

*The Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower  
Garden*

*Dedication*

*May 22, 1996*

*1pm*

*The Reeve House*

*Welcome*

*Linda Parker    Director*

*Dedication*

*Karyn Tate    President  
The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield*

*The Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden is located in a peaceful woodland setting on an historic property in the heart of Westfield. It has been directed and developed by the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield in memory of our special member and friend Claire D. Brownell.*

*The approach to the garden is down a grassy slope on the right of the hill behind the Reeve House. As you turn onto the garden path you have a view over the marshy meadow below. The entrance to the path is guarded by an historic memorial stone, and a stand of majestic Solomon's Seal. The stone is accented with Forget-Me-Nots, in honor of Claire. As you walk along the path you find plantings of wildflowers including wild Geraniums, Solomon's plume, native Columbine, Spiderwort, Beebalm, and Lungwort. Up on the hillside find the Monkshood, and the impressive Ostrich fern. On the marsh side there is a lovely specimen of Cinnamon fern.*

*The seating area is nestled into the slope before a giant maple tree. The hillside is planted with wildflowers including Christmas ferns, Solomon's Seal, Bloodroot, Foam flower, Oswego tea and the familiar Jack-in-the-Pulpit. While there are several Trillium today, next spring a trail of 100 Trillium will float down this hillside. Under the maple tree a planting of Wild ginger is poised to spread out below its branches. Near the seating area is a stand of Iris. On the lower side of the seating area is a large bed of Marsh marigolds, which were covered in yellow flowers earlier this spring. The area is edged with plantings of Germander, white Violets, and Maidenhair fern. On the edge of the ridge is a flock of Cardinal flowers and at the far end of the garden are two Obedient plants.*

*The seating area was located in this area to highlight Claire's interest in the birds. With the ample food supply from plants and shrubs, and a source of water nearby, this is a good location for the birds. Knowledgeable birdwatchers can identify a dozen or more birds from this bench.*

*An enthusiastic and dedicated committee from the Rake and Hoe Garden Club has brought this garden from dream to reality over the past few years with the constant support of our friend George Brownell.*

*The Reeve property, site of The Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden, has played an integral part in the history of Westfield since prior to the Revolutionary War. Captain Matthias Clark who died at age 54 on June 7, 1808 and is buried in the Revolutionary Cemetery built a home behind the Presbyterian Church on land owned by William Stitt. A history reports that "It is positively certain that sections of both (American and British) armies often stopped at the living spring back of the Presbyterian Church, on the... Stitt place."*

*The spring is still there and is running today. It feeds a meadow tucked away adjacent to Mindowaskin Park of nearly an acre of wetlands and rising grounds behind the present Reeve house. The garden is a long term project and the varied terrain offers unlimited possibilities for the planting and growth of a place of beauty in the heart of our town.*

*The Reeve house itself was built circa 1870 in the Italianate style and has been occupied by the Reeve family since 1906. It is noted for the many exotic and unusual trees surrounding the house. Members of the Reeve family have always been active in Westfield civic activities. William Reeve was cited specifically for his contribution to the growth of Mindowaskin Park and the initial establishment of the Westfield YMCA. The present resident, Edgar Reeve, and his brother, Ralph, donated the property to the Town of Westfield in 1985. It is planned that the house will become the headquarters of the Westfield Historical Society.*

*Claire Brownell, in whose memory the garden was created, was raised in Springfield and attended Westfield High School where she quickly became one of its most popular students. She became a lifelong Westfield resident. Vivacious and friendly, she was active in many school, church, civic, and other activities. A lover of life, her friends and her family, she was an inspiration to all who knew her. She loved flowers and birds and the great outdoors and the Rake and Hoe Garden Club is pleased to honor her memory in this unique and beautiful setting.*

*Thank you for joining us today.*

*Linda Parker -- Director                      Michelle Healy -- Past Director  
Nancy Wallace -- First Director  
Beth Hanscom    Margaret Sailer    Colleen Schmidt    Carol Wagner*

*Donations may be made to the Claire D. Brownell Memorial Garden fund held within the Westfield Foundation, Post Office Box 2295, Westfield, New Jersey 07090*

*Memorial donations in the name of loved ones may be made to The Claire Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden. The mailing address is 243 Kimball Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey, 07090. Checks should be made care of Rake and Hoe Garden Club. Memorial donations will be acknowledged by the Garden.*