



The Garden Path

Contents

President's Letter	2
March 2025 Meeting Minutes	3 – 5
Happy Birthday Don't Forget! Calendar	6
Program How Does Your Garden Grow?	7
Happenings	8 – 9
Holland Ridge Farm Field Trip	10
2025 Flower Sale	11
WTGC History	12 – 13
Gallery Bonsai with Andrew Reasoner	14

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Corresponding Secretary

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Newsletter Editor

Lynn Grillo
Newsletter Design



President's Letter

Anne Skalka | April 2025

Dear Garden Club Members,

April is a time of renewal and growth, both in our gardens and in our club. The longer days and warmer temperatures invite us to dig in the soil, plant new flowers, and watch nature come to life. Serious gardening time will be here before you know it!

This month, we have some exciting events planned including our annual *Scholarship Breakfast on April 26*. This event funds our scholarship program for aspiring students in the horticultural science fields. We also have the field trip to *Holland Ridge Farm on Thursday, April 24*. To sign up, contact Lynn Grillo by email at lgrillo@mac.com or text to 609-954-2191. A signup sheet will also be at the meeting.

Our annual spring plant sale is underway, organized by Elle Belcheff. Order forms will be available at the April meeting and online. *Orders must be placed by April 22*.

Our April meeting features the gardens of four of our members: Linda Reasoner, Anne Skalka, Terry Palise, and Ingrid Fair. This presentation was created with the invaluable assistance of Lynn Grillo, and Iliana Okum. The narration and photographs will remind us of the wonderful days to come.

This is a great time to start thinking about our community initiatives—whether it's planting for pollinators, beautifying public spaces, or sharing our gardening wisdom with others.

As we celebrate Earth Day this month, let's remember the important role we play as gardeners in protecting and nurturing our environment. Small actions, like composting, reducing chemical use, and planting native species, can make a big difference.

Thank you for your dedication and passion for gardening. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting and hearing about what's coming up in your gardens. Remember we plant hope with every garden, hope for a better world and better health for all our friends and families.

Anne Skalka, President

West Trenton Garden Club

March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of March 3, 2025, was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Anne Skalka. She welcomed guests and introduced a new member.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the regular February meeting were printed in the Newsletter. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Rick Lazarick, reported a current balance of \$5,508.08. Expenses for the month came to \$319.15, and an income of \$33.00. Hearing no additions or corrections, the amount will be filed as reported.

Correspondence

No report, but Anne Skalka reported that Barb Bernhard is still very ill and we should keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Announcements

Anne Skalka acknowledged all March birthdays.

Committee Reports

Birmingham Park Calendar

Anne Chmielewski is currently compiling information in her quest to create a "Maintenance Calendar" that volunteers who work at the Birmingham Park can refer to so they know when to perform various plant care tasks. She asked members for their help and to share their expertise with her.

Birmingham Park

Blue Star Perennial Plant Guidebook

Devah Brinker is looking for volunteers to help research the information needed to compile the online guide designed for members who help maintain the park.

Scholarship Breakfast

Anne Skalka reported that the Scholarship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 9-11 AM at Hollowbrook. Every club member gets 5 tickets worth \$7.00 each. Payment is due by April 14th to Linda Reasoner. A committee is needed to buy food for the breakfast and raffle baskets are needed for the event, as they are a huge money maker for the Scholarship Fund. Camille Rainiero cannot chair the Scholarship Awards this year, so Anne is looking for a volunteer to take her place.

March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski

Preservation/Archives Committee

Linda Reasoner reported that her committee has completed organizing the archives all the way up to the 2000's.

Awards

Linda Reasoner reported that the 5 applications for various awards were submitted in December. Winners will be announced in June at the GCNJ luncheon.

Spring Plant Sale

Elle Belcheff reported that the delivery date for the flowers will be Friday, May 2, at 7:00 am, and distribution will take place on May 2 and 3. She is still looking for volunteers to help unload the truck, set up the orders, and help with pick-ups. She is also posting about the Sale on Facebook and Instagram, and she will have the order forms ready soon. There are some new additions this year.

Flower Show

Helga Fontus, Anne Skalka, and Heidi Forman found a location in Ewing for our Show. Anne did not disclose where because a contract has not been finalized, but she assured the membership that the place was perfect for our needs. Sign-up boards were put out listing all the available jobs needing to be filled.

Garden Tour

In partnership with the Ewing Green Team, Anne Skalka announced that the Club will be hosting a Garden Tour sometime in mid-June. Anne has a meeting coming up in a few weeks with her committee.



March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski

New Business

- *Anne Skalka, Marsha Felcone and Lynn Grillo* brought in plants and seeds to give away to members, if interested.
- *Lynn Grillo* reminded members of the upcoming field trip to Holland Farms scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 24, at 1:00. There is a 10% discount if we have 20 or more members attend. Regular admission is \$15. Carpooling will be available
- *Anne Skalka* thanked the Hospitality Committee for tonight's refreshments, then picked the 50/50 winner, along with the winners of a potted plant arrangement and some flowers.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:20. Members then enjoyed snacks and, afterwards, a program presented by *Andrew Reasoner* called "Bonzai: Craft and Techniques for Your Garden."

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

April 2025

Happy Birthday!

- Victoria Rivera-Cruz - April 4
- Ida Cahill - April 12
- Mary Corrigan - April 21

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Barbara Bernhard

Hospitality Committee

Dolores Brezak (Chair), Zofia Jablonski Feulner, Harry Gamble, Christine Camping, Matt Kowalski, and Angela Proctor-Weaver

Newsletter Deadline

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

wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

April 7, 6:30 PM, Hollowbrook CC

WTGC Monthly Meeting

Program: "How Does Your Garden Grow"

April 9, 10:00 AM Holly House

GCNJ Judges Council

April 14, 10:00 AM Holly House

GCNJ State Board Meeting

April 20

Easter Sunday

April 22

Earth Day

April 24

WTGC Holland Ridge Farm Field Trip

See page 10 for details

April 25

Arbor Day

April 28, 7 PM via Zoom

WTGC Board Meeting

April 29-30

GCNJ Flower Show Symposium

Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ

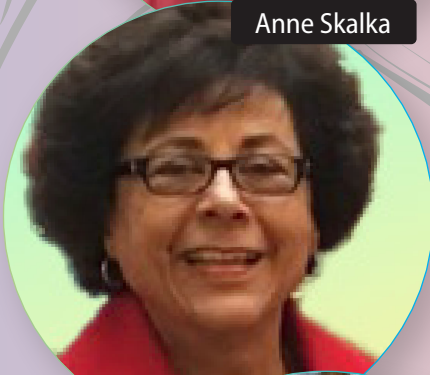


Program | *How Does Your Garden Grow?*

Anne Skalka, Terry Palise, Ingrid Fair, Linda Reasoner



Anne Skalka



Terry Palise



Ingrid Fair



Linda Reasoner

This session showcases the beauty and diversity of our members' gardens through a photo presentation. Members will share images and stories of their garden successes and challenges. It's a wonderful opportunity to gain inspiration and tips from fellow gardeners and celebrate the fruits of our gardening efforts. Bring a friend.



Happenings

Important Initiatives!



Scholarship Breakfast

The West Trenton Garden Club Scholarship Breakfast will be held on *April 26th from 9–11 a.m.* at the Hollowbrook Community Center.

By now everyone should have received their tickets, either at the meeting, or through the mail. I have received 18 replies so far, so please either mail me your check, or hand it in at the April meeting. I would like to thank Linda Lee and Joan for volunteering to do the food shopping and set up, and Victoria for volunteering to handle the scholarship portion of our project. The raffle baskets have started to roll in. So far, we have six, but we still need a lot more. If you would like to put a basket together or contribute items towards a basket, I will be happy to collect your contributions at the April meeting.

Thank you very much for all of your help to make this worthwhile project a success.

Linda Reasoner



We're ditching **SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS!**

(see photos, next page)

"SUPs" have significant impacts:

To the *Environment*

- Did you know that plastic is made from oil—a **Fossil Fuel** which helps to drive the **Climate Crisis**?
- Plastic Pollution winds up on our streets and highways, and in our waterways and oceans. It's not only unsightly, it's **Unhealthy**.

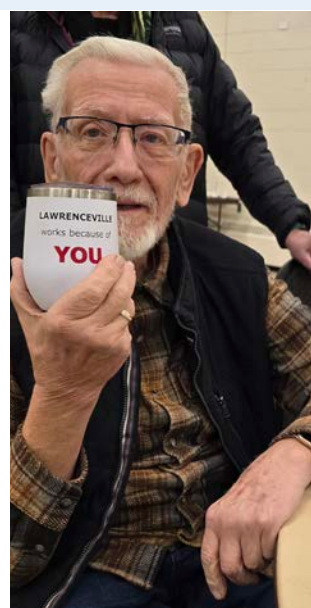
To our *Health*

- Plastics can leach harmful chemicals into our bodies that mess with our hormones.
- When plastics break down, they release **Microplastics** into our environment and our bodies. It's a very real health threat.

Heidi Furman

We're ditching SINGLE-USE-PLASTICS!

Look who accepted the sustainability challenge!



Holland Ridge Farm Field Trip

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 1:00 PM

108 Rues Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

To sign up, contact Lynn Grillo:

- Email lgrillo@mac.com
- Text 609-954-2191
- In-person at the April meeting

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a wonderful day outdoors!

- Tickets will be purchased at the farm.

\$15

Staying Green by Carpooling!

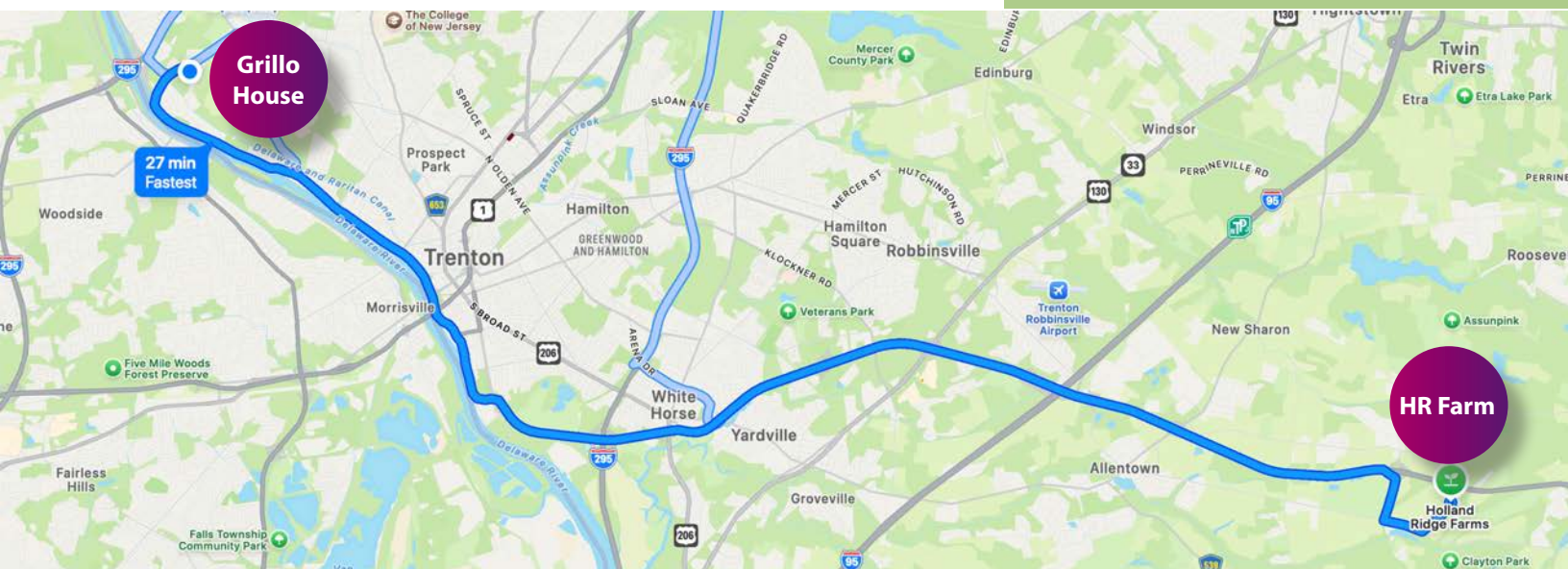
Meet at Lynn Grillo's home @ 12:15 PM

15 Diane Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628

- Sign up to drive for the carpool!
- Approx 30 minute drive

Currently Signed up:

1. Gabrielle Belcheff
2. Davah Brinker
3. Anne Chmielewski
4. David Chmielewski
5. Vernon Clash
6. Mary Corrigan
7. Ingrid Fair
8. Kevin Fair
9. Susan Fair
10. Lynn Grillo
11. Maggie Kramer
12. George McElrath
13. June Miller
14. Linda Reasoner
15. Vicky Rivera-Cruz
16. Jeff Tryon



2025 WTGC Flower Sale Form

Order due April 15th, 2025

Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

	Price	Amount	Total
Basil (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Lavender (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Mint (Assorted) (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Rosemary (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Thyme (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Asparagus Fern (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Dracaena Spike (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Mezoo (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Potato Vine- Purple (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Potato Vine- Green (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Vinca Vine (4" Pot)	\$3.50		
Geranium- Pink (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Geranium- Red (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Geranium- Salmon (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Geranium- Violet (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Geranium- White (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Ivy Geranium (Assorted Colors) (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- Lavender (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- Pink (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- Purple (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- Red (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- Salmon (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
New Guinea Impatiens- White (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
SunPatien- Deep Rose (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
SunPatien- Lilac (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
SunPatien- Orange (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
SunPatien- Red (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
SunPatien- White (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Calibrichoa (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Eucalyptus (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Lantana (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Premium Coleus- Sun or Shade (Assorted Colors) (4.5" Pot)	\$4.25		
Dragonwing Begonia (5.5" Pot)	\$4.75		
Dusty Miller (5.5" Pot)	\$4.75		
Sun Coleus (5.5" Pot)	\$4.75		
Hanging Basket- 10" Confetti Mix (1.5 gal)	\$15.25		
Hanging Basket- 10" Fuchsia (1.5 gal)	\$15.25		
Hanging Basket- 10" Geranium (1.5 gal)	\$15.25		
Window Box- 24" Geranium	\$19		
Window Box- 24" New Guinea Impatiens	\$19		
Annual Flats- Flowering Vinca (8 packs of 4)	\$14.50		
Annual Flats- African Marigold (8 packs of 4)	\$14.50		
Annual Flats- Portulaca (8 packs of 4)	\$14.50		
Birmingham Park Donations	Any Amount		
		Total	

Pick up will be Friday, May 2nd from 1-7pm or Saturday, May 3rd from 9am-12pm. All checks to be made payable to West Trenton Garden Club. **Pay in advance or at pickup.** Mail, email or call Rick Lazarick by April 15th with orders.

Rick Lazarick, 8 Blackwood Drive, Ewing NJ 08628; ricklazarick@gmail.com (609) 433-1793

Pickup will be at 3 Riverview Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628; gabriellebelcheff@gmail.com, (732) 710-6905.

WTGC History | Planting Trees

Anne Chmielewski

A tree being planted in Banchoff Park in 2003



The planting of trees has long been a tradition of the West Trenton Garden Club. In the early days of our club, members planted trees in April to celebrate the national tree holiday — Arbor Day. The Publicity Committee would send photos of the tree planting ceremonies to newspapers, encouraging the public to plant trees. Featured tree planting occurred at significant locations such as Fisk Elementary School. A tree was planted in Banchoff Park in celebrate the Garden Club's 50th Anniversary. As part of this ongoing tradition, trees have been distributed in Ewing Township every Arbor Day. Club volunteers have provided sapling trees to the public at the Mercer County Library, Ewing branch. Additionally, a tree poem is read to children during story hour.

People receiving these trees have returned year after year showing pictures and telling stories about their trees. Once again, trees will be distributed to the public this Arbor Day. The trees have been grown and raised at the New Jersey Forestry Nursery in Jackson. About 90 red oak trees will be distributed on April 25th. Our tradition has been inspired by a New Jersey poet Joyce Kilmer. His poem, "Trees," was written honoring a red oak growing on the grounds Rutgers University. Today, we are inspired by our state poet, and look forward to planting our state tree, the red oak.

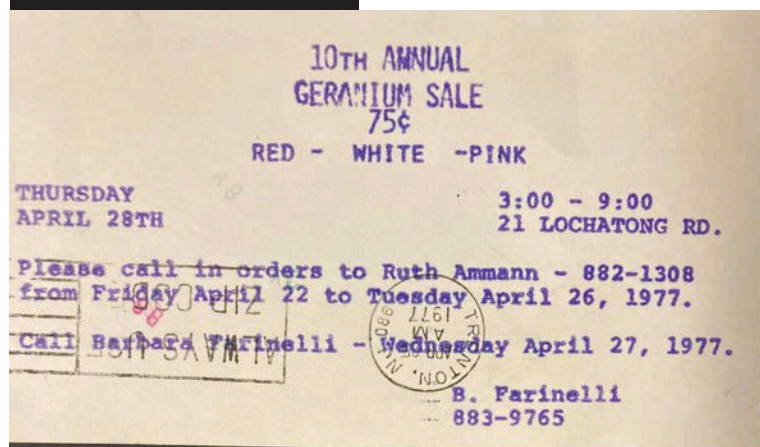
WTGC History | Photo Retrospective

Linda Reasoner

A club garden tour in 2002



Geranium Sale 1977



Annual Geranium Sale with Committee
April 27th, 1978



Gallery | *Bonsai with Andrew Reasoner*

March 3, 2025



Photos by Jeff Tryon