



Contents

President's Letter	2
August 2025 Meeting Minutes	3 – 4
Happy Birthday Don't Forget! Calendar.....	5
Grow to Show: Horticulture Know-How!	6
Fall Flower Bulb Sale	7
Flower Show Prep "Color Me Autumn!"	8 – 12
Gallery August Meeting Floral Workshop ...	14 – 15

Anne Skalka
President

Linda Reasoner
Vice President

Rick Lazarick
Treasurer

Karen Lewandowski
Recording Secretary

Victoria Rivera Cruz
*Corresponding
Secretary*

Lorrain Persiani
*Immediate Past
President*

Maggie Kramer
Club Parliamentarian

Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



President's Letter

Anne Skalka | September 2025

Dear Garden Club Members,

September is the gentle bridge between summer's abundance and autumn's bounty. This month offers a rich mix of colors, flavors, and garden tasks.

In Bloom: Dahlias, Japanese anemones, Crocosmia, Sedum, and late roses bring strong color.

Harvest Time: Apples, pears, plums, runner beans, and the last tomatoes are ready for picking. Pumpkins and squashes begin to ripen, promising a colorful autumn display.

Jobs for the Month:

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils and crocuses.
- Divide perennials that have finished flowering.
- Collect seeds from annuals for next year.
- Begin tidying beds, but leave seed heads for wildlife.

September reminds us to enjoy the last warm days while preparing for the cooler months ahead. It's a time to work with nature's rhythm — harvesting the present and planting for the future. Remember that with each bulb, and each division replanted, we are thinking of our future and planting hope for our next garden season.

*Warmly,
Anne Skalka*

President, West Trenton Garden Club

Photo taken in Wales, by Anne Skalka

August 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of August 4, 2025, was called to order at 6:38 by Vice President [Linda Reasoner](#). She welcomed and introduced new member, [Carol Miller](#).

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the regular June meeting were taken by [Lynn Grillo](#) due to the absence of [Karen Lewandowski](#) and were printed in the monthly newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, [Rick Lazarick](#), reported an current balance of \$8,943.22. There were expenses totaling \$3,222.33, which included the \$2500 Scholarship pay out, GCNJ membership dues, and a donation to West Trenton Fire Co., with income that equaled \$405 since June's meeting. Our total membership presently stands at 62.

Correspondence

No report.

Announcements

[Linda Reasoner](#) read a letter written by [Margaret Esposito](#) of the GCNJ Natural Disasters Program thanking our club for the \$266 we donated in 2024/25 from our Pass the Can project.

Linda announced all July and August birthdays. Linda also made everyone aware of the items on the "free table" that included daisy and carnation seedlings along with other things brought in by members to share.

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

[Iliana Okum](#) and [Rick Lazarick](#) presented two scholarships totaling \$2500 and honorary certificates to Steinert High School graduate, [Madison McLaughlin](#), and a Notre Dame High School graduate, [Sean Kirby](#), who were present with family members to receive the honors. Madison received a check for \$1000 and Sean received a check for \$1500 for their future education needs.



Madison McLaughlin and family



Sean Kirby and family

August 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

Committee Reports

- **Fall Bulb Sale** - **Rick Lazarick** reported that the bulb sale is underway. He emailed order forms to the membership and orders are due on Friday, September 26, with pick up at the October meeting. However, the amaryllis bulbs, if ordered, will not arrive until the end of October.
- **Program Committee** - **Iliana Okum** announced the programs that she and her committee have arranged for upcoming meetings in 2025/26. A preview of what has been planned was printed in the Newsletter.
- **Yearbook** - **Helga Fontus** wants members to sign up for Flowers for the Library in the months that aren't covered so that she can include the information in the yearbook that she is currently finalizing. She also wants new members and other members who did not have their pictures taken for the yearbook last year to do so this year.
- **Flower Show** - Our Flower Show, scheduled for mid-September 2026, still doesn't have a venue. **Helga Fontus** wants everyone to start now to find the perfect place. We need a lot of space, a kitchen, ample parking, security, etc.
- **Birmingham Park** - **George McElrath** thanked the volunteers who came out to the Park on July 22 to weed and do general garden clean-up. The Park is looking really nice, and we get a lot of compliments on it's appearance.
- **Garden Tour** - **Lynn Grillo** reported that on Saturday, September 27 (rain date September 28), we will be holding our self-guided driving

Garden Tour, featuring about eight gardens of our members. Admission is free with optional donations that will support club activities. Volunteers to act as greeters, parkers, stampers and floaters are needed. **Contact Barbara** Lear if interested in helping out. [Note that the tour has been canceled.]

Additional Business

President **Anne Skalka** wrote a letter that **Linda Reasoner** read aloud. In it, Anne reminded us that **Barbara Bernhard** has stepped down as chairperson of the Morven Festival of Trees committee and a new chairperson must be found as soon as possible.

Mary Corrigan, our new Hospitality Chairperson, needs more volunteers to provide meeting refreshments, and **Diane Sanchez**, our new Flowers for the Library chairperson, is looking to complete the calendar for the upcoming year. Anne also reminded the membership of participation responsibilities.

Anne Chmielewski thanked club members for their support during Dave's health crises.

A Q&A session took place and then Linda Reasoner thanked the Hospitality Committee for providing the evening's refreshments.

The 50/50 winner was picked.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28. After enjoying refreshments, the members were treated to a delightful program headed by **Ingrid Fair** entitled "Flower Show Prep", where members created their own flower arrangement.

Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

September 2025

Happy Birthday!

- Carolyn Kane – September 3
- Kim Basco – September 15
- Linda Reasoner – September 18
- Lynn Aspinwall – September 21
- David Chmielewski – September 25

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Rick Lazarick

Hospitality Committee

Heidi Furman (Chair), Kim Basco, Barbara Bernhard, Monique Bonnier, Marcia Felcone, Lorraine Persiani, and Angela Proctor-Weaver.

Birmingham Park Maintenance

Contact Rick Lazarick or George McElrath to volunteer one hour or two to help out.

Newsletter Deadline

Submit all info to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month via email at:
wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

September 8, 6:30 PM, Hollowbrook CC

WTGC Monthly Meeting
Program: "Grow to Show: Horticulture Know-How!" Presenter: Alice Dixon

September 22, 10:00 AM, Holly House

GCNJ State Board Meeting

September 22, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

WTGC Board Meeting



Grow to Show: Horticulture Know-How!

Presented by Alice Dixon | September 8, 6:30 PM

What is required to enter your houseplants and garden horticulture specimens in our flower show? How do you correctly complete your entry tags? Make sure to attend this program to learn how to submit top exhibits at the show. You'll also learn tips on identifying and cutting horticulture specimens from your garden and review the criteria used by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) accredited judges to award ribbons. Several members will also share sample exhibits for demonstration. Copies of the flower show schedule Horticulture Division and entry tags will be available for practice.

Alice Dickson, our presenter for this program, is an *NGC Accredited Flower Show Judge*. She has been a member of the Garden Club of Long Valley since 1993. During these 32 years, she has acted as treasurer, corresponding secretary, and yearbook editor. Since 2015, she has held the position of Garden Club of New Jersey Horticulture Chair which involves directing the horticulture section at many Flower Show Schools and Judges Council Flower Shows. Alice works full-time yet maintains an extensive garden both indoors and outdoors. Her favorite subject is horticulture, which is why her NGC blue ribbons and top exhibitor awards in that category are too numerous to count!



Fall Flower Bulb Sale

Print this page or [Download fillable form](#)

Name: _____	WTGC Member: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Phone: _____	
<p>RETURN FORM TO: Rick Lazarick, 8 Blackwood DR., Ewing, NJ 08628-2601. You may also call or email your order. (609)433-1793; email: ricklazarick@gmail.com</p> <p>Orders must be submitted no later than Friday, September 26. Orders can be picked up at the October 6 WTGC meeting. NOTE: Amaryllis bulbs will arrive at the end of October. Donations are welcome for the Birmingham Park ongoing beautification.</p>			
BULBS	\$ PER PKG.	# OF PKG.	\$ TOTAL
Golden Delicious			
DAFFODIL - Golden Delicious (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		\$ 0.00
DAFFODIL - Golden Delicious (Pkg. of 12)	\$15.00		\$ 0.00
DAFFODIL - Golden Delicious (Pkg. of 24)	\$24.00		\$ 0.00
WTGC Favorite - by Popular Demand			
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		\$ 0.00
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 12)	\$15.00		\$ 0.00
ALLIUM - Purple Sensation (Pkg. of 24)	\$24.00		\$ 0.00
Single Tulip Blend			
TULIP Lava (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		\$ 0.00
TULIP Lava (Pkg of 12)	\$15.00		\$ 0.00
TULIP Lava (Pkg of 24)	\$24.00		\$ 0.00
Double Tulip Blend			
TULIP - Diamond Touch (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		\$ 0.00
TULIP - Diamond Touch (Pkg of 12)	\$15.00		\$ 0.00
TULIP - Diamond Touch (Pkg of 24)	\$24.00		\$ 0.00
Amaryllis (Individual bulbs)			
Samba	\$20.00		\$ 0.00
Double Delicious	\$20.00		\$ 0.00
Grape Hyacinth - Blue			
Hyacinth (Pkg of 12)	\$6.00		\$ 0.00
Hyacinth (Pkg of 25)	\$10.00		\$ 0.00
Hyacinth (Pkg of 50)	\$20.00		\$ 0.00
DONATION - Birmingham Park			
TOTAL		0	\$ 0.00

WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

As we look ahead to our Color Me Autumn Flower Show in 2026, this series will share small pieces of the schedule during months when we have a related program. It’s a great way to build your confidence with the show’s classes—one step at a time. Many thanks to WTGC member, Pat Bowker, the creator of this wonderful flower show schedule!

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES - DRAFT

SECTION A. “Fall Friends”

Combination Plantings

Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award

A grouping of three or more botanically different plants. **Naturalistic** accessories are permitted in all combination plantings. **A diagram listing binomial or currently accepted scientific identification is required on a 4” x 6” card.** Container not to exceed 12” in any direction. Staging by Committee. Pre-registration required for all classes with Horticulture Chairman. HB, p. 59.

Class 1 - A Dish Garden of Cacti and/or Succulents

A miniature landscape in an open low-volume shallow container provided by exhibitor.

Class 2 - A Planter of Foliage, Herbs and/or Flowering Plants

A grouping of plants in an indoor or outdoor container provided by exhibitor.

Class 3 - A Terrarium

(maximum 6 entries)

A miniature landscape in a container with high transparent sides provided by exhibitor.

SECTION B. “Colors of the Season”

Container-Grown or Mounted Flowering/Fruited Plants

Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award

Container-grown or mounted flowering/fruited plant in container measuring 10 inches in maximum diameter or mounting not to exceed 14” in maximum diameter. Single or self-multiplying plant of same cultivar and color, must be in **bloom or bearing fruit**. HB, p. 58.

Class 4 - *Anthurium andraeanum*

Class 5 - Orchids -- One plant per container

Class 6 - *Saintpaulia* (African Violet)

Class 7 - Any other container-grown or mounted flowering/fruited plant

SECTION C. “Foliage Folic”

Container-Grown or Mounted Foliage Plants

Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award

Single plant or self-multiplying plants of same cultivar and color, container or mountings not to exceed 14” in diameter. Pre-registration required with Horticulture Chairman for any hanging plant.

Class 8 - *Dracaena*

Class 9 - *Epipremnum aureum* (Pothos)

Class 10 - *Polypodiopsida* (Ferns)

Class 11 - *Hedera helix* (Ivy)

Class 12 - *Philodendron*

(continued next page)

WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

Class 13 - *Sansevieria*

Class 14 - *Schefflera*

Class 15 - Any other container-grown or mounted foliage plant

15a. Container 6” or under in diameter

15b. Container over 6” to 14” in diameter

SECTION D. “Say Aloe to My Scarecrow”

Cacti and/or Other Succulents

Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award

Container-grown single or self-multiple planting or multiple plants of same cultivar and color. Container size not to exceed 10” in diameter.

Class 16 - *Aloe*

Class 17 - *Crassula ovata* (Jade plant)

Class 18 - *Echeveria*

Class 19 - *Haworthia*

Class 20 - Any other cactus or succulent

SECTION E. “Bountiful Harvest”

Edible Fruits and Vegetables

Eligible for Award of Merit

Stems required unless otherwise specified. Staged by Committee, on eco-friendly plates. Larger specimens will be placed directly on covered table. One specimen unless noted otherwise.

Class 21 - *Capsicum* (Pepper), any type

21a. 2” in diameter or larger, 3 specimens of the same variety

21b. Under 2” in diameter, 5 specimens of same variety

Class 22 - *Cucurbita* (Squash)

22a. Summer squash

22b. Winter squash

Class 23 - *Solanum lycopersicum* (Tomato)

23a. 3” in diameter or larger, 3 specimens, no stems, exhibited stem side down

23b. Under 3” in diameter, 5 specimens of same variety, no stems

23c. Grape or Cherry Tomatoes, 7 specimens of same variety, no stems

Class 24 - Any other edible fruit or vegetable specimen

24a. Large specimens - Over 6” in diameter, 1 specimen

24b. Medium specimens - 2-6” in diameter, 3 specimens

24c. Small specimens - Under 2” in diameter, 7 specimens

(continued next page)

WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

SECTION F. “Time to Dry Those Herbs”

Herbs

Eligible for Award of Merit

Cut specimens, 1 stem, 6” to 20” in length. Specimens must be exhibited at their peak of usefulness. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 25 - *Lavandula* (Lavender)

Class 26 - *Mentha* (Mint)

Class 27 - *Origanum*

27a. *O. majorana* (Sweet marjoram)

27b. *O. vulgare* (Oregano)

Class 28 - *Rosmarinus officinalis* (Rosemary)

Class 29 - *Salvia officinalis* (Sage)

Class 30 - *Thymus* (Thyme)

Class 31 - Any other herb

SECTION G. “Autumn Beauties”

Flowering Herbaceous Perennials

Eligible for Award of Merit

Single cut stem with attached foliage unless otherwise noted, 4” to 18” in length. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 32 - *Aster* - 1 spray of 5 open flowers

Class 33 - *Coreopsis*

Class 34 - *Salvia yangii* (Russian Sage)

Class 35 - *Sedum* (Autumn stonecrop)

Class 36 - *Solidago* (Goldenrod)

Class 37 - Any other cut flowering herbaceous perennial

SECTION H. “Changing Colors”

Flowering Annuals

Eligible for Award of Merit

Single cut stem with attached foliage unless otherwise noted, 4” to 18” cutting. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 38 - *Celosia* (Cockscomb)

Class 39 - *Tagetes* (Marigold)

39a. *T. erecta* - Large - 1 bloom, disbudded, 4” bloom or larger

39b. *T. patula* - Small - 1 spray with minimum of 5 blooms

Class 40 - *Zinnia*

40a. One cut flowering stem with bloom measuring > 4”

40b. One cut flowering stem with bloom measuring 2” – 4”

40c. Three cut flowering stems in one container with bloom measuring < 2”

Class 41 - Any other cut flowering annual

(continued next page)

WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

SECTION I. “Leafing Summer Behind”

Annuals Grown for Foliage

Eligible for Award of Merit

Single cut stem, 4” to 18” cutting. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 42 - *Asparagus setaceus*

Class 43 - *Caladium* (Elephant Ear)

Class 44 - *Coleus*

Class 45 - *Senecio cineraria* (Dusty Miller)

Class 46 - Any other cut annual grown for foliage

SECTION J. “The Artist’s Palette”

Dahlia

Eligible for Award of Merit

Single cut stem with one or more sets of leaves. Leaves not required in Classes 49 - 51. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 47 - Giant single disbudded bloom over 10” in diameter

47a. Decorative

47b. All Other

Class 48 - Large single disbudded bloom over 8” to 10” in diameter

48a. Decorative

48b. All Other

Class 49 - Medium single disbudded bloom over 6” to 8” in diameter

49a. Decorative

49b. All Other

Class 50 - Small single disbudded bloom over 4” to 6” in diameter

50a. Decorative

50b. All Other

Class 51 - Miniature single disbudded bloom 4” or under in diameter

51a. Open Centers

51b. Closed Centers

(continued next page)

WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

SECTION K. “Fall Finale”

Rosa

Eligible for Award of Merit

Single cut stem or spray, 4” to 18” in length. Specimen requirements by Class. Staged in clear tubes or containers provided by Committee.

Class 52 - Floribunda (F) - One spray of at least 2 open blooms

Class 53 - Hybrid Tea (HT) - One bloom with no side buds

Class 54 - Miniature (M) - One spray of at least 2 open blooms

Class 55 - Modern Shrub/Landscape - One spray of at least 2 open blooms

Class 56 - Any other cut rose specimen

SECTION L. “Autumn – the Second Spring”

Coned, Flowering, or Fruited Cut Branches

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Single cut branch measuring 10” to 30” in length from cut end to apical tip and include several nodes and the central leader.

Class 57 - *Abelia chinensis*

Class 58 - *Callicarpa* (Beautyberry)

Class 59 - *Ilex* (Holly)

Class 60 - Any other cut coned, flowering or fruited branch

SECTION M. “Foraging through the Forest”

Branches Grown for Foliage - Evergreens

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Single cut branch measuring 10” to 30” in length from cut end to apical tip including several nodes and central leader. Staged by Committee.

Class 61 - *Buxus* (Boxwood)

Class 62 - *Ilex* (Holly) – Unfruited

Class 63 - *Picea* (Spruce)

Class 64 - *Pinus* (Pine)

Class 65 - Any other evergreen branch grown for foliage

Section N. “In Autumn – You Reap What You Sow”

Seed Propagation Challenge

Eligible for WTGC Gardening Friends Award

Seeds must be obtained at the WTGC March and April 2026 regular meetings. One plant per container that is 6 inches or under in diameter.

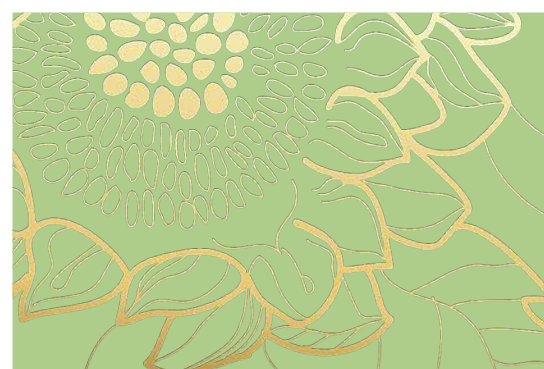
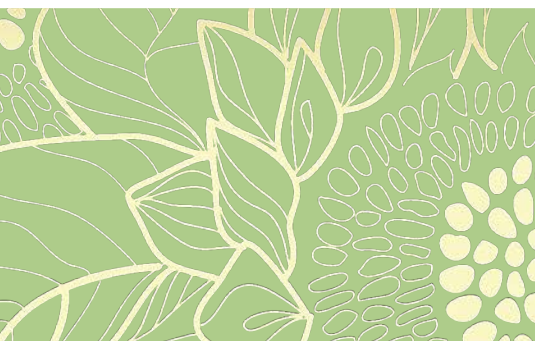
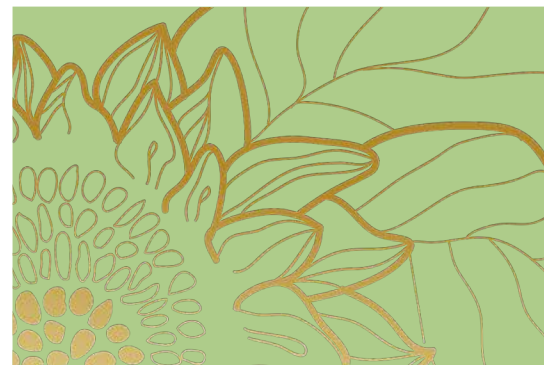
Class 66 - *Calendula officinalis*

Class 67 - *Ocimum basilicum* (Basil)

Class 68 - *Salvia officinalis* (Sage)

Gallery | August Meeting Floral Workshop

Photos by Jeff Tryon



Gallery | August Meeting Floral Workshop

Photos by Linda Reasoner

