

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

[pmzimmy@gmail.com](mailto:pmzimmy@gmail.com)

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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating 79 years of service to our community

**VOLUME 79 NO. 6**

(First Chartered 1936)

**Summer, 2016**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm (4:00pm optional garden tour)**

5:00 pm ----- Suggested Arrival Time

(or earlier if you want time to check out the many gardens)

5:30 pm ----- Memorial Garden to Remember 'Gardeners Gone to Rest'

6:00 pm ----- Pot Luck Supper

7:00 pm ----- Program

**PLACE:**

Albany County Cooperative Extension Building

24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY

**PROGRAM: Rain Garden Project at Siena College – By: Carl Greenman**

The goal of the rain garden was to minimize the flooding of the baseball field at Siena College. During periods of intense rainfall, stormwater runoff sourced from adjacent impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks and pavement, flowed downhill and on to the baseball field. Instead of renovating the underground storm drain system, we worked together to design a functional rain garden to minimize the flooding while also reducing the pollutant load that enters the Kromma Kill tributary on campus.

**RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:**

The Picnic chairman, **Paul Zimmermann, Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman**, will arrange to provide: Lemonade, ice tea, coffee, rolls & butter, plates, cups, and utensils. You could bring a dish to share... some thoughts may include: a meat dish, potato dish, salad, pasta, baked beans, desert, or other appropriate picnic fare. **Maria Greenman** will be keeping track of your offerings to help insure that there is a good variety of food. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Reservations are recommended**

**Maria** will try to contact you for your reservation and offering. Please make every effort to return her call. If she does not reach you by September 1<sup>st</sup>, please call **Russ Greenman at 477-8321**

## May Program - Thank You!

### "Gardening to Attract Birds"

Presented by: **Cathie Gifford** and **Martie Teumim**

Our May - "Ladies night" - huge success can be credited to our fantastic speakers. We learned how to improve our backyard habitat to make it an oasis for both resident and migratory birds. Using native plants are better for the environment because they require less fertilizer, water, and are not bothered by pests as much as the exotic plants. **Martie** even gave us instructions on how to build a bird bath for humming birds. It creates a mist that the humming birds love to fly through. I can't begin to express how well prepared they were with this program and we all loved hearing about all of the great suggestions they offered.

**Martie Teumim** is a long-time gardener and Master Gardener Volunteer with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County.

**We really want to thank Martie Teumim and Cathie Gifford for a very educational and interesting program!!!**

**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>

### Featured Article

# Blue Gems In Saratoga

**Written by: David Chinery** with photos (except as noted) by Master Gardener **Barbara Nuffer**  
**Thanks** for allowing use this article that we found in the "Root Concern's" newsletter.



The old buzz about good things coming to those who wait is sometimes true. Since moving here twenty years ago, I've wanted to see the Karner blue butterflies, yet it wasn't until last week that a Master Gardener field trip made it happen. I'm happy to report that, after two decades of anticipation, *Lycaeides melissa samuelis* did not disappoint.

Our jaunt took us to the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, a former Boy Scout camp in Saratoga County. Three dedicated ladies, Linda, Peg and Jill, guided us

along the sandy paths and gave us the lowdown on this famous creature we came to see. Our first lesson was that this is not a large butterfly, only about the size of a quarter. Comparing it to a monarch is likening a Piper Cub to a Jumbo Jet. They're also lightning fast. Only those in our group quick of eye, with slick photographic equipment, snapped acceptable photos. The male's upper side is violet blue with a black margin and



Photo by D. Chinery

## Blue Gems In Saratoga – continued

white-fringed edge. The female's upper side is a darker brownish blue. Both have a row of orange crescents lining the entire edge of the under-side of the hind wing. Quite pretty. If you're an endangered species which needs protecting, and an insect at that, it helps your case to be attractive.



While the Karner blues were enchanting, the blue lupines (*Lupinus perennis*) bowled me over. In various shades of blue and trending to pink and purple, their pea-like flowers are held on spikes above palmate foliage. With thousands in bloom, a field of lupines mirrors a summer sky. They prefer full sun to light shade and a well-drained soil. An extremely hard seed coat keeps lupine seed from germinating, and it takes fire or some form of abrasion to allow needed water to penetrate. Lupines



will often thrive along roads, in grazed, mowed or burned places, and other disturbed areas, but disappear when other plants move in. As more countryside becomes either subdivisions or deep woods, less area is available for the lupines. And as the lupine goes, so goes the Karner blue, since it is the only food source for this butterfly's larvae.



Eating only one food is a risky strategy for survival, but this insect is a homebody, too, traveling a maximum of 600 feet from their birthplace. That doesn't give the Karner blue the ability to get out of harm's way, or spread their population far and wide. Having two generations per year adds some resilience, but adult butterflies live only about 5 days, which makes accomplishing a lot rather difficult.

Since human ways have up-set the natural balance which spawned the Karner blues, it seems only right we extend a helping hand. Designating them a Federal Endangered Species and supporting scientists to study them was a good start.

Preserving land and encouraging the growth of the lupines is crucial. We are all indebted to the people who have stepped up to care for these wild treasures.

For more information on the  
Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, visit:  
<http://www.wiltonpreserve.org/>



Text by David Chinery and photos (except as noted) by Master Gardener Barbara Nuffer

**History - 25 years ago –**  
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JUNE 6, 1991**

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, June 6, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

**Joe Raggio**, President, presided over the meeting.

The Minutes of the May 2, 1991 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the Club Treasurer, **Fred Day**. There was a balance in the General Fund, as of May 31, 1991 of \$5, 570.61 and in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$808.60. In the Endowment and Investment fund there was a balance of \$6,202.50.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

\* **PLANT SALE:** **Fred Day** reported that the 1990 Plant sale netted \$1,431.91 with two locations, whereas in 1991, with one location, which was in Delmar we netted \$1,492.91.

\* **PROGRAM:**

1. June 29: The club will hold a Field Trip at Seagroatt's, Commercial Rose Grower and Mineke's Meadow Lark Gardens. Full details will be found in the June Dirt. However, **Wally Dillenbeck** will be in charge of receiving information from the regular callers instead of **Al Miller**.

2. August 4: The Annual Summer Picnic will be held at the George Landis Arboretum, details in the June Dirt.

\* **GARDENING FROM THE HEART:** A major part of the Greenhouse at the South Pearl Street Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled will be completed in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

**Don Lewis** reported that **Burt Smith**, a longtime former member, has died and he, **Don**, feels that we should plant something in his memory as we do for current members. He suggested that a plant be planted at the Wellspring House where **Burt's** widow will be able to see it. **Don** also suggested that the Board develop a policy for former longtime members who pass away. No definitive solution was arrived at, at this meeting.

The Board voted that we should plant a shrub in Memory of **Burt Smith** at the Wellspring House if it is permitted by the management of the institution. The amount should not exceed \$35.00.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Albany Institute of History and Art is celebrating its 300th Anniversary with a Festival of Trees at Christmastide, entitled "Hudson Valley Christmas Memories." We have been invited to take part in the Festivities. The Board has agreed that this could be an excellent opportunity to become much more visible to the community at large. Therefore, the Board voted to allocate \$80.00 for this venture.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50,

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!!!**

**MGCA Memorial Service July 23rd @ 5:30 pm**

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

These gentleman will be honored for their **service** to the MGCA and their communities.

**Philip Harris**

June 2016  
Member since 1983



**William Barr**

January 2016  
Member since 1993

**Bill Barr**

**Bill** was a very loyal and helpful Garden Club member who worked every Wednesday morning for several years at the Center for Disability Services. His expertise was his ability to work on a "one to one" basis with the individuals at the Center for Disability Services. He never gave up hope with any individual or on any project that seemed impossible to complete. And, such consumers always appreciated his warm way of teaching and they always kept coming back for more. **Bill** always showed his compassionate nature, which made it a pleasure to work with him on projects such as our Gardening from the Heart program at the Center and our Adopt-A-Highway activities. We were blessed to have him on our team.

Sincerely, **Tom Baker**

Hello. Sadly my father passed away in January at 89 years old. My father loved gardening. When he moved out here to be near my family in California, he helped me plant my garden each year. I know he truly enjoyed being a part of your gardening club and the volunteer work he did at the Center for Disability Services. Thank you for letting him be part of such a lovely organization.

Sincerely,

**Margaret Valian** daughter of **William Barr**

Editor's note: I think we all owe **Bill Barr** a big thanks for allowing us to spend time with him and for the tremendous number of volunteer hours he spent helping others. He set a great example for us all to follow. Thanks!

**Philip Harris**



As you can see below, **Phil** was very active doing things to improve the world and our lives in so many ways. **Phil** was always volunteering to help man our booths at the NYS Fair, Altamont Fair, Schaghticoke Fair, Capital District Garden and Flower Show, NY in Bloom and so many others. We could always count on **Phil**, and his wealth of knowledge, to answer the tough botanical questions. We'll always remember **Phil** for the plastic trays – thousands of them – that we all loved to put under house plants, or to make slide out drawers to hold various nuts and bolts – or even as a disposable paint tray. For almost 40 years **Phil** and his family have been making and donating a beautiful centerpiece for every dinner meeting. These were raffled off and the money - lots of it – was added to our Memorial Fund.

## Philip Harris continued



Speaking of our Memorial Fund – you wouldn't believe the number of donations that people have made in memory of **Phil Harris**. I've never seen anything like this and it really says something about the type of man he was. He was a true gentleman that really cared about helping people, plants, flowers and protecting wildlife. I've known **Phil** since the 70's when I used to go to Trinity Methodist Church with my Grandfather **Carroll Greenman** for a church service or a nice dinner sponsored by ZIPS. He lived a full life devoted to others that all benefited greatly from knowing Phil.

**Philip R. Harris Phil** was an active, long time member of the **1st Presbyterian Church** of Watervliet where he served as **Elder and Deacon** for many years. Phil attended and graduated from Watervliet City schools (School 9 and Watervliet High) shortly after which he obtained employment with the **New York State Health Department as a Laboratory Technician** with their Radiological Sciences Group. He remained there for **48 years** at various sites in Albany, retiring only in 2006. Phil developed an early interest in gardening and specialized in growing annuals like Zinias, Bells of Ireland, Cockscomb and especially many varieties of Sunflowers. Using plantings from his garden, he was known for creating unique flower arrangements for many occasions and provided floral displays for his church each Sunday. He was a life member of the **Men's Garden Club of Albany** where he participated and enjoyed the activities of the club for many years. He also developed an early interest in ornithology, particularly in waterfowl and larger birds and had a wide knowledge of many species and their habits. He was a long time member of the **American Pheasant and Waterfowl Society**, the **Hudson Mohawk Bird Club**, and the **New York State Ornithological Association**. He was also a member of the **Taconic Hiking Club**. He belonged to the **Uncle Sam Stamp Club of Troy** for many years and avidly collected stamps from Great Britain. Phil was a member of the **Troy Arts Guild** and served as its long time treasurer before the group disbanded. He was also a member **and guiding light of the Zelig Interdenominational People Society (ZIPS)**, a social and humanitarian group, which met at the **Trinity United Methodist Church** in Albany where he served as their President for many years. Phil became a member of the **Albany & Troy Lions Club** and greatly enjoyed traveling with his brother, **Past District Governor Dave Harris**, to attend club, national and international meetings and conventions of the organization. He also enjoyed attending many theatre and classical music performances in New York State especially during summer in the Berkshires with his brother each year. Phil is survived by his brother **David Harris**, sister **Diane** and her husband, **Tom** all of Watervliet.



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



**May 17<sup>th</sup>, Don Wrieden** and his team of workers planted lots of plants between the Short Term parking lot and the main entrance to the Terminals. Thanks!!!

## 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

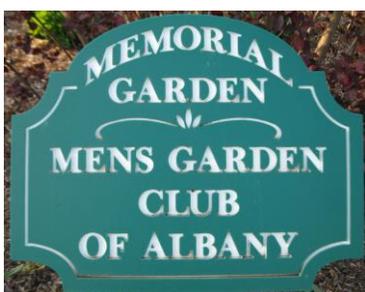


Volunteers this Summer included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden**. We have been harvesting all kinds of vegetables and each week each individual is able to bring home a bag of nice fresh veggies. We have had a couple very warm days that we stayed inside and worked on painting birdhouse that were taken home – after the paint dried.

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 consumers. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.



**Frank Sullivan** was one of those guys that you couldn't help but like - he was a gardener, the director of the Center for Disability Services and passionate about making a difference in people's lives. **Frank** continued his social justice focus in retirement working on numerous energy, climate, housing, corporate responsibility, voter rights and environmental causes to make the world more just and equitable. We will miss his great cooking, prolific garden, eclectic bicycle collection, ingenious fix-it's and ever positive outlook on life. **Thank You**



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



## Memorial Garden Work Party



The Memorial Garden cleanup days, May 9<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>, were very productive. **Joe Huth, Chuck Scott** and their team hauled lots of mulch, weeded and pruned bushes and trees. Thanks to all that helped support this very important project that honors our Gardener's Gone to Rest.

Many thanks to the folks who showed up to weed, mulch and spread stone in the Memorial Garden - it looks very spiffy! In particular, thanks to **Joe Huth** for coordinating the effort. by **Paul Zimmermann**

## Plant Sale Thank You!

We want to thank all of the members that helped make this plant sale a success. **Don Wrieden** and **Jack Meagher** did a fantastic job of organizing the plant sale which is our ONLY fundraiser. This is so important to our club since we do so much for the community and a \$500 dollar scholarship each year is just one of the many things we use the money for. **Don Wrieden, Jack Meagher,** and **Joe Herman** picked up and delivered plants to the sale and **Joe** also took care of the cash box from early morning to the end - without a break. **Bruce Wilcox** helped out with his truck. Allan Villeneuve. feeding us like kings

**Gill O'Brien** – purchased and donated box tops and donated many of his twice transplanted tomatoes - Roma - Celebrity and Best Boy. **John O'Grady**, his daughter and granddaughter donated two 8' tables full of plants that sold out fast. **Gary Woods** - Heritage Tomatoes that many people came to our sale specifically asking for these because they purchased them at our sale last year and loved them so much. **Tom Baker** coordinated all of the arrangements / permissions with the Bethlehem Police, Town, Delmar Dental, and the St. Thomas church staff. **Joe Raggio, Bob Ireland,** and **Russ Greenman** helped with the sales.

We especially thank the Staff of the Delmar Dental Medicine 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar for the use of their parking lot and the staff of the St. Thomas church (next door) that allowed us to use their parking lot as well as their indoor facilities.

This really can't be done without the support of our members, and you all pulled thru to help make this a great success. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank You

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
August 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm	<b>Annual Picnic / Memorial Service</b> Albany County Cooperative Extension Martin Rd 5:30pm Memorial service at the memorial Garden 6:00pm Pot Luck dinner 7:00ish - <b>Rain Garden Project at Siena College</b> Presented by: <b>Carl Greenman</b>
August 16 <sup>th</sup> thru 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Altamont Fair</b> Club members will be participating in the judging and once again we will have at table at the fair. Please contact <b>Joe Huth</b> to see how you can help
August 25 <sup>th</sup> thru September 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>New York State Fair</b> 581 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY Club members will be working at the fair as judges on the 25 <sup>th</sup> . <b>Joe Herman</b> will once again co-chair the Container Gardening competition.
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
September 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Board of Director's Meeting</b> 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  
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 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**

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