

WTCG



Washington Township Community Garden

NEWSLETTER: Supporting Our Garden

PNC Bank Wishlist Contest for \$500

Greetings Gardeners! Please read this important email asap!

The WTCG was entered in the PNC Neighborhood Wishlist contest to win \$500 and we were selected as one of 100 finalists!!! We had to keep it a secret until we were selected as one of 100 finalists AND until voting was open. WE need 500 votes to win \$500. In order to vote, you need to be on Facebook. Now I know we are not all on Facebook and that is fine, but we do know people on Facebook (our kids, friends, maybe?) and can ask them to vote for our project.

Here's how it works: **Log on** to Facebook and 'like' PNC Bank. **Go to** www.pncneighborhoodwishlist.com and follow the prompts. **Search for** the WTCG. You'll see our picture from 4/27/2013. **Click on** the picture and follow the directions on line. It is NOT the easiest website to work through, but stick with it. You get three votes and can earn three more if you share the link. If you get stuck, ask a teenager!

We have until September 16th to get our votes. Spread the word to your friends and family!!!

Thanks, Diane Muenzen



OUR PNC VOTE COUNT IS 268!!!
If each gardener makes a point THIS weekend to get ONE person on Facebook to vote 6 times we can reach our goal of 500 votes. Don't be afraid to ask!

September Chores

by Jessica Damiano

Sow lettuce, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, arugula, cauliflower, mustard greens, collards, kale, Asian greens, radishes, kohlrabi and spinach now for a fall harvest.

If tomato plants are still producing blossoms, remove them so the plant can focus energy on ripening existing fruit. Remove the lower leaves of tomato plants to allow more sunlight to reach fruit that needs to ripen before frost arrives.

Pull weeds now -- by their roots -- before they disperse seeds.

Plant perennials now to allow time for them to become established before frost hits.

Don't let disease overwinter in the soil, where it will attack again next year. Rake well and discard fallen leaves and plant debris.

Start planting trees when leaves in the neighborhood begin to change color.



Sponsor Spotlight

A big thank you to two new donation sponsors: *Dignity Funeral Trade Service* and *Integra Mgt. Corp.* You are awesome and we know it!

SOME QUICK REMINDERS:

- **Mulch pathways** around your own bed(s) and if you want to help us all out, mulch other areas too. Please **DO NOT** mulch the center pathway as the soil will be churned up when the water line is run and we would rather not have mulch mixed into the soil when we smooth it again. If you see weeds growing through an area you already mulched, please pull them and mulch again and deeper. Most of us have been bringing cardboard to lay down beneath the mulch as a weed barrier. You need to block sunlight penetration pretty deeply to stop weeds.

- **Respectful garden habits:**

- Do not bring your dog, no matter how sweet natured, into the garden. It is apparent, from paw prints, that there have been dog(s) in the garden. We remind you that this could be reason for expulsion from the garden. Garden rules are for everyone, no exceptions.
- Return empty pails to center area before leaving so other gardeners do not have to hunt them down to use them.
- Do not throw your weeds into walkways. Clean up after yourself. We have found weeds on the mulched pathways. If you are kind enough to pull them from the pathways, then bring them to the compost plot.



P. Wayne & Diane
at our WTCG tent.

Green Festival Well Attended

We had the chance to reach out to other environmentally conscious people at this month's Green Festival in Rock Spring Park. The festival was well attended by tradesmen, environmental charities and interests, entertainment as well as food vendors.

Thanks to our gardeners who represented the WTCG on Saturday. They include Melanie Bitecola (our committee person organizer), Jill Vitale, Marj Spangler, Denise Tedeschi, Diane Muenzen, P. Wayne Restoka and Cristina Niciporiukas. Many folks stopped by to see our new display of garden photos and all were impressed by how far we have come in 4 short months! Also, we raised \$29 in donations toward our shed.

Developing Good Gardening Habits

Who remembers Goofus and Gallant from Highlights magazine? Ok, so this is way before video games for all you young folks out there, but it was a favorite of mine.

So here goes....

When **Goofus** works on his garden plot, he tosses weeds on the freshly mulched walkways and rocks on the mowed grass areas.

When **Gallant** enters the garden, he picks up a yellow bucket and puts his weeds and refuse in the Compost Area. He never throws rocks onto the mowed areas as he would not like to have Adam hit them with his mower.

- Diane Muenzen



“Zucchini bite the hand that weeds them.” - D. Tedeschi



Whoo hoo
Volunteers!



Volunteers do it all!

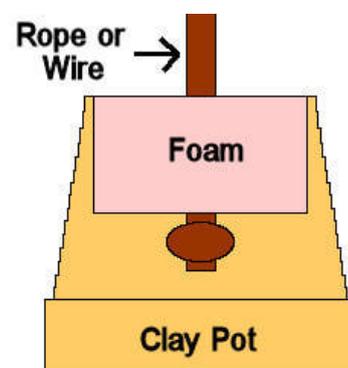
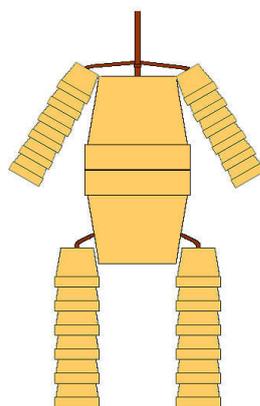
Our Garden is shaping up...

did you notice the center area was

weeded and mulched? Thank our volunteers, Nancy Zhang from WMCHS and Trey Mastriani, Joe & Andrew Pinelli, and Tyler Longo from Boy Scout Troop #236.

Garden Artist Fall Project

The garden artist would like to build a “pot-person” in Plot 18 at our garden. Do you have old clay pots in your shed or garage you could lend to the project? Looks like we need 2 extra-large (16 inch), one large (12 inch) and quite a few smaller ones (6 and 9 inch), maybe an old garden hat, a bandana, old garden gloves, an old garden tool, etc. Leave your donations in Plot 18 and we will get working. If you want to help put him together, send me an email dianemuenzen@comcast.net.



Poisonous Plants In The Garden Article by Kathy Bussman

We have all been seeing a lot of weeds in our garden these days. I have noticed a very poisonous one called Jimson Weed (*Datura stramonium*). All parts of this plant are poisonous and can be fatal.

This plant can grow to 2 to 5 feet tall. The leaves are approximately 3 to 8 inches long, smooth, toothed, soft, and irregularly undulate. The upper surface of the leaves is a darker green, and the bottom is a light green.

Datura stramonium generally flowers throughout the summer. The fragrant flowers are trumpet-shaped, white to creamy or violet, and 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches long, and grow on short stems from either the axils of the leaves or the places where the branches fork. The calyx is long and tubular, swollen at the bottom, and sharply angled, surmounted by five sharp teeth. The corolla, which is folded and only partially open, is white, funnel-shaped, and has prominent ribs.

The elliptic seed capsules are 1 to 3 inches in diameter and either covered with spines or bald. At maturity each capsule splits into four chambers, each with dozens of small black seeds.

We can expect to find other poisonous plants in our garden. You can assume that these plants can appear at any time. They mature at different rates and they can be annuals, perennials or biennials.

On the Rutgers website, <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/harmfulplants/>, you will find the Rutgers Harmful Weed Gallery, which lists plants that could be harmful to humans. The Gallery, which is divided into Irritants, Poisonous Nightshades and Poisonous Ornamentals, gives a short description of each plant and includes photos. Gardeners can go to this website to identify plants they think might be harmful. The Gallery does not tell you how to get rid of the plant. Sylvia Bayard, one of the Master Gardeners at the Rutgers Extension Office advised that if you have identified a weed, just give a call into the office at 973-285-8300 and they will tell you what to do.

Gardeners can also bring samples of plants into the Extension Office and they will identify the plant. They are located on West Hanover Avenue, Building 550, Morris Township on the corner of West Hanover and Raynor Road. The office is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 4:30. It is best not to bring in samples on a Friday since they may not get to it right away and it will sit over the weekend and wilt. If you are bringing in a sample, please bring the entire branch, not just a leaf or two. If the plant is in bloom, bring in the flower. Place the sample in a plastic bag. Samples of different plants should go into separate bags.



Jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium*)

A Garden Planting Chart							
Crop	Days to Maturity	Spring Planting Dates	Fall Planting Dates	Seed/Plants 100 ft.	Distance Between Rows	Distance Between Plants	Depth to Plant
Asparagus	2 nd season	Apr 5 - 25		50 roots	3 to 5 ft.	1½ to 2 ft.	6 in.
Bean, bush	50-60	Apr 25 - May 30	July 25-Aug 5	½ lb.	3 ft.	2 to 4 in.	1-1½ in.
Bean, pole	65-75	May 10 - 20		½ lb.	3 ft.	6 to 12 in.	1-1½ in.
Bean, lima	65-75	May 10 -25		1 lb.	2 to 2½ ft.	3 to 4 in.	1-1½ in.
Beet	55-65	Apr 1 - 15	Aug 1 - Sept 25	1 oz.	2 to 2½ ft.	2 in.	1 in.
Broccoli	60-80	Mar 25 - Apr 5	Sept. 25 - 30	100 plants	2½ ft.	14 to 18 in.	
Cabbage	65-80	Apr 1 - 20	Sept 20 -30	100 plants	2½ ft.	12 in.	
Cantaloupe	80-90	May 10 - 20		1 oz.	4 to 6 ft.	3½ to 4 ft.	1½ in.
Carrot	70-80	Mar 25 - Apr 10	Sept 20 -30	½ oz.	2 ft.	2 to 3 in.	½ in.
Cauliflower	55-60	Apr 1 - 20	Sept 20 - 30	100 plants	3 ft.	12 to 18 in.	
Collard	55-70	Mar 20 - Apr 10		½ oz.	2½ ft.	8 to 16 in.	½ in.
Corn	80-100	May 1 - July 20		¼ lb.	3 to 3½ ft.	12 to 18 in.	2 in.
Cucumber	60-65	May 10 - 30		1 oz.	3½ to 5 ft.	3 to 4 ft.	1½ in.
Eggplant	75-90	May 15 - 25		50 plants	3 ft.	2½ to 3 ft.	
Kale	50-70	Mar 25 - Apr 5		½ oz.	3 ft.	10 in.	½ in.
Kohlrabi	50-70	Apr 1 - 15	Sept 20 - 25	½ oz.	3 ft.	10 in.	½ in.
Lettuce	60-85	Apr 1 - May 15	Sept 1 - 15	½ oz.	2 to 2½ ft.	10 to 12 in.	½ in.
Mustard	40-50	Mar 25 - May 1	Aug 1 - 30	½ oz.	2 ft.	1 in.	½ in.
Okra	55-60	May 10 - 25		1 oz.	3 to 3½ ft.	6 in.	1 in.
Onion (mature)	100-120	Mar 25 - Apr 15	Sept. 1-Dec. 31	300 plants or ½ gal. sets	1 to 2 ft.	3 to 4 in.	¾ in.
Peas, garden	60-80	Mar 25 - Apr 10		1 lb.	2½ ft.	1 in.	1½-2 in.
Peas, southern	60-70	May 1 - 15		½ lb.	3 ft.	4 to 6 in.	1½-2 in.
Pepper	65-80	May 15 - 30		50 plants	2½ ft.	1½ to 2 ft.	
Potato, Irish	70-90	Apr 1 - 15		1 peck	2½ to 3 ft.	10 to 14 in.	5 in.
Potato, sweet	90-150	May 15-June 5		100 plants	3½ ft.	12 in.	-
Radish	25-30	Mar 25 - May 1	Aug 1- 20	1 oz.	1½ ft.	1 in.	½ in.
Spinach	40-45	Apr 1 - 20	Aug 10 - Sept 20	1 oz.	1½ to 2 ft.	1 to 2 in.	¾ in.
Squash, bush	50-55	May 15 - 30		1 oz.	3 to 4 ft.	2 ft.	1½-2 in.
squash, winter	85-90	May 15 - 30		½ oz.	5 ft.	3 ft.	1½-2 in.
Tomato	70-85	May 15 - 30		50 plants	3 to 4 ft.	2½ to 3 ft.	
Turnip	45-65	Mar 25 - May 1	Aug 5 - Sept 20	½ oz.	1 to 2 ft.	1 to 2 in.	½ in.
Watermelon	80-90	May 10 - 20		1 oz.	10 ft.	8 to 10 ft.	1½ in.

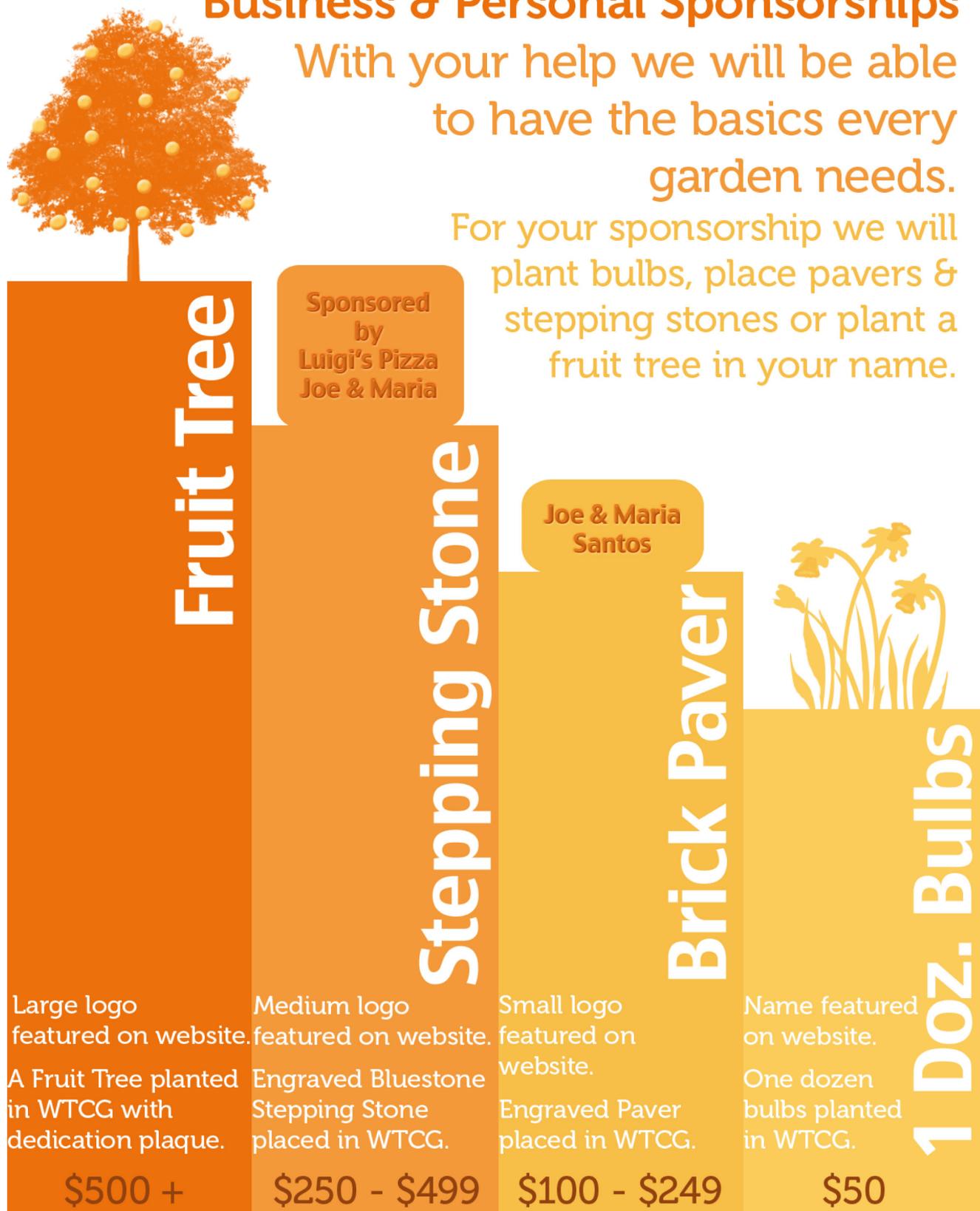
Our Sponsorship Program

Because we have a few needs that are pressing we've started a sponsorship program so those who want to help, can. We need to: reimburse committee members that have loaned the garden funds when funding didn't cover expenses, help fund scout projects that are costly, buy some tools & supplies and build a shed and a couple sturdy long lasting compost bins. There are many people in our community who would like to help give the garden support at this important time of start up. Please reach out to your family, friends & local businesses and share our website page where a sponsorship application may be downloaded. <http://wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com/sponsorship/>

Business & Personal Sponsorships

With your help we will be able to have the basics every garden needs.

For your sponsorship we will plant bulbs, place pavers & stepping stones or plant a fruit tree in your name.



<p>Fruit Tree</p> <p>Large logo featured on website. A Fruit Tree planted in WTCG with dedication plaque.</p> <p>\$500 +</p>	<p>Sponsored by Luigi's Pizza Joe & Maria</p> <p>Stepping Stone</p> <p>Medium logo featured on website. Engraved Bluestone Stepping Stone placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$250 - \$499</p>	<p>Joe & Maria Santos</p> <p>Brick Paver</p> <p>Small logo featured on website. Engraved Paver placed in WTCG.</p> <p>\$100 - \$249</p>	<p>1 Doz. Bulbs</p> <p>Name featured on website. One dozen bulbs planted in WTCG.</p> <p>\$50</p>
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