

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 29

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2023



## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting On-Site in the Pavilion (No Zoom)

**Thursday, September 21, 2023  
7:00 PM**

### ***Cooking Demo with Mary Spencer at Tollgate***

Join garden volunteers and supporters in-person (no Zoom) in the **picnic pavilion** on Thursday evening, September 21. Tollgate members look forward to Mary Spencer's annual cooking demonstrations, especially the recipes and samples! Mary will demonstrate harvest menu recipes you can use with garden produce. She will also answer your general or specific questions about cooking, ingredients, kitchen tools or appliances.

Mary Spencer's goal is to make people better cooks. She does lots of cooking demos on Zoom from her home kitchen for libraries across the state. Before Covid, she taught a variety of cooking classes at The Old World Olive Company in Plymouth and before that at ABC Warehouse locations in Livonia, Troy, Lakeside, and Novi for many years. Her business, *Taste: A Cook's Place*, [www.tasteacooksplace.net](http://www.tasteacooksplace.net), delivers home cooked five-course dinners with generous portions on most Thursdays and Sundays. Mary and her daughter Sammy, now a mom, make deliveries within 20 miles of Plymouth.

Mary has conducted food tours, done menu planning and researched heirloom recipes. She has been teaching cooking for 25 years and has over 5,500 cookbooks in her personal collection.

#### **TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**

SEP	MEETINGS			OCT	MEETINGS	
5	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm		3	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm
21	TGV General Mtg – In Person	7:00 pm		19	TGV General Mtg -Zoom	7:00 pm
SEP	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES			OCT	WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
2	Labor Day Weekend	N/A		7-8	Pumpkinfest	11:00-5:00
9	Demo	9:00 am		14	Plant Division & Potting	9:00 am
16	Nursery Fall Plant Sale	9 am-Noon		21	Pond Clean-Up	9:00 am
23	Xeriscape/Children's	9:00 am		28	Fall Clean-Up	9:00 am
30	Farmhouse/Shade	9:00 am				

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice



Greetings all,

August has come and gone. Summer flew by. Colder temperatures may soon arrive – but are not here just yet. The end of August has seen the completion of a successful summer camp season. Several hundred campers had lots of adventures on the farm. In addition to the usual camps which featured hiking in the woods and fishing in the pond, Tollgate hosted a week of Adventure camp filled with kayaking, rock climbing, and other high energy outdoor sports and three weeks of horse camp filled with, well, horses. Having the kids on the farm in full-strength camps always generates a lot of good energy.

**Presidential Visit:** MSU president, Teresa Woodruff, visited Tollgate on Thursday, 8/31.



She spent two hours on the farm and enjoyed lively discussions with Tollgate staff and a tour of the farm including visiting the PAR garden hosted by Kathryn Fitzpatrick.



Dr. Woodruff was very impressed by the farm and the wonderful gardens. It was great to get campus exposure for the unique site that is Tollgate.

**Recognition Dinner:** The volunteer recognition dinner will soon be here. If you have attended past year's dinners, you know that the recognition dinner is a great event that brings us together in a celebration of the gardening year. **To get an invitation to the dinner, you need to sign in at least once at a Tollgate workday using the QR code system.** The Recognition dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, beginning at 4:00pm. Although November seems like a long time away, it will be here soon! I will be sending invitations out in a couple of weeks.

**Ginger Meyer Award:** Please send me your nomination(s) for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. I would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one. You can also email me your nomination. Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make the Tollgate gardens great!

Thanks for all that you do for the farm!  
Roy

Photos provided by Lisa Bahm

# The Tollgate Farm News



**Notes from the President**  
**Renee Cottrell**

*"A flower falls, even though we love it; and a weed grows, even though we do not love it."*

*- Dōgen, Japanese Zen Master (1200-1253)*

## **NOMINATIONS**

**A call for all interested members!** September brings the time to make nominations for the officer positions on your Tollgate Gardens Advisory Committee (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. Most positions do not require specific experience but general organizational skills and a love of working with people is a plus!

The TGAC has been working this year towards expanded definitions and details of TGAC job descriptions to educate TGV members and assist interested volunteers in investigating positions best suited towards their interest and skill set. TGAC hopes to present these drafts to the membership to adopt formally into the by Laws early next year! These drafts can be made available for any interested nominee. Current board members would be willing to educate and transition any newly elected members to these positions. 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 **now and until the date of October 3, 2023.**

We will vote at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for TGAC positions.

President's Report continued on Page 4

At the writing of this article, it is a glorious warm Labor Day weekend and I hope all of you were able to enjoy family friends and the summer-like weather! Here in the gardens, there is still plenty to do in the upcoming fall months! The rainfall this season has kept the gardens lush and the weeds thriving, so as always we have plenty of maintenance work for volunteers in the gardens. If you are an EMG and still need some volunteer activity I am happy to direct your efforts for individual assignments that meet your availability. For those interested in more opportunities for hours there are Saturday activity days, division activity and Fall Plant Sale! Seated activity opportunities include information tables at the upcoming Fall plant Sale and Pumpkinfest. Contact me quickly to get in on these final season opportunities. As temperatures cool a little, enjoying a garden walk can be more tolerable. Come and enjoy all the beauty you have made possible! See you at the in-person September meeting for some delicious fresh cooked treats.

Thank you to those who signed up to assist with the planned Garden Volunteer Open House dates. A special shout out to Jim and Kathy Bretz who took on a last-minute project to assemble the new teak benches for the event. They look great! Regrettably, the sometimes-unpredictable weather patterns and estimated storm severity pushes us to the side of caution for the safety of volunteers and visitors and the success of the event. We will be working towards setting a "rainout" date in advance next season to try to capture the opportunity to hold the event during the peak presentation timing for the gardens.



# The Tollgate Farm News

President's Report continued from Page 3

Below are the **current** duties descriptions from the By Laws:

**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.

**NON-ELECTED POSITIONS OF INTEREST:** The current board is interested in developing a position for Events Chairperson/team. The position has sufficient educational components, public contact, and promotion of the Tollgate educational gardens to qualify for EMG hours. Call Renee if interested 248-251-4505.

**THE ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER,** scheduled for Nov. 4, is provided by The Americana Foundation and all active members who have volunteered at least once (and logged in using the QR code) by Sept. 30 will get an invitation.

**Now is the time to update your reported Tollgate hours with the QR code** provided in this issue to secure your invitation to this event. A separate Zoom event with a summary of the Recognition Dinner happenings and Roy's power point will be available to ALL members at a later date yet to be determined.

## ROSE GARDEN RENOVATION PHASE 2

**UPDATE:** The addition of rose selections done this 2023 season are looking good and throwing off some nice blooms. Deer browsing has been heavy this season in all the gardens so all phase 1 and 2 roses have remained in protective netting. Companion plants have done very well with the help of the rains this season with some needing to

be moved next spring to allow for growth and adequate air flow. As mentioned last month, the Box Tree moth has impacted the boxwood specimens on the property, including the rose garden plantings. All impacted shrubs have been treated with good results to date.

## 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 Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> work day in the Nursery. Other volunteers are welcome to participate and come to browse/buy! We still need help with the sale! E-mail me if you wish to volunteer as Sales Assistant or Greeter as per the recent email request. [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net)

## ATTENTION AGL AND GARDEN TEAM MEMBERS-

All AGLs and Teams who submitted a budget request for your garden this season need to submit your expense reimbursement forms within the **MSU-imposed 90-day limit on expenses that can be reimbursed. This would mean any mid-summer expenses need to be submitted now.** Any delay would risk reimbursement rejection. Contact Roy for info or forms. As you work in your gardens these remaining weeks of the season, **please assess** for plant identification tags needed for your area and submit to Roy or Marilyn ASAP (see separate article for forms). We hope to work on the required tags during the slower winter months. Accurate Latin name, and common name are best and a variety name if it is known. It is our goal to have all gardens with this information to enhance the educational value and enjoyment for all visitors.

Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer!

**Renee Cottrell**

Adv. EMG, President-Tollgate Garden Volunteers

# The Tollgate Farm News



**The Nursery is open for your Fall plant donations!** We have been busy restocking the Nursery with lots of divisions from the property.... And the gardens of some team members. Please check the [PLANTS WANTED LIST](#) to check out what we need!

**Although the Nursery is officially open for donations until October 15, we would appreciate receiving your donations by OCTOBER 8 if possible.** Every fall we are in a race against the weather clock to get our work done. Once the weather turns really cold, rainy or both, most of what needs to be done becomes really difficult.

**THE FALL SALE IS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16!** This sale is a smaller, more casual event than Spring, held during the typical workday hours of 9 am – noon. This sale features late summer and fall blooming plants that usually aren't very attractive in early June - but all the plants in the Nursery will be available for sale. Tollgate Plant Sales are a great way to find affordable plants to expand or add variety to your garden. Many of our plants are divisions from the beautiful gardens at Tollgate, as well as from your fellow Tollgate gardeners.

**OUR OVERWINTERING PREP WILL BEGIN IN EARNEST** after the Fall sale with all the pots in their assigned location. After the final donations are received, we take a physical inventory of everything in the Nursery. Then we can push the Plant ID sticks down deep into the pot to prevent them popping out and being

lost over the winter, and the foliage on most plants is cut back hard to prevent disease. Several varieties of plants, although they are very hardy, do not overwinter well in a pot. This is mostly due to moisture being trapped in the pot during the common freeze/thaw cycle of a Michigan winter, damaging the roots. Although not a 100% solution, these varieties will be un-potted and "heeled in" the ground, then mulched for the winter. This requires good record keeping to track which plants are where in order to repot and accurately label these plants next spring. But most plants remain in their pots, but are moved close together in larger groups within their assigned rows and surrounded with wood chips to provide insulation from the temperature fluctuations of a Michigan winter.

**The CHALLENGE each fall is to complete all of this before the REALLY COLD weather arrives!**

**If this sounds interesting to you, consider joining the Nursery Team for next season!** It can be fun to learn about lots of different plants, including how to grow them in a pot! You can join as a **ROW LEADER** (focus your attention on maintaining a group of plants in one specific area), or as a **MEMBER AT LARGE** (a generalist who is kept in the loop with all that's happening in the Nursery and helps out with whatever projects are ongoing as you are available). In either role, you can be part of future changes as we work to continually improve our operations, learn about growing lots of different plants and raise money to support all the Tollgate Gardens! Email me for more info: [palmermargaretanne@gmail.com](mailto:palmermargaretanne@gmail.com)



# The Tollgate Farm News



August proved to be a great harvest month – we have close to 1,500 lbs. of yield, and with several weeks to go should reach or exceed 3,000 lbs. for this year. The heat and rain have been both welcome and a challenge, as we have had to cancel some workdays, have incurred some loss due to rotting, and have an enormous number of weeds.



We have averaged 200 lbs. of produce per week with plenty of fresh cabbage, pole beans, cucumbers, leeks, shallots, hot peppers, turnips, beets, kohlrabi, and summer squash. The season is over for garlic, cucumbers, leeks, shallots, zucchini, and kohlrabi but we have not yet touched the potatoes, carrots, onions, radishes, or winter squash which are all doing quite well. The garlic has dried sufficiently and is ready to be donated with some stored for planting in October. We will also be adding a couple of new varieties of garlic sourced locally. Most of the onions have been pulled and laid out to cure in the pathways.



The onions are firm and large and beautiful, as well as being abundant. Once the tops have dried, we will prepare them for donation by trimming off the tops and roots. The leeks were harvested and prepared for donation by removing the roots. Only the white part of the leek is used for cooking, but the green stalks are left on the keep them fresh.



Again, this year, the beet greens are looking good, so they are a bonus. In past years, the flea beetles have consumed the leaves before the beets were ready for harvest, so we had to remove them. They are a great source of antioxidants and other phytonutrients – in fact more than the bulbous root itself! They are also a good source of iron, vitamin K, B6, magnesium and potassium. And delicious, to boot. It is unfortunate that we have a smaller yield of beets this year. We will endeavor to change this next year.



The cabbage is experiencing a little damage from slugs and rot, so we are harvesting any that are showing signs of injury. We have been removing all leaves that have been impacted, some of which are finding their way to the livestock. Otherwise, the cabbage yields this year should be stellar. We opted to plant both white cabbage and red cabbage for variety and for aesthetic appeal, and it has worked out quite nicely.



The team is having fun with the pole beans this year, as we planted a long bean variety. Each week it seems an even longer bean is discovered. Although not all the plants took off and started producing, we are filling a box with a wonderful variety of green beans each week. Not only is it somewhat shaded in the pole bean trellis, but it is great fun trying to find all the beans.

The potatoes, carrots, and winter squash are all looking great, and we should be harvesting some within the next several weeks. The winter squash will be stored in the greenhouse to cure for a few weeks, which helps harden the skin and heal any minor cuts and scratches. This is true for spaghetti and kabocha squash, but not for acorn squash. It will be harvested and donated immediately.

PAR Report continued on Page 7



# The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 6

This month, we will also be harvesting beets, turnips, radishes, and probably the last of the summer squash. We will be removing all spent plants and preparing empty beds for winter. This will entail weeding, lightly turning them, turning off the irrigation, and covering them with either black plastic or straw to help suppress the weeds.



All volunteers, whether Extension Master Gardeners, avid gardeners, or individuals interested in gardening and community service, regardless of experience level, are welcome to join the team once cleared through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process. We have an enthusiastic, fun, hard-working team, and plenty of rewarding opportunities to help those in need. Come check us out.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at MSU Tollgate Farm, please contact Roy Prentice ([prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x251) or Carmen Hamilton ([hamil466@msu.edu](mailto:hamil466@msu.edu), 248-347-3860 x239) for more information.

Happy gardening,  
Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Bottom right photo on Page 6 provided by Lynette Leroux  
All other photos on Page 6 by Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
All photos on Page 7 by Lynette Leroux



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Member Spotlight

### Garry Campbell



**Years gardening...** "I'm going to empower myself to include the years when I was little, 6- to 8-years old, helping my Dad tend a garden plot - - so 50 years, give or take. I only recently found out that not everyone learned to compost when they were 12. It was part of my yard tending chores.."

**Master Gardener since...** 2014. "I took the Saturday class at WCCCD Eastpointe Jan thru April. At the final class, I learned about EarthWorks Urban Farm. The next weekend, I started working on my volunteer hours by going there every Saturday. I completed my volunteer hours that Summer season, and kept going thru Fall because I found the experience to be so rewarding. Plus, I learned a lot from the farmers there. Among other things, I learned that gooseberries are a real thing and not just a phrase adults use to avoid using foul language in front of children. Ask me about harvesting the berries, where folks wanted to use the other words."

**Volunteer at Tollgate since...** "Summer 2022. Gratitude to Tollgate for having the Saturday hours where a volunteer can "drop-in". During the AC (After COVID) re-opening of things, finding Saturday and/or drop-in volunteer opportunities has been a bit tricky, but farms always have plenty to do."

**Favorite garden...** "Difficult to say. I enjoy the Hosta Garden. I occasionally visit it during my workday lunch hour. The shady areas feel refreshingly cool even on warm days. The garden from which I've used the most ideas in my yard is the Xeriscape Garden. I'm looking for ways to reduce inputs (water, chemicals, time) while creating a pleasing space, and the inspiring ideas there fit the bill."



To encourage all members to wear their name badge when on-site at Tollgate, we will continue spotlighting a current member found wearing their badge, monthly in the newsletter. The name badge indicates your status as a garden volunteer and is very helpful to new members, as well as visitors. **The badges are in a box on the table in the Volunteer Center and have been updated. PLEASE CHECK THE BOX FIRST.** If your badge is missing, there is a sign-up sheet nearby, and one will be made for you. You are welcome to take your badge with you, or keep it in the box to grab each time you are on-site. We will be looking for volunteers wearing their badge on Saturday workdays and may ask to take your picture for the next newsletter.

Top photo provided by Nancy Powell  
Bottom photos by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Welcome New Tollgate Garden Volunteer Members

We are glad you are with us! Please feel free to contact Renee Cottrell with any questions on our planned activities and schedules for 2023. You may email your questions about the gardens and volunteering at [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net). This is a wonderful place, full of educational opportunities, with personal satisfaction and social connections as reward for volunteering. Our membership holds a large amount of collective knowledge and expertise that is willingly shared with a strong team approach to make every effort to direct new members to areas of most interest on the site. We want to guide you to a great experience with the Tollgate Garden Volunteers. Check out these links to start exploring your garden opportunities:

Garden Orientation PDF

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/files/Tollgate%20Garden%20Volunteer%20orientation%20draft2.pdf>

Tollgate web pages for the Gardens

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

2023 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/2023%20Tollgate%20Garden%20volunteer%20Activity%20calendar.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

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



Photo provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Garden Plant Label Project 2024

### ATTENTION AGLs: Garden Plant Labels Needed?

If you need new or replacement labels for your gardens' plants, now is the time to take inventory.

A labeling "workshop" is planned for some time in early 2024. Master Gardeners needing work hours can assist in making labels.

Please compile a list of labels needed for your garden. Your list should include the botanical, species and common name and Trademark (TM or R) of your plants if available to you.

#### Tollgate Garden Label Template

Verify spelling and correct names using plant tags or site like Missouri Botanical Gardens

Common name	Genus	Species	Cultivar/Trademark Name	Garden	# Tags	Notes
Example: <i>Guara</i>	<i>Gaura</i>	<i>lindeheimeri</i>	'Crimson Butterflies'			

A copy of the form is at the back of this newsletter for printing purposes. If you prefer completing this online, click the preferred download link below and save to your own computer.

[Word Version](#)

[Excel Version](#)

Please email your list, by January 10, 2024, to Marilyn Alimpich at: [masoleil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:masoleil@sbcglobal.net).





# The Tollgate Farm News

Michigan State University  
Tollgate Garden Volunteers

## Fall Plant Sale

Saturday September 16th, 2023

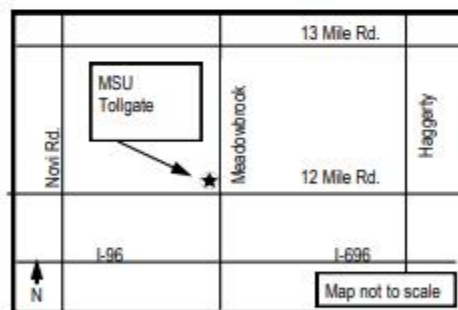
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Reasonably priced, Michigan hardy perennials for sun and shade, including Michigan natives that attract hummingbirds, butterflies and pollinators

Featuring late summer and fall blooming varieties

Payment accepted with Cash, Check, MasterCard or Visa

MSU Master Gardeners will be there to answer questions and assist in your selections



Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

We suggest you pre-plan your best route during construction season!

Michigan State University  
Tollgate Farm and Education Center  
12 Mile & Meadowbrook Roads  
In Novi  
248 347-3860 ext. 251

*MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.*

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Ginger Meyer Award Nominations

Roy is now accepting nominations for the Ginger Meyer award. The recipient of this award is the Tollgate Volunteer that has done the most for Tollgate over the years. Roy would be happy to send a nomination form to anyone that would like one – there is also a form you can print or download on the next page. You can email Roy your nomination at [prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu). Simply indicate who you feel has contributed the most to Tollgate over the years and why. This is your chance to help us recognize those in our midst that have really given of themselves to make Tollgate a better place.

### Ginger Meyer Recipients

2003 Gabe Tiberio  
2004 Renee Cottrell  
2005 Elizabeth Novak  
2006 Donna Mrozek  
2007 Nancy Rogers  
2008 Cherry Lee Baker  
2009 Clay Ottoni  
2010 Priscilla Needle  
2011 Sue Janczarek  
2012 Darretta Ferasin  
2013 John Woodrich  
2014 David Komraus  
2015 Jackie Stengel  
2016 Peg Palmer  
2017 Joe Pyden  
2018 Deb Kearney  
2019 John R. MacInnis  
2020 (Covid year)  
2021 Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
2022 Mary Bohner



**Mary Bohner**, 2022 Ginger Meyer Award recipient, working in the Nursery.

Photo provided by Amy Deeds



# The Tollgate Farm News

# Ginger Meyer Award Nomination Form

The Ginger Meyer Award was initiated in 2003 by the family of Mrs. Meyer to recognize the Tollgate Volunteer who has demonstrated dedication to Tollgate and shares the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer.

The Tollgate Garden Volunteer members nominate candidates, with the selection of the award recipient made by the Americana Foundation. Please use this form to make the nomination or submit a short paragraph describing the qualities of the nominee.

Return form to Roy Prentice, 28115 Meadowbrook, Novi, MI., 48377-3128, or scan and send to [prentic1@msu.edu](mailto:prentic1@msu.edu)

Name of Nominee:

1. This member has shown a commitment to the Tollgate Garden Volunteers by:
2. This member has demonstrated a love and knowledge of gardening by:
3. This member has demonstrated a willingness to share gardening knowledge with others by:

# The Tollgate Farm News

## MSU TOLLGATE PUMPKINFEST 2023!



We are getting ready for **Pumpkinfest 2023, October 7th and 8th**. Pumpkinfest is a family-oriented event open to the public from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Educational and fun, Pumpkinfest explores the importance of agriculture in our daily lives. Wagon rides to the U-pick pumpkin patch, farm animals, straw maze, educational programs, children's activities, music, and food will be just some of the fun activities on site during Pumpkinfest.

This event takes many volunteers to have a successful weekend at the farm. Your time and energy that you give to the farm is appreciated by the MSU Tollgate Staff. It is a beautiful place for people to visit and learn about the many things we do here at MSU Tollgate.

Please take a minute to look over the sign-up list to see if there is a day and time that you would be able to help out. There are 2, 3.5 hour shifts each day.

[Pumpkinfest Sign-up 2023](#)

Photos provided by Lynette Leroux (2022)



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Please Renew Your Membership for 2024

Are you an early bird?

If yes, consider renewing your TGV membership for 2024 now.

The form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Your membership helps you stay notified of Volunteer Workdays, events, and meetings.

Thank you!

Angie Carter

[Tollgatemembers@gmail.com](mailto:Tollgatemembers@gmail.com)



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## Road Construction Update

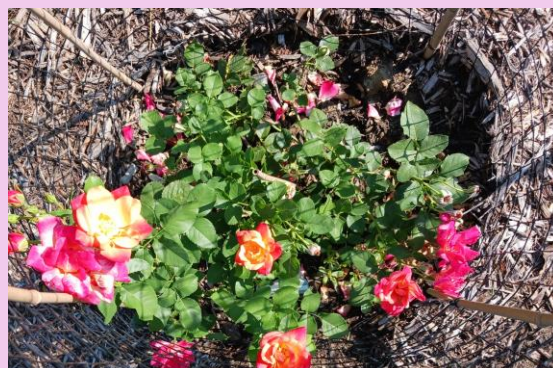
Tollgate is still only accessible from 12 Mile Road. You cannot get to Tollgate from 13 Mile Road.



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# The Tollgate Farm News

## BEAUTIFUL ROSES



Top row photos provided by Kathryn Currier  
Bottom two rows by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## WILDLIFE ABOUNDS



Top right photo provided by Karen Harris  
All other photos by Tom Culkin

# The Tollgate Farm News

## NEW BENCHES IN THE GARDENS



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

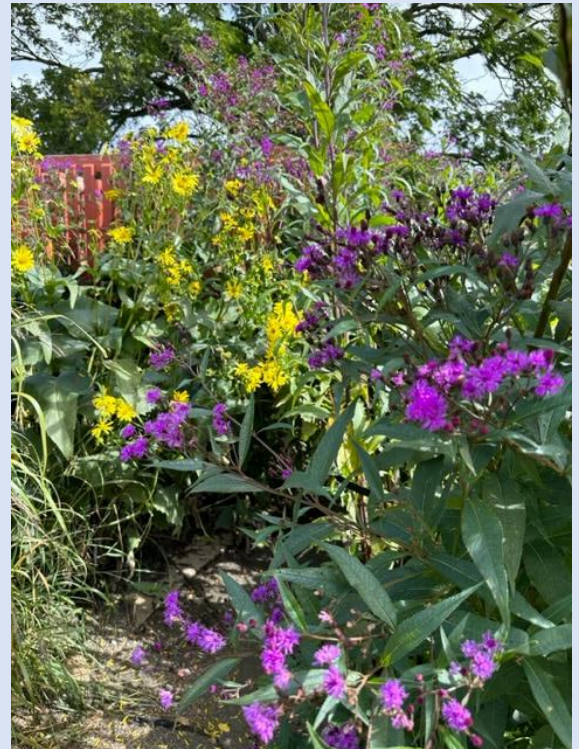


Photos provided by Karen Harris



# The Tollgate Farm News

## MORE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Photos provided by Karen Harris



# The Tollgate Farm News

## EGGFEST WOOD CARVING

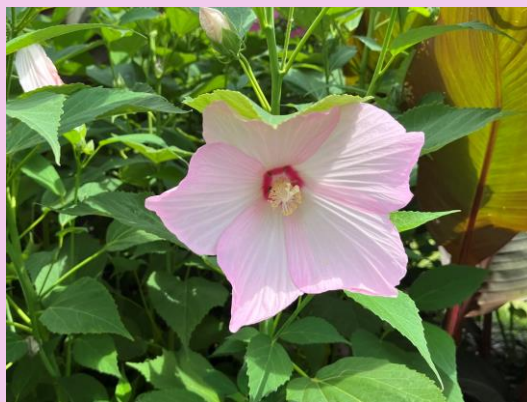


Photo provided by Karen Harris



# The Tollgate Farm News

## HIBISCUS BLOOMS



Top two photos provided by Kathryn Currier  
Bottom two photos by Tom Culkin



# The Tollgate Farm News

## FARMHOUSE GARDEN



Photos provided by Kathryn Currier



# The Tollgate Farm News

## DEMO GARDEN BLOOMS



Top photo provided by Julie Semroc  
Middle and bottom photos by Renee Cottrell

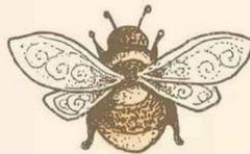


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Step over ants  
put worms back in the grass,  
rescue baby caterpillars,  
release spiders back  
into your garden,  
open windows for bees  
to fly home.  
They are all little souls  
that deserve a life too.

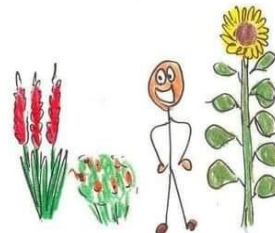
- Simple Organic Life -



**me when gardening  
season is over**

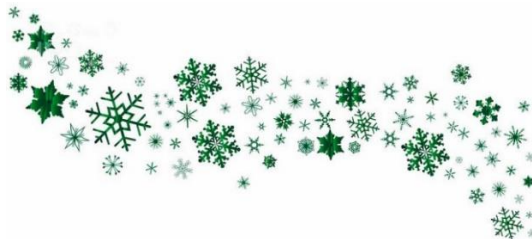


The secret to my "green thumb":



Planting SO MANY plants no one  
can tell that half of them died.

Joseph Tychonievich



# 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. **It is important to send high-resolution photo files at full or actual size.** Send photo files in separate emails, if necessary, to Judy Warren, Tollgate Calendar Editor at [TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com](mailto:TGFarmPhotos@gmail.com).

Photos are also appreciated for the monthly Farm News. Photo files can be “small-sized” and sent to [napowell77@gmail.com](mailto:napowell77@gmail.com).

Every season is magical at Tollgate. Think about capturing that magic in a photo for the Tollgate Calendar or Farm News.



Top left photo provided by Dave Komraus  
Bottom left, top and bottom right photos by Roy Prentice  
Middle right photo by Norm Powell



# Tollgate Volunteer Information

## Activity Days: January - October

- Activity Day hours are 9:00 am – Noon, unless otherwise noted on the Activities section of the first page of the newsletter and the full year calendar (next page).
- Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays.
- Active members will continue to get email reminders of these activities.

*We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the toolshed must be sanitized with the wipes provided, 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  
will be communicated by email**

## 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 Repellant
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.....** Theresa Bridenbaugh

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

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

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

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

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

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

- The TGAC meets monthly virtually on Zoom (until further notice) 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. Contact info can also be found in the Garden Binders in the Volunteer Communication Center.
- Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2023 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.**

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

1-28-23 for 2023

**MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers  
Activity Calendar-2023**

January	February	March
3-TGAC via Zoom 7:00 PM 14-AGL Planning Meeting 10:00AM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom 	7-TGAC Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom 	7-TGAC Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom <u>Activity Days</u> 4-Pruning 9:00AM <b>11/12-Maplefest no work day</b> 18-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 25-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM
April	May	June
4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1-12 Mile/Pond 9:00AM <b>8-Easter weekend Demo</b> 9:00AM 15-Office/Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 22-Rose/Heritage 9:00AM 29-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM <b>New volunteer orientation 9:00AM</b> <b>Pancake Brunch 12:00PM</b>	2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 6-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 13-Farmhouse 9:00AM 20- Shade/Hosta 9:00AM <b>27-Memorial Weekend</b> Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> <b>3-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm</b> 10-Rose/Heritage 9:00AM 17-Office/Entrance/ Rain 9:00AM 24-Pond/12Mile 9:00AM
July	August	September
11-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 1- Demo garden 9:00AM 8-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM 15-Hosta 9:00AM <b>20-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM</b> <b>(Thursday-no membership mtg)</b> 22-Heritage/Rain 9:00AM 29-Rose/Rockledge 9:00AM	1-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 17-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> 5-Entrance/Office 9:00AM 12-Pond 9:00AM 19-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM 26-PAR harvest 9:00AM	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 21-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> <b>2-Labor Day Weekend TBD</b> 9- Demo 9:00AM <b>16-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00</b> 23-Xeriscape/Children's 9:00AM 30-Farmhouse/Shade 9:00AM
October	November	December
3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM <u>Activity Days</u> <b>7/8-Pumpkinfest</b>  14-Plant Division & potting 9:00AM 21-Pond Clean Up 9:00AM 28-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	<b>4-Recognition Dinner 4:00PM</b> 7-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM Activity Day 11-Rose winterizing 10:00AM <b>23-Thanksgiving</b> 	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 7-Hanukkah, 25-Christmas, 26-Kwanza   

**\*\*All activity days, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, begin at 9 am and are subject to change. Please consult the newsletter or call 248 347-3860 ext 251 or look for e-mails for updated information.**

Visit on web: [www.tollgate.msu.edu](http://www.tollgate.msu.edu)



# MSU TOLLGATE

## VOLUNTEER SIGN IN

### 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



**NOTE:** If you prefer to complete your sign-in on your computer, this link will take you to the site:  
[Tollgate Volunteer Sign In 2023](#)

MSU Tollgate gets a lot of credit for all 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

Verify spelling and correct names using plant tags or site like Missouri Botanical Gardens

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## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name you would like on badge, **ONLY IF NEEDED**

Choose **one only** (please do not leave blank):

☐ **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)

**2024 Membership is from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**

### 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