



Troy Garden Club Newsletter

November 2025

MEMBER PROFILE

Marcia Mayer has been a Club member since 2020 and recently became Captain of the Pavillion Garden at the THV (*pictured here*). “I’ve loved being a member of the Troy Garden Club. I joined after retiring as a teacher and my goal is to try and get a little more involved each year. I’m a Michigan transplant from a rural area in Western New York. Since I was a kid, gardening has always felt like great exercise and very relaxing. Working in the garden at the THV, maintaining the entrances in our development and helping my children garden at their homes is fun for me. My husband and I have 6 grandchildren (2 shared with **Nancy Schleicher**!). Gardening, babysitting, reading and sometimes golf keeps me busy.” *And, clearly, it agrees with her!*



President’s Message *by David Becker*



As most of you know, I love gardening-and I’ll confess, I often talk to my plants more than I talk to people (at least the plants don’t talk back!). **Big news:** My garden will be on the 2026 Garden Walk! So, in a moment of questionable judgment, I decided to take on two projects I’ve been putting off: installing a pond and leveling the mound in my front yard. Let’s just say both projects nearly did me in. The pond tried to become a swamp, and the mound fought back every step of the way - but I won! The pond is in, and the front yard is finally flat. I plan to spend the rest of 2025 cleaning up, replanting and plotting my next round of “what was I thinking?” garden improvements. Wish me luck - I think I’ll need it.

Calendar/November

November 5, Wednesday/9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Gardening Day at the Troy Historic Village

November 5, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: Donations Meeting/Church/THV. **ALL WELCOME**

November 12, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: General Meeting/Luncheon

November 19, Wednesday: Herb Study Group (*Kay Betke to provide*)

November 24, Monday/Noon: Board Meeting/Niles-Barnard House, THV. **ALL WELCOME**

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

Herb Study

Bananas!



with Kay Betke



Would you believe bananas are in the Herb Family? They are an herb perennial because of the trunk! Botanically, it is an herbaceous woody plant, not a tree. The leaves are used to wrap food for steaming and the flowers are used for tea and beverages. Bananas contain potassium, which is good for your health and it also has healing properties. The banana originated in India and was introduced to

the U. S. in 1876 at the *Philadelphia Centennial*. They were initially a luxury item until there were plantations, railroads, refrigerated boats, and the Chiquita Company bringing this delicious fruit to our supermarkets. ***How I use banana peels and fruit in my garden:*** I cut the peels in small pieces and soak them in water along with any over-ripe fruit. After a day or so, I use the banana juice on any plant that is not blooming. I had morning glories that would not bloom until I gave them some banana juice!

Birthdays

Pat Dodge: 11/20



Rozanne Oehring: 11/23



Cindy Heck: 11/24



Pat Guibord: 11/29



The **2026 Donations Budget meeting** will be on **November 5th at 11:30 a.m.** in the church at THV. *Anyone who wants to suggest non-profit organizations for funding should attend, and any requests for increases in current funding should be emailed to Jeanne Bolcer by Sunday, November 2nd.*



Troy Historic Village Gardens Update *with Karol Carter (and the late blooming Popcorn plant)*

Final Gardening Date: November 5th/9:30 a.m.

Our October 1st gardening day seemed more like summer: unseasonably warm and dry. Eighteen members provided 40 volunteer hours. **Rebecca Jaye** continued her October tradition of providing Tim Horton donuts and apple cider. Her generosity was much appreciated and YES, the display was stylish! She also deadheaded plants, weeded and watered in the *ABC Garden*. November 5th, weather permitting, will be our final gardening day. **The usual time is 9:30a.m.** with parking permitted in the smaller east lot or on Lange Street. It is not too early to think about potential plants that could be divided next year for our Garden Walk Plant Sale. Finally, Patrick Hardy has volunteered, along with Dave Becker (unbeknown) to help with member check in and cleanup. Thank you!



Sunshine/Rain with Pat Dodge

I am happy to report that the sun has shined on our members - well maybe not this weekend but even the rain was much needed. The few that had surgeries, report that all went well and they have recovered or are recovering nicely. Now, as we put our gardens to bed, and see and smell the fall season, a different kind of beauty surrounds us. Why not take a moment to enjoy the colors and be reminded that change can be beautiful!



Speaker Series by Patrick Hardy



Emily Lardner took us on a personal journey revealing how she became *Lardner the Gardener* and **The Business of Gardening** was a moving and informative presentation.

Pictured with member Jennifer Goldstein, she has found her happy place.

ON TO NOVEMBER! **Julia Hofley** will present “*Drama in the Shade*” on Wednesday, November 12th. Julia and her husband, Eric, were the publishers of the much-loved *Michigan Gardener* magazine (among her many accomplishments). Her own gardens are magical and are open from time to time and not to be missed.



Submitted (with humor) by Nancy Zambardi.

A special **THANK YOU** is extended to all those members who so willingly helped in one way or another to ensure the success of our October raffle resulting in a total revenue of \$339! Whether you donated items, helped put together the 25 groupings, sold tickets, **BOUGHT** tickets or delivered the winnings, it all mattered. You know who you are and your contributions were most appreciated.



JoAnn Preston

Community Outreach

TPC* Food/Supplies Drive



STOP before you unpack those groceries and stash them away! Look at what you need to keep your household running smoothly. Then think of others who are having a rough time, maybe with children or grandchildren to care for, and make a list of the items you will bring for the **November 12th Meeting Pantry Drive**. TGC members have a reputation for generosity in the form of our support of the people who need a helping hand in Troy. ***Troy People Concerned** does the vetting and contacts, *St. Anastasia* houses the pantry and does distribution, and TGC hosts this pantry drive at **November's General Meeting**. *The following items are especially requested:* **toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex tissues, laundry soap, body soap, toothbrushes/ toothpaste, hand soap, pasta, rice and canned meat (chicken/tuna/SPAM) and the perennial favorite peanut butter**. Drop off for smaller items will be at the main door as you come in or for larger items, open car trunks/tailgates near the entrance. Thank you for thinking of others as you shop and, if possible, use paper grocery bags which will be reused when the items are finally distributed. **Please check your food expiration dates if you are donating from your home pantry – NO expiration in Nov 2025 or before.**

Fall Container Planting with Sue Vette



The VP has presented a bevy of marvelous speakers this year, one of whom was **Olivia Fuller** who shared multiple entrance plantings. For me, using cabbage in planters was unique and I added a four-plant to a spring container. Then for fall I added in pumpkins, kale and gourds.





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: Elaine McLeod, Barbara Stuecheli, Kathy Brunner, Joan McClelland, Judi Milidrag, Tina Battle, Kimberlee Urwiller, Rozanne Oehring, Nancy Cardon, Cindy Idyle, Pat Hauer; **Green Salad:** Sally Bolle; **Pasta Salad:** Kay Betke, Joanie Ugelow; **Fruit Salad:** Barb Rosko, Mary Becker; **Dessert:** Nancy Zambardi, Bill Waggoner, Marcia Mayer, Darcel Connors, Kathy Bruggeman, Pat Piejak; **Centerpiece:** Sara Perron; **Cleanup:** Karen Cox, Kyla Remus. **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!**

Beaumont Beauties

Jeanne Bolcer & Judy Popyk



Jeanne: A fall arrangement by **Judy Popyk** that I saw when I took my sister to the *Rose Cancer Center* at Beaumont Royal Oak. She does such a great job! [*both Troy and Royal Oak*]



Photo courtesy of Jeanne Bolcer

Judy: Pat Guibord started the plan 22 years ago. She was upset not seeing any small spot of cheer at the [*cancer*] center. The Club approved her request. I took over maybe 10 years ago. I buy, design and deliver to both centers. I try to buy a plant like a Shamrock for March but often use silk flowers instead. I usually do something 10 times a year. I enjoy it and the hospitals seem to appreciate it. I use my own craft items as well as a donations stipend from the Club.



Halloween at THV

A few of the TGC volunteers: (1) Karen Cox, Debe Hancock, Nancy Zambardi, Mary Becker; (2) Jackie Wilson, Debe, and Bev Hydo. A good time had by all!



Photos: Karol Carter

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

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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