

# The Garden Path

## West Trenton Garden Club Newsletter

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



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April, 2014

### President's Message

Dear Members:

I'm so glad that we were able to reschedule the March Program and I'm sorry I missed it! Moral of that story – Don't go on a cruise vacation with 700 Spring Break College students . . . no telling what you will catch! We are planning on replacing our May Program, "Cinco de Mayo" (Grace Starrett and Janis Stia) with the originally scheduled February Program "Spring Wildflowers of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve" presented by Amy Hoffmann Mawby. Thanks to everyone for shuffling these dates including Helga Fontus, Terry Palise and her Hospitality committee: Eileen & Joe Kaluzny, Anne Lund, Mary Lou McCabe and Janis Stia and finally to Carol Bozarth (who is recovering from surgery) with her telephone tree team!!!. Great Job!

Our Program this month is titled "**Orchids, Anyone?**" by Ty Triplett. I'm really looking forward to hearing about orchids because I love to have them blooming in the house year round. They are also very economical in the end because they bloom for such a long time. The thought of getting them to re-bloom is so exciting! Can't wait.

Please don't forget that our **Club dues** are required this month and must be sent to the GCNJ. In addition, **Spring Flower orders** are due. It is a club responsibility to participate in this fund raiser. **Linda Reasoner** has put together a great list of plants for us. I think everyone loved the Dragon Wing Begonias last year and we are adding Coleus this year. It should be fantastic.

Also at the April Meeting, we would like to vote on a Budget issue that was brought up at the recent Board Meeting. The club was asked to participate in the decorating of the Governor's Mansion again in 2014. The issue concerns whether or not the club feels that we have the funds to be able to afford to finance both the decorating of Drumthwacket in December 2014 (\$500-\$1000) and the Spring Flower Show in 2015 (\$2000). It is possible that we will receive a stipend from the Drumthwacket Foundation for the decorating and we can reuse materials from last year such as artificial greens that cost about \$350 with our own personal items to keep costs down. It cost us about \$1000 last year but, most of the items are available for use again this year. We could do fund raisers as well. I estimate that the cost would be \$500 this year, but the exposure and prestige for our club are invaluable.

To follow up on my theme of "Choices make Changes" (TM pending), we are coming up on the time when we began to plant seeds in the starter pots and in the garden. This year, why not consider using plants that self sow? The first time I heard about this was from a neighbor who had a beautiful garden. He explained that it made his life so much easier with a readymade garden each year. Even though I realized this is what our Grand Parents have done for years, it was a eureka moment for me. Last year, I collected the seeds from my best heirloom cleome or spider plants to sprinkle them where I want them this Spring. Normally you would just allow the seeds to fall where they will by Mother Nature but you can edit as desired thus choosing color combinations, plant heights, etc. There are so many advantages

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to this method such as weed control, cost and time savings. Some other self seeding plants include oriental poppies (Anne and David Chmielewski always have beautiful ones!), columbine and foxglove. Please give it a try.

For our anti-aging tip this month, I ask you to consider adding coconut oil to your diet- it is a plant based saturated fat as opposed to an animal based one such as butter. (I'm not saying I can give up butter though!) You can substitute it on a one for one basis with other fats and I have used it in all kinds of baked products and sautés with great success. Even my son Andrew could not tell the difference in his favorite chocolate chip cookies! If you have lactose intolerances like approximately 80% of adults do to some degree, it is a Godsend.

One last suggestion for you is to try slow released Vitamin C in your daily routine. As part of my health and anti-cancer "Cocktail", I would say that, for me, this is the most important one! Please consult your Doctor for any interactions that might be of concern to you.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in April for our Program – it is also the month to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day!

Happy Gardening,

Dianne Dickinson, President



**WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 17, 2014**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The West Trenton Garden Club met on Monday, March 17, 2014 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Past President Patty Bowker called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Pat welcomed all to the meeting and announced birthday wishes to those celebrating January, February and March Birthdays.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Not minutes read.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer, Sharon Johnson reported a balance of \$4,760.78. The report will be recorded and filed.

**PASS THE CAN REPORT:** Pass the can \$71.79 Final totals for the Poinsettia sale was 692.30. Totals for the Bulb sale were \$184.30

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The theme for the flower show will be Spring in New Jersey.

Drumthwacket was a big success and Anne Chiemeleski noted the committee worked very hard and made a tremendous creative effort. There are pictures on the website. We were asked to participate next year. The general membership will vote at the next general meeting on whether to do both Drumthwacket and the Flower Show next year. Doing both can be costly.

The district VII meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at Sayan Gardens. It will be sponsored by the Nottingham Garden Club. Two officers will attend.

We will get information on Flower Sale in the next few weeks. Look for the newsletter regarding the flower sale. Bring orders to the April meeting.

There will be a program change in May. The speaker from Bowman's Hill will present on wildflowers.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GARDEN THERAPY** Anna reported on the Garden Therapy project with Ewing Independent Living. The cost will be \$166. Grace Starrett,, Sharon Johnson, and Anna Adomaitis will assist the residents of Ewing Independent Living in making flower arrangements. It will take place April 29, from 6-7:30 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Patty presented the President's Reflections: Add cauliflower to your diet. It is brain food.

**EVENING PROGRAM:** Pat announced the program of the evening "Rain Gardens" by Carl Lewis.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.** A motion by Anna Adomaitis was made to adjourn the meeting. Jackie Anderson-Kraus seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Camille Rainiero, Secretary

Orders will be taken for the spring flower sale at the April meeting. Print and bring the order form below. Delivery date will be announced at the meeting.

## 2014 WEST TRENTON GARDEN CLUB SPRING FLOWER SALE ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ WTGC Member: Y or N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUALS	\$ PER	# WANTED	TOTAL
Geraniums – Red	\$2.50		
Geraniums – Pink	\$2.50		
Geraniums – Violet	\$2.50		
Geraniums – White	\$2.50		
New Guinea Impatiens – Red	\$2.50		
New Guinea Impatiens – Pink	\$2.50		
New Guinea Impatiens – Violet	\$2.50		
New Guinea Impatiens – White	\$2.50		
Dracaena spike	\$2.50		
Vinca Vine	\$2.50		
Potato Vine - Purple	\$2.50		
Potato Vine - Green	\$2.50		
<b>HANGING BASKETS (No Color Selec-</b>			
Ivy Geranium	\$15.00		
Petunia	\$15.00		
Confetti Mix (Petunia, Cali, Bacopa	\$15.00		
Verbena Mix)			
<b>Larger Annuals</b>			
Dragon Winged Begonia (Red)	\$3.25		
Red Salvia	\$3.25		
Sun Impatiens (No Color Selection)	\$3.25		
Flowering Vinca (No Color Selection)	\$3.25		
Kong Coleus	\$3.25		
<b>TOTAL</b>	-----		

## Dates to Remember

♦ **April 7 - WTGC Regular Monthly Meeting** - 7:00 PM (Our Lady of Good Counsel); Program: **"ORCHIDS, ANYONE?"** - Presented by Ty Triplett, American Orchid Society Probationary Judge & Membership Committee Volunteer. (See Page 60-61 for a detailed description of this program.)

♦ **April 8-9 - GCNJ Symposium**, Holiday Inn of East Windsor.

♦ **April 20 - Easter**

♦ **April 22 - Earth Day**

♦ **April 25 - Arbor Day** - Volunteers Needed for Tree Give-a-Way - Mercer County Library, Ewing Branch - Call Anne Chmielewski.

♦ **April 28** - GCNJ Executive Board Meeting - Holly House.

♦ **April 30 - May 4** - NGC Convention, Norman, OK.

## April - Member Responsibilities

- ♦ **Flowers for Ewing Library** - Sharon Guiliano.
- ♦ **April Hospitality Committee** - **Linda Reasoner (Chair)**, Carol Bozarth, Carolyn Kane, Maggie Kramer, Mary O'Donnell and Grace Starrett.
- ♦ **Info for *Garden Path*** - Submit all information for the *Garden Path* to Terry Palise no later than the 15th of the month.
- ♦ **ALL MEMBERS - CLUB DUES SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAID LAST MONTH! REQUIREMENT BY GCNJ. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO TREASURER, SHARON JOHNSON.**



## PROGRAM NEWS



**APRIL 7, 2014 -**

**"ORCHIDS, ANYONE?"**

In April, we welcome *Ty Triplett*, who has been growing orchids for over 16 years.

Sure you've killed an orchid...or maybe you've convinced yourself that your black thumb won't be able to care for a plant shrouded in mystique. It doesn't have to be that hard, so move forward! This program will focus on orchid care for beginner to intermediate growers to begin understanding their plants needs throughout the seasons.



**NO APRIL BIRTHDAYS!**

**HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!**



## ***THE ROSARIAN'S CORNER***

***By: Terry Palise***

### **THE ROSE GARDEN IN APRIL**

Thinking about what you should be doing in your garden and for your roses? The first thing you should do is to begin or complete the pruning of your roses. Of course, in this area pruning should be done when the forsythia has bloomed. That should be the signal you should go by in order to avoid pruning too early and then having cane dieback because of really low temperatures.

The first step in the pruning process is to remove:

- ♦ Dead
- ♦ Damaged
- ♦ Diseased

canes as soon as you see them.

Since this has been a real cold winter, you will probably see a number of black canes or even dark brown ones. Most likely, this is an indication that the cane is either dead or will die soon. So, you just need to prune the cane until you have a clean, white pith or center. If you leave some of the brown material in the center of the cane, you might get a rose from that cane but then later in the spring, the cane will turn black and die. So, keep cutting down the cane until you get a white pith. And, remember that you want to try to make the cut just above a bud eye that is facing outward on the cane.

As you prune, remember that you want to open up the center of the bush so that air will circulate and sunshine can penetrate. Pruning is also a way to shape the bush the way you want it to look.



Cut too high

Cut too low

Cut just right

White Pith

When you prune low, you will have bigger blooms. When you prune high, you will have more but smaller blooms. Always use sharp, clean pruners so as to avoid causing bruises to your canes. Remember to wear leather gloves and if you have not had a Tetanus shot within the last 10 years you should get a booster. There is a soil bacteria that can cause a painful infection.

Finally, clean your rose bed of leaves and other debris before your fertilize. Always water first before applying liquid or granular fertilizer (for example: Rosetone—an organic fertilizer) or before spraying your roses. Be sure to follow the directions on the package.

Then, make sure you leave time to sit and enjoy your garden and your roses!