



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2018



GINGER MEYER AWARD

Roy Prentice, Deb Kearney and Renee Cottrell



GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD

Renee Cottrell, Angie Carter and Roy Prentice

Photos by Mike Janczarek

Thank You

Americana Foundation and MSU Extension for the wonderful recognition dinner and your continued support.

It was a special evening with our fellow Tollgate Volunteers.

Thank You to the Prentice Family, Roy, Cindy, Minnette, Sam and Jack for all of the help and support throughout the year.

A special thanks to Renee Cottrell who keeps us on the garden path for a successful garden season.

TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

DEC	MEETINGS		JAN	MEETINGS	
14	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM	2	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
DEC	ACTIVITIES		17	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM
8	Rose Garden Mulching	10:00 AM	19	AGL Planning Meeting (tentative)	10:00 AM

No Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting in December
The Farm News will not be published in December



FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings All,

The 2018 gardening season is coming to an end. In spite of the recent garden workday rainouts, the beds are now all snug for the coming winter. All of the wonderful work that Tollgate's volunteers performed this year has resulted in great gardens that are a joy for our many visitors. Thanks to all that made 2018 such a great year at Tollgate!

The Great Tollgate Pond Renovation: Much work took place in and around the Tollgate pond in late October and early November. A crew from **Rockworks** has been placing rocks, redoing the stone step over bridge, fixing up the waterfall and in general, putting in rocks where they are needed and taking out rocks where they are not. It has been great to watch the professionals using big equipment to move big pieces of stone. The care and delicacy that the excavator operator used to gently place each rock was marvelous to see. While they were at their work, Rockworks also dredged the ponds of twenty years of accumulated silt. The series of small ponds that protect the big Tollgate pond are now set for years to come! Check it out. The work looks great! See more photos on page 3.



Photo by Roy Prentice

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 one hundred volunteers and guests joined us for dinner, a presentation of the Tollgate gardening year and the awards ceremony. We had so many attendees that we filled the big barn for the presentation. The Tollgate year in gardening



Photo by Mike Janczarek

presentation that was put together by **Darretta Ferasin** and myself was a big hit as were the many door prizes. The food was really great too. One of the highlights of the evening was the recognition of our first year volunteer who made the most visits to the farm during 2018. Our 2018 "Golden Shovel" award winner is **Angie Carter**. Angie received a genuine gold painted shovel and will also have her name engraved on a plaque which is hung in the Tollgate Volunteer Center.

Another highlight of the evening was the granting of the "Ginger Meyer" award. This award was presented to long-time Tollgate volunteer, **Deb Kearney**, for her many years of service to Tollgate. Deb is instrumental in many projects on the farm including key support and leadership in the Tollgate nursery. The Ginger Meyer award, a silver bowl inscribed with the recipient's name, was established to honor the memory of Ginger Meyer who, along with her husband Adolph, was instrumental in establishing the Americana Foundation and in donating Tollgate to MSU. Deb's name has also been inscribed on a plaque that will be hung in the Tollgate Volunteer Center. Both the golden shovel and Ginger Meyer awards are given annually. Thank you Angie and Deb for all that you do for the farm!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for another great year at Tollgate! I can't wait for winter to loosen her icy grip so that we can get going on 2019. It will be maple syruping time before we know it!

Roy

POND RENOVATION



Photos by Roy Prentice



LEARN
GROW
MAKE FRIENDS
ENJOY

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the year... for gardening begins in January with the dream!"

unknown

Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

In thanks for another wonderful gardening season...

Without the collective efforts of the TGAC, AGL's and teams, dedicated individual volunteers and the wonderful support from **The Americana Foundation** we could never accomplish the achievements that make Tollgate so special. My highest praise and thanks to all the **Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee members** and **Roy Prentice**. This guiding group is responsible for making our experiences educational, social and enjoyable by providing the support structure for our activity days, projects, and special events throughout the season.

So in this season of thanks, and am thankful for the Tollgate Garden Volunteers for the knowledge, companionship, skills that they have shared with our community and I am honored to continue to be a part of such a wonderful group of people and look forward to another season.

Save the Dates:

- There is the remaining mounding of the roses activity **Saturday, December 8th**.
- First membership meeting of 2019 is **Thursday, January 17th**.
- **January Area Garden Leaders/Team (AGL/T) Meeting:** Open to all volunteers to get info on garden teams and for teams to plan for the upcoming season! Tentative date is **Saturday, January. 19th at 10:00 AM** in the conference center (pending conference center availability) A confirming email will go out to all members. A great way for new members to meet other gardeners working on teams on the site and learn more about gardening opportunities.

Enjoy your Holiday season and time with family and friends. Please know that I am personally grateful for every effort, talent, time and kindness throughout the season given by all volunteers. See you in 2019.

Thank you for being Tollgate Garden Volunteers.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President



Larry Bolam

Tollgate Calendar

The Tollgate Calendar is a beautiful, colorful reminder of just what a special place the farm is. **Nancy and Dennis Roggers** have been putting together the Tollgate calendar for many years. Their care and attention to detail have brought month after month of great Tollgate images to all of us. For the 2020 calendar, Nancy is going to hand off production duties to long-time Tollgate volunteer, **Larry Bolam**. Larry looks forward to putting together a great calendar for all of us to enjoy. To do this, he needs your help. As you take images of Tollgate throughout the year, please send them to Larry at: TollgateCalPics@gmail.com. He will sift through all of the great images that he receives to give us a great year of Tollgate views.

PAR GARDEN FINALE



Photo by Kathryn Fitzpatrick

2018 PRODUCE	TOTALS
Beans	110
Beets	60
Cabbage	491
Carrots	95
Garlic	16
Onion	185
Potatoes	258
Butternut Squash	142
Zucchini	51
Shallots	23
Sweet Potatoes	18
GRAND TOTAL 1449 lbs.	

Estimated Value of Tollgate Garden Volunteer Hours Worked in 2018



1,085 Active members workday visits average at 3 hours per visit	3,255 hours
15 Non-members visits at 3 hours per visit	45 hours
Total Hours	3,300 hours
Current estimated value of volunteer time per hour*	\$24.69
\$24.69 per hour x 3,300 hours = Estimated Value of Volunteer Time	\$81,477.00
* https://www.independentsector.org/value-volunteer-time-2018/ Cindy Bolterstein Membership	

2019 Membership Form Included in this Issue

SATURDAY WORKDAYS



Photos by Darretta Ferasin



Photo by Mike Janczarek



Photo by Roy Prentice



With multiple workday cancellations, it's been a challenge to complete basic winter prep for the nursery - but we're almost done! Our first step was to complete a full physical inventory of the nursery, checking the plant tag name for each pot, and comparing the actual number of pots of each variety versus our inventory spreadsheet. This is no small task, with over 800 inventory lines to check! But it is a critical step that enables the Nursery team to complete our winter tasks - verifying that we have a plant tag for each plant variety in stock and calculating the "Plants Wanted" list to guide the spring restocking effort. Due to the cold, rainy weather and canceled workdays this fall, we're going into winter with about 200 fewer pots than fall 2017, and we're down more than 600 pots versus fall 2016! So we'll really need to stock up in the spring for a successful Plant Sale! We'll be publishing the Plants Wanted lists a bit earlier than usual next spring so that you will know what we need to fill the nursery. Look for the Plants Wanted list in MARCH 2019 and please consider the nursery's needs as you renovate and rearrange your plants at home next spring!

We're also hoping for good winter conditions to avoid heavy losses this year! We only stock Michigan-hardy perennials in the nursery - but overwintering in a pot is a much greater challenge! Perennials in pots are less insulated from the winter freeze-thaw cycle, and winter snow and rain with dormant plants results in excess moisture and rotting roots. Our basic winter prep is to pile coarse shredded mulch over and around each grouping of pots to help insulate them from this constant freeze/thaw cycle and deflect some of the moisture from the rain and snow. Selected varieties that are more susceptible to winter loss in a pot will be covered with solid blue tarps stretched over metal hoops (see photo from last winter). This treatment provides insulation to moderate and provide a more constant temperature around the pots as well as providing a physical barrier to deflect rain and snow. Some plants under row covers this year will include:

- *Heuchera*/Coral Bells (also treated with fungicide)
- *Asclepias tuberosa*/Butterfly weed



Blue Tarps Stretched over Metal Hoops Provide Additional Winter Protection for Selected Varieties

- *Cerastostigma plumbaginoides*/Plumbago
- *Crysanthemum*
- *Campanula*/Bellflower
- *Crocosmia*
- *Echinacea*/Cone Flower
- *Gaura*
- *Lavandula*/Lavender
- *Delphinium*/Larkspur
- *Euphorbia myrsinites*/Donkey Tail Spurge
- *Lobelia cardinalis*/Cardinal Flower
- *Calamagrostis* and *Miscanthus* grasses
- Various shrubs

This is our fourth year to provide special overwintering protection for selected plants. We try to learn more each year about which plants require treatment and how to be successful with these more challenging varieties!

Does this sound interesting to you? Would you like to learn more? Then, consider joining the Nursery Team as a ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER to share responsibilities for a specific area of the nursery, or as a MEMBER AT LARGE. Worried that you do not have enough plant knowledge to be a row leader? Not true!!! The majority of our row leaders learned to be experts about the plants in their rows by becoming a row leader, not the reverse. We have existing expertise to guide you while you are learning. Please contact Peg Palmer to get additional information or to join the team.

Peg Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com

2018 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Photos by Mike Janczarek



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

2018 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

2018 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

2018 Tollgate Volunteer Recognition Dinner



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 **Friday, December 14, 2018 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 _____ - _____