

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2024



## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2024

7:00 PM

(In the Conference Center)

### Native Plants

At the Tollgate membership meeting in the conference center, Mitchell Swindell, founder, and co-owner of **Detroit Wildflower Nursery**, will talk about native plants, the nursery, plant recommendations and installation best practices. Mitchell grows and sells native plants of Michigan and the Great Lakes region. He will bring some plants to sell.

As his interest in native plants grew, Mitchell wondered why was it so hard it was to buy weeds. Now he has an online business and hosts shoppers by appointment at his home on an acre in Farmington Hills, southeast of Orchard Lake and 12 Mile. The 2024 season is May 4 to October 27 with weekday appointments during lunch and 5-8 PM and weekend appointments 9 AM-1 PM.

For Mitchell, using native plants is more than just gardening. It's about creating habitat and restoring balance. The Detroit Wildflower Nursery website, [www.detroitwildflownursery.com](http://www.detroitwildflownursery.com), helps gardeners shop by categories: pollinator favorites, host plants, edible, bird feeders, deer-resistant, sun to part sun, shade to part shade, dry to medium soil, wet to medium soil, height, bloom time and plant type (wildflowers, grasses, trees & shrubs, groundcovers & vines). Prices are primarily \$4-16 depending on size.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024					
AUG	MEETINGS		SEP	MEETINGS	
6	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	3	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
7	<b>Rose Garden Dedication</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	19	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm
15	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm			
AUG	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		SEP	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
3	Entrance/Rain	9:00 AM	7	Shade/Hosta	9:00 am
10	Pond/12 Mile Corner	9:00 am	14	Farmhouse/Rose	9:00 am
17	Demo	9:00 am	21	<b>Nursery Fall Plant Sale</b>	<b>9am-Noon</b>
24	Nursery/Plant Divisions	9:00 am	28	Xeriscape/Children's	9:00 am
31	<b>Labor Day Weekend</b> Rockledge/Divisions	9:00 am			

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

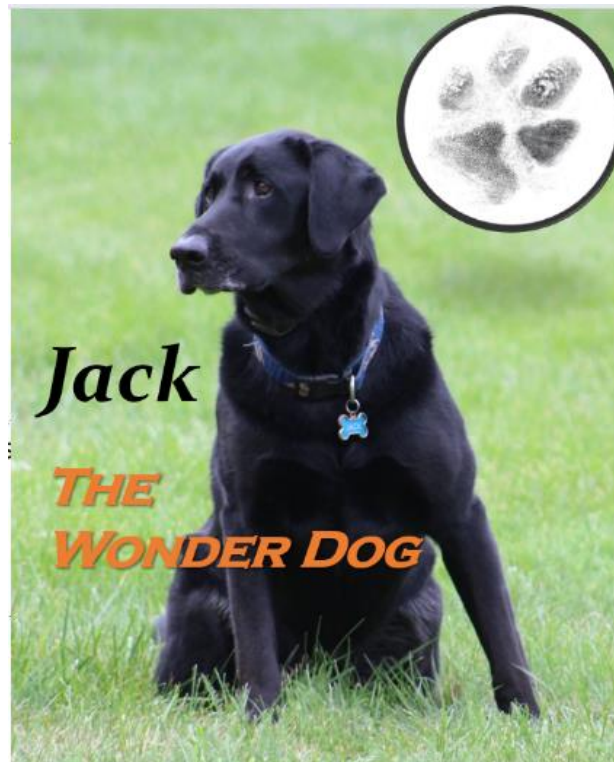
### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice



Greetings all,

**Summer Camp:** Summer camp on the farm is in full swing. There are lots of kids on the grounds. Each week's camp has a different theme. Although many features remain the same from one week to the next, each camp's theme gives that camp a unique flavor. Last week the theme was "Animal Camp," highlighted by visits from Tollgate's large animal veterinarian. There was also a day devoted to our dog friends. The Prentice Labrador, **Jack**, was happy to demonstrate his fetching chops for the campers. There was lots of fetching, but sadly for the kids, minimal petting.



I wanted to demonstrate to the campers that dogs in general (and Jack in particular) work with their people to extend what people can do. Jack wowed the kids when I threw his toy over the tall plants surrounding the pond. Although its landing was invisible, Jack was unperturbed. When given the signal, he ran across the grass, crashed through the plants around the pond and jumped into the water. After a minute (that seemed like ten), Jack came crashing back through the shrubbery with toy securely held in mouth. What a guy! I could not have been prouder! Each camper got a "Jack the Wonder Dog" card to take home.

**Workday Thanks:** Thank you to all who have been attending our regular Saturday workdays. Because of the many who have shown up to help, the gardens look great this year. If you have not been to the farm recently, please come and view the grounds. They are lovely.

**Ginger Meyer Award:** I am accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done good work for Tollgate over the years. Kathy Johnson recently sent out a nomination form on my behalf (and the form is attached 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 Tollgate the great place that it is.

Roy

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News



## Notes from the President Renee Cottrell

It was a perfect evening, on August 7, to enjoy the gardens and to dedicate the Rose Garden, to honor Adolph and Ginger Meyer, as the Founders Garden. It was wonderful to see members and staff, as well as the representatives of the Americana Foundation. We are grateful for the support of all who contributed their time, talent, and funding support for this project.

We have been fortunate to have several new members and EMG candidates interested in assisting in the gardens and welcome their help as we have plenty to do in the remaining weeks of summer. If you are in need of Extension MG hours or just want to get more involved in the gardens please check out our Saturday Group work days or contact me for other possible individual assignments in the gardens or on other committees.

\*\*\*\*\*As always we are looking to create or add to existing garden teams! If you are a newer active member and would like to work in a chosen specific area, all of which are highlighted on the web site <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/gardens/>, contact me for details. [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net) \*\*\*\*\*

### **NOMINATIONS FOR GINGER MEYER AWARD**

The Ginger Meyer Award was initiated in 2003 by the family of Mrs. Meyer to annually recognize a Tollgate Volunteer who shares some of the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer. As Tollgate Garden Volunteer members you will have an opportunity to nominate candidates. A short list will be compiled for presentation to the Americana Foundation for final award selection. Your nomination will describe how the candidate of your choice shows a commitment to Tollgate, a love and knowledge of gardening and a willingness to share that knowledge with others. Nomination forms are

*“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul.”*

*-Luther Burbank, American botanist, horticulturist  
1849-1926*

due **NO LATER THAN the September 19th general members meeting**. This will allow sufficient time for the Americana Foundation to make a selection and have the presentation ready by the Recognition Dinner in November. Get a form in this newsletter or by request from Roy or myself. **Please take some time to honor one or more of your fellow Tollgate volunteers to continue this tradition for our organization.**

### **UPCOMING FALL PLANT SALE –Plan ahead!**

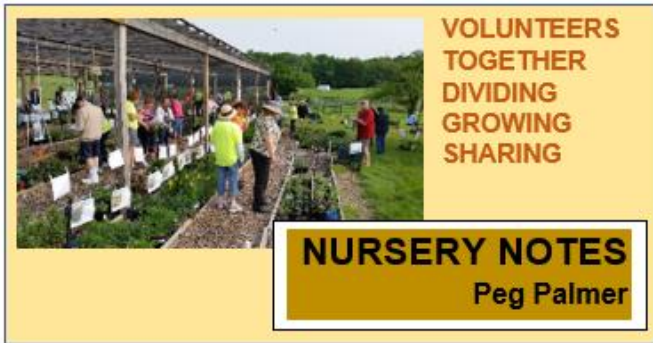
This is a smaller event with focus on the fall blooming plants for the garden on September 21st, 9:00am until Noon, in conjunction with the Nursery activity day. The sign-up for volunteers to assist will be going out in an email very soon! A plants wanted list, ordered in most-to-least wanted has been sent out. AGL's will get that list sent in botanical name order to see if you have any of these plants to divide and donate to the sale!

### **SEPTEMBER NOMINATIONS FOR TGAC**

Now is the time to be thinking ahead to nominations for our TGAC board. This is an opportunity for members to contribute to the organization in the planning and organizing aspects of our group. Positions up for re-election every year are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We nominate in September and vote in October to give all members plenty of opportunity to participate in our organization. Please consider nominating yourself or another **willing** member to run for any of the elected positions or offer your services for committee positions. This is a great way to stay active in volunteering when circumstances may not let you participate physically in the gardens. Submit your nominations to Roy now or at the September membership meeting.

Thank you for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.  
Renee Cottrell, TGV President

# The Tollgate Farm News



**On Saturday, August 17, the Nursery will open to accept donations!** *Please hold your donations at home until that date!* When you arrive at the Nursery, place your donations in the “pop-up” structure adjacent to the Nursery potting area, ensuring that zippers are closed to protect your donation until a Nursery team member can process and place your donation in the correct nursery location. *Please follow these directions (also posted in the Nursery)!* [\*\*DONATION INSTRUCTIONS\*\*](#)

**The Nursery is beginning the August transition** from the slow pace of summer maintenance to getting the Nursery ready for lots of new divisions and hosting the annual **FALL Plant Sale!** We ended the successful Spring Sale with a record low number of pots left in the Nursery, which is great. But we really need to bring in lots of great plant donations to support our Fall Sale on September 21, and to have plants to overwinter so we have a good start to build on next Spring.

**Successful plant sales support all the gardens at Tollgate!** We rely on donations from the home gardens of Tollgate Volunteers, as well as plants from the beautiful gardens on the property. Our Nursery is focused on Michigan-hardy perennials. We do not stock “woody” perennials due the challenges of space and overwintering these plants in a pot. Also, we don’t stock any variety of HOSTA plants. And, we are careful to avoid plants that are invasive in our area. To help manage these issues and focus on perennials that are reliable plants for our area, we began publishing a list of “Plants Wanted” primarily based on what we’ve sold in previous years. Of course, we add new varieties to the list, but this process helps us to keep stocking lots of the garden staples gardeners are looking for.

**The FALL PLANTS WANTED information is available now!** [\*\*PLANTS WANTED\*\*](#) We hope this list is helpful for you to determine what you have in your home gardens that can contribute to our sale.

Separate different plants and include clear identification for each. Soil on the potting trailer is available to ensure that there is adequate soil around the roots of your donation to withstand the elements until it is processed by the Nursery Team. Always provide plant name and bloom color, including botanical name and cultivar if known. Plant sticks and pencils are in the clear plastic container on the workbench to record this information. WATER your donation, place in the pop-up mesh structure and securely close all the zippers! The Nursery expects to remain open to accept donations until October 12, with this date subject to change due to weather conditions.

**The FALL PLANT SALE is on Saturday, September 21** during the normal Saturday workday hours (9 am – Noon). This is a smaller event than our Spring Sale that provides an opportunity to showcase fall bloomers that aren’t at their best for the Spring Sale...but all the plants in the Nursery will be available for purchase. If you’re anxious to start some fall planting in your garden, our sale is the place to be!

**If you are interested in learning about perennials, including the challenges of growing them in a pot, consider joining the Nursery team!** It provides a great opportunity to learn about lots of different varieties of plants, and how to maintain healthy perennials in a pot, while working to benefit all the Tollgate Gardens. If you are interested in more information about the options to join the Nursery Team, email me at: [palmermargaretanne@gmail.com](mailto:palmermargaretanne@gmail.com)

# The Tollgate Farm News



We have harvested and donated 535 lbs. of vegetables at this point - cucumbers, radishes, yellow squash, zucchini, kohlrabi, green beans, and collard greens. We have planted a second crop of radishes and more yellow summer squash and zucchini.



The garlic has been harvested, bundled, and is hanging in the shed to cure – it smells amazing! The cucumber plants were replaced with pole beans – Fortex and Northeaster. Since all the kohlrabi was

harvested this month, we replanted that bed with turnips. We still have the vacated garlic beds to plant, most likely with kale. With interplanting, companion planting, and succession planting we continue to make the most of the real estate.

## Fun Facts about August:

- Back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons, the month was called Weod Monath, which translates to “weed month.” Not surprising, as during this month weeds and other plants grow the fastest. Oh boy!!!
- In many cultures, August is known as the month of the Honey Moon. This is because it is the time of year when honey is harvested from beehives.
- The word “August” comes from the Latin word “Augustus,” which means “inspiring reverence or admiration. Today, the word “August” is often used to describe something that is impressive, majestic, or awe-inspiring.



Upon closer inspection, we discovered the cucurbit beetle on the cucumber plants, as well as the squash plants and revised our initial diagnosis of fungus to bacterial wilt introduced by the beetle. The presence of the beetle as well as the wilting leaves of the squash plants were further evidence of this pest. All damaged plants were removed

and discarded in the trash. We replanted new squash plants and will be spraying with an organic Pyrethrum, as well as coating the new plants with a clay-like substance called Surround. Hopefully these measures will minimize this particular pest problem but may also impact some of the beneficial insects / bugs on these plants.



We have added a complete section of material to our PAR Garden Handbook, with detailed information as well as pictures to help us to identify beneficial versus pest insects / bugs

in the garden. We had fun capturing and categorizing friend versus foe.



The kohlrabi is prepared for donation by removing the roots and most of the leaves, as well as washing them to remove the dirt. The collard greens are harvested by cutting off the larger leaves at the stem and quickly placing them in the cooler, so they don't wilt. We typically don't need to do anything additional to prepare the cucumbers, green beans, squash, cabbage, or radishes. Carrots are another story, and we will be harvesting most, if not all, this month. They require the removal of the greens, as well as washing to remove the dirt. It can be time consuming and tedious. The cabbage is also flourishing and there may be a few heads to harvest this month. Sometimes we also need to wash the potatoes if they are especially muddy. Onions are laid out to cure, and then the roots and tops are removed, but the latter two won't happen until September and October. Although this is the last month of summer, we expect to be harvesting and fighting weeds until the end of October.

PAR Report continued on Page 6

# The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 5

We are pleased to now be providing donations to PB&J, an outreach program for the homeless and food-challenged in Detroit, as well as Forgotten Harvest.

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](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton ([hamil466@msu.edu](mailto:hamil466@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

Hope to see you in the garden this year,  
Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Page 5 photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
Page 6 photos by Lynette Leroux

# The Tollgate Farm News

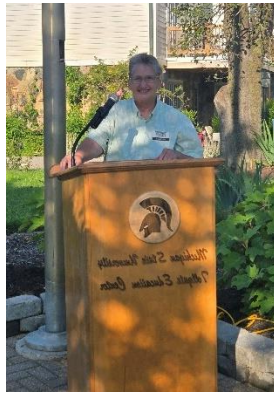
## Rose Garden Dedication

The dedication of the MSU Tollgate rose garden was a lovely affair. Held on the evening of August 7, the event hosted presentations by MSU Tollgate director, Katie Peet, MSU Tollgate Garden president, Renee Cottrell, and granddaughter of Adolph and Ginger Meyer and Americana Foundation member, Kate Harper. Appreciation was expressed for the support and sponsorship of the garden provided by the Americana Foundation and the hard work in bringing the garden to life by Renee Cottrell, Joe Pyden, and many Tollgate volunteers and staff. After the event, attendees were invited to enjoy refreshments underwritten by the Americana Foundation and ice cream from the Dairy Store trailer. As a special addition to the evening, all plates, glasses, flatware, and uneaten food was fully compostable. Compostable items were provided by the CO Sustainability company. It was a great evening!

### Our Speakers:



**Katie Peet**



**Renee Cottrell**



**Kate Harper**

### The Founder Garden Stone Unveiling:



Top row left and middle photos and bottom row middle photos provided by Roy Prentice  
Top row right photo and bottom row left and right photos by Renee Cottrell

More Rose Garden Dedication Photos on Page 18

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Milkshake Arrives!

If you look out in the Tollgate pasture near the riding arena you are likely to see a new resident. Tollgate has been the home for “Sesame,” a cute as a button Shetland pony for many years. Sesame has been joined by “Milkshake” another Shetland pony who is smaller and perhaps cuter than Sesame. Milkshake and Sesame have quickly become best buds (Sesame is on the left and Milkshake is on the right). Both will soon be participating in Intro to Horse classes and photo opportunities for young kids.



Photo provided by Roy Prentice



# The Tollgate Farm News

## MSU Dairy Store Trailer is Open Every Friday, 4:00 – 7:00 pm!

Are you looking for something to do Friday evenings? Come to Tollgate! The MSU Dairy store trailer is open for business every Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. The trailer serves up a variety of genuine MSU Dairy Store ice cream. Also available is fresh produce and flowers from the Tollgate Sustainable Agriculture fields, Ottoni “accept no substitutes” honey, and lots of products made by Tollgate’s own 4H club. Check it all out every Friday from 4:00 – 7:00 pm!



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

# 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](mailto: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

## Ginger Meyer Award Nomination Form

The Ginger Meyer Award was initiated in 2003 by the family of Mrs. Meyer to recognize the Tollgate Volunteer who has demonstrated dedication to Tollgate and shares the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer.

The Tollgate Garden Volunteer members nominate candidates, with the selection of the award recipient made by the Americana Foundation. Please use this form to make the nomination or submit a short paragraph describing the qualities of the nominee.

Return form to Roy Prentice, 28115 Meadowbrook, Novi, MI., 48377-3128, or scan and send to [prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu).

Name of Nominee:

1. This member has shown a commitment to the Tollgate Garden Volunteers by:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. This member has demonstrated a love and knowledge of gardening by:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. This member has demonstrated a willingness to share gardening knowledge with others by:

# The Tollgate Farm News

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](http://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.*

*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.*

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Member Spotlight

### Teresa LaRosa



**Years gardening...** “I have truly enjoyed gardening for decades. My parents were avid gardeners and had olive groves in Italy. I think I have a gene for gardening!”

**Master Gardener and Volunteer at Tollgate since...** “I completed the Master Gardening course in 2010 and have worked at Tollgate since then.”

**Favorite garden...** “Every garden here is exquisite, especially the Heritage and Rose gardens.”



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 photo provided by Teresa LaRosa  
Left bottom row photo by Nancy Powell  
Right two bottom row photos by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Welcome New Tollgate Garden Volunteer Members

We are glad you are with us! Please feel free to contact Renee Cottrell with any questions on our planned activities and schedules for 2024. You may email your questions about the gardens and volunteering at [rncottrell4@att.net](mailto:rncottrell4@att.net). This is a wonderful place, full of educational opportunities, with personal satisfaction and social connections as reward for volunteering. Our membership holds a large amount of collective knowledge and expertise that is willingly shared with a strong team approach to make every effort to direct new members to areas of most interest on the site. We want to guide you to a great experience with the Tollgate Garden Volunteers. Check out these links to start exploring your garden opportunities:

Garden Orientation PDF

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/Tollgate%20Garden%20Volunteer%20orientation%202024.pdf>

Tollgate web pages for the Gardens

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/gardens/>

2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/tollgate%20activity%20cal%20draftFeb%20Final%20release%20Draft.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>



Left photo provided by Roy Prentice  
Right photo by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## *Membership Update August 2024*

*Thanks to everyone who has renewed  
their membership and  
to our new members for 2024!*

*If you have any questions about your membership,  
please feel free to contact me at my email, below.*

*See you at Tollgate!*

*Teresa LaRosa*

[tlrrehab@gmail.com](mailto:tlrrehab@gmail.com)



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Tollgate Garden Volunteer Membership Levels

When you renew your TGV membership each year, we ask you to designate your status as an ACTIVE member or a SUPPORTING member. As a reminder, these designations mean the following:

**ACTIVE MEMBER:** Volunteer in the gardens on workdays or individual assignments, volunteer at events and projects on the site, receive all communication and participate in monthly meetings.

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- All active volunteers must go through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) screening to work on site and maintain their VSP status yearly or as required by MSU volunteer selection procedure policy.
- Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) are screened through the VSP process either at the start of the program when you take the EMG class or when you renew your EMG certification/VSP update each year or as required by MSUE. If you are an active/current EMG and choose to volunteer at Tollgate your VSP status is complete.
- Previously certified EMGs who decide to let their certification lapse can still volunteer on the site, but still must go through the VSP screening requirement as above. We have onsite personnel who can help you complete the process.
- If you are an active MSU volunteer through another program on site and have maintained an active VSP status, then your VSP status is complete
- Individuals who have not gone through the VSP screening, will need to pursue the VSP screening before they can be an active volunteer at Tollgate (or at any MSU site or program). We have onsite personnel who can help you complete this process.
- Note that once an individual has participated in the initial VSP screening, they need only approve a background check in subsequent years. No need to obtain references and other activities that are required with the initial VSP screening.

**SUPPORTING MEMBER:** Support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings and general activities.

- Notified regarding monthly membership meetings.
- Informed about Tollgate events via the Farm News newsletter and other informative e-mail notifications.
- Supporter status will **not** allow you to participate as a volunteer in the garden maintenance activities, maple syrup project or any MSU Extension events on site.
- Return to an "ACTIVE" status at any time by completing the VSP screening process.

**A donation is NOT required to renew your membership. All donations are greatly appreciated and go into our account to maintain the gardens.**

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# The Tollgate Farm News

## JULY OPEN HOUSE FUN



Top row and middle row left photos provided by Lori Heiden  
Middle row right photo by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom row photos by Marilyn Alimpich

# The Tollgate Farm News

## ROSE GARDEN DEDICATION



Bottom row right photo provided by Roy Prentice  
All other photos by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## BENEFICIAL INSECTS



Top left photo provided by Karen Harris  
Top right photo by Linda Piasecki  
Bottom photo by Dave Komraus

# The Tollgate Farm News

## ENTRANCE, OFFICE, & HERITAGE



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris

# The Tollgate Farm News

## DINNER PLATE HIBISCUS



Top and middle row photos provided by Julie Semroc  
Bottom row photo by Karen Harris

# The Tollgate Farm News

## THE SHADE GARDEN



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## THE FARMHOUSE GARDEN



Top row left photo provided by Roy Prentice  
Bottom row left photo by Julie Semroc  
Top row right, middle row, and bottom row right photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## FARMHOUSE TRELLISES



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

# The Tollgate Farm News



**I DON'T KNOW WHO NEEDS TO HEAR THIS, BUT YOU'RE A GREAT GARDENER. THAT PLANT REALLY SHOULD HAVE TRIED HARDER.**

Summer Hack:  
If your house is a mess, spend all day in the garden so you don't make it any messier



# 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](mailto:TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com).

Photos are also appreciated for the monthly Farm News. Photo files can be sent to [napowell77@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://tollgate.msu.edu)  
Contact Roy Prentice:  
248-347-3860 ext. 251

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

January	February	March
2-TGAC 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 <b>9/10-Maplefest no work day</b> 16-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 23-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM <b>30-Multi-garden/Easter wk</b> 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 <b>27- Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM</b> <b>New volunteer orientation 9:00AM</b> <b>Pancake Brunch 12:00PM</b>	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 <b>25-Memorial Weekend</b> Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> <b>1-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm</b> 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 <b>18-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM</b> <b>(Thursday-no mtg)19th rain date</b> 20-Hosta/Shade 9:00AM 27-Heritage/Office 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM <b>7-Rose Garden Dedication 5:00 PM</b> 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 <b>31-Labor Day Weekend</b> 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 <b>21-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00</b> 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> <b>5/6-Pumpkinfest no workday</b> 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  <b>28-Thanksgiving</b> 	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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name you would like on badge, **ONLY IF NEEDED**

**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](mailto: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:** \_\_\_\_\_