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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 83 NO. 2

(First Chartered 1936)

February, 2020

Dinner (Members, guests and the public are invited)

DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 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.

Mazzone Catering will feature a nice Buffet that includes: **Price: \$ 25.00**

A Mardi Gras Buffet with Gumbo, Jambalaya and Shrimp Ettoufee'

PROGRAM

Speaker: Amy Castillo of The Gade Farm in Guilderland

Topic: "Go Native"

Presentation: A hot topic these days in the field of landscaping is the environmental benefit of incorporating more native plants into our gardens. We are very fortunate to welcome back, **Amy Castillo** from The Gade Farm, to speak to us about why native plants are important and which plants are considered to be native to our area.

Amy will discuss the difference between native species and cultivars, as well as how to incorporate more native plants into our landscape. She promises to have lots of pretty pictures that are sure to shake off anybody experiencing any late February gardening doldrums. There will surely be some great plant ideas for all us home gardeners.

Amy Castillo has shared her passion for plants for decades, as she has worked at The Gade Farm in Guilderland on and off for over 27 years. She currently is the manager and buyer for the Garden Shop and Nursery Operation, in addition to offering classes about garden topics to their many customers.

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

Follow –up to last month:

Last month we took a break from having a speaker come and do a presentation or demonstration, and instead took time to reflect back on the many great times that our club has participated in events, projects, or gatherings as a group over recent decades. Thanks to **Russ** who put together a wonderful slideshow of literally hundreds of pictures of our club from years gone by, we were able to smile and reflect on all the wonderful things we have accomplished as a group over the years, as well as remember some of the great people who have participated in these many activities.

It truly was a “trip down memory lane”, and a great way to toot our own horn as we start the new decade moving forward with fresh ideas as a gardening club with a long and rich history of achievements. A big thank you to **Russ** for putting together the presentation, as well as offering his valued commentary and insights! **Greg Goutos** - Vice President

Reservations are required for the dinner

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

Membership

Thank you Emily O'Grady

Emily O'Grady has made another significant contribution to The Men's Garden Club of Albany. This time it was given to the Gardening From the Heart fund in memory of **Bruce Wilcox**.

Bruce Wilcox was a regular – every Wednesday – at the Center for Disability Services **Bruce** worked so hard to help others and always did his best to share his wealth of knowledge. **Emily O'Grady's** donation will be used to continue our 35 year history with the Center For Disability Services.

We owe a big thanks to **Emily O'Grady** , **John O'Grady** for his past service, and the entire **O'Grady** for all they have done for the MGCA over the years.

Tom Baker - 91 years young –and updating his Family Genealogy. He has pages and pages of detailed information going back to the 1800s. The odd thing was that out of the 14 siblings there wasn't any notes on **Tom Baker**. Last week he finally added some high level information. **Tom Baker** 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.

<http://gardenandflowershow.com/>

As we have for more years than I can remember, we plan on having an educational booth at the 33nd **Capital District Garden and Flower Show** which will be held in **March 27-29 at HVCC** Hudson Valley Community College, in Troy, NY. Please consider spending some time at our booth - It really is 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)
Sweet Potatoes in the Home Garden

Growing sweet potatoes isn't difficult and often rewarding.

The first requirement is plenty of space. Sweet potato vines grow vigorously and will occupy considerable amount of your precious garden space (you can find "short vine" varieties that reduce the required acreage). Secondly, you're going to need a bit of luck to get good yields in Northern gardens. The sweet potato, grown as an annual, actually is a semi-tropical perennial. Good yields require 4 to 5 months of warm/hot weather. A good strategy to assist your delicate potato vines is to cover the planting area with black plastic.

A third requirement for these fussy vegetables is a reasonable loose, friable soil. Dense, clay-like soils will produce sweet potato fingers rather than robust tubers. Mounding the soil prior to planting will help provide more space for the tubers to expand.

Needless to say, full sun and rich soil produce higher yields. If you can, modify the acidity of your soil to a pH in the range of 5.5 to 6.5. If you have relatively fertile soil, fertilization during the growing season probably isn't necessary. If you insist, go easy on the nitrogen least you end up with all vine and little potato. Using mulch (plastic or otherwise) will keep down weeds.

Most gardeners procure their slips from mail-order firms because they offer more varieties. Three varieties you might consider are Georgia Jet, Vardaman, Beauregard, and Jewel. I prefer Beauregard because it matures in as little as 3 months.

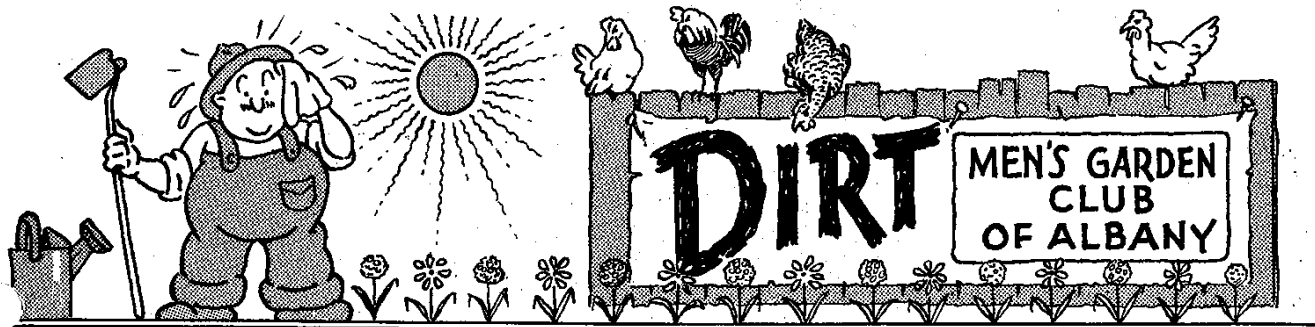
When planting time arrives (perhaps 4 weeks after the last frost-free day), plant the slips about 30 inches apart. Keep well watered.

When the vines begin to die back, it's time to harvest. Avoid delaying this chore – a damp, cold soil can result in severely reduced storage time. Gently lift the tubers out of their home with a pitchfork, handling them with kid gloves. If you wish to store your tender tubers, cure them 2 to 3 weeks in a warm, moist location. I just eat them.

A final note – avoid planting sweet potatoes in the same garden location for the following 3 to 5 years.



A Blast from the Past Carroll Greenman - President



Affiliated with the Men's Garden Clubs of America

Editor - Alfred H. Leonard
Volume 24

February 1961

14 Maple Ave., Delmar, New York
Number 2

Pres. Carroll Greenman; Vice Pres. Edward Barton; Rec. Sec'y. Raymond Lewis;
Treas. Earl Nelson; Vice Pres. Alfred Leonard; Cor. Sec'y. Leonard Mattimore.
Directors - Donald Terhune, Ex Officio; Lawrence Eberle, 61; Edward Feth, 61;
Fred Danker, 62; Thomas Schnurr, 62; James Russell, 63; Robert Spry, 63.

NEXT MEETING

Date - Thursday, February 23rd
Time - 6:30 P. M.

Place - Center Inn
Route 9W Glenmont
Price \$2.50 Including Tip

The topic for this meeting will be "More realistic teaching of botany and biology". Our speaker will be Mr. William A. Rieman, Horticulturist. A former instructor at Cobleskill Agriculture College, having a scientific approach to things growing, and being dedicated to agriculture, he has made an extensive study of plant hardiness in this section of the state, especially roses, of which he has over 500 bushes. Many of his articles have been printed in both the daily and Sunday editions of the local newspapers. He will bring plant material to demonstrate his subject.

The attendance at the January meeting was 24, which incidentally was fine considering the many conflicts on the date and the weather. All of the regular officers were absent except treasurer Earl Nelson. Ex prexy Don Terhune took charge, with Ed Feth acting as secretary. This was an excellent meeting with which to start the new year with a challenging and informative speaker and an enthusiastic and responsive audience. Dr. Allen H. Benton proved to be well acquainted with the birds as our garden friends. He brought along as our guest his Dad, Hayden W. Benton, a retired farmer of Cato, New York.

The raffle proved to be a real "Treasure Hunt" this time with Fred Danker's usual centerpiece, plus two amaryllis bulbs donated by George Plummer, a bird feeder by Tom Schnurr and a pink cyclamen plant by Joe Stapf.

The club is running along in high gear but we could do much better in putting on good programs and in carrying out our activities if we had a larger active membership.

Bring along a neighbor or a friend who is interested in gardening to this next meeting.

The potential membership in the Albany area is tremendous and we are out to add at least 30 new members to our club in 1961. Now is the time to make our bid while the "Spring Fever" season is with us. If you would like help with landing a prospective member, call the membership chairman Don Terhune, at HE 9-2184.

History – 30 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 1990

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, February 1, 1990, in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

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

In the absence of either secretary, **Don Otterness** took notes on the January 4, 1990 meeting. The secretary, **Tom Baker** read these minutes, which were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by our Club Treasurer, **Al Miller**. As of January 31, 1990 in the General Fund there was a total balance of \$1,483.85 and in the Memorial fund there was a balance of \$682.05. Of the CDS, one will mature on May 15, 1990 with \$5,267.45 and the a second will be \$1,020 on January 8, 1993.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Chairman **Joe Raggio** reporting:

February 22 - Meeting will be held in Veeders Restaurant. The Price is \$13.00. **Dave Gade** will give slide presentation with commentaries on "Roses and their Problems in the Area". **Dave** is the Rosarian consultant with the Schenectady Rose Society.

* **Wally Dillenbeck** will no longer be taking reservations for the dinners. All reservations will now be called in to Al Miller.

Scholarship: **Don Otterness** Chairman made a motion, seconded by **John Piechnik** and was carried that the first Annual Local Scholarship winner, **Susan Raffon** and guest should be invited to the May 24 Ladies Night dinner and that the Club should pay for their dinners.

Plant Sales - May 12, 1990: Delmar location. **Don Stevens** as Chairman assisted by **Herm Mau** and **Rod Kermani**. Spring bulbs will be available.

Guilanderland location: **Don Otterness** Chairman and committee are: **John Piechnik**, **Joe Huth** and **Fred Day**. The sale will take place in front the old Loehman's Store in the 20 Mall on Western Ave. in Guilderland. **Don** is interested in getting new members involved in this event.

Gardening From the Heart; **Al Miller** Chairman reported that **John Piechnik** is a new volunteer at the South Pearl Location of the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled.

Badge Disbursing Committee: **John Piechnik**, a committee of one will see that all men have an identification badge at all meetings. Please be sure to turn them in before going home!

Membership: **Bob Ireland** Chairman reported that we have 112 paid members.

OTHER BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Celebration: To steer clear of the Christmas season, **Edgar Tompkins** moved and **John Piechnik** seconded it, was carried, that we should try to get Wolfert's Roost for Thursday, December 6, or Wednesday December 12. Depends on the availability of the Roost.

Ken York, **Don Otterness** and **Joe Raggio** will work toward making this a bid bash, possibility of inviting important dignitaries. Archives Committee is asked to work on an appropriate handout. Also, the entire year should focus on the 50th Anniversary.

Arboretum Fall Festival: **Don Otterness** made a motion that we participate in the George Landis Arboretum Fall Festival on September 29 with bulbs as we do at Berkshire. **Don Stevens** seconded the motion. After much discussion, Al Miller made a motion to table the original motion, which was carried. We will need much more information.

History – 30 years ago – continued

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Upstate Meeting: Our Regional Representative and chairman Bob Ireland reported that the date is Saturday, June 2. Our club is hosting the event. A possible meeting place is the Delmar Methodist Church Social Hall. A tentative activity for the ladies is a slide show given by our own **Warren Abele**. **Bob** is also working on a tour of the five Rivers.

Dinner Meeting Activity: **Ken York** and **Joe Raggio** would like to see a type of swapshop item put in the Dirt. Such things as tools, equipment, building materials for home greenhouses and plants of all kinds. The actual swapping will take place at the dinner meetings. This will be looked into.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04.

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!!!**

Seeking Candidates for the 2020 Joe Herman 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.

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 - 35 years

at the

Center for Disability Services

Volunteers included: Tom Baker, **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 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. This Winter we really need help – Four of our volunteers are currently unavailable and we just lost **Bruce Wilcox**. 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.

Youth Gardening

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

| Today! | Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards |
|--|--|
| February 27 th @ 6:30 pm | Monthly dinner and program Beltrone Living Center Members, guests and the public are invited |
| March 26 th @ 6:30 pm | |
| April 23 rd @ 6:30 pm | |
| May 28 th @ 6:30pm | |
| March 5 th @ 7:30 pm | Board of Director's Meeting All members are invited Center for Disability -1164 Western Avenue. Albany, NY Rear – unmarked – unlocked White Steel Door |
| April 2 nd @ 7:30 pm | |
| May 7 th @ 7:30 pm | |
| June 4 th @ 7:30 pm | |
| Every Wednesday : @ 9:15 am | Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany |
| March 27th – 29th | 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!!!**



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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