## Tollgate Garden Volunteer Important Dates and Events

### May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meetings</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### May Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Plant Sale Division/Prep/Plant Drop Off</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Memorial Day Weekend**

*No Directed or Supported Workday Activities Unless Announced*

### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meetings</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>TGAC Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tollgate Volunteer General Meeting 7:00 PM</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plant Sale Set Up</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Spring Plant Sale</strong></td>
<td>9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dry Shade/Entrance/Rain Gardens</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Demo/Hosta/Front Farmhouse</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Heritage/Office/Rose Gardens</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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</tbody>
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**OH DEER!**

On May 18, join Tollgate volunteers in the conference center for Oh Deer! with Laurel Zoet, founder of Nature on the GO!, which brings portable educational programs to libraries, schools and group events.

One of the largest and most easily recognized animals in Michigan, whitetail deer are considered majestic by some and a nuisance by others. This fascinating mammal is adapted to survive Michigan’s ever changing landscape and seasons. Oh Deer! looks at the natural and seasonal cycles of whitetail deer, how they communicate and how they survive.

Naturalist educator Laurel Zoet is passionate about connecting people of all ages with the diversity and wonder of the nature. Recognizing that some groups cannot provide transportation to nature centers or other outdoor facilities, she created Nature on the GO!, [http://www.natureonthego.com/](http://www.natureonthego.com/) to bring important educational opportunities to the students.

Before Nature on the GO!, Laurel was with the Michigan DNR where she did nature programming and education for all ages at Sterling State Park in Monroe. As an interpretive naturalist with the Mobile Learning Center Team at the Huron Clinton Metroparks, she provided outreach programs to elementary school children. As a naturalist with West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, Laurel shared nature education with various ages and created a one-room nature center. As a school program coordinator with Leslie Science and Nature Center, she crafted the nature education curriculum for pre-K through 8th graders. Besides deer, her adult program topics are coyotes, skunks, and chocolate.
Greetings All,

We have been checking our many bird boxes in the back fields, recently. Bluebirds, swallows and wrens have taken up residence in several of the boxes. The first new family of geese has been sighted on the pond (great). Herons, ducks and even a swan are all joining the geese in an aquatic get-together. I even saw a loon who briefly stopped by to check out the pond.

Maple Syrup Wrap Up. Thanks to the wonderful work of the maple syrup crew, we had another good year in the Tollgate woods. This year’s efforts produced over 80 gallons of syrup! The season culminated in a luncheon on April 29th hosted by the Tollgate maple syrup tappers. In addition to pancakes, bacon and lots of Tollgate syrup, volunteers were able to purchase syrup. At the end of the event, the entire 2017 product was sold. It was a great year! Thanks to all who made it happen.

Earth Day. For the seventh consecutive year, Tollgate teamed up with the City of Novi to conduct the City’s celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 22. We usually have many attendees for these events. This year the group responded to the beautiful weather and turned out in droves. The determined group focused on the woods.

Led by Conservation Steward and Tollgate staff member extraordinaire, Rosina Newton, the volunteers worked to rid the woods of the garlic mustard scourge. Earth Day attendees were in good spirits, had a lot of fun and managed to pull a lot of plants.

Plant Sale’s a’Coming. The nursery is well stocked and the nursery crew has worked hard on preparations for the upcoming sale. There are still a few plants that the nursery could use in its collection. Please check out April’s newsletter for a list of needed plants. If you are bringing plants to the farm and need pots, there are plenty at Tollgate. Pots and plastic tags are available in the barn across the drive from the nursery. Please label any plants that you are bringing to the site so that we can give as much information as possible to our garden shoppers. Due to concern for the spread of hosta Virus X, we are not accepting the donation of any hostas this year.

See you soon around the farm!
Roy

Photos by Darretta Ferasin
Notes from the President

Renee Cottrell

“The world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.”

Edwin Way Teale

The spring clean-up days brought out the dedicated volunteers and with the new volunteer orientation introduced fresh faces to our efforts here at Tollgate. The Maple Syrup volunteers lavished a pancake brunch on us that left all full and smiling.

See the Activity calendar for details on upcoming Saturday activities. As a reminder we ask that volunteers check the newsletter and emails to know what tools to bring to the Saturday activity days. It helps to be prepared for the activity with the right tools, and for the sun with a hat and skin protection including work gloves.

We are gearing up for the spring plant sale.

Our major plant purchases for new gardens and additions to existing ones, not to mention our seasonal mulch and compost supplies come from the proceeds from this major fundraiser. With our Nursery near full capacity the wish list for donations is select and has been distributed in email and on the Tollgate website. I hope you are keeping us in mind for your spring divisions. Named varieties and botanical names are best but if not known, bloom time and color are helpful. Items blooming in late May/early June are good sellers.

SIGN UP: The sign-up for working the Friday set up and the Saturday plant sale will be circulated at our May meeting, in the volunteer communication center as well as on the upcoming emailed Doodle link. You only need to sign up on one of those options.

See the Nursery Notes Article in this Issue.

JOIN A TEAM! I invite any new or established member to join or form a team for one of the garden areas on the site. This is a great way to learn, share and feel connected to what we do here. With all the garden variety is easy to find something you love. Existing areas of interest include the Hosta Garden, Xeriscape and Rain Garden, and other more generalized garden areas to choose. All garden teams welcome new members. Email me to get connected to a team or get a tour of available areas. OR see Roy at any of the monthly meetings/Saturday work days.

See you all soon. Thanks for being a Tollgate Garden Volunteer.

Renee Cottrell, President Tollgate Garden Volunteers
On May 3, Deb Kearney, proprietor of the basement greenhouse at Tollgate North and our propagation expert, provided this update to the Nursery Team about the winter’s projects:

“It’s that time of the year when I decide all plants need to be outside, which is of course against my better judgement! Nonetheless, almost all plant trays were moved outside this evening. Fortunately the trailer that I load the plants on to fits into the garage and is easily movable for those last few days of frost that we will inevitably have. And the plants on the deck can be easily covered by a blanket.

For the next 10 days the plants will be gradually moved into the real sun and wind. The rain and partial clouds should help to acclimate the plants, which is called ‘hardening off’. If they are introduced too quickly they will get sunburn. I was impatient one year and rushed it, so I learned the hard way that yes, it does really happen! The wind will help strengthen the stems of the plants, which have been pampered in the basement for the last few months. The Joe Pye have started to get buds already and are about 2 feet tall! There is a good chance they will be in bloom for the plant sale!

There are about 15 plant trays that will be transported to Tollgate, each with about 50-60 plants in it. Currently the plan is to bring the flats out to Tollgate for the workday on May 20th and pot up several of the smaller seedlings into gallon size pots. So although the Nursery is already jam packed, we are going to be adding 200 or so more gallon pots to it! Check out the pictures nearby… and I’ll see you soon in the Nursery!”

We also need YOUR donations for the plant sale by Saturday May 20th. We need time to get everything organized and have the plants comfortably settled in their pots before the sale. Check your email for updates to the PLANT REQUEST list – this will let you know what plants we still need and which ones we are overstocked on and can no longer accept. And please tell all your friends to come to Tollgate on Saturday June 3rd to shop a great selection of plants!

Joining the nursery team is a great way to learn and provides a different kind of gardening experience. Contact Peg Palmer or Renee Cottrell for more information or to join the team.

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

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
Plant Identification Tags

As you have read in our previous newsletters we have a new engraving device for our plant identification tags for the gardens. We are moving forward in engraving and waiting on final supplies to post the tags in the gardens. This will improve the identification of plants for volunteers and visitors with botanical names, cultivars/variety names when known as well as some common names. This is in keeping with our mission to provide horticultural information to the public and will enhance the overall educational value of the site. I would like to thank the volunteers that have trained to use the engraver for their time and effort on this project.

REMINDER FOR AREA GARDEN LEADERS AND TEAMS!!

We need you to submit the information for plants in your gardens to create the new tags. You can submit the original tags from the nursery to be copied or a legibly written or typed list to Roy at a meeting or via email.

1. Provide as much info as you have available on the plant: Botanical name, cultivar name, common name. Example: Echinacea purpurea, ‘PowWow Wild Berry’, Purple Coneflower
2. DOUBLE CHECK YOUR SPELLING.
3. Once the tags are completed Roy will notify the team to post them in the garden.

Farewell to Webster

Sadly, Tollgate lost a friend recently. Webster, part of the Tollgate draft horse team of Noah and Webster, has succumbed to the infirmities of old age. Webster came to Tollgate from Greenfield village a little over ten years ago. He was a willing puller and a great envoy for Tollgate. Webster was a wonderful example of the sheer size and horse power needed for farming before the coming of tractors. He had a good life at Tollgate. He will be missed.
2017 PANCAKE BRUNCH

Brunch Photos by Darretta Ferasin and Outdoor Photos by Renee Cottrell
WORK ACTIVITY DAYS
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 May Volunteer Meeting. The tickets are $2.00 each or 3 tickets for $5.00.

**Quilt Size:** 59 inches x 75 inches  
**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

**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!

Barb Burke  
Susan Clayton  
Joe Costa  
Kathryn Currier  
Bill Davis  
Marilyn Diekman  
Bernie Ethridge  
Kathryn Fitzpatrick  
Brian Frol

Linda Galante  
MaryCarole Haering  
Ellen Kennedy  
Paul Lukasiewicz  
Karen Maynard  
Nancy Miller  
Kathie Mitchell  
Joan Monning  
Patti Nehr  
Scott Najar  
Julie Petris  
Susan Pratt  
Carmen Tayler  
Virginia Thomas  
Jeff and Carolyn Volk  
John and Barb Woodrich  
Sue Woodsum
**Disinfecting Garden Tools When Working with Hosta Plants and Roses**

**Hosta Virus X (HVX):** All garden tools coming into contact with hosta plants must be cleaned before and after each hosta is touched to avoid the spread of the Hosta Virus X (HVX) whether you are cutting leaves, scapes (flower stalk) or digging near the root system.

**Rose Rosette Disease (RRD):** All garden tools coming into contact with a rose bush must be cleaned before and after each rose is touched to avoid the spread of the Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) whether you are deadheading, pruning or digging near the root system. RRD is a virus that endangers all ornamental roses. The disease is spread by a microscopic wingless mite and could be transferred by the sap of an infected plant via garden tools to an uninfected plant. Symptoms vary but will be obvious. Unusual leaf color and growth habits are common and the rose often displays ‘witches broom’ type branching. There is no cure. The rose will eventually die.

\[
\text{Sap and soil from either the hosta or rose bush must be removed from your tool before moving to the next plant.}
\]

Disinfecting kits or small cleaning packs are available at the **Tool Disinfection Stations** and can be carried to your worksite. Buckets and a large tub are available to scrub large tools. Below is the current cleaning process:

- **Spray pruners or scissors** with bottle labeled “Alcohol”. Wipe with blue toweling swatch to remove any hosta or rose sap.

- **For trowels, hand weeding tools or hedge trimmers** use the “Lysol® Dual Action Disinfecting Cloths” and let the tool air dry. If these tools are heavily soiled, it may be necessary to scrub the tool in a bucket of water with a couple of drops of “Dawn®” concentrate detergent first.

- **For shovels, garden forks or rakes** scrub the tool with a brush in a bucket of water and a couple of drops of “Dawn®” concentrate detergent and water. Take the bucket to the water spigot near your work location. A large kitty litter box is available for scrubbing rakes. Use the “Lysol® Dual Action Disinfecting Cloths” to disinfect the tool. Let the tool air dry. For lightly soiled tools, the disinfecting cloths can be used alone.

- **Collect used blue wipes, disinfecting cloths and disposable gloves in the provided kit carrier (plastic tea jug) and dispose of them into the galvanized trash can near the Tool Disinfecting Station. Alcohol is flammable under certain conditions. The trash can also be taken to the worksite.**

- **Used detergent water can be dumped in the dry rock ravine bordering the hosta garden. Other locations will be determined.**

- **Disposable gloves have been provided to wear alone or over your garden gloves. You will find these at the Tool Disinfecting Station. Clean and disinfect gloves that come into contact with the hosta and rose sap.**

*The cleaning regimen may extend to other garden areas to prevent the spread of new garden viruses.*

Please return supplies to the station they came from.
Tollgate Volunteer Information

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.

Garden Tools Available for Use at Tollgate

- Spades
- Garden Rakes
- Brooms
- Wheel Barrels
- Weed Buckets
- Leaf Rakes
- Garden Hoe
- Long Handled Garden Forks

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

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

The Tollgate Gardens Advisory Council next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 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.

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
www.tollgate.msu.edu
Contact Roy Prentice:
248-347-3860 ext. 251