



# The Garden Path

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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 | June 2026



Cypripedium by Jeff Tryon

*Dear Members and Friends,*

As June arrives and our garden club year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting with gratitude on the many wonderful moments we have shared together. Serving as President of the West Trenton Garden Club has truly been an honor and a joy.

This past year has been filled with beautiful programs, creative projects, community service, laughter, learning, and friendship. From planting and growing to decorating and giving back, each event reminded me how special this club truly is. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and willingness to volunteer have helped our club continue to flourish.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our officers, committee chairs, and every member who contributed their time and talents throughout the year. Whether you organized an event, baked for a fundraiser, arranged flowers, cared for plants, or simply offered encouragement and support, you made a difference.

A special thank you to everyone who supported our annual plant sales, park maintenance, scholarship efforts and all our community outreach. Your generosity helps us continue planting seeds of hope within our community and encouraging future gardeners.

As I step down from my role as President, I do so with confidence that our club will continue to grow and thrive. I know the friendships formed here and the love of gardening we share will continue blooming for years to come.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving this wonderful organization. I will always cherish the memories we created together.

Wishing you all a beautiful summer filled with sunshine, flowers, and happiness.

With sincere appreciation!

*Anne Skalka*

WTGC President

# May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



## President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of May 4, 2026 was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Anne Skalka.

## Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 6, 2026 meeting were printed in the May Newsletter. There were no additions or corrections submitted by the membership, so the minutes were filed as reported. Also, the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Board Meeting were taken and prepared by Linda Reasoner in the Secretary's absence. They were distributed to all the Board members and attendees. Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes were filed as reported.

## Treasurer's Report

In Rick Lazarick's absence, Anne Skalka reported that the current bank balance is Rick Lazarick reported a current balance of \$8,733.63. There was no income in April but \$1,577.28 was paid out for various expenses. There are presently 65 active members and 2 new members joining up

## Corresponding Secretary

No report.

## Guests & Birthdays

Anne Skalka introduced 1 guest present at the meeting. She also announced the names of all members who have May birthdays

## Committee Reports

### Pass the Can

Linda Reasoner reported that \$32.17 was collected in March and \$32.27 was collected in April. She thanked the members for their generosity.

### 250th Anniversary

Linda Reasoner reported that plans for the Birmingham Park July 3rd celebration are moving along nicely. The committee meets every month and everything is coming together on schedule. Lynn Grillo reminded members that the Entertainment Team has a sign-up sheet available for helping with the kid's activities. There is also a need for someone to decorate the morning of the event

*(continued next page)*

# May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



with balloons, etc.

George McElrath is looking for equipment, such as tents and tables, for members to lend to him to use that day. Rick Lazarick talked with the Mayor about the pink house and whether we will be able to use the side yard for our activities. A historian will be on hand wearing a full Patriot soldier uniform with musket.

## Scholarship

A total of 2 applications have been received and the committee will be meeting to review and evaluate them.

## Spring Plant Sale

Elle Belcheff thanked everyone who participated in the sale. So far, we have made between \$3500-\$4000. She brought in all the extra plants to sell.

## Field Trips

Lynn Grillo reminded members that there is a planned field trip to Sayen Gardens taking place on Thursday morning, May 7, at 10:00 am. There will be no carpooling. If it is raining, the trip will be canceled.

## Nominating Committee

Anne Chmielewski introduced the nominees for the following slate of officers:

Corresponding Secretary - Victoria Rivera-Cruz

Recording Secretary - Barbara Lear

Treasurer - Rick Lazarick

Vice President - Linda Reasoner

President - Elle Belcheff

The Board of Directors has two 2-year member and two 1-year member spots to fill. The following members volunteered to undertake the task:

Two-Year Term Board of Directors- Lynn Grillo

Two-Year Term Board of Directors - Monique Bonnier

One-Year Term Board of Directors - Mary Corrigan

One-Year Term Board of Directors - Jeff Tryon

Nominations were requested from the floor, and hearing none, a vote was taken. The slate was approved unanimously by the attending membership. The new officers will be installed at the June meeting.

*(continued next page)*

# May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



## Arbor Day

Anne Chmielewski reported that the Arbor Day Red Bud tree give-away was a big success. All the trees were gone by 10 am.

## Announcements

- Anne Skalka thanked this month's Hospitality Committee for the delicious refreshments they provided for the evening.
- A Q & A session was held.
- The 50/50 winner of \$31.00 was picked, along with 3 winners of flowers of choice from the sale table, plus a winner of the refreshment table flowers.

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 Iliana Okum

*(continued next page)*

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

June 2026

## Happy Birthday!

- Helga Fontus - June 1
- Nancy Fontus - June 1

## Don't Forget!

### Flowers for Ewing Library

Zofia Jablonski Feulner

### All Members

Please bring an appetizer or dessert, a themed place setting and a small flower arrangement for the place setting contest (see next page), for the June Installation Celebration

### Hospitality Committee

President Anne Skalka (Chair), Ida Cahill, Linda Gerasimowicz, Diane Sanchez, Ginny Sari, and Jill Voorhees. Volunteers will be needed for setup.

## Mark Your Calendar

### June 1 | 6:00 PM, WTGC Monthly Meeting

**Early Start!** Hollowbrook Community Center. Pot luck buffet, Place Setting Contest, and new officers installation! See next page for details.

### June 3 | 101st GCNJ Annual Meeting

Olde Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ.

### June 7 – 13 | National Garden Week

### June 20 | 10:00 AM, PHS Meadowbrook Farm

WTGC Field Trip. Contact Lynn Grillo

### June 22 – 28 | National Pollinator Week

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### Newsletter Deadline

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



Photo by Lynn Grillo | Sayen Gardens

# June Program: Year End Bash & Officer Installation!

Monday, June 1 | 6:00 PM

## Place Setting Contest!

1



Place setting and small flower arrangement for contest, in one of this year's themes and a drink container

## Pot Luck Buffet

2



An hors d'oeuvre, main dish, or dessert to share at the buffet.

Reach out to [Mary Corrigan](#) who is coordinating the buffet

## Evening Schedule

### Buffet & Social Hour

- We will enjoy an hors d'oeuvre and dessert buffet.
- Please bring a dish to share—sweet or savory.

### Place Setting Competition

Set and decorate your own place using one of these themes:

#### ✿ America 250 Celebration

Patriotic — red, white, blue, colonial touches, historic Americana, or interpretations of the nation's landscapes and traditions.

#### ✿ Farmhouse Harvest

Relaxed rustic styling with baskets, herbs, wooden textures, sunflowers, berries, or kitchen-garden charm. Perfect practice for our upcoming flower show!

#### ✿ Seaside Summer Escape

Coastal colors, shells, driftwood, sea glass, beach grasses, and breezy summer styling. It'll be "shore" to please!

#### ✿ Storybook Table

Inspired by favorite books, fairy tales, literary characters, or childhood classics.

- Include a small flower arrangement in your display.
- Prizes will be awarded for the best in each category.
- You'll use your own place setting during the buffet.
- Don't forget to bring a drink container or water bottle.

### Officer Installation

- We will recognize and install our new club officers for the coming year.

## Reminders

- Guests are not permitted at the June meeting.
- Your participation makes this event special—thank you!

## Other News...

### Annual Membership due Now | Archives Request

#### *Annual Membership Due Now!*

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

Please bring your membership dues check or cash to the meeting on Monday June 1, or mail your check 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 June meeting, or I would be happy to pick them up at your convenience.

Thank you,

Linda Reasoner

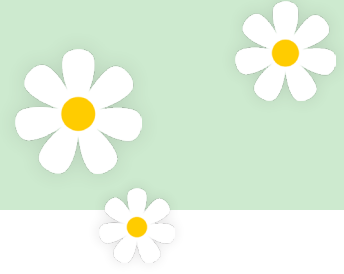
[lindar75@verizon.net](mailto:lindar75@verizon.net)



Swamp , Flame, and Pinkster azaleas.  
Photo by Jeff Tryon



# Don't Miss Out!

250 Sign Ups, Field Trips, Flower Show



## Summer is Coming—Let's Get Growing Together!

There's a lot happening this summer, 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.

	June	July	August	Sept
250 Event	Sign-up to help at 250 Event	250 Event July 3 		
Field Trips	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** (The Funshine Brigade)– *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.

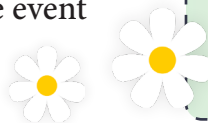
### Flower Show – Looking Ahead

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 June Trip

## PHS Meadowbrook Farm

**W**e 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

*We will carpool. If you plan to join the trip, please contact:*

**Email:** [igrillo@mac.com](mailto:igrillo@mac.com)

**Call/Text:** 609-954-2191

## 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.

PHS Meadowbrook Farm, 1633 Washington Lane, Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1132

45 minutes from Ewing | Free | Self-guided | Moderate

### 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

### Andalusia Gardens

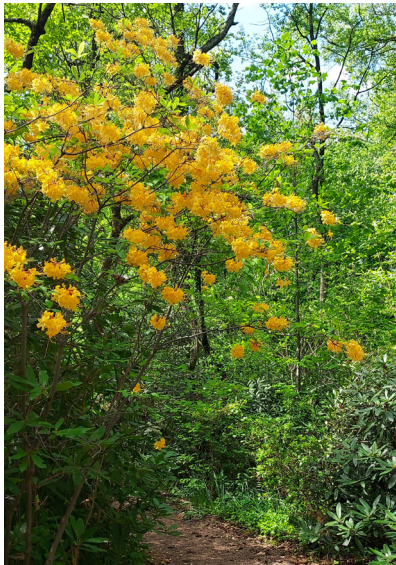
Thursday, Aug 27, 10:00 am

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 | Club Trip to Sayen Gardens

Visit our blog for full story and more pics! <https://bit.ly/SayenGardens>



# Gallery | Petite Designs with Pat Bowker

May Meeting Photos by Jeff Tryon

