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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **83** years of service to our community

VOLUME 82 NO. 10

(First Chartered 1936)

December, 2019

Dinner (members, ladies and guests invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 19th @ 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.

Mazzone Catering will feature a nice Buffet with a variety of entrees: **Price: \$ 25.00**

Baked Ham with Pineapple Craisin sauce, Maple Glazed Chicken, and Stuffed Shells with Marinara Sauce

PROGRAM Creating Outstanding Holiday Floral Arrangements

by: Michele Peters, owner of Ambience Floral Designs in Loudonville

For our special December “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 ladies who attend will have a good chance of taking home one of her arrangements that we will raffle off (for free) that evening.

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, December 15th, 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.

Thank You - October program

Our speaker for our last meeting in November was **Dave Hochfelder**, one of the principal members of the local nonprofit, Solarize Albany. We appreciate **Dave** coming to enlighten us with the many benefits of converting to solar energy, as well as several options available to those of us who reside in the Capital Region.

We were surprised to learn that in our area consumers can save money and go green even if they don't have a viable rooftop for installing solar panels. Their community bulk purchase model allows anyone to save on their electric bills, all while helping to benefit our environment through supporting renewable energy.

Thank you, Dave, for taking the time to inform us on how we can be more environmentally sensitive, and learn about the various solar options available locally. As gardeners, we need to be leaders in being good stewards in all aspects that support the movement to "go green."

Tom Baker - 91 years young – is currently at the Atria - Guilderland, and he would love a visit or phone call - (518) 649-3868.

Herm Mau has been in and out of Hospice and he's currently at home being cared for by **Mary**. I'm sure she would welcome your calls and perhaps a visit.

2020 Officers

Below is the proposed slate of officers. Please let a current officer know if you or someone you know would like to run for one of these highly competitive positions.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ \$25 Dues and Ad payments are due to MGCA \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

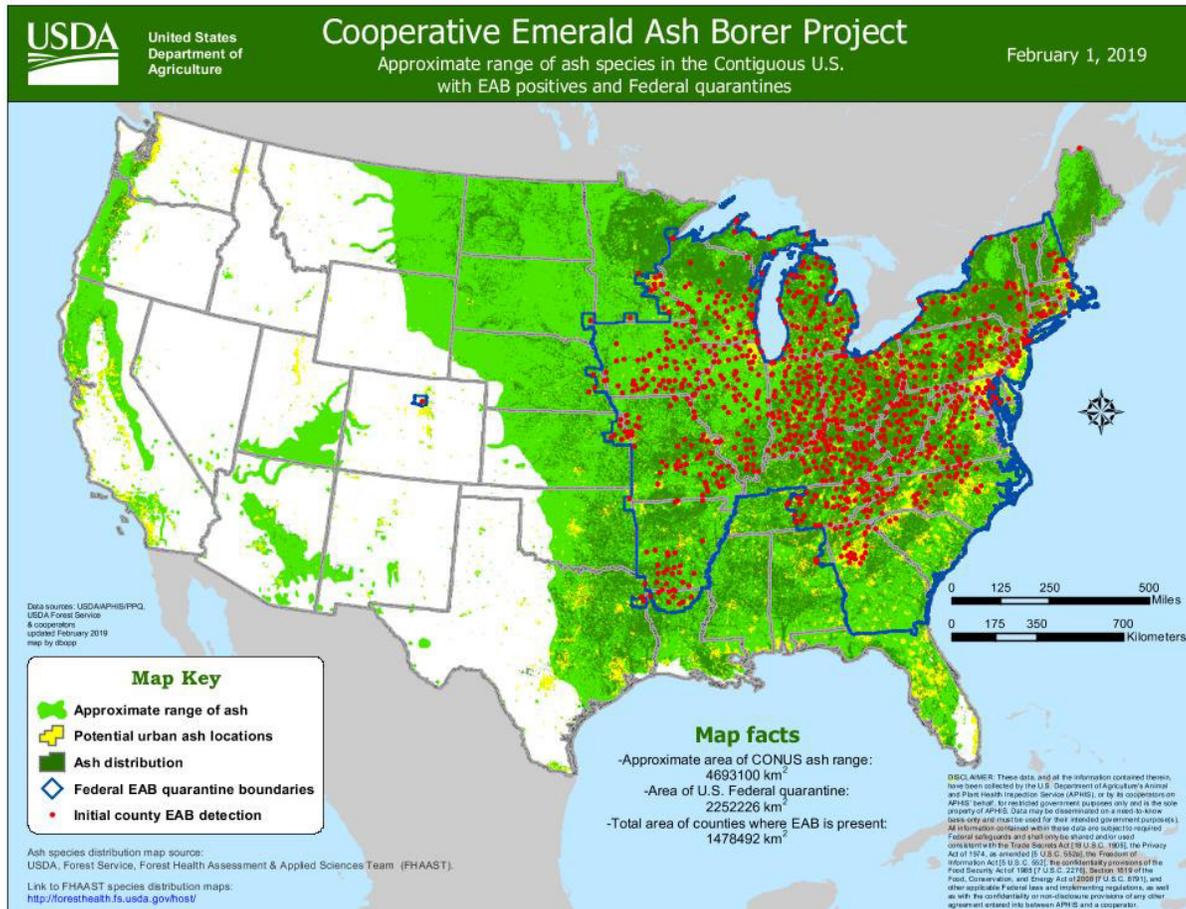
2020 Slate of Officers			
President Joe Raggio			
Vice President	Greg Goutos	2021 Directors	Jack Meagher and Chuck Scott
Honorary Recording Secretary	Tom Baker	2020 Directors	Gary Woods and Dave Jennings
Co- Recording Secretaries	Jack Meagher Bill Stoneman	2022 Directors	Bill Stoneman and Bruce Wilcox
Treasurer	Russ Greenman	Regional Directors	Tom Baker and Bob Ireland

<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 33rd **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** which will be held in **March 27-29 at HVCC** Hudson Valley Community College, in Troy, NY. We're tossing around ideas for a theme and would love to hear your recommendations. Please consider spending some time at our booth - It really can be a lot of fun as we are in a very high traffic location and everyone attending the show is interested in gardening.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President) Emerald Ash Borer Update

Take a look at the map below (compiled in February 2019). The green areas show the range of ash trees. The blue line which encompasses almost all of the US east of the Mississippi, bounds the area where the infestation has been confirmed. This trend appears to bode poorly for American ash trees. But there is hope and the scientists at the US Department of Agriculture may have a practical answer to this plague.



As you may know, the Emerald Ash Borer is an Asian import, first detected in the Midwest in 2002 (it undoubtedly had been around for many years prior to being identified). Having no natural enemies in North America and

lots of juicy ash trees to feast upon, the EAB has spread relentlessly across eastern US and Canada.

Recognizing that the EAB must have natural enemies in its native habitat, USDA scientists went on the hunt. They turned up 3 parasitic wasps that attack either the EAB eggs or their larvae. After testing, the parasitic wasps were released into the wild starting in 2007. Results have been encouraging, and the wasps have been used in 22 states where there are confirmed infestations. Researchers have also noted that native wasps and birds have begun to join the feast. So there is hope that the EAB infestation can be abated and that natural predation will keep its

populations under control. In the interim, if you have ash trees you hold dear to your heart, contact your local agricultural agent and get his/her advice. Most likely it will be necessary to have insecticides applied in the near term to insure survival of your precious.

<https://agresearchmag.ars.usda.gov/2016/may/wasps/>



History – 30 years ago –
MEN' GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, December 7, 1989, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

President **Don Lewis** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 2, 1989 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. There was a balance in the General Fund excluding reserves of \$1,583.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee: **Don Otterness**, Chairman, reporting. **Susan Raffon** of Scotia was selected as our first Scholarship winner. She is a two year Horticulture Major at Cobleskill. Her interview went very well and she expressed a financial need

Don Otterness made the motion, seconded by **Joe Raggio** and carried, that our Club award **Susan Raffon** the \$500.00 which will be forwarded directly to Cobleskill.

Susan will be invited, along with one guest, to our Ladies Invited Night for a formal recognition.

Bulb Sale: **Joe Raggio**, Chairman, reporting. The final tally shows that the Club cleared \$1144.24. The Club has already sent \$700.00 to the Berkshire Gardens. Therefore, our actual profit was \$444.42.

Gardening from the Heart: Regarding the Greenhouse: The ends will cost \$400.00, sills will cost \$325.00 and the 2 thickness Plastic cover will cost \$100.00. **Paul Jeffers** has volunteered to help put up the greenhouse in the Spring

Guilderland Plant Sale: **Don Otterness** who is in charge reported that the Town of Guilderland has issued us a Sales Permit. As yet the location has not been decided on. **Don** would like to sell Rare Plants. Does anyone have any?

Ladies Invited Night: Will be held in the Turf Inn on December 14, 1989. This is typically an Awards Night and Installation of Officers. Look for full details in the Dirt.

Calendar Committee: There still 67 Calendars left, of these 24 will be given to advertisers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Al Miller suggested that we hold a second Awards Night. He is thinking of major Awards such as the Regional Bronze Award.

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 -or 30 years ago" Thanks, **Tom Baker!!!**

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB of ALBANY CLUB ACTIVITIES

Adopt-a-Highway - 25 years

We had a good run... We started our Adopt A Highway program back in 1994 by building a raised bed out of Hemlock and lots of rebar. Ten years later in 2004 - we built a raised bed that would last a lifetime. Unfortunately when construction started on the Exit 7 bridge off of I-90 our concrete base, block structure, soil and flower bulbs mysteriously disappeared leaving only the steel we drove down 5 feet to keep the Very thick concrete base from heaving.. **Ken Abele** during construction of our second raised bed on I-90 at Exit 7 Westbound. Built to last 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**. Perhaps someone with big boy toys on site while working on the bridge knows. Thanks!!! Built to last... Destroyed in hours

Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman



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

For many years, our club has maintained a beautiful Memorial Garden as a tribute to our "Gardeners Gone to Rest." The garden is located in Voorheesville on the grounds of the Albany County Cooperative Extension



MGCA Memorial Garden continued

Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there is also a plaque that lists the names of our club members who have passed away in recent years.



We continue to welcome 501(c)3 deductible donations that can be dedicated to support our **Memorial Garden, Gardening From the Heart program** at the Center for Disability Services, or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

Please send your 501(c)3 tax deductible donation to **Russ Greenman** MGCA Treasurer

Please call **Russ Greenman** at (518) 477-8321 for details



Gardening from the Heart - 34 years

at the

Center for Disability Services

Volunteers include: Tom Baker, **Russ Greenman**, Greg Goutos, **Joe Huth**, **Jack Meagher**, **Bruce Wilcox**, and **Don**

Wrieden.

Advice needed: Greenhouse replacement options

Tom Baker's minutes from 30 years ago talk about building our greenhouse at the Center and now it may be time to consider our replacement options.

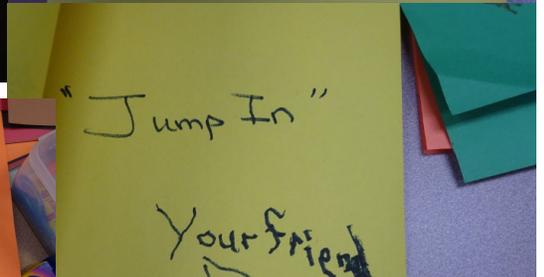
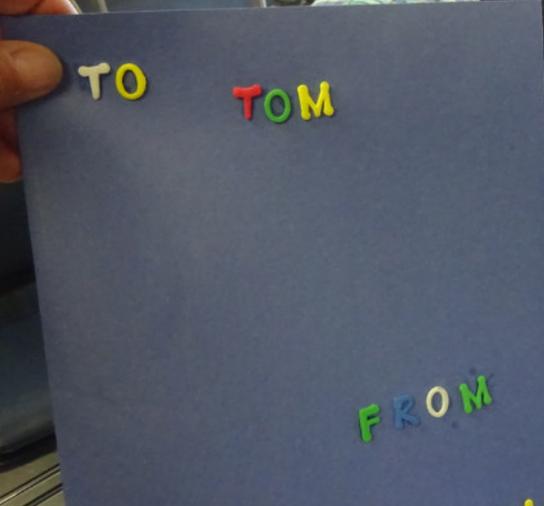
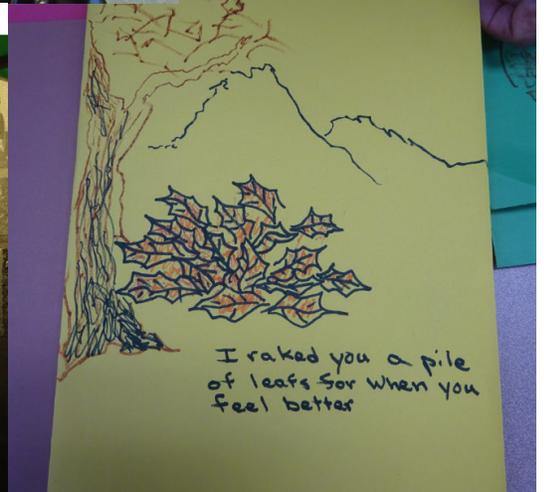
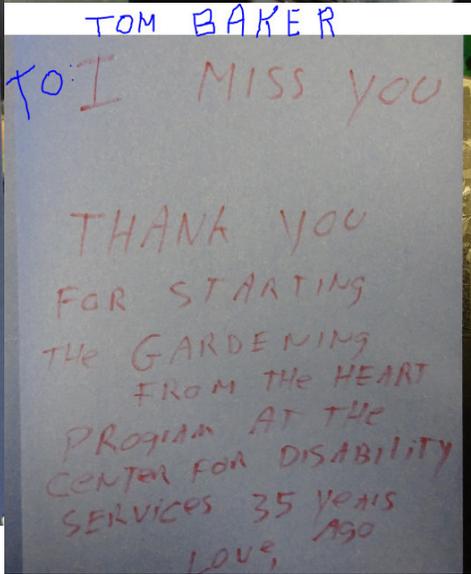
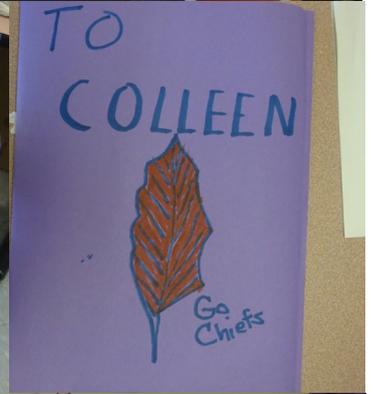
The current greenhouse is 12' x 30' and our goal is to get more use out of this as a greenhouse - specifically, to provide herbs that the cooking class can utilize in their cooking classes. We would appreciate any thoughts, suggestions, advice. Please contact **Russ** or any of our volunteers.

Tom Baker and **Al Miller** started working founding the Gardening From the Heart program way back in 1984 but he may say that it really didn't start until 1985. Originally the MGCA had two teams of members that would teach classes, Every Wednesday, at two locations every Wednesday. For many years now we work with the adults at 700 S. Pearl St. in Albany and not with the children at 314 Manning Blvd in Albany, NY.

If you have free time on Wednesday mornings – you could consider helping us out. We need help finding indoor projects that are gardening related. – I bet it will do as much good for you as it does for our students. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.



Gardening from the Heart - November's activities



Happy Thanksgiving

Get Well Colleen
and

Thank You to Tom Baker for starting
Gardening From the Heart Program
with Al Miller 35 Years ago

Youth Gardening

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support

Check out our very own - **Bill Stoneman's**

[The Vegetable Project](#)

Digging in the dirt at Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School and Albany High School, the Vegetable Project is a collaborative effort of parents, faculty and other staff members and community partners that supports after-school and summertime Garden Clubs, presents classroom lessons and brings families together for occasional weekend events. The Vegetable Project is a 501c3 tax-exempt nonprofit corporation.



The Vegetable Project in Albany, N.Y., established in 2009, creates hands-on learning opportunities that involve science, the environment, entrepreneurship, tasting really fresh food and responsibility for care of living things by growing vegetables and other plants.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
December 19 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center December is a special meeting especially geared to thanking the ladies for putting up with us
December 5 th @ 7:30 pm January 2 nd @ 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
March 27 th – 29 th	Capital District Garden and Flower Show @ HVCC http://gardenandflowershow.com/

: **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!!!**

Last month's quiz results:

As expected, - no one got the answer to this wrong.

Question:

Bottom line – leaves are a great (and inexpensive) source of _____

Answer: = nutrients for your garden.

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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