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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 78 NO. 9

November, 2015

Wine About Your Garden

DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 19th @ 6:30 pm (one week early)
Ladies and the public are cordially invited

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Roast Beef
Butternut Squash Ravioli
Salmon

DESSERT: Bread Pudding

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: Wine About Your Garden

Presented by: Roger Savoy, President of Home Brew Emporium in Rensselaer

Roger Savoy will explain how to turn the fruit, berries, vegetables and flowers harvested from your garden into delicious and unique libations. Not a gardener? You will be surprised to find out which weeds work well also. He will also provide information about brewing your own beer and the different herbs and spices that can be grown in your backyard to season your home made potables. Please join us for this very interesting presentation.

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, November 12th**, please call Russ Greenman at 477-8321 - You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment

Thanks to Heidi Hill for a Great Program.
Early Gardens at the Schuyler Mansion & Crailo State Historic sites

Heidi Hill, is the Historic Site Manager at Schuyler Mansion & Crailo State Historic sites and she gave us a good understanding about the Gardens and the development of the grounds at the **Phillip Schuyler's Mansion** circa 1763-1804 during the **Schuyler** Family occupancy. **Dr. Abbuhl** so eloquently stated that **Heidi Hill's** talk helped us understand the importance of the historical events that took place in Albany and how they affected the whole nation. It really was amazing to listen to **Heidi Hill** as she described in great detail why and how **Philip Schuyler** designed his gardens and property and how things have changed over the centuries. You may want to consider taking a tour of one or both sites in the Spring.

Thanks Heidi Hill for an educational and fun evening out.

Membership

Congratulations to grandparents:
Jack and Janet Meagher

Ed Brohm should be improving but could use your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.

Phil Harris is doing well in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](http://www.2920tibbits.com), Troy, NY 12180. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend. Thanks to **Joe Herman** for bring photos from the Container gardening show at the State Fair to **Phil Harris**.

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. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 35 Years!!!** and the money goes into 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 generocity 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 and donated by the Harris
family**

History - 25 years ago – NOVEMBER 1, 1990

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 1, 1990 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 7:37.

The Secretary's Minutes of the October 4, 1990 meeting were approved as read by our Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**.

As of October 31, 1990 there was a balance on hand in the general fund of \$6,685.22 and in the Memorial fund there was balance of \$748.85. In the Endowment and Investment fund there was a balance of \$6,068.03.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Program Committee:

1. November 15: Meeting will be held in Veeder's. This will be held one week early due to Thanksgiving.

Ferd Johnson will give a talk on his adventures with potatoes in Canada. Also on the bill will be **Warren Abele**, one of our own members who will give a demonstration-talk on "Forcing Daffodils."

2. December 12: **Wally, Joe Raggio** and **Don Lewis** will meet with the Wolfert's Roost Personnel to make the final arrangements.

* Scholarship committee: There was nothing new to report.

* Memorial Committee: **Don Otterness** chairman, reported that the previous week, three Rhododendrons were planted in the Little Park in Delmar for **Elliot Rowley**. Family, friends, and members of the Club were present. **Don Lewis** made a motion to install a stone or plaque in the park in memory of **Elliot, Don Stevens** seconded the motion but it was defeated.

Nothing, as yet has been done for **Dwight Morton** or **Willis Haker**.

The Black Creek Nursery in Altamont provided the above plants.

* Bulb Sale at the Arboretum: **Wally** read a letter from the Arboretum thanking us for our participation in their Festival. Since we realized a profit of \$92.65 the Board voted to send the Arboretum a check for \$70.00 which represents, roughly 70% of our take.

The Board also voted to renew our Club membership in the Arboretum.

* Nominating Committee: A slate of officers for next year was presented and accepted by a unanimous vote by the Board. The Slate will be found in the Dirt.

* Museum Committee: **Ferd Johnson** reported that our club will have the month of July again next year.

* Audit Committee: The annual audit of our books will be done in the near future.

* News Letter: **Richard Anderson** would like the name of our News Letter changed. **Ken York** suggested in order to get **Richard** more involved that he might be asked to run a contest to rename the Dirt.

* Future Speaker: **Ken York** suggested that **Richard Anderson** would be a good speaker on Landscaping. This will be looked into.

* Dirt Advertising Committee: **Ferd Johnson** said that the ads for this year are almost completed.

* Yearbook: **Ferd Johnson** suggested that a Yearbook of the Club would be good way to make the Club more professional and more visible for the members and for the public at large. Many men thought that this was a good idea. This also should be looked into.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

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!!!**

A POSITIVE COVER-UP!

TEXT BY DAVID CHINERY

Special Thanks to **David Chinery** for the use of this article

Cover crops seem to be foreign territory to many home gardeners. It certainly isn't because we aren't in favor of the benefits they provide to the soil. Who isn't behind a plan to increase soil fertility, add soil organic matter and make better soil structure while reducing soil erosion and nipping weed problems? I can't think of anyone, maybe not even Mr. Trump, but perhaps we could get Jeb to ask him. I believe that gardeners just aren't familiar with cover crops. I'm unschooled myself, so I attended the Soil Health Field Day, sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and held in an actual Schoharie County field back on September 3.

Simply stated, cover crops cover the soil between harvestable crops. As they grow, they trap nutrients and break up soil compaction, and when they are mowed or plowed under they add organic matter and nutrients. Increasing the amount of organic matter in the soil by just 1% will make the soil hold an extra 27,000 gallons of water when it rains, thereby reducing runoff into rivers. More carbon in the soil also increases the fungi, bacteria and other wee beasties there, which in turn improves the soil "glue" and allows water to infiltrate more effectively. Plowing, rototilling or turning over the soil (all forms of tillage) reduces soil organic matter, releases nitrogen and increases weeds, problems which can be stemmed with cover crops. Eliminating or minimizing tillage and maximizing plant cover year-round protects the soil. During the times of the year when a crop isn't being grown, the soil should therefore be swathed in a cover crop. Although these concepts are aimed at larger-scale farming, they apply just as well to our vegetable gardens, too.

A variety of plants are used as cover crops. Some are grasses, including rye, wheat, oats, and Sudangrass. They grow quickly and are good at trapping nutrients and suppressing weeds in the next crop. Others are legumes, such as cowpeas, vetches and clovers, famous for their ability to take nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil. Sometimes grasses and legumes are mixed, so that the nitrogen captured by the legume can be further sequestered by the grass. Two of the most interesting cover crop plants to me are the Daikon type radish (top photo) and buckwheat (bottom photo). The radishes quickly grow huge root systems, busting through tough soils, then die over winter, leaving improved water infiltration, surface drainage, and soil warming in their wake. Buckwheat is not a grass at all (nor a former film star) but a broadleaved plant which grows fast, loosening the soil and choking out weeds. It is normally mowed before it fully flowers, but anyone concerned about pollinators will let it go, since it is a favorite of honeybees and other beneficials.

Fitting cover crops into a vegetable garden plan is tricky, and gardeners may be reluctant to fork over usable space. Yet the many positives might just reap big rewards for a gardener willing to experiment.



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**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY
CLUB ACTIVITIES
Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman**



Adopt-a-Highway



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 this September included: **Tom Baker, Maria Greenman, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox**, our past President – **Mr. Don Wrieden** and current President – **Mr. Paul Zimmermann**. We had a busy month starting with a field trip to Goolds Orchard where we picked apples – crushed a few with our chairs – and enjoyed some nice cider donuts and apple cider. The consumers picked more veggies and we hope to have another warm day to do some final cleanup of the raised beds. **Bruce Wilcox** and I picked up a truckload of pumpkins from **Becker's Farm** and the consumers showed off their artistic skills by painting pumpkins – and a few other nearby things – that they took home. We also played plant Bingo and learned about various plants, trees and garden related items.

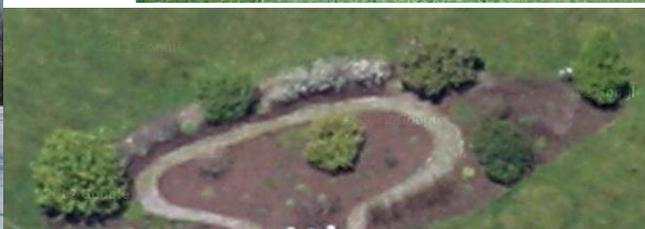
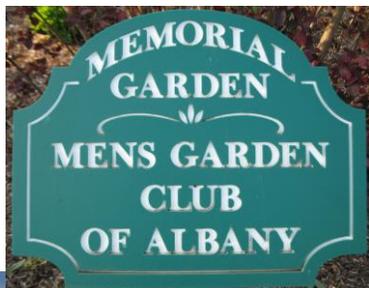
Note: We're looking for prizes to give out to the Bingo winners (everyone).

Please consider joining us - we have a blast! Our consumers are amazing and 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?

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Thursday, November 19th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Dinner Meeting (everyone invited)
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St.
November 5 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd
December 3 rd @ 7:30 pm	All members are invited
Thursday, Dec. 17th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Christmas dinner meeting (everyone invited)

Editor: Russ Greenman

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



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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