

# The Garden Path

## West Trenton Garden Club Newsletter

Website: [www.westtrentongc.org](http://www.westtrentongc.org)



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May, 2014

### President's Message

Dear Members:

We had a great program on Orchids by Ty Triplett in April and I think everyone appreciated it. This month, we will enjoy **"Spring Wildflowers of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve"** presented by Amy Hoffmann Mawby.

Our April hospitality committee headed by **Linda Reasoner** with **Carol Bozarth, Carolyn Kane, Maggie Kramer, Mary O'Donnell and Grace Starrett** was wonderful! Thank you, ladies.

April was a busy month for me with several presentations on our **"Choices Make Changes"** theme to the **Navesink Garden Club** and the **NJDEP**. It was a true honor to be able to represent our club at these events which were very well received.

Also at the April Meeting, we voted on the Budget issue of decorating the Governor's Mansion again in 2014. The club decided not to allot funds this year since we have the Spring 2015 Flower Show in this budget year. However, the club did agree to participate in the decorating with funds from other sources to be determined. It is possible that we will receive a stipend from the Drumthwacket Foundation.

At our May meeting, we will be voting on our **WTGC Officers for 2014-2015**. Please see the Slate of Officers in this newsletter.

To follow up on my theme of **"Choices make Changes"** (TM pending), we are coming up on the time when we began to see insects such as ants and spiders coming into our homes. Instead of using toxic insecticides, why not try the plug in ultrasonic devices? They really do work! Please give it a try.

For our anti-aging tip this month, I ask you to consider your Vitamin D level. This vitamin is thought to be of great importance in fighting cancer. Many of us do not get enough sun to make our own Vitamin D so a supplement may be needed.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in May for our program. It is also the month to celebrate **Mother's Day and Memorial Day!**

Happy Gardening,

**Dianne Dickinson, President**



## West Trenton Garden Club Minutes

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2014

#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The West Trenton Garden Club met on Monday, April 7, 2014 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. President Dianne Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Dianne welcomed all to the meeting and one guest. Dianne thanked Pat Bowker for running the March meeting and stated there were no April Birthdays to announce.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The minutes of the March meeting were accepted and recorded.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There was no report given. Dianne announced membership dues were being accepted by Linda Reasoner sitting in for Sharon Johnson. Also, Spring Flower Orders were due and Linda would take orders. Orders would be taken until Friday, April 11. Delivery of flowers will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. **PASS THE CAN REPORT:** Pass the can was being sent around to continue the collection for National Disasters.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Dianne provided information on the Butterflies and Bees legislation. The district VII meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at Sayen Garden. It will be sponsored by the Nottingham Garden Club. Two officers will attend. The GCNJ Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be June 5, 2014. Pat Bowker is being inducted to serve on the Endowment Committee.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**GARDEN THERAPY -** Anna Adomaitis reported on the upcoming Adult Independent Living activity for April 24<sup>th</sup>. Anna asked for assistance to work with residents on flower design. Janis Stia, Terry Palise, and Grace Starrett offered to assist.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Dianne announced there is a need to vote for Drumthwacket or a Spring Flower Show. Linda Reasoner made an amended motion to allocate funds for Drumthwacket Holiday decoration, a Spring Flower Show or both. Carolyn Kane seconded the motion. A discussion took place. It was noted by Gerree Pecht that a focus should be on the flower show and that we do this also as a community and civic duty. Pat Bowker stated the club cannot afford to do both a Flower Show and Decorations for Drumthwacket in the same budget year. Dianne stated it was an honor to be asked to decorate Drumthwacket and that many of the committee members donated time and money to that effort. Dianne also stated we could apply for foundation money to continue to do the decorating. It was also noted, that the club should ask for donations from business owners, Ewing People or the Ewing Town Council to help fund the expense of decorating Drumthwacket. Pat also noted the flower show could be put off until 2016. Anne Chmielewski noted that there is a large amount of time and effort needed by committee members involved. She posed the question, "Would there be enough resources of time from members to do both a Flower Show and Holiday Decorating of Drumthwacket?" Anne Chmielewski also noted the flower show takes place for three days, involves all West Trenton Garden Club members and brings in membership. Drumthwacket involves only a small committee and provides less exposure to the public.

Discussion ended and a vote was taken to have the flower show (14 yes votes), to decorate Drumthwacket (0 yes votes), to do both Drumthwacket and the 2015 Spring Flower Show (10 yes votes). There were 27 members voting (3 abstained).

It was voted on and approved to have a Spring Flower Show in 2015 using budgeted funds from WTGC.

Carolyn Kane made a motion to decorate Drumthwacket in 2014 if we can do so without a cost to the WTGC. Pat Bowker seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it passed with a "Yea" or "Nay" vote—the "Yeas" passed the motion.

It was voted on and approved that the WTGC would participate in the decorating of Drumthwacket in 2014 if the club could raise money to support the expense.

#### New Business:

Anne Chmielewski announced the WTGC would not participate in distributing trees for Arbor Day as she was not able to get trees to distribute this year.

#### Presidents Reflections:

Dianne provided information of using coconut oil and slow release vitamin C. Also reminded members to use compost and mix it with dirt for self-seeding plants. She also reminded members to get ready to plant lettuces and early spring crops—Mother's day is the usual frost free date!



### Dates to Remember

⇒ May 5 - WTGC Regular Monthly Meeting - 7:00 PM (Our Lady of Good Counsel); Program:

**"CINCO DE MAYO"** - Hands on Miniature Design Class tutored by Janis Stia and Grace Starrett, our very own members. (See page 61 for a detailed description of this program.)

⇒ May 11 - Happy Mother's Day

⇒ May 12 - WTGC Board Meeting - Home of Janis Stia. (Call Janis at (609) 882-3862 if you plan to attend.) If you have any agenda items, please contact Linda Reasoner.

⇒ May 26 - Memorial Day

### May - Member Responsibilities

- ◆ Flowers for Ewing Library - Ingrid Fair
- ◆ May Hospitality Committee - Iliana Okum (Chair), Pat Coiante, Karen & Bob Gottlieb, Colleen Harrison and Camille Rainiero.
- ◆ Spring Plant & Flower Pick-Up (Check for the Date & Time!)
- ◆ Sign up to volunteer at Birmingham Park!
- ◆ Info for *Garden Path* - Submit all information for the *Garden Path* to Terry Palise no later than the 15th of the month.
- ◆ Bring (or mail by 5/4/14) all outstanding receipts/invoices to Sharon Johnson, Treasurer so that the year can be closed

### MAY 5, 2014 – "SPRING EPHEMERALS AT BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE"

Get ready to go on a journey through the history, scenic trails, and lush native flora of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA. This presentation will highlight the beauty of spring and native plants that can be used to grace our gardens, as well as support our native pollinators and wildlife. Spring will be here soon so come ready to be inspired!

Our presenter, **Amy Hoffmann Mawby**, is the Education Coordinator at **Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve**. She holds a bachelor's degree in Plant Science from Cornell University and a master's degree from the University of Delaware's Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture. Amy has a passion for photography and uses her photos to help bring public presentations to life. See you there!

### **Helga Fontus Program Chair**





Photo by: Tom Mayhew

## ***THE ROSARIAN'S CORNER***

***By: Terry Palise***

### **THE GARDEN IN MAY**

You have already cleaned your garden and rose beds, pruned roses, shrubs, perennials, and even your trees. An application of fertilizer has been applied to all of those growing plants and flowers and roses that you love. You did sit down with a cup of tea or coffee and enjoyed the fruits of your labor. What is next?

Well, first of all, celebrate that you have accomplished that much in your garden and enjoy spring. Then, plan what you want your garden to be like for the rest of the summer. You might try the following:

- ◆ **Buying “The Organic Rose Garden”** book by Liz Druitt or the **“Sustainable Rose Garden: A Reader In Rose Culture”** by Pat Shanley, Peter Kukielski, & Gene Waering Gene. Pat Shanley is currently the Vice-President of the American Rose Society and is leading the way in bringing horticultural experts, researchers, and others from all over the world to make gardeners aware of the latest developments that will hopefully lead to the creation of rose gardens that are environmentally friendly.
- ◆ **Using coffee grounds** that provide **nitrogen** to your roses, **bone meal** that supplies **phosphate**, and banana skins that adds **potassium**. As a result, you have given your roses the three elements that is vital to their health: nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium and you have done so using organic materials. Other plants will also benefit from these elements as well.
- ◆ **Feeding and watering your roses and other plants on a consistent basis.** Roses need deep watering and especially during the hot, dry summer months. Remember to water around the base of the rose before applying liquid or granular fertilizer. Of course, this also applies before spraying your roses even if you are using organic products. Check the following website for additional information:

[www.wjrs.org](http://www.wjrs.org)

West Jersey Rose Society website, click on the “Grow Beautiful Roses” link and read the great articles by our Consulting Rosarians with detailed information on planting, fertilizing, and watering roses.

- ◆ Applying a generous amount of mulch around the base of your roses, plants, and shrubs to help keep the weeds under control and to help them maintain moisture.

**Then, make sure you leave time to sit or lay in a hammock or garden bench and enjoy your garden and your roses!**

