

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

ISSUE 5

MAY 2024



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:00 PM

(In the Conference Center)

The Art of Flowers

Join us in-person at the Tollgate conference center to learn about *The Art of Flowers* with art historian **Wendy Evans**. This presentation features a variety of flowers in art and the work of many artists.

Over centuries and across cultures, artists have depicted flowers for a number of reasons beyond their inherent beauty. Georgia O'Keeffe painted flowers close up and large to get even busy people to notice them. Other artists used flowers symbolically. Flowers can speak of love, transience, or death.

Wendy Evans was raised among the museums of London, England. She has advanced degrees from Oxford University in England and Wayne State University in Detroit. Wendy taught Art History at Wayne State University and elsewhere and is a long-time volunteer at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024

MAY	MEETINGS		JUN	MEETINGS	
7	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	4	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
16	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm	20	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm
MAY	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		JUN	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
4	Entrance/Nursery-plant div.	9:00 am	1	Spring Plant Sale	9am-2pm
11	Farmhouse	9:00 am	8	Rose/Entrance	9:00 am
18	Shade/Hosta	9:00 am	15	Office/Heritage/Rain	9:00 am
25	Memorial Day Weekend Rockledge planting	9:00 am	22	Pond/12 Mile Corner	9:00 am
			29	Demo	9:00 am

The Tollgate Farm News

A Special Thanks!

To all of you who donated to help the Tollgate Gardeners make Tollgate a more beautiful place - your donation is greatly appreciated! The support you have provided will continue to help our program prosper and grow. Thanks again and Happy Gardening!

Cherry Lee Baker
Andy Berry
Jayne Berry
Barbara Burke

Gayle Gullen
Cheryl Hack
Nora Josaitis
Carmen Meerschaert

Susie Sherman-Hall
Colette Stimmell
Jackie Swenson



Photo from MSU Extension website

The Tollgate Farm News

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS Roy Prentice



Greetings all,
Lots of signs of spring in the gardens. The return of our Saturday workdays has been a big lift. The workdays have been well attended despite occasional dodgy weather. With regular, well-attended workdays returning, I look forward to getting the gardens in shape. I appreciate all the work that goes into keeping the gardens looking good. Our garden workdays not only allow us to keep the gardens looking great, they are also fun, social events. And who doesn't like a well-cooked hot dog?.

The recent new garden volunteer orientation on Saturday, April 27, was successful. Several new potential garden volunteers came to the farm to learn about all that the Tollgate gardens have to offer. The day included an orientation talk, a tour of the grounds and facilities, and the chance to join the garden workday. Anyone who wanted to stay for lunch was of course offered pancakes and lots of yummy maple syrup!

Lots of avian activity around the site. Ospreys have been visiting the pond on a regular basis. Great fun to see those big birds plunging into the pond. Maybe not as much fun for the fish. I took a break from work recently and watched a heron stalking the banks. Very sly and crafty. The pond is always a hotbed of water bird activity. Did I mention that the Baltimore orioles are back? I saw one checking out our feeder recently.

Plant Sale Coming. The nursery crew has been working hard preparing for the upcoming sale on June 1. The plant sale is the major fund-raising opportunity for the gardens. We need your help to make it successful. Recently, you received an email request for plants that could be brought to Tollgate for the sale. Pots and plastic tags are available in the small brown barn across the drive from the nursery or near the nursery. Please label any plants that you bring to the site so that we can give as much information as possible to our garden shoppers. If you are dropping off plants, you will find a screen house near the nursery that will give your plants protection until the nursery crew can incorporate them into the nursery.

See you soon around the farm!
Roy



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News



**Notes from the President
Renee Cottrell**

“All gardening is landscape painting.”

~ William Kent, Conservationist 1864-1928

May has arrived and the spring bulbs had put on quite the show! We are looking forward to more consistent warmth and sunshine as we continue with our Saturday garden activity days, annual plantings and meeting and greeting our new garden volunteers.

We will continue to follow the activity calendar as weather permits and enjoy the camaraderie of group gardening activity. See the work activity schedule for upcoming dates in this issue. Active gardeners should keep an eye out for the soon-to-be-available Google shared document for garden work tasks. Some volunteers need or prefer weekday activity assignments and this will greatly improve access to allow them to work on their own schedule. This shared document will allow AGL's to adjust their requests more frequently and improve access to the task lists before you come out to the site.

We are planning ahead for the Spring Plant Sale June 1st. The sign-up email with the link to *Sign Up Genius* has already been sent out by Lori Heiden, TGV Events Chairperson. Check your spam folder if you did not receive it. The Nursery had a successful on-site division day and is still accepting plant donations which are essential for the success of the event. See the Nursery article in this issue for updated information. If you can't be there to help out, I hope you can find the time to shop for some new plants for your home garden to support the Tollgate Educational

Gardens. All proceeds go back to the gardens and your support would be greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, June 1st - Spring Plant Sale, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm: This is our primary fund raiser for our garden efforts. Active volunteers are needed in various roles for the event. All volunteers and public are invited to shop.

Thursday, July 18th - Garden Open House, 6:00 – 8:30 pm: We will have this event instead of our membership meeting for July. We plan to have scheduled tours and short informational garden talks, tractor hayrides, snacks, and garden docents. All TGV members and public are invited. Those who volunteer for this event will have time to enjoy the evening as well. Look for the email sign up details coming in June.

Wednesday, August 7th - Dedication of the Rose Garden, 5:00 pm: The renovated Rose Garden will be dedicated at this event and light refreshments will be served. Please join us to thank the Americana Foundation for their assistance in this project and to enjoy an evening in the gardens. All members are invited!

Thank you all for the support you give for the gardens here at Tollgate. **You** make this a special place.

Renee Cottrell, President

Tollgate Garden Volunteers

The Tollgate Farm News



Please **RECYCLE** your 1-gallon Nursery pots at the Tollgate Nursery! You may drop these off in the Nursery near the potting trailer or in the Nursery Shed (in the large tub on the right after you open the door). ***Please close the shed up tightly when you leave to keep the critters out!***

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THE SALE JUNE 1! It's a great way to find some new plants and fill in the bare spots in your garden affordably! Many of our plants are divisions from the beautiful Tollgate Gardens, with others from the home gardens of Tollgate Garden Volunteers. We work hard to maintain these plants in the challenging environment of an outdoor Nursery. Master gardeners are on hand to guide shoppers as they select plants that will thrive in their home garden environment. We can't satisfy everyone, and our selection can't compete with big professional garden stores. But we provide a unique experience with affordable plants that bring our shoppers back over and over again!

The Nursery Division and Potting workday was a great success! So far this spring we have added just over 600 pots to the Nursery! That's a pretty successful spring potting season - but we still have room for more, and more pots of desirable plants will make for an even greater Spring Sale success! The [PLANTS WANTED](#) information posted is still a pretty good guide for what we still need. Exceptions are Ornamental Oregano (Origanum) and tall Shasta Daisy (Leucanthemum supurbum) that are both **overstocked**.

THE LAST DAY TO DONATE PLANTS WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 18!! That's right around the corner! The sale falls early this year – on **June 1st** – and the Nursery Team needs a couple weeks after the last donations arrive to inventory what we have and get organized for the sale. *Please help us by getting your donations to the Nursery as soon as you can.*

THE DONATION AREA LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR... there are 3 different popups, all in the grassy area near the potting trailer. You may leave your donation in any of these structures. As always, please provide the best identification you have for your donations (including botanical name, bloom color or cultivar if known). You may use the plant label sticks and pencils in the clear plastic container attached to the workbench, and the hose adjacent to the potting trailer is available to water your donation.

If you are interested in learning about perennials, including the challenges of growing them in a pot, consider joining the Nursery team! It provides an opportunity to learn about lots of different varieties of plants, as well how to maintain healthy perennials in a pot, while working to benefit all the Tollgate Gardens. Although spring leading up to the plant sale is our busiest time, the Nursery is busy from early spring through the fall! Contact me if you would like more information at palmermargaretanne@gmail.com.

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“At last came the golden month of the wild folk — honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year.” Samuel Scoville Jr.

It is truly amazing to witness the outburst of spring – birds everywhere, insects emerging, buds bursting forth on trees and shrubs, blossoms and flowers filling the landscape with color and scent, and so many beautiful perennials pushing up and turning gardens into little Edens. And then, of course, we also have the weeds making a strong appearance – especially dead nettle in the PAR Garden. Such a beautiful start to the growing season, and even the dead nettle adds a burst of color, albeit a short lived one once we deal with it.



Along with the plant explosion, gardeners are enthusiastically tackling spring activities, excited to be back outside enjoying our beautiful weather and plant life. This includes several new volunteers who we are excited to have join the PAR Garden team – welcome! Their efforts this month have already helped us achieve a major overhaul of the garden beds, and have lightened the load on the veteran volunteers. This garden would not be possible without the dedication of our team – thank you!

This month we will be direct seeding beans, carrots, turnips, squash, radishes, and collard greens. We were unable to plant an early crop of collard greens due to the bed renovation this year, but we will still have a few succession plantings of both collard greens and kale



Our seedlings are flourishing in the greenhouse and will soon be coming out to harden and plant. I made the mistake of getting overzealous about starting seeds in the greenhouse and started the cucumbers a couple of weeks early. This resulted in the need to repot the cucumber starts, but they are thriving.



The absolutely wonderful and dedicated PAR Garden team braved the daunting task of renovating the beds and the garden has never looked so amazing. Also, huge kudos to Jason who brought his own equipment to deepen our pathways and throw the soil back on the beds, saving us a great deal of labor.



The 3' easement along the south end of the beds was trenched using rakes and shovels and lots of elbow grease. Cardboard has been laid and stapled along the easement and along the pathways between the beds. What remains is to add a 3-4" layer of mulch over all the cardboard, which should help us in our battle against the weeds.

Roy and Jason were kind enough to help lay the irrigation main lines and install the headers. We will be completing the irrigation installation early this month, with only the installation of the 30' drip tape to the headers remaining. With the water already on as the threat of frost is finally over, we will be ready to water the beds that we plant this month. The new irrigation design and parts should serve us well for a few years!

PAR Report continued on Page 7

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PAR Report continued from Page 6

We have an unwelcome newcomer in the garden – ticks. Due to a mild winter, it is expected that we will have a bumper crop of ticks this year. It is recommended that to minimize tick bites – wear long pants tucked into socks, check frequently for ticks on the skin, and use repellents that contain DEET or picaridin, or products with permethrin. Ticks are hardly new to Michigan or to the farm, but they are becoming more prevalent, and common precautions are advised. We have a healthy insect population in the garden including mosquitoes, spiders, wasps, bees, ants, cabbage moths, potato beetles, and slugs. Some are beneficial, some are not, but they are certainly a permanent part of our little ecosystem. We only use organic spray to minimize the damage of the cabbage moths and potato beetles and need to peacefully co-exist with the remainder.

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



Left column Page 6 photos provided by Jacob DiPonio
Right column Page 6 top four photos by Kathryn Fitzpatrick
Right column Page 6 bottom two photos by Mary Anne Chadwick
Page 7 photos by Lynette Leroux

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Lily Leaf Beetle Research

MSU Tollgate has been chosen as a drop off location for Lily leaf beetle research being conducted by Dr. David Lowenstein of MSU Extension. David was a recent speaker at a Tollgate monthly membership meeting. David is collecting beetle adults for use in research developing natural predators of lily leaf beetles.

There is a lily in a cage in the volunteer center and a sign-in sheet when beetles are placed in the cage. More information on David's research can be found by following the attached QR code. Sounds pretty neat!



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Hanami Cherry Blossom Festival

Tollgate hosted its annual Japanese Hanami celebration of spring on Sunday, May 5. Over 300 people were on the farm and enjoyed sushi, drumming, dancing, storytelling, and just relaxing in the Tollgate arboretum. The tradition of the Hanami festival is to celebrate time with family and friends. The spirit of Hanami was evident throughout as groups gathered on blankets to enjoy the day. A bit of rain in the middle of the event caused a break in activities which encouraged many celebrants to check out the food and scratch a goat!



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Tool Shed Ready for the Season

The tool shed was recently cleaned and organized for the start of our garden season. The shed holds many tools necessary to complete our tasks, such as wheelbarrows, rakes, buckets, tarps, etc. While we strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities, there are many items available for your use. We also provide garden hand tool set-ups in individual black caddies for anyone who needs them. These are located on the shelves at the back of the shed.

We request everyone's assistance in keeping the shed and the tools in good shape for each garden workday. All tools borrowed from the shed should be cleaned and sanitized with the wipes provided (see red bucket on the table), prior to returning the items to their designated spots. Wheelbarrows should be swept out or there is a hose around the corner from the shed door that can be used if needed. Tarps should be shaken out and folded, before replacing on the shelves. If you stored garden art/knickknacks from your Tollgate garden in the shed over the winter, please come and get your items.

We appreciate everyone's help!



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

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Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers Spring Plant Sale



Saturday June 1, 2024
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



This major fund raising event helps support the development and maintenance of the educational gardens on the site for Extension programs and visitors. This event is held rain or shine. Experienced Tollgate Garden Volunteers will be assisting with questions and selections for a great shopping experience. The Tollgate Nursery specializes in providing a variety of hardy perennials popular to SE Michigan gardens. Our plants are divisions or seed grown perennials found in our beautiful Tollgate gardens, or are donations from the home gardens of our volunteers, friends of the farm or local supporting nurseries. Sun and shade perennials are available in 1- gallon pots for \$6. Look for deals on overstock or specialty plants with premium pricing as noted with signage posted at the sale.

**Payment with cash, check to MSU or credit card purchases
will be accepted**



Michigan State University
Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48377
248 347-3860 ext. 251
www.tollgate.msu.edu

**WE SUGGEST YOU CHECK CONSTRUCTION
DETOURS IN ADVANCE**

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

Golden Shovel Award Presentation

Michele Jayne was the 2023 Golden Shovel winner. The Golden Shovel award is presented to the first year Tollgate garden volunteer who puts in the most volunteer appearances at the farm. The award consists of posting the recipient's name on The Golden Shovel plaque displayed in the volunteer center and a *real gold* shovel pin provided by the Americana Foundation. Since Michele was not able to attend the November 2023 Recognition Dinner, we took a moment from a recent PAR garden workday to say "Thank you Michele" for all of your work in support of the farm! The dedication of volunteers such as Michele keeps the farm looking great.



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Member Spotlight

Tom Culkin



Years gardening... “My introduction to gardening started when I was 12 and ‘earned the privilege’ to take care of the lawn at home. At the same time, I joined the local 4-H club. Since I grew up on Long Island, I would describe it as city kid 4-H. But there was a local working 4-H farm that I spent a lot of time at, with many similarities to Tollgate. After marrying an avid gardener and buying our first home, I quickly earned the title of Assistant Landscaper. I’ve always seemed to like to toil in the soil and reap rewarding results.”

Volunteer at Tollgate since... “When I retired, my wife was already a Tollgate volunteer, so it was an easy fit for me to join her in 2021. Plus, I like grilled hot dogs.”

Favorite garden... “I often check out the various activities going on at Tollgate, but I mostly enjoy the Pond. I don’t just work at the Pond every week; I also experience the Pond every week.”



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 Judy Culkin
Bottom left photo by Tom Culkin
Bottom right two photos provided by Nancy Powell

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 rmcottrell4@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/>



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

Membership Update May 2024

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership this month!

*I have also sent out reminders to those who have not yet renewed.
(Membership form at the back of this newsletter)*

If you are not sure if you have renewed, please feel free to contact me at my email, below.

See you at Tollgate!

Teresa LaRosa

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.

- 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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SATURDAY WORKDAY 4/27



Photos provided by Marilyn Alimpich

The Tollgate Farm News

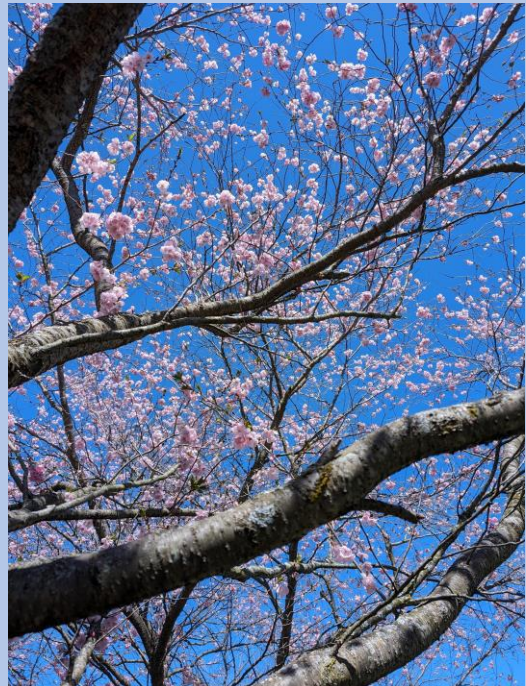
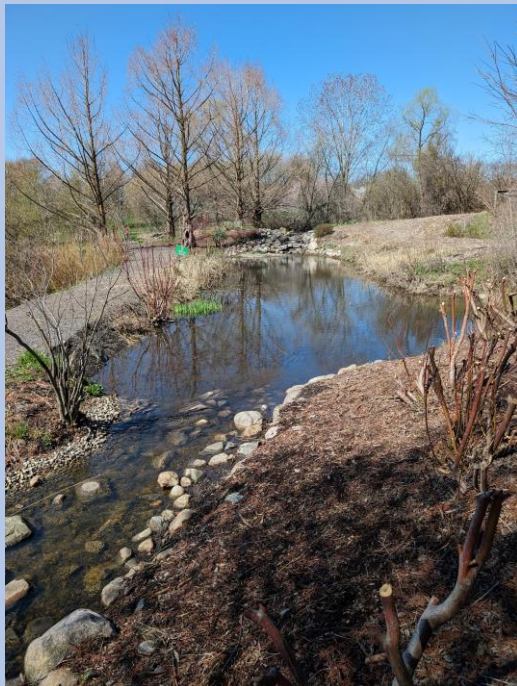
PANCAKE & MAPLE SYRUP LUNCH 4/27



Top row photos provided by Renee Cottrell
All other photos by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

DOWN AT THE POND



Photos provided by David Harenchar

The Tollgate Farm News

HOSTA GARDEN PATIO IN PROCESS



Top photo provided by Nancy Powell
Bottom photo by Julie Semroc

The Tollgate Farm News

DEMO, RAIN, ENTRANCE GARDENS



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

The Tollgate Farm News

BIRDS & FISH ON THE FARM



Photos provided by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

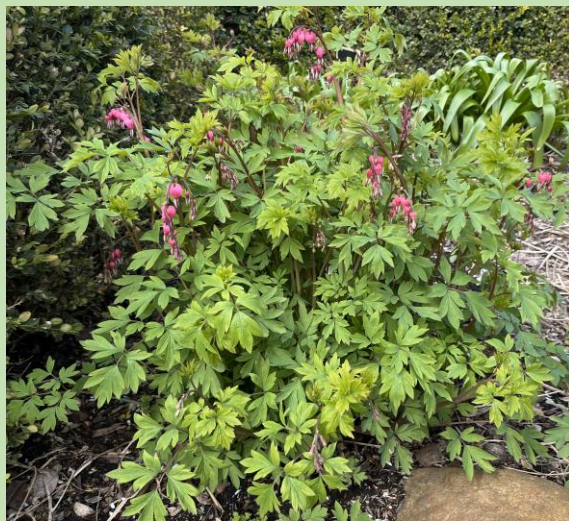
ART IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

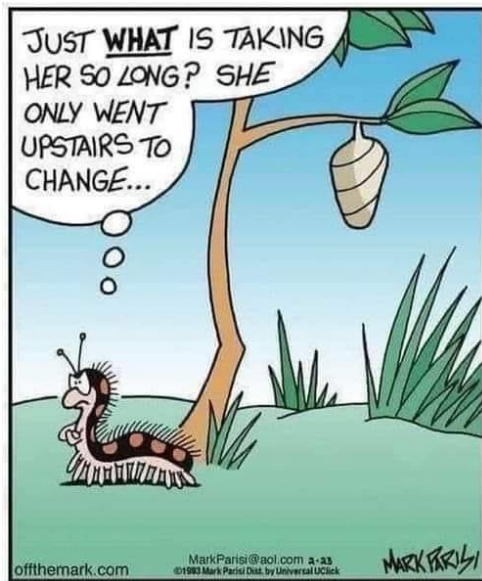
BEAUTIFUL BLEEDING HEARTS



Top photo provided by Karen Harris
Bottom two photos by Julie Semroc

The Tollgate Farm News

Be safe on the roads today!!!
My car just slid into the garden center's parking lot again.



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 Repellant
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 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 _____ - _____

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

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:** _____