

The Garden Path



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Anne Skalka <i>President</i>	Lorraine Persiani <i>Immediate Past President</i>
Linda Reasoner <i>Vice President</i>	Maggie Kramer <i>Club Parliamentarian</i>
Rick Lazarick <i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Tryon <i>Newsletter Editor</i>
Karen Lewandowski <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Lynn Grillo <i>Newsletter Designer</i>
Iliana Okum <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	



The President's Message

November 2024 | Anne Skalka, President



Dear Members,

As we move deeper into fall, it's the perfect time to get your garden ready for winter and lay the groundwork for a vibrant spring. Here are some essential November garden tips:

✿ 1. Plant Spring Bulbs

Now's your last chance to plant spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses. They'll settle in over winter and reward you with early spring color.

✿ 2. Mulch and Protect

Apply a layer of mulch around the base of perennials and shrubs to insulate roots from freezing temperatures. This also helps suppress weeds and retain soil moisture during dry winter months.

✿ 3. Prune and Clean Up

Cut back dead or diseased branches on trees and shrubs to prevent problems next year. Clean up fallen leaves from the lawn, but consider leaving some in the flower beds to provide shelter for beneficial insects.

✿ 4. Prepare Bird Feeders

With fewer flowers and insects, birds appreciate extra help. Setting up feeders now will invite them to visit your garden all winter, and they'll help keep insect populations down come spring.

✿ 5. Clean and Store Tools

Now is a good time to clean and sharpen garden tools before storing them for winter. This will make your spring work much easier!

By taking these steps in November, you'll ensure your garden is ready to rest through the colder months and wake up beautifully when the weather warms again.

Kudos to our Drumthwacket, Holiday Party, and Morven committees. As winter approaches the club is gearing up to celebrate the winter season in many ways.

Please consider volunteering if you are interested in creating a festive mood for the upcoming season.

Happy Gardening!

*~ Anne Skalka
"Plant Hope"*



October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of October 7, 2024, was called to order at 6:37 pm by President Ann Skalka.

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 \$8,898.38. There was an income of \$286.00 from the September 50/50 and Bulb Sale, and an expense of \$675.50 for the Yearbook printing. Hearing no additions or corrections, the amount will be filed as reported.

Correspondence

Iliana Okum sent get well cards to Nancy Grant, Alicia Magee, and Susan Chrystal.

Committee Reports

Birmingham Park

Rick Lazarick has placed a couple of phone calls into the Mayor's Office, but has yet to have gotten a response regarding the status of the road project that will affect the park. George McElrath appealed to members to help set up a Maintenance Calendar for the

park. He is also looking for ideas as to what plants and flowers to plant that will add Fall color. A sheet was passed around for members to contribute their thoughts.

Mill Hill Child & Family Development

Devah Brinker reported that a garden is being designed and will be planted at the school to spruce up the entrance. A sheet was passed around for members to sign up to help.

Preservation Committee

Linda Reasoner reported that four members have volunteered to go through the many totes of old records accumulated since the inception of our club over 70 years ago. There is a lot to organize and will be put together in scrap books by decade.

Awards

The GCNJ is offering awards to garden clubs that meet certain criteria of Special Projects within each club.. Heads of Birmingham Park, Pass the Can, our Monthly Newsletter, and the Living Green/Environmental Committee were given applications to fill out and submit

Bulb Sale

Rick Lazarick reported that \$800.00 in bulbs were sold, netting about \$350 so far. Orders were at the meeting for pickup. Orphans were for sale, as well.

October 2024 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

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.

New Business

- The Poinsettia Sale will be held again this year with the same pricing. Orders will be taken at the November meeting
- Pass the Can donations totaled \$27.40 in September.
- Four guests attending the meeting were introduced.
- Linda Reasoner announced that she is looking for pictures from members of flowers, landscapes, plants and wildlife with an Autumn theme for entry in the 2025 Flower Show.
- Barbara Bernhard is looking to organize a committee to work on the Morven Christmas decorating.
- Anne Skalka allowed time for a Q&A session.
- The 50/50 Prize was \$38.00

Our meeting was adjourned at 7:20 in order to enjoy the great snacks provided by the Refreshment Committee. An informative program about garden tools was presented by Devah Brinker, Zofia Feulner, Ann Skalka, and Rick Lazarick. Afterwards, 4 garden tools were raffled off.



Woosamonsa Ridge Preserve | Photo by Jeff Tryon

Announcements



Happy Birthday!

Anne Chmielewski - November 1

Marilyn Orland - November 3

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

Helga Fontus

Hospitality Committee

Linda Gerasimowicz (Chair), Pat Bowker, Catherine Button, June Rosso, Diane Sanchez, Janis Stia, and Jeff Tryon.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Holiday Party

Please bring your check and completed reservation form to the meeting.

Mark Your Calendar

✦ **November 1**

WTGC Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

✦ **November 4**

WTGC Monthly Meeting - 6:30 PM
Hollowbrook Community Center;
Program: "Floral Designs for Your
Holiday Celebrations." Guest fee
\$5. All designs will be raffled off!

✦ **November 6**

GCNJ Judges Council,
10 AM Holly House

✦ **November 27**

GCNJ Board Meeting,
10 AM Holly House

✦ **November 28**

Happy Thanksgiving!

November Program | **by Deborah Pomroy**

November 4, 2024, 6:30 pm

Floral Design for Your Holiday Celebrations

Join us for a captivating floral design presentation that will inspire your creativity. Our guest florist, Deborah Pomroy returns to WTGC to demonstrate various techniques and styles for creating stunning floral arrangements. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced designer, you will gain valuable tips to elevate your floral displays.

Guest Fee: \$5.00

Raffle will be held for Deborah's Designs!



Deborah Pomroy





2024 WTGC Annual Holiday Plant Sale

Lynn Aspinwall, Susan Chrystal, and Linda Geiger, Co-chairs

The Holidays are fast approaching and it's time to place your order for our beautiful, festive holiday plants. The WTGC appreciates your continued support in our Fundraising efforts.

This year's **Poinsettia** offerings are: *red, white, pink, and Jingle Bell speckled poinsettias; sizes: 6" for \$6, and 8" for \$15.* New this year are **Cyclamen**: *red, white, pink: 6" for \$12.*

Orders can be emailed to Lynn Aspinwall at aspinwall@optonline.net or brought to the meeting on November 4. *All orders due by November 10, 2024*

Delivery date: Saturday, November 30, 2024

Pick up: Lorraine Persiani's home at 21 Cardiff Lane, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

2024 WTGC Holiday Plant Order Form			
Name		Phone	
Email		WTGC Member?	Yes/No (circle)
Poinsettia	# of 6 in (\$6 ea)	# of 8 in (\$15 ea)	Total \$ Amount
Poinsettia Red			
Poinsettia White			
Poinsettia Pink			
Jingle Bell (Speckled)			
Cyclamen	# of 6 in (\$12 ea)		
Cyclamen Red			
Cyclamen White			
Cyclamen Pink			
Total # plants per size:			
		Total \$ Due	



Check or cash needed on day of pickup for entire order.
Checks payable to: "West Trenton Garden Club."



Donations from West Trenton Garden Club for 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. 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, after-shave, 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.



West Trenton Garden Club Holiday Celebration

December 2, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Sal De Fortes Ristorante

1400 Parkway Avenue, Ewing NJ 08628

Please bring an
exchange gift or
garden related item
for a raffle.

Everyone will
receive a free
raffle ticket.

\$45 per
person

BYOB

Menu

First Course

Bruschetta Bread

Pasta Course

Vodka Rigatoni

Choice of Entrée

Chicken Marsala

Salmon Bruschetta

Eggplant Parmigiani

(Entrée served with house vegetable
& roasted potato)

Dessert

Cannoli

Includes Coffee, tea & soft drinks

Spouses and significant others are welcome!

Full Name	
Entrée Selection	

Please return your order and check (made out to West Trenton Garden Club) to:
Lorraine Persiani, 21 Cardiff Ln, Hamilton, NJ 08690-1308

Mill Hill Child & Family Development Center

101 Oakland Street, Trenton, NJ 08618 | October 21, 2024

Report by Devah Brinker on behalf of the West Trenton Garden Club

The Millhill Center of Trenton, NJ operates a Pre-School Center for children up to 5 years of age. Located in a neighborhood of less opportunities to succeed due to families who struggle to meet standards and requirements for even the first year of their children's schooling. This place sets up the children to be ready and able to adjust and keep up from day one when they enter public school for their first year.

There are 7 classrooms, 2 playgrounds and a currently a total of 105 students.

Jigna Rao is the Chief Executive Officer and commands a fine group of teachers, employees, and building staff who are well qualified for their task. The building itself has been renovated and accommodates most necessities for the classrooms and teaching areas. The building itself is very old and fairly good shape despite being used by other NJ State Departments/Functions for many years. See accompanying photos.

To freshen up the entrance and lift spirits with splashes of color to lighten the building, atmosphere and spirits of adults and children alike, Anne Skalka, West Trenton Garden Club's President, suggested we plant flower beds right at the front entrance to the school. Everyone was on board for that. It was the perfect spot. During our time installing the perennial plants, there was a

constant flow of appreciation and approval from all the employees... and, of course, the little students when they came out to the playground.

As we neared the end of planting, Nicole Robinson, Executive Assistant to Jigna Rao, took over the watering of our beds to ensure the newly planted perennials flowers of their survival. It was greatly needed and appreciated here in New Jersey due to the ongoing drought conditions here in our Garden State for the past month.

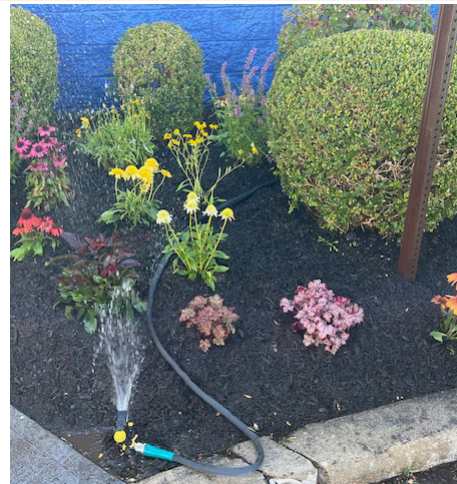
I have added photos of our garden workers during our two-day planting process (see gallery, next page. The employees of the school were so happy they were taking photos of us and putting them on facebook!

Much thanks and gratitude go out to our Garden Planting Crew: Devah Brinker, Victoria Rivera-Cruz, Rick Lazarick, George McElrath Jr., Iliana Okum, and Anne Skalka.



Gallery | Mill Hill Project

Continued from previous page



A History of Birmingham Park

By Linda Reasoner, WTGC Vice-President

Birmingham Park is truly a story in the history of the West Trenton Garden Club. It was originally nicknamed the “Mini Park.” Its more formal name was derived from the little village of Birmingham at the crossroads.

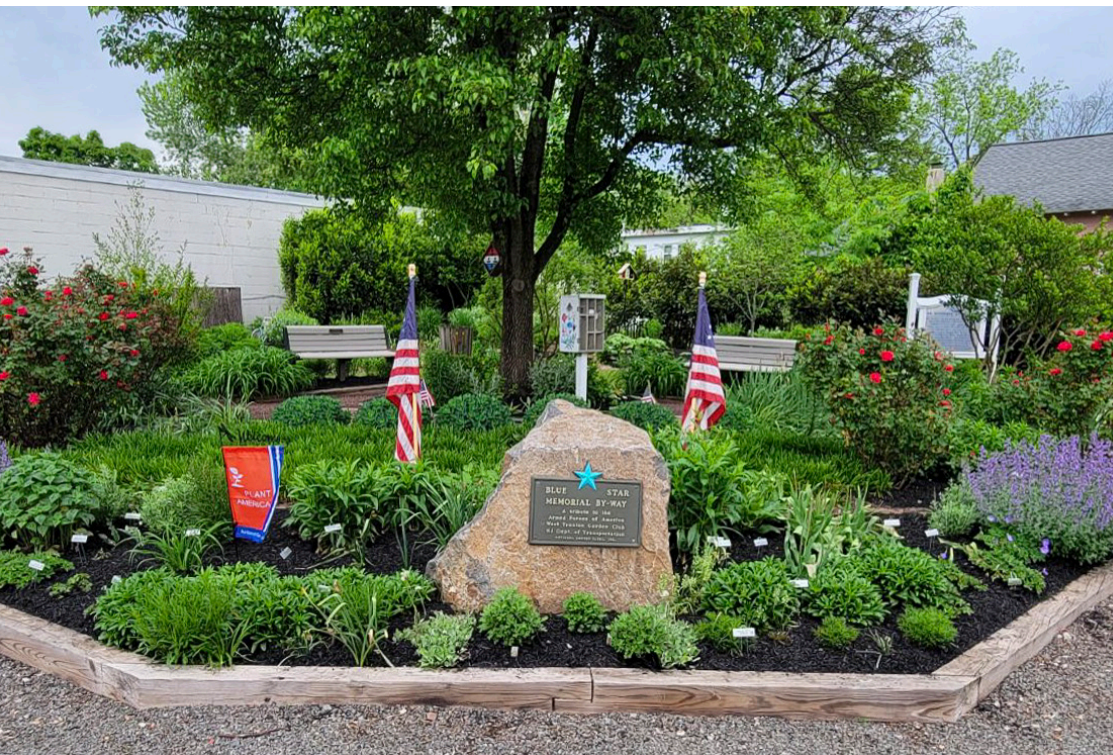
Ewing Township acquired the land when the building that housed West Trenton Hardware was torn down. In 1993, the Garden Club agreed to work with Ewing Township in establishing a design and landscape plan for the proposed park. The layout of the plan consisted of wooden benches, a Bradford Pear tree, and several raised beds with spring bulbs, summer annuals, and fall “mums.” There was no water source at the park at that time, so volunteers carried buckets of water from the Exxon Station across the street. Many volunteers sustained the garden throughout those difficult years.

In 2003, Birmingham Park received an Award of Recognition from the Philadelphia Horticulture

Society, citing the volunteer efforts of the West Trenton Garden Club, and the positive effect it has in the community. At that time Jim and Eileen Keenan coordinated a team of 10 volunteers working year after year, through all seasons, to maintain the beauty of the Park. Their leadership, dedication, and hard work inspired volunteers to give their best efforts.

The Club’s vision and commitment through the years has produced further significant accomplishments. Birmingham Park has been designated as a Blue Star Memorial site with renewed landscaping. Leadership on this project included Diane Dickinson, Camille Raniero, and Linda Reasoner. Most recently, Birmingham Park received the National Garden Club’s “Plant America” Community Project Grant.” Project Team meetings on Zoom and on site took place throughout 2023.

On May 23, 2024, Project Leader Rick Lazarick led an official Celebration of the Community Project Grant Completion. The Mayor, other dignitaries, garden club members, and community leaders attended. For the Record: Thank you to ALL the members and volunteers who have cared and cherished Birmingham Park!



Photos, next page

Gallery | Birmingham Park

Continued from previous page



Gardening Tools Presentation

Resource List | Photos next page!

Zofia

Practical, Simple, Garden Tools

Fiskars Hori Hori: <https://a.co/d/3nagAM7>

Trowel / Transplanter (not available)



Zofia Jablonski-Feulner

Rick

Kneeling Made Comfortable

Knee Pad: <https://amzn.to/3UyZ6fZ>

Fast Eco-friendly Weeder

Torch: <https://amzn.to/4hoKwl9>



Rick Lazarick

Devah

Trusty Soil Busters

Hori Hori: <https://a.co/d/18bC6Ep>

Spear Head Spade: <https://a.co/d/hkADG6a>



Devah Brinker

Anne

Wrist-saving Wonder

Short Handle Hoe: <https://a.co/d/01AC9gM>



Anne Skalka

Gallery | Gardening Tools



Gallery | Rick's Dahlias

Flowers by Rick Lazarick

