

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2024



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7:00 PM

(In the Pavilion)

Cooking with Autumn Squash, Demo with Mary Spencer at Tollgate

Join garden volunteers and supporters in the **picnic pavilion** on Thursday evening, September 19, for a cooking demonstration of two recipes including autumn squash. Tollgate members enjoy Mary Spencer's annual cooking demonstrations, especially the recipes and samples! Mary will also answer all your general or specific questions about cooking, ingredients, kitchen tools or appliances.

Mary Spencer's goal is to make people better cooks. She does many cooking demos on Zoom from her home kitchen for libraries across the state. She teaches a variety of cooking classes at The Old World Olive Company in Plymouth. For years, she did demos at ABC Warehouse locations in Livonia, Troy, Lakeside, and Novi. Her business, *Taste: A Cook's Place*, www.tastecooksplace.net, teaches cooking classes primarily at PARC in Plymouth.

Mary has conducted food tours, done menu planning and researched heirloom recipes. She has been teaching cooking for 25 years and has over 5,500 cookbooks in her personal collection.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024					
SEP	MEETINGS		OCT	MEETINGS	
3	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	1	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
19	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm	17	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm
SEP	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		OCT	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
7	Shade/Hosta	9:00 AM	5/6	Pumpkinfest – No Workday	
14	Farmhouse/Rose	9:00 am	12	Nursery Clean-Up	9:00 am
21	Nursery Fall Plant Sale	9am-Noon	19	Pond Clean-Up	9:00 am
28	Xeriscape/Children's	9:00 am	26	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am

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FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS Roy Prentice



Greetings all,

August has come and gone. Summer flew by. Colder temperatures may soon arrive – but are not here just yet. The end of August has seen the completion of a successful summer camp season. Several hundred campers had lots of adventures on the farm. In addition to the usual camps which featured hiking in the woods and fishing in the pond, Tollgate hosted a week of Adventure camp filled with kayaking, rock climbing, and other high energy outdoor sports. Campers also enjoyed three weeks of horse camp filled with, well, horses.



One of the highlights of horse camp was having the campers wave pool noodles and toss beach balls to accustom the ponies to distractions. The kids were very into the

distraction activities, and it was a lot of fun to watch. Having lots of kids on the farm always generates a lot of good energy.

Recognition Dinner: The volunteer recognition dinner will soon be here. If you have attended past year's dinners, you know that the recognition dinner is a great event that brings us together in a celebration of the gardening year. All active and sustaining Tollgate volunteers will receive an invitation. The Recognition dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, beginning at 4:00pm. Although November seems like a long time away, it will be here soon! I will be sending invitations out in a couple of weeks.

Ginger Meyer Award: Please send me your nomination(s) for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. I would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one. (There is also a form at the back of this newsletter.) You can also email me your nomination. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make the Tollgate gardens great!

Thanks for all that you do for the farm!

Roy

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

Special Message from Roy

Greetings all,

Cindy and I have been contemplating moving on to the next of life's adventures for some time. We have finally settled on a date of departure. I anticipate that my last day working on the farm will be Wednesday, November 27. Living at Tollgate for 31 years, and working for MSU for 44 years, has been a truly wonderful way to earn a living. With one grandchild here and two more to arrive soon, it is time to see what comes next. We will be moving to Plymouth within walking distance of our daughter, Minnette, so I anticipate returning to Tollgate on a volunteer basis.

Roy



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

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The Prentice Family at Tollgate 1993 -2024



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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**Notes from the President
Renee Cottrell**

I hope all of you were able to enjoy family and friends over the past Labor Day weekend! Here in the gardens, there is still plenty to do in the upcoming fall months! The rainfall this season has kept the gardens lush and the weeds thriving, so, as always, we have plenty of maintenance work for volunteers in the gardens. If you are an Extension MG candidate and still need/are interested in more opportunities please consider joining our group Saturday activity days and upcoming Fall Plant Sale! I am also happy to direct your efforts for individual assignments that meet your availability. The request for volunteers at Pumpkinfest also went out recently and can count toward your Extension required hours. See the Activity work sheet requests or contact me quickly to get in on these final season opportunities. As temperatures cool a little enjoying a garden walk can be more tolerable. Come and enjoy all the beauty you have made possible!

NOMINATIONS

A call for all interested members! September brings the time to make nominations for the officer positions on your Tollgate Gardens Advisory Committee (TGAC). All elected positions are voted on **every** year. This includes President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Serving as a TGAC board member contributes to our organization in ways that do not require physical labor and

“By all these lovely tokens September days are here, with summer’s best of weather and autumn’s best of cheer.”

*- Helen Hunt Jackson,
American poet and writer (1830-1885)*

thus opens another opportunity to participate. These hours are considered towards (re-) certification and this opportunity is open to **any** member. You may nominate yourself or any other **willing** Tollgate volunteer. Most positions do not require specific experience but general organizational skills and a love of working with people is a plus!

The TGAC has compiled expanded definitions and details of TGAC job descriptions to educate TGV members and assist interested volunteers in investigating positions best suited towards their interest and skill set. Open the following link for the Board job descriptions up for nomination - [TGV Job Descriptions - Voted Positions](#). Current board members would be willing to educate and transition any newly elected members to these positions. Please consider this opportunity for the growth of our organization as well as your own personal enrichment. We will take verbal, written or e-mailed **nominations starting now, through October 1, 2024**. Contact myself or Roy. We will vote at the October 17th TGV member meeting for these positions.

The annual **Recognition Dinner** is a celebration of our gardening season and of our volunteers. Please **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, November. 2, 2024**. All members will get an invitation with further details.

PLANT DIVISION DONATIONS

Please keep us in mind for all your fall plant divisions. See Nursery Notes for details.

Notes from the President continued on Page 6

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Notes from the President continued from Page 5

FALL PLANT SALE

We will be doing a smaller scale Fall Plant Sale to showcase the fall blooming perennials. This will be primarily staffed by the Nursery Team and done in conjunction with the Sept. 21st work day in the Nursery. Other volunteers are welcome to participate and come to browse/buy! We still need help with the sale! Look for the e-mail from Lori Heiden for the Sign-up Genius that was recently sent out to fill in sales positions still open.

ATTENTION AGL AND GARDEN TEAM

MEMBERS- All AGLs and teams who submitted a budget request for your garden this season need to submit your expense reimbursement forms within the **MSU-imposed 90-day limit on expenses that can be reimbursed. This would mean any mid- to late-summer expenses need to be submitted now.** Any delay would risk reimbursement rejection. Contact Roy for info or forms.

As you work in your gardens these remaining weeks of the season, please assess for plant identification tags needed for your area and submit to Marilyn using the form in the AGL handbook. We hope to work on the required tags during the slower winter months. Accurate Latin name, and common name are best and a variety name, if it is known. It is our goal to have all gardens with this information to enhance the educational value and enjoyment for all visitors.

See you at the in-person September Member Meeting, in the Pavilion, for some delicious fresh-cooked treats and the dedication of the new Children's Garden bridge structure.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer!

Renee Cottrell, President
Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Rmcottrell4@att.net



Top photo provided by Julie Semroc
Middle and bottom photos by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News



The Nursery is now open for your Fall plant donations!

After the very successful Spring Sale, the Nursery was virtually empty – a record low of under 500 pots! The space was so empty that we consolidated all the pots in the center rows of the Nursery to reduce sludge buildup by only running our overhead sprinkling system in this part of the Nursery. This made it easier and more efficient to check on things over the summer. We have now moved these plants back “home” to make room for many new plant donations. And lots of plants are now arriving after opening the Nursery for the Fall season.

THANKS to all who have already donated plants!

We have implemented a NEW and IMPROVED donation process in the Nursery! Previously, we have erected a mesh screened “pop-up” tent, with zippered openings to hold your donations. This protects plants from hungry “critters” until we can log them into inventory, pot, and place in their assigned row. It was a lot of effort erecting and taking down the pop-up each season, which then interfered with grass mowing, making it an unattractive area on the farm.



With the imagination, engineering talent and hard work of our fantastic Farm Manager Roy Prentice, we now have a permanent plant storage area integrated into the south-east corner of the Nursery Trellis structure! Accessed only from outside the Nursery, this provides a secure, protected space for donated plants. Swing door

access is much easier than opening and closing zippers on the popup, and the watering hose, potting trailer and Nursery workbench with pencils and plant labels are all conveniently nearby.

THE NURSERY NEEDS LOTS OF PLANTS!! We're stocking up for not only the upcoming FALL SALE but also for plants that will overwinter in the Nursery for next Spring! The [PLANTS WANTED](#) list has been published, and donations are arriving. The rows are quickly filling up with newly divided and potted perennials! **Please plan to bring in your fall donations by OCTOBER 12.** There is lots of work to do after your donations are received, and it's always a race to get everything done before really cold weather arrives. Please help us by bringing your donations as soon as possible!

Do you know that many of the plants in the Nursery are divisions of perennials in our own TOLLGATE gardens? Tollgate Garden Leaders work to identify plants on the property that can be divided for sale, and each year these make up many of the plants we have to sell! Additionally, there are many Tollgate Garden Volunteers who also donate plants from their home gardens! In this way, all the Tollgate Garden Leaders and workday participants contribute to the beautiful gardens on the property and enable the fundraising from Nursery sales that in turn supports the cost of maintaining these gardens!

This year's FALL SALE is on Saturday September 21 from 9 am until noon! The fall sale has traditionally been a smaller and more casual event than the Spring Sale. It began as a way to showcase and sell late summer and fall blooming plants that are usually looked over at the Spring event. The sale has grown each year, and in recent years we've had a small group lined up on the road, waiting for the sale to start! We're hoping for a really successful sale to wrap up the 2024 gardening season at Tollgate!

If these activities sound interesting to you, consider joining the Nursery Team for next season! It can be fun to learn about lots of different plants, including how to grow them in a pot! You can join as a **ROW LEADER** (focus your attention on maintaining a group of plants in one specific area), or as a **MEMBER AT LARGE** (a generalist who is kept in the loop with all that's happening in the Nursery and helps out with whatever projects are ongoing as you are available). In either role, you can be part of future changes as we work to continually improve our operations, learn about growing lots of different plants, and raise money to support all the Tollgate Gardens! Email me for more info: palmermargaretanne@gmail.com

Photo provided by Deb Kearney

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Fun Facts about September:

- September 29 is Michaelmas, which is an ancient Celtic “Quarter Day” that marked the end of the harvesting season. We however now harvest until the end of October!
- Look for September’s full Harvest Moon to appear just after sunset on Tuesday, September 17. This year, it is also a Supermoon!
- According to The Old Farmer’s Almanac, the 12th and 13th are the best days to harvest above ground crops, and the 29th and 30th are best for harvesting below ground crops.



We have harvested and donated 1056 lbs. of vegetables so far. Although the squash is slowing down until the new plants mature, the hot peppers have started to yield, and the collard greens and kale are flourishing. We have planted a third crop of radishes, collard greens to replace the harvested garlic, and three types of beets to replace the harvested carrots. The carrots suffered from rot due to very wet conditions, and many split. We will need to take measures next year to minimize the wet conditions, as well as to check them more frequently and harvest earlier if necessary. Our potato plants are also looking a little sickly due to weed pressure. Once we cleared all the tall and small weeds, we uncovered several jaundiced plants. Hopefully, now that they have

good sun exposure and room to grow, we will see improvements.

We have had quite a war with weeds this year – some battles better than others. Perhaps the more significant disturbance of the soil as we restructured the beds and added new compost/soil brought more weed seed to the surface. Perhaps the heat and rain contributed to the explosion of weeds. Perhaps our later start on planting due to a focus on completing the new beds and irrigation gave the weeds more purchase. Whatever the causes, we will be strategizing a better approach to organic weed management for next year, for certain.

There is always a new challenge or two in the garden. Once you conquer one – say, potato beetles, others seem to pop up – bacterial wilt, rot, mice, rabbits. Pests are a natural part of the ecosystem and need to be tolerated to a point but managed. With the organic spraying for beetles and caterpillars, our kohlrabi, cabbage, kale, and collard greens are faring quite well with minimal damage. We shall see if the organic topical measures we are taking with the squash plants lead to the same success. We will be applying Pyrethrum and Surround on the new plants this year, and of course rotating crops next year.



We will continue to harvest cabbage, collard greens, kale, and hot peppers this month. Additionally, we will start to pull onions to cure, and towards the end of the month, harvest beans, radishes, and turnips. We will keep an eye on the potatoes, and when they start to brown and fall over, we will start harvesting. The garlic is still curing in the shed but will be prepared for donation this month by removing the dried roots and stems. We will keep enough of the garlic for planting in October. With interplanting, companion planting, and succession planting we continue to make the most of our beautiful

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PAR Report continued from Page 8

garden. This month we will also start focusing on preparing the garden for the winter and early spring months. Any beds that have been harvested and will not be replanted need to be thoroughly weeded and covered with black plastic. This year, we will be covering each bed individually, which should help us firmly secure the black plastic, so it stays in place. Strong winds have proven to be a challenge in the past, especially with large sheets of black plastic. We also laid cardboard in the pathways and covered with a good amount of mulch, so that should minimize the weeds in those areas and negate the need for black plastic covers.

All volunteers, whether Extension Master Gardeners, avid gardeners, or individuals interested in gardening and community service, regardless of experience level, are welcome to join the team once cleared through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process. We have an enthusiastic, fun, hard-working team, and plenty of rewarding opportunities to help those in need. Come check us out.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at MSU Tollgate Farm, please contact Roy Prentice (prentic1@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton (hamil466@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

Hope to see you in the garden this year,

Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Page 8 photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick
Page 9 photos by Lynette Leroux

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New Tree at Tollgate



Hello, my name is *Chionanthus virginicus* (also known as American White Fringe Tree).

I was found at Gee Farms in Stockbridge. My forever home is in the Hosta Garden. Stop by and check me out.

Here is a little bit about me:

I am a small deciduous tree, native to the eastern U.S. Will generally grow from 12 to 20 feet tall and wide, with a multi-stemmed rounded habit, though I can be trained into a single trunk.

I grow best in full to part sun with the best foliage in partial shade and the best flowering in full sun. I can tolerate clay soil, however, and I also tolerate some drought.

In late spring, fragrant flower clusters with creamy white fringe-like petals appear. The showy blue-black fruits, maturing in late summer, provide a food source for birds and wildlife. A deep yellow color provides brightness to the fall landscape.



Top photo provided by Lori Heiden
Other photos from various horticulture websites

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Attention Area Garden Leaders

Greetings Area Garden Leaders,

It's hard to believe, but Autumn is fast approaching. Once again, I wonder why summers fly by so quickly. All too soon, it will be time for our garden label project to begin. In order to prepare for labeling, please save all your new plant tags with their complete information. Additionally, check your garden for any missing or broken labels.

It's most helpful if you can add the information to the Label List Excel template or make notes of the necessary information on the Word document.

Your gardens have been spectacular this year! All your care and attention is obvious when we look around the site.

Tollgate Garden Label Template

Verify spelling and correct names using plant tags or site like Missouri Botanical Gardens

Common name	Genus	Species	Cultivar/Trademark Name	Garden	# Tags	Notes
Example: <i>Guara</i>	<i>Gaura</i>	<i>lindheimeri</i>	'Crimson Butterflies'			

A copy of the form is at the back of this newsletter for printing purposes. If you prefer completing this online, click the preferred download link below and save to your own computer.

[Word Version](#)

[Excel Version](#)

Please email your list to Marilyn Alimpich at: masoleil@sbcglobal.net.



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Michigan State University
Tollgate Garden Volunteers

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday September 21st, 2024

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Reasonably priced, Michigan hardy perennials for sun and shade, including Michigan natives that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators.

Featuring late summer and fall blooming varieties

Payment accepted with Cash, Check, MasterCard or Visa

MSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer questions and assist in your selections



We suggest you pre-plan your best route during construction season!

Michigan State University
Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Roads
Novi, MI 48377
248 347-3860 ext. 251

www.tollgate.msu.edu

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

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MSU TOLLGATE PUMPKINFEST 2024!



We are getting ready for **Pumpkinfest 2024, October 5th and 6th**. Pumpkinfest is a family-oriented event open to the public from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Educational and fun, Pumpkinfest explores the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. Wagon rides to the U-pick pumpkin patch, farm animals, straw maze, educational programs, children's activities, music, and food will be just some of the fun activities on site during Pumpkinfest.

This event takes many volunteers to have a successful weekend at the farm. All areas of Pumpkinfest are now allowed to be counted as EMG volunteer hours. Your time and energy that you give to the farm is appreciated by the MSU Tollgate Staff. It is a beautiful place for people to visit and learn about the many things we do here at MSU Tollgate.

Please take a minute to look over the sign-up list to see if there is a day and time that you would be able to help out. There are 2, 3.5 hour shifts each day.

[Tollgate Farm and Education Center: Pumpkinfest Volunteers 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

The Tollgate Farm News

Ginger Meyer Award Nominations

Roy is now accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. Roy would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one – there is also a form you can print or download on the next page. You can email Roy your nomination at prentic1@msu.edu. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make Tollgate a better place.

Ginger Meyer Recipients

- 2003 Gabe Tiberio
- 2004 Renee Cottrell
- 2005 Elizabeth Novak
- 2006 Donna Mrozek
- 2007 Nancy Roggers
- 2008 Cherry Lee Baker
- 2009 Clay Ottoni
- 2010 Priscilla Needle
- 2011 Sue Janczarek
- 2012 Darretta Ferasin
- 2013 John Woodrich
- 2014 David Komraus
- 2015 Jackie Stengel
- 2016 Peg Palmer
- 2017 Joe Pyden
- 2018 Deb Kearney
- 2019 John R. MacInnis
- 2020 (COVID year)
- 2021 Kathryn Fitzpatrick
- 2022 Mary Bohner
- 2023 Kathy Johnson



Kathy Johnson, 2023 Ginger Meyer Award recipient, working the Tollgate Garden Volunteer booth at the 2023 Pumpkin Fest.

Photo provided by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

IN REMEMBRANCE



Tollgate has lost a dear volunteer member, Georgia Roed. Georgia was an Enabling Garden Team member, creating the delightfully whimsical fairy garden this year. Georgia was an active gardener in other projects, having started and then maintained a butterfly garden since 2019 at her Briarcliff Knoll subdivision park, as pictured in the recent July 2024 photo above. She worked with another Tollgate member, Martha Rotter, at Hope Lutheran Church, creating a pollinator garden. Her daughter, Heidi, wrote: *“Thank you for being my mom’s friends and for giving her a place to garden her heart out with other like-minded people. She has LOVED her time with MSU Tollgate and the other master gardeners. She was happiest among the plants.”*

Many will miss her enthusiasm, energy, and smile. We offer our most sincere condolences to her family.

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Member Spotlight Peg Palmer



Years gardening... "I actually started gardening later in life... as a kid growing up, I remember my dad doing most of that stuff around the house, but a small lawn with a privet hedge and a catalpa tree are the only "plants" I remember. When I left home, and got past the apartment days, I was busy with a career and kids, so it was just the basics of shrubs, mulch, and a porch pot for many years! I started to take an interest in gardening when I moved to a smaller house on my own after my kids were both out on their own. But I was still working crazy hours and driving downtown for work every day, so gardening was a pretty limited diversion from the stress of my job. Ironically, I really got interested in gardening a few years later when I moved to a detached condo where I wasn't supposed to do any gardening! My unit backed up to a woods/wetlands area, and grass wouldn't grow on the shady slope alongside my house... I got permission to put in a brick pathway to have access to my deck, which created a natural garden bed between the path and my home, and then the path needed some plants along it, and the grass wouldn't grow where it was too shady for grass to grow adjacent to the deck.... That's when I was hooked on gardening. The first thing I did after I accepted an early retirement when the auto industry "crashed" in 2008, was sign up for Master Gardener training. It was a great decision!"

Master Gardener since... "Certified in 2009."

Volunteer at Tollgate since... "Tollgate was one of the first places I volunteered after I got certified. After a couple Saturday work sessions here, it became my gardening home – everything was here – including a great group of gardeners to learn from and socialize with."

Favorite garden... "This is a really hard question – The pond, with all the work that the crew there has put in, is absolutely amazing – both the view from a distance as I drive by on my way to the Nursery, and then a lot more to see up close when I went for a walk. I worked in the native plant area in the demo garden for a while before I got involved in the Nursery. The farmhouse gardens are beautiful, I walk by Xeriscape gardens all the time -it's full of fantastic plants, many that you just don't see everywhere, and we take tons of Nursery divisions from there. But right up there with Xeriscape is the Children's garden. It's beautiful, full of great plants, but so perfectly created for kids to enjoy!. When I brought my grandkids there, I could see it through the eyes of the children it was created for. I guess that's why it's probably at the top of my list today – because I've seen how it delights my grandkids, and I think it's pretty cool too!"



To encourage all members to wear their name badge when on-site at Tollgate, we will continue spotlighting a current member found wearing their badge, monthly during the workday season, in the newsletter. The name badge indicates your status as a garden volunteer and is very helpful to new members, as well as visitors. **The badges are in a box on the table in the Volunteer Center and have been updated. PLEASE CHECK THE BOX FIRST.** If your badge is missing, there is a sign-up sheet nearby, and one will be made for you. You are welcome to take your badge with you, or keep it in the box to grab each time you are on-site. We will be looking for volunteers wearing their badge on Saturday workdays and may ask to take your picture for the next newsletter.

Top and right bottom row photos provided by Nancy Powell
Left bottom row photo by Kathy Johnson

The Tollgate Farm News

Meadowbrook Road Finally Open!

After three long years of construction, Meadowbrook is now open from 12 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road. Access to Tollgate Farm is now possible from both the north and the south. Hooray!!

Looking north:



Looking south:



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

AROUND THE FARM



Top row photo by Linda Piasecki
Middle left photo by Karen Harris
Middle right photo by Renee Cottrell
Bottom row photo by Kurt Westermann

The Tollgate Farm News

LATE SUMMER BLOOMS



Photos provided by Karen Harris

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THE XERISCAPE GARDEN



Bottom right photo provided by Renee Cottrell
All other photos by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

THE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

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ENABLING GARDEN



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

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EVENING TIME AT THE FARM



Photos provided by Julie Semroc

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NURSERY PLANT DIVISION DAY



Photos provided by Amy Deeds

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BEEES AND CATERPILLARS



Top row photo provided by Julie Semroc
Middle row and bottom row right photos by Karen Harris
Bottom row left photo by David Harenchar

The Tollgate Farm News

CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Top row photo provided by Renee Cottrell
All other photos by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Kurt Westermann

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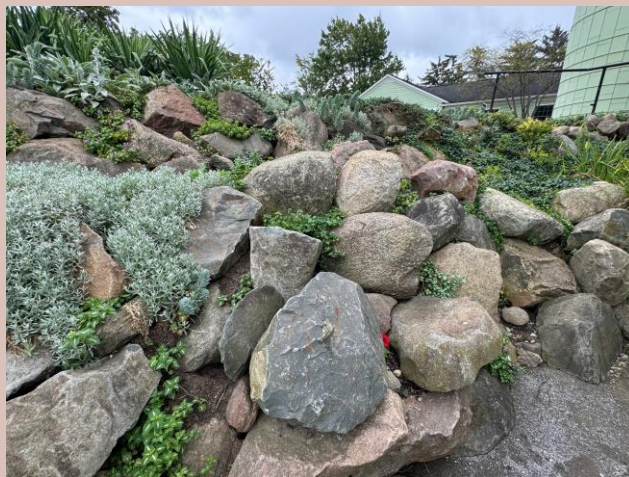
WHICH ONE IS REAL?



Photos provided by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

ROCKLEDGE GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

AROUND THE POND



Top row photos provided by Renee Cottrell
Middle row photos by David Harenchar
Bottom row photos by Nancy Powell

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BEAUTIFUL CANNAS AT THE POND



Top and bottom photos provided by Nancy Powell
Middle photo by David Harenchar

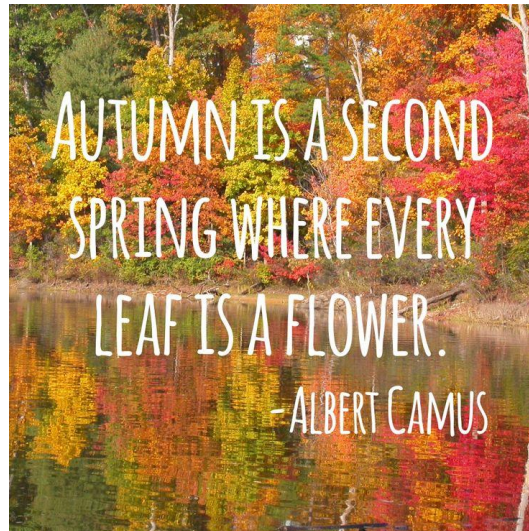
The Tollgate Farm News

POND TEAM WORKDAY



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News



“Early fall is the ideal time to reassess our gardens and consider adding new plantings while the soil is still warm and the temperatures are mild.”



Garden quotes submitted by Kathryn Currier

The Tollgate Farm News

Take a Tollgate Picture

Next time you are volunteering at Tollgate, consider taking some pictures for the Tollgate Calendar. The preferred format is jpeg, landscape files. **It is important to send high-resolution photo files at full or actual size.**

Photos from your cell phones work great - just keep at maximum size/resolution when submitting.

Send photo files in separate emails, if necessary, to Judy Warren, Tollgate Calendar Editor at TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com.

Photos are also appreciated for the monthly Farm News. Photo files can be sent to napowell77@gmail.com.

Every season is magical at Tollgate. Think about capturing that magic in a photo for the Tollgate Calendar or Farm News.



Top left photo provided by Dave Komraus
Bottom left by Renee Cottrell
Top right photo by Roy Prentice
Middle right photo by Norm Powell
Bottom right photo by Kurt Westermann

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days: January - October

- Activity Day hours are 9:00 am – Noon, unless otherwise noted on the Activities section of the first page of the newsletter and the full year calendar (next page).
- Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays.
- Active members will continue to get email reminders of these activities.

NEW: We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the Toolshed should be cleaned and sanitized with the wipes provided, prior to returning the items to the Toolshed after use.

TIP: If you aren't getting **The Tollgate Farm News** email, check your SPAM folder

Volunteer Activity Day and Meeting information will be communicated by email

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

Spades	Leaf Rakes
Garden Rakes	Garden Hoe
Brooms	Long-Handled Garden Forks
Wheelbarrows	Weed Buckets

Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

Trowel	Plant Division Forks
Pruners	Shrub Rake
Loppers	Sunscreen/Insect Repellent
Garden Scissors	Garden Gloves
Hand Saw	Knee Pads
Weeding Implement	

Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC)

Farm Manager – Roy Prentice

248-347-3860 Ext.251 prentic1@msu.edu

President	Renee Cottrell
Vice President	Marilyn Alimpich
Secretary	Theresa Bridenbaugh
Treasurer	Karen Harris
Membership & Hospitality	Teresa LaRosa
Communications	Kathy Johnson
Programs	Jackie Stengel
Farm News Editor	Nancy Powell
Event Coordinator	Lori Heiden

- The TGAC meets monthly virtually on Zoom (until further notice) on **the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM**. All Tollgate Garden Volunteer members are welcome to attend and should contact Roy Prentice for meeting link.
- Contact information for individual TGAC members and Area Garden Leaders (AGL) are available by contacting Roy Prentice to have message or contact forwarded for response. Contact info can also be found in the Garden Binders in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**.

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email tlrrehab@gmail.com

For general information and questions, contact Roy Prentice or see Website: <http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/>

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251

**MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Activity Calendar-2024**

January	February	March
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom 20-AGL Planning Meeting 10:00AM 	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom 	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 21-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom <u>Activity Days</u> 2-Pruning 9:00AM 9/10-Maplefest no work day 16-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 23-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM 30-Multi-garden/Easter wk 9:00AM
April	May	June
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6-Rose/Pond 9:00AM 13-Demo 9:00AM 20-Office/Heritage/Rain 9:00AM 27- Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM New volunteer orientation 9:00AM Pancake Brunch 12:00PM	7-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 4-Entrance/Nursery-plant divi 9:00AM 11-Farmhouse 9:00AM 18- Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 25-Memorial Weekend Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm 8-Rose/Entrance 9:00AM 15-Office/Heritage/ Rain 9:00AM 22-Pond/12Mile 9:00AM 29-Demo 9:00AM
July	August	September
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM 13-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM 18-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM (Thursday-no mtg)19th rain date 20-Hosta/Shade 9:00AM 27-Heritage/Office 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 7-Rose Garden Dedication 5:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 3-Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 10-Pond/12 Mile 9:00AM 17-Demo 9:00AM 24-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 31-Labor Day Weekend Rockledge, divisions 9:00AM	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 7-Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 14- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM 21-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00 28-Xeriscape/Children's 9:00AM
October	November	December
1-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 17-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM <u>Activity Days</u> 5/6-Pumpkinfest no workday 12-Nursery Clean up 9:00AM 19-Pond clean up 9:00AM 26-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	2-Recognition Dinner 4:00PM 5-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM <u>Activity Day</u> 9-Rose winterizing 10:00AM 28-Thanksgiving 	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 25-Hanukkah 25-Christmas 26-Kwanza   

****All activity days, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, begin at 9 am and are subject to change. Please consult the newsletter or call 248 347-3860 ext 251 or look for e-mails for updated information.**

Visit on web: www.tollgate.msu.edu

MSU TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER SIGN IN

LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HELPS US TELL TOLLGATE'S STORY TO THE MSU COMMUNITY

- USING THE CAMERA ON YOUR SMART PHONE, HOVER OVER THE QR CODE
- A LINK WILL APPEAR
- IF NO LINK APPEARS, YOU WILL HAVE TO DOWNLOAD A QR READER APP
- CLICK ON THE LINK TO THE GOOGLE SIGN IN PAGE
- COMPLETE WITH YOUR INFORMATION
- THIS SIGN-IN PROCEDURE DOES **NOT** LOG YOUR HOURS WITH MSU EXTENSION



NOTE: If you prefer to complete your sign-in on your computer, this link will take you to the site:

[Tollgate Volunteer Sign In 2024](#)

MSU Tollgate gets a lot of credit for all the wonderful volunteers that tend the gardens, make maple syrup, and support programming. The farm would not be the unique place that it is without the support of many willing hands. Traditionally, Tollgate has relied on a sign-in sheet in the volunteer center to capture the hours of volunteer service. Many of our volunteers who work in the maple project or distant gardens may not visit the volunteer center when they are on the farm. To capture all of our volunteer hours, we are trying a new recording system. By following the instructions below and scanning the QR code, you can record your Tollgate hours online from anywhere. After you have scanned the code, you can even bookmark the link so that you can access the hours reporting form without the code.

Thank you for making Tollgate such a wonderful place! Roy



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2024

Name _____	Date Submitted _____
Address _____	Telephone Number _____
City _____ MI	Day _____ - _____
Zip _____ - _____	Evening _____ - _____
Name you would like on badge, ONLY IF NEEDED	Email _____

Choose one only (please do not leave blank):

Supporting member: I wish to support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings but will **not** be participating *as a volunteer* in garden activities, projects or other events on the site.

Active member: I plan to participate *as a volunteer* in meetings, garden activities and/or other events or projects on the site and have or will complete the required Volunteer Selection Process.

Were you a Tollgate volunteer member last year? Yes () No ()

Are you interested in serving on a committee or garden project? Yes () No ()

If yes, please note below if you have a particular area of interest, skills to share.

A donation in support of the Tollgate Volunteer organization would be greatly appreciated (\$20 suggested). If you would like the newsletter mailed to you rather than emailed, please include an additional \$10 to cover postage.

Check here to have the newsletter mailed to you.

Make checks payable to: **Michigan State University**

Return to: **Tollgate Gardens Volunteer Office**
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI 48377-3128

Questions: **Phone: 248-347-3860 Ext. 251**

Email: tlrrehab@gmail.com

2024 Membership is from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Please read this Privacy Policy:

By filling out and submitting this form you authorize the Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV) and MSU to use your contact information to communicate with you via email, newsletters and other formats. If you wish your email and other identification information to not be used by the TGV and MSU, please check this box (). (By checking this box you will not receive email notification of workdays, or other volunteer opportunities, special events and educational opportunities, or the availability of the newsletter via e-mail).

In the event of an emergency please notify:

NAME: _____ **PHONE:** _____