

# West Trenton Garden Club

Barbara Bernhard,  
*President*

Lorraine Persiani,  
*Vice President*

Linda Gerasimowicz,  
*Recording Secretary*

Iliana Okum,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Susan Fair,  
*Treasurer*

Maggie Kramer,  
*Club Parliamentarian*

Jeffrey Tryon,  
*Newsletter Editor*

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# The Garden Path Newsletter

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

MAY 2021

*Dear Garden Club Members,*

Happy May Day! This is such a joyful month, with the temperatures rising and sunny days ahead. Soon you will be planting your flowers from the Spring Flower Sale. Don't forget to pick up your orders on Friday, April 30 from 1-7pm or Sat, May 1 from 9am-12pm. Please pay at pickup! Your flowers will be waiting for you at Ingrid Fair's House, 6 Honeywood Lane, Ewing.

I would like to thank all the members who have paid their dues and continue to support the WTGC. It is greatly appreciated, especially now, during these months when we cannot meet in person. We hold Zoom meetings every month with interesting, informative programs. Our monthly newsletters keep everyone informed of our club activities and other tidbits of information. And it's always fun to look at the beautiful pictures! You can still benefit from the club, even though we can't have our usual social hour. It will be a happy day when we can once again see everyone!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to the following members:

Ruth Chin – May 4

Lorraine Persiani – May 14

Rick Lazarick – May 12

Linda Geiger – May 21

Be sure to join us at our next General Meeting on Monday, May 3 @7:00pm. Our program for May "Straw Bale Gardening" should prove to be quite interesting. Maybe some of you would like to give it a try!

Our next Executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, @7:00pm.

Wishing all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, and Other Mothers a very HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! We owe these dear women our love and respect, if they are still with us or have passed on.

On Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, we remember all those men and women who died while serving in the military. Let us all take a moment to think of the great sacrifice that these servicemen and women gave for our country.

Enjoy this beautiful month of May. Stay safe, healthy and happy!

Best Regards,  
Barbara Bernhard, President WTGC



**NOTE: WE WILL CONTINUE  
WITH OUR ZOOM MEETINGS ONLINE  
MONDAY, MAY 3**





Photo by Helga Fontus

### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The West Trenton Garden Club Meeting was held via the internet as a ZOOM meeting on April 5, 2021. Twenty-three members participated. President Barbara Bernhard called the meeting to order at 7:05. Barbara welcomed all members as well as tonight's guest speaker Bruce Crawford. She gave birthday wishes to April birthday members. Barbara thanked Nancy Grant for volunteering to be the Chair for Random Acts of Beauty and thanked Grace Starrett for being Chair for many years. Barbara also reminded everyone a Chair for the Flower Show is needed.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Linda Gerasimowicz reported the minutes of March's ZOOM meeting were in the newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes will be filed as reported.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sue Fair reported that the Club's account has a total of \$8,413.23. Hearing no corrections, the amount will be filed as reported.

### CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Elections:**

President, Barbara Bernhard stated due to the unusual circumstances this year, the slate of officers presented at the last meeting will continue unless there are any objections. Hearing no objections, the officers are as follows: President Barbara Bernhard, Vice President Lorraine Persiani, Immediate Past President Camille Rainiero, Recording Secretary Linda Gerasimowicz, Treasurer Sue Fair, Corresponding Secretary Iliana Okum, Club Parliamentarian Maggie Kramer, Two Year Term-Ginni Sari (2nd year), Diane Sanchez (2nd year), Rick Lazarick (1st year), Anne Chmielewski (1st year), One Year Term-June Rosso, Delores Brezak, Nominating Committee-Carol Bozarth (Chair), Zofia Jablonski Fuelner, Gerree Pecht, Anne Chmielewski, June Rosso.

#### **Birmingham Park Project:**

Project Manager, Rick Lazarick stated he and several volunteers spent many hours at the park identifying the plants. He then created a diagram and will create tags for each. He will go back when more of the plants are blooming. He welcomes any volunteers.

Chair, Heidi Furman states she will need volunteers each month to help maintain the park. She thanked Iliana Okum and Terry Palise for their expert care of the rose bushes.



Photo by Alicia Magee

**Flower Show:**

Pat Bowker stated she has all the supplies for the flower show- bins of tablecloths and the ribbons. These will need to be stored elsewhere. She is stepping down as chair for the Flower Show but stated the major part of the work is already done. The schedule was already written by Helga. Pat stated there is a handbook that can be viewed on the National Garden Club website that details everything involving a flower show. She has offered to help whoever takes over as Chair.

**Membership:**

Chair, Pat Bowker states she will continue for this year but requests members to send their checks to Sue Fair. She stated she has only received 34 membership checks thus far.

**Spring Flower Sale:**

Chair, Sue Fair reported there are only 4 more days to send in orders due April 9th. Pick up is April 30th or May 1st. Delivery is available if needed.

**Scholarship:**

Applications are due June 1st.

**Flowers for the Library:**

Chair, Alicia Magee stated she can no longer post pictures on the library website-they are rejected as SPAM. She showed a beautiful picture by Heidi Furman which she will post at Marazzos. She requested members to shop at Marazzos and if they already do, to mention they are Garden Club members to the store manager.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rose Society Sale** - Terry Palise states they have several orders and she can deliver them if necessary.

Newsletter items are due by the 15th of each month.

The next Board meeting is April 26th. The next General meeting is May 3rd.

With no further business to discuss, Rick Lazarick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:27, seconded by Pat Bowker. Pat then introduced Bruck Crawford who presented his program-Gardening in Deer Country-A Real Challenge.

— *Linda Gerasimowicz,*  
*Recording Secretary*

(LEFT) Alicia Magee's mother's camellia, which is way north of it's range is blooming. She was a club member and passed in 2005. The bush was almost dead until a snowstorm knocked over a bush in front of it and gave it the more light needed and new growth appeared.

# Straw Bale Gardening by Ann-Laurie Fratticcioli

Let's get this **GARDEN** started 



Ann Laurie Fratticcioli | 609.851.4657 | AnnLaurieLLC  gmail.com

*Many friends are asking me about the Straw Bale Garden that Bob and I began doing in 2017 so I thought it would be easier if I jotted down some quick notes. There is a plethora of information online but my resource of choice is Joel Karsten, author of *Straw Bale Gardens*, *Straw Bale Gardens Complete* and *Straw Bale Solutions*. You'll have many more questions than what I've addressed below so I encourage you to go online and start at Joel's website [www.StrawBaleGardens.com](http://www.StrawBaleGardens.com) and his [Learn to Grow a Straw Bale Garden Facebook Group](#).*

As stated by Joel Karsten on his website [www.strawbalegardens.com](http://www.strawbalegardens.com), "Straw Bale Gardening is simply a different type of container gardening. The main difference is that the container is actually the straw bale itself, held together with two or three strings, the outside crust of the bale serves as the container. Once the straw inside the bale begins to decompose, the straw becomes "conditioned" and ready to plant. The step by step process of conditioning creates an extraordinarily productive, warm, moist and nutrient rich rooting environment for young seedlings. Getting the straw bales conditioned is an essential part of the process, and should be started approximately two weeks prior to the target planting date in your area. This planting date varies greatly depending on where you are in the world but this gardening technique works anywhere in the world for seasonal spring/summer or for winter gardens."

## **Straw NOT Hay**

2-String Bales - 18" x 36". They should to be cut side up, with the strings around the sides.

We placed landscape fabric down under the entire garden area and then put mulch between the rows of bales. They say you don't have to put fabric under the bales because the sun won't be hitting the ground, therefore no weeds will grow. I err on the side of caution and do it anyway. I also don't listen to everything I'm told to do! Whatever you do decide to use, make sure it is permeable so water can get through. Another suggestion is to have at least 5 feet between the rows of bales.

## **Conditioning - (See the Straw Bale Conditioning Quick Chart on the Back)**

On Days 1, 3 & 5 you'll evenly sprinkle a 1/2 cup of a nitrogen-rich lawn fertilizer on each bale. 30-10-10 is what we've used in the past. Days 7 & 8 you'll sprinkle just a 1/4 cup. On Day 10 you'll sprinkle 1 cup of 10-10-10 lawn fertilizer. Day 11 you skip. Make sure there is no herbicide (weed killer) in the fertilizers. Bales are watered each day but you don't have to water on a day if there is a good rain. About 1 gallon of water per bale is all you need. Condition the bales rain or shine.

## **Planting**

Day 12 begin planting. A few years we set-up a soaker hose and put it on a timer. Last year I just watered everyday because we were stuck home. Depending on what you'll be growing, you will probably need some posts and wire to create a trellis for the plant vines. Any trellis and/or soaker hoses should be done prior to planting. If you don't plant right on Day 12 don't worry about it, just be sure to keep the bales moist until planting.

When you do plant, don't make the same mistake as I always do and over plant. I tend to put far too many plants in each bale and then there are more veggies than we know what to do with. I also put a bit of potting mix around each plant I place in the bales but you don't have to. Another option is to place about a half inch to an inch of potting or planting mix (don't use soil from the yard because you'll introduce weeds) on the tops of the bales and just stick seeds in.

# FLOWERS FOR THE EWING LIBRARY



Photo by Alicia Magee

## **Ewing Branch Public Hours:**

### **Public Browsing – Now Open For Longer**

Monday: 10 am to 5 pm

Wednesday: 10am to 8 pm

Friday: 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday: 2 pm to 5 pm

### **Aged 65+ and Immunocompromised Individuals**

Monday: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Friday: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Contactless Curbside Pick-Up**

Tuesday: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

## Tulips from Alicia Magee

This month's photo is of spring tulips. These tulips were sold by our Garden Club this past Fall. Many more of them are growing at the Club Garden Blue Star Memorial in Birmingham Park.



Photos by Alicia Magee

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**MAY 3** - WTGC Monthly Meeting - 7pm.

PROGRAM: Straw Bale Gardening by Ann-Laurie Fratticcioli

Straw Bale Gardening is simply a different type of container gardening. The main difference is that the container is the straw bale itself and is held together with two or three strings. Once the straw inside the bale begins to decay the straw becomes “conditioned” compost that creates an extraordinary plant rooting environment. (See page 4 for details)

**MAY 9** - Mother’s Day

**MAY 31** - Memorial Day

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ruth Chin – May 4

Rick Lazarick – May 12

Lorraine Persiani – May 14

Linda Geiger – May 21

# DON'T FORGET!

**FLOWERS FOR EWING LIBRARY** – Alicia Magee

**Spring Plant Pickup** - Pick up your orders on Friday, April 30 from 1-7pm or Sat, May 1 from 9am-12pm. Please pay at pickup at Ingrid Fair’s House, 6 Honeywood Lane, Ewing.

**IMPORTANT:** Please mail by 5/7/21 all outstanding receipts and invoices to WTGC Treasurer Sue Fair so that the year can be closed out. Sue’s address is 1122 Wheldon Shivers Dr. Ewing, NJ 08628. Thank you!



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Please submit all info for *The Garden Path* to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month. [wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com)