

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 29

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2023



## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting On Zoom

**Thursday, February 16, 2023  
7:00 PM**

## ***Mary Machon – An Evening in a Greenhouse***

Join Tollgate gardeners and supporters on Zoom for an evening in a greenhouse. Mary Machon, owner of Bensell Greenhouse in Toledo, [Home \(bensellgreenhouse.com\)](http://bensellgreenhouse.com), will talk about herbs: culinary, medicinal and decorative. In a live link from the greenhouse, Mary will talk about winter versus summer care, harvesting and using herbs.

Mary Machon is a former pharmaceutical representative with a degree in biology who used her 401K to buy a greenhouse. In addition to owning and operating the greenhouse for 16 years, Mary is a horticultural therapist mentioned and quoted in this extensive 2018 article, [Horticultural Therapy Offers Healing and Rehabilitation Benefits \(goodlifedetroit.com\)](http://goodlifedetroit.com).

### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

FEB	MEETINGS		MAR	MEETINGS	
7	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	7	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
16	TGV General Mtg – Zoom	7:00 pm	16	TGV General Mtg – Zoom	7:00 pm
FEB	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		MAR	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
	<b>No Workdays in February</b>		4	Pruning	9:00 am
			<b>11/12</b>	<b>MapleFest</b> (no workday)	
			18	Grass Cut Back – All	9:00 am
			25	Pathway/Demo Mulching	9:00 am

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings all,  
Winter has finally arrived on the farm. I was hoping that it was just going to pass us by this year, but not so lucky. Evidently, if you live in Michigan, you must pay your dues for mild summers, no mudslides, few tornados, fewer earthquakes, and very few creatures that have poison in their bite.



#### **New lambs:**

The lambing season is in full swing. There are four new lambs on the farm all looking extremely cute. Our crop this year includes one fellow that was born big and getting bigger by the day. The Tollgate 4H

club gets naming rights on the newborns, and they are working a Disney theme this year.



The new ram lamb is named Mufasa.



Since we had his mom bred to a ram from another farm, Mufasa is not related to any of the other Tollgate ewes. Mufasa is currently slated to be added to the males living at Tollgate. Mufasa and the other lambs are safe in the barn and have a nice warm heat lamp to snuggle up to.

We are waiting on the goat kids. There will be many. They are slated to arrive in March.

**Maple Syrup:** The maple crew has been setting up the sugar house, repairing lines, checking the wood supply, and getting ready for the season. All is coming along well and all involved are looking forward to this First Sign of Spring. The maple season is short and intense. The maple syrup volunteers not only tap trees and boil sap, but they also host school groups and are a key part of Tollgate's annual MapleFest. If you would like to help with this fun, spring activity, please let me know. Tollgate is truly blessed with the dedication and talents of many wonderful volunteers!

Thank you so much for all that worked in the Tollgate gardens during the summer of 2022. Please consider joining us on the grounds again this upcoming gardening season. There are lots of ways that you can renew your connection with the earth at Tollgate..

Workdays start in March, right around the corner!

I'll see you soon around the farm,

Roy

# The Tollgate Farm News



**Notes from the President**  
**Renee Cottrell**

*"Gardeners are good at nurturing, and they have a great quality of patience, they're tender. They have to be persistent."*

*-Ralph Fiennes (English Actor, Producer, Director)*

Greetings to all this early February, All in all, a milder winter thus far in 2023. Before the blanket of snow, I noted many of the weeds faring well in my yard and in the Tollgate gardens. We may need to be prepared this spring that they will have the quick advantage when the mild temperatures return. Enjoy the quiet and the beauty of the snow on the landscape while it lasts!

**Garden Teams** are planning for the 2023 season and submitting budgets for review and approval of new plant materials and garden projects. Now would be a great time to join a team to get in on the advanced planning! There are many opportunities on existing garden teams for small and larger areas throughout our many garden sites. See the article listing these in this issue of the newsletter. I would be happy to introduce anyone who is interested to the requirements in these areas or direct them to the appropriate Area Garden Leader. New members are welcome!

**Contact information** for all members is updated yearly via the **membership renewal form**. Please submit ASAP so you don't miss any important message contacts. If you wish to be assigned to a particular garden or activity of interest, please indicate so on your 2023 renewal form. Also, if you change your contact information or membership status during the season, please notify Angie Carter, Membership Chairperson at [tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatemembers@gmail.com)

**Group Garden Activities** will begin in March. We try to get a head start on the activities of pruning, path mulching and cutting the ornamental grasses on the property if snow fall levels permit. See the activity calendar summary on the first page, the full year schedule later in the newsletter, or on the web site at [2023 Tollgate Garden Activity Calendar](#)

**Tollgate Garden Volunteer Meetings** will continue to be in Zoom format until April. We then plan to move to in-person meetings and will give advance reminders to allow members to plan ahead. Great topics and speakers are scheduled that you won't want to miss!

**Maplefest on March 11th and 12th!** Carmen Hamilton, Volunteer Coordinator, recently sent an email request for volunteers to help with this fun family and community event. Food and fun learning activities are planned for all. Please review the sign-up genius to see if there is a volunteer opportunity you would like to help with at the event.

[Maplefest Volunteer Signup](#)

Stay warm, plan for spring!

Renee Cottrell, Adv. MG, President  
Tollgate Garden Volunteers  
[rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net)



# The Tollgate Farm News



activity can occur. The misters and filters removed mid-summer start their vinegar bath shortly afterwards. Then, as the cooler weather approaches in October, we will remove all the overhead irrigation parts, including the screw on collar, and they will start their vinegar bath. After several weeks or more of soak time and some scrubbing, the cleaning process also involves a quick inspection of the misters to be sure that they still swivel correctly and that the filters aren't clogged. Our current 86 irrigation stations require a minimum 86 collars, 172 misters and 172 filters on hand to install in spring and to perform the mid-year swap – plus a few extras to resolve problems that occur during the season.

**The PLANTS WANTED list will be sent out in early MARCH!** Keep one eye on your garden to see what is poking up through the mulch as the snow melts away, and the other on your email for the PLANTS WANTED list. The Nursery relies on donations from YOU as well as all the Tollgate gardens. The Spring Sale is a major fundraiser that supports all Tollgate Gardens.

**Early to mid-April is typical timing** to open the Nursery for spring donations! Start thinking now about what you might have to bring to the Nursery!

**Working in the NURSERY is a unique gardening experience** - it provides an opportunity to learn about lots of different varieties, as well how to maintain healthy perennials in a pot. Proceeds from plant sales generate support for all the Tollgate Gardens. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Peg Palmer for more information at [palmermargaretanne@gmail.com](mailto:palmermargaretanne@gmail.com).



**Winter is a quiet time for the Nursery team ...** That makes it a good time to catch up on planning and organizing.



This is when the “plant tag” binders get reorganized – making sure each plant information page is in a sheet

protector and filed in the appropriate 3 ring binder (primarily organized alphabetically by scientific name and sun versus shade requirement). The information in the inventory file that indicates availability of a printed “Plant Tag” is verified or updated. Needed new plant tags then can be created and/or printed before the rush of donations and frenzied preparations later in the spring as the sale day approaches.

**Last summer we began a new practice** to install new/cleaned sprinkler heads in the spring and again in mid-summer. We had noticed erratic performance of the sprinklers due to buildup of sediment from the well that is the water supply for the Nursery and other Tollgate gardens. This means double the number of mister parts are needed so this same day mid-summer remove and replace

# The Tollgate Farm News



## PAR GARDEN

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

The PAR Garden was founded in 2002 with a charter to provide fresh produce to those who are food-challenged locally. Since then, various teams of wonderful volunteers have toiled to produce an average of 2,600 pounds of fresh produce annually, with much appreciated distribution support from Forgotten Harvest, Feed the Need in Novi, C.A.R.E.S. of Farmington Hills, and P.B.J. Outreach Inc. which services the homeless in metropolitan Detroit.



Forgotten Harvest, which was founded in 1990, is dedicated to relieving hunger and preventing nutritious food waste.

Along with many donators such as the MSU Tollgate Farm PAR Garden, Forgotten Harvest also has a farm where they

grow fresh food for those in need. Their innovative vision is to deliver the Right Food to the Right Place in the Right Quantity at the Right Time. In a single year, they have over 42,000 donors and over 51,000,000 pounds of food rescued and redistributed.



Novi Rotary Foundation's Feed the Need Summer Lunch Program consists of 11 weeks of free lunches for students in need up to age 17, with 6

locations around the Novi area.

The organization's mission is to feed each child's body, mind, and spirit in a dignified manner.



C.A.R.E.S., which stands for Community Action Resources Empowerment Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and bettering the community. 500+ families receive food assistance through C.A.R.E.S. Their Free Food Pantry was the recipient of our donations.



P.B.J. Outreach Inc., which does stand for Peanut Butter and Jam, is a relatively new non-profit organization which has a headquartered kitchen at OLGC Church and three pop-up distribution centers throughout Detroit. Every Saturday they distribute food and clothing to 250-350 individuals in Midtown, Mexican Town, and the East Side.

The garden, which consists of twenty-five 30'x4' beds in an enclosed area at MSU Tollgate Farm in Novi, is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers with the support of the MSU Tollgate Farm staff. Over the years, the garden has grown, and many lessons learned have been incorporated into the maintenance of the garden, based primarily on MSU Extension Master Gardener principles and gardening experience. Recently, we have concentrated on vegetables with a good shelf life -- potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, cabbage, garlic, leeks, summer and winter squash, and turnips.

Photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick

PAR Report continued on Page 6



# The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 5

In years past, apples, watermelons, and other vegetables contributed to the bountiful yields. This year we will be adding Kohlrabi, cucumbers, hot peppers, and new varieties of winter squash.

Each year we plan in October, order what is needed in December/January, work with the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) team to grow seedlings in the greenhouse February through April, and really dig into the work effort starting in April with a few workdays per week until mid-October. Our labors include prepping the beds for planting, planting seed potatoes/seedlings/ seeds, maintaining the irrigation, weeding, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), harvesting, preparing the produce for distribution and storage, and winterizing the garden.

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](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton ([hamil466@msu.edu](mailto:hamil466@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

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

Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Top two photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
Bottom photo by Lynette Leroux  
Photos from Spring 2022

# 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. If your badge is missing, there is a sign-up sheet nearby, and one will be made for you. The next update of badges is planned for early March.



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.

NOTE: No member spotlight in February – no workdays.

## Please Renew Your Membership for 2023

If you haven't already renewed your annual TGV Membership for 2023, please consider doing so now, before the gardening season begins, so you never miss any Tollgate gardening news!

Thank you!  
Angie Carter

[Tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto:Tollgatemembers@gmail.com)





# The Tollgate Farm News

## 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.**



# The Tollgate Farm News

## 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](mailto: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

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Gardens in Need of Team Members and Area Garden Leaders (AGLs)

Garden teams, responsible for specific gardens, need members and AGLs to cover the care of the many gardens here at Tollgate. All teams' welcome new members and some need immediate help for 2023. Being on a team does not exclude you from the general Saturday workdays. As "Active Status" garden members get more familiar with the various garden experiences, they sometimes find a particular garden or team that meets their gardening interests. Some teams have more weekday opportunities for those unable to participate on the weekends. Please consider the following gardens and contact Renee Cottrell at [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net) if you are interested in becoming a team member:

**Hosta Garden:** New AGL Lori Heiden is looking for other shade lovers to be on the Hosta garden team.

**Children's Garden Collection:** All areas in need of members to assist: Entrance, Fence, Pond, East Tollbooth, Native prairie, Vine maze. Colorful, interactive learning areas catering to the young visitors in need of extra hands to keep the area maintained. Weekday work schedules available. Multiple AGLs for these areas, contact Renee to be put in touch with your area of interest.

**Demonstration Gardens:** Team AGLs and members needed. These smaller collections of gardens can be acquired and managed as smaller plots. Located in a full sun area, some have already received regular maintenance from independent volunteer work. Gardens are irrigated. Renee has notes on these locations that provide a variety of learning experiences.

**Office Gardens:** AGL Susie Sherman welcomes someone to co-lead and has need for team members. Most information on plants and work needs are documented and up-to-date. Renee can orient any interested members to this area that is low maintenance, once spring clean-up is complete.

**Heritage Garden:** AGL Susie Sherman welcomes someone to co-lead and team members for this garden with the specific theme consistent with late 1800's plant types. This is a highly visible area with events on the property.

**Rose Garden:** Team members needed under guidance of experienced AGL Joe Pyden. Nice opportunity for learning many aspects of rose care in a brand-new garden renovation as phase 2 is initiated this season..

**Xeriscape Gardens:** Team members needed to work with long-standing AGL Marilyn Alimpich. Loads of plant variety makes for a wonderful learning experience.

**Entrance Garden:** AGL Laurey Konjarevich needs team members for multilevel garden display at south entrance. Large plant variety offers many learning opportunities..

**Sakura Japanese Garden:** This is a smaller garden area surrounding a tea house structure, with a remote location compared to other gardens. AGL(s) and members are needed, especially in early spring. Contact Roy for details on this area.

# The Tollgate Farm News

Article continued from Page 10

**Constructed Wetlands (aka “The Pond”)**: Dave Komraus is the AGL for multiple areas that make up this very large area. Smaller work areas can be created for interested team members. Additional team members needed for 2023 season.

**Nursery**: AGL Peg Palmer welcomes new team members for this well-established team, key to our annual plant sales. Interesting learning experiences with plant identification, potting, and aspects of maintaining nursery potted plants.

**Plant-A-Row (PAR) Garden**: AGL Kathryn Fitzpatrick leads this team on weekday activities in the planting, maintenance and harvesting activities of a large community garden. News team members always welcome.

**High Density Orchard**: AGL Clay Ottoni offers specialized experience in small fruit/orchard management.

**Rock Ledge Garden**: AGL(s) and team members needed. Rock garden plantings require some agility to conduct maintenance on a slope. This area may be impacted by repair of steps this season. See Renee for more information.

**Enabling Garden**: This garden may be under renovation for 2023 season. AGL(s) and team members needed. This is essentially a container garden with special planter styles for those with special mobility needs. See Renee for plans.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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**, page 22 at the back of this newsletter. Email to Marilyn Alimpich, TGAC Vice-President, at [masoleil@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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, on page 23 at 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

## Maplefest – March 11 & 12, 2023



### Join the Team: Maplefest Volunteer Opportunities



If you would like to volunteer at the event: [Maplefest Volunteer Signup](#)

If you are interested in attending: [Maplefest Event Registration](#)

Questions: Contact Carmen Hamilton at (248) 347-3860 ext. 239, [hamil466@msu.edu](mailto:hamil466@msu.edu)



# The Tollgate Farm News

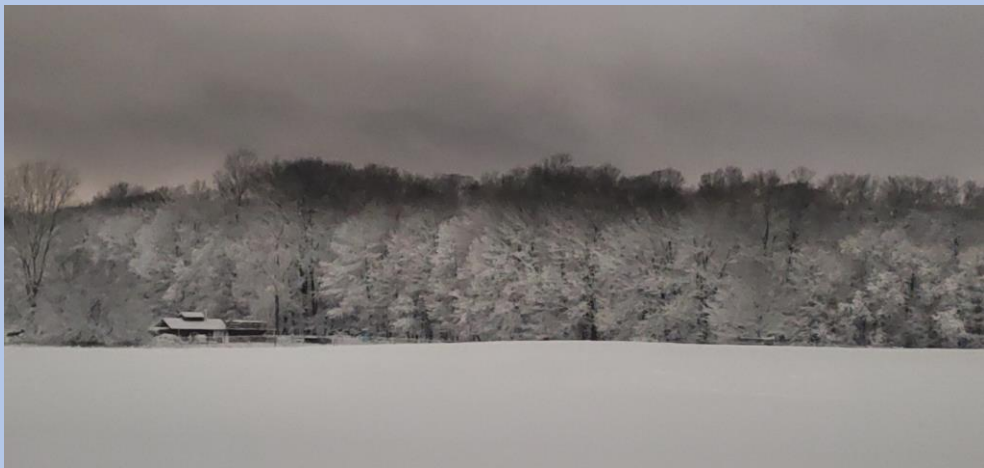
## CONIFERS IN WINTER



Photos provided by Kathy Johnson

# The Tollgate Farm News

## SNOW ACROSS THE FARM



Photos provided by Roy Prentice



# The Tollgate Farm News

## SNOW ON THE BARNNS



Top row photos provided by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom two photos by Roy Prentice

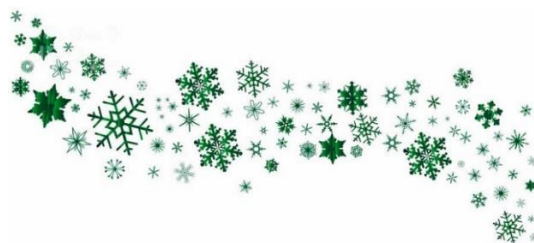
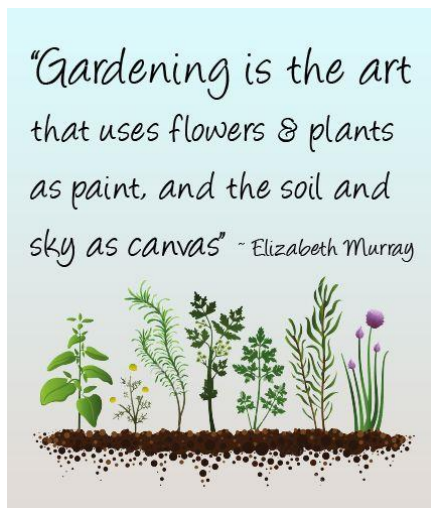
# The Tollgate Farm News

## WINTER LANDSCAPE



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News



Garden quotes submitted by Kathryn Currier & Nancy Powell



# 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](mailto:TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com).

Photos are also appreciated for the monthly Farm News. Photo files can be “small-sized” and sent to [napowell77@gmail.com](mailto: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 a 10% bleach solution 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 Repellent
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 <b>11/12-Maplefest no work day</b> 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 <b>8-Easter weekend Demo</b> 9:00AM 15-Office/Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 22-Rose/Heritage 9:00AM 29-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM <b>New volunteer orientation</b> 9:00AM <b>Pancake Brunch</b> 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 <b>27-Memorial Weekend</b> Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> <b>3-Spring Plant Sale</b> 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 <b>20-TGV Garden Open House</b> 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> <b>2-Labor Day Weekend TBD</b> 9- Demo 9:00AM <b>16-Nursery Fall Plant Sale</b> 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> <b>7/8-Pumpkinfest</b>  14-Plant Division & potting 9:00AM 21-Pond Clean Up 9:00AM 28-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	<b>4-Recognition Dinner</b> 4:00PM 7-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM Activity Day 11-Rose winterizing 10:00AM <b>23-Thanksgiving</b> 	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](http://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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

Submit additional pages if needed

Other Items Needed for the Garden	Plan	Estimated Cost
	<b>Total</b>	

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**

(MSU NetID)

5

Account Name:

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

Account*	Sub Account	Object Code*	Sub Object Code	Project Code	Org. Ref. ID	Amount*
						0.00
TOTAL						0.00
Must equal zero						0.00





# 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](mailto: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