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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **82** years of service to our community

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 81 NO. 5

May, 2018

Dinner and Program (Ladies night)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 24th @ 6:30 pm

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

From Wolf Road *turn* East onto Metro Park Road (across from the Speedway Gas Station) *turn* LEFT at the first stop sign. *Turn* RIGHT at the first stop sign continuing on Winners Circle. Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

APPETIZER: Roasted Tomato Bisque

ENTREE: Grilled Sirloin Steak, Mushroom Sauce
Linguine with Shrimp, Chorizo Sausage and Vegetables
Chicken Marsala

DESSERT: Raspberry Mousse Cake

Price: \$ 25.00

PROGRAM: The Albany Victory Gardens program – By Mr. Greg Sheldon

Please join us on May 24 to learn about how the non-profit organization, Albany Victory Gardens, is developing a large garden space in Albany on a 10 acre piece of land on Rt. 9W across from Bethlehem Center. Through their efforts, they are providing greater access to nutritious food for our most at-risk neighbors, using time-tested home gardening traditions and methods.

The organization is unique in that they are involved with promoting several specialized gardening programs, including partnership gardens, abundance planting gardens, and subsistence gardens. Their initiatives are strengthening inter-community relationships between Albany County residents, while increasing food access and self-sufficiency. Volunteers and experienced gardeners are working together to help teach valuable gardening skills and techniques.

Greg Sheldon, who is one of the leaders of Albany Victory Gardens, will speak about the mission and vision of this ambitious community gardening program.

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 Sunday, May 20th, please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 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

Welcome Dave Jennings – **Dave** is no stranger to our club. As the Albany County agent for the Cornell Cooperative Extension he has been involved with our club and have been a guest speaker. He has a wealth of knowledge and seems to focus his efforts on Hostas. It was good to see him join and attend our April meeting.

Recently we had a few other members join and we hope to see them this month so that we can introduce them to you.

Herm Mau has been battling cancer and is now at home under the care of Hospice. Please include **Herm** and his wife **Mary** in your thoughts and prayers.

John B. Piechnik (1923 - 2018) – **John** was a real gentleman that cared about people and dedicated his time and talent to many of our community services including the Gardening From the Heart activities at the Center for Disability Services.



Piechnik, John B. ALBANY John B. Piechnik, 94, died peacefully on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at the Daughters of Sarah Senior Community following a brief illness. Born in Albany on October 19, 1923, he was the son of the late Walenty and Magdalene Czernicki Piechnik. A lifelong resident, John attended St. Casimir's Catholic School and was a graduate of Albany High School. He served proudly in the United States Army from 1942 until 1946 with the 315th Infantry Regiment. John was at the Battle of Normandy and was a recipient of the Purple Heart. On May 9, 2014, he was honored with "The French Legion of Honor Award" for his bravery during World War II. It is the highest award the French may bestow to a non-native or French civilian. He was employed by the

United States Postal Service until his retirement and was a devout Catholic. On April 23, 1949, he was united in marriage to Mary E. McKeon Piechnik. That union lasted 55 years until her passing on July 1, 2004. He is also survived by his companion of recent years, Ginny VanZandt; nieces, nephews and cousins. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Friday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, 607 Central Ave., Albany. Burial will follow in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery with military honors. Relatives and friends are invited and may call on Thursday, May 3, from 4-7 p.m. in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 N. Allen St., Albany. Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to The Fisher House Foundation www.fisherhouse.org or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org

April Program - Thank You!

April Speaker:

Those who were in attendance at last month's meeting were well-informed about the various kinds of ticks that can be carriers that cause several infectious diseases, mainly Lyme Disease. We were very fortunate to have had **Joellen Lampman** from Albany County Cooperative Extension come to speak about everything you need to know to avoid being infected by ticks, including what to wear, and knowing the areas where ticks are most apt to be present in the landscape. We also learned the best way to check ourselves for the presence of ticks, and most importantly, the proper method of removing them if found on our bodies.

Joellen travels the entire state to talk to organizations about ticks and we thank her for taking the time from her busy schedule to offer her expertise on this pest which is a growing problem for all of us outdoor enthusiasts.



Plant Sale



Saturday May 12th is the date of our annual **Plant Sale** and only fundraiser. Please consider donating some of the plants you have. Any **donations are welcome and encouraged**. For years **Gil O'Brien** has purchased and donated cardboard boxes and donated a truckload of tomatoes and other goodies

for our sale. This year we are asking you to **bring cardboard boxes** or box lids that will support the transport of plants to the customers vehicle.

Please bring anything you have to contribute to our plant sale – or just show up to support the MGCA by helping sell and/or purchasing the plants and vegetables that were either purchased, donated, grown by members, or grown at the Center for Disability Services by our awesome group friends at the Center.

Opportunity – Tree Identification

We have been given an opportunity to work on a fantastic project. Vale Cemetery/Park has recently been accredited as a Class I arboretum and they would like us to help identify trees that will be mapped out on a brochure that visitors can use to identify trees and their locations. Unfortunately, our two best experts (**Mr. Bill Town** and **Dr. John Abbuhl**) have Gone to Rest. **Bill Town** identified and documented every tree along the three miles of roadway in Oakwood Cemetery and **Dr. John Abbuhl** planted just about every tree known to man at his **Pine Hollow Arboretum in Slingerlands, NY**.

This would be a great club project that contributes to our mission of educating and giving back to the community. Please let **Russ** or any board member know if you would be willing to help identify the trees in the Vale Cemetery/Park.

Thanks in advance!!!

History – 25 years ago – MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 3, 1993

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening June 3, 1993 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** opened the meeting at 7:38.

The Minutes of the May 6, 1993 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report, given by **Fred Day**, our Treasurer was approved as presented. As of May 31, 1993 the balance on hand, including reserves was \$15,244.20.

* **Henry Fox** made a motion that the Club should donate \$200.00 to the Hudson Correctional Facility to enhance the program of Horticultural activities run by **Harry Vincent**. The facility again this year gave our club many plants for our Plant sale. The motion was carried.

* The following programs were suggested by **Dick Weller**:

1. June 24, 1993 will be at the Five Rivers.
2. July 25, 1993...Sunday, Ladies invited at the George Landis Arboretum.
3. Sometime in September a meeting or field trip may be set up at **Caroline Males** home.

* Reports on the various Fairs which the Club will participate in were too sketchy to allow space in the minutes.

* The Adopt-a-Highway was voted into a reality. Definite plans will be announced as they are formulated.

* **Halil, Don Otterness`** Russian visitor is going to stay in America and wants to send for his family.

Don is going to host a picnic, a fund Raiser at his farm. He asked for and was given permission to use our membership list to send out invitations.

Fred Day suggested that the Club should make a direct contribution. This was agreed upon but no amount was settled on at this time.

* **Herm Mau** made a suggestion that **Bill Krug** should get an award for all the work and donations he has made to the Club.

Fred Day, chairman of the Awards Committee will look into this matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

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!!!**

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Transplanting

Transplanting your precious babies is always a tender task best approached with a brain surgeon's mindset.

Plants come to us in a variety of containers from the familiar six-pack to the 5 gallon (or larger) plastic bucket. We'll cover the 6-pack protocol here.

Let's face the grim reality - most seedlings that come from our friendly garden center are root bound. Although not the end of the civilization, this condition is decidedly suboptimal. A large reason for the prevalence of this undesirable situation is that many garden centers have switched to the smaller sized plug flats. You can improve the situation by either frequenting nurseries that still use the full size six-packs, or buying your seedlings as early as possible and transplanting the seedlings into larger size containers yourself. In the photos below you can plainly see the difference between a root bound specimen and a root ball that hasn't been growing too long in its cell.



The larger size six-pack holds 2.5 times as much soil per cell as its junior partner, giving seedlings much more space to build a mature and robust root system (and roots make the plant).



GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Transplanting

continued

Most plants don't object to the disruption of transplanting. There are exceptions such as squash and cucumbers. If you purchase these plants in plastic containers, you'll need to handle them very delicately. Most other plants don't mind a little spindling and mutilation so long as the basic root structure remains intact.

You should also be aware that some plants respond positively to being transplanted deeper into the new container or garden soil. Tomatoes are a poster child for submersion, but I've found that many greens such as kale, chard and even lettuce benefit.

Before transplanting, be extra sure to water your plants to the point that the soil is moist throughout the container, but not drenched. As always, watering from the bottom indicates good breeding.

OK, we're ready for the step-by-step procedure.

- Prepare the holes in your garden soil. Do not crowd the plant (like I invariably do). If the proper spacing is 12 inches, then 1 foot it is! The holes should be larger than the root ball.
- Run a modestly sharp knife around the inside edges of the cells to cut any roots that might have wandered into their neighbor's territory.
- Plunge a butter knife or similar implement down the inside wall of the cell all the way to the bottom. Then gently lever the root ball out of the cell. **DO NOT YANK ON THE PLANT STEM!**
- Optionally, if the seedling is root bound, gently pull some of the raveled roots apart (easy does it)
- Place the plant in its new domicile, and keeping it upright, pack soil around the root ball (and the lower stem if you're planting deeper). Give a final tamp all around to remove any air pockets.
- Water moderately and plan on watering again the next two days at a minimum. In the spring water once with liquid fertilizer in the first few days.
- Add mulch if desired although you might delay this step in the spring to give the soil a chance to warm up further.

Proper transplanting techniques will get your seedlings off to a quick start which in turn translates into earlier fruit production.



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Albany International Airport
Don Wrieden – Chairman**

Adopt-a-Highway –
On hold until our raised bed is returned



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 that was working on the bridge at Exit 7 of I-90 knows where it is.

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 in April included: **Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.** **Tom Baker** has regained his strength after getting pneumonia, and we expect him to return to the GFTH project that **Tom Baker** and **Al Miller** founded back in 1984-85.

The consumers have been busy indoors planting seeds and transplanting peppers, tomatoes, cucumber into larger containers. It is amazing how they can plant a seed and come back a week later to see that it has grown 2" to 3" . **Don Wrieden** picked up some sunflower seeds that could grow 12' to 15' tall. We'll have to devise a way to support them.

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.



Greenhouse and raised beds at the Center For Disability Services 700 S. Pearl St.



**Gardening From The Heart Activities at the
Center For Disability Services April 2018**



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
June 7 th @ 7:30 pm	Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
May 12, 2018	Plant Sale (Day before Mother's day) Delmar Dental Medicine (next to St Thomas the Apostle Church) 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar
May 24 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting - Ladies night
July 22 nd (Sunday)	Annual Picnic and Memorial Service at the Cornell Cooperative Extension 24 Martin Rd. Voorheesville, NY 12186

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>

Are you ready for the Hot Pepper ALS challenge?

Challenge Guidelines:

Anaheim Pepper: \$20 minimum donation

Jalapeno Pepper: \$10 minimum donation

Habanero Pepper: \$5 minimum donation

Anything Spicer: \$0 minimum donation

+ Nominate 3 friends

Special thanks to **Paul Zimmermann** for our terrific website

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

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

It is a lot of work to build and maintain a website and keep it up to date with current information -

Paul does all of that and more... Please make the time to check it out. You can find the current meeting info, past and present editions of the DIRT, fantastic articles written by **Paul**

Zimmermann, Membership application, links to growers and horticultural topics... You get the idea

- Please check it out and Thank **Mr. Paul Zimmermann** for all he does.



Plant Sale



Men's Garden Club
Of Albany

Sat May 12

(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

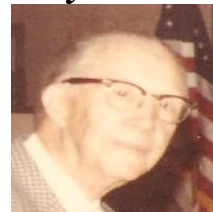
In Memory of



Bill Town

Joe Herman

*In Memory of
my Dad*



Carroll W. Greenman

Bob



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