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

(Serving the greater capital region)
Celebrating 78 years of service to our community
(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 77 NO. 9

November, 2014

DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 20th @ 6:30 pm

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Baked Chicken

Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce and Meatballs

Fish and Chips

DESSERT: Apple pie

Price: \$ 22.00

PROGRAM:

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, November 13th, 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

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

Joe Herman is / was in Samaritan hospital and we wish him the best

Thanks for October Program

Last month we were fortunate to learn how we can landscape our yard with things that look good and can double as your vegetable garden. **Denise Maurer**, Rensselaer County Master Gardener and proprietor of **Denise Maurer Interiors**, presented a nice talk on "**Edible Landscaping**". Thanks so much to **Denise Maurer** for a very interesting and informative evening.

Feature Article - Dealing with Woodchucks Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

Dealing with Woodchucks

One of the most frustrating incidents in the life of a vegetable gardener is to discover that a significant portion of your garden has disappeared into the gullet of some animal(s). Often the culprit is a woodchuck, often referred to as the "perfect garden pest." Here are some suggestions to deal with this varmint on a short term and long term basis.

But first, a little background information on your furry garden destroyer. The woodchuck (often called the ground hog) is a card-carrying member of the rodent family. Growing as large as 30 pounds, woodchucks are primarily vegetarians (perhaps vegans as well). Like most rodents, woodchucks reproduce at an astonishing rate, thus making trapping no more than a short term solution. Woodchucks rarely wander very far from their burrow, so very often one of their first chores is to truly make themselves at home in your garden.

In the short term you **MUST** get rid of your unwelcome guest quickly before nothing of worth is left. Get down to your local hardware store and shell out about \$50 for the appropriate sized Havaheart (or equivalent) trap. Position it as near to the woodchuck's lair or his point of entry into the garden. Bait the trap with cantaloupe (woodchucks absolutely adore cantaloupe – use it unless it's unavailable). One factor in your favor – a woodchuck is no Einstein, and very often you'll get lucky very quickly. For the sake of your garden, let us hope so.

In the long term you must fence the beasts out (when you dispose of one, another will enter their territory very soon afterwards, so trapping most often is a repeating exercise in futility.) You'll need fencing that is dug at least 6 inches into the soil to keep them from digging under, and since barbed wire is frowned upon in most neighborhoods, an electrified strand of wire at the top of the fence to prevent over-the-top entry.

I have a 6 foot stockade fence around my garden (to keep out the deer) and in ten years I've only had 2 woodchuck incursions. However I believe that if we lived in a more rural locale, then an electric fence would most likely be necessary (by the way, woodchucks can climb a wooden fence with ease).

Yes, yes, yes – these measures aren't cheap, but they are necessary for your peace of mind and long term sanity. Sorry, but otherwise you're inevitably going to chuck the whole gardening thing and go back to reruns of Everybody Loves Raymond. Now that's a 5 star tragedy.

Feature Article - Dealing with Woodchucks - continued
Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann



Thanks to Paul Zimmermann!!! Is there anything that man can't do? His fancy schmancy bluebird mansions are popping up all over – we have seen them at our Plant Sale on May 10th, at our annual picnic, and at the Altamont Fair.

History - 25 years ago

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 2, 1989, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President **Don Lewis**.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented by our Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of October 31, 1989 there was a total balance on hand in the General Fund of \$1,622.74 (1988 it was \$3,989.08). In the Memorial Fund there was a balance of \$4,590.02. The Certificate of Deposit will mature on November 15 at \$5,511.45, which shows an interest growth of \$244.45. The Board instructed **Paul** to transfer the earned interest to our General Fund account and to renew the Certificate at \$5,267.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee: **Wally Dillenbeck**, Chairman;

1. November 16 - Meeting will be in the Wolfert's Roost, cost \$14.00. The speaker will be **Norm Sebastian**, weatherman from Channel 10.

2. December 14 - This will be Ladies Invited Night and Awards Ceremony, cost \$14.00. A Barbershop Quartet will provide entertainment.

Gardening From The Heart: **Don Otterness** reported that he and **Wally Dillenbeck** will take the ground measurements for the CP Greenhouse. The plastic covering will not be installed until this spring.

Bulb Sale: **Don Stevens** will try to sell unsold bulbs and those he is unable to sell will return them to Chairman **Joe Raggio** who will also try to sell them. The Money taken in at the Berkshire Garden Center amounted to \$2,327.90. The Board voted to send \$700.00 to the Center as our Annual Contribution.

Scholarship: One of the two Scholarship candidates dropped out of the competition because he changed his Major course of study. The remaining candidate, a girl from Scotia will be interviewed soon. It was decided that the scholarship money should be sent directly to the Cobleskill College.

Calendar Committee: **Scott**, our staff coordinator at the CP Center has asked for 24 calendars that he will sell at the Center. These will be delivered to him by one of our members.

Plant Sale: **Don Otterness**, Chairman asked for a co-chairman, **Joe Huth** volunteered to assist.

A second location in Guilderland has not been selected as yet.

Membership: **Our total paid membership stands at 120.**

OTHER BUSINESS

It was decided that the next Board meeting should be November 30 instead of December 7, because that date would be too close to the December 14 Ladies Invited Night.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01.

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!!!**

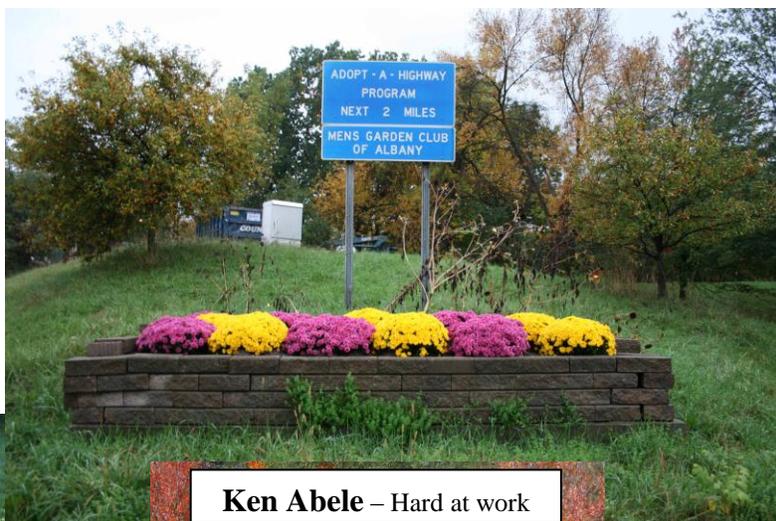
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman Airport Planting

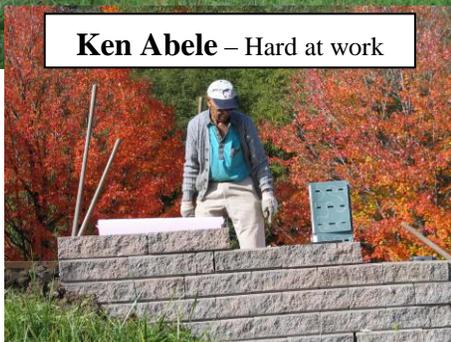
Monday October 13th **Tom Baker,**
Jack Meagher, Chuck Scott and
Don Wrieden planted mums and bulbs at the entrance
to the Albany International Airport. Thanks guys! The
mums look great now and the tulips will look great in the Spring.



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele – Hard at work



Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

Each month, the **Harris family, Phil, Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents. Since **Phil** is in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 he was unable to attend our meeting. Fortunately **Dave Harris** found time to make AND bring this monster centerpiece to our October dinner meeting. It is raffled 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** and **Dave** have been bringing, to every meeting, for more years than I can remember. What talent and generosity that family has. We can't begin to thank all of you for all you have done for us over the years.

Thanks again to the Harris kids!

**Harris Memorial Centerpiece
Made by Dave Harris for 10/23/2014**



Nationally Accredited Judges

We are so fortunate to have the following nationally accredited judges as members of our club.

BILL DANISH, JOE HERMAN, BOB IRELAND, and HERM MAU. These men have helped in so many ways – anything from Youth Gardening to regional, state and national events. Wouldn't you like to be part of this elite group?

Please contact any board member or **Bob Ireland** to find out how you can become a nationally accredited judge.

Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension

Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen

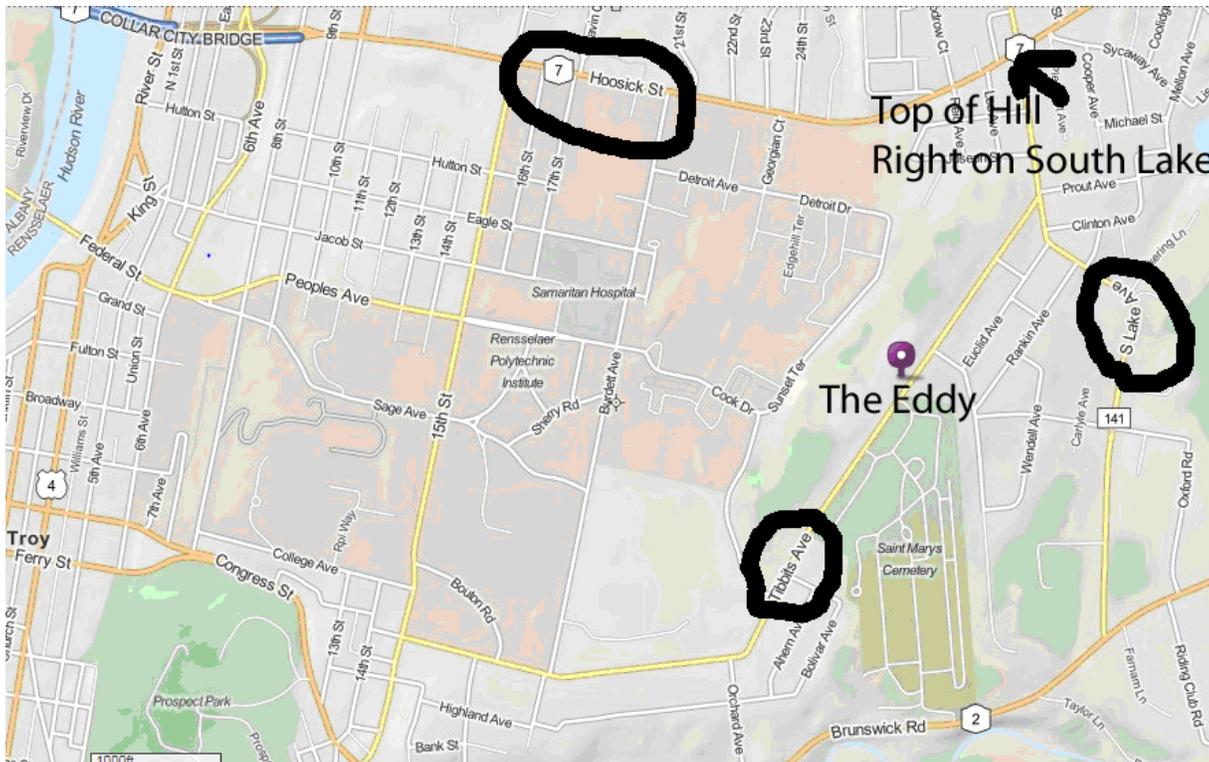


Ken Abele – Hard at work
Or should I say, making hard work easy?

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 See map</p>
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	<p>Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY</p>
November 20 th @ 6:30pm	<p>Monthly Dinner meeting and Harvest Auction Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany</p>
December 4 th @ 7:30 pm	<p>Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited</p>

Russ Greenman and Jack Meagher, Editors



Phil Harris is in room 315 Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

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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Carroll W. Greenman

Russ, Maria, and Carl

The following growers donated to our 2014 Plant Sale
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