



# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 24

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

## MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 PM

### Hosta Virus X

On Thursday, September 20, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center to learn about **Hosta Virus X** (HVX). A major grower and seller of Hosta, **Chris Wilson** has been learning, speaking and writing about Hosta Virus X since at least 2005, <http://www.perennialnursery.com/HVX/hostavirusxhistory.html>. His in-depth presentation will include how to identify the disease, tips to prevent getting and/or spreading HVX, and advice on what to do if it's already in your garden.

Chris Wilson, along with Brian Hall, is a co-owner of Hallson Gardens in Cement City, Michigan, 17 miles south of Jackson. Hallson Gardens is open 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM (or dark) daily, including holidays, starting Mother's Day weekend and running well into October. Hallson Gardens also has an online store, [www.perennialnursery.com](http://www.perennialnursery.com), with a large selection of hostas, perennials for sun and shade, hardy ferns, and lily bulbs.

They are currently taking inventory in preparation to start fall shipping the week of **September 24**. If you see something on the website you have to have, use the contact info on the website to email or call Chris to see if it's available to bring Thursday.

## NURSERY FALL PLANT SALE

This Saturday, September 22, 9:00 AM to Noon

## TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

SEP	MEETINGS		OCT	MEETINGS	
20	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM	2	TGAC Meeting	7:00 PM
			18	Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting	7:00 PM
SEP	ACTIVITIES		OCT	ACTIVITIES	
22	Nursery Fall Plant Sale	9:00 AM TO NOON	6/7	<b>SPECIAL EVENT PUMPKINFEST</b>	
29	Nursery Division / Rock Garden	9:00 AM	13	Demo	9:00 AM
			20	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM
			27	Fall Clean Up	9:00 AM



Roy Prentice

### Greetings All,

August has come and gone. This summer is flying by. Cold temperatures may soon arrive – but are not here just yet. There is still a bit more summer to enjoy. Lots has been happening around the farm recently: drone fly-overs, a visit from the governor, new Asian-themed structures, and cherry plantings in the arboretum, tours of the farm as part of the Master Gardener College Conference, the list goes on and on. One of the highlights of the month was the completion of the Sakura cherry planting in the arboretum. This was done accompanied by a whirlwind of construction activity throughout the month of August



Completed Just in Time for the Dedication



Dr. Jeff Dwyer, Director, Michigan State University Extension Speaking to the Audience



The Japanese Women's Club, Koto Players Playing "Sakura"

and early September. The whole project had to be done by 3:00 PM Friday, September 7. The Tollgate crew made it – just. We put the last plant into the landscape with three hours to spare!

**Ospreys:** If you are out walking near the Tollgate pond you may be lucky enough to see an osprey. Although Tollgate's perch is not yet occupied by an osprey pair, I have seen ospreys checking out the Tollgate pond several times recently. There is a nesting pair as close as the top of the cell tower on the corner of M-5 and 14 Mile road. As their offspring return to the area each season, I am hopeful that the Tollgate osprey pole will at last get its first tenants. I am ever vigilant!

**Recognition Dinner:** Remember to reserve the date for our end-of-the-year recognition dinner. To get an invitation to the dinner, you need to sign in at least once in the Volunteer Communication Center. The Recognition dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 3, beginning at 4:00 PM. Although November seems like a long time away, it will be here soon!

Roy

Photos by Roy Prentice and Mike Janczarek





LEARN  
GROW  
MAKE FRIENDS  
ENJOY

*'Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans.'*

## Notes from the President

*Marcelene Cox*

**Renee Cottrell**

The days are getting shorter and the gardening season is progressing towards the quieter fall season. Please see the calendar for our activity days since there is still plenty to do! Clean-up days, division activity and Fall Plant Sale!

### PLANT DIVISION DONATIONS

Please keep us in mind for all your fall plant divisions. See Nursery notes for details.

### FALL PLANT SALE

We will be doing a smaller scale fall plant sale to showcase the fall blooming perennials. This will be primarily staffed by the Nursery Team and done in conjunction with the September 22nd work day in the Nursery. Other volunteers are welcome to participate and **please come to browse/buy!**

**ATTENTION AGL AND GARDEN TEAM MEMBERS** - please remember to submit your budget reimbursement forms as soon as possible. We have a healthy garden balance to cover the expenses for this season. Contact Roy or me for info or forms.

### 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 emailed nominations before or on the date of **the September 30<sup>th</sup>**. We will vote in October for TGAC positions.

**Article VIII SECTION 3.** The duties of the Officers shall be:

- **President:** To preside over General Membership and TGAC meetings; to appoint standing committee chairpersons; to oversee the execution of these by-laws and policies in order that the purpose, mission and goals of the TGV may be served.
- **Vice-President:** To perform the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence and such duties of other officers in their absences.
- **Secretary:** To record the minutes of the TGAC meeting; to record membership in the absence of a designated membership chairperson,; to attend to all correspondence of the TGAC and maintain complete files of minutes, attendance and correspondence.
- **Treasurer:** To monitor the fund held in TGAC account at MSU, the budgets for Area Garden Leaders, maintain a complete set of records and to prepare and present monthly and annual financial reports for the TGAC and the General Membership meetings; to surrender all books, records, to the succeeding Treasurer.

We have a large group of very talented members and hope to provide you with ample opportunities to participate in garden teams, committees, TGAC positions and special projects to engage you in your areas of interest and grow our organization! Please consider running for an officer position or investigating any of the many opportunities available.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

*Renee Cottrell*, President



The Nursery is open to accept your fall plant divisions – and Tollgate’s FALL Plant Sale is right around the corner – Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 AM – noon...

The overlap of these two events may provide a great opportunity to start that garden renovation you’ve been thinking about – you can recycle some of those plants you’ve had for years - but you just want a bit of a change - by donating them to Tollgate’s nursery. And you can shop the Fall Plant sale and find some great specimens to freshen up your garden and maybe take it in a different direction!

2018 will be just the 4th time that the Tollgate Nursery has hosted a FALL Plant Sale. This is a low-key event, primarily to provide an opportunity to feature fall bloomers and let Tollgate Garden Volunteers and other supporters of the farm purchase some great plants. Although we will be featuring fall bloomers and shrubs that we would rather sell now than overwinter, **EVERYTHING** in the nursery will be available to buy! The Nursery Team and other Tollgate Volunteers will be in the Nursery from 9:00 AM – noon to help you find what you’re looking for and transport your purchase to your vehicle.

Prior to the FALL Sale and through Saturday, October 13 we will continue to solicit donations to restock the nursery for spring. We currently have about 1,850 pots in the nursery, up from



about 1,000 a few weeks ago. The reorganization of the nursery layout in 2017 resulted in significantly increased capacity and filling up this space would enable an even greater Spring Sale, resulting in tremendous financial support for all the Tollgate Gardens! Allowing for the Fall Sale and some winter losses, another 1,000 pots donated this fall and another 2,000 or more in the spring could get us to 4,000 pots or more by the 2019 Spring Sale! (for reference, we had 3,000 – 3,300 pots available to sell in the 2016 and 2017 Spring Sale, and made \$10,600 - \$11,000 toward support of the Tollgate Gardens)

Stocking desirable plants has been key to our plant sale success of recent years, as well as caring for these plants to keep them attractive and healthy and identifying the botanical and common name, bloom color or specific cultivar and cultural requirements using “plant tag” signage. We have significantly improved the variety of plants we have to sell by developing “PLANTS WANTED” lists that indicate which varieties we would like donated, and how many. And these directions avoid wasting your time digging up and potting plants that we are very unlikely to sell. So please **CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE LATEST PLANTS WANTED LIST AND BE GUIDED BY THESE CATEGORIES:**

<b>MOST NEEDED:</b>	more than 11 additional pots needed
<b>NEEDED:</b>	6 – 10 additional pots needed
<b>ACCEPTING:</b>	1 – 5 additional pots needed
<b>NOT ACCEPTING:</b>	we’re overstocked! Also includes invasive or overly aggressive plants.

**ALSO CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS FOR DONATING HOSTA AND NON-HOSTA PERENNIALS. BE SURE TO CLEARLY LABEL ALL DONATIONS WITH BOTANICAL AND COMMON NAME PLUS BLOOM COLOR, AND WATER WELL BEFORE LEAVING IN THE POP-UP.**

**RECYCLE YOUR POTS!** We accept only 1 and 2-gallon pots in good condition (1-gallon size is our primary use). Drop off your pots in the bin inside the door of the shed adjacent to the nursery. Samples of the pot sizes that we accept are tacked to the wall above the bin. ***Please do not leave pots larger than 2 gallon or smaller than 1 gallon - we don’t have space to store them!***

Interested in joining the Nursery Team as a **ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER or MEMBER AT LARGE?** Contact Peg Palmer for more information about what you can learn and do in the Nursery!

Peg Palmer - [pegpalmer@mi.rr.com](mailto:pegpalmer@mi.rr.com)



# PAR GARDEN UPDATE

We are still harvesting carrots, beets, squash, and beans. The sweet potato plants are looking great, so we are hoping for a good harvest in October. However, our attention is turning to prepping the harvested beds for spring.

Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Photos by Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Hard at Work are John Woodrich, Kerry Kelly, Mary Bohner, MaryAnn Chupa, and Judi Spence.



PAR Garden being Prepped for Spring 2019



## Bird's-eye Views of Tollgate

Recently, a crew visited Tollgate from the MSU Remote Sensing Office. They came with drone in hand ready to document the 2018 look of the farm. The small but mighty vehicle took lots of pictures documenting the changes in the buildings, fields, gardens, and grounds over the past years. Lots of fun images showing just how much work has been done in the gardens!





# Ornamental Japanese Cherry Tree Garden Dedication

Recently Tollgate celebrated an addition to its gardens. In a cooperative project between MSU, Oakland County, the City of Novi, the Michigan State Government and the Japanese business community in Michigan a new ornamental cherry planting was dedicated. Dignitaries, including Novi mayor, Bob Gatt, MSUE director, Jeff Dwyer, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, and Michigan Governor, Rick Snyder all helped to make the day special. The planting includes seventeen ornamental Japanese cherry varieties and an Asian themed structure and trellis. The planting is located on the east end of the Tollgate pond in the Arboretum. It is another special place that joins many of Tollgate's other special places. Check it out!



Novi Mayor, Bob Gatt Standing at (left)  
Watching an of Interview Oakland County  
Executive, L. Brooks Patterson (front)



The Honorable Taizo Mikazuki, Governor,  
Shiga Prefecture, Japan



The Honorable Taizo Mikazuki, Governor,  
Shiga Prefecture, Japan

The Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor,  
State of Michigan

Ed Scott, District Coordinator, Oakland and  
Macomb Counties, MSU Extension

Dr. Jeff Dwyer, Director, Michigan State  
University Extension

The Honorable Mitsuhiro Wada,  
Consul General of Japan



The Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor,  
State of Michigan



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson



# SATURDAY WORKDAYS

Photos by Darretta Ferasin



We think it is time to put away the swimming pool. If only we could just find it.



# TOLLGATE GARDEN VIEWS

Photos by Renee Cottrell and Darretta Ferasin



Children's Garden



Gourd Trellis, Children's Garden



Rock Ledge Garden



Constructed Wetland



Meditation Garden in Demo Garden Corner



Gladiolas, Demo Garden



Enabling Garden



# 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

<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, October 2, 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 2017 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from **December 1, 2017 to November 30, 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