MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center
Thursday, June 18, 7:00 PM.

Upcoming Speaker and Vendors

As of the publication deadline, details for the June 18 program are under development.

On July 16, Kyle Kandilian, will return to talk about nativars of sun and partial sun plants and include an introduction to naturalizing. A 2014 graduate of the Environmental Science Biology program at UM-D, Kyle is passionate about entomology, ecology, soil science, composting and cockroaches, which he raises and sells through his website, http://www.roachcrossing.com/. His presentation, Bugs in the Garden, was well received last year. Since graduation, Kyle has enjoyed working with native plants and putting together a new presentation.

For Art in the Gardens on Saturday, July 18, vendors will include Cheryl English with nature-inspired pottery, Gene Lawrence with wood items for your garden, Kristen Pfeifer with loose leaf tea, Laura Steiner with welded garden art, the Teetzels with gourds, and someone from Saverine Creek Heirlooms with jewelry made from seeds. Other invitations are pending response.
Greetings All,

Plant Sale: Thanks to all that helped make the plant sale a success. Due to the efforts of the many volunteers that donated plants, prepared the nursery, and helped customers on the day of the sale, we made $8647! This was our best sale ever. I am sure that all who attended the sale appreciated the improved organization and upkeep of the garden. All of the money raised goes directly into the Tollgate Garden Volunteer account and helps us to help us keep the gardens looking great for our many visitors. A big “thanks” are due also to George Papadelis of Telly’s Greenhouse. George very generously donated a trailer load of wonderful annuals for the plant sale. George has been a long-time friend of Tollgate and has donated lots of plants over the years.

Summer Camp Underway: The Tollgate summer camp season is in full swing. Each week during the summer 40 campers will be on the site enjoying the 160 acres that make up the farm. Green Science Adventure camp, Water camp, Dirt camp, Bug camp, Survival camp and more all focus on various aspects of nature and agriculture.

Odd Structures in the Trees: You may notice some odd structures hanging from the trees around the property. These are beetle traps. Dr. Deb McCullough of the MSU Forestry Department is conducting research on different chemical lures to attract a variety of beetles. She is working to develop an attractant that will help us identify the next invasive pest so that we can take action quickly.

Farmer’s Market: The City of Novi and Tollgate will be hosting a Farmer’s Market this year. The market will be held at Tollgate each Wednesday evenings from 4-7PM. I am looking forward to seeing how this program develops.

Many visitors and garden groups came to Tollgate during May to view the gardens. As the site becomes more and more prominent in SE Michigan, I really appreciate all of the effort that goes into keeping the grounds looking their best. We have a lot of new volunteers on the farm these days. These extra hands are much appreciated as we strive to keep the farm looking good and fulfilling its educational role. If you are considering volunteering at Tollgate, now is an ideal time to get those hours in. Spring and early summer are the busiest time around the farm. Please check out the Tollgate web site and make note of our upcoming volunteer days. I really appreciate all of the work and dedication that goes into keeping Tollgate looking good.

See you around the farm!
Roy
Texture and foliage keep a garden interesting through the season. Flowers are just moments of gratification.  

Kevin Doyle

PLANT SALE SUCCESS!! - There are far too many people to thank for such a successful plant sale. I will start with the Nursery Team with wonderful, dedicated row captains and continue with my thanks for the overwhelming volunteer support of the event. I feel we took this event to another level with the organization, creativity, customer service and education. This kind of record setting success may be a tough act to follow but we have the right team in place to do just that! I am proud to be a part of this group. Thanks to all volunteers who contributed your plants, time or sales talent and knowledgeable help to put together our most successful Plant Sale ever. These funds go to our gardening account to continue to upgrade and maintain the current garden sites and projects.

Tollgate Open House is on July 18th! We will continue with our theme of “Art in the Gardens”. There will be local artists working, displaying their talents, musicians to provide entertainment and other garden item related vendors to tempt your shopping budget limits. We will continue with educational talks and the garden walking tours to educate and entertain our guests and hopefully stimulate local volunteer interest. See the activity calendar for the organized clean-up day Saturday July 11th. We ask that you take announcement flyers to friends, family and neighbors to share this event and showcase the Tollgate Gardens. We will have them available at the meeting and in the volunteer communication center, and a copy available on the web site. Since the Doodle sign up for plant sale went so well I will set this up again for the open house. We will be looking for lots of volunteer support to be garden docents, runners, lunch and parking attendants, informational speakers and set-up/clean up crews.

See the activity calendar and come out and enjoy the gardens!

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

Renee Cottrell, President Tollgate Garden Volunteers

Notes from the President

Photos by Renee Cottrell and Darretta Ferasin
NURSERY NOTES

What an amazing day we had at the annual Spring Plant Sale on June 6th!

So, what happened this year that made the sale so successful? How can we repeat this success in future years? Let’s look at the key factors that contributed to this year’s success, and consider how we can replicate or improve upon these conditions in future years:

GREAT WEATHER!

Although this is probably the biggest factor that determines how many people show up – it’s also one we have absolutely no control over! So we’ll just have to keep crossing our fingers and keep up the communications program that seems to bring good crowds when the weather cooperates.

GOOD SELECTION OF HEALTHY PLANTS!

The Tollgate Nursery had over 2,600 individual plants (about 250 varieties) for this year’s sale, about 50% more than last year. Despite last winter’s cold temperatures, we were very successful with overwintering plants, likely in part due to the improved condition of plants as the dedicated Nursery Team maintained a watering and weeding schedule through last summer and fall. Most of the 2015 property divisions and donated plants arrived 2 – 3 weeks or more prior to the sale – so they looked great.

EASY TO FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

For the first time this year, the Nursery Team displayed a “plant tag” prominently above almost every plant variety in the sale. Each tag contained the common and botanical name, a picture of the plant in bloom, with information about sun and soil requirements, size, bloom color and timing, and characteristics such as attracting butterflies or hummingbirds, deer and rabbit resistance, and native plant status. These plant tags not only provided information to our customers, but they also helped our plant savvy volunteers guide customers to find the right plant for their space. Tri-fold brochures were also available with educational information about gardening for Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Native plants, and managing deer and rabbits in the garden. Because we had inventoried each plant in the nursery by row, these brochures could also list the specific location of plants. Early receipt of plant donations is critical to provide the time needed by the Nursery Team to generate these plant tags and lists.

CUSTOMERS ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR PURCHASE!

After receiving information about each plant on the plant tag, additional suggestions in the brochures and with experienced Tollgate Volunteers available to answer questions and provide guidance, customers felt that they had the information to make a good choice, and so they bought, and bought, and bought!

FRIENDLY, HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE!

This is an essential ingredient that makes the plant sale a great success! Customers seemed to really like the “full service” experience with volunteers handing out bags in the nursery, providing guidance in plant selection, and runners helping take purchases to their vehicle. This year’s happy customers are likely to return, and tell their friends about the sale as well.

Our next challenge will be to restock the nursery – so keep Tollgate in mind for your fall garden divisions! The Nursery Team will be looking at what we need to restock this fall – so look for some suggestions in the August newsletter! Also save your 1 and 2 gallon pots and drop them off in the nursery shed – we will need them as we restock with fall divisions!

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
2015 Annual Plant Sale - June 6

Bargain Plants

Helpful Information

Checkout

Barb Burke Collects on Large Lily
Have you been out and about taking photos of Tollgate? Would you like to share them with the rest of the membership? The Tollgate calendar is the perfect opportunity to do so!! I am collecting photos of the farm for the 2017 calendar. You have plenty of time to take pictures and submit them as the cut off date for consideration is **October 31, 2015**.

Landscape format is preferred. Photos can be sent to tollgatemembership@gmail.com or submitted on a memory stick, with your name so it can be returned to you. Drop of the memory stick off at Roy's office or give to me at a Volunteer Meeting.

Thank you in advance. Without your photo submissions the calendar would not be possible.

Nancy Roggers
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 JUNE TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER GENERAL MEETING

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.

Tollgate Quilting Bees Pose with the Quilt at the Plant Sale. Kay Pratt, Lynn Strong, Connie Marcangelo, Darretta Ferasin, Kathy Coleman and Nancy Roggers. Susan Bremer Missing from this Photo.

Plant Sale Opening  Plant Sale Ending
Rain and Shine — Saturday Workdays

Wayne Watson Fills Buckets

Entrance Garden Workday

Entrance Garden Workday

Dry Shade Workday

Renee Cottrell

Joe Pyden

Rain Garden Workday
Volunteer Activity Day and Meetings Information
248-347-3860 ext. 400

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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