

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

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NOVEMBER 2024



## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Recognition Dinner Saturday, November 2, 2024

The Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGVs) gathered for the annual Recognition Dinner Saturday, November 2, to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. Tollgate Farm Manager, Roy Prentice, presented Tollgate's journey in a wonderful look back in pictures. As part of the presentation, the two annual TGV awards were announced. The Ginger Meyer Award is given annually to the TGV who shares the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer. Ginger was an active and passionate gardener. The Foundation that Ginger and her husband established donated Tollgate to MSU in 1987. The Golden Shovel Award is presented to the first year Tollgate Garden Volunteer who registers the most volunteer hours on the site. The award is a golden shovel pin provided by the Americana Foundation.

### **Ginger Meyer Award - Marilyn Alimpich (Xeriscape Garden Leader, Vice-President - TGAC)**



Marilyn has been a dedicated friend of Tollgate for nearly twenty years. She has been involved in many aspects of the farm. She demonstrates her love for horticulture by leading the Xeriscape Garden, supporting the rose garden renovation, and other garden areas. Marilyn is the Vice-President of Tollgate's garden organization. In this role she helps keep the volunteers apprised of garden maintenance needs and provides major support for garden budgeting.

### **Golden Shovel Award - Renee Green (Sustainable Ag Fields)**



Renee is a MSU graduate who found the farm as part of an Oakland County Spartan Alumni workday last spring. Renee liked her experience and continues to volunteer at Tollgate, primarily with MSU staff person, Monique Mose in the Sustainable Ag. Fields. Monique has greatly appreciated Renee's many hours of help. Renee was out of town on the night of the Recognition Dinner and was presented the Golden Shovel pin on Monday, November 4.

No Tollgate Garden Volunteer Meetings in November and December  
The Farm News is not published in December

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

### GREETINGS Roy Prentice



Greetings all,



The 2024 gardening season is coming to an end. The beds are snug for the coming winter. The wonderful work that MSU Tollgate's volunteers performed this year has resulted in great gardens that are a joy for our many visitors. Thanks to all that made 2024 such a great year at Tollgate!

**Recognition Dinner:** This year's volunteer recognition dinner was a wonderful event! The evening was again supported by the Americana Foundation and MSU Extension. Over ninety volunteers and guests joined us for dinner, a PowerPoint presentation of the year in gardening, and the awards ceremony. We had so many attendees that we filled the big barn for the presentations! The evening is always a good way to end the year in the gardens. Thank you for your support in 2024!

**A Change in MSU Support:** I will soon be retiring from MSU Tollgate. Tollgate director, Katie Peet, is very concerned that support for the volunteers remain consistent as I transition from my staff role.



Tollgate's Livestock Manager, **Destiny Pearson**, will be assuming support duties for the volunteers. Destiny is excited to work with the many volunteers who keep Tollgate's gardens looking good. Destiny will be the MSU contact for processing

reimbursements, getting speakers paid, and supporting Saturday workdays. Destiny, her husband Colin, and their two-year-old daughter, Frankie, will also be moving into the Tollgate residence. Destiny has been a joy to work with. She is sharp as paint and not afraid to get her hands dirty. Okay, so she is just starting to discover the fantastic world of plants. I have faith that Tollgate's knowledgeable gardeners can stoke the fires of her, yet undiscovered, love of the plant world.

**Maple Syrup:** It will soon be maple syruping season! Although we won't be tapping trees for a few months, volunteers are currently hard at work repairing lines, splitting firewood, and readying the Maple Operation. The maple project is a lot of fun with some really special people. If you'd like to join the maple mania, please let me know and I will connect you with the group. I'm personally looking forward to being more involved in 2025.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for another great year at Tollgate! I can't wait for winter to loosen its icy grip so that we can get going in 2025. Volunteering versus Farm Managing will be a transition for me. I will admit that I'm looking forward to letting the alarm clock sleep in.

Roy

Photos provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News



Notes from the President  
*Renee Cottrell*

## Reflections as the season ends...

What a wonderful way to end the season at our Recognition dinner! It was a beautiful evening, good food and a successful gardening season. Congrats to our award winners. I have enjoyed the company of my fellow gardeners and the productive efforts of all who have worked to make Tollgate a better place. I hope all TGV members have found personal reward in the support, time, and services you provided and the success this season towards our continued organizational mission.

**Every member has my heartfelt thanks!** The generosity of contributions, time, talents, smiles, and friendship has made this a rewarding part of my life. As a result of our October election for the TGAC board, current 2024 board members were re-elected for 2025. Thank you to our TGAC members for all their behind-the-scenes work that provides for a wonderful volunteer experience. My appreciation to those members who take on the additional responsibilities of Area Garden Leaders, Tollgate Calendar Editor, member liaison and Saturday garden assistance. Though too numerous to list here, **all** of you and your extra efforts, skills and leadership are greatly appreciated. **A special thanks to Roy, and his family for all the acceptance, joy and work they have done for us that has made Tollgate such a special place. Roy - Best wishes in your retirement!**

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

- We welcome **Destiny Pearson**, Animal Livestock Coordinator as she assumes the role of MSU liaison to the TGV. She will assist with most procedures formerly done by Roy that keeps our garden group working and communicating smoothly!
- **AGL and Garden Teams Meeting Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 10:00 am in the conference center.** Look for contact emails from Marilyn. All Active status members are welcome to come learn about the teams, gardens, and role of the AGLs. Look for an email reminder and RSVP to follow closer to the date.
- We are developing our Saturday group work day calendar for 2025 at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> TGAC meeting. **Any input** from AGLs on that process prior to the AGL meeting date would be appreciated. Please email me.
- Our general membership meetings will continue on Zoom, January through March, and changing to in-person as the weather improves in April.

Be thankful and joyful this Holiday season. Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer,

Renee Cottrell, TGV President  
[rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net)

# The Tollgate Farm News



The PAR Garden team has been outstanding. Their dedication, perseverance, and hard work makes this endeavor not only extremely productive, but very rewarding. The enthusiasm and great ideas continue to make the garden thrive. We had a great end of season potluck lunch (with a delicious assortment of dishes) and planning meeting. We discussed adding herbs as companion plants, and tomatillos to accompany our hot peppers. A decision was made to cover the beds individually and only uncover when it is time to plant to help with minimizing the weed pressure. In addition, we will be submitting a request to add adaptive tools to our inventory to assist those with physical challenges and to help minimize stress on the back, shoulders, elbows, knees, and wrists.

### Fun Facts about November:

- The Anglo-Saxons knew November by two names – Wind Monath because the wind would start to chill the bones and Blood Monath, named because the cattle went to slaughter in November.
- Why do we vote in November? Because the farmers did not want to disturb the planting, growing or harvest seasons, so the month of November was chosen as the most logical month for everybody to be able to vote.
- In Finland, the word for November is Marraskuu, meaning the month of the dead. The reason for the name is all the seasonal trees and plants lose their leaves or die in the month of November.

We have harvested and donated a season total of 3953 lbs. of vegetables (regrettably, the detailed data was compromised and not recoverable):

MSU Tollgate Farm PAR Garden	
2024 Produce	Total Pounds
Beans	
Beets	
Kale	
Collard Greens	
Squash*	
Cabbage	
Carrots	
Shallots	
Scapes	2200
Garlic	
Kohlrabi	
Onions	
Potatoes	
Leeks	
Turnips	
Radishes	
Cucumbers	
Hot Peppers	
Tomatoes*	
Pumpkins*	1753
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3953</b>

Many generous donations contributed to our bounty this year – pumpkins from Tollgate, surplus harvest from the Edu-Garden, and personal garden contributions. Many thanks!



We completed the garden activities in October with a grand finale involving several workdays to take advantage of nicer weather.



Final harvests included root vegetables with potatoes, turnips, and beets.



We also harvested and laid out all the onions to cure and finished by removing the dry tops and roots. Our leeks also turned out great with a good harvest.



Only one crop is planted in the fall – garlic. We have planted three beds and will enjoy the green sprouts in the spring.

PAR Report continued on Page 6

# The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 5

Other activities are focused on winterizing the garden – weeding and covering the beds with cardboard and black plastic. We hope this will help us smother most of the weeds.

November and December will be focused on indoor activities – garden layout with crop rotation, seed selection and ordering, budget drafting, and the creation of a schedule for the greenhouse starts. We will be coordinating with the Sustainable Agriculture team to minimize the cost of seeds and seed potatoes by aggregating our needs, as well as collaborating on greenhouse duties.

PB&J and Forgotten Harvest have been wonderful partners, picking up on Monday and Tuesday, and delivering the fresh produce to various centers. PB&J not only provide the produce for the food-challenged in Detroit, but they cook up meals for the homeless for three locations in Detroit. The Monday pickup has also been distributed to the Northville Civic Concern Center which supports over 100 families who are food challenged. Forgotten Harvest focuses on local centers that provide food for the food-challenged in the area, and the pumpkins were delivered to the main distribution center. Their efforts are most appreciated in helping us to reach those in need!

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 Destiny Pearson, ([pears278@msu.edu](mailto:pears278@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton ([hamil466@msu.edu](mailto:hamil466@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

Hope to see you in the garden this year,  
Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Photos on Page 5 and top three photos on Page 6 by Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
Bottom two photos on Page 6 by Lynette Leroux

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Membership Update November 2024

*Happy Fall!*

*It's time! Join or renew your membership for 2025 now!*

*Just a reminder of the many benefits that are included:  
Monthly speakers, on-site gardening and learning opportunities,  
educational displays, and just plain fun times  
working alongside fellow gardeners.*

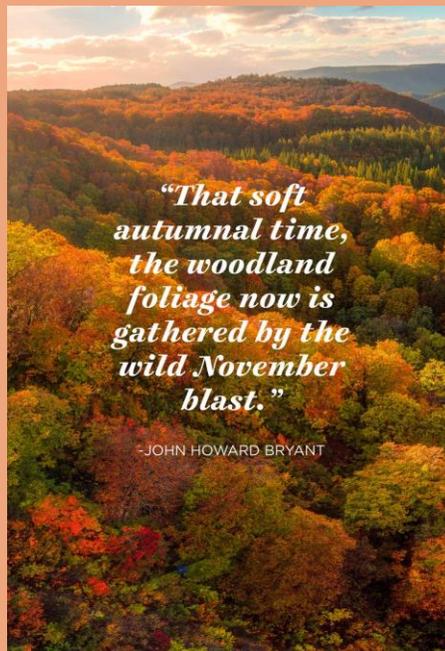
*The suggested donation is \$25 for next year. Our membership rate  
has not changed in over a decade. The cost for plant materials and  
educational speakers has significantly increased over these years.*

*Please see the Membership Renewal Form included in this newsletter or  
follow this link - [2025 TGV Membership Form](#)*

*Thank you for your continued support and commitment to Tollgate.*

*Teresa LaRosa*

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



# The Tollgate Farm News

NOTE: Member Spotlight will return with 2025 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 2025. You may email your questions about the gardens and volunteering to [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net). Tollgate 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. 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/Tollgate%20Garden%20Volunteer%20orientation%202024.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

## 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.

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- 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.**

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# The Tollgate Farm News

## What is an AGL?

If you are new to volunteering in the Tollgate gardens, or even if you are a seasoned veteran, you may have heard the term “AGL” in meetings and correspondence and wondered just what that was. The acronym “AGL” stands for Area Garden Leader. In the Tollgate gardens, this is the term we use to designate a person (or persons) who direct the activities in a particular garden and take on the behind-the-scenes organization of information and communications. It is a wonderful way to enhance your gardening skills and creates many opportunities to expand your plant knowledge, learn more about design, and strengthen your project organization skills. Experienced members will be happy to help you transition to this leadership role. Within our group is a wealth of knowledge that is willingly shared. There will be someone available to orient any new AGL on the plants, purpose, and potential of that particular garden area.

**Role of AGL:** To act as the point person regarding the needs and plans for a designated/chosen garden for communications with team members, the Farm Manager, and the Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC).

### Responsibilities of AGL:

- Gather, update, and disperse information about the chosen garden, including but not limited to: plant list, plant tags, and the seasonal need of those plants via the garden binders kept in the Volunteer Center, and other formats, such as brochures and the Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV) website.
- Communicate garden needs and work activities with other team members and other TGVs on designated assigned work days.
- Communicate any plans or budget needs of the chosen garden in the required format/form and timeline for approval by the TGAC. These can be developed solely or with other team members.

### Qualifications:

- “Active” member designation in the TGVs, including having completed the annual Volunteer Selection Process (VSP).
- Eagerness to learn about plants in a designated/chosen garden area.
- Willingness to work with and direct other team members as required. The TGAC will attempt to direct other TGV members with similar interests to join a particular garden team, so that even a solo AGL is not expected to do all the physical work in the gardens.

Each garden has designated Saturday Workdays throughout the gardening season to help keep up basic maintenance. You can work with a garden partner as co-AGL and take on any part or whole garden available.

If you are not yet ready for a lead assignment, please consider joining one of these or an existing team in the many other Tollgate gardens. The annual AGL meeting, open to all interested active TGVs, is held the third Saturday in January. **The 2025 meeting will take place on January 18 at 10:00 am** in the conference center. Attending this meeting would be a great opportunity to learn more about becoming an AGL or garden team member.

# The Tollgate Farm News

## ATTENTION AGLs: 2025 Season Updates

### Garden Plant Labels Needed?

If new or replacement labels for your gardens' plants are needed, now is the time to take inventory while your garden is "fresh" in your mind. Linda Piasecki and I hope to accomplish label-making in only 1-2 sessions this winter. Your assistance is welcomed; you can earn Master Gardener work hours as well.

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. The Excel format is preferred, but you can also use the Word version, if that is easier for you.

An email response is requested by **January 10, 2025** to Marilyn Alimpich at: [masoleil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:masoleil@sbcglobal.net)

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: <b>Guara</b>	<b>Gaura</b>	<b>lindheimeri</b>	<b>'Crimson Butterflies'</b>			

Click the preferred download link below and save the form to your own computer.

[Word Version](#)

[Excel Version](#)

### SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 18, 2025 for the AGL Planning Meeting

An email will be coming soon to your inbox asking about your plans to continue in your role as an Area Garden Leader. A response is requested by **December 10th** so plans can be made for the upcoming AGL Planning Meeting. I look forward to seeing you in January and working with you during the 2025 garden season.

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Eagle Projects at Tollgate



Over the years, Eagle Projects have installed fences, built shade structures, enhanced walkways, and in many ways improved Tollgate for our many visitors. Recently, Eagle Candidates Phoenix Dolby-Arnold and Sujay Gupta completed their projects in the gardens. Thanks to Phoenix, the Enabling Garden has new planters. Sujay's crew built a wonderful new shade area for the Volunteer Center. Thanks to both for their work making Tollgate a better place for all!



Top row left & middle photos provided by Roy Prentice  
Top row right, 2<sup>nd</sup> row photos by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Last Workday of the Season Potluck Lunch

On the last Saturday workday of the season, October 26, instead of the usual hotdog lunch, TGV members gathered in the conference center for a potluck. It was a chance for those who couldn't attend the Recognition Dinner to stop and chat with Roy. A fun time was had by all! It was agreed that this might be a fun way to end the workday season in the future.



Recipes for one of the favorite desserts:

### *Basil-Lime Pound Cake*

- ½ teaspoon baking soda*
- 1 cup sour cream*
- 1 cup sweet basil*
- 1 cup granulated sugar, plus some for the pan*
- 1 cup confectionary sugar*
- 3 large eggs*
- ½ cup butter*
- ½ cup margarine*
- 1 ½ tablespoon lime juice*
- 1 tablespoon lime rind zest*
- ½ teaspoon salt*
- 1 teaspoon vanilla*
- 2 ¼ cups flour*

Mix baking soda with sour cream. Set aside. In processor with blades running drop basil down feed tube. Add sugars and process a few minutes longer. Add eggs, butter, margarine, sour cream and baking soda mixture, lime zest, juice, salt and vanilla. Process until smooth, add flour and pulse on/off only until the flour has been mixed well. (Do not over process) grease an angel food or bundt pan. Sprinkle in a little sugar in the pan and tap out any extra sugar. Place batter in prepared pan and bake in 350 degree oven for 1 hour or until done. Cool 10 minutes, then invert cake onto a plate. Spread with Cream Cheese-Lime frosting

### *Cream Cheese-Lime Icing*

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened*
  - ½ stick butter*
  - 1 cup confectionary sugar*
  - 1 teaspoon lime rind, grated (green only)*
  - 1 teaspoon lime juice*
  - ½ teaspoon cream of tartar*
- Blend all ingredients together until smooth**  
**Spread on top of warm (not hot) cake.**

# The Tollgate Farm News

## 2024 Garden Volunteer Year End Report

Activity Summary as of October 2024:

- Tollgate Garden Volunteers (TGV) had a roster of 130 Active volunteers enrolled to work in the gardens and 33 Supporting volunteers also contributing to the success of the horticultural efforts in the Tollgate Gardens.
- The Spring and Fall Plant Sale events were executed successfully with funds raised for the maintenance and development of the Tollgate Demonstration Gardens.
- The ongoing project for signage in the gardens will continue to enhance the educational value of the gardens for the public/visitors and gardeners alike.
- Donated benches and multiple Eagle Scout projects enhanced the garden and volunteer spaces.
- Donated hardscape structure of a bridge and constructed bog with plants and pump, also enhanced the safety, function and beauty of the Children's Garden pond feature.
- Saturday group garden workdays were conducted throughout the season. There was participation of a community youth group for work activity in the PAR garden and a corporate group from Atain. Scheduled garden volunteer opportunities for 2024 continue through early November.
- The annual Pancake Breakfast was held in April open to all TGV, Maple Syrup project team and visiting new volunteer candidates with good attendance.
- The Garden Open House event was held in July as scheduled. An estimated 200 guests enjoyed tours and educational talks were given by the TGV. The evening was a success with good visitor feedback.
- January through March TGV meetings were done via Zoom with return of in-person done on site April-October (excludes July which is open House event). This combination of presentation types continues to help in connectivity of members and continued quality of monthly speakers.
- TGV provided garden maintenance, garden planning, food production, and many other essential garden tasks to enhance the presentation of the Tollgate Gardens and Plant-A-Row for the Hungry to benefit the residents of Oakland County and beyond.

Garden Volunteer data:

- As of 10/24/2024 recorded hours on the Tollgate sign in system or gathered manually shows 105 Tollgate Garden Volunteers, youth and community volunteers in the gardens and special projects.
- Total hours for garden volunteers: 3013.5 hours for the Jan 1-Oct 24 reporting period of the 2024 season. Hours in this total included the Nursery volunteers - 123.5, PAR volunteers - 453.5, special garden events (open house, plant sale) and Pumpkifest - 132, Maple Syrup team - 185, garden volunteers - 2033.25 hours. Miscellaneous, general, or administrative hours - 86.25. Another 150 hours estimated from community volunteers not using the hours recording system.
- Volunteers working in MSU Tollgate's Plant-A-Row for the hungry garden produced 3,953 lbs. of food for Forgotten Harvest and PB&J in Detroit. This team continues to assess and adjust planting plans for best utilized produce for donation to organizations such as Forgotten Harvest.
- The current estimated national value of volunteer time based on the 2024 independentsector.org \$33.49/hr., with a total estimated value provided by TGV of \$100,922 for 2024 season.
- Tollgate Garden Volunteer Plant sales generated over \$13,400 in revenue for the maintenance of the Tollgate Demonstration Gardens to offset the garden expenses this season.

# The Tollgate Farm News



*Holidays at The Farm*

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**December 7th**

- Great Holiday Photo Opportunities
- Hayrides
- Adorable Farm Animals
- Visit with Santa

**Michigan State University Extension**  
Tollgate Farm and Education Center

Join us at MSU's Tollgate Farm and Education Center on **December 7th** for our second annual Holiday at the Farm event, where festive fun awaits the whole family! Experience the charm of the farm with a delightful wagon ride through our scenic landscape and get up close and personal with our adorable farm animals that are sure to warm your heart.

Capture the magic of the season by snapping unforgettable holiday pictures on our beautifully decorated grounds. The event also features a variety of engaging activities designed especially for the little ones, making this a perfect outing for families. And don't miss the chance to meet Santa himself, who will be visiting the farm to greet children and spread holiday cheer.

Whether you're looking to create lasting memories or simply enjoy the spirit of the season, Holiday at the Farm is an experience you won't want to miss!

Link: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/holiday-at-the-farm-2024>

# The Tollgate Farm News

## 2024 RECOGNITION DINNER



Top row left photo provided by Monique Mose  
Top row right, 3<sup>rd</sup> row right, bottom row right by Renee Cottrell  
2<sup>nd</sup> row, 3<sup>rd</sup> row left, bottom row left by Nancy Powell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## CANNA HARVEST AT THE POND



Third row right photo provided by Linda Piasecki  
Bottom right photo by Judy Culkin  
All other photos by David Komraus

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FALL AROUND THE FARM



Top two row photos provided by David Harenchar  
Bottom two rows by Linda Piasecki

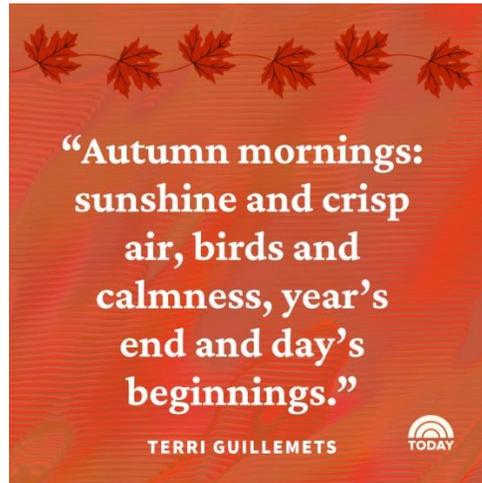
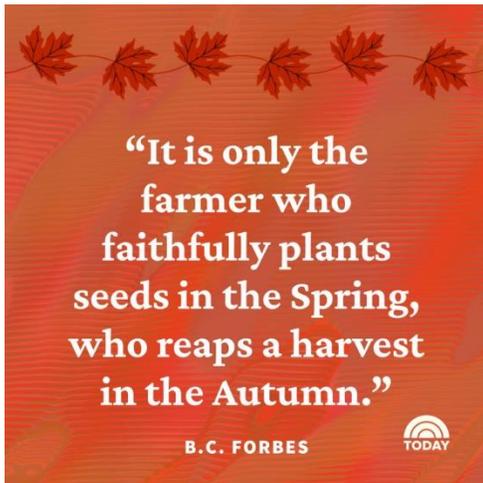
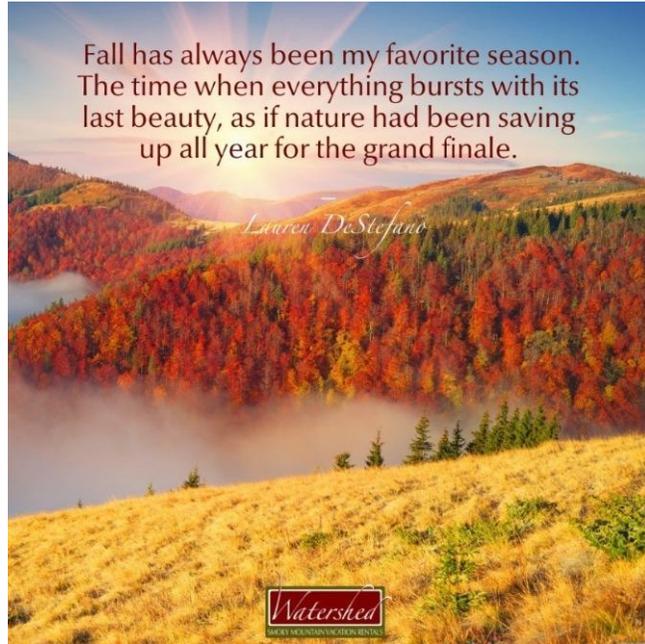
# The Tollgate Farm News

**MORE FALL AROUND THE FARM**



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

# 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.**

Photos from your cell phones work great - just keep at maximum size/resolution when submitting.

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 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 by Renee Cottrell  
Top right photo by Roy Prentice  
Middle right photo by Norm Powell  
Bottom right photo by Kurt Westermann

# Tollgate Volunteer Information

## Activity Days: January - October

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

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

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

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

## Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

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

## Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

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

# Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC)

## Volunteer Liaison – Destiny Pearson

248-347-3860 Ext.251 [pears278@msu.edu](mailto:pears278@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 2025 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025**.

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

# 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: YOU CAN COMBINE HOURS AND LOG IN ONE "BATCH" ENTRY**



**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.

2025

Name _____	Date Submitted _____
Address _____	Telephone Number _____
City _____ MI	Day _____ - _____
Zip _____ - _____	Evening _____ - _____
Name you would like on badge, <b>ONLY IF NEEDED</b>	Email _____

**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 (**\$25 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 Garden Volunteers Office**  
**28115 Meadowbrook**  
**Novi, MI 48377-3128**

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

Email: [tjrrehab@gmail.com](mailto:tjrrehab@gmail.com)

**2025 Membership is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025**

**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 do not wish your email and other identification information to 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:** \_\_\_\_\_