

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 28

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2022



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting On-Site in The Pavilion

**Thursday, September 15, 2022
7:00 PM**

Cooking with Mary Spencer Live & In-Person at Tollgate

Join garden volunteers and supporters in the picnic pavilion on Thursday evening, September 15. Tollgate members look forward to Mary Spencer's annual cooking demonstrations, especially the samples and recipes. This year, Mary will demonstrate making appetizers for upcoming holidays and other occasions. Mary will also answer your general questions about cooking or ingredients.

Mary Spencer's goal is to make people better cooks. Before Covid, she taught a variety of cooking classes at The Old World Olive Company in Plymouth and at ABC Warehouse locations in Livonia, Troy, Lakeside, and Novi. Her business, *Taste: A Cook's Place*, www.tasteacooksplace.net, delivers home cooked five-course dinners with generous portions on most Thursdays and Sundays. Mary and Sammy Spencer do contactless deliveries within 20 miles of Plymouth.

Mary has conducted food tours, done menu planning and researched heirloom recipes. She has been teaching cooking for 20 years and has over 5,500 cookbooks in her personal collection.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

SEP	MEETINGS			OCT	MEETINGS	
6	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm		4	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
15	TG Volunteer Mtg – in person	7:00 pm		20	TG Volunteer Mtg – Zoom	7:00 pm
SEP	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES			OCT	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
3	Labor Day Weekend	9:00 am		1	Plant division & potting	9:00 am
10	Demo/Hosta	9:00 am		8-9	Pumpkinfest	11:00-5:00
17	Nursery Fall Plant Sale	9:00-Noon		15	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am
24	Xeriscape/Children's/Pond	9:00 am		22	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am
				29	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am

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!

**Lori Heiden
Eric Halttunen
Susanne Ocko Halttunen**



Photo from MSU Extension website

The Tollgate Farm News

FROM THE
TOLLGATE
FARM
MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings all,

August has come and gone. Summer is flying by. Colder temperatures may soon arrive – but are not here just yet. The end of August has seen the completion of a successful summer camp season.



Several hundred campers had lots of adventures on the farm. In addition to the usual camps which featured hiking in the woods and fishing in the pond, Tollgate hosted a week of Adventure camp filled with kayaking, rock climbing, and other high energy outdoor sports and three weeks of horse camp filled with, well, horses. Having the kids back on the farm in full-strength camps made things feel quite a bit more normal.



Since winter is inevitable, we have been spending a lot of time recently gathering the second cutting of hay. If you are a goat, the second cutting is much yummier than the first cutting harvested back in June. Lots more grass blades in the second cutting and fewer of those pesky stalks. With this year's dry, hot weather, the crop promises to be on the meager side. We use lots of hay to keep the Tollgate animals well fed. It takes lots of work to keep them happy through the winter. It's all worthwhile though whenever one of the goats gives you a nod of approval and a wink of appreciation as they dive into the hay feeder for a winter bite.

Recognition Dinner: We are planning to host the Volunteer Recognition dinner this November. If you have attended past years' events, you know that the recognition dinner is a great event that brings us all together in a celebration of the gardening year. **To get an invitation to the dinner, you need to sign in at least once at a Tollgate workday using the QR code system.** The Recognition dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, beginning at 4:00pm. Although November seems like a long time away, it will be here soon! I will be sending invitations out in a couple of weeks.

Thanks for all that you do for the farm!
Roy

Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Notes from the President
Renee Cottrell

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

-Gertrude Jekyll, British horticulturist, garden designer, artist, writer

Hope to see all of you at the next member General meeting to be held outdoors, **ON-SITE** Sept. 15th!

PLANT DIVISION DONATIONS

Please keep us in mind for all your fall plant divisions. See Nursery notes for details.

FALL PLANT SALE

We will be doing a smaller scale Fall Plant Sale to showcase the fall blooming perennials. This will be primarily staffed by the Nursery Team and done in conjunction with the Sept. 17th work day in the Nursery. Other volunteers are welcome to participate and please come to browse/buy! E-mail me if you wish to volunteer as Sales Assistants or Runners, as per the recent email request. rmcottrell4@att.net

EGGFEST- ACE Hardware has rented the site for their public cooking demo and day out on the Farm also on Sept. 17th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We would like to participate in this event to increase public awareness of the Garden volunteers and other Tollgate events and have sent out an e-mail requesting volunteers. These information table and garden tour guide assignments would qualify for Extension MG hours since it is public education on the gardens and gardening questions. Handouts will be available. Contact me if you are interested.

There is still plenty to do in the upcoming fall months! As temperatures cool a little, enjoying a garden walk can be more tolerable. Come and enjoy all the beauty you have made possible! For those interested in more opportunities for hours, there are Clean-up days, division activity and Fall Plant Sale! Seated activity opportunities include the information table at upcoming Eggfest, CSA Wednesdays and Pumpkinfest. Contact me quickly to get in on these final season opportunities.

Thank you to those who willingly gave feedback on your comfort level with returning to indoor meetings and the Recognition Dinner event as requested last month. At this time, we are planning for our final meeting in October to be via Zoom, primarily because sunset time and colder evening temperatures make it difficult for an outdoor meeting. However, we are moving forward to have the Recognition Dinner inside as scheduled on Saturday November 5th. The Recognition Dinner is provided by The Americana Foundation and all active members who have volunteered at least once (and logged in as such) by Sept. 17th will get an invitation. **Now** is the time to update your reported Tollgate hours with the QR code provided in this issue to be invited to this event. A separate Zoom event with a summary of the dinner happenings and Roy's PowerPoint will be available to ALL members on a date yet to be determined.

President's Report continued on Page 5

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President's Report continued from Page 4

ATTENTION AGL AND GARDEN TEAM

MEMBERS- All AGLs who had submitted a budget request for your garden this season need to submit your expense reimbursement forms as soon as possible. **MSU has imposed a 90-day limit on expenses that can be reimbursed. That means you have 90 days from purchase to have Roy submit your reimbursement request.** Any delay would risk reimbursement rejection. Contact me or Roy for info or forms. As you work in your gardens these remaining weeks of the season, please assess for plant identification tags needed for your area and submit to Roy ASAP. We hope to work on the required tags during the slower winter months. Accurate Latin name, and common name are best, and a variety name if it is known. It is our goal to have all gardens with this information to enhance the educational value and enjoyment for all visitors.

NOMINATIONS

A call for all interested members! September brings the time to make nominations for the officer positions on your Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council (TGAC). All elected positions are voted on **every** year. This includes President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Serving as a TGAC board member contributes to our organization in ways that do not require physical labor and thus opens another opportunity to participate. These hours are considered towards (re-) certification and this opportunity is open to **any** member. You may nominate yourself or any other **willing** Tollgate volunteer. Most positions do not require specific experience but general organizational skills and a love of working with people is a plus! Current board members would be willing to educate and transition any newly elected members to these positions. Please consider this opportunity for the growth of our organization as well as your own personal enrichment.

We will take verbal, written or e-mailed nominations on or before **October 4, 2022**. We will vote at the October general meeting for TGAC positions.

Article VIII SECTION 3. The duties of the Officers shall be:

President: To preside over General Membership and TGAC meetings; to appoint standing committee chairpersons; to oversee the execution of these by-laws and policies in order that the purpose, mission, and goals of the TGV may be served.

Vice-President: To perform the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence and such duties of other officers in their absences.

Secretary: To record the minutes of the TGAC meeting; to record membership in the absence of a designated membership chairperson; to attend to all correspondence of the TGAC and maintain complete files of minutes, attendance and correspondence.

Treasurer: To monitor the funds held in TGAC account at MSU, the budgets for Area Garden Leaders, maintain a complete set of records and to prepare and present monthly and annual financial reports for the TGAC and the General Membership meetings; to surrender all books, records, to the succeeding Treasurer.

NON-ELECTED POSITIONS OF INTEREST:

The current board is interested in developing a position for events chairperson/team and for additions to the communications team for developing Facebook postings for our organization. These positions have sufficient educational components, public contact, and promotion of the Tollgate educational gardens to qualify for EMG hours. Call Renee if interested at 248-251-4505.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer,
Renee Cottrell, President

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Member Spotlight

In the hopes of encouraging all members to wear their name badge when on-site at Tollgate, we are spotlighting a current member 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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL BADGES REQUESTED AS OF SEPTEMBER 6 HAVE BEEN MADE AND ARE IN THE BOX IN THE VOLUNTEER CENTER.



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 is:

Theresa Bridenbaugh



Years gardening... 35-40

Master Gardener since... "I took my MG classes at Tollgate in the spring of 2019."

Volunteer at Tollgate since... "I started to volunteer at Tollgate once I completed my MG classes in 2019."

Favorite garden... "That's hard to say since all are beautiful in their own way. Since I started at Tollgate in the PAR garden it is special to me mostly because it helps to get fresh vegetables to people. But since I am a co-AGL for the Shade Garden, it is also a favorite. It's always nice to spend some time in the shade after working in the sun at PAR."

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New MSU Reimbursement Policy

The MSU Controller's Office has made it known that it will no longer reimburse receipts that are more than 90 days old. I GREATLY appreciate all who purchase plants and materials in anticipation of having their expenditures reimbursed by MSU. Your knowledge of the gardens at Tollgate lets you know just what needs to be purchased.

Please make sure that if you make expenditures with the intent of being reimbursed, that you get your receipts to me in a timely fashion.

Thank you!
Roy



**Annual Membership
Renewal for 2023
Will Begin in
November**

**Your membership helps
you stay notified of
Volunteer Workdays,
events, and meetings.**

**Thank you for your
continued membership
to all those
who renew annually.**

Angie Carter

Tollgatemembers@gmail.com



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**VOLUNTEERS
TOGETHER
DIVIDING
GROWING
SHARING**

NURSERY NOTES

Peg Palmer

The Nursery opened August 20 for your Fall plant donations! This marks the first step to restock the Nursery for the Fall Plant Sale, and get a head start on plants that will overwinter in the Nursery and be ready for the Spring sale in June 2023.

The FALL PLANT SALE is SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 during the typical workday hours of 9 am – Noon. This is a smaller, more casual event than Spring, that features late summer and fall blooming plants that aren't very attractive in early June - but all the plants in the Nursery will be available for sale. Tollgate Plant Sales are a great way to find affordable plants to expand or add variety to your garden. Many of our plants are divisions from the beautiful gardens at Tollgate, as well as from your fellow Tollgate gardeners. We will have a large supply of natives, many grown from seed at Tollgate North (Deb Kearney's basement greenhouse) - including lots of milkweeds to support Monarch butterflies.



Note that there is another event at the farm beginning at 10 am. Helpers will be available to transport purchases to your vehicle, even if you are parked in the main parking lot.



THE NURSERY WILL BE OPEN TO ACCEPT PLANT DONATIONS THROUGH SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH!



Please check the **PLANTS WANTED** list to check out what we need. **THANK-YOU** to those who have already donated. If

you are unable to bring your plants to the Nursery by this date, please wait to dig them up when the Nursery opens for donations next Spring!



Left column photo provided by Peg Palmer
Right column photos by Amy Deeds

Nursery Notes continued on Page 9

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Nursery Notes continued from Page 8



WHY DO WE HAVE TO STOP ACCEPTING DONATIONS? The short answer is that we have a lot of work that we must get done before the weather gets too cold... and we're never sure how long we will have! Once the weather turns really cold or rainy, most of our work becomes somewhere between really miserable and just impossible to do!

OVERWINTERING PREP begins after the Fall sale when all the pots are in their assigned location, and we have taken a physical inventory of everything. Then we can push down the Plant ID sticks deep into the pot to prevent them popping out and being lost over the winter and the foliage on most plants is cut back hard to prevent disease. The final step is to move pots close together in larger groups

within their assigned rows and surround them with wood chips that provide some insulation from the temperature fluctuations of a Michigan winter. We work to keep mulch off the top of the pots because this holds too much moisture in in the soil.

SOME PLANTS NEED EXTRA HELP TO OVERWINTER SUCCESSFULLY... Although all our plants are hardy in Michigan, some are more vulnerable to Michigan's freeze/thaw cycle that traps moisture in the pot and can damage roots. In the past we have selected these pots for special treatment under ROW COVERS. While this provides good protection from excess moisture and temperature changes while the covers are on (from late November until usually sometime in March), a wet fall and/or spring rains will still result in wet and soggy roots. We will be experimenting with a different strategy to overwinter these plants this year, but it will still require moving selected plants to special winter locations before closing the Nursery for the winter. The CHALLENGE is to complete all of this before the REALLY COLD weather arrives!

If this sounds interesting to you, consider joining the Nursery Team for next season! It can be fun to learn about lots of different plants, including how to grow them in a pot! You can join as a **ROW LEADER** (focus your attention on maintaining a group of plants in one specific area), or a **MEMBER-AT-LARGE** (a generalist who is kept in the loop with all that's happening in the Nursery and helps out with whatever projects are ongoing as you are available). In either role, you can be part of future changes as we work to continually improve our operations, learn about growing lots of different plants and raise money to support all the Tollgate Gardens! Email Peg Palmer for more info: palmermargaretanne@gmail.com

Photos provided by Amy Deeds

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Our garlic was cured in the shed and weighed in at 13 lbs. – we may need to use most of it as seed garlic for next year, as we had an irrigation issue that caused the garlic to be smaller than expected. We still have purple cabbage, winter squash, and leeks to harvest, as well as the succession crops of summer squash, turnips, and radishes. So, plenty more to come.



Harvest total is just under 2500 lbs.! This is the highest yield at this point in the season since 2015.

It is a record, with 640 lbs. of beets, 508 lbs. of potatoes, 276 lbs. of cabbage, and 512 lbs. of onions!



The summer squash and beans are going strong, as well, with many more to come –

272 lbs. and 64 lbs. respectively.



We have harvested 180 lbs. of carrots and have just scratched the surface – they are abundant despite

sharing them with mice and voles.

This month we started supplying fresh produce to PB&J – an organization that services the homeless in downtown Detroit with an average of 200 people served per week. Check them out on www.pbjoutreach.org. This is a great addition, as they pick up on Fridays for a Saturday distribution, and that means that our Thursday harvest is used at its freshest. Forgotten Harvest is picking up on Mondays after our Monday harvest, so all our produce is served at its best.

MSU is working on a potato cultivar that is resistant to the potato beetle, so maybe soon we will have a better choice for fighting this pest. In the meantime, we will continue to rotate beds as far away as possible from the previous season, plant fewer beds with red potatoes only, plant later to avoid the first emergence of the potato beetle, till the beds, and plant marigolds around the bed perimeters. Hopefully this will alleviate the problem – fingers crossed! There is also a newer Bt pesticide that looks promising in the management of the potato beetle, so we may give this a go as well. We will keep you posted on progress.

Top and bottom photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick
Middle photo by Lynette Leroux

PAR Garden continued on Page 11

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PAR Garden continued from Page 10

It is time to plant our cover crops – oat and pea. We will be trying this out in several beds to help enrich the soil, but also as a weed deterrent. This cover crop will die out over the winter and can be worked into the soil or simply raked off come spring. Thanks to the CSA team again for their help in selecting a good cover crop and educating us on timing and planting instructions. We might even be able to use it as a mulch if we leave it in the beds.

The cilantro has flowered and now has an abundance of coriander seeds to be picked. The little seeds just need to be dried and, voila, you have a wonderful spice. It is a great herb as it helps with weed management, provides cilantro for many tasty uses, and then supplies coriander. The borage turned out to be a great success planted with the squash – it attracted many pollinators, helped with weed control, and the leaves and flowers can be eaten in salads or sauteed. The shallots, as mentioned before, were a great companion to the beets. The parsley in the cabbage beds got a little lost, but we still had a good amount to harvest. We will certainly be continuing to companion plant to get the best weed control, bed coverage, pest management, and variety, as well as beauty in the garden.

Several of our vegetables require curing and processing – carrots, onions, and garlic. The carrots need to have the dirt washed off and if not picked up quickly, the greens removed. By the way, the greens are edible – with many recipes available online.



Onions need to be laid out to let the tops/greens dry out, and then the tops and roots need to be cut off. The garlic must be bundled and hung up in a dry warm place (our shed is perfect) to dry, and then the tops and roots need to be cut off. Another work task for the diligent volunteers, who seem to always be ready for anything.

As the season starts to wind down, it is time to begin to reflect on next year and the successes and challenges to prepare for, as well as how to continue to add variety, diversity, and fun to our beautiful PAR Garden.

Happy Gardening,
Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick

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August TGV General Meeting On-site

On Thursday, August 18, 2022, our monthly membership meeting was held on-site, with our Farm Manager, Roy Prentice taking us on a hayride tour of several of the larger gardens and providing a tree talk in the woods. It was a beautiful evening.



Photos provided by Linda Piasecki

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More from Our August Meeting



Top row photos provided by Linda Piasecki
Bottom two row photos by Renee Cottrell

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Tollgate Event: Motor City Eggfest - September 17, 2022, 10:00am – 3:00pm



SEP 17

Motor City EGGFest

by [Great Lakes Ace Hardware](#)


28 followers [Follow](#)

\$20 – \$25

[Tickets](#)

The First Annual Great Lakes Ace Motor City EGGFest! This is a public family-friendly event revolving around cooking on the Big Green Egg!

About this event



Date and time

Sat, September 17, 2022
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM EDT

Location

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48377
[View map](#)

Refund policy

No Refunds

For more information, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/motor-city-eggfest-tickets-296914588527>

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Fall Plant Sale & Nursery Workday

- Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:00am - Noon

Greetings Active Tollgate Garden Volunteers and interested members,

Our Tollgate Garden Volunteer Fall Plant Sale is approaching. This event is smaller in scale than the spring fund raiser and combined with a work day in the Nursery. We do need assistance in the general clean-up of the Nursery and activities as directed by the AGL. We will also need a few volunteers to assist with plant sale activities: greeter, cashier, and runner positions are available. Please see the TGV August 31 email (from Kathy Johnson) for specific needs and contact me if interested by email or phone/text to 248-251-4505. - Renee

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers **Fall Plant Sale** Saturday September 17th, 2022 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Reasonably priced, Michigan hardy perennials for sun and shade, including Michigan natives that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators

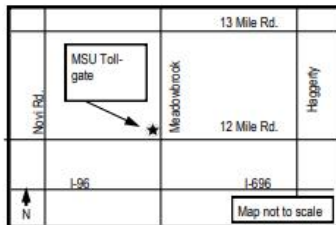
Featuring late summer and fall blooming varieties

Payment accepted with Cash, Check, MasterCard or Visa

MSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer questions and assist in your selections



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

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2022 MSU Tollgate Farm Pumpkinfest



Saturday and Sunday, October 8th and 9th, 2022

11:00AM - 5:00PM

Come, take a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch to pick your perfect pumpkins. Food, music, farm animals, educational exhibits, wagon rides, and children's activities all make for a fun fall outing on this historic 160 acre farm.

\$5 per person, ages 2 and under free. Wagon rides, music, educational exhibits, children's strawland, story time, and many children's activities are included. Tickets are sold for select activities including fishing, face-painting, pumpkin painting, inflatable archery, target practice, etc. Pumpkins and concessions are sold for cash or credit. Parking is free.



Bottom photo provided by Lynette Leroux

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Meadowbrook Road Work

Construction of a new water main continues on Meadowbrook Road. This will be a long process that is likely to continue through the summer of 2023. At this point, MSU Tollgate is accessible only from the south, from 12 Mile Road. Despite the scary intersection at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook, the road is open to Tollgate. What's happening? A new water main is being installed that will service Novi and surrounding communities. In time, this water main will be buried under the north bound lane of Meadowbrook Road. The large hot tub looking feature near 12 Mile is actually a 30' deep pit. It is part of the process of boring under 12 Mile Road for the truly massive water main. I am sure that the water will be much tastier when the project is finished. - Roy



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

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Shade Garden Team Goes Shopping

The Shade Garden team was having a workday recently, when Roy came by to check on the irrigation and talk about future plans for the garden. The team happened to mention that they were considering some garden art to give the garden a lift. Roy let them know that he had several pieces of garden art stored in the barns. In particular, he had some metal flowers, similar to the flower that resides in the demo garden near the north parking lot. He also mentioned weathervanes, a trellis, and a possible bench. Off the team went with Roy and they were able to do some zero-cost shopping in the Tollgate barns. Fun was had by all!! The pictures below show the initial placement of the found items, which could change as the team makes plans for the garden into the future.



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

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Ginger Meyer Award Nominations

Roy is now accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. Roy would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one – there is also a form you can print or download on the next page. You can email Roy your nomination at prentic1@msu.edu. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make Tollgate a better place. Nomination forms are due **NO LATER THAN the Sept. 15th general members meeting**.

Ginger Meyer Recipients

2003 Gabe Tiberio
2004 Renee Cottrell
2005 Elizabeth Novak
2006 Donna Mrozek
2007 Nancy Rogers
2008 Cherry Lee Baker
2009 Clay Ottoni
2010 Priscilla Needle
2011 Sue Janczarek
2012 Darretta Ferasin
2013 John Woodrich
2014 David Komraus
2015 Jackie Stengel
2016 Peg Palmer
2017 Joe Pyden
2018 Deb Kearney
2019 John R. MacInnis
2020 (Covid year)
2021 Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Kathryn Fitzpatrick, 2021 Ginger Meyer Award recipient, demonstrating the prepping of potatoes for planting to the PAR team.

Photo provided by Lynette Leroux

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Ginger Meyer Award Nomination Form

The Ginger Meyer Award was initiated in 2003 by the family of Mrs. Meyer to recognize the Tollgate Volunteer who shares some of the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer.

The Tollgate Garden Volunteer members will nominate candidates, with a list then compiled by TGAC for presentation to the Americana Foundation for final award selection.

Please make the nomination on this form or submit a short paragraph describing each of the following qualities of the nominee:

Name of Nominee: _____

1. This member has shown a commitment to the Tollgate Garden Volunteers by:
2. This member has demonstrated a love and knowledge of gardening by:
3. This member has demonstrated a willingness to share gardening knowledge with others by:

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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 2022. 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/>

2022 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/tollgate%20calendar%206-8-2022.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

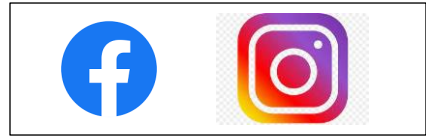
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

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Tollgate Gardens are on Facebook and Instagram

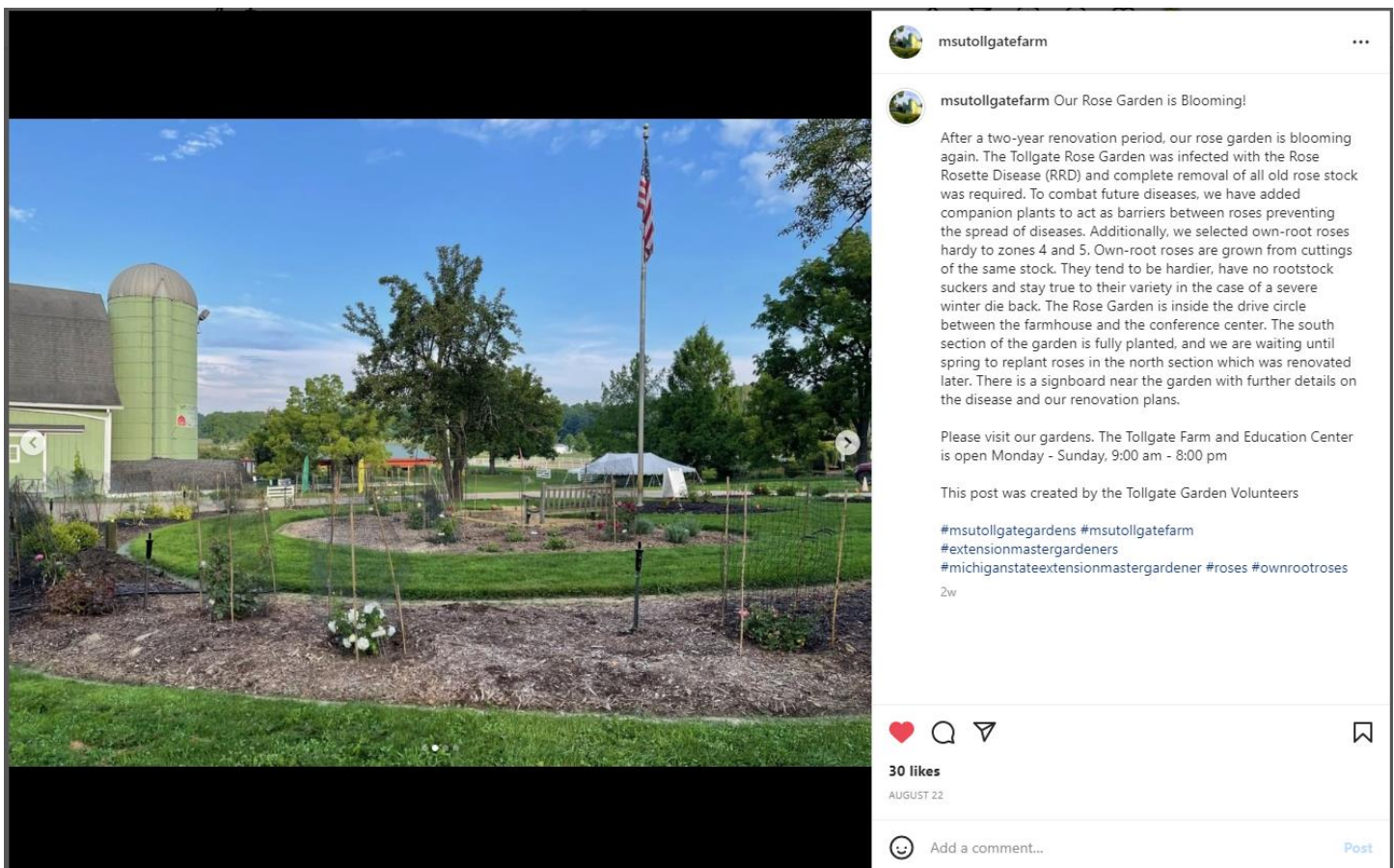


Share the beauty of Tollgate Gardens on Facebook and Instagram

We are posting photos and information about the gardens on the Tollgate Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceTollgate>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/msutollgatefarm/>) pages.

Our posts have been well received and we are increasing the awareness of our gardens, providing education on the plants in our gardens and hopefully encouraging some new volunteers. If you would like to help, please send high resolution photos to Kathy Johnson (kmj@chartermi.net), along with information about the photo like garden name, plant name, and the time of year the photo was taken. Note: photos can be taken over the last few years. If you would like to draft a brief educational text about the plant and its care, please send that also. Kathy will help finalize the post for you and when completed she will coordinate with the Tollgate social media lead to get it published. We would like to have lots of social media posts on the gardens this year!

Example of a recent Instagram posting:



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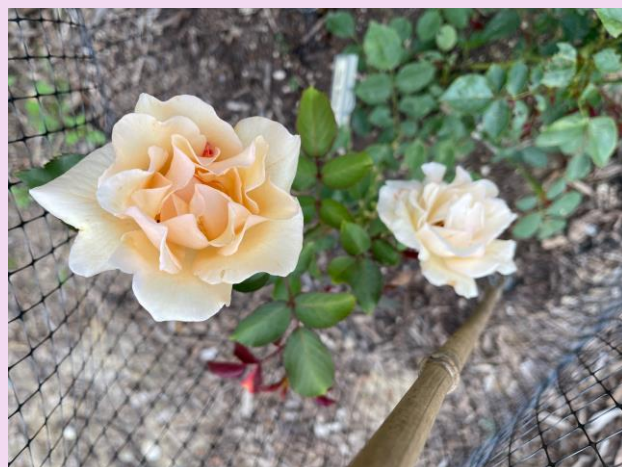
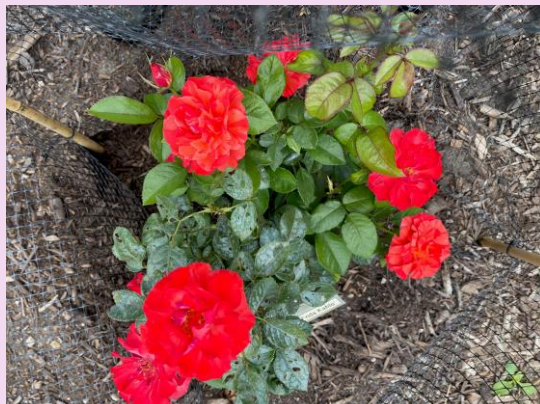
PAR GARDEN WORKDAYS



Photos provided by Lynette Leroux

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ROSE GARDEN BLOOMS



Photos provided by Kathy Johnson

The Tollgate Farm News

THE TOLLGATE SKY



Photos provided by Linda Piasecki

The Tollgate Farm News

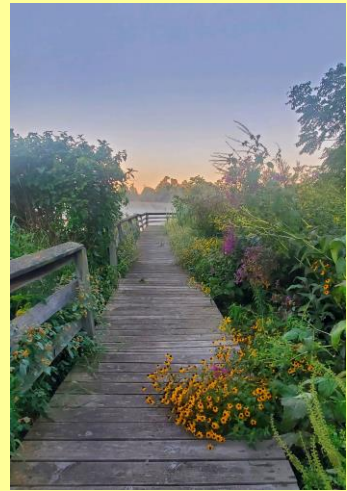
THE CSA GARDENS



Top three photos provided by Linda Piasecki
Bottom photo by Renee Cottrell

The Tollgate Farm News

GARDENS AROUND THE FARM



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

THE OFFICE GARDEN



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS



Photos provided by Marilyn Alimpich

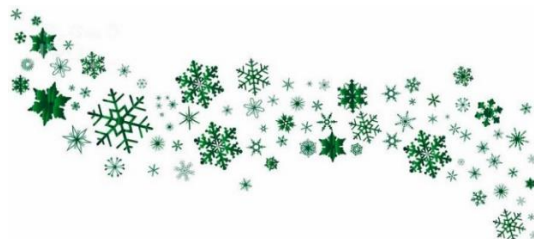
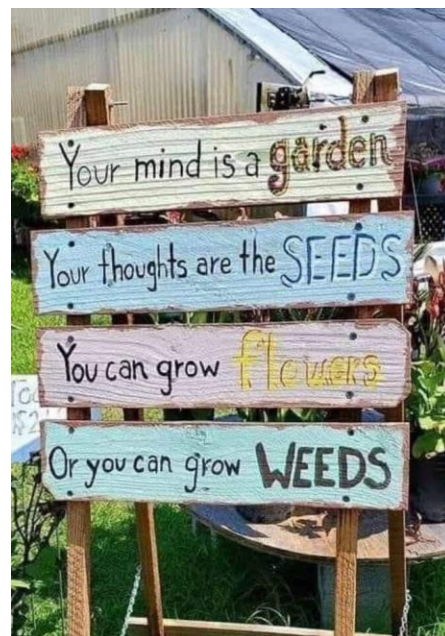
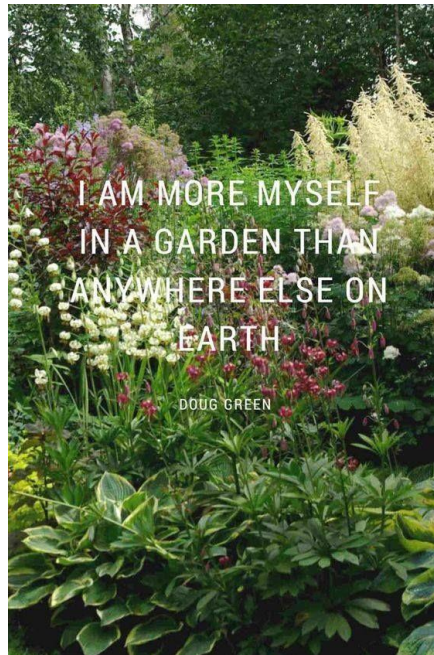
The Tollgate Farm News

DEMO GARDEN WORKDAY



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

The Tollgate Farm News



Garden quotes submitted by Kathryn Currier

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. Send photo files at full or actual size in separate emails, if necessary, to TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com.

Early fall is a magical time at Tollgate. Think about capturing that magic in a photo for the Tollgate calendar.



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

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 2022 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.**

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

Updated:

6-8-2022

MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Activity Calendar-2022

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

**All activity days 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 2022](#)

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



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2022

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

2022 Membership is valid from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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