



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 25

ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 PM

Fall Color Lottery

Combining evergreen conifers with the fall color of deciduous trees creates spectacular visuals. Past president of the American Conifer Society, **Dennis Groh** will explain many of the factors impacting fall color occurrence and quality for a better understanding of aspects of plant biology applicable to both conifers and deciduous plants. Dennis will cover recommendations for plants with reliable fall color and maintenance to improve your odds of "hitting the Fall Color Lottery." Based on peer-reviewed scientific literature, this talk dispels many myths and misconceptions. The presentation features images to illustrate both the concepts and the fall color plants. It also provides insights into the color seen on new conifer cones.

A garden enthusiast since childhood and an avid plant collector for over 40 years, Dennis Groh is a voracious reader with an extensive library of books on all aspects of plants, garden design and maintenance. Working with his wife, Carole, they have developed an amazing plant collection in their one-acre garden that is now a destination for horticultural experts and photographed for publications and television. Dennis enjoys travel, photography and visiting many gardens and events in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan to study plants and talk with those most knowledgeable about growing them. Dennis does all he can to advance knowledge in the horticultural field. A scientist by profession, he asks "why" and demands explanations for "how" that are supported by fact. He does this to pass on his mentors' legacy of plant knowledge and to help others avoid his mistakes.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

| MAY MEETINGS | | | JUN ACTIVITIES | | |
|----------------|---|----------|----------------|--|--------------------|
| 16 | Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting | 7:00 PM | 1 | <i>Spring Plant Sale</i> | 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM |
| MAY ACTIVITIES | | | 8 | Heritage / Office / Rose Garden | 9:00 AM |
| 18 | Plant Sale Division / Prep / Plant Drop off | 9:00 AM | 15 | Entrance / Front Farmhouse / New Volunteer Orientation | 9:00 AM |
| 25 | Memorial Day Weekend NO DIRECTED WORKDAY | | 22 | Hosta / Rain Garden / 12 Mile | 9:00 AM |
| 31 | Plant Sale Set Up | 10:00 AM | 29 | Demo Garden | 9:00 AM |
| JUN MEETINGS | | | JUL MEETINGS | | |
| 4 | TGAC Meeting | 7:00 PM | 2 | TGAC Meeting | 7:00 PM |
| 15 | New Volunteer Orientation | 9:00 AM | 18 | Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting | 7:00 PM |
| 21 | Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting | 7:00 PM | | | |



FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings All,

We have been checking our many bird boxes in the back fields, recently. Bluebirds, swallows and wrens have all taken up residence in several of the boxes. The Prentice family have orange and grape jam on their feeder and have been rewarded with regular Baltimore oriole visits. The first new family of geese has been sighted on the pond (sigh). Herons, ducks and even a swan are all joining the geese in a harmonious aquatic get-together. Keep your eyes open while on the property. There is a bald eagle nest in the area. Tollgate has been visited periodically by Eagles!

Earth Day. For the ninth consecutive year, Tollgate teamed up with the City of Novi to conduct the City's celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 13. This year the group responded to the beautiful weather and turned out in droves. Attendees worked in various vegetable growing areas around the property. They laid down wood chip mulch in the 4H garden and picked up sticks and branches in the former Emerald Ash Borer experimental ash plantation to make way for additional CSA plantings. The group got a lot done and had a good time learning about service to their community.

Additions to the Gardens. As you come to the gardens this spring, you will notice a few additions. The Children's Garden has a new Smelly Feeling garden planter. Although I dearly loved the old planter made of dyed concrete bricks, it was time for a change. The new planter is comprised of a



Photos by Roy Prentice

series of animal troughs arranged in the shape of a puppy's paw. It is just darling, if I do say so myself.

You will also notice that the nursery has been graced by an addition to the shade structure. Eagle scout candidate, **Jarron Schaeffer**, his family and volunteers came to the property one Saturday and constructed this wonderful section of shade. It looks great and will improve the comfort of both plants and plant tenders.



Eagle Scout, Jarron Schaeffer, His Family and Volunteers Completed the Last Section of the Shade Structure in the Nursery

Plant Sale's a 'Coming. The nursery crew has worked hard on preparations for the upcoming sale. The plant sale is the major fund-raising opportunity for the gardens. We need your help to make it successful. The nursery is still a bit shy on plants. Recently, you received an email plea for any plants that you may have that could be brought to Tollgate for the sale. If you are bringing plants to the farm and need pots, we have plenty. Pots and plastic tags are available in the small brown barn across the drive from the nursery. Please label any plants that you are bringing to the site so that we can give as much information as possible to our garden shoppers. If you are dropping off plants, you will find a screen house near the nursery that will give your plants some shade until the nursery crew can incorporate them into the nursery.

See you soon around the farm!

Roy



Those Crazy Cute Kids



LEARN
GROW
MAKE FRIENDS
ENJOY

**No matter how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow. ~ Proverb**

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

The spring clean up days brought out the most dedicated volunteers with weather that was cool. I promise spring is coming! We did have a good turn out of interested new volunteers who attended the orientation and who then joined us in the garden work activities. Welcome to you all and I enjoyed spending the morning and a wonderful pancake brunch with you and invite you back soon and often. The maple syrup volunteers provided a wonderful pancake brunch and we are thankful for their successful efforts with record syrup production as well as their culinary skills utilizing their Tollgate syrup.



2019 Spring New Volunteer Orientation

See the Activity calendar for details on upcoming Saturday activities. As a reminder we ask that volunteers check the newsletter and emails to know what tools to bring to the Saturday activity days. It helps to be prepared for the activity with the right tools, and for the sun with a hat and skin protection including work gloves.

NEXT UP THE SPRING PLANT SALE - Our major plant purchases for new gardens and additions to existing ones, not to mention our seasonal mulch and compost supplies come from the proceeds from this major fundraiser. Our nursery Team has provided a wish list for donations and has distributed it in email and on the Tollgate web site. I hope you are keeping us in mind for your spring divisions (even if popping up just now). Named varieties and botanical names are best but if not known, bloom time and color are helpful. Items blooming in late May/early June are good sellers.

SIGN UP! The sign-up for working the Friday set up and the Saturday plant sale will be circulated at our May meeting, in the volunteer communication center as well as on the upcoming emailed Doodle link. You only need to sign up on one of those options.

See the Nursery Notes Article in this Issue

JOIN A TEAM! I invite any new or established member to join or form a team for one of the garden areas on the site. This is a great way to learn, share and feel connected to what we do here. With all the garden variety is easy to find something you love. Existing areas in need of interested members include the Constructed Wetland (pond), the Demonstration gardens, Office and Heritage gardens and other more generalized garden areas to choose. All garden teams welcome new members. Email me to get connected to a team or get a tour of available areas, OR see Roy at any of the monthly meetings/ Saturday workdays.

See you all soon. Thanks for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President, Tollgate Garden Volunteers

SATURDAY WORKDAY ACTIVITIES



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

SATURDAY WORKDAY ACTIVITIES



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

SATURDAY WORKDAY ACTIVITIES



Photos by Kathy Johnson



VOLUNTEERS
TOGETHER
DIVIDING
GROWING
SHARING

NURSERY NOTES

Peg Palmer

The Nursery is Open for Your Donations!

This cold and rainy spring has delayed all of our nursery activities, but we're now fully open for business and looking forward to the arrival of lots of great donations from the gardens of our many Tollgate supporters!

Please review the PLANTS WANTED list (distributed periodically via email) to determine what plant varieties we need along with directions on how to drop off your donations. We were hoping to bring in a record number of donated plants into the Nursery this spring – 3,500 pots! But the slow start to the season has put us way behind schedule, but we're still hoping to see loads of great plants arrive over the next couple weeks! It takes a couple weeks for new divisions to recover from transplant shock and be acclimated to life in a plastic pot - so please deliver your donations to the nursery by **SATURDAY MAY 18**.

Plants may be dropped off anytime the Tollgate gates are open! You don't need to wait for a Saturday workday or when a nursery team member is available! Directions are posted near the pop-up and attached to the PLANTS WANTED emails that are sent out.



New Pop-Up to Receive Plant Donations

Everything you need to pot up your divisions is available in the Nursery: soil on the potting trailer, pots under the potting trailer with additional supplies in the Nursery shed, plastic plant tags and pencils available in the white plastic tub attached to the Nursery label table and a water faucet near the potting trailer. You may also drop off larger clumps of labelled plant material and the nursery team will finish the dividing and potting job.

PLEASE CLEARLY IDENTIFY YOUR PLANTS – provide the botanical and common name if possible, plus bloom color. Clear identification and making sure your plants have adequate soil and moisture before placing in the pop-up are the most critical steps for us to present your plants at their best for the sale.

As we conclude this year's winter propagation project, several members of the nursery team headed out to Tollgate North after the regular Saturday morning workday on May 4. We brought all of the seedlings up from Deb Kearney's basement greenhouse to "harden off" before being planted in one gallon pots and placed in the Nursery on Saturday May 18. Deb has fine-tuned an efficient system over the years – loading all the trays of seedlings onto the bed of a large snowmobile trailer that can be wheeled in and out of the garage to protect from an overnight frost. The sides of the trailer also provide some wind and sun protection, or shade cloth can be placed over the top to provide additional protection.



Seedlings Harden Off in the Bed of Large Snowmobile Trailer

PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR POTS! We accept only 1 or 2 gallon pots in good condition (*1 gallon size is our primary use and our current greatest need*). Drop off pots in the bin inside the door of the shed adjacent to the nursery. Samples of

Continued on Page 8

NURSERY NOTES *Continued*

the pot sizes that we accept are tacked to the wall above the bin. ***Please do not leave larger or smaller size pots- we DO NOT have room to store them!***

If you're interested in learning and having fun while involved in a different kind of gardening experience, join the Nursery Team as a ROW LEADER or MEMBER AT LARGE! It isn't necessary to be a plant or propagation expert to join our team – we have all learned from each other and by

doing the work together. Nursery Row Leaders become experts about the plants in their row through the experience of being a Row Leader and the interactions with others on team. We currently have openings for Row Leaders and Co- Row Leaders, and becoming a member At Large is always an option as well. Let me know if you're interested and I'll provide you more information about the opportunities available.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019

It is once again time to renew your membership. 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.

Cindy Bolterstein
tollgatemembers@gmail.com



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 May 16 Volunteer General Meeting and the June 1 Plant Sale.

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

PAR GARDEN START UP

Despite having a very wet start, we have been busy in the PAR Garden planting cabbage, onions, and potatoes. This year we are using IPM in the form of cabbage row covers and chemicals to address rodents and slugs. The garlic and shallots planted in the fall are looking good. We have also raised the beds a little as well as widening and lengthening them to grow even more delicious vegetables.

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

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!

Irene Benvenuti
Andy and Jayne Berry
Theresa Bridenbaugh
Daniel Carpenter
Mary Anne Chadwick
Pat Coppersmith
Kathryn Currier

Virginia Dean
Bill Gross
Deb Hall
Anne Horaczek
Laura Johnson
Mathew Kulas
Cecile MacDonell

Norm Powell
Carrie Richardson
Stephanie Schwab-Ulfig
Linda Shinn
Karen Yurgalite
Kathy Zhong

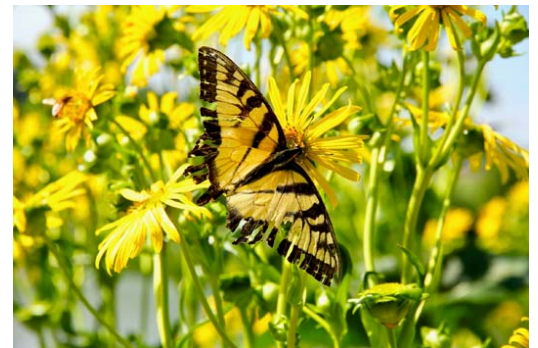
Spring Photos of Tollgate Needed!!!!

Spring — the time of year when Tollgate comes to life, and the best season of the year to get those beautiful photos of Tollgate other than Summer, Fall, and Winter. Don't miss the opportunity to capture and submit your favorite Spring photos for the Tollgate Calendar. Thanks to those who have submitted photos in the past weeks. They are very much appreciated!

Email your photos to: TollgateCalPics@Gmail.com

The preferred format is JPEG landscape files. Photos from all seasons and aspects of life at Tollgate accepted.

Contact Larry Bolam at above address with any questions.



Photos by Larry Bolam

Pancake Brunch 2019



Thank You, Maple Syrup Team!

Hanami Spring Picnic

Last year, in cooperation with Oakland County's Japanese business community, Oakland County Government, the State of Michigan, the City of Novi, and MSU Extension, Tollgate established a planting of 17 Japanese cherry trees. The focal point of the planting is an Asian themed structure and arbor. This year Tollgate hosted its inaugural Hanami Celebration among the new cherry trees. Hanami is a Japanese holiday that includes gathering with family and friends and viewing spring cherry blossoms. The Hanami Celebration at Tollgate included a bento lunch, traditional music, crafts, a Japanese tea ceremony, hay rides and much more. Many of the 350 attendees wandered from the cherry planting and enjoyed all of the gardens and natural beauty that Tollgate has to offer. It was a beautiful day that was greatly appreciated by all who came to the farm.



Photos by Roy Prentice



Disinfecting Garden Tools When Working with Hosta Plants and Roses

Hosta Virus X (HVX): All garden tools coming into contact with hosta plants must be cleaned before and after each hosta is touched to avoid the spread of the Hosta Virus X (HVX) whether you are cutting leaves, scapes (flower stalk) or digging near the root system.

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD): All garden tools coming into contact with a rose bush must be cleaned before and after each rose is touched to avoid the spread of the Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) whether you are deadheading, pruning or digging near the root system. RRD is a virus that endangers all ornamental roses. The disease is spread by a microscopic wingless mite and could be transferred by the sap of an infected plant via garden tools to an uninfected plant. Symptoms vary but will be obvious. Unusual leaf color and growth habits are common and the rose often displays 'witches broom' type branching. There is no cure. The rose will eventually die.

Sap and soil from either the hosta or rose bush must be removed from your tool before moving to the next plant.

Disinfecting kits or small cleaning packs are available at the **Tool Disinfection Stations** and can be carried to your worksite. Buckets and a large tub are available to scrub large tools. Below is the current cleaning process:

- Spray **pruners or scissors** with bottle labeled "Alcohol". Wipe with blue toweling swatch to remove any hosta or rose sap.
- For **trowels, hand weeding tools or hedge trimmers** use the "Lysol® Dual Action Disinfecting Cloths" and let the tool air dry. If these tools are heavily soiled, it may be necessary to scrub the tool in a bucket of water with a couple of drops of "Dawn®" concentrate detergent first.
- For **shovels, garden forks or rakes** scrub the tool with a brush in a bucket of water and a couple of drops of "Dawn®" concentrate detergent and water. Take the bucket to the water spigot near your work location. A large kitty litter box is available for scrubbing rakes. Use the "Lysol® Dual Action Disinfecting Cloths" to disinfect the tool. Let the tool air dry. For lightly soiled tools, the disinfecting cloths can be used alone.
- Collect used blue wipes, disinfecting cloths and disposable gloves in the provided kit carrier (plastic tea jug) and dispose of them into the galvanized trash can near the Tool Disinfecting Station. Alcohol is flammable under certain conditions. The trash can also be taken to the worksite.
- Used detergent water can be dumped in the dry rock ravine bordering the hosta garden. Other locations will be determined.
- Disposable gloves have been provided to wear alone or over your garden gloves. You will find these at the Tool Disinfecting Station. Clean and disinfect gloves that come into contact with the hosta and rose sap.



Buckets, Dawn® Detergent, Brushes, Lysol® Disinfecting Cloths and Disposable Gloves are also Available at the Tool Disinfecting Station



Portable Disinfecting Kit for Pruners Scissors, Trowels, Hand Weeding Tools or Hedge Trimmers



Disinfecting Kit Contains Alcohol, Blue Shop Towel Swatches and Lysol® Disinfecting Cloths



Communication Center



Nursery Tool Shed

The cleaning regimen may extend to other garden areas to prevent the spread of new garden viruses.

Please return supplies to the station they came from.

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, June 4, 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**.

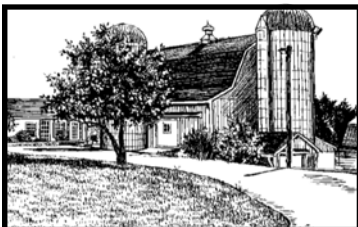
MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



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