MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center
Thursday, June 21, 7:00 PM

Inspiration from the Gardens of Japan

On June 21, join Tollgate volunteers in the Conference Center to learn about Japanese gardens. Pam Fiani will help us understand the ideas behind the beauty of Japanese gardens.

Pam Fiani has been teaching gardening, landscaping and horticulture classes in southeastern Michigan since 1990. She was a senior instructor for the Michigan School of Gardening when it launched in 1996 and assisted in developing the school's curriculum. Pam received the Michigan School of Gardening’s certificates of gardening fine arts in 1998 and landscape and garden design in 2003. She has a master's degree in art education from Wayne State University. Specializing in perennial gardens, Pam has been designing commercial and residential gardens and landscapes for over 25 years. A long-time friend of Tollgate, Pam's previous presentations at Tollgate include French Gardens in 2006, Spring Bulbs in 2011, Eight Months of Color in October 2014, and The Outdoor Room in July 2016.

Tollgate Note:

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Entrance / Rain Gardens</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Demo Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hosta Garden / Xcriscaps</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Open House Clean Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tollgate Open House</td>
<td>4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Children’s / Nursery / Pond</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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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 nearly $11,000. After the Plant Sale sales brought us within $100 of the 2017 total, our best sale ever. I am sure that all who attended the sale appreciated the ever improving organization and upkeep of the nursery. All of the money raised goes directly into the Tollgate Garden Volunteer account and helps us keep the gardens looking great for our many visitors. A big "thanks" are due also to George Papadelis of Telly's Greenhouse and Garden Center. 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. I would also like to thank Christensen's Plant and Hardscape Centers which donated many plants for the sale.

Summer Camp Underway: The Tollgate summer camp season will soon be in full swing. Each week during the summer 50 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. If you are on the site during the week, please watch out for campers running about the farm.

Farmer’s Market: Tollgate hosts a Farmer’s Market each Wednesday evening from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. The market is small, but packed with fresh vegetables and other goodies produced at Tollgate. The Tollgate CSA group, Tollgate's 4H club, Clay Ottoni selling honey, and others all have tables at the market.

Hay Season a Success. The square baler that so many Tollgate volunteers contributed funds for last year has been functioning flawlessly. Square after beautiful square have been produced much to the delight of Tollgate’s Farm Manager, Tollgate’s Animal Care Supervisor, Nicole Simmons, and all of Tollgate’s animals. I came up a bit short on my calculation of hay needs for the 2017/18 hay season and had to purchase hay for the last month of the winter. Appalling! Won’t happen this year. I already have enough rounds and squares put by for the winter upcoming. Thanks to all who made the gorgeous baler possible!

See you around the farm!
Roy

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS
Roy Prentice

Photos by Roy Prentice
“Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.” — May Sarton

Plant Sale Teamwork!! - Another tremendous success from the efforts of the Nursery Team and our volunteers! The teamwork in pulling off this event is amazing! The organization and thorough prep by the Nursery Team, the eager assistance of volunteers to set up and provide customer service made the day a huge success. We did not have spring weather in our favor with a late start to get divisions and wet weather that claimed some of the more fragile plant products. Our team did not disappoint! Customers were pleased and commented positively on the experience and the volunteers enjoyed engaging and educating the public. We are thankful for the continued support of Telly’s Greenhouse and Garden Center for contributing annuals to enhance our sales and additional plant contributions from Christensen’s Plant and Hardscape Centers that helped offer plant and shrub variety to our sale.

AREA GARDEN LEADERS AND TEAMS - PLEASE NOTE:

- Please keep in mind that the Nursery area serves as a resource for plants to put in your respective Tollgate garden area as well as the source of product for our plant sale fund raiser. Please see the nursery notes for procedures and lines of communication when utilizing stock from this area.

- With the successful plant sale please feel free to submit additional garden budget requests.
Thank you one and all!

AREA GARDEN LEADERS AND TEAMS - PLEASE NOTE: (Continued)

- Now that we are getting into warmer weather, please re-assess your areas for plants that could be divided for plant sale. An email update to me would be appreciated.
- Keep receipts to submit for your reimbursements on approved items from your budget submission.
- Garden Binders - the weeds are way ahead of our work days, please keep the “work to be done” page up-to-date and detailed so week day volunteers can have direction for care in your area. See article below.

Garden Binder Update:
As discussed at the May meeting, we will be using simple flagging system to indicate requested work activities in individual gardens.

- Please turn to the work activity page in the binder for instructions from the team/leader.
- Please mark any tasks you have completed before you leave the gardens.

Tollgate Open House is on July 21st! We will continue the theme of “Sunset Garden Celebration” with the evening time frame 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM. There will be local musicians to provide entertainment and other garden item related vendors to tempt you with garden related products/plants, our continuing educational talks, garden walking tours and hayrides. We will have announcement flyers available and ask that you take these to friends, family and neighbors to share this event and showcase the Tollgate Gardens. We will have them available in the Volunteer Communication Center, and a copy available on the website.

The sign-up sheet is in the Volunteer Communication Center with description of positions to be filled. We will also bring it to the June meeting and send out email reminders prior to the event. For those who are talented bakers, we will need donated finger foods (without nuts) for our guests. Don’t forget the volunteer picnic that immediately follows the open house event.

See the activity calendar and come out and enjoy the gardens!
As Always, Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President

Renew Your Membership for 2018

If you have not already done so, please send in your 2018 membership form by June 30 to ensure continued mailings of the Tollgate newsletter, workday notices and other information that comes along throughout the year. If you are not sure whether you have already sent your 2018 form, you can contact me, Cindy Bolterstein, at tollgatemembers@gmail.com and I will check the membership list.

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
Because of the many Saturday workday washouts, Joe Pyden, Rose Garden Area Garden Leader Extraordinaire, decided to host a special during-the-week Rose Garden workday on Wednesday, 5/23. Despite short notice, many Tollgate Garden Volunteers responded with enthusiasm to the email plea for extra hands to help take care of the plants. Many needed tasks were accomplished. The roses were unmounded, dead canes were removed, all plants were fertilized, and fresh mulch applied. Thanks to everyone who made one of the premier gardens on the site look so good!

Sandhill Crane Visits Connie in the Rain Garden

On Saturday, June 9, after a brief rain shower, a sandhill crane visited Connie Marcangelo in the Rain Garden. He then headed up along the boardwalk to the Farmhouse Garden to visit Kathy Johnson and Darretta Ferasin.

Photo by Marilyn Alimpich
Although the weather started out chilly, it was a great day for a plant sale! The total sales tally at the end of the day was $10,671 - funds that will be dedicated to supporting all of Tollgate’s beautiful gardens.

After a crazy spring with multiple canceled work days due to cold and rain, then unseasonal heat and drought, we were happy to have a chilly, but dry, day for the sale.

But poor spring weather did limit our ability to fill the nursery with divisions from our Tollgate gardens and resulted in fewer donations from Tollgate gardeners. As a result, we had about 300 fewer pots for sale than last year, rather than the increase we had hoped for. There was a great assortment of shrubs (donated by Christiansen’s Plant and Hardscape Centers) that we were able to sell at a premium, along with some larger pots and premium varieties of perennials. Overall, we sold about 67% of the plants we had available, up from 60% last year. We also implemented some new pricing this year, using landscape flags to identify exceptions to our standard pricing ($5/pot for sun and shade perennials, $3 for daylilies). We used landscape flags to identify premium priced pots (pink flags=$20, orange=$10, green=$8), and blue flags identified overstocked items that we sold as “buy 2–get 1 free”.

2018 Plant Sale Fun Facts:

- Plants that that started with 20 pots or more that SOLD OUT! include: Paeonia/Peonys (at premium prices), Perovskia/Russian Sage (buy 2 get one free), Gallardia/Blanket Flower ‘Sunset Mexican’, Hemerocallis/Daylily ‘Rosy Returns’, Galium odoratum/Sweet Woodruff

- TOP SELLERS FOR 2018: Early in the spring, we knew we had significant overstocks of Perovskia/Russian Sage, Heuchera/Coral Bells ‘Palace Purple’ and Astilbe ‘Visions’. We discounted these varieties to sell them in much higher volume than we’ve seen — and it worked — plus we sold lots of others at the regular price! (*) indicates buy 2 get 1 free discount pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achillea millefolium/Yarrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athyrium filix-femina ‘Lady in Red’/Lady Fern</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heuchera ‘Palace Purple’/Coral Bells</td>
<td>34*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matteuccia struthiopteris/Ostrich Fern</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perovskia/Russian Sage</td>
<td>64*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astilbe ‘Visions’</td>
<td>76*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asclepias incarnata/Swamp Milkweed</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heuchera/Coral bells (green leaf)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarda ‘Pink Lace’/Bee Balm</td>
<td>30</td>
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2018 Plant Sale Fun Facts Continued on the Next Page
NURSERY NOTES (Continued)

Donations of *Astilbe* ‘Visions’ and *Heuchera* ‘Palace Purple’ resulted from the Farmhouse garden renovation this spring. This provides a perfect example of how the nursery operates for the benefit of Tollgate Gardens, and the Gardens can also benefit the Nursery: The nursery knew in advance of the Farmhouse renovation and the intention to donate these plants. Complete information (botanical name and cultivar) was provided so the plants could be labeled properly, and specific plant tags created for the sale. Since we knew in advance, the nursery team was able to plan and develop a strategy to stock (they wouldn’t all fit in the shade house!!) and sell these plants (we thought we would need to discount them a bit). The result was that we sold a lot of these plants, and the proceeds will now go into the garden fund that supports ALL the gardens! Tollgate Area Garden Leaders can also look to the Nursery as a source of new desirable plants rather than purchasing from garden centers. To facilitate nursery processes, it is important that AGLs contact me with plant requests and confirm specific plants taken so we can track inventory records and solicit new donations accordingly.

The next big job for the Nursery team will be stocking up again this fall – the new nursery layout will accommodate over 4,000 pots – but our current inventory is below 1,000! We will need to get a significant number of those donations in the fall to meet our goal of 3,500-4,000 pots in the nursery for plant sale 2019! So, keep the Nursery in mind for your fall garden renovations – the Nursery will open for your donations in the last half of August!

**Working in the nursery is a great way to learn about a lot about a lot of plants!** Let me know if you would like to learn more about how we operate, or if you would like to join the Nursery Team. We have openings for Row Leaders, Co-Row Leaders as well as At Large members.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

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2018 Tollgate Quilt

**“Reflections”**

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 June 21. 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
2018 Tollgate Plant Sale

Photos by Darretta Ferasin
The Farmhouse Garden team, **Darretta Ferasin** and **Kathy Johnson**, are almost to the finish line with the Farmhouse south garden renovation. Due to the removal of 2 diseased crabapple trees, the once shady garden is now sunny a good part of the day. With the help of **Joe Pyden** and **Roy Prentice**, the necessary additional soil was delivered, shoveled in and the remaining plants on the plant list were dug in. The team will be mulching next week.

The specimen tree, native to China, is a *Heptacodium miconioides* ‘Seven-Son Flower’ tree. The tree will have white flowers in clusters of 7 (hence the common name Seven-Son Flower) in late summer to early fall. The flowers are followed by a purplish-red fruit crowned with rose calyces elongating and lasting into late fall. The tree is a good source of nectar for the butterflies in the fall. The bark provides winter interest. The tan bark exfoliates to expose a brown inner bark.

They also added some Nepeta ‘Kitten Around’, Hydrangea paniculata ‘Little Quick-Fire’, and Perovskia atriplicifolia ‘Little Spire’ to tie the area to the rest of the plant varieties in Farmhouse gardens. The existing Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’, Pennisetum alopecuroides ‘Hameln’ grass and Bergenia were relocated into the new design.

**PAR Garden Update**

The PAR Garden is fully planted and looking good thanks to the Tollgate crew and the garden volunteers.

Kind Regards,

Kathryn Fitzpatrick
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.

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 Repellant

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
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/

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

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 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
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice: 248-347-3860 ext. 251
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.