



The  
*Garden*  
Path

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*Recording Secretary*

Victoria Rivera Cruz  
*Corresponding  
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Maggie Kramer  
*Club  
Parliamentarian*

Jeff Tryon  
*Newsletter Editor*

Lynn Grillo  
*Newsletter Design*



# *President's Letter*

Anne Skalka | March 2026



Dear Garden Club Members,  
March brings us the first signs of spring — longer days, brighter mornings, and the promise of new growth. It's a season of renewal, and in our gardens and in our club, we begin again with hope.

As we look ahead, let's continue planting not only seeds, but kindness, beauty, and community. Thank you for sharing your time and talents to make our programs, outreach, and scholarship efforts meaningful.

May this month inspire fresh ideas, willing hands, and joyful blooms.

Warmly,  
Anne Skalka

*President*  
*West Trenton Garden Club*

# February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

## President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of February 2, 2026, was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Anne Skalka.

## Secretary's Report

The minutes of the November 3, 2025 General Meeting were printed in the February Newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Rick Lazarick, reported a current balance of \$7,516.30. The Holiday Party netted a loss of \$581, which was expected, but the Poinsettia Sale netted a profit of \$480. Payments totaling about \$1000 were made to reimburse members for the expenses incurred for the Drumthwacket and Morven projects. We also received a Civic Development and Improvement Award of \$100.

## Corresponding Secretary

No report.

Anne Skalka acknowledged all members who have January and February birthdays.

## Committee Reports

### 250th Anniversary

Linda Reasoner and Rick Lazarick met with the Mayor of Ewing, and everything has been approved for our club to proceed with our celebration plans. Linda has met with and will continue to interview potential George Washington reenactors to acquire the right one. The "pink house" next to Birmingham Park will hopefully be knocked down and cleaned up before our planned celebration, which will provide the space to be able to put up tents. Activities will include face painting, cookie baking, and crafts. An information tent will also be available. Rick applied for a \$1000 grant to help pay for the extra decorations we will be displaying.

### Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported that our Pass the Can project brought in \$32.09 at our November meeting. The purpose of this was explained to all our guests and new members, that all proceeds go to the GCNJ's Natural Disaster Fund.

# February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

## Scholarship Breakfast

Our annual fundraiser that raises money for our scholarship awards will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 9-11 am, at Hollowbrook. Linda Reasoner handed out 5 tickets to all members attending the meeting which cost \$7 apiece. All members are encouraged to buy or sell all 5 tickets. The money is due back to Linda by March 2. Items for the raffle baskets are also being collected. This part of the breakfast is a big money maker, so members are asked to donate items, or get local businesses to donate (i.e. gift cards) to make the baskets more appealing. Anne Skalka added that she handled the distribution of the scholarship applications to all eligible local schools, and they are due back by April 1.

## Spring Plant Sale

Elle Belcheff will be heading the plant sale committee again this year. She said that order forms will be finalized and ready to distribute to the membership by sometime in March and the flower order will be delivered in early May.

## Flower Show

Helga Fontus announced that Ewing Presbyterian Church has been contracted to be the site of our Flower Show to be held on September 18 and 19. This is an “all hands-on deck” event, and members are strongly encouraged to be a part of it in any way they can. Boards were displayed to let members know what show categories they can sign-up for.

## Announcements

Anne Skalka reported that she and Barbara Lear were involved with a children’s program, Peter Rabbit Day, at Princeton Library. They showed children how to plant seeds, and sent them home with their own potted plant. It was a very rewarding experience.

Anne thanked the Hospitality Committee for providing the evening’s refreshments.

Lynn Grillo brought packaged vegetable seeds and offered them to members who may want them. She also updated members on what she has done with our website. Lynn created informative blogs describing what our club has been accomplishing that members can “share” on their Facebook page. Members are encouraged to visit the website and spread the word.

Anne announced the winner of the 50/50 worth \$22.00. A door wreath made by Mary Corrigan was also raffled off.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm. After refreshments were served, the members were treated to an informative program presented by Jeffrey Van Pelt called “Layered Color in the Garden”.

# Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

March 2026

## Happy Birthday!

- Carol Bozarth - March 23
- George McElrath Jr. - March 25
- Jo Ann Seaman - March 29

## Don't Forget!

### Flowers for Ewing Library

Mary Corrigan

### Hospitality Committee

Mary Corrigan (Chair), Anne Chmielewski, David Chmielewski, Barbara Lear, Lynn Grillo, and Karen Lewandowski.

### Newsletter Deadline

Submit all info to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month via email at:

wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

## Mark Your Calendar

### Feb 28 - March 8

Philadelphia Flower Show. Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia PA.

<https://phsonline.org/the-flower-show>

### March 2, WTGC Monthly Meeting | 6:30 PM

Hollowbrook Community Center. Program: "Our Favorite Garden Plants, Flowers and Trees: and Plant Swap." See Details.

### March 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!

### March 19 - 10:00, Holly House

GCNJ Design Group.

### March 23 - 10:00, Holly House

GCNJ State Board Meeting

### March 30 - 7:00 PM, WTGC Board Meeting

Linda Reasoner's Home

*Scholarship Breakfast, Saturday, March 7, 9:00 - 11:00 am*

***Ticket money is due at the March 2nd meeting***

- We are still collecting new items to make up our raffle baskets!
- Do not bring baskets or items the day of the breakfast as the committee must arrange and label the baskets ahead of time.

Many thanks to those who have already donated items!

*The Scholarship Committee* | Questions? Contact Linda Reasoner [lindar75@verizon.net](mailto:lindar75@verizon.net)

# Program | *Our Favorite Garden Plants, Flowers and Trees...*

**And Plant Swap! March 2, 2026**

Enjoy a cozy evening of inspiration as several members share their favorite garden plants with a beautiful photo slideshow. Learn their tips, stories, and what makes these their plants.

**We'll wrap up the night with a friendly houseplant swap—bring one, take one!**

**Featuring Our Very Own Club Members!**



Carol



Angela



George



Linda



Zofia



Ginny

# Philadelphia Flower Show

February 28–March 8 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center

The 2026 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show will take place February 28–March 8 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Titled “Rooted: Origins of American Gardening,” the show was announced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) on January 14 at the Union Trust building, commemorating the historic site of the first Philadelphia Flower Show in 1829.

This location honors the city’s role as the birthplace of America’s first Flower Show as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary. In the spirit of the 250th celebrations, this year’s Flower Show honors the people, places, and traditions that have shaped gardening, from cherished family memories to time-honored practices that continue to inspire today.

“Rooted: Origins of American Gardening’ reflects the heart of PHS’ mission connecting people and plants to transform lives and communities,” said Matt Rader, president of the PHS. “Every plant and garden tells a story. The Flower Show celebrates those stories while serving as a fundraiser to support PHS’s year-round work in the Philadelphia region to create green spaces, expand access to fresh food, and foster neighborhood resilience and community health. Just as gardens grow from strong roots, so does the impact we can have together in our community.”

The PHS will debut a reimagined layout supported by a new wayfinding framework that helps guests easily navigate the Show through five core experiences: SEE, SHOP, MAKE, LEARN, and PLAY. PHS will continue to utilize its primary exhibition spaces for the Show’s gardens, exhibits, and experiences. The Marketplace shopping destination will move to a new street-level home directly below the main exhibition space, giving vendors a highly visible location enhanced with floral moments and seating areas that invite guests to linger and explore.

For a list of exhibitors and special programs, visit [pennhort.org](http://pennhort.org).



# 250 USA Semiquincentennial

Coming this July 3 at Birmingham Park!

WTGC is proud to be planning a family-friendly community event at Birmingham Park in honor of this historic milestone. We're working in conjunction with Mercer 250, Trenton 250, and Ewing 250 to create an afternoon full of fun, reflection, and patriotic spirit.

While the details are still coming together, you can expect something special on Friday, July 3rd, right where Bear Tavern Road meets West Upper Ferry Road. This quiet corner of Ewing holds a fascinating story: it's the very spot where General George Washington and his troops split their forces during the daring march to Trenton in 1776. A reenactor in uniform will bring that story to life with vivid, family-friendly storytelling throughout the afternoon.

The West Trenton Garden Club Invites you to...

*Remember George Washington's  
March to Trenton*



**Friday July 3, 2026**  
**12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**  
**Birmingham Park**  
Corner of Bear Tavern Road  
& W. Upper Ferry Road  
Ewing Township.

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

**Step back in time at Birmingham Park!**  
Picture General Washington and his troops marching up Bear Tavern Road on a bitterly cold December morning in 1776. A uniformed reenactor will bring history to life, sharing how the army split at this very spot, with half heading down Sullivan's Way and the other half to Upper Ferry Road on their way to attack Trenton.

Patriotic flags will be available to place around the park, and light refreshments will be served. Join us for this special tribute to a turning point in our nation's history!

The Semiquincentennial Committee is hard at work preparing activities and entertainment for our July 3rd event. Details regarding how to sign up for the event team will be coming in April!

# News! | WTGC Members Visit Peter Rabbit!

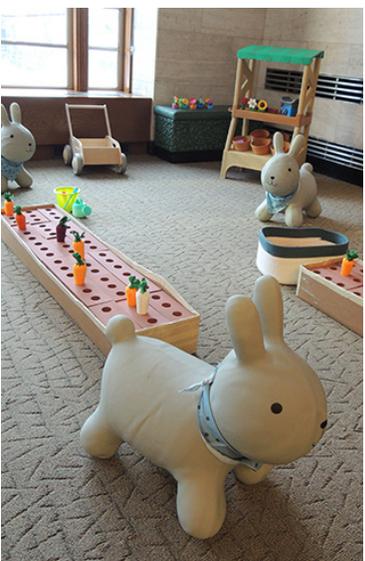
Photos and text courtesy of the Cotsen Children's Library

Community families were invited to spend a day with Peter Rabbit, literature's most enduring radish-eater. This was our first foray into Saturday programming specifically aimed at children ages 2-6, and oh my goodness was it a rousing success. We were also delighted to be joined by our friends from the [West Trenton Garden Club](#).

Pictured are Barbara Lear and Anne Skalka from the West Trenton Garden Club! These two wonderful ladies brought their enthusiasm, expertise, and boundless

energy to the event, teaching kids about how plants go from seed to snack, including an display of sprouted avocado trees! They had plenty of dirt and pots on hand so kids could start little gardens of their own. They were an absolutely amazing team, and we appreciate them so much!

The [Cotsen Children's Library](#) has a number of Beatrix Potter treasures in its [special collections](#), and we wanted to use this opportunity to educate young visitors about these fantastic items.



# Gallery | Deep Cut Orchid Society Show

Photos by Jeff Tryon

