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Celebrating **75** years of service to our community

VOLUME 75 NO. 5

(First Chartered 1936)

May, 2012

MAY MEETING - Ladies Invited Night!

DATE & TIME: **Thursday, May 17th @ 6:30 PM – one week early (again)**

PLACE: Best Western Sovereign Hotel,
1228 Western Ave., Albany

APPETIZER: Garden Salad

ENTREE: Chicken Madeira or
Pork Tenderloin with an Apple Walnut Stuffing or
Sweet Basil Butter Salmon

DESSERT: Peach Cobbler Price: \$ 20.00

PROGRAM: Roses of Portland Oregon and Victoria BC
Presented by: Our very own - **Ray and Beth Bell**

RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL:

A caller should reach you soon for your dinner reservation and your choice of entree. If a caller leaves a message, please make every effort to return his call. If a caller does not reach you by Thursday, May 10th, please call **John O' Grady** (372-5356). You are reminded that if you make a reservation for dinner you will be expected to honor your commitment.

At the Garden and Flower show held at HVCC, we had many folks that expressed an interest in our organization. We are sending a copy of our monthly newsletter (the DIRT) to those that provided an email address. This is a perfect opportunity to take your wife out and get introduced to members of Men's Garden Club of Albany. Please contact **John O'Grady** (372-5356) to make your reservation. We hope to see you on May 24th.

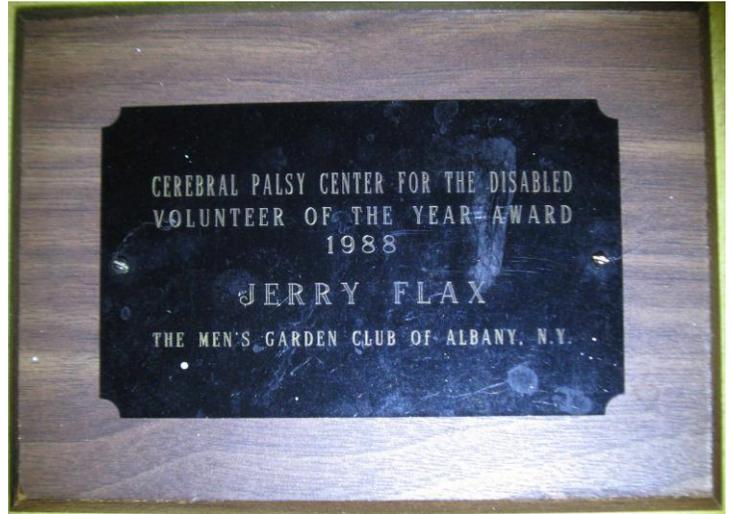
Thanks - April Program

Last month **Chuck Schmitt** from Cornell Cooperative Extension taught us about Greenhouses and Garden Structures for the Homeowner. We learned about the different types of greenhouses and the glazing materials that can be used. **Chuck Schmitt** showed us formulas and graphs used in calculating how easily heat is lost thru a given material, insulation factors and how much heat is produced in the greenhouse from the sun – which, on a clear cloudless day, can produce 10,000 foot-candles and a typical greenhouse needs 2k to 3k foot-candles for 10 hours / day. Heating dollars can account for 70% to 80% of the overall greenhouse cost. Supplying heat below the plants, like the electric Agritape Root Zone Heaters or by piping 140 degree hot water below the plants can be more efficient than heating the air. Other things we learned about included: fertilizers, high tunnels, cold frames and lighting – lights such as high pressure sodium are cost effective and provide the best light spectrum for the plants. Well, you get it... It was another great program. **Thanks Chuck Schmitt for a Great program!!!!**

MEMBERSHIP

Jerry Flax

Jerry Flax is doing well after a brief stay in the hospital. On April 11th **Jerry** fell and since he couldn't find enough Band-Aids to stop the bleeding on his head, he went to the hospital and where they stitched him up with 14 stitches. While he was there they determined that he fell because his heart rate was too slow. After installing a pacemaker he came home and is doing well. I'm sure he would appreciate a card or phone call since he is not currently driving. I recently found this plaque that recognizes **Jerry Flax** as the 'Volunteer of the Year Award' in 1988. **Congratulations Jerry!**



Henry Fox

Henry is recovering well from his hip surgery and even walks short distances without a cane. He is now having problems with a growth in the back of his eye that is being treated with a series of shots as well as drops. He says going through that is less annoying than not being able to read the baseball scores (Devils) in the paper.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

***** PLANT SALE MAY 12th in DELMAR *****

The day before Mother's Day - **May 12th 8:00 am – 2:00 pm - (7:00 am setup)**
@ Delmar Dental Medicine 344 Delaware Avenue Delmar, next to St. Thomas The Apostle Church

Adopt-A-Highway

*More Daffodils donated by **Ken York***



Gardening from the Heart

Volunteers that helped during April included: **Tom Baker, Bill Danish, Russ Greenman, Joe Herman, Joe Huth, Jack Meagher, Marilou Town, Bruce Wilcox and Linda Beeler (Wruck).**



Now that the temperature is rising, we have spent several weeks working outside in our raised beds. The consumers dug up pots of tulips that we planted last fall and brought them home for their families to enjoy. Several beds were planted with things like peas, lettuce, and radishes. Others were prepared for warmer weather crops. Last week it was colder so we worked inside and the consumers packed 2000 Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower seeds in individual packages to be distributed to the 4-H members in Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady counties as part of the MGCA Youth Gardening program and **Barb Stevens** from the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Memorial Garden

(At the Albany County Cooperative Extension)

Work at the Memorial Garden has been slow this year due to an invasion of chickweed. In many areas the chickweed has formed a solid mat covering the ground. The daffodils around the border have made a wonderful display, but have made clean up a get down and pull by hand job.

On two nice Friday mornings in April, **Chuck Scott, Greg Shields, Gil O'Brien and Joe Huth** weeded, pruned and mulched inside the path and have been working outside the path around the daffodils.

On Monday April 30, an expanded group worked to try and finish the job.



Memorial Garden - continued

The Monday group included: **Joe Herman, Tom Baker, Gil O'Brien, Chuck Scott, Jack Meager** and **Joe Huth**. In spite of all the good help another work session will be needed to finish the job. This is tentatively planned for Monday morning, May 7.
Thanks to all for their help!

Editor's note: This project really amazes me... The photos don't do this garden justice, and each item is properly identified with a quality name tag. **Joe Huth** (chairman) and many others including **Bill Danish** (President) really deserve a tremendous amount of credit for all the work they have done to make this Memorial Garden something that we all can be Very proud of. I know everyone really worked hard – but, I heard how hard **Gil O'Brien** worked hauling mulch and pulling up chickweed- that he thinks I planted – and I was real impressed. It's great to see so many members working hard together to support this Great project.



\$500.00 – Scholarship - \$500.00!!!

Seeking Candidates for 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 who might qualify. Candidates can be a current college student, or registered to begin a college program this fall. Additionally, 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 other extended family member that would qualify? If so, please contact **Greg Goutos**, Scholarship Chair, at 861-6052 for application details. **The deadline is May 20th**.

USS Slater DE 766

Everyone is trying to save a little money these days, and the staff at the USS Slater DE 766 is no different. We offered to plant and maintain (weekly) the Victory Garden but there is no money for materials or manpower to maintain it between our visits. Unfortunately they had to decline our offer.

Youth Gardening

Seeds to Genet school

Thanks to **Rachel Patterson** and **Dave Becker** from **Becker's Farm**, we have been able to distribute seeds to many youth in the area. We are using them as part of our Gardening From The Heart program at the Center for Disability Services, 4H youth, and at Genet Elementary school in East Greenbush, NY. My wife, **Maria Greenman**, works with the kids there and offered seeds to kids that would take them home and plant them. It was impressive to see how excited the kids were about watching something grow from a seed. Unfortunately, not every kid got what they wanted... there were a few requests for apple and pear trees. I was happy because I had all I could do to lift all the seeds that were donated by [Becker's Farm](#) and I certainly couldn't lug around the trees.



Youth Gardening – Contest

As we do every year – we are preparing for the Big Pumpkin / Giant Sunflower contest. We have supplied Albany County and Rensselaer Counties with Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower (ordered through national), paperwork that will allow the kids to enter in the national contest, Tomato plants (**Becker Farms – East Greenbush, NY - [Becker's Farm](#)**), and Spirit Pumpkins and Marigolds (**Agway in Altamont, NY**). Sometime in October we will be calling the kids back and have our Master Gardeners judge the Big Pumpkins, Giant Sunflowers, and Spirit pumpkins. That's where we hand out \$150 in cash prizes and enter their results into the National contest. Special thanks goes to **Barb Stevens** of the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension for coordinating this effort in three counties. Without you we wouldn't be able to reach so many young gardeners.

Please be sure to support the business that have supported our activities, including our Youth Gardening program, for many years. This year we want to give special thanks to **Dan Dymes** from **Altamont Agway** for all his help.

<http://www.altamontagway.com/>

Thanks to **Dave Becker** and his team from **Becker's Farm [Becker's Farm](#)** for their support for our Youth Gardening and Gardening From The Heart programs.

May 2nd was the Youth Gardening seed distribution night at the Albany County Cooperative Extension. **Joe Huth** gave an awesome presentation to the youth receiving the Giant Sunflower, Big Pumpkin,(national MGCA/TGOA); Heirloom Tomatoes ([Becker's Farm](#)); and the Howden Pumpkin and Marigold seeds (<http://www.altamontagway.com/>). **Joe** demonstrated the proper way to plant the seeds as well as some advice about fertilizer, water, weed prevention which sparked some very interesting discussions. I was really glad that **Joe Huth** (Master Gardener) was there with his wealth ok knowledge to answer all of the questions that didn't even relate to this project. Sorry Joe, there isn't enough room in this newsletter to list all of your qualifications. Thanks **Joe Huth!!!**



YOUR LOCAL



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M-F 8:00AM-6:00PM
SAT 8:00AM-5:00PM
SUN 9:00AM-3:00PM

History - 25 years ago this month
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF ALBANY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 7, 1987

The Regular Monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Men's Garden Club of Albany, was held on Thursday evening, in the beautiful home of **Nancy and Don Lewis**, who graciously hosted the Board with cocktails, a guided tour of their lovely grounds, which was followed by a wonderfully catered dinner.

The meeting was called to order by President **Joe Huth** at 7:00 pm with 15 members present. The first order of business was a round of applause for **Nancy and Don**, called for by president **Joe**.

The Minutes of the April 2, 1987 Meeting were approved as read by the club Secretary, **Tom Baker**.

The Treasurers Report was approved as read by the Treasurer, **Paul Hughes**. As of April 30, 1987 there was total balance on hand in the General Account of \$1,502.77 and in the Key Advantage Account there was \$5,409.28. Paul told the group that the Liability Insurance premium was due at this time. Paul was authorized to pay it.

CONCERNING AWARDS: PINS, PLAQUES, AND CERTIFICATES.

Don Gwinn brought up the subject of Awards, pins, plaques, and Regular membership pins. No conclusions were made at this time. However, **Don Lewis** suggested that the secretary bring the "Red Book" to the next regular Directors meeting, which contains catalogs for such things. At this time **Glen Witecki** also asked the secretary to give him a sample of the Certificates of Appreciation and Beautification Awards since he is the Chairman of the Awards Committee.

NATIONAL NEWS from AL MILLER

Al Miller advised us that the last proposal from the National Headquarters concerning the dues was that the dues should be raised to \$20.00. Our Club, by a vote, suggested that the Ads in the Gardener be expanded before the dues are raised.

Al also told that the National Audio/visual Committee is interested in making a new slide show on state birds, flowers, and trees. Anyone having suitable slides should send them into the Committee.

For our information, **Al** told us that it is very likely that the National Treasurer, **Ron Hagen** will be replaced because it was felt that he is not living up to what is expected of him. **Tom Hill** from the Mid-west is being considered.

GENERAL CLUB INFORMATION

The summer picnic which has been proposed to be held at the Miller Estate in Edinburg, on August 2 has been finalized, it will be held there. As always, more information will be published in the Dirt.

Lee Negus, chairman of the Youth Committee reported that seeds have been distributed to all interested youths and he thanks all men who helped in the project.

Don Stevens and **Herm Mau** said all was in readiness for the Plant Sale. Work will begin at 7:30 and sales will begin at 9:00 am. **Jerry Flax** volunteered to bring snacks.

Don Lewis reminded the group that the Triangle in Loudonville which is lighted, is accredited to the Men's Garden Club of Albany and the Loudonville Ladies Club.

The Nelson House project was voted down because it was felt that it would be setting a precedence of providing members of our club as garden maintenance workers. At most we could help with guidance and gardening information.

The new membership application forms have been revised by **Barbara Miller** with **Al Miller** doing the art work.

DATES OF UP-COMING MEETINGS

The May 28 meeting at the Ten Broeck Mansion, will begin at 7:00 pm.

The June 4 meeting of Directors and Committee Chairman will be held at **Joe Huth's** home at 7:00 pm on 16 East Road, Voorheesville.

President **Joe** read a correspondence from the Berkshire Garden Center advising us that the date of the Harvest Festival will be September 26, 1987.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15. Respectfully submitted by, **Tom Baker**, Secretary - Editor's note: this was reformatted to save space on the page – sorry Tom.

Garden Reminders May 2012

Control Lawn Grubs without Chemicals

A healthy lawn can tolerate a moderate level of feeding by grubs, so keeping your turf grass robust with sustainable practices that focus on healthy soil will help keep grub damage below the threshold where treatment is needed. Enriching the soil with organic matter and avoiding the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides will encourage the thriving populations of soil organisms that help keep grub numbers in check in the soil ecosystem. Milky spore disease powder, a microbial insecticide for the control of Japanese beetle grubs, has not been shown to afford very effective control in colder northern soils. Beneficial nematodes offer more promise, but need to be selected and used properly. Contact your local Extension Service for more information on the nematodes species to use and the timing and method of application for best grub control in your area.

Divide Perennials

Mature perennials that are bare in the center, no longer bloom well, or are taking up too much territory, as well as those you wish to propagate, are all candidates for division. Spring is a good time to divide most perennials, when the new growth is 4-6 inches tall. Some perennials with taproots or woody roots, such as goat's beard (*Aruncus*), globe thistle (*Echinops*), and snakeroot (*Actaea* or *Cimicifuga*), do best if divided even before the top growth emerges.

Sow Sweet Pea Seeds Early

Sow seeds of cool weather-loving sweet peas directly in the garden six weeks before your last frost date. Soak the seeds overnight prior to planting. For even earlier blooms, seeds can be started in peat pots four to six weeks before planting out. Well hardened-off seedlings are tolerant of light frost and can go in the ground a couple of weeks before your last frost date. When plants are 6-8 inches tall, pinch them to encourage denser growth, which will result in more flowers. Be sure to give sweet pea vines a support to climb up.

Plant Arugula for an Early Greens Harvest

Fast growing, cold tolerant arugula is one of the earliest greens ready for harvest. Sow seeds in the garden as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring and begin picking tender, 2-3 inch baby leaves in about a month. Make repeat sowings every couple of weeks for a steady supply of the piquant leaves. The white or yellow arugula flowers are edible, with a mild flavor, and can add interest and color to your salads.

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Newsletter (DIRT and National)

Members – If you have any information about a member that hasn't been feeling up to par lately, please let us know, so we can include something in the DIRT and/or have our Sunshine committee get a card to him.

Phil Harris - Memorial Centerpiece

As many of you know, **Phil Harris** has been making centerpieces for every meeting for as long as I can remember. Now his **sister** makes professional quality centerpieces that **Phil Harris** and **Dave Harris** bring to each meeting. Each month one is raffled off and the money goes to support our Memorial Fund. With that money we have been able to plant trees and build a very Nice Memorial Garden out at the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension building in Voorheesville, NY. Phil started this and continues in honor of his parents. They must have been real nice people – just like their kids. **Thanks!!!!**



May 12th- Regional Meeting

Dickman Farms, 13 Archie Street, Auburn
 9:00-9:30 Social Time (Coffee and Pastry)
 9:30-11:00 Business Meeting
 11:00-12:00 Tour of Greenhouses

Directions to Dickman Farms,

From Syracuse – Take the NYS Thruway (I90) West to Exit 40. Take Route 34 South to Auburn. Take Route 20 East to Route 38A South. Take Route 38A South to Havens Ave. Turn Left onto Havens Ave. Turn Right onto Archie St.

After the tour, we will meet at Mac's Family Restaurant for a cash lunch.

National Convention in Youngstown, Ohio June 13th - 16th

The Men's Garden Club of Youngstown is hosting the TGCA/MGCA National Conference, June 13th-16th, and has prepared a great agenda for their guests.

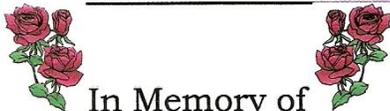
Go to www.tgoa-mgca.org or your national newsletter for your registration form. The **deadline is May 15th**.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesdays : May 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th @ 9:00 am June 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th @ 9:00 am	Gardening from the Heart Center for Disability Services 700 South Pearl St. Albany, NY
May 12th	Regional Meeting - Dickman Farms in Auburn, NY
May 15th	Deadline to sign up for the National Convention in Youngstown, Ohio
May 17th @ 6:30 pm	May - Dinner Meeting - Ladies Invited
June 7th @ 7:30 pm	Director's meeting – all members invited Center for Disability Services – Manning Blvd
June 13th - 16th	National Convention in Youngstown, Ohio
June, July, and August	NO Dinner meetings (other than the Picnic)
August 2nd late afternoon / evening	MGCA Annual Picnic & Memorial Service Albany County Cooperative Extension
May 12th 8:00 am – 2:00 pm	Plant Sale – 344 Delaware Avenue in Delmar

Russ Greenman, Bill Danish and Jack Meagher, Editors



In Memory of
Avrom Koblenz
 Jerry Flax

In Memory
Of My
Loving Wife, Jessie
Jerry Flax

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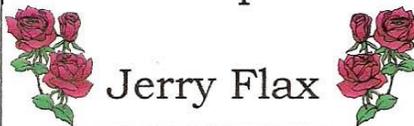
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