



# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 5

MAY 2014

## General Meeting Back at the Conference Center

### MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 PM

## Bugs in the Garden

On Thursday, May 15, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center to learn about *Bugs in the Garden*. This presentation will focus on invertebrates and include encouraging native species, using biological controls, and understanding facts related to common misconceptions, as well as identification of the bugs that make our gardens work.

**Kyle Kandilian** just graduated with highest honors, earning a degree in Environmental Science Biology from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Kyle is passionate about entomology, ecology, soil science, composting and cockroaches, which he raises and sells through his website, <http://www.roachcrossing.com/>.

**PLANT SALE ORIENTATION** after the May 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting  
See Page 3, "Presidents Notes", for Details

## Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events

MAY	MEETINGS		JUN	MEETINGS	
14	Fall Fair Meeting	7:00 PM	3	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
15	TGV General Meeting	7:00 PM	10	Fall Fair Meeting	7:00 PM
			19	TGV General Meeting	7:00 PM
MAY	ACTIVITIES		JUN	ACTIVITIES	
17	PAR Planting/Demo/Plant Sale	9:00 AM	6	Plant Sale Set-up and Drop Off	9:00 AM
31	Plant Sale Prep/Farmhouse	9:00 AM	7	<b>SPRING TOLLGATE PLANT SALE</b>	9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
			14	Office/Entrance/Hosta Gardens	9:00 AM
			21	Dry Shade/Rain Garden	9:00 AM
			28	Rose/Heritage/Rock Ledge	9:00 AM



## from the Tollgate Farm Manager

### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

#### Greetings All,

Recently, the Tollgate volunteers have been checking our many bird boxes in the back fields. Bluebirds, swallows and wrens have taken up residence in several of the boxes already. We have also been seeing an osprey hanging around the pond the last few days. We once saw him even make off with a fish! The first new family of geese was sighted on the pond (great). Perhaps, in a sign of avian bonding, the osprey and geese family could have a little get-together.



Pancake Chefs in the Outdoor Kitchen



The Maple Syrup Crew

From left to right; Ron Wasko, Chet Tarczynski, Tom Gray, Doug Crossman, Art Durow, Merle Baker, John MacInnis and Don Blaharski

**Maple Syrup Wrap Up.** Thanks to the wonderful work of the maple syrup crew, we had another great year in the Tollgate woods. This year's efforts produced over 93 gallons of syrup! The season culminated in a luncheon on April 26<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Tollgate maple syrup tappers. In addition to pancakes, bacon and lots of Tollgate syrup, volunteers were able to purchase syrup. At the end of the event, the entire 2014 product was sold. It was a great year! Thanks to all who made it happen.

**Earth Day.** For the fourth consecutive year, Tollgate teamed up with the City of Novi to conduct the City's celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We usually have over 50 attendees for these events. This year the group responded to the cold misty weather and turned up in dribbles rather than droves. The small, but determined group, focused on the vegetable garden area developing beds for the Community Supported Agriculture garden and creating youth garden educational areas. Although small in number, the Earth Day attendees were in good spirits, had a lot of fun and managed to get a lot done.

**Pumpkin Fence:** The next time you are driving past Tollgate on Twelve Mile Road you may see a new fence around an area in the back field. The fence is a 7.5 foot tall plastic fence designed to keep deer out of a two acre pumpkin patch. The pumpkin patch will be used as a base for fall Tollgate Extension programming. Last year we had the two acres of pumpkins, but no fence. To say that the deer had a field day would be to state the situation mildly. Last year's patch produced lots of plants, but precious few pumpkins made it to harvestable size. On the plus side, last year's experience did seem to produce deer that sported a distinctive orange hue.

**Plant Sale's a'Coming.** Please help Tollgate by bringing plants to the farm that can be sold at the June 7<sup>th</sup> plant sale. This is our major fundraiser for the gardens and we need your help to make the event truly successful. If you need pots, there are plenty that can be obtained at Tollgate. Pots and plastic tags are available in the yard barn across the drive from the nursery. Please label any plants that you are bringing to the site so that we can give as much information as possible to our garden shoppers. Due to concern for the spread of Hosta Virus X (HVX), we are not accepting the donation of any hostas this year.

See you soon around the farm!

Roy

*Photos by Darretta Ferasin*



# Notes from the President

*"Though I do not believe a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."*

**-- Henry David Thoreau**

Thanks to all who have been out so far this season for all your hard work. The unusual winter and spring have impacted our gardens and limited some of our activity days but those who have been out have done so much already. We will need lots of helping hands to stay ahead of the weeds as the warmer weather (hopefully) is coming.

**See the Activity Calendar for Details**

## We are Gearing Up for the Spring Plant Sale

Our major plant purchases for new gardens and additions to existing ones comes from this fund, not to mention our seasonal mulch and compost supply. We have a successful quilt raffle in the works and the generous donations of members, but the plant sale sets the budget for new plant additions for each season. The Tollgate Gardeners always come through with great selections to fill our rows and I am asking again for your donations. I hope you are keeping us in mind for your spring divisions. Named varieties and botanical names are best but if not known, bloom time and color are helpful. Items blooming in late May/early June are good sellers.

**See the Nursery Notes Article in this Issue on Page 5**

We will be giving a short, **PLANT SALE ORIENTATION**, after the May 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting in the Conference Center (approximately 8:00 PM after the speaker) this will give an overview of the event, open up sign-up, and detail responsibilities for those who are new volunteers or just want the refresher. We have found that trying to disperse this info on Plant Sale morning has been limited in effectiveness because everyone is so focused on their potential purchases! HA!

See you all soon. Thanks for being a Tollgate Garden volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President



Photos by Mike Janczarek





# Fall Fair

Submitted by Dennis Rogers

Spring is a great time to get involved with the planning and preparation for the Tollgate Fall Fair. We are just starting to gather the details and things to create Novi's best privately sponsored public event. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the conference room next to Roy's office. Come on down and we would be glad to have you join our group.

Sponsorship is an important part of the fair, if you work for a company that either helps community events or that does pledge matches for donations to tax exempt organizations, please let me know. We like to try to target local companies in the Novi, Farmington and Commerce neighborhoods. Give me an e-mail at [fallfair@sup-mac.com](mailto:fallfair@sup-mac.com) with the details and I will get back with you right away.

Don't forget about the can donation box in the volunteer communication center, it contributes almost 5% of the total cost of the fair. Thanks to all those folks that drop off their returnable bottles and cans!

Hope to see you at the meetings,

Dennis

## 2014 Tollgate Rambling Roses Quilt



The Quilting Bees show off the completed quilt and coordinating pillows. From left to right, the Quilting Bees are: Nancy Rogers, Sandy Rosa, Judy Poole, Kay Pratt, Darretta Ferasin, Daisy, Kathy Coleman, Sue Bremer, Lynn Strong and Charlotte Jones. The quilt will be present at the next Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting and tickets will be available.

**Approximate Size:** 71" x 71"

**Raffle Date:** Saturday, July 19th at the close of the Tollgate Summer Open House, Art in the Gardens.

**Tickets:** \$2.00 each or (3) for \$5.00

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE MAY  
TGV GENERAL MEETING**

## Live, Laugh and Eat Dessert **FIRST**... before every meeting

Have too many cookies, cakes, other desserts and you want to share? Bring them to our monthly Thursday evening meeting. Want to bake but don't have a crowd to share your goodies with? Bring your bake goodies to our meeting this month. Need recipe or idea? E-mail me (Yvonne) at [mainwoods@gmail.com](mailto:mainwoods@gmail.com).



# NURSERY NOTES

May is our big push for getting your donated plant divisions for the June Plant Sale! Here is a short article on the purpose and procedures in the Nursery for new members and a refresher for our established members.

As you may already know, the Nursery is where we hold plant divisions from the Tollgate gardens and donated divisions that will be used in the gardens or sold at the annual plant sale. Tollgate area garden leaders can select plants from this area to enhance their selected gardens as approved, but most plants are sold at the plant sale. Every year it seems that gardeners are looking for something different, the hostas always are big, some years the grasses, and some years the shade plants or ground covers.

The Nursery is loosely divided into sections for different plant types (shrubs, grasses iris etc...) as well as sun and shade perennials. Plants are potted, labeled and dug into rows. Every year the paths are mulched. We usually have designated days for division and potting in both the spring and fall.

As members, you can help by your continued generous donations. This area needs weeding and attention all season, see the clip boards for to-do lists. Always use the plastic labels provided in the nearby shed or potting benches (in a plastic coffee container) using PENCIL! Believe it or not this is the longest lasting marker. Wood markers, pen and permanent marker last only a couple rains. Designate plant botanical Latin name if known, variety and bloom color on label as all are all helpful in making the sale. If we can't ID it, or know its bloom color it is harder to sell. **Please no invasive species, these are often discarded or sold only with harsh warnings as to their specific safe uses.** No tropical plants unless you take left-overs home. They will be discarded.

## Plant Sale Donation Wish List:

Any plant that blooms late May/June	Lady's mantle
Astilbe	Liatris
Bleeding Heart pink and white	Maltese cross
Columbine	Mildew resistant phlox and bee balm varieties
Corydalis	Named or unusual iris colors, white Siberian
Daisy	Persicaria
Epimediums	Primula
Ferns, all types	Turtle head
Ginger	Unusual hosta variety if tested negative for virus
Helebores	Variegated plants
Heuchera or tiarella	Woodland poppy

Your spring divisions will be much appreciated for the 2014 spring plant sale. This is our preferred procedure:

- Drop off plants already potted and use **pencil** on the markers provided. (There is a plastic can on the potting bench or in shed nearest then the nursery for labeling plant name and bloom color).
- If you need to pot divisions here at Tollgate there are pots available at the shed located near the Nursery. The pots are sorted by size, these are the sizes we can use, other smaller and larger sizes do not fit our needs and we encourage you to recycle them.
- **\*\*\*** If you cannot pot the plants you plan to drop off you need to contact me by phone or e-mail to arrange drop off so volunteer help can be arranged to pot your donated divisions before they die. **\*\*\*\*\***
- We will use the large holding area in the front of shade structure as the location for division drop off, donated, potted and labeled plants. From here we will relocate to the appropriate shade or sun location.

Your help in the Nursery area is always welcome as we prepare for plant sale. Consider joining the Nursery team.

Renee Cottrell [rncottrell4@att.net](mailto:rncottrell4@att.net), 248-398-2562



*New Member Orientation, Workday Activities and Annual Tollgate Maple Syrup/  
Pancake Brunch – Saturday, April 26th*



*Photos by Mike Janczarek*



## Workday Activities — Saturday, April 26th (Continued)



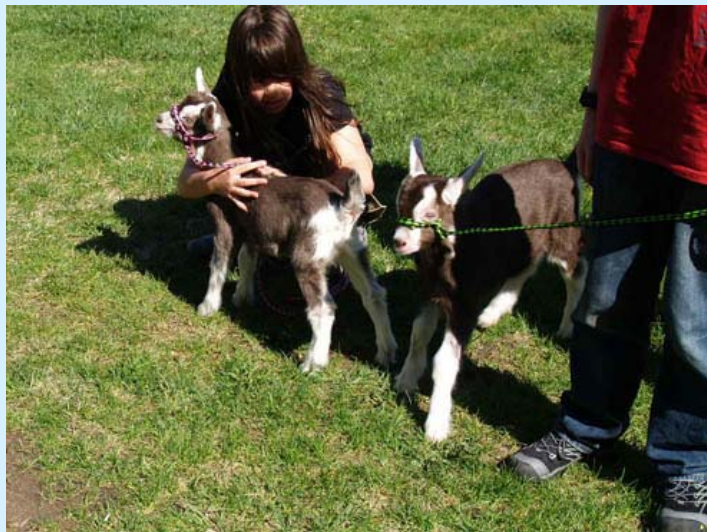
Photos by Mike Janczarek

# Membership

The deadline for returning your membership form is fast approaching. After May 26, I will start updating the database, clearing names of folks who haven't returned their membership form and then those important e-mails stop arriving.

If you have changes in your information, such as address, phone number, maybe a name change, etc., please e-mail me at: [tollgatemembership@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatemembership@gmail.com)

Nancy Roggers



4H "New Kids on the Block" — Twins, Gracie and Oscar  
Born April 25, 2014

# Goat News



The Prentice (as in Roy) Instructs His  
New Apprentice on the Fine Art of Wiring



# MORE Workday Activities



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

## Tollgate Calendar 2016

The deadline for returning your membership

I am accepting photos for the 2016 calendar now through December 31 2014. I know. I know it seems so far away and I just finished accepting photos for the 2015 calendar. This past year was a transition year. I had been putting the calendar together during the late spring, early summer which, for an avid gardener, is a pretty busy time of the year. I will now be able to do the calendar during the winter months and not feel so rushed.

I prefer to have photos submitted in landscape format and on a memory stick, with your name on it so it can be returned. They can be given to Roy or myself.

If you have any questions you can reach me at [tollgatemembership@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatemembership@gmail.com).

Nancy Roggers

**Please send your photos in. Without your participation the calendar will not be possible.**





# TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

## Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM unless otherwise noted on the Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events listed on the first page of the Tollgate Farm News or by the Area Garden Leader (AGL).

Lunch will be provided - veggie alternatives are available upon request.

This schedule does not exclude you from working independently on the site. However, on non-scheduled days, your efforts will need to be self-directed with guidance from the garden area clipboards located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

If you aren't getting  
The **Tollgate Farm News**  
e-mail, Check your  
SPAM folder

**Volunteer Activity Day and  
Meetings Information**  
248-347-3860 ext. 400

### Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

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

### List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

- Trowel
- Hand Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellent

## TOLLGATE GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Farm Manager

**Roy Prentice** - 248 347-3860 ext. 251  
e-mail - prentic1@msu.edu

<b>President</b> .....	Renee Cottrell
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Peg Palmer
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Dave Komraus
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Sue Janczarek
<b>Membership</b> .....	Nancy Roggers
<b>PR</b> .....	Yvonne DeMattos
<b>Fall Fair</b> .....	Dennis Roggers
<b>Programs</b> .....	Jackie Stengel
<b>Hospitality</b> .....	Yvonne DeMattos
<b>Farm News Editor</b> .....	Darretta Ferasin

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send e-mail to:

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

**MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers**  
For general information and questions  
Contact Roy Prentice

- The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 7:00 PM** in the Tollgate Office Building. All Tollgate Gardens Volunteer members are welcome to attend.
- Listings to contact individual Council Members and Area Garden Leaders are available at all general meetings and in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2014 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014.**

### THE TOLLGATE FARM NEWS

Tollgate Gardens Volunteer Office  
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Novi, MI, 48377-3128  
[www.tollgate.msu.edu](http://www.tollgate.msu.edu)