



March 2026 Newsletter

MEMBER PROFILE

Tina Battle joined the garden club in Fall of 2025 and is excited to get to know the members and learn more about gardening. She and her husband Tim have lived in Troy for over 28 years and it is where they raised their 3 children (triplets!). Recently retired after practicing law for 38 years, Tina is involved in volunteering and fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. She loves photography and is a member of the Troy Nature Photo Club. Tim and Tina enjoy spending time with family, traveling, hiking, and exploring fun and interesting places in Michigan. They have a large yard and hope to be able to devote more time to their garden now that they are both retired. During the summer, Tina loves visiting u-cut flower farms to support local growers and to create bouquets for her "Friday Flowers" photo posts on social media. Tina recently wrote and self-published a children's book about Troy called ***Adventures in Troy with Betty and Buddy Beaver***. (available on Amazon...a great gift for the grandkids!).



President's Message

by Karol Carter



We have a new logo! A TGC logo first appeared in 1982 and was designed by Betty Louney. This coincided with our decision to join *Woman's National Farm & Garden Association*. Our logo is 44 years old and we voted to leave the national organization, so time for a change. AI defines logo as "a graphic mark, emblem or symbol used to identify a company, organization or product." In the past 10 years many well-known companies have updated their logo. Included in the list are Pepsi, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Dunkin (dropped Donuts), Jaguar and Mastercard. **Dave Becker** and **Patrick Hardy** began tinkering, resulting in a ballot containing 5 options. TGC board members and garden walk committee members made the final decision. Our new logo now appears on your newsletter. A vote was taken at our 2/11/26 meeting to approve the January 2026 amended Troy Garden Club Bylaws. The decision of the 54 members in attendance to approve was unanimous. Also, 'thank you' to our hospitality and membership committees, our greeters, those who helped with cleanup and the members who provided food for the February meeting. **Jennifer Goldstein** elevated her table décor to a new level (see page 6)! Thanks to all who truly enjoy making a table pop and adding some fun. **ANY** member is welcome to sit at **ANY** table be it upscale or not. Just ask if a seat is available and I bet the answer will be "yes". Our meeting started on time, ended on time and hopefully everyone had an enjoyable time!

Calendar/March

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

March 18, Wednesday: Herb Study Group/Troy Public Library (see *Herb Study* article below)

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

March 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:** Darlene Eckhout, Jeanne Bolcer, Sally Bolle, Jacquelyn Cutright, Patrick Hardy, Kimberlee Urwiller, Pat Dodge, Cyndi Yosin, Lori Brubaker, Kathy Bruggeman, Cindy Idyle, Tina Downen, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas. **Green Salad:** Mary Becker, Tina Battle. **Pasta Salad:** Nancy Schleicher, Pat McDermit. **Fruit Salad:** Rebecca Jaye, Jan Bancroft. **Dessert:** Diane Iglesias, Cathy Rohlman, Carol McWilliam, Lisa Derderian. **Cleanup:** Pat Dodge, Joan Burcar. **Centerpiece:** Sara Perron.

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!

BIRTHDAYS

Carol McWilliam 3/3



Judi Milidrag 3/5



Karol Carter 3/12



Jackie Wilson 3/13



Carole Packla 3/15



Marcia Mayer 3/22



Lisa Derderian 3/23



Herb Study

with Onita Fitz



We finally finished the project that was planned for January and heard a presentation about **Caraway**. Several of us were not accustomed to cooking with caraway, so we appreciated the information. **Tina Downen** brought sauerkraut, rolls, and bread made with caraway as examples of the many ways to use it. For our **March 18th** meeting, we are inviting all members of the club to come listen to and watch Dave Becker's demonstration **How To Clean and Maintain Your Garden Tools**. This is for members only, and we have several spots left of the 40 allowed in the room. It will be at the Troy library from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You do not need to bring your tools but please bring a lunch and we will enjoy your company while we eat. **Contact Onita Fitz (osfitz@hotmail.com)** if you wish to attend and have not already registered. If you are not sure you did, call or email me anyway! The 'Herbies' will have a short Planning meeting after the demonstration which you are invited to attend.

Photo: Linda Forrester



Troy Garden Club

51st Garden Walk – Six Private Gardens
plus Plant Sale and Vendor Boutique

Fundraising to Benefit the Community

2026 Garden Styles

Wednesday, July 8th – RAIN OR SHINE

GARDEN WALK TICKETS:

\$15 each from June 1st through July 7th

\$18 each on July 8th available **ONLY** at the Troy Historic Village

As of June 1st, ticket-selling venues will begin their sales on varying dates. They are: **Auburn Oaks Garden Center, Bordines Rochester Hills, Telly's Greenhouse, Uncle Luke's Feed Store and Troy Historic Village**, where admission is free for the day.

The TGC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization/www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

Speaker Series by Rebecca Jaye

Our own perennial garden guide **George Papadelis** presented **"What's new in 2026."**



Through his travels around the country George introduced new finds of all kinds. As always, he (and wife Jan) entertained and educated while answering our questions. 35 years of speaking to the Club and he's as fresh as ever!



MOVING ON TO MARCH - We are looking forward to internationally renowned author **Dr. David Michener**, Curator, *Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum* at UofM presenting **"Peonies"** on March 11th.

Garden Walk Sign-Up

Wednesday, March 11, 2026



Jackie Wilson – TGC Home Head Hostess

Members, here is your opportunity to sign up for this year's TGC Walk! Sign-up sheets will be available at the **March** meeting. Therefore, it is important to attend this meeting to volunteer. It is optional to volunteer for a second garden; *however*, in doing so you are eligible to attend the club's garden pre-walk in June. *According to the TGC by-laws, members are required to volunteer for at least one garden walk and/or plant sale shift. Members who do not volunteer for at least one shift must contribute a \$20 non-participation fee.*

Garden Walk Sponsorship Summary by Karol Carter

If you know of a business or individual who might be willing to sponsor our event, please contact them. A major sponsorship (\$100 or more) commitment should be made by April 1st to be listed on our garden walk ticket. Please refer to my detailed email sent on 2/16/26. Contact me and I will provide you with a letter you can send out. My email: karolvet@aol.com

Community Outreach

Put on your Egg Hunt Bonnet

with JoAnn Preston and Bill Waggoner



The February General meeting only had a couple of people sign up to help package seeds for the *March Egg Hunt* which isn't surprising because we did not have a specific date for you. **CHECK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for **Wednesday March 18 at 12:30 p.m.** or whenever you can arrive after Dave's tool sharpening presentation at the Library. We will utilize the Niles Barnard table space at Troy Historic Village. **Wendy Chessin, Gail Kobal, Karol Carter, Debe Hancock, Jennie Gillespie, Kay Betke, and Pat Dodge** were all "possibles" so check to see if you can make it. Please let JoAnn or Bill know if you can come and help for a couple of hours – we plan to make 350 seed packets for our little egg hunters. The wonderful volunteers for handing out the TGC treats for the little kids are: **FRI March 27, 4-7:30 p.m.:** **Becky Crocker, Kyla Remus and Ann Britton;** **SAT March 28, 10-12:00 p.m.:** **Tina Battle, Francis Stage and Lisa Derderian.** **SAT March 28, 12:00-2:00 p.m.:** **Nancy Zambardi, Theresa Morin, Cathy Rohlman.** Please park on **Lange Street behind Troy Historic Village**, but do not block mailboxes and arrive 15 minutes early to be oriented. Dress for the weather for while we may be inside the print shop, it can be chilly with the door opening and closing. *(Yes, the event is held rain, snow, or shine, so come whatever the weather and wear your smiles and galoshes if needed.)*



March Placemats

One generous member has messaged me that, in honor of our March speaker, David Michener, she is purchasing disposable Peony placemats (100 count) for use by all those doing table décor

on 3/11. As you can see from the photo above there is drama galore in this item and if you would like to use them for your table they will be available upon arrival. It will be interesting to see a sense of conformity...but don't feel you have to if you have other plans!

Horticulture Corner

with Jennifer Goldstein



SNAIL ROLL – SEED STARTING

My granddaughter, Briella, may have preferred baking jelly rolls, but we had just as much fun in the “dirt” making snail rolls. This clever, space-saving seed-starting method replaces cell trays with a coil of potting mix. Recently we used parchment paper to sow flower seeds. In the future, especially for edibles, I plan to avoid plastics and experiment with brown paper bags, unbleached craft paper, or repurposed cotton, linen, or denim strips. Last year was my first attempt. I treated the rolls like winter sowing and placed them outside in milk jugs—great success! This season, I'll try growing some indoors under lights. While many tutorials suggest bubble wrap or packing foam, I recommend non-plastic options instead. To make a roll, cut strips about 6–8 inches wide and 36 inches long. Spread a thin (about 1 inch) layer of pre-moistened seed-starting mix on top, then gently roll into a spiral. Stand the roll upright, secure it with a rubber band, and place it in a tray for bottom watering. Sow seeds across the top at the recommended depth. So far I love this method because it saves space, soil, and containers. Seedlings develop long, less-tangled roots, and the spiral easily unrolls for transplanting. I've only tried flowers so far, but look forward to testing tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and herbs. Give it a try—and share your photos so we can cheer each other on!



Troy Historic Village Gardens 2026

Karol Carter and Patrick Hardy

The TGC's principal gardening project is the design and maintenance of the Troy Historic Village's 15 garden beds and pots. The gardens vary in size and horticultural content with each being overseen by a garden captain or co-captains. Thus, before diving into a garden, verify you are following garden-captain provided instructions. **We garden the first Wednesday of the month, April – November**, weather permitting, from **9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Of course, flexibility within the THV scheduled hours is fine. We welcome all members no matter your gardening knowledge. We **NEED** your help. Gardening is an opportunity to meet your club members and learn from one another. You may choose to volunteer in one particular garden, but please offer to help in others if your time allows. The THV has a limited number of gardening tools so bring your own favorites. Suggestions include: hand pruner, weeding tool, trowel, gloves and water to drink. If you have a lopper or hand-saw, they are useful especially in spring. Yard waste bags are provided. Additional information including sign-in procedures will follow in April. THV gardens are a master gardener approved site for volunteer hours. The following list provides garden locations/captains:

Main Building Front: Linda Forrester

Main Building(W): Judi Milidrag

Main sign: Jennifer Goldstein

Caswell House Front: Pat Dodge

Caswell House Island: Marilyn Frey/Barbara Rosco

ABC Garden: Karol Carter

Blacksmith Shop East: Judy Francis

Gazebo Garden: Marcia Mayer

Log Cabin: Herb Study Group

Town Hall: Jackie Wilson

Print Shop: OPEN

Parsonage: Debe Hancock/Dave Becker

Church North: OPEN

Church: Onita Fitz/Yolanda Tenorio Thomas/Judy Popyk

Gazebo Island Gardens: JoAnn Preston/Patrick Hardy

Contact karolvet@aol.com or paleha52@yahoo.com for more info.

Garden Walk Series

with Dave Becker



If I had to describe preparing for a garden walk in just a couple of words, they would be “*anxiety*” and “*indecisiveness.*”

Anxiety, because the weather has rendered my garden completely untouchable; currently buried under nine inches of snow. **Indecisiveness**, because the more I plan, research plant sizes, and chart bloom times, the more frequently I change my mind. I have six distinct planting areas to consider. Do I commit to a cohesive, uniform theme, or do I let each garden space develop its own personality? For now, however, the weather has made that decision for me. With the foreseeable future keeping me indoors, I'll be confined to my recliner-planning, revising, second-guessing, and waiting for the snow and cold to finally loosen its grip.



The South Garden

The North Garden





Sunshine/Rain with Pat Dodge

Our sunshine this month is coming in the pockets of all our members bringing it back from their travels to warmer areas. **Kimberlee Urwiller** recently returned from her fabulous trip to South Africa; **Jennifer Goldstein** has a wonderful photo album of her trip down under to Australia, and several of you had the warmth of Florida, Arizona, Nevada, and Texas. **Welcome back!!** Even though we have had snow outside, my heart is also being warmed by the excitement for all the wonderful ideas for field trip adventures that you TGC members have suggested...which will be featured in next month's issue!

Daffodil Day 2026 Luncheon Reminder

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 Attraction: 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
•Click on Daffodils4Detroit for registration options.
•To sit with TGC members, there is a line where you can note 'Troy Garden Club.' **\$60 through March 31/\$70**

MARCH RAFFLE: In case you missed the heads-up in the February newsletter about our Spring raffle, here are some ideas and suggestions to get your creative juices flowing. If you are anything like me, just strolling through your home can turn up many colorful and interesting items that you might finally be ready to part with: a few pieces of depression glass, a pitcher with lovely Spring flowers painted on one side, new glazed pots, a framed floral piece. If you have any baseball (think Tigers) or other sports related items, I have a "Take me out to the Ballgame" stretched canvas plaque to pair them with! So many items come to mind that may be tucked away in a drawer and all but forgotten in a China cabinet or on closet shelf. Your Spring cleaning might turn up those colorful items that could make our raffle table pop! Large or medium clean and festive baskets are always welcome; and if you feel really creative, go ahead and put together your own themed collection ready for some lucky member to win! Deliver items by 11:00 a.m. and let me know if you would like to help with the raffle! Thanks!

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/JoAnn Preston
- Greeters:** Nancy Witchy
- 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
- THV Gardens:** Karol Carter/Patrick Hardy



Crystal candelabras and swans graced the Goldstein table. Sheer elegance.

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