

The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting On Zoom

[Tollgate gardeners meet on Zoom in January, February, and March.]

Thursday, February 15, 2024 7:00 PM

At press deadline, the February program is still being developed.

Coming Attractions

David Lowenstein, PhD, will join Tollgate gardeners and supporters on Zoom in March 2024. David is an MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator with a background in IPM and entomology. Fun Fact: His favorite insect is the green sweat bee, a beautiful green metallic green that looks tropical, but is native here. A tiny bee that pollinates many flowers, the green sweat bee is often mistaken for a fly. Do you have a favorite insect?

Claudia Walters, PhD, will be at the Tollgate conference center in April to talk about Climate Change, a topic she teaches at U of M Deaborn. Weather and Climate, Why Weather and Climate Matter, and Global Climate Change are among her geography and environmental studies courses.

Mary Spencer will return to the Tollgate picnic pavilion in September for a cooking demonstration. If you want a cooking class, Mary teaches a variety of topics in Plymouth. Details are at [Cooking Classes | Taste a Cook's Place \(tasteacooksplace.net\)](http://tasteacooksplace.net).

Caitlin Splawski is an MSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Educator who will speak in the Tollgate conference center in October. Caitlin enjoys teaching gardening topics, including perennial gardening, pollinators, weed control and garden maintenance.

Martha Holzheuer from Nature-Niche in Midland will be with Tollgate gardeners and supporters on Zoom in March 2025. Her *Mondays with Martha* series on a variety of seasonal subjects are available at [Mondays with Martha Weekly Environmental Education Videos — Nature Niche \(nature-niche.com\)](http://nature-niche.com).

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024					
FEB	MEETINGS		MAR	MEETINGS	
6	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	5	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
15	TGV General Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	21	TGV General Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
FEB	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		MAR	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
	No Workdays in February		2	Pruning	9:00 am
			9/10	MapleFest – no workday	
			16	Grass Cut Back – all	9:00 am
			23	Pathway/Demo Mulching	9:00 am
			30	Easter Weekend - Multi-garden work	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!

David Anderson
Beth Anthony
Linda Belanger
Dr. Andrew Berry
Bonnie Boak
Cindy Bolterstein
Suzanne Bolton
Anne Bolz
Gail Sanders Braun
Jim Bretz
Theresa Bridenbaugh
Paula Brose
Pat Coppersmith
Donna Craig
Tom Culkin
Judy Culkin
Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Linda Galante
Carmen Hamilton
Karen Harris
Lori Heiden
Beverly Hydo
Sue Janczarek
Michele Jayne
Lee Kinderman
David Komraus
Vickie Krause
Teresa LaRosa
Lynette Leroux
Ann MacLean
Beverly McCarter
Cecile McDonell
Janine McKay
Jaime Murphy

Tonja Nudi
Linda Piasecki
Barbara Potts
Roy Prentice
Joe Pyden
Dorothy Schmidt
Pamela Scott
Julie Semroc
Eric Simmons
Dawn Snook
Judie Tomaszewski
Judy Warren
Debra Westermann
Kurt Westermann
Xiaohui (Kathy) Zhong



Photo from MSU Extension website

The Tollgate Farm News

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice



Greetings all,

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 maple syruping. By the time you read this, all the trees will have been tapped and the sap will be running. We all are hopeful that our crazy winter weather will not impact the season negatively. The maple season is short and intense. Maple syrup volunteers not only tap trees and boil sap, but 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 by the dedication and talents of many wonderful volunteers!



MapleFest: Tollgate's annual celebration of sap is rapidly approaching. MapleFest will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10. Most should have already received a volunteer request from Tollgate staffer extraordinaire, Carmen Hamilton. We are still looking to fill a few slots if you are available. This year, all Tollgate event activities, including maple syrup making and MapleFest, are approved EMG volunteer time, which is pretty cool. If you are not available to volunteer, you still may want to make the Maplefest scene. It is a great event, and who doesn't like pancakes smothered with maple syrup?

New Goat Kids: The kidding season is right around the corner. Many new kids will be arriving in the next few weeks. Once born, the kids will be safe in the barn and have several nice new warm heating barrels to live in constructed by the MSU Tollgate Operations team. Thank you YouTube. We are embarking on a new opportunity this year. The goat kids will need to be bottle fed for several weeks. Tollgate Livestock manager, Destiny Pearson, is developing a plan to allow people to come bottle feed the new kids and get a tour of the barn. Details will be passed along when they are available.

Thank you so much for all the work that you did in the Tollgate gardens during the summer of 2023. Please consider joining us in the gardens again this upcoming 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

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News



Notes from the President Renee Cottrell

Greetings to all this early February,

The groundhog and Mother Nature are a bit confused on our February weather thus far. But 2023 had a mild start as well and we will need to plan accordingly. I have snow drops and hellebores blooming beneath the shrubs and their early efforts make me smile!

Introducing: We are pleased to have Lori Heiden, current AGL of the Hosta garden, filling the Events Chairperson position for our Tollgate Garden Volunteer plant sales and open house events. She will be the point person in recruiting volunteers and setting up these events. Look for her Plant Sale info emails coming early spring!

As announced last month, Teresa LaRosa will be taking on the role of Membership Chairperson and remaining as Hospitality Chair as well. **PLEASE NOTE** there is a new email contact and hence a new version of the 2024 membership form in this issue and posted on the web site. (If you already renewed, no need to use the new form.) Renew now so you don't miss out on any early season contact emails.

Garden Teams: Several AGL's have already submitted their plans for 2024 with new plantings and designs that are sure to please. There are many opportunities on existing garden teams for small and larger areas throughout our many garden sites. Let us know what your interest areas are and we will find a match that will help you grow as a gardener and delight you with your efforts.

"Each flower is a soul opening out to nature."

~ Hal Gerard de Nerval (French Writer, 1808-1855)

Organization By-Laws: We will be voting this coming February membership meeting on the By Law updates presented last month. They are included in this issue as well for your review.

Group Garden Activities: Our planned group 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 this issue and posted on the web site.

Tollgate Garden Volunteer Meetings: Our membership meetings will continue to be in Zoom format until April. We then plan to move to in person meetings. Hope to see you there. Great topics and speakers are scheduled that you won't want to miss!

Save these dates!

Maplefest March 9& 10th - 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 Sign-Up Genius Link](#)

Rose Garden Dedication – The renovation of the Rose Garden is nearly complete! Join us to celebrate and thank the Americana Foundation for sponsoring this project and dedicate it on Wednesday August 7th at 5:00 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. Enjoy an evening in the garden!

Stay warm, plan for spring!

Renee Cottrell, Adv. EMG, President
Tollgate Garden Volunteers
rncottrell4@att.net

The Tollgate Farm News



The “Shade House” provided a cool respite from working in other areas of the “SUN Nursery” that offered no protection.



The installation of the overhead trellis, which occurred in stages over several years, has provided a much-improved environment for plants and people in the Nursery.

January and February are quiet times in the Nursery...

It's a good time to plan and organize for the upcoming season, mulling over what went well last year or what things we might want to do differently in 2024. Winter is also the best time to plan any changes to what we stock or the organization of our plants, although we need to wait until early spring to implement the plan. This year we are changing the location of some plants to reflect changes in botanical names.... upright Sedums (like the popular cultivar 'Autumn Joy') have changed from Sedum to the Hylotelephium genus – which is a mouthful to pronounce and much harder to spell! Since the organization of plants into Nursery rows is alphabetically by botanical name, that means these popular plants will be moving from SUN Row 9 to SUN Row 4. I'm not an expert in Latin plant names, so I'm always hesitant when these changes occur. But this is just one example of many things that I've learned much more about from working in the Nursery!

The primary organization structure of the Nursery separates plants based on their requirement for SUN. After the SUN/SHADE split, most plants are assigned a row alphabetically based on the botanical name of the plant. One exception to this is ferns... these plants have a variety of botanical names but are grouped together in one SHADE row. We also separate out IRIS as separate plant group assigned to two rows. Having this structure is important – sometimes we have a bit of a debate whether a plant should be considered SUN or SHADE. Most have some flexibility, so we sometimes must use some judgment about where the best placement will be.



In the original Nursery configuration, there was a significant difference in the amount of sun received by plants in the “Shade House,” versus the “SUN” rows that had zero

overhead protection from the intense rays of the sun.

This structure also provided the opportunity for the installation of an automated overhead irrigation system (design and implementation leadership courtesy of Tollgate Volunteer Kurt Westermann. More recently, protective deer cloth and 4 swing entry gates were installed to restrict the deer that previously enjoyed feasting on our plants, thanks to Roy Prentice's creative design and implementation! The fencing and gates can be removed to have full access to the Nursery at Plant Sales but protected from intruders at other times.

The Nursery continues to evolve as we learn from our experience growing perennials in pots! The first step that began this Nursery evolution was Deb Kearney's idea to organize and structure the Nursery, using both botanical and common name identification so that we could organize our plants. This also allows us to track what sells, which in turn helps us to know what plant donations we want the most! PLANTS WANTED is what Nursery Notes will be about next month – that means that Spring should be arriving soon and we'll be back in our gardens.... and working in the Nursery SOON!

There's lots that needs to be done to maintain the Nursery operation – and we have a great group of volunteers on the team that make it all happen. You can volunteer as a ROW LEADER or a MEMBER- AT-LARGE. Let me know if you would like to join our team! palmermargaretanne@gmail.com

Photos provided from Nursery archives

The Tollgate Farm News



Well, the snow has certainly arrived and gone and arrived again, along with fluctuating temperatures including frigid weather. But we are getting closer to starting seeds in the greenhouse and enjoying some gardening activities even before the snow melts. For anyone wishing to join us in the greenhouse, here's the SignUpGenius link with the schedule: [Greenhouse Sign-Up Schedule](#).

For those who are unfamiliar with the PAR Garden, it 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 annual average of close to 3,000 pounds of fresh produce, with much appreciated distribution support from Forgotten Harvest, which is a local food rescue operation. The garden, which consists of thirty-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.

Each year we plan in October, order what is needed in December/January, grow seedlings in the greenhouse March through May, and really dig into the work effort starting in April, with one official workday per week until the end of October. Anyone who wishes to come on alternate days is welcome, as there is a weekly email that lays out the tasks for the week. We also have a beautiful handbook with details on each of our vegetables in the shed, to provide additional information. 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.

After some thought, it seems that we can get a head start on the renovation project identified in last month's article. Over the years, the beds have shifted due to mulching the pathways and adding compost/soil, and it is time to restore the garden to a more manageable and beautiful uniformity. In April, weather permitting, the plan is to uncover all the beds, remove weeds, and start standardizing the beds. This will involve measuring each bed and adjusting to achieve a 30' x 4' base. Some may need to be narrowed, some widened, and the pathways and mulch will need to be adjusted accordingly to a 2' width.



We will also remove all the irrigation lines and some of the header lines to standardize to three lines per bed with new material to address all the leaks and holes.

The framed beds generously donated to us by the 4H team will be assessed, and any of the rotten boards removed. This should pave the way for framing the beds in the future and simplify the winterizing efforts.



We will need to cut black plastic for each of the beds instead of using large unwieldy sheets.

PAR Report continued on Page 7

The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 6



We will start planting collard greens in the garden in April; followed by onions, shallots, beans, carrots, turnips, summer squash, kohlrabi, and cabbage in May; and lastly radishes, peppers, kale, potatoes, and cucumbers in June. There will be succession crops of radishes, kale, collard greens, and turnips throughout the season.



April through June are very busy with preparing the garden and planting. Then, except for collard greens and kale which will be harvested roughly every 4 weeks, the next big push is harvesting and preparing the produce for distribution/storage from July to October, with plenty of weeding and pest management along the way.



There is always plenty to do, and extra hands are always welcome.

Looking forward to another great season in 2024, as well as to welcoming new volunteers who are interested in joining our fantastic team and providing such a valuable service to the community. 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.

Hope to see you in the garden this year or perhaps in the greenhouse in the spring,

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Bottom photo Page 6 and bottom left photo Page 7
provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick
Top row photos Page 6 and top row photos Page 7
by Lynette Leroux

The Tollgate Farm News

By-law Updates

The Tollgate Garden Volunteers organization has a set of by-laws outlining the purpose, mission, governance, finances, and general policies of the organization. Periodically the TGAC meet as the By-law Revisions Committee to review and update this document. The review and revisions were done in 2023 to update procedures and clarify language to be consistent with the growth and changes in our organization since the last revision in 2016. These By-laws require these changes to be posted in the newsletter and discussed at the monthly meeting and be voted on by the membership. The following proposed revision and explanation in this newsletter edition will also be discussed at the January membership meeting. We will take a vote to approve the document at our February meeting. Please feel free to contact Renee or Roy if you have questions or wish clarification prior to the January membership meeting.

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteer By-law Revisions Summarized as of January 2, 2024

The following changes were made to update previously modified By-laws dated February 2016 and are consistent with the TGAC board discussion of January 2, 2024:

New Adds or Significant Changes

- Addition of language to reflect the Michigan State University Volunteer Selection Process and Policy
- Addition of language to reflect that meeting(s) and voting may be electronic
- Recognition of TGAC current practice of appointing committee chairs and their position as members of the board.
- Improved definition of TGAC quorum
- Recognition of the additional responsibility for the Vice President as the coordination lead for all area garden leaders

General updates

- Updated all references to Tollgate to be consistent throughout the document as “Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center”
- Updated all references to MSU to be “Michigan State University”
- Updated all text font, formatting, numbering, and grammar to be consistent throughout the document

[See the new By-law document on Pages 28-31 of this newsletter.]

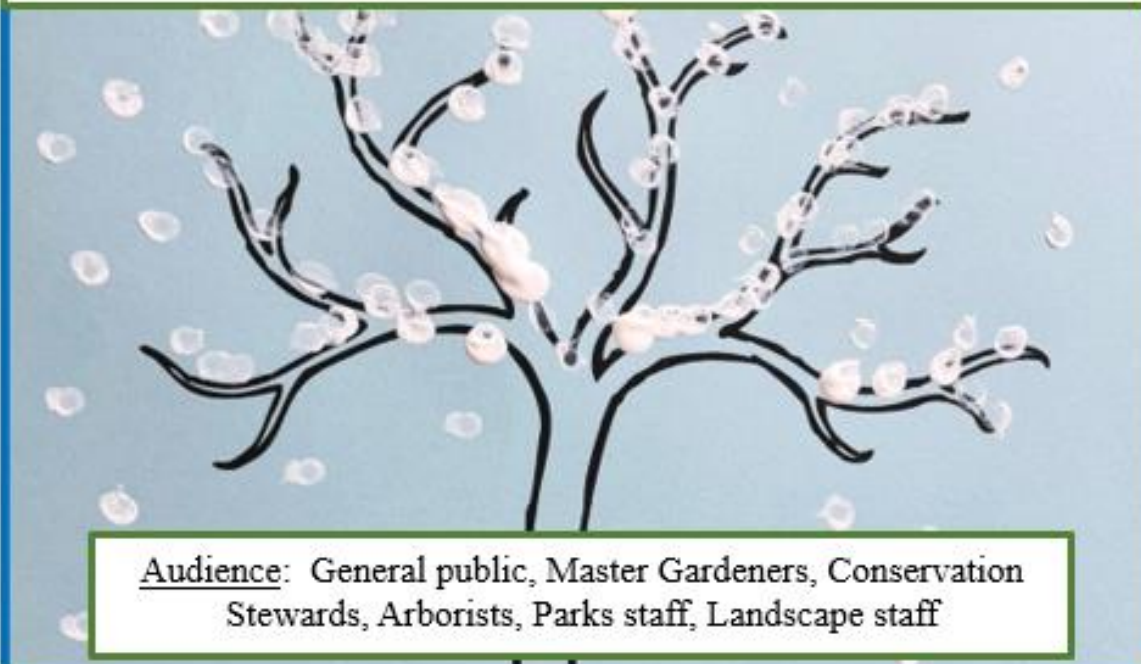
The Tollgate Farm News

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

Tollgate

Winter Native Tree Identification Workshop



Audience: General public, Master Gardeners, Conservation Stewards, Arborists, Parks staff, Landscape staff

Learn how to identify native trees when they don't have any leaves. Sound difficult? Not if you know what to look for! This skill can be useful if you are pruning trees, doing surveys or just want to know what type of tree you're looking at in the winter season.

Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MSU Tollgate 28115 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI 48377

Cost: \$20.00

Register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/WINativeTreeID/>

For more information contact Kristine Hahn at hahnk@msu.edu

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, sex, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

The Tollgate Farm News



March
9th and 10th



Join us for the 2024 MSU Tollgate Farm Maplefest!
REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 15TH, 2024

\$17 per person 2 and under free

Hourly Limited Timeslots from 9 am – 2 pm Saturday and Sunday

Limited Seating: Pre-Registration will be required (no refunds)

Identify and tap a maple tree, tour the sugar shack, explore fun maple-themed activities, take a wagon ride, taste maple sap, syrup, and sugar, and explore maple tools and technology.

Enjoy an 'all-you-can-eat pancake celebration in the historic 19th-century barn. Pancakes (prepared by Chris Cakes of Michigan), sausage, and of course, pure maple syrup will be provided!

We're also looking for volunteers for Maplefest!

All volunteers are required to complete the **Michigan State University Volunteer Selection Process**. This process helps to provide a safe volunteering and work environment for both adults and youth. Volunteers must complete an application, background check.

To learn more about this process, contact Carmen Hamilton
at hamil466@msu.edu. 248-347-0269 ext. 239

The Tollgate Farm News

Road Construction Update

Tollgate is now accessible from 12 Mile Road. Not only is it accessible, Meadowbrook is paved and even striped! The construction company even gave us our 12 Mile Road turn lane back. Just like Downtown!



Photo provided by Norm Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

NOTE: Member Spotlight will return with 2024 Activity Days

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 2024. 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/>

2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/tollgate%20activity%20cal%20draftFeb%20Final%20release%20Draft.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

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



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

The Tollgate Farm News

IN REMEMBRANCE

Tollgate lost a long-time friend and supporter recently with the passing of Hans Neuroth. Hans and his wife, Lynda, were long-time supporters of the gardens. In recent years, Hans did not attend as many workdays as in past years, but he always attended the spring clean-ups. Hans enjoyed a good grass cut-back. With a weed whip in his hands, Hans relished having a tall shock of ornamental grass. Hans and Lynda's presence also frequently graced garden volunteer meetings and events. I greatly enjoyed talking with Hans and learning from his many experiences. The Neuroths were not only active at MSU Tollgate, they also ran Obstbaum Orchards, a vibrant apple orchard and cider business near Northville, MI. Cindy and I spent many an autumn afternoon chatting with Hans and eating the wonderful fruits of his operation.

Thank you, Hans, for your years of service, support, and friendship to the farm,

Roy



The Tollgate Farm News

Membership Update February 2024

*Hello fellow volunteers!
I am happy to be the new volunteer membership coordinator.*

*I have worked with many of you over the years
and remain amazed at the interest, effort, donations,
and sacrifices of time, I have observed.*

*Tollgate would not be what it is without your support.
So far this year, 46% of us have renewed our memberships.
Let's go for 100%!*

*If you have not already done so, please take a moment to complete the
renewal form (at the back this newsletter).*

*We very much appreciate each one of you
for your involvement and support.*

*If you have any questions about membership,
do not hesitate to contact me.*

Teresa LaRosa
tlrrehab@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 or as required by MSU volunteer selection procedure policy.
- 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 or as required by MSUE. 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 still must go through the VSP screening requirement as above. We have onsite personnel who can help you complete the process.
- If you are an active MSU volunteer through another program on 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 and general activities.

- 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 MSU Extension 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

Garden Plant Label Project 2024

ATTENTION AGLs: Garden Plant Labels Needed?

If you need new or replacement labels for your gardens' plants, now is the time to take inventory.

A labeling "workshop" is planned for some time in early 2024. Master Gardeners needing work hours can assist in making labels.

Please compile a list of labels needed for your garden. Your list should include the botanical, species and common name and Trademark (TM or R) of your plants if available to you.

Tollgate Garden Label Template

Verify spelling and correct names using plant tags or site like Missouri Botanical Gardens

Common name	Genus	Species	Cultivar/Trademark Name	Garden	# Tags	Notes
Example: <i>Guara</i>	<i>Gaura</i>	<i>lincheimeri</i>	'Crimson Butterflies'			

A copy of the form is at the back of this newsletter for printing purposes. If you prefer completing this online, click the preferred download link below and save to your own computer.

[Word Version](#)

[Excel Version](#)

Please email your list, by January 10, 2024, to Marilyn Alimpich at: masoleil@sbcglobal.net.



The Tollgate Farm News

AROUND THE POND



Top row and middle row left photos provided by Norm Powell
Middle row right and bottom photos by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

TOLLGATE FARM BUILDINGS



Top two row photos provided by Norm Powell
Bottom row photos by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

GARDEN HARDSCAPES



Top and 2nd rows left and middle photos provided by Nancy Powell
All other photos by Norm Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

OUT BY THE SUGAR SHACK



Top and middle photos provided by Nancy Powell
Bottom photo by Norm Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

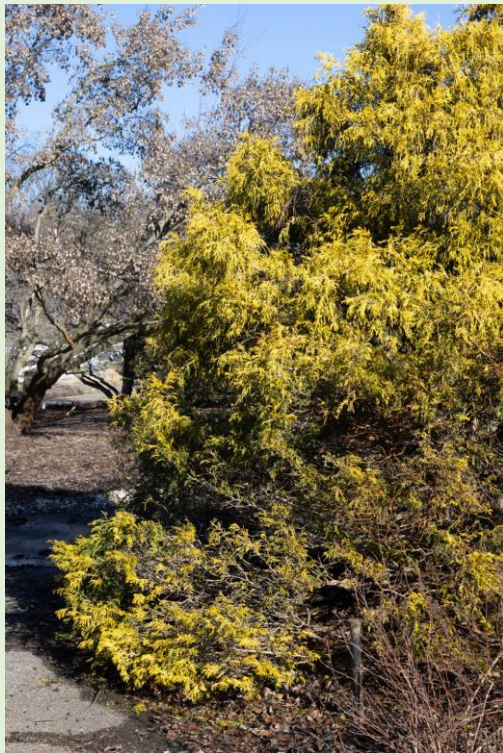
WINTER INTEREST



Photos provided by Nancy Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

TREES AND SHRUBS



Photos provided by Norm Powell

The Tollgate Farm News

GOATS & SHEEP ENJOYING THE SUN



Photos provided by Norm Powell

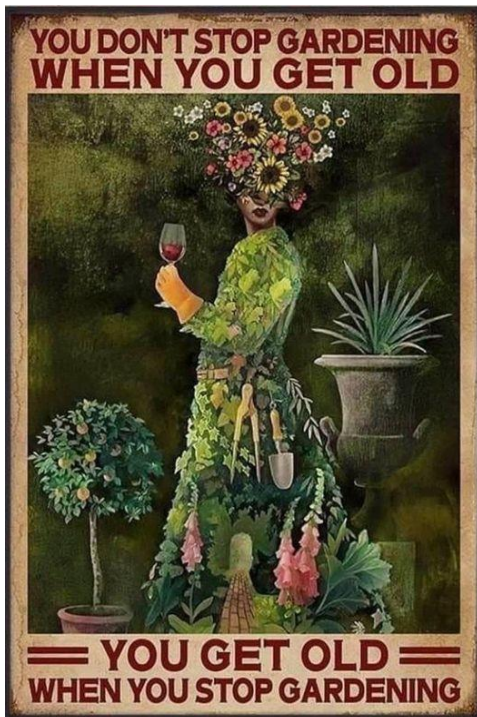
The Tollgate Farm News

CHILDREN'S GARDEN ENTRANCE



Top photo provided by Karen Harris
Bottom photo by Norm Powell

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. **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 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

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 (2024 version will be available in February).
- Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays.
- Active members will continue to get email reminders of these activities.

NEW: We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the Toolshed should be cleaned and 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	Sunscreen/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 & Hospitality	Teresa LaRosa
Communications	Kathy Johnson
Programs	Jackie Stengel
Farm News Editor	Nancy Powell
Event Coordinator	Lori Heiden

- 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 2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**.

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email tlrrehab@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

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers
By-laws

ARTICLE I - NAME

SECTION 1. The name of this not-for-profit organization shall be the Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV).

ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION

SECTION 1. The TGV shall be affiliated with the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE, MISSION, AND GOALS

SECTION 1. The purpose of this self-governing organization is to provide design, construction, support, maintenance, and guidance of horticulture areas and activities at the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center.

SECTION 2. It is the TGV's Mission to assist, enable, and encourage members to use their efforts at the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center, along with their horticultural knowledge and experience, to help the people of Southeast Michigan enrich their lives through gardening and good gardening practices.

SECTION 3. The goals are to support the establishment and maintenance of horticultural areas at the Michigan State Tollgate Farm and Education Center and to promote gardening and good gardening practices through educational, volunteer, and social activities.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Shall consist of individuals who support the purpose, mission, and goals of the TGV and who have shown their intent to participate by submitting the volunteer membership form.

SECTION 2. All members actively volunteering in garden activities or special events onsite at the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center shall maintain their status within the Michigan State University Volunteer Selection Process.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. General membership meetings will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m., with no meetings in November and December.

SECTION 2. Special Membership meetings may be called upon a majority vote of the Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC).

SECTION 3. Majority shall rule at all meetings requiring a vote by members of the TGV. Each member eligible to vote shall have one vote. Balloting may be in person or by written proxy. The voting or the proxies may be in paper form or using electronic methods like email or polling during a virtual meeting. Any member may give his proxy to any other member. The officer of the TGV presiding at the meeting shall have the authority to determine the validity of any challenged proxy. In the case of a tie vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers **By-laws**

SECTION 4. TGAC meetings will be held monthly. The schedule of the meetings will be posted in the newsletter or an attachment there-in. Any changes must be posted in the newsletter. TGAC voting is governed by Article V Section 3 above.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Nominations for TGV officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be taken at the September General Membership meeting.

SECTION 2. Elections shall be held at the October General Membership meeting and the officers elected at that meeting will take office at the January TGAC meeting.

SECTION 3. Candidates receiving a plurality of votes cast for a particular office shall be elected for a term of one year.

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNANCE

SECTION 1. The TGV shall be governed by the provisions of these by-laws as executed by the TGAC.

SECTION 2. The TGAC shall consist of an Executive Board composed of elected TGV officers and the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm Manager, who will be a permanent member. Committee Chairs may be appointed by the Board to serve as voting TGAC members.

SECTION 3. All members of the TGAC shall have an equal vote.

SECTION 4. If vacancies on the elected TGV officers occur before terms of office expire, such vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the majority TGV members.

SECTION 5. Appointed members of TGAC shall serve at the discretion of the Executive Board.

SECTION 6. The number of TGAC members necessary to constitute a quorum and hold a meeting shall be a majority of the Executive Board. Fewer than a quorum shall adjourn until a quorum is present.

SECTION 7. The duties of the TGAC:

- a. Transaction of day-to-day business in the intervals between monthly meetings
- b. Presentation of reports on its activities and plans at monthly meetings
- c. Creation and oversight of specific assignments or committees to plan and prepare programs and activities, and to approve such plans, programs, and activities
- d. Approve payment of bills
- e. Determine resources needed to accomplish accepted projects
- f. Determine organization procedures

SECTION 8. The Michigan State University Tollgate Farm Manager, representing Michigan State University and a permanent member of TGAC, shall oversee Tollgate fund expenditures and account accuracy on an ongoing basis and advise the Executive Board of any volunteer activity that does not meet the broad objectives of Michigan State University at Tollgate. Any such issues shall be resolved by the Board.

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers **By-laws**

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS and TGAC Members

SECTION 1. All members of the TGAC must attend a minimum of 75% of all General Membership meetings and TGAC meetings. Failure to meet this attendance requirement may result in that person's removal from the TGAC. A TGAC member who shall absent themselves from three (3) consecutive TGAC meetings, without the approval of the majority of the remainder of the TGAC, shall automatically cease to be a member of the TGAC.

SECTION 2. Officers and Committee Chairs have the authority to develop responsibilities and procedures for the administration of their duties. Such procedures will be presented to the TGAC for review and approval.

SECTION 3. The high-level duties of the Officers shall be:

- a. **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 and Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education Center may be served.
- b. **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. The Vice-President shall be the coordination lead for all Area Garden Leaders.
- c. **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.
- d. **Treasurer:** To monitor the funds held in TGAC accounts at Michigan State University, to monitor the budgets for Area Garden Leaders, to 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.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCE

SECTION 1. All funds are held in accounts at Michigan State University.

SECTION 2. Authorized expenditures shall be those approved by TGAC.

SECTION 3. Any member having in his/her possession money belonging to the TGV shall remit this amount to the Michigan State University Farm Manager at the earliest possible time.

SECTION 4. In the event that the TGV should cease to exist, all assets, including the funds held in Michigan State University accounts, tools, and equipment, shall revert to Michigan State University for their use on any Michigan State University Tollgate Farm and Education project.

Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers
By-laws

ARTICLE X - GENERAL POLICIES

SECTION 1. COMMITMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

No commitments or representations shall be made or contracted by any individual on behalf of or using the name of the Michigan State University Tollgate Garden Volunteers or any variant of without the approval of Michigan State University or the TGAC

SECTION 2. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The TGAC may appoint a BY-LAWS committee to develop and modify policies of the TGV on an as needed basis. Policies and modifications must be approved by the TGAC and the General Membership.

SECTION 3. NOMINATIONS

Only those persons who have indicated their consent to serve if elected or appointed shall be nominated for office or other positions.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended or repealed, by the General Membership, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a General Membership meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment was made at the previous General Membership meeting and published in the newsletter. Amendments may be proposed by the TGAC or the General Membership.

SECTION 5. RULES OF CONDUCT

In all meetings, gatherings, and situations members are to conduct themselves in an appropriate and courteous manner without disruption or delay to the event. All active on-site volunteers will follow Michigan State University volunteer guidelines and rules.

SECTION 6. VIOLATIONS

Any member who violates any provision of these By-laws will be subject to disciplinary action, including termination of membership, when the violation is made known to the TGAC. The member is entitled to a hearing before the TGAC. The decision of the TGAC is final.

As approved by TGAC on 01/02/2024

**MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers
Activity Calendar-2024**

January	February	March
2-TGAC 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom 20-AGL Planning Meeting 10:00AM 	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom 	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 21-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom <u>Activity Days</u> 2-Pruning 9:00AM 9/10-Maplefest no work day 16-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 23-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM 30-Multi-garden/Easter wk 9:00AM
April	May	June
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6-Rose/Pond 9:00AM 13-Demo 9:00AM 20-Office/Heritage/Rain 9:00AM 27- Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM New volunteer orientation 9:00AM Pancake Brunch 12:00PM	7-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 4-Entrance/Nursery-plant divi 9:00AM 11-Farmhouse 9:00AM 18- Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 25-Memorial Weekend Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm 8-Rose/Entrance 9:00AM 15-Office/Heritage/ Rain 9:00AM 22-Pond/12Mile 9:00AM 29-Demo 9:00AM
July	August	September
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM 13-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM 18-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM (Thursday-no mtg)19th rain date 20-Hosta/Shade 9:00AM 27-Heritage/Office 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 7-Rose Garden Dedication 5:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 3-Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 10-Pond/12 Mile 9:00AM 17-Demo 9:00AM 24-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 31-Labor Day Weekend Rockledge, divisions 9:00AM	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 7-Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 14- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM 21-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00 28-Xeriscape/Children's 9:00AM
October	November	December
1-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 17-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM <u>Activity Days</u> 5/6-Pumpkinfest no workday 12-Nursery Clean up 9:00AM 19-Pond clean up 9:00AM 26-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	2-Recognition Dinner 4:00PM 5-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM <u>Activity Day</u> 9-Rose winterizing 10:00AM 28-Thanksgiving 	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 25-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 2024](#)

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.

2024

Name _____

Date Submitted _____

Address _____

Telephone Number

City _____ MI

Day _____ - _____

Zip _____ - _____

Evening _____ - _____

Email _____

Name you would like on badge, **ONLY IF NEEDED**

Choose one only (please do not leave blank):

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, 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: tlrrehab@gmail.com

2024 Membership is from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

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:** _____