



July 2026 Newsletter

"We'll build our house, and chop our wood, and make our garden grow."

Leonard Bernstein, Candide

Garden Styles 2026

Troy Garden Club 51st Garden Walk

Wednesday, July 8



Becky Thornton

Special thanks to our
participating members!



Dave and Mary Becker



Becky Crocker



President's Message *by Karol Carter*

"Garden Styles 2026" - July 8th

Planning for this event began in August 2025 with the initial search launched for this year's featured gardens. Your garden walk committee has been meeting monthly since January. Yes, all members are encouraged to attend! Many decisions have been made to make this event the best possible product for our garden walk attendees, but we cannot control the weather. So, think positive thoughts and imagine a sunny, low humidity, rainless 80 degree day. Yes, it's July 8th but why not dream big! Grab your complimentary garden walk ticket, visit our six gardens **PLUS** the Troy Historic Village for garden walk related events. Don't forget to thank our TGC members **Dave** and **Mary Becker, Becky Crocker** and **Becky Thornton** for sharing their gardens. Finally, please begin to watch for potential gardens for our 2027 garden walk. We do consider gardens in surrounding cities.

Calendar/July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Nora Dougherty</i>  9:30 a.m. THV Gardening	2	3 <i>Bernice Huck</i> 	4 <i>Linda Weir</i>  Independence Day
5	6 <i>Kyla Remus</i> 	7 THV Plant Sale Drop- off 10:30 a.m.	8 Garden Walk!	9	10	11 <i>Lori Brubaker</i> 
12 <i>Jennifer Goldstein</i> 	13	14 <i>Linda Forrester</i> 	15 <i>Darlene Eckhout</i>  Herb Study	16 MSU Tollgate Garden Open House 6-8 pm	17	18 <i>Bill Waggoner</i> 
19 <i>Cynthia Idyle</i> 	20	21	22 11:00 a.m. GW Wrap-up THV Niles B.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Garden Walk Series

with Dave Becker



The home stretch...

I'm writing this in mid-June, and the gardens are really taking off. Some flowers and shrubs have already put on their spring show, while others are busy setting buds in preparation for their summer performance. I think the deer may actually be helping me delay the phlox from blooming too early by providing regular "pruning services." Unfortunately, the weeds have decided to lend a hand by enthusiastically filling in any open spaces right alongside the annuals-to my great dismay. The annuals are planted and beginning to fill in the gaps that needed a little extra color and attention. Every day brings new growth, new blooms, and, of course, a few new weeds. The countdown is definitely on. With that in mind, I'd better get back outside to weed, deadhead, and put the finishing touches on 30 years of gardening before we welcome visitors to the garden.

(Dave need not worry: His garden is like a gentle hug in a sea of tranquility! – Editor)



REMINDERS

- Garden Walk Wrap Up Meeting **July 22nd**, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Troy Historic Village/Niles Barnard House. **Members are welcome to bring ideas or comments.**
- **NO** board meeting in July.
- **NO** general meeting in August.
- **Field Trip** August 19th. Register with **Tina Battle** (see below).
- **YES** board meeting August 26th, 11:00 a.m. at Troy Historic Village/Niles Barnard House.
- **Bring your healthy, beautifully potted donation plants and garden items (tools, trellises, garden art, etc.) to the Troy Historic Village on Tuesday, July 7th from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

June Meeting Room Set Up

We cannot take credit for the "new" room format. It was from a previous event at the church. The layout was perfect for this particular meeting: 6 garden tables on one side of the room; buffet down the center; and the THV hub on the other side. Most likely would not work for a normal meeting setting as we have extra tables in front for Horticulture presentations or Ways & Means plus the guest speaker. Thank you to all who cleaned up the room after the meeting. Our current contract states we must place all trash in the dumpster, remove any extra furnishings we have put out, sweep floor, clean kitchen, etc. We will convene again at the church on September 9.



Field Trip to Ankley Family Farm

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

6767 Clear Lake Road, Imlay City, MI

Meet at Camp Ticonderoga on Rochester Road at **9:30 a.m.** to carpool out to the farm. Bring a bag lunch.

Any questions contact **Tina Battle** at (248) 990-2049 or tinambattle@gmail.com.



MSU Tollgate Garden Open House

July 16, 2026/6:00PM - 8:00PM

28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48377

Contact: Destiny Pearson 248-347-0269

Have a delightful evening at **MSU Tollgate's Garden Open House**, where over twenty beautifully themed gardens await you within a scenic 160-acre farm setting. Stroll through vibrant landscapes, enjoy guided tours and insightful talks from passionate garden volunteers, and discover the art and culture of gardening. Light refreshments will be served, and wagon rides around the farm offer a fun way to explore the grounds. No preregistration is required—just come and enjoy a peaceful, inspiring evening in the gardens!



Troy Historic Village Gardening



Karol Carter & Patrick Hardy



After no opportunity to garden in May, it was nice to be back in the gardens on June 3rd. Eighteen members plus volunteer **Carla Vaughan** provided 33.5 hours of service. Our April mulching suppressed many of the weeds, though they probably are lurking beneath. We have the opportunity to show off our gardens on July 8th. Hopefully our plants understand the significance of that date! July 1st is the next gardening day and final clean up prior to the walk. We begin at **9:30a.m.**

WANTED:

Holiday Workers



by Mary Becker

As most of you know, the **Festival of Trees** is a charity event raising money for *Children's Foundation*. Christmas trees, centerpieces and wreaths are decorated by club members and auctioned off during a fundraiser for this great cause. And while we normally start lining things up in September/October, we're getting an early start this year. If you've seen our club's work in the past you know how creative and imaginative our members are. We're looking for between 8-10 decorating volunteers...and you can even do it as a team! If you would like to participate, contact me NOW at mdanzbecker@gmail.com. Please do give some thought to participating and helping children this holiday season. Thanks so much and have a great summer! [below, a few 2025 efforts]



President Carter with homeowners Paul and Susan Orlando after accepting the Garden Walk commemorative stone and a bouquet provided by member Meena Madhusudan.

Horticulture Corner

by Jennifer Goldstein



For weeks, I had been preparing: starting seeds, waking dahlia tubers from their winter slumber, pulling weeds, planting containers, and tackling enough garden chores to keep me busy from sunrise to sunset. Like many gardeners, I spent the winter dreaming. Seed catalogs piled up on the kitchen table. Milk jugs filled with winter-sown seedlings occupied every available space. I checked weather forecasts from Farmer's Almanac to Google and on every app. Spring finally arrived, bringing the annual ritual of hauling, digging, watering, pruning, mulching, and convincing myself that this year I would stay ahead of the weeds. I did not. Still, by the morning of the garden party, the first of two annual garden parties for the ladies' church group, satisfaction seemed within reach. At 8:00 a.m., the garden looked magnificent. Pink tents and umbrellas stood proudly. Tablecloths were in place. Hoses were rolled and hidden. Tools had disappeared into the shed. Even my fingernails, usually sporting a "permanent mud manicure," were surprisingly clean. I was so proud of the garden that I recorded a six-minute video tour for my mother in Indiana, pointing out every bloom, whimsical detail, and carefully planned vignette. The garden looked like it belonged in a magazine. The weather, however, had other ideas. Around 11:00 a.m., just as guests began arriving, the skies darkened. The wind picked up. Then the downspouts began gushing like decorative water features nobody had requested. Within minutes, we were running for cover. The rain wasn't a brief shower. It wasn't a passing sprinkle. It was the kind of rain that makes you wonder if someone accidentally ordered forty days and forty nights instead of a Sunday brunch. Yet as we crowded onto the porch, shoulder to shoulder, balancing plates and cups while watching the rain pour down, we were reminded that the best parts of a gathering aren't always the ones we plan. The garden became a backdrop rather than the main attraction. Conversations deepened. Laughter grew louder. Stories were shared. By the end of the afternoon, we all agreed it had been one of our best fellowship gatherings. It turns out that having months of preparation share the spotlight with puddles was perfectly okay. Fortunately, gardeners are adaptable people. Every season brings a lesson in humility. A late frost can undo careful planning. Rabbits can devour prized seedlings overnight. Deer view expensive plants as a buffet. And weather forecasts, despite modern technology, still require a backup plan. Gardening teaches us that we control far less than we imagine. We can prepare the soil, plant the seeds, and tend the beds, but we cannot control the weather or the timing of every bloom. There is wisdom in appreciating what unfolds rather than measuring success only by whether things go according to plan. A framed sign hangs on my shed that reads, "Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade." That's certainly true. Gardens require work. But as I sit in the shade writing this, I think the sign tells only half the story. Gardens may not be made by sitting in the shade, but they are enjoyed there. After all the planting, watering, pruning, and weather-watching, the most important garden chore may be the one we often skip: sitting down. Admire the flowers. Listen to the birds. Watch the bees. Ignore the weeds for five minutes. The real joy of gardening isn't creating a perfect garden. It's creating a place where we can pause and enjoy the beautiful, unpredictable results.





(From left: Onita Fitz, Pat Dodge, Darcel Connors, Cyndi Yosin, Kay Betke, Jackie Wilson, Kimberly Urwiller, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Tina Downen and Jennifer Goldstein)

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



On June 17, our group went to the **Franklin Garden Walk**. Since then, I was able to attend the pre-walk of our very own Garden Walk. Rating both garden walks, I give ours a 5-star rating! Of course, both walks created some plant envy. I saw a plant I just gotta have – **Little Redhead Indian Pink**. Its flower is not pink, but vivid red with a yellow center. My perennial garden is a little full, but I'll just have to make some room for it. None of this has to do with herbs so our herb gardening at the THV will have to make up for it. Next month on **July 15** our group will be going to see **Marietta Crabtree's** daylily collection and a tour of the *Octagon House* and gardens. **Pat Dodge** will do a report on a surprise herb.

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/Kyla Remus

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



Karol presenting
homeowner
Brad Arbuckle
with his Garden
Walk stone at
the pre-walk on
June 25th.

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

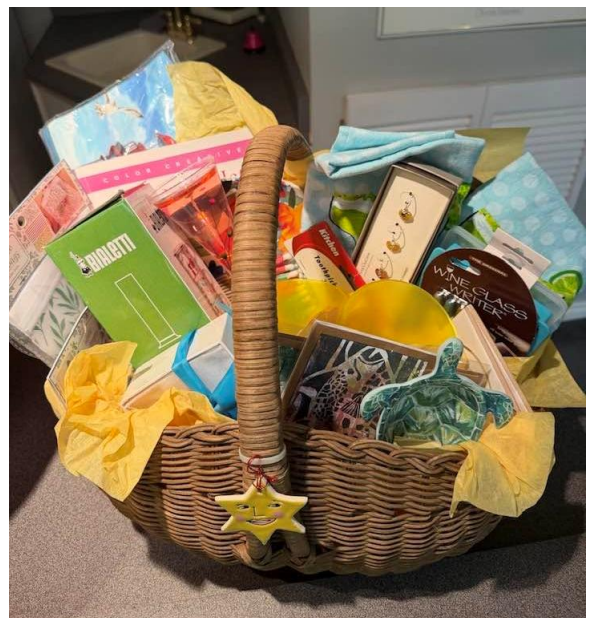
Second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon, September through June

Free Raffle Baskets!

Here's a look at the baskets **Judi Milidrag and Co.** put together for this year's Garden Walk Free Raffle. Ticket receptacles for each will be at the Troy Historic Village on July 8th with the drawing to take place at 6:01 p.m. You'll receive a free ticket for each Garden Walk shift you work, plus additional free tickets with any purchase from vendors or the plant sale at the Village. **Make sure you put the tickets in the TGC receptacles and NOT those for the Village raffle!**



Out in the Garden



Fab Finds



All Things Bright and Beautiful