



836 Meadowdale Rd., Altamont, NY 12009 \* (518) 861-6850 \* e-mail: [chuckscatlady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:chuckscatlady@nycap.rr.com)



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



(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **78** years of service to our community

**VOLUME 77 NO. 2**

(First Chartered 1936)

**February, 2014**

## February Dinner

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
**Ladies, need you to join us - Please!**

PLACE: Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany  
APPETIZER: Garden Salad  
ENTREE: \* Baked Chicken  
\* Baked Tilapia  
\* Meatloaf  
DESSERT: Chocolate Cake Price: \$ 20.00

**PROGRAM:** Mexico's Copper Canyon: Train, Wildflowers, Hikes, and Culture  
Presented by: **Linda Ford**

Join **Linda Ford** for a presentation on the Copper Canyon region of Mexico that will show the spectacular scenery, the beautiful wildflowers, cultural and historical sites, and stories and photos of Linda's contacts with the Tarahumara Indians.

### 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 Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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.

Dues are past due and payable in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – Please send in your payment to **Russ Greenman** ASAP to insure that you are included in our membership booklet.

## Membership

I'm sorry to report that on 12/24/13 **Charles Ireland** joined the other Gardner's Gone to Rest. **Charles Ireland** lived a long, healthy, and active life that he used to help make this a better world to live in. There was something about him that drew people to him and he had the knowledge and willingness to help so many people. Personally, I was most impressed with the work he did for our youth. **Charles Ireland** did so much to insure that hundreds of kids received Giant Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower, spirit pumpkin, and flower seeds as well as tomato plants. He and his son (**Bob Ireland – Past National President of the Men's Garden Club of America**) and other great members of the MGCA like **Lee Negus** (past **Youth Chairman**) and **Joe Huth**, would distribute these items to kids in several different counties. At that time they would provide training on how to plant and maintain their prize winning pumpkins and sunflowers. **Charles Ireland** would insure that each child that needed mentoring throughout out the growing season had a mentor – either himself or another MGCA member. Their hard work paid off and we even had kids that won prizes in the national competition for their Giant Pumpkins and Giant Sunflowers. **Charles Ireland** must have spent hundreds of hours preparing for and working at our exhibit at the Schaghticoke fair. He built furniture, designed the booth and taught young and old about gardening as he spent so many days and years manning the MGCA booth at the Schaghticoke fair.

Others would say that **Charles Ireland**, a **nationally accredited judge**, had the much respected and admired expertise in judging horticultural items while providing valuable information as to how to improve their entries.

He loved animals, especially his **Irish Wolfhounds** that won so many awards in competitions thorough-out many states.

Actually, the best thing about **Charles Ireland** is that he was a **true gentleman** that never had a bad word to say about anyone and he really did things to improve the lives of people around him, his community, and the world.

Thank you, **Charles Ireland!**  
We Miss You!!!



**Charles Ireland** 10/5/2000 packing Bulbs



9/30/2000 **Charles Ireland** judging



5/7/2005 **Charles Ireland** at the plant sale



**Charles Ireland** 5/7/11 Regional meeting  
(3rd from right)



**January's Program**  
**"Extending the Iris Season" by Kathryn Mohr**

We were very fortunate to have **Kathryn Mohr** from the **American Iris Society** as our guest speaker in January. **Kathryn's** program "**Extending the Iris Season**" covered everything from Dwarf irises that begin to bloom in mid to late April in the Capital Region, then come median Iris and finally tall bearded Iris through late May. Bloom continues through June with various types of beardless Iris. **Kathryn Mohr** talked about reblooming Iris and included a section on (her special interest) **Heirloom varieties of Iris**. **Kathryn Mohr** packed in so much good information that my ole brain ran out of RAM – luckily for me – **Katheryn Mohr** brought a document that is unbelievably thorough, organized and packed with great information. – I would have paid for it, and those that attended our dinner got one for free.

**Kathryn** had many photos of different varieties of Iris and she taught how different some of the varieties are. **Kathryn** has Iris that have been in her family since the 1930's and are very hardy. There are varieties that like water and grow well in her bog, and others don't need as much. Some of the different colors are really amazing to look at and **Kathryn** said that some of them even are fragrant and I think she said one smelled like chocolate. If you like flowers with a great variety of colors and sizes you may want to attend a meeting of the **Capital-Hudson Iris Society on February 16<sup>th</sup> at the Albany Co. Cooperative Extension**, or on **March 16<sup>th</sup> at the East Greenbush Library**.

Who knew that an Iris could get 5' to 6' tall, or have blooms the size of dinner plates? Not me... If meetings aren't your thing, I'm sure **Katheryn Mohr** would welcome you at her **Historic Iris Display Garden** in Glenville, NY. You may want to contact her at [kemohrke@aol.com](mailto:kemohrke@aol.com) or (518) 952-4995 for more information about that or upcoming Iris meeting and or sales. We want to thank **Alex** for attending and playing chauffer for the night.

We especially want to thank **Kathryn Mohr** for a fantastic, educational, and fun evening!!!

**Thank You Kathryn Mohr!!!**

**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 one of the officers know and I will send a request to the business.

**Jack Meagher** my email : [jack12047@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jack12047@nycap.rr.com)

**Website – MGCA**

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

(please click on the link)

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

## February 2014 Garden Reminders – provided by Bill Danish

### Remove Snow Gently from Shrubs and Trees

Heavy snow can weigh down and break branches of woody plants, especially evergreens. But be careful not to do damage when removing it. Gently brush off most of the snow with a broom, then lift up branches from below to dislodge the rest. If branches are encrusted with ice, it's best to let the ice thaw on its own.

### Gather Supplies for Seed Starting

Gather all your seed-starting supplies now so you'll be ready when it's time to begin sowing. Stock up on germinating and potting mixes, containers, labels and indelible markers. If you don't already own one, consider investing in a heat mat to speed germination.

### Check Viability of Stored Seeds

Check the viability of seeds saved from previous seasons by conducting a germination test. Spread out ten seeds on a moistened paper towel and top with another damp towel. Roll the towels up together and slip inside a loosely closed plastic bag. Stick a label in the bag or write on the outside of the bag with a waterproof marker. Set it in a warm (75 degrees F) spot and, after a few days, begin checking daily for signs of germination; check the seed packet for average germination times. To figure out the germination percentage, simply multiply the number of seeds that sprout by ten. If fifty percent or fewer sprout, it's a good idea to get some fresh seeds. If the germination rate is in the 60-80 per cent range, use the seeds, but sow them more thickly than usual.

### Fan Your Seedlings

If you start seeds indoors, consider investing in a small fan to improve air circulation around young plants. This will help to reduce disease problems like damping off that thrive in too humid conditions. The gentle movement of the seedlings in the breeze will also cause them to develop sturdier stems.

**History - 25 years ago**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JANUARY 5, 1989**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, January 5, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

The meeting was called to order by our First Vice President **Wally Dillenbeck**, in the absence of President **Don Lewis**, who is vacationing in Florida. The time was 7:32.

The Minutes of the December 1, 1988 meeting were approved as read by our Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by **Don Stevens**, Assistant Treasurer. As of December 31, 1988 there was a balance on hand of @2,550.57 in the General Fund. In the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$328.91. In the Key Advantage Account, there as a balance of \$5,161.99.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Before **Wally** called for the Committee Reports, he reminded the Board, that only New committee Chairmen were picked and that the Chairmen should pick people to serve with them. The Chairmen will be listed in the Dirt.

**Gardening from the Heart:** **Al Miller**, Chairman, read a letter for thanks from the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled for our Club's part in October 25, 1988 Phonathon.

**Membership:** **Bill Blackmore**, Chairman, was absent, therefore no report. However, the Treasurer reported that there were 119 paid members to date. **Al Miller** reported that **Wally Campbell** had to resign because he finds it extremely difficult to get to meetings. **Don Otterness** will look into possibilities of arranging rides for such people.

**Youth Gardening:** Chairman, **Lee Negus** reported the deplorable fact that out of the 150 Clubs in the National Organization, only 30 clubs participated in the Sunflower and Pumpkin growing contest and only 20 reported their results.

**Memorial:** **Don Otterness**, Chairman reported that **Bob Greenman** is donating a tree to be planted in memory of **Al Leonard**, our recent deceased member.

**Dirt Advertising:** **Ferd Johnson**, Chairman reported that the job has been completed.

**Calling:** **Al Miller** and **Wally Dillenbeck** co-chairmen, reported that the enlarged committee is working out well. Some new members are being utilized to get them activated

**Plant Sale:** **Don Stevens** and co-chairman **Rod Kermani**, wanted a feeling from the group as to whether or not the day before Mothers Day was the best day to have the Sale. The consensus was that this day was the best day. The date would be May 13, 1989

**State Museum:** **Ferd Johnson**, Chairman, no report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Subject, New Club formation. **Ferd Johnson** has high hopes if getting on started in Glens Falls, but it is tough going. **Ken York** suggested that Pittsfield, Mass. might be a good possibility since women may join both Local and National Organization.

2. **Wally Dillenbeck** brought up the possibility of our Club sponsoring a bus trip to the Boston Flower Show on Tue, Mar. 7. He convinced the group present that it would be worth while. The price would be \$27.00 and that Wade Transportation would expect \$292.00 up front. More in the Dirt.

3. **Don Otterness** would like to see a brochure made up which can be presented to all new members telling them what the Club is all about and even going into some of the Club's History. The History committee will be asked to work on this project.

4. **Don Otterness** next reported that as a result of the meeting of a group of men from the Club with the Executive Director of the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled, **Gerald Fitzgerald**, the proposed Greenhouse which has been in the planning stages for some time can now be a reality. There will be no problem with water, sewer, or power because these are already at hand. Also, the Center will provide the necessary blacktop around the structure if needed.

5. **Don Stevens** brought up the question concerning our tax exempt status. **Al Miller** advised us that we already have the Federal Tax exempt number but we are waiting for the State number.

6. **Wally Dillenbeck** advised us that **Phil. Harris** would be in the hospital in the near future having his second Cataract operation. A card from the Club would appropriate as well as from individuals.

7. **Al Miller** told of the International Flower Show in 1992 to be held in Columbus Ohio celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Columbus discovering America. The Columbus Men's Garden Club will host this event. All are advised to give this much thought because it should be a spectacular affair.

8. The next **Dinner** meeting will be held in the **Howard Johnson** on 9w, with a **Hot and Cold Buffet** at **\$12.00**. **Joe Huth**, our recent past President, will give a slide show with an informative talk on small fruits, namely, strawberries and raspberries.

9. **Wally Dillenbeck** advised us that almost all of the upcoming programs, including the speakers and places have been arranged for, through December of next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07,

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"

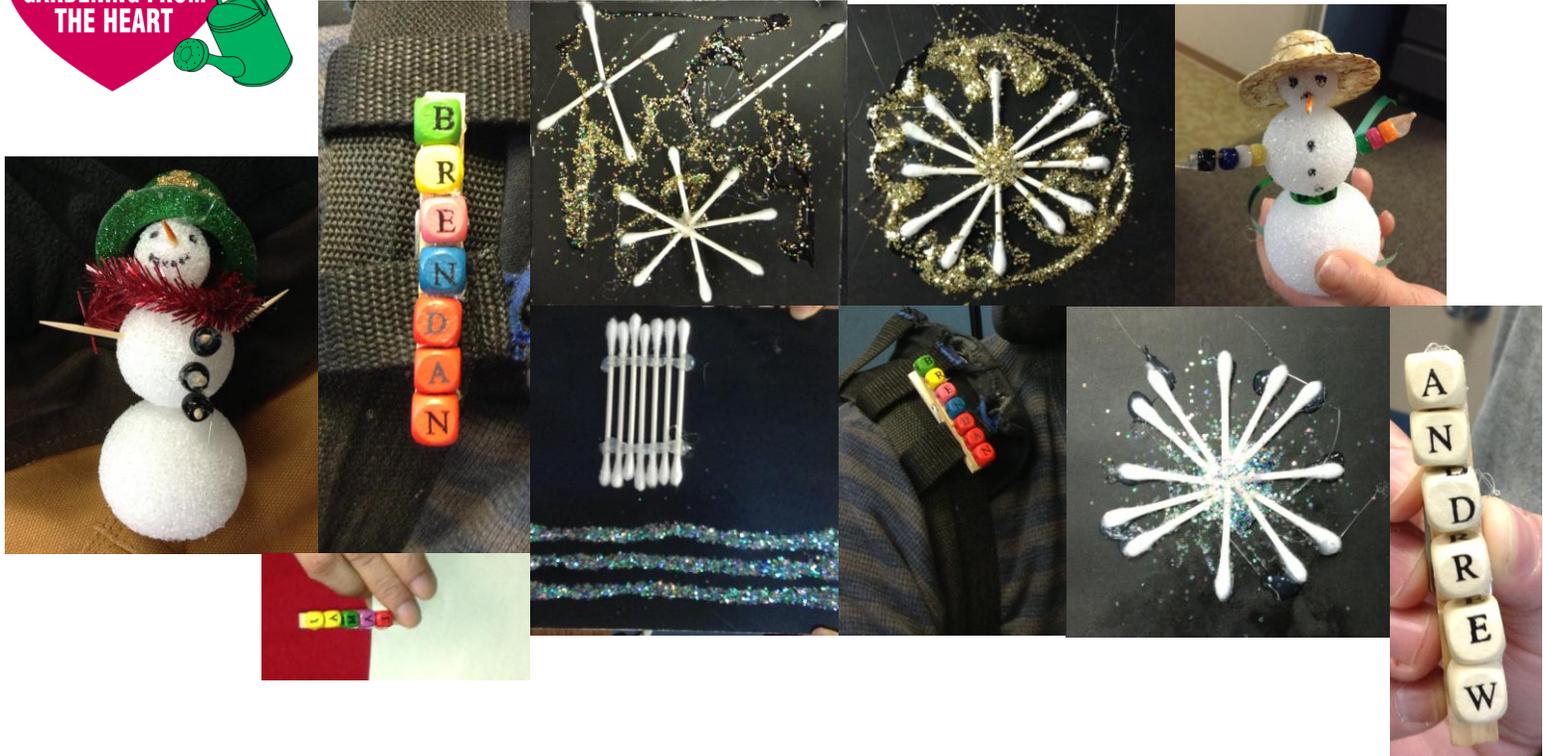
Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## .Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services



Volunteers during February included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Greg Shields, and Bruce Wilcox.**  
This month we planted cuttings, made snowmen, snowflakes out of q-tips, and decorated magnetic clothes pins for the refrigerator.



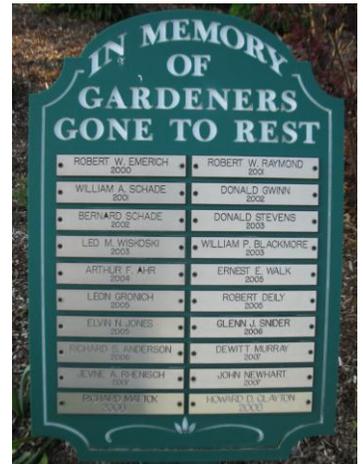
## Memorial Garden

### At the Albany County Cooperative Extension

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



7/28/2005 Memorial Garden



## Adopt-a-Highway



Greg Shields – Chief Architect 12/2013



## Albany International Airport Don Wrieden - Chairman



## Harris Memorial Centerpiece

At our January dinner meeting it was decided that this beautiful **Harris Memorial Centerpiece** should be given to **Bob Ireland** (past national president) in memory of his Dad - **Charles Ireland** who recently joined the Gardeners Gone to Rest. Each month, the **Harris** family, **Phil**, **Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents. We normally raffle it off to raise money for our memorial fund. The more I think about it, the more amazed I am at how much time, talent and money goes into each one of the centerpieces that **Phil** has been bringing, to every meeting, for more years than I can remember.

The photo is the January 2014 **Harris Memorial Centerpiece** (see the birdhouse? – think **Spring!**).



**Thanks to the Harris kids!**

## Garden & Flower Show at HVCC

The theme this year is:

### Storybook Gardens

As we have for many many years, we will have an Educational booth at the Capital District Garden & Flower Show that will be held March 21 – 23 at Hudson Valley Community College. We are looking for ideas as well as people to set up and man the booth beginning Friday morning until Sunday evening when we tear down the booth. This is a great opportunity to let the community know how much we do and how rewarding it would be if they joined the MGCA.

There will be a signup sheet at the dinner meeting. We are looking for volunteers to man the booth on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You can decide what time is best for you. When can you be there? For information contact **Bill Danish** [wd12@cornell.edu](mailto:wd12@cornell.edu) or leave a message at 286-2791.

Friday, March 21st	10AM - 8PM
Saturday, March 22nd	10AM - 7PM
Sunday, March 23rd	10AM - 5PM

## Plant Sale May 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

**We need your help...** Every year the MGCA holds its biggest – and only – fundraised of the year. We strongly encourage our members to prepare items that can be sold on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 at our sale. Some members like Gill O’Brien bring awesome tomatoes, others veggies, and John O’Grady has often brought raspberry bushes. There is talk of digging up some Rose of Sharon, planting basil, etc. You get the idea. If you grow it we don’t have to buy it from a grower which helps tremendously, especially if we get stuck with items that didn’t sell due to bad weather. We are losing about \$2000 per year supporting all of our great projects – please help us by planting something that we can sell the day before Mother’s Day – Saturday, May 10, 2014.

Thanks!!!!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Director’s meeting</b> – all members invited
March 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	Center for Disability Services – 314 Manning Blvd
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
March 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Capital District Garden &amp; Flower Show at HVCC</b>
February 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Dinner Meetings</b> Best Western Sovereign Hotel 1228 Western Ave Albany, NY
March 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	
May 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 2:00pm	<b>MGCA Plant Sale – Delmar, NY</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**

Click on this link to read his story: <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-  
Open Easter through Christmas  
Vegetable & Bedding Plants  
Perennials, Shrub & Trees  
Bulk Mulch & top soil  
Farm Fresh Produce  
Fresh, local baked goods  
Seasoned firewood

Rt. 20, Guilderland  
(just past 146)

www.gadefarm.com  
like us on Facebook  
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: crobinson@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*