



836 Meadowdale Rd., Altamont, NY 12009 \* (518) 861-6850 \* e-mail:  
[chuckscatlady@nycap.rr.com](mailto: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. 5**

**May, 2014**

### **MAY DINNER / Ladies night**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30pm**

Ladies, we need you to join us - Please!

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

**APPETIZER:** Garden Salad

**ENTREE:**

- \* Salmon
- \* Pork with Apple Walnut Stuffing
- \* Pasta Alfredo with Chicken

**DESSERT:** Chocolate Fudge Cake Dinner Price: \$ 20.00

**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.

**Ambiance** is a floral design studio known for thinking outside the vase. And, **Michele** is a versatile Floral artist, with design styles from Classic to Modern Trends. With over 20 years of experience, **Michele** brings creativity and energy in to each design, wedding and event. Her award winning style and passion for what she does has clients returning year after year.



### **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, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 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](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.

## Membership

I'm sorry to report that **Lee Negus** has joined the list of Gardener's Gone to Rest. **Lee Negus** was so intelligent, caring, and thoughtful, and he used his talents to enhance the lives of others. As an educator, he had the skills and the know how to connect with our youth which allowed him to share his knowledge of gardening and mentor countless numbers of kids. **Lee Negus** helped so many to learn about gardening and even grow pumpkins worthy of national recognition. Every year **Lee Negus** would distribute Big Pumpkin, Giant Sunflower, Spirit Pumpkin and flower seeds as well as tomato plants to youth in at least three local counties. **Lee Negus** would work with other MGCA members to insure that when the youth picked up their seeds they were properly trained and assigned a mentor to follow their progress throughout the year. In October he would have the youth bring in their Giant Pumpkins, Giant Sunflowers and best looking pumpkins in for judging by nationally accredited judges. **Lee Negus** was one of those guys that did so much without really saying much. When he first was unable to get to our meetings we had a real tough time as we realized all that he had been doing, and spending his own money on, for so many years. We all owe **Lee Negus** a huge **THANKS!** for all **Lee Negus** has done to improve the lives of so many people.



**We're going to really miss you! Thanks again for all you have done to make this a better world to live in.**

### LeRoy Bliss Negus



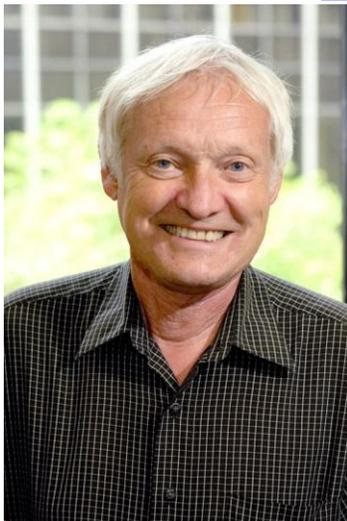
**Negus, LeRoy Bliss** ALTAMONT **LeRoy Bliss Negus**, 80, died Sunday, April 27, 2014 at the Our Lady of Mercy Life Center in Guilderland. Born in Richford, he moved to Voorheesville in 1969 and then to Altamont five years ago. **LeRoy** was a graduate of Newark Valley High school and received his bachelors and masters degrees from SUNY Albany. He began his career as a math teacher at the Gilboa-Conesville Central school and then worked 30 years for the NYS Department of Education, retiring as supervisor of math in 1995. He was an avid gardener and was a member of the Men's Garden Club. Also, he was a volunteer at the Cooperative Extension in Voorheesville. Survivors include his wife, **Margaret Hodges Negus**; children, **Jeffrey Negus** of New York City and **Brenda Zeh (Peter)** of Voorheesville; grandchildren, **Rebecca and Sean Clair**; step-gandchildren, **Michael Clair, Jonathan Zeh** and **Christian Zeh**; and brothers, **Merle Negus, Russell Negus (Marilyn), Leslie Negus (Betty)** and **Vernon Negus (Sandy)**. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Friends are invited to visit with **LeRoy's** family Tuesday, April 29, 2014 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Reilly & Son funeral home, Voorheesville. For those who wish, memorial contributions to The **Michael J. Fox** Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777 would be appreciated. reillyandsonfuneralhome.com

## Joachim Frank Awarded 2014 Franklin Medal in Life Science

<http://newsroom.cumc.columbia.edu/blog/2013/11/14/joachim-frank-franklin-medal/>

Am I awake? Can you believe this? I get goose bumps thinking about this every time I read about **Joachim Frank, PhD** being awarded the [2014 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science](#).

I always knew that there was something special about the people that join the MGCA, but I never imagined I could ever say I knew someone that received a **Franklin Institute award**, one of the **most prestigious science awards in the world**. Previous winners include **Alexander Graham Bell, and Albert Einstein**.



## Joachim Frank Awarded 2014 Franklin Medal

Susan Conova / November 14, 2013

Posted in: [Campus News](#), [Research](#)

### Joachim Frank

[Joachim Frank](#), PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, will be awarded the [2014 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science](#) by the [Franklin Institute](#) of Philadelphia.

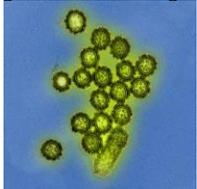
The award recognizes Dr. Frank for the development of cryo-electron microscopy, for using this technology to investigate the structure of large organic molecules at high resolution, and for discoveries regarding the mechanism of protein synthesis in cells.

**The Franklin Institute awards—first presented in 1824—are among the oldest and most prestigious science awards in the world. Previous winners include Alexander Graham Bell, Pierre and Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking. Today the award is presented to researchers in the fields of chemistry, computer and cognitive sciences, earth and environmental science, engineering, life science, and physics.**

**The award will be presented at a ceremony at the Franklin Institute on April 24, 2014.**

### Frank's Techniques Reveal Hidden World of Molecules

Dr. Frank, who joined Columbia in 2008 from the Wadsworth Center in Albany, originally trained as a physicist and became an expert in the analysis of images taken with the electron microscope. Electron microscopy makes it possible to capture the image of objects too small to be seen by light microscopes.



*Electron microscopes allow us to see objects, like this flu virus, that are invisible with light microscopes. Photo: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.*

Viruses, proteins, and even atoms are visible with today's electron microscopes. But even though a single "snapshot" from an electron microscope creates a wonderfully detailed image, that image is only two-dimensional. Biologists must see all three dimensions to understand how a molecule

works.

That's fairly easy when the object is inert. To create a 3-D reconstruction of an object, multiple shots are taken of the object from different angles and then mathematically melded together into a single 3-D image. But that technique does not work for biological molecules, because the powerful electron beam used during the imaging process incinerates the fragile molecules after just a few shots.

The solution to the problem came from Dr. Frank, who had the idea of creating a 3-D image of a molecule by taking shots of thousands of identical molecules lying in different orientations and then combining them. In the late 1970s, Dr. Frank developed the necessary computational methods for reconstructing biological molecules from thousands of images, still employed today by most structural biologists who use electron microscopy.

Dr. Frank used the methods to reveal the 3-D shape of ribosomes, complex molecules that act like factories of the cell, synthesizing all of the cell's proteins. Combining his mathematical methods with techniques that freeze the molecules in a thin layer of liquid ice (the cryo- in cryo-electron microscopy), he obtained the first 3-D image of the ribosome that clearly showed its two separate subunits and, later, an even more detailed image that gave researchers new insights into how the ribosome works.

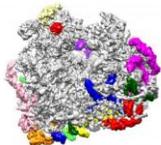


*Methods devised by Joachim Frank turn images like this—showing the blurry outlines of hundreds of individual ribosomes at different angles—into finely detailed 3-D images. See below.*

Since then, higher-resolution cameras and faster and more powerful computers have advanced electron microscopy to the point where it's capable of revealing molecular details down to the size of an atom, putting the method on an equal footing with X-ray crystallography.

Dr. Frank has continued to innovate to gain more insight into how molecular machines accomplish their tasks. He has invented methods that allow biologists to use a single sample of molecules to capture all the different shapes a molecule takes as it performs its function.

In Dr. Frank's own work with ribosomes, he has used this "story in a sample" approach to look at how ribosomes interact with other molecules during the different steps of protein production. Like multiple still shots for a movie, his studies have revealed how one subunit of the ribosome rotates back and forth in a ratcheting motion to add amino acids during protein production, a process that is the same in all kingdoms of life.



*A view of the ribosome from *T. brucei*, the parasite that causes African sleeping sickness. The structure reveals parts of the ribosome that could be targeted to kill the parasite. Image: Joachim Frank and Yaser Hashem.*



### **Joachim Frank Awarded 2014 Franklin Medal - continued**

Basic studies of how the ribosome works in general have recently led to discoveries that may lead to better drugs for certain diseases. In a 2013 Nature [paper](#), Dr. Frank's team uncovered unique details of the ribosome from the parasite that causes African sleeping sickness, details that may lead to new drugs to kill the parasite. Another 2013 Nature [paper](#) revealed how viral RNA commandeers the ribosome of the virus's host to produce new viruses.

For his accomplishments in electron microscopy, Dr. Frank was elected in 2006 to the prestigious [National Academy of Sciences](#) and the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#);



shared the Elizabeth Roberts Cole Award of the [Biophysical Society](#) for developing methods of 3-D reconstruction of biological macromolecules; and was elected a Fellow of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) and of the Biophysical Society.

**Tagged:** [electron microscopy](#), [Joachim Frank](#), [ribosome](#), [structural biology](#)



### **April Program**

**Barbara Chepaitis**, author, presented a very interesting program about her work to – all 137 days of it – to get a wounded eagle out of Afghanistan and into the **Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary and Botanical Gardens**. Apparently an afgan soldier had one bullet left and he used it to shoot an Eagle. Its wing was damaged and a Navy Seal and his team rescued the Eagle and somehow found some material to make a cage for the bird. The soldiers, including Navy SEALs, Army Rangers and former Army Special Forces now employed as military contractors – gathered up the bird, bandaged its shattered wing, built a cage and helped with the eagles' convalescence. Part of its wing needed to be amputated and they cared for it the best they could. They had heard of **Peter Dubacher's Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary** and Botanical Gardens and they contacted him asking for help. **Barbara Chepaitis** got Very involved and seemed to be hitting brick walls with the regulations of two federal agencies. Eventually after working with **Senator Schumer**, **Hillary Clinton** and the White House staff, they were able to get the Eagle transported to the **Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary and Botanical Gardens**. The Bird (**Mitch**) seems happy and you can even go and visit him after Memorial Day. You can read more about **Mitch** at: <http://www.birdparadise.org/afghan-eagle-rescued-by-us-fighters.html>



You can buy **Barbara's** books *Feathers of Hope* and *One Good Deed in a Wicked World - Saving Eagle Mitch* @ Amazon and Barnes and Nobles books online. Or at <http://www.sunypress.edu>  
A bunch of us are already planning our trip to the **Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary** and Botanical Gardens.

If you're not an Internet person – that might be good – no viruses to worry about. Just call **Peter Dubacher** – the owner of the **Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary and Botanical Gardens** – at (518) 279-3801.

**Berkshire Bird Paradise Sanctuary and Botanical Gardens** is one of the largest Bird Sanctuaries in the country with over 1000 birds and almost 100 different species. About 40% are permanently disabled and will be there for the rest of their lives.

**Thanks to Barbara Chepaitis for a very interesting program!!!!**

<http://www.birdparadise.org/afghan-eagle-rescued-by-us-fighters.html>

## Feature Article - Swiss Chard - the Perfect Vegetable

Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann



No denial here – Swiss Chard is my favorite vegetable. It's the LeBron James of the garden – does it all week in and week out. Are you interested in nutrition? Well, Swiss Chard can't be beat – an excellent source of high quality protein (amazed?), dietary fiber, vitamin B6, vitamin K, vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin E, as well as minerals such as zinc, potassium, iron, manganese, calcium and zinc. The

sole knock on Swiss Chard is its fairly high concentration of salt .

How about versatility? Good raw in a salad? Check. Cooked greens? Check. Asparagus substitute? Check. What's not to like?

So you're persuaded that you want to grow Swiss Chard? Here's how to go about it.

Like most greens, Swiss Chard likes a rich loam with plenty of organic material. Soil pH should be in the 6.0-7.0 range.

Starting Swiss Chard indoors is considered good form. Since the seed will not germinate consistently in soil below 50 degrees F., direct sowing usually can't be done before May. To get an earlier harvest, start your seed indoors about 4/15 and then transplant it into the garden about 5/15, or when the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees. One slight drawback with chard is that it's not particularly appreciative of the cold, so don't rush it. Like lettuce and other greens, you're faced with the momentous decision of how to harvest your beloved chard. Alternatives include:

1. Harvest the whole plant, roots and all. The only reason to do this is if you want the space for some other plant or you're having a particularly unsettling time of it that day.
2. Cut off all the leaves about 1" above ground level. The plant will regenerate tender new leaves.
3. Harvest only the outer leaves and the plant will continue to grow new leaves at its center.

If you select door #3, then leave 10" between plants. Otherwise 6" will suffice.

Swiss Chard, like many greens, performs very well as a fall crop. Start indoors at the start of July, and by late September you'll be enjoying another round of savory chard.

A further bonus of your new found appreciation of Swiss Chard comes from its comely appearance. Varieties such as Bright Lights, Bright Yellow and Charlotte will enhance the appearance of most flower beds, so there's no need to practice strict flower/vegetable segregation.

Another variety worth considering is Fordhook Giant. As its modest name advertises, this variety generates outstanding yields, but without the startling good looks of its siblings. Sort of like the decision many women face at one time or another in their lives – the chiseled football stud or the pimply nerd millionaire-to-be. In this case you truly can have your hulk and your millions too - all for the price of a couple of seed packets.

### Row Covers

Like many types of greens, Swiss Chard grows well under row covers. Especially in the spring, newly emergent greens are vulnerable to pests such as flea beetles, leaf miners and slugs. Left unprotected these unwanted garden visitors can chew small plants so severely that they die or take weeks to regain their vigor. The reason springtime is such a difficult time for young greens is that the enemies of these pests have not yet arrived on the scene. To remedy the situation, use row covers which provide a physical barrier between your greens and the ever-present horde of leaf chompers. Row covers come in different thicknesses depending on your need to prevent frost damage. For purpose of blocking insects, the lightest weight will suffice.

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

Oh yeah, he just built 10 fancy schmancy bluebird mansions to be sold at our **Plant Sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>** – you should buy them in pairs – the early *blue* Bird gets the nest.

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

344 Delaware Ave Delmar, NY

Don Wrieden – Chairman

We need your help... Every year the MGCA holds its biggest – and only fundraiser 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!!!!



## Plant Sale



Men's Garden Club  
Of Albany

### Sat May 10

(Day before Mother's day)  
8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

parking lot at  
**Delmar Dental Medicine**

(next to St Thomas the Apostle Church)

344 Delaware Ave, Delmar



## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY

### Scholarships

Seeking Candidates for Scholarship



Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? Candidates may be male or female, and pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field. For more information, please contact **Greg Goutos**, [ggoutos@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ggoutos@nycap.rr.com) Scholarship Chair at 861-6052.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website <http://www.mensgardenclubofalbany.org/>

### Albany International Airport

#### Don Wrieden – Chairman

Don is asking for help planting at the airport on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

If you can help, please contact **Don Wrieden @ 785-7496**

**Thanks!!!**



### Gardening from the Heart

#### At the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers during April included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Greg Shields, and Bruce Wilcox.** We've been real busy with cuttings and we welcomed back the two that spend the winters in a warmer part of the country by letting them work outside on the raised beds in the cold rain.



### Altamont Fair – August 12<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

#### Chairman – Joe Huth

**Joe Huth** is planning to demonstrate container gardening that include flowers and an emphasis on vegetable plants. He has ordered a grow box as well as seeds for five different colored peppers. I'm sure he would love to hear your thoughts about making this a successful event.

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



Please let **Chuck Scott** or **Joe Huth** know if you have any time to help spruce up our Memorial Garden. We certainly want it looking especially nice since we lost so many great members this year.



7/28/2005 Memorial Garden

**Adopt-a-Highway**



Greg Shields

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

June 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	Director's meeting – all members invited Center for Disability Services – 314 Manning Blvd
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Dinner Meeting Best Western Sovereign Hotel
May 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 2:00 pm	MGCA Plant Sale – 344 Delaware Ave. Delmar, NY
July 24 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm – Dinner @ 6:00pm	MGCA Annual Summer picnic and Memorial Service Albany County Cooperative Extension 24 Martin Road Voorheesville,
August 12 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Altamont Fair – Container gardening

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>

**History - 25 years ago**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MAY 4, 1989**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, May 4, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Don Lewis** opened the meeting at 8:04 after the packaging of the seeds to be used in the Sunflower and Pumpkin growing contest. Packaging started at 6:30.

The Minutes of the April 6, 1989 meeting were approved as amended by our Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of April 30, 1989 there was a total of \$850.64 in the General Fund, (in 1988 it was \$547.07). In the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$475.59, (in 1988 it was \$547.07). In the Key Advantage Account the balance was \$5,232.22, (in 1988 it was \$5,196.38).

**Ferd Johnson** advised the Board of the meeting with the group in Glens Falls for the purpose of starting a new club in that area. He will meet with anybody who would like to assist in this venture on May 24, 1989 at the Howard Johnson's on route 7. At this point, we can all go in a couple of cars rather than have a lot of cars going. All members are welcome to come.

**Lee Negus** thanked the group for counting and packaging the seeds which will be used by the youth gardening program. This project was done before the regular meeting.

The Scholarship proposal was once again presented. Many suggestions were made. **Don** will have to incorporate these in a redrafting of the proposal.

The Tax Exempt status is still in the works.

The Board decided that the Ladies Night dinner should be moved to 7:00 instead of 6:30. Full details will be found in the Dirt, the date of which is May 25.

**Joe Raggio** reported that he had been contacted by some interested parties from the Bethlehem Middle School concerning landscaping their grounds. They would like any interested man or men to be advisors for a group of students and parents in this landscaping project. The discussion resulted in a recommendation that an announcement be put in the Dirt asking for any one willing to do this.

**Don Stevens** reported on plans for the Plant Sale. The bank is all set. **Rod Kermani** has flyers. **Charley Schade** will check with Rod and assist with flyers and plants. **Don** is still taking orders for Begonias.

**Bill Krug** gave tomato plants for the Youth Gardeners. The Secretary should write a letter of thanks to him.

**Ken York** mentioned that we should start making plans for Fair activities. He also stated that we should ask member for some slides of gardening activities so that a slide-tape show could be developed. **Al Miller** asked that a paragraph be given to him for the Dirt.

**Herm May** recommended that the Club consider putting some of our funds in a 6 month or one year C D. **Herm** made the motion that the Key Bank Advantage Account be rolled over into a 6 month CD. **Ken York** seconded it and the motion was passed.

**Ken York** asked members to look around for possible landscaped areas worthy of Awards. We should be getting more visibility and publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

With the able assistance of the Assistant Secretary, **Lee Negus**, the minutes are

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!!!**

*In Memory*  
*Of My*  
*Loving Wife, Jessie*  
*Jerry Flax*

*In Memory of*  
*Louis Meo*  
*&*  
*Richard Stankus*

*In Memory of*  
*Ed Tompkins*

*In Memory of*  
*Avrom Koblenz*

*Jerry Flax*

*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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*Carroll W. Greenman*

*Russ, Maria, and Carl*

*In Memory of my parents*



*John and Carrie Meagher*

*They both loved Plants and Flowers*

*Jack Meagher*