



**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  
November 2018



### President's Message

Bev Hydo

This autumn time of late October and November always seemed to me to be a quiet time in the garden. Actually, there is a lot going on to prepare the garden for winter. Gardeners need to pull up spent annuals, trim perennials, prepare the soil for cold with mulch to protect plants, and of course, rake leaves.

So too, with our garden club. We have been busy with many activities through the year, but now it's time to take stock and plan for next year. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the budget for 2019. Please take time to review it. We will ask for your vote of approval at the November meeting. Our budget is healthy. We exceeded our revenue targets with both Garden Walk, and Ways and Means. Additionally, we welcomed a record number of guests to our meetings. On the expense side, all committee chairs stayed within budget, and we did not incur unexpected expenses. As with your household budget, the cost of everything seems to be going up. We tried to take the uncertainty into account when planning for next year.

Besides our overall club budget, November is the time we determine which community groups and organizations we will support with our donation dollars. The donation budget is comprised of eighty percent of the net proceeds from our Garden Walk. Each group that we donate to is expected to send us a Final Report to let us know how the funds were ultimately used. These reports are due at the end of October, and guide us to determine next year's funding. Our donations help fulfill our garden club mission of promoting horticulture.

A big thank you to Mary Schwark and Judy Popyk for hosting a successful Ways and Means event, with proceeds totaling just over \$200.00. Thanks also goes to Gerry Young who made table centerpieces for sale with proceeds going to defray hospitality expenses. Special thanks to all of you who brought items for raffle, bought tickets, bought centerpieces, or helped distribute prizes at the end. I love that so many different people pitch in to make an event a success.

Year end activities also include honoring Volunteers of the Year. They will be announced at the November meeting, and I congratulate them now. Additionally, we will be voting on new officers in November. They will be installed in January.

Finally, it is also time to renew your membership. As an incentive to renew on time, \$10.00 will be added to any membership renewed **after our November 14th meeting**. Please remember that our membership list is private and intended to be used for garden club related matters only, on personal or TGC letterhead only. When you receive your new membership directory in 2019, you should shred your old copy.

TroyGardenClubMI.com

Mailing Address: 2844 Livernois #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

**November 2018 Speaker**

Judi Milidrag

The presenter at our November 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting is Matthew Bertrand, a Pollution Program Coordinator for Friends of the Rouge. His topic is entitled "Rain Gardens: How to Make Your Garden Look Great, Solve Problems, and Save Rivers". He is an accomplished public speaker with over 70 public presentations on topics related to gardening and the environment. If you have ever dreamed of establishing a rain garden, you will not want to miss this presentation!



Joan Burcar with her October centerpiece.

**Food Drive Replaces Ways and Means for November**

JoAnn Preston

**HOSPITALITY**

Q: What do you call a running turkey?

A: Fast Food!

Please bring enough food for 1 of the 2 tables in a disposable container. Thank you.

FINGER FOODS: Ann Britton, Vicki Guntenaar, Nancy Wietchy, Cindy Idyle, Gloria Christiansen, Joanie Ugelow, Pat DeSatnick, Elaine Faba-McLeod, The Dixons (2), Lynn Husk & Marguerite Winer

SALADS:

Green: Onita Fitz & Joan Burcar

Pasta: Helen Gach, Margaret Hatton, Karen Brant

Fruit: Janet Henning & Gerry Young

DESSERT: Dolores Coley, Pat Hauer, Jayne Smith the Dixons (2) & Pat Dodge (pumpkin spice bars)

CENTERPIECE: Judi Milidrag

REMINDERS:

- 1- Bring your own cup and plate.
- 2- Members who signed up for November should get their name checked off.
- 3- Sign up sheets for the first three months of 2019 are at the front desk.
- 4- Everyone can get out the baking pans for our Christmas celebration with ideas.

Think about November and images of busy kitchens and overflowing tables of delicious food come to mind. But imagine if instead of the joy of family and friends gathering for Thanksgiving, November brought fear of cold temperatures and uncertainty about enough to eat. Such is the situation for some folks right here in Troy. When they come forward with requests for help, Troy People Concerned screens applicants in order to assure that only the most needy receive help from the Troy pantry located right up John R at St. Anastasia parish.

Troy Garden Club members are encouraged to bring supplies to the November meeting to help that pantry serve our community during the long Michigan winter months. Since members will not be buying tickets for raffle prizes, maybe spend what is normally donated on some of the "special needs" for the pantry.

Kim Houseman, community service coordinator shared this list of particular needs in case you are stymied about what to bring: peanut butter, canned meat, toilet paper, paper towels, personal hygiene items (shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothbrush) and men's white sox.

If the weather is nice and members are bringing a box or canvas bag to donate, leave it right at the table by the entrance so the kind souls delivering to the pantry don't have to carry it

Happy Thanksgiving to you, your family and friends and thanks for giving to our neighbors who need a little help from their friends right now.

## 2019 Slate of Officers

Karol Carter

The 2019 slate of officers was presented at the Troy Garden Club's October 10 general meeting. The nominating committee of Karen Hancock, Lenore Treba, Diane Harris, JoAnn Preston, Pat Guibord and Karol Carter thank those members willing to share their time and talents. The nominees are: Barbara Lepri - president, third one-year term (president 2001-02 & 2002-03), Linda Forrester - vice president, first one-year term, Jeanne Bolcer - treasurer, third one-year term (vice president - 2016) Kathleen Mardyla - corresponding secretary, first one-year term Judy Francis - recording secretary, second one-year term.

Onita Fitz will serve as assistant to the president and Jayne Smith will serve as assistant to the vice president. The assistant positions are not member elected.

At the Wednesday, November 14 general meeting, with prior consent of nominees, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please attend to vote and offer your support to our 2019 officers. **Please review your Troy Garden Club Bylaws Article VI Nominations and Elections**



### Hanging of the Greens

Sue Vette



The Troy Historic Village will be the site of fun filled December holiday happenings. On Tuesday, November 27 at 11 a.m. come to assist Judy Cornellier in decorating the tree, hanging the wreaths, draping the garland and helping Debbie Hancock make fresh greens handouts.

Village events throughout December will pay tribute to the music of Silent Night, which is celebrating its 200th year 1818-2018. We will serve refreshments in the Church on December 1 for the concert.

Dismantling of the Greens will be Wednesday, January 2, at 11:00 a.m.



### **HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY! to**

Virginia Yuhas	1
Cerol Battiste-Alleyne	2
Karen Bigger	4
Evelyn Mann-Carter	5
Pat Dodge	20
Florence Peressini	23
Betty Chessin	27
Pat Guibord	29

### Membership

Diane Harris, Pat Guibord, Pat Piejak & Judy Popyk

Sixty-nine members were present at our October meeting for our featured presentation by Ed Blondin of Hortulus Gardens. We also welcomed 4 guests from Rochester Hills, Troy, Madison Heights, and Rockford.

Please remember it is membership renewal time. Give your completed form and check to Pat Guibord at the general meeting November 14th. The membership renewal form is included with the e newsletter, or available at our website [troygardenclubMI.com](http://troygardenclubMI.com). **The renewal deadline is November 14th.** Ten dollars will be added to any renewals received after that date. Our Treasurer, Jeanne Bolcer, has been asked to send completed renewal information to the Michigan Division by November 30th.

To all club members, please be welcoming to all guests and new members seated at your table. Please include them in your conversation, discover common gardening interests, and encourage participation in our club.

This month's donation to the Cancer Centers at WBH, Troy and Royal, were pumpkins made by Judy Popyk and delivered by Carolyn Simmons (Troy) and Val Greenberg (Royal Oak). Thank you.

## Witches – Wonderful to Wicked to Wonderful

JoAnn Preston (Guest Reporter)

When Ed Blondin owner of Hortulus Garden of Lathrup Village comes to speak, the Troy Garden Club knows there will be some surprises. Ed's high energy presentation, "Witches – Wonderful to Wicked to Wonderful", kept members under his spell whether touching the mummified apple skin, smelling the frankincense, seeing the shrunken bullfrog, or listening to the stories from Scottish Isabel Gowdie to the herbal magic found in The Book of the Dead.



Tracing the history of herbal healers in the sixteenth century, Ed shared the transformation of witches from respected members and doctors for the community through the dark centuries of fear of the unknown and moved forward to the heroes of Harry Potter and Bewitched. It is interesting that male healers in the same period became not outcasts, but respected doctors and leaders of the communities.

Groups of women gathering was a "coven" not because of evil concoctions or cruel spells, but because "coven" was the word for assembly (same origin as "convent" according to friend, Webster). When harassment drove witches from the cities out to the country, they were saved from Europe's plague. The women had room to grow their own herbs including pennyroyal, which as a natural flea repellent.

Fragrant incense made of the sap of one tree (frankincense) and the bark of another (myrrh) served two purposes: bringing people together and attracting the attention of the deity. Egyptians are given the credit for creating the Scientific Protocol. Garden Club members were assured they had the natural mummifier in their homes as Ankh is better known as baking soda. It takes 90 days to create a mummy, so be patient.

How did the story about witches flying on their brooms originate? The source is the hallucinogen in henbane, the wood used to stir the soup simmering for weeks on end in medieval caldrons. But green faces for witches is a much more modern creation. Artistic license created the wicked witch of the West with a green face for the Wizard of Oz. Bats and Jack-o-lanterns (even when carved from turnips) are all part of the wonderful witch legacy which Ed Blondin enthusiastically shared with Troy Garden Club. Come back real soon.

### Calendar

#### November 2018

- |   |                   |  |
|---|-------------------|--|
|  7 | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | Final garden cleanup Troy Historic Village<br>Donations meeting begins right after gardening.                        |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | Troy Garden Club general meeting Big Beaver United Methodist Church<br>Topic: Rain Gardens Speaker Matthew Bertrand. |
| <b>28</b>   | <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | Board Meeting Troy Historic Village Church   |
| <b>27</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Hanging of the greens workday Troy Historic Village  |

#### December 2018

**Saturday, December 1** Hanging of the Greens Event Troy Historic Village  
Silent Night Concert

**January 2, 2019** Troy Historic Village - dismantling the Greens at 11 a.m.

## **Herb Study Group**

Ann Britton

My vacation interrupted a timely flow of information, so this article contains information from past events as well as future planning.

Our June meeting featured a presentation by Evelyn Mann-Carter on the benefits of thyme. Evelyn used her personal journey to emphasize medicinal powers of thyme. These powers include antiseptic, diuretic, disinfectant, immune system stimulator and an expectorant. All parts of the plant are usable. Kay Betke and Carole Cotter-Bodner provided refreshments.

Herb members also attended a tea and toured the gardens at St Sabbas monastery on August 16th. Discussion focused on a future herb presentation for a THV event.

The trip to Seven Ponds Nature Center with lunch at the historic White Horse Inn replaced the regular September meeting

In October we started garden cleanup in the Herb garden at THV. Then at 11:30, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas hosted a lovely fall appetizer and dessert meeting at her home. Thank you Yolanda. After much conversation and laughter, Tina Downen began the last meeting of the year. Due to declining membership in the HSG, we recognized the need to scale back and streamline some of our activities. Judy Cornellier agreed to host a small January tea at her house. After much discussion, we are also giving up the tradition of hosting the May luncheon. We will continue to be responsible for tending in the Herb garden at THV and will finish this year's garden cleanup on Wednesday, November 7th.

Happy Thanksgiving and remember to add some herbs to your Thanksgiving feast.

### **Pennies For Friendship, PFF**

#### **Associated Country Women Of The World, ACWW**

Ann Britton

“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see” - Mark Twain.

Project 1022 involved twenty-five young Guatemalan women in a five-month educational program. The women were interviewed and then assigned training, which suited their interests. The workshops provided the women from the least prosperous areas of Guatemala with technical training. Three studied marketing, thirteen aspired to be chefs and nine trained in the beauty industry. Fifteen secured internships after the program was completed.

Many of you have shown your kindness toward women and children of the world. You have consistently supported PFF. The October donations consisted of over \$50. The next time the PFF containers will be available will be January 2019. This is so everyone can focus their charitable leanings on the November food drive and the December TPC contributions.

Please bring your left over Halloween candy for Norine Garavanta. She will give it out to the High School Choral group who will perform at the December meeting.

Out and About with the Troy Garden Club.



The photo above is our very large group of members and guests assembled for a tour of Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers. We toured the visiting team's locker room, sat in the dugout and learned about the grass from head groundskeeper, Heather Nabozny. Thank you Val Greenberg for organizing this interesting event



Michigan Division President, Mary Schwark honored Sue Vette with a lifetime membership award.



Onita Fitz and Carl Simmons relax in the visiting team's locker room.



**Trick or Treat at the Troy Historic Village.**

On the left is Pam Dodge and on the right is Sue Vette and Norine Garavanta.

Other members present were Debbie Hancock, Vicki Guntenaar and Dolores Coley.



Amount of dues paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ OR Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM** New Member \_\_\_\_\_ OR Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised September 2018

**TROY GARDEN CLUB, MICHIGAN DIVISION of the  
WOMAN'S NATIONAL FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Troy Garden Club is to bring together those who are interested in home gardening, so that they may learn better horticultural practices, promote civic beauty, conserve natural resources, promote the purposes of the Michigan Division of the WNF&GA, as well as share their knowledge and experience with others.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (please write **VERY** clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Your emergency contact information is for TGC officers only. It will not be published in the directory: The name of your emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of your contact person (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Date when you first joined \_\_\_\_\_ Your birthday (Mo/Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Master Gardener Volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Master Gardener Vol.? \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIREMENTS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS**

- Attend monthly meetings and pay annual dues.
- Participate in annual garden walk, including (1) provide refreshments & (2) be a docent in a featured garden **OR** volunteer at the Troy Historic Village (2nd Wed. in July). **WILL YOU PARTICIPATE? Check one: YES NO\*\*\***
- Provide finger food/dessert for two designated monthly meetings plus December (or May if in Herb Study Group)

**OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION (You must circle two or more numbers below.)**

- Attend Michigan Division and/or Woman's National Farm & Garden Association meetings and/or workshops.
- Create centerpiece for refreshment table for a monthly meeting.
- Join the Herb Study Group.
- Perennial garden maintenance at the Troy Historic Village.
- Provide items for monthly Ways & Means sales and raffles.
- Volunteer at the plant exchange with the City of Troy (Saturday in May).
- Participate in Hanging of the Greens at the Troy Historic Village (early December).
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Your Signature is Required:</b> I understand and accept the Requirements of Active Members in the Troy Garden Club.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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**SPECIAL INTERESTS OF MEMBERS**

Please circle any skill(s) that would be helpful to the Troy Garden Club:

accounting      advertising      artistic talent  
computers      PowerPoint      video      Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like future Troy Garden Club programs to include the following topic(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed membership form & dues to Troy Garden Club, 2844 Livernois #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

Make your \$25.00 membership check payable to the Troy Garden Club.

**NOTE TO RENEWING MEMBERS:** After November 14, 2018, your 2019 membership fee will be \$35.00.

\*\*\* If you checked NO above, your annual membership fee + the garden walk non-participation fee will be \$45.00.