

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

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OCTOBER 2024



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2024

7:00 PM

(In the Conference Center)

Smart Gardening to Deter Deer

Join garden volunteers and supporters in the Tollgate conference center for the last member meeting of 2024 on Thursday, October 17, for a presentation on **Smart Gardening to Deter Deer: How to Use Barriers & Repellents Effectively**.

Caitlin Splawski is a greenhouse and floriculture Extension educator for Oakland County. She works with greenhouses and nurseries in eastern Michigan, using her previous experience in greenhouse management, herbaceous perennial production, and container trailing. Caitlin has a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies from Denison University and a master's degree in horticulture and crop science from Ohio State University.

This link takes you to articles that Caitlin has authored, [Caitlin Splawski \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msue.edu/extension/author/c-splawski/), including recent pieces on favorite plants from several Michigan nurseries and trial gardens.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024					
OCT	MEETINGS		NOV	MEETINGS	
1	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	2	Recognition Dinner at TG	4:00 pm
17	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm	5	TGAC Meeting - Zoom	7:00 pm
OCT	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		NOV	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
5/6	PumpkinFest – No Workday		9	Rose Garden Winterizing	10:00 am
12	Nursery Clean-Up	9:00 am	28	Thanksgiving	
19	Pond Clean-Up	9:00 am			
26	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am			

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FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER



GREETINGS Roy Prentice

Greetings all,

Plant Sale

September was a very busy month. Thanks to the nursery team, the Fall Plant sale was a great success, raising over \$3400. Not quite a Fall Plant Sale record, but close! It takes a lot of organization and work to host the plant sale. Nursery Area Garden Leader, Peg Palmer, and the nursery team do a wonderful job of providing support for the gardens. We should all take pride in the fact that through plant sales and donations, the gardens are self-supporting.

Pumpkinfest

Pumpkinfest was a nice event again this year. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the farm's outdoor spaces. The event is a lot of work for volunteers and staff and loads of fun for our many visitors. The weather was gorgeous, probably due to the influence of two of Detroit's meteorologists who visited the farm before the event. Some of the highlights were the most excellent pumpkin patch which produced over 600 pumpkins, the MSU dairy store trailer, the cute Tollgate animals, and the hard work and dedication of volunteers and staff who made it all come together. The freshly made donuts were pretty great, too! All revenue from Pumpkinfest is vital to support Tollgate programs and staff. Thank you all for helping make this event possible.

Many outside groups volunteer their time to help Tollgate. The week before Pumpkinfest, more than 20 volunteers from the ITC corporation set up tables, worked in the pumpkin patch, and prepared the barn for the

big event. ITC corporate groups continue the long tradition of corporate organizations coming to the farm to perform many maintenance projects. It takes many hands to make Tollgate successful.

The Prentice family welcomes a new member!



I have been blessed by having my daughter, Minnette, help with our Saturday garden volunteer workdays. She received many well

wishes two years ago when her daughter, Ruby, was born. Minnette recently had a son, Lex! Lex came nearly a month earlier than expected but is doing fine. Very exciting time in the Prentice household.

Thanks for all that you do to support the farm. There are still a few garden workdays left before the end of the year. Fall is a special time to experience Tollgate. Please consider coming to the farm for one of the remaining workdays of 2024. The grounds, gardens, and woods are all beautiful in the fall. A stroll through the farm at this time of year can truly be magical. Thanks to all who support the farm and make it a magical place.

Thanks for all that you do!
Roy

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

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Notes from the President Renee Cottrell

Vote Now - October is the month to vote on all *elected* positions for your Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC). Though the field of nominees is very limited, we ask that you participate in the voting process - write-in votes for willing members are welcome! Please submit your ballot for the elected officer positions by email, U.S. mail, or by proxy via phone call/message to Roy by the membership meeting on Oct. 19th. Look for the ballot in this issue.

Please Note - If you have not yet logged your hours on the Tollgate volunteer site using the QR code you can still add them now as we close out our gardening activities for the season. This is NOT used by nor linked to the Extension Master Gardener records. Rather it is used only at Tollgate for recording visits and volunteer contribution of time to be used in reports, requests of funding, and other administrative purposes.

Also, at the back of this issue, is the **2025 Membership form**. Membership is renewed **every** year for the most accurate record keeping of Active and Supporting members. This form for 2025 will renew you for **January 2025 through December 2025**. Our communications start in early January, so renew now so you do not miss any important early season information! Remember that your donation is voluntary, so please don't let that prevent you from renewing. Why not take a few moments NOW, to complete the form and send it in! (Before you snowbirds head south or before holiday planning revs up and you forget). You can contact Teresa LaRosa, Membership Chairperson, with any questions: tlrrehab2@gmail.com.

"In October, a maple tree before your window lights up your room like a great lamp. Even on cloudy days, its presence helps dispel the gloom."

- *John Burroughs (1837-1921). American naturalist, conservationist, and essayist*

Attention all Area Garden Leaders/Teams -

Reminder, now is the time to assess your needs for plant tags, spring divisions and submit final reimbursement requests. As we wrap up the 2024 season we are already planning for 2025. Any garden art/accessories that need to be stored in the tool shed should be labeled for the garden, stored in a tub or box if possible. October clean-up starts now and will include removal of annuals, so if you want to save a cutting or overwinter you should do so NOW. Update your google garden task list for fall clean up tasks as some EMG and MG candidates are still working on completing their hours.

If you have any specific requests for changes in the Saturday activity calendar let me know as we develop the calendar for 2025 starting next month.

SAVE THE DATE - The **2025 AGL/Team meeting** will be an onsite on **January 18, 2025 at 10:00 am** in the Conference Center. All active members are welcome to participate and a reminder email will go out in December.

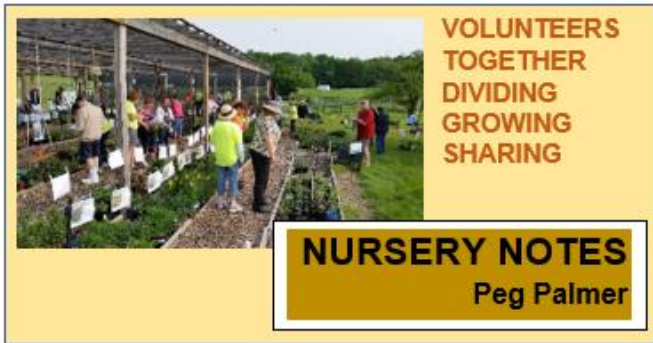
As the weather cools, I invite you to check out a walk in the Tollgate woods. Colors will be changing; bugs will be few and the connection to the nature around you is sure to lift your spirits.

Please get your RSVP in for the Nov. 2, 2024 Recognition dinner! It is a wonderful night to celebrate the season and our volunteer accomplishments.

Check out this issue for articles on Nursery and PAR end of season and other interesting news and pictures. See you at the Recognition Dinner.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.
Renee Cottrell, Adv. MG, President

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what we have to overwinter so that we can plan what needs to be done. While many plants overwinter well in pots, it's also a challenge for some. For many of these challenged plants, it's not hardiness to the cold temperatures, it's the challenge of a Michigan freeze/thaw cycle that keep cold, moist soil around the roots with poor drainage in a pot. We have evolved from using "row covers" to protect some of these varieties, to our latest strategy of removing some of the vulnerable types of plants from their pots and "healing in" with a covering of soil for the winter.

WE THINK THE 'HEALING IN' STRATEGY HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE - so we're continuing that process with a broader list of candidates this winter season. Last year we moved these plants to a designated space, sometimes in a different location, which required more "central planning" and tracking of each plant's location. This year we will keep all the "heeled in" candidates in their assigned locations, alleviating some of the challenges of tracking over the winter and ensuring plants are correctly located in the spring. We'll also use landscape fabric over the wood mulch in the rows and under the soil and roots of the heeled in plants. This should lessen the work of returning the rows to "normal" in the spring.

GROWING PERENNIALS IN POTS IS A CHALLENGING TASK! It requires using all of your "typical" gardening expertise, while challenging you to consider how that may need to be adjusted for success with plants in pots! Since there isn't a lot of this expertise around, it's always a challenge to consider options. If this sounds 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! Options are **ROW LEADER** (focus your attention on maintaining a group of plants in one specific area), or **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). Email me for more info: palmermargaretanne@gmail.com

SUMMER 2024 HAS BEEN ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR THE NURSERY! We hosted two successful Plant Sales that combined brought in a total of almost \$14,000, just slightly less than last year's record plant sale proceeds!

HOSTING TWO PLANT SALES EACH YEAR IS A LOT OF WORK! Successful sales require the support of the whole organization of Tollgate Garden Volunteers. Many of the plants we sell are divisions from the beautiful and well-maintained gardens at Tollgate. Many of these plants are some of the most popular plants at our sales each year.

PLANT SALE ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN STRONG! Both Spring and Fall Sale this year had shoppers lined up by the Activity Center in the morning, hoping to be first in the Nursery rows and find some great plants to take home. Returning customers is a good sign for future sales, and encourages us to work hard to get donations to pot, label and care for so our customers will continue to return.

THE NURSERY IS NOW "CLOSED" FOR PLANT DONATIONS – but we are still accepting your 1-gallon pots in good condition! You can bring them to the Nursery and place them in the Nursery shed in large tub on the right as you open the large door. Recycling your used pots saves money, so more of our plant sale proceeds can be used for the benefit of Tollgate Gardens!

WINTER PREP IS NEXT ON THE TASK LIST FOR THE YEAR... Each year we try to improve and streamline these activities – we're always in a race with the unknown date when the weather will be just too cold – and possibly wet – for us to continue working. While we hate to turn away late donations, we really need to finalize our counts of

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PAR GARDEN

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Fun Facts about October:

- The Anglo-Saxons had a different name for October – Wintirfylith, because October has the first full moon of the winter season.
- October is known as the best harvesting month for many crops including apples, carrots, corn, grapes, onions, potatoes, and squash. Oh, and obviously pumpkins!
- Pumpkins aren't the only stars in October. The world's largest beer festival takes place every year in the Bavarian region of Germany - Oktoberfest!



We have harvested and donated 1652 lbs. of vegetables at this point. We are averaging 100+ lbs. of vegetables each week, so our final count should hit our yearly average of 2000 lbs. especially with onions and

potatoes yet to harvest. A bonus again this year is a surplus of pumpkins from Pumpkinfest – probably close to 1000 lbs. We have also much appreciated the generous donation of vegetables from the Sustainable Agriculture team, Edu-Garden, and fellow gardeners who have surplus – a heartfelt thank you!



Some of the vegetables we added this year are lightweights – kale and collard greens; as well as ones that did very well in previous years – green beans and hot peppers, but this variety of vegetables

has been well received, so we will continue to keep planting them as well as consider additional items, such as herbs and green onions.



We also had a mystery squash plant, thanks to either a bird, squirrel, or chipmunk, which has produced a very large green field pumpkin. For once, the pests are assisting in the yield and not subtracting from it!

One well received change this year - we started harvesting portions of vegetables instead of a complete crop at a time. This allowed us to provide a variety of produce each week. We also replanted many beds that were harvested or, like the diseased squash, needed to be replaced. This has given us additional yields of beautiful squash, turnips, radishes, collard greens, and kale.



We have started to pull onions and lay them out to cure and should have all onions, both yellow and red, harvested by the end of the month. Once the tops of the onions and roots have died back completely, we will be removing them and donating, hopefully on a staggered basis.



We will also complete harvesting of potatoes, cabbage, squash, green beans, leeks, turnips, radishes, shallots, kale, collard greens, and hot peppers one portion at a time until the end of the month.

The garlic was cleaned up and divided into portions for donation and our seed garlic heads to plant towards the end of the month. It is nice to end the season with planting, and even better to be received in the spring with little garlic shoots – the first vegetable to emerge for the season. This and removing all remaining weeds and spent plants, as well as prepping the irrigation and beds for winter will be our last efforts in the garden for the season.

We were extremely fortunate to have the Oakland County Chapter of MSU Alumni volunteers join us late last month. They did an amazing job of removing the abundance of black walnuts and debris from the black walnut trees, weeding, removing all the spent cabbage plants, and mulching the main pathway – a monumental effort for which the PAR Garden team is greatly appreciative and relieved!

PB&J and Forgotten Harvest have been wonderful partners, picking up on Monday and Tuesday, and delivering the fresh produce to various centers. PB&J not only provide the produce for the food-challenged in Detroit, but they cook up meals for the homeless for three locations in Detroit. The Forgotten Harvest pick up by Harvest Warriors is also focused on local centers that provide food for the food-challenged in the area. Their efforts are most appreciated!

PAR Report continued on Page 6

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PAR Report continued from Page 5

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 5 and Page 6 top left column photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick
All other Page 6 photos by Lynette Leroux

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Children's Garden Pond Bridge Dedication

On the evening of the September 19th TGV meeting, members gathered for the dedication of the new Children's Garden Bridge. Paula Brose, long-time Tollgate Garden volunteer and Children's Garden AGL, was concerned that the old bridge over the lily pond was unsafe. Paula arranged for a private contractor to install a new bridge in the Children's Garden. The design for the new bridge was based on the bridge design often pictured in art by Monet. The contractor who built the new bridge also creates water features. He offered to expand the existing Children's Garden pond with the addition of a "bog" area. The result is a beautiful addition to the Children's Garden that will be enjoyed by children and their families for years to come. Thank you Paula for your vision and generosity!



Top left photo provided by Karen Harris
Top right and bottom left photos by Nancy Powell
Bottom right photo by Kurt Westermann

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Recipes from the September TGV Membership Meeting

Below are some photos and the recipes for the fun squash dishes prepared by Mary Spencer at our September meeting. It was a beautiful night and the food was delicious!



CINNAMON SPICED SWEET POTATO SOUP WITH MAPLE CROUTONS

- 4 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. carrots, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1 lb. sweet potatoes (about 2 medium, peeled and cut into ¾ inch pieces)
- 2 tbsp. chicken or vegetable base
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 2 slices rustic country bread, cut or torn into 1 inch pieces
- 1 tbsp. maple syrup

1. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the carrots, onion and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are starting to brown at the edges 8-10 minutes. Add the spices and cook, stirring for 1 minute.
2. Add the sweet potatoes, chicken or vegetable base, bay leaves and 6 cups water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until the vegetables are tender, 10-12 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, heat the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the bread and cook, tossing occasionally, until golden. Brown. Remove from heat, drizzle the maple syrup over the top and toss to coat.
4. Discard the bay leaves. Using an immersion blender puree the soup until smooth. Serve with maple croutons.
Serves 4

BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND RICOTTA BRUSCHETTAS

- 1 lb. butternut squash, peeled and diced
- Olive Oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3 cups sliced yellow onions (2 onions)
- 2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp. maple syrup
- Apple cider or apple juice
- 6 (1/2 inch thick) sliced rustic country bread, toasted
- 1 ½ cups fresh ricotta

1. Preheat the oven to 425F.
2. Place the squash, 2 ½ tbsp. olive oil, salt, pepper, and the red pepper flakes on a sheet pan, toss, and spread out in one layer. Roast for 25-35 minutes, until very tender and starting to brown on the edges, tossing once with a metal spatula during roasting. Set aside.
3. Meanwhile, heat the butter and 2 tbsp. olive oil in a medium saute pan. Add the onions and cook over medium to medium low heat for 12-15 minutes, tossing occasionally, until golden brown. Add the vinegar and maple syrup and simmer over medium heat for 4-6 minutes, until the liquid is reduced. When the squash is tender, add it to the saute pan with the onions and mash it lightly with a dinner fork. If the mixture is a little dry, add a few tablespoons of apple cider to moisten. Taste for seasonings and reheat over low heat, if necessary.
4. To assemble the bruschettas, spread a thick layer of ricotta on each toast and spoon the squash mixture on top. Sprinkle with salt and serve warm.
Serves 6-8
RECIPE COURTESY OF:
Mary Spencer
Taste: A Cook's Place
Cookbookie8@yahoo.com
www.tasteacooksplace.net

Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

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Media Visits Tollgate

In the week prior to Pumpkinfest, Tollgate was visited by two local celebrities. Karen Carter of CBS News Detroit and Alan Longstreet of Fox 2 News visited the farm and enjoyed the gardens, critters, and fresh air. One fun aspect of working at Tollgate is that there is seldom a “normal” day.



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Tollgate Pumpkinfest 2024

October 5th and 6th saw the return of Tollgate's annual Pumpkinfest event. Thousands of folks came to the farm to enjoy good weather, open spaces, Tollgate farm animals, hayrides, fresh donuts, and lots of great activities. The Tollgate pumpkin patch looked great and was filled with lots of pumpkins! Many thanks to the ITC corporation for sending three separate groups of corporate volunteers to help us get set for the event. It's always a fun event, especially when the weather cooperates!



Top row and 3rd row right photos provided by Roy Prentice
3rd row 3rd photo by Lori Heiden
2nd row, 3rd row 1st & 2nd and 4th row photos by Linda Piasecki

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Tool Shed - Prep for Season End

The tool shed was recently cleaned and organized for the wind down 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, if needed. We always request everyone's assistance in keeping the shed and the tools in good shape for each garden workday and now need your help to get everything put away properly for the winter.

All tools borrowed from the shed should be returned, 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 and 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 are storing garden art/accessories from your Tollgate garden in the shed over the winter, please place in tubs or boxes on the shelves or under the table by the door. There were many items left there and not used this past season. If you no longer place these items in your garden, please remove them from the shed.

Also, please note that any donation to the tool collection should be approved by Renee Cottrell, Nancy Powell, or Kathryn Currier. In the past some items have just been left in the shed that are either a duplicate of what we already have or are not needed for use in our gardens.

The shed is a great asset for our teams, so we appreciate everyone's help in keeping it clean and organized.



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

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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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IN REMEMBRANCE

Last month we lost two long standing Tollgate members who gave generously of their time, talents and support here at Tollgate .



Hal Henderlong and his wife Rose Marie, who pre-deceased him, were active in the gardens and events of Tollgate. Hal loved the Rose Garden and the Reflection Garden for the quiet beauty of their settings. Hal assisted at open house, plant sales, and fall fair events and was a regular volunteer in the maintenance of the gardens. Hal was a wonderful ambassador for the gardens. We were fortunate to have had him in our group and are grateful for the family designating gifts in his honor to Tollgate. Our sympathy goes out to his family for their loss that we also share.



Wayne Watson and his wife Martha, who has also passed, were another couple with longstanding history with Tollgate and the garden volunteers. Wayne was active as the Hosta Garden AGL and on the Maple Syrup Team. Wayne was responsible for the addition of many varieties of hosta to that garden and worked that area independently for his last few active years. He was a valuable member of the Maple Syrup Team and enjoyed the activities of bringing sap to syrup, the education of guests, and the camaraderie of his fellow team members. Wayne will be missed by many. Our condolences go out to his family.

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Member Spotlight Jackie Stengel



Years gardening... “My earliest plant memory was planting pansies with my grandfather. In middle school, I did a botany project that won something in the science fair. In college, my roommate and I took botany in one of the classrooms at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. I don’t know why, but we grew alfalfa sprouts in our dorm room. As an adult, I saw how much my mother, Phyllis, enjoyed taking continuing education classes at Schoolcraft. Betty Frankel, *Detroit Free Press* garden columnist for decades, taught these classes. That’s where Phyllis learned about the Master Gardener class. This was pre-Internet, so I made phone calls to Wayne, Oakland, and Washtenaw offices to gather information.”

Master Gardener since... “We took the class together to save money by sharing a book and drove to downtown Detroit on Saturday mornings in early 1992, the same year as the AmeriFlora horticultural exhibit in Columbus, Ohio.”

Volunteer at Tollgate since... “In the early years of volunteering and attending talks, my mother and I met Sue Hickcox, and Bob and Donna Mrozek who were active at Tollgate. Donna put together the *Tollgate Troll* newsletter for many years. Before Pumpkinfest, Tollgate volunteers organized and funded the Fall Fair, but that event evolved from the compost Fair. There is an obvious marketing challenge with the original name but I’m pretty confident that I did not imagine that. The inspiration for the vine maze was partially the various Fall Fair mazes. The night before Fall Fair, I remember a handful of us moving very heavy bales of hay to build the maze and needing flashlights to harvest pumpkins grown on site. Sue, Bob, and Donna also helped with MGAWC’s Gardening in the 90s conference, so that was sometime in the 90s.”

When I started scheduling monthly programs at Tollgate, members were still meeting in the Activity Center. I may have kept speaker contacts on a PalmPilot. I snail mailed speakers confirmation letters with details and a map of the grounds.”

Favorite garden... “When the Children’s Garden at Tollgate was being redesigned, I was able to book Jane Taylor as a speaker not too long before she moved out of state. Professor Taylor had designed the Michigan 4-H Children’s Garden at MSU, possibly the first garden of its kind in North America. Her presentation at a Tollgate meeting had a major impact on the design that young and old enjoy today. The Regal Prince Oak near the entrance was planted for my mother’s 80th birthday in 2011. She continues to enjoy seeing how big it’s getting.”

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.

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Membership Update October 2024

Happy Fall!

It's time! Join or renew your membership for 2025 now!

Just a reminder of the many benefits that are included: Monthly speakers, on-site gardening and learning opportunities, educational displays, and just plain fun times working alongside other fellow gardeners.

The suggested donation is \$25 for next year. Our membership rate has not changed in over a decade. The cost for plant materials and educational speakers has significantly increased over these years, which is not surprising.

Please see the attached Membership Renewal Form included in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Tollgate.

Teresa LaRosa
tlrrehab@gmail.com



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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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THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News

BLOOMS AROUND THE POND



Photos provided by Tom Culkin

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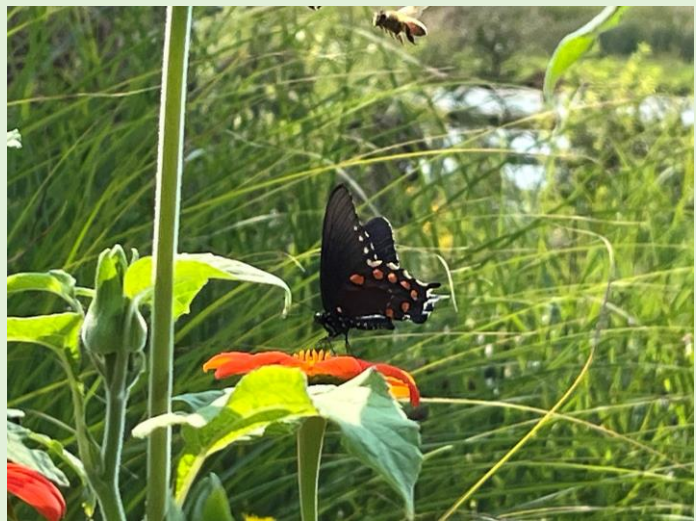
WILDLIFE NEAR THE POND



Photos provided by Tom Culkin

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CATERPILLARS & BUTTERFLIES



Bottom left photo provided by Judy Culkin
All other photos by Tom Culkin

The Tollgate Farm News

EARLY FALL BLOOMS



Photos provided by Karen Harris

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FALL PLANT SALE



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

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AROUND THE FARM



Top photo provided by Tom Culkin
Bottom photo by Karen Harris

The Tollgate Farm News



Garden quotes submitted by Nancy Powell

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 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

Tollgate Garden Volunteers Advisory Committee Ballot for 2025

You may cast your vote for the person nominated or write in yourself or a member of TGV for the following offices. (**NOTE: Be sure if you write in someone's name, they are willing to fulfill the office**).

Please mark your choice and return this ballot **by e-mail** no later than **6:00 pm, Thursday, October 17, 2024**.

Ballot count will be done and reported at the October membership meeting. If you wish to mail your ballot, it should be **postmarked no later than Friday, October 11, 2024** in order to ensure its receipt at Tollgate in time for the ballot count.

Email: send to tlb4@mi.rr.com

U.S. Mail: send your ballot in a separate envelope to:

Tollgate Education Center
Attention: Tollgate Garden Volunteers
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI 48377-3128

President	___	Renee Cottrell	or	___	_____ (Write in)
Vice President	___	Marilyn Alimpich	or	___	_____ (Write in)
Secretary	___	Theresa Bridenbaugh	or	___	_____ (Write in)
Treasurer	___	Karen Harris	or	___	_____ (Write in)

NEW FORM FOR 2025

	MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form	
	Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.	2025

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ MI Zip _____ - _____ Name you would like on badge, ONLY IF NEEDED	Date Submitted _____ Telephone Number _____ Day _____ - _____ Evening _____ - _____ Email _____
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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 (**\$25 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 Garden Volunteers Office**
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI 48377-3128

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

Email: tjrrehab@gmail.com

2025 Membership is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

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 do not wish your email and other identification information to 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: _____