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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 80 NO. 5

May, 2017

MGCA May (Ladies night) dinner meeting

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, May 25th @ 6:30 pm**
Ladies night

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

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

Flatiron Steak au Poivre

Grilled Chicken Breast with Mango Salsa

Coconut Poached Salmon Fillet

DESSERT: Brownie Sundae

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: **Will Malcom from Capital Roots**

The presentation will consist of a brief overview of Capital Roots' 40 year history and our growing portfolio of food access and urban agriculture programs, which serve the Capital Region. We will also discuss our plans for future growth and ways that individuals, families, groups and businesses can get connected with us, including upcoming and ongoing volunteer opportunities!

Will Malcolm is the Food Access Manager at Capital Roots (formerly Capital District Community Gardens) and a native of the Capital Region. He supervises all the food access programming for the organization including two mobile markets, (The Veggie Mobile® and Sprout), Healthy Stores, Smart Vending, the Virtual Veggie Mobile online marketplace and VeggieRx programming. Beyond these integrated programs, **Will** also works with local municipalities across the Capital Region to increase Complete Streets projects and positive transportation policy development. **Will** is an alumnus of SUNY Oneonta and the University at Albany.

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, May 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

Thank you to our two newest members **Stephen Golas** and **Robert Murphy** and their guests for attending our April dinner. We sure look forward to seeing you at our May 25th Ladies night meeting.

We're sorry to report the loss of another Great man – **Mr. Robert Smith**

Bob was a great supporter of the club and volunteering his time as a judge for 4-H activities at the Altamont Fair. Everyone that knew him loved him and appreciated all he did to make life better for us. He was quite a gardener and his award winning vegetables were proof of that.

We're going to miss **Bob Smith** and his unique way of cheering us up.

Robert C. Smith (1938 - 2017)

ROTTERDAM - Robert C. Smith, 78, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 25th, at Ellis Hospital.

Born on August 15, 1938, in Cooperstown, NY, he was the son of the late Mildred L. and John G. Smith. He graduated from Van Hornesville Central

School in 1958 and received his AAS Degree in Animal Husbandry from SUNY Cobleskill in 1965. Robert grew up on the family dairy farm, and after marriage, worked for Daniel Green Co. before becoming a meat cutter with Victory Markets. He was also employed as a meat cutter by the Niskayuna Co-op, Shop Rite, Great American and retired from BJ's Wholesale Club, of Albany, in 2000.

Robert was a member of the Carman United Methodist Church and a Certified Lay Speaker; a 56 year member of the Dolgeville Masonic Lodge #796, F& AM and the Albany Men's Garden Club. He enjoyed volunteering his time as a Master Gardener with the Cornell Cooperative Ext., of Schenectady County, and also was a vegetable judge for the 4-H clubs at the Altamont Fair. He was very passionate and proud of his vegetable garden, entering in local fairs and winning many ribbons each year.

Robert's greatest joy in life was his family. If there was a party, or get together, he was there and the life of it! His terrific sense of humor and love of life will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Carol Lein Smith; their three children, Annette (Craig) McDonald, Rotterdam, Carolyn Smith, Ilion, and Michael (Renee) Smith, Scottsville; five grandchildren, Alicia (Matthew) Yacowenia, Daniel McDonald, Connor, Abigail and Paige Smith; one great-grandchild, Cole Yacowenia; twin brother, Ronald (Nancy), Van Hornesville; several cousins, nieces and nephews; and family friend, Alicia Volo.

Calling hours will be from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, May 6th, at the Carman United Methodist Church, 2350 Hamburg Street, Rotterdam, NY, with a funeral service to follow. Burial and a Masonic service will take place Sunday, May 7th, at the Van Hornesville Cemetery at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Carman United Methodist Church or a [charity of your choice](#).

Online condolences may be made at www.demarcostonefuneralhome.com.

Published in Times Telegram from May 2 to May 3, 2017

National membership – All regional and national dues have been paid and you should be receiving the email version of the national newsletter that is published 6 times per year.

April Program - Thank You!

Albany's Tulip Festival and the Garden Beds that Beautify the Capital City

I'm not sure how **Jessica Morgan, the Albany City Gardener**, found time to talk to our group while many of the tulips for **Albany's Tulip Festival** were in bloom. It was interesting to see the various techniques used to plant the bulbs in the many gardens within Washington Park. **Jessica** always tries to pick the bulbs that are smart enough to be in full bloom for the Albany Tulip Festival that is held on Mother's Day weekend. If they don't cooperate she sells them after the festival... Actually, she sells them even if they do cooperate – but she doesn't let them know ahead of time. In addition to all of the tulips in the park **Jessica** is responsible for many really nice plantings that are located throughout the City of Albany. One really nice example is the median where Madison Ave. and Western Ave. come together.

Jessica Morgan also knows a lot about the History of Washington Park and we may be able to twist her arm to come back to talk about the many interesting things she has learned over the years.

We really owe **Jessica Morgan** a **BIG THANKS** for an interesting and educational program.

Note: Tulip Festival photos are included on page 13-14 of this newsletter

Bluebird house winners

Capital District Garden and Flower Show raffle

We gave away three bluebird houses and we want to thank all that signed up to win as well as **Joe Herman** for his delivery service.

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 has been extended to June 30.

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.

GARDEN TALK

WATER CONSERVATION

By
JOE HUTH

When I offered to write an article for the DIRT I thought water conservation in the garden would be an appropriate topic. Since the we've had plenty of rain, too much in terms of getting the garden worked up and planted. However, I'm writing this in May and things will probably change by mid-summer. My suggestions will also help in terms of weed control.

One important factor in water utilization by plants is a good root system. This can be enhanced by good, deep soil preparation, checking soil pH to adjust acidity for the kind of plants, adding organic matter and fertilizer. Most gardeners are now past this stage and the trick is to make the best use of the moisture in the ground.

The first thing that is needed is a way to cut down on evaporation. Mulching is the obvious answer. Usually appearance in a vegetable garden is less of a concern than in the landscape. Therefore, items such as newspaper (3 or 4 pages thick), black or other dark plastic films and even old carpeting can be used to cover the ground and reduce evaporation. A more expensive plastic mulch sold as weed block has the advantage of being porous and allowing water to get through. Natural mulches such as grass clippings and compost are easy to apply and are more beneficial to use around cool weather plants such as broccoli, cauliflower and others in the cabbage family.

In more public areas bark and stone mulches will be more attractive. To weed competition, use the weed block underneath ant mulch.

In areas where mulches are not appropriate, do a good job of weeding and try to keep the surface soil loose to form a "dust mulch". This will break the capillary action that draws water to the surface where it can evaporate.

If watering is necessary, water deeply. Since water evaporates quickly from the top three inches of soil, it is important to water deeper than this. Techniques like the use of the soaker hose along the row or under plastic mulch will soak the root zone and not waste water between the rows.

These ideas plus early and frequent weeding will help make use of the available soil moisture. What other ideas do you have to conserve moisture?

Getting Started with Perennials

Perennials are plants with a life span of more than two years. This could apply to trees and shrubs but it is a term usually reserved for non-woody plants-those that die down in the fall but have roots that live over to send up new growth each spring.

Quite a number such as hardy alyssum, peony, bleeding heart, blue baptisia, lily-of-the-valley, and iris bloom early before you can count on flowers from annuals, which have to be renewed each year and cannot be planted until danger of frost is over. Other perennials bloom later. With careful planning you can have perennials blooming each month of the growing season.

Getting Started with Perennials – continued

For quick results, buying plants is often the fastest method, although some perennials grown from seeds will bloom the first season. Buying plants is easier, too, and when it comes to named hybrids, it is the only way. For instance, you cannot grow hemerocallis 'Jack Frost' from seeds even if the seeds come from a plant of 'Jack Frost.' The seeds would grow, but the blossoms might be quite a different. They might be equal in beauty or even better but you could not say these were 'Jack Frost' plants. This plant must be propagated vegetatively-by a division or proliferation from a true 'Jack Frost' plant.

There's quite a saving in cost by growing plants from seeds. In many instances one packet of seed, producing several dozen plants, costs less than a single plant. Last spring a packet of double pink platycodon (balloon flower) cost 50 cents. The 26 plants that grew from that seed cost less than two cents each! In checking through seven nursery catalogs, one listing double pink platycodon plants. Plants of double blue and double white were almost a dollar each plus postage. Platycodons bloom the first year from seeds. Heuchera is another easy perennial to start from seeds. If started early and kept growing, it blooms the first year. Plants started from seeds in your own garden sometimes become acclimated more easily than full-grown plants. This is especially true if the plants have been grown under quite different climatic conditions. Some plants are very difficult to start from seeds or they may take a number of years to reach blooming size. Allium giganteum is one that germinates poorly. It takes several years to grow bulbs to blooming size. Dietamnus is uncertain as to time of germination. The seeds may lie idle for a year before deciding to grow. Then the seedlings require three or four years before blossoms appear. Still if you have the time and the patience, you can experience the satisfaction that it gives to look on the neat lemon-scented, shiny-leafed plants grown from seeds, and realize they will probably outlive even your grandchildren!

Some perennials are short-lived regardless of the care they receive. These include delphiniums, penstemons, gloriosa daisies, some of the dianthus and campanulas and are best grown from seed. Seed planting is simple and exciting. The most successful gardeners plant seeds in a protected area where moisture and the elements can be controlled. This may be a well-constructed cold frame, complete with glass sash. Or it may be only four low boards nailed together or staked in place, with burlap bags and later lath frames over the top to conserve moisture and protect the young plants from beating rains and drying winds.

Seed packets usually contain the necessary information for planting the seeds. Some germinate better by being planted in the late fall or very early spring; some succeed best in early summer when the soil is warm. The depth for planting and other helps are given on the packet.

Some gardeners prefer to specialize in one particular kind of perennial. It is amazing what wonderful results you can obtain when you give all your attention and care to one kind-primulas, for instance; or irises, or hemerocallis (day- lilies).

Whether you buy plants or start them from seeds, prepare a good place when you set them in their permanent location. They will remain in the same spot for years, possibly for as long as they live. Work the bed over deeply. Add fertilizer. If the soil is not friable, put organic material in it.

If you decide to start with perennials, the time is now. The problem may not be how to get started but with which one, or ones. The purpose of flower catalogs is to help you answer that question.

History – 25 years ago - MAY 7, 1992
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 graciously hosted by **Don** and **Nancy Lewis** at their home in Loudonville, N. Y.

A lovely dinner preceded the business meeting.

President **Herman Mau** called the meeting to order at 7:25.

The Minutes of the April 2, 1992 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report, which actually appeared at the end of the meeting, was approved as presented by **Fred Day** the Club Treasurer. As of April 30, 1992 there as a balance on hand, including reserves of \$12,654.21.

* The Program Chairman, **Russ Greenman**, advised the Board that the Ladies Night would be held in the Crossgates Restaurant on May 28, 1992 and the guest speaker would be **Walter Scheeren** with a topic of "The Nature of Orchids." Full details will be found in the Dirt.

* President **Herm** called for a Scholarship Committee report but none was forthcoming.

* **Wally Dillenbeck** reported that the two dates that our Club will man the State Fair Booth are August 27, a Thursday and September 6, 1992 the Sunday before Labor Day which we have always done in the past.

* **Herm** asked for a progress report on the Future Directions for our local Club. **Joe Raggio**, Chairman, and **Russ Greenman**, Co-chairman, are working on a questionnaire which will be eventually distributed to the General Membership.

* It was announced that Wednesday, May 20 was set as the date to plant **Dwight Morton`s** Memorial tree. This will be at 12 noon. Any men who are available should attend to represent the Club since we contributed \$72.00 toward the tree.

* The Board voted to send one of our hanging Plants to **Barbara Miller**, our loyal Dirt Typist.

* **Halial**, our friend from Russia, made two Garden Club signs. The Board voted to re-imburse him with a check for \$100.00.

* **Bill Burke** our second Vice President has left the area, leaving his office vacant. **Wally Dillenbeck** was appointed to locate a possible replacement.

* The up-state Regional President has asked our club to provide a candidate for third Vice President.

* It was announced that the Annual Flower show at the Morrisville College will be held on August 15, 1992 beginning at 9 am.

* The following was not resolved at this meeting, but will have to be dealt with in the near future. "What to do about National Life Members who have not paid their Local dues?"

* **Joe Raggio** presented a request by the Bethlehem and Delmar area Kiwanis Club for a speaker to inform them about our Club Activities.

* The remainder of the meeting was ably conducted by **Henry Fox** who did the final work-up of the Plant Sale. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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 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 our several thousand pound raised bed - **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 April included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bill Stoneman, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**

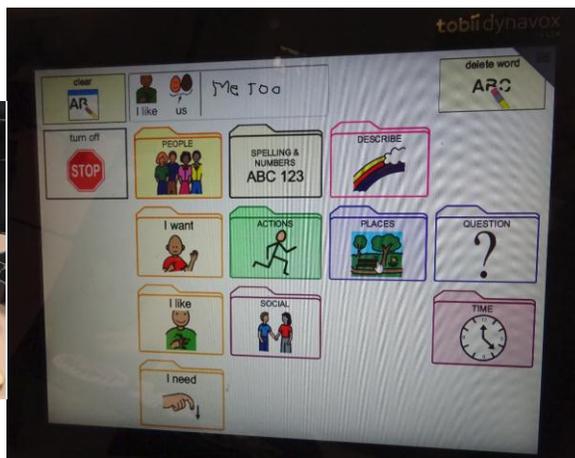


Our projects last month included taking cuttings from Coleus and starting lettuce, peas and a few other types of seeds. We have ordered seven new very nice raised beds from **Halfmoon Works** that will be used to replace some of the raised beds that have seen better days. Two raised beds 2' x 6' that will remain in the greenhouse and two 2'x2' raised beds on wheels that will be moved into the greenhouse during the winter. These may be used to plant bulbs for forcing. We will need some strong backs to remove the old beds and soil, build the new beds and fill them with soil.



Greenhouse – We will soon begin to develop a plan to fix up our 25 year old greenhouse and possibly make it more wheelchair friendly by putting raised beds in the greenhouse and/or lowering the legs on the tables. This will probably include replacing the door with a wider one (or two), some new clear siding, and replacing the rotted wood along the lower portion of the greenhouse.

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**



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!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Plant Sale - May 13th - Please consider helping out at our biggest and only fund raiser of the year. Volunteers are needed to setup tables, help our customers and to be customers.

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
May 13 th 8:00 am – 2:00 pm	PLANT Sale 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar
May 25 th @ 6:30 pm	Dinner meeting - @ the Beltrone Center – 6 Winners Circle Albany, NY - May 25 th is Ladies night
May 4 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
June 1 st @ 7:30 pm	
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
August 3 rd Thursday @ 5:00 pm	Summer Picnic and Memorial Service Albany County Cooperative Extension – 15 Martin Rd. Voorheesville, NY

Editor: **Russ Greenman**



Plant Sale



Men's Garden Club
Of Albany

Sat May 13

(Day before Mother's day)

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

parking lot at

Delmar Dental Medicine

(next to St Thomas the Apostle Church)

344 Delaware Ave, Delmar



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 Day before Mother's Day

344 Delaware Ave, Delmar

May 13th 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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The following growers donated to
our 2016 Plant Sale
Please help support them with
your purchases

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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

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Albany's
Tulip
Festival
2017

