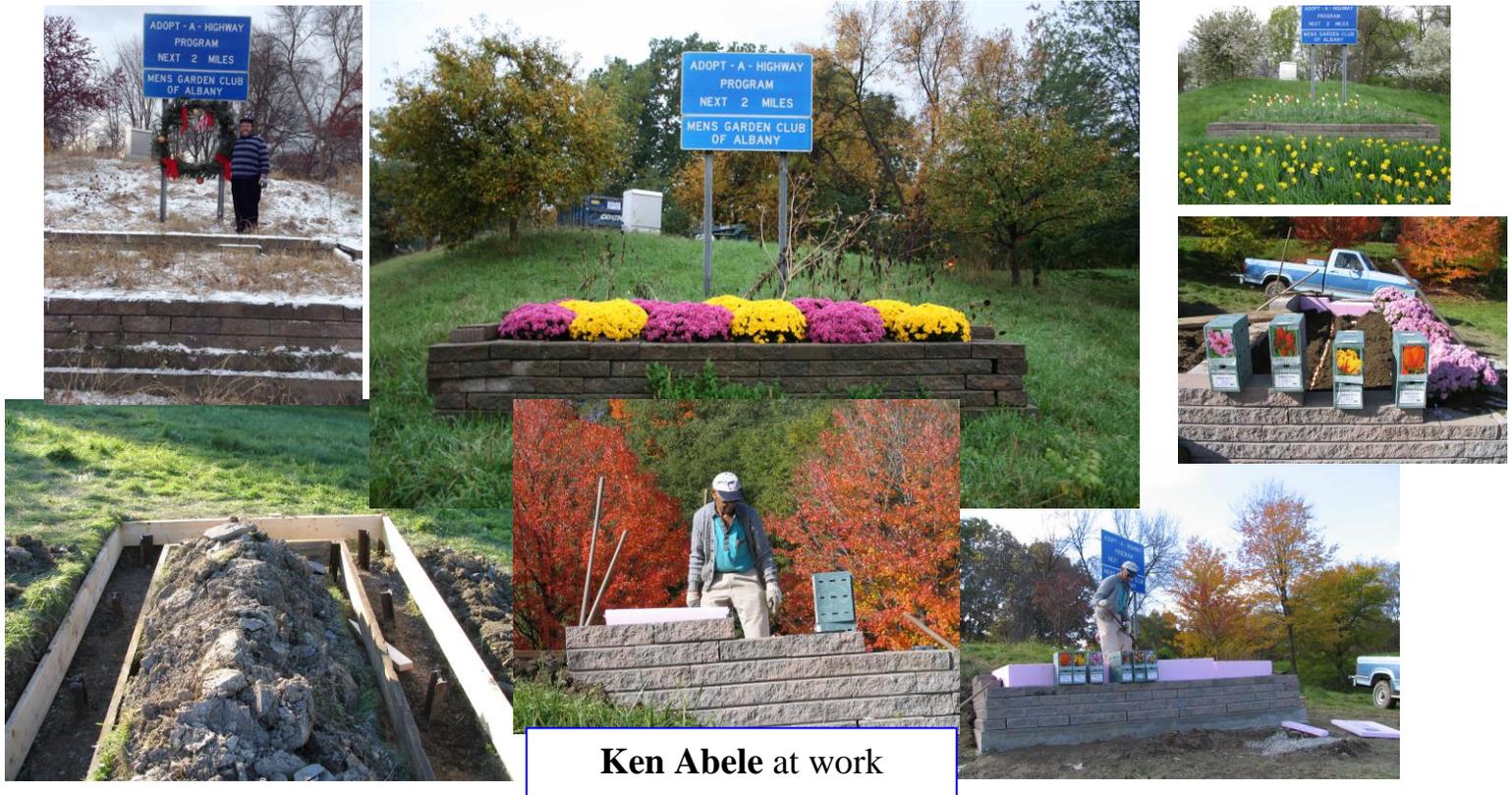
Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago" **Thanks, Tom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

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele at work

Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services



Volunteers during November included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox** and our past President – **Mr. Don Wrieden.** GFTH

During the month of November we worked on indoor projects. We have been taking cuttings off the plants that were brought in from the cold and putting them in Becker's Mix potting soil from Becker's Farm – www.beckersfarm.com. The consumers also made some Thanksgiving decorations in some wooden book marks that can also be hung as a decoration. Unfortunately we got our first snow (9.6" in Albany) and got snowed out on the day before Thanksgiving.

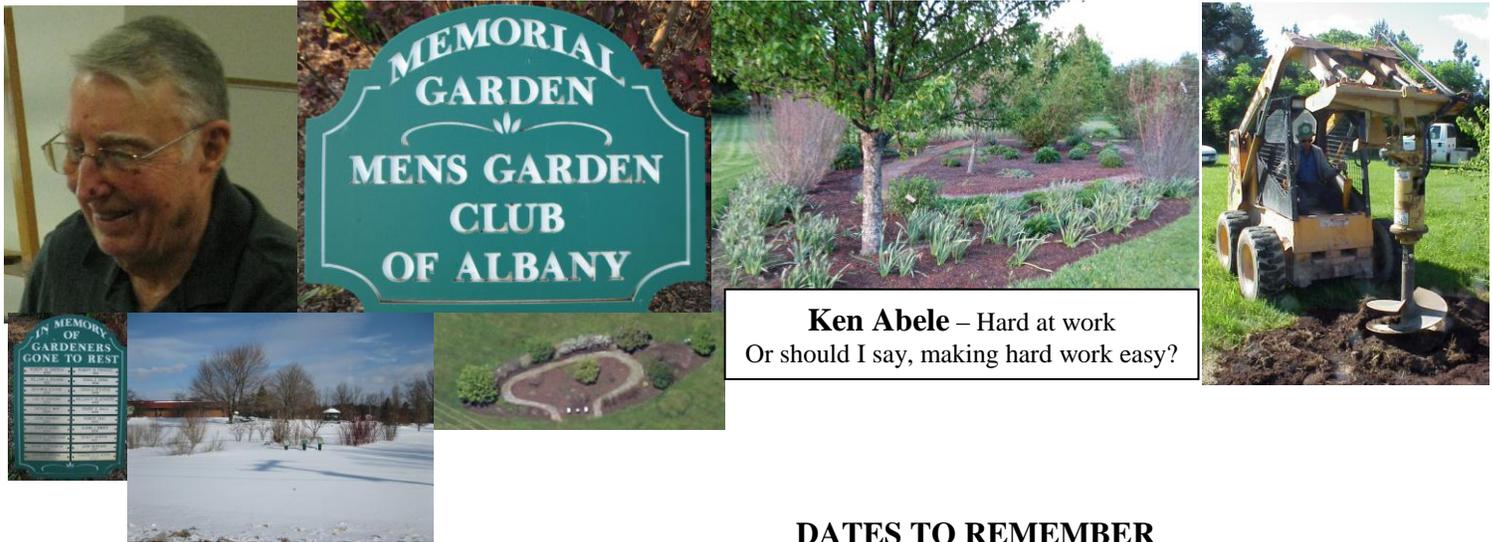




Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services



Memorial Garden At the Albany County Cooperative Extension Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen



Ken Able – Hard at work
Or should I say, making hard work easy?

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	<p>Ruth Abele is now in an assisted living facility; the address is Atria Guilderland, 300 Mill Rose Court, Slingerlands, NY 12159</p>
Today!	<p>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</p> <p>Phil Harris is in room 315 Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180</p>
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	<p>Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY</p>
December 18 th @ 6:30pm	<p>Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited night Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany</p>
January 22 nd , February 26 th	<p>Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited night Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany</p>
January 8 th @ 7:30 pm	<p>Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited</p>

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.

In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Jessie
Jerry Flax

In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus

In Memory of
Al & Barbara
Miller
Christian and Mildred
Lebrecht
Ed Tompkins
Avrom Koblenz
Jerry Flax

In Memory of my parents
John and Carrie Meagher
They both loved Plants and Flowers
Jack Meagher

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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info@beckersfarm.com



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(518) 475-9483

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Grandpa & Great Grandpa

Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

The following growers donated to our 2014 Plant Sale
Please help support them with your purchases

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Constantine Farm
Shaker Shed Farm Market
George's Market and Nursery
Valoze's Greenhouses
Troys Landscape Supply
The Gade Farm
Pigliaventos Greenhouses
Krug Farms