

See what's happening at Tollgate this month!



## MSU Tollgate Farm January 2020



*Visit Our Website or Follow us on*  

### Save the Date! Upcoming Events

Visit our events calendar for a summary of our 2020 programs

#### **Wild Winter Camp (Feb 17 & 18, or Feb 17-21)**

Can you believe that Tollgate Wild Winter Break Camp is less than a month away? It's your last chance to register for either our 2 day or 5 day winter break camp on the farm. Camp dates are February 17-21. Don't miss out on the wild winter fun and register [here](#) now!



#### **Spring Break Camp (March 30-April 3 or April 6-10)**

Spring is quickly approaching, and with it



is Tollgate's Spring Break Camp. Help care for baby animals, explore the science of spring, and investigate the fields, forest, and pond with new friends this spring! For ages 6 - 12. Register [here!](#)

## **Dreaming of Sunshine? Tollgate Summer Camp registration is now open!**

Every day at Tollgate Summer Camp is an exciting adventure. A typical day will include making nutritious snacks in Garden Kitchen, caring for our farm animals, gardening, engaging in a creative week-long STEM project, and investigating the natural world of field, forest, and pond. Campers gain a strong land ethic while caring for the farm, our animals, and the camp community. Check out our exciting new and classic camp themes for campers ages 5 - 18.



**New Camp Themes:** Earth Explorers, Nature's Engineers, Coding, and Farm Market: Entrepreneurship

Our camps fill up quickly so reserve your spot early and register [here](#) now!



## **Stewards and Stewards-in-Training: A Chance to Shine**

At Tollgate Farm Camp, 13-19 year olds mentor campers and assist young adult staff while gaining valuable life skills in our teen leadership program. Make

new friends and keep the old during the fun campout orientation and special teen only



celebrations. Career speakers, teambuilding, and service learning round out the experience for these amazing teen leaders. To learn more or to register or apply, [click here](#).

***New this year!***

### **MSU Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute: Be a Sustainability Leader**

Held June 15-21, 2020, SSLI is a six-day training and youth development summit for 15-19 year olds incorporating a mentorship model, a day trip to campus, a multi-day outdoor wilderness teambuilding adventure, an advanced leadership role throughout the summer at stewards trainings and camp. Those completing the institute including a capstone sustainability action project are able to share about their service and leadership experience on their college applications.



A few spaces remain. For those interested in learning more or applying for this fun and exciting leadership experience, [click here](#).

Financial Aid is available and applications are reviewed based on the needs of the participants, potential impact on their learning, cost of the program, and potential for meaningful collaboration. For more information, visit our [financial aid website](#).



### **Evenings in the Garden returns this February!**

We are excited to present these upcoming Evenings in the Garden from 6:30-8:30 PM:

**February 27:** Bill Scheider - *Design with Maintenance in Mind*

**March 5:** Janet Macunovich- *In Over Your Head: Cutting Back the Rambunctious Garden*

**March 26:** Vern Stephens - *Native Plants: Landscaping for Where You Are + Plant Sale*

**April 2:** John Hartig - *Waterfront Porch: Reclaiming Detroit's Industrial Waterfront as a Gathering Place for All*

**April 9:** Kim Roth - *Botanical Latin*

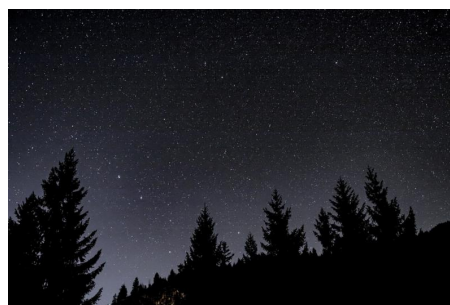
**April 30:** Dean Krauskopf, PhD - *The Doctor is in: Diagnosing Plant Problems*

**May 14:** Dr. Tyler Bassett - *Native Grasslands of Michigan: Acting in the Interest of Prairies and Savannas*

For more information or to register, visit the [event page](#).

### **Keep Your Eyes Peeled - 2020 Night Hike Series Coming Soon**

Night Hikes on the Farm is a series of bi-monthly events that offer educational and recreational opportunities for visitors to venture the farm in the nighttime and explore fascinating natural science topics. Topics include Predators of the Night, Sounds in the Darkness, The Science of Twilight, What's Abuzz?, Anishinaabe Nights, and Night on the Farm. Registration coming soon for February 28th and April 24th at 6 PM.



### **Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast March 7-8th, 2020**

Start out with pancakes, coffee, cocoa, sausages and of course, Tollgate maple syrup! Then jump on the hay wagon to head out to the sugar bush, where you can

watch sap get cooked into syrup, participate in tree tapping, visit the traditional sugar camp and watch our draft horse get to work! A hands-on, maple-flavored event for the whole family!

[Click here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

## **Come Join the Team! Volunteers needed for Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast**

We are looking for volunteers for our annual foray into the sugar bush at our Maple Tapping and Pancake Feast! Volunteers are an essential part of putting together one of our largest events of the year. Volunteers assist with cooking, educational activities and more! Please visit our volunteer registration page to [sign up](#) and contact [Will Jaquinde](#) with any questions.



## **Save the Date! Starting and Sustaining a School Garden on May 1st, 2020**

Interested in starting or sustaining a school garden? Save the date for our upcoming conference. For more information on this event, email [Kristine Hahn](#).

## **School Garden Mini Grant**

Interested in starting a school garden and looking for funding? Click on the [flyer](#) for more information. Applications are due by February 24th, 2020.



## **Registration for the 2020 Community Supported Agriculture program is now open!**

CSA members join us for a 20 week adventure in seasonal,





local, sustainably grown produce while supporting our beginning farmer programming. Explore new vegetables, cook exciting foods, see your farmers every week and more; learn about all the benefits of the CSA and how to sign up [here](#).

## **Starry Night on the Farm Returns June 12-13, 2020**

Starry Night on the Farm combines adventure and learning for a fun family overnight. Make new friends as we investigate the importance of agriculture and the sun in our daily lives, all right here at Tollgate Farm. The Oakland Astronomy Club join us once again to lead night sky viewing and astronomy learning activities.

Program begins after dinner 6 pm Friday evening to noon Saturday. Some tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads are available to borrow. For more information or to register, click [here](#).



## **Tollgate Farm 4-H Club - January on the Farm**

Congratulations to Bea ewe who delivered twin ewes, weighing in



at 12.8 and 13.2 lbs on January 16th. Bea is an attentive mother and the twins are doing well. These lambs will be market lamb projects for our members. Interested in joining 4-H? Contact the Tollgate Farm 4-H Club by email, visit their website, or facebook. To find out more about what the Club has been up to, read more here.

## This Month's 4-H Newsletter is Here!

Oakland County 4-H Connections is a monthly newsletter for 4-H members, families, and the general community with news and information about 4-H youth development activities in Oakland County.

January Newsletter



## Tollgate News & Announcements



### Check out Tollgate's New Weather Station

Tollgate recently installed a Davis 6153 weather station on the farm. This weather station measures and records temperature, wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and rain fall. If you would like to view the weather data it can be found on your phone or computer by

downloading the Davis WeatherLink App from an App store or WeatherLink.com. Once you have downloaded the App, look for our station: Tollgate Farm.

## **Interactive Learning Journeys for Schools and Community Groups**



Explore big ideas and investigate phenomena via programs designed for schools that are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. Tollgate offers hands-on interactive learning opportunities in the historic farm setting where participants explore science phenomena while making important interdisciplinary connections and gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of natural resources and agriculture in their daily lives.

There is still time to bring your students or scout troop to our Winter on the Farm, Maple Sugaring, Sheep to Sweater and many more inquiry-based journeys available for spring.

For more information, fill out a farm visit [reservation form](#) and email [Ellen Koehler](#).

Tollgate welcomes all to our programs and strives to provide opportunities for schools to experience farm-based experiential learning. Assistance is determined based on established need and schools are encouraged to apply [here](#).

## **Tollgate Opportunities**



### **Seeking Donations!**

Have some extra winter kids clothes you don't need? We are in need of gently used kids' snow pants, gloves, hats, boots, socks, sweaters, and coats. If you have any donations, please

contact [Sara Mund](#) to arrange drop off.

## **A Summer Job Opportunity Like None Other!**



Come join our amazing summer camp team and positively impact the lives of the youth that we serve, as you spend your summer teaching, playing, and learning in the great outdoors. View job openings [here!](#)



## **Rent the Tollgate Conference Center**

The MSU Tollgate Conference Center, historic barn, and Americana boardroom are available for your next business meeting, bridal or baby shower, private

luncheon, or special event. Our catering staff are available to meet your needs for your event!

To learn more about hosting your event at Tollgate, visit the **Conference Center Website**.

**Coming soon in  
2020!**

***Wedding Ceremonies and  
Rehearsal Dinners at  
MSU Tollgate Farm***

**Contact our Events Coordinator Kari Heughens for more information:**

**248-347-3860 (x 205)**

**heughen3@msu.edu**

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center offers programs throughout the year designed to allow adults and children to experience learning hands-on, explore the joys of gardening and the natural world, appreciate and promote locally grown food, and build community.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Extension**

**MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center**  
**28115 Meadowbrook Rd.**

**Novi, MI 48377**

**248-347-0269**

**[tollgateprograms@msu.edu](mailto:tollgateprograms@msu.edu)**

**<http://tollgate.msu.edu/>**

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