



36 Tanners Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144 * (518) 465-1095
pmzimmy@gmail.com



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

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

VOLUME 78 NO. 2

February, 2015

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 26th @ 6:30 pm -
Ladies - please join us - we need you

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Eggplant Parmigiana
Baked Chicken
Seafood Stuffed Sole

DESSERT: Carrot Cake **Price:** \$ 22.00

PROGRAM: Beekeeping and the Beekeeping Industry by Mr. Paul Cappy, New York State Apiculturist

Mr. Cappy was a commercial beekeeper for 24 years, and his bee business pollinated crops from Maine to Florida. He has been keeping bees for over 50 years, since the age of 12. As State apiculturist, **Paul** and his team monitor the bee populations of some 50 large commercial operations, (representing over one Billion bees) as well as many smaller operations, to ensure the bees are healthy and disease free.

Mr. Cappy holds a degree from Cornell University in business and apiary science.

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 (**one week prior to the meeting**) by **Thursday, February 19th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - Note: Callers – Please call **Russ Greenman** with your group's reservations. You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

January's Program - Thank You!

Hydrangeas - presented by: Master Gardener **Keith Austin**

Keith Austin really knows his stuff. **Keith's** presentation was jam packed with practical information that you need to know if you want to successfully grow Hydrangeas that bloom. We learned important things like how and when to prune and that not all Hydrangeas get pruned at the same time of the year. I had always thought that PH dictated the color of the bloom – and, although that is somewhat true, aluminum may be the biggest factor. **Keith Austin's** program is among the best program we have had in a while and I'm not saying this because I have known **Keith** for 50 years.

Thanks Keith Austin for an educational and fun evening out!

Membership

Dues are due in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – mailed to **Russ Greenman**

Please send in your dues ASAP so that we can include you in our annual membership booklet.

Membership booklet - Please let Russ know ASAP if there are any changes that need to be made to the information we publish in our membership booklet.

Hey **Ed Brohm** - We miss seeing you at our meetings and occasionally out for breakfast. Many of us know **Ed Brohm** from the garden club as well as the **Albany Society of Engineers**. Folks from both organizations are thinking of you. **Ed Brohm** we hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

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](#) -.

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](#)

Ed Brohm is home and unable to get out to meetings - please keep him in your prayers.

Bob Pratt – We found him! His new phone number is: (518) 368-4906

Sal Schiavo - **Sal** hasn't been able to get to our meetings in quite some time... but, when he did - he sure pulled his weight. I always remember the work he did to help **Henry Fox** make our plant sale a great success. I'm sure he would appreciate a card or phone call (439-4815).

Feature Article -
Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

Building a Compost Pile

Whole books have been written on this subject, so what you're reading here is just the basics, but it should be enough to get you started.

Building a compost pile can be quite simple, or less than quite simple. Before heading down one path or the other, think about your goals:

- How much compost do you need?
- How soon do you need it?
- How much time and energy do you have available?
- What organic waste do you have at your disposal?

To help you answer the first question, consider using the following calculation. Many gardeners aim to spread an inch of compost each year on all their garden beds. If you have 1000 square feet to cover (that's a serious garden), then you would need 1000 sq feet/9 sq ft per yard/36 inches/yard=3 cubic yards of compost. Purchased, that's about \$120. You would need to build about six 3'x3'x3' compost piles (assuming a 50% size reduction from the initial state to finished compost state) to provide the equivalent amount of compost.

Having second thoughts? Can't blame you, but you can always start small and see if you find composting rewarding, and then expand your operation later.

Some basics first:

A compost pile needs 4 ingredients:

- Browns – the food that microorganisms break down
- Greens – the ignition fuel
- Water – more food for the microorganisms
- Air – still more food for our little friends

So, what are browns? Think hay, straw, leaves and other dead vegetable matter.

Greens? It's vegetable matter high in nitrogen such as freshly cut grass. Without a sufficient quantity of greens, you'll end up with a cold compost pile. With enough, your pile will heat up and fresh compost is only a few weeks away.

Sufficient air and water move the process along in both cases.

In all cases, the more surface area exposed to microorganism activity, the faster the composting process will work. This means that shredded leaves will compost faster than whole leaves and that wood chips break down faster than branches.

Compost piles generally fall into one of two categories:

- Long and cold
- Fast and hot

Feature Article - continued
Written by our very own Paul Zimmermann

Let's say you want your compost soon (less than a month). You need to build a hot pile, and you have some work ahead of you. Here are the primarily ingredients:

1. Sufficient mass (critical mass?). A 3' by 3' by 3' pile should do the trick.
2. An approximate 1:20 ratio of browns to greens
3. All the ingredients shredded into reasonably small pieces
4. Moisture

Once you have the ingredients, here's how to assemble your compost pile:

1. Add a layer of browns and then a thin layer of greens.
2. Moisten to 'dampness' but not sogginess.
3. Continue to repeat steps 1 and 2 until you're done.
4. Cover the pile with a tarp (optional)

In 3 or 4 days the interior of the pile should be warm, if not hot. If so, compost is on the way.

Things that can go wrong:

1. Pile is too wet or too dry. If too wet, ignition will be delayed a few days, but then the pile will take off. If too dry, ignition will occur but quickly peter out. You'll need to rebuild the pile, dampening as you go.
2. Too few greens. To avoid this situation I add a couple of cups of 10-10-0 fertilizer to the pile (sprinkled evenly throughout).
3. The ingredients are too granular and there's not enough surface area for the microorganisms to multiply upon.

A cold compost pile can take months or years to break down into usable compost. If you have lots of space, then building a series of cold piles makes good sense.

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 centerpeices 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 1/22/2015

History - 25 years ago

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING - **FEBRUARY 1, 1990**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, February 1, 1990, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

In the absence of either secretary, **Don Otterness** took notes on the January 4, 1990 meeting. The secretary, **Tom Baker** read these minutes, which were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**. As of January 31, 1990 in the General Fund there was a total balance of \$1,483.85 and in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$682.05. Of the CDS, one will mature on May 15, 1990 with \$5,267.45 and the second will be \$1,020 on January 8, 1993.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Chairman **Joe Raggio** reporting:

February 22 - Meeting will be held in Veeders Restaurant. The Price is \$13.00. **Dave Gade** will give slide presentation with commentaries on "Roses and their Problems in the Area". **Dave** is the Rosarian consultant with the Schenectady Rose Society.

* **Wally Dillenbeck** will no longer be taking reservations for the dinners. All reservations will now be called in to **Al Miller**.

Scholarship: **Don Otterness** Chairman made a motion, seconded by **John Piechnik** and was carried that the first Annual Local Scholarship winner, **Susan Raffon** and guest should be invited to the May 24 Ladies Night dinner and that the Club should pay for their dinners.

Plant Sales - May 12, 1990: Delmar location. **Don Stevens** as Chairman assisted by **Herm Mau** and **Rod Kermani**. Spring bulbs will be available.

Guilderland location: **Don Otterness** Chairman and committee are: **John Piechnik, Joe Huth and Fred Day**. The sale will take place in front the old Loehman's Store in the 20 Mall on Western Ave. in Guilderland. **Don** is interested in getting new members involved in this event.

Gardening From the Heart: **Al Miller** Chairman reported that **John Piechnik** is a new volunteer at the South Pearl Location of the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

Badge Disbursing Committee: **John Piechnik**, a committee of one will see that all men have an identification badge at all meetings. Please be sure to turn them in before going home!

Membership: **Bob Ireland** Chairman reported that we have 112 paid members.

OTHER BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Celebration: To steer clear of the Christmas season, **Edgar Tompkins** moved and **John Piechnik** seconded it, was carried, that we should try to get Wolfert's Roost for Thursday, December 6, or Wednesday December 12. Depends on the availability of the Roost. **Ken York, Don Otterness** and **Joe Raggio** will work toward making this a bid bash, possibility of inviting important dignitaries. Archives Committee is asked to work on an appropriate handout. Also, the entire year should focus on the 50th Anniversary.

Arboretum Fall Festival: **Don Otterness** made a motion that we participate in the George Landis Arboretum Fall Festival on September 29 with bulbs as we do at Berkshire. **Don Stevens** seconded the motion. After much discussion, **Al Miller** made a motion to table the original motion, which was carried. We will need much more information.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Upstate Meeting: Our Regional Representative and Chairman **Bob Ireland** reported that the date is Saturday, June 2. Our club is hosting the event. A possible meeting place is the Delmar Methodist Church Social Hall. A tentative activity for the ladies is a slide show given by our own **Warren Abele**. **Bob** is also working on a tour of the five Rivers.

Dinner Meeting Activity: **Ken York** and **Joe Raggio** would like to see a type of swapshop item put in the Dirt. Such things as tools, equipment, building materials for home greenhouses and plants of all kinds. The actual swapping will take place at the dinner meetings. This will be looked into. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04.

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!!!**

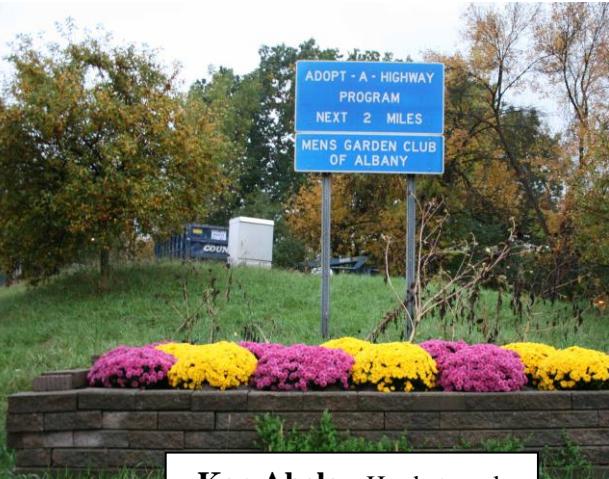
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman



Adopt-a-Highway



Ken Abele – Hard at work



Ken Abele during construction of our second raised bed on I-90 at Exit 7 Westbound. Built to last with lots of steel, many yards of concrete, some fancy filter material that **Ken Abele** found to keep the soil from washing out between the blocks, 2" foam insulation (allows us to plant tulip bulbs closer to the edges), many blocks hauled by **Ken Abele** and many yards of nice soil from **Osborne Mills Nursery** on Everett Road in Albany. And most importantly, this was build as a Memorial to an outstanding member - **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**. This project took years to get State and Federal approvals and lots of hard work from members of the Men's Garden Club of Albany.
ps. If you know who stole this - please ask them to return it Thanks!!!

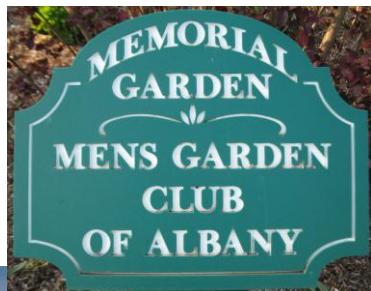
Gardening from the Heart At the Center for Disability Services



Volunteers during January included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox** and our past President – **Mr. Don Wrieden**. During the month of January we had a snow day or two. We worked on pinching back some of our cuttings and replanting those pieces that were pinched off. We should have plenty of plants that we can use for the upcoming Garden and Flower show at Hudson Valley Community College. We also played Plant Bingo with some real neat cards that give some background on the object in the photo. Some of the consumers even get Bingo twice. Our consumers are amazing – they really help us to have a better attitude toward life.



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?

Capital Region Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force

Aric A. Dicrucco - Senior Supervisor Forestry for National Grid, was recently our guest speaker and he is involved with the D.E.C. , City of Albany and other entities in the creation of the Capital Region Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force. They are looking for input from other groups and possible street tree surveys etc..

EAB Task Force meeting at the Crossings of Colonie on **Thursday 2-12-15 @1:30 pm .**
Location is 580 Albany Shaker Rd. Albany. NY .

Spring Garden Day Tamarac / Brunswick High School

May 7th – Lots of good programs!

Oh yeah, - **Mr. Paul Zimmermann** - will be giving a lecture on tomatoes at the Spring Garden Day on May 7th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Every Wednesday : @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
February 5th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited
February 12th @ 1:30 pm	Capital Region Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Task Force 580 Albany Shaker Rd. Albany. NY
February 26th @ 6:30pm	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany
March 7th 9:45am to 3:30 pm	Spring Garden Day Tamarac / Brunswick High School http://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/events/2015/03/07/spring-garden-day
March 26th , April 23rd	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies Invited Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Ave., Albany
March 27th - 29th	Garden and Flower Show @ Hudson Valley Community College - See / support MGCA Educational Booth http://gardenandflowershow.com/

Editor: Russ Greenman

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, Young*

Bruce Wilcox

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



420 Columbia Turnpike | 518.477.4163 • Fax 518.477.1360
Rensselaer, NY 12144 Email: info@beckersfarm.com
East Greenbush - Across from Columbia Plaza



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

1140 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 - (518) 785-6726
www.faddegons.com - 3 miles west of Northway Exit 6 on Rte. 7



- *Landscape Design & Build*
- *Garden Center*



Family Owned
And Operated
Since 1920

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

Please support our
advertisers



Stuyvesant Plaza & 169 Ontario Street, Albany

1140 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 - (518) 785-6726
www.faddegons.com - 3 miles west of Northway Exit 6 on Rte. 7



- *Landscape Design & Build*
- *Garden Center*



Family Owned
And Operated
Since 1920

In Memory of
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

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