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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

(First Chartered 1936)

VOLUME 82 NO. 3

March, 2019

Dinner and Program (everyone's invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, March 28th @ 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 Buffet that includes: **Price:** \$ 25.00

Braised Pot Roast, Boneless Fried Chicken, and Baked Haddock

PROGRAM: “The Challenges and Rewards of Operating a Large Community Supported Agriculture Farm”

Presented by: **Raymond Luhrman**, who owns and operates Fox Creek Farm CSA in Schoharie County

This program should be just the thing we all need to get us thinking about getting ready to start our own vegetable gardens. The Fox Creek Farm CSA operation, located in Gallupville, is not only a successful Certified Naturally Grown organic farm that offers shares to many Capital Region residents, but is also heavily involved in serving the local community in other meaningful ways. And the story about how this large-scale farming operation all got started is also quite unique.

“The Challenges and Rewards of Operating a Large Community Supported Agriculture Farm” - continued

When **Raymond Luhrman** left the Netherlands in 2000 to settle in upstate New York, he had little idea about gardening, let alone farming. A small garden grew bigger, and now provides a reasonable income to his family and farm workers.



The Challenges and Rewards of Operating a Large Community Supported Agriculture Farm continued

Raymond and his wife **Sara** own and operate Fox Creek Farm CSA, one of the bigger CSA farms in the Capital District. They grow produce for about 400 families using organic farming practices.

Raymond will be presenting about the path from the small garden in 2001, to the full-time farming operation it is in 2019. He will talk about the challenges and rewards of “scaling up.” And he’ll share some great pictures of the 2018 growing season, to get everyone’s green thumb excited about the forthcoming spring!

Reservations are required for the dinner

A caller should reach you soon for your reservation. If a caller does not reach you by Sunday, March 24th, 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.

32nd Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019

As we have for more years than I can remember – we are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the **32nd Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019**

If you have never attended this show – you’re really missing something that is hard to imagine. There are so many unique items to purchase, things to learn, and things to see. It is certainly going to help you believe that Spring is on its way.

Ps. You may see fish swimming in the “indoor” streams – but leave your fishin’ pole at home.



<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

Thank you to Spencer Barrett for our February Program:

Those of us in attendance at last month’s meeting learned from an expert in his field, about the growing threat of various invasive species on our local landscapes and ecology. We would like to thank **Spencer Barrett**, the Invasive Species Coordinator for the Capital-Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, for educating us on this important topic.

Spencer also talked about the many benefits of incorporating native plants into our garden and landscape projects. He also provided everyone with several valuable hand-outs that will serve to guide us all in being more knowledgeable about all these issues.

Thank you, **Spencer**, for joining us for a very informative presentation that made us all aware of gardening concerns not often talked about.

Seeking Candidates for our 2019 Scholarship

Do you know a deserving college student who could benefit from receiving a \$500 Scholarship from our club? This year the Scholarship Committee would like to ask all our members to consider a personal family member or friend who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or a high school senior registered to begin a college program this fall. Ideally, they should be pursuing studies in any horticultural-related field, including agriculture, environmental studies, forestry or natural resource management. Applicants need not live locally, and can be male or female. Perhaps you have a child, grandchild, nephew or niece, or know of a neighbor that would qualify?

For more information and an application, **please contact Greg Goutos, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052, or at ggoutos @nycap.rr.com.** The deadline is May 31.

Joe Herman Scholarship Fund 501(c)3

We want to thank the many folks that made tax deductible donations to the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund.**

As a side note: We welcome 501(c)3 deductible donations that can be dedicated to support our **Memorial Garden, Gardening From the Heart program,** or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund.**

Dues are past due

\$25 = \$10 local and \$15 national

Please send them and any 501(c)3 deductible donations to **Russ Greenman** MGCA Treasurer

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

2019 Slate of Officers

With the possible exception of one Director's position, we plan on keeping the 2019 slate officers the same as it was in 2018. One officer passed away, three others are not able to attend meetings right now and another is out of the state staying warm. We thank **Don Wrieden** for continuing on as President while **Bruce Wilcox** is preparing for his third surgery to deal with an extremely large blood clot in his leg. Please keep **Bruce** in your prayers.

Tom Baker

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

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

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Tomato Grafting

Tomatoes are America's favorite fruit and most home gardeners include at least a couple of plants in their plot plan every year (make that consecutive 50 years for me). I feel like a new challenge, so this year I'm graduating to grafted tomatoes.

Grafted tomatoes combine a root stock plant (usually a variety with lots of disease resistance and vigor) with a scion (a variety with desirable fruits). You can buy grafted tomatoes, but that removes all the challenge and relegates you to the gardening B team along with people who buy all their plants in one gallon containers. No toxic masculinity is required to get into the grafting game. Unlike gall bladder surgery, advanced skills aren't required, but it's also unlikely you'll be in the company of gowned assistants. Calm your nerves and follow the instructions below.

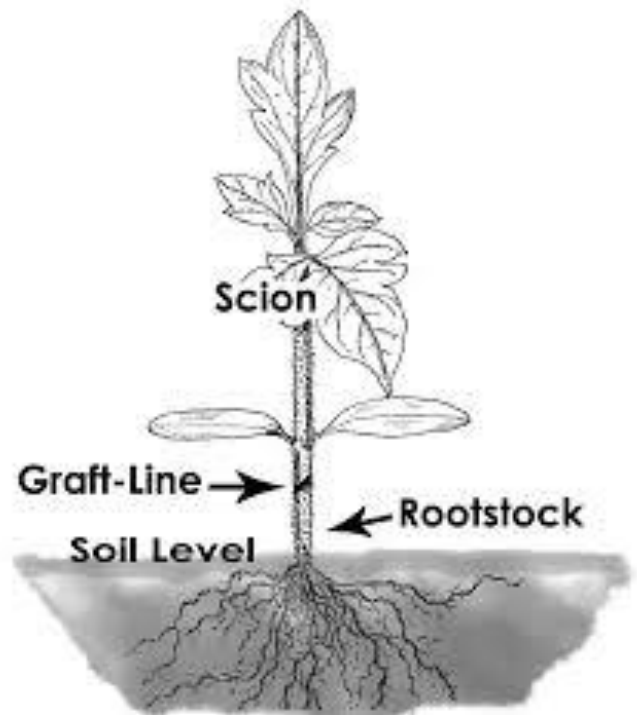
1. Select your root stock and scion varieties. The rootstock varieties generally run about fifty cents per seed – pricey but you only need a few. If you want to cheat a bit, forget about growing your scion variety from seed, but head down to your local nursery when the time comes.
2. Order transparent grafting clips. The 1.5mm and 2.0mm sizes will work best for grafting tomatoes. You'll also need a flat tray with clear dome and a very sharp razor (the old fashioned double edged type work well). A humidity gauge rounds out your Amazon shopping extravaganza.
3. Here's a big thing. Grafting works best when the diameter of the rootstock and scion stems are as nearly equal as possible. This can be somewhat tricky to accomplish. Here's what I suggest. Plant two or three rootstock and scion seeds on day 1. Two days later, plant another set of each type of seed. Days 4, 6 and 8 – repeat. In this way you'll have a decent chance that amongst the plants that you've planted across a 8 day timeframe you'll find some stem diameter matches between the rootstock and scion plants.
4. It's about 3 weeks after you started your seeds. Using a grafting clip, determine if any of the rootstock and scion plant stems are of a size that the clip completely surrounds the stem. If so, you're ready to graft.
5. Don your surgical gloves. At a sharp angle, cut the rootstock plant just below the cotyledons (the first leaves on the stem). Place a clip halfway across cut juncture. Now cut a scion stem at the same sharp angle (you should be able to eyeball the angle well enough). Match up the rootstock and scion cuts as exactly as possible and position the clip to provide maximum support.

Now comes the really delicate phase. Hopefully you haven't scheduled a Caribbean cruise for the next week because your grafted plants will need some daily attention. For the first couple days you'll want to keep your grafted tomatoes in a low light, high humidity environment (the domed tray comes in handy here). But be careful – do not let the humidity get too high (70% is about right). Then gradually introduce more light while reducing the humidity. After a week your plants should be out of the danger zone and can be moved out of intensive care. When you transplant to the garden in June, be sure to plant scion plants in the vicinity of your grafted plants. In this way you'll be able to compare results and determine if this madness was worth it.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Tomato Grafting continued

There are several good videos posted on Youtube that go over the grafting process. Note that there are slightly different techniques – I’m not sure which one is “best”, but imagine that they all work fairly well. Or you can choose the technique favored by the best looking presenter – the same approach used by many people when voting.



History – 30 years ago – MEN’S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 2, 1989

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men’s Garden Club of Albany was held on Thursday evening, March 2, 1989 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the disabled.

At long last, back from Florida, President **Don Lewis** opened the meeting at 7:35.

The Minutes of the February 16, 1989 meeting were approved as read by our Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved as read by our Assistant Treasurer, **Don Stevens**. As of February 28, 1989 there was a balance on hand of \$1,859.31 in the General Account, in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$328.91 and in the Key Advantage Account there was \$5,185.95.

At this point, President **Don** asked the Secretary if it would be possible to receive a copy of the minutes preceding the Board meetings so that he can set up an agenda. The Secretary agreed that this is quite possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: **Wally Dillenbeck**, Chairman reminded the Board that the Regular Monthly Dinner Meeting would be held on March 30. The regular Thursday will be Holy Thursday making it difficult for many members to attend. The **Bus Trip** will be on as planned. Full plans may be found in the previous Dirts.

History – 30 years ago – continued

Membership: Bill Blackmore, Chairman, was not available for a full report, but Don Stevens reported that we have three new members.

Gardening from the Heart: Chairman **Al Miller** reported that the present program which we have been running since the beginning will be moving to the new location on March 15. As was stated in last Month's minutes, it is hoped that a new group can be started once the present move is completed.

Calendar: Charlie Schade reported that there are 18 calendars left, not to be sold, but to be given to new members and guest speakers.

State Fair: No report.

Publicity: Chairman, **Tom Baker** reported that press releases will be forth coming.

Youth Gardening: Don Otterness, Co-chairman, further discussed the idea of a Horticulture Scholarship. He passed around a possible application form and even suggested that the money might come from the interest from the Key Advantage Account.

Joe Huth made a motion which was carried to the affect that the proposition of this Scholarship be put before the General Membership for a final vote.

Transportation: Charlie Kenyon, Chairman, said that he can get rides for members that need them, but first he has to know who they are. **Al Miller** will put a notice in the Dirt.

Advertising for the Dirt: Chairman **Ferd Johnson** reported that the Ads are all in.

Photography: Wally Dillenbeck is interested in getting our Club active in the National Photo Contest. Anyone interested should let Wally know soon for the deadline is near.

Calling: Nothing new to report other than all is going well.

Plant Sale: A call has been put out asking for members to grow pansies, flowering Page2 cabbage, and more vegetables in general. Spring planting bulbs will be sold this year.

Bulb Sale: Joe Raggio Chairman, had nothing new to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

President **Don Lewis** read a letter from the Regional President, **Walter Jensen**, encouraging all local clubs to get involved into sponsoring new clubs. At this point, **Ferd Johnson** told of his efforts to get a club started in the Saratoga Area. He contacted the Glens Falls Chamber of commerce for possible leads. He found that **Myron Watkins**, a radio personality is very much interested.

Up coming Regional meetings: May 20 in Rochester and a September meeting in Owego.

Don Otterness, Joe Huth and **Wally Dillenbeck** went to Hudson Falls to look at greenhouse that is being donated to us for our Center Project. They unanimously decided that it wasn't suitable for our needs. The big reason was the use of glass instead of plexiglass.

Al Miller expressed a grave concern over the number of unpaid memberships, some of which are Life Members.

Al Miller and **Bob Ireland** are looking in the possibility of having Double Life Memberships.

The National Convention this year is in Portland, Oregon this summer. The registration fee is \$75.00. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26

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



Ken Abele – Hard at work



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 This was our Memorial to **Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**



Jim Preston -(just passed away), **Ken Abele** **Joe Huth** and **Tom Baker**
 1999 photos - Breakfast at the Cracker Barrel and off clean up I-90 and plant flowers in our, five year old, 10' x 5' raised bed.



Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman



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





Gardening from the Heart

at the

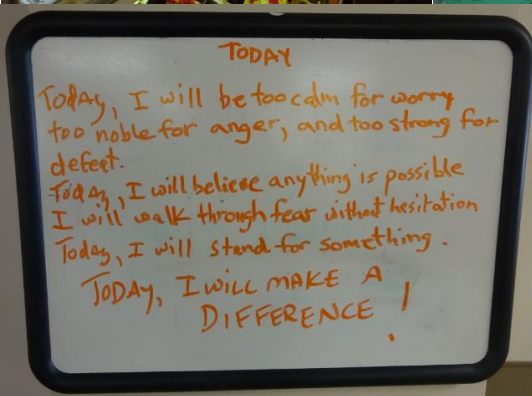
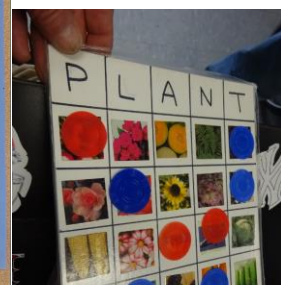
Center for Disability Services

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



Wrieden.

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 our students. – Contact anyone of our volunteers to find out more.



St Patrick's Day cards for Tom Baker



32nd Capital District Garden and Flower Show - March 22-24, 2019

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 32nd Capital District Garden and Flower



Show which will be held in March 22-24 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.

<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
March 28 th @ 6:30 pm	Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center
April 25 th @ 6:30 pm	
April 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
March 22 nd through March 24 th	Capital District Garden and Flower Show
July 28, 2019	Summer Picnic / Memorial Service – mark your calendar

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!!!**

501(c)3 Donations

We are especially interested in finding 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.



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.

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.

[Here's our brochure with more.](#)



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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