



The Garden Path

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Rick Lazarick
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Barbara Lear
Recording Secretary
Victoria Rivera Cruz
Corresponding Secretary

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Immediate Past President
Maggie Kramer
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Jeff Tryon
Newsletter Editor
Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



President's Letter

Elle Belcheff | September 2026

Dearest Garden Club Members,

As we transition from a harsh summer to a more tolerable fall, we reflect on the groundwork we have laid for the seasons to come. As years pass, each season looks a bit different as the temperature pattern changes. September 22 marks our fall equinox, a shift in our gardening objectives. Forecasters call for a warm start to the month, followed by a fast transition to cooler and drier-than-average conditions. As gardeners, we play and plant along with these variables. As the cooler weather approaches, we plant our fall veggies and spring bulbs, and our late-summer blooms like Zinnias, Cannas, and early fall flowers like Dahlias, Aromatic Asters, and Mums are in their prime. Fall is a great season for planting, and this season will be a perfect time after surviving this summer.

This month, we will have our “Color Me Autumn” flower show that we will be presenting to our friends, family, and the community. Even though the temperatures have changed, our club’s efforts have remained steady. From our members showcasing their beautiful plants and flowers, to the crafts, photos, and more, I cannot wait to enjoy another beautiful show (now officially as a member and your President!) with you all. Thank you so much to our committee for always delivering an exceptional show. It is a wonderful accomplishment and would not be the same without you all being involved.

Cheers to a new season of transition in the garden, or wherever we need it, and to a lovely flower show.

Be eternally-rooted.

Elle Belcheff, President
West Trenton Garden Club

August 2026 Meeting Minutes

Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of August 3, 2026 was called to order at 6:42 by our new President, Elle Belcheff.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the June 1, 2026 meeting were printed in the August Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections submitted by the membership, so the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Lazarick reported a current bank balance of \$11,072.88. Reported income was \$1,410.24 and expenditures were \$1,630.81

Rick also distributed copies of the recommended expense budget for 2026-2027. There were no questions or comments. The budget was approved.

Rick talked about the expansion of the bulb sale, with new varieties added this year and also that volunteers are needed to help with distribution. Distribution will be in October for Spring bulbs and November for the amaryllis.

There is a new initiative to help the West Trenton Fire Company with landscaping at the fire house. Since they were so generous with giving us an air conditioned space for our 250th anniversary celebration, this is a good way to repay their kindness. A committee will be formed to get the process started.

Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported \$228.50 was collected for the year.

(continued next page)

August 2026 Meeting Minutes

Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary

Committee Reports

Field Trips

Lynn Grillo informed everyone that the field trip to Federal Twist that was cancelled will be rescheduled for October and it will be free. Please inform Lynn if you will be attending the field trip to Andalusia Gardens on August 27. You must sign up ahead of time, the fee is \$30 and carpooling will be from Lynn's House. Iliana Okum had visited Andalusia and briefed us on her impressions of the Gardens.

250th Anniversary

The 250th anniversary was a huge success and was held at the West Trenton Fire House instead of Birmingham Park due to extreme hot weather. Linda Reasoner reported that 128 people attended and enjoyed the interpreter, slideshow, cookies, tri-corner hats, essay contest and coloring sheets. Thank you to Linda and her team for all the work they did to make the program a success.

Future Meeting Agendas

Jeff Tryon informed everyone that the September meeting will be on the 14th instead of the 7th, which is Labor Day. There will be a presentation from Tulpehaking Nature Center. The 10/5 meeting will include a presentation by Ike from Bountiful Gardens regarding houseplant care.

Flower Show

Pat Bowker did a presentation and gave helpful hints on how to fill out the entry cards for the Flower Show that is being held on September 18-19.

After refreshment were served, everyone enjoyed the Jersey Fresh auction. There was no 50/50 this month.

Helga Fontus gave a very informative presentation on Flower Show preparation to help members know what to expect and what is expected with their submissions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 by Elle Belcheff

Calendar | Don't Forget! | Happy Birthday!

September 2026

Happy Birthday!

- [Carolyn Kane](#) – September 3
- [Linda Reasoner](#) – September 18
- [Lynn Aspinwall](#) – September 21
- [David Chmielewski](#) – September 25

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Rick Lazarick

Hospitality Committee

Mary Corrigan (Chair), Kathleen Alexander, Carolyn Kane, Rick Lazarick, Jane Moon, and George Wallace.

Birmingham Park Maintenance

Contact Rick Lazarick or George McElrath to volunteer one hour or two to help out.

Newsletter Deadline

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

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER 14 - WTGC Monthly Meeting

6:30 PM, Hollowbrook Community Center
Program: "How to Get Started with Native Plants."

SEPTEMBER 18-19 - WTGC Flower Show

"Color Me Autumn"

Friday 9/18, 1:30 – 6:00 PM
Saturday 9/19, 10:00 AM — 3:00 PM
Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
100 Scotch Road, Ewing NJ 08628

SEPTEMBER 28 - GCNJ State Board Meeting

10 AM - Holly House

SEPTEMBER 28 - WTGC Board Meeting

7PM - Linda Reasoner's home or via Zoom
75 Lochatong Rd, Ewing

SEPTEMBER 30 - GCNJ Judges Council Meeting

10 AM - Holly House



Dahlias for the Library, by Rick Lazarick

September Program | *How to Get Started with Native Plants*

September 14, 2026, Program by Kelly Rypkema

How to Get Started with Native Plants

PROGRAM BY: KELLY RYPKEMA

Learn how to support local wildlife with native plants in this hands-on workshop led by Kelly Rypkema, Director of Environmental Education at the Mercer County Park Commission. Discover how to identify native plants, research the best ones for your space, and find local nurseries.



Kelly Rypkema brings 25 years of experience to her role as Director of Environmental Education for the Mercer County Park Commission. With her background in stage performance, Kelly strives to find innovative and engaging ways to connect people with the nature around them, from interactive community art exhibits to native plant gardens. Kelly holds a Master's degree in Biology with a focus on ecology and animal behavior.

Tulpehaking Nature Center is the headquarters of the Mercer County Park Commission's Department of Environmental Education. The nature center sits on the bluffs overlooking the Abbott Marshlands, with rotating exhibits and public programs that feature the nature and archaeology of this wonderful place. Enjoy walking trails, hands-on activities, children's play area, and live turtles and snakes on display. Open Wednesday-Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 1-4pm. Admission to the nature center is free.

NOTE TO MEMBERS: Bring a smartphone or laptop to the meeting if you can. It is an interactive presentation.

FIELD TRIP: Sunday, September 27 at 11am. A private, guided tour of Tulpehaking Nature Center and nature trail. 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton, NJ.



West Trenton Garden Club

PRESENTS

FLOWER SHOW

"Color Me Autumn"

FRIDAY, SEPT 18

1:30 – 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, SEPT 19

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ewing Covenant Presbyterian Church

100 Scotch Road, Ewing NJ 08628

Free and Open to the Public



Color Me Autumn

Thou Shall Not Forget!

- I. To have fun!
- II. To bring your exhibits on **Thursday the 17th** from **noon to 6 pm**; and photography on or before **Monday the 14th**.
- III. To **complete your entry cards** ahead of time
- IV. The **flower show schedule** is your pal and loves to help.
- V. No fake flowers, no bugs, no Mickey Mouse.
- VI. Members and volunteers are your friends.
- VII. To tell your plants to **wear their best** outfits; no leaf shine.
- VIII. To **ask for help** if you need help carrying things.
- IX. How **grateful** the flower show committee is **for your support** and your participation.
- X. To contact us if you have any questions.

Helga Fontus & Pat Bowker

WTGC Sunday, September 27 | Field Trip

Tulpehaking Nature Center

Tulpehaking Nature Center

Guided Walk at Tulpehaking Nature Center/Roebling Park

Native and Invasive plants of the Abbott Marshlands and History of the Marsh

Sunday, September 27, 11:00 am

📍 157 Westcott Ave., Hamilton, NJ 08610 | 20 minutes from Ewing

The Tulpehaking Nature Center sits on the bluffs overlooking the Abbott Marshlands, steps away from the Delaware River's northernmost tidal freshwater marsh and 3,000 acres of diverse landscape providing homes for numerous plants and animals. It lies within the Abbott Farm National Historic Landmark, one of the most significant archaeological sites, representing 13,000 years of human history in the Delaware River Valley.

Tulpehaking is a Lenape word meaning "Land of the Turtle," signifying the region's rich legacy of Native American culture and history, a land that remains important to the Lenape people today.

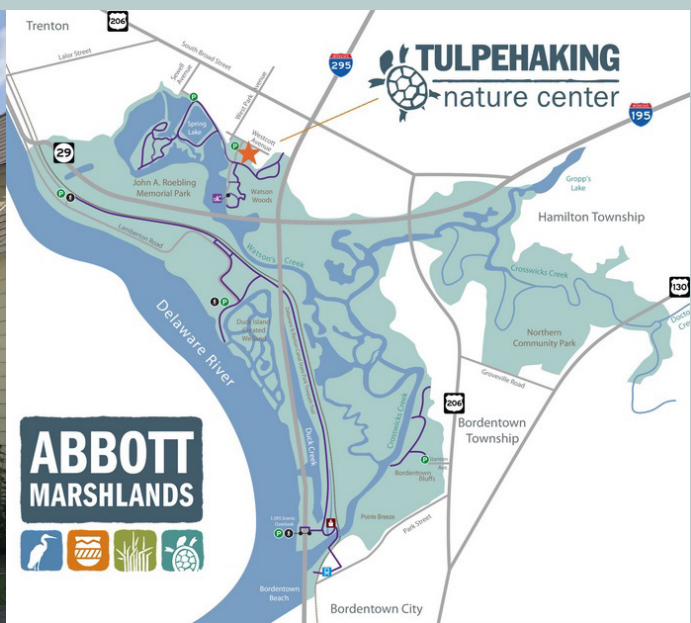
The Nature Center is located at the intersection of three major trail networks in the Marshlands, providing

convenient access to features at Watson Woods, Spring Lake and the Abbott Farm.

The Nature Center provides a base of operations for visitors to the Marshlands, with exhibits and educational activities, trail information and restroom facilities. Three main exhibit rooms currently house rotating exhibits showcasing the environment and archaeology of the Abbott Marshlands. Outside, a beautiful Marsh Native Plant Garden borders the walkway to the Nature Center.

Parking is available in front of the Watson House with easy access to the nature center's main entrance on the side of the building opposite the gazebo.

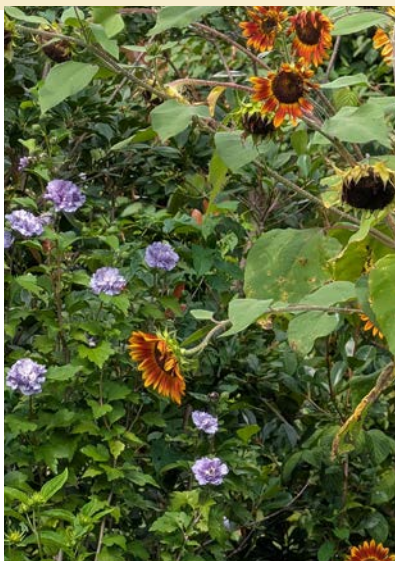
🦶 **Note:** please wear boots or comfortable shoes for outdoor hiking.



Gallery | Club Trip to Adalusia Gardens

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

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/post/wtgc-visits-the-gardens-of-andalusia>



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Gallery | Rick Lazarick Garden

Photos by Rick Lazarick

