

September 2026 Newsletter

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." – Lady Bird Johnson

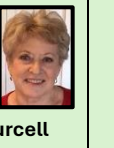
MEMBER PROFILE:

Joan Burcar

Member since 1997. "I started gardening at 10-years old. My sister and I shared chores (one week house cleaning; next week gardening). I made a deal with "Lil" to let me do all the grass cutting and weeding, etc., and she did the cleaning...until Mom got wind of it. To this day, *"I clean because I need to and garden because I love to!"* Widowed twice, I live in a condo now. Still have thirteen planters and a hanging basket on my deck and there isn't a spot by my front entrance without a flowering plant *[and it's a blaze of color and texture!-ed.]*. I've worn many hats in my 88 years: Mother of 7; Grandma of 12; Great gran of 14. Ten years as a Girl Scout leader; four years as a cake decorator for Baskin Robbins (gaining 40 lbs.!); a Production Supervisor for TV and radio sound systems (wire harness and electronic assembler). **I've never missed a garden walk.** I've been the 'Sunshine Girl;' a home hostess [many times]; participated in Hospitality; created centerpieces; worked the plant exchange; and still enjoy our monthly meetings with all the fancy table settings. There's always something to learn!"



Calendar/September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sara Merchawi 	2 9:30 a.m. THV Garden	3	4	5 Stacy Wdowik 
6	7	8 Marilyn Frey 	9 11:30 a.m. Meeting* Sally Bolle 	10 Meena Madhusudan   Susan Purcell	11 Tina Dowen 	12
13 Mary Stout 	14	15	16 Herb Study	17 Jennie Gillespie 	18	19 Linda Chambers 
20	21	22	23 11:00 a.m. Board Meeting	24 Doreen Alpert 	25	26
27	28	29	30 Margy Truza 			

Did You Know?

President's Message by Karol Carter



In your directory, take a peek at our *Standing Committees and Rules* to see how involved you could be as a Troy Garden Club member. **Our organization is more than having a monthly luncheon with a speaker!** The hospitality committee can always use help with luncheon set-up and especially clean-up. *Community Outreach* is planning our participation in the **Halloween Trick or Treat** at the Troy Historic Village. Three months remain in our gardening season at the THV...come join us! Contact **Judi Milidrag** with an address if you spot a nicely landscaped home for "Garden Styles 2027" or even our 2028 garden walk. **Festival of Trees** still needs decorators. Deadline to respond to **Mary Becker** is September 1st. **Kay Betke** would appreciate help with our 2027 membership yearbook. She has chaired this project for many years. Membership chair **Bev Hydo** provides her with the necessary member information. Oh my, **Hanging of the Greens** is only a few months away! Your directory contains a list of committee chairpersons. **There are very few REQUIREMENTS to be a TGC member.** Become involved with your organization to meet other members, support the club and for the FUN of it!

Membership Dues Increase

President Karol Carter

Members attending the August 26th board meeting discussed the need to increase our annual membership dues effective January 1, 2027. I joined this organization in 2007 and this is only the second increase recommended. Why? Our operating costs have been slowly rising. Room rental, speaker fees, club sponsored lunches and yearbook/directory are our largest budgeted items. We briefly discussed having an online directory to save printing costs. No decision was made on that. In the future we may need to hire someone to help with room set-up at the church. Hopefully we will be allowed to continue using the Big Beaver United Methodist Church Family Center as rental is currently reasonable. We have members who rarely submit a receipt for reimbursement as they consider it a donation to our organization. Those generous acts will never show up on a treasurer's report. We can't assume that support will always happen. How much? **The proposed annual membership fee beginning January 1, 2027 is \$40.** We meet 10 times a year, so your cost would be \$4 per meeting. Renewal for current members begins at the October meeting. How would this work for guests? If a guest wants to join at any point in 2026, they would need to pay the \$25 membership fee for 2026. If they would also like to renew for 2027, they would pay the \$40 for 2027 and write one check **OR** pay \$10 as a guest for each remaining month of 2026 they chose to attend and decide if they would like to join. **Vote of membership: Our bylaws Article IV - Dues state that annual dues recommended by the board must be approved by the general membership. This vote will take place at the September 9th meeting.**



Hospitality

Jackie Wilson

September – Tacos!

TGC members have signed up as indicated below. Please arrive by **11:45 a.m.** with your dessert and be sure to provide a serving utensil. *(Note: The meeting will begin promptly at 12:00)*

Dessert: Karen Gray, Deb Hancock, Kathy Brunner, Doreen Alpert, Linda Forrester, Barb Rosko

Centerpiece: Becky Crocker

Cleanup: Karen Cox

Finally, we are asking all members to police their table area and stick around to help with hospitality clean-up.

Keep Smiling!

Due to the recent bacterial\parasitic outbreak, NO LETTUCE will be served with this month's tacos. We apologize for this inconvenience but think you'll agree that an ounce of prevention...



Speaker Series

by Rebecca Jaye

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 9:

"Backyard Composting"

Mary Gerstenberger



October 14:

"The Tree Doctor"

Dr. David Roberts





A Bouquet That Becomes Next Year's Garden

Our club's recent Ankley Family Farm flower-picking outing was such a delight! I came home with a huge quart jar overflowing with cornflowers, statice, ageratum, globe amaranth, flowering basil, snapdragons, red amaranth, Queen Anne's lace, and several spectacular varieties of celosia and more. I clipped these varieties with hopes and dreams wondering: Could some of these beautiful cut flowers also provide seeds for next year's garden? The answer is a very enthusiastic YES—but with a few tricks! The key is to understand that a beautiful, freshly opened flower



doesn't necessarily contain mature seed. Seeds need to have been pollinated and sufficiently developed before the stem is cut. However, many flowers can continue to dry and finish maturing after cutting, particularly when the seeds were already well along in development. If my primary goal was to create a bouquet with a high probability of producing viable seed, I'd choose **zinnias**,

globe amaranth (gomphrena), **celosia**, **amaranth**, and **flowering basil**. These are especially worthwhile candidates. Zinnias are wonderful seed-saving flowers. Instead of choosing only the freshest blooms, include a few that are beginning to fade. Globe amaranth and both plumed and cockscomb celosia are also excellent choices because their flower structures dry beautifully and can contain numerous seeds. Amaranth is another favorite—the dramatic flower plumes can produce an abundance of tiny seeds. And then there's basil! I especially loved the lemon basil on our outing. If only these pictures had smell-o-vision... wow! If a basil stem has been flowering for a while and little seed structures are beginning to develop where the flowers were, those stems are excellent candidates for saving. I plan to give my favorite lemon basil special attention! Other flowers worth experimenting with include **kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate**, **nigella**, **sunflowers**, **cleome**, **black-eyed Susans**, **coneflowers**, **cornflowers**, **statice**, **marigolds**, **cosmos**, **snapdragons** and **Queen Anne's lace**. For these, the important thing is to look for flower heads or seed pods that are beginning to dry and mature (perfect for a September bouquet) rather than relying solely on fresh blossoms. One technique I'd recommend is to make your bouquet with flowers at several stages of maturity. Choose some spectacular fresh blooms for the vase but also include a few slightly past their prime or already beginning to dry. Those older flowers have had more time for pollination and seed development. For the best chance of saving seed, set aside a few promising stems specifically for drying. Don't put these in water. Instead, place them somewhere warm, dry, and well ventilated. Keep different varieties separate and label them immediately! As the flower heads become completely dry, gently shake or rub them over a sheet of white paper to see what seeds fall out. Not every freshly cut flower will produce viable seed, but that's part of the fun. A beautiful bouquet can become an experiment in next year's garden—and perhaps even a way to remember a wonderful day at the farm. So next time you're picking flowers, don't just ask, "*Which ones are prettiest?*" Ask, "*Which ones might become next year's garden?*" If you would like to give this a try, I have loads of self-sowing flowers in my garden, call or text to pop over to fill a vase with potentials! To quote Audrey Hepburn: "**To plant a seed is to believe in tomorrow...**" but don't you think that to gather a fall bouquet to save seeds for the tomorrows is the ultimate bridge between seasons and act of keeping that faith alive?!

Changes Regarding Big Beaver United Methodist Church

by President Karol Carter



Annually we must renew our facility rental contract with the church. I was recently informed that the church staff would no longer be able to set up our tables and chairs in 2027. In order to continue using the facility, we will need to do that. The church staff will take them down. Our monthly rental fee of \$200 is very reasonable for all that is provided. A few years ago, **JoAnn Preston** searched for other possible meeting locations but nothing could compare for size, audio/visual amenities, room acoustics, kitchen service and hours that we are allowed to occupy for such a reasonable rate. Beginning with our January 2027 meeting, we must set up the necessary tables and chairs. This will be an undertaking that requires willing members to come in early to help. Currently we have 2-3 members + Hospitality Committee who come in to rearrange tables and set up our audio/visual equipment. *With your help, we can make this work!*

Herb Study

with Kay Betke

On **October 21st** the *Herb Study Group* is planning an outing to **Seven Ponds Nature Center** in Dryden located in southern Lapeer County and **would like to invite all TGC members to join us!** There is a **\$5.00 admission fee**. We will be lunching at the historic **White Horse Inn** in Metamora. Seven Ponds has many scenic trails and Fall is the best time to visit. If you would like to attend and include going to lunch, I need to have a count to reserve a table at the Inn. **You must RSVP to Kay Betke at katyjaybet@gmail.com no later than September 30th**. Seven Ponds is located at **3854 Crawford Road, Dryden, MI** (Crawford Road is off Dryden Road) with a travel time of approximately one hour. **The arrival time is 10:00 a.m. at Seven Ponds; lunch at 1:00 p.m. Please arrange your own car pooling.**



Gardening at the Troy Historic Village

Co-Chair Karol Carter

Nineteen members assembled on August 5th to spruce up the gardens. It has been a hot, dry summer and our plants are struggling to keep their show going. **September 2nd** is our next gardening date. Park in the front east lot or on Lange Street, one block north of Wattles. The gates will be unlocked. **Remember to bring drinking water.** If you forget, go into the main building and ask the staff for a glass you can fill in the kitchen. Also, the church is the coldest building to head to if you are feeling overheated. September 10th is the THV's **60th Anniversary** and **Annual Donor Appreciation Event**. We will do our best, as usual, to have the gardens looking their best.



Ankley Family Farm Visit Recap

by Tina Battle

On August 16th, **Joe Ankley** of **Ankley Family Farm** welcomed 16 Troy Garden Club members to his impressive family farm for a memorable summer outing filled with flowers, farm history, bouquet-making, and local treats. Upon entering the farm driveway, we were immediately struck by the rows and rows of beautiful and colorful flowers in the U-pick flower fields. Joe gave us background information on their three-generation family farm and about the flower farm operations that he started shortly after Covid. We wandered awestruck around the



sunflower fields, impressed by the 6-foot-plus sunflowers stretching as far as we could see. Members took multiple photos at the various vignettes set up around the sunflower fields, including old pickup trucks, wicker benches, and picket fences and eagerly created their own beautiful bouquets by wandering up and down the rows of sunflowers, zinnias, dahlias, snapdragons, celosia, mums, straw flowers, cosmos, and so much more. Everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch together under the canopy, including delicious homemade oatmeal cookies by **Cyndi Yosin**. We were also able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, tasty homemade ice cream cookie sandwiches, fresh meat from the farm, and other items in the farm stand. If you were unable to go and want to experience this gem, **Ankley Family Farm** is about a one-hour drive from

Troy along scenic M-53. Check out their website <https://www.ankleyfamilyfarm.com/plan-your-visit> for more information. The U-pick flower fields are usually open until the first frost, and the farm also sells pumpkins and hosts fun holiday shops in the fall.

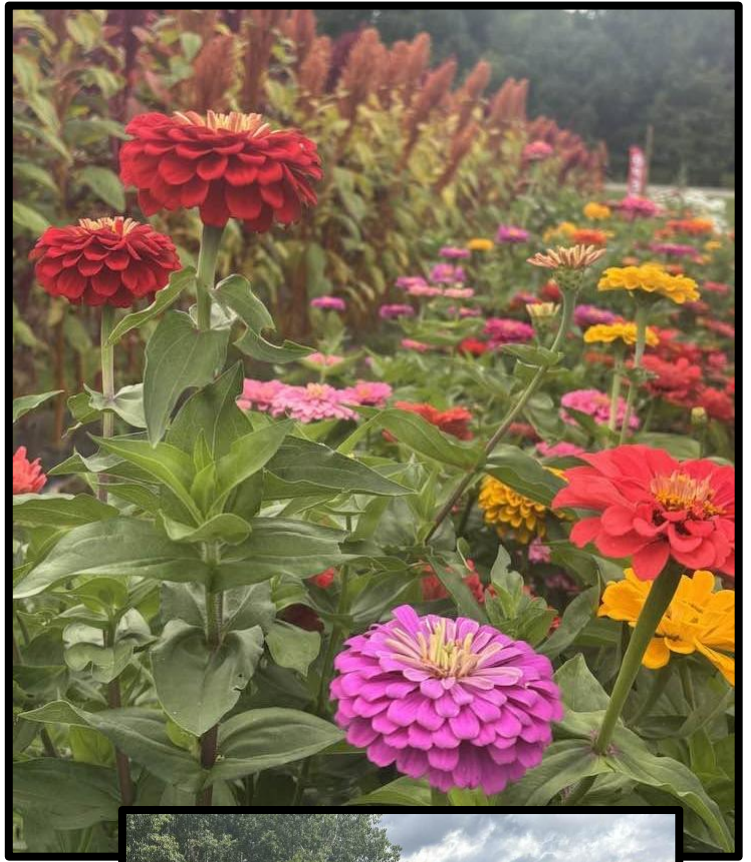
[See member photos on following pages]

Ankley Family Farm, August 19, 2026



(**Front row:** Patrick Hardy, Linda Forrester, Jennifer Goldstein, Stacy Wdowik, Kay Betke; **Back row:** Cyndi Yosin, Judy Popyk, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Tina Downen, Rosemary Kornacki, trip organizer **Tina Battle**, Karol Carter, Karen Gray, Kimberlee Urwiller, Ann Britton, Diane Iglesias and owner Joe Ankley)





Ankley
Family
Farm





Sunshine/Rain with Pat Dodge

These past few months have been a true testament to how thoughtful and kind the members of the TGC are. While **Judi Milidrag** was laid up following knee surgery a team of members, **Tina Downen**, **Jennifer Goldstein** and **Nancy Cardon**, gave their time to help weed and deadhead Judi's gardens. Throughout my years in the club, I have witnessed countless selfless acts as members support one another whether volunteer gardening after a member's shoulder, wrist or knee surgery; bringing soup or flowers to those downed by illness; sending a card; or a simple telephone call of support. I have also seen compassion given to members' parents, children and siblings when they were in need. I am proud to be a part of this wonderful group. Blessings to all who, without thinking twice, have shown kindness to others.

On a sadder note, two of our members lost their mothers in August: **Jennie Gillespie** and Treasurer **Jeanne Bolcer**. Jeanne's mother, Jackie Seeger, turned 92 on August 5th and passed on August 14th surrounded by family members. On a happier note, Jeanne and her husband Matthew celebrated their daughter Dana's wedding on Saturday, August 29th.



GARDEN SUPPLIES OFFERED

by Onita Fitz

My friend James Ray, a gardener from Farmington whom several of you have met, is offering a number of gardening items that he no longer needs. They include: seed starting supplies, potting mats, grow lights and miscellaneous gardening gloves...as well as other things. I will have them in the parking lot by my car, a red Chevrolet Trax, after the meeting in September. Please come by to see if there is something you might want/need.

I Still Need Seashells From the Seashore

JoAnn Preston

I know upcoming Labor Day will still be on your mind, but Chairwoman **Debe Hancock** is planning ahead for *Halloween Trick or Treat* at Troy Historic Village. This year's theme is "Under the Sea." We would like to have enough clean seashells to allow each child to have a choice of their very own seashell from a variety of sizes and shapes. If you have some you are willing to part with, please bring them to Debe or JoAnn at the **September** meeting. Thank you.



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: JoAnn Preston

Greeters: Nancy Weitchy

Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke/Kyla Remus

Horticulture: Jennifer Goldstein

Hospitality: Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

Membership: Beverly Hydo

Newsletter: Patrick Hardy

Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge

THV 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

Treasurer's Report
June 13, 2026 to July 14, 2026
Jeanne Bolcer, Treasurer

Check #	Date	Purpose	Explanation	Account	Deposits	Checks	Balance
		Balance Forward 6/12/26					\$19,281.42
Deposit	6/15/2026	GW Vendors	6@\$60 = \$360	Garden Walk			
		Stop payment fee	Reimbursed bank fee for St. Peters check \$20	Garden Walk			
		Tickets	Member ticket sales (16) at meeting = \$240	Garden Walk	620.00		
3029	6/16/2026	Cranbrook Educ. Comm.	Annual H&G membership	Donations		(60.00)	
3030	6/24/2026	Jackie Wilson	June meeting luncheon	Hospitality		(363.73)	
Cash	7/7/2026	Cash in Ones	Change for garden walk day	Garden Walk		(200.00)	
Deposit	7/7/2026	Online ticket sales	Online sales = \$960	Garden Walk			
			Service charges = (\$39.32)	Garden Walk	920.68		
Deposit	7/13/2026	Deposit	Return \$200 in ones from 7/7	Garden Walk			
			Advance tickets (330) @ \$15 each = \$4950	Garden Walk	5,150.00		
3031	7/14/2026	Darcel Connors	Ice for THV workers water \$4.98	Garden Walk			
			Homeowner lunches (12) \$174.90	Garden Walk		(179.88)	
3032	7/14/2026	Karol Carter	Invoice books for plant sale	Garden Walk		(13.54)	
3033	7/14/2026	Jackie Wilson	Water for home hostesses	Garden Walk		(55.84)	
					6,690.68	(872.99)	
		Balance as of 7/14/26					\$25,099.11
			2026 Garden Walk, funds on deposit				\$8,367.90
			2026 Donations Balance				\$8,754.13
			Judy Cornellier Donation, funds on deposit				\$3,174.36
			Mary Jo Howe Donation, funds on deposit				\$325.00
			Norine Garavanta Donations, funds on deposit				\$727.33
			Pat Marcaccio Donation, funds on deposit				\$50.00
			Lenore Treba Donation, funds on deposit				\$1,225.00
			Olga Stevens Fund				\$410.00
			Peace Project Fund				\$21.99
			50th Anniversary Fund, funds on deposit				\$475.18
			Operating Budget as of 7/14/26				\$1,568.22
			TOTAL				\$25,099.11
			Unallocated Donation Budget for 2026: \$839.39				