



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, August 16, 7:00 PM

PROPAGATION 202

Join Tollgate volunteers on Thursday, August 16, to learn about plant propagation from **Kim Roth**, the Perennial Department Manager at Christensen's Plant Center, a major wholesale supplier of perennials, conifers, trees and shrubs with sites in Plymouth and South Lyon. Based on extensive professional experience, Kim will discuss and demonstrate successful plant propagation techniques.

Kim's past presentations at Tollgate include Spring Bloomers in 2005, Ornamental Grasses in 2007, Groundcovers in 2010, New Plants in 2012 and 2015, Botanical Latin in 2014, and Succulents in 2017. Kim is our host during annual Master Gardener shopping days at Christensen's, a generous donor of plants to Tollgate.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

AUG	MEETINGS		SEP	ACTIVITIES	
16	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM	1	Labor Day Weekend No Directed or Supported Workday	
AUG	ACTIVITIES		8	Pond	9:00 AM
18	Xeriscape / Children's / Nursery	9:00 AM	15	Nursery Fall Plant Sale	9:00 AM TO NOON
25	Rose / Rain Garden	9:00 AM	22	Demo	9:00 AM
SEP	MEETINGS		29	Nursery Division / Rock Garden	9:00 AM
4	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM			
20	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM			



Greetings All,

Open House was Lot of Fun: Thanks to the efforts of our many wonderful volunteers, the recent Open House was a lot of fun. Rain all morning did not dampen the spirits of the many intrepid volunteers who came to Tollgate to help host the event. Visitors whose spirits were not deterred by the weather thoroughly enjoyed their time in the gardens strolling the grounds, talking to our many garden volunteers, listening to music, taking the garden market area, and learning about Tollgate. One of my favorite parts of the day was the after event potluck dinner. Lots of wonderful goodies for all to enjoy! The quilt raffle project raised a lot of money for the gardens. Our quilt winner this year was Tollgate's own **Paula Brose**. She was thrilled to receive the beautiful quilt made by the Tollgate Quilting Bees. The quilt project raised \$857.00 to support all of the good work that we do in the gardens. I would like to send a big "Thank You" to all of you for making the event such a success and so worthwhile for our visitors.



Paula Brose (left) Wins the 2018 Tollgate Quilt
Nancy Roggers (right)

New Rock: If you are down by the pond in the future, you may notice a new feature. I had a cosmic coming together experience recently

where I received a request for a "large" rock as a garden feature addition. Later the same day I was walking through the woods and came upon the perfect rock! Not only was it right sized (any bigger and the front end loader would not have been able to pick it up), it was just sitting on the soil surface just asking to be made a garden feature. Toting the rock from the woods with the tractor loader was a slow process, much marveled at by the attendees of Tollgate's summer camp. I eased the rock into its new resting place near the pond with the skill of a fine craftsman. Now, its placement and the companionship of the surrounding plants can only be described as "beautiful." Check it out; I'm sure you will agree that it is a great addition to the gardens.



The Rock

The gardens look great this year in spite of July's fickle rain patterns. Please feel free to come and enjoy the gardens that you all have worked so hard to create.

Thank you for all that you do!

Roy



Roy Hybl, a one man army, tackled many weeds and mulched the Demo gardens just in time for the Open House. Great Job, Roy!



LEARN
GROW
MAKE FRIENDS
ENJOY

"I like gardening - it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself".

Alice Sebold

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

Many thanks to those who worked on our open house event: "Sunset Garden Celebration" We are always looking for new speaking topics and other ideas to improve this event so feel free to email me with your feedback and suggestions. The weather was a little fickle that day and kept the guest count at a lower than usual number. Thanks to all who participated, we had a nice picnic dinner and good company!



Photo by Mike Janczarek

Things to Note:

- There are plenty of Saturday activity days for working in the gardens in August and September. See the activity calendar listed.
- See the Nursery notes section for updated information and info on our Fall Plant Sale. This is a smaller event with focus on the fall blooming plants for the garden on September 22nd, 9:00 AM to noon. Look ahead for fall division donations to restock our nursery for the spring plant sale.
- 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.
- Reminders to Area Garden Leaders/Teams to submit expenses for reimbursement for purchases this season. See Roy for the form.
- We are still looking to add to existing garden teams! If you are a newer member and would like to work in a specific area contact me for details. rncottrell4@att.net

Come out and enjoy the gardens! Your hard work has made a special place here at Tollgate. Consider an evening visit with friends or a Saturday afternoon with the family in the Children's garden. Enjoy a stroll and a picnic down by the pond. You deserve to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Thank you for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President



Connie Marcangelo, AGL of the Rain Garden, Captured these Photos of a Yellow Finch Snacking on Coneflower Seeds

Sunset Garden Celebration



Photos by Mike Janczarek

Sunset Garden Celebration



Photo by Darretta Ferasin



Photos by Mike Janczarek

Sunset Garden Celebration



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

GREAT BLUE HERON

Pat Fix snapped these photos when she and her grandson, Alex, were walking along the pond boardwalk after camp.

Thanks, Pat.





As of August 18th, the Tollgate Nursery will be open to accept your fall plant divisions! So please keep us in mind as you re-arrange and renovate your home gardens and have excess plant material that would look great in a pot at the Tollgate Plant Sale next spring.

The Tollgate Garden Volunteers email list will be utilized to distribute “Plants Wanted” information – so check your inbox over the coming weeks so you can plan your fall donations! The quantities requested are based on actual sales over the past few years, plus our “best guess” for new varieties added recently. The request categories are as follows:

MOST NEEDED:	more than 11 additional pots needed
NEEDED:	6 – 10 additional pots needed
ACCEPTING:	1 – 5 additional pots needed
NOT ACCEPTING:	we’re overstocked! Also includes invasive or overly aggressive plants.

We have about 300 varieties of plants on our list, about 70 of them in the “MOST NEEDED” category. So it’s not possible to provide a meaningful

summary here - we need you to check out the full list! But below are a few of the “MOST NEEDED” high volume sellers:

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) – After selling out at last year’s spring sale, we’re still struggling to rebuild our stock of this popular native. Although these plants require special treatment to overwinter in a pot, spring donations are risky, as they are slow starters. Do you have some you can donate to us now?

Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed) – We almost sold out of this native last year, and we’re still working to rebuild our stock levels. We saw several Monarch caterpillars on our nursery plants last week, reminding us of why we really want to stock and sell these plants! If you have Swamp Milkweed at home, can you donate some to the nursery?

Paeonia (Peony) – We have allocated extra space in the nursery for peonies – they overwinter well, and sell for a premium at the Spring Sale, when they are typically in bloom or ready to pop. Help us fill up that row!

Dicentra (Bleeding Heart) – We currently have none of this popular shady perennial!

Athyrium (Ferns) – Ghost Fern, ***Athyrium filix-femina*** (Lady Fern), and ***Athyrium niponicum*** (Japanese Painted Fern) are some of the popular varieties in short supply.

Monarda (Bee Balm) – Red or purple bloom colors, these are popular plants to attract pollinators.

Echinacea purpurea (Purple Cone Flower) – Both the native variety and cultivars are garden staples that sell well. Do you have some in your garden to donate?

Rudbeckia laciniata (Cutleaf/Green Headed Coneflower) – we haven’t had a good stock of these tall and graceful plants to sell for a couple years, but they have sold very well in the past. We’re hoping that someone has a few to donate for next year’s sale.

Continued on the Next Page



The Nursery Team Prepares Inventory for Fall Donations and Fall Plant Sale

NURSERY NOTES (Continued)

Tradescantia/Spiderwort – we're down to one pot each of the bluish-purple blooming native variety and the cultivars with magenta and other interesting bloom colors. We've sold 30 or more pots in prior years!

PLEASE FOLLOW THE DONATION DIRECTIONS INCLUDED IN THE "PLANTS WANTED" EMAIL AND POSTED IN THE NURSERY. BE SURE TO CLEARLY LABEL ALL DONATIONS WITH BOTANICAL AND COMMON NAME PLUS BLOOM COLOR AND WATER WELL BEFORE LEAVING IN THE POP-UP.

Come and shop at the **FALL PLANT SALE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 FROM 9:00 AM – NOON IN THE NURSERY!** This low-key event is intended to provide Tollgate Volunteers and others with another opportunity to purchase our great plants. Stop in at

the nursery during the typical Saturday workday hours and pick up some plants for your fall planting needs!

RECYCLE YOUR POTS! We accept only 1 and 2-gallon pots in good condition (1-gallon size is our primary use). Drop off your pots in the bin inside the door of the shed adjacent to the nursery. Samples of the pot sizes that we accept are tacked to the wall above the bin. ***Please do not leave pots larger than 2 gallon or smaller than 1 gallon - we don't have space to store them!***

Interested in joining the Nursery Team as a **ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER or MEMBER AT LARGE?** Contact Peg Palmer for more information about what you can learn and do in the Nursery!

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

PAR GARDEN UPDATE

We have harvested 642.1 pounds so far this year. A much earlier harvest than last year, probably due to the hot humid weather. Sweet potatoes are new this year, but looking beautiful.

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Photos by Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Janice McNulty, Mary Bohner, Kerry Kelly,
Wanda Morrison, MaryAnn Chupa



Sweet Potatoes

SATURDAY WORKDAYS

Photos by Darretta Ferasin



TOLLGATE GARDEN VIEWS



Above Photos by Darretta Ferasin



Above Photos by Darretta Ferasin

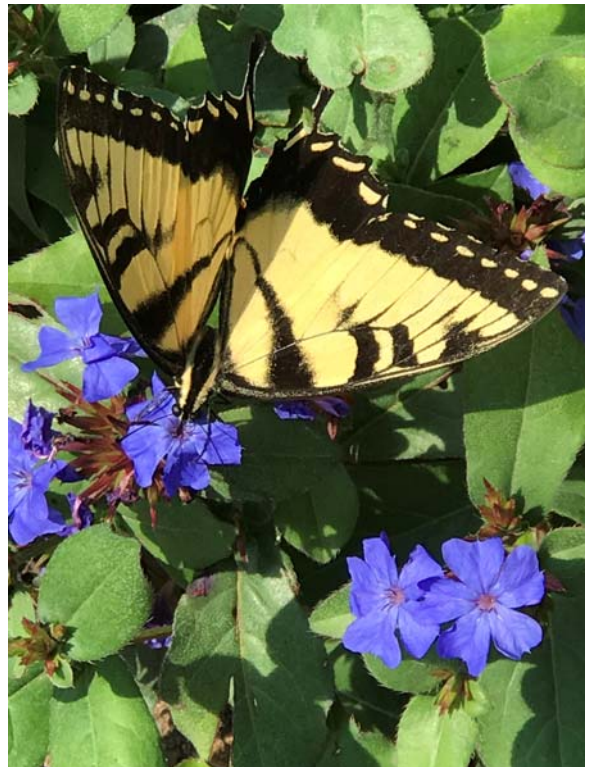


Photo by Kathy Johnson

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to noon 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 on scheduled workdays. 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 binders located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

If you aren't getting
The **Tollgate Farm News**
email, 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
- Wheelbarrows
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

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

Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

Farm Manager

Roy Prentice - 248 347-3860 ext. 251
email - prentic1@msu.edu

President	Renee Cottrell
Vice President	Marilyn Alimpich
Secretary	Dave Komraus
Treasurer	Sue Janczarek
Membership	Cindy Bolterstein
PR	Rosina Newton
Programs	Jackie Stengel
Hospitality	Teresa LaRosa
Farm News Editor	Darretta Ferasin

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send email to:

tollgatemembers@gmail.com

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers

For general information and questions
Contact Roy Prentice or See Website:

<http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/>

- The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 4, 2018 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 2017 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018**.

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

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EXTENSION

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Contact Roy Prentice:
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