West Trenton Garden Club Newsletter | November 2026



The Garden Path

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Interim President

Linda Reasoner
Vice President

Rick Lazarick
Treasurer

Barbara Lear
Recording Secretary

Victoria Rivera Cruz
Corresponding Secretary

Anne Skalka
Immediate Past President

Maggie Kramer
Club Parliamentarian

Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design

President's Letter

November 2026



Photo by Jeff Tryon

Dear Garden Club Members,

As November arrives, our gardens begin to settle into their winter rest. The colorful leaves, crisp air, and quieter landscape remind us that every season has its purpose. Although the garden may be slowing down, there is still plenty to do to prepare for spring.

November Garden Tips for New Jersey

- **Plant spring bulbs:** If the ground is still workable, plant tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- **Protect perennials**: After the ground begins to freeze, apply a light layer of mulch around perennials to help protect their roots from winter temperature changes.
- **Care for trees and shrubs:** Water newly planted trees and shrubs during dry periods until the ground freezes.
- **Clean up wisely:** Remove diseased plant material, but leave healthy seed heads and some fallen leaves to provide food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects.
- **Put the garden to bed:** Clean and store garden tools, empty hoses, and prepare pots and containers for winter.
- **Think ahead:** Consider planting native trees, shrubs, and perennials next spring to support pollinators and local wildlife.

As we approach the holiday season, I am grateful for the enthusiasm, friendship, and dedication of our members. Our club continues to make a difference through our gardening projects, community involvement, and support of future generations.

I would also like to share that I will be serving as interim president through June 2027. At that time, the club will hold an election for a one-year term. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue our activities and plan for the future of the West Trenton Garden Club.

Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a peaceful November. May this season bring you time to enjoy family, friends, and the simple pleasures of nature.

Warmly,

Anne Skalka

Interim President
West Trenton Garden Club

October 2026 Meeting Minutes

Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary



The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by our Vice President, Linda Reasoner

Announcement

Our President, Elle B. has resigned due to personal reasons. The Club will be moving forward with Linda presiding over this meeting. In the interim, Ann S. will act as co-President until April. Rick will act as co-President for May and June. The nominating committee will create a ballot for a One Year Presidential nominee. Membership will then vote on President for the 2027-28 year.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 14, 2026 meeting were printed in the October Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections submitted by the membership, so the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is $7,107.47. Income is $485.28 from bulb sale. Flower Show donation box and dues. Expenses of $4,373.98 were from Flower Show expenses, 250 event refreshments, NJ non-profit annual report, and WTVFC project plant purchase (which will be reimbursed to us from the Firehouse).

Corresponding Secretary

A card will be sent to Heidi Furman. Vicky asked if any other cards need to be sent.

Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported $32.26 in donations last month.

Other News

October birthdays were announced. Also, four guests and two new members attended this meeting.

Committee Reports

Flower Show (Helga Fontus)

Helga reported that the Show was a huge success, with over 300 people attending. The Judges were very impressed and compliments were plentiful. Helga will now need to submitted a Book of Evidence.

Drumthwacket (Lorraine Persiani)

The theme this year is 1800's elegant Christmas based on *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. The foyer and front door will be decorated by this Committee.

Morven (Anne Skalka)

The theme is the New Jersey signers of the Declaration of Independence. We have been assigned a tree to decorate.

Holiday Party (Anne Skalka)

Mark your calendars for December 7. Anne will be making arrangements.

Bulb Sale (Rick Lazarick)

Sales went well with a profit of $849.27. Orphans are still available for sale. Amaryllis bulbs will be delivered the last week in October.

(continued next page)

October 2026 Meeting Minutes

Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary



Poinsettia Sale (Ginny Sari/Iliana Okum)

Vendor has not given us prices. As soon as pricing has been established, Lynn will help with the order form. Cyclamen will be added to the order form after a vote was taken to see if they should be offered again this year. Linda R. has offered her garage to distribute the plants.

Holiday Gifts for Trenton Psychiatric Hospital (Iliana Okum/Terri Palise)

Gifts will be collected at the Garden Club November meeting and delivered to the Hospital before Thanksgiving. A list of suggested gifts will be printed in the Newsletter.

Firehouse Planting Project (Rick Lazarick/Jeff Tryon)

The design is complete and delivery of plants will be made to the Firehouse on Wednesday, 10/7. Volunteers are needed to plant the shrubs.

Mini Trips (Lynn Grillo)

A trip is scheduled to visit Bountiful Gardens on 10/10 at 4:00

The rescheduled trip to Gardens at Federal Twist is scheduled for 10/24 at 11:00. No fee

Website Update (Lynn Grillo)

The site is doing very well and has had 300 unique visitors. The Flower Show site pulled in the most visitors. Lynn stated membership can be renewed and new members can sign up on the website.

Birmingham Park (George McElrath)

The Park is bursting due to all the rain and everything looks great. Volunteers will be needed at the end of October to help cleanup the Park for Winter.

New Project

Linda asked if any members would be interested in participating in the Patriotic Scarecrow display. Scarecrows will be displayed around Township Hall from 10/17-11/7. Registration deadline is 10/15.

After the winner of the 50/50 was announced and other door prizes were awarded, refreshments were served. A big thank you goes to the Hospitality Committee for a job well done.

Guest Speaker

Ike Pilato, from Bountiful Gardens, then gave an entertaining and very informative presentation on caring for our houseplants. There were plenty of questions from the members.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda R. at 8:10.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary



Photo by Jeff Tryon

Calendar | Don't Forget! | Happy Birthday!

November 2026

Happy Birthday!

- *Anne Chmielewski - November 1*
- *George Wallace - November 4*
- *Devah Brinker - November 10*
- *Maggie Kramer - November 13*
- *Elle Belcheff - November 16*
- *June Miller - November 19*
- *Denise Hillsdon - November 21*
- *Susan Chrystal - November 22*

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Mary Corrigan

Hospitality Committee

Mary Corrigan (Chair), Lynn Aspinwall, Pat Bowker, Ann Cheslock, Susan Chrystal, Linda Geiger, Sandi Mullaney and June Rosso.

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

November 2 - WTGC Monthly Meeting

6:30 PM, Hollowbrook Community Center
Program: "Delightful Designs for Your Thanksgiving and Holiday Entertainment".
Guest Fee: $5 See Page 6 for details.

November 16 - GCNJ State Board Meeting

10 AM - Holly House

November 30 - WTGC Board Meeting

7 PM - Hybrid: Via Zoom or in person at the home of VP Linda Reasoner, 75 Lochatong Rd, Ewing.



Sue Fair's flowers for the library, photo by Diane Sanchez



Holiday Table Chic:
Floral Arranging for Entertaining

Presented by Deborah Pomroy | November 2, 6:30 PM

This demonstration of floral designs will give fresh ideas for your holiday entertainment plans. Whether you are hosting a small dinner for family or having a party to celebrate the holidays with lots of friends, these designs will be colorful for your table or your entry foyer to greet your friends. Come and enjoy this fun presentation and demonstration. The designs will range from large scale to more petite designs to be grouped on a buffet table.



We welcome Deborah Pomroy Knight again, as she shares her creative ideas and talents with us. Deborah has been working in floral design for over 35 years. She has served as an adjunct professor at Mercer County Community College where she has taught Floral Design program classes. She has a BS in Ornamental Horticulture with a Business Management minor from Delaware Valley University. She currently works with Seasons Garden Center in Washington Crossing, PA.



Donations for the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital

Items for Women and Men:

Knit hats, gloves, men's knit shirt, ankle socks, sport socks, men's slippers, women's slippers, small and large blankets. Hair products, hair bows, hair ties, hairbrushes.

For Recreational Therapy:

Games, puzzles, word puzzle books, puzzles, playing cards, assorted greeting cards, coloring books and activity books. Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks.

Good Grooming Gifts are Appreciated:

Shampoos, lotions, toothpaste, tooth brushes, nail polish, deodorant, aftershave, tissue boxes. Also, tote bags and other smaller bags. Deodorizer sprays and antiseptic wipes.

All Items Must be New!

NOTE: Trenton Psychiatric Hospital donations will be collected by Iliana Okum and Terry Palise at the November meeting.

Thank you for your generosity.

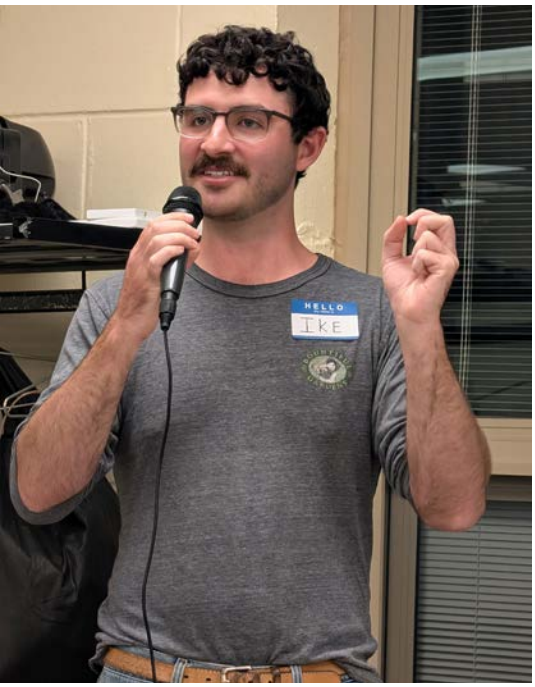
Gallery | Houseplant Care

Ike Pilato from Bountiful Gardens | October 5, 2026

















Ike's Golden Rules of Indoor Gardening

- **Imagine your plant in its natural environment**. Does it rain a lot there? Is it tucked in the shade of a tree, or out in the sun of the desert? Think of how your plant adapted to its natural surroundings, and its watering, light, and placement in your home will become more clear!

- **Don't move it!** Once you've picked a good spot for your plant, allow it to grow (Ha!) accustomed to that space. Plants take time to adapt to their new environment, and redirect their growth based on available light. Moving a plant too often can cause unnecessary stress.

- **Light is food, don't let it starve!** Low-light *doesn't* mean no light! More often than not, a plant struggling to survive in your home needs to be moved to an area with a little more light. Plants evolved to turn light into energy, the less light they receive, the less energy to turn into big beautiful leaves.

- **Water like it's raining.** In the wild, when plants receive water, they get it all at once in a shower of rain. Instead of thinking about *how much* water you give them, think about *how often* you give them water. This ties in with thinking of its natural environment– jungle plants usually need water once a week, desert plants might need it every two weeks. Water your plant by fully saturating the soil and allowing it to drain.

- **Fertilize Weekly, Weakly.** With fertilizer, less is always better. Add just a little bit (1/8th the recommended amount) to your water, every time you water. Your plant will get a little food consistently without risk of burning, and you won't have to worry about a fertilizing schedule. **Don't fertilize from November to February!**

Gallery | Bountiful Gardens Visit

Saturday, October 10







