



# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2018

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center  
Thursday, October 18, 7:00 PM

## Gardening Safer and Longer

On Thursday, October 18, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center to learn to protect your most valuable garden tool--you. Tollgate President **Renee Cottrell** will discuss body mechanics and joint protection so we can enjoy working in the garden for many years. A licensed physical therapist with years of experience working with patients of all ages, and long-term active gardener, Renee will provide easy-to-understand information and tips you can use immediately.

Renee graduated with honors from Wayne State University. She has been the President of the Tollgate Garden Volunteers since 1999. She leads and/or organizes volunteer events and Saturday workdays. She also tends various gardens at Tollgate Farm. Over the winter, she created amazingly thorough binders for each garden at Tollgate. For her long-term dedication to Tollgate, she received the Ginger Meyer Award in 2004. Outside of Tollgate and work, she enjoys wine, kayaking, woodworking, and animated movies.



Renee Cottrell (right) Demonstrating Safe Gardening at the Open House

Photo by Mike Janczarek

### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

OCT	MEETINGS		NOV	MEETINGS	
18	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM	3	Recognition Dinner (RSVP)	4:00 PM
			6	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
OCT	ACTIVITIES		DEC	MEETINGS	
20	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM	14	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
27	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM	DEC	ACTIVITIES	
			8	Rose Garden Mulching	9:00 AM

**No Tollgate Volunteer General Meetings November and December  
The Farm News will not be Published in December**



# FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

## GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

### Greetings All,

**Recognition Dinner:** The recognition dinner is coming up soon. Please reserve your calendar for Saturday, November 3rd starting at 4:00 PM. Every year I look forward to this event. It is wonderful to get together with the many people that have made the Tollgate gardens so beautiful all year. It is also great to see what everyone looks like when the dirt is scrubbed off! Support for the event and many of the thank-you door prizes are generously provided by the **Americana Foundation**. I look forward to a special evening.



2017 Recognition Dinner

**Invitations go out to anyone who logged at least one volunteer visit to the farm this year.** I have mailed out the invitations to the recognition dinner. If you did not receive an invitation, it probably means that you did not sign in at the volunteer center this year. Invitations go out to all who sign in at least once during the course of the season. I realize that some of Tollgate's volunteers work hard in the gardens, but do not sign in at the volunteer center. I do not want to miss anyone who would like to join us for the event. Please let me know if you were missed in error.

**The Rain Garden:** You may have noticed that the Tollgate Rain Garden, located by the Volunteer Communication Center has a different look these days. The rain garden has long been one of Tollgate's signature gardens. Recently, **Connie Marcangelo** initiated an extensive renovation of the garden. The



Connie Marcangelo Removing Invasive Snow-on-the-Mountain from the Rain Garden this Past July



Smothering the Weeds and Adding Compost/Soil Mix to Begin Anew

organic matter that comprised the garden has subsided over the years creating more of a water collecting pocket than was desirable. Additionally, a few invasive plant species have insidiously crept into the garden. The renovation includes removing and potting or repurposing all of the plants in the rain garden, adding compost/soil mix to restore the desired garden soil level, removing undesirable plants and plant parts from the garden, and restoring a desirable plant mix to the garden. The rain garden is a great demonstration of a simple method that home owners and others can use to protect our surface and ground water. I appreciate all that Connie and others have done to bring it back to looking its best!

**Activity Days:** There are still a few work days left this year. Please check the Tollgate calendar and join us for a little end-of-the-year activity in the gardens. Think about how ready you will be come February to get back to the soil. Channel that future enthusiasm to a work day during the next month to help us get Tollgate ready for the winter and to complete other fall chores around the farm. Our many visitors and I really appreciate your efforts!

See you soon,  
Roy



LEARN  
GROW  
MAKE FRIENDS  
ENJOY

*“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”*

Albert Camus

## Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

**Activity Days!** Our October calendar contains work days for the close of our gardening season including clean-up dates and our final December activity for rose mounding. Annuals will be removed and gardens deadheaded on these next clean up dates as we prepare garden beds for the winter. As we have done the past the hostas on the site will be left to wither to avoid possible Hosta Virus X (HVX) cross contamination. The Nursery team will be concluding the divisions and donations for the season see more info in the Nursery Notes.

**Please Note** - As a reminder to all: **there are no membership meetings in November or December.** The October 18th meeting is your last chance to gather with our group until the recognition dinner on November 3rd. All those who have participated in one or more activity days will get an invitation. Look for it soon! If we missed you in error please contact Roy for RSVP. Hope to see many of you there!

**Thanks** to the Nursery Team and volunteers who participated in the successful Fall Plant Sale. Your knowledge and effort are greatly appreciated. Thank you for sharing your plant knowledge and skills to educate the public in correct plant choices, horticultural requirements and the joy of gardening!

**Vote Now** - October is the month to vote on all elected positions for TGAC. Though the field of nominees is very limited we ask that you participate in the voting process, write-ins are welcome! Please submit your ballot for officer positions in person at the October 18<sup>th</sup> membership meeting, by mail or email to Roy prior to the meeting or by proxy via phone call/message to Roy for the same deadline. Look for the ballot in this issue.

**Area Garden Leaders** - As always we like to plan ahead for the upcoming season and will be meeting in early January 2019 to get together and discuss plans and needs for the upcoming season. (date TBD 19th or 26th?) You may want to work ahead on updating the plant lists for your areas as we are making a big effort to improve our signage toward our objective of public education on plant species/types. If you have not already done so you may submit plant lists for tags to be made. Include the botanical name, common name and variety if known. We hope to have the project of sign making running this winter to place new signs in the spring!

**A reminder that any reimbursement forms should be submitted now so we can reconcile our 2017 budget records by the end of the year.**

**Finally** - Your elected board welcomes any feedback from YOU the members on how we did this year as an organization. Areas we like to review include communication (emails, Doodle, newsletters, meeting announcements), organization (workday and our special events) variety of experiences (for both new and established members) and any other topic or issue you would like us to address. Your elected TGAC members are dedicated to making your Tollgate experience rewarding and only with honest feedback can we continue to grow. Email me your thoughts and comments [rncottrell4@att.net](mailto:rncottrell4@att.net). Thanks.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

*Renee Cottrell*, President

# PAR GARDEN UPDATE

Photos by Kathryn Fitzpatrick (right)

The team was hard at work harvesting the last of the pole beans and prepping beds with soil and compost for spring planting. Our final harvest will be winter squash and sweet potatoes.



In the Garden are Janice McNulty, Kerry Kelly, Mary Bohner, Judi Spence, and MaryAnn Chupa

The team has been outstanding and ready to tackle significant bed work including extending, adding soil/compost, and mulching. For our last harvest of sweet potatoes and squash, we had very muddy conditions but the team prevailed and we ended the year with **1449 lbs.** of produce for Forgotten Harvest. I'd like to thank the entire team for a great season with many challenges - all overcome or plans in place to overcome next year.

The team members who have contributed throughout the year, not present in the photos below, are **John Woodrich, Anne Bolz, Janice McNulty, Paul Lukasiewicz** and **Wanda Morrison** (the photographer of the photos). I'd also like to call out **Roy Prentice** and **Will Jaquinde** for assisting with tilling, maintenance of the garden area, IPM, and hard labor spreading soil/compost.

Thank You!

Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Kerry Kelly, MaryAnn Chupa, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, and Michelle Lewis Showing Off our Prize Sweet Potatoes



The Team at the End of the Harvest: Kerry Kelly, Michelle Lewis, Mary Bohner, Susan Bremer, Judi Spence, MaryAnn Chupa, and Kathryn Fitzpatrick.





VOLUNTEERS  
TOGETHER  
DIVIDING  
GROWING  
SHARING

## NURSERY NOTES

Peg Palmer

The Nursery Team extends a huge **THANK YOU** to all the Tollgate Garden Volunteers who have provided such amazing support to us this year! Thanks for donating your favorite plants from your home garden – and then coming back to the Tollgate Plant Sale to buy more plants to fill the open spaces created by the plants you donated! Thanks for showing up on Nursery workdays to help the nursery team maintain the operation - mulch the nursery paths, pot up donated plants, water, weed, make plant labels, cut back plants, dig in pots - braving temperatures anywhere from the 40's to the 90's to get it all done! We couldn't be successful without this broad base of support from Tollgate Garden Volunteers!

The primary purpose of the Nursery is to support the gardens, by providing a place for Tollgate Area Garden Leaders to “shop” for great new plants for their gardens, while the money we raise provides for the purchase new plants, mulch, compost, fertilizer and all the other things that we need to keep the Tollgate gardens beautiful. The Nursery also supports **TOLLGATE'S EDUCATIONAL MISSION** during plant sales with plant tag signage that includes plant cultural information and brochures that inform the public about current topics such as Native Plants, attracting Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and finding plants that are (relatively) “Critter Resistant”.

**Interested in joining the NURSERY TEAM?** You can join as a ROW LEADER or CO-ROW LEADER to share responsibilities for a specific area of

the nursery. Or join as a **MEMBER A LARGE**. Worried that you do not have enough plant knowledge to be a row leader? Not true!!! Most of our row leaders learned to be experts about the plants in their row (and others) 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](mailto:pegpalmer@mi.rr.com)



2019 Fall Plant Sale

# 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!

**Linda Bodzin**  
**Pat Dalter**  
**Cori Fagan**

**Connie Haggard**  
**Jennifer Roberts**  
**Joann Serr**

**Teresa Ververis**

# 2018 Tollgate Fall Plant Sale



Pam Stopper Assists One of the Early Bird Shoppers

Photos by Dawne Stopper



Peg Palmer and Carmen Hamilton



Cashiers, Bonnie Boak and Minnette Prentice

Photos by Darretta Ferasin

# Tollgate Calendar – Volunteer Opportunity

The 2019 Tollgate Calendar will be the last calendar that I will be putting together as we are moving out of the area. It's been fun seeing all the pictures that you, the Tollgate volunteers, have sent me for the calendar these past 13 years. So needless to say, we need someone to take over this project. It is quite an easy process. I use Microsoft Publisher for the calendar pages and usually Photoshop for the pictures, but if something else works better for you then that's the way to go. And, we are lucky to have **Joe Pyden** to print the calendars at his place of employment, Beshara. The hardest part is choosing which photos to publish each year!

I will gladly go over the process with whoever takes over project and share the few documents that I have made over the years.

I can be contacted at [tollgatecalendar@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatecalendar@gmail.com)

Nancy Roggers



## TOLLGATE GARDEN VIEWS

Photo by Debbie Yuhns



The Farmhouse Garden's 'Seven Son Flower Tree' flowered in September attracting Monarch butterflies and bees. This week, the showy bright red calyx have started to appear.

Photos by Darretta Ferasin



# SATURDAY WORKDAYS

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 Repellant

## Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

### Farm Manager

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

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

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

[tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto: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, November 6, 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 2018 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018.**

### MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

28115 Meadowbrook  
Novi, MI, 48377-3128

[tollgate.msu.edu](http://tollgate.msu.edu)

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

## Tollgate Garden Volunteers Ballot for 2019

You may cast your vote for the person nominated or write in a member of TGV for the following offices. **(NOTE: Be sure if you write in someone's name, that they are willing to fulfill the office).** Please mark your choice, one vote per position, and return this ballot to the general meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 18, 2018, when the ballot count will take place. If you wish to mail your ballot, it should be post marked no later than Tuesday, October 16, 2018 in order to ensure its receipt at Tollgate in time for the ballot count. Mail your ballot by folding and using this as a pre-addressed envelope, or in a separate envelope to the address below.

Tollgate Education Center  
Attention: Tollgate Gardens Volunteers  
28115 Meadowbrook  
Novi, MI. 48377-3128

President	_____	<u>Renee Cottrell</u>	or	_____	_____
					(Write in)
Vice President	_____	<u>Marilyn Alimpich</u>	or	_____	_____
					(Write in)
Secretary	_____	<u>David Komraus</u>	or	_____	_____
					(Write in)
Treasurer	_____	<u>Sue Janczarek</u>	or	_____	_____
					(Write in)