



The Garden Path

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President's Letter

October 2026



ummer has said goodbye and fall has swept in. The cool breeze on your skin, the freshly fallen leaves dancing as they fall and grace our senses with the smell of autumn. A reminder that it is the season nature prepares to rest. And when she brings the next season, she will give us a period of time for reflection. A time to smile about all that you've accomplished, especially the small ones. From a day spent with loved ones, to be present and to witness the color of the leaves go from a lively green, to sunset yellow, to a fiery orange-red. And once they have given us a beautiful color show, they fall within our grasp. To the ground where the crisp crunch under your feet takes that brown leaf to pieces where the wind will catch it and it floats back into nature's cycle. While we start to spend more time indoors, we may look to keep these lively green reminders of the cycle of growth within our home. As much as we nurture our plants, we can remind ourselves that we too, need to be nurtured in all seasons.

In this month's program, we will focus on what we have planted within our homes. House plants are our best air purifiers, are proven to evoke a sense of peace, and grow with us through all seasons. Sometimes it is a balancing act to give enough attention to everything we want, but this month, let us turn inwards and give ourselves and our houseplants the extra love and care they so deserve.

Happy Fall!

~*Elle Belcheff*, President of West Trenton Garden Club

September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary



President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of September 14, 2026 was called to order at 6:45 by our President, Elle Belcheff.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the August 3, 2026 meeting were printed in the September Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections submitted by the membership, so the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Lazarick reported a current bank balance of \$10,996.19. Income of \$790.00 included the August raffle, Dues and Bulb Sale. Expenses of \$866.69 for the Flower Show, 2026 Christmas party, 250 event refreshments and our September program. Membership is currently 66.

Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported \$28.31 in donations last month.

Committee Reports

Field Trips

A field trip is scheduled for September 27 at 11:00, for a private, guided tour of Tulpehaking Nature Center and nature trail. 157 Westcott Avenue, Hamilton, NJ **[postponed due to rain]**

Other Business

Elle requested volunteers to sign up for a number of Committees that still need committee leaders.

Flower Show

Helga Fontus reviewed and gave pointers for the flower show and made sure everyone knew the time, on September 17, that they needed to dropoff their entries.

After refreshments were served, everyone enjoyed a presentation by Kelly Rypkema from Tulpehaking Nature Center on "How to Start with Native Plants". The program was interactive and well received.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 by Elle Belcheff

Photo by Pat Bowker

Calendar | Don't Forget! | Happy Birthday!

October 2026

Happy Birthday!

- *Dolores Brezak* - October 9
- *Ingrid Fair* - October 27
- *Monique Bonnier* - October 30

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Lorraine Persiani

Hospitality Committee

Hospitality Committee – Kathleen Alexander (Chair), Monique Bonnier, Dolores Brezak, Denise Hillsdon, George McElrath, and Lorraine Persiani.

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

October 5 | WTGC Monthly Meeting

6:30 PM, Hollowbrook Community Center
Program: "Houseplant Care". See page 5 for details.

October 10 | Bountiful Gardens, Ewing

4 PM - Fall planting guide and garden tour.
1536 Lower Ferry Rd, Ewing, NJ 08618

October 14 | GCNJ Design Group

10 AM - Holly House

October 15

Deadline for Plant America Grant Applications.

October 19–22 | 2026 CAR-SGC Conference

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, Cambridge, MD.

October 24 | The Gardens at Federal Twist

11 AM - Guided Tour for WTGC members & guests.



Dahlias for the Library, by Rick Lazarick

October Program | Houseplant Care

October 5, 2026, Program by Ike Pilato of Bountiful Gardens

*On Saturday, Oct 10 at
4:00 pm, join Ike and Ross for
a fall planting talk & garden tour at
Bountiful Gardens.
1536 Lower Ferry Rd, Ewing, NJ*

Houseplant Care

Program by Ike Pilato of Bountiful Gardens

Ike Pilato from Bountiful Gardens in Ewing will give a presentation on different kinds of houseplants and proper care for them. Light requirements, fertilizing, and pests and diseases, and how best to keep your plants healthy will all be discussed. Ike will bring a selection plants and growing supplies from Bountiful Gardens available for purchase.

Ike is the greenhouse manager at Bountiful Gardens Ewing, where he uses his skills as a former interior plantscaper to help match customers to the perfect plants for their space. He has a deep love of tropical plants, and believes anyone can be a plant person, if they take the time to learn.

Bountiful Gardens opened in Chester, NJ, in May 2006 as a small garden shop offering landscape installation and maintenance services. Today, we have four locations — Ewing, Lawrenceville, Hillsborough and Ringoes — and strive to provide the largest selection of plants with the best quality and customer service.



WTGC Saturday, October 24 | Field Trip

The Gardens at Federal Twist

(See previous page for Bountiful Gardens Visit Info)

The Gardens at Federal Twist

Free Guided Tour for WTGC Members & Friends

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 am

📍 208 Federal Twist Rd., Stockton, NJ 08559 | 35 minutes from Ewing

When James Golden moved into a mid-century house overlooking the woods, he knew the setting called for a naturalistic garden. Hidden from immediate view, Federal Twist is approached by a woodland path circling the house. The garden emerges as a large, sunny glade—an oval-shaped oculus open to the sky.

Multiple intersecting paths, immersive plantings, and tall surrounding trees create an illusion of immense space. Designed to reward exploration and close observation, the garden evokes mystery and emotion through dense plantings and dramatic shifts of light and shadow as the sun passes behind the trees.

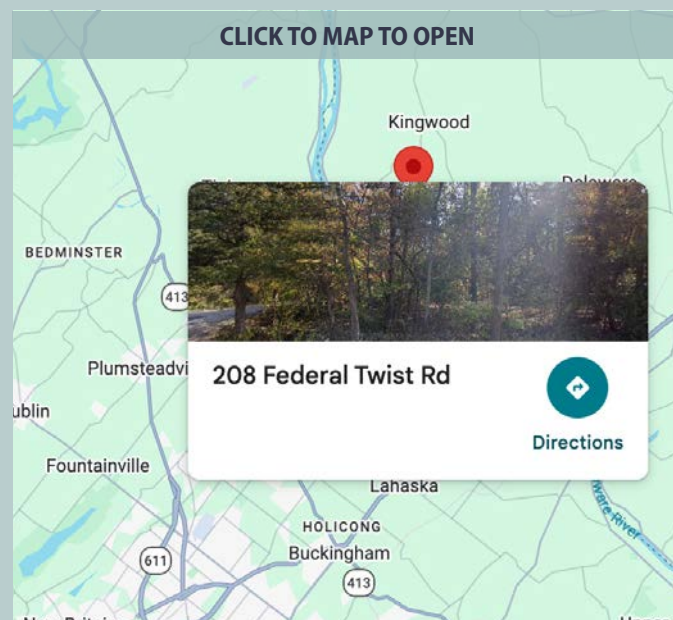
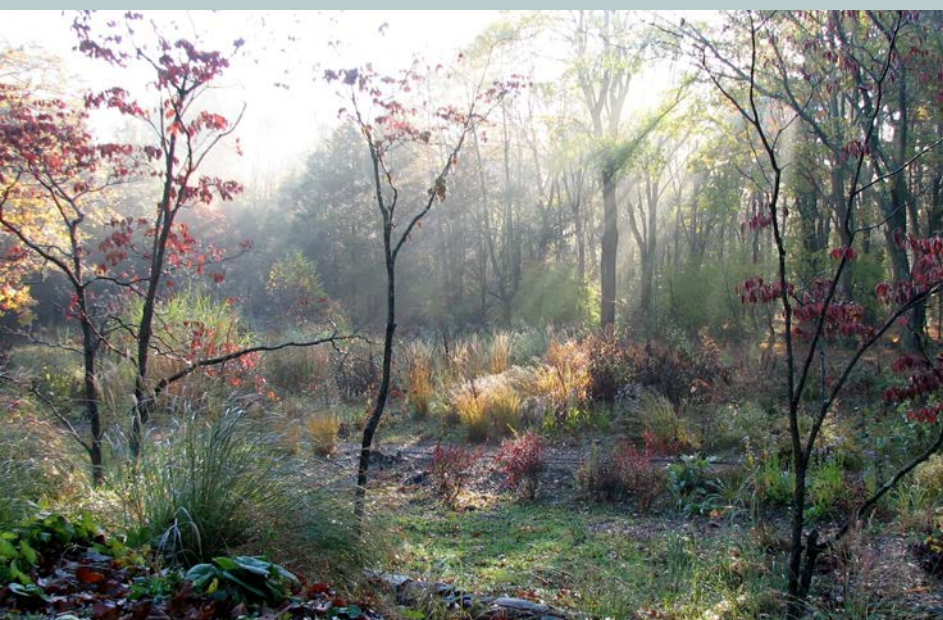
Golden began Federal Twist as an experiment in gardening with unimproved, heavy, wet clay. Following a strict “right plant, right place” ecological approach, he selected plants suited to the garden’s woodland-edge environment.

Layered plantings create structural complexity and promote biodiversity, while dead wood and organic debris provide habitat for microorganisms, invertebrates, and other wildlife.

Federal Twist has appeared in The New York Times, Financial Times, Gardens Illustrated, The Wall Street Journal, and numerous books, including Planting in a Post-Wild World, Dreamscapes, Gardenlust, and Wild. Golden’s own account of creating the garden, The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking About Gardens, Nature and Ourselves, will be available for sale.

👉 **Note:** please wear boots or comfortable shoes for outdoor hiking. Wear layers to keep warm/cool.

🚗 Those wishing to car pool should meet at Lynn Grillo’s home at 15 Diane Drive, Ewing, NJ, at 10:15 am.



Gallery | Longwood Gardens Dahlias Show

Photos by Rick Lazarick



Gallery | "Color Me Autumn"

Photos by WTGC Members | Click the link to read about the show

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/post/color-me-autumn-and-the-making-of-a-flower-show>

These are just a few of the many photos from the flower show. We will be adding the full set to the website soon!



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