



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



March 2024

President's Message ~ Dave Becker

It was gratifying to see the wonderful turnout for our February meeting featuring guest speaker George Papadelis. As always, George did a great job of presenting new plant introductions for the coming growing season and answering members' questions.

For me, the winter of '23-'24 has been a time for planning enhancements to my garden, such as moving plants to more hospitable locations and enlarging planting beds. I have also purchased various items at huge discounts at local nurseries and shops: an 18" x 16" pot at 70% off, a new pruner, and potting mix at 25% off. If you're able, try to take advantage of such bargains as they present themselves when advertised, either in print media or online.

Finally, early in February, I had an altercation with a sidewalk. The sidewalk came out victorious. I think my pride was more bruised than my body.

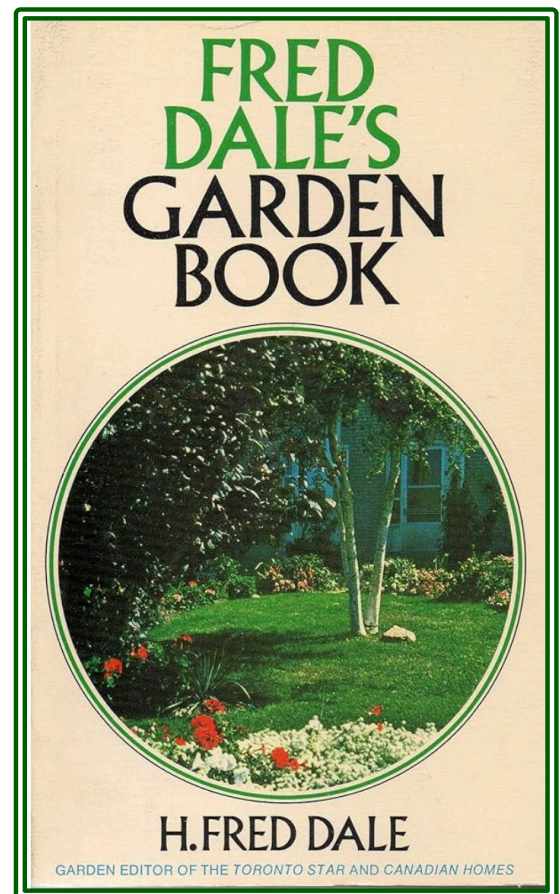
Oftentimes "pride goeth before the fall," but in my case, pride went *after* the fall. I tend to look at things from the viewpoint of nature and the garden seasons. Just as we all feel the disappointment of the **FALL**, if we can **SPRING** up, we will feel renewed. The following is something for gardeners to consider:

"My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view," is a quote from H. Fred Dale (1924–1994).

Mr. Dale, a Canadian garden journalist, wrote for the *Toronto Star* newspaper. In addition, he was the author of *Fred Dale's Garden Book*, photo on right. The book was published on January 1, 1972.

Editor's note regarding *Fred Dale's Garden Book*:

Copies can still be found and purchased online (including on Amazon) – used, of course, and in various conditions – for under \$10.00. If you're a fan of garden books in general, even old ones, you may enjoy reading what Mr. Dale had to say about gardening more than a half century ago.



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

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

Gardening Help Requested at the Troy Historic Village ~ Karol Carter & Ken Heck

*"Spring is the time of year when it is
summer in the sun and winter in the shade." – Charles Dickens*

The Troy Garden Club's principal gardening responsibility is to beautify the Troy Historic Village grounds by designing and maintaining the THV's 15 garden beds and its various planted pots. Whether large or small, all gardens need our attention. In turn, the TGC receives a rent-free venue for many meetings throughout the year, and the Village is our annual garden walk hub for ticket sales, our plant sale and our Midsummer Arts & Crafts Boutique. Weather permitting, TGC volunteers garden on the first Wednesday of each month, April through November, from 9:30 – 11:30 am. As the THV scheduling permits, gardening time is adjustable for volunteers who need flexibility. Responsibilities include watering, weeding and planting. TGC volunteers are welcome regardless of their gardening knowledge. Tools are limited, so please bring your own.

We look forward to your signing up for gardening at our March general meeting. You'll find a binder that contains a signup sheet for each garden. If there's a specific garden where you would like to work, please write your name on that garden's page. Or if you prefer, just come to the THV, and our garden captains will help you find a garden area that needs your help. There is plenty of gardening for all! **Please find a list of gardens and their captains on page 7.**



*-The Troy Historic Village's ABC
Garden above on left is adjacent to the
Poppleton School on right*

**Bev Hydo, Troy Garden Club's
membership chairperson, sends
a warm welcome to four new
members:**

**Wendy Chessin
Susan Himle-Wills
Darlene (Dee) Pokley
Kyla Remus**

-internet
photo



A Call for 2024 Garden Walk \$\$\$ Sponsorships . . .

Producing a successful garden walk has a cost. Expenses include liability insurance, publicity (posters & postcards), hostess supplies, homeowner lunches and gifts, ticket printing and art competition sponsorship, among others.

Last year we were fortunate to have eight generous business, organization and individual sponsors at the level of \$100.00 or more. The sponsorship total of \$1,450.00 was the equivalent of selling 96 additional garden walk tickets! Sponsors are recognized on event tickets, on signs at all the featured gardens and at the Troy Historic Village. Additional donations totaling \$250.00 helped to provide art competition prizes.

Do you know an individual, an organization or a business who would like to sponsor our 2024 garden walk? If so, please contact Lenore Treba. (Contact info is in our TGC directory). She will provide you with additional details and a letter which you may share with a prospective sponsor. Sponsorship in any amount will be greatly appreciated! And it can't hurt to ask!

For ticket recognition, all sponsor commitments of \$100.00 or more must be received by April 6. - Karol Carter

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

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

Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter & Ken Heck

In Memory of TGC Member Kathleen Williams Martin

The following information was obtained from the website of Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, Clawson.

Born in Salem, Massachusetts, Kathy, her parents & younger brother moved to Michigan in the mid-1950s. She graduated from Lamphere High School and then from Western Michigan University (B.A., followed by an M.A. in special education). After working in the field of education for her entire career, she retired from the Lamphere School District as director of special education.

Kathy and Tim married in 1988. They met at an auto dealership in metro Detroit where Tim sold her a car. They were married for 33 years until Tim's passing in 2021. They, along with their Scottie dogs, were enthusiastic boaters, and they captained both a speedboat and a cabin cruiser.

Kathy was devoted to the promotion of social justice and to those with special needs who required attention and support. She loved working with the disabled. After retiring, she volunteered for the Friendship Club at the Troy Community Center. She also delivered meals for the Meals on Wheels program. A lifelong animal lover, she was a docent at the Detroit Zoo for many years and had a special interest in polar bears. Kathy was also very interested in politics and she actively supported candidates whose interests aligned with hers.

Gardening was another special interest. Her home garden in Troy was beautiful, and it included a pond and waterfall. Her eventual membership in the Troy Garden Club began after her participation in the organization's garden walk. Kathy passed peacefully on January 27, 2024.



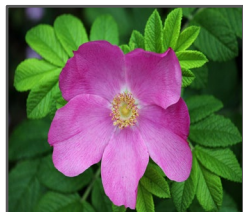
-photo above, L-R: Onita Fitz, **Kathy Martin**, Karol Carter & Judi Milidrag at the TGC's annual members' garden walk, August 2023

Please see p. 6 info about Kathy's favorite charities ... & color.

March Ways & Means Raffle

Think Spring !

Judi Milidrag & Pat Guibord



-photos courtesy
of the internet

February arrived with A – B – C, and March will follow with E – F – G .

E stands for **EASTER**. Think pastels. Spring is on its way. Flowery everything: teacups & saucers, pretty placemats, curios with an Easter theme, framed "flower" wall décor, stationery, nice baskets (Easter and others) for arranging it all.

F stands for **FASHION**. Select a gently-used pastel or straw handbag, wallet, glasses case, scarf, hat or other accessory. Pair it with a lovely jewelry piece or set that would complement the grouping. If you're spring cleaning and want to purge your closets or drawers, we welcome your prize groupings of three items. Be creative. But **F** can also stand for **FROGS** – if you have any to spare! Place each one in a round or square glass bowl with a few cut stems to get us in the mood for spring!

G stands for **GREEN**. St. Patty's Day green or any other. Think decorations (plus Mardi Gras beads), green glass bottles, green household décor, green or plant-themed art pieces, centerpieces, table linens, and the list goes on. . .

Of course we ALWAYS need good-sized boutique or gift bags and tissue for packing up prize groupings at the end! Please arrive by 11:15 am with your offerings.

Irish Blessings

May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow. And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

May God bless and keep in good health your enemies' enemies.

For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way: good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.

May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light; may good luck pursue you each morning and night.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“Lucky is believing you’re lucky.”

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983)
born in Columbus, Mississippi
American playwright & screenwriter

Happy March Birthdays!

03/03 – Carol McWilliam
03/05 – Judi Milidrag
03/12 – Karol Carter
03/13 – Jackie Wilson
03/15 – Kathy Beswerchij
03/15 – Carole Packla
03/21 – Ken Heck
03/22 – Marcia Mayer
03/29 – Lenore Treba
03/31 – Lynda Wolf



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

-above images courtesy of the internet

February Meeting – *Papadelis Ushers in Spring* -submitted by Patrick Hardy

In his 19th year of presenting his “*What’s New . . .*” series to the Troy Garden Club, **George Papadelis** did not disappoint. While there was an initial technical glitch, which George sailed through while fielding questions, the presentation, complete with an 8-page handout, bloomed! Speaking before a sellout crowd, George charmed and educated, demonstrating why Telly’s has attained and maintained its legendary status among Michigan nurseries.



The speaker & the VEEP



The speaker and the banner

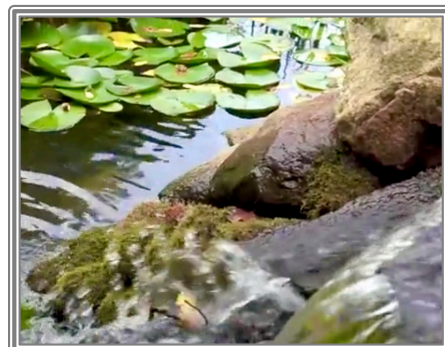


The speaker deep in thought

Marching on -submitted by Patrick Hardy

“*Creating Garden Rooms*” will be Merritt Wolson’s topic on the 13th of March. Owner-operator of Merritt Home Design in Waterford, Michigan, Mr. Wolson specializes in designing intimate gardens for his clients by creating outdoor living spaces which reflect their individual lifestyles. The “rooms” at his own nursery are well worth a visit to his home-away-from-home business at 5940 Cooley Lake Road, Waterford. See you in March!

Right: An image from the speaker’s business website features an outdoor “room” with a waterfall and pond.



Troy Garden Club Calendar

March 2024

Information provided by Corresponding Secretary Judi Milidrag

March 13, Wednesday



FIRST day to sign up for garden walk hostess times & locations

FIRST day to submit April newsletter info: schwark@aol.com

General meeting with speaker – 12:00 noon

***Creating Garden Rooms* – presentation by Merritt Wolson
of Merritt Home Design in Waterford Details on p. 4.**

March 20, Wednesday

TGC's Herb Study Group members will visit the Pink Lady Tea House in New Baltimore. Details will follow via email.

March 23, Saturday

FINAL day to submit April newsletter information

March 27, Wednesday

TGC Garden Walk Meeting, 11:00 am
TGC Board of Directors Meeting, 12:30 pm

***Both meetings at the
Niles Barnard House**

Troy Garden Club Launches Garden Walk Art Competition!

The Troy Garden Club's annual art competition (well, *not quite* annual, due to the pandemic hiccup) has kicked off in full. The competition guidelines have been emailed to all art teachers in Troy Public Schools. Jen Peters, executive director of the Troy Historic Village, will permit student artists to drop off their art during the THV's open hours, and TGC member JoAnn Preston will monitor those entries and pick them up periodically. Member Karol Carter will monitor the supply of competition guidelines at the Troy Public Library and will replenish them as necessary.

Thanks to TGC member Margy Truza and her husband Chuck, their investment counselors at WealthMap Advisors - Stephen Kremer and Niki Sturm - have once again agreed to sponsor the competition's \$100.00 grand prize award as well as the \$50.00 cost of framing the winning art. And a \$100.00 prize for the ticket art's student creator has been provided by a TGC member.

For several years prior to 2023, the student artists' prizes were awarded at a special Troy Historic Village ceremony. Last year, however, the awards were presented at our TGC May meeting. We will happily continue that practice in 2024! See last year's grand prize-winning art above right.



2023 Grand Prize-winning art by Troy 5th grader Agnish Adhya

WORTH READING IF YOU'RE A NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTOR:

What is a paragraph?

There are many published definitions, but all boil down to the following simple internet explanation:

"A paragraph is a series of sentences that are organized and coherent, and all are related to a single topic. Almost every piece of writing you do that is longer than a few sentences should be organized into paragraphs."

***Paragraphs help writers organize thoughts.
Organized thoughts help readers understand.***



Hospitality
Jackie Wilson

**THE
WEARING**

-and EATING- of the GREENS!

Signed up to bring green . . . and other colorful food items . . . to our March lunch are the following members:

Finger Foods: Janet Henning, Onita Fitz, Kathy Bruggeman, Nancy Cardon, Joan Burcar, Barb Stuecheli, Ken & Cindy Heck

Green Salad: Jeanne Bolcer, Sandy Kush, Sally Bolle, Mary Becker

Pasta Salad / Fruit Salad: Marilyn Frey, Kyla Remus

Dessert: Eileen Winkel, Denise Karry, Judy Francis, Wendy Chessin, Carol Mc William

Bring food items already prepared; include serving spoons.



Memorial Donations to honor Kathy Martin

-submitted by JoAnn Preston

Kathy Martin had two special interests beyond her family and gardens. If you wish to honor her by making a personal donation in addition to the TGC's \$50.00 contribution, see the directions below.

Meals on Wheels, 9525 Highland Rd., Howell, MI 48843 On the memo line, add "In memory of Kathy Martin TROY." Or you may write the name of your own community instead. The donated funds will pay for meals.

Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, Troy, MI 48084 ATTENTION: Brian Goul Memo line: "Friendship Club in memory of Kathy Martin." The Friendship Club is an adaptive program for disabled adults. Kathy worked with that group for more than 20 years.

Purple was Kathy's favorite color!



Left: A few of the many wonderful prizes at February's Ways & Means sale.

**Scenes from the
TGC's Valentine's Day
meeting on
February 14, 2024**

**See the Ways & Means
article below.**

Below: The Ways & Means bake sale



Ways & Means! Wow! How did February's Aprons, Bake Sale & Candles fundraiser come together?

In the words of Judi Milidrag:

Pat Guibord suggested the theme for our February sale. We could not have pulled it off without the varied and creative aprons (two dozen plus!) which were donated by members. Beginning with those, we put together 24 prize groupings, including many other donated items. Leading up to the sale, Pat worked very hard making chocolates, lollipops and dipped pretzels – the latter which I can attest to as being delicious!

Thank you to Yolanda Tenorio Thomas, Kay Betke and many others whose homemade treats contributed to the success of the bake sale. Thank you as well to all who purchased goodies!

Our raffle table looked amazing due to the creative touches added by Yolanda, Barb Lepri and Tina Downen, all of whom took the frenzy in stride. Jennifer Goldstein made and donated several lovely bud vases with branches and home-crafted ornaments. I am pleased to say that my daughter Katie made four McIntosh apple-scented 3-wick candles in tall glass jars, just for our sale.

Pat and I so appreciate all who donated beautiful items that produced so many oohs and aahs as members dropped their tickets into the bags for chances to win their favorite prizes. Jennifer Goldstein and Mary Schwark were our "ticket sellers extraordinaire." Their efforts resulted in a total revenue of \$422.00. That amount included bake sale items.

Thanks to all who helped package prizes for delivery to winners. And, of course, thank you to President Dave and VP Patrick who announced and kept track of winning tickets.

TGC Garden Project – Troy Public Library

The TGC began a beautification project at the library entrance about a decade ago. Now there are:
(1) **A larger raised bed** with Karl Foerster grasses and supertunias, which are used instead of annuals that require deadheading or that attract damaging pests such as Japanese beetles; (2) **A smaller square bed:** A Peace Planting Project Garden which was redesigned after the TGC received a \$200.00 gift from an anonymous WNF&GA donor. Daffodils were planted as part of the TGC's Daffodils4Communities participation.
NEEDED SOON: A cutback of unkempt grasses and the division of grasses (to be tackled in March)
FOLLOW-UP PLANS: Save divided grasses for GW plant sale. Ask TGC members to pot the divisions.
To assist, contact Karol Carter: karolvet@aol.com

...continued from page 2 **THV Gardens & Captains**

Main Building Front: Linda Forrester
Main Building West: Cynthia Idyle & Judi Milidrag
Main Sign: Elaine faba-McLeod & Jennifer Goldstein
ABC Garden: Karol Carter
Blacksmith Shop East: Judy Francis
Caswell House Front: Pat Dodge
Caswell House Island: Marilyn Frey & Barb Rosko
Church Front: Onita Fitz & Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas
Church North: Carole Cotter Bodner
Gazebo Garden: Mary Schwark
Gazebo Garden Perimeter: JoAnn Preston & Patrick Hardy
Log Cabin: Troy Garden Club Herb Study Group
Parsonage: Debe Hancock & Dave Becker
Print Shop & Town Hall: Dee Pokley

Thank You !!!!!

to our 2024 Garden Walk Home Hostesses

HEAD home hostess – Sally Bolle

Head hostess Garden #1 – Jackie Wilson

Head hostess Garden #2 – Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas

Head hostess Garden #3 – Jennifer Goldstein

Head hostess Garden # 4 – Rebecca Jaye

Head Hostess Garden # 5 – Bev Hydo

Head Hostess Garden # 6 – Eileen Winkel

See the TGC March calendar, page 5 at the top, for information about signing up for YOUR garden walk shift(s).

REMEMBER: *Beginning in APRIL*, you may sign up for more than one shift. Volunteering for two shifts or more will provide eligibility for you to attend the garden pre-walk in late June.

Seeking Daffodil Day Flower Centerpieces – April 17, 2024

-submitted by Karol Carter

The following information appeared in the Winter 2024 Michigan Division newsletter. If you will attend this year's Daffodil Day and would like to provide a centerpiece for the event, please contact Karol Carter (karolvet@aol.com), ASAP, and **by no later than March 12**. The appropriate Michigan Division contact person will then be notified that the TGC is willing to participate.

The **Daffodils4Detroit** committee invites all MI DIV branches and members who attend Daffodil Day to **LEND** flower centerpieces – 5 per branch – for use at the event. The variety of centerpieces adds to the elegance of the day!
REMEMBER: Following the event, **the centerpieces will be taken home by those who brought them**. Please do not remove centerpieces until the meeting has concluded.

CENTERPIECE SPECIFICATIONS:

- 45 centerpieces will be needed.
- Centerpieces do not have to match.
- Use clear glass vases of any shape.
- Place an ID label on the underside of the vase.
- Centerpieces should not exceed 14" in height and 12" in width.
- At least 50% of floral materials should be daffodils. Feel free to be creative with the remaining 50%.

CENTERPIECE DELIVERY ALTERNATIVES:

1. Take them to the Detroit Yacht Club during open hours on Tuesday, April 16.
2. OR Deliver them to the DYU no later than 10:30 am on April 17.

WILL TROY GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE? DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Email Sue Malone at smalnewgc@gmail.com

D4D - 2023



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 April 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) Please verify members' names AND the *spelling* of members' names before submitting newsletter information.
- (10) When writing narratives, divide information into paragraphs. See page 5 for the definition of "paragraph."

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



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

You & everyone else
seated at your table
at the March 13
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.**

HERB STUDY GROUP REPORT

Kay Betke

In February, our group met at Judy Cornellier's home. After completing our "art" project, we now have painted stones embellished with the names and images of all herbs in the Log Cabin Garden. The stones will be set out in May, after the herbs emerge and spring growth has begun.

Club members, when you visit the THV this summer, please take time to enjoy the Log Cabin's herbs accompanied by their markers. And don't miss reading about the HSG's March 20 field trip plans on p. 5!

Spring Egg Hunt & Preparing Seed Packets

-submitted by JoAnn Preston



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TWO EVENTS !

A SPRING EGG HUNT

-rain or shine- at the Troy Historic
Village will take place on:

Friday, March 22, 4:00-7:30 pm **and**

Saturday, March 23, 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Members of the Troy Garden Club will
greet egg hunters and their families on
the Print Shop porch and they
will also hand out seed packets.

Volunteers may choose their times and
contact JoAnn Preston:

Jakpre24@msn.com

PREPARING THE SEED PACKETS

will take place in the Niles-Barnard
House at the THV on Wednesday,
March 6, from 12:30 – 3:00 pm,
or until we've finished making
the 300 packets!

YOU are welcome to attend, to
stuff envelopes and to help
spread gardening and
Troy Garden Club messages to our
younger community members.
Please come and get an early
start on spring gardening fun!