MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, October 19, 7:00 PM

Cooking with Mary Spencer

On October 19, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center to wind down a great year in the garden with a cooking demonstration of recipes using seasonal ingredients. Enjoy aromas and samples of interesting recipes as culinary instructor Mary Spencer provides inspiration, education, and tips for success in the kitchen.

Mary Spencer is extremely busy with the café that shares the location of her cooking school, Taste: A Cook’s Place, in the Village Workshop in Northville, www.tasteacooksplace.net. Taste’s Workshop Café is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and serves coffee with baked goods and savory brunch items. Mary teaches a variety of classes for home cooks starting at 6:30 PM on various dates. The classes are demonstration style and students get recipes and samples of everything prepared that evening. Students may bring their own wine to enjoy during class/dinner. Check the listing at http://www.tasteacooksplace.net/cooking_classes for offerings in November, December and future months.

A culinary instructor at ABC Warehouse locations in Livonia, Troy, Lakeside and Novi, http://www.abcwarehouse.com/misc/Cooking_Class_Schedule_Fall_2017.pdf, Mary also conducts food tours, does menu planning and researches heirloom recipes. She has been teaching cooking for 18 years. Mary’s goal is to make people better cooks.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
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<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Recognition Dinner (RSVP)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
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<th>DEC</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rose Garden Mulching</td>
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No Tollgate Volunteer General Meetings November and December
The Farm News will not be Published in December
Greetings All,

Recognition Dinner: The recognition dinner is coming up soon. Please reserve your calendar for Saturday, November 4th starting at 4:00 PM. Every year I look forward to this event. It is wonderful to get together with the many people that have made the Tollgate gardens so beautiful all year. It is also great to see what everyone looks like when thoroughly scrubbed! Our meal and many of the thank-you door prizes are generously provided by the Americana Foundation. I look forward to a special evening.

Invitations go out to anyone who logged at least one volunteer visit to the farm this year. If you do not receive an invitation to the recognition dinner, it probably means that you did not sign in at the volunteer center this year. I do not want to miss extending an invitation to anyone who volunteered at Tollgate during 2017. Please let me know if you were missed receiving an invitation in error.

Volunteering Present and Future: Thanks to all who helped out at the recent PumpkinFest event at Tollgate. Much like the Fall Fair, PumpkinFest survives and thrives with the support given by many volunteers. The event was a great success with beautiful weather coaxing several thousand visitors on each day of the event. Thanks for your continued support of Tollgate! Speaking of volunteers, the MG class currently being held at Tollgate will soon be completed. The class sports 50 soon-to-be Master Gardeners who are eager to begin pursuing volunteer opportunities. I look forward to welcoming additional hands, and expertise to our Tollgate garden community.

Activity Days: There are still a few work days left this year. Please check the Tollgate calendar and join us for a little end-of-the-year activity in the gardens. Think about how ready you will be come February to get back to the soil. Channel that future enthusiasm to a work day during the next month to help us get Tollgate ready for the winter and to complete other fall chores around the farm. Our many visitors and I really appreciate your efforts!

See you soon at Tollgate!

Roy

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New Angus Cows Looking for an Apple Handout

The Enabling Garden

Photos by Roy Prentice
“I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house. So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

Thanks to the Nursery Team and volunteers who participated in the successful Fall Plant Sale. Your knowledge and effort are greatly appreciated. Thank you for sharing your plant knowledge and skills to educate the public in correct plant choices, horticultural requirements and the joy of gardening!

Vote Now - October is the month to vote on all elected positions for TGAC. Though the field of nominees is very limited we ask that you participate in the voting process, write ins are welcome! Please submit your ballot for officer positions in person at the October 19th membership meeting, by mail or email to Roy prior to the meeting or by proxy via phone call/ message to Roy for the same deadline. Look for the ballot in this issue.

Activity Days! Our October calendar contains work days for the close of our gardening season including clean up dates and our final December activity for rose mounding. Annuals will be removed and gardens deadheaded on these next clean up dates as we prepare garden beds for the winter. As we have done the past, the hostas on the site will be left to wither to avoid possible Hosta Virus X (HVX) cross contamination. The Nursery team will be concluding the divisions and donations for the season see more info in the Nursery Notes.

Area Garden Leaders - As always we like to plan ahead for the upcoming season and will be meeting in early January 2018 (date TBD) to get together and discuss plans and needs for the upcoming season. You may want to work ahead on updating the plant lists for your areas as we are making a big effort to improve our signage toward our objective of public education on plant species/types. If you have not already done so you may submit plant lists for tags to be made. Include the botanical name, common name and variety if known. We hope to have the project of sign making running this winter to place new signs in the spring!

A reminder that any reimbursement forms should be submitted now so we can reconcile our 2017 budget records by the end of the year.

Please Note - As a reminder to all: there are no membership meetings in November or December. The October 19th meeting is your last chance to gather with our group until the recognition dinner on November 4th. Hope to see many of you there!

Finally - Your elected board welcomes any feedback from YOU the members on how we did this year as an organization. Areas we like to review include communication (emails, Doodle, newsletters, meeting announcements), organization (work day and our special events) variety of experiences (for both new and established members) and any other topic or issue you would like us to address. Your elected TGAC members are dedicated to making your Tollgate experience rewarding and only with honest feedback can we continue to grow. Email me your thoughts and comments rmcottrell4@att.net. Thanks.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President.
The Nursery Team extends a huge THANK YOU to all the Tollgate Garden Volunteers who have provided such amazing support to us this year! Thanks for donating your favorite plants from your home garden – and then coming back to the Tollgate Plant Sale to buy more plants to fill the open spaces created by the plants you donated! Thanks for showing up on Nursery workdays to help the nursery team maintain the operation - mulch the nursery paths, pot up donated plants, water, weed, make plant labels, cut back plants, dig in pots, putting in the hard work of digging and raking to install our new row arrangement - braving temperatures anywhere from the 40’s to the 90’s to get it all done! We couldn’t be successful without this broad base of support from Tollgate Garden Volunteers!

It’s been a really busy year for the Nursery Team. Here are a few highlights:

2017 marked our third season of WINTER PROPAGATION PROJECTS, meeting in Deb Kearney’s basement greenhouse (aka “Tollgate North”). We began this tradition primarily to increase our supply of native plants, growing these plants economically from seed. And we have steadily increased our offering of native plants. At the spring sale this year, we had more than 75 varieties of Michigan Native Plants available to sell! We sold about 130 pots of Milkweed plants (specifically Asclepias incarnata/Swamp Milkweed and Asclepias tuberosa/Butterfly Weed, as gardeners strive to add Monarch-friendly plants to their gardens. In addition to natives, we have also propagated various other perennials to expand our offering of appealing plants. It’s fun to garden in the winter! And we add to the fun by starting most of our winter gardening sessions with pizza and wine, or another simple but delicious pot-luck meal.

A couple weeks after the Spring Sale this year, the Nursery Team took on a huge project to RE-ARRANGE THE SUN PORTION OF THE NURSERY. This was a major undertaking to realign the rows in order to increase capacity for pots and make the layout more efficient and easier to navigate. But it was a huge undertaking that required the support of many Tollgate Garden Volunteers beyond just the Nursery Team! The final work to shore up the soft edges of the new walking path was a job that could use every hand we could get!

2017 Spring Plant Sale

The Nursery Starts with a Clean Slate to begin the Re-Arrangement Phase

The Nursery Team Works on the New Row Layout

Continued on Page 5
Nursery Notes (Continued)

paths in order to make these walkways easier and safer to navigate is scheduled for October 14. The primary purpose of Tollgate’s Nursery is to SUPPORT THE TOLLGATE GARDENS by providing a holding place for healthy, desirable plants for on-site garden renovations and financially through our plant sales. The Nursery raised more money than ever this year! The Spring Plant Sale, our major fundraiser brought in almost $11,000, a new record. Combined with the Nursery Booth at the July open house and the third annual Fall Plant sale in September, in total, the Nursery contributed over $13,000 to the Tollgate Garden fund this year!

Although the primary purpose of the Nursery is to support the gardens, we are also SUPPORTING TOLLGATE’S EDUCATIONAL MISSION through the addition of plant tag signage that includes plant cultural information and brochures that inform the public about current topics such as Native Plants, supporting Pollinators…..s (add to refer to all the brochures we have).

Interested in joining the NURSERY TEAM? You can join as a ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER to share responsibilities for a specific area of the nursery, or as a MEMBER A 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
Renee Cottrell - mcottrell4@att.net

Photo of the Month

Monarch Butterfly on the Farmhouse Garden Plumbago

Photographer: Kathy Johnson

Photos by Larry Bolam
**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.

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### 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

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### 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

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### MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251
Tollgate Garden Volunteers Ballot for 2018

You may cast your vote for the person nominated or write in a member of TGV for the following offices. (NOTE: Be sure if you write in someone’s name, that they are willing to fulfill the office). Please mark your choice, one vote per position, and return this ballot to the general meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 19, 2017, when the ballot count will take place. If you wish to mail your ballot, it should be post marked no later than Tuesday, October 17, 2017 in order to ensure its receipt at Tollgate in time for the ballot count. Mail your ballot by folding and using this as a pre-addressed envelope, or in a separate envelope to the address below.

Tollgate Education Center
Attention: Tollgate Gardens Volunteers
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI.  48377-3128

President ______ Renee Cottrell or ______ (Write in)
Vice President ______ Marilyn Alimpich or ______ (Write in)
Secretary ______ David Komraus or ______ (Write in)
Treasurer ______ Sue Janczarek or ______ (Write in)