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Anne Skalka <i>President</i>	Lorrain Persiani <i>Immediate Past President</i>
Linda Reasoner <i>Vice President</i>	Maggie Kramer <i>Club Parliamentarian</i>
Rick Lazarick <i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Tryon <i>Newsletter Editor</i>
Karen Lewandowski <i>Recording Secretary</i>	Lynn Grillo <i>Newsletter Design</i>
Iliana Okum <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	



President's Letter

Anne Skalka | May 2025



Dear Garden Club Members,

May is a month of blossoming beauty and renewed energy in the garden. Everywhere we look, nature is putting on a show — from the first roses, to cheerful peonies, and the buzzing activity of pollinators returning to our yards.

Our club continues to grow and flourish, just like our gardens. This month, our annual Scholarship Breakfast was a big hit. Many thanks to Lee Nestor and Joy Semp, Linda Reasoner, and all the members who turned out to eat and socialize with friends. As part of our Arbor Day celebration, Anne Chmielewski gave out 80 red bud trees Saturday morning, and we're all looking forward to our upcoming Spring Plant Sale delivery! Thank you all.

Now is the perfect time to share cuttings, swap seeds, and lend a helping hand to a fellow gardener. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb, or just getting your hands dirty for the first time, there's always something to learn and celebrate.

Wishing you all a month full of blooms, sunshine, and the joy of gardening. Remember that when we garden, we're planting hope for the future.

Anne Skalka, President

West Trenton Garden Club

April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski

President's Report

The West Trenton Garden Club meeting of April 7, 2025, was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Anne Skalka. She welcomed a number of guests and introduced a new member.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Rick Lazarick, reported a current balance of \$5,549.54. There was an expense of \$106.54 and an income of \$148.00 since last month's meeting. So far, there are \$2800 in flower orders that he has not yet deposited. He will also be collecting \$30 from all members for membership dues in April and May.

Correspondence

Iliana Okum reported that she will continue to send cheer up/get well cards to Nancy Grant, Alicia Magee and Barbara Bernhard each month until they are feeling better. She also sent sympathy cards to Zofia Zablonksy Feulner on the loss of her sister, and to Eileen Keenan on the loss of her son.

Announcements

Anne Skalka acknowledged all April birthdays.

Committee Reports

Field Trips

Lynn Grillo discussed the upcoming field trip to Holland Ridge Farms. It will take place, rain or shine, on Thursday, April 24. Sixteen people are signed up so far. Twenty people are needed to get a 10% discount on admission. Carpooling will start at Lynn's house at 12:15 pm.

Lynn also presented another field trip to the Burpee Seed Farm in Warminster, PA. It will be self-guided and take place from 10 am - 4 pm on Saturday, May 10. A sign-up sheet was distributed to all present at the meeting.

Pass the Can

\$28.91 was collected for the NJ Natural Disaster Fund at the March meeting.

Scholarship Breakfast

Linda Reasoner reported that ticket sales are going well. Two thirds of the membership have submitted payment so far. She would like to know how many people will be attending, so she has an idea of how much food to buy.

April 2025 Meeting Minutes

Karen Lewandowski

Preservation/Archives Committee

Linda Reasoner and her committee completed organizing the archives and everything is up to date. She asked members to look for old pictures or newspaper articles to add to the archives.

Flower Sale

Elle Belcheff reported that the deadline for flower orders is April 15. The sale is going well so far. Payment can be made with the order or at the time of pick up, which will be on May 2 and 3.

Flower Show

Helga Fontus reported that the venue picked to hopefully be the new location for our Flower Show is not working out as planned. A commitment will not be made unless approved by their Board of Directors. A search continues for another venue in case this one doesn't succeed.

Helga also reminded the membership that the GCNJ 100th Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held on May 14th at the Navesink Country Club. Space is limited, so members should register as soon as possible if they want to attend.

Helga also mentioned that the District VII Spring meeting will be held in Haddonfield on Tuesday, May 6th.

Arbor Day

Anne Chmielewski will be distributing 90 Red Oak trees on Friday, April 25, at the Ewing Library.

Birmingham Park

George McElrath reported that the clean-up at the park is coming along. The daffodils are in bloom, gardens were cleared of debris, and the bricks were power washed. Rick Lazarick also reported on the status of the warehouse construction at the old Naval Turbine Center site. As it stands presently, there are no contracts with any company to occupy this location, so road reconstruction will not be necessary until Ewing Township decides exactly what this land will ultimately be used for. That means that our garden is safe for the present.

Garden Tour

Anne Skalka had no update.

"Happiness is..." Ninety Red Oak tree saplings found homes on a beautiful, sunny Arbor Day. Anne Chmielewski encouraged people to plant a tree and to also plant a seed of kindness.



April 2025 Meeting Minutes

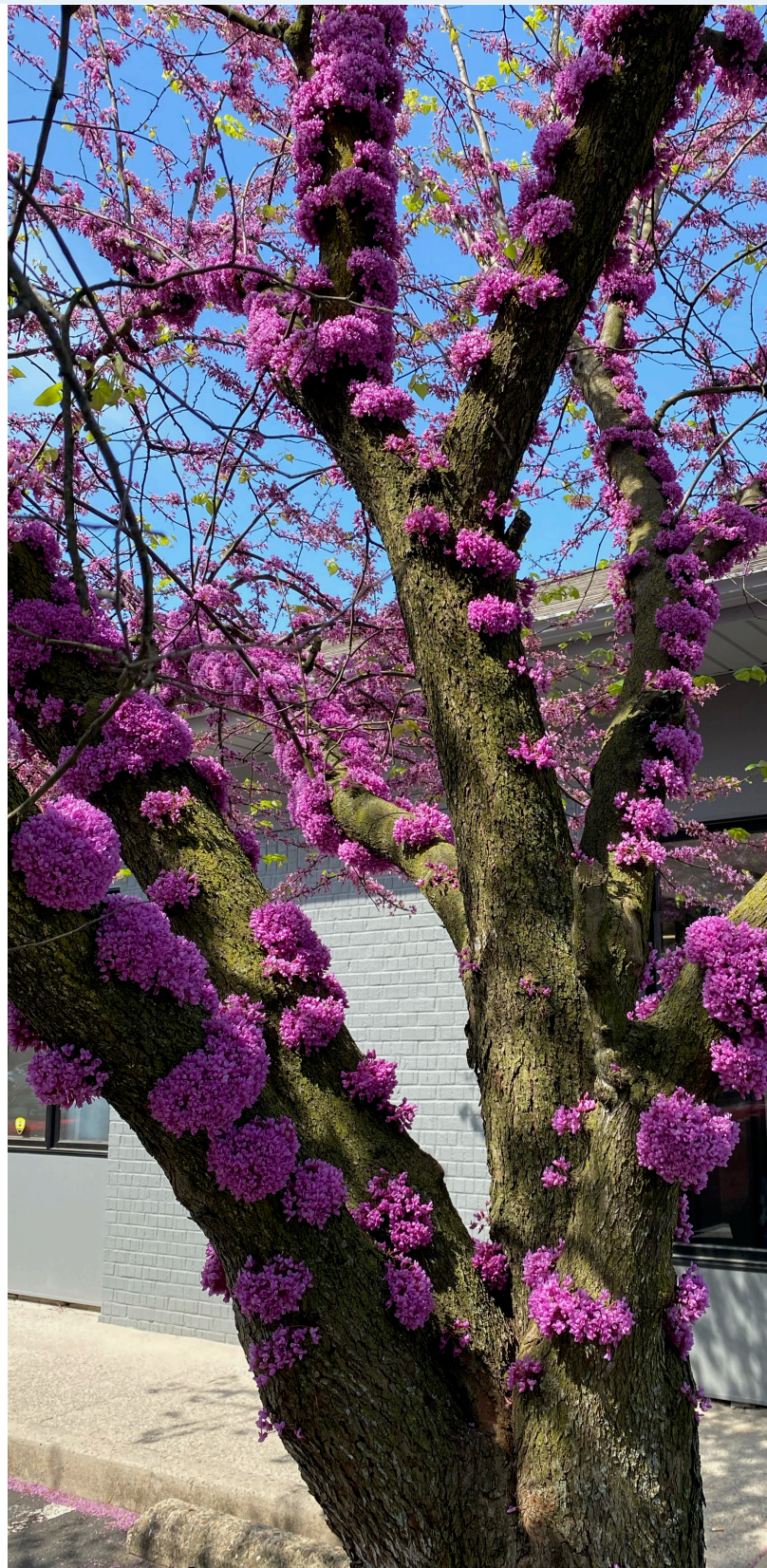
Karen Lewandowski

New Business

- **Anne Skalka** announced that Bountiful Gardens is hosting a Pollinator Day on Saturday, April 12, from 9-noon. Admission is free. They are presenting speakers giving guidance on native plants and how to support pollinators.
- **Anne Skalka** picked the winner of the \$34.00 50/50, and she also raffled off some tulips and garden gloves. She thanked the Hospitality Committee for the delicious goodies they provided for our meeting.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14. Members enjoyed the refreshments and then a presentation entitled “*How Does Your Garden Grow?*” where the members were treated to a slide show and narration of the gardens of **Ingrid Fair, Anne Skalka, Linda Reasoner and Terry Palise**. **Iliana Okum** took some of the pictures along with the members’ photos, and **Lynn Grillo** put together the visual display.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lewandowski, Recording Secretary



A Redbud tree in Lawrenceville, NJ. Photo by Lynn Grillo.

Happy Birthday | Don't Forget! | Calendar

May 2025

Happy Birthday!

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

Don't Forget!

Flowers for Ewing Library

Elle Belcheff

Hospitality Committee

Iliana Okum (Chair), Anne Chmielewski, David Chmielewski, Marcia Felcone, Zofia Jablonski Feulner, Rick Lazarick.

Newsletter Deadline

Submit all info to Jeff Tryon by the 15th of the month via email at:
wtgcnewsletter@gmail.com

Spring Plant Pickup

Pick up on Friday, May 2nd from 1-7pm or Saturday, May 3rd from 9am-12pm at Elle Belcheff's home, 3 Riverview Drive, Ewing, NJ. (732) 710-6905

IMPORTANT

Please bring (or mail by 5/1/25) all outstanding receipts and invoices to WTGC Treasurer Rick Lazarick so that the year can be closed out. Thanks!

Mark Your Calendar

May 5, 6:30 PM, Hollowbrook CC

WTGC Monthly Meeting

Program: "WTGC 2025 Fall Flower Show Update & Plant Bingo!"

May 10, Visit to Fordhook Farm

Details on page 7

May 11, Happy Mother's Day!

May 18–21, 10:00 AM Holly House

2025 National Garden Clubs (NGC)

Annual Convention, Embassy Suites Hotel in North Charleston, SC.

May 19, 10:00 AM Holly House

GCNJ State Board Meeting

May 24–30

National Children's Gardening Week



A beautiful spring tulip. Photo by Rick Lazarick.

Happenings

Important Initiatives!



Spring Plant Sale Pickup

Pick up on Friday, May 2 from 1–7 pm or Saturday, May 3 from 9 am –12 pm at Elle Belcheff's home, 3 Riverview Drive, Ewing, NJ. (732) 710-690. All checks to be made payable to West Trenton Garden Club.

If not yet paid, payment due at pickup.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 | 10AM – 4PM



Exclusive Admission for Members of Public Gardens, Horticultural Organizations and Burpee Customers!

We hope you can join us

ADMISSION:

Show your member card, e-card or email from Burpee for free admission. Guests are welcome.

LOCATION:

Fordhook Farm
105 New Britain Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

Parking available on-site and at adjacent off-site lots.
Rain or Shine Event

Rugged terrain - sturdy shoes recommended!

GARDEN ETIQUETTE:

- Practice proper heat safety and stay hydrated.
- Leave plants and sculptures as they are.
- Keep the garden smoke-free.
- No pets, please.
- Professional and commercial photography are not permitted.

WTGC Visit to Burpee Fordhook Farms

Saturday, May 10.

The farm is located at:

105 New Britain Road, Doylestown, PA

We will carpool. Please meet at Lynn Grillo's home, 15 Diane Drive, Ewing, NJ, at 9:00 am. We plan to arrive at the farm around 10 am.

Currently Signed up are:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Mary Corrigan +3 | • Iliana Okum |
| • Lynn Grillo | • Gerree Pecht |
| • Helga Fontus | • Carl Reasoner |
| • Heidi Furman | • Linda Reasoner |
| • June Miller | • Jeff Tryon |

We will need 2 additional drivers. Thank you!

Questions? Email or text Lynn Grillo

lgrillo@mac.com | 609-954-2191

May Program: Flower Show Update & Plant Bingo!

Monday, May 5 | 6:30 PM

PRIZES!



Something New in Bloom!

Our May meeting will feature an exciting addition to the evening's program. Helga Fontus will share an update related to the flower show, and then we'll turn our attention to something light and lively—Plant Bingo! It's a fun way to test your plant knowledge, win prizes, and enjoy some laughs with fellow members. Don't miss this fresh twist to our spring gathering!



ORANGE LILY



BELLFLOWER



SPANISH IRIS



RANUNCULUS



CROWN IMPERIAL



HAWKWEED



CARNATION



JONQUIL

WTGC History

By Anne Chmielewski



Opening the pages of the West Trenton Garden Club archive, we see a history of the special ways we have improved the quality of life within our community. Our members have always been involved in unique forms of civic engagement. This month we feature examples of the ways that we have added to the beauty and richness of our town.

In earlier times, members of the club have gathered each June and worked diligently designing and assembling a float for the annual 4th of July parade. It always featured a lovely convertible car with fashionably dressed members waving and smiling at the throngs of people gathered to celebrate. Junior Garden Club members (not to be left out) were also prominently featured. Community involvement went beyond parades and celebrations. With our shovels and trowels, we have been involved in beautifying our community. Plantings of memorial trees, colorful annuals, and the maintenance of Birmingham Park, all exemplify our dedication to inspire pride and environmental responsibility. We have also given recognition to organizations or businesses that endeavored to naturalize and enhance their properties. This concept expanded to recognize individual homeowners who plant and care for their gardens in unique and special ways. The "Random Act of Beauty Award" was created to honor these neighbors and friends. A West Trenton Garden Club certificate is presented to those homeowners who created the welcoming and inspiring garden. Nominations for Random Act Awards of Beauty are once again open this year. Please nominate a garden that has inspired you!



23 • THE TRENTONIAN, MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1957

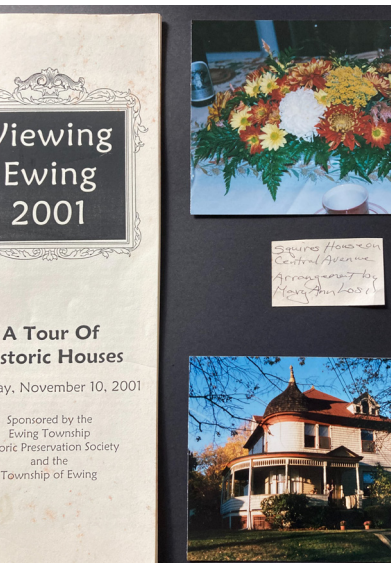
Fisk School Landscaping



WTGC History | Photo Retrospective

By Linda Reasoner

4th of July Parade, 1970s



Random Act of Beauty house July of 2021



Scholarship Breakfast

April 26, 2025 at Hollowbrook Community Center, Ewing, NJ

2025 Scholarship Breakfast



Our annual Scholarship Breakfast was a huge success! I would like to thank everyone who helped with the project by purchasing tickets, and donating the 31 baskets of gifts! A special thanks goes out to **Lee Nestor** and **Joan Szemplenski** for handling all the food shopping and preparation which is a hard task because we really never know how many to plan for exactly. Ladies — you did a wonderful job. Another special thanks goes out to **Linda Gerasimowicz** and her Hospitality Committee for set up and clean up. Lastly, thank you to **Marcia Felcone** for bringing the lovely lilacs to use as centerpieces. They added a lovely touch of spring to the event.

Sincerely, Linda Reasoner



Gallery | *How Does Your Garden Grow?*

Select Photos from our April 7, 2025 Program

Anne
Skalka



Terry
Palise



Ingrid
Fair



Linda
Reasoner



Gallery | *Holland Ridge Farms Field Trip*

April 24



WTGC Members and friends visit Holland Ridge Farms



Gallery | Spring at Birmingham Park

April 26

