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

(Serving the greater capital region)

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

VOLUME 83 NO. 4

(First Chartered 1936)

October, 2020

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 29th @ 7:00 pm

PLACE: Anywhere in the world via the Internet

A telephone # is supplied for an audio connection with or without a computer

PROGRAM: Shannon's talk, *Backyard Wildlife, Ticks, and Lyme Disease*, will cover the ways that encouraging wildlife can protect people from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. She'll also be available to answer general questions on ticks, Lyme disease, and current recommendations for staying tick-safe outdoors.

Shannon Duerr is a Senior Research Specialist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. A graduate of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, she has nearly 20 years of experience researching tick ecology and Lyme disease with the lab of Dr. Richard Ostfeld. Notable findings from the Ostfeld lab include the discovery that acorns can predict Lyme disease risk, that forest fragmentation increases the risk of Lyme disease, and that opossums may reduce tick numbers. Shannon is currently Study Coordinator for The Tick Project, investigating whether neighborhood-level tick control can protect people from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85877485579>

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Membership - Tom Baker June 19, 1928 - September 28, 2020

I'm sorry to report that **Tom Baker** has joined the other Gardener's Gone to Rest. Tom was a fantastic person that touched the lives of so many people.

As a friend so eloquently said - "He fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith" [2 Timothy 4:7] so he has entered into the glory of Heaven and the welcoming embrace of our Lord Jesus Christ

Tom Baker grew up in Seneca Falls as the 12th of 14 Children



They had a nice home, on a corner lot, with trees that Tom loved to climb and lots of open land for their Victory Garden.

Years later he helped us build a Victory garden down where the USS Slater is docked in Albany, NY

Tom was kind, intelligent, and generous with his time and talent

and was someone that everyone gravitated toward.

Tom dedicated his life to helping others in so many ways .

And when Tom said he was going to do something - he did it - A few examples are:

- Christ was Tom's highest priority and he spent countless hours supporting the Christ The King church for 34 years -
- Tom Volunteered at Our Lady of Mercy nursing home every Thursday morning for 34 years.
- Tom was a Co-founder of the Men's Garden Club Of Albany's **Gardening From The Heart** program at the **Center for Disability Services**
 - He taught gardening every Wednesday morning for 35 years -1750 classes
- Now there is a greenhouse and 30 raised beds that are wheelchair accessible.
- The students really loved to see him and they would be sad if he missed a Wednesday. Some had a smile that said it all - others would shake his hand or even get a kick out of wiggling Tom's hat.
- As the MGCA Secretary Tom documented monthly minutes for 35 years - all digitized on a computer.
- We held an annual bulb sale to raise money for the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. Tom would help packaging and selling up to 10,000 flower bulbs.

Membership - Tom Baker June 19, 1928 - September 28, 2020 continued

- He always brought individually folded plastic grocery bags for the customers purchases. - 35 years
- The Men's Garden Club of Albany held an Annual plant sale to raise money for our Memorial fund
 - Tom was the guy that arranged permission to use the lot for our sale, notified the police and Town hall of our planned sale. He did that for 35 years

Tom helped with many Men's Garden of Albany projects - such as:

- Memorial tree plantings
- helping Judges at the State Fair
- building our raised beds for the Adopt - A - Highway program (1994 and 2004)
- planting at the Albany International Airport
- working at local fairs such as the Altamont fair
- helping with our annual picnic / memorial services
- Tom was one of the original builders of our Memorial Garden at the Albany County Cooperative Extension
- Regional Director representing MGCA to the national organization

- Tom taught Swim classes for 21 years at the Level 5 (highest level)

- In 1953, and after being a musician in the 1st Army Division Band. and spending a year in Okinawa as a musician playing the French Horn he applied for a job as a music teacher in Voorheesville, NY
Tom took a Greyhound bus to Albany and tried to get a taxi to Voorheesville, NY - Well that wasn't easy - eventually someone said hop in think we can find it.
Tom was nervous about getting to the interview on time.
He made it and he got the job and stayed there until he retired 30 years later.
 - He was advised not to go drink his lunch at Smitty's and he never went there until after he retired. I don't think he ever drank - so that really wasn't an issue.
- On Rt. 155 they were building the Heritage Village apartments. Tom decided that he wanted to live there and each day after work he would stop by and tell the contractors to do a good job - because he was going to move in when it was completed.
 - Tom lived in the same apartment for 50 years.
- Tom and fellow teacher Joe Herman started going out to Berne every year for the annual Election day dinner that included 'Real' mashed potatoes. I thought he told me that they haven't missed a year in the past 50 years.- whatever the number was - it was huge.

Membership - Tom Baker June 19, 1928 - September 28, 2020 continued

Tom had a great interest in Genealogy and he wrote very accurate and detailed info about everyone except himself

- The only other person I know that had such detail in their Genealogy records was my Grandfather - Carroll Greenman (Past Men's Garden Club of Albany President).
- Tom was one of 14 children - 6 of which he never met until Monday (9/28/2020)
 - Diphtheria, Polio, burns and the Spanish flu (~ 100 years ago) were some of the causes of their early death.
 - As detailed as Tom's records were, the "note" field for Tom was blank. Last year we sat at his computer and finished his genealogy.

That is only a small portion of what Tom accomplished in his 92 years here on earth.

His friendship may be his greatest gift to us.

My wife would often invite him over for dinner - with Real mashed potatoes - and it was such a treat to be able to spend time together. I don't know how he did it - but he could pack away a lot of food - especially those "Real" mashed potatoes.

Since I first met him in 1987- I have never heard anyone complain about Tom and Tom never had a word to say that wasn't positive.

Tom would always say - everything is "Wonderful"

Tom was a great role model and teacher that was loved by all.



Tom Baker –

Baker, Thomas E. GUILDERLAND Thomas E. Baker, 92, formerly of Seneca Falls, N.Y., died peacefully on Monday, September 28, 2020, at his home at Atria Guilderland. He was a music teacher, active volunteer, friend, and faithful follower of Christ. Tom was born on June 19, 1928, the 12th of 14 children, many not surviving childhood, born to William and Belinda Mary (Ford) Baker in Waterloo, N.Y. He is survived by his brother, Charles (Chuck) Baker; his nephews, Martin Knapp and Gregory Knapp; his cousin, Mary Beth Stowell, and countless friends who became family. Tom's childhood home of Seneca Falls was the model for Bedford Falls in the Christmas classic film, It's a Wonderful Life, and he believed he lived a wonderful life.

Membership - Tom Baker June 19, 1928 - September 28, 2020 continued

His musical family attended Catholic church masses in the closely-knit town where he played in school bands and in Wayne Guy's Orchestra dance band. He graduated from Mynderse Academy in 1948. Tom received a bachelor's degree in arts from Fredonia State Teachers College in 1950, and a master's degree in 1952. He was drafted into the Army, where he spent a year in Texas as a French horn musician in the 1st Army Division Band before being sent to Okinawa, Japan. He became a music teacher in the Voorheesville Central School District in 1953, first in all grade levels and then in the elementary school, until retiring in 1983. He taught band and vocal groups and directed school musical performances. Students and parents often reminisced with him. Tom was an avid downhill skier known for his love of snow days. Tom was a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, where he co-organized and taught three decades of weekly indoor hands-on gardening classes for adults and children at the Center for Disability Services in Albany. For 21 years, he taught Red Cross adult swimming classes at SUNY Albany. He assisted patients attending church services at Our Lady of Mercy nursing home from 1985-2019. He also sang many years in the Albany area Festival Chorus, a joint ecumenical choir of 40 choirs. In 2018, he won the **Annual Senior Lifetime Achievement Award for his extensive community volunteerism**. He was a lay minister at Christ the King, Guilderland, where he was an enthusiastic weekly greeter at two worship services, a Garden Committee member, Bereavement Committee choir member, and visitation minister. He also attained the Third Degree in Knights of Columbus at Christ the King, where his many communities appreciated his warmth and cheerful spirit. Tom would like to thank his many friends, especially Greg and Diane Stevens, Russ and Maria Greenman, Christ the King visitation ministers, and the staff at Atria Guilderland for their continued love and support. All made his life exceptionally wonderful. Viewing hours are on Saturday, October 3, from 10-11 a.m. in Christ the King Church, 20 Sumter Ave., Albany. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Interment in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Geneva, will follow. Masks and social distancing are required. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to Men's Garden Club of Albany, 25 Worthman Lane, Rensselaer, NY, 12144.

Published in Albany Times Union on Oct. 1, 2020.

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.

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.**

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Plant Nutrients

People (include me in that list) often become confused when considering plant nutrients.

Perhaps this quick article will provide some sunshine.

Plants require about 15 nutrients to make happy. Some, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen, are worry free – they come from the air and water. The remainder must be present in the soil. Not just present actually, but available. And in sufficient quantity.

Let's first talk about macronutrients. For the fertilizer savvy, these are represented by the familiar NPK designation you see on fertilizer bags. N is for nitrogen, P is for phosphorous, and K for potassium. Plants really need them, although in different quantities depending on the plant species and soil characteristics. Hence the macro designation.

You might see the designation 10-5-4 on a bag of fertilizer. This means that 10% of the bag's content (by weight) is nitrogen, 5% phosphorous, and 4% potassium. A typical bag of lawn fertilizer runs in the range of 30-0-4 (many states have banned phosphorous in lawn fertilizer because the phosphorous runoff causes algae blooms in streams and lakes). As you can see, grass really adores nitrogen. Use the same fertilizer in your vegetable garden and you may end up with all plant and little fruit.

The nutrients in a bag of Scotts are manufactured and combined into (usually) slow release pellets. You can also feed plants from organic sources – manure, leaves, compost for example. Since nutrient release from these sources depend on microorganisms to break down the organic material into a form usable by plants, you can more or less rest assured that the plants won't be assailed with large doses over a short time frame (this rule doesn't hold if you happen to live in the Amazon jungle). For grass, it's hard to beat the artificial stuff – very few organic sources contain the same huge dose of nitrogen (not to mention the time savings). Outside of the lawn however, homeowners and gardeners should consider organic sources first because they improve the structure of the soil and don't leave behind salt residues that eventually degrade the soil.

Although NPK get most of the attention, the other required nutrients (the micronutrients) can't be forgotten least you foment revolution in the garden. Included in this pantheon of less renown elements are sulfur, magnesium, calcium (also called secondary nutrients), zinc, boron, chlorine, molybdenum, iron, copper, and manganese. The best source of these nutrients? You guessed it – organic material.

Deficiencies of these micronutrients can be as severe as shortfalls in their macronutrient brethren. For example, plants that lack sufficient sulfur exhibit pale green chlorosis – the whole plant loses its deep green coloration.

Which leads to my final thought. Although you no doubt tire of me harping on this topic, I simply can't neglect to prod you to have a soil analysis done. Knowing your baseline will allow you to address the actual deficiencies, not the imagined ones. In the picture below, note the NPK for a 'natural nitrogen fertilizer'. Fortunately the ingredients are hand crafted, which makes all the difference.



History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 1990

The regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, October 4, 1990.

President **Wally Dillenbeck** called the meeting to order at 9:04. (This meeting followed the packaging of bulbs for the Bulb sale at the Berkshire Garden Center.)

The Minutes of the September 6, 1990 meeting were approved as read by the Club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurer was absent, therefore, we had no Treasurer's Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Bulb Sale: **Joe Raggio** reported for **Russ Greenman**. All is in readiness. He asked that some people might take some boxes tonight to transport to the Sale.

* The Bulb Sale at the George Landis Arboretum, September 29, 1990: **Don Stevens** reported that we took in \$170.00 and made a profit of \$92.65.

The Club Secretary was instructed to send a congratulatory card to **Don Otterness** for his efforts at the Arboretum.

* Youth Committee: **Lee Negus** reported that the Sunflower and Pumpkin contest will be held at the Five Rivers on Saturday October 6, 1990, which is the Same day as our Berkshire Bulb Sale, starting at noon until 2 pm, judging will take place at 2 and awards will be made at 3.

* Scholarship Committee: So far, only one completed application form for the 2nd Semester has been received.

* Program Committee:

1. October 25: Meeting place will be the Century House.

2. November 14: Meeting in Veeders.

3. December 12, Ladies Night, **Bob Ireland** will try to get **Stan Monroe** of the Syracuse Club for our Guest speaker.

This being our 50th Anniversary Dinner Wolfert's Roost will be our auspicious gathering place. **Don Lewis**, a member of the Roost, advised the Board that a meeting must be set-up with the Roost Personnel 10 days in advance of the Dinner.

* Nominating Committee: **Don Lewis**, immediate Past president, chairman, advised the group that a slate of officers will be presented at the November 15 meeting. Election will take place at this meeting.

The names will appear in the November Dirt.

* Bulb Forcing Contest: **Ken York** lead a discussion resulting in a final vote to actually have one. The club will provide the Bulbs, from bulbs from the Annual Sale.

Full Details will be found in the Dirt.

* **Bob Ireland**, our Regional Representative said that the Upstate Organization, is considering a change in the Regional By-laws, allowing clubs that drop out of the national organization, to be allowed to join the Regional.

* Archives Committee: Co-chaired by **Edgar Tompkins** and **Tom Baker** is asking for Club information prior to 1950 for a Booklet to be presented at the Anniversary dinner. A notice will be put in the Dirt.

History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker continued

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

History – 30 years ago – by Mr. Tom Baker continued

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



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 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.

Youth Gardening

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
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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!!!**

Thank You for the Socially distant Garden Tours

Juri Vancans and **Bill Stoneman** invited us to visit their gardens and we had a blast learning about high tech watering systems, lion cages that easily keep birds out of the blueberries. When the gate hinges are documented in your will – you know you have rugged gates. I could go on forever - but we learned that this type of meeting may be what we should be focusing on as weather permits.

We would love to hear from you if you have a garden / yard that you would allow our members to visit in 2021.



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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