MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center  
**Thursday, April 19, 7:00 PM**

**Tulipmania**

On April 19, join historian and naturalist **Loraine Campbell** to explore the fascinating journey of the tulip from the rocky mountain slopes in China, through the gardens of sultans, to smoke-filled pubs in the Netherlands, where small bulbs were once more valuable than gold.

Loraine Campbell is the Executive Director of the Troy Historic Village since 2000. The Troy Historic Village is on the north side of Wattles Road, west of Livernois. Operating with several employees and 180 volunteers, the Troy Historic Village includes eleven historic structures, over 8,000 items on local and regional history, and interpretive programs for 13,000 school children and 20,000 members of the public annually. Loraine and others contribute to the blog at [http://troyhistoricvillage.org/the-village-quill/](http://troyhistoricvillage.org/the-village-quill/).

Loraine has also worked as an Interpretive Naturalist in the Cities of Lansing and Troy. She was active in the Michigan Audubon Society, serving as President and Chair of the Education and Publications Committees. She was an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University and Oakland University.

Loraine is a co-author of *Fire Calls and Station Stories* (MT Publishing, 2009), the author of *A Pocketful of Passage* (Wayne State University Press, 2007), and the editor of *Troy: A City from the Corners* (Arcadia Press, 2005). She has an MA in History and a BS in Biology from Wayne State University.

### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>7:00 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Volunteer Orientation</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>9:00 AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Spring Clean Up / Xeriscape</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Spring Clean Up / Orientation and Pancake Brunch at Noon</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>9:00 AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Front Farm House / Dry Shade</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rose Garden / Rock Ledge Nursery Division / Potting</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Plant Sale Division Prep / Plant Drop off</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>7:00 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**May 26**  
**Memorial Day Weekend**  
No Directed or Supported Workday Activities
Greetings All,

Maple Syrup Making

Time to say goodbye to maple syrup making circa 2018. It was a good year with lots of support by a great group of volunteers. Despite much grumbling about the weather, the season ended up being quite civilized. Cool, steady temperatures brought a reasonable steady sap flow. Although I was afraid that the 2018 maple syrup season might be the year that never happened, the season was sedate and steady, yielding over 90 gallons of syrup. The volunteers working on the maple syrup project supported lots of educational activities. This season, the sugarbush and sugar shack hosted over 1200 visitors during field trips and special events.

The culmination of the season is the maple syrup pancake lunch served by the maple volunteers as part of our April 28 garden workday. This luncheon will feature pancakes, Tollgate syrup, bacon and sausage and is free to all Tollgate volunteers! If you are interested in purchasing Tollgate syrup, this is your golden opportunity. The season always seems to come and go quickly. Wonder what 2019 will bring?

Thanks Yvonne!

Long-time Tollgate Gardens media coordinator and public relations volunteer, Yvonne DeMattos has decided to step back from her duties. Yvonne has been wonderful: preparing and sending press releases, communicating with Master Gardener volunteers and in many other ways telling the world all of the great things that we do in the Tollgate Farm gardens. I cannot say enough about how much I have appreciated the years of dedication that Yvonne has shown to the gardens. Yvonne was also the Hospitality director for our Open House, Fall Fair and volunteer meetings. She organized the team and set out a wonderful presentation of treats, cookies and refreshments for our guests. She also made some delicious desserts, enjoyed by all.

Many of the PR activities that Yvonne has pursued in the past will now be looked after by Tollgate staff member Rosina Newton. Many of you have met Rosina on workdays and at meetings. I appreciate that she is willing to help spread the good word about what we do on the farm.

Thanks for all that you do to make Tollgate such a special place!

Roy
I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always choose to greet it in a garden. –Ruth Stout

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

Thank you for the exceptional volunteer participation at the initial work activities despite the weather thus far this season. We had a great turn out for help in the Pond and Nursery pathway project. Your ongoing participation is important to our success. Please consider helping on our spring clean-up dates and participating in the ever popular pancake brunch as our thank-you for your ongoing dedication. Mother Nature may not be ready to gear up for spring but we are! I look forward to another season of fun and friendship.

Join a Garden Team?!

Do you have a particular area of interest? Would you like to work with more experienced gardeners in focused areas? There are still many gardens in need of small dedicated groups for organization of maintenance activities in specific gardens. Ask me or any TGAC member for a description of opportunities available. Working with a team is an excellent way to increase your plant knowledge. Of course all are welcome to the Saturday work activities for garden variety and same benefit of information sharing and MG hours. The variety of gardens provides learning experiences with a little bit of something for everyone.

Budget/Garden Plan Requests Due May 1st

In order to assist in the best delegation of funds and helping hands we are requesting you submit your budget plans in time for the start of the planting season. If you have no specific special plans please return your forms via email or at a meeting so we have a good idea of the garden plans for the season. Those teams who have not yet submitted a budget/plan for your garden area are encouraged to do so by May 1st. After the Plant Sale revenues are known additional requests can be made!

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATE FOR PLANT SALE - JUNE 2nd - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Spring Plant Sale - Plan Now to Donate!

If those backyard plants are already nosing up or if you have new plans and plant purchases in mind, consider donating to the Tollgate Nursery for our plant sale in June. Plant donations will be accepted starting April 21st. See the Nursery Notes in this issue for additional details. If the weather is only letting you clean out the garage or garden shed keep us in mind for nursery pot donations. Pots, in one and two gallon sizes are needed, please no other sizes at this time since smaller ones are quickly overgrown and larger ones, hanging basket pots, clay and decorative pots are NOT appropriate for our intended use. (Consider recycling!) Our Nursery team has worked hard to improve the nursery space, stock and volunteer power to enhance our chances for a successful Plant Sale.

Sign up for volunteering at the Plant Sale: An email will go out in May with the weekly reminders and a doodle link. If you prefer there is a paper sign up in the volunteer communication center. You only have to respond once, both lists will be compiled.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OPEN HOUSE - JULY 21st 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Summer Open House “SUNSET GARDEN CELEBRATION”

Please join us for our open house event. Participate as a volunteer or come with all your friends, family, neighbors and enjoy the event as a guest. We will need volunteers assisting in staffing the event as garden docents, speakers, hospitality and set up. After the event we will enjoy a volunteer picnic! You will be prompted to sign up on the Doodle link that month or on a sign-up sheet in the volunteer communication center. Just sign up once, both lists will be compiled.

Happy Spring! Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President
Constructed Wetland Workday 3/17/2018

Photos by Darretta Feasin
The nursery will be open for your plant donations beginning on Saturday, April 21! Look for an email message with a link to the updated Spring 2018 PLANTS WANTED list for guidance on quantities of the plants that we need in the nursery, as well as some we are not accepting. We generate this list based on our records of what has sold at the plant sale in the past 4 years of our record-keeping and our current inventory of those varieties. The list will be updated periodically based on new donations received and inventory adjustments entered as we check our overwintered pots for losses. The restructuring of the nursery rows last summer means that we have room for many more plants than previous sales – we’re looking to add another 2,500 pots this spring!

The Nursery welcomes your donations of plants from April 21 through May 19. New plant divisions need a couple weeks to get acclimated in their pots to look good for the sale, and the Nursery team needs some time to get everything organized – so we appreciate receiving your donations as soon as possible. The annual spring plant sale is a major fundraiser that supports all the gardens at Tollgate – so don’t forget to tell all your friends about the sale on Saturday June 2 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM!

Things haven’t been so quiet in the Nursery this spring – by the time you are reading this newsletter, there will have been 2 Saturday workdays to complete the Nursery row realignment project we began last summer. In addition to the typical spring mulching of the nursery paths, we have focused on pre-venting the soft edges of the walking paths from crumbling underfoot as nursery workers or plant sale customers walk through the nursery. After measuring and cutting wood boards to the correct length, they were installed and leveled with boards in the adjacent pot row and walking path. Fill dirt was added at the edges to finish leveling the walking paths before finishing with a layer of wood chips. The result is a level, mud-free pathway! An added bonus of these structural updates is the orderly and professional appearance of the new nursery configuration.

We will be wrapping up our winter propagation efforts at Tollgate North (Deb Kearney’s basement greenhouse) in early May. We’ll bring Tollgate’s seedlings up from the basement to be “hardened off” under Deb’s watchful eyes for a couple weeks prior to bringing them out to Tollgate, then head back inside to work on creating “Plant Tags” for the new varieties in the nursery – looking up cultural
information to complete our data templates so that we will have an accurate plant tag to post for each variety that will be available at the 2018 Spring Sale.

If you’re interested in learning and having fun while involved in a different kind of gardening experience, consider joining the Nursery Team as a ROW LEADER or MEMBER AT LARGE. You don’t need to be a plant or propagation expert to join our team – we have all learned from each other and by doing. Most of our Row Leaders have become experts about the plants in their row through the experience of being a Row Leader and the interaction with others on team. Let me know if you’re interested and I’ll provide you more information about the opportunities available.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

NURSERY NOTES (Continued)

Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa

Sun Exposure: Full Sun-Partial Shade
Height: 2’
Width: 1-3’
Bloom Time: June-August
Bloom Color: Orange
Soil Conditions: Medium-Dry
Notes: Has a long taproot; transplants better when young

Plant Tag Sample

Additional Nursery Workday Photos

Nursery volunteers Peg Palmer, Judy Poole and Genine Lang recently started organizing “Plant Tags” for the nursery. The Plant Sale will be here soon. Never too early to start preparing.
Renew Your Membership for 2018

It is once again time to renew your membership. Click on this link to the form on the MSU Extension Tollgate Farm and Education Center website: MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form. Forms will also be available at the next Tollgate Volunteer General meeting and attached to this newsletter.

Cindy Bolterstein
tollgatemembers@gmail.com
Connie Marcangelo prepares the Rain garden for spring soil amendments and planting. She wanted to reassure herself that the garden was even north to south and brought out several levels just to make sure.

Maple syrup season is over for 2018. The maple crew helped the education staff receive over 1200 visitors to the sugarbush and produced over 90 gallons of syrup. Maple volunteers are already hard at work splitting wood and preparing for the 2019 season. Syrup will be on sale at the April volunteer meeting and at the April 28 workday.
Tollgate’s own Quilting Bees have completed the 2018 Tollgate Quilt that will be raffled off at the July 21 “Sunset Garden Celebration” open house. The quilt will be at the April Volunteer General Meeting on April 19th. Raffle tickets will be available.

Quilt Pattern: Infinite Possibilities

Approximate Size: 92 inches x 92 inches (would fit a queen size bed with a 12 inch drop)

2018 Tollgate Quilting Bees:
- Susan Bremer
- Kathy Coleman
- Darretta Ferasin
- Gail Kevwitch
- Connie Marcangelo
- Kay Pratt
- Nancy Roggers
- Lynn Strong

Quilter: Joy A. Cramer

Raffle Tickets are $2.00 Each or 3 for $5.00

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!

Angeline Carter  Carol and Phil Oppenheim  Jackie Stengel
Joyce Harding  Marvin Pettway  Suhanya Subramanian
Carmen Hamilton  Barbara Quilty  Survesh Subramanian
Rosann Kaufman  Sandy Rigsby  Robert Savageau
Tracy Krauss  Emily Rymarczyk  Ron Wilson
Jane Carvell  Joe Suda  Sue Woodsum
Mary Courvisier  Mary Skapof  John and Barb Woodrich
Yvonne DeMattos  Phyllis Stengel  Kathy Zhong
Tollgate has many large blue spruce trees, most of which are in poor shape. Blue spruce is a native of the Rocky Mountains and is an exotic introduction to Michigan. As an introduction, blue spruce has not adapted to our local diseases, especially Cytospora canker. Cytospora usually starts by killing the lower branches of large blue spruce and gradually progresses to higher branches. One of the old spruce in front of the farmhouse succumbed to Cytospora infection in the last few years and was removed with great precision and skill by Tollgate staff members; Roy Prentice, Joe Mitts and Norb Leppanen.

Roy

Thanks Roy and Staff!
The Farmhouse Garden Team

Still in need of photos of the farm for the 2019 calendar. A few people have been kind of enough to submit photos - A big Thanks to you!!

Please submit your photos to tollgatecalendar@gmail.com.

Nancy Roggers
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.

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 Repellant

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

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

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

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 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.

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send email to: tollgatemembers@gmail.com

Farm Manager
Roy Prentice - 248 347-3860 ext. 251
e-mail - 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
Farm News Editor .......... Darretta Ferasin

For general information and questions Contact Roy Prentice or See Website:
http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251
| Name: | Date Submitted: ____________________________ |
| Address | Phone number: ____________________________ |
| City: | Day ______ - ____________________________ |
| Zip: | Evening ______ - ____________________________ |

Name you would like on badge. Please Print Carefully

Were you a Tollgate volunteer member last year? Yes ( ) No ( )
If yes, do you need a new Tollgate Garden Volunteer badge? Yes ( ) No ( )
Are you interested in: Serving on a committee or garden project? Yes ( ) No ( )
If yes, please note below if you have a particular area of interest, e.g., rose garden, children’s garden, hospitality, public relations, computer skills, etc
__________________________________________________________

Are you a MSU Master Gardener? ( ) certified ( ) candidate County ___________
(It is not necessary that you be a MSU Master Gardener to volunteer with Tollgate Garden Volunteers. An interest in gardening is all that is required.)

A donation in support of the Tollgate Volunteer organization would be greatly appreciated ($20 suggested). If you would like the newsletter mailed to you rather than receiving a notice of its availability online, please include an additional $10 to cover postage costs.
Check here to have the newsletter mailed to you _______

Make checks payable to Michigan State University.

Return to: Tollgate Gardens Volunteer Office
28115 Meadowbrook,
Novi, MI. 48377-3128
Phone: 248-347-3860 ext. 212

Note: Membership is renewed annually.

In the event of an emergency please notify:

__________________________ - ____________________________
Name Phone