Thank You

Americana Foundation and MSU Extension for the wonderful recognition dinner and your continued support. It was a special evening with our fellow Tollgate Volunteers.

Roy Prentice, Cindy Prentice, Minnette Prentice and Sam Prentice for making sure everything was set up for the perfect volunteer event.

A special thanks to Renee Cottrell who keeps us on the garden path all year long.

**TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEC</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rose Garden Mulching</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>AGL Planning Meeting (tentative)</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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No Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting in December
The Farm News will not be Published for Month of December
Greetings All,

The 2017 gardening season is coming to an end. The beds are now all snug for the coming winter. All of the wonderful work that Tollgate’s volunteers performed this year has resulted in great gardens that are a joy for our many visitors. Thanks to all that made 2017 such a great year at Tollgate!

Recognition Dinner: This year’s volunteer recognition dinner was a wonderful event! The evening was again supported by the Americana Foundation and MSU Extension. Over one hundred and thirty volunteers and guests joined us for dinner, a presentation of the Tollgate gardening year and the awards ceremony. We had so many attendees that we filled the big barn for the presentation. The Tollgate year in gardening presentation that was put together by Darretta Ferasin and myself was a big hit as were the many door prizes. The food was really great too. One of the highlights of the evening was the recognition of our first year volunteers who made the most visits to the farm during 2017. This year we had a tie for most visits. Our 2017 “Golden Shovel” award winners are Patti Nehr and Kathryn Currier. Along with the traditional gold painted implement, Patti and Kathryn also have their names engraved on a plaque which is hung in the Tollgate Volunteer Center.

Also awarded was the “Ginger Meyer” award. This award was presented to long-time Tollgate volunteer, Joe Pyden, for his many years of service to Tollgate. Joe is instrumental in many projects on the farm including being a former officer of TGAC and being the current AGL for Tollgate’s rose garden. The Ginger Meyer award, a silver bowl inscribed with the recipient’s name, was established to honor the memory of Ginger Meyer who, along with her husband Adolph, was instrumental in establishing the Americana Foundation and in donating Tollgate to MSU. Joe’s name has also been inscribed on a plaque that will be hung in the Tollgate Volunteer Center. Both the golden shovel and Ginger Meyer awards are given annually. Thank you Patti, Kathryn and Joe for all that you do for the farm!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for another great year at Tollgate! I can’t wait for winter to loosen her icy grip so that we can get going on 2018. It will be maple syruping time before we know it!

Roy
Thanks for another wonderful gardening season...

Without the collective efforts of the TGAC, AGL’s and teams, dedicated individual volunteers and the wonderful support from The Americana Foundation we could never accomplish the achievements that make Tollgate so special. My highest praise and thanks to all the Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee members and Roy Prentice. This guiding group is responsible for making our experiences educational, social and enjoyable by providing the support structure for our activity days, projects, and special events throughout the season.

So in this season of thanks, I am thankful for the Tollgate Garden Volunteers for the knowledge, companionship, skills that they have shared with our community and I am honored to continue to be a part of such a wonderful group of people and look forward to another season.

- A special thank you to outgoing, Vice President Peg Palmer, for all her contributions to TGAC. She will now focus her incredible energy and organizational skills on the Nursery area along with her wonderful team.

- A hearty Welcome! to new, Vice President Marilyn Alimpich, a long standing member and Area Garden Leader. We look forward to her participation.

Save the Dates:

- There is the remaining mounding of the roses activity Saturday, December 9th.

- January Area Garden Leaders/Team (AGL/T) meeting: Open to all volunteers to get information on garden teams and for teams to plan for the upcoming season! Saturday, January 13th at 10:00 AM in the conference center. A great way for new members to meet other gardeners working on teams on the site and learn more about gardening opportunities.

- First membership meeting of 2018 is January 18th.

Enjoy your Holiday season and time with family and friends. Please know that I am personally grateful for every effort, talent, time and kindness throughout the season given by all volunteers. See you in 2018.

Thank you for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President
Regular Saturday workdays have ended at Tollgate, and the basic winter prep for the nursery is complete! In previous years, we dug the pots into the soil to help insulate them from the constant freeze/thaw cycle of a Michigan winter. This was hard work, as colder temperatures made the soil difficult to pack around the pots. We changed this year to use the shredded mulch that is used in all the Tollgate gardens to surround the nursery pots and provide insulation. It is light and much easier to work with. The pots are also sitting on an inch or two of coarse wood chips, which should provide for better drainage. Finally, we covered the tops and around all the pots with a layer of coarse wood chips to provide additional insulation for the pots and hopefully deflect rain and snow melt, keeping moisture out of the pots. And in the spring we can just lightly rake the wood-chips onto the walking paths.

Surviving a Michigan winter in a pot is a greater challenge to perennials than when planted in the ground! Though we try to cover the pots so that they are well insulated, we can’t totally replicate the environment of plant roots deep into the ground. So we try to provide a bit more protection for varieties with a poorer track record of overwintering in a pot. The options are to place row covers or “starter houses” over groups of pots, move plants into covered cold frames, or store them in the nursery shed for the winter. Plants that primarily need protection from excess moisture will be covered by row covers or the starter houses while those that may be more temperature sensitive in addition to needing to stay dry are placed in the cold frames or the nursery shed. We will also treat Japanese Anemone (Anemone japonica) and Coral Bells (Heuchera) varieties with fungicide. This is our third year to institute additional winter protection for selected plants, and we try to learn more each year about how to successfully overwinter the nursery pots.

Does this sound interesting to you? Then, consider joining the Nursery Team as a ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER to share responsibilities for a specific area of the nursery, or as a MEMBER AT LARGE. Worried that you do not have enough plant knowledge to be a row leader? Not true!!! The majority of our row leaders learned to be experts about the plants in their rows by becoming a row leader, not the reverse. We have existing expertise to guide you while you are learning. Please contact Peg Palmer to get additional information or to join the team.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

Photos by Peg Palmer
Wrapping it up for the Season

Kathy Johnson Using a Nut Gatherer to Pick Up Black Walnuts

Photos by Darretta Ferasin
## 2017 PRODUCE TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Produce</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beet</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>1009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Squash</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Squash</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**GRAND TOTAL** 2712 lbs.

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The PAR Garden Team Displaying their Wonderful Fresh-Picked Produce

Happy Thanksgiving
### Estimated Value of Tollgate Garden Volunteer Hours Worked in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,111 Active members workday visits average at 3 hours per visit</td>
<td>3,333 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Non-members visits at 3 hours per visit</td>
<td>96 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,429 hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current estimated value of volunteer time per hour*  

$24.19 per hour x 3,429 hours = Estimated Value of Volunteer Time  

**$82,947.51**

*https://www.independentsector.org/news-post/value-volunteer-time/

Cindy Bolterstein  
Membership

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### Tollgate’s Quilting Bees Looking for Quilters

The Tollgate’s Quilting Bees are looking for additional quilters. Learn tips and tricks from seasoned quiltmakers and enjoy the company of crafty sewers. The requirements are knowing how to sew, a portable sewing machine along with basic sewing and quilting tools. The quilters meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting in December from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the conference center. Generally, the quilt top is completed mid-February and sent to a quilter. Workdays are added when the quilting is complete so that we can add the binding. Other activities include raffle ticket sales at events and volunteer meetings. A schedule will be provided. If you are not sure, just come visit. Contact Darretta at rettasin@comcast.net.
Help Me Say “Thanks” to Christensen’s Plant Center

Christensen’s Plant Center has been a long-time friend of Tollgate. Tollgate volunteers have been entertained and enlightened by Christensen’s Herbaceous Perennial Plant Manager, Kim Roth, as a speaker for years. Christensen’s has also been kind enough to donate large amounts of plant material to Tollgate. Recently, Tollgate staff received three truck and trailer loads of plants for use in the Tollgate gardens and in support of future plant sales. Christensen’s is a great nursery that has lots of wonderful plants. Although Christensen’s is a wholesale nursery, they typically open their doors for retail sales to Master Gardeners on one day per year. If you get the chance to attend Christensen’s for-the-public event, it is definitely worth your time. Thanks Christensen’s for your support of Tollgate’s farm and gardens!

Roy

A New Face in the Tollgate Field!

Meet Max a new horse at Tollgate. Max is a dappled Percheron who is the newest addition to the Tollgate team. Max is 22 years old and a former resident of Greenfield Village. Max will assist the Tollgate Education Staff talk about how work was done on the farm prior to the coming of tractors. He is a big, friendly guy. I am sure that he will be a welcome addition to the Tollgate herd.
2017 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Photos by Renee Cottrell

Brian Maddeford and Betsy Wilds

Hans and Lynda Neuroth

Clay and Julie Ottoni

(Front) Karen and Bob Luetje, (Back, Left to Right) Larry and Linda Bolam, Denise and Bob Reinelt, Marge and Bill Johnston

Connie Marcangelo, Wayne and Martha Watson, Jackie Stengel and Phyllis Stengel

Janice McNulty and Katherine Ligon

Ellen Koehler and Mike Mathis

Leit and Linda Jones
2017 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Photos by Renee Cottrell

Jeff and Carolyn Volk

Helen, Kathy Zhong, Pat Canfield, Walter Falby

Jim Nelson, Kathy Johnson and Darretta Ferasin

John and Maryann Chupa, John Woodrich, Bill Hazel, Danielle Morrison and daughter Danielle

Kathy Coleman and Harve

Kay Pratt, Nancy Dingeday, Lynn Strong, Guy Pratt

Laurey and Dave Konjarevich

Kathie, Cheri Gelnak and husband Don, Tom
2017 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Pam Rusin and Marilyn Alimpich

Priscilla and Paul Needle

Richard Russel, Lisa Austin, Cindy Bolterstein
Paula Brose

Richard and Julie Dumbleton, Julie Semroc

Nancy and Dennis Roggers

Sharon Bass and Diane DeClerq

Sue and Mike Janczarek

Sue Grifor, Monica Villard, Guest

Photos by Renee Cottrell
2017 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Roy Hybl and Marie Collins

Rosemary and Dave Komraus

Susan Cooper, Diane and Gery Gross

Guest, Sam Prentice, Minnette Prentice, Jesse Adams, Guest

Jayne and Andy Berry, Teresa LaRosa, Gary

Carole Price and Irene Fahey

Photos by Renee Cottrell

Photo by Mike Janczarek

Photo by Darretta Ferasin
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.

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
- Hand Saw
- 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 .............. 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

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Friday, December 1, 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 Membership is renewed annually. The 2018 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