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<http://www.gardenclubofthecapitaldistrict.org>

(Serving the greater capital region)

Celebrating **86** years of service to our community

VOLUME 85 NO. 2

(First Chartered 1936)

February, 2022

DATE & TIME: Sunday, February 20 @ 2:00 pm

PLACE: Zoom -

Join Zoom Meeting - All members and the public are welcome!

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: February Zoom Presentation: Pre-registration required to receive the Zoom link

<https://capitalregionny.wildones.org/events/new-to-natives/>

FEBRUARY MEETING “I’M NEW TO NATIVES...”

“I’m new to natives, what should I do?”

Free Zoom Presentation by Landscape designer **Laura Shaddak**

Topics will include how to transition from ornamentals to natives, help “picture’ what you want to do, and develop a garden plan.

Sunday, February 20th at 2 pm on Zoom!

Thanks to our guests

We're especially grateful for the non members that joined us and for those that helped share the invitation to join in for the fantastic program. Friends of our members as well as our friends from the **Guilderland Garden Club** and the **Rome Garden Club** helped to spread the word. Thanks!!!

January Presentation Follow-up

Last month we once again joined forces with the Albany County Master Gardeners, as we learned more about the effects of climate change on the way we cultivate our gardens and our landscapes. It was a very interesting and timely Zoom presentation, as climate change issues have been ever-increasing this past decade, and probably will be more so in the years ahead.

Long-time Master Gardener **Martie Teumim**, did a wonderful job explaining the impact of such things as our area experiencing additional frost-free growing days each year, how we should rethink how we manage our lawns, and even the environmental effects from the way we wash our cars.

Thank you, **Martie** and **Carole**, at the Albany County Cooperative Extension, for taking the time to host our meeting, and for your ongoing dedication to educating the public on important environmental issues.

Club dues support community work

Garden Club of the Capital District members support educational programming, a scholarship program and youth gardening initiatives club dues. The club board of directors has established a new dues tier for 2022, reflecting our transition from the Men's Garden Club of Albany to the Garden Club of the Capital District.

In addition to our long-standing \$25 dues for individual members, we will now offer family memberships for \$30. We are appreciative of members paying dues early in the new year.

Please send your check - Payable to GCCD or Garden Club of the Capital District
to: Russ Greenman GCCD Treasurer
25 Worthman Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Spring Garden Day 2022

- **Saturday, March 12, 2022, 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM**

We're In Webinar Mode! Due to the Pandemic, our 24th Annual Spring Garden Day will be offered using Zoom, the cloud-based video communications format. You will need access to a computer with internet, Zoom, and sound capabilities.

VIRTUAL Spring Garden Day will feature TWO great speakers and chances to win fabulous door prizes. [Click here for the full brochure](#)

After registering with us, be sure you have the free Zoom app by visiting <https://zoom.us/>

GARDEN TALK – By Paul Zimmermann (Past MGCA President)

Rosemary

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is an easy to grow perennial that does well in containers. Since it is only hardy in zones 8+, we Northerners need to bring it inside during the winter or provide some serious protection from the elements.

Rosemary is native to the drier regions around the Mediterranean Sea. Full sun is nice, but not necessary. Indoors it will flourish during the winter if placed in a south facing window. Water lightly – root rot can present a problem. I've been away for up to 3 weeks in the winter, and my rosemary doesn't seem to mind the infrequent watering.

When growing in a container, place a layer of gravel at the bottom to help keep the roots from sitting in water. Every couple of years repot your rosemary, hopefully in a slightly larger container. A rich soil mix will be appreciated.

Harvesting can be done almost anytime but during flowering. Look for sprigs that are non-woody. You can dry or freeze your rosemary cuttings and they will retain much of their pungent aroma. I like to grab a sprig and hold it under my nose as sort of aroma-therapy. A couple of sprigs in a dish of hot water will fill the room with rosemary's distinctive smell. I once raised rosemary from seed – it's not difficult. But now I just buy a small plant at the local nursery in the spring and go from there.



Youth Gardening

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

The Vegetable Project, a volunteer nonprofit school gardening program that is led by club board member Bill Stoneman, is seeking classroom volunteers for an indoor garden project over the course of March. The Vegetable Project will lead scores, perhaps hundreds, of students in making miniature greenhouses out of plastic gallon jugs, Bill says.

“The actual steps are simple enough for adults with modest experience with tools,” **Bill** says. “But kids would really benefit from one-to-one adult guidance, mostly likely in 10- or 15-minute increments.”

Miniature greenhouse production involves perforating the tops of the jugs with a handheld drill to let rain in and the bottom to allow excess water to drain out, cutting the jug nearly all the way around with a boxcutter or pair of scissors, wetting a potting mix and filling the bottom of jug, putting seeds on top of the potting mix and taping the jug closed. The hope is that seeds of hardy plants will tolerate moving outside immediately and then germinate when the days warm up.



Interested in getting involved?

You can reach **Bill** at thevegetableproject@gmail.com or 518-728-6799. More about the Vegetable Project's work is at the [organization's web site](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Youth Gardening
Bill Stoneman's [The Vegetable Project](#)



The Vegetable Project, a volunteer nonprofit school gardening program that is led by club board member **Bill Stoneman**, reports that it has brought what it calls “doing and touching and tasting and experiencing” to nearly [500 Albany schools students](#) since September.



History - 35 years ago –
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 1987

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, February 5, 1987 in the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Disabled. The meeting was called to order by President, **Joe Huth** at 7:35, with 13 members present. The minutes of the January 8, 1987 meeting were read and approved with two corrections: 1. **Al Miller** is taking care of the Tax Exempt Status and not **Paul Hughes**.

2. **Jack Spear** will look into the matter of putting copies of the Gardener in Both the Albany and Schenectady area libraries with out the assistance of **Herman Mau**.

The Minutes of the Regular dinner meeting were called for and were read. This procedure will be changed in the future. Only minutes for any given meeting will be read and not for both regular and directors meetings. Pertinent information, decided upon by the President, will be read from one meeting to another.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read by the Club Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of January 31, 1987, there was a total balance on hand of \$2,438.21. A discussion was held concerning the advisability of looking into other types of high interest accounts for the surplus money from the Convention. The consensus was to leave it where it is, which is in a Key Advantage Account and as of January 31, 1987 the balance amounted to \$5,343.94.

Al Miller advised the group that all Garden Club Members are invited to the Executive Committee Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in November 1987.

The Club Historian reported that he, **Jerry Flax** along with his assistant, **Tom Baker**, will be sorting out the array of materials given to him by **Bob Ireland** who had stored them at home.

The information about the February 26 Dinner Meeting was presented as follows: dinner at 7 pm with the Dutch treat hour beginning at 6 pm, at Veeders Restaurant, with a choice of Roast Leg of Lamb or Broiled Scrod. The guest speaker will be **John Carvil**, a Lilac Specialist, who will have the topic, "Think Spring with Lilacs." It was suggested that an honorarium of \$25.00 be presented to **John** for the advancement of the Lilac Society, a motion was made by **Don Lewis** to this matter and was carried. The price of the dinner will be \$10.00.

It was suggested by **Al Miller** that the Club present a Certificate of Appreciation to **Paul Steinkamp** for his much appreciated talk given on the spur of the moment at our January dinner meeting. The Club Secretary agreed to carry this out.

Don Otterness is doing a project of Forcing Tulips at school and asked if anybody had any extra 4 inch pots that he might have. **Don Lewis** felt that he could help out.

History - 35 years ago – continued

Bob Ireland of the Membership Committee reported that as of this date our club has a total of 95 members. Also, that **George Smith** is a charter member. This information may be of some significance for the Club Historian.

Al Miller passed around a Club Directory form Van Wert, Ohio, which many of the group felt might serve as a model that we in the future may find helpful in revising ours.

Don Otterness next reported that the Memorial committee is looking into memorials for **Herb Swane** and **Bob McNitt**. He also stated that he is working on a map of the grounds (Co-operative Extension?) indicating which plantings are designated for which deceased members. The Plaque with the names of these men will be up-dated in the near future.

Wally Dillenbeck discussed the new project which the head Botanist of the State Museum presented to him concerning the involvement of our club. This project could be phased in, over a span of two years. It is being proposed that a section of the Museum Lobby be set up as a permanent exhibit of native New York plants. These plants would be changed three times a year, in Spring, summer, and Fall. The club would be asked to grow these plants in containers at home. The consensus was that this sounded like a viable project and that this Botanist should be invited to one of our meetings to discuss this project with the Club as a whole.

Wally will look into this matter.

The Club was invited to participate in a plant sale in the Delaware Plaza on May 2nd but this was turned down because we felt that this date was too close to our own plant sale which is on May 9th.

Al Miller is still trying to find good homes for the left over Portfolios from our very successful convention. He suggested giving them to the women of the Garden Clubs of Women in the area. He was given the OK on this and this he will be at the next meeting with them at the Museum.

There was no report concerning putting the Gardener in the Area Libraries.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tom Baker, Secretary

** Editor's note: **Tom Baker** faithfully documented our minutes since way before he had personal computer - but somehow he managed to digitize all of the minutes he had taken over the years and we now include them in our newsletter under the heading "History - 35 years ago" **Thanks, Tom Baker!!!**

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

Adopt-a-Highway - 25 years - continued



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**

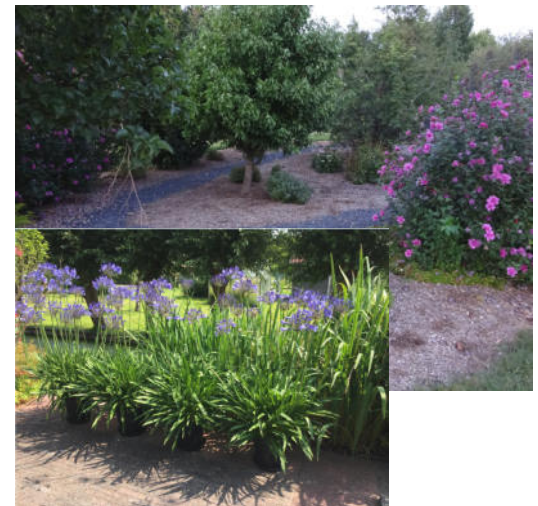


Memorial Garden

At the Albany County Cooperative Extension
 15 Martin Road Voorheesville, NY

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."

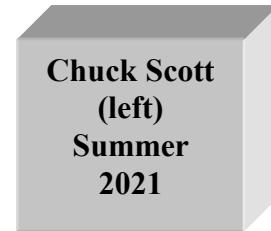


Along with perennials, shrubs and trees, there are plaques that lists the names of our club members that have Gone to Rest.

**Joe Huth
 Summer
 2021**



**Chuck Scott
 (left)
 Summer
 2021**





**Memorial Garden
At CCE Albany
Don Abele
Tom Greenman
Bill Danish**



**President
Joe
Raggio
Summer
2021**



**Memorial Garden
At CCE Albany
Tom Baker**





**Bill
Stoneman**

**Jack
Meagher**

**Memorial Garden
At CCE Albany
Joe Herman
Al Miller**





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.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Today!	Please visit our friends that need our visits and cards
Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	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
Sunday, February 20th 2:00 pm	https://capitalregionny.wildones.org/events/new-to-natives/ Join Zoom Meeting
Thursday, March 3 rd 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.
Saturday, March 12, 2022	Spring Garden Day via Zoom Cornell Cooperative Extension - Rensselaer County
March Thursday, 24 th 7:00 pm	Amy from Gade Farm , will be presenting the topic--" New Plants for 2022 Join Zoom Meeting

Editor: **Russ Greenman**

Amazon purchases can support or club

Go to smile.amazon.com

Log into your Amazon account and Select **Men's Garden Club of Albany**

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**, or the **Joe Herman Scholarship Fund**.

Please send your 501(c)3 tax deductible donation to **Russ Greenman** GCCD 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
Bob*






420 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, NY 12144
East Greenbush - Across from Columbia Plaza

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