



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 25

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2019

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, June 20, 7:00 PM

The Gardening Show - Special Edition

Join gardeners in the Tollgate conference center Thursday evening, June 20, for a local version of *The Gardening Show*. Starting with current issues then moving to a Q and A format similar to his radio show (Saturdays from 5:00 to 6:00 PM on WJR 760 AM), **Dean Krauskopf, Ph.D.**, will provide helpful information on gardens, trees, lawns, crops and pests plus whatever else Tollgate volunteers want to know about gardening science.

Host of *The Gardening Show* on News/Talk 760 WJR for over 20 years, Dean is a Master Gardener instructor with nearly 30 years service as a teacher with MSU's Horticulture Department and also as a retired Commercial Horticulture and Integrated Crop Management Agent for Southeastern Michigan. After earning a bachelor's degree at Ohio State, he received his master's degree and doctorate from North Carolina State. Dean will share his extensive experience in horticulture with Tollgate gardeners.

<http://www.wjr.com/thegardeningshow/> is full of links to information about topics discussed or mentioned on Dean's radio show this year. Links from his April talk in Dearborn are posted at <http://www.mgawc.org/news>.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

JUN	MEETINGS		JUL	ACTIVITIES	
20	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM	6	Hosta Garden / Xeriscape	9:00 AM
			13	Open House Clean Up	9:00 AM
JUN	ACTIVITIES		20	Tollgate Open House	4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
22	Hosta / Rain Garden / 12 Mile	9:00 AM	27	Children's / Nursery and Pond	9:00 AM
29	Demo Garden	9:00 AM			
JUL	MEETINGS		AUG	MEETINGS	
2	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM	6	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
18	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM	15	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM



Roy Prentice

Greetings All,

Plant Sale: Thanks to all that helped make the plant sale a success. Due to the efforts of the many volunteers that donated plants, prepared the nursery, and helped customers on the day of the sale, we made over \$8300!! I am sure that all who at-



Shoppers at Plant Sale Opening

tended the sale appreciated the wonderful organization and upkeep of the nursery. All of the money raised goes directly into the Tollgate Garden Volunteer account and helps us keep the gardens looking great for our many visitors. **A big "thanks" are due to George Papadelis of Telly's Greenhouse.**



Thank You George Papadelis

George very generously donated a trailer load of wonderful annuals for the plant sale. George has been a long-time friend of Tollgate and has donated lots of plants over the years.

Many of you who attended the plant sale may have noticed mom duck sitting on her nest in the very middle of the nursery. I am pleased to announce that mom's bevy of new ducklings hatched successfully the Saturday after the plant sale and were last seen making their way toward the pond. Well done mom and well done all of the nursery workers, customers and visitors that helped make the nesting a success.



Mother Duck Nesting in a Nursery Row

Photo by Connie Marcangelo

Summer Camp Underway: The Tollgate summer camp season is beginning. Each week during the summer, 50 or more campers will be on the site enjoying the 160 acres that make up the farm. Green Science Adventure camp, Water camp, Dirt camp, Bug camp, Survival camp and more all focus on various aspects of nature and agriculture. Please help the young adventurers as they discover the outdoor environments that are the gardens, fields and woods of Tollgate. If you come to work the gardens during the week, it may seem like

Continued on Page 3

FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER *Continued*

there are kids everywhere. They do not always look carefully when crossing the roads. Please be careful as you drive around the farm.

Many visitors and garden groups came to Tollgate during May to view the gardens. As the site becomes more and more prominent in SE Michigan, I really appreciate all of the effort that goes into keeping the grounds looking their best. We have a lot of new volunteers on the farm these days. These extra hands are much appreciated as we strive to keep the farm looking good and fulfilling its educational role. If you are considering volunteering at Tollgate, now is an ideal time to get those hours in. Spring and early summer are the busiest time around the farm. The rain that we have had this spring has really put us behind on our garden maintenance. Please check out the Tollgate website and make note of our upcoming volunteer days. I really appreciate all the work and dedication that goes into keeping Tollgate looking good.

See you around the farm!

Roy



Through a grant from the Americana Foundation, Tollgate was able to pursue two concrete projects recently. We now have a new ramp to the Conference Center and a more accessible Activity Center. Both concrete projects were badly needed to make access to the buildings easier and safer!



I took this picture at the Plant Sale. It tickled me that the customer had a baby carrier full of plants and the baby was relegated to being slung over her arm.

Photos by Roy Prentice



I am sure that you all share in my joy and excitement about a new toy on the farm. After many years of faithful service, I was able to purchase a new lawn mower. She's a beaut!



LEARN
GROW
MAKE FRIENDS
ENJOY

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

"Help us to be ever faithful gardeners of the spirit, who know that without darkness nothing comes to birth and without light nothing flowers."

May Sarton

Plant Sale Teamwork!! - Thank you volunteers and Nursery Team members for another fantastic plant sale. The weather this spring was an incredible challenge and despite it all we had healthy specimens to sell and customers came! We managed to dodge the terrific storm that blew in as we all closed up the sale thanks to the devoted and organized help of all volunteers.

Thank you one and all!

AREA GARDEN LEADERS AND TEAMS — PLEASE NOTE:

- Please keep in mind that the Nursery area serves as a resource for plants to put in your respective Tollgate garden area (as well as the source of product for our plant sale fund raiser). Please use the procedure sent to team members earlier this season when utilizing stock from this area. Contact me if you need it re-sent to you.
- With the successful plant sale please feel free to submit additional garden budget requests at this time.
- Now that we are getting into warmer weather, please re-assess your areas for plants that could be divided for plant sale. An email update to me would be appreciated to plan for fall divisions.
- Keep receipts to submit for your reimbursements on approved items from your budget submission.
- **Garden Binders** - **the weeds are way ahead of our workdays**, please keep the "work-to-be-done" page up to date and detailed so weekday volunteers can have direction for care in your area.



Photos by Renee Cottrell



Garden Binders

Tollgate Open House is on July 20th! We will continue the theme of **"Sunset Garden Celebration"** with the evening time frame 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. There will be local musicians to provide entertainment and other garden item related vendors to tempt you with

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Notes from the President *(Continued)*

The sign-up sheet is in the Volunteer Communication Center with description of positions to be filled. We will also bring it to the June meeting and send out email reminders prior to the event. For those who are talented bakers we will need donated finger foods (without nuts) for our guests. Don't forget the volunteer picnic that immediately follows the open house event.

Ginger Meyer Award Nominations

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**.

As Tollgate Garden Volunteer members **you** will have an opportunity to nominate your fellow gardeners as candidates for this award. The TGAC will compile these submissions for presentation to the **Americana Foundation** for final award selection. Your nomination will describe how the candidate of your choice shows a commitment to Tollgate, a love and knowledge of gardening and a willingness to share that knowledge with others. We have many deserving members so make your voices heard.

Please take some time to honor one or more of your fellow Tollgate volunteers to continue this tradition for our organization. See nomination form in this issue.

Nomination forms are due **July 26**, you can email, mail, give to Roy or me by the deadline. This will allow sufficient time for TGAC and the Americana Foundation to make a selection and have the presentation ready by the recognition dinner.

Please join us for the Saturday activity days to help us catch up for lost time this spring. The weeds have loved the wet weather even if we did not! June 15th we had a newly implemented orientation for new volunteers who may have missed the April orientation date.

As Always, Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President, Tollgate Garden Volunteers

Despite the rainy weather, we have succeeded in planting everything: cabbage, potatoes, garlic, onions, beets, carrots, shallots, pole beans, and several types of squash. Thanks to **Will Jaquinde**, the carrots were planted in record time due to the use of a wonderful device he loaned to us - a garden seeder. Also, the new irrigation system will be completed and fully functional this month. The garden is beautiful as it springs to life. Now on to more weeding and pest management.

PAR
GARDEN

Kathryn Fitzpatrick



2019 SPRING PLANT SALE



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

2019 SPRING PLANT SALE



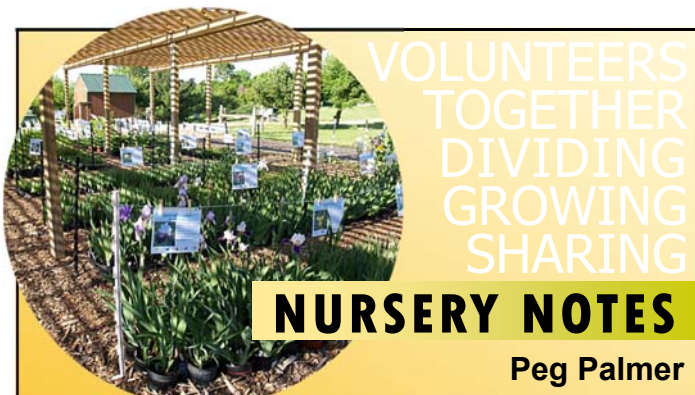
Photos by Darretta Ferasin

2019 SPRING PLANT SALE



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

END OF THE SALE

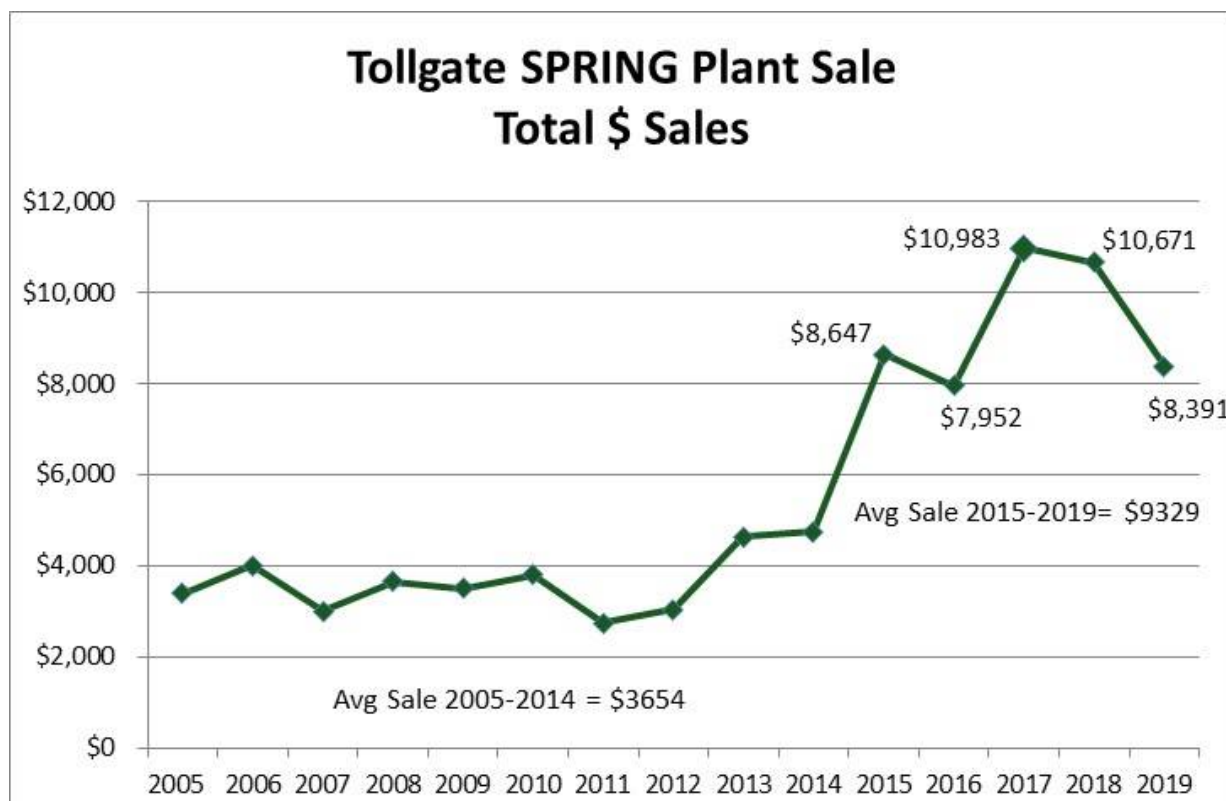


Preparation for Spring Plant Sale 2019 was challenging – with cancelled workdays in the fall that resulted in fewer donations, and the late, cold and rainy spring that has kept all of us out of our gardens until just recently! Our hopes of record plant donations this spring that would re-stock the nursery up to 3,500 pots or more were dashed as the cool and rainy weather continued. And we removed a record number of dead pots this spring, as varieties that need good drainage were unable to survive in pots that tend to hold in all that excess moisture. But the plants that survived were lush and green as June 1st approached.

So, we began the sale this year with less than 2,700 pots in the rows – the lowest number since we’ve been keeping records. We simply needed to sell what we had in order

to deliver a good sale to fund all the wonderful Tollgate Gardens! The use of colored landscape flags to was continued to identify premium priced pots (mostly prime spring blooming plants) as well to sell some overstocked items with a buy two, get one free program. We have sold Daylilies at \$3 in the last couple years, but this year we added a volume purchase incentive with an offer of “buy 3, get one for \$1”. All this work paid off – with some added good fortune when a storm front moving through in the morning passed by Tollgate without spilling a drop! The result was a great sale that yielded well over \$8,000 for the gardens!

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NURSERY NOTES *Continued*



The next big job for the Nursery team will be stocking up again this fall – our current nursery layout will accommodate up to a maximum of about 5,000 pots! By comparison, our current inventory is below 1,000! We will need to get a significant number of those donations in the fall to meet our goal of 3,500-4,000 pots in the nursery for the Spring 2019 plant sale! Please keep the Nursery in mind for as you plan your fall garden renovations. The next PLANTS WANTED LIST will be published around mid-August, as the nursery opens to accept fall donations.

TOP TEN SELLERS FOR 2018:

1. *Iris germanica*/German/Bearded Iris
2. *Hemerocallis*/Daylily
3. *Astilbe*/Astilbe
4. *Geranium*/Hardy Geranium
5. *Hosta*/Hosta
6. *Asclepias incarnata*/Swamp Milkweed
7. *Iris siberica*/Siberian Iris
8. *Phlox paniculata*/Garden Phlox
9. *Sedum*/Stonecrop (yellow groundcover varieties)
10. *Echinacea purpurea*/Purple Coneflower

A successful nursery operation, including profitable plant sales to support all the Tollgate Gardens, requires a large team of volunteers: Dedicated Row Leaders and Co-Row Leaders, as well as a number of “AT LARGE” members who are available to support various activities on an ad-hoc basis.

THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN THE NURSERY TEAM IN ANY OF THESE ROLES!

Contact pegpalmer@mi.rr.com for more information.

Quilting 2019 “Blowing in the Wind”

Tollgate’s own Quilting Bees have completed the 2019 Tollgate Quilt that will be raffled off at the July 20 Open House. The quilt and Raffle Tickets will be at the June 20 Volunteer General Meeting.

Quilt Pattern: Solid Foundation

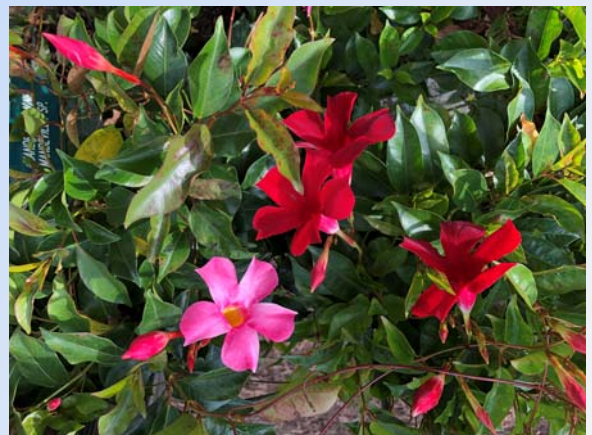
Approximate Size: 74 inches x 74 inches

Raffle Tickets: \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00



Kay Pratt, Connie Marcangelo, Susan Bremer,
Lynn Strong, Mindy Kinsey and
Kathy Light (bottom right)
Quilters Missing from Photo: Darretta Ferasin,
Gail Kewitch and Nancy Roggers

AROUND THE FARM



Beauty Bush (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*) in Xeriscape Garden East

Monarch Caterpillars already Munching on New Crop of Milkweed Down by the Pond

Photos by Darretta Ferasin

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019

If you have not already done so, please send in your 2019 membership form by June 30 to ensure continued mailings of the Tollgate newsletter, workday notices and other information that comes along throughout the year. If you are not sure whether you have already sent your 2019 form, you can contact me, Cindy Bolterstein, at tollgatemembers@gmail.com and I will check the membership list.

Click on this link to the form on the MSU Extension Tollgate Farm and Education Center website: [MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form](#). Forms will also be available at the next Tollgate Volunteer General meeting and attached to this newsletter.

A Special Thanks!

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

Amy Deeds
Ann MacLean

Maria Tatarelli

Anna VanHyfte

Tollgate Photo's Wanted/Needed

Did something unique or beautiful at Tollgate catch your eye and you snapped a picture with your cell phone or camera? Share that moment with others at Tollgate by submitting it for consideration in the 2020 Tollgate Calendar. Photo's of All seasons and areas of Tollgate are needed.

Email your photos to:
TollgateCalPics@Gmail.com. The preferred format is JPEG landscape files.

Contact **Larry Bolam** at the above email address with any questions.



The Saturday Chef: "WHAT? You Said Well Done"



Photo Above and Lower Right by Roy Prentice



Tollgate had a visitor recently. A fawn was discovered "hiding" near the shop. Mom left him in a spot that she deemed secure while she went out foraging for food. She returned later, collected her little one, and was off to new adventures.

SATURDAY WORKDAY ACTIVITIES



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to noon unless otherwise noted on the Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events listed on the first page of the Tollgate Farm News or by the Area Garden Leader (AGL).

Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays. Veggie alternatives are available upon request.

This schedule does not exclude you from working independently on the site. However, on non-scheduled days, your efforts will need to be self-directed with guidance from the garden area binders located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

If you aren't getting
The Tollgate Farm News
email, Check your
SPAM folder

**Volunteer Activity Day and
Meetings Information**
248-347-3860 ext. 400

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

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

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

- Trowel
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Garden Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellent

Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

Farm Manager

Roy Prentice - 248 347-3860 ext. 251
email - prentic1@msu.edu

President Renee Cottrell
Vice President..... Marilyn Alimpich
Secretary..... Dave Komraus
Treasurer Sue Janczarek
Membership Cindy Bolterstein
PR..... TBD
Programs..... Jackie Stengel
Hospitality Teresa LaRosa
Farm News Editor Darretta Ferasin

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send email to:

tollgatemembers@gmail.com

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers

For general information and questions
Contact Roy Prentice or See Website:

<http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/>

- The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM** in the Tollgate Office Building. All Tollgate Gardens Volunteer members are welcome to attend.
- Listings to contact individual Council Members and Area Garden Leaders are available at all general meetings and in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2019 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**.

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128

tollgate.msu.edu

Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251



MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please print all entries. Thank you.

2019

Name _____

Date Submitted _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

City _____ MI

Day _____ - _____

Zip _____ - _____

Evening _____ - _____

Email _____

Name you would like on badge _____

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.

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**

2019 Membership is from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

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 online).

In the event of an emergency please notify:

Name _____

Phone _____ - _____

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: