MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, June 16, 7:00 PM.

Nativars of Sun and Partial Sun Plants

On Thursday, July 16, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center to learn about nativars of sun and partial sun plants plus an introduction to naturalizing. Kyle Kandilian’s May 2014 program, Bugs in the Garden, was well received at Tollgate. Since then, he has enjoyed working with native plants and put together a new presentation.

A 2014 graduate of the Environmental Science Biology program at UM-Dearborn, Kyle Kandilian is passionate about entomology, ecology, soil science, composting and cockroaches, which he raises and sells through his website, http://www.roachcrossing.com/. He plans to expand his website to sell plants and seeds in the future. He is busy organizing and staffing the new Bug Room at the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) on the U of M-D campus.

2015 Tollgate Open House

“Art in the Gardens”

Saturday, July 18
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The Grand River Band Back for 2015 Art in the Gardens

### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>JUL</th>
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The Tollgate Farm News

Volume 21  Issue 7     July 2015
Greetings All,

In spite of the very wet weather that this gardening year has blessed us with, we have managed to host enough volunteer days to keep the grounds looking good. We have been getting very good turn-outs for Saturday Activity Days. Thanks for all the great work! It does not look as if our spate of wet days is going to abate anytime soon. I really appreciate all of your assistance in keeping the gardens in such good shape.

Open House:

The 2015 Open House will soon be upon us. There will be art, music, lots of plants and many smiling volunteers. Come join all of the beautiful people and make the scene at Tollgate. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for the Open House. There are many ways to sign up. You can respond to the recent e-mail Doodle poll, e-mail me or Renee directly, or sign up with an actual pen in the volunteer building. In addition to volunteering on the day of the even, we also need donated packaged cookies for our guests. Please make sure that there are no nuts in any donated goodies. No quilts again this year, but lots of music and art will be gracing the gardens. Even if you are unable to work on the day of the open house, please plan to join us, stroll the grounds and take in the day.

Quilt Raffle: We will be conducting the raffle drawing on the day of the open house for the quilt made by Tollgate’s own quilting bees. This is a great fundraiser for the gardens. You still have an opportunity to purchase tickets for the quilt. Please contact me or purchase tickets on the day of the Open House. It all goes to support our gardens. This year promises to be our most successful year yet with the quilt raffle. Please purchase often. I just know that the winning ticket is still out there!

Ginger Meyer Award: I am now accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. I would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one. You are also welcome to just send me your nomination in an e-mail. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most 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 to make Tollgate a better place.

Roy
You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt.”
- Unknown

Sign Up for the 2015 Open House “Art in the Gardens”! This free, open to the public, rain or shine event is nearly upon us! Artists, musicians, garden walks, hayrides, vendors and more. Saturday, July 18th 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

There are plenty of ways to contribute to this event. We still need:

- finger food snack donations for our guests-cookies, brownies, tarts “fit on a napkin” type treats (no nuts please)
- Garden docents for all shifts to meet and greet guests, no special experience needed
- Parking assistants to direct traffic pm shift
- If you have not yet signed up please contact me ASAP by e-mail rmcottrell4@att.net or phone (248-398-2562). Or use this Doodle Link http://doodle.com/dc5dfcpzxeu3ek7

Please join us for an event to educate and entertain as well as introduce more people in the community to our wonderful sight.

It is time again to place your nominations for the Ginger Meyer Award. This award is presented at the end of the year at the recognition dinner. Please honor a fellow Tollgate gardener(s) who has demonstrated their knowledge, commitment and willingness to share their love of gardening. Nomination form is also available at meetings and online. Previous recipients are listed on the plaque in the volunteer center. Nomination form attached to this issue.

Area Garden Teams — All garden area expenditures should be submitted with receipts and a reimbursement form as soon as possible so we can reconcile actual expenses against budgeted expenses. Call Roy if you need a form.

As Always, Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President

July 2015 Gardens
Now that the plant sale is over, the nursery team is focused on the challenge of restocking the nursery! Overall, we sold about 60% of our starting inventory, selling every single pot of many popular categories!

In case you are curious about our **TOP SELLERS for 2015** -

**SUN PLANTS:** Bearded IRIS/Iris germanica, Daylily/Hemerocallis, Butterfly weed/Asclepias tuberosa

**SHADE HOUSE:** Solomon’s Seal/Polygonatum, Hosta/Hosta, Knotweed/Persicaria.

As you may be aware, in recent years we have not accepted donations of hosta divisions or divided plants on property due to concern over possibly selling plants infected with the Hosta Virus X (HVX). However, hosta sales have remained strong, and we realize that it is necessary to replenish Tollgate’s nursery stock. Thus we will implement new **Hosta Donation Guidelines** that we believe provide the right balance of due diligence to ensure we sell only healthy plants with a policy that is reasonable for donating gardeners to follow. This policy is published on the following page and is effective immediately.

Please keep the Tollgate Nursery in mind as you plan for your fall divisions! The August newsletter will provide more specific information about the plants that we need the most, some new communication tools to keep you up to date with what is needed, and a simpler drop-off process. Keep in mind that as much as we need your plant divisions, we also need POTS to hold them! **Please save and donate your 1 and 2 gallon plastic pots – just drop them off in the bin inside the door to the shed adjacent to the nursery.**

**WE PARTICULARLY NEED MORE 1 GALLON POTS.**

**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

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**NURSERY NOTES**

**A Special Thanks!**

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

Andy Berry          Rhonda Linton          Pete Thompson
Bonnie Laesser-Green Brian Maddaford

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

Baked goods are needed for our Tollgate Volunteer General Meetings. The desserts can be store bought if you don’t have time to bake. We are also in need of a volunteer to coordinate desserts, set up beverages and clean up. Please contact Roy or Renee if you or a team are interested in taking on this role.
HOSTA DONATION GUIDELINES

Tollgate has a duty to its customers to make sure we are selling healthy plants. Due to the Hosta Virus X (HVX), 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.
I hope many of you have been taking pictures of the farm and continue to do so throughout the year and may be willing to share your photos with the rest of the membership by submitting them for consideration for the Tollgate Calendar. The pictures in the calendar are all taken by volunteers and employees of MSU Tollgate Education Center. It is great fun for me to compile the photos to make our calendar each year. I am accepting any and all photos of the farm for the 2017 calendar but am in special need of fall photos.

The preferred format is in landscape format.

The photos can be submitted to me, Nancy Roggers, or to Roy Prentice, farm manager extraordinaire, on a memory stick with your name and phone # so that I can return it to you or you can e-mail them to me at tollgatemembership@gmail.com.

The deadline for submitting your photos is January 31, 2016.

With only 3 months before the 2015 Fall Fair, things are starting to come together for the event. Our exhibitors are in place and the activities counsel has finalized their plans. Next month we will start signing up volunteers, this year there will be a revised list of crafts and activities to get involved with. Look for the sign up sheet next month in the Volunteer Communication Center or you will be able to sign up by e-mail. I will give you more information next month. Refreshments for the visitors will be handled a little different this year as we are trying to raise funds by selling the drinks and hotdogs, the popcorn and cookies will remain free. We will also be limiting the personalized craft bags to the first 500 children. These are efforts to rein in costs that have escalated over the years and donations have been receding.

Hope that you can find the time to help us hold Novi’s best family fair. Reserve the date, September 19th and we will see you at the Fair.

is here and so is our annual Open House. This means we will need baked or store bought goodies to share. NO NUTS PLEASE! Our guests tell us every year how much they appreciate your generosity while taking a rest between visiting the gardens. Please drop off your goodies before your shift begins in the Conference Center. Need info.? mainwoods@gmail.com Thanks, Yvonne.

The 2015 Tollgate “Art in the Gardens” Garden Market will include flower crowns, gourd birdhouses, handmade four-season pottery, heritage seed jewelry, loose leaf tea, vintage glass garden art, welded garden art, wooden planters, woolen mittens made from repurposed sweaters, and perennial plants from Specialty Growers, plus other items.
Summer Saturday Activity Days
Time is running out to get your winning ticket for the 2015 Tollgate Quilt, “Tollgate Summer Nights”. Drawing on July 18.

Quilt: Tollgate Summer Nights
Pattern: Disappearing Hourglass
Approximate Size: 75" x 85"
Raffle Date: Saturday, July 18th at the close of the 2015 Tollgate Open House, Art in the Gardens.
Tickets: $2.00 each or (3) for $5.00
Quilter: Pam Heldt

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE JULY TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER GENERAL MEETING

Tollgate Quilting Bees: Kathy Coleman, Darretta Ferasin, Connie Marcangelo, Susan Bremer, Kay Pratt, Nancy Roggers and Lynn Strong
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.

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

- Spades
- Garden Rakes
- Brooms
- Wheel Barrels
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks
- Trowel
- Hand Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellant

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

- Spades
- Garden Rakes
- Brooms
- Wheel Barrels
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks
- Trowel
- Hand Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellant

Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

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

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

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

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, August 4, 2015 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, 2014 to November 30, 2015.

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

The Ginger Meyer Award was initiated in 2003 by the family of Mrs. Meyer to recognize the Tollgate Volunteer who shares some of the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer.

The Tollgate Garden Volunteer members will nominate candidates, with a list then compiled by TGAC for presentation to the Americana Foundation for final award selection.

Please make the nomination on this form or submit a short paragraph describing each of the following qualities of the nominee:

Name of Nominee:___________________________________________

1. This member has shown a commitment to the Tollgate Garden Volunteers by:

   [Blank space for nomination details]

2. This member has demonstrated a love and knowledge of gardening by:

   [Blank space for nomination details]

3. This member has demonstrated a willingness to share gardening knowledge with others by:

   [Blank space for nomination details]