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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. 7

September, 2018

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 27th @ 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.

APPETIZER: Local Tomato Salad with red onions and Balsamic Vinaigrette

ENTREE: Baked Acorn Squash with Chicken Ragout Fine (half squash filled with a rich chicken stew)
Baked Fillet of Haddock
Pork Tenderloin in Red Wine Sauce

DESSERT: Apple Cider Donut Sundae: **Price:** \$ 25.00
Apple cider donut topped with a scoop of maple walnut ice cream, caramel sauce and whipped cream

PROGRAM: **Harvest Auction** - *Items to auction off are needed – but not required*

This is the meeting where we bring items to sell and the money raised is used to support our Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Please join us for our September dinner and followed by an auction, hosted by our very own auctioneer supreme, **Mr. Don Wrieden**. Please bring your finest garden produce, garden tools, homemade goodies, homebrew, etc. for this fun-filled event.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, September 23rd, 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.

Summer program Thank you
Cultivating a Community Presented by **Jackie Polukort**

Those of us who attended the July Picnic heard from our speaker, **Jackie Polukort**, that establishing a community garden in the heart of the downtown Schenectady GE campus is no easy task. **Jackie**, an engineer who works at GE, had to push hard to create a vegetable garden managed by her fellow employees. With hard work and much determination, her efforts have paid off. Much of the harvest is donated back to the local community at the Schenectady Inner City Mission.

Thank you, Jackie, for coming to our picnic, and for all you do to promote gardening at your workplace that benefits both employee morale while supporting a vital need in our community!

2018 Scholarship Winner Announced

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipient, **Alec Betancourt** of Altamont. **Alec** is just starting his junior year at the University at Buffalo, where he is majoring in environmental engineering and maintains a 3.45 GPA. He spent this past summer as an intern working on maintaining the trails at various local preserves overseen by the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy.

After college, **Alec** hopes to someday work for the EPA or the DEC. He has a big concern for the future of the world's environment, and we can see him dedicating his career as a leader in his efforts to preserve the beauty of our natural planet.

Alec and His father, **Paul**, were guests at our July picnic, and we hope he can come to our December dinner meeting to be formally honored for receiving the 2018 scholarship.

Membership

National has honored us with a nice plaque for having the greatest increase in membership - that is certainly due to the hard work of **Greg Goutos** and his ability to line up fantastic educational and interesting programs for us every month.



Tom Baker

Tom Baker - 90 years young – was just finishing the first mile of his walk and he fell. To be safe he went to St. Peters Hospital in Albany to get checked out. A cat scan revealed an aneurism in his abdomen that was laparoscopically “fixed” this morning (9/10/2018). Somehow, before the operation, he came down with MRSA and he needs us to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Weeds and Damned Weeds

Most weeds are like a crying baby at the mall – annoying but tolerable. Other weeds resemble a wailing child in an adjacent seat on five hour flight to visit your obstreperous in-laws. We're going to concentrate on the flight to hell here. Not amazingly (to me at least), my top weed-devils are all vines.

I live in an established neighborhood of 2 family houses. Privet hedges abound. Many hedges, particularly on rental properties, have become overrun with weeds. The most abundant and pernicious of these invaders is black swallow wort. This perennial, difficult to eradicate, vine grows up to 8 feet per year. Unfortunately, the only sure-fire method to eliminate this noxious weed involves herbicides (Roundup and its first cousins). Apply the spray carefully on a calm, sunny day, trying to cover as many vine leaves as possible. Return the next day and reapply. And the next day if necessary. You can derive a great deal of pleasure hand weeding black swallow wort, but you'll accomplish little in the long run.



A closely related devil-in-law of black swallow wort, Virginia creeper can be recognized by its saw-toothed leaves that cavort together in groups of 5. Virginia creeper, if conditions permit, can grow into a thick stemmed morass that can smother small trees and shrubs. Its berries contain lethal amounts of oxalic acid and the leaves can cause skin irritation and blisters on some people. Ridding yourself of large vines involves patience and determination. I first cut the vine(s) close to the ground (pulling the vines down after they die back can be a rousing good time). Then you'll want to paint the vine stumps with a heavy duty brush killer – multiple times. You'll find that the huge root system will persistently push up new shoots, but with a mailed fist (and multiple herbicide applications) you can strike down this hobgoblin.



GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Weeds and Damned Weeds - continued



When I was a child I mostly lived in the woods (sadly for my parents I persisted in coming home for meals). Every summer I was sure to come down with a roaring case of poison ivy which resulted in many sleepless nights. There's little good to say about poison ivy, which often establishes itself around stone walls or trees where eradication becomes a herculean chore without resorting to herbicides. Poison ivy leaves are grouped

in threes, and often have a slight sheen. My strategy for removing poison ivy is remarkably simple – outsource. My beloved wife will, for a dinner or two, remove and bag the vines. Needless to say, she's immune to the charms of the poison ivy. I then step in with the herbicides to tamp down the survivors.



My last rant concerns honeyvine milkweed. This perennial native to North America can be recognized by its heart-shaped leaves with rounded lobes at the top. Before you run out and obliterate the honeyvine milkweed that has infiltrated your flower beds, be aware, that as a true milkweed, honeyvine milkweed hosts the larvae of monarch butterflies. Presented with this puzzling paradox you might want to schedule any eradication campaign until the monarchs have made their appearance (or safer still, when the days grow cool enough that the smarter

monarchs have migrated south). Regardless, your best weapon will be Roundup. As an aside, some horticulturalists recommend applying herbicides with a sponge in areas where overspray will damage nearby delicate specimens. I've never used this technique (way too lazy) but it sounds plausible.

I now proclaim a word of caution. Herbicides should be handled with utmost care and in strict accordance with label directions (as an aside, those application instructions are not mere suggestions, but are, literally, the law). Cover yourself completely and don't forgo a face mask and goggles. If you're not up to taking all the required precautions, then employ professionals.

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.

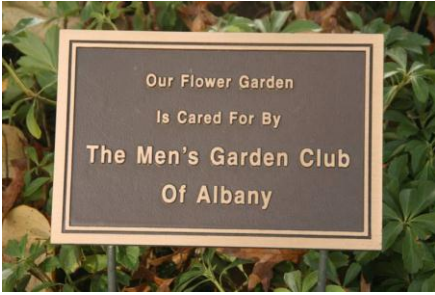
** Editor's note: **Tom Baker** has been faithfully documenting our minutes since way before he had a personal computer - but somehow he has managed to digitize all of the minutes he has taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 25 years ago" Thanks,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

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

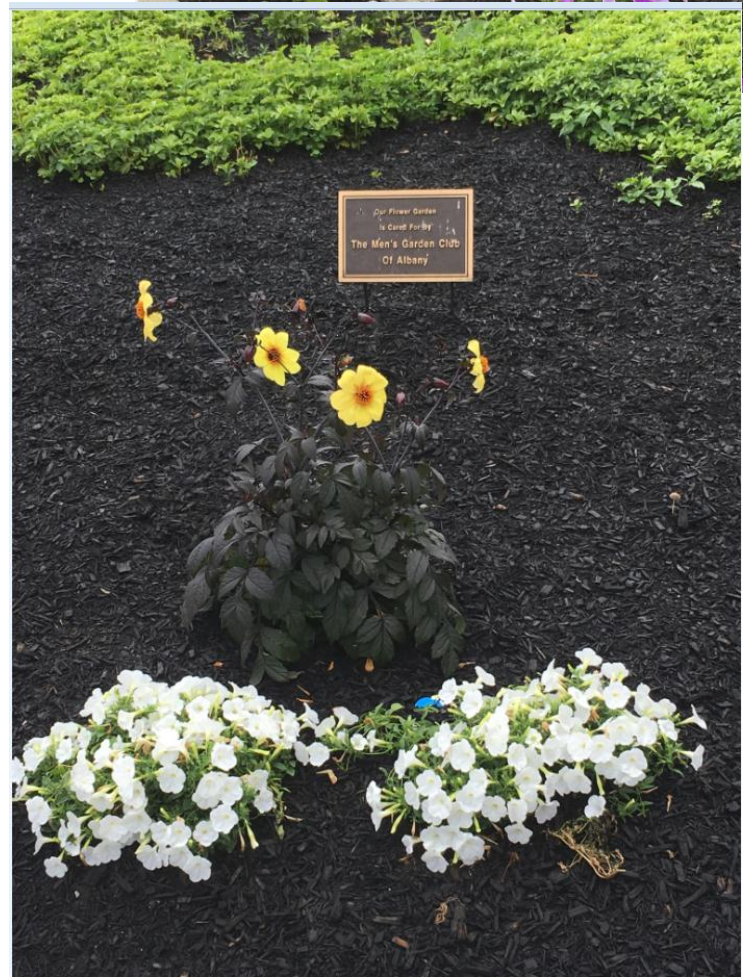
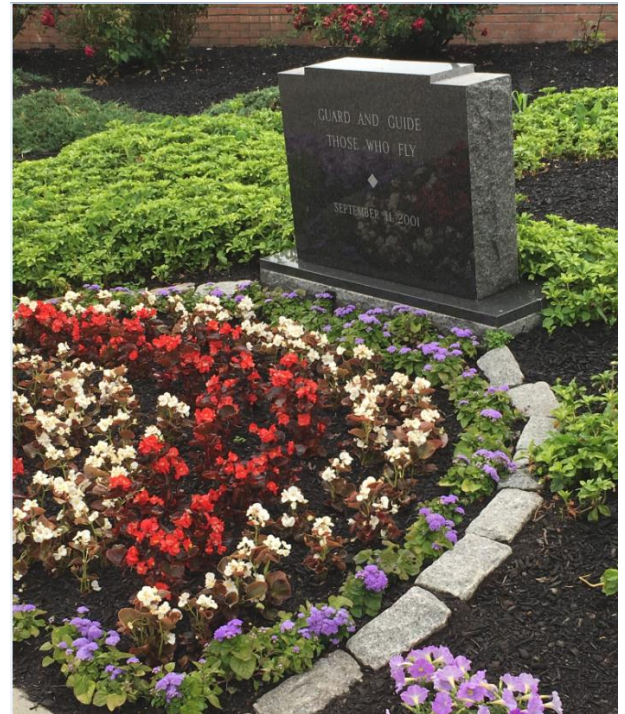
**MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of
ALBANY**

**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 – Hard at work

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**



MGCA Altamont Fair Exhibit August 14-19

Thank you to all who participated at our exhibit at this year's Altamont Fair. **Joe Huth** headed up this year's effort, with help from **Greg Goutos**. This year's theme was "Container Gardening," and **Greg** created a display board that offered tips on designing and maintaining beautiful containers. Several plants in pots were on display that were grown by club members, thanks to **Joe, Greg, and Jack Meagher**. Those who volunteered at the table, included **Joe Huth (Barbara), Greg & Nellie Goutos, Dave Jennings, Joe Herman, and Allan Villeneuve**.



Greg Goutos and Joe Huth

NYS Fair

Bill Danish, Russ Greenman and Joe Herman took a road trip to the NYS Fair on the first Thursday to judge the vegetables and **Joe and Russ** went back the last Sunday for the Container garden competition that **Joe Herman** is co-chair of. Thanks to a lot of work from **Lee Schwarting** the winner of the container gardening competition was presented with one of the three plaques that **Lee** was instrumental in designing.

The Upstate New York Region provides plaques for best in show at the at New York State Fair in memory of three outstanding past members of the Region:

George Spader - First Secretary of MGCA who maintained the first National Office in his home in Morrisville, NY.

Stanley Munro - A past President of our National Organization and also served as Parliamentarian.

Watson Smith - National Director from the Upstate Region for many years.



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.**

Each Wednesday we have been going to the Center For Disability Services to harvested lettuce, peas, radishes, broccoli, cabbage, herbs, kale, swiss chard, rhubarb, beans, carrots, celery and tomatoes.

Unfortunately, on Tuesday night, one or more large 4-legged critters – AKA woodchuck(s) – had a party and didn't invite us. Brussel sprouts

and beans seem to be their favorite and they saved room for a side of sunflower leaves. This is a first for us.... We don't ever see 4 legged critters in the fenced in large parking lot. We spent the following day cleaning up all of their beer cans and we collected enough money to purchase more seeds.

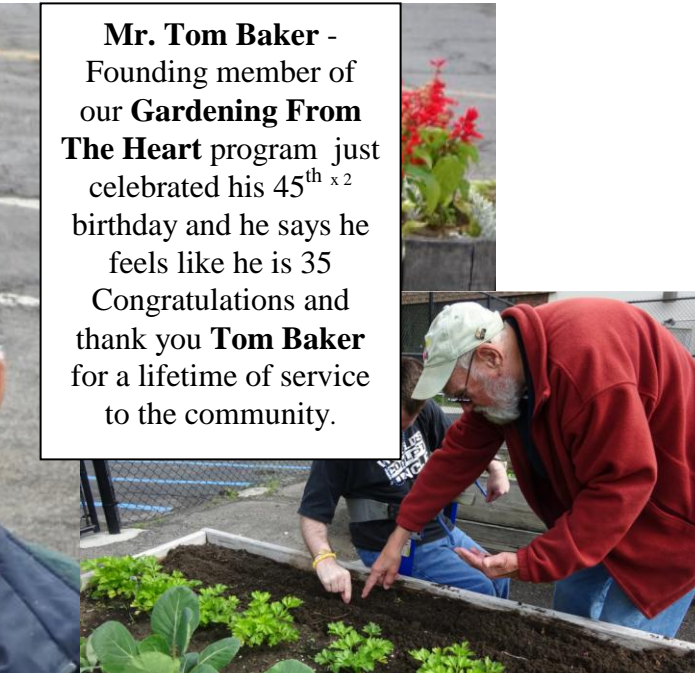
Our students continue to harvest a few things to be used in the cooking classes that are now held outside by our greenhouse. It is nice having the grocery store so close to the chefs.



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.



Mr. Tom Baker -
Founding member of
our **Gardening From
The Heart** program just
celebrated his 45th x2
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



Officers

If you're interested in helping guide the direction of this 82 year old club – 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
October 4 th @ 7:30 pm	
November 1 st @ 7:30 pm	
December 6 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
September 27 th @ 6:00 pm	Harvest Auction / dinner @ Beltrone
October 25 th @ 6:00 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting
November 15 th @ 6:00 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting
December 13 th @ 6:00 pm	Monthly Dinner meeting

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.

Thanks Paul Zimmermann!!!



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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