



# South Whidbey Tilth

*Serving farmers, gardeners and consumers interested in environmentally sound, sustainable and socially equitable agriculture*

Volume 30, Number 4

July/August 2012

## Music and Sheep to Shawl Events Draw Market Crowds

Sunday at the South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market is more than just a market, featuring events, food, music, children's sandbox and woodland trails to explore. The seven-hour South Whidbey Music Festival on June 24 attracted a lot of customers and some vendors stayed for most of it.

The Sheep to Shawl event on the second Sunday of each month always pulls in lots of visitors curious to watch the next step in the season-long garment making process. Preparing wool and fiber for spinning, and spinning are the topics of the next two Sheep to Shawl events.

Sunday, July 8 local handspinners come with their carders, flickers and combs to prepare wool and alpaca/llama fiber for

*Market events, see page 7*

## Get Ready for the Fair

It's official, the premium list for the county fair is online! The newly named Whidbey Island Fair is August 16 to 19 at the fairgrounds in Langley. Check in at the *Fair's website*. The hard copy booklet is also called the *How-to-Enter the Fair Guide*. It is available at libraries and business establishments around the island.

Once again South Whidbey Tilth and Deer Lagoon Grange are joint superintendents for five open-class divisions and we're looking for leaders, helpers and judges for each.

- Vegetables-B
- Fruits-C
- Herbs-D
- Honey-E
- Grains and Grasses-F

Besides vegetables, the Vegetable Division includes classes for compost, both worm and standard; scarecrows; and garden critters, both people and animal sculptures made of vegetables, even fruit, seeds or nuts.

**Entry day is Tuesday, August 14 from 1 to 7 p.m.** in the Burrier shed. Exhibitors register all their exhibits either at home using the fair's online entry process on the *Whidbey Island Fair website*, or at the fairgrounds on entry day before submitting their exhibits for judging. Be sure to read the general entry rules carefully.

If you can help set up prior to entry day or on entry day, help accept entries, steward the exhibit any day during the four-day fair, please select *Pam Nodus* to email or call 360-222-3207.



*Emory Lindgard photo*

Larry Dobson on stilts added to the fun of the third annual South Whidbey Music Festival, June 24, during the Tilth Farmers' Market. After days of rain it was sunny and lots of visitors came to shop at the market and enjoy seven hours of music coordinated by Russell Clepper. [Children's faces blurred intentionally.]

## Welcoming New Vendors

This season there is no charge for selling spaces, only a 10 percent sales commission to \$200. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards are welcome. Before arriving, potential vendors should select *Market Manager Lynae Slinden* to email or call 360-341-4456.

Welcome new vendors Market Day Produce, Maria Garcia of Northwest Glass, Susan Knapp, and Eli Adadow and Marta Mulholland of Woodfire Pizza.

# Message from the President

by Linda Good

It is amazing how many markets there are on South Whidbey now: Thursday in Clinton, Friday in Langley, Saturday at Bay-



view and, of course, Sunday on the South Whidbey Tilth land. Vendors have many choices and so do shoppers. I was selling raffle tickets at the Langley market and chatting with the market manager there, Kent Ratekin, who said they don't want to compete with Tilth, but we agreed that each market has its own personality and specialties. South Whidbey Tilth is more than a market.

I'm especially glad that our pea patch plots are now all being gardened. With the land we have, we can and will create more plots.

Gary Ingram, our membership chairperson, was telling me that there have recently been generous donations in support of Calyx, our young and growing arts school.

Tilth members will be celebrating our annual Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet Thursday, August 9. We'll share more about our 30-year history and what we're planning for the future. I hope to see you there!

## Volunteer Needs at Tilth

- Adopt a bed to tidy and cultivate; pull thistles. Weekly work parties are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays now. Contact land steward Anza Muenchow at 360-579-2890.
- Market set up, clean up, recycling and hospitality; contact Lynae Slinden at 360-341-4456.
- Plan Island County Fair exhibit, first meeting 7 p.m., Monday, July 16; contact Prescott 360-544-2278.
- Plan Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet; contact Linda Good at 360-221-6439 or Gary Ingram at 360-222-3207.



## WHAT IS TILTH?

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

South Whidbey Tilth Association is a nonprofit corporation and a chapter of Washington Tilth Association.

### MISSION

**Washington Tilth Association** is an educational and research association, the purpose of which is to support and promote biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture.

**South Whidbey Tilth Association** is a diverse network of people working cooperatively within our organization and in the community. 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.

### 2012 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

President: Linda Good ..... 360-221-6439 *email president*

Finance/Funding: Edward Hueneke 360-331-5806 *email treasurer*

Secretary: VACANT

Membership: Gary Ingram ..... 360-331-0373 *email membership chair*

Education: Eric Conn ..... 360-321-2805 *email education chair*

Land Stewardship: Anza Muenchow 360-579-2890 *email land steward*

Market: Annapoorne Colangelo ..... 360-579-3735 *email market chair*

### WASHINGTON TILTH REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE

Prescott ..... 360-544-2278 *email Washington Tilth board rep*

### PROJECT LEADERS

Native Landscape: JC May ..... 360-331-1004 *email JC*

Water manager: Bob Wendt ..... 360-579-5844 *email Tilth water manager*

Community Garden: Anza Muenchow 360-579-2890 *email community garden coordinator*

Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson ..... 360-579-2890 *email webmaster*

### CONTRACT SERVICES

Market manager: Lynae Slinden ..... 360-341-4456 *email market manager*

Newsletter editor: Prescott ..... 360-544-2278 *email newsletter editor*

Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste ..... 360-331-6135 *email Tilth bookkeeper*

### 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, one per household. To update membership information, email [Gary Ingram](mailto:Gary.Ingram@swtilthmembership.yolasite.com) or call 360-222-3207 or visit [swtilthmembership.yolasite.com](http://swtilthmembership.yolasite.com).

### 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, including meeting minutes and project reports. 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.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 15

**Newsletter committee:** A.T. Birmingham-Young, Gary Ingram, Stevie Linton, Prescott and Marc Wilson.

### 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.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Mail to: South Whidbey Tilth  
 PO Box 252, Langley WA 98260

Phone: 360-579-2892

Email: [info\(at\)southwhideytilth\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)southwhideytilth(dot)org)

Website: [www.southwhidbeytilth.org](http://www.southwhidbeytilth.org)

Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

# Seed-saving Tips for Local Adaptability, Less Cost



by Anza Muenchow

This time of year I select the plant varieties whose seeds I want to save. Years ago I saw how much seeds were costing and how small the seed packets had become. There are a few types of seeds I always choose to save for next year's plantings. I attended a few classes on seed saving and

I am just saving the easy ones for now.

Because I plant some hybrid varieties in my garden and hybrid seeds do not produce plants the same as the parents, I don't save these seeds. But the self-pollinating plants like peas and beans are usually pretty easy to save. If I particularly like the quality of one of these

crops, I will tag them and allow the pods to fully ripen and dry out. This can be difficult if we have a rainy fall,

because the pods will mold on the vines. But last year was dry, so it may be this year, and worth trying again. I pick the pods when they are dry and then place them in a paper bag in a dry place like a hoop house/green house. Always mark the bags with the variety, date and descriptions about growing conditions and perhaps weather. After a few weeks, if the seeds are not dry, they can be dried for a short time in a food dehydrator on a 90-degree setting. The seeds should be stored in an airtight jar in a cool, dark place to save for planting next year.

The heirloom varieties, which produce seeds that are mostly the same as the parent plants, can be easy to save. For example, peppers are mostly self-pollinating and the seeds last for many years. Let the pepper fruit get fully ripe before picking and collecting the seeds. Another solanacea, heirloom tomatoes, are also relatively easy. When you have selected the fully ripe (over ripe maybe) fruits to gather seeds from, squeeze out the pulp into a cup and leave it in a warm place for a few days. Skim off any mold when it forms. After they go through this fermenting process, you can rinse the good seeds off, spread on a paper plate or napkin and let them dry fully. Again remember to label everything you are saving with variety and date.

The easiest seeds to save are the open-pollinating, non-hybrid (also called heirloom) annuals. However, plants that are not self-pollinated can cross-pollinate; therefore, it is best to grow only one variety of a plant from which you want to save seed that season. If two varieties of spinach bloom near each other, the resultant seed is likely to be a cross between the two. Similarly, all cucurbits (squashes and cucumbers) can cross-pollinate and beets and chard can cross-pollinate.

For seed collecting, my favorite open-pollinated plants include lettuces, arugula, beets, chard, parsley, cilantro and brassicas like mustards, broccoli and radishes. These plants

are mostly insect pollinated and are bred to cross-pollinate with little change from generation to generation.

Saving annual plant seeds is usually simple. Choose your healthiest plants, mark or tie with a special cord to a tall stake so the wind won't blow them over and the seed heads stay off the ground. You may want to limit overhead watering, so perhaps find plants at the ends of your rows to save seed from. Lettuce may cross, but I find I like the varieties of lettuces that grow from those crossed seeds. Arugula, cilantro, mustard and radishes are pretty easy. When seeds are ripe they usually turn from white to cream colored or light brown to dark brown. You can eat some of the radish pods when they are still green. They are delicious in stir fries, but let some dry out and save the seeds.

*Enjoy the results of your seeds year after year as the plants adapt to your growing environment.*

Beets, chard, cabbage and parsley are biennial, which means the plants produce seeds in the second year

after planting. In our climate, it is usually possible to keep these plants alive through the winter and they will flower the next spring. Some gardeners prefer digging out the plants and storing them over winter in sawdust or sand at 32 to 40 degrees. In the spring, plant them out in a new location to flower and produce their seeds.

Consider keeping good records of your seed saving activities including names, seed source, planting date, and the number of previous generations kept. Perhaps include notes on the plants themselves, including time to maturity, productivity, the size, shape, color and flavor of fruits and any notes on soil, pests, diseases or other growing conditions.

As you would expect, different seeds store for varying periods of time. In general, the bigger the seed and the thicker its skin the longer it will last.

Just remember that when saving seed, always harvest from the best. Choose from vigorous, disease-free plants with qualities you desire. Enjoy the results of your seeds year after year as the plants adapt to your growing environment.



Available at the  
**SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH  
FARMERS' MARKET**

A month-by-month manual tailored to our climate and growing season and useful for beginning to advanced gardeners. The 78-page guide outlines each month's garden tasks and lists hundreds of vegetable, herb and flower varieties to plant. It also includes strategies for year-round gardening, articles about organic gardening techniques and activities for kids.

**\$15**  
includes tax

## Raffle Results and Anniversary Party



Prescott photo

Edward Hueneke sits in the rain, valiantly awaiting the market's opening bell to start selling the last of the raffle tickets. The grand prize winner was Leonard Good who donated the chicken tractor to Calyx.

Council members and friends sold tickets during the last five months. There were 11 additional prizes included in the raffle which had been donated early in 2012. Cheers to all those donors and to all who bought tickets.

The June 17 drawing date turned out rainy and cool, but we had lots of folks at the market who also came for Tilth's 30th anniversary party. The garden-theme cake was cut by Prescott, who was Tilth's first president in 1982. She showed

by Linda Good

Special thanks to Gordon Collins for letting South Whidbey Tilth raffle his beautiful, handmade, chicken tractor as the grand prize in for our recent fundraiser. Gordon held a chicken tractor workshop last summer at the Farmers' Market, where he shared his knowledge. Prescott designed and printed the raffle tickets, and



Andréa Linton photo

"Happy 30th Birthday, June 19, 1982" was the inscription on the lovely cake served June 17 at the Tilth Farmers' Market. The cake was half chocolate and half white cake, decorated in rows of garden produce in icing with chocolate crumbles as compost — a very tilthy touch. Thank you to Sally Nelson for arranging the cake through Payless.

Len admires Gordon's workmanship. A few years ago Len designed and built a tractor for me and we are now donating that one to Tilth and Calyx. Anza Muenchow will be contributing a couple of hens, so they can start right away clearing and fertilizing an area for the planned children's garden.

We hope this raffle got others thinking about the value of these tractors and they will consider either building one (check the Internet for designs) or having one built to both raise chickens and fertilize the garden.

## Vegetable Variety Trial Field Day in Greenbank

by Nathaniel Talbot, Seed Production and Variety Trials Coordinator

The Greenbank Farm Agricultural Training Center is holding a Variety Trial Farm Walk from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Monday, July 23. The Training Center will be showcasing several of its spring variety trials, including carrots, cabbage, beets, romaine lettuce, leaf lettuce, Russian kale and European kale. For each of these crops you will be able to see between six and ten different varieties in their full maturity, as well as participate in taste tests and overall evaluations of varietal performances. The Center would like the participation of as many farmers and gardeners as possible in order to get a diversity of opinions on what makes an ideal variety for our Whidbey Island gardens and fields. The final data sets of the trials will later be published and distributed to all interested regional growers.

Also on display during the farm walk will be several of the Center's seed crops, including radish, broccoli, mustard, peas, spinach and arugula, at mid-maturity. Participants will have a chance to learn a bit about the management, selection and processing of these crops and take part in discussion about Greenbank Farm's longer-term goals to help foster a regional network of seed growers. The trial results, as well as visitor opinions of and experience with these varieties, will directly inform which varieties Greenbank Farm chooses to grow for seed in future years.

The Greenbank Farm is located at 765 Wonn Road in Greenbank. For information [email Nathaniel](mailto:Nathaniel) or call 360-222-3171



Prescott photo

At the end of May, Eric Conn established rows for 10 varieties of sweet corn for an organic variety trial on the Tilth campus. The trial is in collaboration with the Organic Seed Alliance with support from the Greenbank Farm Agricultural Training Center. The germinated corn was weeded, counted and thinned June 26. To get involved and share the harvest, [email Eric Conn](mailto:Eric.Conn) or call 360-321-2805.

## Tour Members' Gardens and Farms on July 21

by Gary Ingram

The annual summer garden and farm tour for South Whidbey Tilth members is Saturday, July 21. Three sites are on the tour beginning at 2 p.m. ending with a 5 p.m. potluck at the Tilth campus.

The tour begins at Anza Muenchow and Marc Wilson's *Maha Farm and Forest* in Clinton, 4328 Glendale Road. Turn west off SR 525 on to Cultus Bay Road then south on Glendale.

Next we carpool from Maha to the old Swanson Tree Farm which is now a Grade A dairy on their 200-acre historic property of bluffs, beaches and forests. We will see their greenhouse, root cellar and the solar dairy barn with milking parlor for their flock of nearly 100 sheep along with Lynn's prolific vegetable garden of raised beds. What a treat this will be!

## Grange Bux for Veggie Garden Critter Creations

The annual garden critter creation workshop sponsored by the Deer Lagoon Grange is Sunday, August 12 at the South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market. There will be "Grange Bux" too for anyone to buy odd-looking vegetables to create a creature to enter at the Island County Fair. Grange Bux are valued at one dollar apiece. Volunteers to assist children are needed. The workshop will take place during market hours, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Farmers, bring your weirdest and most misshapen vegetables and fruits to the market. Crafts people bring odd pieces of yarn, fleece, wood, etc. You'll have customers. A Grange member will reimburse you for the number of Grange Bux you accept at the end of the market.

To enter, check out the Whidbey Island Fair Premium List booklet for details about entering Garden Critters as well as any other item. The *premium list* is available online. The booklet is also available around the island in libraries, stores, etc.

Garden critters, vegetable and fruit entries must be brought to the Island County Fairgrounds in Langley, Tuesday, August 14, between 1 and 7 p.m. Entry forms can be filled out at the fair or online at the *Whidbey Island Fair website*. Come to the Fruits and Vegetable area in the Burrier Shed numbered 9 on the fair map. It's the third building from the big pole building or second from the carnival area.

## Sixth Annual Zucchini Contest

The Island County 4-H is sponsoring the annual zucchini contest at the county fair. Anyone who grows zucchini may enter. Divisions are for heaviest, longest, ugliest or prettiest zucchini. Entries must be presented by 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 19 in front of the Coffman building.

The final stop is at Karen Litfin's, 20-acre Skyroot Farm, 7297 Bailey Road. Go online to read the *Skyroot Farm blog*. Learn what is being done and come with questions.

If you can't make the full tour please join us where you can, or just come for the potluck.

## Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet

by Gary Ingram

Save the date for the annual summer party at the South Whidbey Tilth land, 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 9. Once again it's a potluck; Tilth is providing barbecued salmon, wood oven roasted pizzas — gluten free, vegetarian, and meat lovers delight. Tilth will also be organizing donations of desserts. Bring your own eating utensils. Come join us for this fun evening of great food, fine music and wonderful friends. We will not be sending out mail invitations so *mark* your calendar now.

A planning committee has formed: Gary Ingram, Linda Good and Anza Muenchow are getting things rolling. Please join us! We're looking for raffle prizes, business sponsors and helpers with food, set up and clean up. [See contact information on page 2.]

Attendance is for South Whidbey Tilth members and supporters.

## Show Off Tilth at the Fair

What does the Whidbey Island Fair and South Whidbey Tilth have in common? Education! Join us to create a meaningful exhibit that demonstrates good farm stewardship. Last year we did a display about good and bad insects. In previous years we've exhibited heirloom vegetables, crop rotation, the value of local foods and many other topics.

There will be a planning meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, July 16 at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus to brainstorm and assign tasks. For information or to share ideas, *email Prescott* or call 360-544-2278.

According to the Whidbey Island Fair premium list, An educational booth is one that has a theme, tells a message and is not trying to sell a product or solicit membership in an organization. It may provide consumer information or create a better understanding of the resources of a community, county or area. It must be noncontroversial and not politically-oriented. Space must be prearranged through the Fair office no later than August 1.

Our exhibit must be ready to enter by Saturday, August 11, between 1 and 7 p.m. in the Malone Building.

## South Whidbey Tilth Events

### Annual Plant Sale Benefit

When the Friends of Friends Medical Support Fund decided they couldn't do their annual plant sale at the Tilth Farmers' Market this year, Annapoorne Colangelo took action and organized Tilth members to hold the sale as an activity to encourage Farmers' Market attendance and to benefit both Tilth and Friends of Friends. Over \$1,000 was raised on and after May 20 and divided between the two organizations. Volunteers and expertise from Friends of Friends was provided closer to the sale. We learned a lot, but because this was Tilth's first time directly involved in this event, less was raised than in previous years. Next year we'll get started earlier and hopefully both organizations can be involved.

Thank you to volunteers Kirsten Clausen, Annapoorne Colangelo, Dick Curdy, Claudia Fuller, Toni Grove (Master Gardener consultant), Edward Hueneke, Andréa Linton, Iris "Stevie" Linton (Master Gardener consultant), Mary Jane Lungren, JC May, Prescott, Christi Rusigno, Suzanne Schlicke, Michael Seraphinoff, Vivian Stembridge, Jim and Jane Hyde.

Among the many donors of plants for the sale are Kitty Adams, Bayview Farm and Gardens, Judy Bierman, Dean Campbell, Goosefoot, LLC, Greenbank Farm Agriculture Training Center, Linda and Gordon Griesbach, Christina Kahn, Cheryl Kamera, Dana Kelly, Doug Kirk (Kirk's Nursery), Maha Farm – Anza Muenchow and Marc Wilson, Byron and Dana Moffatt, Joanne Rouse and Steve Showell, Barb Schiltz, South Whidbey Garden Club, Cathy Stacey, Steve and Donna Stansberry.

### Billings Middle School Service Day

A bus load of eighth graders from Billings Middle School in Seattle arrived Wednesday, June 6. Anza Muenchow

## Judge Takes a Stand Against Superbugs

Last month Federal Judge Theodore Katz ordered the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reconsider two denials of petitions to restrict the use of certain antibiotics on farm animals, marking the second time in recent months the agency has lost a court battle over its refusals to ban some uses of the drugs on livestock.

The New York judge rejected the FDA's arguments that it was too time-consuming and costly to revoke the approval of antibiotics on livestock and that asking the industry to voluntarily reduce the use of the drugs was preferable.

Judge Katz had already ordered the FDA in March to start proceedings to revoke the approval for the use of common antibiotics in animal feed, stating that the excessive overuse of antibiotics is threatening public health through breeding drug-resistant superbugs.

Groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council,

directed them to pull Canadian thistle from the Community Garden, plant sunflowers and paint signs for the market. The school has been coming to Tilth annually for a number of years. After lunch the children moved on to help at the Good Cheer Food Bank Garden.

### Backyard Wildlife Habitat Fair

The Freeland Hall and Park were a sea of displays at the first annual Backyard Wildlife Habitat Fair on June 2. The year-long planning really showed and credit goes to the Whidbey Island Community Wildlife Habitat team, Whidbey Audubon Society, Whidbey Watershed Stewards and Friends of Freeland. South Whidbey Tilth participated. Thank you to Anza Muenchow for seedlings for yet another Guess-the-Seedling contest. Thanks to Louise Holloway-Stanley, Michael Seraphinoff and Prescott for staffing the display.



Linda Garl and friend identify seedlings on a Guess-the-Seedling scorecard at South Whidbey Tilth's display during the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Fair. Winners of the scorecard drawing were Dawna Fowler and Kathleen Davenny.

the Union of Concerned Scientists and the American Academy of Pediatrics have long argued that the widespread use of low doses of antibiotics in animal feed lead to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics, creating a threat to humans exposed to the germs.

Antibiotics help animals grow faster because they make them digest feed more efficiently. The FDA estimates farm animals consumed 29.1 million pounds of antibiotics in 2010, up from 28.7 million pounds a year earlier.

"The rise of antibiotic resistance is a public health crisis," said Robert Lawrence, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. "With this decision, a federal judge ruled that public health matters more than FDA's excuses."

*The source for this excerpt is primarily from "FDA Ordered to Rethink Petitions on Farm Antibiotics" by Bill Tomson, published June 4, 2012, 10:45 p.m. ET, in the Wall Street Journal.*

# Calyx Breaks Ground for Garden, Starts Summer Camps

by Marta Mulholland

Calyx Community Arts School finished up our first year of school at the end of May!

We can happily announce that the Whidbey Island Garden Tour sold enough tickets to fully fund all of their grant recipients. We are grateful to have its support for our children's garden.

We broke ground on the children's garden on June 30. When you come to the Sunday markets, look for the new fence posts which delineate our Calyx garden space. These posts were generously donated by Hanson's Building Supply, who also delivered them to our site. Volunteers Matt Black-Holtby and Joey Crotty put up the posts during our recent work party. Jim Hyde brought his tractor and saved countless hours and backs by digging the post holes with his auger.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their time and energy!

As of July 2, we are heading into six weeks of Calyx summer camps. The focuses of each week are Earth, Water, Air, Fire, Wood and Universe.

Camps will include Spanish, natural building, stories, songs, and one day each week at either the beach or the forest.

Maybe some of you will have seen us in the Maxwelton parade by the time you read this. Calyx student, Liam Adadow, is excited about the first week of camp. "I wanna be a carrot

in the Maxwelton parade!"

Spaces are filling so if you're interested in some of our camp weeks, [email us](#) or call us 360-331-1323.

## Live Market Music

- July 8 Quinn Fitzpatrick, an eclectic acoustic guitarist who draws upon folk, country, rock, blues, funk, latin and jazz.
  - July 14 Danny Ward, saxophone king
  - July 22 to be announced
  - July 29 Debbie Zick on mandolin and Richard Hughes on bass
  - August 5 Eric Vanderbilt Mathews, keyboard jazz
  - August 12 Quinn Fitzpatrick
  - August 19 Arthur Keast and Avery and Dustin Scharwat, young fiddlers who energized the audience with their lively tunes at the June 24 music festival
  - August 26 Gloria Ferry Brennan, our local fifteen-year-old concert violinist who took third place at the Johansen International String Competition in Washington D.C. this past March
  - September 2 Quinn Fitzpatrick
- Please tip these hardworking musicians generously. To perform at the Tilth market, email [Linda Good](#) or call 360-221-6439.

## Market events, from page 1

spinning. Participants may even spin the fiber directly from the locks of fleece. Some of the dyed fiber will be blended with the natural colored fleece to prepare the fibers for interesting colorways in handspun yarns.

On August 12, the second Sunday, spinners bring spinning wheels, and maybe even a handspindle or two to show how the fleece that was still on the sheep or alpaca in May is transformed into beautiful yarns. Felters will be here too, to make use of the clean fibers. Dyeing fleece and yarns begins with natural dyes in August, and will continue into September with the coloring of yarns. With luck, there will be some locally grown indigo to color handspun yarns a magical blue.

Weaving, knitting and crocheting is expected to begin as soon as the yarns are ready, so that in September and October final products will be ready for visi-



Petersons family photo

Anna Petersons uses a hand carder to prepare wool for spinning.

## Mark Your Calendars Second Sundays

- July 8: Carding
- August 12: Spinning
- September 9: Weaving, Knitting, Crocheting
- October 14: Finishing Garments

tors to see. Throughout the summer of demonstrations limited amounts of the fleece products may available for sale at the market — dyed fibers in July, handspun yarns in August, September and October; and finished handspun shawls and scarves, etc. in September and October.

This fascinating series of the garment-making process is coordinated by Molly Petersons. The event takes place during market hours 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information email [Molly Petersons](#).

## BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

# Business Meeting Minutes, May 10, 2012

by Prescott, volunteer

The Thursday, May 10 business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth Association was called to order about 6 p.m. by President Linda Good, following a potluck dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church's community building.

**Attendance** — In attendance were President Linda Good; council members Edward Hueneke, Anza Muenchow, Gary Ingram and Eric Conn and general members Prescott, JC May, Anna Petersons and Antonia Palkovic; Calyx representative Marta Mulholland and her son Liam; and guest Rumi Keast. Council member Annapoorne Colangelo had notified the council of her intended absence for personal reasons.

**Minutes** — The minutes from the April 12, 2012, business meeting published in the May/June 2012 South Whidbey Tilth newsletter contained an omission. The minutes were approved with the following inclusion under the financial report: A motion was made to approve an additional \$500 to the market committee for expenses with the understanding the market would balance its income with the additional expense. Motion approved.

**Sushi fundraiser** — Linda introduced Rumi Keast who has offered to teach a vegetarian sushi-making class as a fundraiser for Tilth. This agenda item was moved up because Rumi had to leave early. The best date for the event is Sunday, June 17 during the Farmers' Market. Other events that day are the birthday cake and raffle drawing. Antonia agreed to contact the health department for guidelines. Items to be arranged include canopies, long tables, ice chests and plastic gloves for participants. Farmers' produce will be solicited; it was suggested a flier at each produce stand could be posted to promote the event. Rumi recommends a call for reservations. Linda will be the event coordinator.

**Financial report** — Concerning the April 30 financial report,

Edward reported it is normal that expenses are greater than income this time of year.

He reported the more recent receipt of a \$403 refund from the county auditor for the Temporary Use permit to operate a farmers' market. The permit is good for 10 years and the code change is in process to eliminate the need for it on rural-zoned parcels.

Linda reported receipt of \$357 donation from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island from its May 6 meeting collection. She will send them a thank-you note.

**Action item:** A motion was made to change general banking from Wells Fargo Bank to the more local institution, Whidbey Island Bank. Gary seconded the motion. All voted to change banks. Marc Wilson and Edward Hueneke are current signers on the Wells Fargo account. The signers on the Whidbey Island Bank account will be President Linda Good and Treasurer Edward Hueneke. Edward will review Tilth's financial policy for clarification. Lynae Slinden has procured all the material for making this change.

**Market committee** — Prescott reported for Annapoorne and market manager Lynae Slinden, the first two markets show \$240 in sales commissions [nearly \$2,400 in gross sales].

She reported the market committee has accepted the council recommendation to delete item about following the budget for this season. Lynae has signed the contract, Linda signed it as president and the document was given to Edward to file with the corporate minute book.

Anna Petersons, market committee member, requested no flea markets on Sunday when the Farmers' Market is open. She pointed out such activity conflicts with Tilth's mission and it would be a drain on personal energy. She read the attached statement from the market committee meeting of May 9, prepared by Molly Petersons:

*I'm opposed to having a flea market at the Tilth site. I don't think it fits with Tilth's mission, which is to support sustainable, ecologically sound and socially equitable agriculture.*

*People come to the flea markets looking for a bargain on manufactured goods. There are lots of other good venues for a flea market.*

*I think we shouldn't expect our "essentially volunteer" market manager to also manage a flea market.*

*I think Tilth and our farmers market represent, instead, people's need for healthy, fresh, flavorful, well-grown (even organic) food. We don't sell bargain foods. In fact, we educate people about the value of good food in this country and help them understand that good food doesn't necessarily mean cheap food.*

It was pointed out that flea market was under the land steward committee business. Anza feels an occasional flea market would be a source of funding. After discussion and clarification, Linda offered to develop a proposal.

Anna requested a deadline for a written agreement between South Whidbey Tilth and Calyx Community Arts School so that land use and policy conflicts don't arise as they did this spring between the school and the market operation. Land stewardship chair Anza Muenchow said she'd aim for an agreement by September when the Calyx school year begins and the programming and enrollment will be more finalized. Marta Mulholland, Calyx representative, offered to develop a memorandum of understanding for the next business meeting.

It was reported that the market manager experienced confusion when Calyx children and families sold pizza by donation as a Tilth sponsored nonprofit but didn't know about paying the 10 percent sales commission. Calyx now understands that nonprofits with market sales are considered

vendors and subject to paying the sales commission. Calyx is officially a South Whidbey Tilth program using Tilth's 501(c)3 federal tax exemption until it has its own. The argument for not considering Calyx a vendor may be its similarity to the Laughing Cat beverage bar, a fundraiser for South Whidbey Tilth's general operation. The Laughing Cat doesn't pay a 10 percent sales commission to the market. Its cost of goods and sales are a part of Tilth's fundraising budget. Since the market committee restructured its budget to be separate from the general program, particulars, such as the Laughing Cat and Calyx, have not been worked out. The question arose whether raffle ticket sales and other fundraising efforts at the market should be subject to the sales commission as well. There was much disagreement and the matter was tabled for reflection and clarification.

**Education report** — Marta expressed how grateful Calyx is to be able to base itself on Tilth's campus. She says they plan to have a six-week summer program, starting in July. The regular program finishes at the end of May on Tuesdays, and Calyx will be on break through June. Marta says Calyx plans to continue to have a presence at the market on Sundays doing face painting and baking mini pizzas. She offered Calyx help with land chores, proposing a schedule of Tilth members (including Calyx) to look after the chickens, water plants, etc.

Eric announced he and Britt will be parents and he will have less time for Tilth activities.

Eric has completed a farmer participatory field trial contract between Tilth and the Organic Seed Alliance regarding the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC) to grow sweet corn varieties on the Tilth campus. The plot is tilled and he will send an email around when the date to plant is chosen,

**May Minutes, see page 9**



**May Minutes, from page 8**

probably between May 21 and 31. He described the steps to be taken to assure its viability. The inner rows are for the participants and the outer rows may be sold or used for a party. Nathaniel Talbot of the Greenbank Farm Agriculture Training Center and Micaela Colley of the Organic Seed Alliance will come to direct the process. Prior to the seeding a work party is needed to spread soil amendments on the plot. Tilth Community gardeners have been asked to not grow corn that might affect the seed in the trial. A banner was suggested to promote the trial. It can be used in the future if it simply says, "Organic Variety Trial."

**Land steward report** — Anza reported the lease between Tilth and Dorcas Young's high tunnel hoop house is completed. Work on her quarter-acre will likely take place in June and July when the schools break for the summer. The first year Dorcas pays \$100 plus electricity for water. She will install a water meter to calculate the use and the cost of power. The EQIP grant Dorcas has received requires the hoop house to be uncovered three months out of the year.

**Mowing:** There was discussion about mowing not only within the market but all the grounds. Bob Wendt and his nephews wish to continue to mow the market and parking areas. Edward

noted that Bob's rate per hour has increased from \$10 to \$14/hour [Bob noted last year it was \$12, not \$10], plus gas. Anza suggested we recruit volunteers for the rest of the grounds. Edward offered to weed whip the area he'd done last year for \$10/hour. Eric recommended we assess the square footage and solicit bids for the market area. All agreed. Lynae will be asked to prepare the assessment, offering Bob Wendt first option.

**Billings Middle School** day of service: Each year approximately 25 eighth graders from this Seattle-based school come to Camp Casey, stopping to do a few hours of work on the Tilth Sustainability campus. After discussion of need and feasibility, Anza suggested they plant sunflowers in the fenced garden area near the existing hoop house, if the present community gardener doesn't intend to use it. The students come Wednesday, June 6.

**Barn owl houses:** Janie Pulsifer's offer to fund a barn owl house on the campus was unanimously approved. However, the matter was tabled another month to determine whether there are volunteers to build two houses or to just buy one ready-made house.

**Membership report** — Gary said he hadn't sent out renewal notices yet. Several members, who receive emailed newsletters,

were able to get their renewal dates from him.

**Events** — Prescott thanked Edward, JC, Linda and Michael Seraphinoff for their help on Earth Day. She thanked Anza especially for her seedlings for the Guess-the-Seedling contest. The Earth Day of Service was to improve Tilth's Forest Understory Recovery Project, with guidance by Whidbey Watershed Stewards' Robin Clark. Poor publicity may have been the reason for poor attendance. About six people came to fix fencing around certain trees, control invasive grass and mulch some of the paths.

Raffle tickets sales at the Farmers' Market have not been strong. Gordon Collins plans to bring the chicken tractor to the market to help promote it. Linda says most of the tickets she's been distributing have been sold.

Prescott has registered Tilth's participation in the Backyard

Wildlife Habitat Fair on June 2 at the Freeland Park. She asked for help creating child-friendly garden projects. Anza and Eric agreed to prepare seedlings for another Guess-the-Seedling game.

**Plant Sale:** Annapoorne has coordinated most of this event. She has found volunteers from both Tilth and Friends of Friends to help prepare for the May 20th sale to benefit both organizations.

**Adjournment** — Linda called to adjourn the meeting at about 7:30 p.m.

**Next Business Meeting** Thursday, July 12; 6 p.m., preceded by a potluck at 5:30 at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus, 2812 Thompson Road.

Every member is welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. The minutes of the June 14 business meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved.

Contact President Linda Good for more information.

**Washington Tilth Welcomes Chapter**

Kitsap Tilth's application to join Washington Tilth was accepted during a conference call meeting June 18. The chapter becomes the ninth. Kitsap Tilth was formerly the Bainbridge Island Permaculture Guild.

Cate Gable of Tilth on the Willapa regretfully announced her chapter must take inactive status.

At the Washington Tilth annual board meeting April 28, Merrilee Runyan of Vashon Island Growers Association was elected vice president and Prescott was elected secretary. The current president is Andrew Stout of Sno-Valley Tilth and Andrea Platt Dwyer of Seattle Tilth is treasurer.

The next conference call of the board is 4 p.m. on Monday, September 17.

**Join Us or Renew**

I/we want to join South Whidbey Tilth. There are \_\_\_ adults in my household who would like to have voting rights. (Enclose \$25 annual dues for a single membership and \$10 for each additional person. One newsletter is mailed to each household.)

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 the South Whidbey Tilth Sustaining Fund.

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

As donors I/we want to receive the newsletter. (The newsletter is available for donations of \$25 or more.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ I want to receive:  email updates  newsletter online

**Please mail to:** South Whidbey Tilth Association, P.O. Box 252, Langley, Washington 98260 or use PayPal to renew or donate online, [select here](#).

**CALENDAR**

**JULY**

- 8 **Sheep to Shawl** at Tilth Farmers' Market, carding fiber
- 8 **Quinn Fitzpatrick** performing at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 10 **Growing Groceries, Fall and Winter Crops**, Tuesday, 5 to 7 p.m. at Good Cheer Garden, 2812 Grimm Road, Langley, \$15
- 12 **Business meeting**, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck 5:30, Tilth campus
- 15 **Danny Ward** performing at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 16 **Educational display planning** for the fair, 7 p.m., Monday at the Tilth campus
- 21 **Member Garden and Farm Tour**, starts at 2 p.m., Saturday; potluck at Tilth campus 5 p.m.
- 23 **Vegetable Variety Trial Farm Walk**, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Monday, Greenbank Farm Agricultural Training Center
- 29 **Debbie Zick and Richard Hughes** perform at the Tilth Farmers' Market

**AUGUST**

- 5 **Eric Vanderbilt Mathews** performs at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 9 **Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet**, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday at Tilth campus
- 12 **Garden Critter Workshop** with the Grange, Sunday, at the Tilth Market
- 12 **Sheep to Shawl** at Tilth Farmers' Market, spinning
- 12 **Quinn Fitzpatrick** performing at Tilth Farmers' Market

15 **Deadline for September/October newsletter**, email [the newsletter editor](mailto:the_newsletter_editor) or call 360-544-2278

16–19 **Whidbey Island Fair**, Langley; entry day is Tuesday.

19 **Arthur Keast, Avery and Dustin Scharwat** perform at Tilth Farmers' Market

26 **Gloria Ferry Brennan** performs at Tilth Farmers' Market  
**SEPTEMBER**

2 **Quinn Fitzpatrick** performs at Tilth Farmers' Market

9 **Sheep to Shawl** at Tilth Farmers' Market, weaving, knitting and crocheting

13 **Business meeting**, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck 5:30, location TBA

15–16 **Whidbey Island Farm Tour**, check the website

**SAVE THE DATE**

November 9–11, 2012 **Tilth Producers Annual Conference**, *Growing Forward: Holistic Management for Organic Farms* at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, [see details on the website](#)

**ONGOING**

**Sunday South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2812 Thompson Road of SR 525

**Tuesday Work days** at the Tilth Sustainability Campus, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The date on your address label is your membership expiration date. Please renew before this date, see page 9.

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