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(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 78 years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 78 NO. 7

September, 2015

MGCA Harvest Auction (everyone invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 24th @ 6:30 pm

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Meatloaf
Chicken Madeira
Broiled Sole

DESSERT: Carrot Cake

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: Harvest Auction

This is the meeting where we bring items to sell and which – as **Phil Harris** reminded me – raises money to support our Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. We have had all sorts of fruits, veggies, flowers, homemade breads, jams and jellies, and even some home brew adult beverages. More stuff = more fun = more money for the club. As always, **Don Wrieden** – our favorite auctioneer – will do his best to convince you that you can't live without whatever it is, at any cost.

It's always a fun time.

Reservations are recommended

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Wednesday, September 16th, please call **Russ Greenman** at 477-8321 - Note: callers – Please call Russ Greenman with your counts.

Thanks to Paul Zimmermann for a Great Program

Seeds - Love Them or Starve

Paul gave a very interesting and fun presentation about the importance of seeds. We learned about the different ways that various seeds propagate were amazed to see how large some seeds can get. At the end of his presentation we each received a bag of seeds and we had to match them up with the names on our paper. What a great idea!

We owe a big thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for an educational and fun program.

The **Picnic** chairman, **Paul Zimmermann, Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman,**

You guys did an awesome job!

We had a large crowd and all had fun.

Thanks!!!

Memorial Service / Gardeners - Gone to Rest

Thanks to **Joe Herman**



Joe Herman did a nice job of honoring **Ken Abele, Ray Bell, and Jack Gade Jr.** These three men certainly deserve the best. We also want to thank all of the family members that joined us for the memorial service, dinner and program. We sure hope you will join us again.

Thanks!!!

\$500 Scholarship Winner Announced

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

This year's recipient of the \$500 scholarship is **Matt Gade** of Guilderland. **Matt** is a Freshmen attending SUNY Cobleskill, where he is majoring in Agricultural Engineering and Power Machinery. He attended Guilderland High School and managed to maintain a 92 average, while working long hours on his family's landmark farm and Garden Center on Western Avenue. Also noteworthy is that **Matt** is the grandson of **Jack Gade**, a longtime member and supporter of our local club until he passed away this past April. After pursuing his bachelor's degree at Cobleskill, Matt plans to become a partner on the family farm, which would make him the 5th generation to do so.

Congratulations **Matt**, and we look forward to meeting you when you come to our December dinner meeting!

Greg Goutos

Scholarship Committee Chair

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.

Broccoli - Not Always a Presidential Favorite But an Excellent Choice for Your Garden

Written by our very own **Paul Zimmermann**

Okay, so HW doesn't like broccoli. There's no accounting for poor taste or presidential peevishness. Nevertheless, vegetable gardens should consider growing broccoli for a number reasons:

1. Many folks enjoy it's unique taste
2. It's quite nutritious
3. Quite easy to grow
4. Provides an ongoing harvest
5. The leaves as well as the broccoli heads are edible Broccoli can be grown as either a spring vegetable or a fall vegetable. Hot midsummer days bring out the worst in broccoli. Personally I like to grow it in both seasons. In the spring I purchase 12 or so plants from the nursery, and by the end of June I'm harvesting large heads. For a fall crop I grow my own seedlings. I sow the seeds at the beginning of July with an eye towards transplanting them into the garden by the end of August. It's also possible to direct sow broccoli in mid-summer (but not spring).



A few things you should know about broccoli:

1. Don't sow or transplant into the garden when the weather or soil is still cold. You're likely to end up with plants with tiny "button" heads. Toss any plants with this characteristic – you'll never get much from them (although you could eat the leaves).
2. Broccoli, like many of its Brassica cousins, likes a neutral soil. If you garden in soil that tends toward the acid side (pH<6.5) dig some lime into the soil where you'll be growing your beloved broccoli.
3. Broccoli is also a somewhat heavy nitrogen feeder, so plant in soil that has been composted the previous season and possibly give them some side feedings of a source of nitrogen (actually I don't bother most years with the side feedings and my broccoli seems quite content).
4. As mentioned before, the leaves can be stir-fried or whatever and make a very acceptable green.
5. Harvest the main heads when they are still dark green. Any hint of yellow means you should immediately harvest (the plant is starting to flower).
6. Side sprouts will emerge after harvesting the main head. Although somewhat more tedious to gather, these side shoots will extend your harvest by a few weeks.
7. The spacing between broccoli plants will influence head size. Use 20 inch spacing for the largest heads, but don't go below 12 inches.
8. Mulch your broccoli plants after they're established. Broccoli (like many vegetables) benefits from even moisture conditions.

Pests include aphids and cabbage lopper caterpillars. You can use row covers as one solution. Okay, you're ready for good eating and a presidential pardon.

Help Our Pollinators

Written by our very own Joe Huth

This winter when Greg Shields, Greg Goutos and I met to plan this year's fair exhibit we chose 'Pollinators' as a theme. As this idea developed I became increasingly concerned about the plight of all pollinators.

Initially the concern was about honey bees and the high losses from mites, diseases and Colony Collapse Disorder. However, it seemed to become apparent that many other insects and animals are also pollinators and most of them are also declining.

At the risk of over simplifying the problem, it seems that many of our good farming and gardening practices are creating the problem. Most pollinators need pollen and nectar all season long for nourishment to maintain themselves. Our advances in weed killers in lawns, gardens and farms have reduced the plants available for habitat and food for pollinators. Of course many pollinators are lost directly to pesticides used to protect crops. The trend toward large areas of lawns with shrubs and few flowers and vegetable gardens creates a 'desert' for pollinators that need pollen and nectar.

What can be done to ease the situation?

1. Plant a pollinator garden. Plant flowers that will provide pollen and nectar throughout the season. Plan a sequence of bloom and use plants that provide long season bloomers. Some possibilities are Phlox, Nasturtium, Cone Flower, Yarrow, Black eyed Susan, Bee balm and many others.
2. Use all pesticides judiciously and if possible don't use them. White clover in lawns is an excellent source of pollen and nectar that is lost to weed killers.
3. Install a bird bath. Pollinators need water as well as food.

We rely on pollinators for much of our food. It's up to all of us to do our part to protect and encourage the pollinators—bees, wasps, butterflies, moths birds and animals

NYS Fair – August 27th - September 7th

On August 27th **Joe Herman, Bob Ireland, Tom Baker** went to the NYS fair to judge the Vegetable Show. That's quite an honor to be part of something so impressive.

Joe Herman and **Bill Hurst** again were the chairmen of the container gardening that they judged on September 6th.



CONTAINER PLANTS - COURT of HONOR 2015			
TAG #	AWARD	EXHIBITOR	VARIETY
	BEST of SHOW Stanley Munroe Trophy	Bill Hurst	Sweet potato vine
Flowering			
1	Queen	Bill Hurst	Achimenes
2	King	Bill Hurst	Jerusalem Cherry
3	Princess	Vanida Baker	Dipladenia
Foliage			
4	Queen	Bill Hurst	Sweet potato vine
5	King	Robert Kenyon	Staghorn Fern planter
6	Princess	Dorothy Brock	
7	Merit Award	Robert Kenyon	Fuchsia
8	Merit Award	Dottie White	Tuberous Begonia
9	Merit Award	Bill Hurst	Pepper



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.

Altamont Fair Chairman – Joe Huth

I'd like to thank all who helped at our Altamont Fair Exhibit on Pollinators. **Greg Shields** directed the display for the exhibit and **Greg Goutos** provided the plants that were used. **Russ Greenman** provided the



display of the MGCA activities and **Tom Baker** helped put it all together.

Many members and their spouses helped man our booth. The members were Allan Villeneuve, **Larry Biggins, Rick Moore, Gary Woods, Paul Zimmermann, Jack Meagher, Bob Smith, Joe Huth, Tom Baker, Greg Goutos** and **Joe Raggio**.

Thanks again,

Joe Huth, Chairman

Paul Zimmerman donated blue bird houses that he made to be given out at the Altamont Fair. People put their names in the can and the winners were drawn after the fair.

Two of our nationally accredited judges were on hand to judge the Flowers at the Altamont Fair. Thanks goes to **Bob Ireland** and **Joe Herman**

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, September 24th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Harvest Auction (everyone invited)
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
October 1 st @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting 314 S. Manning Blvd – All members are invited

Editor: Russ Greenman

History - 25 years ago - SEPTEMBER 6, 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, September 6, 1990, in the C.P. Center for the Disabled.

First Vice President, **Joe Raggio**, opened the meeting at 7:35 reading a thank you note from Larry's Vineyard and Winery, thanking us for choosing his place for our June Meeting.

The Minutes of the June 7th meeting were approved as read by our Sec. **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**. As of August 31, 1990 the following accounts were: \$3,344.75 in the Bank Balance, \$674.02 in the Memorial Fund and \$6,036.25 in the Endowment and Investment Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Bulb Sale Committee: **Russ Greenman**, Chairman reported that a total of 12,000 bulbs were ordered of which 1,900 are earmarked for the Arboretum Country Day Festival in Esperance on Saturday, September 29, '90. The Berkshire Harvest Festival will be Oct. 6th

* Youth Gardening Committee: **Lee Negus** reported that there will be no Farm and City Festival this Year. **Don Otterness** offered the Arboretum Festival as a possible site, however, some thought that this location would be too far away. The State Museum and the Clear Water Exhibit were also suggested. **Don Lewis** moved that we allocate \$75.00 to be used for awards at this contest. Seconded by **Don Otterness**, was carried.

* Scholarship Committee: **Don Otterness** reported that we have two possible candidates, and both are Cobleskill Graduates. This award will be for the second semester.

* **Joe Raggio**, Chairman. The 50th Anniversary Dinner-Ladies Night meeting is in the works. The question of speaker honorariums was brought up but nothing definitive was decided. Herm May wants a program committee set up whereby one person will not be responsible solely for our dinner programs. What happened to the proposal that all committee chairmen would submit in writing the responsibilities of his committee to the Editor of the Dirt for publication. The general membership would then know what they are best qualified to do when choosing a committee to work on. This really needs to be pursued if our committees are to be effective.

* September 27: Regular membership meeting will start at 6:30 so that 1900 bulbs can be packaged for the Arboretum Sale. This will be followed by our Annual Auction.

* October 4: Board of Directors Meeting will start at 6:30 for bulb packaging bulbs

* October 25: General Membership meeting. It was suggested that a picture and slide presentation be our program for this meeting.

* Ladies Night Dinner. There is \$150.00 in the budget for entertainment. Sleeping accommodations could be arranged for out of town speakers. Also, the History committee is working on a Historical presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

*The Secretary was instructed to send a Congratulation card to the **Dalrymples** on their 60th Wedding anniversary.

*The Club has not been asked to take part in the C.P. Telethon this year.

*Our liability insurance with a coverage of \$1,000,000 is due for renewal.

*The details of the Upstate Regional Meeting will be found in the dirt.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by **Tom Baker**, Secretary

History - 25 years ago - SEPTEMBER 6, 1990 - continued

** 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

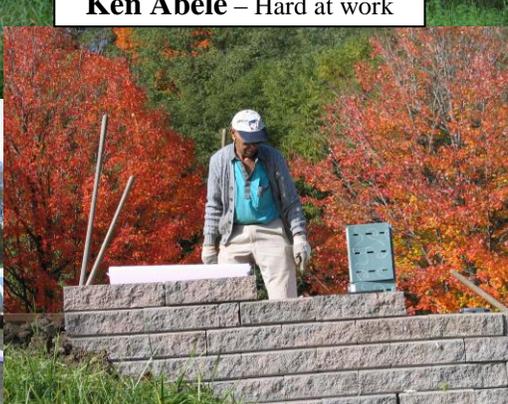
Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman



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.

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

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