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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 79 years of service to our community

VOLUME 79 NO. 3

(First Chartered 1936)

March, 2016

DATE & TIME: Thursday, March 31st @ 6:30 pm (5th Thursday)

Ladies and the public are cordially invited

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

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Sliced Hanger Steak
Chicken Rigatoni
Broiled Sole

DESSERT: Bread Pudding

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: Emerald Ash Borer

Presented by: Laurel R. Gailor, Capital / Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Coordinator and the agriculture and natural resources issue leader for the Cornell Cooperative Extension

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been steadily expanding its territory over the past few decades and has now arrived in the Capital region. It's very important that we understand the implications of this infestation as it has the potential to cause considerable economic damage by destroying tens of millions of valuable ash trees across the state. Hope to see you there!

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, 24th**, 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.

Membership

I'm sorry to report that **Bill Barr**, at 89, has joined the Gardner's Gone to Rest. **Bill Barr** was such an active member until 2007 when he moved to California near his daughter's family where he continued to garden and support our club. **Bill** was on committees and active in so many of our activities such as the Gardening From The Heart program at the Center for Disability Services, the Albany International Airport plantings, our annual Plant and Bulb sales, and the design and maintenance of the MGCA Memorial Garden. I only remember once when he blew us off for something more important... That was on October 15th of 2000 when he wanted to celebrate his 50th Anniversary with his wife **Nancy** - See, he was a smart man too.

We really appreciate all he did for us and the surrounding communities. I know he enjoyed gardening and we certainly enjoyed our time with him. We can't thank him enough and we'll really miss hearing from him.

We also want to thank **Bill's** daughter, **Margaret Valian**, for the very nice note informing us about her Dad.

GOA/MGCA Spring Regional Meeting

The Spring Regional Meeting for the Upstate New York Regional GOA/MGCA will be held on Saturday, April 23. The morning meeting will be held in the downstairs meeting room at Magro's Restaurant at 169 Utica St in Hamilton, NY. There will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation by **Billy Clark**, the current National President of the GOA/MGCA. We will have lunch at Magro's. After lunch we will carpool for the short drive to SUNY College at Morrisville. At the college **Eliza Livengood**, Assistant Professor of Aquaculture and Aquatic Science, will give a presentation on Hydroponic and Aquaponic growing methods. This will be followed by a short tour of the Hydroponic facilities.

9:30am Registration and Coffee and Donuts

10:00am Business Meeting

11:00am Presentation by **National President Billy Clark**

12:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Presentation on Hydroponics and Aquaponics at SUNY Morrisville

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND! The cost will be \$20/person for lunch (chicken, potato, vegetable, salad and carrot cake), payable at registration. To RSVP please email dn13@cornell.edu by Saturday, April 16.

Debbie Nero President of Upstate NY Regional of GOA/MGCA

If you prefer, you can make your reservation when **Maria** calls you for your March dinner selection(s).

January's Program - Thank You!

“**The Allergy Fighting Garden**” by: **Master Gardener, Diane Madden**

Who knew that paying attention in sex education classes would help you breathe better. Diane explained why the gender of a tree and what type of pollen it has can make a big difference in how someone with allergies feels. An oak tree may be worse for a person with allergies than a pine tree that has heavy sticky pollen that may look worse as it falls straight down and covers your car. If you love your garden but it causes you sniffle, sneeze, wheeze and makes your eyes water, you probably benefited greatly from **Diane's** presentation.

Thanks to Diane Madden for a Great program!!!

Harris Memorial Centerpiece

Thanks to the **Harris kids!**

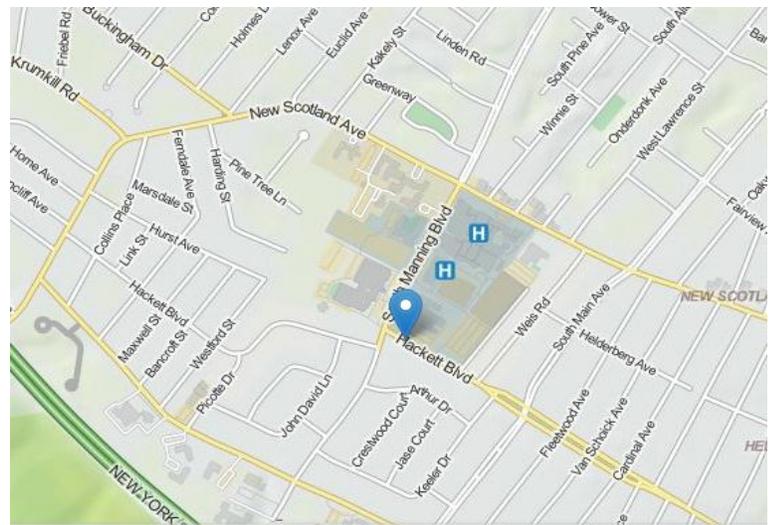
Each month, the **Harris family, Phil, Dave** and their sister **Diane** design and create a beautiful centerpiece to honor their parents. Since **Phil** is in room 315 of Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2920 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 he is no longer able to attend our meetings. 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 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 and donated by the Harris
family**



Ed Brohm and **Sal Schiavo** are in the Villa Mary Immaculate Nursing Home 301 Hackett Boulevard, Albany, NY 12208 I'm sure **Ed** and **Sal** would appreciate a visit as it can get lonely being away from home and unable to drive. They certainly could use your encouragement, thoughts and prayers.



Phil Harris is not as well as he has been and could really use some encouragement from his many friends. Please swing by the Eddy Heritage House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, [2920 Tibbits Avenue](#), Troy, NY 12180 and visit Phil in room in room 315. Please try to get out there to help cheer up our friend. There is a good chance that you will also get to see **Dave** and learn something interesting that he has been involved in. With his work for the Lions Club he has had an opportunity to do many things... including the opportunity for **Dave** and **Phil** to visit a site where dogs are trained to work with the blind. The team (dog and blind person) are trained together and not all dogs are cut out for this type of work.



Kohlrabi – Not Your Everyday Vegetable

By President, Paul Zimmermann

Not surprisingly, most folks possess limited familiarity with kohlrabi since most grocery stores don't feature this little known member of the cabbage family. But if you're an adventurous type and would like to wander a little over to the wild side, kohlrabi just might fit the bill.

Before launching into this grand experiment, one might fairly ask "What's in it for me?" First of all, kohlrabi undoubtedly ranks high in the list of "weird-looking" plants. With a bulbous stem just above the ground, and covered with cabbage-like leaves, friends and neighbors will be searching for answers. Casually reply that you're not sure what they might be – the seeds came in a mystery package from the Trump campaign and you planted them on a whim.

From a food standpoint, the enlarged stem has a mild taste that some folks compare to a blend of radish and cucumber. Use kohlrabi in stews, steam it as a standalone dish, or even eat it raw. The leaves, like most of the cabbage family, are edible when cooked.

The first thing you need to know about growing kohlrabi is that you're going to have a much happier experience if you plant kohlrabi as a late summer/fall crop. Since it's quite hardy, you can also sow kohlrabi a month or so before the last frost, let it overwinter in the ground, and enjoy a scrumptious crop in the spring. Either way you'll want to pick out a sunny location with soil that contains a good deal of organic matter. A pH between 6.0 and 6.8 will produce best results. Kohlrabi grows quickly (35 to 45 days to harvest) and for this reason you'll want to plant succession crops spaced out a week or two apart. Harvest the 'bulbs' when they are approximately 2 inches in diameter. Kohlrabi stays fresh in the refrigerator up to 2 months.

You'll find Kohlrabi varieties that have white, pale green, or purple bulbous stems. Well known varieties include Winner (white) and Kolibri (purple). Both have the welcome characteristic of heat resistance. If you're looking for a storage Kohlrabi, try Kossak. This variety requires 80 days to mature, but the bulbs are still quite edible up to 8 inches in diameter.

So you have your assignment. Get out there and make America great again.



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

Growing Green in 2016

Welcome to Green Bay!

2016 TGOA-MGCA Convention Activities

Wednesday through Friday, July 13, 14, and 15

History - 25 years ago - MARCH 7, 1991
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, March 7, 1991, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the disabled.

President **Joe Raggio** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the February 7, 1991 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Fred Day**. There was a balance in the General Fund, as of February 28, 1991 of \$4,220.50, in the Memorial Fund there was \$742.29 and in the Endowment and Investment Fund there was \$6,083.26.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* **DELMAR PLANT SALE: Wally Dillenbeck** reported for **Herm Mau** who is wintering in Florida. (We are having two sales this year, the second one will be in Guilderland)

Many details were discussed and were readily resolved. Someone volunteered his truck and himself to transport the tables from the Methodist Church.

* **GUILDERLAND PLANT SALE: Don Otterness**, in charge, reported that the final plans are still in the works.

* **FLOWER SHOW EXHIBIT: Andy Cytrynak** reporting:

The exhibit is just about complete. **Tom Baker** showed-up Thursday afternoon to help.

Andy informed the club that he had arranged with the Helderberg Kiwanis Club to sell, on consignment, Blue Bird houses, at a cost of \$10.00. We will get \$5.00 for each house we sell.

Warren Abele's Seminar on forcing Daffodils will be at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon.

All the slots for manning the exhibit were filled.

* **YOUTH GARDENING: Lee Negus** reporting:

Lee asked the board if the Club would be sponsoring the Seed and Plant Growing contest this year as we did last year. **Wally Dillenbeck** made the motion that we should sponsor the contest and that we should appropriate the necessary monies to fund the project. The motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

President **Joe** read a communication from the City of Albany inviting our Club to take part in a Beautification project in the City which will be held during the week following our Plant Sales. The Board decided that we as a club would not participate, however, any members who would like to help may do so on their own.

The Club was also invited to take part in the 1992 Festivities in Albany commemorating the Five Hundredth Anniversary of Columbus discovering America. This was left for a decision at a later date.

Dinner meeting, March 21, 1991 will be held in the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn, with **Richard Stott Anderson** our own member who will give a talk entitled "A Gardener's Year."

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

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 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!!!

Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services



Volunteers this February included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden**. Thanks to **Gail Wrieden** we made some nice sun catchers - that really worked (it was 81 degrees in Albany yesterday), and a cool

Valentine's Day project. **Tom Baker** supplied the plants that the consumers transplanted, and we planted chives, lettuce, and pepper seeds which are looking great. Please consider joining us - we have a blast! Our consumers are amazing and they really help us to have a better attitude toward life.



Garden Club
Room 402

Wednesday 930-1100am

Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services



Memorial Garden At the Albany County Cooperative Extension Joe Huth / Chuck Scott Memorial Garden Chairmen



Memorial Garden cleanup days

In an effort to help our members plan ahead, we have set the following work days to work on the Memorial Garden. We picked the 2nd Monday of each of the following months - **March 14th** (prune), **April 11th** (prune and mulch), **May 9th** and **July 11th** to prepare for our annual Memorial service and picnic.

Seeking Candidates for Scholarship

Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? This year the Scholarship Committee would like to ask all our members to consider a personal family member or friend who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or registered to begin a college program this fall. Ideally, they should be pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field, including agriculture, environmental studies, forestry or natural resource management. Applicants need not live locally, and can be male or female. Perhaps you have a child, grandchild, nephew or niece, or know of a neighbor that would qualify? If so, please contact **Greg Goutos**, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052 for application details. The deadline is May 31.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 19-21, 2016 - [NY in Bloom](#) - MGCA members, **Joe Herman** and **Kevin Rose** volunteered to help make this event successful. - **Thanks!**

March 12, 2016 - [Spring Garden Day](#) -- Saturday, 9:45 am - 3:30 pm - Activities include: Classes, a nice lunch, book & plant sale and auction. \$30 per person includes up to 3 classes, the keynote speaker and lunch. For questions call 518-272-4210. [Click here for full brochure and registration form](#)

March 18-20, 2016 - We will have our Educational booth at the [Capital District Garden and Flower Show](#). Thanks to **Tom Baker's** minutes, in this newsletter, we know we have been supporting this show for at least 25 years. Please contact **Paul Zimmermann** to see how you can help.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St.
Thursday, March 31 st @ 6:30 pm Thursday May 26 th @ 6:30 pm	MGCA Dinner Meeting (everyone invited)
Thursday May 5 th @ 7:30 pm Thursday April 7 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Saturday March 12 th 9:45 am - 3:30 pm	Spring Garden Day
Monday - March 14 th @ 10:00 am	MGCA Memorial Garden Pruning Albany County Cooperative Extension
March 18-20, 2016 Fri 10-8 Sat 9-7 Sun 10-5	Capital District Garden and Flower Show - Hudson Valley Community College http://gardenandflowershow.com/
Saturday April 23 rd 2016	MGCA Regional meeting with the national president Possibly in the Rome, NY area
Saturday May 7 th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm	Spring Plant Sale - Delmar Dental Medicine 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar

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>

In Memory

Of My

Loving Wife, Young

Bruce Wilcox

In Memory of

*Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus*

In Memory of

*Al & Barbara Miller
Christian & 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

*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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The following growers donated to our 2015 Plant Sale
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- George's Market and Nursery
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- Krug Farms