



36 Tanners Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144 * (518) 859-0263

pmzimmy@gmail.com

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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 79 NO. 7

(First Chartered 1936)

September, 2016



MGCA Harvest Auction (everyone invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 22nd @ 6:30 pm

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

From Wolf Road go East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Hess Station) Take a LEFT onto Winners Circle. At stop sign take a RIGHT continuing on Winners Circle Following the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Use the SPECIAL EVENTS PARKING AREA, located on the left hand side off of Winners Circle Drive. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

APPETIZER: Autumn Harvest Salad

ENTREE: Cedar Planked Salmon Fillet
Breast of Chicken Marsala
Pumpkin Ravioli in Asiago Cream Sauce

DESSERT: Chocolate Caramel Torte

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: **Harvest Auction** - *Items to auction off are needed – but not required*

This is the meeting where we bring items to sell and the money raised is used to support our Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension. In the past, our members have donated all sorts of fruits, veggies, flowers, homemade breads, pies, jams, 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 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 Thursday, September 15th, 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

Please welcome our two newest members

Bill Stoneman joined at our May dinner meeting and we were pleased that he and his wife (Patricia) were able to attend our annual picnic and help us with our booth at the Altamont Fair. **Bill** is interested in getting gardens built at one or two schools that he is involved with. We're looking for a few members that can help look over the sites and offer suggestions.

Michael Aikey recently sent in his membership dues and we're looking forward to meeting him and a guest at our next meeting which will be our harvest auction on September 22nd.

Please add these gentlemen to your membership booklet

<p>Bill Stoneman 10 N. Pine Ave. Albany, NY 12203-1712 518-728-6799 thevegetableproject@gmail.com</p>	<p>Michael Aikey 71 Cass Hill Road Voorheesville, NY 12186 (518) 768-2028 mlaikey@gmail.com</p>
--	--

Guess who's 95?



Can you believe it?
Hank and Alberta
Fox and their 10 year



old kitty have been in New Hampshire for 4 years now. Their both doing great and are enjoying their new home that is closer to their family.

Hank / Henry Fox is an amazing guy that has done so much for the Men's Garden Club of Albany. Without **Hank** - we probably would be broke by now. He really knows how to manage things and he always made sure that our Plant Sale, Calendar Sale, and Bulb Sale raised money to support the many good projects of the MGCA. **Mrs. Fox** will be 95 next month - so their must be something about gardeners that help us live longer and healthier. I remember **Mrs. Leonard**, the wife of **Al**

Leonard (MGCA treasurer) and she lived to be 107.

Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Fox** and Thanks for all your service to the MGCA and our communities.

Summer Program - Thank You! Rain Garden Project at Siena College – By: Carl Greenman

We were fortunate to have **Carl Greenman** teach us about a rain garden that he designed and built, with the help of other students, at Siena College. This was a Summer internship that provided an opportunity for **Carl Greenman** to design a solution to minimize the flooding of the baseball field at Siena College. With the help of “*twenty-seven 8 x 10 colored Glossy photographs with circles and arrows and a paragraph on the back of each one explainin' what each one was*” (PowerPoint), **Carl** described how this rain garden was designed to minimize the flooding problem while benefiting the environment. **Carl** did much research to select and find plants that are native to Albany County that have the ability to survive extreme drought and flooding conditions. We felt honored to have the department head Dr. Jean Mangun and her husband Bill join us for dinner and **Carl’s** talk.

Everyone in attendance made comments about how interesting and well- presented **Carl’s** presentation was.

A Big Thank You goes to **Carl Greenman** for an educational and enjoyable program!

Thanks!!!

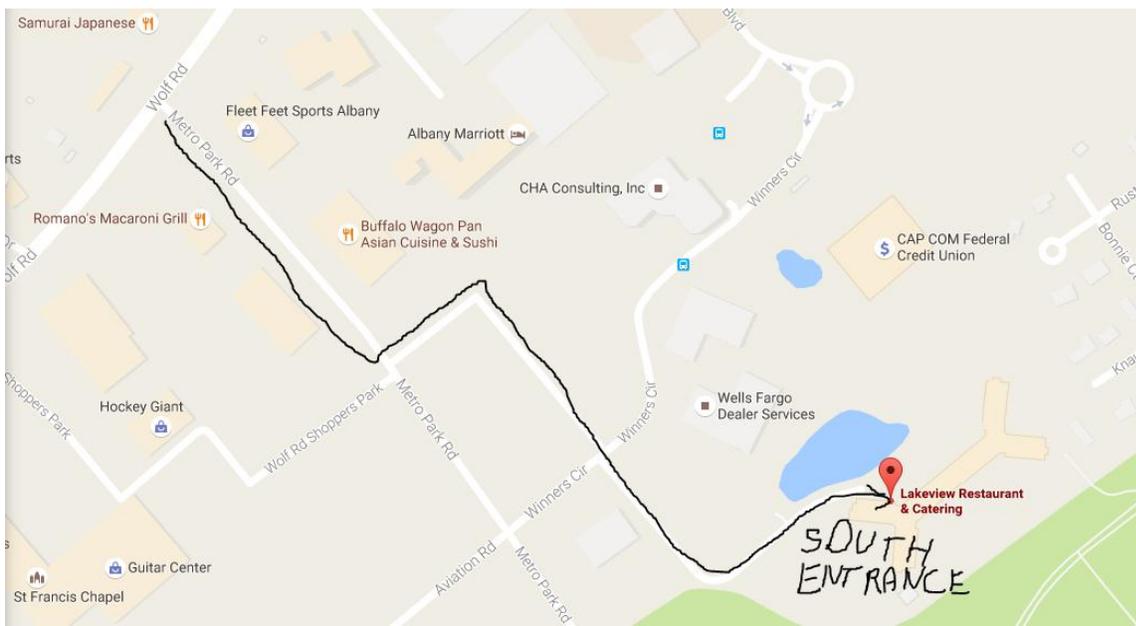
Picnic thank you

Thanks to many folks, our annual picnic was a great success. **Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman** chaired the event, **Joe and Barbara Huth** did a lot of the behind the scenes work as well as setup and tear down activities. **Maria Greenman** coordinated the food offerings to insure that we had a good variety of salads, dinners, and desserts.

Joe Huth and **Chuck Scott** did a fantastic job of coordinating volunteers to prepare our Memorial Garden for our annual Memorial Service where we honored **Phil Harris**, **Bill Barr** and all of our Gardener’s Gone To Rest. **Joe Herman** did a fantastic job leading us in the Memorial Service at our Memorial Garden where we added name tags for **Bill Barr** and **Phil Harris**.

We also owe a big thanks to the staff at the Albany County Cooperative Extension for allowing us to use their facility and supplying a podium and wireless microphone for our guest speaker.

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





Featured Article

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.

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 Kohlrabi (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.

History – 30 years ago – SEPTEMBER 4, 1986

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 4, 1986, as guests of **Don and Nancy Lewis** in their home in Loudonville.

There thirteen members in attendance: Pres. **Ferd Johnson**; 2nd Vice President, **Don Lewis**, Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**; Assist. Treasurer, **Don Stevens**; Secretary, **Tom Baker**; Assist Secretary, **Lee Negus**; Dirt Editor, **Al Miller**; Directors: **Charles Schade, Charles Ireland, Don Gwinn, Joe Raggio, Jerry Flax**; Regional Director, **Bob Ireland**.

President **Ferd Johnson** called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read by the Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read by the Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of August 31, 1986 there was a total on hand of \$1,287.90.

.....**Paul** reported that the 1986 Convention that we hosted, cleared \$8,000. Our club was allowed to keep \$4,000 and we forwarded \$4,000 to the National Office. **Al** was very pleased and proud of the Club for such an accomplishment! **Ferd** brought up the subject of the Sweet Adelines only getting \$100.00 for their performance at our National Convention.

Don Lewis made the motion to present them another \$100.00 as an honorarium. This was seconded by **Tom Baker**. The motion was carried.

History – 30 years ago – SEPTEMBER 4, 1986 - continued

Al Miller briefed the Board as to how it was possible for us to clear so much money. First of all the Turf didn't charge us for all the extra services rendered by the Manager **Mike Hoffman**. For example there were trays of sweet tidbits through out the facility for the Conventioneers.

Al Miller suggested that we send \$200.00 to the national office for Building and Grounds. **Bob Ireland** made such a motion which was seconded by **Tom Baker**. Motion was carried. **Don Lewis** suggested that we put the National Building and Grounds in our annual Budget.

Bob Ireland made the motion that the dues for next year be set at \$14.00 which was no change, Seconded by **Al Miller**, motion was carried. Someone brought up the subject that the General Membership is not always in the know as to what is going on within the club as a whole, others felt that this was no problem. No conclusions were made but this should be kept in mind. The secretary volunteered to remind **Don Otterness** about the frame, banner, and the Staple gun for the Bulb Sale.

Important up-coming dates: **Sat.** Sept. 20, Morrisville Regional Meeting. **Mon.** Sept 22, Labeling of Bulbs, 7:30 at **Joe Raggio`s**. **Wed.** Sept 24, Packaging 7:30, CP Center. **Thur.** Sept 25, Auction, 7:30, CP Center. **Sat.** Sept. 27, Bulb Sale 8am - 4pm, Sale begins at 10am. **Tom Baker** will bring 3 doz. Donuts, reimbursed by the Club.

Al Miller has several left over items from the Convention and has suggestions as to what to do with them:

Portfolios: 1. give one to each member who sells 5 calendars, 2. give one to each member who brings in a new member, 3. sell them for \$2.00 each. **Plant ties:** two dozen left, sell at the auction for \$1.00. **Scissors:** given out at Ladies night.

Al suggested that the Gardening From the Heart Committee do a seminar, consisting of **Al Miller, Tom Baker, Jerry Flax, and Wally Dillenbeck**.

Al would like to see the Awards Committee which is chaired by **Jack Spears**, become a more active and viable committee.

The October Regular Meeting will be a Dinner Meeting. There will be NO November General Meeting because of Thanksgiving. Ladies Night - ?? December 4 or December 11 at the Western Turnpike. More information will be forth coming in the Dirt.

On September 16, a Tuesday, **Wally Dillenbeck** will meet with the State Museum Organization, representing the Albany Men's Garden Club. **Wally** will report back to us.

Clark Zeh and **Charlie Schade** have agreed to take on the Calendar sales project. Calendars will be sold at \$2.50 each. It was suggested that a Calendar Pre-sale sign-up sheet be available at the September meetings. Two hundred Calendars have to be sold.

Ferd Johnson received and read a letter of appreciation from **Barbara Miller** on her reception of our Certificate of Appreciation.

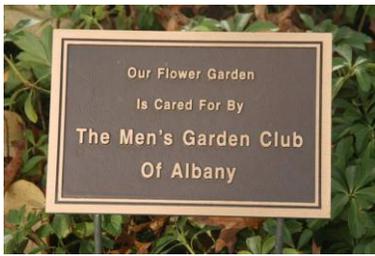
The Ads Committee for the Dirt will once again consist of **Jack Spear, Ferd Johnson** and **Don Gwinn**. The present ads will run until the renewals and new advertisers are contacted.

It was suggested that an "Agenda" in the form of a loose leaf notebook be prepared which can be passed on from one president to the next. Thus, the President`s job can be greatly enhanced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm -

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!!!



MGCA Memorial Service July 23rd @ 5:30 pm

MGCA Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cooperative Extension Building
24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY
Memorial Garden

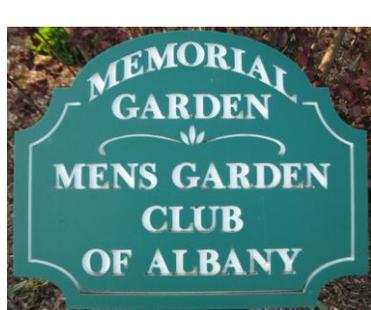
Those of you who were at our Annual Picnic know how well the Memorial Garden looked. It takes a lot of effort to keep it up. Work days happened in March, April, May and July. At risk of missing someone here are our helpers: **Tom Baker, Greg Goutos, Russ Greenman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Gil O'Brien and Chuck Scott**.

Next year the garden will have some more perennials and should be even more colorful.
Joe Huth

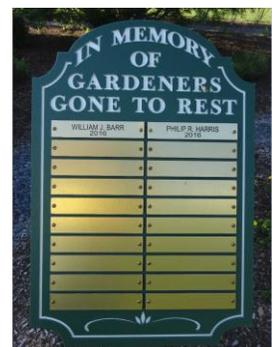
Philip Harris
June 2016
Member since 1983



William Barr
January 2016
Member since 1993



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





Gardening from the Heart at the Center for Disability Services

Volunteers this Summer included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.** Every Wednesday we have been harvesting and replanting all kinds of vegetables and each individual brings home a nice bag of fresh veggies. We tried some vertical plantings by putting lettuce and radishes in between the slats of a wooden pallet that we lashed between some concrete filled steel pipes.

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.



Altamont Fair Booth

This year's booth featuring the need to keep flowering plants available as food for pollinators, was well received by viewers. Last year we focused on the pollinators (bees of many kinds, wasps, butterflies and other insects) while **the focus this year was on the plants to attract pollinators.** We used both pictures and plants to show some of the perennials that would attract them. Some of these were grown by **Greg Goutos**, some by **Joe Huth** and some were purchased and have been added to the Memorial Garden in Voorheesville.



Many people helped at our booth. **Greg Goutos, Tom Baker and Joe Huth** set up our booth. The folks who 'manned' it were **Allan Velleneuve, Greg and Nellie Goutos, Kevin Rose, Tom Baker, Joe Herman, Bill Stoneman, Jack and Janet Meagher, Rick and Linda Moore and Joe and Tina Raggio.** **Joe and Barbara Huth** were the ones to take it down.

Thanks for all your help!

Joe Huth

NYS Fair

Bill Hurst and our very own, **Joe Herman** chaired the Container Plant competition



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
September 22 nd @ 6:30pm	Dinner and Harvest Auction - @ the Beltrone Center
This was held August 25 th thru September 5 th	New York State Fair Joe Herman once again co-chaired the Container Gardening competition.
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
September 1 st @ 7:30 pm October 6 th	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited

Editor: Russ Greenman

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.

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



Your Hometown Garden Center **EST. 1870**



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

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*

Faddegon's
NURSERY, INC.

Family Owned
And Operated
Since 1920

Emil Nagengast
FLORIST

Celebrating 104 years
434-1125

Stuyvesant Plaza &
169 Ontario St. Albany

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

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

The following growers donated to
our 2016 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
Hewitts Garden Center

Constantine Garden Center

- Locally Grown Annual, Perennial, & Vegetable Plants
- Huge Selection of Hanging Baskets
- Mulch, Top Soil, & Stone - Delivery available
- Seasonal Farm Fresh Produce
- Family Owned and Operated



554 Albany Shaker
Rd.
Loudonville, NY
12211
518-458-8294

