



The Garden Path

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Recording Secretary

Victoria Rivera Cruz
Corresponding Secretary

Lorraine Persiani
Immediate Past President

Maggie Kramer
Club Parliamentarian

Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



President's Letter

Anne Skalka | December 2025

Dear Garden Club Members,

As we welcome December, our gardens settle into a well-earned winter rest. This quiet season invites us to pause, reflect on the beauty we've nurtured this year, and look ahead to the possibilities waiting beneath the frost.

Indoors, we can keep our green spirits alive with amaryllis, paperwhites, or a fresh pot of herbs on the windowsill. Outdoors, simple tasks — like protecting delicate shrubs from windburn, refreshing bird feeders, and adding evergreens to porch pots — help our landscapes stay vibrant even in the cold.

This month, I invite each of us to embrace a theme of *Planting Hope*. Whether through planning next year's beds, sharing a cutting with a neighbor, or supporting community green spaces, every act of gardening is an act of optimism. Even in winter, we sow the seeds of renewal.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, creativity, and kindness throughout the year. Our club continues to grow—because of you.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a bright, blooming new year.

Warmly,

Anne Skalka

President, West Trenton Garden Club



November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of November 3, 2025, was called to order at 6:30 by President **Anne Skalka**.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the Board meeting were emailed to all the Board members and others who were present at the meeting, one minor correction was made, and those minutes were filed as reported. The minutes of the October general membership meeting was 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 \$8,750.91. This balance includes income from the bulb sale (\$938), the 50/50 from September's meeting (\$58), and dues (\$60). Expenses incurred were from the October program stipend (\$275), Birmingham Park plants (\$133.57), and Bulb Sale expenses (\$247.50). Rick also reported that our net profit from the Bulb Sale came to \$640.92. He brought in the amaryllis bulbs for pick-up.

Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Committee Reports

Holiday Party

Lorraine Persiani announced that the annual Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 1, at Sal DeForte's Ristorante again this year. The order sign-up form was emailed to the members and there were forms available at the meeting. The cost is \$45 and the deadline for responding is November 18. The venue is BYOB.

Drumthwacket

Lorraine Persiani reported that our club has been assigned the Music Room to decorate. The theme is the Battle of Trenton, and the committee has come up with some terrific ideas. There has not been an announcement for Open House dates, as Governor Murphy hasn't announced his Holiday Schedule yet, but the times will be 10-2 during those visitation days and advanced registration is required.

November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



Trenton Psychiatric Hospital

Iliana Okum discussed the need for our donation campaign to the residents of the hospital. Many members brought in their generous gifts that Iliana said will be very much appreciated, especially during the holiday season.

Poinsettia Sale

Lynn Aspinwall apologized for the late distribution of order forms for the sale, but the distributor was very late coming up with prices. Order forms were distributed at the meeting, and the order deadline is Monday, November 10. Prices are the same as last year.

Field Trips

Lynn Grillo discussed the next trip to Black Shed Garden Center in Stockton which will take place on Saturday, November 8. Carpooling will be available and all interested should meet at Lynn's house by 9:15 am, and she would like to be at Black Shed when they open at 10am as parking will be limited. This will be the first day of the Holiday Celebration.

Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported that \$33.58 was collected at the October meeting.

Trenton 250

Linda Reasoner reported that work is underway to get Birmingham Park to be a big part of the nation's birthday celebration next year, as the park is located along the road of Washington's historic march into Trenton. A reenactor will be present on July 3. Linda has taken care of the application needed to be submitted in order to be included in the official festivities.

Scholarship Breakfast

Linda Reasoner announced that the breakfast will be held on March 7 at Hollowbrook. She will be in charge of the tickets, Heidi Furman and Mary Corrigan will be in charge of the food, and Vicki Cruz and Ginny Sari will be in charge of the raffle baskets. The Scholarship is open to all senior high school students in Mercer County, as well as students already attending college, who will be continuing their studies in the field of Horticulture and Horticultural Sciences.

Morven

Anne Skalka reported that her committee has been working hard getting everything ready to decorate the mantle at Morven for the Festival of Trees competition. The membership is encouraged to visit the museum during the holiday season to view all the wonderful entries.

November 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

Announcements & New Business

Anne Skalka acknowledged all November birthdays, thanked the Hospitality Committee for providing the evening's refreshments, and welcomed the visitors who attended our meeting.

Marcia Felcone offered seeds from her garden, and also asked the membership if there would be anyone interested in helping out her 95-year-old neighbor.

A Q & A session ensued.. There were some questions regarding dahlias, in which our resident expert on the subject, Rick Lazarick, was able to help answer.

A representative from Ewing's Green Team handed out flyers and discussed the initiative of planting 250 trees in Ewing in honor of America's 250th birthday. Ewing is below the tree canopy cover currently at 27% compared to the 40% average statewide. Planting native trees is encouraged.

Meeting Adjourns

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm. After refreshments were served, the members were treated to a program presented by **Deborah Pomroy** entitled "Holiday Table Chic: Floral Arranging for Entertaining" and she incorporated Garden Club Flower Show guidelines into her floral design demonstration.



Flowers for the Library by Linda Gerasimowicz

Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

December 2025

Happy Birthday!

- Lynn Grillo – December 2
 - Janis Stia – December 3
 - Pat Bowker – December 13
 - Kathleen Alexander – December 15
 - Zofia Jablonski Feulner – December 15
 - Jill Voorhees – December 21
 - Heidi Furman – December 28
-

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

June Rosso

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

December 1, 6:00 PM, WTGC Annual Holiday Party!

See page 7 for details. Co-Chairs: Lorraine Persiani and Diane Sanchez. Committee: Lynn Aspinwall, Susan Chrystal, Linda Geiger, and Camille Rainiero.

Morven Festival of Trees Holiday Open House.

See page 8 for details

Drumthwacket Holiday Decorating.

See page 8 for details

Holiday Plant Sale Pickup

Friday, November 28 from 9-11 and Saturday, November 29 from 9-12, at Lorraine Persiani's house at 21 Cardiff Lane, Hamilton Square.



WTGC Holiday Party

West Trenton Garden Club Holiday Party!

Monday, December 1, 2025 | 6:00 PM
Sal DeForte's Ristorante
1400 Parkway Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08628

Please contact Lorraine Persiani for more info
609-876-1102 | Impersiani@gmail.com

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

Value \$5-\$10

Everyone will receive a
free raffle ticket.

BYOB

Morven & Drumthwacket

Come see WTGC's entries to these two exhibits!

This year, the West Trenton Garden Club is delighted to be participating in both the Morven Festival of Trees and the Drumthwacket Holiday Open House. At Drumthwacket, we've been assigned the Music Room to decorate, with the theme "The Battle of Trenton." At Morven, our club will be decorating a mantel as part of the festivities. We invite you to come and enjoy the creativity and holiday spirit of our talented members in action!

MORVEN

MUSEUM & GARDEN



The Drumthwacket Foundation

Morven Festival of Trees

Open through January 11, 2026

Morven's signature holiday tradition returns for its 20th season. This beloved community event features inspired holiday trees and mantels throughout the museum galleries, creating a magical experience for the whole family. This milestone year not only celebrates the festival's rich legacy—it also launches Morven's role in commemorating America's 250th anniversary in 2026.

<https://www.morven.org/signature/festivaloftrees>

Drumthwacket Holiday Open House

Schedule:

- Thursday, December 4
- Friday, December 5
- Wednesday, December 10
- Saturday, December 20
- Sunday, December 21

Event Time Slots:

11:00 to 12:30; 12:30 to 2:00; 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Online registration starts:

Wednesday, November 19 at 9:00 am. The open houses are FREE to the public

Parking: Complimentary on-site parking; carpooling is encouraged. Drumthwacket is wheelchair accessible. The Foundation doesn't provide wheelchairs.

<https://drumthwacket.org/visit/december-holiday-open-houses/>

Art & Science Mash Up | Zoom & Exhibit

Garden State Watercolor Society & D&R Greenway Land Trust

ZOOM PRESENTATION:

The Garden State Watercolor Society and the D&R Greenway invites you to participate in fun and informative *Art and Science Zoom Event on December 4, 2025*. We hope you can join us and come see the current exhibition. See gswcs.org for more information.

ART EXHIBIT:

For groups of eight or more, the President of Garden State Watercolor Society (or other GSWS Board member) will act as your personal guide through the GSWS 57th Annual Juried Exhibition. This special exhibition themed *This Land is Your Land*, is open at the D&R Greenway until January 4, 2026.

This service is provided at no cost.

Contact Tess Fields at tessiefields@gmail.com for more information or to schedule.



A ZOOM EVENT

Art and Science Mash Up

December 4, 2025 | 7:30-8:30 pm

Please join Linda Mead, President and CEO of D&R Greenway, and Tess Fields, President of GSWS, for this fun and informative zoom event.

SCIENCE PRESENTATION

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of New Jersey

Presented by Elizabeth Olson, Natural Heritage Program Botanist



Did you know that the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program maps and monitors over 800 rare and uncommon plant species across the state? Join us for a fun overview of some of our rare plants, where they're found on the landscape, and the ongoing work to conserve them.

ARTIST TALK

Three GSWS Artists will talk about their techniques and inspiration for their Juried Exhibition Paintings.



Sandra Peters
Pollinators Waltz



Katherine Philip
After the Fire



Daniella Toscanini
Barnegat Bay Wetlands

See the Exhibit!
GSWS 2025 Annual Open Juried Exhibition
This Land is Your Land
October 3, 2025 to January 4, 2026
D&R Greenway Land Trust, Princeton
www.drgreenway.org

Please register by
December 3, 2025

REGISTER

www.gswcs.org

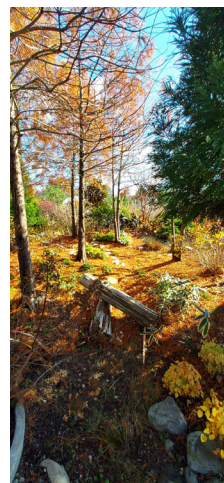
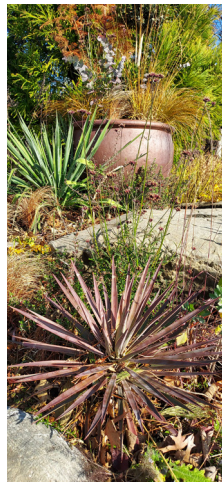
Gallery | WTGC November Program

November 3 | Photos by Jeff Tryon



Gallery | WTGC Visit to Black Shed

November 8, 2025 | Photos by Jeff Tryon



Gallery | WTGC Visit to Black Shed

November 8, 2025 | Photos by Jeff Tryon



Gallery | Autumn at Birmingham Park

October n2 9 | Photos by George McElrath

