

# The Tollgate Farm News

VOLUME 30

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2024



## MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers General Meeting

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**(In the Conference Center)**

### *Apples to Cider*

Join Tollgate gardeners and supporters in the conference center to learn about cider, some apple cultivars traditionally used for cider production, the process of making cider, and some of the history and cultural significance of Michigan's apple industry. Think of the relationship of apples to cider as you would grapes to wine.

A recent addition to Tollgate-based staff, **Derek Plotkowski, Ph.D.** is the MSU Extension Fruit Educator for Southeast Michigan. Dr. Plotkowski covers production of all fruit, farm markets and farmers markets with a primary focus on commercial producers in various counties in Southeast Michigan. His past work involved the horticultural aspects of beverage production, with a special focus on hard cider. His current work includes sweet cider.

Originally from Michigan, Dr. Plotkowski's studies of cider science and wine science have taken him to six different countries in North America and Europe. Dr. Plotkowski studied at Cornell University and the University of Guelph.

Current and back issues of Southeast Michigan fruit updates are at [Derek Plotkowski Ph.D. \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/~dplotkows) and a detailed interview transcript is at [Episode 16 - How do you like them Ontario cider apples.txt](#).

#### TOLLGATE GARDEN VOLUNTEER IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS 2024

JUN		MEETINGS		JUL		MEETINGS	
4	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm		2	TGAC Meeting – Zoom	7:00 pm	
20	TGV General Meeting	7:00 pm		18	<b>NO TGV Mtg – see below</b>	<b>n/a</b>	
JUN		WORKDAY ACTIVITIES		JUL		WORKDAY ACTIVITIES	
1	<b>Spring Plant Sale</b>	<b>9am-2pm</b>		6	Farmhouse/Rose	9:00 am	
8	Rose/Entrance	9:00 am		13	Children's/Xeriscape	9:00 am	
15	Office/Heritage/Rain	9:00 am		18	<b>TGV Garden Open House</b>	<b>6-8:30 pm</b>	
22	Pond/12 Mile Corner	9:00 am		19	<b>Open House Rain Date</b>	<b>6-8:30 pm</b>	
29	Demo	9:00 am		20	Hosta/Shade	9:00 am	
				27	Heritage/Office	9:00 am	

# The Tollgate Farm News

## *A Special Thanks!*

To all of you who donated to help the Tollgate Gardeners make Tollgate a more beautiful place - your donation is greatly appreciated! The support you have provided will continue to help our program prosper and grow. Thanks again and Happy Gardening!

Marilyn Alimpich  
Diane Andersen  
Cynthia Churches  
Susan Cooper  
Virginia Dean  
Maureen Dinverno  
Teresa Durigan

Caryn Finkelman  
Cheri Gelnak  
Renee Green  
Mindy Hitchcock  
Janelle Justin  
Brian Maddaford  
Laura Orton

Peg Palmer  
Carrie Richardson  
Martha Rotter  
Jeff Stanley  
Nancy Turner  
Anna VanHyfte

We would also like to welcome our new members for 2024:

Jeff Broughton  
Jamiel Dado  
Leslie DeWitt  
Caryn Finkelman  
Garrett Frost

Renee Green  
Cheryl Hack  
Nora Josaitis  
Mark Klepinger  
Rose Murphy  
Laura Orton

Rebekah Randle  
Laura Roehler  
Collette Stimmell  
Geremiah Toler  
Lisa Turkawski



Photo from MSU Extension website

# The Tollgate Farm News

## FROM THE TOLLGATE FARM MANAGER

### GREETINGS

Roy Prentice



Greetings all,

**Plant Sale:** Thanks to all that helped make the plant sale a success. Due to the efforts of the many volunteers that donated plants, prepared the nursery, and helped customers on the day of the sale, we made over \$10,000. I am sure that all who attended the sale appreciated the organization of the nursery and the helpfulness of our many knowledgeable volunteers. All of the money raised goes directly into the Tollgate Garden Volunteer account and helps keep the gardens and grounds looking great for our many visitors. **A big “thanks” to George Papadelis of Telly’s Greenhouse.** George very generously donated a trailer load of wonderful annuals for the plant sale. George has been a long-time friend of Tollgate and has donated lots of plants over the years.

**Summer camp underway:** The Tollgate summer camp season is beginning. Each week during the summer 50 or more campers will be on the site enjoying the 160 acres that make up the farm. Green Science Adventure camp, Water camp, Dirt camp, Bug camp, Survival camp, Horse camp, and more all focus on aspects of horticulture, nature, and agriculture. Please be aware of the young adventurers as they discover the outdoor environments that are the gardens, fields, and woods of Tollgate. If you come to work the gardens during the week, it may seem like there are kids everywhere. They do not always look carefully when crossing roads. Please be careful as you drive around the farm.



Many visitors and garden groups came to Tollgate during May to view the gardens. As the site becomes more popular, I really appreciate the effort that goes into keeping the gardens looking their best. We have several new volunteers on the farm. Our new volunteers are much appreciated as we strive to keep the farm looking good and fulfilling its educational role. Spring and early summer are busy on the farm. Please check out the Tollgate website and garden calendar and note our upcoming volunteer days. I appreciate all the work and dedication that goes into keeping the farm looking good.

See you soon around the farm!

Roy

Photo provided by Roy Prentice

# The Tollgate Farm News



## Notes from the President Renee Cottrell

Our June 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Plant Sale was a resounding success. Despite an odd spring weather pattern and delayed divisions, we were able to get ample plant stock and variety for the sale including a wonderful selection of annuals donated by **Telly's Greenhouse**. The Nursery Team had the plants looking good with the usual informative presentation to guide customers in their selections. Thank you to all those who volunteered and worked hard to set up the shopping experience, hustled in that first 2 hectic hours and the efficient breakdown after the sale. Thank you all for your precious time and talents that made this major fundraising event a success!

We will have our Tollgate Garden Volunteer Summer Garden Walk Open House event on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. (July 19<sup>th</sup> rain date) This will be a weekday evening event, replacing our July membership meeting, with tours, talks, snacks and a chance to get together and enjoy the gardens. Keep a look out for the upcoming email requests for sign up to help with this event. Lori Heiden, TGV Events Chairperson will be making the email request and sending the sign-up requests. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join you for this evening of garden education and enjoyment. See the flyer in this issue.

There are still plenty of areas that need help for garden maintenance on the site for those who may want or need weekday individual assignments. Garden teams are also looking

*“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies.”*

*– Gertrude Jekyll, British horticulturist, and garden designer (1843-1932)*

for more members to assist under the direction of the Area Garden Leader (AGL). The Google sheet link was sent to the Active gardeners. This document will allow gardening volunteers to view the request for garden help as posted by the AGL's. If your schedule is better for weekdays or you are just looking for additional opportunities, don't hesitate to contact me for information on the link or about garden assignments. [rmcottrell4@att.net](mailto:rmcottrell4@att.net)

### Attention AGL's:

- The Google sheets have gone active; please keep your sheet up to date to provide our volunteers the opportunities to assist in your garden.
- Please let Roy know if you want one or more of the donated 5 ft. teak benches set up in your garden. These can be used to replace older benches that may be in disrepair.

Thank you for all you do to keep our gardens looking good!

Please check out the calendar for upcoming work activity days and the recently sent request for volunteer assistance at the Open House event on July 18th. Enjoy the gardens.

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

Renee Cottrell, President  
Tollgate Garden Volunteers  
248-251-4505



# The Tollgate Farm News



It was **DELIGHTFUL** to bring back the “typical” Tollgate **SPRING SALE** this year! After 3 years of no sale, or significant modifications required for COVID safety, it was a joyful event for our Nursery Team... and we think the customers were also loving the day!

## During the sale:



The **WEATHER** this spring has certainly **provided a challenge!** Plants that would typically be emerging in March were still hidden under the frozen ground. We sent out the **PLANTS WANTED** list – but the cold weather meant the plants we wanted were still dormant for weeks later than normal. We opened the Nursery and erected the popup on schedule, so we were ready to accept your donations ...but Mother Nature didn't take the hint. Plants need to flourish and grow so our supporters can see where their healthy and vigorous plants are encroaching on other plants or walkways, and then decide to dig up

and “recycle” these plants at the Tollgate Nursery.

**When the weather did finally start to warm up**, it pushed us up against all of our deadlines to have the Nursery ready for a sale. What a relief it was when things were finally coming together in those last few hectic weeks!

**Despite the weather challenges, the sale was a great success!** Customers bought over \$10,000 worth of plants (including annuals), and that money will go to support Tollgate Gardens. **That's the main purpose of the Nursery – to support ALL the beautiful gardens on the farm.** But the Nursery Team also gets to learn a lot about perennials, growing them and how to successfully overwinter them - most of them in a pot, but some of the hardiest plants require special treatment. If this kind of thing interests you, consider joining the Nursery Team at Tollgate!

## After the sale:



Left column photo provided by Renee Cottrell  
Right column photo by Deb Kearney



# The Tollgate Farm News



The giant cucumber plants managed to attach themselves to each other, the tables, and neighboring onion plants. It took a little time to disentangle, but they have been successfully transplanted against the trellis in the garden.



Some even had halfway grown cucumbers! Unfortunately, the plants seem to have a fungal infection causing the lower leaves, so far, to yellow, so we have removed the leaves, and will keep an eye on the plants. The leaves were destroyed, but this fungus will remain in the soil, so we will not be planting cucurbits in the

same spot for a couple of years. Thanks to our new CSA lead, Monique Mose, for helping with the identification and proper disposal of the infected leaves, as well as providing a little boost for the plants in the form of fish fertilizer.



Garlic scapes have been harvested and the garlic plants are looking great. We have planted the kohlrabi and companion leeks, as well as three varieties of cabbage – Promise (new), Copenhagen Market (new), and Ruby.



I anticipated that we might be short on cabbage seedlings, so I planted an additional flat with a new variety – Copenhagen Market.

## Fun Facts about June:

- June's birth flowers are honeysuckle and roses - symbols of things relating to love, desire, generosity, and affection.
- In 2024, the summer solstice will occur at 4:50PM EDT on June 20<sup>th</sup>, according to [timeanddate.com](https://timeanddate.com). This will mark the official first astronomical day of summer!
- June has both the longest and the shortest days of the year! If you live in the northern hemisphere, June 20<sup>th</sup> will be the longest day of the year. If you live in the southern hemisphere, then the 20<sup>th</sup> will be the shortest day of the year. Let's celebrate this day!

The beans, carrots, summer squash, zucchini, radishes, and collard greens which were direct seeded last month are sprouting, however they are already competing with a large variety of weeds – purslane, thistle, dead nettle, and many grasses, as well as many black walnut sprouts courtesy of the industrious squirrels who love to plant the walnut seeds in the garden. We are having to first clear the beds of the abundance of weeds before we can plant. The bean plants are thriving and have started climbing the trellises. We are trying a new method of planting carrots with one variety Yaya, thanks to Anne Bolz – seed tape, to minimize or eliminate the need to thin the carrots. We also planted pelleted carrot seed – Rubypak, and non-pelleted seed – Bolero. It will be interesting to see the difference in thinning requirements for each.

# The Tollgate Farm News

PAR Report continued from Page 6

We had so many plants that we took over one of the beds intended for kale and still have a few leftovers for perhaps the Edu-Garden. We should have a bumper crop of cabbage to donate, however, no sooner had we planted the baby plants, than the cabbage moths started to magically appear. We will be applying organic pesticides right away.

Next this month will be finishing the planting of the garden with seed potatoes (Superior and Red Prairie), red and yellow onions (Redwing and Calibra), and three types of hot peppers – Jalafuego Jalapeno, Altiplano Serrano, and Baron Poblano. The latter will be companion planted with shallots. We will also be direct seeding our first kale crop. Lastly, over the next several months, we will be succession planting collard greens, kale, and radishes, as well as replacing the garlic beds with turnips once the garlic has been harvested. This will round out the planting for the season.

On the non-plant side of the garden equation, the renovated irrigation is fully functional thanks to the joint efforts of Roy and Jason, and the great PAR Garden team. All the mulching between the pathways has been completed thanks to the efforts of a great Novi HS Robotics team and the PAR Garden team.



We will be covering the remaining cardboard this month, and will have a beautiful, weed-controlled, well-irrigated garden for all to enjoy. The collaboration and teamwork have been awesome – thank you!

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.

Hope to see you in the garden this year,  
Kathryn Fitzpatrick



Page 6 photos provided by Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
Top right column photo by Jacob DiPonio  
All other Page 7 photos by Lynette Leroux



# The Tollgate Farm News

MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers  
Present

## 2024 Summer Garden Walk Open House

**Thursday July 18, 2024 6-8:30pm**

**Rain Date Friday July 19, 2024**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Enjoy a summer evening as you stroll and get to know the MSU Tollgate Gardens

\*\*\*GARDEN TOURS\*\*\*INFORMATIONAL TALKS\*\*\* HAYRIDES\*\*\*

\*\*\*BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGENIC GARDENS\*\*\*

Complementary cold beverages and dessert snacks available.

**TOLLGATE VOLUNTEER GUIDES TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND ASSIST WITH PHOTOS**

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

Michigan State University  
Tollgate Farm and Education Center  
28115 Meadowbrook Roads  
Novi, MI 48377  
248 347-3860 ext. 251  
[www.tollgate.msu.edu](http://www.tollgate.msu.edu)

**Please-NO pets, NO alcohol**



*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.*

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# The Tollgate Farm News

## Tollgate Plant Sale – Another Great Success!



A Special Thanks to  
George Papadelis,  
owner of Telly's Greenhouse,  
for the Donation of Hundreds of  
Fantastic Annuals!

Photos provided by Roy Prentice

SEE MORE PLANT SALE PHOTOS ON PAGES 21 & 22

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Pumpkin Planting at Tollgate

The 2024 pumpkin season officially began on Tuesday, June 11, with the planting of one acre of pumpkin seedlings. The team of Roy Prentice, Monique Mose, and Jason Skonieczny planted over 700 pumpkin plants in a bit over 3 hours thanks to an old tree planter, expert tractor driving skills and many hours of preparation in the greenhouse and field. As soon as the planting was done, Jason and Monique added drip irrigation. All is set for another successful pumpkin season on the farm!



Photos provided by Monique Mose



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Volunteer Groups Visit Tollgate

Tollgate hosted two groups recently. Atain Insurance company visited the Tollgate Children's Garden and gave the structures a fresh coat of paint. The generosity of this group rejuvenated the garden. Tollgate is blessed with several corporate workdays each year. It is another way to get things done on the farm. Thank you Atain!



Tollgate also hosted a group of visitors from Latvia. The delegation was interested in learning about MSU Extension, the role of Extension in an urban environment, and how Tollgate fits into Michigan State University. The group was very impressed by the gardens and the knowledge that Tollgate relied on volunteers to keep the gardens looking good. The delegation enjoyed their time on the farm. A helping of MSU Dairy Store ice cream smothered in maple syrup no doubt helped to sweeten their visit!



Atain photos provided by Amy Felder  
Latvia photos by Lisa Bahm

# The Tollgate Farm News

## Meet Monique Mose, Tollgate's New Sustainable Ag. Coordinator

Those who have been around for a few years will remember Darby and Gwen's CSA vegetable growing operation. Tollgate's former CSA program had over 200 subscribers and was much loved. After a year of inactivity, we have hired a new Sustainable Ag. coordinator, Monique Mose. Monique has lots of experience growing vegetables. Before coming to Tollgate, she was a field technician for two MSU horticulture faculty members. She is used to directing the work of others and being outside in a hot environment. Although Monique will not be conducting a CSA this year, she is planning to host several fresh-from-the-farm pop-up vegetable stands throughout the summer. Say "Hi" to Monique the next time you are on the farm.



Photo provided by Monique Mose



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Member Spotlight

### David Komraus



**Years gardening...** “My first gardening memory is the fig tree that my grandfather, an immigrant farmer from southern Italy, grew in a 6x6 plot in the backyard of his Philadelphia row home. I later grew cantaloupes in the rose bed behind our row home.”

**Master Gardener since...** I’ve been a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2008, and Advanced MGV since 2010.“

**Volunteer at Tollgate since...** “I started at Tollgate in 2008, and I’ve been here every year since.”

**Favorite garden...** “I think I started working on the pond, AKA Constructed Wetland, in 2009 or 2010. I didn’t know what an AGL was then, but I guess I am one.”



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 during the workday season 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 David Komraus

# 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 2024. 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/Tollgate%20Garden%20Volunteer%20orientation%202024.pdf>

Tollgate web pages for the Gardens

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

2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer Activity Calendar

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/uploads/tollgate%20activity%20cal%20draftFeb%20Final%20release%20Draft.pdf>

Other volunteer info at Tollgate

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



Left photo provided by Roy Prentice  
Right photo by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## *Membership Update June 2024*

*Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership this month and to our new members for 2024!*

*If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact me at my email, below.*

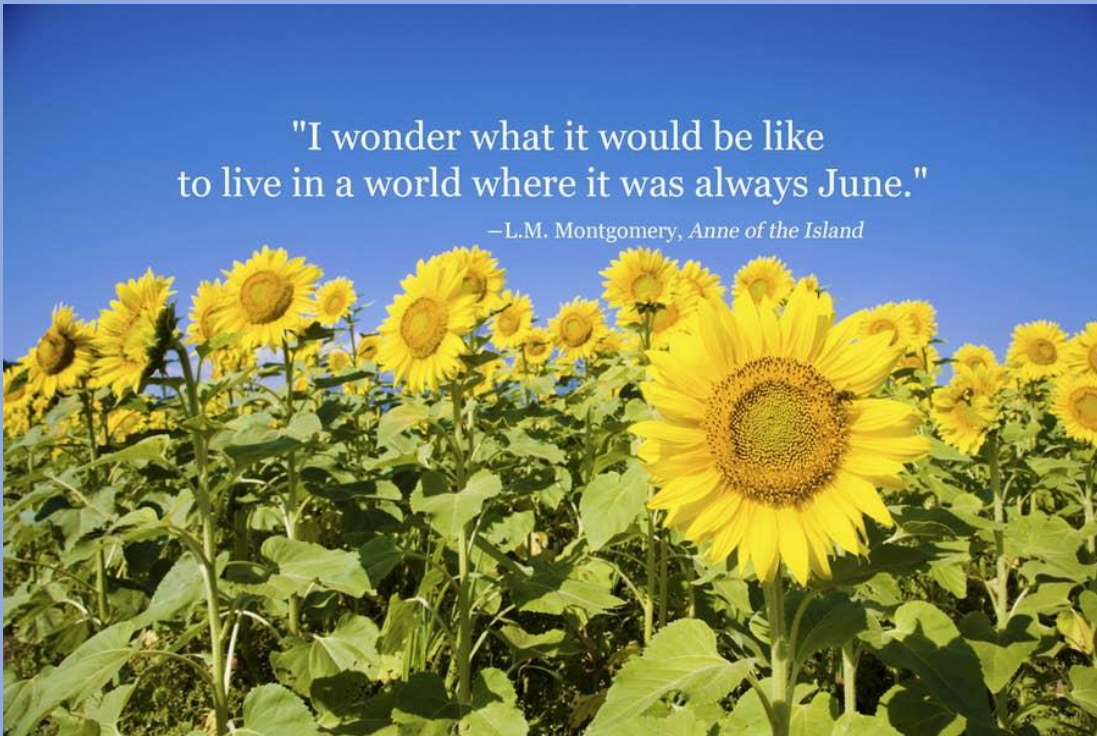
*See you at Tollgate!*

*Teresa LaRosa*

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

"I wonder what it would be like  
to live in a world where it was always June."

—L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of the Island*



# The Tollgate Farm News

## Tollgate Garden Volunteer Membership Levels

When you renew your TGV membership each year, we ask you to designate your status as an ACTIVE member or a SUPPORTING member. As a reminder, these designations mean the following:

**ACTIVE MEMBER:** Volunteer in the gardens on workdays or individual assignments, volunteer at events and projects on the site, receive all communication and participate in monthly meetings.

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- All active volunteers must go through the MSU Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) screening to work on site and maintain their VSP status yearly or as required by MSU volunteer selection procedure policy.
- Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) are screened through the VSP process either at the start of the program when you take the EMG class or when you renew your EMG certification/VSP update each year or as required by MSUE. If you are an active/current EMG and choose to volunteer at Tollgate your VSP status is complete.
- Previously certified EMGs who decide to let their certification lapse can still volunteer on the site, but still must go through the VSP screening requirement as above. We have onsite personnel who can help you complete the process.
- If you are an active MSU volunteer through another program on site and have maintained an active VSP status, then your VSP status is complete
- Individuals who have not gone through the VSP screening, will need to pursue the VSP screening before they can be an active volunteer at Tollgate (or at any MSU site or program). We have onsite personnel who can help you complete this process.
- Note that once an individual has participated in the initial VSP screening, they need only approve a background check in subsequent years. No need to obtain references and other activities that are required with the initial VSP screening.

**SUPPORTING MEMBER:** Support the volunteers and participate in monthly meetings and general activities.

- Notified regarding monthly membership meetings.
- Informed about Tollgate events via the Farm News newsletter and other informative e-mail notifications.
- Supporter status will **not** allow you to participate as a volunteer in the garden maintenance activities, maple syrup project or any MSU Extension events on site.
- Return to an "ACTIVE" status at any time by completing the VSP screening process.

**A donation is NOT required to renew your membership. All donations are greatly appreciated and go into our account to maintain the gardens.**

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# The Tollgate Farm News

## VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



Top row photos provided by Nancy Powell  
Middle and bottom left photos by Roy Prentice  
Bottom right photo by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## ROSE GARDEN IN BLOOM



Top row photos provided by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom row photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



Photos provided by Renee Cottrell

# The Tollgate Farm News

## ENABLING GARDEN RENOVATION



Top and middle row photos by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom row photos by Cheri Gelnak



# The Tollgate Farm News

## PLANT SALE - BUSY AND FUN



Bottom row right photo provided by Ruthann Girasek  
All other photos by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## PLANT SALE - BUSY AND FUN



Top two rows and third row left photos provided by Lori Heiden  
Third row right and bottom row by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## XERISCAPE GARDEN

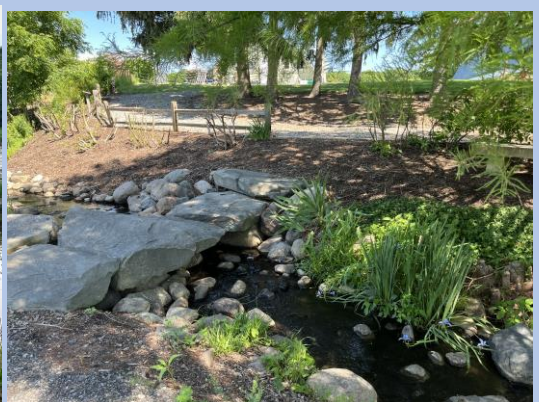


Top row photos provided by Linda Piasecki  
Middle row photos by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom row photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## DOWN AT THE POND



Bottom right photo provided by Nancy Powell  
All other photos by Marilyn Alimpich



# The Tollgate Farm News

## COMPLETED HOSTA GARDEN PATIO



Views from the new Patio!

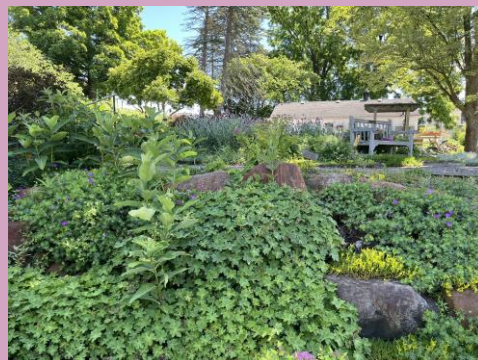
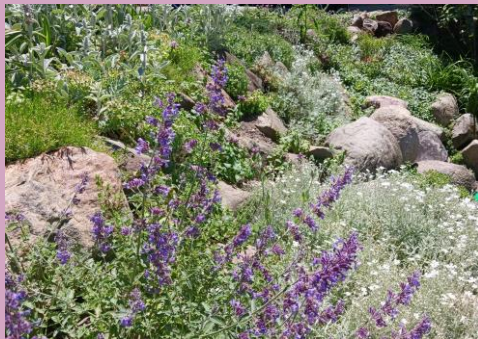


Top photo provided by Lori Heiden  
Bottom photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## ENTRANCE/OFFICE/HERITAGE/ROCK LEDGE



Top two row photos provided by Renee Cottrell  
Bottom two row photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## SHADE GARDEN



Photos provided by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## IN THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN



Top two row photos provided by Karen Harris  
Bottom row photos by Renee Cottrell



# The Tollgate Farm News

## FARMHOUSE GARDEN



Top row photos provided by Julie Semroc  
Middle row and bottom photos by Nancy Powell



# The Tollgate Farm News



**START SEEDS IN ICE CREAM CONES AND THEN PLANT IN THE GROUND WHEN READY. IT'S THE PERFECT BIODEGRADABLE HACK.**





# 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.**

Photos from your cell phones work great - just keep at maximum size/resolution when submitting.

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 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 by Renee Cottrell  
Top right photo by Roy Prentice  
Middle right photo by Norm Powell  
Bottom right photo by Kurt Westermann

# 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.

**NEW: We strongly recommend you bring your own tools for your garden activities. All tools borrowed from the Toolshed should be cleaned and 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	Sunscreen/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)

<b>President</b> .....	Renee Cottrell
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Marilyn Alimpich
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Theresa Bridenbaugh
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Karen Harris
<b>Membership &amp; Hospitality</b> .....	Teresa LaRosa
<b>Communications</b> .....	Kathy Johnson
<b>Programs</b> .....	Jackie Stengel
<b>Farm News Editor</b> .....	Nancy Powell
<b>Event Coordinator</b> .....	Lori Heiden

- 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 2024 Tollgate Garden Volunteer membership is valid from **January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**.

For membership questions or to update your current membership information, email [tlrrehab@gmail.com](mailto:tlrrehab@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 Garden Volunteers  
Activity Calendar-2024**

January	February	March
2-TGAC 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom  20-AGL Planning Meeting 10:00AM 	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom  	5-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 21-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM via Zoom  <u>Activity Days</u> 2-Pruning 9:00AM <b>9/10-Maplefest no work day</b> 16-Grass Cut Back-all 9:00AM 23-Pathway/demo mulching 9:00AM <b>30-Multi-garden/Easter wk</b> 9:00AM
April	May	June
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 18-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> 6-Rose/Pond 9:00AM 13-Demo 9:00AM 20-Office/Heritage/Rain 9:00AM <b>27- Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM</b> <b>New volunteer orientation 9:00AM</b> <b>Pancake Brunch 12:00PM</b>	7-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 16-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> 4-Entrance/Nursery-plant divi 9:00AM 11-Farmhouse 9:00AM 18- Shade/Hosta 9:00AM <b>25-Memorial Weekend</b> Rockledge/planting 9:00AM	4-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 20-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> <b>1-Spring Plant Sale 9am-2pm</b> 8-Rose/Entrance 9:00AM 15-Office/Heritage/ Rain 9:00AM 22-Pond/12Mile 9:00AM 29-Demo 9:00AM
July	August	September
2-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> 6- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM 13-Children's/Xeriscape 9:00AM <b>18-TGV Garden Open House 6-8:30PM</b> <b>(Thursday-no mtg)19th rain date</b> 20-Hosta/Shade 9:00AM 27-Heritage/Office 9:00AM	6-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM <b>7-Rose Garden Dedication 5:00 PM</b> 15-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> 3-Entrance/Rain 9:00AM 10-Pond/12 Mile 9:00AM 17-Demo 9:00AM 24-Nursery/plant division 9:00AM <b>31-Labor Day Weekend</b> Rockledge, divisions 9:00AM	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 19-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM   <u>Activity Days</u> 7-Shade/Hosta 9:00AM 14- Farmhouse/Rose 9:00AM <b>21-Nursery Fall Plant Sale 9:00-12:00</b> 28-Xeriscape/Children's 9:00AM
October	November	December
1-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM 17-TGV General Meeting 7:00 PM  <u>Activity Days</u> <b>5/6-Pumpkinfest no workday</b> 12-Nursery Clean up 9:00AM 19-Pond clean up 9:00AM 26-Fall Clean up 9:00AM	2-Recognition Dinner 4:00PM 5-TGAC Meeting 7:00PM  <u>Activity Day</u> 9-Rose winterizing 10:00AM  <b>28-Thanksgiving</b> 	3-TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM  25-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 2024](#)

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





# MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteers Membership Form

Please legibly print all entries. Thank you.

2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number

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

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

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

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, 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: [tlrrehab@gmail.com](mailto:tlrrehab@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:** \_\_\_\_\_