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

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Celebrating **81** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 80 NO. 2

February, 2017

MGCA February dinner meeting

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, February 23rd @ 6:30 pm**
Ladies and the public are cordially invited

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

ENTRÉE CHOICES: **Price: \$ 25.00**

Braised Beef Stroganoff or Chicken Parmesan or Baked Herb Crusted Cod

PROGRAM: **Neil Gifford will talk about their efforts to restore the Albany Pine Bush Preserve's globally-rare inland pine barrens ecosystem**

Our speaker this month is **Neil Gifford**, who is the Conservation Director for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, a NYS Public Authority created in 1988. He will talk about their efforts to restore Albany's globally-rare inland pine barrens ecosystem. The Albany Pine Bush Preserve contains the world's best remaining inland pitch pine-scrub oak barrens ecosystem, as well as 70 wildlife species of greatest conservation need.

Neil's interactive presentation will shed light on what it means to restore a healthy ecosystem, and highlight the commission's successful efforts in doing so. It will surely be a fascinating talk that will enlighten us all on a very unique ecosystem that we are fortunate to have right in our own backyard.

Neil Gifford has been associated with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission for over 20 years, and as the Conservation Director he is the Commission's lead scientist, directing the management, monitoring and research activities within the 3,300 acre Preserve. He has authored several scientific publications on various aspects of pine barrens conservation, and is also licensed USGS master bird bander. During his tenure at the Commission, the Albany Pine Bush has been designated a National Natural Landmark, a NYS Bird Conservation Area, and a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area. He is a graduate of Plattsburgh State University, where he received a B.A. in Environmental Science & Ecology, and later a M.A. studying breeding season bird ecology.

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, February 18th, 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 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. Please let **Russ Greenman** know if there are any changes (from your last directory) that need to be made for the 2017 membership directory. That includes: Name, Address, Phone #, significant other's name, email address.

Please welcome new members:

Norman Frey – **Norman** is a past guest speaker and an officer in the NYS Bluebird Society
www.nysbs.org

Jim Gade - Jim's Dad (Jack) was a well-respected member of our club and his son **Jim** is following in his footsteps. **Jim**, his **Dad** and the **Gade Farm** have always been great supporters of our club.
www.gadefarm.com

Thanks to both **Norman Frey** and **Jim Gade**!

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.

On a sad note: I'm sorry to say that we have lost another fine gentleman - **Mr. Henry "Hank" Fox**

Hank / Henry Fox was an amazing guy that has done so much for the Men's Garden Club of Albany. **Hank** was passionate about the MGCA and during a recent visit he was asking about many MGCA members and the status of many of our activities. His wife, **Alberta**, would read the DIRT to him and that helped him keep up on our activities. Without **Hank** - we probably would have been broke by now. He really knew 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.

Hank Fox touched the lives of everyone he knew and his good work made this world a better place to live. We are all so grateful to have known such a hard working dedicated man. Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Alberta** (also 95 years old) and their family.

Henry Fox – From the December 2013 DIRT

Henry and **Alberta Fox** are moving to NH on September 11th 2012. Unfortunately **Henry** will be moving to New Hampshire to live near his daughter. We are certainly going to miss **Henry (Hank)** and **Alberta** as they were so active in the MGCA. **Henry** took the lead on many projects and you know that they will be done right if **Henry** is in charge. Under **Hanks** leadership the club was able to raise lots of money to support our many projects. **Henry** has been the Plant Sale and Calendar Sale chairman for many many years as well as being the co-chair of the Bulb Sale each fall. I can hear him now, trying to sell me more calendars than I have friends to give them to.

I don't know why everyone in our club seems to be so nice... Perhaps it's because they are gardeners that aren't trying to prove anything, or, that they are old geezers that were raised differently than these young whippersnappers today. Well, I think that we all can learn from the examples set by many of our members – especially **Ken Abele** and **Henry Fox** who are Honorary Members of MGCA due to their age and longtime status with the club.

Henry G. Fox



Fox, Henry G. LONDBERRY, N.H. Henry G. Fox, "Hank," 95, resident of Londonderry, and longtime resident of Albany, entered into eternal rest, on January 26, 2017, at his home. He was born in Brooklyn, on August 26, 1921, the son of Henry and Mildred (Schuchardt) Fuchs. Hank was drafted into the U.S. [Army](#) on February 3, 1943. He served as a weather observer assigned to the Headquarters Battery Ninth Division Artillery. His unit fought throughout Europe including notorious battles at Anzio Beach. After nearly two years in combat, he returned home and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal. He was a veteran of [World](#)

[War II](#). For sixty years, Hank owned and operated Henry G. Fox & Son Distributors in Albany. He was a scoutmaster for The Boy Scouts of America for many years. He was a member of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, the Masonic Lodge #84 in Amsterdam, and a longtime member of the First Church of Albany. Hank spent much of his time volunteering for his church and community. He was an avid fan of the Albany River Rats Hockey Team. Hank also enjoyed the Albany Symphony Orchestra, his camp on Sacandaga, and traveling the globe with his wife, Alberta. Surviving family members include his wife of 71 years, Alberta (Radichel) Fox of Londonderry; a daughter, Barbara (Walter) Murray of Amherst, N.H.; a son, Gary (Nancy) Fox of Loudonville; two grandchildren, Christine Fox of Amherst and Jill (Jake) Montesano of Delanson; a great-grandson, Gage; and his beloved cat, Jeff. There will be no calling hours. Services will be held in New York at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions, in Hank's memory, be made to The First Church of Albany, 110 N. Pearl St., Albany, NY 12207. Arrangements are in the care of Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm St., Milford, N.H. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please go to [smith-heald.com](#)



Funeral Home

Heald Funeral Home, Inc. - St. Albans
87 South Main Street St. Albans, VT 05478
1-802-524-3031

January Program - Thank You!

Perennials by: **Amy Castillo** from **The Gade Farm**

If you missed **Amy Castillo's** program at our last dinner meeting you might end up with more money in your pocket this summer. **Amy Castillo** is the manager and head buyer for the Garden Shop & Nursery at the **Gade Farm** on Western Ave. in Guilderland. It's unbelievable how fired up she is about perennials and her excitement made us all want follow in her footsteps and order every new perennial she can find at the trade shows. That is what she does – goes shopping, buys everything - and she gets away with it because she really knows her job. **Amy** started with the **Gade Farm** when she was 18 years old and went on to get her Master's degree, spent some time in the Peace Corps, and became a Spanish teacher. Eventually she came back to the Farm where she is now gearing up to have 24,000 perennials that will be in 1 and 2 gallon containers, with 1,000 different varieties. I think she can help you find just the right perennials that will look great and thrive in your favorite locations.

The **Gade Farm** has changed over the years – from being a grower to become very consumer oriented and they even have a bakery on site. She had photos of many of her favorite perennials and neat little pictures on the side that gave you visuals of things like the amount of sun they require and if they attract bees, or humming birds. You can tell she loves her job and is very detail oriented. I don't think I'll ever get over how great **Amy Castillo's** presentation was, and the **Gade** family sure is fortunate to have someone of that caliber working with them.

Check out their website if you want a sneak preview of what they are planning before their opening on March 17th, 2017. www.gadefarm.com

If you are new to growing perennials, or already have an established perennial garden, you need to check out our January dinner meeting speaker. **Amy Castillo**, from **The Gade Farm** on Western Avenue in Guilderland, will be talking about her passion for plants, and perennials in particular. **Amy** has worked at **The Gade Farm** on and off for over 24 years, and is currently the manager and head buyer for the Garden Shop & Nursery.

Since perennials are in high demand and there are so many new varieties coming out every year, it is difficult to know which ones would be a great addition to your gardens. **Amy** will be previewing some of the 25,000 perennials that will be growing at **The Gade Farm** for 2017—from the good, hardy favorites, to the brand new hot ones. She will also be sharing some of her growing tips and tricks to help you keep all your perennial beds looking fabulous!

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 a high school senior 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.

History – 25 years ago
MEN`S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 1991

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men`s Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, February 7, 1991 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Joe Raggio** called the meeting to order at 7:38.

The Minutes of the January 3, 1991 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**

The Treasurer`s Report was approved as presented by our newly elected Treasurer, **Fred Day**. There as a balance in the General Fund as of January 31, 1991 of \$4,937,61 and in the Memorial Fund \$742.29, the endowment and Investment fund has \$5,987.63.

A letter was read from the Berkshire Garden Center thanking the Club for its generous annual contribution.

From the National Endowment and Investment fund Committee, **Al Miller** informed the Board that his one year appointment expired on December 31, 1990 where as the National Board elected to have **Al** serve a full three year term. **Al** consented to accept. (Was this National?)

The bulk of the remainder of the meeting consisted of working on the committees, chairmen, co-chairmen, and their responsibilities. Everyone had a copy of the agenda, therefore, the Secretary elected not to reiterate the entire details. The agenda is attached.

SOME PROPOSALS WERE MADE:

1. **Ferd Johnson** and **Ken York** will chair the committee for Investigation of Club expansion.
2. Alternate Directory to replace the present Directory will be chaired by **Don Lewis**.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Andy Cytrynak** discussed the plans for the Flower Show. For one thing, **Warren Abele** will give a workshop on Forcing Daffodils.
2. **Edgar Tompkins** made a motion which was carried that would allocate \$150.00 for the Show: \$125.00 is for the entrance fee and \$25.00 incidental expenses.
3. **Oscar Rheingold** offered to donate some Tuberous Begonias for the Exhibit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tom Baker, Secretary

** Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had a 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 built 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 while working on the bridge?
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 January included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**

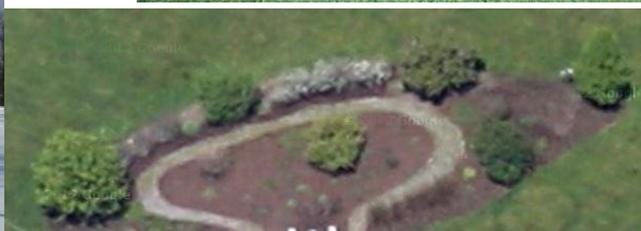
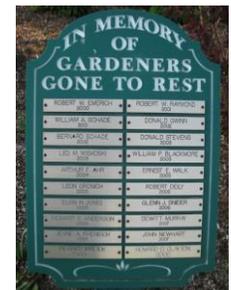


January was a great month... The Center's Telethon was a huge success raising more than \$2.1 million and the fund raiser at the Barrel Saloon was also a great success. Thanks to all (especially **Colleen**) for organizing and helping with these events. I think that the folks from the Center for Disability Services did an awesome job singing the Beatles song – All You Need is Love – and they gave that guy **Sawyer Fredrick** (from the Voice) some real competition.

We did some plantings of cuttings and made some real nice bird treats out of pine cones, peanut butter and sunflower seeds. Each consumer got to take home the treats they made. 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.

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 37 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	
February 23 rd @ 6:30pm	Dinner meeting - @ the Beltrone Center – 6 Winners Circle Albany, NY	
March 23 rd @ 6:30pm		
March 2 nd @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited	
April 6 th @ 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.

Dues (\$25) and advertisement payments were 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 the **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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The following growers donated to
our 2016 Plant Sale
Please help support them with
your purchases

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The Gade Farm
Pigliaventos Greenhouses
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