



The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2014

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 PM

Japanese Gardens

Join Tollgate volunteers on September 18 to learn about Japanese Gardens. **Dennis Groh** will discuss the ways that history and culture are reflected in Japanese gardens and explain design features. The presentation provides a tour of some of Japan's most beautiful gardens. For a few pictures of Dennis' trips to Japan and his garden, visit <http://www.gardenatoz.com/forum/moderated-by-experts/dennis-groh/>.

Dennis Groh has been a garden enthusiast and avid plant collector for 40 years. Working with his wife, Carole, they have built a world-class plant collection in their one-acre garden. Photographs of their garden have been featured in the *Detroit Free Press*, the American Conifer Society magazine, and in Adrian Bloom's 2002 publication, *Gardening with Conifers*. In 2005, *Rebecca's Garden* (HGTV) filmed a segment on the Japanese Maples in the Grohs' garden. Dennis has lectured on conifers, fall color, rhododendrons and azaleas, woody plants, and Japanese Gardens.

FALL FAIR

Quick Notes and Reminders

- **More Volunteers Needed.** See page 3 for more details.
- Sign in at the Conference Center for AM assignments. After 11:30 AM, sign in at the Volunteer Communication Center.
- If you have an AM slot, please park your car in the paved lot.
- Bring cookies (**without nuts**) for guests and deliver to Activity Center. See page 3 for cookie details.
- Lunch will be provided for all volunteers in the Activity Center. You can bring a dish to pass (in disposable container) for volunteer lunch if you wish (not required).

Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events

SEP	MEETINGS		OCT	ACTIVITIES	
18	TGV General Meeting	7:00 PM	7	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
SEP	ACTIVITIES				
13	Fall Fair Clean Up	9:00 AM	15	Fall Fair Meeting	7:00 PM
19	Fall Fair Set Up	8:00 AM	16	TGV General Meeting	7:00 PM
20	Fall Fair	9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM	OCT	ACTIVITIES	
27	Children's / Plant Division & Potting	9:00 AM	4	Plant Division and Potting	9:00 AM
			11	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM
			18	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM
			25	Demo Gardens	9:00 AM



from the Tollgate Farm Manager

GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings All,

August has come and gone. This summer has flown by with the speed of a Labrador after his food bowl. Cold temperatures may soon arrive – but are not here just yet. There is still a bit more summer to enjoy.

Fair Time: The next big event of the Tollgate gardening year is the Fall Fair. The Fall Fair Committee has been working hard all year to put together the details of this, our biggest “for the public” event of the year. We need the help of the Tollgate volunteers on the day of the fair to staff all of the activities that have made the fair so popular with our visitors. Have a good friend? Bring them to the fair too! Have a friend that’s not so good? They can come too. You do not have to be a member of Tollgate to help out at the fair.

Diligent work on recent activity days has the site looking good. There are still weeds to pull,



though. We want the farm to look its best for our guests. The fair is our prime opportunity to let the public know about Tollgate and all that we have to offer. With your assistance, we can make all of the planning and preparation that the Fall Fair Committee does throughout the year translate into a really great event.

Motorcities Marker: You may have noticed a new historical marker on Meadowbrook Road near Tollgate’s parking lot gate. This marker is one of eight recently installed in the city of Novi.



Other markers are located on the south end of Walled Lake, along Grand River Avenue and in front of the Novi Library. Tollgate’s marker commemorates the history of the farm and talks of how early Novi farms helped to build the town’s early community. The City has developed a swell brochure detailing the subject and location of all of the new historical markers. This brochure will be available at future Tollgate Garden Volunteer meetings.

Recognition Dinner: Remember to reserve the date for our end-of-the-year recognition dinner. The Recognition dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th beginning at 4:00 PM. Although November seems like a long time away, it will be here soon!

Roy



Photos by Roy Prentice



Fall Fair

Submitted by Dennis Roggers

With just a few weeks before the fair, we are finding ourselves a little short on volunteers. Come on down and give us a hand with our largest community outreach event of the year. There is no easier way to fill those much needed volunteer hours than the Tollgate Fall Fair. There are spots open from set up to tear down and all in between. The sign up sheet is in the Volunteer Communication Center, and a list of the open spots is on the table next to the door. Either pick an activity from the list or leave it blank and **Betsy Wilds** will assign you a job. You can also either email her or leave a message on her cell and she will get back with you. Her contact info is (734-846-7888) and betsywildstgff@yahoo.com. This is a great way to get your volunteer hours in without putting a strain on your back. Please remember that we are signing in at the Conference Center, stop on in and someone will have your assignment and supplies ready for you. After 11:30 AM sign in will be in the Volunteer Communication Center. Also, all you AM volunteers please make sure you park in the paved lot next to the welcoming table. That lot will be for the exhibitors, handicapped, and the VOLUNTEERS. If we fill

that lot early, it will be much easier to direct general traffic to the back lot.

The Fall Fair Committee will be providing the main course for lunch, but you can always bring dishes of all kinds, from salads to deserts. You will be responsible for the clean up of all of the containers that were used that you brought in as the volunteers in the kitchen area are just TOO busy to take care of all those dishes. Bring them in disposable containers or pick them up on your way home. We can also use cookies or treats for all the children and our guests but please remember **NO NUTS**.

The Fall Fair will go on rain or shine so please dress appropriately. We hope to have shelter for all those who need it, but like always, bring hats and sunscreen if sunny and rain gear if wet. It may be cool in the morning and warm in the afternoon so please come prepared.

Last but not least, I want to give a special thanks to all the people on the Fall Fair Committee. They all have been working all year to make this fair possible. Without their help, and the countless other people that have spent many hours preparing and setting up our event, it would be impossible.

I hope to see all of you on the 20th and thanks again for all your help and support.

Dennis Roggers
(248) 202-6889

fallfair@sup-mac.com

FALL FAIR COOKIE DONATIONS

Fall Fair means we need a "multitude" of cookies for our guests. We would appreciate your donations be limited to the following: Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal, any Cookies with Sprinkles and Brownies. **NO NUTS, PLEASE**. Whether store bought or homemade, we love them all. Please drop off cookies at the Activity Center. If you would like to share a special dish or dessert with your fellow volunteers, please do. Remember donations should be in disposable containers.

If you have been a Fall Fair **Food** volunteer in the past or want to be, please contact me.

Thanks,
Yvonne
mainwoods@gmail.com



Notes from the President

There is always music amongst the trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it. — Minnie Aumonier

NOMINATIONS

A call for all interested members!

September brings the time to make nominations for the officer positions on your Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council (TGAC). All elected positions are voted on **every** year. This includes President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Serving as a TGAC board member contributes to our organization in ways that do not require physical labor and thus opens another opportunity to participate. These hours are considered towards (re-) certification and this opportunity is open to **any** member. You may nominate yourself or any other **willing** Tollgate volunteer. Please consider this opportunity for the growth of our organization as well as your own personal enrichment. We will take verbal, written or e-mailed nominations before or on the date of **the September 18th General Meeting**. Feel free to contact me with any questions on the responsibilities of these officer positions, which are also located in the volunteer section of the web page under the by-laws tab. We will vote in October for TGAC positions.



FALL FAIR APPROACHES!!

This fun filled, family oriented season finale is our most popular Tollgate event! Saturday, September 20th 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. All volunteers are encouraged to enjoy the day as a volunteer to assist with the many children oriented crafts. Please see the related article and contact information in this issue.

PLANT DIVISION DONATIONS

Please keep us in mind for all your other fall plant divisions.

The energetic Nursery Team has done a great job in the upkeep of plant material in the nursery for our annual plant sale. We greatly appreciate the wonderful variety of plants that our members donate each year towards our Plant Sale fundraiser. Our gardens at home are a great source of variety that keeps our plant sale popular and profitable! Any **non-invasive**, healthy plants are a welcomed addition. Our next division and planting dates will be just after the Fall Fair weekend. See the related article for plant requests.

Please see the calendar for our activity days since there is still plenty to do! Fall Fair prep clean up days, and division activity in preparation for the plant sale in the spring to name a few.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, TGV President

NURSERY NOTES... September 2014

Your fall divisions will be much appreciated for next spring's plant sale. Our scheduled division days will be **Saturday, September 27th and October 4th**. Generally popular are any early bloom plants, natives, shade companion plants, and drought tolerant varieties. Top sellers in this year's sale included: **Bergenia, Sweet Woodruff, Primrose, Astilbe, Crocosmia/Montbretia, Cranesbill/Geranium, Rudbeckia, Phlox, and Dicentra/Bleeding Heart**. Others that we expect our customers might find desirable include **Baptisia, Heuchera, Amsonia, Helleborus, Pulsatilla Vulgarus, Reblooming Iris (yellow and other unusual colors and varieties), Buddleja davidii/Butterfly Bush, Asclepias incarnate/Swamp Milkweed**.

We do not need additional low sedum, "Autumn Joy" varieties, chives, or tropical donations.

DROP OFF DIRECTIONS:

- Drop off plants already potted and use pencil on the markers provided at the potting bench in the nursery to label with plant name and bloom color. (There is a plastic coffee can on the potting bench or in the nearest tool shed).
- If you need to pot divisions here at Tollgate there are pots available at the potting station or the nearby storage shed that is located across from the Nursery. Use compost in the bin provided, water well.*** If you cannot pot the plants yourself, please contact me by phone or e-mail so volunteer help can be arranged to pot your donated divisions before they die.
- We will use the large holding area in the front portion of the shade structure as the location for division drop off, donated, potted and labeled plants. From here we will relocate to the appropriate shade or sun location.

We can also use your donations of 1 and 2 gallon pots! Please leave pots in the shed near the nursery.

The Spring Plant Sale provides a major source of funds for Tollgate Gardens – THANK YOU for your contributions to the success of this important activity.

Peg Palmer, pegpalmer@mi.rr.com 248-624-1524

Tollgate Calendar 2016

If you have been out and about taking photos of your favorite places at Tollgate please consider submitting your photos for the 2016 calendar. All of the photos in the calendar are photos taken by you, our volunteers (and farm manager & family)!

Without your contributions the calendar would not be possible.

Photos can be given to me or Roy on a memory stick. Please label it with your name so I know who the photos are from and so I can return the memory stick to you. Or, you can e-mail them to me at: tollgatemembership@gmail.com.

- Photos need to be in landscape format
- Photos are due by **December 31, 2014**

Thanks in advance!
Nancy Roggers



ACTIVITY DAYS



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

Around the Farm



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

Around the Pond



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

Around the Children's Garden



Photos by Darretta Ferasin

TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM 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 - 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 clipboards located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

If you aren't getting
The **Tollgate Farm News**
e-mail, 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
- Wheel Barrels
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

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

TOLLGATE GARDEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Farm Manager

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

President	Renee Cottrell
Vice President	Peg Palmer
Secretary	Dave Komraus
Treasurer	Sue Janczarek
Membership	Nancy Roggers
PR	Yvonne DeMattos
Fall Fair	Dennis Roggers
Programs	Jackie Stengel
Hospitality	Yvonne DeMattos
Farm News Editor	Darretta Ferasin

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send e-mail to:

tollgatemembership@gmail.com

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers
For general information and questions
Contact Roy Prentice

- The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 7, 2014 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 2014 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014.**

THE TOLLGATE FARM NEWS

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