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

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **84** years of service to our community

VOLUME 83 NO. 5

(First Chartered 1936)

December, 2020

DATE & TIME: Thursday, December 10th @ 7:00 pm

PLACE: Zoom program accessible from anywhere in the world via the Internet
You can “Join using a Browser” Downloading ZOOM is NOT required
A telephone # is supplied for an audio connection with or without a computer

PROGRAM: Please be sure to join us for our Annual Holiday “Gathering” on **Thursday, December 10 at 7:00pm** via ZOOM. This year we have once again invited the very busy floral designer, **Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral & Events** in Loudonville, to do a very special video floral demonstration live from her very own studio!

Michele is a long-time friend of our club, who for numerous years has done some truly unique and outstanding holiday floral arrangements at our holiday dinner meetings. She is a certified floral designer who has won many awards, having also been inducted into the prestigious American Institute of Floral Designers organization.

Traditionally our December meetings were also special as a designated “Ladies Night,” and we honor all the women in attendance with a beautiful Poinsettia plant to take home. Also, the six arrangements that **Michele** made that evening would randomly be raffled as free gifts to several of those in attendance. Well, be sure to join us for this year’s event, as the tradition will continue. Those on the ZOOM video presentation on December 10 will be eligible to have their name pulled to receive one of **Michele’s** fabulous floral creations, which will be personally delivered to you from one of our club members the next day.

So, we excitedly wait to see what fantastic ideas **Michele** will come up with this year, and we hope you will be a part of this fun event where you can be eligible to take home one of her floral delights!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86883317049> Meeting ID: 868 8331 7049

or

One tap mobile +19292056099,,86883317049#

or

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October program Thank You

Shannon's talk, entitled *Backyard Wildlife, Ticks, and Lyme Disease*

For those who were fortunate enough to join us for our first ever ZOOM speaker presentation that was held in late October, you were enlightened to learn more about ticks and Lyme Disease from our guest presenter, **Shannon Duerr** from Altamont. **Shannon** is a Senior Research Specialist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and has nearly 20 years of experience in her field.

We thank **Shannon** for sharing her passion for educating the public about tick-borne diseases, and how the disease is spread by hosts in the wildlife. Everyone had a lot of questions, so our kick-off to having ZOOM presentations was well received, and we hope to have other such presentations for all to experience in the coming months.

Shannon's talk, entitled *Backyard Wildlife, Ticks, and Lyme Disease* was FANTASTIC! We learned so much about how to protect ourselves from ticks. A barrier of wood chips between you and the woods can help, and the black legged "deer" tick that carries Lyme and other tick borne diseases may be found more often on chipmunks and mice than deer. So don't blame Bambi for every case of Lyme. As hard as it may be to do – moving bird feeders farther away may help protect you from the ticks carried by birds. I was surprised to learn how many ticks that opossums eat. It was very interesting to hear how acorns from the Red and Black oak trees can help predict tick levels two years ahead of time.

Thanks to **Shannon** – our new knowledge of ticks may help keep us healthy with a better quality of life.

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Thanks Shannon for a very educational and interesting program!!!!

Membership

We thank all those that made tax deductible donations to the MGCA in memory of **Tom Baker**. It was so nice to read the notes from so many people that knew and loved **Tom**.

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.

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President) Storing Butternut Squash

I've been growing butternut squash in quantity for 15 years. In a typical year I'll harvest around 100 squash, although a year ago I had a banner year and ended up with just north of 160.

To store all these fine fellows, I use 5 gallon buckets which generally hold 5 to 6 decent sized squash. This means I start out with about 20 buckets worth. Typically I give away the squash with abandon early on, but even so we usually are still eating the previous year's harvest well into the spring. Once we made it all the way to September, eating the last one the week before starting on the current year's crop.

I've read that squash should be stored in a dry, warm environment and I've read that a cool, dry storage space is best. I've always gone for the warm and dry mainly because that's the available location for me. In our last home I stashed the buckets in various closets. Now it's the basement which is quite warm. Both have worked well for me although hauling the buckets out of the closets every week admittedly was a bit of a pain.

Unfortunately you can't just stick your good friends in buckets and walk away. The squash should be checked every x days, where x is somewhere between 7 and 10. Depending on conditions, you're likely to find that you'll lose about 1 to 2% of the squash each week to rot. Sometimes the rot has just begun and you can save most of the fruit, but often enough they're a total loss.

I go for the weekly checkup. I start with an empty bucket and carefully transfer the contents of a full bucket into it. Then repeat the process until all the squash have been examined. I believe, without any real proof, that handling the squash gently will reduce spoilage. I also once read that wiping down the squash with a dilute bleach solution at the beginning of the season will help reduce loss, but when I tried that technique it didn't seem to move the stakes.

I like to use the smaller squash earlier in the year as they seem to be more prone to spoil. Also I am always on the lookout for squash with 'wrinkly' skin, an indication that its time on earth is nearly up.

By the way, if you really like butternut squash and want to save a few bucks, you could stock up on them in the fall when prices are quite reasonable. Then store them as described above. As a side note, I almost always bake the squash. Peel them, remove the seeds, dice, place in a large Pyrex pan, add a half inch of water, cover with olive oil (I'm very liberal with the olive oil) and bake at 370. It takes between 1.5 and 2 hours, with a stirring at the one hour checkpoint. The seeds can be fried in butter for a delicious snack.



Merry Christmas from the Wrieden's

Don Wrieden – past president – has fantastic Christmas villages - one is a New England version and another is a traditional Dickens Christmas village. They all have lights and I couldn't find a wire anywhere. The more the more you realize finish these quickly.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Stay Healthy!

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 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**

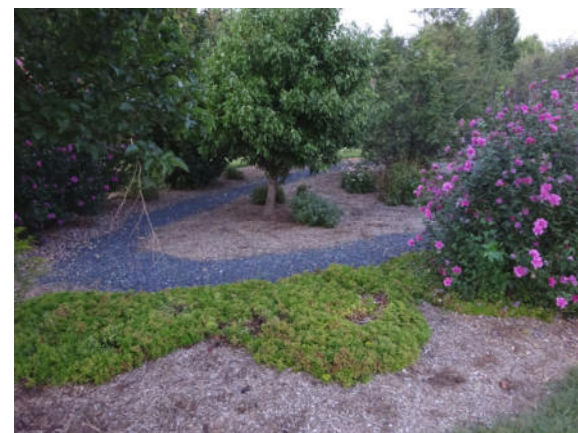


Memorial Garden

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



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 - 35 years

at the

Center for Disability Services

Volunteers include: **Russ Greenman**, Greg Goutos, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, and **Don Wrieden**.



Tom Baker and **Al Miller** started working on founding the Gardening From the Heart program way back in 1984 but he may say that it really didn't start until 1985. Originally our club had two teams of members that would teach classes, every Wednesday, at two locations with the adults at 700 S. Pearl St. in Albany and with the children at 314 Manning Blvd in Albany, NY. Now, until COVID-19 restrictions kept us out of the building, our only focus is the 700 South Pearl St. location.

Seeking Candidates for the Joe Herman Memorial 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**.

Youth Gardening

Our Youth Gardening program has found another worthwhile program to support. Check out our very own - **Bill Stoneman's [The Vegetable Project](#)**

Check out the hoop houses that the Vegetable project built – they have lots of good looking greens growing in them – Yes – even on December 5th in Albany, NY



History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 1990

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, November 29, 1990 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled. This was one week early because it would have been too close to the December Dinner meeting.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 7:35.

The Minutes of the November 1, 1990 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**. The balance in the General Account was \$7,250.80, the balance in the Memorial fund was \$742.29.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Program: Ladies Night being held in Wolfert's Roost will cost \$15.00 per dinner. A Keyboardist will perform for two hours at a cost of between \$175.00 and \$200.00 as an added attraction for this Dinner, which is to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a Club. **Don Otterness** is giving a year's membership to the George Landis Arboretum as a prize.

The Board voted to spend \$450.00 at the Roost for Poinsettias and what ever else is needed for decorations, and the like. Also, **Edgar Tompkins** was given the OK to spend up to \$350.00 for the printing of the 50th Anniversary Booklet, written by **Edgar** and **Tom Baker**.

* The January Dinner Meeting will be held in the Italian American Community Center.

* Bulb Sale: The Bulbs have not been paid for to date. We received extra bulbs and the question is, are these free or do we owe money for them. Also, what about a refund for bad bulbs of last year.

* Dirt Ad Committee: **Ferd Johnson** reported that we have one more Ad than last year.

* Auditing: **Charlie Schade** and **Ferd Johnson** will meet with **Al Miller** to do the job.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ferd Johnson brought up the question of doubling our Club's membership. **Ferd** has several ideas as to how this can very easily be accomplished. No action was taken at this time because another question was also raised, "Do we want to double the size of the Club?" This will be given further study.

Al Miller reported that the directory will be out at the usual time, that is, along with the January edition of the Dirt.

Don Lewis made a strong proposal, suggesting that the Directory contain wives names as well as the Date when each member joined the club. **Al** made it very clear that if these suggestions are to be carried out, he will no longer do the Directories. **Don** further suggested that since the Club is not hurting for funds, that it might be feasible to have a professional printer do the Directory. **Don** also volunteered to look into costs and any other particulars.

Mrs. Haker has made it known that she would like a tree or a bush planted in the Delmar area for **Willis**' living Memorial.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

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

** Editor's note: **Tom Baker** faithfully document 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!!!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Thursday, December 10 th @ 7:00 pm	Michele Peters, owner of Ambiance Floral & Events Zoom meeting
Thursday, January 7 th at 7:30 pm	Director's meeting – via Zoom
Thursday, January 28 th @ 7:00 pm	Monthly meeting featuring a guest speaker from the Cornell Cooperative Extension via a Zoom meeting

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

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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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