**MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center**

**Thursday, August 17, 7:00 PM**

**Speaker to be Announced**

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**“Sunset Garden Celebration”**

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### Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AUG</strong></th>
<th><strong>MEETINGS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ACTIVITIES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>AUG</strong></th>
<th><strong>ACTIVITIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>TIME</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Xeriscape/Children’s/Nursery</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rose/Rain Garden</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>SEP</strong></th>
<th><strong>MEETINGS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th><strong>SEP</strong></th>
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</table>
| 2       | Labor Day Weekend  
No Directed or Supported Workday Activities Unless Announced |
| 9       | Pond | 9:00 AM |
| 16      | Nursery Fall Plant Sale | 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM |
| 23      | Demo Gardens | 9:00 AM |
| 30      | Nursery Divisions | 9:00 AM |

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<th><strong>OCT</strong></th>
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<th><strong>TIME</strong></th>
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<tr>
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Greetings All,

Open House: Thanks to the efforts of our many wonderful volunteers, the recent Open House was a great event. We had nearly 200 people come to the property and enjoy the evening. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed their day, strolling the grounds, talking to the many garden volunteer docents, listening to music, enjoying refreshments and learning about Tollgate. It took the help of lots of volunteers to make the 2017 open house a great event. There was good attendance 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 Karen Harris. 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!

Thank you to all who have been attending our regular Saturday workdays. Because of the many who have shown up to help, the gardens are in really good shape this year. The pond gardens and the Demo garden are especially showing improvement this year. If you have not been to the farm in a while, please come and view the grounds. They are lovely.

Hay baling mania: Earlier this year I made a pitch for donations to help purchase hay making equipment for the farm. The last few weeks have seen a flurry of baling activity with the new John Deere 336 baler. After some adjustments, the baler is working well. In the last few weeks we have produced nearly 1000 bales. The hay is beautiful this year. Thanks to our unplanned “controlled” burn of the hay fields this spring, the hay is really clean, and doesn’t include any old grass or other impurities. Thanks to Tollgate’s animal manager Nicole Simmons nimble use of Facebook, hay bale sales have been brisk. Hay bale sales have already helped defray some of the costs of the animals on site and have supplied much needed small bales that will be used this winter on the farm. The new baler has been a great addition to the site. Thanks to all who made it possible!

Roy

Prentice Wedding

The week before the open house, Cindy and Roy’s son, Sam, was married. From left to right: wedding animal wrangler (Sam and Abby wanted their German Shepard included in the event), daughter and frequent worker on volunteer Saturdays, Minnette Prentice, new member of the family, Abby Prentice, son and wedding planner extraordinaire, Sam Prentice, Cindy and Roy Prentice. The wedding was a success in that both of the principles showed and was held at a beautiful venue overlooking Walloon Lake near Petoskey, Michigan.
Many thanks to those who worked on our open house event: “Sunset Garden Celebration”. The volunteers who set up, the vendors, musicians, docents, speakers and many volunteers all make this event possible. 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.

Items to note for August/September:

- Ginger Meyer nominations are 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.

- 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 16th 9:00 AM till 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 form.

Come out and enjoy the gardens!

Thank you for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President
Around the Farm

Photo by Darretta Ferasin
Photo by Mike Janczarek
Photo by Jim Johnson
Photo by Roy Prentice
Photo by Jim Johnson
Photo by Roy Prentice
Photo by Jim Johnson
Photo by Roy Prentice
Photo by Darretta Ferasin
As of August 19th, the Tollgate Nursery will be open and accepting 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. We were so fortunate to receive a large number of donations last year from Christiansen’s Nursery, but we will really need our great Tollgate Gardeners to fill the nursery again for next spring!

The structural changes made to the nursery this summer mean that we have more room for great plants! We want to add at least 2,200 additional plants for the Spring Sale - but with our increased space, we also can also stock new varieties that we haven’t been able to accept in prior years due to space constraints. We will be adding these varieties to our “Plants Wanted” list as the ideas develop – so let us know if you have favorite perennials that you don’t see on our list that you think would be a great addition to the nursery (note that we generally accept only perennials hardy in Michigan).

The Tollgate Garden Volunteers email list will be utilized to periodically 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOST NEEDED</td>
<td>more than 11 additional pots needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEEDED</td>
<td>6 – 10 additional pots needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEPTING</td>
<td>1 – 5 additional pots needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT ACCEPTING</td>
<td>we’re overstocked! Also includes invasive or overly aggressive plants.</td>
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We have about 275 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) – We sold out (46 pots) at the Spring Sale! Difficult to overwinter in pots, we like to start with an oversupply, knowing we’ll lose some. Spring donations are risky, as these are slow starters. We’ll likely plant seeds this winter, but we need some more mature plants for the Spring Sale. Do you have some you can donate to us now?

**Asclepias incarnata** (Swamp Milkweed) – We sold more than 50 pots of this popular native at the Spring Sale. Although this milkweed overwinters in pots quite well, it emerges late in the spring – so we’d like to stock up now. If you have Swamp Milkweed at home, can you donate some to the nursery?

**Astilbe** – A large selection of about 50 plants sold out this spring! We have enlarged our space for this plant in the Shade House – please help us fill it up!

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

**Iris Siberica**/ Siberian Iris – We sell about 50 each spring, but we currently have only 6 pots.

**Monarda** (Bee Balm) – These are popular plants to attract pollinators, and we’re out of stock!

**Paeonia** (Peony) – We have allocated extra space 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!

**Peg Palmer**

_NURSERY NOTES_

Photos by Mike Janczarek

Continued on Page 6
**Persicaria** (Virginia Jumpseed) – The attractive foliage of these plants makes them a great addition to any shade garden.

**Phlox** (Garden Phlox) – After selling about 60 plants at the Spring Sale, we need all colors!

**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 larger or smaller size pots - we don’t have room to store them!

THANK YOU for supporting Tollgate with your plant and pot donations!

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

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**NOAH WILL BE MISSED**

Sadly, Tollgate lost a friend recently. Noah, part of the Tollgate draft horse team of Noah and Webster, has succumbed to the infirmities of old age. Noah lost his team mate, Webster, a few months ago. Although he seemed in reasonably good health right up until his passing, perhaps losing his life-long partner proved too much for him. Noah and Webster came to Tollgate from Greenfield Village a little over ten years ago. He was a willing puller and a great envoy for Tollgate. Both Noah and Webster were wonderful examples of the sheer size and horse power needed for farming before the coming of tractors. He had a good life at Tollgate. He will be missed.
Ginger Meyer Award

I need your help. I am accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. Ginger Meyer, and her husband Adolf, purchased Tollgate in 1951. They were instrumental in donating the property to MSU in 1987. Ginger loved gardens. The Ginger Meyer award, named in her honor, each year recognizes the Tollgate Garden Volunteer that has done much for the Tollgate gardens over the years. The award will be presented at our annual Tollgate garden volunteer recognition dinner, held this year on November 4th. You are welcome to send me your nomination in an email. 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. As a guide to your nomination, I have listed the past winners of this award:

- 2003 Gabe Tiberio
- 2004 Renee Cottrell
- 2005 Elizabeth Novak
- 2006 Donna Mrozek
- 2007 Nancy Roggers
- 2008 Cherry Lee Baker
- 2009 Clay Ottoni
- 2010 Priscilla Needle
- 2011 Sue Janczarek
- 2012 Darretta Ferasin
- 2013 John Woodrich
- 2014 David Komraus
- 2015 Jackie Stengel
- 2016 Peg Palmer

Roy

2017 Fall Plant Sale

The FALL PLANT SALE is planned for Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 am – noon in the Nursery! This low-key event featuring fall bloomers is intended to provide Tollgate Volunteers with another opportunity to purchase our great perennials and not announced to the general public. Stop in at the nursery during the typical Saturday workday hours and pick up some plants for your fall planting needs!

2017 Tollgate Quilt Winner

Congratulations to our Tollgate quilt winner, Karen Harris, a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.
2017 Sunset Garden Celebration

Photos by Mike Janczarek
2017 Sunset Garden Celebration

Photos by Mike Janczarek

Photos by Renee Cottrell
Squatter Takes Over the Osprey Platform

Instead of an osprey occupying the osprey platform (installed a few years ago), a blue heron has decided to use it as a perch.
Volunteer Activity Day and Meetings Information

248-347-3860 ext. 400

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 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 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 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
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Garden Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellant

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

President ……………………… Renee Cottrell
Vice President …………….. Peg Palmer
Secretary …………………… Dave Komraus
Treasurer ………………….. Sue Janczarek
Membership ………………… Cindy Bolterstein
PR …………………………… Yvonne DeMattos
Programs …………………… Jackie Stengel
Hospitality ………………… Yvonne DeMattos
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/

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251
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.

Return form to any TGAC member, bring to TGV general meeting or mail to: Roy Prentice: 28115 Meadowbrook, Novi, MI., 48377-3128 – Attention Ginger Meyer Award

Name of Nominee: __________________________________

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

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

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