

The

Garden

Path

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Vice President

Rick Lazarick
Treasurer

Barbara Lear
Recording Secretary

Victoria Rivera Cruz
Corresponding Secretary

Anne Skalka
Immediate Past President

Maggie Kramer
Club Parliamentarian

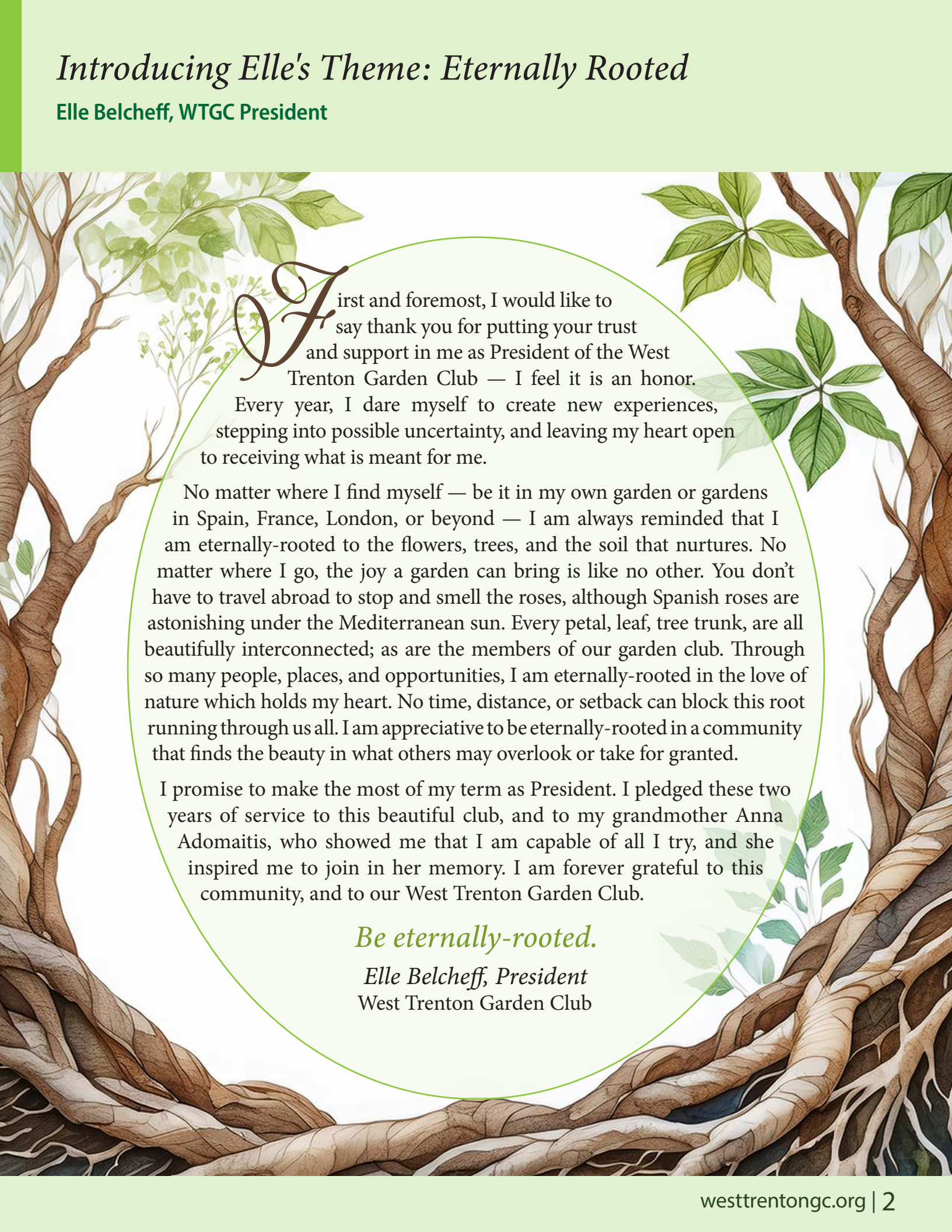
Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



Introducing Elle's Theme: Eternally Rooted

Elle Belcheff, WTGC President



First and foremost, I would like to say thank you for putting your trust and support in me as President of the West Trenton Garden Club — I feel it is an honor.

Every year, I dare myself to create new experiences, stepping into possible uncertainty, and leaving my heart open to receiving what is meant for me.

No matter where I find myself — be it in my own garden or gardens in Spain, France, London, or beyond — I am always reminded that I am eternally-rooted to the flowers, trees, and the soil that nurtures. No matter where I go, the joy a garden can bring is like no other. You don't have to travel abroad to stop and smell the roses, although Spanish roses are astonishing under the Mediterranean sun. Every petal, leaf, tree trunk, are all beautifully interconnected; as are the members of our garden club. Through so many people, places, and opportunities, I am eternally-rooted in the love of nature which holds my heart. No time, distance, or setback can block this root running through us all. I am appreciative to be eternally-rooted in a community that finds the beauty in what others may overlook or take for granted.

I promise to make the most of my term as President. I pledged these two years of service to this beautiful club, and to my grandmother Anna Adomaitis, who showed me that I am capable of all I try, and she inspired me to join in her memory. I am forever grateful to this community, and to our West Trenton Garden Club.

Be eternally-rooted.

Elle Belcheff, President
West Trenton Garden Club

President's Letter

Elle Belcheff | August 2026

Dearest Garden Club Members,

I hope you have all been having a lovely summer. I am delighted to welcome you back for another wonderful year of our garden club. We have so much to look forward to as a club, and accomplishments over the last year to be proud of.

I want to give a big thank you to our committee and members that made our 250 event such a success! This club really does amazing things for the community when we come together.

To say the majority of these past weeks have been incredibly hot would be an understatement. Some plants are more resilient and forgiving than others, some need more care in

these conditions. So, even when it takes the extra mile, we do it because gardening is a labor of love.

For a season like this, planting closer together or during fall is more ideal, for you and for your new additions.

I cannot wait to see you all at the meeting! It is my pleasure to serve you as your president and I will do my best for our club. We have so much to look forward to — our amazing flower show, new programs, fun field trips, and our beautiful community that is the West Trenton Garden Club.

Elle Belcheff, WTGC President

Coming into this year, we are also looking for committee Chairs and volunteers for a new project. Please email me if you are interested in any of the following positions:

- Morven Holiday Decorating
- Workshops
- Random Acts of Beauty
- Horticulture Therapy
- Volunteers for Firehouse Planting Project



June Flowers for the Library,
by Zofia Jablonski-Feulner



June Flowers for the Library,
by Zofia Jablonski-Feulner



July Flowers for the Library
by Diane Sanchez

June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of June 1, 2026 was called to order at 6:06 pm by President Anne Skalka. She welcomed all the members present to the annual, end-of-the-year "bash".

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting were printed in the June Newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Lazarick reported a current balance of \$11,293.45. The majority of income came from the Spring Flower Sale revenue and annual dues. The major expenses came from the Spring Flower Sale purchase and the Scholarship Award. The Flower Sale has netted over \$3,000 so far.

Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Guests & Birthdays

Anne Skalka announced 2 June Birthdays.

Committee Reports

Field Trips

Lynn Grillo reported that the next planned field trip will be to PHS Meadowbrook Farm on Saturday, June 20, at 10:00 am. Those who are planning to go should meet at Lynn's house by 9:00 am in order to carpool. It is a free, self-guided, easy walk through beautifully designed gardens. The following field trip will take place at Federal Twist in Stockton on Saturday, July 11. That is a guided tour through a private garden that will cost \$15.

250th Anniversary

Linda Reasoner reported that everything is moving along as scheduled with the upcoming festivities at Birmingham Park. The children's activities will be set up at the West Trenton Firehouse parking lot, since it was discovered that the "Pink House" yard cannot be used as originally hoped. Linda is also looking for more volunteers to help out at the event.

Lynn Grillo reported that the Entertainment Team has taken on the name, "Funshine Brigade," and volunteers will be manning tables featuring activities for kids, such as a scavenger hunt, crafts, coloring, story-telling and more. Lynn is seeking additional volunteers to help during the celebration that is taking place on Friday, July 3 from 12 to 3pm.

(continued next page)

June 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



Scholarship

Rick Lazarick reported that a student named Alana Jackson was the sole winner of the WTGC Scholarship in the amount of \$1500. She is a student from Trenton High School who attends Mercer County Technical Schools Sypek Center. She will be studying Environmental Science.

Anne Skalka thanked the Hospitality Committee for organizing and running the annual Pot Luck Buffet.

A Q & A session was held.

Nominating Committee

The installation of the club's new officers for the 2026-2028 term took place. First, Anne Chmielewski honored the two outgoing officers, President Anne Skalka and Recording Secretary Karen Lewandowski, with kind words and a beautiful plant as a token of appreciation. She then honored the incoming slate in the same manner. The following members were welcomed into their positions with special tributes and a lovely plant:

- Victoria Rivera-Cruz.....Corresponding Secretary
- Barbara Lear..... Recording Secretary
- Rick Lazarick.....Treasurer
- Vice-President.....Vice-President
- President..... Elle Belcheff

The new slate of Board of Directors were also announced:

- George McElrath (2-year term)
- Ginny Sari (2-year term)
- Monique Bonnier (2-year term)
- Lynn Grillo (2 year-term)
- Mary Corrigan (1-year term)
- Jeff Tryon (1-year term)

The 50/50 prize winner of \$33.00 was picked.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 by Anne Skalka. The members were then able to enjoy the many delicious dishes provided at the Pot Luck Buffet. Members brought in their own dishes, silverware and floral arrangement and a contest took place in which Elle Belcheff judged who had the best place setting based on 4 different themes. The winners were announced before the evening came to a close.

(continued next page)

Calendar | Don't Forget! | Happy Birthday!

August 2026

Happy Birthday!

- Sandi Mullaney - July 16
- Terry Palise - July 28
- Gerree Pecht - July 29
- Pat Coiante - July 31
- Matt Kowalski - August 1
- Marcia Felcone - August 6
- Anne Skalka - August 7
- Diane Sanchez - August 9
- June Rosso - August 13
- Susan Fair - August 17
- Ginny Sari - August 18
- Iliana Okum - August 19
- Angela Proctor-Weaver - August 24
- Susan Cirullo - August 25
- Alicia Magee - August 25

Mark Your Calendar

August 3 | 6:30 PM, WTGC Monthly Meeting

"Jersey Fresh Auction" & Flower Show Prep

August 27 | 10:00 AM, Andalusia

WTGC Field Trip – See details page 7.

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Camille Rainiero

Hospitality Committee

Helga Fontus (Chair), Carol Bozarth, Paula Fisher, Matt Kowalski, Carol Mills, and Linda Reasoner.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Jersey Fresh Raffle

Our annual Jersey Fresh raffle will take place at our next club meeting on August 3rd. Please bring a farm stand find, garden goodie, or homemade treat to share! We'll also shift gears toward Flower Show season with tips, encouragement, and time to start planning your entries for the September show.

See details page 6.



August Program | Jersey Fresh Auction

August 3, 2026

Jersey Fresh Auction

Our Tastiest Meeting of the Year!

Celebrate the best flavors and blooms of the season!

Our August meeting begins with a brief business meeting, followed by one of our favorite annual traditions—the Jersey Fresh Auction. Enjoy refreshments while you browse a wonderful collection of farm-fresh treasures donated by our members. A sheet of auction tickets is just \$5, so everyone can join the fun!

What should you bring? Almost anything that celebrates the bounty of New Jersey!

- A farmers' market find (minimum value of \$5)
- Flowers, fruits, vegetables, or herbs from your own garden
- A homemade specialty made with Jersey Fresh ingredients—cookies, breads, pies, salsa, sauces, jams, pickles, and more

The more variety, the more fun! Bring your favorite Jersey Fresh item and enjoy an evening filled with great food, beautiful flowers, and friendly competition. Every item helps make the auction more exciting, and all proceeds support the West Trenton Garden Club.



WTGC August Field Trip

Andalusia

Our 2026 field trip season continues with a small change to the schedule. Federal Twist has been postponed while the gardens recover from recent storm damage and will now take place in October. As a gracious gesture, owner James Golden has waived our admission fee for the rescheduled visit, and we look forward to experiencing his remarkable garden this fall.

Next up is Andalusia on Thursday, August 27, one of the Delaware Valley's most beautiful historic estates. Whether you're looking for gardening inspiration, beautiful scenery, or simply a pleasant morning with fellow members, this promises to be a wonderful outing.

Carpooling is available for anyone who would like to ride together, and members are also welcome to meet us at Andalusia. Friends and family are invited to join us for this visit. Details below!

Carpooling will be available. If you plan to join the trip, please contact Lynn Grillo by August 13:

Email: lgrillo@mac.com
Call/Text: 609-954-2191

Andalusia

Thursday, Aug 27, 10:00 am

25 minutes from Ewing | Fee: \$30 | Guided Tour of the Gardens | Easy

Andalusia Gardens is a historic riverside estate along the Delaware featuring formal gardens, an arboretum, and sweeping views, with ongoing horticultural restoration and preservation. The gardens date back more than 200 years. The first was created in the late 18th century by John Craig, the owner of a residence that, expanded and enlarged, became the Big House. Craig was an avid plantsman, as evidenced by his copy of the 1791 book, *Every Man His Own Gardener*; on its back page, he listed the many varieties of flowers he planted on the property.

1332-1202 State Rd., Bensalem, PA 19020 | Exact Location: 40°03'55.5 N 74°57'43.7 W

Some GPS systems will direct you to the "Staff/Back" gate.

Please continue to the "Public/Front" gate to enter the site.

Federal Twist trip was postponed due to storm damage and will be rescheduled to October

Recent storms had caused some damage to the gardens that required clean-up, so the trip was postponed and will be rescheduled for October. Federal Twist is a private garden in Stockton that blends contemporary garden design with naturalistic planting, creating artistic, and layered landscapes that change through the seasons. 30 minutes from Ewing | Fee waived due to reschedule | **Guided Tour** | Moderate





Our Color Me Autumn Flower Show will be here soon, and we still need entries!

Design and Artistic Crafts must have four entries per class to be judged. Please sign up for one of the classes below by contacting Pat Bowker via email or text, Helga Fontus, Show Chair, or Iliana Okum, Design Consultant. Let's have a good time and a great show for members and the public.

Design

Class 1 - 6" Petite - **THIS CLASS IS FILLED** by F. Billups, T. Palise, L. Persiani & J. Tryon

Class 2 - 8" Petite - **THIS CLASS IS FILLED** by P. Bowker, I. Okum, J. Stia & N. Sylvester

**Class 3 - 12" Petite -
Need one more entry.**

(Already Entered - P. Bowker, C. Button, E. Belcheff)

"Harvest Moon"

A Design (freedom of style) – Not to exceed 12" in height, 12" in width, and 12" in depth. A three-dimensional staging panel and underlay provided by Committee (you can pick this up at the August meeting), may be covered by designer. Staged on a 12" black cube, placed on a table 29" H against a neutral-colored wall. Designer's choice of plant material and other components. Viewed from the front.

Class 4 - "Woodsy" - **THIS CLASS IS FILLED** by P. Bowker, L. Persiani, L. Reasoner & J. Tryon

Class 5 - "The Pumpkin Patch" - **THIS CLASS IS FILLED** by K. Alexander, E. Belcheff, L. Gerasimowicz & C. Rainiero

Continued next page...

Class 6 - "Grateful Hearts Gather Here" - A functional table for two -
Need two more entries

(Already Entered - H. Fontus, J. Moon)

Functional Table Set for Two (Semi-formal) – Staged on a 36” square table, 30” H. A decorative unit suitable within the frame of reference and a table covering with a 12” minimum overhang are required. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Placemats or underlay permitted. Viewed from the front

Class 7 - "Teatime in the Apple Orchard" - A functional tray for one -
Need one more entry

(Already Entered - S. Fair, I. Okum, C. Button)

A Functional Tray for One (Informal) – Exhibitor to provide tray not to exceed 19”W x 16”D or 18” round. Tray components, including napkins, cannot exceed the tray. Staged on a quarter of a 60” round table/29” H. Each quarter has two straight sides measuring 30” and a curved outer edge measuring 47”. A decorative unit is required. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Viewed from the front.

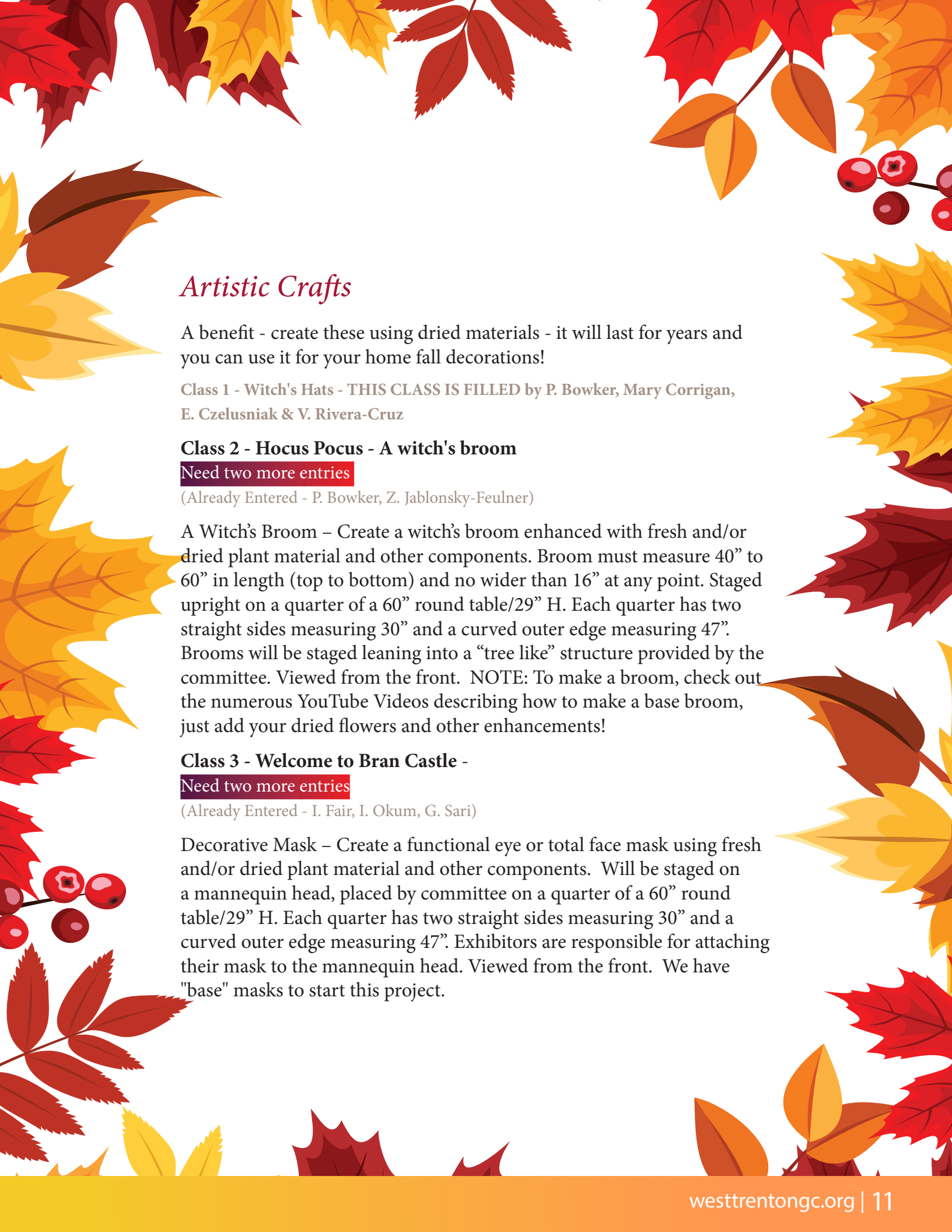
Class 8 - "Oktoberfest" - A functional table for one -
Need two more entries

(Already Entered - I. Fair, L. Persiani)

A Functional Table for One (Informal) – Staged on a 30” round high-top cocktail table,

42” H, with a decorative unit. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Exhibitor to provide a table covering with a 12” minimum overhang. Viewed from the front.

Continued next page...

The page is framed by a decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, with clusters of red berries. The leaves are scattered around the edges of the page, creating a seasonal theme.

Artistic Crafts

A benefit - create these using dried materials - it will last for years and you can use it for your home fall decorations!

Class 1 - Witch's Hats - THIS CLASS IS FILLED by P. Bowker, Mary Corrigan, E. Czelusniak & V. Rivera-Cruz

Class 2 - Hocus Pocus - A witch's broom

Need two more entries

(Already Entered - P. Bowker, Z. Jablonsky-Feulner)

A Witch's Broom – Create a witch's broom enhanced with fresh and/or dried plant material and other components. Broom must measure 40" to 60" in length (top to bottom) and no wider than 16" at any point. Staged upright on a quarter of a 60" round table/29" H. Each quarter has two straight sides measuring 30" and a curved outer edge measuring 47". Brooms will be staged leaning into a "tree like" structure provided by the committee. Viewed from the front. NOTE: To make a broom, check out the numerous YouTube Videos describing how to make a base broom, just add your dried flowers and other enhancements!

Class 3 - Welcome to Bran Castle -

Need two more entries

(Already Entered - I. Fair, I. Okum, G. Sari)

Decorative Mask – Create a functional eye or total face mask using fresh and/or dried plant material and other components. Will be staged on a mannequin head, placed by committee on a quarter of a 60" round table/29" H. Each quarter has two straight sides measuring 30" and a curved outer edge measuring 47". Exhibitors are responsible for attaching their mask to the mannequin head. Viewed from the front. We have "base" masks to start this project.

Rose Care in Summer Heat

By Iliana Okum

1



Be sure to water roses thoroughly every week, especially when temps are above 90* F. Roses must have water in order to stay healthy and bloom. If in containers, water more often.

2



Remove spent blooms or deadhead your roses. This step helps the rose to develop new shoots in order to bloom again by mid August. Clean any fallen leaves from under the shrub.

3



Fertilize your rose(s), they need nutrients in order to create new stems and lots of blooms. A hungry rose will not bloom.

Gallery | 2026-2027 Officer Installation & Place Setting Contest

Photos by Jeff Tryon | Visit our blog for full story and more pics!

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/post/new-officers-installed-at-june-meeting>



Gallery | Birmingham 250 Event

Photos by Jeff Tryon | Visit our blog for full story and more pics!

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/post/history-community-and-a-revolutionary-spirit>



Gallery | Birmingham 250 Event

Photos by Rick Lazarick, George McElrath, and Carl Reasoner | Visit our blog for full story and more pics!

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Gallery | Club Trip to PHS Meadowbrook Farm

Photos by Club Members | Visit our blog for full story and more pics!

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/post/wtgc-visits-phs-meadowbrook-farm>

