



Troy Garden Club Newsletter

October 2025



MEMBER PROFILE



Marilyn Frey (pictured left, looking surprised, working at the THV), **member since 2009**. As some of you may recall, back in 2023 the Club took a field trip to the historic **Scarab Club** in Detroit where Marilyn, until recently, managed the garden which displays artworks often featuring emerging Detroit artists. It was a memorable experience. In her own words: “Every year I do a vegetable garden at the Bowers Farm, which provides much of my food for several months. You can easily find my garden by the tall asparagus fern that, by the end of summer, reaches 4 or 5 feet tall. I have a bountiful harvest of asparagus every year in spring. As a retired psychologist I can tell you that gardening has many therapeutic advantages...if you can overlook the bugs and deal with the unpredictable behavior of plants and weather! On a personal level, I'm a Gramma; my first great grandchild was born this spring.”



President's Message by David Becker

October is putting on its annual fireworks show: those reds, golds and oranges never disappoint! But I'll confess, it's not my favorite month. All those beautiful leaves look amazing on the trees...until they land in my yard. Then it's just me, a rake, a blower, and a mountain of garden confetti. And while I try to enjoy the crisp air, I can't help noticing that winter is sneaking up behind all that color. So I'm soaking up every last sunny afternoon, gathering inspiration for next year's garden, and savoring the last bursts of color before I tuck my garden to bed.

Irene Koziel celebrates 50 years with the TGC receiving a certificate awarded at September's General Meeting from President Becker.



Calendar/October

October 1, Wednesday/9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Gardening Day at the Troy Historic Village

October 1, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: Budget Meeting, Troy Historic Village

October 8, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: General Meeting/Luncheon

October, Wednesday: Herb Study Group (*Kay Betke to provide*)

October 22, Wednesday/Noon: Board Meeting/Niles-Barnard House, THV. **ALL WELCOME**

Newsletter articles may be submitted from the beginning of the month until the 26th.



Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neill



Members have signed up as indicated below (*portions for minimum 20*).

Please arrive by 11:45 a.m. with your food item already prepared and be sure to provide appropriate serving utensils. **Finger Food:** Denise Karry, Barb Stuecheli, Lori Brubaker, Elaine Faba-McLeod, Karol Carter, Patrick Hardy, Carole Packla, Suzanne Smith, Norma Frame; **Green Salad:** Joan Burcar; **Pasta Salad:** Joanie Ugelow, Linda Forrester; **Fruit Salad:** Karen Cox, Lori Brubaker; **Dessert:** Nancy Zambardi, Thea Lockard, Sara Perron, Darlene Eckhout, Mary Becker; **Centerpiece:** Deb Hancock; **Cleanup:** Karen Cox. **Reminder to members:** We want to make sure everyone gets a chance to enjoy the food so *please take a smaller amount on your first plate. If possible*, provide your own plate, utensils and cup as we try to be mindful of our environment in helping to reduce waste. At the conclusion of the meeting, be sure to police your table, toss disposable items and arrange chairs at the table. Thank you and...



Keep Smiling!



Troy Public Library: Nancy Cardon and Sue Vette chose *Wave purple Petunias*, *Snow Princess Lobularia* and *Silver Cascade Artemisia Stelleriana* for the May 16th TPL planting which endured the heat and put on a blazing show for readers coming and going as pictured in these September 1st photos. (Photos courtesy of Karol Carter)

Birthdays

Janet Peceny: 10/19 →



Suzanne Smith: 10/20 →



Karen Gray: 10/25 →



Karen Ollila Cox: 10/30 →



Anna Zimmerman: 10/31 →



Sunshine/Rain

by Pat Dodge



Jackie Wilson's new grandson, **Grayson**, born in Texas. This is sunshine!





Troy Historic Village Gardens Update

Karol Carter

Next Gardening Date: October 1st/9:30 a.m.

On September 3rd, a pleasant fall morning, 22 members weeded, pruned, deadheaded, edged and watered our gardens **AND** we achieved almost 100% exit participation with our bookkeeping! My co-chair Ken Heck and wife Cindy have begun weekly Monday and Wednesday babysitting duties, with an indefinite timeline, so we say goodbye to Ken as Co-Chair. Thank you, Ken, for all your help with set up and closing. (pictured below, from left, Mike Young, Suzanne Smith and Judy Francis)



Township Hall Garden



Russian Sage Garden

Speaker Series

by Patrick Hardy

Our October 8th speaker will be **Emily Lardner** of



"Lardner the Gardener" with ***"The Business of Gardening."*** You may recall having seen

Emily at our September general meeting where the tech/garden wiz was responsible for successfully setting up **Amanda**

Ruffini and her eye-opening presentation ***"Fall Invasives."*** Who



knew that our common earthworm was considered an invasive species? Live and learn. Oh, yes...and we are, too!

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



On Wednesday, 9/17 our group met at **Pat Guibord's** home to discuss drying herbs. Everyone got handouts with a chart on herb usage in cooking and a recipe for pesto. I included instructions on how to properly dry herbs from Judy Cornellier's collection of herb materials, especially basil. Drying basil has been a problem as the leaves blacken as they air dry. After washing the leaves I roll them in a dish towel and leave them overnight, then cut the leaves in small pieces, put them on a paper plate and left them to dry. After becoming crispy, package them in a glass or plastic container. Ready to use for any recipe! Next month for our 10/15 meeting we will be at the Troy Library from 11:30a.m.-2:30p.m. **Sue Vette** will do an herb report and craft.

Festival of Trees

with Mary Becker



We will once again participate in ***Festival of Trees***, proceeds of which benefit research at *Children's Hospital of Michigan*. At our October 8th meeting, 2' tall trees, centerpieces and wreaths will be provided for decorating. If interested contact me as soon as possible (mdanzbecker@gmail.com). Printed instructions will be available at the meeting or I will email them to you when you contact me. This is a wonderfully worthy cause!



“Spice Girls”

by Karen Gray

Eight of us from the *Herb Study Group* went to **Pat Dodge’s** Cabin in the Manistee area for 3 days in late August. We enjoyed touring Traverse City wineries, beautiful camaraderie, laughter, kayaking and, of course, gardening conversations! (pictured left to right: Sue Vette, Pat Guibord, Nancy Cardon, Onita Fitz, Karen, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Judi Milidrag and Pat Dodge)



Bev Hydo’s Gardens: *Autumn Clematis* in bloom (above), *Hibiscus* and *Aralia* (*Sun King* in the background) and *Climbing Hydrangea* (below right).



“Out of This World” Halloween/THV



JoAnn Preston
and
Debe Hancock



Troy Garden Club can’t be just fun, games, and food, but Trick or Treat at **Troy Historic Village (THV)** comes very close. Debe Hancock, chairperson, has lined up TGC volunteers for the Friday, 10/24, 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10/25, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. shifts and is developing the decorations for the Print Shop porch including a photo booth for the kids. **Volunteers are reminded to arrive 15 minutes BEFORE their shift begins.** Parking is on Lange Street to keep the front lots open for guests. While our volunteers are invited to don costumes, they are not required. Pictures of our space travelers at the space station revealed regular shirt and slacks with “NASA” logos. Not very elaborate. And who knows what those little green men/women wear? **Questions for Debe please contact her 248 439-0087 or cell 248-739-1766.** There will be games and activities throughout the Village and candy and trinkets for the little aliens including teal pumpkin options. If you want to contribute candy or treats to support the fun, THV always looks to our community for donations (hours 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. weekdays). THV is proud of its tradition of Trick-or-Treating that is friendly, not scary. 88 community-sponsored scarecrows will be surrounding the Village at Wattles and Livernois for the entire month of October. **Take your photo with the Troy Garden Club Scarecrow!**

Community Outreach

2025 Board of Directors/Committee Heads

President: Dave Becker
Vice President: Patrick Hardy
Treasurer: Jeanne Bolcer
Recording Secretary: Darcel Connors
Corresponding Secretary: Judi Milidrag
Advisor: Linda Forrester

Community Outreach: JoAnn Preston
Greeters: Nancy Wietchy
Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke
Hospitality: Jackie Wilson & Cindi O’Neil
Membership: Beverly Hydo
Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge
Troy Historic Village Gardens: Karol Carter
Newsletter: Patrick Hardy



Ways & Means

Judi Milidrag

Raffle at our October 8th General Membership Meeting

What better way to welcome Fall than with a Troy Garden Club RAFFLE! Here are a few basket “themes” that I have started putting together and that **YOU** can add to:

- *“Tea Time”/“All About Cozy:”* A pink cozy scarf with pockets to keep hands warm, and fluffy socks; but need teas, coffee cup with saucer, butter cookies and such.
- *“Fall and Football:”* A new football-shaped chip & dip platter & box of microwave popcorn, but need more in that theme! What else can you add?!
- *“Garden Bonanza:”* A brand new donated garden apron with a large front pocket for collecting cut stems. What else can you add?! Maybe bird feeder w/suet cake, new clippers, garden gloves, garden sign, plant tags, beautiful flower pot?!
- *“High Drama:”* A large tote, small black clutch & black silky scarf. What else might you add that’s glamorous & black?! Maybe a broach and necklace & earring set?! Maybe spooky black Halloween items to add drama!

These ideas are just to get you thinking...what other themes can **YOU** create a basket around?! Maybe Fall, Halloween or Thanksgiving holidays?! Pick a theme and create a basket or small box collection of items and hopefully others attending will have items to add! Call me with any questions and please bring baskets! **Arrive no later than 11:15-11:30 a.m.!** Helpers should arrive by **11:00-11:15 a.m.** to help set up and to accept donated offerings as they arrive. Have fun as you hunt in your drawers and closets and china cabinet! **See you on Oct 8th!**



Membership Corner, Bev Hydo

As I write this, it is warm and summery and I am not thinking about Autumn. October is just around the corner. However, October means it is time for **membership renewal** at *Troy Garden Club*. As you know, our membership is for one calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Your dues goes to cover our expenses for the year. Our major expenses are our speaker fees (for our own education), hospitality, and room rental. The good news is that dues remain only **\$25**, no increase is planned. We budget carefully to keep expenses in check as inflation eats at our income, as it does yours. **In fact, our budget meeting is the first Wednesday of October (at 11:30 a.m.).** All are welcome to attend. Please print the membership form attached to this newsletter, or from our website, complete it and bring it to an Autumn meeting (thereby saving postage) with your check. You may also mail it to our post office box. That information is on the membership form.

Troy Garden Club – Founded in 1971

Website: www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

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

Monthly meetings at Big Beaver United Methodist Church: 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083

Second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

September through June

TROY GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
("TGC")

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ BD (month/day): _____
(PRINT VERY CLEARLY)

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Are you a Master Gardener? _____ Date: _____ Advanced MG? _____ Date: _____

Your emergency contact information is for TGC officers only. It will not be published in the directory.

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

MEMBERS CONSENT TO THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN CLUB PUBLICATIONS

REQUIREMENTS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Participate in the annual garden walk. Participation includes garden docent, providing refreshments as needed, or working the plant sale or other garden walk activities for the club at Troy Historic Village ("THV"). A \$20 non-participation fee will be assessed if you are unable to fulfill this requirement.
2. Participate in monthly meetings by providing finger foods/salads or desserts for at least two (2) meetings, plus December, per calendar year.

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

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Troy Garden Club, 2844 Livernois, #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

OR

TURN IN THIS COMPLETED FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT IN PERSON AT A TGC MEETING.

MEMBERS RENEWING AFTER THE DECEMBER MEETING, PLEASE ADD A \$10.00 LATE FEE.

Memberships valid January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

FOR TREASURER'S USE ONLY: DUES PAID \$ _____ DATE _____ CASH _____ OR CHECK# _____
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