



# Trent Woods Garden Club

## October 2025

Happy Cool Weather Gardeners!

I have really enjoyed the cooler weather since our return from Greece, It was a fabulous trip that I can't ever imagine topping! I learned a lot about the climate concerns of the Greeks. There are only about 15 days a year that they get any rain and that's only an afternoon shower that only lasts about 15 minutes. As a result they grow very little in Mykonos and Santorini. I felt sorry for the few livestock we saw grazing on what appeared to be dirt to me. On Santorini there is a law that you can only water your crops, grapes and cherry tomatoes, if the temperature is above 110F. This past summer they had a record 14 days they were allowed to water. They have never had to water that much in the past. They are all very aware of Climate Change and how it is affecting their country. No more about Greece but I thought this is something that as gardeners, we could relate to.

I know we are having a great program on the future of agriculture. I think this is something we can all glean tips from for our own gardens. As usual, Our Garden Therapy will be making nosegays for the Meals on Wheels program. I'm sure Maggie will let us know how we might help. Our Seasonal Design, for our Opportunity Drawing, will be made by Janet Jonah. We are all looking forward to seeing her design. We will be discussing how we are moving forward with the arrangements for the RCS Gala. Looking forward to that update.

I can't think of anything more at this moment. I'm sure we will get an update on everything at the meeting.

See Y'all October 9th at our General Meeting!

Raye Lynn Longhini, President TWGC

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

And

Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

*TWGC Executive Board 2025-2027*

Raye Lynn Longhini

President

1st Vice President, Deb Tallman

2nd Vice President, Maureen Loomer

Recording Secretary, Annette Daugherty

Treasurer, Janet Jonah

Corresponding Secretary, Marcia Sproul

Historian, Karen Kimball

**A heartfelt Thank You to all that have served TWGC so faithfully.**

# TWGC 2024-2025 Standing Chairs

Awards Chair-Paula Hartman – paulamhartman1947@gmail.com 252-670-3233

Beautification and Civic Development Chair- Sue Wyatt – swyatt@suddenlink.net  
252-636-0278

Communications Chair-Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com 732-539-8846

Environmental Concerns/Conservation Chair- Maureen Loomer – bee27534@aol.com  
252- 638-5502

Finance Chair– Janet Jonah-janet.jonah1@gmail.com-443-981-9307

Floral Design Chair – Ann Simpson simpsonann@suddenlink.net

Fundraising Chairs– Karen Powers-kpowers913@gmail.com 285-797-8209 and  
Giga Smith –gigasmith57@gmail.com 252-876-5084

Garden Therapy Chair- Karen Kimball Karenkimball1@gmail.com 603-438-1839

Horticulture Chair-Maureen Loomer– bee27534@aol.com 252-638-5502

Hospitality/Liaison with New Bern Golf & Country Club Chair- Judy Boyd –  
judysboyd@embarqmail.com 252-638-6597

Memorials Chair- Frances Eder – minfrances@gmail.com 252-634-4114

Parliamentarian/By-Laws Chair-Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com  
732-539-8846

Photographer Chair-Kathleen Marty - martykathleen558@gmail.com 207-350-6031

Seasonal Design Chair—Mary Florence maryflorence863@gmail.com

Scholarship, Sharon D. Quill Chair-Karen Powers – kpowers913@gmail.com  
585-797-8209

Service Recognition Award Chair– Deb Tallman - deborah\_t\_07760@yahoo.com  
732-539-8846

Yearbook Chair-Rhona Beadle - rhonab451@gmail.com 862-266-7888

Youth Gardeners Chair– Karen Powers kpowers913@gmail.com

Trent Woods Garden Club Members' Meeting

**October 9, 2025**

New Bern Golf & Country Club

4301 Country Club Road, New Bern, NC 28562

10:00 am – Coffee and Social 10:30 – Meeting and Program

12 Noon – Lunch

## **Program**

*“Agriculture for the Future”*

Extension Agent Mark Eubanks will present agricultural advances in response to climate and population changes in NC

**Presented by**

Mark Eubanks, Craven County Agricultural Agent

## **Menu**

Grilled Chicken Salad– Mixed greens topped with grilled chicken, cucumber, bacon bits, onions, tomato.

-or-

Pecan Crusted Chicken with mashed potatoes and chef's choice of vegetable

Please contact Judy Boyd to make a reservation by

Tuesday October 7th and indicate your choice to

[judysboyd@embarqmail.com](mailto:judysboyd@embarqmail.com)

Lunch cost \$25. due before start of meeting.

Meeting only \$10.



## Horticulture September 2025

**Genus/species:** *Symphyotrichum laeve*,  
*Aster falcidens*, *Aster laevis*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Common Name(s):** Smooth Blue Aster,  
Smooth Aster

**Origin:** Central & Eastern Canada North  
Central & Eastern U.S. Western and Pied-  
mont N.C.

**Features and Requirements:** The stout,  
leafy stem of this perennial grows 2-4 ft.,  
with dark-green foliage that is smooth on  
top and rough underneath. The attractive

and numerous blue-to-pale-lavender flowers with yellow centers occur in large, open heads atop the stems. Easy to grow in well-drained average garden soil in full sun to partial shade and tolerate drought once established.

**Bloom:** September-late Fall

**Leaf:** Lanceolate-ovate

**Wildlife Benefits:** Host plant for the Pearl Crescent butterfly. Flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies. Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds.

**Recommended uses:** Pollinator, naturalized, and woodland gardens.

**Traditional Uses:** Asters contain antimicrobial compounds. Many species have been employed in Native American, European, and Ayurvedic folk medicine.

**Caution:** The flowers and foliage of most asters are edible, although caution is advised due to the presence of saponins, which can cause gastrointestinal distress in large quantities, and the potential for misidentification with toxic plants like chrysanthemums.

**Collected and researched by:** Maureen Loomer (from her garden)

**References:** [https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=syla13](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=syla13)

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/symphyotrichum-laeve/>

<https://thepracticalherbalist.com/herbal-nerd-society/plant-based-lifestyle/aster-herbal-properties-and-uses-garden-respiratory-remedy/>

## Bank of the Arts

Chair: Ann Hall [annghall77@gmail.com](mailto:annghall77@gmail.com) (919) 418-7494

October 10, 2025	Ray Thompson Photography	Deb Tallman
November 14, 2025	Studio Tours and David English Nature Oils	Gail McLamb
December 12, 2025	David English Nature Oils	Debbie Durham

## Seasonal Design

Chair: Mary Florence [maryflorence863@gmail.com](mailto:maryflorence863@gmail.com) (252) 633-2851

TBD

Bank of the Arts September 2025

By Rhona Beadle



# Member Participation Needed For Our December Meeting Event: *A Festival of Wreaths!*

## What:

- We need 5-6 teams to each decorate a natural evergreen wreath to be provided by TWGC. Your Program Chair will be responsible for getting your wreath to someone on your team!
- Each team will decide on a theme for their wreath, and decorate it using any donated materials they like (ornaments, dried/artificial flowers, feathers, ribbon, lace, sea shells, seeds, dried fruit, etc.).
- This is meant to be a chance for creativity. Each team should decide on their wreath's theme and content BEFORE the meeting. The wreath can be assembled before or at the meeting.
- Each team (or representative) will present their wreath at the December General Meeting on December 11, 2025. **THE WREATHS WILL BE DONATED TO NURSING HOMES OR OTHER RECIPIENTS SELECTED BY THEIR CREATORS!**

A team can be any size (even ONE!), but time and budget limit us to no more than 6 wreaths.

## Why:

This event is inspired by the Festival of Trees events many charities use to celebrate the season and to raise funds. For TWGC, this event will support our fellowship and community service missions. This is also in answer to feedback from many members asking for programs allowing “hands-on” activities.

## How:

First come is first served! To reserve a wreath for your team, sign the Team List by the November meeting or contact Maureen Loomer ([bee27534@aol.com](mailto:bee27534@aol.com)). Form your team and start planning.

Want to participate, but not create a wreath? How about DONATING ornaments, materials, suggestions for themes, or nominate recipients?? Contact Maureen!!

## Horticulture and Environmental Concerns

October 2025

by Maureen Loomer

*There's peanut dust and corn husks driftin' through the air tonight.*

*The marchin' band's warmin' up under the football lights.*

*There's tractor-trailers backed up down by the elevator*

*Train track grain car will roll in later*

—Luke Bryan American Singer/Songwriter

I joined Sue Wyatt to plant mums at the Blue Star Memorial last week, which reminded me that MumFest will be coming up October 11-12 in New Bern's historical downtown. I had hoped to replace the Sunpatiens on my front steps with mums by now, but it looks like rain all week and I'm heading to Raeford for a horse show this weekend so that will have to wait. Fingers crossed for typically pleasant weather for these as well as Ghostwalk coming up October 23, 24, & 25 <https://newbernhistorical.org/ghostwalk/> Craven County's Big Sweep is looking for volunteers to help clean up our communities on October 4. <https://www.cravencountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15761/Big-Sweep-2025>.

**October birthday flowers.** Marigolds, associated with death, are prominently featured during Día de los Muertos which coincides with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. <https://www.history.com/articles/day-of-the-dead> The other birth flower for October is the Cosmos, traditionally symbolic of order, peace, innocence, and luck. <https://www.almanac.com/october-birth-flowers>

**Crop/Wildlife Watch.** Despite the hot dry weather of the past few weeks, the state's crops look good. Corn harvest is on time, and all other crops are a week or so ahead of schedule. Quality has been generally good. [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/North\\_Carolina/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2025/current.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/North_Carolina/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2025/current.pdf) If you are driving down a two-lane road and have to slow down for farm machinery PLEASE be patient and give a thought to the hard-working folks who grow our food.

If you have been seeing Monarch butterflies over the past week or so, they are likely newly emerged adults who, as larvae, polished off the Asclepias (milkweed) planted by thoughtful gardeners. September-emerging adults are members of the "Methuselah" or "Super" generation. Their lifespans are longer than those of the three generations before them-up to 9 months- during which they will make the long journey south to the mountains of Mexico where they will overwinter. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/netn-species-spotlight-monarch.htm>

Until next time...

## Garden Therapy September 2025 by Kathy Perretta

On Monday, September 15, six members of the Trent Woods Garden Club, Christine Bryon, Sue Jones, Annette Daugherty, Kathleen Marty, Karen Kimball and Kathy Perretta, visited Bayview Nursing home. Fifteen residents created beautiful greeting cards using cut up vegetables. Peppers, okra and corn were painted using acrylic paints and markers to add details. Each card was unique and the residents complimented each other and enjoyed sharing ideas. A good time was had by all.



## **Garden Therapy 2025-2026 Schedule**

**Chair Karen Kimball - karenkimball1@gmail.com 603-438-1839**

Monday September 15, 2025 10am – Painting with Nature & Plants  
Bayview Nursing Home, 3003 Kensington Road  
Hostess: Kathy Perretta 252-633-3665

Monday Oct. 13, 2025 10am – Nosegays for Meals on Wheels  
West New Bern Vol. Fire House, 900 Chelsea Road  
Hostess: Maggie Ferrara 252-631-3357

Monday Nov. 17, 2025 10am – Pinecone Bird Feeders  
Monarch, 1320 Health Drive  
Hostesses: Hannah Mitchell/Karen Kimball 603-438-1839

Monday, December 15, 2025 10am – Pinecone Arrangements  
Navion, 1336 S. Glenburnie Road  
Hostess: Janet Jonah 443-981-9307

Monday, January 12, 2026 10am – Pinecone Bird Feeders  
Golden Heights, 603 West Street  
Hostess: Ann Hall 919-418-7494

Monday, February 16, 2026 10am – Floral Arrangements  
Homeplace of New Bern, 1309 McCarthy Blvd  
Hostess: Gail McLamb 252-675-5264

Monday, March 16, 2026 10am – Spring Floral Arrangements  
Croatan Village, 4522 Old Cherry Point Road  
Hostess: Marcia Sproul 252-671-8231

Monday, April 13, 2026 10am – Plant Vegetable Garden  
River Point Crest, 2600 Old Cherry Point Road  
Hostess: Sheila Kahramanian 716-400-1370

September 2025 Monthly Program

Volunteering



*October Birthdays*

Ruth Cooper 10/4

Debbie Durham 10/31

Karen Kimball 10/14

Barbara Mercer 10/15

Sue Wyatt 10/1

## Seasonal Design September 2025



### Volunteers Needed!

As we begin a new year at TWGC it is imperative that everyone reflect and find time to volunteer for all the various good works we do throughout the year.

Garden Therapy

Youth Gardeners (Bees)

Beautification

Seasonal Design

Bank of the Arts

To name a few.

So please, contact the Chairs listed on page 3 or any board member and get involved or re-involved.

## October 2025 Bird of the Month

### Whooping Cranes by Michael Creedon



Last month we looked at one of the smaller denizens of the avian world, this month one of the largest, the Whooping Crane. In North America we have 2 species of cranes, the Sandhill, and the Whooper. In the world, there are 15. The Sandhill exists in the hundreds of thousands, the Whooper in a few hundred.

The Whooper is the tallest North American bird, standing between 4 and 5' tall, with a 7' wingspan. They are believed to be naturally a rarer species, once numbering about 10,000, however with the arrival of man, and unregulated hunting and loss of habitat, by 1941 there existed a population of 21.

Many small individual efforts at studying how to help the species were given the national impetus needed with the appearance of a prominent ornithologist, Robert Porter Allen on the TV show "To Tell The Truth" in 1960. Although he died in 1963, it was his efforts with Whoopers, Roseate Spoonbills, & Flamingos that led to passage of The Endangered Species Act in 1973.





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At one time the range of this species extended throughout midwestern N.A. Today, the last remnants of breeding habitat exist in National Parks in Alberta and the NW territories. Conservation efforts continue, with some success establishing sites in Wisconsin, Florida and Louisiana. As of this past winter, there were 557 Whoopers wintering in and around Aransas NWR in Texas on the gulf coast, the species only significant wintering habitat. Adding the small numbers in conservation areas, the total is estimated at about 800.

After a migration of 2,500 miles, the cranes arrive on their nesting grounds in April and May. They nest on

the ground, laying 1 or 2 eggs. Both parents attend the nest and brooding, with usually only one young bird surviving. There are many nest and brood predators, I.e. Bears, wolves, foxes eagles and ravens. Adults, due to their size have few predators, although alligators have taken a few.





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They forage while walking in shallow water or fields, feeding on crustaceans, mollusks, grasshoppers fish and eel. Waste grain is a staple of migrating Whoopers. Southbound migration occurs in September, with the birds arriving late November into December.

Even with laws, hunting continues to be major hurdle for the species. On March 30, 2011, Wade Bennet, 18, of Cayuga, Indiana and an unnamed individual pleaded guilty to killing a

crane that had been raised in captivity, and the first to successfully raise a chick. The birds name was First Mom. After killing her, Bennett had posed holding up her body. They were sentenced to a \$1 fine and \$500 court fees.

We were lucky enough to see about 25 or so down in Texas a couple of years ago. If you have the opportunity, it's worth the trip.

More photos from Mchael Creedon on our website:

[www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com](http://www.trentwoodsgardenclub.com)



*Whooper and  
Sandhill*

Youth Gardeners-Garden BEEs  
September 2025 by Karen Powers  
Stepping Into the Garden

It was a hot and sunny September afternoon for the Garden Bees first meeting of the 2025-26 school year. With the growth in popularity, over twenty, first through fifth graders, joined Karen Powers, Sheila Kahramanian, and Jane Kistler (an outstanding new member) and the staff of the Boys & Girls club to make steppingstones. The club members donned their aprons and gloves as each designed their own steppingstone, smoothing out the molded cement and enhancing them with stones, crystals and etchings. Once the decorations were completed and the steppingstones placed in the sun to dry, a group of members planted spinach in an open bed. After a good washing up, the Youth Gardeners enjoyed cupcake treats.

The club members came back together the following week to find all their steppingstones dry and formed. The stones were removed from the molds and placed around the stone flower disc. Once a wide strip of grass is removed between the parking lot and sidewalk entrance to the teen center, the steppingstones with pea gravel fill will be arranged to create an attractive walkway. The BEEs then picked a variety of leaf lettuces to take home and share with their families.



# What are the easiest fall/winter garden veggies to grow?

*By Judi Lloyd*

Fall vegetable gardening in North Carolina can be the most enjoyable time of year to work outside. Most fall veggies are packed with vitamins and minerals and loaded with fiber – nutritional powerhouses. You can purchase starts from your local nursery ready to pop in the ground or in pots, or direct sow seeds for quick seed to table edibles. Refer to NCSU planting guide for best planting dates: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/growing-a-fall-vegetable-garden>

Some of the easiest and fastest producing vegetables are turnip and rutabaga, great for roasting which helps to bring out the best flavor. Seeds sown ½” directly in well cultivated soil will produce terrific tasting veggies anywhere from 55 to 75 days. Beets and carrots, root vegetables that pair well with turnip and rutabaga, are best direct sown ½ to 1” in fertile soil. When starting plants from seed, mulch the soil well and keep consistently moist until sprouts appear. Beets should be ready to harvest in 55 – 60 days; carrots take a little longer, approximately 85 – 95 days to harvest.

Dark leafy greens grow best in cool temperatures. Kale, lettuce, spinach and Chinese cabbage (pak choi, bok choy) all grow well, direct sown from seed. Sow lettuce seed 1/4” and the rest approximately 1/2” in rich soil. Mulch well and keep soil and mulch moist through sprouting. Begin harvesting the outer leaves of Chinese cabbage after about 30 days, or full heads in as little as 45 days. Kale should be ready to harvest leaves in 40 – 50 days from planting and will continue to produce larger leaves throughout the fall and well into winter – a very cold hardy plant. Spinach takes a bit longer from seed, anywhere from 50 to 60 days to begin snipping leaves and lettuce should be ready to harvest full plants in 70 – 85 days or start snipping outer leaves earlier for continually producing salad greens.

If you prefer immediate gratification, visit your local nursery to purchase lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and collards. Plant in well drained rich soil in a sunny location, water once per day for the first week of transplant, reducing water to once every two days in the second week, once every three days in week three then 1” of water each week thereafter.

Most leafy vegetables benefit from an application of nitrogen three and six weeks after planting using an organic amendment like fish emulsion or a recommended fertilizer based on a soil test.

## Cinnamon Apple Pie Bread

Serves: 8

Forget the pie crust and get all the flavors of fall in a quick and easy bread with brown sugar and cinnamon topping that's as sweet as apple pie.

### Ingredients

- ⅓ cup light brown sugar (not packed)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅔ cup white sugar
- ½ cup salted butter, softened (or use unsalted and add ¼ tsp salt)
- 2 eggs
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1¾ teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup milk

1 apple, peeled and chopped (I used Granny Smith)

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 9 x 5-inch [loaf pan](#).

Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a [mixing bowl](#) and set aside.

Beat white sugar and butter together in a bowl using an [electric mixer](#) until smooth and creamy.

Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated; add vanilla extract and stir until incorporated.

Combine flour and baking powder together in another bowl; stir into creamed butter mixture.

Mix milk into batter until smooth.

Pour half the batter into the prepared loaf pan. Next add half the apples and half the brown sugar cinnamon mixture. Lightly pat/push apple mixture into batter.

Pour the remaining batter over apple layer; top with remaining apples and add more brown sugar/cinnamon mixture.

Lightly pat/push apples into batter; swirl brown sugar mixture through apples using a finger or spoon (I cleaned my hands and used my finger because it was easier).

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean, 30 to 40 minutes. Mine took about 35.

**Tip: If you notice it getting too brown on the top, cover it loosely with tin foil and continue baking until the inside is done. Enjoy!**