



## 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



April 2024

### President's Message ~ Dave Becker

In my experience, I've found that most people have had someone in their past who stimulated their interest in gardening. My inspiration came from my grandparents, Fred and Edith Rohm.

My family, as I suspect many of yours, lived through the Great Depression, and therefore they were very frugal. The vegetable garden was a key element in their way of life. Fred Rohm was a physically strong gentleman and, until the age of 70, he hand-cultivated his 40' X 60' vegetable garden and assisted my grandmother with her 8' X 50' flower garden.

I admired and loved my grandparents and did everything I could to gain their approval. When I visited them, I would follow my grandfather around like a puppy, obeying his every gardening instruction to the best of my small frame's ability. My grandfather had one firm rule: At the end of the day, before dinner, all the tools had to be cleaned, sharpened and oiled. His motto was, "If you take care of your tools, your tools will take care of you."

My grandmother not only managed her flower garden, but the canning, storing and freezing of the vegetable harvest as well. Her garden consisted mainly of a massive planting of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and iris in the spring; roses (her passion) and seeded annuals in the summer; followed by a fall display of chrysanthemums.

Her green thumb is inspiring, and she never paid full price for a plant or a bulb. Most of the plants, other than the roses, came from other gardeners. To this day, most of the plants I buy are on sale or are from another gardener. And at the end of the workday, all my garden tools are cleaned, sharpened and oiled. *Because if I take care of my tools, they will take care of me.*

*Editor's note: Neither the beautifully cared-for tools on the right, nor the humble subjects of **American Gothic** with their clean and shiny pitchfork (far right) are related to Fred & Edith Rohm. Nevertheless, the images remind us how diligently our forebears worked to take care of their land and tools, and to nurture their families.*



**American Gothic**, by Grant Wood, 1930  
26.75" X 30.75" - oil on beaverboard  
Art Institute of Chicago

~ one of the most famous American paintings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century ~

Troy Garden Club Branch – Founded in 1971 Website: [www.TroyGardenClubMI.com](http://www.TroyGardenClubMI.com)

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

## Troy Historic Village Gardens ~ Karol Carter & Ken Heck

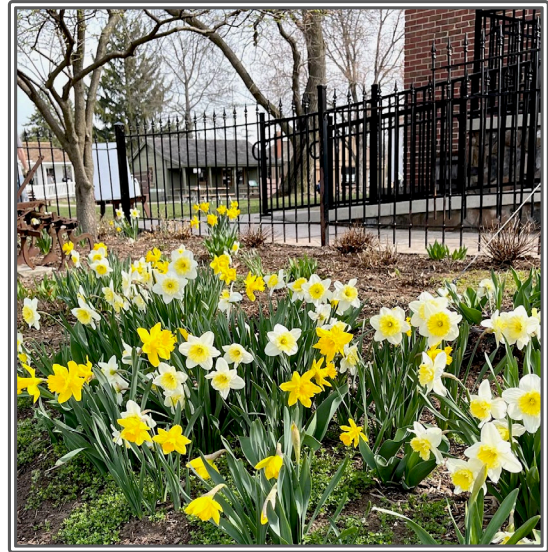
It's time to locate, clean and sharpen your gardening tools in advance of our April 3, 9:30 am "opening day" at the Troy Historic Village (THV) gardens. Don't forget to stretch a bit to limber up muscles and joints.

A limited number of THV-owned gardening tools are stored in a shed near the Caswell House. Thus, it is best to bring your own. The TGC will provide yard waste bags. When the bags are full, deposit them by the dumpster in the parking lot. Because school groups will visit the THV during gardening hours, please be sure to place tools where they don't present tripping hazards.

We have been asked to park in the smaller parking lot east of the main building **OR** on Lange Street - the first east-west street north of Wattles and the THV property. The back gates will be open. Co-chair Ken Heck will provide a sign-in sheet near the gazebo. If you have a favorite garden bed, mark the box and head there. If you have no preference, we will direct you to a garden. Gardening at the THV is a weather-dependent event. If it is raining or very cold or snowing, we will not garden.

Though you may consider yourself a novice, please come. You could fill and dispose of yard waste bags, sweep the sidewalk areas, or pick up some gardening tips while working with other members. Remember the saying "Measure twice; cut once"? Verify assignments with your garden captain before you start pruning or pulling. When you've completed your work at one garden, you're encouraged to visit another to offer your help. That is one way to get to know other members.

Please take time to read the page 7 article (especially #1, *Check-in Process*) from Barbara Hubbard, the THV volunteer coordinator. **If you plan to garden during a time other than our club's usual first-Wednesday-of-the-month session, please sign in at the main building when you arrive.**



*Troy Historic Village entry garden at the Main Building west location - captained by Cynthia Idyle and Judi Milidrag.*

### Troy Garden Club Board of Directors

**President** .....Dave Becker  
**Vice President** .....Patrick Hardy  
**Treasurer** .....Jeanne 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

Pat Dodge

### Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter & Ken Heck

**The pineapple is a traditional symbol of hospitality and welcome. TGC membership chairperson Bev Hydo welcomes the following three new members:**

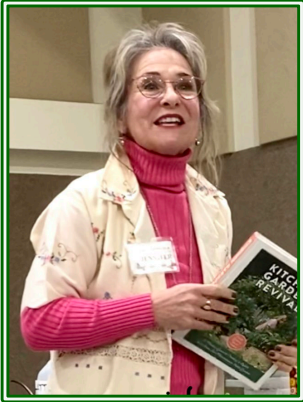
**Andrea Hepner  
 Bill Waggoner  
 Nancy Zambardi**



-internet image

*- Unless specifically attributed to other photographers or to the internet, all photos in the April newsletter were taken by the newsletter editor.*

## Passing the Torch: Judy Cornellier to Jennifer Goldstein



*Jennifer Goldstein speaks on March 13, 2024 -photo by Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas*

With Judy Cornellier's blessings, the "horticulture torch" has been passed to Jennifer Goldstein.

Following Judy's long tradition, and as her own very busy schedule permits, Jennifer will be the Troy Garden Club's new "in-house" presenter at *some* TGC meetings, and each time she will speak briefly in addition to the club's regularly scheduled monthly presenter.

Jennifer made her first presentation during the March 13 general meeting. In the future, she will make presentation-related written information available to meeting attendees by way of limited numbers of handouts.

She began her presentation with Dan Buettner's good news about lifelong gardening and his belief that it's better than a gym membership for a longer, happier life.

*Please email Jennifer if you would like her to send you additional details about her March 13 presentation.*

## Apologies to Judy Popyk

### OOPS!

Judy Popyk's name was unintentionally omitted from the March newsletter as part of the co-captain team for the front church garden in the Troy Historic Village. We value Judy's contributions and are very sorry that the omission occurred.

Judy knows the history of some of the plants that the other two don't know, and she has years of solid experience, especially for shade gardening. She is also very good at designing groupings. The front church garden is truly a collaborative effort.

from Onita Fitz,  
one of the other co-captains



-internet image

## Sunshine & Rainy Days . . . . . & RAINBOWS! -submitted by Pat Dodge

Happy spring to all my fellow TGC members. I am happy to let you know that, with the assistance of Nancy Cardon, I will be your new correspondent for the Sunshine & Rainy Days articles in this newsletter. Thank you to Cindi O'Neil for serving in the same role for the past two years.

Please let me know if you or other members of the Troy Garden Club would appreciate a little sunshine from the TGC. I can be reached by email at [Panndodge@aol.com](mailto:Panndodge@aol.com) or by phone and text at 248-798-0326.

In early April, please be sure to send Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas your good wishes as she recovers from hip surgery.

Also, we hope you will continue to keep Judy Cornellier close in your thoughts and prayers. At this time, Judy is unable to personally thank each of you individually for the many good wishes, calls, lovely cards and visits she has received, but she wants me to express her gratitude and to let you know how much your outpouring of love and friendship has meant to her.

## April

“With the coming of spring,  
I am calm again.”

Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)  
born in Bohemia, Austria  
Romantic composer &  
leading musical conductor of his generation

~~~~~

“April, the angel of the months.”

Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962)  
born in Kent, England  
English author & garden designer

## Happy April Birthdays!

04/01 - Pat Brown  
04/05 - Joan McClelland  
04/05 - Susan Himle-Wills  
04/10 - Janet Henning  
04/15 - Norma Frame  
04/22 - Kathy Brunner  
04/28 - Kim Urwiller



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

-above images courtesy of the internet



### **Merritt-orious ! - submitted by Patrick Hardy**

Our March speaker, *Merritt Wolson* (photo on left) led us through the basics of creating garden “rooms,” albeit on a scale most of us could only dream of! But he filled his presentation with humor and warmth, and he enthusiastically fielded many questions throughout his program. Technical issues were kept to a minimum and smoothness was the order of the day.

The lunch - plentiful, varied and delicious - was certainly another plus!

### **And while we await April showers . . .**

*Bevin Cohen* (photo on right), owner of *Small House Farm* in Sanford, Michigan, will regale us with “Let’s Talk Tomatoes!” We’ll learn the history of that beloved fruit, as well as tips on how to maximize one’s harvest. Bevin has lectured across the country and is an award-winning author and herbalist. Copies of some of his works will be available for purchase on April 10, **SO PLEASE ARRIVE READY TO LEARN!**




-photos courtesy of the internet

# Troy Garden Club Calendar

# April 2024

## Information provided by Corresponding Secretary Judi Mildrag

- April 3, Wednesday      **FIRST 2024 gardening day** at the Troy Historic Village: 9:30 am – 11:00 am
- April 10, Wednesday      **General meeting with speaker – 12:00 noon: *Let's Talk Tomatoes* – presentation by **Bevin Cohen, Small House Farm**      **Details on p. 4****  

**SECOND opportunity** to sign up for garden walk hostess times & locations plus **SECOND opportunity** to sign up for garden walk plant sale shifts
- April 13, Saturday      **FIRST day** to submit May newsletter information: schwark@aol.com
- April 17, Wednesday      **Daffodil Day on Belle Isle (advance registration required)**
- April 23, Tuesday      **FINAL day** to submit April newsletter information: schwark@aol.com
- April 24, Wednesday      **TGC *Garden Walk* Meeting, 11:00 am**      **\*Both meetings at the Niles Barnard House**  
**TGC *Board of Directors* Meeting, 12:30 pm**

### How about a field trip?

**SAVE THE DATE: 8-14-24**

#### Lori Brubaker grew up in Troy.

She became a TGC member in the fall of 2023.

She lives in Bruce Township, four miles outside of Romeo.

She refers to her home property as “*very much a country yard.*”

Lori and her husband own a historic building dating from 1835.

Called the Taft Barn, it’s believed to be the oldest barn standing in northern Macomb County. *(-photo below left)*

The Brubakers also have a historic 1859 granary. *(-photo below right)*

They have generously agreed to host TGC members during a visit, and Lori has even invited us to lunch! Carpools will be organized.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Wed., Aug. 14, 2024, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm. No fee.

Much more fascinating information will be available at our May meeting, so be prepared for your first opportunity to sign up.



*-photos courtesy of Lori Brubaker*



*On Monday, March 18, on our second to last full day in Sydney, Australia, we decided to spend several hours in the expansive Royal Botanic Gardens near the Sydney Opera House. As the afternoon (as well as our energy) drew to a close, we headed for the Macquarie Street southwest exit. The sign above – both amusing and intimidating – stopped me in my tracks. Seriously? Locked inside? Don't climb the fence? Well, thanks for the advice, but I'm too cautious to attempt either! - Mary Schwark*

## Hospitality

### Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

The members listed below have signed up to provide food items for our April lunch. Jackie & Cindi request food drop-off **by 11:45 AM.**



-photo courtesy of the internet

**Finger foods:** Barb Lepri, Denise Karry, Joan McClelland, Ken & Cindy Heck, Cynthia Idyle, Norma Frame, Kyla Remus, Lori Brubaker

**Green Salad:** Rebecca Jaye, Kathy Brunner, Nancy Wietchy, Mary Becker, Eileen Winkel

**Pasta Salad/Fruit Salad:** Darcel Connors, Joanie Ugelow

**Dessert:** Pat Dodge, Janet Henning, Kay Betke, Onita Fitz

**Centerpiece:** Wendy Chessin, Sue Vette

**REMINDER:** *To avoid using the kitchen,* please bring your food items already prepared, and be sure to provide serving utensils. We continue to ask members to bring their own plates and flatware to meetings.

**Hospitality guru** Jackie Wilson is thrilled with her new *Stihl* mini chain saw. As she puts it, "Some like furs and diamonds. Give me garden tools."



-photo by Lenny Wilson



Proceeds included a \$10.00 donation, \$257.00 from raffle baskets and \$123.00 from the silent auction of Debe Hancock's floral arrangements

Left & below: several of March's highly productive Ways & Means offerings which netted \$390.00



Right: two of Debe Hancock's silent auction flower arrangements -photos by Jennifer Goldstein



## March Raffle Madness! . . . in the words of Judi Milidrag, organizer:

What a great response to our call for E, F and G donations – Easter, Green and Fashion – at our March general meeting! We received an outpouring of enough lovely offerings to fill 24 roomy baskets that were generously donated by Judy Cornellier. The response shows that many of you are reading the newsletter and supporting our fundraising efforts. Oh, yes, and you're buying raffle tickets in hopes of winning one of the lovely prize groupings that are routinely pulled together by the same few members.

Consider this a shout-out for you newer members to join the fun and help us develop creative themes. After determining the next month's theme, send an article to newsletter editor Mary Schwark. She will share your idea in the upcoming publication and will request donated items from members.

If you've won a prize in the past, or if you just enjoy the beautiful raffle tables and appreciate the process that pulls it all together, please consider jumping in and getting your feet wet. **Working together really works!**

Please let President Dave know that you have an idea for a future raffle at our May, September, October or November general meetings.

## Debe Hancock, Floral Designer Extraordinaire . . . by Judi Milidrag

I imagine that most of you were delighted and surprised by the gorgeous creations at our March general meeting's Silent Auction. I, for one, was blown away by Debe Hancock's imaginative designs that she developed with (A) the use of frogs and frog dishes donated from Judy Cornellier's collection, and (2) with an assortment of floral stems that she purchased for use in bringing each design to life. Thank you, Debe, for surprising us with your beautiful creations as a result of Judy's reaching out with her idea to gift us with her frogs for an additional fundraising opportunity. (See photo above right.)

**Thank you to Lenore Treba, Janet Peceny and Jeanne Bolcer . . .**

Lenore has reported the following good news for all TGC members' consideration:

***“Janet Peceny and I met with Jeanne Bolcer on January 23, 2024, and we reviewed the Troy Garden Club treasurer’s payments and report for 2023. We found them to be accurate.”***

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lenore directly. You can find her contact information in the TGC’s 2024 directory.

## **HERB STUDY GROUP REPORT –submitted by Kay Betke**

Because April 17, 2024, is Daffodil Day – and once again it falls on our third-Wednesday-of-the-month Herb Study meeting day – I’d like to tell you about daffodils, a wonderful flower, instead of about herbs. Following are some interesting facts I learned from *Birds and Blooms*.

Daffodils are divided into 13 different groups including large cupped, small cupped, double, jonquilla and trumpet. There is no difference between a narcissus and a daffodil. Narcissus is the botanical name, while daffodil is the more common name.

Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses II was buried with a daffodil bulb on each eye. Because of a chemical compound, daffodils can kill roses if they are put together in a vase. (*Squirrels don’t like them either.*) Soak daffodils alone for one hour and don’t recut the stems before placing them with roses.

A garden of daffodils can continue to bloom for up to 50 years!

**The Troy Historic Village has recently developed a SET OF GUIDELINES for “all volunteers at the Village to follow in order to make sure that everything is safe and fun.” The Troy Garden Club has been asked to publish the guidelines in our newsletter. Because the document is long, the following is a summary of the guidelines to facilitate their understanding & usage by TGC members.**

The document begins as follows: “Thank you so much for the Troy Garden Club’s many years of labor and love spent in the gardens at the Troy Historic Village (THV). Every single year we get SO many compliments on the gardens, and we agree – we think they’re phenomenal! In hopes of making our partnership even stronger, we want to go over a few guidelines that all volunteers at the Village follow in order to make sure that everything is safe and fun.”

The document’s following six points maintain their headings below, but the information is somewhat condensed & summarized:

**1. Check-in Process:**

Always notify the Troy Historic Village (THV) of your arrival & presence.

On an official Work Day, check in with the Troy Garden Club (TGC) organizer.

On any other day or time, sign our volunteer whiteboard in the kitchen.

Upon leaving, stop in the building to notify us of your departure, or call the Village at 248-524-3570 & request the removal of your name from the whiteboard.

2. **If you have concerns/questions** with how things are managed or operated at the Village, *in a non-emergency situation*, please speak with the TGC site leaders, who then will talk directly with the THV Volunteer Coordinator or the THV Director.
3. **In an emergency** (anything more than a band aid), notify any THV staff member in person or by calling the building at 248-524-3570. The THV staff will take over from there. Other emergencies (severe weather, fires, active shooter, etc.): THV staff will notify site leader by phone or in person & give further instruction. The TGC site leader will notify all other TGC members on site about the instructions. In general: the main building (large red brick building facing Wattles) will always have at least one THV staff member inside and will likely be your primary safety location.
4. **Gate Policy:** All guests visiting the Village must check in at the main desk inside the main building. While working in the gardens, you may need to bring things inside or take them outside through the main gate. **It is very important for the gate to close each time.** Visitors may notice you walking in and out. If they follow you, please direct them to the main building to check in. Also, please help each other and us by making sure the gate stays closed. A gate left wide open is a safety concern.
5. **Interaction with Visitors:** Please remember that your interaction with visitors reflects on the Troy Historic Village. When interacting with guests, they cannot tell the difference between a TGC member and a THV staff member. When in doubt, kindly send guests to the main building where a THV staff member will be happy to greet them.
6. **Drugs / Alcohol / Smoking / Firearms:** The Troy Historic Village has a zero-tolerance policy for drugs, alcohol, smoking and firearms. If a volunteer is found with the above items, a Troy Historical Society staff member will ask the offender to leave immediately. A formal meeting with the Troy Garden Club and the Troy Historical Society leadership will follow.

**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 May 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) **VERY IMPORTANT:** Send **ONLY** relatively hi-res photos. **MINIMUM SIZE OF 900 KB PER PHOTO.**
- (8) Identify ALL photo subjects, L - R. Identify & give credit to ALL photographers.
- (9) Please verify members' names AND the *spelling* of members' names before submitting newsletter information.
- (10) When writing narratives, divide information into paragraphs.

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MYSTERY PHOTO BELOW?  
How well do you know your community?**

Email your response to TGC President Dave:  
[Davesr.becker@icloud.com](mailto:Davesr.becker@icloud.com)

Be the first  
Troy Garden Club  
member to correctly  
identify the  
location on the right.

You & everyone else  
seated at your table  
at the April 10  
meeting will be first  
in line for lunch!

**BUT PLEASE  
NOTE:**

**If you are a winner  
one month, the  
TGC Board of  
Directors asks that  
you skip the  
following month  
before participating  
again.**



**Spring Egg Hunt at  
the Troy Historic Village  
-submitted by JoAnn Preston**



*Enjoying the indoor Spring Egg Hunt, left to right, are TGC members & bunnies-for-the-day: JoAnn Preston (standing), Nancy Zambardi & Denise Karry (both seated), and other happy members of the community.*

*-photo by Karol Carter*

Mother Nature played an interesting trick on us for the Spring Egg Hunt, or maybe she just wanted to help hide the eggs under the biggest snowfall this winter. But we called her bluff and moved the egg hunt **INSIDE** the THV buildings.

After reaching out to newer members who joined beginning in 2022, I was thrilled that many were willing and available to help. It was a joy to speak with so many by phone and learn about the backgrounds and talents they bring through their membership in the Troy Garden Club.

Thank you to Denise Karry, Nancy Zambardi, Karol Carter, Kimberlee Urwiller, Darcel Connors, Lynda Wolf, Debe Hancock & Pat Brown. We had so much fun!

If you're new to the TGC or haven't been active lately, please do yourself and the TGC a favor by volunteering at the May 18 Perennial Plant Exchange. Then, by the time the July 10 garden walk rolls around, you'll be a TGC pro!

