



## 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



### March 2025

## President's Message ~ Dave Becker



~ internet images

### What is a team?

By definition, a team is a group of people who work together to achieve a common goal.

Presently the Troy Garden Club has 92 paid members, with approximately 25% (23 members) participating regularly in club activities. The remaining sixty-nine members contribute to the club by attending meetings and by volunteering at the annual garden walk. Of course, those responsibilities are essential, but approximately 75% of members are missing out on the joy and camaraderie of working together to achieve our goals.

Let's make it a 2025 goal to volunteer ONE MORE TIME than you did in 2024 or – even better – just jump in with both feet and really get involved as a board member or event chairperson.

The year 2025 will be my second and last as president, and it will be Patrick's fourth and last as vice president.

The year 2026 may be your opportunity to spread your wings and soar into a brave new team experience. -Dave

*“Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”*

*-Henry Ford*

### Important Notice for All TGC Members

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Meeting**

### FIRST 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 ONLY ONCE!

(Be sure to make a note for yourself of your time & location.)

### Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Meeting

It's optional to ADD your name to a 2nd garden walk shift. Volunteering for least two shifts will make it possible for you to attend the TGC's garden pre-walk.

Per the Troy Garden Club bylaws, members are required to 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.

## MARCH GREETERS ... by Nancy Wietchy

**Judy Francis  
Rebecca Jaye**



~ internet image

Friendly members welcome guests, assist them to find seats & introduce them to other Troy Garden Club members. IMPORTANT: Unable to fulfill your greeter assignment? Please find a replacement and notify Nancy Wietchy.

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

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

**MARCH HOSPITALITY**  
by Jackie Wilson

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



~ internet image

**Finger Foods**

Pat Brown	Patrick Hardy	Judi Milidrag
Kathy Bruggeman	Cindy Idyle	JoAnn Preston
Wendy Chessin	Rebecca Jaye	Kyla Remus
	Denise Karry	

**Green Salad**

Jeanne Bolcer  
Sally Bolle  
Jacquelyn Cutright

**Fruit Salad**

Mary Becker  
Darlene Eckhout

**Dessert**

Darcel Connors  
Janet Henning  
Marcia Mayer  
Janet Peceny  
Fran Stage

**Pasta Salad**

Pat Dodge  
Marilyn Frey

**CENTERPIECE FOR FOOD TABLE**

Please contact Jackie if you would like to provide a FOOD TABLE centerpiece.

Before you leave the meeting, please: **C, T, A**  
**CHECK** your table,  
**TOSS** disposal items,  
**ARRANGE** chairs at the table.

Plans are in early stages to organize an outing to Oakland University – probably in mid-spring. The outing will focus on three campus venues: the OU student farm, the pawpaw orchard, and a beaver dam. Stay tuned as information becomes available. The outing was discussed, and interest was noted at last November’s board meeting. Questions? Please let us know: [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com)

**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.*

**Troy Historic Village Gardens 2025 Karol Carter & Ken Heck**

The TGC’s principal gardening project is the design and maintenance of the Troy Historic Village’s 15 garden beds and containers. 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, please verify that you are following garden captain-provided instructions.

**Weather permitting, we garden on the first Wednesday of the month, from April through November from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Of course, flexibility within these THV scheduled hours is fine.**

We welcome all members, no matter their gardening knowledge. Gardening at the THV is an opportunity to meet your fellow club members and learn from each other. You may choose to volunteer in one particular garden, but please offer to help in other gardens if time allows. The THV has a limited number of gardening tools, so please bring your own favorites. Suggestions include trowels, hand pruners, loppers, weeding tools, hand saws, gloves, and a beverage to wet your whistle. **NOTE:** Yard waste bags are provided. Additional information, including sign-in procedures, will follow in April.

**GARDENS & THEIR CAPTAINS:**

**ABC GARDEN:** Karol Carter  
**BLACKSMITH SHOP EAST:** Judy Francis  
**CASWELL HOUSE FRONT:** Pat Dodge  
**CASWELL HOUSE ISLAND:** Marilyn Frey & Barbara Rosko  
**CHURCH FRONT:** Onita Fitz, Judy Popyk & Yolanda Tenorio-Thomas  
**GAZEBO GARDEN:** Mary Schwark  
**GAZEBO GARDEN PERIMETER:** Patrick Hardy & JoAnn Preston

**LOG CABIN:** Herb Study Group  
**MAIN BUILDING FRONT:** Linda Forrester  
**MAIN BUILDING WEST:** Judi Milidrag  
**MAIN SIGN:** Elaine faba-McLeod & Jennifer Goldstein  
**PARSONAGE:** Debe Hancock & Dave Becker  
**TOWN HALL:** Tina Dowen

**GARDENS WHICH NEED CAPTAINS:**

**(1) PRINT SHOP & (2) CHURCH NORTH**

## Garden Walk Sponsorships 2025 . . . by Karol Carter

Producing a successful garden walk comes with a cost. Significant expenses include liability insurance, publicity (posters & postcards), homeowners' gifts and lunches, ticket printing, art competition prizes and hostess supplies.

In 2024 we received generous support from 12 businesses, organizations and individuals, all of whom contributed at least \$100.00 each. **Last year's sponsorship total was \$2,150.00: \$700.00 more than the year before, AND it was the equivalent of selling 143 additional GW tickets!**



-internet image

Unrelenting rain challenged our 2024 event and adversely affected ticket sales. Sponsorship dollars helped significantly. They allowed us to continue supporting other nonprofits, which is the Troy Garden Club's ***purpose as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit itself***. Our generous sponsors were recognized on our garden walk tickets and on signs at the Troy Historic Village, as well as at each garden walk venue. Additional donations of \$150.00 funded art competition prizes.

If you know, or know of, businesses or individuals who may be interested in sponsoring our 2025 garden walk, please contact TGC member Lenore Treba, [leetreba@att.net](mailto:leetreba@att.net) or 248-362-3738. Lenore will provide you with further details and a letter which you can give to your potential sponsors.

**For major sponsors to be listed on our 2025 garden walk tickets, their commitments to sponsorships of \$100.00 or more should be made by April 1, 2025. Actual funding should be received by the Troy Garden Club by no later than May 1, 2025.**

All sponsorships of any amounts will be greatly appreciated!

## Sunshine & Rainy Days

Text provided by Kay Betke (submitted by Pat Dodge)

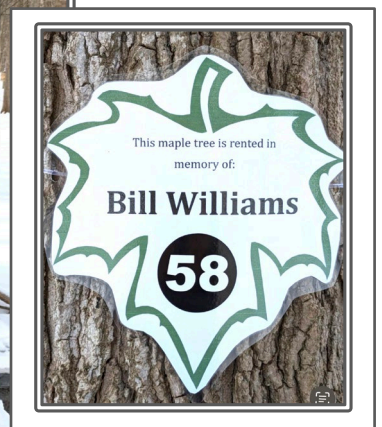


-photo taken in 2022

"Pat Marcaccio, my good friend and a long-time Troy Garden Club member, passed away on February 20 after a long illness. She became a TGC member in 1996, but over the past few years she did not participate due to ill health. She did not renew her membership for 2025 for the same reason. Pat introduced me to the Troy Garden Club, and I joined in 1999.

"The funeral was held on February 25, at St. Thecla Catholic Church in Clinton Township."

## Remembering Our Good Friends



-photos by Karol Carter

The sap is running at the Stage Nature Center in honor of our friend Bill. For sure! For sure!

## March

“March is an example of how beautiful new beginnings can be.”

Anamika Mishra (born 1989)  
in Lucknow, India;  
Writer, life coach & travel blogger.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Spring

“Don’t wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.”

Luther Burbank (1849-1926)  
born in Lancaster, Massachusetts;  
American botanist, horticulturist  
and agricultural scientist

## Happy March Birthdays!

03/03 Carol McWilliam  
03/05 Judi Milidrag  
03/12 Karol Carter  
03/13 Jackie Wilson  
03/15 Kathy Beswerchij  
03/15 Carole Packla  
03/21 Ken Heck  
03/22 Marcia Mayer  
03/29 Lenore Treba



~ internet images

## Herb Study Group Report: *Cilantro / Coriander* by Kay Betke

The world is divided into two types of people: those who love cilantro and those who hate it. (**Editor’s note:** There’s also substantiated information that some who “hate it” are actually genetically predisposed to dislike it.)

Cilantro and coriander are the same plant. The seeds are referred to as coriander and the leaves are referred to as cilantro or Chinese parsley. Both seeds and leaves have had culinary uses since medieval times. All parts of the plant are edible. *Internet photo below.*



Coriander is native to the eastern Mediterranean region. Coriander seeds are described as citrusy, nutty and spicy when crushed. They are used in spice blends such as curry powder, berbere (in the cuisines of Ethiopia and Eritrea), and garam masala. The latter is a warm spice mix that is a staple in India. The main ingredients include cinnamon, cumin, cloves, coriander seeds, star anise, nutmeg, mace, cardamom and black pepper.

A quick-growing plant, cilantro is an annual that likes rich soil, as well as plenty of moisture and sun. The young leaves are the most tender and flavorful. Cilantro is popular in Mexican, Asian and Indian dishes.

Our February Herb Study Group meeting was held at the home of Kay Betke. Pat Guibord presented a report about cinnamon. It is a spice, not an herb. The source of cinnamon is the inner bark of a tree that is native to several southeast Asian countries, including Sri Lanka, India and Myanmar. Pat also showed examples of various kinds of cinnamon.

Jennifer Goldstein brought denim aprons for our group to finish. In addition, she demonstrated the technique of seed-starting in milk jugs. The group shared other gardening ideas. Members will visit a new brunch house in March.

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

### *“If Hope Is the Thing with Feathers . . .*

. . . then look for the **Kirtland’s warbler!** The yellow-breasted species, also known as the jack pine warbler, once bred exclusively in Michigan and experienced a significant decline, with numbers plummeting to roughly 300 birds in the 1970s. It now has a population of more than 5,000. Ecology and evolutionary biology Ph.D. student Max Witynski credits the warbler’s recovery to the passage of the Endangered Species Act and subsequent careful management.”

*-internet image*



# Troy Garden Club Calendar – Judi Milidrag



**March 17,  
2025**

~ internet image

**March 12, SECOND Wednesday:** General Meeting, “*Staging Porches with Olivia*,” Olivia Fuller, Egle Gardens LC. Meeting begins at 12:00 noon.

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

**March 19, Wednesday:** Herb Study Group – For information, email [katyjaybet@gmail.com](mailto:katyjaybet@gmail.com)

**March 20, Thursday:** Spring begins!

**March 23, Sunday:** LAST day to submit April newsletter information to [schwark@aol.com](mailto:schwark@aol.com)

**March 26, 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

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

## Staging Porches with Olivia

by Patrick Hardy

It seems like only yesterday that Olivia Fuller of Egle Gardens wowed the Troy Garden Club with her *Let’s Mulch* presentation. And yet it was in November 2023!



The response was so positive – and the demand for her return so enthusiastic – that we will once again be graced by her wit, charm, passion and knowledge. This time around, Fuller – who does **NOT** love PowerPoint – will do a hands-on demonstration of porch staging. If you’ve ever observed any of her work, you will know we’re in for something special.

Her eye for color, texture and composition is extraordinary. Spring & summer are just around the corner, so if you want new ideas and inspiration to complement your gardens – while adding welcoming elegance – plan on attending our **March 12 meeting**.



-internet image

TGC  
Ways & Means

March 12

by Judi Milidrag

The TGC is excited to announce the return of our always-popular March general meeting **INDOOR PLANT SALE**. It’s an opportunity to share some of your *overflow* or even *favorite* houseplants, while helping to raise funds for our garden club!

Please provide healthy and attractive plants in clean pots and include labels with plant names. Adding a little “oomph” – a small St. Patrick’s Day sprig or a pretty basket – will help. A lovely “package” helps increase the TGC’s revenue.

We will place a few plants together in a silent auction and will encourage high bidders. If you have a special plant - or a large plant - that you’re ready to pass along to a good home, the Silent Auction will welcome them.

Thank you so much to members Tina Downen, Joanie Ugelow & Barb Lepri. They have already volunteered to prepare tables, & to accept, organize & price plants as they arrive. Please bring cash or checks (payable to the Troy Garden Club) so you’re ready to purchase. It will help if you deliver your plants in medium or smallish cut-off boxes that will be reused. To prevent soiling areas around the lunch tables, purchased plants with buyers’ names will be placed neatly under the display tables for later pickup.

Attention, newer members: Would you like to help with the sale? What a great way to get involved and meet other TGC members! Email or text Judi Milidrag to volunteer.

THANK YOU TO ALL!

# February 12, 2025 - By George!

## Lemons to Lemonade *-by Mary Schwark*

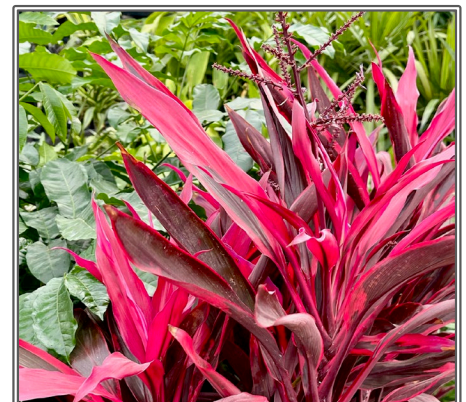
On Wednesday, February 12, I was so preoccupied with George Papadelis' "What's New" presentation (and with disassembling my own glass centerpiece afterward), that I forgot to take photos!

The realization didn't hit me until Thursday. First reaction: "Oh no!" Second reaction: "Email George." I asked him if – given my photo failure, coupled with all the enormous improvements he's recently made at Telly's – I could meet him the next day to get myself out of trouble. He was happy to oblige.

The Valentine's Day photos on this page show George, some of his magnificent plants and the amazing changes at his greenhouse. As a bonus, my husband and I thoroughly enjoyed the warm surroundings and our conversation with the owner. Notice the facility's increase in height and the new greenhouse amenities! And it turns out that lemonade also tastes good in February. I've been calling our visit *"Let There Be Light."* Your turn to enjoy the view!



*Clockwise, beginning above with (1) George, (2) irresistible orchids, (3) a very large cordyline, (4) rows upon rows of tiny but optimistic fuchsias in large hanging pots, (5) undulating cacti, and (6) the soaring greenhouse*



## 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!

**Conference Price: \$95.00**  
**Deadline: Mon., April 14**  
**Ticket Sales Are Limited.**

### WHAT ELSE:

- lunch & refreshments throughout the day
- shopping with more than 20 unique vendors
- door prize drawings throughout the day
- grand raffle prizes at the conference conclusion
- live jazz featuring the Scott Gwinnell Trio

Conference Chairperson:

**Betty Peters**

Direct questions to:

**Registrar Ann Hudak**

Email:

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

or 248-812-9437

Mr. Gwinnell - a jazz pianist, composer & educator - is a special lecturer at Oakland University, where he teaches jazz theory, improvisation, music arranging and music history.

### FOUR NATIONALLY-KNOWN GARDEN SPEAKERS & AUTHORS:

**Bob Iiames – *Conifers for Today's Gardens***

**Charlie Nardozi – *A New Look at Ecological Gardening & Companion Planting***

**Stacey Hirvela – *Seeing Shrubs: A Celebration of the Backbone of the Garden***

**Susan Martin – *An Insider's Guide to Buying the Best Plants***

### Learn More About Our Speakers & Their Credentials:

Visit the website <https://mgsoc.org/educational-conference/>

Download a two-page registration form.

Complete the form & mail it with a check for your payment.

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

### Daffodil Day 2025 Luncheon REMINDER

*-information provided by Karol Carter*

*-internet image*



**Daffodil Day Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Check-in** will begin at 11:00 am. **Lunch** will be served at 12:00 noon.

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

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

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

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

**Reservation fee: \$55 through March 31 \$65 from April 1 – 6**

**For more information:** Refer to the 2025 MI Division Winter Newsletter.

### Troy Garden Club 2025 Membership Renewal

*... by Bev Hydo*

As of the February 2025 meeting, the Troy Garden Club has 92 registered and paid members, plus one honorary member. We join Bev Hydo – Troy Garden Club membership chairperson – in welcoming back Pat McDermit.

*Welcome*

# 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

TGC WEBSITE: [www.TroyGardenClubMI.com](http://www.TroyGardenClubMI.com)