



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



April 2019

President's Message

Barb Lepri

Ah, April—to me, nature's cruelest month. I always have such high expectations, only to have them dashed with that rogue ice storm or (Oh no, not again!) snowstorm. The good news is, sunny warmer days will follow and those daffodils and tulips will soon be poking their heads up.

Speaking of daffodils, Daffodil Day on beautiful Belle Isle is April 17th. I hope many of you will be going. Other upcoming garden-related events include the Michigan Division Spring Council Meeting on May 22, sponsored by the Warren Branch at the Gazebo Restaurant. These meetings are always interesting, and we get a chance to meet members of other garden clubs. Mrs. Tebben's Tea, sponsored by the Lapeer Wildflower Club, is taking place on May 30th at the Huntsman Hunt Club near Dryden, Michigan. Due to the popularity of the Tea, I hope you have made your reservations by now. Details on these events are in the Michigan Division Spring News, which was emailed in advance of the print edition. I hope you will sign up to receive it by email if you haven't already done so.

Closer to home, Norine Garavanta, our "hostess with the mostess," will not be with us for a few months. She took a nasty fall and has been hospitalized awaiting surgery. Please drop her a line and send her your best wishes for a speedy recovery. Diane Harris has stepped in to fill her shoes and would appreciate our help.

Garden Walk preparations are ongoing. If you haven't signed up yet, please be sure to do so at our April meeting. We need all of you who are able to work. The planning meetings take place the 4th Wednesday of the month at the THV church at 11 a.m. Also, Ann Britton is looking for volunteers to work in the Historic Village gardens. It usually involves a once-a-month commitment during the season.

Sweet April Ways and Means

Patty Dunning

April Ways and Means will be a sweet surprise for spring brought to you by new member Patty Dunning assisted by Debbie Hancock. The guessing game will require you to put your name on each of your tickets so save yourself some time by bringing your address labels plus we will be able to read your writing on the winning entry. If you want to bring exact change, one guess is \$1.00, but 6 guesses are \$5.00. Sharpen your candy guessing skills because the closest estimate (without going over) wins not only the candy but also a surprise gift card.

If you have an idea for Ways and Means, come share it at the Board meeting or call or email any of the officers. New member or "old-timer" ways and means is a great way to contribute to Troy Garden Club.

TroyGardenClubMI.com

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

April 2019 Speaker

Linda Forrester

Our speaker this month is Mary Andrews, President of the Michigan Koi and Pond Club. Did you know that water is the only similarity between a water garden and a koi pond? Mary will be sharing some of the “must-haves” for successfully keeping koi in a garden pond.



Perennial Plant Exchange –Saturday May 18, 2019

JoAnn Preston



Spring is a generous time of year. Gardeners who have found an overabundance of some plants as they venture into their gardens should set them aside for the Troy Garden Club Perennial Plant Exchange. If you have never been, put Plant Exchange on your calendar today and start a “wish list” of plants you are looking for and add your “willing to trade” collection of plants that no longer thrive in your now shady garden or have been too aggressive in their bed. Open to the public with a loyal following of gardeners who love to talk the talk and walk the walk, Perennial Plant Exchange is sponsored by Troy Garden Club and is a great opportunity for new and experienced members to volunteer. This year we are back in the Aquatic Center parking lot next to the tennis bubble in the Civic Center Complex. We officially start at 10 a.m., but many folks arrive early with their plants ready to trade. Please check your calendar and be ready to sign up for a shift where you can help out. The overlap allows the first shift to orient the second shift and answer questions. We close at noon; then there is clean up time. Perennial Plant Exchange is a trading only event so don’t bring your money; bring your excess plants. We operate rain or shine so dress accordingly. Choose your time and job and sign up at the April meeting.

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Set up 9 a.m. 10:30 Direct Traffic {9:30-11:00} {11:00-12:00} Greeter and Prize sign-up 9 a.m. -12 noon **Compost (City of Troy provides free but guests need to bring own containers to haul home)**

{9:30-11:00} {11:00-12:00} Master Gardeners {9:00-10:15} {10:00-11:15} {11:00-12:15} Orphan Table 10:00-11:15 Photographer 11:00 a.m. -12:15 Garden Walk Handouts

FYI. Orphan Table is the place for plants that are not in high demand, or their owner needs to leave early. Orphans are free for the taking, but it is helpful if we label plants as they are dropped off so folks know whether they are **sun or shade lovers and color of bloom and maybe even length of bloom**. Same information should be provided for the disease-free plants you bring to trade.

Membership

Pat Guibord, Pat Piejak & Judy Popyk

Greeting our six guests including one from Traverse City, was Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas. Also at our March meeting were 53 of Troy Garden Club members. Helping at the front table for March were Marilyn Frey and Mary Hrynik.

If you have any changes or corrections to your information in our membership book, please contact Kay Betke or Pat Guibord.

At the present time we have 95 active members in our Troy Garden Club.

A thank you goes out to Ann Britton for purchasing the plants to be taken to the two Beaumont Cancer Centers by Val Greenberg and Cerol Battiste-Alleyne.

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

Instead of a Pot of Gold, a pot of \$24.50 was contributed by the attendees at the March meeting. May the luck of the Irish prevail in the lives of those generous donors.

Forty women farmers in India benefited from Project 1046: Organic Cultivation of Indigenous Millets. Until recently, people in India regularly ate a variety of millets. Millet is a variable, small, seed grass. It is highly drought tolerant and can be grown in infertile soil. The nutrient content is similar to cereal grains.

When India supported the Green Revolution in the 1960's, the crops of choice were rice and wheat. Even though India is the world's leader in growing millet, the total grain production of millet dropped from 40% to 20% in the last 50 years.

The projects proposal included the training of 40 women farmers in sustainable cultivation, soil and water management, weed management and the production and application of herbal pesticides, fertilizers and compost. Ten of the farmers will be responsible to train other farmers, continue the sustainability of the project and establish seed banks in their communities.

Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter and Ann Britton

HELP NEEDED

MASTER GARDENERS, THIS GARDEN IS AN APPROVED MASTER GARDENER WORK SITE!



During the March General Meeting, a plea for members to help garden at the Troy Historic Village was made. At that time only 3 members signed the volunteer sheet. So we are still asking for help.

We are a GARDEN club and we receive many benefits from the Troy Historic Village. They allow us to use their property during the garden walk and we are able to use their facilities for meetings and programs without a fee. They sell tickets for our garden walk. The gardens, we tend improve the ambience of the whole village and the city of Troy.

We are asking you to volunteer to sign up to work at one of the gardens, the first Wednesday of the month from April through November, and be part of a specific garden team. We are asking for only 1 or 2 hours of your time per month. Please sign up during the April general meeting. Being part of a specific team gives you the opportunity to work in the same garden. The reward of seeing a garden flourish and developing new friendships is easier when you choose a specific garden. The volunteer sheet will be circulated at the April meetings.

If you do not sign up for a specific garden, all members are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of the month. When you arrive at the Troy Historic Village check with a Karol or Ann for an assignment.

Hospitality

Norine Garavanta and Diane Harris

Norine finally had her foot surgery March 21st and the surgery went well, but she will be in a soft cast for 3 months. She really appreciates all the cards members have sent her!

We could still use one more dessert for our April luncheon.

The following members have signed up for April:

<u>FINGER FOODS</u> Linda Forrester Lynn Husk Eleanor Stepanski Joanie Ugelow Judi Milidrag Janet Peceny Virginia Yuhas Carolyn Simmons Carl Simmons Nancy Cardon Ann Britton Jayne Smith	<u>GREEN SALAD</u> Carole Bodner Mary Hrynik <u>PASTA SALAD</u> Pat Dodge Margaret Hatton <u>FRUIT SALAD</u> Carolyn Treiber Kathy Brunner	<u>DESSERT</u> Patty Dunning Cerol Battiste-Alleyne Joan McClelland Helen Gach Teresa Stepien
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12 TABLE THEME:

Any bunnies or springtime decorations in honor of Easter!

The 'Wow Factor' with Tropical Plants

Judy Francis



Have you ever grown a 10 foot Japanese Fiber Banana in your garden? What about the fast-growing Castor Bean 'Zanzibarensis' with its bold foliage. Beware! The seeds are extremely poisonous.

Jim Slezinski, our guest speaker March 23, introduced us to many possibilities for growing tropical plants in our gardens during summer. Jim is a Senior Landscape Designer and Horticulturist at Goldner Walsh Nursery. He has worked there for 47 years.

The *Colocasia gigantea*, "Thailand Giant" (Elephant's Ear) has ruffled-edged leaves that can grow 6' long and 4-5' wide. The hummingbird-magnet salvias, pollinator-loving dahlias, hardy hibiscus, easy-to-grow cannas and very fragrant Angel's Trumpet were some of the many plants that we viewed from Jim's slide presentation.

Do you have a room in your house to overwinter a 10 foot plant after the summer or are you going to bid it a fond farewell in the fall?

CALENDAR April 2019

Kathie Mardyla

- April 3rd 9:30 a.m. Gardening at the Troy Historical Village. All members are needed.**
- April 10th 12 noon Troy Garden Club General Meeting
Big Beaver United Methodist Church**
- April 16th 10 a.m. Herb Group Meeting at Troy Historical Village Church**
- April 17th Daffodil Day Bell Isle**
- April 24th 11 a.m. Garden Walk Meeting at Troy Historical Village Church**
- 12:30 p.m. Board Meeting at Troy Historical Village Church**

April Birthdays

Diane Harris



Maria Richie	3
Joan McClelland	5
Kay Davis	9
Janet Henning	10
Kathy Brunner	22
Josephine Dixon	29

Newsletter Swan Song

Karen Brant

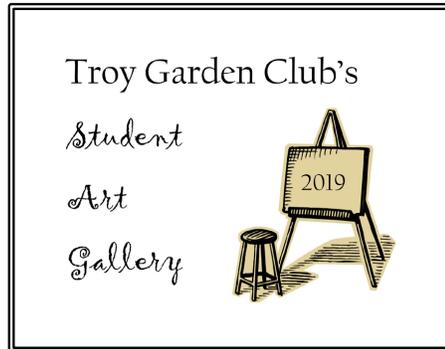
It has been my pleasure to publish the newsletter since Janet Henning was President. I think that makes it 10 years. In April, I plan to mentor a new editor and that should be my last issue. There are definite perks to this job. It offers a great opportunity to meet members through email and in person, the newsletter is always at your fingertips in case you forgot a date or information about an event, and it is a convenient job because it is done at home on your computer.

If you are wondering what the job entails here are the basics: Every month articles are collected via email and then copied and pasted into a document. Then the articles are edited with the president giving final approval. Also pictures are sized and captioned. After the color copy is final, it is revised into the black and white copy and uploaded to the print shop. Currently the newsletter is published using Microsoft word on a MAC but that doesn't mean you have to use the same program. It takes about 4 hours per month.

A couple of members have expressed interest in becoming publisher. Please offer your name again and anyone else who is interested, please step forward and give your name to Barb Lepri or me. Feel free to ask me about this opportunity by phone call or email. If more than one person is interested, the job could be shared with publishers alternating months or some such arrangement.



Bev Hydo and the February centerpiece.



Marilyn Frey has once again received, picked up and catalogued nearly 200 art competition entries submitted by Troy students in 2019. Thank you, Marilyn!

A total of 18 Troy Garden Club members, six per session, met three times in late March and early April to judge the entries. The grand prize winner and the ticket art winner were selected. Also chosen were three first, second and third prizes – for high school, middle school and elementary students – along with honorable mentions at each level.

All of the winning art will be “framed” – mounted on foam core boards – and on display for your viewing pleasure at Troy Garden Club’s Student Art Gallery at the TGC’s April 10 general meeting.

Once again, Stephen Kremer of Centaurus Financial has contributed funds for the grand prize winner and for framing the art. While most other prizes and associated costs have already been sponsored by generous Troy Garden Club members, a few still need financial angels. If you would like to help, please email Mary Schwark: schwark@aol.com.

The annual and always enjoyable Art Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 2, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Troy Historic Village church building. Troy Garden Club members are most welcome to attend the event and to help as hostesses. Nancy Wietchy has already offered to reprise her role as “punch lady” (her words). Would anyone like to bake two dozen cookies for hungry student artists and their families, friends and teachers? On April 10, you can sign up for the art awards event.

I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your ongoing support of the art competition! - Mary Schwark

