



The Garden Path

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President's Letter

Anne Skalka | November 2025



Dear Garden Club Members,

November brings a quieter beauty to our New Jersey gardens — the soft rustle of leaves, the cool air, and that comforting rhythm of putting the garden to bed. As we tidy up and tuck bulbs into the earth, we're really planting for hope — a promise that color and life will return when spring awakens.

This season reminds us that even in rest, the garden is preparing for renewal. I'm grateful for each of you — for your creativity, friendship, and the joy you bring to our Garden Club. May your Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude and the quiet hope that every seed, like every friendship, will bloom again.

Garden Tips for November:

- 🌸 Plant bulbs now — daffodils, tulips, and crocus still have time to root before the ground freezes.
- 🍁 Shred and compost leaves for a rich mulch or compost addition.
- 🌿 Protect young shrubs with burlap or wire cages from deer and harsh winds.
- 🛠️ Clean and store tools — ready for next spring's new beginnings.

Warmly,

Anne Skalka

President, West Trenton Garden Club

October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of October 6, 2025, was called to order at 6:32 pm by President [Anne Skalka](#). Anne asked if there were any guests present, but there were none.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September meeting were printed in the monthly Newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, [Rick Lazarick](#), reported a current balance of \$8,350.98. Since the last meeting, there was income of \$360.00 (\$42.00 from September's 50/50 and \$318.00 from the Bulb Sale, and expenses totalling \$1,861.00 (\$696.50 for Yearbook printing, \$33.00 NJ Treasury annual filing fee, and \$608.58 Bulb Sale payment Part 1). Club membership stands at 63.

Committee Reports

- **Fall Bulb Sale** - [Rick Lazarick](#) reported that the Bulb Sale has netted \$522.00 so far before selling the orphans, which he brought to the meeting.
- **Program Committee** - [Iliana Okum](#) reported that the program that has been scheduled for November's meeting is a floral design presentation entitled "Holiday Table Chic: Floral Arranging for Entertaining" by Deborah Pomroy. The designs will follow Garden Club guidelines for flower show exhibits. Iliana also presented certificates to Helga Fontus and Anne Chmielewski for organizing last month's informative program at the last minute.
- **Birmingham Park** - [George McElrath](#) thanked Lynn Grillo for donating a retractable hose to the Park. He also thanked Paula Fisher, Matt Kowalski, Anne Skalka, Linda Geiger, Susan Crystal, Heidi Furman, and Vernon Clash for coming out in September for Fall clean-up at the Park. Two new salvias will be planted on either side of the Blue Star Memorial to replace the two plants that died over the summer. Heidi Furman added that the sign advertising Ewing's Community Days has been moved to a different spot instead of blocking the Blue Star Memorial.

October 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

- **Field Trips** - [Lynn Grillo](#) is planning a trip to Black Shed in Stockton in November, which is a nursery/garden center/cafe/bar/and gift shop. Lynn presented two possible dates and took a quick vote. More details will be printed in the next Newsletter.
- **Pass the Can** - [Linda Reasoner](#) reported \$31.23 was collected in August. There was no collection in September.
- **Trenton 250** - [Linda Reasoner](#) reported that area towns are getting together to create special events for our country's 250th anniversary to be celebrated July 3-8, 2026. Since Birmingham Park is right in the middle of Washington's famous March to Trenton, Linda wants to create a committee to help with the celebratory events.

Announcements

- [Anne Skalka](#) announced all October birthdays. She also thanked and recognized members of the Hospitality Committee for providing the evening's refreshments.
- [Anne Skalka](#) held a Question and Answer session. Members discussed grasses, blueberry bushes and butterfly eggs in parsley plants.
- Bulbs have been delivered, and members can pick up their orders. Orphans are for sale, as well.
- The 50/50 tickets were picked. The prize was \$29.00. Additional prizes were 8 miniature pumpkins and a vase full of dahlias.
- **Morven** - [Anne Chmielewaki](#) thanked Heidi Furman and Lynn Grillo for coming up with decorating ideas for a mantel our club was assigned to decorate for Christmas this year.. Anne announced people who have volunteered to be on the committee, and was able to recruit more at the meeting.
- [Iliana Okum](#) reminded everyone that donations for Trenton Psychiatric Hospital are due at the November meeting. A list of what items to bring will be in the Newsletter.

Meeting Adjourns

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm. After refreshments were served, the members were treated to a program presented by [Linda Williams](#) entitled "Petals to Pearls: Crafting Floral Jewelry and Designing a Fall Mask for the Flower Show."

Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

November 2025

Happy Birthday!

- Anne Chmielewski - November 1
 - Vernon Clash - 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

Linda Gerasimowicz

Hospitality Committee

Linda Gerasimowicz (Chair), Kathleen Alexander, Pat Bowker, Devah Brinker, Zofia Jablonski Feulner, Caroline Kane, Maggie Kramer.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Mark Your Calendar

November 3, 6:30 PM, Hollowbrook CC

WTGC Monthly Meeting

Program: "Holiday Table Chic: Floral Arranging for Entertaining" Presenter: Deborah Pomroy

November 6, 10:00 AM, Holly House

GCNJ Design Group

November 8, 10:00 AM, WTGC Field Trip

Visit to Black Shed. Details page 11

November 24, 10:00 AM, Holly House

GCNJ Board Meeting



Random Acts of Beauty

Our mission for the Random Acts of Beauty program is to identify lovely gardens created by citizens and award them a certificate of achievement for all their hard work. A local Facebook group article about the certificate resulted in several recommendations. The following will be receiving certificates: Eileen Antolino, Joanne Linkhorst, Deborah O'Bryan, Dawn King, Jason Gullo.

~Alicia Magee

Holiday Table Chic: Floral Arranging for Entertaining

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

Learn how to build a beautiful seasonal floral centerpiece and functional table design that will dazzle your guests—just in time for the holidays! **Deborah Pomroy** will review Principles for Floral Design using the GC Guidelines prior to making her design. Three members will share a Functional Table for Two with a floral design. Each design will be discussed to highlight GC Guidelines for a WTGC flower show exhibit.

Deborah Pomroy has been designing florals for over 35 years. After owning her own floral shop for 17 years, Deborah moved on to wedding floral design at Fabufloras in Philadelphia. She is an Adjunct Professor at Mercer County Community College where she teaches the Floral Design program classes. Deborah has a BS In Ornamental Horticulture (Floriculture emphasis) with a Business minor from Delaware Valley University.



WTGC Flower Show Prep | “Color Me Autumn!”

Anticipated Show Dates – Sept 18–19, 2026

As we look ahead to our Color Me Autumn Flower Show in 2026, this series will share small pieces of the schedule during months when we have a related program. It’s a great way to build your confidence with the show’s classes—one step at a time. Many thanks to WTGC member, Pat Bowker, the creator of this wonderful flower show schedule!

SECTION C - DRAFT

SECTION C. ““Special Gatherings for the Third Season of the Year” Eligible for Table Artistry Award Consultant:

Class 7 “Grateful Hearts Gather Here” (4 entries)

As the fall season comes to an end, bring friends and family together for an American tradition – Thanksgiving. A Functional Table Set for Two (Semi-formal) – Staged on a 36” round table, 30” from the floor. With a decorative unit suitable for the space allotted. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Exhibitor to provide a 90” round tablecloth. Placemats or underlay permitted. Viewed from the front. HB, p. 76.

Class 8 “Teatime in the Apple Orchard” (4 entries)

What better way to spend a fall day, picking apples and enjoying cinnamon spiced tea! A Functional Tray for One (Informal) – Exhibitor to provide tray not to exceed 19”W x 16”D or 18” round. Staged on a quarter of a 60” round table 29” from floor. A decorative unit is required. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Viewed from the front. HB, p. 76.

Class 9 “Oktoberfest” (4 entries)

A German Tradition that is celebrated world-wide. Friends will surely join in the fun. Prost! A Functional Table for One (Informal) – Staged on a 30” round high-top cocktail table, 42” from the floor, in front of a neutral-colored wall. With a decorative unit suitable for the space allotted. Designer’s choice of plant material and other components. Exhibitor to provide a table covering with a 12” minimum overhang. Viewed from the front. HB, p. 76-77.

NOTE: FOR DESIGN IDEAS – LOOK AT “PINTEREST” – THEY HAVE NUMEROUS DESIGN IDEAS AND VIDEOS. THE SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL HAVE PICTURES TOO, BUT MOST OF THEM CAME FROM PINTEREST.



West Trenton Garden Club

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. Pajamas, nightgowns, 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.

Holiday Happennings



WTGC Holiday Celebration Dinner

Tentative Date
December 1, 2025
6:00 PM

Details coming via email

WTGC Holiday Plant Sale

We will again be
selling poinsettias
and cyclamen.

Details, pricing and order
form will be sent via email.

WTGC Fall Field Trip | A Holiday Outing to Black Shed!

Saturday, November 8



Join the Fun!

Please let Lynn Grillo know if you will attend and whether you wish to join a carpool or can be a carpool driver.

Email: lgrillo@mac.com

Text: 609-954-2191

Mark Your Calendars!

We've planned a delightful fall field trip for **Saturday, November 8**, and you won't want to miss it. Join us for a visit to Black Shed in beautiful Stockton, New Jersey, a unique garden center destination that's part nursery, part home décor shop, part café and bar, with charm and holiday sparkle.

Black Shed is known for its stunning seasonal displays, making it the perfect place to gather decorating ideas, sip a warm drink, and maybe even pick up a few gifts. The visit coincides with their Holiday Open House, so everything will be dressed in its festive finest.

Details:

Location: Black Shed, 343 County Road 519, Stockton, NJ 08559

Hours: Open 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Special Feature:

El Molcajete Food Truck will be on-site from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, serving up authentic Mexican food. Black Shed will also be offering their famous margaritas!

Meet-Up:

- On-site at 10:00 AM
- Or carpool from Lynn Grillo's house at 15 Diane Drive, Ewing. (recommended!)
- Carpool leaves at 9:30 AM (meet by 9:15 AM)

This outing is a great way to enjoy some fresh air, find a little inspiration, and connect with fellow club members before the busy holiday season begins. We hope to see you there!

For more about Black Shed:

<https://www.blkshd.com/>

Gallery | October Meeting

Photos by Jeff Tryon



Gallery | Carnivorous Plant Show at Haverford College

Photos by Jeff Tryon

