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<http://www.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org>

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **85** years of service to our community

VOLUME 84 NO. 8

(First Chartered 1936)

September, 2021

Auction - Bring a friend for an entertaining evening.

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 23rd @ 6:30 pm

**PLACE: Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension building -
15 Martin Road Voorheesville, NY**

PROGRAM: Harvest Auction - Items to auction off are needed – but not required. Please join us for a great evening of fun, hosted by our past President, **Mr. Don Wrieden**. Please bring your finest garden produce, garden tools, homemade goodies, homebrew, etc. for this fun-filled event.

Note: if you are bringing **garden tools** - you can specify how much you want from the sale and anything above that will go to the club.

Note: While inside the building - No food or drink can be consumed and masks will be required.

Rose Garden Tour - Thank you!

In late June, about 20 people attended the tour of the award-winning Rose Garden in Schenectady's Central Park. The tour was sponsored by our club, and was led by **Dave and Sharon Gade**, who have been instrumental in leading the renovation of the gardens since the 1990's.

It was a beautiful evening to stroll the magnificent gardens, and at a time of year when many of the hundreds of rose bushes were in peak bloom. The garden is considered one of the best of its kind in the nation, and we are so fortunate to have this hidden gem right here in the Capital District.

We would like to thank **Dave and Sharon** for sharing their insights into the various Rose species, and answering our questions. The garden club gave a donation to help support the volunteers who run the non-profit organization which maintains the garden.

Rose Garden Tour - Thank you! continued



August 26 Memorial Garden Remembrance Service and Demonstration Garden Tour

Memorial service:

We Honored the following Gardener's Gone to Rest at our Memorial garden on the Albany County Cooperative Extension's grounds. Loosing these men was a real loss for our club. First of all they were fine gentlemen that were well respected and they each contributed so much to make our club and the world a better place.

Clark Everett Zeh, Jr March 3, 2016

John O'Grady August 2019

Bruce D. Wilcox December 20, 2019

Herman "Herm" Mau ~ August 30, 2020

Thomas E. Baker, September 28, 2020

David A. Harris February 8, 2021



Demonstration Garden Tour

Judith Fetterley and **Carole Henry**, from the Master Gardener Program, served as our tour hosts. They both are very knowledgeable and work so hard on making the demonstration gardens something that everyone will enjoy and learn from. We also owe them a big thank you for all of the programs they have given or helped organize for us.

Immediately following our memorial service we were treated to a very interesting and educational tour of the demonstration gardens also located on the Albany County Cooperative Extension's grounds. It was interesting to actually look at various types of gardens and see the well labeled plants that grow in each one. For example, if you have a shady yard and you want to know what will grow there - you can visit their demonstration shade garden to see what might look good and grow well in your yard. **Judith Fetterley** showed us a "Low" maintenance garden that only needs attention a few times per year. There was a huge vegetable garden with many experimental plantings. All of the gardens are so well maintained and each plant is well labeled and there are signs explaining what each type of garden is.

We are so fortunate to have this gem in our area and we owe a big thank you to all of the Master Gardeners that design, build and maintain these gardens.

A BIG Thank You goes out to **Judith Fetterley** and **Carole Henry** for a great tour and answering all of our questions.

Two \$500 Scholarships Awarded

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Scholarship Committee received two stellar applications this spring from students attending college who are majoring in degrees supporting the green industry. The **Joe Herman Memorial Scholarship** is normally a \$500 award given to one student a year, but last year no student applied for the scholarship. The committee decided that because it was not given last year, that we had extra funds available to support giving two scholarships out this year. Congratulations to our two recipients, which we hope to invite to an upcoming club gathering for the rest of us to meet!

Kyle Mazzola attends SUNY Cobleskill, where he will be starting his senior year in the Bachelor's program. He is majoring in Agriculture and Animal Science/Dairy Management. He personally maintains a 3-acre vegetable garden, where he donates many of his extra produce to the local food pantry. He has been involved with 4-H and FFA for many years, and currently serves as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee in his hometown of Plymouth, Mass.

Elizabeth Brzezinski is a returning student to the college experience, who is attending SUNY Delhi. after being a stay-at-home mother of four children, ranging from 5 to 17 years old. She is a Floriculture major and has served as the Vice President and Treasurer of the Horticulture Club. She currently works at Hannaford as well, where she is the plant merchandiser in the flower department.

Joe Huth's 90th Birthday Party

We had a great time honoring a Great man as he celebrated his 90th Birthday with a birthday dinner put on by the Garden Club of the Capital District. **Blanchard** and his team from **Mazzone Hospitality** made an awesome meal and birthday cake to Honor **Joe Huth**.



A Bird "carved" by Marilou Pudiak-Town

Joe Huth's 90th Birthday Party - continued

Joe Huth's Garden Tour - Beltrone Living Center



President **Joe Raggio** (right) with past President - **Joe Huth** at of **Joe Huth's** garden beds



Featured Member
Joseph Huth (Joe)

Even as a youngster growing up in Yonkers, NY, **Joe** was interested in gardening. As time went on **Joe's** "green thumb" led him to plant a "Victory Garden" in the back yard to grow food for his folks during World War II.

He had "Victory Gardens" for several years and even started one the year he was 14 years old and eligible to join the "Farm Cadet Corps." This corps was a government program to recruit city teenagers to work on farms during the war. **Joe** participated in this program for several years gaining valuable experience of farm life.

Joe attended the NYS College of Agriculture at Cornell University where he received the B.S. Degree in Agriculture. After two years in the Army, he became an Assistant County Agricultural Agent in Albany County. During his Extension career he conducted educational programs for commercial vegetable growers, sheep producers and home gardeners. **Joe** has received recognition from his various audiences as well as Extension Administration for contributions to these groups. **Joe** retired from Cornell Cooperative Extension in 1990 as Albany County Agricultural Program Leader.

Joe is a long time member of the "Men's Garden Club of Albany" now known as the "Garden Club of the Capital District". He has held several offices in the club as well as chairing many committees. He has participated in the club's annual plant sale, I-90 road-side garden, Altamont Fair Garden Club Booth, Gardening from the Heart at the Center for the Disabled, establishing and maintaining the Memorial Garden at the Voorheesville Extension Center and serving on the club's scholarship committee.

Joe's family includes wife **Barbara**, three adult children and four grandchildren—**Patty** and husband, **Jack Henry**; **Ed** and wife, **Sylvia** and children **Marissa** and **Eric**; **Andy** and wife **Holly** and children **Morgan** and **Carson**.

Joe Huth recently celebrated his 90th Birthday. He was very surprised by the Birthday party held by the club to honor him at this special time and appreciates this effort. **Joe** hopes to still be a garden club member for many more years!

As a side note: **Joe Huth** has been an active member of our club for almost 40 years. Perhaps to active - in August we were weeding at the Memorial garden and after almost everyone left he kept working - he kinda made us all look bad.

Thanks **Joe Huth** for all you do!



**From the Al Miller archives:
September Garden Reminders**

Prepare Houseplants for the Move Indoors

Just as you acclimated your indoor plants to the outdoors at the beginning of the summer, so you should gradually accustom the plants to less light before you move them indoors. This can reduce the leaf drop that so often occurs when you bring them inside. Move plants into shadier locations on your deck or patio. Stop fertilizing and treat any insect problems. Bring plants in before the night temperatures get too cool. If you wait until the heat is on in the house, the plants will suffer more of a setback.

Clip Seedpods

To multiply hollyhocks, lupines, black-eyed Susans, echinacea, poppies, and other perennials and biennials, cut off the mature seedpods (they will be brown or grey) and pop each one in a labeled envelope. You can sprinkle the seeds around this fall or wait until early spring. Or trade with other gardeners.

Spray Lawn for Grubs

Soon a new population of Japanese beetle larvae, or grubs, will be making a home in the soil of your lawn (if they haven't already) so get ready for a treatment with beneficial nematodes. Reducing the population of grubs now will help reduce the number of beetles feeding on your plants next year. These microscopic nematodes are nontoxic, except to the grubs. You add the nematode mixture to a hose-end sprayer and spray the lawn. The nematodes are usually kept refrigerated so you have to ask for them at the nursery. Or you can order them online.

Save Leaves for Mulch or Compost

Fallen leaves are nature's way of returning nutrients to the soil. Don't bag yours and take them away -- you'll be throwing away free fertilizer! Instead, shred them and add them to vegetable beds, use as a mulch around trees and perennials, or add to your compost pile. Contact your town or county government to see if there's a municipal leaf composting facility, where you can pick up mulch made from leaves gathered from people who don't know they're throwing away a treasure.

Divide and Transplant Perennials

It's a good time to transplant and divide daylilies, bee balm, Siberian iris, rudbeckia, echinacea, yarrow, and the best time to move peonies. Water plants the day before transplanting. Slide through large clumps of daylilies with a spade and dig up a section of the clump for replanting. The other plants pull apart more easily to make divisions. Replant peonies so the eyes (buds) at the base are 1 to 2 inches below the soil surface. Set the others at the same depth they were previously planted. Water well and mulch the soil.

From the Al Miller archives:

Garden Reminders

(from Bill Danish)

Make Space to Relax

Set up an area of your landscape where you can sit back and enjoy the results of your hard work. Too often we gardeners see all the things to be done in the garden, rather than appreciating all that we've accomplished. A hammock or comfortable lounge chair offers the perfect vantage to relax and enjoy.

Check for Iris Borers

Be on the lookout for signs of iris borers, including yellow streaks and mushy spots on the leaves of bearded iris. These are sure signs of iris borer activity. Check the rhizomes for borer holes and remove infested parts. In the future avoid covering rhizomes with mulch or soil that favors borer activity.

Prune Lilacs

After lilacs finish flowering, prune off the old blossoms. To reduce the height of the shrub, prune the old stems to the ground and allow new suckers to grow and flower. Prune all at once, or gradually taking one-third of the old stems out over a three-year period.

Divide Perennials

There's still time to divide perennials, especially late-flowering ones such as asters and chrysanthemum. Be sure to provide new transplants with plenty of water this first season, to help them establish deep root systems.

Keep Sowing Lettuce

Sow small sections of lettuce and spinach every two weeks or so. This will extend your harvest until early summer, when hot weather will cause these crops to bolt and turn bitter. Then, consider planting warm-season replacements, such as malabar spinach.

Birds Eat More Weed Seed in Organic Fields

It's thought that organic farms have lots of bird and wildlife activity because of the lack of harmful chemicals that are sprayed on the fields. Birds, in particular, are welcome because they are keen predators of pest insects on plants. Now researchers in New Zealand are suggesting that birds also help farmers in another way. They seem to eat more weed seeds on organic farms compared to conventional farms.

Researchers at Lincoln University in New Zealand studied weed seed predation at eight conventional and eight organic farms. Dishes filled with two common weed seeds, lamb's quarters and Persian speedwell, were placed at various distances from the edge of the field to the center. They monitored the birds feeding on the dishes for 2 days. There were higher feeding rates of weed seeds on dishes on the edges of organic farms than conventional ones. Overall there was a 17% loss of weed seeds on the organic farms while the conventional farms only had a 10% loss. This suggests that bird populations are more robust around organic farms and more helpful in removing weed seeds.

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** played a key role in the design and 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



**Someone that was working on the bridge at Exit 7 of I-90 knows where it is.
This was our Memorial to Mr. Conrad (Connie) Robert**

Albany International Airport Don Wrieden – Chairman



Altamont Fair

At the Altamont Fair last month, we were fortunate to participate by setting up a table to promote our club as an exhibitor. This was the first time we have formally advertised to the public our new name change, and we had a large banner on display that showed both our new name, as well as in smaller print our former club name. We are hoping to generate new interest in people joining our club, regardless of their gender.

Thank you to those who participated, which included **Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Bill Stoneman, Greg Goutos** and **Russ Greenman**. Special thank you to **Russ** for coordinated getting the new banner and other printed materials ready, and to **Greg**, for bringing several beautiful potted flowers and herbs to brighten up our display!



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 are plaques that lists the names of our club members that have Gone to Rest.

A Big Thank You to A Big Thank You to **Greg Goutos, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Chuck Scott, Russ Greenman, Bill Stoneman** and for the work they do to maintain our Memorial Garden on August 24 th.



Memorial Garden
At CCE Albany



**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.**

35 = years supporting one location and for years, two locations Every Wednesday

4 = the (low) average number of MGCA volunteers on site

50 = sessions per year and for years 100 sessions per year (50 /site)

2 = Hours on site per session – 9:00am – 11:00am

= ~15 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 2 sites === 6000 volunteer hours

PLUS

= 20 years x 50 weeks/year x 4 people / site x 1 sites === 4000 volunteer hours

===== **10,000 hours of volunteer's time supporting the Gardening From The Heart
program at the Centers for Disability Services by members of the Men's Garden Club of
Albany.** =====

Add to that, prep time, construction of a huge greenhouse and many raised beds and you'll see that the 10,000 hours is only a portion of the time our members have spent supporting this great program.

We owe a big thanks to **Al Miller** and **Tom Baker** for initiating this project back in 1984.

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. COVID-19 restrictions kept us out of the building, and we're waiting to hear what the next steps are for our activities at 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](#)** -

Albany Kids Garden Network



Albany Kids Garden Network

Tour of Albany school gardens

Visit gardens where Albany kids make things grow. See what is ready for harvest.

Sign up

at <https://albanygardens.eventbrite.com> and we will email you a tour map.

Garden tour Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Albany Kids Garden Network, of which the Vegetable Project is proud member, invites you to come see what Albany kids are growing on **Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours of school gardens** and other gardens organized for kids' participation are free and open to the public.

The Kids Garden Network, organized in 2020, is an informal group of school gardens and gardeners and other gardens for kids. The network's members, each with its own vibe and personality, create learning opportunities for Albany kids as well as opportunities for friends in the community to pitch in. And each would love to show you around.



We'll make sure you get a tour map if you [let us know here](#) that you would like to come.

Stops on the tour include these locations:

- Catherine Street gardens that are part of AVillage Inc.'s Innovation Block Program
- The Friendship Garden of the Delaware Community
- Giffen Memorial Elementary School
- Albany High School
- Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School

Donations would be greatly appreciated and will be shared among the participating gardens.

Hope to see you!

Bill Stoneman

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Tuesdays starting September 21 st 3:00pm - 4:00pm	Myers Middle School Garden Club The Vegetable Project at Myer's Middle School 100 Elbel Court, Albany 12209 Please reach out to Bill Stoneman prior to attending: thevegetableproject@gmail.com or 518-728-6799
Thursday, September 23rd 6:30 pm	Garden Club's Harvest Auction Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension building - 15 Martin Road Voorheesville, NY
September 25 th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Participating gardens in the Albany Kids Garden Network will be welcoming visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25.	Albany Kids Garden Network Tour of Albany school gardens Visit gardens where Albany kids make things grow. See what is ready for harvest. Sign up at https://albanygardens.eventbrite.com and we will email you a tour map.
Thursday, October 7 nd @ 7:30 pm	Director's meeting – via Zoom. Members are welcome to join in. reply to this email and we'll send you the link when it becomes available.

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

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Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

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.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org/>

Go ahead - click on it - you'll be glad you did.

Thanks **Paul Zimmermann!!!**

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



In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Young
Bruce Wilcox


In Memory of
Louis Meo
&
Richard Stankus


In Memory of
Al & Barbara Miller
Dave & 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
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