

The Garden Path

West Trenton Garden Club Newsletter

Website: www.westtrentongc.org



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March, 2014

President's Message

Dear Members:

Had enough snow yet? Hopefully, Spring is right around the corner...Sorry we missed the February meeting due to the weather, but we will try to reschedule the program if we can.

I hope you had a chance to go to the New Jersey Flower & Garden Show. Our own **Helga Fontus** won a Blue Ribbon for her table design with an ocean theme!!!. Congratulations, Helga. If anyone else entered, please let me know. The Philadelphia Flower Show is March 1-9 this year and is sure to be spectacular!

Our Program this month is on "**Rain Gardens**" by **Master Gardener, Carl Lewis**. I'm really looking forward to hearing about this sustainable way to take advantage of precious rain. Special thanks to **June Rosso**, our Publicity Chair for getting the word out of this and all the events we have scheduled – Thanks June!!!.

Please don't forget that our Club dues and Spring Flower orders are coming up. Also, start thinking about our next WTGC Flower Show which will be in Spring of 2015. Try to observe which plants will be at their best this Spring as candidates for next year...Good Luck!

To follow up on my theme of "Choices make Changes" (TM pending), we are coming up on the time when we began to prune roses and enjoy spring bulbs. This year, why not consider using organic fertilizers in your gardens and/or containers? Another easy way to add bio-available matter to your area is to crush egg shells and bury banana peels! It works – really. You will be pleasantly surprised at the difference it makes in color and strength of your plants and also their ability to resist infection from disease causing organisms. If you have blossom end rot problems, the calcium in the egg shells will help and the potassium in the banana peels will make beautiful roses. For your home, have you tried the electronic anti bug devices? They work! And are a great alternative to pesticides. Let's hope that maybe the cold weather helped reduce the pest population.

For our anti-aging tip this month, I ask you to consider adding cauliflower to your diet- it is brain food! There are green, purple and orange as well as the usual white varieties available. You can roast it or braise it - any way, it is delicious. Our brains were once thought to be very static with age, but it is now known that brains can recover, repair and reorganize themselves. The buzz word is "**Neuroplasticity**" and new pathways can be developed. (There is a "Bioplasticity" as well.) Also, the senior moment or minute in my case (!) is now thought to have to do with our aging brains just having so much information to sift through before we have an answer. So take heart or brain, eat your cauliflower and perhaps the answer will come!

Looking forward to seeing all of you in March for our program. It will be very nice to have our group together again!

Happy Gardening,

Dianne Dickinson, President

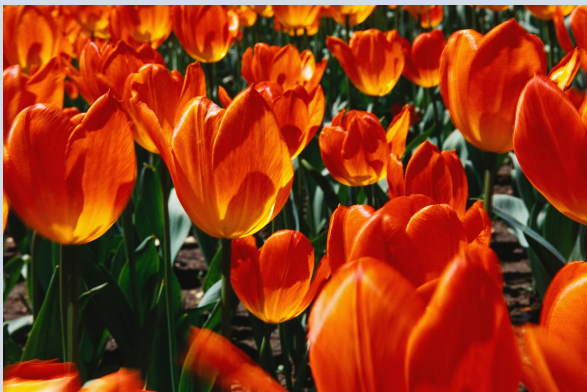
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Dates to Remember

- ◆ **March 1 - 9** - Philadelphia Flower Show - "ARTiculture" - for more information, <http://theflowershow.com>
- ◆ **March 3** - WTGC Regular Monthly Meeting - 7:00 PM (Our Lady of Good Counsel); Program: "RAIN GARDENS" presented by Carl Lewis, Master Gardener, Rutgers Cooperative Extension. (See Page 60 for a detailed description of this program.)
- ◆ **March 10** - WTGC Board Meeting - Host - Linda Reasoner, (609) 882-2943. Please contact Linda if you plan to attend or if you have any agenda items.
- ◆ **March 17** - St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ **March 24** - GCNJ Executive Board Meeting - Holly House
- ◆ **District VII Meeting:** NOTE: At the time of Year Book printing, District VII meeting date or location was not yet announced. It is usually held in March or April.

March - Member Responsibilities

- ◆ **Flowers for Ewing Library** - Camille Rainiero
- ◆ **March Hospitality Committee - Terry Palise (Chair)**, Eileen & Joe Kaluzny, Anne Lund, Mary Lou McCabe, and Janis Stia
- ◆ **ALL MEMBERS:** Bring to March Meeting - Club Dues and Spring Flower Orders (See Newsletter for information).
- ◆ **Info for Garden Path** - Submit all information for the *Garden Path* to Terry Palise no later than the 15th of the month.



Celebrating Birthdays This Month



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Dorothy Chrambanis (March 5th);

Mary Pat Voorhees (March 16th);

Carol Bozarth (March 23rd);

Sharon Johnson (March 25th);

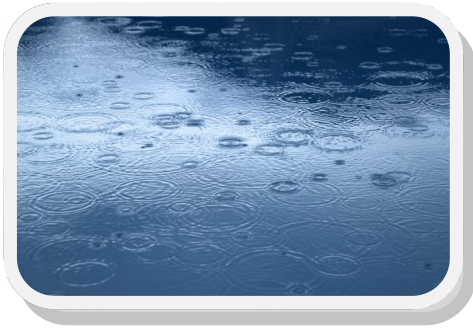
Eileen Kaluzny (March 27th);

JoAnn Seaman (March 29th)

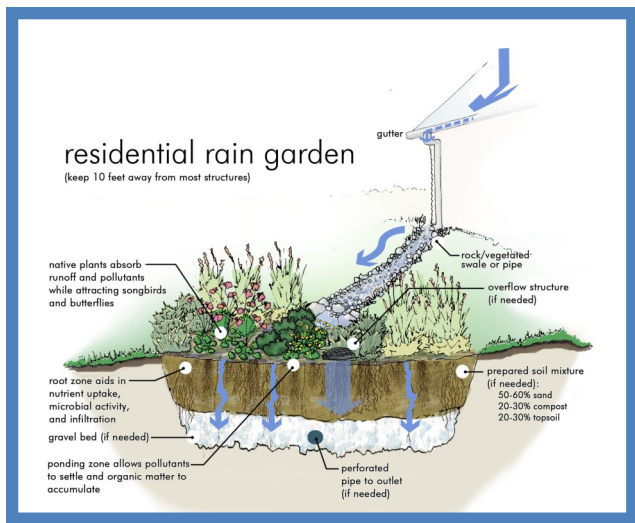


March 3, 2014 Program

Rain, rain and, more rain was the theme for New Jersey weather, particularly in June 2013. When all was said and done, statewide average precipitation totaled 9.57", a record for any June back to 1895! Welcome the return of spring by beautifying your home and improving the environment with a rain garden.



Master Gardener, Carl Lewis, a member of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, will present a lecture on rain gardens and how to create them in your own backyard. He will outline the basic steps of planning, planting, and maintaining a perennial garden designed to manage storm water runoff and re-charge ground water.



IN MEMORIAM

Barbara K. Falzini of West Trenton, a long-time member of West Trenton Garden Club passed away February 15, 2014. Barbara was a very generous supporter of our annual geranium sale every year including 2013. She will be missed.



For information on local gardening events, check out the following link :

<http://www.mgofmc.org/compsiteevents.html>

2014 Calendar of Events for Master Gardeners of Mercer County which features all types of programs including:

- ◆ Grow Your Own Butterflies
- ◆ Basics of Successful Lawn Care
- ◆ Gardening By Design
- ◆ Composting—Improve Your Garden Soil
- ◆ Plant Expo & Garden Market
- ◆ How To Keep Unwanted Critters Out Of Your Garden

MINI TRIPS

Saturday, March 1, 2014

The **PHS Philadelphia Flower Show** opens on **Saturday, March 1** and will close on **Sunday, March 9**. The Preview Party will be held on the evening of Friday, February 28. The Show features large-scale gardens, elaborate landscapes, and over-the-top floral creations. Visitors to the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show are treated to fabulous design, live entertainment, culinary demonstrations, gardening how-to workshops, and lectures by experts.

For more information go to: <http://theflowershow.com/>

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM

Mar 19, 2014 10:00 AM - Mar 19, 2014 11:30 AM

Flower Arranging Demonstration

Foliage Magic with Michael Bruce

Floral artist and event planner Michael Bruce will host a session on the magic of foliage in arrangements—as the focal point or as an integral part of the design. Whether you are creating an arrangement with few flowers or many, Michael will show you how to use foliage to its best advantage. You'll also enjoy Michael's shop, located in a movie theater lobby built in 1920.

To Register: <https://www.pennhort.net/floralarranging>

Date & Time

Wednesday, 19 March, 2014 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Location:

Michael Bruce Florist

823 Haddon Ave.

Collingswood, NJ 08108

Contact:

215-988-1698