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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. 6

Summer, 2018

MGCA Summer Picnic

DATE & TIME: **Sunday, July 22nd @ 3:30 pm**

3:30 pm ----- Suggested Arrival Time (or earlier if you want time to check out the many gardens)

4:00 pm ----- Memorial Garden to Remember 'Gardeners Gone to Rest'

5:00 pm ----- Pot Luck Supper

6:00 pm ----- Program

PLACE: Albany County Cooperative Extension Building

24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY

PROGRAM: **Cultivating a Community** Presented by **Jackie Polukort**



Teaser: No passion project is without its fair share of obstacles and this was especially true of building a community garden on the General Electric downtown Schenectady Campus. **Jackie** will walk through why she decided to take this project on, where her passion for gardening comes from, and how she cultivated a community of volunteers through both the fun and difficult times. She'll share how the garden has evolved since its inception to reach multiple local organizations.

She will also talk about her insights on how she redefined success for the garden, including the way she rallied volunteers who step up every day to contribute.

Jackie is currently a generator applications engineer at GE in Schenectady, NY, in which she acts as a liaison between power plant customers and engineering teams to develop solutions. She is a co-leader of the commercial womens initiative for the Capital Region Women's Network Hub at GE, where she leads a group of leaders to create events focused around sales, marketing, and business aspects. Among her proudest achievements in negotiation and leadership, is leveraging her training and involvement in Toastmasters International to develop a community garden built on the downtown GE campus in Schenectady. It is maintained by 100% volunteer support and all of the produce is donated to the local food pantry (Schenectady Inner City Mission). She credits this achievement from her active participation at the GE Schenectady Speakers club. **Jackie** currently serves as the Area G75 Director, and she enjoys bringing her energy and enthusiasm to help others in her club.

RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED: The Picnic chairman, **Tom Baker** and **Joe Herman**, will arrange to provide: Lemonade, ice tea, coffee, rolls & butter, plates, cups, and utensils. You could bring a dish to share... some thoughts may include: a meat dish, potato dish, salad, pasta, baked beans, desert, or other appropriate picnic fare. **Maria Greenman** will be keeping track of your offerings to help insure that there is a good variety of food. We look forward to seeing you there. **Maria** will try to contact you for your reservation and offering. Please make every effort to return her call. If she does not reach you by July 20, please call **Russ Greenman at 477-8321**

Honoring Gardeners that have Gone to Rest.

Please join us at 4:00pm at the Memorial Garden to celebrate the lives of all of our Gardeners Gone To Rest. In the past year, we have lost three more fantastic gentlemen that we all miss.

Sam Yachup



Sam was a brilliant, kind, polite, generous and all around nice person. As a Master Gardener he excelled and shared his knowledge in many ways. At times, I felt that he was more concerned about taking care of others than he was for himself. What a fantastic gentleman! We'll certainly miss our friend **Mr. Sam Yachup**

Yachup, Samuel ALTAMONT Samuel Yachup of Altamont passed away on October 23, 2017

Dr. John Abbuhl



I'm sad to say that we have lost another real gentleman and valuable member of the MGCA. **Dr. John Abbuhl** was an amazing person with a smile that welcomed you and when talking with him you quickly realized his great qualities. **Dr. Abbuhl** created the **Pine Hollow Arboretum** that is a public, member-supported, not-for-profit arboretum and nature center includes over 3,300 specimens on 25 acres in the heart of Slingerlands. The vast majority of these were planted by **John's** own hands over his 50 years of loving tenure of his land. **John's** public minded spirit led to his active support of several local organizations. **Dr. John Abbuhl** used this as one of the many ways to share his wealth of knowledge with folks young and old. Our January 2018 edition of the DIRT featured the work that **John and his wife** were doing at the arboretum. We all looked forward to seeing **Dr. Abbuhl** at our meetings because we could learn so much from him and even our guest speakers learned from his wealth of knowledge he had gained over his 91 years of active life. There is no doubt that **Dr. John Abbuhl** contributed in countless ways to make this world a better place to live. It is also very clear that he instilled those values in his terrific family.

Pine Hollow Arboretum



Dr. John W. Abbuhl M.D.

Abbuhl, Dr. John W. M.D. SLINGERLANDS John Willmott Abbuhl M.D., 91, a founding partner of Schoolhouse Road Pediatrics and visionary behind the Pine Hollow Arboretum and the Cornwallville Conservation Corporation, died peacefully surrounded by family at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital, on January 6, 2018



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,

May program Thank you

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.

Our May meeting speaker was Greg Sheldon, a new club member of ours who spoke about how he is developing inner city community partnerships through the recently initiated non-profit gardening program called Albany Victory Gardens. It certainly is an ambitious endeavor they are undertaking in acquiring vacant lots in the Arbor Hill area, and teaching local residents how to start a garden and even market their produce for the benefit of inner city families who have little or no access to fresh produce.

We were all impressed at the passion and enthusiasm that Greg Sheldon and Jodi Scott have demonstrated in leading this effort, and thank them for coming to share their experiences with us. It is truly amazing that we have several club members in our midst, who are working hard to make a difference in our community by teaching students and city residents the skills needed to cultivate a vegetable garden.

Plant Sale Thank You!



**Plant
Sale**



We want to thank the volunteers that helped make this plant sale so successful. **Don Wrieden** and **Jack Meagher** did a fantastic job of organizing the plant sale which is our ONLY fundraiser. The profits from this helps our club provide a \$500 dollar scholarship each year as well as our many community based projects. **Don Wrieden, Jack Meagher, Joe Herman, and Russ Greenman** picked up and delivered plants to the sale and **Joe Herman** also took care of the cash box from early morning to the end - without a break. **Gill O'Brien** – purchased and donated box tops and donated many of his twice transplanted tomatoes - Roma - Celebrity and Best Boy as well as a nice selection of herbs. **Gary Woods** has a following of (do they call them groupies?) that come to our plant sale specifically to purchase and learn about the various varieties of Heritage Tomatoes that he grows from seed. John O'Grady and family made their usual donations of items to sell, and **Tom Baker** coordinated the arrangements / permissions with the **Bethlehem Police, Town, Delmar Dental,** and the **St. Thomas church** staff. **Chuck Scott** loaned his truck to **Jack Meagher** for the transport of tables and plants, **Bob Ireland, Russ Greenman, Bruce Wilcox,** helped with sales and we even had a surprise visit from **Paul Zimmermann.**

We especially thank the Staff of the **Delmar Dental Medicine** - 344 Delaware Ave, Delmar for the use of their parking lot and the staff of the **St. Thomas Church** (next door) that allowed us to use their parking lot as well as their indoor facilities.

This can't be done without the support of our members, and you all pulled thru to help make this a great success. Thanks!!!!!!!!!!!!

A special thanks goes to the following growers that generously donated plants to us for our plant sale that was held in Delmar the Day before Mother's Day.

Faddegon's Nursery

Valoze's Greenhouses

Troys Landscape Supply

The Gade Farm

Krug Farms

Hewitts Garden Center

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Rhododendrons

My first real job was working for the Reader's Digest. On the southeast side of the building in Chappaqua, NY, grew the most impressive row of rhododendrons – 10 feet tall and magnificent in their spring blooms.

Many folks favor this multi-use tree/shrub. In its smaller incarnation, home owners employ rhododendrons as a foundation planting. For backdrops, the taller varieties can't be beat for visual impact.

Selecting the correct variety of rhododendron for your needs is vital to long term satisfaction. A critical characteristic to consider is the expected 10 year height. Since rhododendrons come in many different sizes, leaf shapes, and flower colors, an imaginative mind can come up with many creative configurations. For example, let's suppose you're using rhododendrons for foundation plantings. Since groups of three seem to be aesthetically pleasing, maybe a 6' (maximum height) white flowering specimen where there are no house windows, a 4' red flowering variety under a window, and a 2' purple rhododendron in front of the other two. As always with foundation plantings, give them plenty of room to grow to their adult size.



Contrary to urban legend, rhododendrons shouldn't be planted in deep shade. To achieve glorious flowering about 4 hours of direct sunlight seems optimal - more than 4 hours risks leaf burn. Deadheading spent flowers is considered good form and redirects the rhododendron's energy to more productive uses than generating seeds. If you've right sized your rhododendron, pruning isn't

often needed, but if necessary, then schedule this event right after this year's blooms are spent. If you're faced with yearly pruning because the rhododendron is grossly oversized for the location, you'd do yourself a long term favor by replacement.

With reasonably fertile soil, fertilization probably isn't required. A few dollars spent on a soil test will remove the guesswork.

Avoid planting rhododendrons in heavy clay soil, or be willing to amend the soil significantly (rhododendrons need well-drained soil). Again, a soil test will provide good feedback. Pay particular attention to pH – it should be in the 4.5 to 6 range. If your soil is alkaline, it's best to consider other options. Add organic matter around the root ball. The best planting time in northern climes is springtime, with fall as a second choice. Be particularly careful to keep the top of the root ball above the level of the surrounding soil.

A great place on the web is the home site of The American Rhododendron Society. It contains lots of valuable information about recommended varieties and other growing tips.

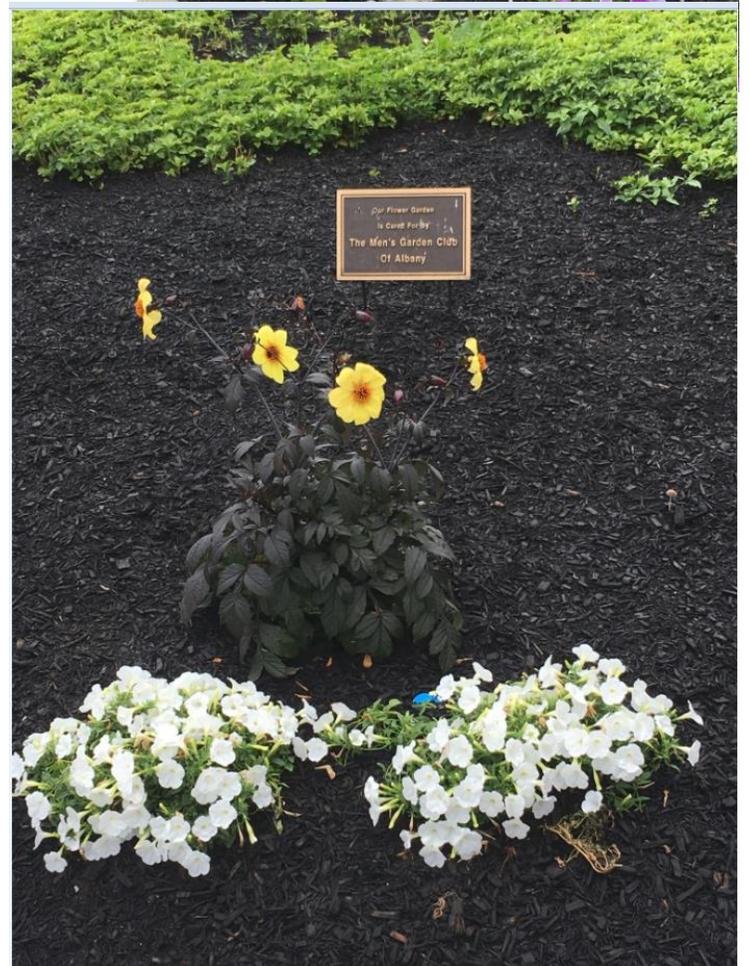
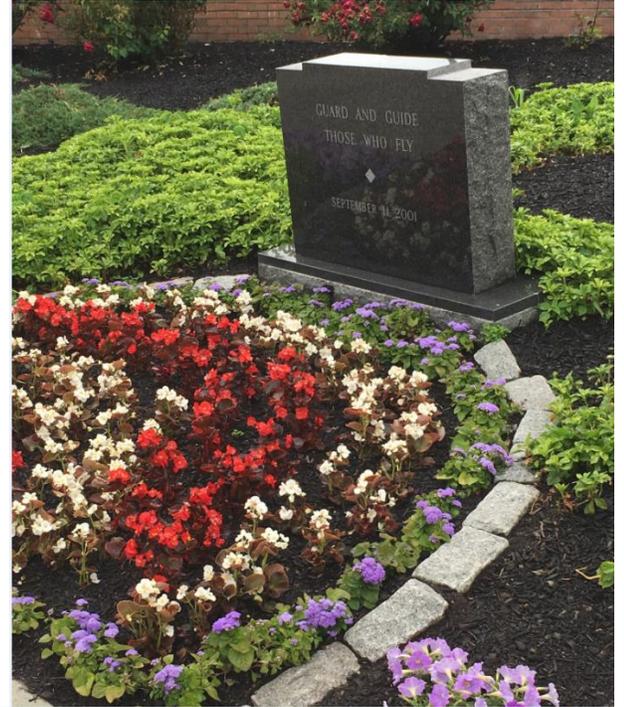
<https://www.rhododendron.org/index.htm>

**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.** We have had a fantastic growing season and I can



only wish that my gardens looked like the raised beds at the Center For Disability Services. We have harvested lettuce, peas, radishes, broccoli, cabbage, herbs, kale, swiss chard, rhubarb and should soon be picking beans, carrots, celery and eventually tomatoes. We have some giant sunflowers that will be fun to see them grow. It should also be fun to see the reaction of the staff when we fire up the chainsaw to cut them down. President – **Don Wrieden** – thinks we should bring a bucket truck in to cut them down.

At our June 20th session we spent the morning celebrating **Tom Baker's** 90th birthday. **Tom** says that he feels like he is 35 – but we know he isn't... because he and **Al Miller** started our Gardening From the Heart (GFTH) program almost 34 years ago.

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.



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



Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
Greg Goutos, Jack Meagher, and Chuck Scott
Have done a fantastic job of maintaining our Memorial garden
while **Joe Huth** was temporarily unavailable.

MGCA Altamont Fair Exhibit

August 14-19

We are making arrangements for a display at the Altamont Fair and we will be asking for help to “man” this display at our upcoming picnic.

Greg Goutos and Joe Huth

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Sunday, July 22nd @ 3:30 pm	Summer Picnic and Memorial Service Albany County Cooperative Extension – 15 Martin Rd. Voorheesville, NY
September 6 th @ 7:30 pm October 4 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
August 14-19	MGCA Altamont Fair Exhibit
September 27 th @ 6:00 pm October 25 th @ 6:00 pm November 15 th @ 6:00 pm December 13 th @ 6:00 pm	Harvest Auction / dinner @ Beltrone Monthly Dinner meeting Monthly Dinner meeting – date to be confirmed Monthly Dinner meeting – date to be confirmed

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

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.



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

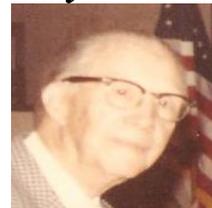
In Memory of



Bill Town

Joe Herman

*In Memory of
my Dad*



Carroll W. Greenman

Bob



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