



Troy Garden Club Branch
Woman's National Farm & Garden Association
Meetings held at the Big Beaver United Methodist Church
3753 John R, Troy, Michigan
Second Wednesday of the Month at Noon
September 2018



President's Message

Beverly Hydo

A few years ago, Robin Pokorski, the National Garden Club's leadership chair, gave a speech at their national conference titled "Wildfires and Tape Measures" about membership issues that face most garden clubs. She said that while listening to an educational video on Yellowstone National Park wildfire management, the Park Service Director said, "we had to change our methods if we wanted to preserve our national forests."

Pokorski thought, "Couldn't the same be said of a garden club? If we look at the numbers, the measure by which we judge 'how we're doing,' then maybe we need to change our methods." Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Greatness is not in where we stand, but the direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind, and sometimes against it - but sail we must and not drift nor lie at anchor." Has TGC been drifting? Do we have a "let someone else do it" attitude?

We are an organization of volunteers who come together because we like gardening. We want to further our own knowledge, pass our enthusiasm on to others and inspire future generations of home gardeners. Lately, I do not feel enthusiasm, or that oneness of purpose needed to produce noteworthy results.

Wildfires invigorate the forest, making room for new growth. We tend to have a lot of clutter in our organizations and the same old way of doing things. TGC seems to have the same few people doing most of the work that enables our club to function. We have challenges ahead, not the least of which is involving all our members in growing our club. Welcome new members to your table for lunch; make new friends.

Pokorski said, "We must ignite our enthusiasm for what our organization is and does and can do in our communities, and in our lives. One careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire. **Rekindle** your commitment to TGC. **Fire up** your interest in the garden club. **Spark** your zeal."

For me, September has always seemed to be a time of new beginnings. Perhaps related to the start of school. So, some changes are in store. Your Board has approved a recommendation for a **late membership renewal fee**. You must renew by the November meeting, or a late fee of \$10.00 will be added to your dues. Our current bylaws require November renewal. This is not new, just never enforced. **Rekindle your respect and commitment** to the club. Late renewal creates more work for our membership chair, the Michigan Division membership chair, and our Yearbook chair. All are trying to assemble accurate information for next year in a timely manner.

Secondly, Norine will implement a check off form in the kitchen for you to initial when you bring food for lunch, or dessert. Out of about 110 members, we have approximately 27 who have never contributed food in the last year. This is a shared responsibility of membership.

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President's Message continued

Finally, we have many opportunities for you to contribute to our club, and not let the same people do everything. **Fire up your interest** for our garden club. You could volunteer your time as an officer, see Karol Carter's article. Consider working with Karen Brant on the newsletter. She has been doing this solo for a long time, and could use some collaborators. You could contribute items to Ways and Means or even host for a month. Enlist the help of a fellow member. We always need helpers at THV gardening, or if the physical aspects of gardening are too difficult for you, maybe you can volunteer to water one day a week. Consider joining the Herb Study group. Attend a Michigan Division meeting to network with others. **Spark your zeal!**

Hospitality

Norine Garavanta

Come celebrate our 47th year in existence (1971)

This is a reminder that the Club buys lunch this month. There will be Iced Tea too.

The following members have signed up for dessert:

Pat Piejak, Cerol Battiste-Alleyne, Margy Ttuza, Pat Dodge, Carolyn Treiber & Kathy Mardyla

FYI: We need more members to sign the monthly sheets at the front entry for food items..

- 1) October list needs a few more volunteers.
- 2) Members are required to supply a food item twice a year and December.
Herb Study Group does not do Christmas since they supply lunch in May.
- 3) Bring a plate & mug at every meeting - "think" environment.

September Speaker

Judi Milidrag

Joining us in September is Karel Bush, Executive Director, Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council. Her presentation is entitled "Women Winemakers Making Their Mark in Michigan." Karel will give us a behind-the-scenes look at a few of the dynamic women leading Michigan's wine industry today, and a snapshot of some Michigan wines to be watching for!

Ways and Means for September

Our annual member plant sale will be held at the September meeting this year. Although ways & means is a fund-raiser, why don't we think of it as bringing a special plant to share with a friend? Please bring one or two of your best plants to share.

The plan is to use the outdoor table by the door and the area on the ground around there to display the plants, if the weather cooperates. You can drop them off as you come in. Please bring a few choice specimens to the September meeting that you have divided while putting your garden to bed.

Thank you,
Mary Hrynik

2018 Yearbooks

Kay Betke

At our February meeting the Yearbooks were given out to the members in attendance. Each month since that time, at our meetings, the Yearbooks have been available for pick-up. A few members still have not received their copy. **This is a friendly reminder for Gini Brandle, Janet Cameron, Sylvia Furman, Judy Muench, Nancy Rakicki, Pat Schultz, Eleanor Sells, and Helen VanRossen to pick up their copy.** The yearbooks are at the membership sign-in table. Along with the yearbook, a new name tag will be given.

Calendar September 2018

- 5 **9:30 a.m.** Troy Historic Village Garden Maintenance
- 12 **12 noon** Troy Garden Club General Meeting Big Beaver United Methodist Church.
Michigan Women Winemakers, Karel Bush Speaker
- 19 Herb Study Group trip to Seven Ponds Nature Center followed by lunch
at White Horse Inn.
- 21 **Newsletter Deadline. For this time only, please email your article to Mary Schwark.**
- 23 **12:30 p.m.** Board Meeting Troy Historic Village Church. Note Change in date.
- Oct. 3 11:00 a.m. – 12 noon** Budget meeting at Troy Historic Church

Pennies For Friendship, PFF Associated Country Women Of The World, ACWW Ann Britton

The articles that I write for PFF are based on articles found in *The Countrywoman* magazine. Issue 2-2018 had an article with the title “The Art of Being Nice and Kind” by Maggie de Kock. Below are a few quotes directly from the article.

“Kindness is defined as the quality of being friendly, considerate and generous. Kindness sometimes has a connotation of meaning someone is naive or weak, but on the contrary, being kind often requires courage and strength.”

“It doesn’t matter how right we are, how smart or even how great we are at anything at all; if we’re unkind, then our smarts, our looks, our great job, our leadership skills and so much more are pretty much worthless. Kindness is not about us; it’s about the other. Medical science has found direct correlations between gratitude and brain activity. Acts of gratitude and kindness reduce negative activity in the left temporal lobe, a part of the frontal lobes of the brain. This is the place in the brain where emotion, reason, and higher thinking processes are displayed. People who enjoy close relationships are healthier than those who don’t; their immune systems are stronger and thus better able to fend off illness. Recent scientific research has shown that devoting resources to others, rather than having more and more for oneself, brings about lasting well-being.”

“Resist any urge to be unkind. If you’re on the verge of being unkind to someone stop and reflect: What are you hoping to achieve from this?”

Hopefully, I will be able to practice what I preach.

Make Time for Gardening

Here’s the dirt: Gardening is good for you. Tuning in to nature, whether indoors or out, can help you de-stress and make you feel, well, grounded.

Herb Study Group

Ann Britton

On June 20th, we had a very productive meeting. Refreshments provided by Kay Betke, Carole Cotter-Bodner and Ann Britton were selected prior to Evelyn Mann-Carter's presentation on the benefits of thyme. Evelyn used her personal journey to emphasize the medicinal powers of thyme. These powers include antiseptic, diuretic, disinfectant, immune system stimulator and an expectorant. All parts of the plant are usable.

We discussed the St. Sabbas tea that occurred on August 16, and a possible herb presentation for a THV activity.

We will not have a regular meeting in September. The trip to Seven Ponds Nature Center and lunch at the White Horse Inn on September 19 will replace the regular meeting.

October 17, we will garden at the THV at 9:30 a.m. Then at 11:30 a.m., we will enjoy appetizers and an informal meeting at Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas home in lieu of a November harvest meal.

On December 5, we will meet at Telly's to make a holiday swag.

Tina Downen is investigating options for the January tea.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY! to

Jayne Smith	5
Helen Gach	7
Marilyn Frey	8
Joanne Clifford	9
Sue Purcell	10
Tina Downen	11
Carl Simmons	17
Carolyn Simmons	17
Linda Chambers	19
Loraine Campbell	21
Maia Dixon	22
Mary Baccella	24
Margy Truza	30

Dear Troy Garden Club Members,

We'd both like to thank the Troy Garden Club and our wonderful garden walk head hostesses Linda Chambers, Judy Francis, Rosemary Newton and Sue Purcell for their dedicated work and kindness on July 11. Thank you also for providing our lunches and to all members who worked morning, afternoon and evening shifts in our gardens. We couldn't have gotten through the day without you!

Sincerely,

Renee Michalek and Mary Schwark

Mott Applewood Estate Tour
Judy Francis, Cynthia Idyle, Pat
Guibord and Diane Harris (left
to right)



Garden Walk Wrap-up

Beverly Hydo

Wow, what a difference the weather makes! We sold a total of 839 Garden Walk tickets, with 167 of those coming on the day of the Walk. We have a reputation of putting on a quality Walk which has allowed us to build a large core of faithful garden walkers. Our gardens were all very different, allowing the public to see a variety of possibilities for their own gardens. I have often heard the comment that people like our Garden Walk because the gardens are “doable.” Home gardeners can identify with our gardens and homeowners.

Our success is due in large part to all of you. Thanks to everyone who baked cookies (they looked great!). Thanks to everyone who toted water and ice for our guests to enjoy. Thanks for welcoming our guests to the gardens.

Members helping at Troy Historic Village also contributed significantly to our success. Preliminary reports show that Fabulous Finds and Plant sales each generated \$1000.00 in revenue. Our arts and crafts vendors added another \$1500.00 in booth rental fees. More financial details will be forthcoming in Jeanne’s Garden Walk report.

More than anything, it is the intangibles that make our success. It is the welcoming, it is having refreshments available, and it is answering questions about the garden. It is the efforts you put in so that our guests can enjoy themselves. It leaves a lasting impression.

As you know, we are on a mission now to find next year’s great gardens. We have only one confirmed garden for next year. We do have several contracts out, and I am awaiting signatures. However, we are only half done. Please help us continue the 45 year tradition of great gardens by taking time to look for pleasing gardens in your neighborhood. Pass on addresses (and names if you have them) to me, so that we can go and evaluate them.

Thanks for all you do!