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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. 9**

**November, 2018**

**Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)**

**DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 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 and continue on Winners Circle. Follow the signs for The Lakeview Restaurant & The Beltrone Living Center. Enter the building at the 1 South entrance.

This month we're trying something different... We will to try a buffet that includes:  
A salad, 3 three main courses, side dishes and dessert.

The main course items will be:

**Southern Fried Chicken**

**Braised Beef Stew**

**Tortellini Pasta with sweet potato and spinach**

**Price: \$ 25.00**

**PROGRAM: "A Father Remembers"**

As we salute those who served our country on Veteran's Day, we are taking a break from garden-related topics this month to offer a program that will be very memorable, inspirational, and one that will surely touch all our hearts. **John McKenna III** will be presenting his very personal story of how he led the effort to create a military courtesy room for travelling military personnel at Albany international Airport, which opened in April 2010. His son, **John McKenna IV**, served in the United States Marine Corp. When he left in 2004, he joined the Marine Reserves, and went on to become a New York State Police Trooper. In 2006 his son was serving as a Captain for the USMC, while still a State Trooper, when he was tragically killed in action.

John decided to retire and devote his time to volunteering and working on special projects involving public service, especially those where he would be helping veterans. Besides the airport courtesy room, **John** also chaired the committee to construct a Gold Star Family Memorial monument in Lafayette Park in Albany. In March 2017, the monument was dedicated as a tribute to all families who had lost a loved one in military service.

**PROGRAM: “A Father Remembers” - continued**

**John** himself is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army from 1963-1966 with ARADCOM C Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Missile Battalion 51<sup>st</sup> Artillery Brigade. He spent most of his career managing computer centers that provided financial information services to the Wall Street industry. After going on to work as a private contractor, he decided to change career paths later in life and become a math and computer science high school teacher.

NOTE: The MGCA has supported the Albany International Airport for many years by planting flowers and maintaining the 911 Memorial Garden that is located near the walkway to the parking area.

**Reservations are required for the dinner**

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, November 11st, 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.

**Thank you**

**Mysteries of the Mabee Farm”**

Those who attended our last meeting in October walked away with a better understanding of what farming life was like in the early 1700s in the Mohawk Valley. **Mike Diana**, the Educational Program Director of the Schenectady Historical Society, talked about the Mabee Farm located in Rotterdam Junction.

Thank you, **Mike** for enlightening us on how the early Dutch settlers in our region overcame incredible hardships to raise their families and develop prosperous farmsteads. That evening we learned about some interesting mysteries involving the Mabee Farm. We heard theories of how the family might have escaped the Schenectady Massacre attack in 1690, how slaves interacted on the farmstead, and were surprised to hear that illegal beaver pelt trading was a vital underground industry that supported upstate farming families while bolstering the New York economy.

**Save the Date**

Mark your calendars now to attend our **December 13** dinner meeting. For our special “Ladies Night” meeting, we welcome back award-winning floral designer, **Michele Peters**, who owns **Ambience Floral Designs** in Loudonville. **Michele** was inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers in 2016, and is one of the few certified floral designers in the Capital Region. In years past she has dazzled us with her demonstration and tips in creating bold, holiday-themed arrangements. All the women who attend will have a good chance of taking home one of her arrangements that we will raffle off that evening.

**Tom Baker**

**Tom Baker** - 90 years young – is currently at Our Lady of Mercy nursing home, where he has volunteered every week, for the last 20 years. Tom has been cleared for surgery to improve circulation to his foot. He would love a visit or phone call - (518) 690-4867.

Please keep **Tom Baker** in your thoughts and prayers.

### Just How Cool Are Earthworms?

The Fake News has been awash with articles about soil microorganisms and their role in creating and maintaining healthy, productive soil. Suddenly bacteria, nematodes and protists are grabbing the headlines extolling their virtues as friend of man and beast. Are earthworms passé?

As experienced gardeners we certainly know better. For the past few weeks I've been reading (slowly) *The Story of the World in 100 Species*. The book discusses the development of life from the early Cambrian period (550 million years ago) to the modern man-dominated (over dominated?) world we live in today. As the narrative moves forward from single cell to multi-cell organisms to the spread of life from its watery origins to land and so forth, the book devotes a couple of pages to certain species that arose in that era that had significant impact on the development of more complex life forms.

The author has ranked the 100 species according to their impact on the development of life. And which species was ranked numero 1? You guessed it – earthworms.

Charles Darwin, having come up with the law of natural selection (no, it's not a theory) in the mid nineteenth century, moved on to the study of earthworms and in 1881 published a tome (*The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Action of Worms*) where he waxed poetic about these humble creatures that do so much to enrichen our soil.



Worms played a minor but interesting role in the 20<sup>th</sup> century American environmental movement. Some of you may remember the good old days (I certainly do) when DDT was sprayed wantonly to kill insects (particularly mosquitos). Earthworms seemed immune from the deprivations of DDT (after all they have survived 5 mass extinctions in the past 400 million years), but the insecticide accumulated in their tissues. However, birds such as robins that feast on earthworms were quickly poisoned and died in droves. Rachel Carson documented this tragedy (and many more) in *Silent Spring*, first published in 1962. Eight years later Richard Nixon (I really remember him!) signed the law creating the Federal Environmental Protection Agency

(bad-mouthed by Republican president ever since).

Ironically, one of the most widespread invasive species in the world is the European earthworm. Spread by colonists, conquistadors, and merchants, the European earthworm can be found worldwide, not always to salutary results. In certain forest environments these persistent munchers of organic matter remove the leaf litter on the forest floor, thereby altering the previously existing web of life. For this reason, wildlife authorities ask fishermen not to bring bait worms into forested areas. Overall however I think you'll agree that earthworms are creatures worthy of our admiration.

## Officers

If you're interested in helping guide the direction of this club in its 83<sup>rd</sup> year – please contact any board member. We are especially interested in folks that may help us leverage our 501 (C) 3 status to raise funds for our annual **Scholarships, Gardening from the Heart** program at the Center for Disability Services, and for our **Memorial Garden** at the Albany County Cooperative Extension.

<b>2019 Slate of Officers</b>			
President <b>Bruce Wilcox</b>			
Vice Presidents	<b>Greg Goutos and Joe Herman</b>	2021 Directors	<b>Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott</b>
Recording Secretary	<b>Tom Baker</b>	2020 Directors	<b>Gary Woods and Dave Jennings</b>
Assistant Recording Secretary	<b>Jack Meagher Bill Stoneman</b>	2019 Directors	<b>Bill Stoneman and Bill Danish</b>
Treasurer	<b>Russ Greenman</b>	Regional Directors	<b>Tom Baker and Bob Ireland</b>

### A Blast from the Past



Youth Chairman; **Lee Negus, Dave Hillman, Charles Ireland**  
and Past National President; **Bob Ireland**

## History – 25 years ago –

### MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 1993

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 4, 1993 in the Center for the Disabled.

President **Russ Greenman** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the October 7, 1993 meeting, which was held on September 30, 1993 due to packaging the Tulip Bulbs for the October 2 & 3 Sale, were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Fred Day**, Club Treasurer, and was approved. The balance on hand, including reserves, as of Oct 31, 1993 was \$18,184.03. The total profit from the Bulb Sale was roughly between \$1,400 and \$1,500.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

It was decided that the Memorial for **Ferd Johnson** would be a chestnut Tree since he was so interested in their survival as an American species. The tree will be planted in the George Landis Arboretum. **Dick Weller** will contact **Lou Decker** to locate a tree for us.

Also, **Don Otterness** made a motion that the Club should make a \$200.00 donation to the Presidents Garden at the National Headquarters in Iowa. **Wally Dillenbeck** seconded the motion which was carried

The Board agreed with Lee Negus that we should invite the four Sunflower and Pumpkin contest winners to the Christmas Dinner meeting, with their parents. This will entail a total of eight guests. The families will include the **Giffords** and the **Hillmans**.

The Capital District Garden and Flower Show will be March 11-13, at which time the Daffodil forcing contest for Club members will take place. A chairman and his committee will be formed.

**Don Otterness** said that the Scholarship for this School year will be awarded for the Second Semester as we have done in the past. **Tom Baker** will do the publicity

### OTHER BUSINESS

The Board voted to present the Berkshire Garden with a check for \$850.00 as our contribution from the sale of bulbs at their annual Harvest Festival. As was stated above, the Club realized a profit of between \$1,400 and \$1,500.

The election of officers will take place at the November meeting and the installation will be at the Christmas Dinner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by,  
**Tom Baker**, Secretary

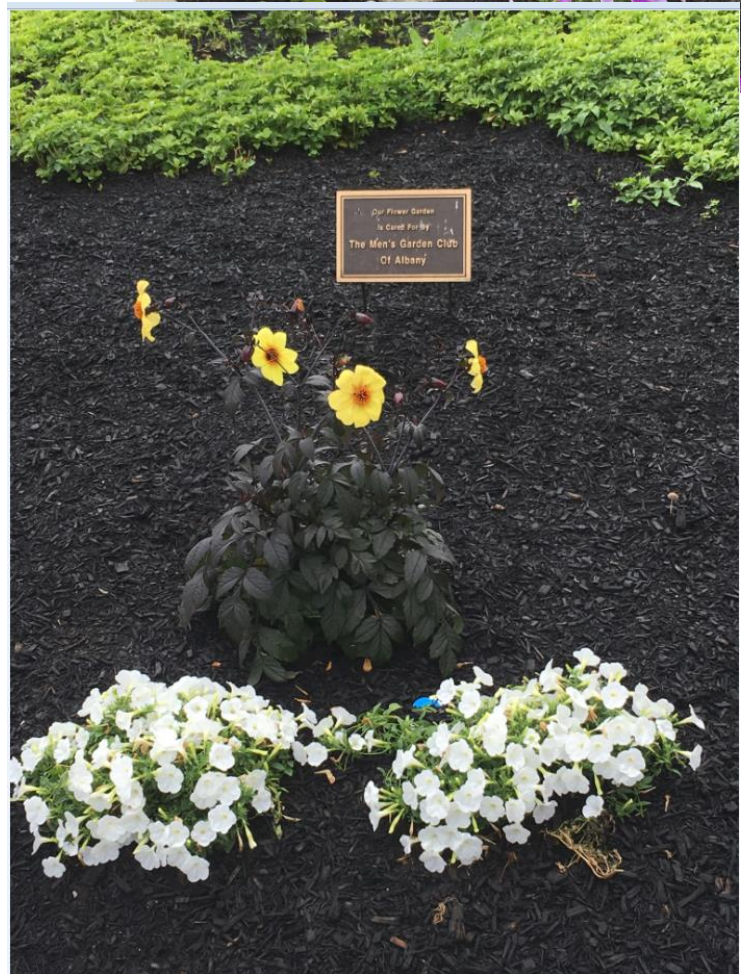
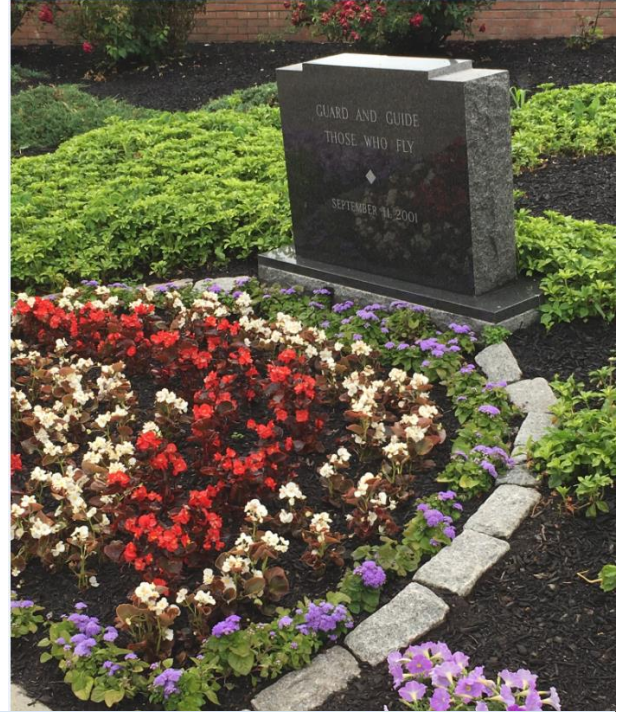
\*\* Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had a personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

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

**Don Wrieden and Jack Meagher**



recently did a lot of work at the gardens we support at the Airport International Airport - near the short term parking entrance to the terminals.



## 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 included: **Tom Baker, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bruce Wilcox, and Don Wrieden.**



This month has been a busy one... We went to **Goolds Orchard** to pick apples and enjoy some cider and cider donuts. We also had an opportunity to shop for some nice pies and perhaps some vino for dinner. The folks at **Goolds** always treats us great and we encourage you to support them. To prepare for a Halloween party we painted masks, carved pumpkins, painted pumpkins and ironed colorful leaves between sheets of waxed paper.

While some of us were inside staying warm, **Jack Meagher** and **Joe Huth** showed off their carpentry skills by repairing the older raised beds out by the greenhouse.



Even though we didn't blow anything up this reminded me of the TV show - Tool Time -





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.



**Hey Gail, Your husband - President, Don Wrieden has proven that he is very qualified to operate an Iron. I'm not sure what he has been telling you.. .but we have proof that will soon go viral on social media.**



**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.

**Mr. Tom Baker** - Founding member of our **Gardening From The Heart** program recently celebrated his 45<sup>th</sup> x 2 birthday and he says he feels like he is 35

Congratulations and thank you **Tom Baker** for a lifetime of service to the community.



## Memorial Garden

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



In mid-October, several club members spent a few hours working on tidying up our Memorial Garden that we maintain at the Albany County Cooperative Extension offices in Voorheesville. The garden has been in existence for many years and is dedicated to our “gardeners gone to rest.” Thank you to those who participated in the fall clean-up, which were **Chuck Scott, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and Greg Goutos.**

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Today!</b>	<b>Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards</b>
November 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	<b>Monthly dinner and program</b>
December 13 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm	Beltrone Living Center
November 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm	<b>Board of Director’s Meeting</b> All members are invited
December 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm	
Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am	<b>Gardening from the Heart</b> Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany
December 13 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm Mark your calendar - 1 week early	special “Ladies Night” meeting, <b>we welcome back award-winning floral designer, Michele Peters</b> , who owns <b>Ambience Floral Designs</b>
July 28, 2019	Summer Picnic / Memorial Service – mark your calendar

Editor: **Russ Greenman**



*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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