

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 29

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2023



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting In-Person/Zoom Hybrid (Info to be Provided)

**Thursday, April 20, 2023
7:00 PM**

Medicinal & Aromatic Plants & Gardens

Join Tollgate garden volunteers and supporters in the conference center (or on Zoom) to learn about **Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Gardens: Gardens in Spain and France and the New Program at UM-Dearborn.**

Dr. Marilee Benore is a Professor of Biochemistry and Biological Sciences at The University of Michigan-Dearborn. Dr. Benore co-developed a new certificate on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants available to UM-D students, [Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Certificate | University of Michigan-Dearborn \(umdearborn.edu\)](https://umdearborn.edu/medicinal-aromatic-plants-certificate), and co-teaches the core course. A new study abroad course will be offered in late April, and students will travel to Padua Italy, to visit one of the oldest botanical gardens. A former Associate Dean at UM-D, Dr. Benore has a B.A. in Chemistry from Thomas More College in Kentucky, and a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. She was named a 2023 Fellow of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. (<https://www.asbmb.org/about/asbmb-fellows>)

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

APR	MEETINGS		MAY	MEETINGS	
4	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	2	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
20	TGV General Mtg – In-Person	7:00 pm	18	TGV General Mtg	7:00 pm
APR	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		MAY	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
1	42 Mile/Pond (Cancelled)	9:00 am	6	Nursery/Plant Division	9:00 am
8	Easter Weekend/Demo	9:00 am	13	Farmhouse	9:00 am
15	Office/Entrance/Rain	9:00 am	20	Shade/Hosta	9:00 am
22	Rose/Heritage	9:00 am	27	Memorial Weekend/ Rockledge Planting	9:00 am
29	Children's/Xeriscape New Volunteer Orientation Pancake Brunch	9:00 am 9:00 am Noon			

The Tollgate Farm News

A Special Thanks!

To all of you who donated to help the Tollgate Gardeners make Tollgate a more beautiful place - your donation is greatly appreciated! The support you have provided will continue to help our program prosper and grow. Thanks again and Happy Gardening!

David Anderson
Beth, Anthony
Linda Bodzin
Mary Ellen Bridges
Mary Anne Chadwick
Renee Cottrell
Donna Craig
Linda Galante

Cheryl (Cheri) Gelnak
Mary Carole Haering
Harold Henderlong
Laurey Konjarevich
Carol Oppenheim
Carrie Richardson
Georgia Roed
Martha Rotter

Pamela Rusin
Susie Sherman-Hall
Anna Van Hyfte
Betsy Wilds
Susan Cooper
Carolyn McQuiggan
Dorothy Schmidt



Photo from MSU Extension website

The Tollgate Farm News

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings all,

Maple Syrup Making

The 2023 maple season was a great success! Thank you to the maple volunteers for their great work supporting Tollgate's education efforts, the Maplefest event, and making tasty maple syrup for all of us. The season started with groups of school kids, went on to a very successful MapleFest event, and ended with lots and lots more school field trips. The maple syrup volunteers again did a wonderful job managing the boiling process and working with all the varied groups who came to the woods to watch and learn.

I have had many conversations with the MSU Tollgate education staff indicating how thankful we all are for the support of the many volunteers who make up the maple syrup team. The farm could not host the wonderful programming that it does without the support, knowledge, and work of the many volunteers who help make the maple syrup season a success. This year, in addition to the work teaching Tollgate's visitors about the wonders of maple syrup making, the crew also produced over 115 gallons of syrup. That's more than 30 gallons more than last year. Well done!



Goat Kids!

Tollgate goats have started to produce 2023's crop of goat kids. They sure are cute. We now have four new faces on the farm. At this point, we are still waiting on three more goat moms to deliver. Spring is always a fun time on the farm.



Gardens Coming Alive

As the snows of the winter of 2022/23 release their icy grip (it was a mild winter, so perhaps the grip was only semi-icy), Tollgate Garden volunteers are returning to the farm. We have had a rough start to the garden year with weather necessitating the cancellation of many Saturday workdays. But, the weather has improved and it's good to be working with plants again.

Despite the slow start to the season, workdays and hot dog lunches have returned to the farm. Please plan to join us soon. If you have been through MSU's VSP process already, great. If you have not been through VSP but would like to be an active volunteer on the farm, double-great. Please contact me or Tollgate VSP expert extraordinaire, Carmen Hamilton, and we will help you through the process. We need your help to get the Tollgate gardens back to their full potential. Without your help, Tollgate would not be the unique gem that it is.

Thanks for all you do to make Tollgate such a special place!

Roy

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

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**Notes from the President
Renee Cottrell**

"Behold, my friend, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

- Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Teton Sioux Leader, 1831-1890

Greeting Tollgate Garden Volunteers!

April is our jumpstart month for clean-up activities in the gardens, new member orientation and the return of the Pancake brunch!



We were able to work in the Demonstration Garden on our Saturday group activity day April 8th and great

gardening enthusiasm was evident.

With the milder temps for much of the winter the weeds kept growing and are already in bloom. The sooner we can get on them the better, knowing our Michigan spring, once started, often skips quickly into summer heat. We have a schedule for group Saturdays but I am also happy to find individual assignments if you wish to come on other days. Please contact me directly by email. Thank you in advance for your interest and efforts.

We are making a push to complete our 2023 membership enrollment this month. Members have had reminders in the newsletter and via email. Please mail in the form or scan and email to the membership contact as soon as possible. tollgatemembers@gmail.com

Just a reminder to the active gardeners: Please use the QR code (see back of newsletter) to record your Tollgate hours for our on-site data collection of volunteer hours for our 2023 season. (This is not where you would record your Extension Master Gardener hours for (re-) certification.)

Check out the other articles in this edition for the latest on our gardening plans and farm activities. The nursery team is accepting donated plants for our spring plant sale; a list was emailed to membership. The PAR garden is prepping for their season and other garden teams are working their magic.



I invite you to visit the site and catch all the spring blooms and emergent plants. The hellebores, pulmonaria, spring bulbs and budding

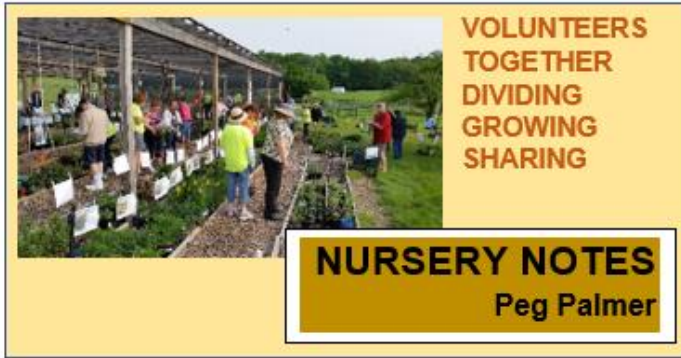
spring growth are all over the property to enjoy. Perhaps you will find a niche for your garden enjoyment and talents.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell,

Adv. EMG,
President Tollgate Garden Volunteers
rmcottrell4@att.net

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It's April – but somehow it doesn't seem like it!

This cold, wet spring is definitely not what the Nursery Team ordered this year! But I'm trying to look on the bright side... maybe we'll have some of those really desirable spring bloomers still looking great for the sale!



The Spring PLANTS WANTED list is out and the NURSERY IS OPEN!

Please refer to this list to search for plants in your gardens that would be great additions to our sale. We prioritize the plants listed based on what we have sold in the past, with consideration of the pots overwintering in the Nursery. Please

consider the Nursery as you get out to work in your gardens as warmer weather arrives. With the late arrival of Spring, it will be a challenge to get donations acclimated to a pot and ready for sale on the first Saturday in June. **The LAST DAY TO DONATE will be Friday May 26!**

Losses of our overwintered Nursery plants will likely be higher this year due to the challenging weather we have experienced. While extreme cold temperatures can be a problem, a thick cover of snow in addition to the surrounding mulch does a lot to insulate, although not as effectively as for the plants in your garden. But warmer weather, melting snow and rains result in a lot of moisture inevitably being trapped in the pots - and that's a big challenge to plant roots. Since that's pretty much what's been happening throughout our winter and early spring, we're anticipating more dead pots than usual this spring. That means we will need your help even more to fill up the Nursery! Hopefully there will also be some benefits, with some very

popular early spring bloomers that may still have attractive flowers at sale time!

IT'S EASY TO DONATE PLANTS TO THE NURSERY! Just drive down to the Nursery to unload your plants anytime the farm is open.



Directions are posted near the POP-UP (mesh screened tent that will protect your plants from animals and provide a bit of shade until we can process

them into the inventory). Posted directions elaborate on the following: Please **WATER** your donation (hose is nearby), ensure that all donations are **CLEARLY LABELED** (Botanical & common name, bloom color, cultivar).



Plant ID sticks and pencils are available on the white workbench nearby. **Please leave all donations in the POP-UP TENT, securely closing all zippers before you leave!**

Tollgate's SPRING PLANT Sale is a major fundraiser to support all of

Tollgate's Gardens. We look forward to receiving YOUR support – through donations of plant divisions, and/or through your purchases at the sale!

Are you interested in learning more about volunteering in the Nursery at Tollgate? It provides an opportunity to learn about lots of different plants, as well how to maintain healthy perennials in a pot, while working to benefit all the Tollgate Gardens. Contact me for more information at palmermargaretanne@gmail.com.

Photo on left provided by Nancy Powell
Photos on right by Peg Palmer

The Tollgate Farm News



It appears that spring has finally arrived – the birds are all out and about and busy creating nests, the bunnies are bounding around (hopefully not in our vegetable garden), and spring flowers are starting to emerge. We will have to check the garden shed for mouse families – they love to overwinter there and are very resourceful with finding materials to create elaborate nests. It is our time to prepare for planting.



Our first set of transplants will be ready mid-month to plant – onions, leeks, shallots, kohlrabi, and cabbage, oh my!!!

It will also be time to dust off the row seeder and plant beets. The shallots will be planted with the beets as companion plants – a beautiful and economic way to make the most of our beds. That means we need to tackle 14 beds this month and hundreds of plants. Exciting, right?

In the past, we have also planted our potatoes at this time, however as a precautionary measure this year, to try to minimize potato beetle infestation, we will be planting them much later in the season. With luck, the potato beetles that emerge will leave to find “greener” pastures. In addition, we will be spraying organic Bt to eliminate any pesky larva that have decided to wait it out.

This year we also plan to organically spray the cabbage and kohlrabi with Bt to minimize the cabbage moth damage. This will be every 5 to 7 days while eggs and larva are present and should be administered in the evening. Sluggo will be used to minimize slug damage. We found that the row covers did not seem to be as effective.

Roy and Brett have been kind enough to work on the new trellises for the cucumber and hot pepper plants, and these will need to be installed. Can't wait to see what these masterpieces will look like, but I know that we will enjoy the fruits (vegetables) of their labor.



Photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick

PAR Report continued on Page 7

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PAR Report continued from Page 6



But first, we will need to brave the weather and probably wet conditions in the garden to prepare the beds and pathways. This will mean getting down and dirty – removing the black plastic and storing for the end of the season, either removing or tilling in the oat/pea crop cover, loosening up and leveling the soil in each bed, and of course – weeding, although there shouldn't be too much weeding required yet.



Lastly, we will need to maintain the irrigation – there are a few broken parts, and the lines always need to be checked for cracks.



Then, voila, we are ready to plant our beautiful first vegetables of the season, after the garlic of course, which should be popping up already.

All volunteers, whether Extension Master Gardeners, avid gardeners, or individuals interested in gardening and community service, regardless of experience level, are welcome to join the team once cleared through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process. We have an enthusiastic, fun, hard-working team, and plenty of rewarding opportunities to help those in need. Come check us out.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at MSU Tollgate Farm, please contact Roy Prentice (prentic1@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton (hamil466@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

Looking forward to greeting you in the garden very soon. Wishing all a safe, healthy, and plentiful 2023,

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick

The Tollgate Farm News

Member Spotlight

To encourage all members to wear their name badge when on-site at Tollgate, we will continue spotlighting a current member found wearing their badge, monthly in the newsletter. The name badge indicates your status as a garden volunteer and is very helpful to new members, as well as visitors. **The badges are in a box on the table in the Volunteer Center and have been updated.** Please check the box first and then, if your badge is missing, there is a sign-up sheet nearby, and one will be made for you.



You are welcome to take your badge with you, or keep it in the box to grab each time you are on-site. We will be looking for volunteers wearing their badge on Saturday workdays and may ask to take your picture for the next newsletter.

This month's member caught wearing her badge:

Julie Semroc



Years gardening... "Gardening was part of my childhood as my Mom's garden shadow and helper, so I was born into it!"

Master Gardener since... 2015

Volunteer at Tollgate since... 2015

Favorite garden... "Farmhouse Garden, although all Tollgate gardens are wonderful!"



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Weed Wise

Hairy bittercress, *Cardamine hirsute*; an annual or biennial species of the plant family Brassicaceae. It is common in moist areas around the world and is edible as a salad green. This past spring and winter were very wet and this “weed” is prevalent and already in bloom in our gardens and lawns.



Photo provided by Renee Cottrell

Do You Know Your Poison Ivy?

If not, I'll bet you're just itching to learn! With work in the garden finally getting underway, there's always a chance that you could encounter the dreaded poison ivy. Follow the link below to test your poison ivy identification IQ.

<https://www.birdandmoon.com/poisonivy/>



Photo obtained from Bird and Moon website

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Maple Syrup Now Available

If you would like to have some great Tollgate maple syrup for your very own, it is available for sale in the Volunteer Center. 12 oz. size is \$10 and 8 oz. size is \$7. It goes fast, so do your shopping soon. It's good eating and a fun way to share a piece of the farm with friends and family.



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

Road Construction Update

Tollgate is only accessible from 12 Mile Road. You cannot get to Tollgate from 13 Mile Road.



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Feed the Baby Goats!

The Tollgate 4-H Club is looking for assistance with feeding the new baby goats! If you are a TG Garden Volunteer and you are interested in helping, please contact Mary at TollgateFarm4H@gmail.com.

The Farmhouse Garden team held a team bonding event by helping out with the goats' 4:00 pm feeding recently and fun was had by all! Once the goats receive their bottles, they have play time outside their pen. They are being housed in the greenhouse and they love running and jumping around the crates and trampoline set up for their enjoyment and exercise.



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

Finally, Activity Days return!

After several cancellations due to cold, snow, rain, and all matter of other unsavory weather, Activity Days have returned to the farm. Look how happy this group looks on the first garden Activity Day of the year!



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

Please Renew Your Membership for 2023

If you haven't already renewed your annual TGV Membership for 2023, please do so as soon as you can.

This will ensure you never miss any Tollgate gardening news!

(Please note that 2023 membership roster will be finalized by May 1)

Thank you! Angie Carter Tollgatemembers@gmail.com



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Tollgate Garden Volunteer Membership Levels

When you renew your TGV membership each year, we ask you to designate your status as an ACTIVE member or a SUPPORTING member. As a reminder, these designations mean the following:

ACTIVE MEMBER: Volunteer in the gardens on workdays or individual assignments, volunteer at events and projects on the site, receive all communication and participate in monthly meetings.

- All active volunteers must go through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) screening to work on site and maintain their VSP status yearly.
- Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) are screened through the VSP process either at the start of the program when you take the EMG class or when you renew your EMG certification/VSP update each year. If you are an active/current EMG and choose to volunteer at Tollgate, your VSP status is complete.
- Previously certified EMGs who decide to let their certification lapse can still volunteer on the site, but must go through the VSP screening on an annual basis. We have onsite personnel who can help you complete the process.
- If you are an active MSU volunteer through another program or site and have maintained an active VSP status, then your VSP status is complete
- Individuals who have not gone through the VSP screening, will need to pursue the VSP screening before they can be an active volunteer at Tollgate (or at any MSU site or program). We have onsite personnel who can help you complete this process.
- Note that once an individual has participated in the initial VSP screening, they need only approve a background check in subsequent years. No need to obtain references and other activities that are required with the initial VSP screening.

SUPPORTING MEMBER: Support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings.

- Notified regarding monthly membership meetings.
- Informed about Tollgate events via the Farm News newsletter and other informative e-mail notifications.
- Supporter status will **not** allow you to participate as a volunteer in the garden maintenance activities, maple syrup project or any events on site.
- Return to an "ACTIVE" status at any time by completing the VSP screening process.

A donation is NOT required to renew your membership. All donations are greatly appreciated and go into our account to maintain the gardens.

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Welcome New Tollgate Garden Volunteer Members

We are glad you are with us! Please feel free to contact Renee Cottrell with any questions on our planned activities and schedules for 2023. You may email your questions about the gardens and volunteering at rmcottrell4@att.net. This is a wonderful place, full of educational opportunities, with personal satisfaction and social connections as reward for volunteering. Our membership holds a large amount of collective knowledge and expertise that is willingly shared with a strong team approach to make every effort to direct new members to areas of most interest on the site. We want to guide you to a great experience with the Tollgate Garden Volunteers. Check out these links to start exploring your garden opportunities:

Garden Orientation PDF

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/files/Tollgate%20Garden%20Volunteer%20orientation%20draft2.pdf>

Tollgate web pages for the Gardens

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/gardens/>

2023 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/2023%20Tollgate%20Garden%20volunteer%20Activity%20calendar.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

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Where Would You Like To Grow?

There are numerous gardens that require assistance in the maintenance of the plantings that allow you opportunities to learn and grow. Volunteers are encouraged to explore these opportunities. Donating your time and talents in your area of interest is often more rewarding. What plants do you enjoy? What garden environment meets your physical needs or availability?

Read some of these descriptions highlighted this issue and let me know if you like further information. Thanks, Renee

Children's Garden: This is a collection of small gardens making up the experience for our young visitors. This garden collection emphasizes color, exploration and learning opportunities. This area is utilized by the children's camps in the summer season. Experienced gardeners will orient you to the areas requesting assistance.

Fence garden - This colorful frontage to the Children's garden has year-round interest and opportunity for annual plantings.

Entrance garden - These are inviting beds bordering the main entrance path with established perennials and shrubs. Opportunities are available for creative annual plantings and whimsical garden accessories.

Native plantings - These native plantings create an exploration and learning pathway for the small visitors. The Garden lead is able to do weekday gardening activity if Saturday mornings do not fit your schedule.

Maze structure - A fun exploration for youngsters and adult education on vine plantings for the landscape. Early season planting, pruning, and training of vines for living walls of the maze is necessary with less maintenance for later summer season.

Water feature - This small water feature includes a fountain for sound (adjacent to sensory garden feature) and fun. Learn about filter use for water quality and algae control in an aquatic environment. Early season set up, late season storage of pump and filter equipment, every 2-week maintenance.

East Tollbooth - A colorful variety of plantings surrounding the east garden beds around the Tollbooth structure. It is a high visibility area next to the pavilion that hosts visitors, campers, and staff meetings throughout the season.

Article continued on Page 15

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Article continued from Page 14

Demonstration Garden: This collection surrounds the North parking lot to educate visitors on plant types, mature plant sizes, pruning techniques and more. This is a great opportunity for design and plant knowledge. Natives, pollinators, shrubs and more!

Constructed Wetland - Pond: This area, surrounding the pond on the southeast corner of the property has boardwalks, designed plantings and native areas. This team is always energetic and looking for new members. There are constructed wetland ponds to assist with water quality and plenty of planting areas near the shore line and in traditional garden beds to provide learning opportunities. An experienced Garden Leader will introduce you to the team and orient you to the activities in various areas.

Enjoy the diversity the Tollgate Gardens have to offer!

Attention Area Garden Leaders (AGLs)



Thanks to all who have committed to being AGLs for the Tollgate gardens. You make our gardens so very welcoming to all visitors, staff, and volunteers on the site.

Your Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC) is currently approving 2023 garden budgets. If you haven't yet done so, please complete the **Garden Project/Budget Planner Form**, found near the back of this newsletter. Email to Marilyn Alimpich, TGAC Vice-President, at masoleil@sbcglobal.net. **We would like to approve all 2023 budgets no later than our May 2, 2023 meeting.** This

will assure that the funds you need for your garden's purchases will be approved. Note that this is an annual process.

Also provided near the back of the newsletter, is the **MSU Reimbursement Worksheet** which must be submitted to Roy Prentice with your receipt and/or credit card invoices attached. **Reimbursement requests must be submitted for approval within 90 days of purchase**, so please submit to Roy well before the end of 90 days.

Photo provided by Kathy Johnson

The Tollgate Farm News

Soil Testing Returns Through MSU Extension!

After a three-month break, [Michigan State University Extension](#) is pleased to announce the launch of a new soil testing program for Michigan residents made possible through a partnership with A&L Great Lakes Laboratories, Inc. (A&L).

You can read the full article, [Soil Testing Returns through MSU Extension](#), for details.

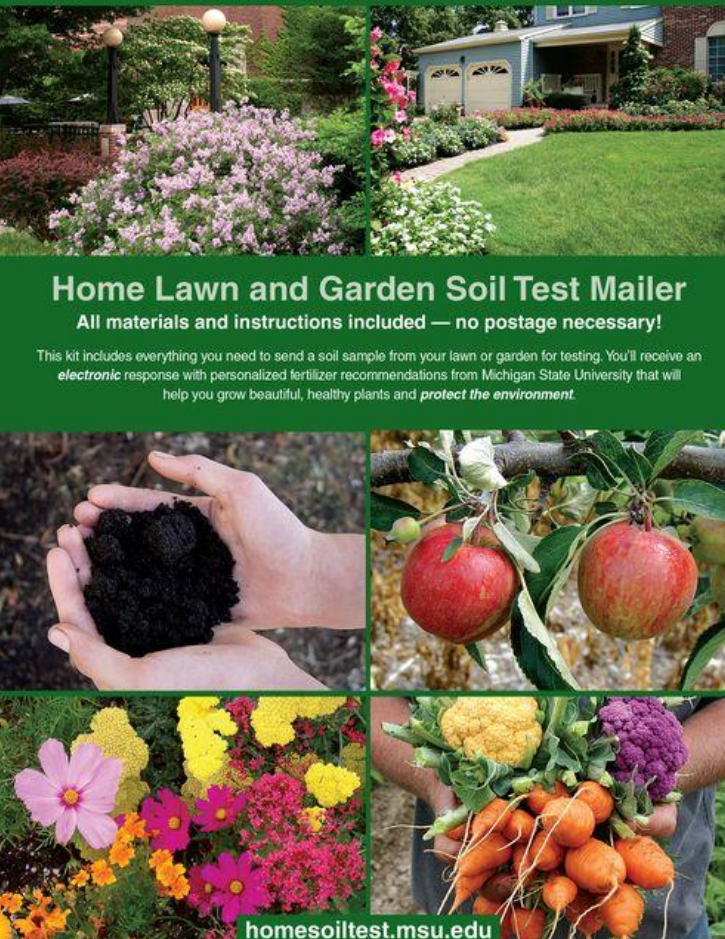
- Choose between commercial soil test bags (available only at MSU Extension county offices) and Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailers (available at county offices or online).
- Receive MSU recommendations specific to Michigan's soils and watersheds.

Please do not send samples to the MSU Soil and Plant Nutrient Laboratory (SPNL), which closed on Dec. 31, 2022. Samples sent to SPNL will not be processed.

Please direct additional questions to MSUsoiltest@msu.edu.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-3154 • REPRINT • MARCH 2023



Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer

All materials and instructions included — no postage necessary!

This kit includes everything you need to send a soil sample from your lawn or garden for testing. You'll receive an **electronic** response with personalized fertilizer recommendations from Michigan State University that will help you grow beautiful, healthy plants and **protect the environment**.

homesoiltest.msu.edu

The Tollgate Farm News

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers Spring Plant Sale

Saturday June 3, 2023

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This major fund raising event helps support the development and maintenance of the educational gardens on the site for Extension programs and visitors. This event is held rain or shine. Experienced Tollgate Garden Volunteers will be assisting with questions and selections for a great shopping experience. The Tollgate Nursery specializes in providing a variety of hardy perennials popular to SE Michigan gardens. Our plants are divisions or seed grown perennials found in our beautiful Tollgate gardens, or are donations from the home gardens of our volunteers, friends of the farm or local supporting nurseries. Sun and shade perennials are available in 1- gallon pots for \$6. Look for deals on overstock or specialty plants with premium pricing as noted with signage posted at the sale.

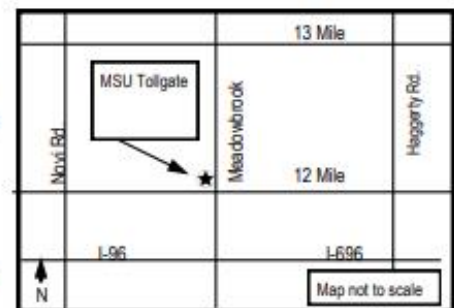
Payment with cash,
check to MSU or credit
card purchases will be
accepted



Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Michigan State University
Tollgate Farm and Education
Center
12 Mile & Meadowbrook Roads
In Novi
248 347-3860 ext. 251
www.tollgate.msu.edu

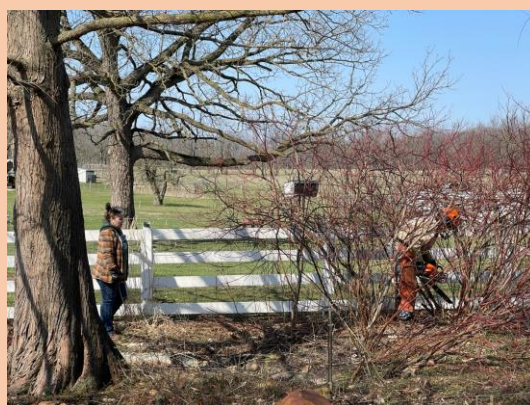
WE SUGGEST YOU CHECK CONSTRUCTION
DETOURS IN ADVANCE



MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

The Tollgate Farm News

SATURDAY WORKDAYS RETURN



Top row photos provided by Kathy Johnson
Bottom two rows by Nancy Powell

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MORE WORKDAY ACTIVITIES



Top two row photos provided by Nancy Powell
Bottom row photos by Renee Cottrell

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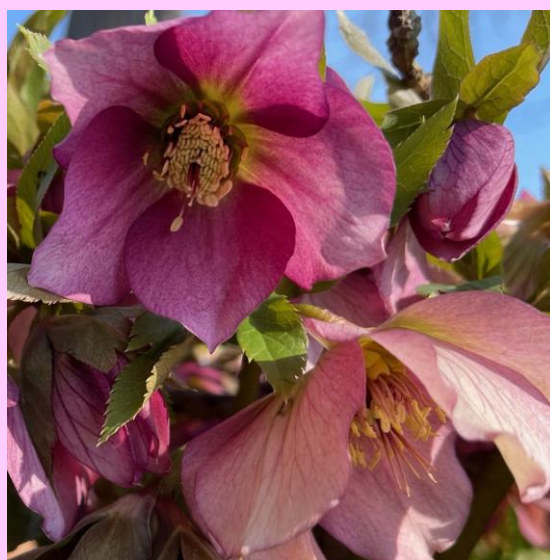
GRASS CUTBACK IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris

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SPRING FLOWERS ARRIVE



Top row photos provided by Kathy Johnson
Bottom row by Nancy Powell

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HORSING AROUND THE FARM



Top two photos provided by Marilyn Alimpich
Bottom photo by Nancy Powell

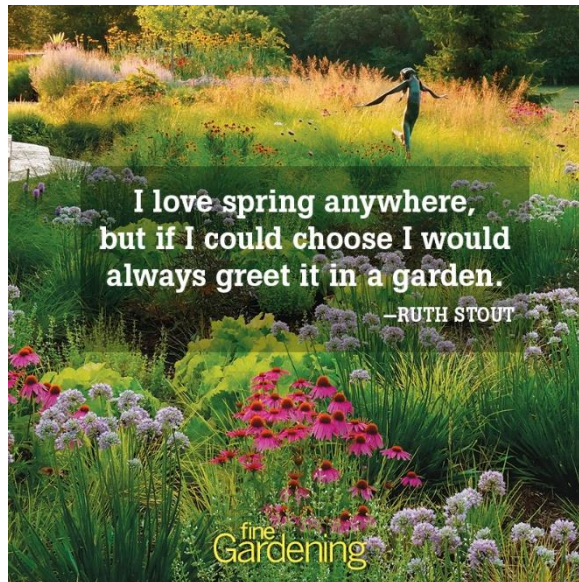
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MORE BABY GOATS



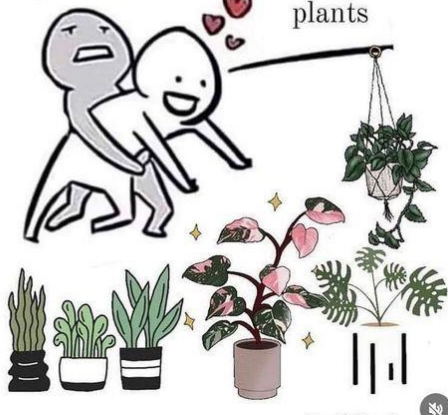
Photos provided by Marilyn Alimpich

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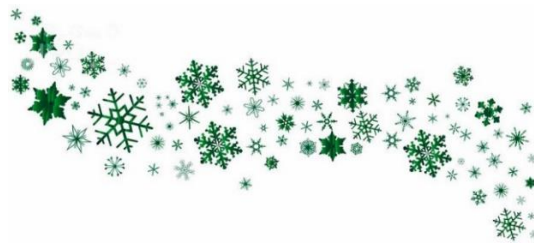


You have enough plants

But I don't have THESE plants



Me if i ever need to move.



The Tollgate Farm News

Take a Tollgate Picture

Next time you are volunteering at Tollgate, consider taking some pictures for the Tollgate Calendar. The preferred format is jpeg, landscape files. **It is important to send high-resolution photo files at full or actual size.** Send photo files in separate emails, if necessary, to Judy Warren, Tollgate Calendar Editor at TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com.

Photos are also appreciated for the monthly Farm News. Photo files can be “small-sized” and sent to napowell77@gmail.com.

Every season is magical at Tollgate. Think about capturing that magic in a photo for the Tollgate Calendar or Farm News.



Top left photo provided by Dave Komraus
Bottom left, top and bottom right photos by Roy Prentice
Middle right photo by Norm Powell
(All photos 2021)

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days: January - October

- Activity Day hours are 9:00 am – Noon, unless otherwise noted on the Activities section of the first page of the newsletter and the full year calendar (next page).
- Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays.
- Active members will continue to get email reminders of these activities.

We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the toolshed must be sanitized with the wipes provided, prior to returning the items to the toolshed after use.

TIP: If you aren't getting
The Tollgate Farm News email,
check your SPAM folder

**Volunteer Activity Day and
Meeting information
will be communicated by email**

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

Spades	Leaf Rakes
Garden Rakes	Garden Hoe
Brooms	Long-Handled Garden Forks
Wheelbarrows	Weed Buckets

Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

Trowel	Plant Division Forks
Pruners	Shrub Rake
Loppers	Sun Screen/Insect Repellant
Garden Scissors	Garden Gloves
Hand Saw	Knee Pads
Weeding Implement	

Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC)

Farm Manager – Roy Prentice

248-347-3860 Ext.251 prentic1@msu.edu

President..... Renee Cottrell

Vice President Marilyn Alimpich

Secretary..... Theresa Bridenbaugh

Treasurer..... Karen Harris

Membership..... Angie Carter

Communications Kathy Johnson

Programs..... Jackie Stengel

Hospitality..... Teresa LaRosa

Farm News Editor Nancy Powell

- The TGAC meets monthly virtually on Zoom (until further notice) on **the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.** All Tollgate Garden Volunteer members are welcome to attend and should contact Roy Prentice for meeting link.
- Contact information for individual TGAC members and Area Garden Leaders (AGL) are available by contacting Roy Prentice to have message or contact forwarded for response. Contact info can also be found in the Garden Binders in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2023 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.**

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email
tollgatemembers@gmail.com

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

1-28-23 for 2023

**MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Activity Calendar-2023**

January	February	March
3-TGAC via Zoom 7:00 PM 14-AGL Planning Meeting 10:00AM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom 	7-TGAC Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom 	7-TGAC Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom <u>Activity Days</u> 4-Pruning 9:00AM 11/12-Maplefest no work day 18-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 25-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM
April	May	June
4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1-12 Mile/Pond 9:00AM 8-Easter weekend Demo 9:00AM 15-Office/Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 22-Rose/Heritage 9:00AM 29-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM New volunteer orientation 9:00AM Pancake Brunch 12:00PM	2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 13-Farmhouse 9:00AM 20- Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 27-Memorial Weekend Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 3-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm 10-Rose/Heritage 9:00AM 17-Office/Entrance/ Rain 9:00AM 24-Pond/12Mile 9:00AM
July	August	September
11-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1- Demo garden 9:00AM 8-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM 15-Hosta 9:00AM 20-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM (Thursday-no membership mtg) 22-Heritage/Rain 9:00AM 29-Rose/Rockledge 9:00AM	1-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 17-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 5-Entrance/Office 9:00AM 12-Pond 9:00AM 19-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 26-PAR harvest 9:00AM	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 21-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 2-Labor Day Weekend TBD 9- Demo 9:00AM 16-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00 23-Xeriscape/Children's 9:00AM 30-Farmhouse/Shade 9:00AM
October	November	December
3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM <u>Activity Days</u> 7/8-Pumpkinfest  14-Plant Division & potting 9:00AM 21-Pond Clean Up 9:00AM 28-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	4-Recognition Dinner 4:00PM 7-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM Activity Day 11-Rose winterizing 10:00AM 23-Thanksgiving 	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 7-Hanukkah, 25-Christmas, 26-Kwanza   

****All activity days, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, begin at 9 am and are subject to change. Please consult the newsletter or call 248 347-3860 ext 251 or look for e-mails for updated information.**

Visit on web: www.tollgate.msu.edu

MSU TOLLGATE

VOLUNTEER SIGN IN

LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HELPS US TELL TOLLGATE'S STORY TO THE MSU COMMUNITY

- USING THE CAMERA ON YOUR SMART PHONE, HOVER OVER THE QR CODE
- A LINK WILL APPEAR
- IF NO LINK APPEARS, YOU WILL HAVE TO DOWNLOAD A QR READER APP
- CLICK ON THE LINK TO THE GOOGLE SIGN IN PAGE
- COMPLETE WITH YOUR INFORMATION
- THIS SIGN-IN PROCEDURE DOES **NOT** LOG YOUR HOURS WITH MSU EXTENSION



NOTE: If you prefer to complete your sign-in on your computer, this link will take you to the site:
[Tollgate Volunteer Sign In 2023](#)

MSU Tollgate gets a lot of credit for all the wonderful volunteers that tend the gardens, make maple syrup, and support programming. The farm would not be the unique place that it is without the support of many willing hands. Traditionally, Tollgate has relied on a sign-in sheet in the volunteer center to capture the hours of volunteer service. Many of our volunteers who work in the maple project or distant gardens may not visit the volunteer center when they are on the farm. To capture all of our volunteer hours, we are trying a new recording system. By following the instructions below and scanning the QR code, you can record your Tollgate hours online from anywhere. After you have scanned the code, you can even bookmark the link so that you can access the hours reporting form without the code.

Thank you for making Tollgate such a wonderful place! Roy

GARDEN PROJECT/BUDGET PLANNER

Plan Date:

Garden Name:

AGL/Co-AGL contact info **: _____

Describe any *special work* projects to be done in garden this season. (such as planting, pruning, divisions, special projects.-- OK if "none" are planned)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List plants that can be divided for plant sale.

SPRING

FALL

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Proposed new/replacement Plants for Garden	Plan(purchase, division, donation)	Estimated Cost
	Total	\$

Submit additional pages if needed

Other Items Needed for the Garden	Plan	Estimated Cost
	Total	

Submit additional pages if needed

11/20/22

REIMBURSEMENT WORKSHEET

THIS FORM IS REQUIRED WHEN PAYMENT REASON CODE "I" IS USED ON A DISBURSEMENT VOUCHER

PAYEE

(NSU NetID)

☐

Account Name:

ACCOUNTING LINE to be entered in the Disbursement Voucher e-doc (*required fields)

Must equal zero



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2023

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ MI

Zip _____ - _____

Name you would like on badge, if needed

Date Submitted _____

Telephone Number

Day _____ - _____

Evening _____ - _____

Email _____

Choose **one only**:

☐ **Supporting member:** I wish to support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings but will **not** be participating *as a volunteer* in garden activities, projects or other events on the site.

☐ **Active member:** I plan to participate *as a volunteer* in meetings, garden activities and/or other events or projects on the site and have or will complete the required Volunteer Selection Process.

Were you a Tollgate volunteer member last year? 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 or skills to share.

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 emailed, please include an additional \$10 to cover postage.

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

Questions: **Phone: 248-347-3860 Ext. 251**

Email: tollgatemembers@gmail.com

2023 Membership is valid from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Please read this Privacy Policy:

By filling out and submitting this form you authorize the Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV) and MSU to use your contact information to communicate with you via email, newsletters, and other formats. If you wish your email and other identification information to not be used by the TGV and MSU, please check this box (). (By checking this box, you will not receive email notification of workdays, or other volunteer opportunities, special events and educational opportunities, or the availability of the newsletter via e-mail.)

In the event of an emergency please notify:

Name

Phone