



The  
*Garden*  
Path

## Contents

President's Letter .....	2
April 2026 Meeting Minutes .....	3 – 5
Calendar   Don't Forget!   Happy Birthday! .....	6
Other News.....	7
Petite Designs for the Flower Show.....	8
"Color Me Autumn" .....	9
Don't Miss Out! .....	10
WTGC Field Trips.....	11
Gallery   Arbor Day.....	12
Gallery   Birmingham Park Adorned for 250! .....	13
Gallery   Woosamonsa Ridge Trail Spring Flowers.....	14
Gallery   Heritage Preserve Park.....	15
Explore More on Our Garden Club Blog! .....	16

Anne Skalka  
*President*

Linda Reasoner  
*Vice President*

Rick Lazarick  
*Treasurer*

Karen Lewandowski  
*Recording Secretary*

Victoria Rivera Cruz  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Lorraine Persiani  
*Immediate Past President*

Maggie Kramer  
*Club Parliamentarian*

Jeff Tryon  
*Newsletter Editor*

Lynn Grillo  
*Newsletter Design*



# President's Letter

Anne Skalka | May 2026



Photo by Jeff Tryon

*Dear Members and Friends,*

May brings renewed energy to our gardens, with longer days, warmer temperatures, and beautiful blooms all around. It's a wonderful time to plant, nurture, and enjoy the results of our efforts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time this spring to clean up and mulch Birmingham Park. The Park is flourishing with amazing colors. If you haven't been by there or haven't seen the pictures sent out by George McElrath and Rick Lazarick, please let us know. The Park will be the focus of our 250th Anniversary event planned for July 3rd, 2026. Your dedication supports our club's programs, scholarships, and community outreach.

Another successful "Seed to Snack" event was held this month at The Learning Center in Lawrenceville, hosted by Marcia Felcone. We believe that gardeners grow gardeners as well as flowers. And gardeners, especially little ones, love dirt. Also, planning for a new children's garden at the Center is underway by Devah Brinker and Marcia Felcone for May.

Scholarship applications are in for our annual Scholarship program for students majoring in horticulture and urban planning related fields. The awards will be announced soon.

Thank you as well to our members for supporting our Annual Plant Sale by purchasing plants. A friendly reminder to pick up your plants on May 1st and 2nd. We look forward to a successful and rewarding event for all.

Wishing you a beautiful and successful gardening season!

Happy Gardening!

*Anne Skalka*

WTGC President

# April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

## President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of April 6, 2026 was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by President Anne Skalka.

## Secretary's Report

The minutes of the March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting were printed in the April Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections submitted by the membership, so the minutes were filed as reported. Also, the minutes of the March 30, 2026 Board Meeting were emailed all Board members and attendees. Some minor corrections were made, and the minutes were finalized and filed as amended.

## Treasurer's Report

In Rick Lazarick's absence, Anne Skalka reported that the current bank balance is \$10,310.91, which reflects a healthy income of \$3,152 from the Scholarship Breakfast and a \$750 NGC Grant that was awarded to us. Expenses of \$745 were from the Scholarship Breakfast and \$301 for items for Birmingham Park.

## Corresponding Secretary

No report.

## Birthdays

Anne Skalka announced the names of all members who have April birthdays.

## Committee Reports

### 250th Anniversary

In Linda Reasoner's absence, Anne Skalka reported that everything is running smoothly with preparations for the July 3rd festivities at Birmingham Park. The committee is working hard and meeting monthly.

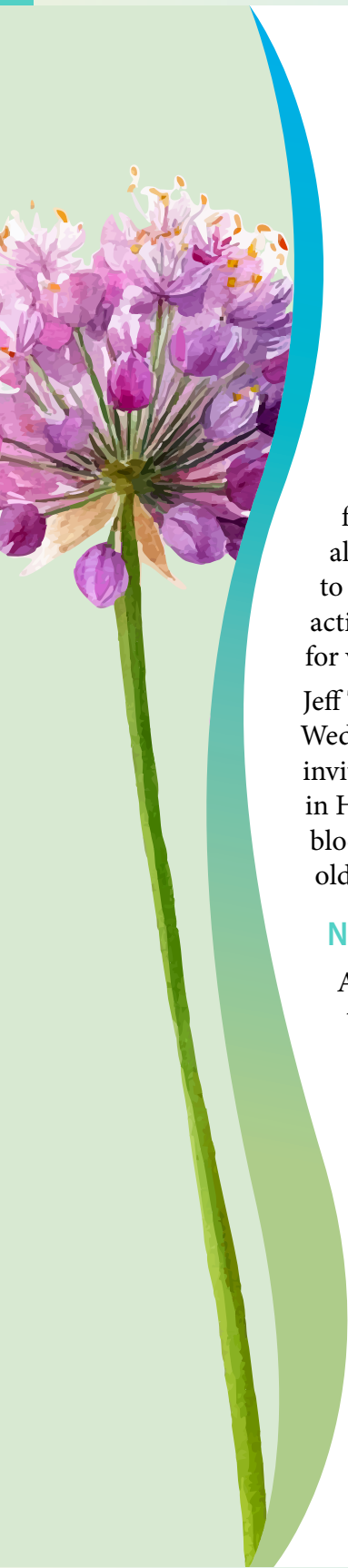
### Scholarship

Anne Skalka reported that the April 1 deadline was extended to April 15. We had 2 applications by April 1, but Lynn Grillo advertised it on Facebook, and we have received 2 additional applications.

*(continued next page)*

# April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



## Spring Plant Sale

Elle Belcheff brought extra order forms to the meeting and a volunteer sign-up sheet. She needs help on the morning of the flower delivery, which is Friday, May 1. The deadline for ordering is April 10, and she collected orders at the meeting.

## Field Trips

Lynn Grillo handed out a flyer with a schedule of all the field trips being offered this year. The first one is on Thursday, May 7, to Sayen Gardens. Lynn wants all members who want to go to sign up, and she will arrange a meeting place to carpool.

While Lynn had the floor, she also reported that she is heading the Entertainment Team for the 250th Anniversary celebration at Birmingham Park. She placed pieces of paper at all the tables with a barcode so members can access a site on their devices to enable them to sign-up to man the tables for all the kids' activities scheduled for that day. Some of the activities include various crafts, coloring, a scavenger hunt, and storytime. The hours needed for volunteers are from 12-3.

Jeff Tryon reported that the Stony Brook Garden Club is holding a Flower Show on Wednesday, April 8, from 10 am - 4 pm at the Sculpture Gardens in Hamilton. He also invited anyone who is interested to join him on a walk through the Heritage Park Preserve in Hopewell Township at 9:30 am on Saturday, April 11, to view the wildflowers that are in bloom for a short time. He also announced that Linda Reasoner is looking for hard copies of old club newsletters for her archives.

## Nominating Committee

Anne Chmielewski announced that the committee has come up with a slate of officers for the new term: Elle Belcheff, President; Linda Reasoner, Vice-President; Rick Lazarick, Treasurer; Barbara Lear, Recording Secretary; Victoria Rivera-Cruz, Corresponding Secretary. Nominations were requested from the floor, but none were made. A formal vote will be taken at the next monthly meeting in May. Also, two 1-year and one 2-year members are needed to fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors. If interested, please contact Anne.

## Arbor Day

Anne Chmielewski reported that she will be handing out 90 Red Bud tree saplings that she acquired from a nursery in Jackson at the Ewing Library on Friday, April 24, from 9:30 am to 12 pm. She is looking for volunteers to help her.

*(continued next page)*

# April 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary

## Announcements

- Anne Skalka thanked this month's Hospitality Committee for the wonderful refreshments they have provided for the evening.
- Anne Chmielewski announced that she is giving out a choice of sage, basil and calendula seeds for members to plant and to enter in the "Flower Show Challenge".
- A Q & A session was held.
- Devah Brinker announced a Horticulture Therapy project that she has undertaken to fix the Children's Garden at the Learning Center in Pennington that was severely damaged by landscapers during their Spring clean-up on the property. She needs help and is looking for volunteers.
- Helga Fontus reminded members that the sign-up boards are present at the meeting for the Flower Show. She said that the preparations are coming along smoothly, but more members need to take an active part.
- The 50/50 winner was picked, along with winners of gladiola bulbs and a flower arrangement.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Anne Skalka at 7:20 pm. After the refreshments were served, a program entitled "Fragrance in the Garden" was presented by Steven Kristoph for members' information and enjoyment.



Flowers for the Library, by Diane Sanchez

# Calendar | Don't Forget! | Happy Birthday!

May 2026

## Happy Birthday!

- Anne Cheslock - May 11
- Rick Lazarick - May 12
- Lorraine Persiani - May 14
- Carol Mills - May 17
- Karen Lewandowski - May 18
- Linda Geiger - May 21

## Don't Forget!

### Flowers for Ewing Library

Iliana Okum

### Hospitality Committee

Iliana Okum (Chair), Marcia Felcone, Harry Gamble, Terry Palise, Camille Rainiero, June Rosso.

### Newsletter Deadline

Submit info to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month via: [wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wgtcnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

### May 1 – May 2 | Flower Sale Pick-up

Fri, May 1st from 12-6:30 pm or Sat, May 2nd from 9:30 am-12 pm at 3 Riverview Drive, Ewing

### May 4 | 6:30 PM, WTGC Monthly Meeting

**Program:** “Petite Designs for the ‘Color Me Autumn’ Flower Show.”

### May 4 – 6 | St. Louis, MO

2026 National Garden Clubs (NGC) Annual Convention

### May 7 | 10:00 AM, Sayen Gardens Field Trip

Meet at 15 Diane Drive, Ewing at 9:30 am

### May 19 | 10:00 AM, Holly House!

GCNJ State Board Meeting

### May 24 – June 1 | 10:00 AM, Holly House

National Children's Gardening Week



Photo by Jeff Tryon | Woosamonsa Ridge Trail

## Other News...

### Annual Membership | Archives Request

#### *Annual Membership*

---

West Trenton Garden Club membership annual dues of \$30 /single membership (or \$45 for family) are due the month of May.

Please bring your membership dues check or cash to the meeting on Monday May 4, or checks can be mailed to Rick Lazarick at 8 Blackwood Drive, Ewing, NJ 08628.

If you have chosen to no longer remain a member, please let Rick know.

Phone: (609) 883-1243 or

Email: [ricklazarick@gmail.com](mailto:ricklazarick@gmail.com)

#### *Archives Request*

---

We are striving to make our club archives complete. If anyone has any old newsletters from 2010 and forward that you do not need any more please bring them to the May meeting, or I would be happy to pick them up at your convenience.

Thank you,

Linda Reasoner

[lindar75@verizon.net](mailto:lindar75@verizon.net)



Galearis spectabilis orchids in Herrontown Woods  
Photo by Jeff Tryon

# Petite Designs for the “Color Me Autumn” Flower Show

Program by Pat Bowker



The WTGC Flower Show “*Color Me Autumn*” will have 3 classes of Petite Designs which range from 3” to 12”. Our presenter, WTGC member *Pat Bowker*, will bring all the staging panels for these classes. The members who signed up for the Petite Designs can take home their staging panel to start practicing. In addition, Pat will briefly go over the other Design and Botanical Arts Classes and discuss how they are judged. Members should review the flower show schedule and bring their questions relating to these two topics.

Pat Bowker, WTGC member since 1996, is an NGC (National Garden Clubs) Accredited Flower Show Judge. She has won numerous NGC blue ribbons and top exhibitor awards. Pat wrote the schedule for “Color Me Autumn” and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in preparing our membership to meet the requirements of an NGC flower show. We are very grateful to Pat who now lives in Shohola, PA (~ 2.5 hrs. from Ewing) for coming to help us prepare for the show. 🌸



[Download the Show Schedule!](#)





WTGC Standard Flower Show

# *“Color Me Autumn”*

*Horticulture Entries Day: September 17, 2026*

## What You Need To Know

### **1** RULE *Container-grown plants*

Must be in the possession of the exhibitor for at least 90 days prior to the show.

### **2** RULE *Combination plantings*

Must be grown together by the exhibitor for six (6) weeks prior to the show.

### **3** RULE *Cut specimens of annuals, biennials, and perennials*

Must have been in the exhibitor’s possession from seeds, cuttings, or immature plants and grown to maturity.

### **4** RULE *Bulbous blooms*

Must have been in exhibitor’s possession from planting of bulb, tuber, corm, rhizome, etc., at least 90 days or it must have been cared for as a mature plant.

### **5** RULE *Arboreal specimens*

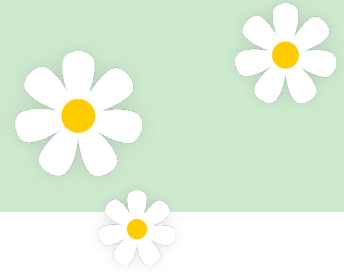
Must be in the exhibitor’s possession for at least six (6) months.



*Bring your finest.  
Best in Show Awaits...*

# Don't Miss Out!

250 Sign Ups, Field Trips, Flower Show



## Spring is Here—Let's Get Growing Together!

There's a lot happening in the months ahead, and now is the time to jump in. Whether you enjoy planting, helping behind the scenes, or simply spending time with fellow members, there are plenty of ways to take part.

	May	June	July	August	Sept
250 Event	Sign-up to help at 250 Event		250 Event July 3 		
Field Trips	Sayen Gardens May 7, 10 am	Meadowbrook June 20, 10 am	Federal Twist July 11, 10 am	Andalusia Aug 27, 10 am	
Flower Show	Sign-up to exhibit or to help				Flower Show Sept 18-19 

### 250 Celebration – Join a Team

We are gearing up for our Birmingham Park 250 Celebration, and volunteers are welcome on several event sub-committees. This is a great way to contribute in a way that fits your interests:

- **Planning & Coordination** – *Linda Reasoner*
- **Entertainment** – *Lynn Grillo*
- **Hospitality** – *Monique Bonnier*
- **Publicity & Promotion** – *Ida Cahill*
- **Logistics & Procurement** – *George McElrath*
- **Financial Tracking & Grant** – *Rick Lazarick*

Reach out to any of the leads above to get involved. Every helping hand makes the event more special.

### Field Trips – Save Your Spot

Our summer field trips are always a highlight—relaxed, enjoyable, and full of inspiration. Details are on the next page. Contact [Lynn Grillo](#) with questions or to sign up.

### Flower Show – Looking Ahead

Our September Flower Show will be here before we know it. There are many ways to participate, from exhibiting to helping with setup and welcoming visitors.

Contact [Helga Fontus](#) to learn more or to get involved early.

Take a moment to look over the timeline above, mark your calendar, and choose where you'd like to join in. Your participation keeps our club active, welcoming, and fun for everyone.

**We look forward to seeing you this season!**



# WTGC Field Trips

Experience beautiful gardens close to home!

We have an exciting line-up of field trips planned for 2026 — all less than 45 minutes from Ewing. Two are free, and two have a fee. We've included both weekday and weekend options so everyone has a chance to join us at least once.

It's a lovely mix. Each garden has its own personality — one is peaceful and park-like, one is full of practical ideas we can bring home, one feels artistic and creative, and one gives us that beautiful historic estate experience along the river. I think we're going to come away inspired — and simply enjoy spending time together in some very special places

*Sign up for our  
Spring Field Trip to  
Sayen Gardens on  
Thursday, May 7!*

Email: [lgrillo@mac.com](mailto:lgrillo@mac.com)  
Call/Text: 609-954-2191

## Spring | Sayen Gardens Thursday, May 7, 10:00 am

Sayen Gardens is a beautifully maintained 30-acre municipal garden featuring winding paths, ponds, gazebos, a wide collection of azaleas and rhododendrons in a peaceful park setting.

- Hamilton, NJ - 20 minutes from Ewing
- Free
- **Self-guided** | Easy to moderate

## Early Summer | PHS Meadowbrook Farm Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am

Meadowbrook Farm is a 25-acre public garden operated by PHS that showcases sustainable gardening practices, seasonal displays, native plantings, and creative design ideas for gardeners.

- Jenkintown, PA - 45 minutes from Ewing
- Free
- **Self-guided** | Moderate

## Mid Summer | Federal Twist Saturday, July 11, 10:00 am

Federal Twist is a private garden in Stockton that blends contemporary garden design with naturalistic planting, creating artistic, and layered landscapes that change through the seasons.

- Lamberville area - 30 minutes from Ewing
- \$15 pp fee
- **Guided Tour** | Moderate

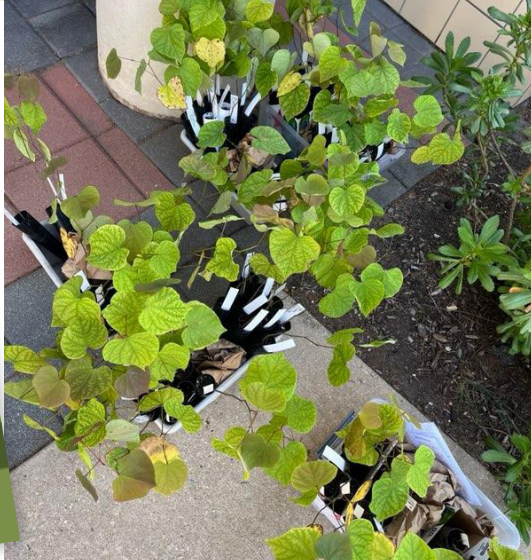
## Late Summer/Early Fall | Andalusia Gardens Thursday, Aug 27, 10:00 am

Andalusia Gardens is a historic riverside estate along the Delaware featuring formal gardens, an arboretum, and sweeping views, with ongoing horticultural restoration and preservation.

- Bensalem, PA area - 25 minutes from Ewing
- \$30 pp fee
- **Guided Tour** | Easy

# Gallery | Arbor Day

All 120 trees were claimed in one hour! Photos by Elle Belcheff and Iliana Okum



# Gallery | Birmingham Park Adorned for 250!

Photos by George McElrath & Rick Lazarick



# Gallery | Woosamonsa Ridge Trail Spring Flowers

Photos by Jeff Tryon



# Gallery | Heritage Preserve Park

Photos by Jeff Tryon



# Explore More on Our Garden Club Blog!

<https://www.westtrentongc.org/blog>



Scan to visit blog

Our *West Trenton Garden Club* blog is a wonderful way to enjoy even more of the beauty and inspiration we share throughout the year. Each post features stories from our members along with many more photos than we can include in the newsletter—perfect for reliving special outings and discovering new places.

In this issue, we're highlighting three recent stories:

- [Heritage Preserve Hike](#)
- [A Visit to Avant Garden](#)
- [A Day at the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

Each story captures a unique garden experience, filled with gorgeous images and thoughtful reflections.

You can find these stories, and many more, on our website. New posts are also shared on our social media channels, making it easy to stay connected and inspired between meetings.

If you enjoy what you see, please consider sharing these posts on your own social media. It's a lovely way to spread the joy of gardening and showcase the activities of our club.

Happy reading—and happy gardening!



Apr 20



## Heritage Preserve Hike

Story and photos by Jeff Tryon On the morning of April 11, I led a wildflower hike along the trails at Heritage...



Apr 12



## A Visit to "Avant Garden"

Photography by Jeff Tryon Earlier this week, West Trenton Garden Club member and newsletter editor Jeff...



Mar 30



## A Day at the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival

Photos by Jeff Tryon, Iliana Okum, Terry Palise, and Rita Obied This spring, several members of the West Trenton...