

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 27

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2021



Cover photo provided by Roy Prentice

## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting on Zoom

**Thursday, June 17, 2021  
7:00 PM**

## ***Sun Safety and Health Facts for Gardeners***

Join Tollgate volunteers and supporters on Zoom for up-to-date information on preventing skin cancer. Dermatologist Francisca Kartono, DO, will cover basic skin anatomy, the relationship between sun exposure and skin cancer, plus additional health issues for gardeners such as poison ivy, insect bites and tetanus shots.

Francisca Kartono, DO, has a BS in biochemistry from UCLA. She completed osteopathic medical school at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California. In Michigan, she had an internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and did a dermatology residency at Botsford and Pontiac Osteopathic Hospitals through MSU. After a fellowship and serving as an assistant clinical professor at OSU Medical Center in Columbus, Dr. Kartono returned to Michigan and worked in a large dermatology practice for several years. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology.

Early in her medical career, Dr. Kartono spoke to Tollgate volunteers in April 2011 at a membership meeting held at Fox Run. In the last ten years, she gained extensive experience in her field and continues to educate others through published articles, lectures, and teaching residents. She now has two very energetic young sons and recently opened her own practice in downtown Northville, the MI Skin Center, [MiSkinCenter \(drkartono.com\)](http://drkartono.com).

### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

| JUN   | MEETINGS                         |           | JUL | MEETINGS                        |        |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1     | TGAC Meeting – Zoom              | 7:00pm    | 6   | TGAC Meeting – Zoom             | 7:00pm |
| 17    | Tollgate Volunteer Mtg – Zoom    | 7:00pm    | 15  | Tollgate Volunteer Mtg – Zoom   | 7:00pm |
| JUN   | WORKDAY ACTIVITIES               |           | JUL | WORKDAY ACTIVITIES              |        |
| 5     | Office/Rain Gardens              | 9:00am    | 3   | 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Weekend | N/A    |
| 12-13 | Plant Sale (by appointment only) | 9:00-2:00 | 10  | Rose Garden/12 Mile Clean-Up    | 9:00am |
| 19    | Entrance/Hosta Gardens           | 9:00am    | 17  | Xeriscape Garden/Pond           | 9:00am |
| 26    | Demo Garden                      | 9:00am    | 24  | Children's Garden/Nursery       | 9:00am |
|       |                                  |           | 31  | Grand Re-Opening Event          | TBD    |

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice

Greetings all,

It has been a most unusual year. Thankfully, there are signs all around that we are emerging from the worst of the pandemic, at least in our little corner of the world. Many changes are occurring around MSU Tollgate. The gates are now open to visitors. Many appreciative members of the public have come to the farm to enjoy our views and gardens. Because we are now open, our garden group is transitioning from purely focusing on maintaining the gardens to bringing them back to show quality. We have had many more volunteers join us in the gardens with the resumption of our regular Saturday workdays. The extra hands have helped us get a lot more done. Although I am sure that the comradery of working together to create a beautiful space is the primary draw for volunteers, could it be that the resumption of our hot dog lunches has something to do with increased participation in our Saturday workdays? Certainly, couldn't hurt!



Other ways that MSU is lessening Covid restrictions on the farm is the resumption of summer camp on July 5. As you come onto the property, please be aware that kids may be present. Summer camp numbers will be reduced from previous years but will be much higher than 2020's zero attendance. Although reduced in numbers, the kids may be more in evidence as they will rarely be using the farm's indoor spaces. Over the next few months, MSU Tollgate anticipates the start of indoor meetings and events too. I am happy to see signs of our return to normalcy.

Otherwise, the summer season is in full swing on the farm: hay is being cut, the CSA is in operation, programming is shifting to in-person, and the gardens really look good. If you have not been to the farm in a while, you should come out for a visit. It is a special place that all of our wonderful garden volunteers have helped to create. Thank you for sticking with the farm during 2020. You make all the difference!

Roy



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News



*“A little garden in which to walk, an immensity in which to dream.”*

*—Victor Hugo, French writer*

**Notes from the President  
Renee Cottrell**

## Greetings Tollgate Garden Volunteers!

Last year my opening statement in this column also reflected on the hot weather start to June and so it is again for 2021. I am thrilled to have the site back open to the public and the return of the Saturday group garden work days. We have had some new gardeners join us in recent weeks on the Saturday work days with some readily joining our Tollgate Garden Volunteers. If you see a new face in the gardens, please introduce yourself and welcome them to Tollgate. I am grateful for all the efforts and the gardens are coming along nicely. I encourage all of our members to come and see the gardens, enjoy the peace the surroundings have to offer, take some pictures for the calendar and share the fruits of our labor with your friends and families.



Photo provided by Lynette Leroux

I would like to announce the position of Communications Chairperson as an addition to the TGAC group. Kathy Johnson has accepted this position. Kathy has been keeping volunteers informed with weekly emails on garden activity days, sending out special notices and surveys for TGAC and other area garden leaders for the past few years. She recently has taken on additional efforts to keep us exposed on Tollgate's social media of Facebook, Instagram and the MSU Tollgate Farm Newsletter publication. Kathy is a valuable team member and deserves the recognition of an official chairperson post for all that she does for our organization. Kathy, you have our thanks for all your efforts of the past and your dedication to the future of the TGV organization.

We are all set for the Spring Plant Sale in the pre-registration format and are “sold out” for appointment slots to shop. I want to thank the Nursery Team for doing the hard work involved in putting on this event. It usually takes weeks of advance planning, dividing, inventory and maintenance so even though restrictions have eased for our outdoor events it would have presented difficulty attempting to shift back to our previous format with so little time until the event. You ROCK! Nursery Team. Thank you in advance for all your time and talents in this major fundraising event for the gardens.

Notes from the President continued on Page 4.



# The Tollgate Farm News

Notes from the President continued from Page 3.

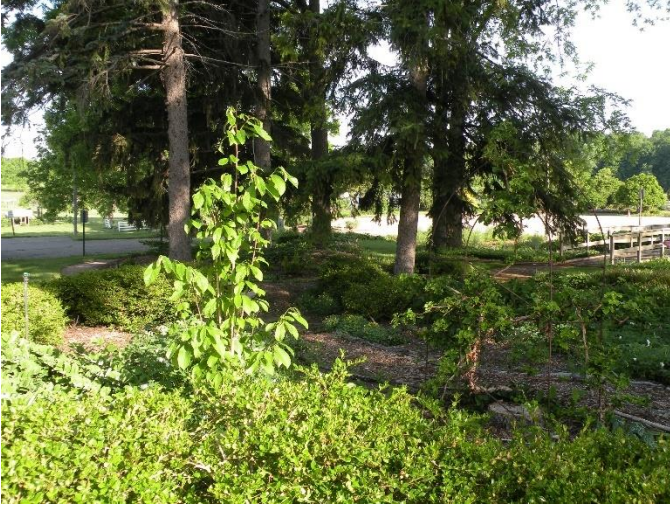


Photo provided by Renee Cottrell

We have decided to defer our Tollgate Garden Volunteer open house event for 2021. Again, the advance planning and recruiting of volunteers, securing vendors, entertainment, speakers for our educational talks and all the things that make this a quality event felt too rushed to pull together. We anticipate we will have our volunteers comfortable with being back on the site and look forward to having this event back on the calendar for next year. Be looking for details and emails on opportunities to volunteer for a public “Re-opening” celebration July 31<sup>st</sup> that will showcase all groups utilizing Tollgate. We hope to have TGV participation with volunteers present to show off the gardens and talk about our group but this will require far less garden volunteers than our typical open house event.

Thank you for your dedication and patience during these past months of changing restrictions. Please check out the calendar of activities and other articles in this issue to stay up on what is new.

As always, thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President  
Tollgate Garden Volunteers

# The Tollgate Farm News



**VOLUNTEERS  
TOGETHER  
DIVIDING  
GROWING  
SHARING**

**NURSERY NOTES**  
Peg Palmer

## TGV SPRING PLANT SALE

**June 12-13, 2021**

Advanced Registration Was Required

**All Shopping Slots Now Filled**



**Watch for information on the  
TGV Fall Plant Sale -  
Coming Soon**

# The Tollgate Farm News



Well, summer is truly here with heat and humidity to prove it. And the plants are loving it. All our vegetable beds are planted and showing signs of a great harvest this year. In addition, the garden plots around the PAR Garden are adding to the beauty and enjoyment of the larger garden with amazing raised beds, trellises, and well designed and maintained vegetable and flower beds.

Our focus has shifted from prepping and planting to fighting weeds and pest management. The weeds are as hardy if not more so than the vegetable plants, so it is a constant battle. The abundant and extremely prolific potato beetle has made its appearance and will keep us busy removing the eggs and young beetles and knocking the adults into buckets to be fed to the chickens.

It seems like overnight the potato plants popped up. The garlic is producing scapes, which we have started to harvest for the team's enjoyment. The onion beds are looking great. Even the carrots and beets are starting to pop up.



This year, we decided to try a variety of pole beans with alternating rows of red and green beans. It will not only be tasty, but we suspect quite beautiful. The mounded squash beds and radish bed have healthy sprouts. The covered cabbage is thriving. Only the turnips are a bit shy still, but soon they will make their appearance.

One fun thing we get to experience is the emergence of opportunistic vegetables in beds where we did not plant them this year – we have potatoes in the carrot beds, and asparagus in the raised potato beds. We also have a full row of shallots that we did not plant this year. As long as they do not compromise the crops we are expecting, they get to stay put and be cared for, as well as become part of our harvest in the fall.

As always, it is a great pleasure to work with the dedicated, energetic, and hard-working volunteers and MSU Tollgate Farm staff who make the PAR Garden possible. Happy Gardening!

- Kathryn Fitzpatrick

Photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick



# The Tollgate Farm News

## First Hay Cutting of the Season

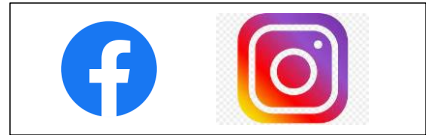
Summer may still be a few weeks away according to the calendar, but we all have our ways to mark the change of seasons. At MSU Tollgate, getting the first cutting of hay in the barn is a big seasonal milestone. Tollgate employee, Brett Dan, worked all of the first weekend in June to cut, rake, and bale hay. Of course, the temperatures were on the edge of 90 degrees. What else would you expect if you want to make sure that your hay was good and dry? It takes a lot of hands to get in the hay crop. The whole Tollgate staff pitched in to pick the hay out of the field and stack it in a cozy spot in the barn until it is needed this winter to feed the farm's many healthy animals.



Photos provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Tollgate Gardens are on Facebook and Instagram

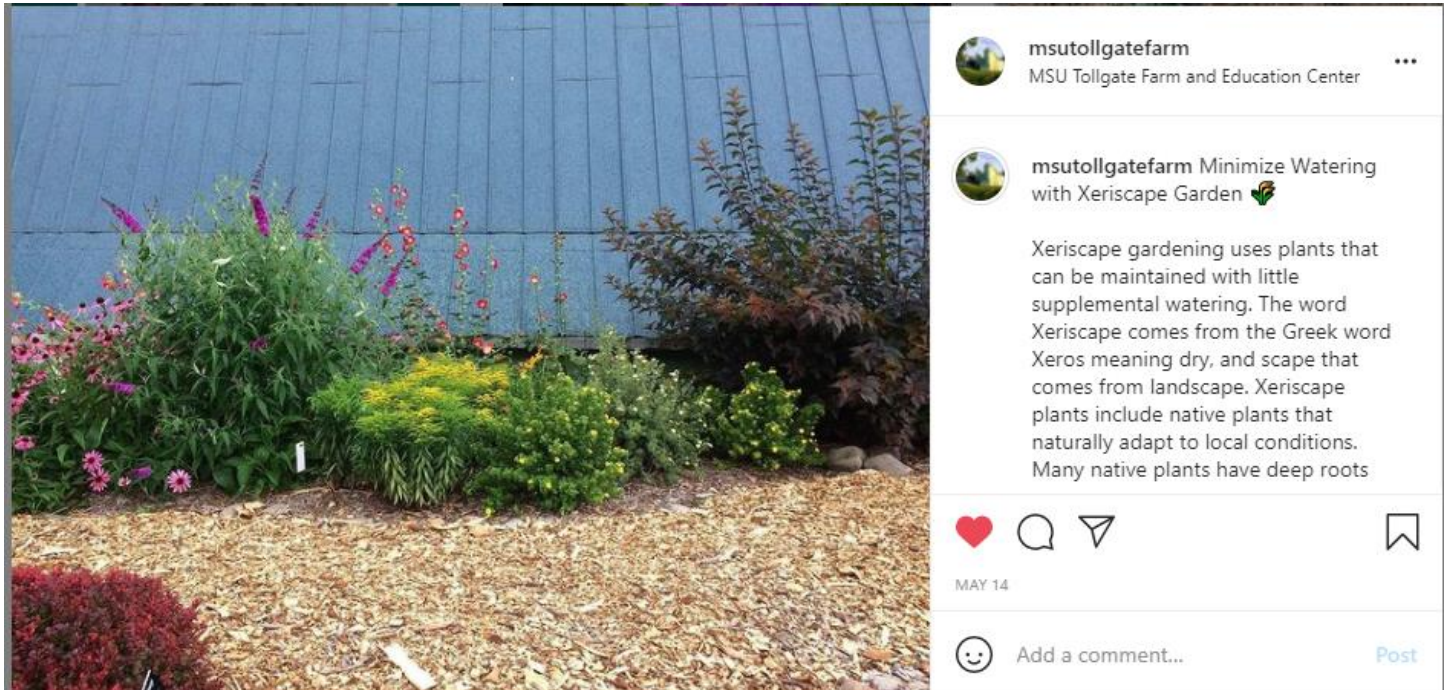


### Share the beauty of Tollgate Gardens on Facebook and Instagram

We are posting photos and information about the gardens on the Tollgate Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ExperienceTollgate>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/msutollgatefarm/>) pages.

Our posts have been well received and we are increasing the awareness of our gardens, providing education on the plants in our gardens and hopefully encouraging some new volunteers. If you would like to help, please send high resolution photos to Kathy Johnson ([kmj@chartermi.net](mailto:kmj@chartermi.net)), along with information about the photo like garden name, plant name, and the time of year the photo was taken. Note: photos can be taken over the last few years. If you would like to draft a brief educational text about the plant and its care, please send that also. Kathy will help finalize the post for you and when completed she will coordinate with the Tollgate social media lead to get it published. We would like to have lots of social media posts on the gardens this year!

Example of a recent Instagram posting:





# The Tollgate Farm News

## AROUND THE DEMO GARDEN



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## AROUND THE POND

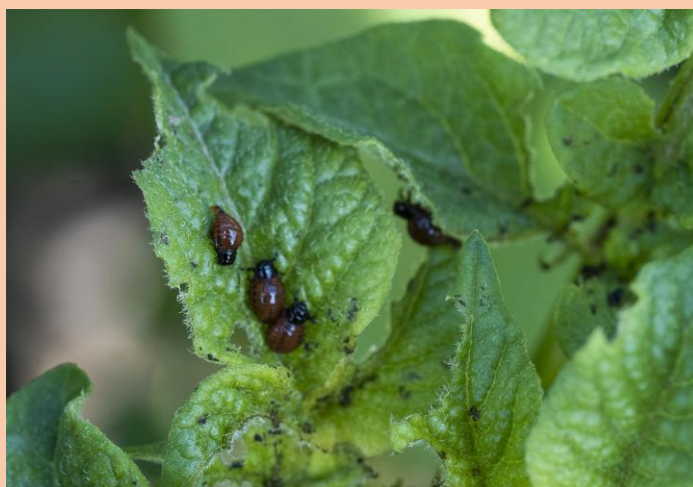
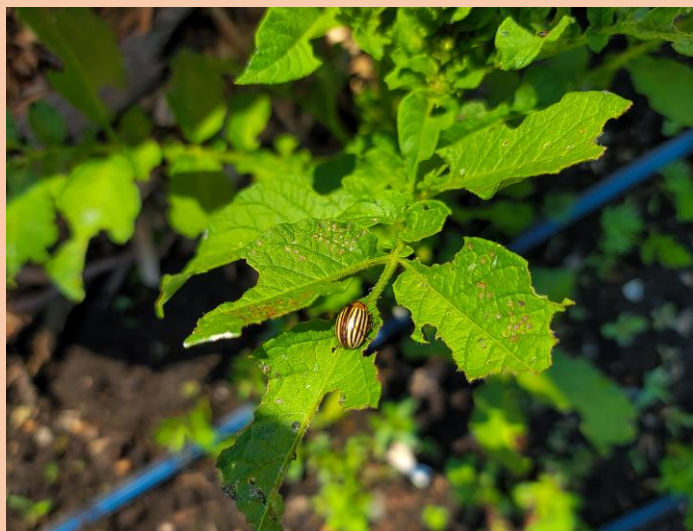
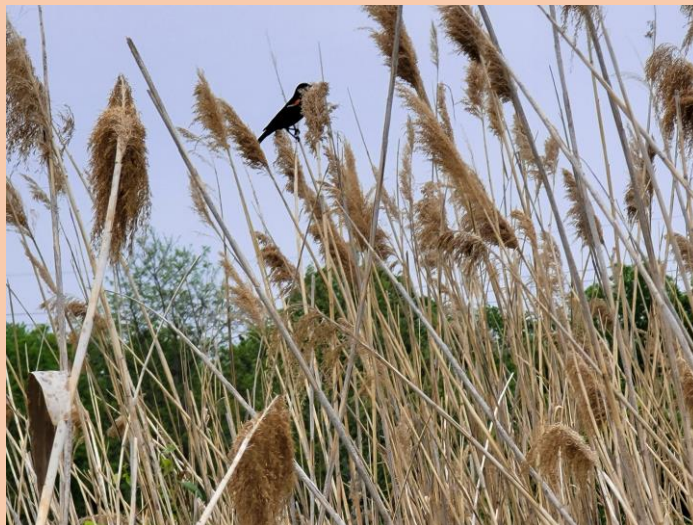


Top left photo provided by David Komraus  
All other photos by Lynette Leroux



# The Tollgate Farm News

## BUGS & BIRDS AT TOLLGATE



Photos provided by Lynette Leroux

# The Tollgate Farm News

## ANIMALS AROUND THE FARM



Photos provided by Roy Prentice



# The Tollgate Farm News



*“I feel like I should clean the house, so I’m going to my garden to play until the feeling passes.”*

- Unknown

Photo provided by Renee Cottrell

Please Renew Your  
Membership for  
2021

(Form is attached to the end of this newsletter.)

Thank you! Angie Carter

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Take a Tollgate Picture

Next time you are volunteering at Tollgate, consider taking some pictures for the Tollgate calendar. The preferred format is jpeg, landscape files.

Send photo files at full or actual size in separate emails, if necessary, to Larry Bolam at [TollgateCalPics@gmail.com](mailto:TollgateCalPics@gmail.com)

Summer is a beautiful season at Tollgate. Think about capturing that beauty in a photo for the Tollgate calendar.



Photos provided by Roy Prentice



# Tollgate Volunteer Information

## Activity Days

Effective May 8, 2021, we are permitted to resume our Saturday group garden activity days, under some continued safety precautions. Note that the requirement for masks outside has been lifted by MSU. The group is limited to 25 participants.

**Advanced sign up is required to participate.**

Click here to register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F49ABA82BA7FF2-garden>

We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the toolshed **must** be sanitized with a 10% bleach solution prior to returning the items to the toolshed after use.

TIP: If you aren't getting  
**The Tollgate Farm News** email,  
check your SPAM folder

**Volunteer Activity Day and  
Meeting information:  
248-347-3860 Ext. 400**

## Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Spades       | Leaf Rakes                |
| Garden Rakes | Garden Hoe                |
| Brooms       | Long-Handled Garden Forks |
| Wheelbarrows | Weed Buckets              |

## Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed

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

# Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee (TGAC)

## Farm Manager – Roy Prentice

248-347-3860 Ext.251 [prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu)

**President.....** Renee Cottrell

**Vice President .....** Marilyn Alimpich

**Secretary.....** Dave Komraus

**Treasurer.....** Karen Harris

**Membership.....** Angie Carter

**Communications .....** Kathy Johnson

**Programs.....** Jackie Stengel

**Hospitality.....** Teresa LaRosa

**Farm News Editor .....** Nancy Powell

- The TGAC meets virtually on Zoom (until further notice) monthly on **the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM**. All Tollgate Garden Volunteer members are welcome to attend and should contact Roy Prentice for meeting link.
- Contact information for individual TGAC members and Area Garden Leaders (AGL) are available by contacting Roy Prentice to have message or contact forwarded for response. Once site is open to public, contact info can be found in the Garden Binders in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2021 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is from **January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**.

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email  
[tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatemembers@gmail.com)

For general information and questions, contact  
Roy Prentice or see Website:  
<http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/>

## MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center



28115 Meadowbrook  
Novi, MI, 48377-3128  
[tollgate.msu.edu](http://tollgate.msu.edu)  
Contact Roy Prentice:  
248-347-3860 ext. 251

# MSU TOLLGATE

## VOLUNTEER SIGN IN 2021

### LOGGING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS HELPS US TELL TOLLGATE'S STORY TO THE MSU COMMUNITY

- USING THE CAMERA ON YOUR SMART PHONE, HOVER OVER THE QR CODE
- A LINK WILL APPEAR
- IF NO LINK APPEARS, YOU WILL HAVE TO DOWNLOAD A QR READER APP
- CLICK ON THE LINK TO THE GOOGLE SIGN IN PAGE
- COMPLETE WITH YOUR INFORMATION
- THIS SIGN-IN PROCEDURE DOES **NOT** LOG YOUR HOURS WITH MSU EXTENSION



MSU Tollgate gets a lot of credit for all of the wonderful volunteers that tend the gardens, make maple syrup, and support programming. The farm would not be the unique place that it is without the support of many willing hands. Traditionally, Tollgate has relied on a sign-in sheet in the volunteer center to capture the hours of volunteer service. Many of our volunteers who work in the maple project or distant gardens may not visit the volunteer center when they are on the farm. To capture all of our volunteer hours, we are trying a new recording system. By following the instructions below and scanning the QR code, you can record your Tollgate hours online from anywhere. After you have scanned the code, you can even bookmark the link so that you can access the hours reporting form without the code.

Thank you for making Tollgate such a wonderful place!

Roy





## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ MI

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name you would like on badge, if needed

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number

Day \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Evening \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choose **one only**:

\_\_\_ **Supporting member:** I wish to support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings but will **not** be participating *as a volunteer* in garden activities, projects or other events on the site.

\_\_\_ **Active member:** I plan to participate *as a volunteer* in meetings, garden activities and/or other events or projects on the site and have or will complete the required Volunteer Selection Process.

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 or skills to share.

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**

Email: [tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto:tollgatemembers@gmail.com)

**2021 Membership is from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

### 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 via e-mail.)

In the event of an emergency please notify:

Name

Phone