

## Field Trip

**Thompson Brothers Hydroponic Greenhouse  
September 30, 2017 (Saturday, 10 a.m.)  
Allenwood Road  
Wall, NJ**



**The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee and family members scheduled a field trip with Lew Thompson of the historic Thompson Brothers Farm to view their hydroponics greenhouse to view the environmental techniques incorporated with hydroponics farming.**



**WTEAC Members: (R) John Ozell, Joe Balesterri, Wilma Morrissey and Ellen Smith  
Center: Lew Thompson**



### Thompson Family Farm Hydroponic Greenhouse

Wikipedia: **Hydroponics** is a subset of hydroculture, the method of growing plants without soil, using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent.—Terrestrial plants may be grown with only their roots exposed to the mineral solution, or the roots may be supported by an inert medium, such as perlite or gravel. The nutrients in hydroponics can come from an array of different sources; these can include but are not limited to byproduct from fish waste, duck manure, or *normal nutrients*



The word, Hydroponic, comes from Latin and means working water. Simply put, it is the art of growing plants without soil.

When most people think of hydroponics, they think of plants grown with their roots suspended directly into water with no growing medium. This is just one type of hydroponic gardening known as N.F.T. (nutrient film technique). There are several variations of N.F.T. used around the world and it is a very popular method of growing hydroponically. What most people don't realize is that there are countless methods and variations of hydroponic gardening. <http://www.simplyhydro.com/whatis.htm>





**Lew Thompson explained his hydroponic planting to the WTEAC**

**Thompson Brothers Farm Hydroponic Lettuce Information**

- **Consumes 1/10th the water and 1/6th the fertilizer of soil-based farms**
- **Produces predictable quantities and quality for better crop yields**
- **Produces 10 times the amount of crops per area of soil-based farms**
- **Grown without pesticides or manure (reducing pathogen risks)**



**The Environmental Committee was grateful to Lew Thompson for his extreme knowledge and hospitality to us.**

*All photos were taken at the Thompson Family Farm Hydroponic Greenhouse*

*Photos and Formatting: Chairwoman Wilma Morrissey*