Highlights of
the 2018 Market Season
by Kirstin Clauson, market manager

The market season has now come to an end. In the throws of the market season it can be hard to find the time to write about what’s going on. The weekly decisions and unknowns and communications keep us busy — not to mention other jobs too. But I’ve been really happy to be a part of the market this year.

Every week the entertainment was a fun, very eclectic mix. From disk jockey sets, to indie-emo by local singer-songwriter, Grant Fairbrother, to a choir with the Open Circle Singers to rock’n’roll by Ron Fowler and the RF’s to our mainstay and returning performers whom we love, Danny Ward, Audri Cooke, The Muse & Eye, Barbara Dunn, Sommer Harris, Talia Marcus, Island Strings, Rumi and Arthur Keast with guests and the Safety Pin Café. Some brand new guests including the amazing vocalist Maliyah Tucker.

Shop the Giving Trees to Benefit Nonprofits

Both Goosefoot and the Island Athletic Club are hosting the Giving Tree again this year. There will be trees located at the Bayview Cash store and Island Athletic Club. South Whidbey Tilth is among the participating nonprofits which will benefit from ornament purchases. The ornaments on trees at both locations will be ready for purchase by December 1.

We have new seed packet ornaments to hanging from the boughs at $5 each. Special thanks to seed donors Randy Weisz for Mountain White half-runner beans; Andréa Linton for hollyhocks and columbine; Paula Richards for pole beans, calendula, nasturtium, snow peas and Soraya sunflower seeds. Thank you also to Janet and Paula Richards for hosting the packet assembly party and to Paula for designing the packets. Ida Gianopulos is filling seed packets at the ornament-making work party.
Seeking Council Trustee Volunteers

The governing board of South Whidbey Tilth is its Council of Trustees. It is an all-volunteer working group, composed of five standing committees as well as president, vice president and secretary. In addition to the currently unfilled positions of vice president and secretary, we are looking for nominees to serve as chairpersons for finance; education; and membership, community relations and development. The president, market and land stewardship chairs continue through January 2020 in their two-year terms.

Volunteer nominations received so far include Anza Muenchow for education, Andréa Linton for membership, community relations and development. Edward Hueneke is willing to continue as finance chair, but would like someone else to take over.

We welcome volunteers to contact the nominating committee as soon as possible. If you aren’t ready, consider joining one of the standing committees and attend the regular monthly business meetings. A council member must have been a South Whidbey Tilth member for one year and been active in some committee or activity. Read more in the bylaws on the website www.southwhidbeytilth.org/about.html.

Elections are at the annual membership meeting scheduled for January 27. To learn more about the positions, contact one of the current council members listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Or contact the nominating committee:

• Anza Muenchow
  anzam@whidbey.net, 360-579-2890
• Kirstin Clauson
  kirstinclauson@gmail.com
  360-395-8842

WHAT IS TILTH?

Tilth (tilth) n. [fr OE Tilian = th]
a. the quality of cultivated soil,
b. the cultivation of wisdom and the spirit.

MISSION

South Whidbey Tilth Association is an educational association, the purpose of which is to support and promote biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture. Our commitment is to advocate, study and teach agricultural practices consistent with stewardship of the natural world. We promote and demonstrate principles and practices of sustainable agriculture, as well as cultivate a variety of opportunities for local market gardeners and farmers. The organization is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2018 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICES

President: Prescott.....................360-682-8642 president@southwhidbeytilth.org
Vice President: OPEN
Finance: Edward Hueneke ............360-331-5806 edgrant012@gmail.com
Secretary: OPEN
Membership,PR & Dev.: Andréa Linton .360-221-1310 membership@southwhidbeytilth.org
Education: OPEN
Land Stewardship: Ida Gianopulos ...503-730-0199 landsteward@southwhidbeytilth.org
Market: Kirstin Clauson.................360-395-8842 market@southwhidbeytilth.org

PROJECT LEADERS

Native Landscape: J.C. May.............360-331-1004 mayjc45@gmail.com
Community Garden: Ida Gianopulos 503-730-0199 landsteward@southwhidbeytilth.org
Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson.....360-579-2890 info@southwhidbeytilth.org

CONTRACT SERVICES

Market Manager: Kirstin Clauson.......360-395-8842 market@southwhidbeytilth.org
Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste..........360-331-6135 bookkeeper@southwhidbeytilth.org
Volunteers in residence:
  Pete Little............................425-232-6830 dpete@hotmail.com
  Mokihana Calizar....................808-398-6654 mokihanacalizar@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

South Whidbey Tilth membership is $25 annually. Additional people in a household may join for $10 each. The newsletters can be received by email or by USPS mail. To update membership information, contact Membership at membership@southwhidbeytilth.org or leave a message at 360-321-0757. Membership renewals are due every June and members can expect a reminder.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The South Whidbey Tilth newsletter is a bimonthly publication of South Whidbey Tilth Association. The primary purpose of this publication is to foster communication among our membership and friends with information about our mission and our organization. A newsletter subscription is $25. Submissions of letters, articles, book reviews and photos are encouraged. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit for clarity, style and concision. Advertising and opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily the policy of the South Whidbey Tilth Association.


ADVERTISING RATES IN THE NEWSLETTER

Full page $70, half $40, quarter $22 and eighth $12. Classified ads are also available for a dime a word.

Mail: South Whidbey Tilth
PO Box 252, Langley WA 98260
Phone:360-321-0757
Email: info@southwhidbeytilth.org

Website: www.southwhidbeytilth.org
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SouthWhidbeyTilth
Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

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Angie’s New Adventure

You may have noticed a decrease in educational events and the absence of the monthly garden discussions this fall. Our education committee chair Angie Hart has gone to a new adventure with her dog, Maria, and good friend, Ben. They are on their way, after a holiday road trip, to North Carolina.

We held a party for her after the November 15 business meeting and sent her off with a book gift, North Carolina Extension Gardener Handbook, and lots of gratitude for her service on the council and as our 2016 intern.

Angie was presented with the carved cedar necklace as the gift that keeps on giving — a Native American cultural tradition. Mokihana Calizar composed a special story for her.

“Not so very long ago the community of South Whidbey Tilth welcomed their first intern. Her name was Angie Hart. The small story about Angie Hart is: she fed us very, very well. What she offered we might call the spirit of generosity, curiosity and youthful enthusiasm that grew as she committed to being more involved.

“As we gather to celebrate Angie’s new adventure south to North Carolina, we send her off with the gift of the Killer Whale Necklace. We Raise Our Hands to her, and wish her, Ben and Maria the very best.”

The Killer Whale necklace by Tulalip Tribes artist, Tony Hatch, came to us at a thank-you banquet, “Raising Hands,” this fall in response to a Tulalip Cares grant that Grow Whidbey Apprenticeship Training Program received. Raising Hands is about gratitude and about passing along good fortune and thanksgiving. In the spirit of giving back, Angie is carrying the necklace on and will give it away one day.

Red Alder Woodlot

by Janet Richards

Alders, commonly known as those spindly trees along the road that drop their branches and muck up our driveways, are also super beneficial plants for our forests and gardens.

Red alder (Alnus rubra), a Pacific Northwest native, is a fast-growing pioneer species, that readily fills in disturbed, sunny spots. Alders improve the soil because they fix nitrogen and add organic matter (leaves and branches), thereby helping regenerate the forest.

Besides being used for timber and firewood, red alder chips and leaves make excellent mulch. Logs and branches can be used to construct hugelkultur beds. Native Americans used the bark layers, roots, leaves, twigs, cones and sap for a variety of medicinal and culinary purposes. The bark contains the anti-inflammatory salicin, a chemical related to aspirin.

This fall we planted 22 yearlings near an existing young alder to start a woodlot between the market area and the highway. The trees came from the garden of Janet and Paula Richards, which seems to be a natural alder nursery. Janet is tending about 20 more seedlings in pots that can be planted next year.

We hope to learn from our growing alders, so that the woodlot can be expanded, diversified with other species, and enjoyed as an extension of the native woodland on the Tilth land.

Native Bare Root Plant Sale Has Begun

This year the Whidbey Island Conservation District has 30 species of native shrubs, deciduous trees, ground covers and conifers. The WICD Native Plant Sale Storefront has expanded descriptions and pictures of all the plants offered.

Preorders will be accepted through January 31, 2019. Pick up of all orders will be Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Greenbank Farm (an alternative date of Friday, February 22 can be made by prior arrangement). Ordering is easy at the online store on the Conservation District website, www.whidbeycd.org/wicd-storefront.html. Printed order forms are available by calling 360-678-4708 or toll-free, 888-678-4922.

Do you have a large conifer restoration project (200+ of the same conifer species)? Call the district for a quantity discount.
In addition to his professional background Eric farms native plants on Whidbey Island in Washington’s Puget Sound and owns Northwest Meadowscapes, northwestmeadowscapes.com, an all-native grass and wildflower seed company serving Washington and Oregon.

Watch for more information as plans develop. The program is followed by a general meeting, election of council members and a potluck. Join us in Trinity Lutheran Church’s Grigware Hall in the Annex by the highway in Freeland.

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**President’s Message: Thankfulness**

_by Prescott, president_

Thirty-one of you responded to the survey the Council of Trustees prepared and we will be gathering for a strategic planning workshop as to how our organization can be most effective in creating quality food access opportunities within our community — both growing food and eating it.

Some ideas include recording our classes and posting them online, building a roadside farm stand so that fresh local food is available when the Farmers’ Market is not open, training people in community gardening techniques and more.

We’ll continue reaching out to you now and in the future for your ideas and talents through monthly meetings, newsletter articles, emails and social media. We’re looking for ways to make projects fun and interesting.

You’ll be receiving the annual request for financial support in the mail in December. In advance, we thank you for your engagement and generosity.
and a four-piece string quartet made up of young Whidbey natives called Empyrean. The annual all-day SWAM (South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival) on June 24 was also a success in its seventh year with extraordinary artists including the Hoe & the Harrow from Anacortes, local talent Bekah Zachritz and world-renowned violinist Andre Feriante.

We wrapped up the market with a couple of events. The Harvest Festival was on September 23, kicking off Whidbey Island Grown Week. We were able to get the wonderful Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band to bring their folk-country ambiance. As a bonus service, we were able to provide free apple pressings made possible by Tim Clark who brought his press to the market, showed us how to use it and assisted all day with volunteers Ida Gianopulos, Kym Saephan and Joanne Martinis, all helping people make juice. There was an Apple Pie-Off raffle fundraiser for Tilth. We raised about $160 with half the pot going to the pie-makers and half to Tilth, though most of the pie-makers decided to donate their winnings back to Tilth. There were eight pie-makers in all. It was fun for customers to try tastes of the pies and see which ones they wanted to win. And bakers got to showcase their baking proclivities. Also fun games rounded out the day, such as guessing the amount of calendula seeds, organic coffee beans and pumpkin seeds (the closest guessers won the item), along with bobbing for apples and egg relays.

On the last market, the Whidbey Island Cloggers presented a clogging show — their public debut. Hahna Luna returned with Fairy Magic Entertainment to put on a magic show for kids in the cob playhouse that focused on food and farming. Doughnuts from Whidbey Island Doughnuts were provided as a thank-you to customers and vendors. And, as with all-season-long, Chef Edward was in the pavilion kitchen providing his amazing breakfasts and lunches. Prescott and Christina Kahn were in the Laughing Cat serving customers, making coffee and selling their delicious baked pastries. A HUGE thank-you to them who have kept that engine going and provide the warmth, friendliness and tastiness that we can enjoy every week during the market.

Also, not to be missed in thanks, are our other vendors! Farmers make the backbone of a farmers’ market and we are so lucky to have a great set of veggie and fruit vendors. Congratulations to Old School Market Farm on their first year of farming at Tilth and providing wonderful produce to vend all season long. Also Lesedi Farm, Blackberry Moon, Maha Farm & Forest, Nettle Hollow and Louise’s Produce provided us with amazing produce this year. The Community Produce Booth, which was newly implemented last year, is, I’d say, quite a success. In total it brought in about $2,355. Produce came from growers and gardeners who couldn’t otherwise be there, providing anyone from the community with the opportunity to sell their organic produce. Thanks to Michael Seraphinoff for staffing it all season long. The market also comes alive with our varied other vendors including Alex’s Tie-Dye, Windy Hill Farms, Ba-de-ah’s Art and Handmade Goods, The Herbal Workshop’s Organic Herbal Soaps, MJ Cooke’s FarmART Pet Portraiture, Grandpa Rufus Rose’s wooden spinner toys, Iddins Woodworks, Buzzmobile Café, Bees Whimsy beeswax candles and goods, WiskOwl Wonders, Suzanne Gibson’s beaded wands and eggs, Larry’s copper jewelry, St. Hubert’s Catholic Church and Saints Flowers wooden cutting boards, bird houses and flowers. Total market sales were about $25,000 this year. Down by not very much from last year at $27,000 and $28,755 in 2016. The question of the continue-ability of the market remains. It is a smaller market, but we all value it so much because of its beautiful community space and event every weekend. We added roadside signage this year, which we think helped increase visitors, and put up a survey for a short while as to preferred market days. Most people preferred to keep it on Sundays, with many others saying a weekday evening market on Thursdays would be of preference. We will be formulating ideas and action plans this winter when discussing the market. For now, it’s just nice to revel in the experience of another year of wonderful people, food, organic farming, arts, crafts, music and community. Thanks to customers, visitors, vendors, musicians, volunteers (shout out to Pete, Moki, and the Cooke family for helping setup and take-down the market every week), and everyone who made the market possible this year. Looking to the future, which keeps Whidbey a place of environmental, social, and economic health and creation.
Grandin Returns to Country Living Expo

Registration is open for this year’s Country Living Expo and Cattlemen’s Winterschool January 26, 2019, at Stanwood High School. Temple Grandin, PhD will speak twice on “Behavioral Principles and Reducing Stress in Animal Handling” in the first and fifth session. Her two classes are available and included when you register for the 2019 Country Living Expo. The cost for 2019 is $70 for adults before January 1, 2019 and a subsidized student rate of $10 for students between the ages of 12 and 18. For those not needing the subsidy, the student rate is $40.

There are 170 classes available at this year’s Expo including 60 brand new classes. There are so many topics being shared at this year’s Expo – from raising livestock, designing a drip irrigation system, hugelkultur, gardening, cooking, mountain bike and motorcycle tune up, pouring cement, building a small barn, owning a camel and so many more.

For everyone raising livestock the mantra has always been: you must be a grass farmer first. Steve Fransen, Washington State University (WSU) expert on forage production and harvest, will also be a keynote speaker at Saturday’s Expo. Fransen will address adjusting the pasture and forage management and seed varieties to maximize forage quality and production during drought.

Please take a look at the class descriptions, which are available to download as a pdf on the Skagit County WSU Extension service website, extension.wsu.edu/skagit/countrylivingexpo. When you are ready to register for the Expo please go to the WSU Extension Service wufoo form: countrylivingexpo.wufoo.com/forms/m10od0890c906yf.

In addition Dr. Temple Grandin will be speaking at the Everett Civic Auditorium on Friday night, January 25 at 7 p.m. Tickets for this event are $40 dollars per person. To purchase tickets for Friday night please go to the Brown Paper Tickets website: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3820710.

Tilth’s Holiday Party to Be a Raffle

Tilth members and their guests are invited to the annual holiday party on December 28. We’ll be gathering at MAHA Farm and Forest in Clinton on Friday night about 5:30 p.m. for a potluck, party and raffle. Bring something nice to eat or drink and share.

Instead of the traditional white elephant gift exchange, bring something to raffle. Tickets are $1 for each chance to win an item or several. The raffle will also help raise funds for Tilth’s programs. We encourage you to solicit from local business as well as help clear out any unneeded gifts of your own. The item, service or experience should be of good value. There will be tax receipts available for donors.

Come to 4328 Glendale in Clinton. Consider carpooling with others to save parking spaces and so that folks who don’t drive after dark can also attend. For more information and directions contact Marc Wilson or Anza Munenow at 360-579-2890 or email info@southwhidbeytilth.org.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

South Whidbey Tilth is looking for someone to serve as the editor of its newsletter. It requires someone to work with the Tilth Council of Trustees, particularly the education and membership committees to determine topics of interest to the membership and to write or assign articles to be written. It is produced every other month. The editor works with a layout artist and copy editor using a style sheet for consistency. Please contact Prescott for more information at 360-682-8642 or email prscot@whidbey.net.
Join, Renew or Donate to Tilth’s Projects

☐ Join or renew your South Whidbey Tilth membership. A single household membership is $25 and $10 for each additional adult household member. One newsletter is mailed or emailed to each household. Please list each member’s name. Enclose $25 (for one) + ___ (number of additional household members x $10) = $________

☐ I am interested in volunteering: ☐ event planning, ☐ gardening or landscaping, ☐ other

☐ I/we also want to make a $_______ donation to help with the goals of South Whidbey Tilth, a nonprofit corporation, EIN #91-1456495. ☐ Contact me about estate donations to South Whidbey Tilth’s Sustaining Fund.

☐ Please keep my/our donation anonymous. ☐ I/we authorize publication of my/our name(s) as a donor.

Name_____________________________________________________ Email ________________________________

Name_____________________________________________________ Email ________________________________

Name_____________________________________________________ Email ________________________________

Mailing address ___________________________________________ Town ____________________ Zip __________

Phone ____________________________ Mobile ____________________ I want to receive: ☐ email updates ☐ newsletter online

Please mail to: South Whidbey Tilth Association, P.O. Box 252, Langley, Washington 98260, or send via PayPal.
**CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

1 to 31 *Giving Tree Ornaments* to benefit Island nonprofits at Bayview Cash Store and Island Athletic Club (check out Tilth’s seed packets)

2 *Tilth Film Night* features *Oyster*, Sunday at 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. film, R.S.V.P. to melissa@movingimages.org

8 *Tilth Focus Planning Workshop*, Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m. in Coupeville, if interested contact president@southwhidbeytilth.org or leave a message at 360-321-0757

10 *Seed Growers, Black Leg disease and the Quarantine Area on Whidbey Island*, interactive-video room, WSU Extension Island County, 406 N Main St. Coupeville. 3 to 5 p.m.

20 *Business meeting*, Thursday at 6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Annex classroom in Freeland; all members are welcome

28 *Tilth Holiday Party*, Friday at 5:30 p.m.; potluck, raffle and fun; hosted by MAHA Farm and Forest

**JANUARY**

13 *Registration opens for Whidbey Gardening Workshop* on March 2 in Oak Harbor

17 *Business meeting*, Thursday at 6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Annex classroom in Freeland; all members are welcome to participate

18 to 19 *Cascadia Grains Conference* in Olympia, Registration open now www.cascadiagrains.com

25 *Temple Grandin*, PhD speaking at Everett Civic Auditorium, 7 p.m., www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3820710

26 *Cattlemen’s Winter School and Country Living Expo*, Stanwood H.S., extension.wsu.edu/skagit/CountryLiving-Expo Registration is OPEN.

27 *Annual Membership Meeting of South Whidbey Tilth*, Sunday, time to be determined, Trinity Lutheran Annex Grigware Hall in Freeland; guest speaker Eric Lee-Mäder of the Xerces Society, council elections and potluck

**FEBRUARY**

2 *Sound Waters University*, Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at South Whidbey High School

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**Whidbey Wonders Now Open at Ken’s Korner**

Carie Elder, who has been selling Knead Bread at Bayview and Langley Farmers’ Markets is trying out a new retail concept. She’s opened a store in Ken’s Korner, across the corridor from the pharmacy, and she is interested in featuring Whidbey Island food producers, bakers, processors and other vendors. She opened as planned on Friday after Thanksgiving. She said, “The grand opening was amazing. I am so thankful that locals are coming out and supporting their neighborhood.” Contact her at whidbeywonders@gmail.com, if you have products or ideas.