

The *Garden* Path

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Linda Reasoner
Vice President

Rick Lazarick
Treasurer

Karen Lewandowski
Recording Secretary

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*Corresponding
Secretary*

Lorraine Persiani
*Immediate Past
President*

Maggie Kramer
*Club
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Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
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The President's Message

October 2024 | Anne Skalka, President

Dear Members,

As the cooler breezes of autumn begin, October brings with it the start of my favorite planting season. This month, our gardens begin their transition into a more restful state, but there is still plenty to do!

What I think about in October:

Planting Spring Bulbs

Now is the perfect time to plant tulips, daffodils, and other spring-blooming bulbs. They need the cool weather to establish roots before winter.

Composting

With falling leaves aplenty, take advantage of the abundance of organic matter. Start or add to your compost pile to enrich your soil for next year. I have an open

compost bin, and I throw the full lawn and leaf bag straight into the compost if there are no weeds in the bag.

Winter Preparations

Begin preparing your garden for winter by cutting back perennials, mulching, and protecting vulnerable plants from frost by moving them inside. Remember that not all shrubs are pruned in the fall. Consult a garden guru if you're unsure.

The program at our upcoming meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm will be "Garden Tools: Selection, Use, and Maintenance" and will be presented by our club members!

Happy Gardening!

*~ Anne Skalka
"Plant Hope"*

September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of September 9, 2024, was called to order at 6:38 pm by Vice President Linda Reasoner. She read vacationing President Anne Skalka's report. Anne will be back for October's meeting and she announced the program scheduled for that evening: "Garden Tools, Use & Maintenance."

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Karen Lewandowski, reported that the minutes of the last meeting were in the newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

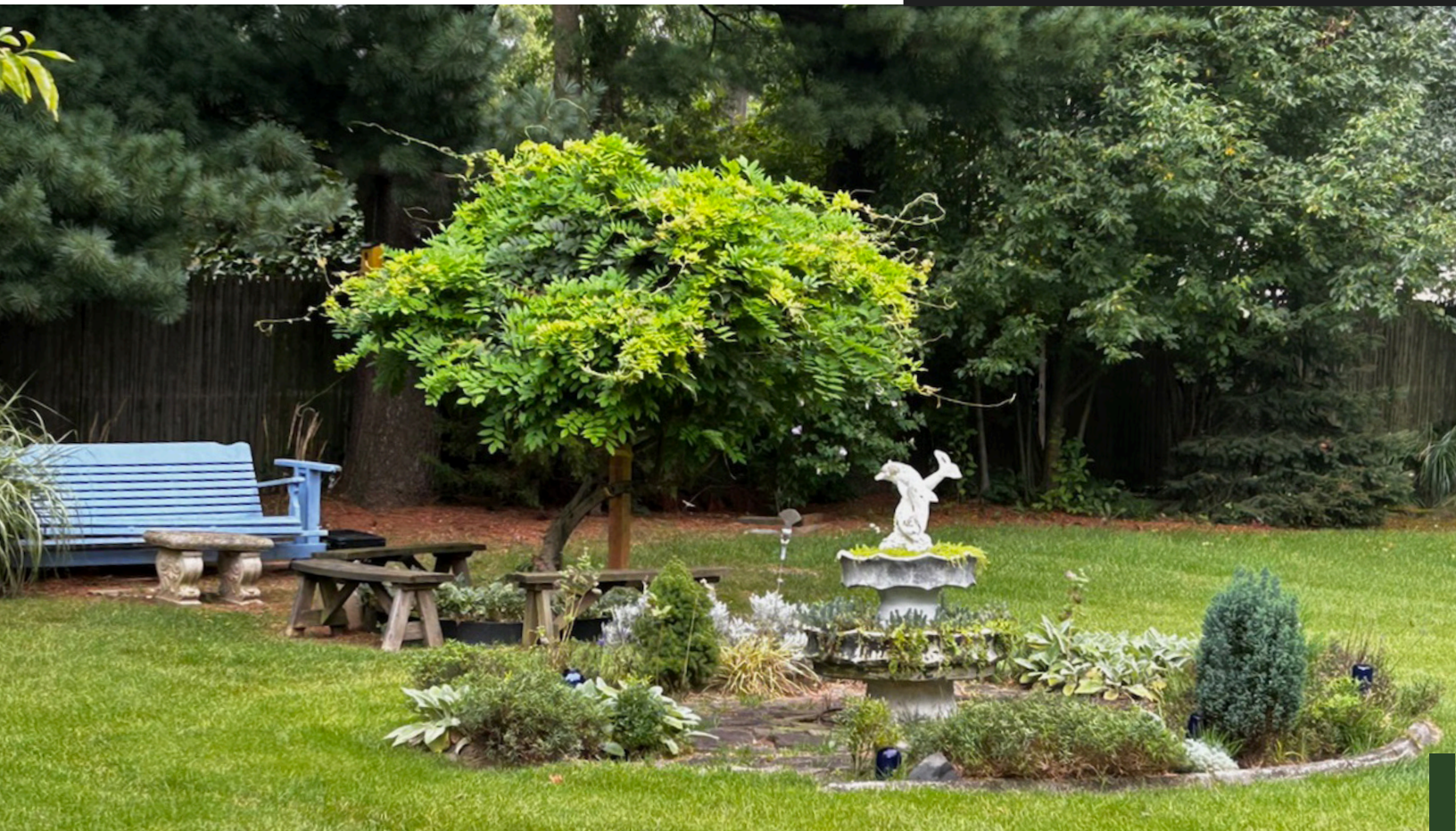
Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Rick Lazarick, reported a current balance of \$9,287.88. There was an income of \$171.00 from the Jersey Fresh Raffle and Bulb Sale. No expenses were incurred. Hearing no additions or corrections, the amount will be filed as reported.

Correspondence

No report.

Peaceful backyard, by Devah Brinker



September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

Committee Reports

Birmingham Park

George McElgrath made copies of and distributed to members the nice article written by Helen Kull about our park that appeared in the Ewing Observer in July.

Rick Lazarick updated members regarding the road widening proposal approved by the County that will seriously affect our park. In addition to losing the corner, a sidewalk will be built from the shopping center to the present Naval Turbine Center, which will run right through the park. We will not lose the Blue Star, but it will have to be moved along with many of our plants and trees. Landscaping professionals will need to be consulted. There were many questions for Rick and he answered them as best he could, as there is no solid timeline for this massive project. Rick will keep us updated as more information comes to light.

Rick also touched on two volunteer projects related to the park. A Maintenance Calendar needs to be created that lists all the plant care tasks and when they should be performed. A Blue Star perennial plant care guidebook describing when plants should be deadheaded, pruned, etc., to encourage reblooming also needs to be researched and created for the benefit of the members who maintain the park.

Bulb Sale

Rick Lazarick encouraged members to buy bulbs. There is a Sept. 27 deadline for orders, with pickup at the October meeting.

Holiday Party

Lorraine Persiani announced a December 2 date for our Holiday Party, and will be held at either Sal De Forte or Revere. Spouses are welcome.

Mill Hill Child & Family Development

Devah Brinker is working on a garden project. More information to come at future meetings.



September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

New Business

The Garden Club of NJ turns 100 in 2025. They are creating a coffee table book that recognizes all the garden clubs in NJ. The WTGC submitted information and photos on projects and programs to Julie Morgan at the GCNJ on August 29.

Our committees are in need of volunteers. Linda Reasoner read off a complete list to generate interest. Please contact committee chairs to get involved.

The September Board Meeting date has been changed from September 23 to September 26. It will be held at Linda Reasoner's home starting at 7 pm.

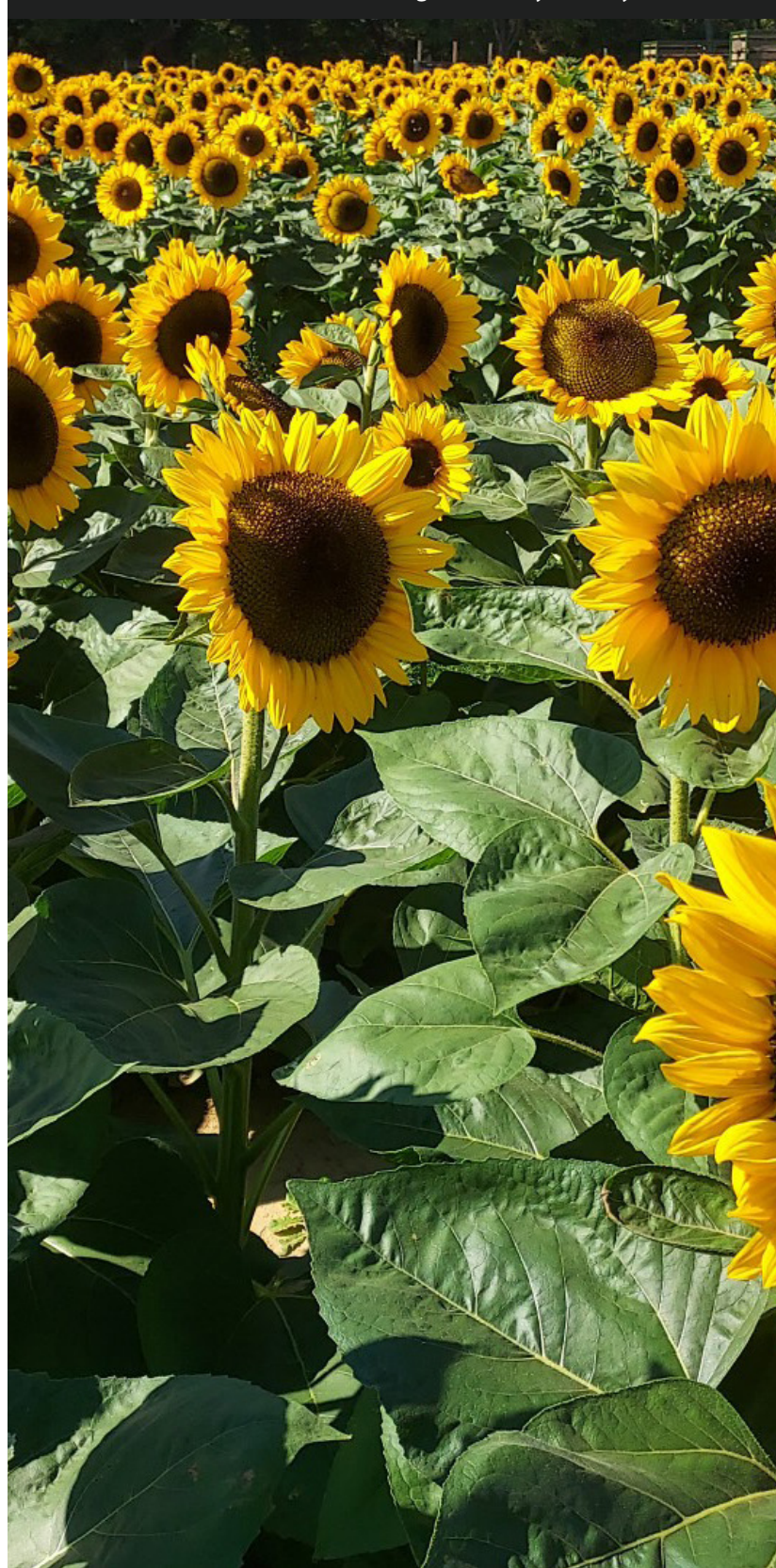
The Hospitality Committee has drinks and snacks ready for members' enjoyment. They request that utensils and plates are not to be thrown away, as they are not disposable.

Rick Lazarick welcomed all members to his home for an Open House to view his beautiful dahlias and other flowers on September 24 from 11 am to 1 pm, and on October 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

Helga Fontus brought the 2024/2025 Yearbook & Member Guide for all members to pick up and enjoy. She also wanted to thank Lynn Aspinwall, Lynn Grillo, and Elle Belcheff for all their help putting it all together.

With no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. A presentation on "The Basics of Composting for Your Garden" will be given by Lynn Grillo to highlight the evening.

Sunflowers at Holland Ridge Farm, by Jeff Tryon



Announcements

Happy Birthday!

- Christine Kamping - October 2
- Dolores Brezak - October 9
- Ingrid Fair - October 27
- Monique Bonnier - October 30

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Marcia Felcone

Hospitality Committee

Helga Fontus (Chair), Monique Bonnier, Anne Cheslock, Carolyn Kane, Maggie Kramer, and Sandi Mullaney

Newsletter Deadline

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

Birmingham Park Maintenance

Contact Heidi Furman

Mark Your Calendar

October 7

WTGC Monthly Meeting - 6:30 PM
Hollowbrook Community Center; Program: "Garden Tools: Selection, Use and Maintenance"

October 10

GCNJ Leadership Conference for Club Presidents (Virtual)

October 15

Deadline for Plant America grant applications.

October 22-23

2024 CAR-SGC Conference, Basking Ridge, NJ

October 28

WTGC Board Meeting
10 AM Holly House

October 30

GCNJ State Board Meeting
10 AM Holly House

October Program | Garden Tools

Selection, Use, and Maintenance, October 7, 2024, 6:30 pm

Meeting Details:

Program by WTGC Panel Experts:

Rick Lazarick, Devah Brinker, Zofia Jablonski Feulner, and Anne Skalka

Join a panel of club members as they showcase their favorite garden tools. This session covers the selection, proper use, and maintenance of essential gardening tools. Learn how to keep your tools in top condition, ensuring they last longer and perform better, making your gardening tasks more efficient and enjoyable.



Rick Lazarick



Devah Brinker



Zofia Jablonski-Feulner



Anne Skalka



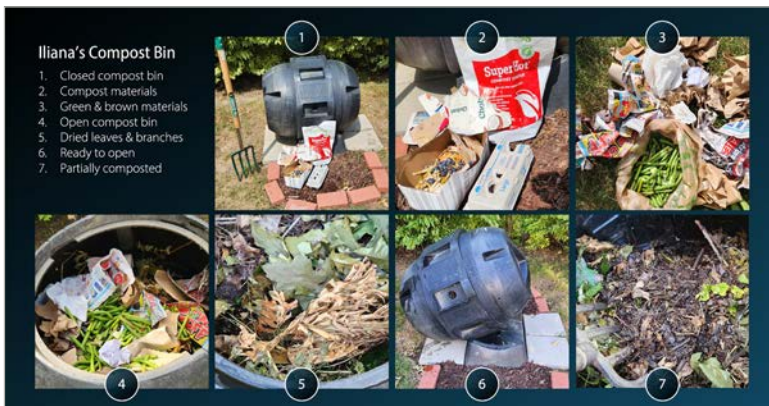
Gallery | Flowers for the Library

September Flowers by Rick Lazarick



Gallery | Composting Presentation

Resources, next page...



Composting Resources

Downloadable PDFs



Lynn Grillo's Presentation
Download PDF (10.3 MB)

The Basics of Composting for Your Garden

Photo: Iliana Okum with her daughter Laura admiring Zophia and George Fuelner's compost pile!

Presentation by Lynn Grillo for West Trenton Garden Club | Sept 9, 2024



COMPOSTING AT HOME

Barbara J. Bromley, Mercer County Horticulturist 14



"Equal weights of green and brown, help the microbes break it down"

For decades we put household, industrial, and municipal wastes into landfills. Common sense tells us that this has to stop, especially in the highly populated Northeast. Most municipalities now have programs that recycle glass, newspaper, office paper, cans, some plastics and woody brush, but this isn't enough.

In some areas up to 75% of household garbage is organic, or carbon-based, material. Over 40% is yard trimmings and food scraps. They often wind up in landfills or are destined for incineration. Environmental consciousness dictates that these materials be recycled by composting. Woody brush goes to composting facilities in some municipalities, but kitchen scraps, grass clippings and many other compostable wastes still wind up in the trash. Some food scraps are destined for a sink food waste disposer.

Composting is nothing new. Nature has been "composting" in field and forest for millennia. Leaves, needles, bark, insects, dead animals, and branches have dropped to the ground and slowly decomposed. This resulting decomposed organic matter, or humus, enriches the soil and releases stored nutrients that feed forest plant life.

COMPOSTING: the process by which plant and animal material (anything that was once living) is decomposed by microorganisms into organic matter. Compost, the material produced, consists largely of decomposed organic matter and can be used to condition and provide nutrients to soil.

COMPOSTING OBJECTIVES

- To make productive use of organic materials that would otherwise go to landfills or incinerators.
- To mimic the process of death and rebuilding that occurs in nature.
- To reduce the mass, volume, and carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N) of organic wastes.
- To produce a usable product.

REASONS FOR USING COMPOST

A 1" to 3" layer of compost (humus) applied to the garden (and 1/2" to the lawn) each year will:

1. Save money. It is cheaper than peat moss and other purchased organic soil amendments.
2. Improve soil structure, aeration and fertility.
3. Add varying amounts of essential nutrients (major and trace) to the soil.
4. Act as a buffer and increase the cation exchange capacity (CEC).
5. Provide an energy source for microorganisms and earthworms, and stimulate biological activity in the soil.
6. Act as a mulch to reduce water evaporation, reduce soil erosion, and reduce soil compaction.

Composting at Home
Download PDF (60 KB)

- ✎ [Rodale Institute - Composting Basics: Rodale Institute Composting Guide](#)
- ✎ [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Composting at Home: EPA Guide to Composting](#)
- ✎ [Cornell Waste Management Institute - The Science and Engineering of Composting Cornell University Composting Guide](#)

