

# TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION



# WELCOME TO THE GARDENS



- **Dedicated volunteers- Over 25 yrs. of volunteering**
- **Thoughtful leadership- self governing with elected board members and sub-committee chairs**
- **Peer interaction and sharing- Team oriented**
- **Opportunity for growth in horticultural knowledge-Monthly educational speakers, knowledgeable members**
- **Opportunity for community interaction and personal satisfaction-Educational gardens, Plant Sale, Open House, Special Projects**

# TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

## **Purpose, Mission and Goals**

- To provide horticultural support to the MSU Tollgate Gardens
- To help visitors to the site increase their horticultural knowledge and enjoyment



# Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee

The TGAC is the Executive Board composed of elected volunteer members acting as officers and designated chairpersons who work with the MSU Farm Manager and other MSU staff to execute the business duties in order to create a welcoming and productive environment for Tollgate's garden volunteers.



# Membership

- All interested gardeners welcome, many are Master Gardeners
- “Active” members must complete the Volunteer Selection Process in order to work in the gardens and on projects/events “Supporting” members enjoy monthly membership meetings only, have chosen not to complete VSP hence cannot participate in volunteer activities in the gardens or events
- You can choose to change status and complete VSP at any time
- No membership fee, however, donations accepted and will go towards maintaining the gardens

# (Usual) Activity Highlights

- Tollgate has 19 named educational gardens, some with multiple sub- gardens, most are scheduled for Team and individual gardener activities for maintenance
- Saturday group work activity days based on a calendar developed every year(\*usual procedure)
- E-mail reminder notices are sent ahead of planned activity
- Teams with Area Garden Leaders(AGLs) and other experienced members lead group activity days scheduled to accomplish garden tasks, programs or events

# \*\*\*These Are Not USUAL Times\*\*\*

- All active volunteers must agree to the MSU Covid guidelines- social distancing, mask use, no group activities, hand and tool sanitation-sign send to Roy
- Now with Activity “weeks” with individual assignments, 2-3 persons per garden on avg.
- Still with guidance of experienced member/AGL or Team
- Written/pictorial instructions where available

# Resources

- **TGAC, AGL, experienced members!**-These folks have the expertise, familiarity and willingness to share and answer questions.
- **Tools**-Long handled tools, wheelbarrows, tarps and some hand tool. We recommend you bring your own, \*\*\*must sanitize any borrowed tools under Covid guidelines
- **Garden Binders**-plant list, map, garden planner, To-do lists, AGL contact info. \*\*\*not available under Covid guidelines
- **The Farm News Newsletter**-updates, articles pictures, schedules, announcements (also available on web site)
- **Web Site** <https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>  
link to volunteer page, newsletters, activity calendar, Farm Manager contact info, membership form etc.

# MSU Tollgate Gardens



# The Demonstration Gardens



# The Demonstration Gardens

- The area bordering the north parking lot
- Divided into multiple gardens of manageable sizes and different plantings/themes
- Intended as an educational area to view mature and varied plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials
- Features three sitting areas and is frequently visited and viewed
- In need of more creative and dedicated volunteers/teams
- An opportunity for garden design and planting upgrades

# Demonstration Garden

- Gazebo and grape arbor and solar fountain
- Featured plantings including spirea, lilac, junipers, crab apples, native plantings and more
- Multi season interest









And so much more.....



# THE HOSTA GARDEN



# THE HOSTA GARDEN

- Shaded under spruce and black walnut with a central seating area, located between the farmhouse and parking lot, has irrigation
- Many hosta varieties and companion plants in sections
- Late spring mulching, clean up, path maintenance
- Weeding, some deadheading
- Only tested divisions, special tool cleaning required due to hosta virus X precautions until further notice
- High deer browse area



# FARMHOUSE

- Well planned, planted area, high visibility with experienced team leader
- Needs pruning, weeding, extensive early spring mulching
- Easily divided into separate sections for focused care



# FARMHOUSE



# HERITAGE GARDEN

- 1800'S style plant selections
- High visibility location front of conference center
- Wide variety of perennial, shrubs
- Needs team for all maintenance of weeding deadheading thinning



# HERITAGE



# ROCK LEDGE

- Located near stairway to corral
- Drought tolerant and rock garden type plantings
- Bench for a view of the rose garden above



# The Rose Garden



# The Rose Garden

- A variety of types of roses laid out in sections that surround a seating area. This is a high visibility, high interest garden with visitors and volunteers.
- Irrigated area
- Requires early pruning, fertilizing, mulching
- Maintenance weeding and deadheading and pest control throughout the season
- Fall clean up
- Winter mounding

**Do to damage from rose rosette disease this area will be under renovation 2021 season**



# DRY RIVERBED/ SHADE GARDEN

- Located between farmhouse and communication center
- Has irrigation and a pathway through shade beneath spruce trees
- A more sunny section to the west-Dry Riverbed
- Could be divided for ease of management



# SHADE GARDEN



# ENABLING GARDEN

- Container gardening with easy physical access
- Planting deadheading of annuals, some container rebuilds
- Knowledgeable team



# Enabling Garden



# ENTRANCE GARDEN

- First garden up the south entrance driveway
- Redesigned 2013-14, irrigated
- Wide selection of perennials
- Rock garden, sun and shade areas





# OFFICE GARDENS

- Along south driveway in front of Farm Manager/Extension offices
- Could be divided into sections
- Has grasses, shrubs, perennials, brickscape path/patio
- Weeding, deadheading, annual planting for color
- Brick paved walkways



# OFFICE GARDEN



# RAIN GARDEN

- Designed and implemented by Novi Beautification committee
- Takes runoff from communication center
- Variety of plantings
- Needs weeding, deadheading



# XERISCAPE

- Located at large barn south and east sides
- Dry tolerant plantings perennials and shrubs
- Needs weeding, deadheading, pruning
- Has experienced team leader



# Xeriscape



# CHILDREN'S GARDEN

- Has multiple small areas
- Mostly perennial, some annual plantings
- Children themed in plant selection
- Experienced team members



# CHILDREN'S GARDEN



# NURSERY

- Holding area for plant sale
- Shade and sun areas, irrigated
- Weeding and plant material assessment
- Intense spring activity, later season maintenance
- Has a creative and successful team to split the tasks, lots of opportunity for improving plant knowledge



# Spring Plant Sale



# PLANT A ROW (PAR)

- Productive, large vegetable garden. Fenced, irrigated.
- Established team
- Needs multiple members for tasks throughout the season
- All harvest to local food bank



# CONSTRUCTED WETLAND-POND

- Large area to divide into smaller sections
- Established paths, deck, garden beds
- Variety of plantings
- Needs control of invasive growth and planting ideas
- Has dedicated leader





# 12 MILE GARDEN

- Corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook
- Contains signage for site and raised bed garden
- Grasses, shrubs and perennials
- Remote site



# Sakura Garden



# Sakura Garden

- Established in cooperation with Oakland county and local Japanese business/community
- Features a variety of blooming cherry trees, a tea house and surrounding garden bed
- Needs early weeding and mulching





For Questions or Info



Roy Prentice, Farm Manager cell 248-330-3623

[prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu)

Web site-

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/volunteering/>

Renee Cottrell, President 248-398-2562 for voice mail

[rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net)