MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center
Thursday, August 20, 7:00 PM

WEEDS

On Thursday, August 20, **Gail Morrell** will talk about Weeds! Gail will share techniques to get them under control. A professional gardener for twenty-four years, Gail will discuss how to properly identify and correctly remove the weeds in your gardens.

In 1991, Gail became a Master Gardener and established a garden maintenance company. She has worked as the head gardener at several estates and is currently the landscape manager for a gated community in Bloomfield Hills. Gail was an instructor and Practical Gardening Trainer at the Michigan School of Gardening. She has served as past president and treasurer of both the Association of Professional Gardeners, [http://www.associationofprofessionalgardeners.org/](http://www.associationofprofessionalgardeners.org/), and the Troy Garden Club, [http://www.troygardenclubmi.com/](http://www.troygardenclubmi.com/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>TGV General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUG</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Rose/Rain Garden/Rock Ledge</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Hosta Garden</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fall Fair Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>TGV General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEP</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5   | **Labor Day Weekend**
|     | *No Directed or Supported Workday Activities* |   |
| 12  | Fall Fair Clean Up               | 9:00 AM |
| 18  | Fall Fair Set Up                 | 9:00 AM |
| 19  | **Fall Fair**
|     | 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM             |   |
| 26  | **Nursery / Fall Plant Sale**
|     | 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM            |   |

Photo by Mike Janczarek
Greetings All,

Open House a Great Success: Thanks to the efforts of our many wonderful volunteers, the recent Open House was a great success. We had over 300 people come to the property and enjoy the day. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed their day strolling the grounds, talking to our many garden volunteers, listening to music, enjoying refreshments and learning about Tollgate. The artists who joined us in the gardens worked their magic and produced some wonderful results. It took the help of lots of volunteers to make the 2015 Open House a great event. There were good crowds for all of my tours during the day. The quilt raffle project raised a lot of money for the gardens. Our quilt winner this year was Cindy Prentice. She was thrilled to receive the beautiful quilt made by the Tollgate Quilting Bees. I would like to send a big “thank you” to all of you for making the event such a great success and so worthwhile for our visitors.

Ginger Meyer Award: I am still accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is recognized as the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the much for Tollgate over the years. You are welcome to send me your nomination in an e-mail. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed above and beyond to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves so that we all can enjoy the site more. Past winners of this award were:

- 2003  Gabe Tiberio
- 2004  Renee Cottrell
- 2005  Elizabeth Novak

- 2006  Donna Mrozek
- 2007  Nancy Rogger
- 2008  Cherry Lee Baker
- 2009  Clay Ottoni
- 2010  Priscilla Needle
- 2011  Sue Janczarek
- 2012  Darretta Ferasin
- 2013  John Woodrich
- 2014  David Komraus

Fall Fair: It’s time to start thinking about the 2015 Fall Fair held this year on Saturday, September 19th. The Fall Fair committee is doing a wonderful job pulling this year’s Fall Fair together. We do need the help of all of our volunteers to make this event happen. Please come out to the weekly workdays which are essential to keep our gardens in shape, make sure that you plan to bring baked goods for our guests on the day of the fair and plan to join us on the day of the fair helping us entertain our many visitors. Without your help, we could not begin to host our most popular event of the year. Also make sure that you thank our principle fair sponsor: ITC. In addition to the donations from our visitors, ITC has supplied support that allows us to continue to host the fair free for our guests.

Thank you for all that you do!
Roy

To all the Tollgate quilters,

I was off the property on Saturday July 18th, missing the Open House for the first time since moving here. I couldn’t believe it when I got the text from Roy that I had won the quilt. I told him he must be kidding, and he immediately texted me a photo of the winning ticket!

First, let me say that I am truly honored to have this beautiful quilt. Being a quilter myself, I know what an amazing labor of love a quilt is, and I know that every quilt tells a story. A part of each person who makes a quilt is stitched into the design and colors that create it. Knowing the women who created this treasure makes it even more special. I cherish it more than you will know. I thank you all for this labor of love. The embroidery and label on the quilt is beautiful, and my heart is full of gratefulness to all who gave of themselves to create this very special gift.

Cindy Prentice
There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments
- Janet Kilburn Phillips

The 2015 Tollgate open house "Art in the Gardens" was moderately successful in light of the oppressive heat and mid-day blow in weather. My thanks to the artists, vendors, docents, speakers and many volunteers who made this event possible. We are looking for additional topics and speakers for next year at the open house to expand and refresh our presentations. Please let me know if you wish to contribute a topic or volunteer to do a brief presentation on a garden topic.

Attention volunteers: check the newsletter for opportunities to participate in the upcoming Fall Fair! This is our family oriented, popular free event held the 3rd Saturday in September. Planning is well underway!

Area Garden Leaders/Teams who have made purchases based on their budget projections are encouraged to submit your receipts as soon as possible for reimbursement. This timely submission helps us keep our budget balances up to date.

Ginger Meyer nominations still being accepted please bring to the August meeting. There are many members that appropriately demonstrate the devotion to the site and willingness to share with others their love for gardening that defines this award.

Now is the time to be thinking ahead to nominations for our TGAC board. This is an opportunity to contribute to the organization in the planning and organizing aspects of our group. All positions are up for re-election every year. We nominate in September and vote in October to give all members plenty of opportunity to participate in our organization. Please consider nominating yourself or another willing member to run for any of the elected positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) or offer your services for committee positions. This is a great way to stay active in volunteering when circumstances may not let you participate physically in the gardens. You can get a copy of the by-laws on line in the volunteer section of our web site. Please feel free to ask me or another TGAC member how you can serve as a TGAC officer.

The gardens are looking great. Keep up the good work-AND come out and ENJOY the fruits of your labor!

Thank for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President

Photos by Renee Cottrell
A Partial Listing of the Artists Participating in the 2015 Tollgate Open House

Rusty Frentner  Tamera Menard Ovall
Mike Gudenau  Robert Perrish
Heiner Hurtling  Christine Schindler
Phil Krier  Yiru Sieraccki
Rob Kulas  Pam Siegfried
Barb McCleary  Steve VanCollie
John Nagridge

Musicians: Grand River Band

Photos by Mike Janczarek
We need your fall plant divisions! The nursery team is working diligently to add about 1,000 more potted perennials to the nursery to support another successful sale next spring! That’s a lot of plants, but we know that Tollgate volunteers are always generous with donations of divisions from home gardens, and many great specimens are available from the gardens on the property. The Tollgate website Nursery page (http://tollgate.msu.edu/gardens/the_nursery) will also contain guidance about which plants we need the most, and which ones we are no longer accepting, so you will know that what you are taking the time to divide and pot is a priority plant for the nursery. The web site information will be updated frequently throughout the fall and spring division season to keep you up to date on nursery needs. The nursery team has worked to provide the botanical plant name in addition to common names for clarity, and we are re-organizing the row placement of plants based on botanical name to make it easier to find specific plants.

The nursery’s most urgent immediate need is more 1 and 2 gallon pots! We rely on donated pots so that we don’t have to use proceeds from the plant sale to purchase new pots. So please clean out your garage or shed and drop off your pots in the bin inside the door to the shed adjacent to the nursery! Examples of the desired pot sizes are also displayed inside the shed.

Here are the top 10 items that the nursery is looking to restock:
(based on analysis of sales for the past 2 years versus current inventory)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phlox/Phlox (multiple colors/sizes)</th>
<th></th>
<th>Bee Balm/Monarda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Virginia Jumpseed/Persicaria</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ostrich Fern/Matteuccia struthiopteris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tickseed/Coreopsis verticillata</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ironweed/Vernonia noveboracensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Siberian Iris/Iris Siberica</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Astilbe/Astilbe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stonecrop ‘Autumn Joy’/Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lungwort/Pulmonaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To make plant donations easier, we are implementing a new drop off procedure for non-hosta perennials – no more lugging plants back to the shade holding area! Just label, water and place your donations in the pop-up shelter that has been installed adjacent to the label table (see full directions in the document attached – page 6) The new Hosta drop off procedure was communicated in the July newsletter and is also attached – page 7. For your convenience, these donation procedures will always be available for download from the nursery website http://tollgate.msu.edu/gardens/the_nursery.

Take a quick quiz to test your knowledge about the nursery!

1. How many additional 1 and 2 gallon pots are needed to accommodate new donations for the 2016 Spring Sale? A 100 B 500 C 1,000 D 1,500

2. You can go online 24/7 and get information about needed plants, drop off procedures and more at Tollgate’s Nursery webpage! T F

3. Tollgate Nursery has a new, easy plant drop off procedure for (non-hosta) divisions. T F

4. Nursery Team Members A learn about many different plants B work on plant propagation projects through the winter C are learning botanical names D are doing all of these things!

THANK YOU for supporting Tollgate with your plant and pot donations! If you are interested in joining the Tollgate Nursery Team, please contact Peg Palmer or Renee Cottrell.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com
Renee Cottrell - rmcottrell4@att.net

Quiz Answers:
NON-HOSTA DONATION PROCESS

Visit the Tollgate Website (http://tollgate.msu.edu/gardens/the_nursery) to see what plants we need donated!!!!

VOLUNTEER DONATION PROCESS

POT UP – Please make sure all donations are potted in some type of pot, so that they will last until our nursery team has time to process them. The nursery only uses 1 or 2 gallon pots (there should be some around the workbench for your use or in the nursery shed), but it is not necessary for you to do all the work! If you are not able to re-pot your donation, you can leave it in any size container. There are larger size pots if you don’t have time to divide a clump.

MAKE SURE THEY ARE CLEARLY MARKED – Please make sure your donations are clearly marked as to the plant type. There are plant tags and pencils in the white plastic container on the workbench. Some helpful information is the common name, botanical name and color of the bloom.

GIVE THEM SOME WATER – Please make sure your donations have adequate water. The hose is behind the workbench. To turn on the water, move the handle up into the upright position (it doesn’t need to be pumped, just moved to the upright position). Please make sure to turn the water off when you are finished.

LEAVE POTTED DONATIONS IN OUR POP UP – There is a green donation pop-up next to the workbench. Please place all donations in the pop-up to protect it from the elements after its recent transplanting. **PLEASE LEAVE ALL DONATIONS IN THE PLANT POP-UP – DO NOT PLACE PLANTS IN THE NURSERY ROWS!** This will ensure that plants are correctly added to our nursery inventory and have plant tags created for them.

NURSERY TEAM PROCESS

DIVIDE – Any donated plants in pots other than 1 or 2 gallon pots will need to be divided/transplanted into the correct pot sizes.

MAKE SURE EACH POT HAS A PLANT LABEL – Please make sure there is a label with the common name, botanical name and color (if applicable)

WATER THEM – Please make sure the new donation has adequate water.

ADD THEM TO THE INVENTORY – Add the common name, botanical name, color, count and date to the inventory list under the workbench (inside blue “waterproof” clipboard).

PUT THEM IN THE NURSERY – Add the new inventory into the correct row as determined by our current layout.
HOSTA DONATION GUIDELINES

Tollgate has a duty to its customers to make sure we are selling healthy plants. Due to the hosta virus X, we need to be vigilant in making sure our donations are free of this virus. In order to accomplish this in a cost effective manner, please adhere to the following guidelines on what hosta donations will be acceptable to Tollgate. In addition, the Nursery Team will follow the following process to ensure our donations remain free of this virus.

ANY PLANTS THAT DO NOT FALL UNDER THESE DONATION GUIDELINES WILL BE DISCARDED.

DONATION GUIDELINES

LARGE HOSTA CLUMPS ONLY – Tollgate needs to spend money in order to test each Hosta plant, therefore, we will only be accepting donations that are big enough to be tested once but divided into multiple plants that can be sold. In order to avoid cross-contamination, please wash off the soil and disinfect your shovel using a 10% bleach solution before and after digging each hosta donation. Be sure that your hosta donation is 1 FOOT OR LARGER IN DIAMETER FOR ALL HOSTAS EXCEPT MINIATURES. PLEASE MAKE MINIATURE HOSTA DONATIONS AS LARGE AS POSSIBLE.

NO DIVIDING – The donation must still be in the large hosta clump indicated above. In order to ensure that each plant is tested, we cannot accept donations that are already divided. We appreciate that it is easier to move and/or pot up smaller hostas but we need to ensure that we are testing all plants. We will be providing larger containers for temporary planting/storage to put your donations in.

NO PLAIN GREEN MEDIUM LEAF SIZE HOSTA DONATIONS – In order to add variety to the Tollgate in a cost effective manner, we are only accepting specific hostas. The following types of hostas are needed:

- Extra-large or thick leaves – any color
- Miniature Hostas – any color
- Multi-color leaves – any two or more colors
- Blue Hostas
- Chartreuse hostas
- White or cream hostas
- Hostas with unique upright foliage – any colors

NURSERY TEAM PROCESS

TESTING – Each donation clump will be tested by a member of the Nursery Team. Following testing, the hosta will be divided as indicated below. Each plant label will have “Negative for Hosta Virus X” on the plant tag.

DIVIDING – Garden tools will be cleaned before and after each division of the donated hosta clump using the disinfectants located in the nursery tool shed.

INFECTED HOSTAS – If an infected hosta is found, it will be disposed of using the trash receptacles – not the compost pile. All hostas that were touching or donated with the infected hosta will be disposed of. The container holding the hosta will either be disposed of or cleaned with a 10% bleach solution.
FALL FAIR NEWS

With less than a month to the 2015 Tollgate Fall Fair, here is all the important info you need to be involved with this great event!

1. **Fair Date and Time:** September 19th between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

2. **Sign Up:** Contact person Betsy Wilds. E-mail: betsywildstgff@yahoo.com or 734-846-7888

3. **Volunteers Required:** Hospitality (hotdog cook’s, prep people, ticket sales, and popcorn venders), craft helpers, set up and tear down and parking lot assistants.

4. **Start Times for Shifts:** AM: (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM) — PM: (11:30 AM - 3:00 PM)

5. **Required Donated Items:** Baked good, cookies brownies enough for 2000 guests. **NO NUTS, PLEASE!** See cookie request on page 10.

6. **New this Year:** IDs will be required for all volunteers (Michigan State requirement) along with prescreening.
   - Hotdog and drinks will be offered for sale in an effort to raise more revenue.
   - Popcorn and cookies will remain free of charge.

Breakfast and lunch is provided for all volunteers, Please wear appropriate clothing and bring sunscreen if you require it. Most areas will be under tents. Breaks will be provided throughout the day if required.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!**

The 2014 Tollgate Annual Fall Fair

Photos by Mike Janczarek
Summer Saturday Activity Days
John Woodrich

We had a record harvest on Tuesday, August 11 of 826.8 pounds thanks to 600 pounds of cabbage. That brings our total to date up to 1,842 pounds.

Thanks to all that came out to help,

John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30-Jun</th>
<th>8-Jul</th>
<th>13-Jul</th>
<th>20-Jul</th>
<th>27-Jul</th>
<th>3-Aug</th>
<th>11-Aug</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>411.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>143.6</td>
<td>139.4</td>
<td>599.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>988.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>121.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Squash</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>126.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Squash</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>285.2</td>
<td>231.5</td>
<td>340.5</td>
<td>826.8</td>
<td>1842.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Total</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>148.4</td>
<td>443.6</td>
<td>675.1</td>
<td>1015.6</td>
<td>1842.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tollgate now has a new truck! Thanks to a grant from the Americana Foundation, Tollgate Farm now sports a brand new shiny 2016 Ford F250 pick-up. This vehicle replaces our old 2002 Dodge. Roy couldn’t be prouder! Tollgate staff is now making bets as to who will be responsible for the first dent.

Fall Fair (September 19) is coming and with it is our request for cookies to serve about 2000 people. We need Chocolate Chip, Oreos, Oatmeal, Sugar cookies (sprinkles are always a hit) and Brownies. Baked or bought makes no difference, we need lots of them. If you are not working the Fair, you can drop them off on Friday. Working the fair? drop off before your shift. Additional details in the September Farm News.

Thanks Yvonne, mainwoods@gmail.com

NO NUTS PLEASE!
2015 Tollgate Open House “Art in the Gardens”

Above Photos by Mike Janczarek

Last Two Photos by Darretta Ferasin
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.

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 Repellant

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

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

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send e-mail to: tollgatemembership@gmail.com

THE TOLLGATE FARM NEWS
Tollgate Gardens Volunteer Office
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
www.tollgate.msu.edu