



Troy Garden Club Branch Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc.

Monthly Meetings at 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083
Second Wednesday of the Month at 12:00 noon
September through June



February 2024

President's Message ~ Dave Becker

I hope everyone is staying warm and healthy. If you are like me, you are spending some of your time reading garden magazines, watching garden shows and looking forward to spring and the reawakening of our gardens. One of my favorite garden shows is *Gardeners' World* hosted by Monty Don. It is a British show televised by the BBC, and I stream it on Amazon Prime. Monty Don and his team of gardening and horticulture experts have exposed me to numerous garden styles, shapes and sizes. The show has introduced me to a variety of plants, while directing me to the right plant for the right place, along with providing information about their care and maintenance. If you can stream it, it is definitely worth watching!

In the coming year, I'm also looking forward to participating in club activities, and I encourage members to invest some of their time in those activities as well. You've heard this before, but it's worth repeating: The club thrives only with the participation of our members. Regardless of your knowledge or physical dexterity, you can find something that will meet your talents. Look at the activities and find something that you could enjoy. The camaraderie alone is worth it, so step out of your comfort zone as I have... although not necessarily taking on the responsibility of the presidency! Let's all be involved in 2024.

Finally, I want to thank Mary Schwark for the idea to honor Judy Cornellier by dedicating the 2024 garden walk in her name. After first speaking with me, Mary contacted members familiar with Judy and her countless contributions to the club, asking if they thought that it was a good idea. The response was overwhelmingly positive! With that endorsement, Mary sprang into action, producing a beautiful certificate in Judy's honor; had it professionally matted and framed; and delivered it to me on Wednesday, January 17. Jennifer Goldstein, Karen Gray and Judi Milidrag accompanied me to Troy Corewell (Beaumont) Hospital to present it to Judy (*photo below*). To say the least, Judy was overwhelmed, and it made all of us happy to bring some joy to her life.

I'm looking forward to seeing and getting to know all of you at our upcoming meetings and activities.

According to Monty Don, "A garden is not a place. It's a journey."

TGC members on right:

President Dave Becker, Karen Gray, Jennifer Goldstein and Corresponding Secretary Judi Milidrag visited Judy Cornellier on January 17 to present her with a congratulatory framed certificate. It was a surprise!

**"The Troy Garden Club
dedicates the organization's
2024 garden walk to
founding member Judy Cornellier:
beloved friend,
enthusiastic educator,
generous gardener extraordinaire!"**

-photography courtesy of hospital staff



Troy Garden Club Branch – Founded in 1971 Website: www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

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

Troy Historic Village Gardens ~ Karol Carter

One Door Closes & Another One Opens



Ken Heck, new TGC co-chairperson of the THV gardens

-photo by Karol Carter

I would like to introduce my new THV gardens co-chairperson: Ken Heck. In Ken's photo, far left, he was already happily volunteering at the Village during the 2023 fall cleanup! Ken and his wife Cindy joined the Troy Garden Club in October 2023, after a brief stint as guests in September.

Neither is new to gardening. In Ken and Cindy's more than 36 years of ownership, their Emerald Lakes subdivision property in Troy has evolved. Ken describes their garden composition as "15 segmented garden bed areas based on varying soil, orientation, sun vs. shade, etc." Cindy, along with their oldest daughter – she's also afflicted with the gardening bug! – are the Hecks' design and plant selection team. They have already placed this season's perennial plant order and can't wait for late spring delivery.

Ken's home garden interests include composting, amending the soil, mulching, edging beds, pruning and caring for the lawn. Outside of the garden, he and Cindy are Troy Historical Society Volunteers, and they sing with the Troy Community Chorus. They gladly provide babysitting services for their three young grandchildren. Ken and Cindy plan to introduce themselves to other TGC members by sitting at different tables during our monthly general meetings.

In Ken's upcoming role in the THV gardens, he will handle our monthly check-in process. He'll also make sure that gardening day supplies are distributed, and he'll help with cleanup at the end of each gardening session. Welcome, Ken! We are grateful for your service.

Bev Hydo, Troy Garden Club Membership Chairperson, extends a heartfelt welcome to **new member Mary Becker**.

Also, **Connie Warren** is a continuing member in the inactive category. She is unable to attend meetings due to health concerns, but she would very much like to keep in touch with her garden club friends through our newsletter.

A Message from the Executive Director of the Troy Historic Village

Dear Gardeners and Garden Lovers,

Thank you for another beautiful year at the Village. I know I don't say it enough! Your thoughtful planning, hard work, and extra care always make us look fantastic. I'm already looking forward to what you have in store for 2024.

We are also in the planning stages of featuring the gardens around the Village a little more over the summer as part of a summer exhibit!

So Calling all Village Gardeners!

We would like to put together a short feature for each of the gardens around the Village.

For each garden, I'd love to know if you have a special theme or plant, or how you decided what to plant. If there is a special plant with a good story, even better!

For each gardener, I'd love to know how long you've been tending a particular garden or how long you've been helping at the THV.

Please email or drop off your stories to Stephanie Arwady, sarwady@thvmail.org, **BY WED., MARCH 6**. We will put them into a Museum Label format and maybe a social media post for your approval.

Thank you so much for all you do to make the Village a special place to visit! *-Jen Peters*

Troy Garden Club Board of Directors

PresidentDave Becker
Vice PresidentPatrick Hardy
TreasurerJeanne Bolcer
Recording Secretary.....Onita Fitz
Corresponding Secretary Judi Milidrag

Additional Troy Garden Club Volunteers

Advisor

Linda Forrester

Community Outreach

Jo Ann Preston

2024 Garden Walk Steering Committee

Barb Lepri

Judi Milidrag, Mary Schwark

Greeters

Nancy Wietchy

Herb Study Group & Annual Directory

Kay Betke

Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

Membership

Beverly Hydo

Newsletter Editor

Mary Schwark

Sunshine & Rainy Days

Cindi O'Neil

Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter & Ken Heck

In Memory of Gloria Jean Christiansen - with many thanks to TGC member Irene Koziel for sharing the sad news

The following information was obtained from Gloria Christiansen's online obituary which was published on Legacy.com on January 11, 2024.

Gloria Christiansen was president of the Troy Garden Club from 1981-1983, when the TGC was still very young.

Born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, she grew up in Hopelawn, NJ, on the same street where many of her aunts, uncles and cousins were neighbors. She is survived by her sister Patricia (Patsy), son Davin, daughter Denise Werner and five grandchildren.

As teenagers, Gloria and Patsy sang together with their best friend Esther in a trio called *The Stenos*. Following high school graduation, Gloria worked as a secretary and married Eric. In 1978, they moved from Kinnelon, NJ to Troy, where they raised their children.

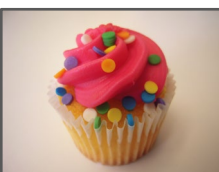
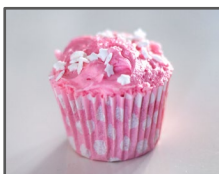
Gloria's interests included art, antiques, tennis, golf, bowling, aerobics, cooking and, of course, gardening. While a Troy resident, she worked at Modern Vending, Inc., and later was a hostess and manager at The Terrace Club, a restaurant in the Palace of Auburn Hills. She resided in Royal Oak for 30 years beginning in 1989. Following retirement, she pursued many interests and especially enjoyed caring for dogs and cats. When her health declined, she moved to South Lyon to be closer to her daughter.

After suffering a stroke, Gloria was cared for at Cambrian Senior Living for three years. Her passing on January 10, 2024, was peaceful. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 20, at O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi. Charitable contributions in Gloria's memory are welcome, and they may be sent to The Michigan Humane Society.



From Barb Lepri: Did you receive a Christmas Cactus for the holidays?

Member Pat Piejak did, and she got some growing tips from Telly's. The plants prefer cooler areas of the house and bright light. To promote blooms at Christmas, beginning in September, (1) provide cooler temps: 60 – 65; (2) stop fertilizing; and (3) allow soil to dry. Provide 12 hours of darkness each night until mid-October. When buds appear, resume normal watering, keeping the soil evenly but lightly moist, providing high light and feeding the plant well. Osmocote is good.



February Ways & Means Raffle **The ABCs of Valentine's Day**



Think pinks, reds, hearts, flowers, teacups & saucers, table linens, placemats, greeting cards, stationery, small books, packaged teas, accessories & anything else with a Valentine theme and/or colors.

A stands for **APRONS**. We have a half dozen new or like-new aprons lined up already & are looking for another half dozen new/clean/pressed member-donated aprons – all colors.

B stands for **BAKED GOODS**. Homemade cupcakes (in groups of 6 or 12), decorated cookies, loaf cakes, heart-shaped cakes, candies. Ingredient tags will be provided.

C stands for **CANDLES**. New, store-bought candles in a jar or unused candlesticks; tea lights in containers.

D stands for **DO YOU HAVE** pink & red tissue paper, pink & red boxes & boutique bags? Please take them to the February 14 meeting and arrive by 11:15 at the latest so we can include your donated items in the raffle and price and tag your baked goods.

Judi Milidrag & Pat Guibord

Happy February Birthdays!

“Why, what’s the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?”
from: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Act 5, Scene 4)

- William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)
born & died in Stratford-upon-Avon, England
English playwright, poet & actor

~~~~~

“Te amo, sin saber cómo, ni cuándo, ni de dónde.”  
(I love you without knowing  
how or when or from where.)



from: Cien sonetos de amor (*One Hundred Love Sonnets*)

- Pablo Neruda (1904 - 1973)  
born in Chile, South America  
poet, diplomat, politician



02/03 - Patrick Hardy

02/11 - Jeanne Bolcer

02/13 - Carolyn Treiber

02/22 - Constance Warren



Birthdays submitted by **Beverly Hydo**,  
membership chairperson

## January Meeting – Patrick Hardy

The garden gods were smiling down upon us on the second Wednesday in January, and it didn’t snow until Thursday. And what a treat we had in store. Judy Garrett took us around the globe to view some of the most beautiful gardens in the world . . . ten of them to be precise . . . and we didn’t have to leave our chairs. To sweeten the pot, a drawing was held after each garden in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$20. Prize winners were Jackie Wilson, Sue Purcell, Pat Guibord, Norma Frame, Anna Zimmerman, Denise Karry, Barbara Rosko, Bernice Huck, Meena Madhusudan and Bev Hydo. What a great kickoff to our 2024 season!



Above: World traveler Judy Garrett presented “The Ten Most Beautiful Gardens in the World.” – photo by Mary Schwark

**February Meeting** And who could be next but our own Mr. February, **George Papadelis** (photo right), regaling us with *What’s New for 2024*. George’s annual “what’s new” has been one of our most popular programs for almost twenty years, so arrive early for the best seating . . . . . OR ANY SEATING AVAILABLE! His program will be open to guests and, historically, there have always been plenty of those.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the terrific club-sponsored taco bar luncheon prepared and assembled by Jackie Wilson, or the incredibly delicious “Chantilly” cake (photo on page 6). It was provided by Mary Schwark (but



George Papadelis  
– photo by Mary Schwark

not baked by her!) to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> birthday of the WNF&GA, of which the Troy Garden Club is a branch. Congratulations to all who contributed to making the 10<sup>th</sup> of January a most memorable day!



Right: Judy at the Kew Gardens,  
near London, England  
-both photos on right provided  
by Judy Garrett



Left:  
King Protea,  
national flower  
of South Africa;  
Kirstenbosch  
National  
Botanical Garden,  
Cape Town, S.A.

# Troy Garden Club Calendar

# February 2024

Information provided by Corresponding Secretary  
Judi Milidrag

February 13, Tuesday

**FIRST day** to submit March newsletter information:  
schwark@aol.com

*Letters to the editor are welcome!*

February 14, Wednesday, 12:00 noon

**General meeting with speaker;** information on p. 4

**Valentine's Day with George Papadelis:**  
**What's New for 2024?**




February 21, Wednesday

Herb Study Group will again meet at Kay Betke's home to complete the January project. See photo, p. 8.

February 23, Friday

**FINAL day** to submit March newsletter information

February 28, Wednesday, 11:00 am

TGC Garden Walk Meeting, **11:00 am**  
TGC Board of Directors Meeting, **12:30 pm**  **NOTE  
TIME  
CHANGES**

## Un-Hanging of the Greens ~ January 5, 2024

**Committee Co-Chairpersons: Cindi O'Neil, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Jackie Wilson**

Cindi, Yolanda and Jackie would like to thank Dave Becker, Karol Carter, Darcel Connors, Pat Dodge, Patrick Hardy, Bev Hydo, Barb Lepri, JoAnn Preston, Joanie Ugelow and Eileen Winkel, who volunteered on Friday, January 5, 2024, to help "unhang the greens" at the Troy Historic Village. Many hands made quick work, and even the weather – warmer than usual for early January – cooperated!

*Editor's note: Do you recall the 1968 song **Spinning Wheel**? It was made famous by **Blood, Sweat & Tears**. True 56 years ago, and still true now: "What goes up, must come down" . . . **including the Troy Historic Village greens!** Kudos to those brave and chilly members who helped to make holiday cheer go in both directions!*

*-sheet music courtesy of the internet*

### SPINNING WHEEL

Words and Music by  
DAVID CLAYTON THOMAS

Moderately slow, with a beat



N.C. p

What goes up must come down

mf

Spin-ning wheel got to go 'round



## Hospitality Jackie Wilson

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!*



The following members signed up to bring food items for our February lunch.

**Finger Foods:** JoAnn Preston, Karol Carter, Lenore Treba, Tina Downen, Bev Hydo, Jackie Wilson

**Green Salad:** Joanie Ugelow, Jeanne Bolcer, Barb Lepri, Norma Frame

**Pasta Salad / Fruit Salad:** Marilyn Frey, Nancy Wietchy

**Dessert:** Rebecca Jaye, Pat Brown, Judy Francis, Linda Chambers, Karen Gray, Bernice Huck, Mary Becker



## Sunshine & Snowy Days

Cindi O'Neil

This month Judy Cornellier and Linda Chambers would appreciate a little sunshine from their Troy Garden Club friends. Please remember them with a cheerful note or a card.

If any other members you know are experiencing "snowy" days and are in need of a little sunshine from their garden club friends, please let me know by email:

[tcjoneil@comcast.net](mailto:tcjoneil@comcast.net).

*-photo courtesy of the internet*



*Left: Joan Burcar & her  
imaginative centerpiece  
for the January buffet  
table.  
- photo by Karol Carter*

*Scenes from the  
last TGC meeting on  
January 10, 2024*



*Above: Happy Birthday to the WNF&GA with  
a very tasty "Chantilly" cake from Whole  
Foods.*

## Our Fearless Leaders

*-photos by  
Mary Schwark  
except as noted*



*President  
Dave Becker*



*Vice President  
Patrick Hardy*



*Treasurer  
Jeanne Bolcer*



*Recording  
Secretary  
Onita Fitz*



*Corresponding  
Secretary  
Judi Milidrag*



-Installation of 2024 Troy Garden Club officers at the January 10, 2024, meeting  
L – R: Vice President Patrick Hardy, Recording Secretary Onita Fitz, President Dave Becker, Treasurer Jeanne Bolcer, Corresponding Secretary Judi Milidrag, installation coordinator Barb Lepri, installation assistant Lenore Treba

## ***Aunts Barb, Judi & Mary still need your TGC 2024 garden walk help!***

We DO now have a head hostess chairperson! Many, many thanks to Sally Bolle for stepping into that very important role. Longtime head hostess Bev Hydo has agreed to mentor Sally!

Please consider attending our next garden walk meeting. Time and place details are listed in the February calendar on p. 5. Waiting for your assistance are many responsibilities – both large and small. Let's chat so that, together, we can find you a job that will be mutually agreeable.

The first opportunity to sign up for garden hosting and working at the plant sale will occur at our general meeting on Wednesday, March 13. Bring your calendar and a pen!

## **2024 Yearbook & Directory** **Kay Betke**

*The 2024 Yearbook & Directory was available at the January meeting. If you didn't pick up YOUR copy, be sure to stop at the sign-in table in February and claim it so that Kay Betke doesn't have to continue toting it from home to our meetings.*

Each yearbook will be labeled with a member's name. The documents will again be placed on the table in alphabetical order.

Please keep in mind that each member has already received a white binder in which to place annual updated yearbook pages.

The Troy Garden Club's bylaws and standing rules are currently being updated. When a final copy is available, members will be asked to approve the document by vote, after which copies will be printed and distributed to all members.

## **King Basil & Queen Rosemary**



Basil . . . king of the herbs!  
(Rosemary is the queen.)

Let's talk about the king!

To grow it well, here's what you need to know: Basil likes warmth to grow. It loves temperatures in the 80s & 90s to thrive, and no lower than 50 degrees F.



Basil is a leaf crop, so it requires more moisture than other herbs. Too much, however, is deadly. If your basil is dark green and growing well, but the leaves are tough, the plant needs more water. If your plants turn yellow, give them fertilizer. If the stalks become woody and stop producing, cut plants back by one third and apply compost or fertilizer.

A good way to preserve your basil leaves is to place them in the compartments of an ice cube tray. Cover with water and freeze for future use. Just add to sauces or stews.

**Herb Study Group – Kay Betke**



## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

for Those Who Submit Articles, Photos & Other News for the  
TGC Newsletter:

- (1) Email all information & photos to Mary Schwark, editor (schwark@aol.com).
- (2) Send information no earlier than the 13th of the month & no later than the 23rd of the month. **NOTE:** The TGC president may delay sending the president's message until the day after the TGC board meeting (usually held on the 4th Wednesday of the month).
- (3) **SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL:**  
*Example: For March TGC Newsletter*
- (4) If possible, please send your information in the Times New Roman font.
- (5) Please attach **ONLY** information for the **NEXT** newsletter.
- (6) If circumstances will prevent you from following the schedule above, please contact the editor ASAP so we both know **what** you will send and **when**.
- (7) Send **ONLY** relatively hi-res photos (MINIMUM SIZE OF 900 KB PER PHOTO).
- (8) Identify ALL photo subjects, L - R. Identify & credit ALL photographers.
- (9) **SOMETHING NEW: Please verify members' names AND the spelling of members' names before submitting newsletter information.**

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MYSTERY PHOTO BELOW?

How well do you know your community?



Be the first Troy Garden Club member to correctly identify the location above. Email your response to TGC President Dave: [Davesr.becker@icloud.com](mailto:Davesr.becker@icloud.com) (**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**)

You & everyone else seated at your table at the February 14 meeting will be first in line for lunch! **BUT PLEASE NOTE:**  
**If you are a winner one month, the TGC Board of Directors asks you to skip the following month before participating again.**

## PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND Letters to the Editor

Did you read VP Patrick Hardy's **Letter to the Editor** in the TGC's December publication?

As space allows, more letters – **kind ones, please!** – will be published with the writers' names. The same timing – see (2) in the ESSENTIAL INFORMATION box on the left – will be required for publishing in each upcoming newsletter.

## Herb Study Group News in 2024 Kay Betke

On a very cold day – Wednesday, January 17 – the Herb Study Group met at Kay Betke's house in Shelby Township. Members were busy painting more rocks to identify additional herbs at the Herb Garden at the Troy Historic Village's Log Cabin. They also tackled some rocks for the THV's ABC Garden. See some of the results in the photo below.



-photo by Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas

All in attendance enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch. As usual, the herbies did an outstanding job, and members of the group requested recipes.

Next month, the group will again meet at Kay's to complete their January project.