



## Troy Garden Club Branch Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Inc.

Monthly Meetings at 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083  
Second Wednesday of the Month at 12:00 noon  
September through June



### April 2025

### President's Message ~ Dave Becker



Hyacinths in southeast Oakland County  
in mid-April, 2024

"In the spring, at the end of the day,  
you should smell like garden soil."

-Margaret Atwood, Canadian poet & writer

Welcome, spring. Seems as if I've been  
waiting a long time for you!

On March 13, I was outdoors, cleaning one  
of my gardens, when a neighbor yelled,

**"You're going to jinx us! You're  
starting that yard work too early!"**

I told him not to worry – that I was just  
encouraging the warm weather. Lo and be-  
hold, the next day was even warmer!

I know there is still a chance that we  
will have snow in March but, in my heart,  
spring is already here, and I am going to

**celebrate it!**

### Important Notice for All TGC Members Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Meeting

### SECOND Garden Walk Sign-up Opportunity

**Step I** – Attend the meeting.

**Step II** – Find the SIGN-UP posters.

**Step III** – Study the garden photos & maps.

**Step IV** – Choose a garden to host on GW day.

**OR ...** Choose a THV venue where you can volunteer.

**Step V** – Choose a time to volunteer.

**Step VI** – Add your name a 1<sup>st</sup> or a 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME if you wish!

Be sure to make a note for yourself of your  
time or times & your location or locations.

**OPTIONAL: ADD** your name to a 2nd shift.

Volunteer for least two shifts & you will become eligible  
to attend the TGC's garden pre-walk in mid to late June.

Per the Troy Garden Club bylaws, members must volunteer  
for at least **ONE** garden walk shift on the day before the walk  
**OR** on garden walk day. Members who do not volunteer for at  
least one GW shift must contribute a \$20 non-participation fee.

### APRIL GREETERS ... by Nancy Wietchy

Joan Burcar  
Rebecca Jaye



Troy Garden Club members greet guests, help them  
find seats & introduce them to other Troy Garden Club  
members. IMPORTANT: If you are unable to fulfill  
your greeter assignment, please search for a member  
to take your place and notify Nancy Wietchy.

~ internet image

Troy Garden Club Branch – Founded in 1971 Website: [www.TroyGardenClubMI.com](http://www.TroyGardenClubMI.com)

Mailing address: 2844 Livernois #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

## APRIL HOSPITALITY by Jackie Wilson

TGC members have signed up as indicated below. Please arrive by 11:45 am with your food item already prepared, *and be sure to provide a serving utensil.*

<i>Green Salad</i>	<i>Finger Food</i>	<i>Dessert</i>
Kay Betke	Joan Burcar Darcel Connors Pat McDermit	Pat Brown Judy Francis Carol McWilliam Sara Perron Sue Purcell
<i>Pasta Salad</i>	<i>Fruit Salad</i>	
Norma Frame	Mary Schwark Kelly Sprague	

### CENTERPIECE FOR FOOD TABLE

Please contact Jackie Wilson if you would like to provide a food table CENTERPIECE.

**Reminder to members:** Please take your own plates, utensils & cups to our meetings. We try to be mindful of our environment while helping to reduce waste. At the conclusion of the meeting, be sure to **CAT:**



~ internet image

**C**HECK your table.  
**A**RRANGE chairs at the table.  
**T**OSS disposal items.

## Troy Historic Village Gardens April 2025 Opening Day – DATE CHANGE

*Karol Carter & Ken Heck*

We hope you've sharpened your gardening tools in preparation for our **opening day on April 2**. A limited number of tools – mostly rakes – are in a shed just west of the Caswell House. **The TGC will provide yard waste bags.** When bags are full, please deposit them by the dumpster in the northwest corner of the main parking lot. School groups will often visit the THV while TGC members are volunteering, so please place tools where they will not be tripping hazards. **Regarding opening day:**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 4/2/25, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

*Flexibility within the scheduled hours is acceptable.*

**PARKING:** (1) Smaller lot east of main THV building  
(2) Lange St., first east-west street north of Wattles

NOTE: THV gates will be open from both (1) & (2)

**SIGN-IN SHEET:** Located near the gazebo

**HAVE A FAVORITE GARDEN?** Head there.

**NO PREFERENCE?** A garden will be suggested.

**WEATHER QUESTIONABLE?** Gardening is weather-dependent.

**RAINING OR VERY COLD?** We will NOT garden.

**CONSIDER YOURSELF A NOVICE?** Please come to garden at the THV anyway.

## Troy Garden Club Board of Directors

President .....Dave Becker  
Vice President..... Patrick Hardy  
Treasurer ..... Jeanne Bolcer  
Recording Secretary.....Darcel Connors  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Judi Milidrag

### Additional Troy Garden Club Volunteers

#### Advisor

Linda Forrester

#### Community Outreach

JoAnn Preston

#### Garden Walk Steering Committee - 2025

Judi Milidrag & Mary Schwark

#### Greeters

Nancy Wietchy

#### Herb Study Group & Annual Directory

Kay Betke

#### Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil

#### Membership

Beverly Hydo

#### Newsletter Editor

Mary Schwark

#### Sunshine & Rainy Days

Pat Dodge

#### Troy Historic Village Gardens

Karol Carter & Ken Heck

*Unless attributed to other photographers or to the internet, photos in this issue were taken by the newsletter editor.*

**CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SKILLS?** You can help fill & dispose of yard waste bags. You can sweep the sidewalks. You can offer to assist in other ways & you can pick up gardening tips as you go.

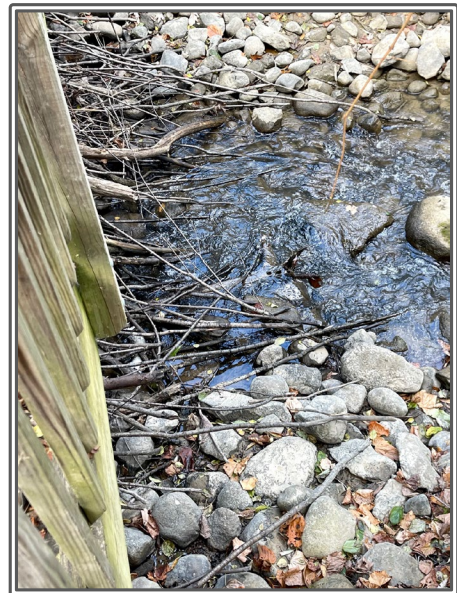
**VERIFY ASSIGNMENTS** with garden captains before you start pulling or pruning.

**FINISHED AT ONE GARDEN?** If you have time, we encourage you to offer your help at other gardens. It's a great way to get to know other members.

**GUIDELINES FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AT THE VILLAGE** are summarized in an attachment to the email that delivered this newsletter. The info has been provided by Barbara Hubbard, the THV volunteer coordinator. See message with asterisk below.

**ARE YOU PLANNING TO GARDEN ON A DAY OTHER THAN OUR USUAL MONTHLY FIRST WEDNESDAY?** Please sign in at the main building.

\* Attached to the email that delivered your April newsletter is a document that lists important guidelines for volunteers at the THV. **PLEASE:** Print and save that message!



~ A Field Trip to OAKLAND UNIVERSITY ~  
 Student Organic Farm, Indigenous Lands, Beaver Dam  
 Wednesday, August 13, 2025

**Plans are ongoing** for interested TGC members to enjoy an outing to Oakland University in mid-August. The event will focus on three venues: **(1) 10:00 am** ~ the OU student organic farm; **(2) 11:15 am** ~ the indigenous lands on which the university was founded, including a pawpaw orchard visit followed by **\*\*\*brown bag lunches\*\*\*** brought from home; and **(3) 1:00 pm** ~ arrival at the beaver dam which was discovered in the last few years. **NOTE:** The beaver dam will require about 10 - 15 minutes of walking each way over somewhat uneven grounds. You may skip venue (3) if you feel that the efforts involved are more than you care to undertake.

**The above outing was discussed, and significant interest was noted at last November's board meeting.**

**We will begin** circulation of a signup form in May & we'll continue circulation in June. In the meantime, feel free to send an email to Mary Schwark [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com) indicating that you are interested in attending. We will provide additional details in July, shortly after the garden walk.

**Because the TGC has provided funding** over the years for OU's Student Organic Farm and for tuition scholarships to OU students, **there will be no charge for our tour and no expectation of a donation.** Approximate beginning times are listed above in paragraph #1 for each of the three venues.

Stay tuned as additional information becomes available. Cameras and **\*\*\*brown bag lunches\*\*\*** are recommended. We will be able to drive our cars between venues #1 & #2.

**PHOTOS FROM OCTOBER 2024 ARE INCLUDED ON LEFT.**

**Returning biodiversity to the land is one of the priorities of this project.**

To that end, the decisions that are made about what to plant here are informed both by Anishinaabe cultural traditions, so that the plants have ethnobotanical significance, and by the pre-contact environmental history of the region.

Pre-contact environmental history reflects that the Anishinaabek stewarded this land for millennia with fire. By returning an oak barren ecosystem to this Site, we return ethnobotanically appropriate plants relevant to Anishinaabe ceremonies, culture and lifeways.



*Photos, top to bottom & left to right:*

*OU Organic Farm's sheltered greenhouse*

*Tree near the beavers' bridge with water level gauge*

*Sticks & branches protrude from the beaver dam which OU's pair of clever beavers built beneath a bridge*

*Biodiversity returns to the land of the Anishinaabe.*

## April

“April prepares her green traffic light  
And the world thinks ‘Go!’ ”

Christopher Morley (1890-1957)  
born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
journalist, novelist, essayist & poet

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Spring

“Spring is when you feel like whistling,  
even with a shoe full of slush.”

Doug Larson (1926-2017)  
born in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin  
newspaper columnist & editor

## Happy April Birthdays!

- 04/01 Pat Brown
- 04/05 Joan McClelland
- 04/10 Becky Crocker
- 04/10 Janet Henning
- 04/15 Norma Frame
- 04/16 Sara Perron
- 04/22 Kathy Brunner
- 04/26 Lynda Karlis
- 04/28 Kimberlee Urwiller



~ internet image

### Herb Study Group Report: *Field Trip to Rose Brunch House* . . . by Kay Betke



Photo, L – R: Kimberlee Urwiller, Sue Vette, Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas, Judi Milidrag, Tina Downen, Onita Fitz, Cindi O’Neil, Jackie Wilson, Jean Holoday, Pat Dodge, Kay Betke, & Pat Guibord *Attending but not in photo: Olivia Fuller & Jennifer Goldstein.*

On March 19, members of the TGC’s Herb Study Group met at a newer restaurant - the Rose Brunch House - in Shelby Township. In attendance were 13 members, plus one guest.

Conversation flowed with gardening tips. In April, members of the HSG will attend Daf-fodil Day on Belle Isle.

– photo on left submitted by Jennifer Goldstein

### More About Birds for the Gardeners Who Love Them

Thanks again to editor Katie Vloet. The information below is reprinted with permission from the **LSA Magazine /University of Michigan** – Fall 2024.

**The Return of the Piping Plover:** “Newly hatched Great Lakes piping plovers are all feet and fluff,” said a recent MLive article. The feet & fluff can be found at the U-M Biological Station (\*UMBS), home to the world’s only Piping Plover Captive Rearing Center. The facility along Douglas Lake in northern Michigan is staffed every spring and summer by avian specialists stationed at UMBS to incubate and hatch out abandoned Great Lakes piping plover eggs and care for chicks to save the federally endangered species from extinction.”

-internet image



Shores of the Great Lakes used to be home to 800 pairs of piping plovers. In 1990, the number fell below 20. In 2023 & 2024, \*UMBS released a total of 56 chicks into the wild.

# Troy Garden Club Calendar – Judi Milidrag



**April  
2025**

~ internet  
images

**April 2, FIRST Wednesday:** FIRST day of 2025 spring gardening at the Troy Historic Village

**April 9, SECOND Wednesday:** General Meeting, “*My Prairie Restoration Journey*,” John Blair Meeting begins at 12:00 noon.

**April 13, Sunday:** FIRST day to submit May newsletter information to [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com)

**April 16, Wednesday:** Herb Study Group – For information, email [katyjaybet@gmail.com](mailto:katyjaybet@gmail.com)

**April 20, Sunday:** Happy Easter

**April 23, FOURTH Wednesday:** Garden Walk Meeting at the THV from 11:00 am - 12:15 pm AND TGC Board Meeting at the THV, beginning at 12:15 pm  
NOTE: **BACK-TO-BACK MEETINGS** at the Niles-Barnard House  
LAST day to submit May newsletter information to [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com)

See page 8: *Save the Date* poster regarding the TGC’s 50<sup>th</sup> garden walk

## A Tisket, A Tasket

... by Sue Vette

Please help fill the Troy Garden Club’s basket. On May 21 it will be donated to a raffle at **Michigan Division’s Spring Council Meeting**, which will be held in Ann Arbor.

MI DIV requests that each branch contribute a raffle basket. Proceeds will be donated to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, as well as to the Nichols Arboretum.

To help make the overall presentation as attractive as possible, please donate a new, regifted, or slightly used item - at our April 9 meeting. Your lovely individual donations will be included in the TGC’s basket.



## We Did It!

Troy Garden Club’s  
Ways & Means efforts on March 12  
resulted in a successful  
Plant Sale & Silent Auction  
...by Judi Milidrag



Thanks to our generous members who brought healthy and attractive houseplants to our March general meeting for our March Ways & Means fundraiser! There was a good variety of interesting plants – with hardly any doubles – and there appeared to be something for every plant enthusiast.

Only a few orphans remained. Shoppers were eager to make their selections and to surrender their cash. The result was a final tally of \$406.00 from sales and a silent auction. Another \$25.00 was received as an anonymous donation. Therefore, the day’s final take was \$431.00. Thank you again to all who supported the effort in any way!



## Looking Forward to *My Prairie Restoration Journey*

. . . by Patrick Hardy

Our April 9 speaker, John Blair, will guide us through his reclamation of acres of lawn into a thriving habitat for wildlife, insects and, of course, flowers.

If you've seen any of John's photos on Facebook, you know we're in for an experience of breathtaking beauty. His bond with the land is undeniable and you just may walk away with some ideas of your own about improving our world . . . one garden at a time!

-photo by John Blair

## A Look Back at *Staging Porches with Olivia*

. . . by Patrick Hardy

Given the usual scale of her designs, it was probably unreasonable to think that Egle "Olivia" Fuller would do an actual hands-on porch staging demonstration, but she did arrive with many appropriate "ingredients" on a beautiful March afternoon!

What followed were step-by-step instructions, tricks of the trade and stunning images of what any of us can do, albeit in a pared-down fashion, to make our porches shine from season to season.



Olivia and Jennifer Goldstein were chatting after the meeting when Jennifer said, "I would love you to see my garden." Olivia asked, "Where do you live? I'll follow you home." And she did!

**GARDENING  
CREATES  
BONDS!**

## Calling All Cookie Bakers! . . . by Linda Forrester

To celebrate this year's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary garden walk, the TGC will once again offer home-baked cookies to share with guests and *only* at the Troy Historic Village. Rebecca Jaye & I are coordinating the effort. We are asking volunteers to bake cookies of their choice, maybe THEIR OWN SPECIALTIES! We'll be happy to accept any number you wish to donate, whether one dozen, five dozen or more.

Your *strictly voluntary* participation will be *at your own expense* and *it will NOT count as a volunteer shift*. Please email Linda Forrester ([linozfor@att.net](mailto:linozfor@att.net)) to participate. If you already know, please indicate what kind of cookie you will donate & how many. Remember: **July is usually hot!**

## Perennial Plant Exchange: Saturday, May 17, 2025 ~~~ RAIN or SHINE

. . . by JoAnn Preston

We welcome exchange participants who can answer "yes" to the following questions:

- **Do you have lots of plants to share?**
- **Do you feel like digging them up?**
- **Do you want to trade your extras?**
- **Do you want some free compost?**

**TGC members will be busy on May 17!  
And a successful event requires your help.**

The annual exchange will take place at the Troy Family Aquatic Center (TFAC) next to the tennis bubble in the Civic Center complex.

**OFFICIAL** start time: 10:00 AM

When do participants arrive? **Usually earlier!**

Volunteer shifts begin running **from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon**. They will be up for grabs at the TGC's April meeting AND in the May newsletter. Please check your calendars.

## Sunshine & Rainy Days . . . by Pat Dodge

Both Ken Heck and Onita Fitz say they are taking it easy as rest and physical therapy are what their doctors have ordered. They hope to be back in their gardens in a month or so. Ken and Onita wish to thank everyone, and both have commented about how touched they are by the cards, warm wishes, thoughts and prayers that TGC members have sent.

Just as April showers (and sometimes snow) bring May flowers, we look forward to the dark clouds passing and the sun shining again.

## CONFERENCE: Gardening & All That Jazz – Garden Potpourri

Information provided by TGC Member Sally Bolle

**WHO:** Gardeners at all levels. You do **NOT** have to be a Master Gardener Volunteer to attend.

**WHAT:** 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference - an all-day fast-paced event.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 26, 2025 – Doors open at 7:45 am. Conference begins at 8:45 am; ends at 5:00 pm.

**WHERE:** **NEW VENUE** – the Oakland Center at Oakland University (W. side of campus, off Squirrel Rd.)

**WHY:** To help gardeners learn & grow!

**WHAT ELSE:** lunch, refreshments, shopping, vendors, door prize drawings, grand raffle prizes, live jazz

**FOUR NATIONALLY-KNOWN GARDEN SPEAKERS & AUTHORS:**  
**Bob Iames – Charlie Nardozi – Stacey Hirvela – Susan Martin**

Conference Chairperson:  
**Betty Peters**

Questions:

**Registrar Ann Hudak**

[conference@mgsoc.org](mailto:conference@mgsoc.org)

or call 248-812-9437

**Price: \$95.00 ~ Deadline: Monday, April 14 ~ Limited Ticket Sales**  
**Download 2-page reg. form. Complete form & mail with check.**

**OR** sign up directly on **Eventbrite** using a credit card. **NOTE:** On **Eventbrite**, you will purchase a ticket for the conference & you will also need to make a luncheon selection:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-and-all-that-jazz-garden-potpourri-tickets-1135574757669>

## The TGC + The THV = Fellowship + Future Fun . . . by JoAnn Preston

**Fellowship:** *Thank You* to **SPAT**, the Troy Garden Club's **Seed Package Assembly Team:**

Dave Becker, Mary Becker, Wendy Chessin, Denise Karry, Sue Purcell & Frances Stage. They put together our promotional TGC business card with news about both the 2025 Perennial Plant Exchange on May 17 **and** the July 9 garden walk. Also in the package were bean seeds for children & families to plant together, maybe even as first-time gardeners!

**Future Fun at the Spring Egg Hunt:** *Thank You* to Denise Karry, Cindi O'Neil,

& Jackie Wilson. They will be volunteers on bunny duty on Friday, April 11, from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. Thank you also to Mary Becker & Paula Williams. They will continue bunny duty on Saturday, April 12, from 12:45 – 3:15 pm. There is room for more bunnies if you're interested. Please contact JoAnn Preston: 248-528-2647 OR [jakpre24@msn.com](mailto:jakpre24@msn.com), to discuss your hopping skills.

We love sharing the joy of gardening with youngsters and young families and we appreciate that the Troy Historic Village invites Troy Garden Club members to participate in the annual Spring Egg Hunt!

## Daffodil Day 2025 FINAL REMINDER

*-information provided by Karol Carter*

**Daffodil Day Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 16

**Location:** Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle

**Speaker:** Ryan Sullivan, CEO of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

**Belle Isle Attraction:** Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

**Registration:** Online, OR use the registration form available on page 11 of the most recent MI Division Newsletter.

**Reservation fee: \$65 from April 1 – 6.**



## Troy Garden Club 2025 Membership Renewal

*. . . by Bev Hydo*

As of the February 2025 meeting, the Troy Garden Club has 93 registered and paid members, plus one honorary member. We join Bev Hydo – TGC membership chairperson – in welcoming Rick Karlis!

# Save the Date!

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 - Garden Stories 2025

Troy Garden Club's

50<sup>th</sup> Garden Walk (rain or shine)

9:30 am - 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

FIVE PRIVATE GARDENS

& ONE WONDERFUL BONUS VENUE

RESTAURANT  
DISCOUNTS  
INCLUDED IN  
GARDEN WALK  
TICKETS

\$15 IN ADVANCE

\$18 ON GW DAY



**PLUS, AT THE TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE:**

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

FREE RAFFLE FOR: GW TICKET HOLDERS *AND*

ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE PURCHASERS *AND*

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE PURCHASERS