MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteer General Meeting in the Conference Center
Thursday, April 20, 7:00 PM

Bug Benefits: The Virtues of Native Insects and Plants

Join Tollgate volunteers on April 20 to learn about Bug Benefits: The Virtues of Native Insects and Plants, a discussion of what to plant to attract different kinds of wildlife. Kyle Kandilian returns with another installment of his passion for improving the environment. Tollgate gardeners enjoyed his programs on Bugs in the Garden in 2014, shortly after his college graduation, and Native Plants in 2015.

Gardeners understand many of the values of native plants to pollinators and beneficial insects but few will entirely re-do established gardens; however, we can begin making changes with future plant choices that offer a variety of benefits. This presentation will include nativars for sun and partial sun to plant as replacements or additions in the garden to attract and host native and beneficial insects, plus information on host plants and non-biting insects.

Kyle Kandilian is passionate about entomology, ecology, soil science, composting and feeder roaches, which he raises and sells through his website, http://www.roachcrossing.com/. He is hoping to expand his website to sell plants and seeds in the future. Currently in charge of the Bug Room at the UM-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center, Kyle graduated with highest honors from UM-D with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>TGAC Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer Orientation 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>APR</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Spring Clean Up — Nursery Prep 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Front Farm House 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>• Spring Clean Up</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Rose Garden / Heritage Nursery Division/Potting 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>• New Volunteer Orientation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Pancake Brunch at Noon</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Plant Sale Division/Prep/Plant Drop Off 9:00 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Memorial Day Weekend</strong></td>
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<td><strong>No Directed or Supported Workday Activities</strong></td>
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Volume 23 Issue 4 April 2017

The Tollgate Farm News

Bug Benefits: The Virtues of Native Insects and Plants

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Greetings All,

Maple Syrup Making and other Spring Happenings

Weird, cloudy, drippy, sleety, slimy weather. Spring is coming and well on its way. Saw a pair of buffleheads in the pond today. They hang around Tollgate for a few days on their way south. The Sandhill cranes are raising a ruckus in the back fields. All sure signs of spring!

Although I was afraid that the 2017 maple syrup season might be a total bust, favorable weather at critical points throughout the season pulled us through. Lead by many hard working individuals, the season was a success. Although the season started early and kind of petered out toward the end, we ended up making about 80 gallons of syrup. The maple crew worked very hard this year maintaining and improving the tubing system that connects over 250 trees. We saw lots of drop by visitors during the season and had record numbers of school field trip participants, including one Novi school that brought over 400 kids in one day! The season provided us with enough syrup for our pancake brunch on April 29 and to give and sell to our many wonderful volunteers. In terms of production, this year turned out to be on the low end of our average range. Sap flow is always subject to the vagaries of the weather, that’s farming!

We Need Volunteers

As the snows of the extremely bearable winter of 2017 bow to the coming of spring, the Tollgate volunteers have already had several workdays. In spite of a couple of early workday rainouts, we have had good turnout to work by the pond and clean up the Children’s Garden. Each year the gardens get better. Each year we have more visitors that come to Tollgate to enjoy the fruits of our work. Please help make Tollgate reach its fullest potential. We still need a few area garden leaders to look after gardens on the farm. Please plan to attend our activity days. Without your help, Tollgate would be just another farm. With your help, we will continue to work toward a high level of true awesomeness.

Roy

Spring Emerging in the Demo Garden

Photo by Larry Bolam

A Large Group of Volunteers Gathered for the Annual Maple Syrup Labeling Party

Photo by Darretta Ferasin

Great Volunteer Turnout for Children’s Garden Workday, Saturday, April 8

Photo by Darretta Ferasin
Baby Animals
This has been a season of new life at Tollgate. New goat kids, new lambs and even new chicks from eggs laid by Tollgate chickens. The lambs are already out on the fields enjoying the sunshine and fresh air and chilling with the other livestock. The goat kids are still being bottle fed, so they are on the field and in the barn at intervals. If you want to see the embodiment of an animal who knows how to enjoy the heck out of life, watch a goat kid. New calves to come soon! Who doesn’t love baby animals?

New Orchard
With the advent of many new youth camps and field trips, the last few years has seen a marked increase in people traffic around the Tollgate. The old High Density apple orchard is close to the farm’s flow of people. The proximity of the public has made spraying of the old high density orchard impractical. This April, Tollgate staff and volunteers have been busy establishing a new high density orchard. The new orchard is located in a corner of the CSA field. It is surrounded by a high fence to exclude deer and is still accessible for future high density apple management classes. The new orchard will be away from the main flow of the public and will have lots of room for all management practices. When fully planted, the orchard will contain 180 apple trees composed of over thirty varieties of apples all on dwarfing rootstocks. This new planting will be a great addition to the CSA and Tollgate’s base for teaching.

Nursery Getting Ready for Plant Sale
The Tollgate Plant Sale will be here soon. The Spring Plant Sale, held on Saturday, June 3, is the major fund raiser for the gardens. In recent years, the Nursery committee has made huge strides to organize the nursery and increase the marketing appeal of the plants being offered for sale. The Nursery Committee met recently to create information signs for all of the plants in the nursery. These signs help customers choose just the right plants for their home landscape. As we approach the Plant Sale date, please help us spread the word. I have flyers for the plant sale and other garden events in the office and all events are listed on Tollgate’s website. Lots of work goes into putting on a great sale. Please help us make this year’s spring plant sale a real success!

Children’s Garden
The Tollgate Children’s Garden has seen a major addition recently. The bridge near the water feature has long been a beautiful component of the garden. After many years, the bridge has succumbed to time and now needs to be replaced. Tollgate staff and volunteers recently removed the old bridge and replaced it with a new model. The new bridge is made of manufactured materials and should last for many years. In addition to the new bridge, the garden near the bridge has undergone major renovation and expansion. Check out the changes the next time that you are on the farm.
Thank you for the exceptional volunteer participation at the initial work activities thus far this season. We had a great turn out for help in the pond, xeriscape and children's gardens with much accomplished and new friends made! See the posted activities in this issue. Your ongoing participation is important to our success. Please consider helping on our spring clean up dates and participating in the ever popular pancake brunch as our thank you for your ongoing dedication. I look forward to the season and working together with new and established members.

Join a Garden Team?!
Do you have a particular area of interest? Would you like to work with more experienced gardeners? There are still many gardens in need of small dedicated groups for organization of maintenance activities in specific gardens. Ask me or any TGAC member for a description of opportunities available. Working with a team is an excellent way to increase your plant knowledge and get in MG hours other than just our designated work days. Demo, Xeriscape, Rain Garden, Office, Heritage, Entrance and Pond gardens are in need of more members! A little something for everyone!

Budget Requests Due May 1st
Those teams who have not yet submitted a budget/plan for your garden area are encouraged to do so by May 1st. TGAC would like to review and approve by the start of planting season for best project planning results. After Plant Sale revenues are known additional requests can be made!

LOOKING AHEAD
SAVE THE DATE FOR PLANT SALE — JUNE 3rd
Spring Plant Sale - Plan Now to Donate!
If those backyard plants are already nosing up or if you have new plans and plant purchases in mind, consider donating to the Tollgate Nursery for our plant sale in June. See the Nursery notes in this issue to see what highly desirable and saleable plants have been identified from past sales and are on the request list for this year. Your contributions and efforts can be guided by this listing. Pots, in one and two gallon sizes are needed, please no other sizes at this time since smaller ones are quickly overgrown and larger ones, hanging basket pots, clay and decorative pots are NOT appropriate for our intended use. (Consider recycling!) Our Nursery team has worked hard to improve the nursery space, stock and volunteer power to enhance our chances for a successful Plant Sale.

Sign up for volunteering at the Plant Sale will go out in May with the weekly reminders and a doodle link. If you prefer there will be a paper sign up in the Volunteer Communication Center. You only have to respond once, as both lists will be compiled.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OPEN HOUSE — JULY 22nd 4:00 - 7:00 PM
Summer Open House “SUNSET GARDEN CELEBRATION”
Please join us for our open house event. Participate as a volunteer or come with all your friends, family, neighbors and enjoy the event as a guest. Same great people, tours, talks, music and vendors! Volunteers assisting in staffing the event will be able to sign up on the Doodle link that month or on a sign-up sheet in the volunteer communication center. Just sign up once, both lists will be compiled.

Happy Spring! Thank you for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.
Renee Cottrell, President
The Nursery Team wound up another successful winter season with two events in March:

We had our second propagation session March 9th in the basement greenhouse at Tollgate North. We transplanted seedlings planted the prior month into larger cells so their vigorous roots could continue to grow, and planted additional some additional sprouts that had “popped” during their cold prep period in the refrigerator. In all, we have planted 19 perennial seeds of which 13 were Michigan natives! (see list below).

Our third propagation session was scheduled for April 8th, but due to the efficiency of our “new” seed-starting process, there wasn’t much to transplant!

So, we turned this activity day into a “Plant Tag Workshop” at Tollgate. We began with a potluck meal to celebrate the end of our winter sessions – stuffing ourselves with Chili, cornbread, salads, and sweets brought by several of our members. Then we settled down to work – with smart phones, tablets and laptops to look up information online for at least 130 new plant tags that we need to create before the Spring plant sale – just 8 weeks away!

**Continued on the following page**

### 2017 Propagation Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Planted</th>
<th>Botanical Name/Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Echinacea ‘Pow Wow Wild Berry’</em>/ Wild Berry Coneflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Echinacea ‘Cheyenne Spirit’</em>/ Coneflower</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Delphinium ‘Aura Mix’</em>/ Delphinium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15 &amp; 3/9/ 2017</td>
<td><em>Digitalis ‘Camelot Mix’</em>/ Digitalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Veronica ‘Blue Bouquet’</em>/ Spiked Speedwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15 &amp; 3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Gallardia ‘Arizona Sun’</em>/ Blanket Flower</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Artemisia ludoviciana</em>/ Prairie Sage (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Coreopsis lanceolate</em>/ Lance Leaf Coreopsis (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Campanula Americana</em>/ Tall Bellflower (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Asclepias incarnata</em>/ Swamp Milkweed (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Penstemon pallidus</em>/ Pale Beard-tongue (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Asclepias tuberosa</em>/ Butterfly Weed (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15/2017</td>
<td><em>Eutrochium maculatum</em>/ Joe Pye Weed (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Eurybia macrophylla</em>/Big Leaved Aster (N)</td>
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<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Delphinium exultatum</em>/Larkspur (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td>*Anaphalis margaritacea /Pearly Everlasting (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Blephilia ciliate</em>/Downy Wood Mint (N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Seline regia</em>/Royal Catchfly (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9/2017</td>
<td><em>Penstemon hirsutus</em>/Hairy Beard-tongue (N)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
These plant tags are a key element of a successful plant sale. Each 8.5 X 11 color page contains a picture of the plant, its common and botanical name, size, cultural needs, bloom time and color, native status, whether it attracts various pollinators, is resistant to rabbits or deer, plus other relevant comments. Posting this “plant tag” information above each variety allows our volunteer gardener sales staff to quickly become familiar with what is available, and provides confidence to customers who now know what they’re buying. Many take cell phone pictures of the plant tags so they can recall this information when they get home and plant their purchases.

Normally, early spring is the low point of the year for nursery stock, so typically we’re scrambling to pot up divisions from the property and from all of our gardener supporters in order to fill the rows before Plant Sale in early June. This year, due to the great generosity of Christiansen’s Nursery, who donated a large number of plants to us last fall, we’re already bursting at the seams! For those into the numbers – last year at this time we had 2,200 pots in the nursery. Today, we are just a couple pots short of 3,000 - just 300 less than what we had on sale day last year!

So our task this year is quite different than the usual race to “fill the nursery” – since it’s pretty much full! But we do have gaps to fill – so we’re focused on filling those gaps. You can see this difference in the “Plant Request List” sent out recently. We all LOVE plants, so it’s hard for us to say that we can’t accept so many varieties – but we hope that you also have some of the types of plants that we do need:

- *Anemone*/Windflower
- *Cerastium tomentosum*/Snow in Summer
- *Crososma*/Montbretia
- *Delphinium*
- *Gaura lindheimeri*
- *Heuchera*/Coral Bells (non-green leaf varieties)
- *Ligularia*
- *Paeonia*/Peony
- *Platycodon*/Balloon Flower
- *Sedum*/Stonecrop (groundcovers only)
- *Tradescandia*/Spiderwort

(Please see the PLANT REQUEST list for the full list of plants and guidance on quantities).

We hope that lots of you will sign up to help work the plant sale when the request for volunteers goes out... but the NURSERY TEAM is a year-round activity! If you want to make a significant contribution to the success of all Tollgate gardens, learn about characteristics and care requirements for many different plants and experience hands-on learning of propagation techniques during the winter off-season, please consider joining the nursery team as a ROW LEADER, CO-ROW LEADER, or Member at Large! Contact Peg Palmer or Renee Cottrell for more information about the nursery operation or to join the team.

Palmer - pegpalmer@mi.rr.com
Renee Cottrell - rmcottrell4@att.net
WORK ACTIVITY DAYS

Photo by Larry Bolam

Photo by Larry Bolam

Outdoor Photos by Darretta Ferasin
WORK ACTIVITY DAYS

Photos by Darretta Feresa
2017 Tollgate Quilt
“Fall Fair”

The 2017 Tollgate Quilt has been completed. The quilt will be raffled off at the closing of the Tollgate’s “Sunset Garden Celebration” Open House on July 22. Raffle tickets will be available at our April Volunteer Meeting. The tickets are $2.00 each or 3 tickets for $5.00.

**Quilt Size:** Approximately 59” x 76”

**Block Pattern:** Exploding Blocks

**2017 Tollgate Quilting Bees:**
Susan Bremer
Kathy Coleman
Darretta Ferasin
Gail Kevwitch
Connie Marcangelo
Kay Pratt
Nancy Roggers
Pamela Stopper
Lynn Strong

**Quilter:** Joy A. Cramer

The Label Exquisitely Embroidered by Kathy Coleman

The Quilting Bees Met on April 12 to Complete the 2017 Tollgate Quilt
A Special Thanks!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mary Bohner</th>
<th>Roy Hybl</th>
<th>Margaret Palmer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annie Bolz</td>
<td>Bev Hydro</td>
<td>Dennis &amp; Nancy Roggers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Boufford</td>
<td>Mary Iorio</td>
<td>David Sharpe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathy Brooks</td>
<td>Kathy James</td>
<td>Mary Shea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Collins</td>
<td>Kerry Kelly</td>
<td>Sandy Springer</td>
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<td>Nancy Dingeldey</td>
<td>Lee Kindermann</td>
<td>Pam Stopper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Dumbleton</td>
<td>David Komraus</td>
<td>Andrea Stromer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denise Galarneau</td>
<td>Cathy Lichtman</td>
<td>Cecilia VanHorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom and Margo Gray</td>
<td>Connie Marcangelo</td>
<td>Anna VanHyfte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Gross</td>
<td>Carolyn and Mark McQuiggan</td>
<td>Wayne and Martha Watson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Hamilton</td>
<td>Kathryn McRae</td>
<td>Betsy Wilds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Heiden</td>
<td>Renee Molnar</td>
<td>Fred Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Heraty</td>
<td>Audrey Murphy</td>
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</tbody>
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Renew Your Membership for 2017

If you have not already done so, please send in your 2017 membership form by May 25 to ensure continued mailings of the Tollgate newsletter, workday notices and other information that comes along throughout the year. If you are not sure whether you have already sent your 2017 form in or not, you can contact me, Cindy Bolterstein, at tollgatemembers@gmail.com and I will check the membership list.

The 2017 membership form can be downloaded from the Tollgate website at: [http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/membership%20form%202017.pdf](http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/membership%20form%202017.pdf)

Live, Laugh and Eat Dessert FIRST before every meeting

Baked goods are welcomed for our Tollgate Volunteer General Meetings. The desserts can be store bought if you don’t have time to bake.
Activity Days

Activity day hours are 9:00 AM to noon unless otherwise noted on the Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events listed on the first page of the Tollgate Farm News or by the Area Garden Leader (AGL).

Lunch will be provided on scheduled workdays. Veggie alternatives are available upon request.

This schedule does not exclude you from working independently on the site. However, on non-scheduled days, your efforts will need to be self-directed with guidance from the garden area clipboards located in the Volunteer Communication Center.

Volunteer Activity Day and Meetings Information
248-347-3860 ext. 400

Tollgate Garden Advisory Council

Farm Manager
Roy Prentice - 248 347-3860 ext. 251
email - prentic1@msu.edu

President ................. Renee Cottrell
Vice President .......... Peg Palmer
Secretary ................... Dave Komraus
Treasurer ................. Sue Janczarek
Membership ............ Cindy Bolterstein
PR ......................... Yvonne DeMattos
Programs ................. Jackie Stengel
Hospitality ............... Yvonne DeMattos
Farm News Editor ....... Darretta Ferasin

For membership questions or to update your current membership information send email to: tollgatemembers@gmail.com

MSU Tollgate Gardens Volunteers
For general information and questions
Contact Roy Prentice or See Website:
http://tollgate.msu.edu/volunteering/

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Tollgate Office Building. All Tollgate Gardens Volunteer members are welcome to attend.

Listings to contact individual Council Members and Area Garden Leaders are available at all general meetings and in the Volunteer Communication Center.

Tollgate Volunteer Membership is renewed annually. The 2016 Tollgate Garden Volunteers membership is from December 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017.

Tollgate Volunteer Information

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate
- Spades
- Garden Rakes
- Brooms
- Wheel Barrels
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes

List of Suggested Gardening Implements to Bring from Home as Needed
- Trowel
- Pruners
- Loppers
- Garden Scissors
- Your Favorite Weeding Implement
- Hand Saw
- Plant Division Forks
- Shrub Rake
- Sun Screen
- Garden Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Insect Repellant

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook
Novi, MI, 48377-3128
www.tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251