

The Garden Path

West Trenton Garden Club Newsletter

Website: www.westtrentongc.org



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November, 2013

President's Message

Dear Members:

What an informative and interesting program we had at the October meeting – “Making Natural Products From Your Garden” by Dr. Marie Miczak. I learned so much and am sure you did too! I have been using the coconut oil and it is great. Thanks Helga for another great program!!! Dr. M was also on QVC recently with her new book and she mentioned her trip to our club in her blog...Cool!

At our meeting in October, our delicious refreshments were presented by **Sharon Johnson and her Hospitality committee: Dolores Brezak, Nancy Brown, Sharon Guiliano, Kitty Lou Phillips and Patsy Pocsik-Varra** – Thanks ladies! Yummy! The Fall theme really got us in the spirit of Autumn.

The “Wreaths Across America” Garden Club program brought to us by **Nancy Brown** and **Pat Bowker** is under way. Please remember to bring your donation to the November meeting along with your application if you want a special person remembered with a wreath. Also, orders for Poinsettias and reservations with payments for the Holiday Party on December 2 are due as well.

Meetings are scheduled for planning our decorations at the Governor's Mansion: Drumthwacket! Theme: Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. If you still want to join us, please let me know tonight.

Special thanks to **Angela Topley** and the amazing job she was done with the spring bulb fundraising event! There is a lot of work involved with taking orders from us, placing the order with the bulb company, separating and packaging all the bulbs when they come in and collecting money...I'm tired just thinking about it! These bulbs are super high quality and are guaranteed to grow. There are still extra bulbs that will be available for sale at the meeting as well: Support our Fund Raisers!

I would also like to extend a sincere “Thanks” to **Chairs, Jim and Eileen Keenan** for the Random Acts of Beauty Program that they have run for the last several years. They have recognized many beautiful gardens in the area and their certificates have been cherished. Here's to a job well done! **Eileen and Joe Kaluzny** have agreed to continue the Program as Chairs – We look forward to your discovery of more lovely spots in our area.

To follow up on my theme of “Choices make Changes” (copyright pending), I ask you to try to turn off unused lights, computers, appliances (unplug if possible), etc. One year, we measured our savings on our energy bill at almost \$600. Just think of all the flowers you could buy with that...

For our anti-aging tip this month, I ask you to avoid Hormones and antibiotics in the foods you eat and drink. Hormones and antibiotics are often given to beef and pork to increase production. Check labels and ask questions – High levels of hormones are implicated in many cancers. Watch out!

Looking forward to seeing all of you in November for a special program: “Artful Designs for the Holidays” by **Eric Roberts**, Jardinière Florals! Can't wait!!! Any chance you could compost some of those fallen leaves or use pine needles as mulch?

Dianne Dickinson, President

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West Trenton Garden Club Minutes

October 7, 2013

Copies of the October minutes will be distributed at the November 4th meeting and/or emailed to members.



November - Member Responsibilities

- ♦ **Flowers for Ewing Library** - Mary McCullough
- ♦ **November Hospitality Committee - Anna Adomaitis (Chair)**, Fredricka Billups, Dorothy Chrambanis, Cathy Gillmer, Gerree Pecht, June Rosso and Joyce Russell
- ♦ **Info for Garden Path** - Submit all information for the *Garden Path* to Terry Palise no later than the 15th of the month.
- ♦ **HOLIDAY PARTY** - COMPLETE YOUR RESERVATION FORM & BRING YOUR CHECK TO THE CLUB MEETING (See this month's Newsletter for more information)!!

NOTE: BULBS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING ALSO.

The Contemporary Club of Trenton's Literary Theatre is presenting a TEA on **Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 12 noon**. The fee is **\$20** and includes hors d'oeuvres and tea. The program is on **Martha Washington** and the **Secrets of First Ladies**. Contact Gerree Pecht for tickets if interested in attending. The Club is located on West State Street across from the NJ State Museum.

Dates to Remember

- ♦ Our Lady of Good Counsel); Program: **"ARTFUL DESIGNS FOR THE HOLIDAYS"** - Program by Eric Roberts, Jardinière Florals, Ewing, NJ. Guest Fee of **\$10** for this Meeting/Program. (See Page 59 for a detailed description of this program.)
- ♦ **November 12 - Winter Containers**, Program by Mercer County Master Gardeners. For more information, call (609) 989-6830.
- ♦ **November 28th - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**



Celebrating Birthdays This Month

Anne Chmielewski (Nov. 1st);

Joyce Russell (Nov. 6th);

Karen Gottlieb (Nov. 9th);

Maggie Kramer (Nov. 13th)



2013 WTGC ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE

It is time to order the Poinsettias that are going to brighten your home during the holidays, that will make great presents, and that will help to support the fundraising for our club. We will be selling **red, pink, white, marble, and speckled poinsettias**; sizes: **6" for \$6, and 8" for \$12**. I will be taking orders at the November 4th meeting and placing the order with Davino's soon afterwards. Or, you can call me at home (**609-896-2011**) or email me at ctpalise@gmail.com to place your order. You may use the order form below for your order.

Terry Palise



WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB 2013 POINSETTIA SALE

NAME: _____
TELEPHONE #: _____ E-Mail: _____

WTGC MEMBER: YES or NO

Poinsettia Color/Size		# of 6 Inches/\$6	#of 8 Inches/\$12	TOTAL \$ FOR PLANTS
RED				
PINK				
WHITE				
MARBLE				
JINGLE BELL (Speckled)				
TOTAL # OF PLANTS ORDERED FOR EACH SIZE:				

CHECK WILL BE NEEDED ON DAY OF PICKUP FOR ENTIRE ORDER MADE OUT TO:
"WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB"

Directions to my home will be included in the November newsletter.

**The West Trenton Garden Club's
November Program features
floral designer, Eric Roberts of
Jardiniere Florals. Eric will
demonstrate artful arrangements
just in time for the holiday
season. All designs created during
the program will be raffled off.
Don't miss out! There is a \$10
guest fee.**

Artful Designs for the Holidays

November 4, 2013



West Trenton Garden Club, Inc. Holiday Celebration



Monday December 2, 2013

Where: *Paulie's Anna Rose Restaurant*
234 West Upper Ferry Road
West Trenton, NJ

Time: 6 pm
Cost: \$40.00

Menu

Hot Appetizers Served at Each Table

Mixed Green Salad

Two Pastas

Entrée is a choice of:

Chicken Parmesan, Veal Marsala, or Herb Encrusted Salmon

Choice of Paulie's Special Desserts

Coffee & Tea (Cash Bar Available)

Please try to attend this special event: we must guarantee 30 people.

****We are raffling off homemade or garden related items.**

*****This year we will again focus on unwrapped gift items to be donated to the patients at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. Please, no glass or sharp items.**

Name: _____

Entrée choice: _____

I am bringing a raffle item: ☐ yes ☐ no

**Check or cash for Holiday Celebration Dinner and meal selection is due by the November 4, 2013 meeting. Check written out to the "West Trenton Garden Club, Inc."
Please bring to meeting or mail to Pat Bowker - 10 Hastings Ct., Ewing, NJ 08628**

Check out the information below provided by

Angela Topley

LIVING GREEN/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

PREPARING THE GARDEN FOR WINTER

BY: Barbara J. Bromley, Mercer County Horticulturalist

At the end of the New Jersey gardening season, there are chores that should be performed to prepare the garden for winter. There are also projects that can or should be done in the fall or winter. The following is a checklist of the projects to consider that will make gardening easier in spring.

TREES & SHRUBS:

1. Apply an **antidesiccant** (such as WiltPruf or Foliocote) to newly-planted evergreen trees and shrubs to reduce both water loss from leaves and needles and the damage caused by drying winter winds and afternoon sun. Follow label directions. Apply when soil is moist and temperatures will be over 40°F for 24 hours or as directed.
2. Pull away any mulch around trunks of trees and shrubs. Leave 4 inches or more between the mulch and the trunk to maintain a doughnut of mulch. Mulch on the trunk invites fungus and insect problems, promotes development of adventitious roots, and may harbor "varmits," such as voles, which eat tender bark and roots in winter.

PRUNING:

1. **Deciduous trees and shrubs** may be trimmed after the leaves fall and there is no danger of new growth. Needled evergreens may be lightly pruned of excess growth. Do any necessary heavy shearing of evergreens and severe or renewal pruning of all plants in late winter/early spring.
2. **Summer-blooming** shrubs are pruned in winter because they set their flower buds on new spring growth. Do not prune spring-blooming plants in fall or winter. This will remove the flower buds that developed the previous August or September. Spring-blooming plants should be pruned immediately after flowering.
3. Remove **dead, diseased, damaged**, or severely insect-infested stems and branches.

VEGETABLE GARDENS:

1. Clean debris from vegetable gardens to eliminate hiding places for over-wintering pests.

FLOWER GARDENS:

1. Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, crocus, snowdrops, winter aconite, and grape hyacinths until the ground freezes. "Forgotten" bulbs can also be stored under refrigeration and then planted during a mid-winter thaw, although this is not as desirable as mid-fall planting.
2. After the first hard freezes, mound soil around the bottom foot of rose bushes to prevent winter injury. Trim canes back to about 4 feet to reduce breakage by winter winds. The remaining pruning should be done in spring just as the leaf buds swell.
3. Clean excessive debris and dead stalks from perennial beds. Leave some stems to serve as hiding places for insect-eating toads and over-wintering beneficial insects, support for over-wintering butterfly eggs and chrysalises, and to trap blowing snow and leaves as additional winter mulch.



GARDENING TIPS

BY

JUDY BUBAR

Dear Gardening Friends,

Well, I'm back in school with homework and all that! And then I found that one of my cats is very sick. In order to keep him alive as long as possible I have to take him to the vets every other day. The trip to the vets takes about 1-1/2 hours. They give him fluids under his skin and medicate him for me. My cat is essentially having dialysis.

I thought I would have to quit the Master Gardener course but Barbara Bromley said I could take as long as two years to complete the course. If I do that, I won't graduate with the same group but the stress is now off and that's a big relief! She is really a nice person. I think I would like to take the course twice in any event. There is so much to learn.

Barbara says our first project is the hardest one. We have been instructed to make a scrap book of tree and bush leaves and to identify them with their Latin name and their colloquial name. I have piles of leaves on top of the dryer layered in newspaper under a 24" square of wood held down by the fattest dictionary you ever saw. I have lots of photos on the camera too. Hopefully, the whole thing will be really beautiful. It's been a joy being outside looking at trees and plants and photographing them. The leaves themselves have beautiful rhythmic shapes and make lovely patterns on the page.

I think I now know where all the gnats I had were coming from. In the summer, I keep my potting soil, usually Miracle Grow, lying outside on the gravel/dirt. As you all know, these bags have holes in them and I am betting that after a while bugs/gnats move in.

When I started "topping" up some plant pots, I saw gnats in that bag. I can use it in the garden to plant things, but I am now off to Home Depot or Wal-Mart to get more potting soil, hopefully without gnats. Jim got some Gnatrol WDG for me on Amazon. It really works. Our Garage is full of plants and they all need to be treated to make sure. No more gnat attacks around here! Last year was enough.

Can you top this? I forgot about my Cannas, Amaryllis, and Bavarian Lily bulbs. They were forgotten in the cellar for 2 maybe 3 years. About the end of July I finally remembered them and brought them up. Most of them were dead, but a few were still alive. So I planted them all. Hey, you never know! And, some did come up! If I can dig these up after the first frost, I will probably have enough to start the cycle all over again next spring. I am ever surprised by the tenacity of life. Be well and enjoy life until I see you at the next meeting.

