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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **80** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 79 NO. 10

December, 2016

MGCA December dinner meeting

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, December 15th @ 6:30 pm (one week early)**
Ladies and the public are cordially invited

PLACE: [Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#) 6 Winners Circle Albany

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

Baked Cod Fillet in a cracker crust
Breaded Chicken Cutlet, Pan Gravy
Grilled Flatiron Steak, Red Wine Demiglace

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: **Floral Arrangements**

Our “**Ladies Night**” program will be a demonstration of how to make beautiful floral arrangements. **Michele Peters** – owner of **Ambiance** <http://www.ambianceflorals.com/> - will make different arrangements that will be given away to lucky attendees. Your chances of winning here are much better than the lottery.



We're so fortunate to have such a fantastic floral artist find time in this busy season to teach us how to make unique arrangements. There is something different about her arrangements and the materials she uses from all over the world that will certainly keep your interest.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return the call. If a caller does not reach you by Saturday, December 10th, please call **Russ Greenman** at 477-8321 – Note: Our intent is to call every member that is interested in our dinner meetings to get their reservation(s). If you are not getting called, and would like to be called prior to each dinner, please let Russ know.

**Membership
Dues are due**

Dues are due in small unmarked bills (25 of them) – mailed to **Russ Greenman** \$15 pays for your national membership in the MGCA/TGOA, \$.50 pays for the regional dues, and the remaining \$9.50 pays your local dues. A large percentage of our members are Life members and can ignore this notice.

Tom Baker is home recuperating from surgery and doing well. Please keep him in your prayers and we expect that he will join us at our dinner meeting this month.

Sal Schiavo is in the Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home
301 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY 12208

I'm sure **Sal** would appreciate a visit as it can get lonely being away from home and unable to drive. I'm sure he could use your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.

2017 Proposed Slate of Officers			
President	Don Wreiden	2019 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish
Vice Presidents	Greg Goutos and Joe Herman	2018 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2017 Directors	Joe Huth and Bruce Wilcox
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

November Program - Thank You!



We were honored to have **Pauline Muth** back again to talk about **The Art and Fun of Bonsai: Pauline Muth** brought us many examples of Bonsai and showed us how she uses copper (or aluminum wires to train the branches to grow in the desired shape. Removing the wires at the right time and transplanting every year are critical to their success. Roots and leaves are also trimmed to help maintain size and shape. **Pauline** shared many photos of her studio, greenhouse and property that showed just how dedicated she is to creating beautiful Bonsai. To learn more, or to schedule a visit – check out: <http://pfmbonsai.com/> or give her a call at 518-882-1039. It is interesting to see that some of her Bonsai are stored in a custom storage area (not below 29 degrees) and others are left outside all winter.

Pauline has been creating bonsai for over 40 years and teaching it world-wide for 26 years. She has served on the executive boards of local, regional, national and international bonsai organizations. Currently she maintains her collection and bonsai teaching studio and nursery in West Charlton New York. We owe **Pauline Muth** a Big **Thank You** for a very educational and enjoyable evening.

Featured Article thanks to Mr. Bill Danish

Light Above All Else

If indoor horticulture fascinates you, then you're going to need a good alternative to help those beautiful flowers bloom inside your home or business. While fertile soil, plant food, plenty of water, and using the best seeds are definitely important, there's an additional component that can make or break your success in the garden and that's light.

Without light, your plants don't get the all the nourishment they need. Without access to an outdoor garden or lots of land around your property to cultivate one, you do the next best thing and move that garden right into your own home with the use of indoor grow lights.

While [grow lights](#) come in several different forms, they are all artificial electric light sources with a common goal of stimulating plant *photosynthesis* through the emission of an electromagnetic spectrum. Photosynthesis is the process by which plants convert light energy into chemical energy, which is then used to fuel growth activities. Fortunately for us and most life on Earth, the main waste product for plants during photosynthesis happens to be oxygen. Without light/photosynthesis, sustaining life would be very difficult. Grow lights provide either a light spectrum similar to that of the sun or a particular spectrum best suited for cultivating a unique species of plant, depending on what it is you actually want to grow.

Your main goal here is to mimic outdoor conditions as closely as possible with respect to what your plants would ordinarily experience in their natural outdoor environments to propagate. That said, you need versatility in your grow lights to deliver various colors, temperatures, and spectral outputs. Common types of grow lights include incandescent lamps, fluorescent lights, high-intensity discharge lamps (HIDs), and [light-emitting diodes](#) (LEDs).

What gives LED grow lights an edge over some of their competition is their versatility, efficiency, longevity, and friendliness to the environment among other things. Diodes also allow for specific wavelengths of light to be produced. This means that LED grow lights can cover a broad spectrum of colors that include the red, green, and blue parts that plants use to grow and flourish.

Finally, LED grow lights are not only used for industrial and home applications on Earth, but they also play a role in farming for a possible future with respect to hydroponics and sustaining plants in [outer space](#). Does that mean we're ready to start terraforming Mars? Probably not, but it could be a first step in the right direction.

History – 25 years ago
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 1991

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, December 5, 1991 in the Cerebral palsy Center fro the Disabled.

President **Joe Raggio** opened the Meeting at 7:41.

The Minutes of the November Meeting, which was actually held on October 31, 1991 was approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

Fred Day, our Treasurer, presented the Financial Report which was approved. As of October 31, 1991 there was balance on hand, including all accounts of \$13,667.24.

Herman Mau, the Budget and Finance Committee presented the 1992 Budget. Approved.

National Office sent a letter to our Club asking that we not discourage non-affiliated Clubs from participating in Regional meetings. **Al Sekora** in talking **with Joe Raggio**, was surprised at our concern with the Regional Organization. **Fred Day** also talked with **Al** and left him with an awareness of our stand.

President **Joe** read a letter from the Greater Loudonville Assoc. who will have a Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7, 1991 at 5 pm cordially inviting our Club to attend. If we do attend we as individuals should identify ourselves as MGCA members. They appreciate our interest in their Traffic Triangle Beautification efforts.

Joe Raggio spoke of his satisfying experience as speaker at the Delmar Kiwanis Club informing them of the Men's Garden Club of Albany's activities.

At this point, **Joe** assured the Board that we still belong to the Men's Garden Clubs of America as well as the Gardeners of America.

Fred Day reported that was are being charged a Sales Tax. A discussion followed and **Fred** is going to see what can be done about it.

Don Otterness reported on the Memorials. He has been notified by Delmar that the park we have been planting memorials in, is full. They are looking for a new location. A memorial for **Dwight Morton** is being planned by our Albany Cooperative Extension members. **Mrs. Hughes** is to be contacted about a memorial for **Paul Hughes**.

Three Scholarship candidates are being review and acted upon.

Herman Mau, President elect asked members to be thinking of possible fund raising ideas.

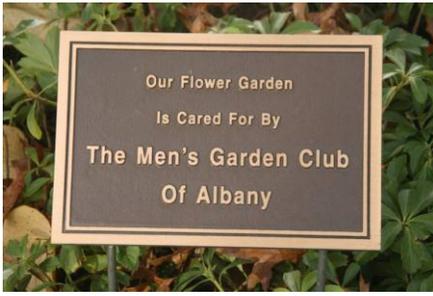
The minutes for the second half of the meeting were written by **Wally Dillenbeck**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

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 - 30 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**



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 borrowed this - **please ask them to return it**. Someone with big boy toys on site?
Thanks!!!

Built to last
Destroyed in hours
This was our Memorial to **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**





Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this November included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**



We might be running out of warm weather and have begun holding sessions indoors. Thanks to **Mary Hooper** for supplying the Garlic and **Jack Meagher** we now have two tubs of garlic planted outside and I'm sure the cooking club will be glad to hear that news.

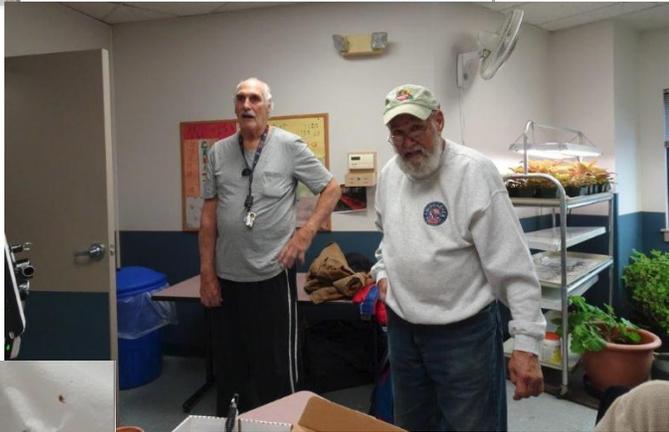
We have a nice classroom that has many grow light stands where we have begun to take cuttings off of a large coleus plant. Today we proved that we have some great painters. Our individuals painted clay pots that they will fill with coleus and take home next week. We always welcome any ideas for hands on projects that we can do inside during the Winter months. Or, better yet, we could use your help to lead an indoor gardening project.

If you have free time on Wednesday mornings – you could consider helping us out – I bet it will do as much good for you as it does for the individuals. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.

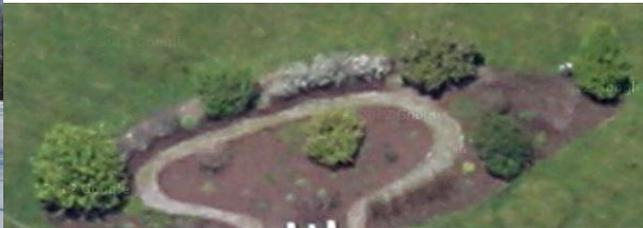
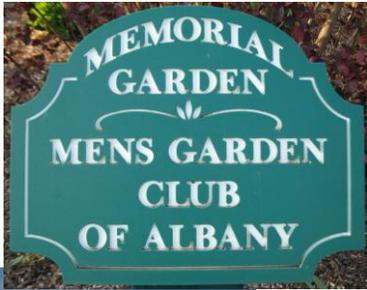


Left: **Joe Herman**

Right: **Bruce Wilcox and Don Wrieden**



**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?

Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

Each month, the **Harris family, Dave** and his sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents and their brother **Phil**. Every month one of their masterpieces has been raffled off since 1980 - **YES, That's 36 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 **Harris** centerpieces that **Phil** and now **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 and donated by the Harris
family**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards	
December 17 th	@ 6:30pm	Dinner meeting - @ the Beltrone Center – 6 Winners Circle Albany, NY
January 26 th	@ 6:30pm	
February 26 th	@ 6:30pm	
December 3 rd	@ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
January 5 th	@ 7:30 pm	
February 2 nd	@ 7:30 pm	
Every Wednesday :	@ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany

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.

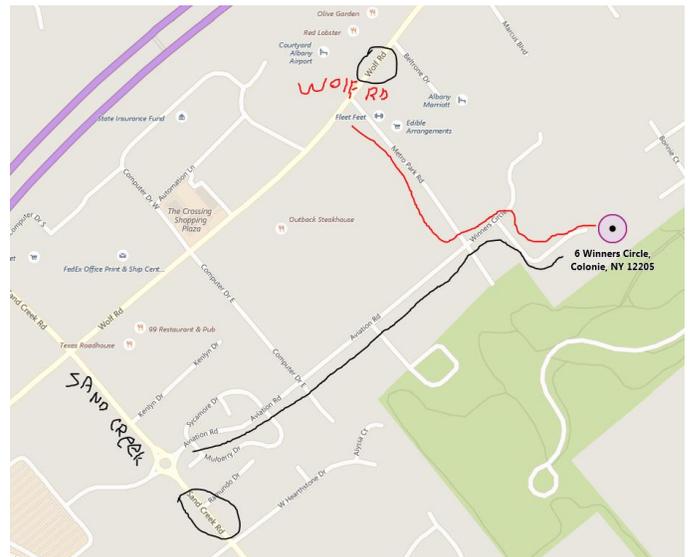
Don't forget!

Dues (\$25) and advertisement payments are Due by January 1st 2017

[Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#) 6 Winners Circle Albany

The votes are in and we unanimously agreed that the [Prime at the Beltrone Living Center](#), atmosphere, food quality (by Prime catering), and the efficient and friendly staff have made our meetings very enjoyable. We look forward to many more meetings at the **Beltrone Living Center**.

From Wolf Road turn East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Speed Way Gas Station that is on the West side of Wolf Rd.) **Take a LEFT onto Winners Circle**. At stop sign take a **RIGHT continuing on Winners Circle** and **Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center**. **Enter the building at the #1 South entrance**.



In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Young
Bruce Wilcox

In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus

In Memory of
Al & Barbara Miller
Phil Harris
Bill Barr
Christian & Mildred Lebrecht
Ed Tompkins
Avrom Koblenz

In Memory of my parents
John and Carrie Meagher
They both loved Plants and Flowers
Jack Meagher

In Memory of
Grandpa & Great Grandpa
Carroll W. Greenman
Russ, Maria, and Carl

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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