

# The Garden Path

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Lynn Grillo

*Newsletter Designer*



# The President's Message

September 2024 | Anne Skalka, President

## Hello Fall!

After the brutally-hot days of July and August, gardening in September, October, and even November is a refreshing experience, as the cooler temperatures and lower humidity create great conditions for planting and is ideal for being in the garden.

Here are some ideas for gardening in September, October, and literally until the ground begins to freeze:

- Consider planting cool-season crops such as kale, spinach, broccoli, and turnips. These can thrive in the cooler weather and provide a late season harvest.
- Fall is a great time to divide and to plant perennials and spring-blooming bulbs. Planting bulbs before the ground freezes encourages healthy root development and many bulbs require the winter chill to develop successfully. Our annual bulb sale is underway. Remember to submit your bulb order by September 27th.
- Use this time to improve your soil by adding organic matter, such as compost. This will enrich the soil for the next growing season.
- Remove dead plants, weeds, and debris to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering in your garden. Remember to add fallen leaves to your compost pile.
- Apply a layer of mulch around your plants to help retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and suppress weeds.
- If you have houseplants outside, bring them indoors! Be proactive as temperatures drop. Many houseplants will not tolerate temperatures under 50° for several nights in a row, especially if the daytime temps are also cooler, and wetter.
- Consider winterizing your garden tools.
- Look for fall sales! You can reduce your planting costs as much as 50% as nurseries discount perennials, shrubs or trees they don't want to overwinter.

Let's enjoy our third planting season and remember to plant hope for the seasons ahead.

*Anne Skalka*  
*"Plant Hope"*





# August 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



## President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club was called to order at 6:40 pm by new President, Anne Skalka. Anne welcomed all members, new and old, and gave a special thanks to everyone who brought something in for the Jersey Fresh Auction, as well as to new member, Leilani Holgado, for bringing plants to offer free to members. A special shout-out was made to members Lorraine Persiani, Linda Reasoner, Iliana Okum, Lynn Grillo, Pat Bowker and Helga Fontus for all their generous help getting Anne set up in her new role as President. August member birthdays were also announced.

Anne promised a year with great programs, and that our next Flower Show will be held in the fall of 2025, which Helga Fontus will be chairing again.

## Secretary's Report

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 \$9,116.88. There was an income of \$1,210.00 from dues, the June raffle, and a Drumthwacket donation. Expenses incurred included June meeting expenses, Birmingham Park plants, and Garden Club of NJ dues all totaling \$847.13. Hearing no additions or corrections, the amount will be filed as reported.

## Correspondence

Iliana Okum reported that she sent a card to Susan Crystal, and a card will be sent to Alicia Magee.

## Committee Reports

### Bulb Sale

Rick Lazarick sent out order forms to members via email. There is a 9/27 deadline for orders and money to be turned in. Order forms were also available at the meeting.

### Committees

There are a few empty spots on the Committee Board. Signing up was encouraged.

### Birmingham Park

Rick Lazarick and George McElrath will be co-chairs in charge of Birmingham Park maintenance.

### Flower Show 2023

Helga Fontus announced that the Garden Club of NJ issued 9 individual trophies to WTGC members in various categories, and Helga presented certificates to those members present. (See page 7)

## Other News

Elle Belcheff announced that she brought her camera and can take pictures of members for the Yearbook. With no further business or questions, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

A special thank you to the Hospitality Committee for providing delicious snacks. During refreshments, Anne Skalka and Ann Chmielewski announced the winners of the Farm Fresh Auction.



# Announcements

## Happy Birthday!

- Carolyn Kane - September 3
- Linda Reasoner - September 18
- Lynn Aspinwall - September 21
- David Chmielewski - September 25

## Flowers for Ewing Library

Rick Lazarick

## Hospitality Committee

Barbara Bernhard (Chair), Elle Belcheff,  
Devah Brinker, George McElrath,  
June Miller, Victoria Rivera-Cruz.

## Newsletter Deadline

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

## Birmingham Park Maintenance

Contact Heidi Furman

## Annual Bulb Sale *(order form next page)*

Rick Lazarick



## Mark Your Calendar

### ✦ September 9

WTGC Monthly Meeting - 6:30 PM,  
Hollowbrook Community Center;  
Program: "Composting: Turning  
Waste into Garden Gold"

### ✦ September 16

GCNJ State Board Meeting - 10  
AM - Holly House (alternate  
date September 30th).

### ✦ September 21

GCNJ Flower Show School II - Via  
Zoom  
Procedure 12pm – 3pm with online  
exam. To register visit the GCNJ website  
at:  
<https://bit.ly/FlowerShowSchool>

### ✦ September 23

WTGC Board Meeting - 7PM Via Zoom

### ✦ September 24

Flower Show School II - Holly House  
Horticulture - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### ✦ September 25

Flower Show School II - Holly  
House Design - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### ✦ September 26

Flower Show School II - Holly House  
Exam - 9:00 am - 11:00 am



# September Program | Composting

Turning Waste into Garden Gold, September 9, 2024

## Meeting Details

Discover the art and science of composting in this informative session by WTGC members Lynn Grillo and Iliana Okum. Learn how to transform kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich, nutrient-dense compost that will enhance your garden's soil health and productivity. Our experts will guide you through the process, from choosing the right composting method to maintaining your compost pile for optimal results.





# And the Winner is . . .

## Revisiting "Back to Paris!" The WTGC 2023 Flower Show



L-R: Heidi Furman, WTGC Member; Anne Skalka  
WTGC President; Beverly Kazickas, GCNJ President

"Back to Paris!" was a NGC Standard Flower Show sponsored by the West Trenton Garden Club, Inc (WTGC). The show was held on May 19th and 20th, 2023 at the Mercer County Office Park in Ewing. Twelve NGC-Accredited Flower Show Judges judged and evaluated the show.

As a result, the Garden Club of New Jersey issued at total of nine flower show awards to our club. Five WTGC members who exhibited at the show were honored with individual trophies.

### *The awards are as follows:*

#### Recipient: West Trenton Garden Club

- **Mrs David L. George Silver Trophy**  
For the Finest Judged Standard Flower Show of the Year
- **The Garden Club RFD Trophy**  
For the Finest Standard Flower Show Schedule of the Year
- **The Dorothy M. Schick Trophy**  
For the Greatest Excellence in Staging a Standard Flower Show
- **Helen Hull Silver Bowl**  
For Finest Horticulture Division in a Highly Rated Standard Flower Show

#### Individual Recipients:

- **The Amelia Stewart Perpetual Trophy**  
*To Jeff Tryon*  
For the Horticultural Excellence Award "Vanda coerulea"
- **Glenn Ferrari Memorial Trophy**  
*To Linda Reasoner*  
For the Arboreal Award "Chionanthus virginicus"
- **Patricia Grossi Petite Award Trophy**  
*To Pat Bowker*  
For the Finest Petite Design in a Standard Flower Show
- **Roberta McNally Table Artistry Trophy**  
*To Susan Fair*  
For the Table Artistry Award in a Standard Flower Show "A Functional Table for One"
- **The Myra Brooks Memorial Trophy**  
*To Helga Fontus*  
For Creativity in Flower Arranging

# 2024 Annual Bulb Sale

## 2024 West Trenton Garden Club Fall Bulb Sale Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WTCG Member: Y or N Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Orders must be submitted no later than **Friday, September 27.**

**Orders can be picked up at the October 7 WTCG meeting.**

Donations are welcome for the Birmingham Park ongoing beautification.

BULBS	\$ PER PKG.	# OF PKG.	\$ TOTAL
<b>Golden Delicious</b>			
DAFFODIL - <b>Golden Delicious</b> (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		
DAFFODIL - <b>Golden Delicious</b> (Pkg. of 12)	\$15.00		
DAFFODIL - <b>Golden Delicious</b> (Pkg. of 24)	\$24.00		
<b>Golden Delicious</b> - Double yellow flowers in pairs and sometimes threes. What makes this variety 'delicious' is it's light and sweet fragrance. <b>Deer and Rodent Proof 16" height - Early-Mid Bloom</b>			
<b>WTGC Favorite - by Popular Demand</b>			
ALLIUM - <b>Purple Sensation</b> (Pkg. of 6)	\$8.00		
ALLIUM - <b>Purple Sensation</b> (Pkg. of 12)	\$15.00		
ALLIUM - <b>Purple Sensation</b> (Pkg. of 24)	\$24.00		
<b>Purple Sensation</b> - Beautiful, perennial, affordable. 4-inch globes of rich purple flowers on tall stems. Blooms early for an allium, on the heels of late tulips. <b>Deer Resistant 28-32" height Early Bloom</b>			
<b>Single Tulip Duet</b>			
TULIP <b>Lava</b> (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		
TULIP <b>Lava</b> (Pkg of 12)	\$15.00		
TULIP <b>Lava</b> (Pkg of 24)	\$24.00		
<b>Lava:</b> A radiant fiery red combined with rich red-yellow. The warm color of the solid red is repeated in the two-toned variety. <b>22—24" height - Mid-Spring Bloom</b>			
<b>Double Tulip Duet</b>			
TULIP - <b>Chiquita Bordeaux</b> (Pkg of 6)	\$8.00		
TULIP - <b>Chiquita Bordeaux</b> (Pkg of 12)	\$15.00		
TULIP - <b>Chiquita Bordeaux</b> (Pkg of 24)	\$24.00		
<b>Chiquita Bordeaux</b> - Double tulips in bright yellow and silvery purple. The flowers are large and densely petaled, much like those of peonies. <b>18-20" height. Mid-Late Spring bloom</b>			
<b>DONATION - Birmingham Park</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$



Rutgers Master Gardeners  
of Mercer County

30

1994-2024

*Celebrating 30 years,  
and growing!*

Join us for the 20th Annual

## Insect Festival

Bugs Galore, Native Bees, Honey Bees, Composting, Crafts, Bugs in Water, Carnivorous Plants, Insect Hunt, Build-a-Bug, Butterflies, Storytime, Q&A with Mercer County Horticulturist, Justine Gray

**Saturday, Sept. 7 | 11 AM - 2 PM**

**Mercer Educational Gardens**  
431 Federal City Road, Pennington, NJ

More Info



## Gardening in a Changing Climate

2024 WSU Extension  
Master Gardener Advanced  
Education Conference

Virtual conference

**September 27-28, 2024**

[https://mglearns.  
mastergardenerfoundation.org/](https://mglearns.mastergardenerfoundation.org/)





# Gallery | *Birmingham Park Clean-up by George McElrath, Rick Lazarick and Anne Chmielewski*

*Photos by George McElrath*





# Gallery | Mt. Cuba Center

Photos by Jeff Tryon





# *Gallery | Rick Lazarick Dahlias*

*Photos by Rick Lazarick*

