



February 2026 Newsletter

MEMBER PROFILE



President's Message

by Karol Carter

Quick Updates:

1. TGC Bylaws Revision Vote – 2/11/26 General Meeting: A step in the withdrawal process from MI Division and WNF&GA requires a small revision of our bylaws. We will be removing references to both organizations and the responsibilities of belonging to both. In late January, we will email you the revised bylaws approved by the board of directors at their 1/28/26 meeting. Members lacking email will be mailed a copy. **A vote requesting approval will be 2/11/26.**

2. Start time reminder for general meetings: For many years the “business” portion of our meetings took place after the speaker. We have been attempting to conduct it prior to or during lunch. Also in that time frame, if scheduled, a Horticultural Presentation by Jennifer Goldstein. **This can ONLY work if everyone agrees to arrive early and be in their seat ready to go promptly at noon.** So please begin arriving EARLY enough so you have adequate time to check in with Bev, find a table, get your hospitality food to the kitchen, socialize and be ready to start at noon.

FYI: I just recently noticed that our monthly **newsletter calendar** has listed a meeting start time of 11:30 a.m. beginning September 2025. The intent is to encourage members to arrive early enough to accomplish all of the above. If we can't fit everything in, please stay a few minutes after the speaker so we may finish up and also enjoy Jennifer's presentation.

Jennie Gillespie joined the TGC at last month's General Meeting, so is currently our “Newest Member!” “Always lived in Michigan (an avid Detroit sports enthusiast). I have one son and three grandkids and soon to be a great grandma. I retired from Rexair which used to be on the corner of Big Beaver and Livernois in the big glass building but now it's next to Macy's. I live in a side-by-side duplex and love gardening, planting lots of annuals and a few perennials...deer and rabbits give me trouble but I keep trying. I have a small rock garden that I need help with so I'm glad that **Karen Cox** talked me into joining the garden club. Maybe I can get some ideas and I love the two meetings I have been to so far!”

Calendar/February

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

February 18, Wednesday: Herb Study Group (*Kay Betke to provide*)

February 25, Wednesday/11:00 a.m.: Garden Walk Meeting/Niles-Barnard House. **ALL WELCOME**

February 25, Wednesday/12:30 p.m.: 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



TGC members have signed up as indicated below. Please arrive by **11:45 a.m.** with your food item already prepared for 20 people and be sure to provide a serving utensil for your food item. **Finger Food:** Barb Lepri, Kyla Remus, Deb Hancock, Rebecca Jaye, Jacquelyn Cutright, Karen Gray, Ann Britton, Cindy Idyle, Judi Milidrag, Wendy Chessin, Darcel Connor, Karol Carter. **Green Salad:** Onita Fitz, Jeanne Bolcer. **Pasta Salad:** Kay Betke, Diane Iglesids. **Fruit Salad:** Tina Dowen, Nancy Cardon. **Dessert:** Pat McDermit, Judy Francis, Pat Hauer, Carol McWilliam, Mary Becker. **Cleanup:** Norma Frame, Cyndi Yosin. Reminder to members to bring your own plate, utensils and cup to our meetings as we try to be mindful of our environment and help to reduce waste. At the conclusion of the meeting, be sure to police your table and toss disposal items and arrange chairs at the table. **Keep Smiling!**

Horticulture Corner

with Jennifer Goldstein



(Jennifer at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden in front of lotus blooms in January)

In January, I spent two and a half weeks in Australia during their summer. From the manicured home and botanical gardens to the naturalized mountains and shorelines, the fauna was lush despite the tough climate of heat, drought, fire and nutrient-poor soils. While we were there, the news was filled with bush fires and tsunami-like rains that washed cars off the Great Ocean Road, the same route we were earlier scheduled to take. We experienced temperature swings from 108 to mid-60's. This made me think of the ever-increasing climate trends we are beginning to see in Michigan and wonder how to best prepare our gardens, so they too remain lush.

Australian native plants emphasize survival over showiness. Many species have tough, waxy, or narrow leaves to reduce moisture loss, deep or fibrous root systems to access water, and the ability to recover after stress. While Michigan's native plants grow under different conditions, they share a similar advantage: they are adapted to

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Birthdays

Patrick Hardy, 2/3



Jeanne Bolcer, 2/11



Carolyn Treiber, 2/13



Deborah DePorre, 2/15



Constance Warren, 2/22



Speaker Series by Rebecca Jaye



RECAP: Mark Spencer presented an informative look at bee keeping through the year. In the spring as the bees become more active the population of the hive begins to increase. At the same time honey production increases and over the summer harvesting begins. Fall preparation starts in late summer when the bees are treated for mites to keep them healthy. During the winter the bees cluster together generating heat to keep the hive warm and Mark provides sugar to supplement the winter food supply and reduce moisture in the hive until spring arrives ensuring a productive hive.



Moving on to February - We are looking forward to **George Papadelis** presenting "What's New in 2026" on the 11th. **If you plan on inviting a guest(s) let Bev Hydo know by the 9th so we'll be prepared with food and seating.**

Community Outreach

with JoAnn Preston and Bill Waggoner



Knock Knock Opportunity Calling (actually it is the Easter Bunny – don't tell!)

I know...I hardly believe it myself, but Easter is early this year meaning the **Spring Egg Hunt** for the little ones at Troy Historic Village is coming right up on **March 28 and 29**. Troy Garden Club adds to the fun of the event (and advertises for our July Garden Walk) by hosting a space and giving out spring themed treats to the 300 or so children who attend. The past few years I chaired and as a practical, hungry gardener I helped my team package green bean SEEDS in coin envelopes with instructions for planting when it warms up. We included a business card (the kind that come on sheets that you can copy at your favorite print shop) with information about Garden Club meetings on one side and the Garden Walk date on the other. **But you can do better.** Whether you would just like to see if your ideas can work, or team up with a friend, or just make new friends, now is the time to let **Bill Waggoner** or me know you would like to chair or help on the Spring Egg Hunt. In the past we have used Troy Historic Village *Niles Barnard House* for our assembly line, but you can decide what you want to do, with whom, when and where. I have seed envelopes, if you want them. Have some fun, make a fun event for cute kids, and make a name for Troy Garden Club in the community. **Knock Knock – are you going to let me stand alone in the cold or are you going to open the door for fun for yourself and others?**

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



Last Wednesday (1/21) was the scheduled Herb Study meeting but with all this miserable Winter weather, it was canceled! So instead of reporting on a meeting that did not happen, I will reminisce on how I started growing **Dill**. Years ago our club sponsored an International Tea. It was held at the THV. Members were asked to create a pot of herbs that represented their heritage. In my pot was Dill and some other herbs. After the event was over, the pot was placed on my patio. Little did I know the wind would blow the dill seeds to other places in my garden. The next year I had dill popping up in places I never expected. So I began to dry the dill and use it on various foods. I cut the dill stalks, wash them, and hang them upside down in the garage. Wait for them to get crispy dry and harvest the fern-like leaves. Put the leaves in glass jars and store them in a cool place. Harvest the seeds and use them next season. I always plant some near my patio so I can go collect some fresh dill while I am cooking.

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS by Committee Co-Chairs: **Cindi O'Neill, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas and Jackie Wilson**



The co-chairs of the 2025 **Hanging of the Greens Committee** would like to thank Karol Carter, JoAnn Preston, Pat Dodge, Kimberlee Urwiller, Wendy Chessin, Tina Dowen, Ann Britten, Judy Francis, Patrick Hardy and Rebecca Jaye who joined us Friday, January 9th to help “unhang the greens” at the **Troy Historic Village**. Many hands made little work and even the weather cooperated and held off with the strong winds and rain until we were finished. Following the completion of our work, we all enjoyed coffee, tea and muffins supplied by the THV staff. As we announced at the November meeting, this was our final year to co-chair this event. We really enjoyed chairing the event for the last four years but thought it was time to pass the torch. We are happy to announce that



Kimberlee Urwiller, Cyndi Yosin and Lori Brubaker have volunteered to co-chair the event in 2026.

Skunk Cabbage at Stage Nature Center by Karol Carter

During an early winter walk (1/10/26) at the Stage Nature Center, I spotted a sure sign of impending spring. It seemed too early for the eastern skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, to be emerging but with a little research I learned how it can: Skunk cabbage is considered a thermogenic plant as it can create heat, raising temperatures well above the air temperatures surrounding the plant, causing the ice or snow to melt. This wetland plant is also one of the earliest to flower.



A Big Thank You

Karol Carter



Thank you to all who helped with our January 14th meeting set-up and hospitality assistance. Did you know that several of our members arrive at the church between 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. to prep in advance of our meeting EVERY month? **Jackie Wilson** prepared all the taco toppings for our luncheon and picked up the meats. After our very informative speaker, **Mark Spencer**, finished, a flash mob appeared to clean up! You swept the floors, put away extra tables and chairs, cleaned up the kitchen, packaged food, helped cart items out to cars and took out the trash. Member **Meena Madhusudan** surprised us (*again!*) with a load of beautiful bouquets at the end of our meeting which she passed out from the trunk of her car during the blizzard. I briefly talked to two of our guests as they were departing and invited them to come back.



They told me everyone was incredibly welcoming; “*Unlike at other meetings we have attended elsewhere.*” February’s speaker **George Papadelis** and his “followers” will be hopefully packing our house. Please consider saving a seat or two at each table for our guests. Let our greeters know you have reserved a seat as it makes it easy for them to do their job.

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Garden Walk Series with Dave Becker

Hello to all fellow garden club members! As you may or may not know, my garden will be featured on this year's Garden Walk. I plan to share a monthly update on what it is like to prepare and then to present the results of 30 years as an amateur gardener to the general public. In anticipation of the event, I spent the fall of 2025 transplanting shrubs to new locations and establishing plantings around a recently added water feature. This winter I find myself reviewing gardening magazines and, to my poor wife's chagrin, watching far too many gardening shows for inspiration. With a little luck and a lot of weeding I hope the finished product is something I'm proud of and that the visiting public will enjoy. **Stay tuned!**



January 2026

(con't from page 2/Goldstein) local soil types, weather patterns, and wildlife. As our climate brings hotter summers, heavier rain events, and unpredictable seasonal shifts, native plants offer resilience that many ornamentals lack and are most worthy of our consideration. One consistent theme in Australian gardens is working with the landscape rather than against it. I have lost so many plants trying to incorporate unique ornamentals that are not happy here. Native plants are matched carefully to sun exposure, soil type, and natural moisture levels. This reinforces an important lesson for Michigan gardeners: right plant, right place. This is no longer optional—it is essential (even if I can't help myself with the next wrong purchase). I want to become a better student of our native grasses, prairie plants, woodland ephemerals, and wetland species that already know how to handle local extremes when planted appropriately. Mulching and soil protection are also critical practices in Australia, used to buffer roots from temperature swings and preserve moisture. In Michigan, where winter freeze-thaw cycles and summer heat both stress plants, organic mulch around native perennials and trees helps stabilize soil temperatures, reduce erosion, and support beneficial soil life. "Chop and drop" has recently become my best friends and I'm thankful for a neighbor who gives me his grass and leaf clippings. Finally, Australian gardens are designed with wildlife in mind, because native plants are the foundation of healthy ecosystems. Having said that, I'm pretty sure they don't have deer pressure! Birds, pollinators, and insects are not accidental visitors; they are integral. As Michigan gardeners, incorporating native plants is one of the most effective responses we have to climate change. Each native plant strengthens food chains, improves soil health, and increases the garden's ability to withstand stress. As we move from winter toward spring, Australia's summer serves as a reminder: resilient gardens start with native plants, thoughtful placement, and respect for the changing climate we garden in today—not the one we remember from childhood. At the February meeting I will share a handout of some suggested plants to start with. Maybe we can all work to add a few natives to our space this spring.

MARCH RAFFLE: Let's think "Spring" for our **MARCH 11TH** general meeting and bring bright or pastel flowered (new and like-new) items to result in a dozen or more lovely raffle prizes for lucky winners! Consider flowered items of all sorts for a table setting, art pieces for the wall or coffee table, fancy pots, pitchers, stationary and more. Use your imagination...empty baskets needed!

Daffodil Day Luncheon 2026

Karol Carter

Last year, proceeds + donations from the Daffodils4Detroit fundraiser enabled the purchase of 70,000 bulbs. This is down from 2024 due to the increase in cost for the bulbs. A search of the City of Detroit's website revealed that an additional 500,000–600,000 bulbs would be purchased by the city and planted last fall. Since this event's inception in 2009, the number of bulbs planted on Belle Isle and in Detroit neighborhoods is over 4.5 million. Yes, the price of the ticket to attend this event has slowly been creeping upward, but if you would enjoy a visit to Belle Isle and its sites, enjoy viewing swirls of daffodils, have a nice lunch, hear a speaker, visit vendors AND support a good cause, then this event is for you.

Daffodil Day Luncheon: Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Check in begins 11:00 a.m. Lunch at NOON.

Location: Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle.

Speaker Topics: Little Village/Stanton Yards. "A section of Detroit being developed as a cultural corridor."

Also: MI Department of Natural Resources Update on Belle Isle.

Belle Isle Attractions: Newly renovated Casino on Belle Isle; visit the Conservatory; and Oudolf Gardens.

Registration: Online or paper form available on MI Division website www.michiganwnfga.org. Go to protected *Members Section*: password **Schantz2027**. Click on *Michigan News* to find registration form on **Page 14**. To sit with TGC members, note *Troy Garden Club*. **\$60 through March 31/\$70 April 1-7.**

2026 Board of Directors/Committee Heads

President: Karol Carter

Vice President: Rebecca Jaye

Treasurer: Jeanne Bolcer

Recording Secretary: Darcel Connors

Corresponding Secretary: Judi Milidrag

Advisor: David Becker

Community Outreach: Bill Waggoner

Greeters: Nancy Wietchy

Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke

Horticulture: Jennifer Goldstein

Hospitality: Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neill

Membership: Beverly Hydo

Newsletter: Patrick Hardy

Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge

Troy Historic Village Gardens: Karol Carter/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