



South Whidbey Tilth

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

Volume 30, Number 2

March/April 2012

Tilth's Sunday Market Is Looking for New Vendors

March 12 Market Vendor Meeting

Join us for an orientation meeting about this season's Sunday Farmers' Market at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 12 in Trinity Lutheran's community building at 18341 State Route 525 in Freeland. Go to the Faith/Hope classroom.

Learn about the new fee structure and hours. Vendors will realize savings this season as no space fee will be charged, but vendors will pay the usual 10 percent of sales commission on gross sales capped at \$200 or more. In other words, the highest commission is \$20 per market day.

Space assignments will be made at this meeting. Every effort will be made to give returning vendors with seniority their previous space. For those interested in a covered booth, a waiting list is being set up.

Vendors are asked to not sell until the opening chime is sounded at 11 a.m. We'll request early customers to wait by the pavilion with a cup of coffee or stay with their children at the sandbox until 11 a.m., with no browsing. However, a vendor may continue to sell after 2 p.m.

The policy and vendor agreements distributed at the meeting are available on the *South Whidbey Tilth* website, market page.

Manager Search — South Whidbey Tilth is seeking a dynamic volunteer **farmers' market manager** for the Sunday market 2012 season. The position begins in early April and runs through the end of October. A stipend of \$60 per month, plus a small percentage of the market gross, constitutes compensation. The job description is on the *website*.

Do you grow a few too many veggies? Gorgeous flowers? Would you like to be able to sell your fruit when your plums or apples come ripe all at once? The Tilth Sunday Market, which runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday from April 29 to October 28, is expanding, and we'd love to have some new vendors join us — no vendor too big or too small. We are looking for farmers — people growing vegetables, grains, flowers, herbs or producing eggs or meat, honey, nuts or nursery plants. We are also looking for crafters — woodworkers, fiber people, jewelry makers, etc.— and bakers, jam-makers, and so forth. (For food products, check with Sally Waters at the Island County Health Department to find out what you need to do to be able to sell your products.)

Tilth Market, see page 4



Emory Lindgard photo

Antonia Palkovic and Anna Petersons of Molly's Island Garden did a brisk business last season.

Earth/Ocean Weekend April 21 & 22 Schedule

See [page 7](#)

Earth Day of Service at Tilth April 21

Celebrate Earth Day weekend by working in South Whidbey Tilth's forested area conserving plant communities for a healthier forest. Whidbey Watershed Stewards and Tilth welcome volunteers to share a few hours in this evolving woodland. Work crews will be coordinated by Robin Clark of Whidbey Watershed Stewards. We'll thin young fir and blackberry, assess the vitality of plant communities and their contribution to the forest and do some trail maintenance by removing weeds in the paths and mulching with newspaper and wood chips. If you have an abundance of newspapers or cardboard, please bring them. We have the wood chips.

We'll meet at 10 a.m on Saturday, April 21 at the Tilth Sustainable Agriculture Campus at 2812 Thompson Road, just off SR 525. Hot beverages will be available. There are tools on site, but if

you have them, bring tools for weeding, pruning, spreading wood chips and digging. Bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather. For more information please email *Prescott* or call 360-544-2278 or email *Robin Clark*.

The Forest Understory Recovery Project was started in 2001 on a degraded parcel of forest land on the Tilth campus. There were sparse, tall Douglas fir trees with nonnative grasses and blackberry brambles beneath. Today one can find sword fern, salal, red huckleberry, Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*), cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), shore pine (*Pinus contorta*), wax myrtle, red flowering currant, evergreen huckleberry, native rhododendron, serviceberry, native hazel nut and more. A special feature is the uniquely Whidbey tree, the Holly Turner western red cedar.

Green Home Tour

Want to learn more about energy-efficient and earth-friendly homes and how the alternative energy system could grow at Tilth? Take the Whidbey Watershed Stewards' Green Home Tour on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or be a volunteer and see it free!



Five terrific homes from Coupeville to Freeland are on this year's tour, along with side trips to the Community Solar Project at Greenbank Farm and the Whidbey Telecom building in Freeland (both of which also are excellent places for lunch, as well as Bayleaf).

Some of the behind-the-scenes architects, builders, suppliers and artistic talent will be at the homes with displays and more information.

Tickets are just \$20 or two for \$35 in the same vehicle. They are on sale at Bayleaf (Oak Harbor and Coupeville), Book Bay, Moonraker Books and Wander on Whidbey. Also buy them online at www.BrownPaperTickets.com and by mail from Whidbey Watershed Stewards, PO Box 617, Langley 98260.

For volunteer information and questions, call 360-579-1272 or [email Whidbey Watershed Stewards](mailto:email@WhidbeyWatershedStewards.com).

Island Community Solar Program

At the South Whidbey Tilth February 9 meeting, Linda Irvine, of Sustainable Energy for Economic Development, and John Hastings gave a presentation. They're both founding members of Island Community Solar which arranged the array at the Greenbank Farm, a solar pea patch, installed by Kelly Keilwitz of Whidbey Sun and Wind. The project has been going for over two years now; see the website, islandcommunitysolar.com. On March 31 it will be part of the Green Home Tour.



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*
 Marc Wilson 360-579-2890 *email alternate representative*

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

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:GaryIngram@swtilthmembership.yolasite.com) or call 360-222-3207 or visit 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.

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

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE IS APRIL 16

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@southwhideytilth.org)
 Website: www.southwhidbeytilth.org
 Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

Start Garden Vegetables Indoors from Seeds



by Anza Muenchow

Okay, we had a relatively mild winter, so what will spring bring us? The University of Washington forecasts a cooler than average spring. So, like last year, we may have a late start on planting our food gardens. So, let's start as much as we can indoors and be ready to set things out as soon as the weather warms and the soils are not soggy. When I began in earnest to grow my own vegetable starts, I was able to ramp up production of food for our family and customers without the cost of buying seedlings.

Once seeds are planted they will need heat for germination, and once they have sprouted they will need light. The simplest way to start is with a fluorescent shop light suspended over a heating mat or other warm, flat surface. In the early days of hippy organics (1970 to 1980) I saw seed trays on old heated waterbeds in sheds. Boy, that brings back memories. A farming friend germinates seeds by putting seed trays inside an unplugged refrigerator with the warmth of a 25 watt incandescent bulb as a heat source. Most seeds need about 60 to 70 degrees to germinate. When I was working in urban agriculture with low-income immigrant families, I saw seeding trays on top of refrigerators where the soil could be 10 degrees warmer than near a window. I use water-tight trays for seed-starting and keep the trays moist at all times, but don't over water causing saturated seeds. Vermiculite and peat moss in the seed starting mix also help to keep the seeds moist.

Germination is quick for cool season crops like brassicas and lettuces, usually three to seven days. Seeds germinate well in low light, but must be moved to a bright area as soon as they sprout. A shop light works well and doesn't need special bulbs: just use a bright light for at least 16 hours a day. Most seedlings are happy having the light on 24 hours a day. Keep the light source within a few inches of the top of the seedlings. The first "leaves" to appear are actually the cotyledons and have a distinctive shape unlike the true leaves that form later. The cotyledons are food for the plant, which means the plants don't need fertilizer till they put on more growth. In fact, if the soil is too fertile, the seeds are likely to "damp off." Bacteria

will grow across the top of the soil and destroy the stem of the seedling. To prevent this, use a soilless, sterile seed-starting mix from your local nursery, or sterilize your seed mix by heating it to 180 degrees for 30 minutes.

When the seedlings have grown several true leaves, the next important step is hardening off the seedlings before planting them out in the garden. This takes many days and is a process of gentle acclimatizing for the little seedlings. The natural light and day length of March is usually enough to keep the cool-season seedlings growing, so, generally, the time under the shop light is just a week or two. An unheated cloche or hoop house could be the next step for the seed trays. After a few weeks under an outdoor plastic cloche or unheated hoop/green house, leave the trays outdoors exposed to wind and direct weather. Watch for a late freeze though. Bring the seed trays back under protection if the weather is really harsh. Sometimes, I put the trays outside during the day and bring them back in at night.

For cool season crops like brassicas and greens, transplant outside in late March or April into a well prepared bed with lots of good organic matter. Add lime to sweeten the soil, if you haven't added any in the last two years. For warm season crops like solanacea (tomatoes, peppers and potatoes) or squashes, start indoors and plant out after Mother's Day. The cool season crops to start early indoors are onions, broccoli, kale, cabbage, choys, lettuces, celery, chard and maybe peas. The cool season crops to direct sow outside in March and April include carrots, spinach, radishes, arugula, beets, and maybe more peas. For warm season crops, like tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers, corn and basil, I will definitely plant indoors on heat mats six to eight weeks before planting outside. Beans and later sowings of squash can be direct seeded outdoors in May and June.

With a little planning and indoor starts, we can extend our growing season and enjoy vegetables that would otherwise not ripen. We can also have many vegetables earlier and for a longer season. I look forward to seeing the indoor sprouts in late winter and anticipating the vegetables (and weather) that are just a few months away.

Community Garden Plot Agreements Due in March

Enjoy growing food and flowers with others who want to learn and share together in the South Whidbey Tilth Community Garden.

Gardeners can reserve a 20' by 20' minimum space for the 2012 gardening calendar year (April 1 to April 1) for a \$40 fee. Payment is due by **March 1, 2012**. After this date plots will be as-

signed on a first come basis. Tilth members will receive a discount, one plot for \$25, two plots for \$45. Hoop house plots are \$45, because of extra water use. Pea patch gardeners will contribute eight hours per season of general maintenance of the sustainability campus, including gardens and orchard.

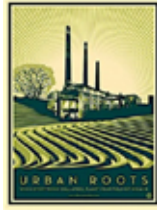
Low income applicants can have

have a plot at the reduced rate of half price.

For a copy of the complete application please email *community garden coordinator Anza Muenchow* or call 360-579-2890. Or download a copy from the *South Whidbey Tilth website* on the Garden page.

March Film Night Features *Urban Roots*

South Whidbey Tilth Film night will feature the film *Urban Roots: When Everything Collapses, Plant Your Field of Dreams* directed by Mark MacInnis. Come Thursday, March 15 to the home of Melissa Young and Mark Dworin for a potluck supper at 6 p.m. For directions call 360-341-1269. There is no charge for this fun evening. Film night usually occurs monthly during the darker months. Recommendations of films to view are welcome. The theme is usually related to sustainable agriculture.



This movie is a documentary about the green transformation of Detroit, Michigan. The film follows the urban farming phenomenon in Detroit. *Urban Roots* is a timely, moving and inspiring film that speaks to a nation grappling with collapsed industrial towns and the need to forge a sustainable and prosperous future. The *Urban Roots Action* website can be found at www.urbanrootsaction.com.

Tilth Market, from page 1

This year, Tilth is changing its commission structure to encourage vendors of all sizes: no booth fee, just 10 percent commission, up to a maximum daily commission of \$20 per vendor. You can reserve a space for the entire season, or just drop in (space allowing) during the weeks when you have produce to sell. For more information, check out the vendor guidelines at www.southwhidbeytilth.org/market or email the *market committee*.

Tilth Sunday Market also encourages youth vendors; selling your handmade goods at market builds math skills and public speaking and communication confidence.

Grange Food Classes

Gluten Free Living is 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13 at the Deer Lagoon Grange Hall. Coyla Shepard, leader of the Whidbey Island chapter of the national Gluten Intolerant Group, will be talking about local resources and alternative food stuffs. Other presenters are Marie Miller, who is French and continues to cook and eat traditional French fare, but gluten-free, and Lynn Parr, a wellness dietician. There will be gluten free samples to taste.

Sheep shearing on location at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 19 at the Mutiny Bay Sheep Farm on 6144 Wahl Road, Freeland. Claudia Pettis, Grange member and farm owner, is inviting people to come and watch shearer Eifion Morgan from Wales, ask questions, get some fleece (optional) and drink a cup of coffee or tea. Dress for the weather, but there is shelter from the rain. Spinners and fiber artists can choose any Black Welsh Mountain fleeces they want, in exchange for a financial contribution, of any size, to the Grange Building Repair Fund.

To get regular Island-wide agriculture news, email [Chris Williams](mailto:Chris.Williams@tilth.org).

April Film Night features a movie about the unique animal scientist, *Temple Grandin*, an autistic woman who used her disability to enrich our culture with unique insights. Watch for a notice about the date or check the *South Whidbey Tilth website*. It will be at Mark and Melissa's preceded by a potluck at 6 p.m.

Film night in February featured *Knives Over Forks*, a documentary based on the book of the same name, it examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. Tilth now owns a copy of this DVD. To borrow it, email [Prescott](mailto:Prescott@tilth.org) or call 360-544-2278.

Share Skills at the Market

We all need skills — want to share yours? South Whidbey Tilth is expanding the educational component of our Sunday market — we are hoping to have a different skill demonstration each week. Do you know how to turn wool into yarn? Wood into tools? Found objects into art? Would you like to teach people more about how to raise alpacas, pluck wool from Angora rabbits, or properly trim a goat's hooves? We are looking for demonstrators of all ages to share their skills. The market runs for three hours each Sunday — contact us *by email* and tell us about what you'd like to teach.

Musicians are also welcome to perform during the three-hour market. Bring your recordings for sale and a container for tips. The market can only compensate musicians at \$10 per musician up to \$30. Musicians may contact [Linda Good](mailto:Linda.Good@tilth.org) for scheduling by email or call 360-221-6439.

Growing Groceries Now on First Tuesday

The new season of the *Growing Groceries* class series has just begun. Learn what to do now to grow lots of veggies later. This year the *Growing Groceries* "Top Tips" classes will be on the first Tuesday of the month from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Classes will take place at the Good Cheer Garden at 2812 Grimm Road, near Bayview Corner and/or Bayview School at 5611 Bayview Road, a couple minutes walk from the Good Cheer Garden. The class fee is \$15 or on a sliding scale. For more information visit www.growinggroceries.wordpress.com or email the *coordinator Cary Peterson*.

The *Growing Groceries* classes are a partnership of Washington State University Extension, Good Cheer Garden, Whidbey Institute and South Whidbey Tilth.

Calyx Community Arts School Update

Feeding the Body, the Spirit and the Imagination

by Lisa Kois

Calyx has started to plan and design the new children's art garden at Tilth, which is being supported by a grant from the 2012 Whidbey Island Garden Tour. Anza Muenchow is leading the collaborative planning process with the Calyx kids. The kids have spent time looking through seed catalogues to identify vegetables, fruits and flowers for their garden.

The kids envision a garden that is as beautiful as it is functional, with an emphasis on color. Purple beans, yellow, orange and pink carrots, red lettuce, purple kale, blue potatoes, and deep red sauce tomatoes "for the world's largest pizza!" are all in the plan. The colors of the vegetables and the fruits — did someone say strawberries and blueberries? — will be complimented by the rich palette of colors found in the flower garden. With sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, lavender, snap dragons and sweet peas among the mix, the kids plan to create



Marta Muhlolland photo

Calyx's cool cats on the prowl on the Tilth Sustainability Campus.

Got Land, Need a Plan

A planning committee is forming to address the need for an updated site plan and for a revitalization of the community garden. Please contact Anza Muehchow at 360-579-2890, if you are interested in assisting.

The first meeting of the committee is noon on Friday, March 9 at the pavilion on the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainable Agriculture Campus, 2812 Thompson Road.

a garden that will provide plenty of food for the resident bees, ladybugs and other good bugs, as well as flowers for bouquets, necklaces and crowns.

Calyx is looking forward to more research and learning about gardens, including visits to local gardens and discussions with local gardeners. If you have a garden that you would like to share with us, please email [Lisa Kois](mailto:Lisa.Kois@tilth.org).



submitted photo

Young students study insects at the Whidbey Watershed Stewards' Outdoor Classroom.

a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Outdoor Classroom. Training is free and lunch is included.

The teaching session is Tuesday through Friday from April 19 to June 1 depending on when classes sign up to come. Trained volunteers will be asked to teach one small-group lesson a week, morning or early afternoon — working with other volunteers. Tilth volunteers who take the training are encouraged to create an experience like this for Calyx at

Outdoor Classroom Training

Join the fun in teaching elementary students about the wonders of nature at the Whidbey Watershed Stewards Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom.

This spring's volunteer training is Tuesday, March 27, 9:30

Tilth, as well.

This spring the theme is habitats and creatures, including some work with animal tracking. All the information and support will be provided so you will be successful.

Contact [Whidbey Watershed Stewards](mailto:WhidbeyWatershedStewards@tilth.org) to sign up or ask questions at 360-579-1272 or by email (click above).



Whidbey Island
FIBER QUEST
MAY 17-20 2012
YARN & MORE!

Learn more @
www.WhidbeyFiberQuest.com
or call 360-579-1906

Visit 5 farm stores and 1 knit shop in 4 days and be entered to win a fiber-filled basket!

The Great Sunflower Project

The world's largest citizen science project focused on pollinator conservation

Over the past few years, scientific studies have suggested that both honeybee and native bee populations are in trouble. What we don't know is how this is affecting pollination of our gardens, crops and wild lands. In 2008, the Great Sunflower Project was started as a way to gather information about the urban, suburban and rural bee populations. The project provides the tools to learn about what is happening with the pollinators in your farm or garden

Veteran project participant Sue Ellen White of Clinton has provided this information because she sees South Whidbey Tilth as an ideal community group to conduct this research. A person need only take 15 minutes out of the day to count the bees that visit sunflowers (preferably, Lemon Queen), bee balm, cosmos, rosemary, tickseed, goldenrod or purple coneflower.

Tilth is looking for a coordinator of this project. You need to sign up online to be a Garden Leader, and agree to plant Lemon Queen Sunflowers in at least three locations you register on the website. You will be responsible for the care of the sunflowers until they are blooming and ready for bees. Then you will organize at least three other people or groups to do at least one bee visit count at each location. Finally you send in data from your locations.

All Garden Leaders who sign up before April 2 will receive free seeds. The Project is awarding one cash prize of \$500 and dozens of other prizes such as gardening equipment, textbooks, calendars and note cards.

For more information go the *Great Sunflower Project website*. Register with the project and then contact Anza Muenchow, Tilth's land steward, to let her know you want to do this project at Tilth. Gather other volunteers and get your seeds.

Concerned about bees and wasps vanishing due to chemical applications to crops? Visit this website www.pesticideinfo.org/Search_Countries.jsp to learn about the pesticide database of different countries.

Mason Bees for Pollination

from Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest by Russell Link

The mason bee is a Pacific Northwest native. The shiny, dark blue mason bee is about two-thirds the size of a honeybee. It usually is seen flying, landing only momentarily to look for holes in which to lay its eggs. Homeowners sometimes become concerned when they see this bee entering cavities under shake siding or investigating nail holes. However, since they do not excavate holes in the wood, mason bees do not cause damage. In the wild, mason bees use old beetle holes in snags, broken hollow stems and similar holes as nests. The bees can be seen working at any temperature above 50 degrees Fahrenheit; on chilly, drizzly days, they are often busy pollinating when honeybees remain inside the hive.



submitted photo

Chicken tractor to be raffled June 17 to benefit Tilth.

Chicken Tractor, Plus Raffle

Planning on getting baby chicks this spring? You could win a chicken tractor designed and built by Gordon Collins for a South Whidbey Tilth workshop last summer. He has offered this handcrafted wooden piece as a raffle item to benefit Tilth. Raffle tickets are now on sale for \$3 each or two tickets for \$5.

The handcrafted, wooden chicken tractor is easy to move and allows hens to range freely, yet be protected from predators while fertilizing a large area of ground.

If you don't want the chicken tractor, there are lots of other amazing prizes. The raffle tickets have been designed so that you check the item you want. The person who sells you the ticket will give you a stub to keep track of and put the stub in the correct jar for that item.

The other prizes are:

1. gift certificate for yoga classes, by Annapoorne Colangelo (4 group sessions or one individual session), value \$50;
2. children's grab bag (one of two, full of toys), value \$5;
3. children's grab bag (one of two, full of toys), value \$5;
4. Farmhouse Flowers gift certificate, value \$35;
5. massage from Robyn Jones;
6. mandolin lesson, half an hour, from Debbie Zick, value \$25;
7. *Maritime Northwest Garden Guide* from South Whidbey Tilth, value \$15;
8. scarf made in Tibet from Music for the Eyes Rugs & Art, value \$29;
9. aromatherapy massage oil and other goodies from Living Green, value \$30;
10. gift certificate for healing session from Karina Epifano;
11. gift certificate for \$10 discount for a South Whidbey Tilth Community Garden plot.

The drawing will be 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 17, 2012, the celebration of South Whidbey Tilth's 30th Anniversary at the Farmers' Market. You do not need to be present to win, but why would you want to miss this occasion?

We really need help selling these tickets. If you are willing to take some tickets to sell, contact *Linda Good* at 360-221-6439 or email her.

Earth/Ocean Weekend Honors the Planet



David Welton photo

The community peace picture is taken every Earth Day in the Cash Store parking lot, this is from 2011.

front to greet the resident grey whales returning to Saratoga Passage on their way from Mexico to the Bering Sea; [get more information online](#).

Also on Saturday, explore forest health by sharing a day of service working in Tilth's Forest Understory Recovery Project with Whidbey Watershed Stewards and South Whidbey Tilth. See the related story on page 1.

That evening attend the film *Carbon Nation* at 7 p.m. at the Whidbey Telecom Customer Experience Center, 1651 Main Street in Freeland. The screening is sponsored by the Whidbey Chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

Sunday, April 22 Earth Day festivities on South Whidbey are from noon to 4 p.m. at Bayview Corner. This year Comedy Island will perform *Mother Earth Versus World People* by Doug Stewart, a short, witty play set in court-trial mode with such characters as "Melting Glacier" and "British Petroleum."

There will also be music, food, information displays by environmental organizations, gardening workshops and children's activities. South Whidbey Tilth is organizing this event with Transition Whidbey, Citizens Climate Lobby, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Bayview Farm and Garden and Goosefoot.

Tilth will have an information booth and needs support

Whidbey Gardening

Workshop 2012 Is March 10

The Master Gardeners' 2012 Whidbey Gardening Workshop is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10 at the Oak Harbor High School on 950 NW Second Street. There are classes covering every aspect of gardening for the novice and the experienced gardener. The registration fee is \$35. You may register in person at the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Office in Coupeville until 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7. Walk-in registration on Saturday are available for a fee of \$40. For more information about classes and the schedule visit [the WSU website](#) or call 360-240-5527 or 360-678-7837.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22 this year but there will be special activities both weekend days, hence the name Earth/Ocean Weekend.

Welcome the Whales Day is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. The Orca Network invites the community to the Langley water-

front to greet the resident grey whales returning to Saratoga Passage on their way from Mexico to the Bering Sea; [get more information online](#).

EARTH DAY SCHEDULE

Noon Dances of Universal Peace

12:30 Keynote address by Vicki Robin, author of *Your Money or Your Life*

1:00 Annual peace photo, sixth year

1:30 Music and choice of two gardening workshops sponsored by Bayview Farm and Garden; *Sustainable Backyard Vegetable Gardening* with Pam Mitchell and *Drought Tolerant Container Gardening* with Cathy Waymire.

2:15 *Mother Earth Versus World People*, performed by Comedy Island

3:15 Music or an illustrated presentation *A Brief History of the Salish Sea: How We Got to Where We're Going* by forest ecologist Elliott Menashe (www.greenbelt-consulting.com) in the Sears House; covering 20,000 years of the glacial formation of the sea and subsequent environmental and cultural history.

Local Seed Project Starts

The seed workshop and exchange happened on February 25 at the Greenbank Farm attended by about 20 people. There was a presentation on the fundamentals of seed saving, followed by a discussion about a local seed growing and saving network. Eric Conn from Full Cycle Farm brought Whidbey-grown seed that he is selling this year and Sebastian Aguilar from the Greenbank Farm Training Center talked about the seed they are growing commercially and grants submitted to buy commercial seed threshing equipment. There was interest in setting up a seed saving network, and Sebastian is going to start an online Google group where community members can coordinate local seed growing efforts. Following the discussion, there was a seed exchange where gardeners exchanged seed they had grown.

Whidbey Island Grown Seed

Varieties for self-reliance, selected to thrive on Whidbey

- Flour Corn • Sweet Corn • Quinoa
- Oilseed Sunflower, and more!



www.fullcyclefarm.com

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH**Annual Membership Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2012**

by Prescott

The annual membership meeting of South Whidbey Tilth was called to order by President Anza Muenchow at about 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012, in Grigware Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church's community building. Attendance was light due to snowfall in Clinton and Oak Harbor, but 23 people signed in, enough for a quorum. The signup list will be attached to the physical minutes for filing. Prescott agreed to take minutes in the absence of a secretary.

Raffle and door prize

Linda Good invited everyone to buy multiple raffle tickets (blue) at \$1 each for chances to win a gift basket with 17 remarkable prizes. In addition, each member should have received a door prize ticket (red) for a chance to win a canvas South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market shopping bag. She also announced details about the future raffle for a chicken tractor made by Gordon Collins.

Accomplishments of 2011

As outgoing president, Anza thanked the council members for their support during the year, despite her family's health problems earlier in the year. She published her accomplishments in the January/February 2012 newsletter. She introduced all six members of the present council thanking each for their accomplishments:

- Edward Hueneke for his role as treasurer and chair of the finance and funding committee. She pointed out that in addition to his work as treasurer, he has maintained the corporate

minute book in the absence of a secretary;

- Gary Ingram for his role as a membership committee chair, praising him for establishing a quick, easy method for members to join or renew their membership and to make donations online;
- Eric Conn for arranging educational workshops as the education committee chair; Anza also read a report from Lisa Kois about the Calyx Community Arts School (Lisa could not attend the meeting);
- Prescott for coordinating the farmers' market committee and the market's operation;
- Linda Good for her role as land stewardship committee chair and her work with the community garden and vermiculture maintenance; and
- JC May for his steady service controlling invasive weeds throughout the 11.32-acre sustainability campus.

Election of the president

Anza explained the president of South Whidbey Tilth is elected for a two-year term and separately from the rest of the council. She introduced Linda Good as the nominee.

Explanation of council positions

She explained there are six additional positions on the council of trustees in addition to the president. Trustees serve a two-year term and each takes one of the five standing committees to chair and one trustee serves as secretary. Eric Conn and Edward

Hueneke are continuing the second year of their terms. There are three open two-year positions and a one-year term position.

Call for nominations

Anza introduced the candidates willing to run for election as herself, Annapoorne Colangelo and Gary Ingram. She called for nominations from the floor. There were no volunteers or nominations.

Election

The meeting of the whole agreed to vote by hand rather than paper ballot. All nominees were approved unanimously for a six-member council of trustees; one position remains open.

New president's address

Linda Good welcomed the new members to the council. She thanked those who had served as president over the past 30 years, many of whom were in the room: Anza Muenchow, Marc Wilson, Frank Parente, Prescott, Charlis Dunham, Judith Light and Stevie Linton to name a few.

The business portion of the annual membership meeting was concluded about 3:40 p.m.

Program

The speaker, Timothy Lawrence, PhD, was introduced by Gary Ingram. Lawrence announced a pruning workshop he will teach on Saturday, January 21 [it was rescheduled due to snow.] He presented fascinating slides and videos about honeybees. He was presented with a canvas South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market shopping bag filled with homemade wine, a garlic braid, potted rosemary and more.

Door prize: Carrie Carpenter won the market shopping bag

Raffle: Christine Williams won the gift basket. The raffle ticket sales totaled \$92.

The meeting ended with a marvelous and delicious potluck meal.

Officers 2012

by Linda Good

President Linda Good called a special committee meeting on January 14 for those elected to the council to choose an office. Anza Muenchow is land stewardship committee head, Annapoorne Colangelo is market liaison/chair, Edward will continue as treasurer and head of the finance and funding committee, Gary Ingram will continue as membership committee chair, Eric Conn will continue to chair the education committee and all will continue to take turns being secretary. Linda thanked everyone for their involvement in the meeting.

Prescott is off the council but will continue as newsletter editor with the education and membership committees.

Action item: Prescott will print up tickets, including a photo, for the chicken tractor raffle. All council members will take some and start selling.

The next business meeting is 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 9 with Linda Irvine speaking after the potluck at 5:30 p.m. Linda Good will try to send an agenda prior to the meeting. She asked to know who will be at Sound Waters on February 4.

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting, February 9, 2012

by Anza Muenchow

Members present — Linda Good, president; Gary Ingram, Anza Muenchow, Edward Hueneke, Prescott, John Lee, Annapoorne Colangelo, Russell Clepper, JC May and Marta Mulholland.

Presentation

Program by guests from Whidbey Community Solar Project: Linda

Irvine and John Hastings.

Business meeting

Minutes from January 14 annual meeting approved for the permanent record.

Music festival — Date for the second annual local musician gathering on Tilth campus was set for Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24. Russell Clepper will coordinate the event again

this summer.

Finance committee — Motion to accept the suggested budget as published in the newsletter was passed.

A discussion followed about whether Tilth should forgo the usual temporary use permit for the market and campus activities and attempt to complete a conditional

use permit as a Rural Event Center which would be a permanent county permit. Edward and Prescott will meet with the county planning department and start the conditional use process. The council agreed to support and assist with this permitting process and hope there will be enough time to finish before the market



President's Corner

by Linda Good, president

Thanks to the South Whidbey Tilth community for letting me take a turn as your leader for a two-year term. I'm grateful for all the hard work of our previous presidents and appreciate the consistent efforts of the council members. I learned a lot from my years as land steward and remind our pea patchers to renew their

contracts with Anza Muenchow this time. I'll continue coordinating the market music, so contact me to put your musical date on the calendar. I'm delighted that Tilth is hosting our Calyx homeschoolers. We'll be singing songs in espanol at the Earth Day Festivities. We thank Russ Clepper for being willing again to coordinate our gala music event on June 23 and 24. As Tilth celebrates its 30th anniversary, I invite folks to come to our monthly meetings, join a committee and find satisfaction in helping our organization.

February 9 business, from page 8

opens April 29. If not, we should be able to get the temporary use permit for another year.

The plan to start the process of working on a new campus site plan was tabled until the next meeting on March 8.

Market committee — Annapoorne replaced Prescott as the market committee representative for the council. A vendor committee has been meeting regularly and has decided that the Tilth Farmers' Market will open April 29 and will continue until October 28. There will be no booth fees collected in an effort to encourage new vendors. There will be a commission of 10 percent collected, with a maximum daily commission of \$20. That means a vendor selling more than \$200

in goods will only have to pay the maximum \$20 commission.

Education committee — Gary reported that the class series is beginning next week. The use of Eventbrite has not encouraged more people to sign up.

Marta gave an update on the Calyx School. The school is growing and is looking for more interested educators as volunteers. They are soon to have their own insurance policy and hope to have their own 501(c)3 status within the year. Marta proposed that Tilth, as the current fiscal sponsor of Caylx School, accept the tuition payments and pay the salaries of current staff at the school. It was moved and agreed that Tilth manage a dedicated account to handle Caylx's fiscal

transactions.

Land committee — A planning committee is forming to address the need for an updated site plan and for a revitalization of the community garden.

It was agreed that the entrance gate will be left open because it is becoming non-functional and because it is more welcoming to have an open gate.

It was suggested that a needs assessment on operating a farm stand should be done before we rebuild the stand that blew down in the storm.

Events — Earth Day is April 22 and Tilth has an opportunity to host an Earth Day Service project with Whidbey Watershed Stewards on April 21 on the Tilth campus. Check

Notice

Please leave the entry gate open. The winter wind has been hard on it. Got an idea how to anchor it better?

Please don't block the entrance on Thompson Road. Anyone is welcome to park inside the gate.

Volunteer Needs

- Grounds maintenance
- Orchard pruning
- Staff display at events
- Educational programs
- Raffle ticket selling

Contact *South Whidbey Tilth*

with Prescott for details.

Other upcoming events are South Whidbey Tilth's 30th anniversary set for a June 17 celebration with some festive acknowledgement and a raffle at the Sunday market. The raffle item will be an elegant chicken tractor. Tickets available through Tilth council members and at the market.

Also, the Field-to-Table banquet will be Thursday, August 9.

Next meeting — The next business meeting is Thursday, March 8 in Grigware Hall in Trinity Lutheran Church community building. The meeting is 6 p.m. preceded by a potluck at 5:30. Every member of South Whidbey Tilth is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring your own eating utensils.

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 join or donate online at swtilthmembership.yolasite.com.

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 8 Business meeting**, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck 5:30 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall
- 9 Site plan discussion**, noon at Tilth pavilion, for more information contact *the land steward*
- 10 “Good Living through Gardening,”** Whidbey Gardening Workshop by the Master Gardeners; 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oak Harbor High School, www.island.wsu.edu
- 12 Tilth Farmers’ Market Vendor meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Monday, Trinity Lutheran, Faith/Hope classroom
- 15 Tilth Film Night**, 6 p.m. Thursday, film: *Urban Roots* and potluck; see [page 4](#)
- 19 Earth/Ocean Weekend planning** for April 21 and 22, 3:30 p.m., Monday, Bayview Cash Store
- 31 Green Home Tour**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday; see [page 2](#)

APRIL

- 12 Business meeting**, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck 5:30 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall
- 16 Tilth newsletter production begins**, May/June issue, send articles, ideas, photos to *the newsletter editor*
- 21 Earth Day of Service at Tilth**, 10 a.m., Saturday, tour and work in the restored forest, see [page 1](#)

- 22 Earth Day Celebration**, noon to 4 p.m., Sunday at Bayview Corner, see [page 7](#)
- 29 Opening day South Whidbey Tilth Farmers’ Market**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday

MAY

- 6 May Pole dance** at Tilth Farmers’ market
- 10 Business meeting**, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck 5:30 at Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE

- 2 Backyard Wildlife Fair**, Saturday, at Freeland Park, check online wildlifefair.wordpress.com
- 2 – 3 Mother Earth News Fair**, Pullayup, Washington
- 17 South Whidbey Tilth celebrates 30 years**, chicken tractor raffle drawing, see [page 6](#)
- 23 Whidbey Island Garden Tour**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., www.wigt.org
- 23 – 24 Music Festival at Tilth**, email [Russell Clepper](mailto:Russell.Clepper@tilth.org)

AUGUST

- 9 Tilth Annual Field-to-Table Feast**, Thursday evening

ONGOING

Thursday Workdays at the Tilth Sustainability Campus, 11 a.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The date on your address label is your membership expiration date. Please renew before this date, [page 9](#).

Tilth's Sunday Market.....	1
Day of service at Tilth	1
What is Tilth?.....	2
Green Home Tour.....	2
Start vegetables indoors	3
Community garden plots	3
Tilth film nights	4
Grange Food classes	4
Share skills at the market.....	4
Growing Groceries	4
Calyx school update	5
Got land, need a plan	5
Outdoor classroom training	5
The Great Sunflower Project.....	6
Mason bees for pollination.....	6
Chicken tractor, plus raffle.....	6
Earth/Ocean Weekend	7
WSU Gardening workshop	7
Local seed project starts	7
Annual membership meeting.....	8
Tilth business meeting.....	8
President's Corner.....	9
Join or renew membership.....	9
Volunteer needs	9

CONTENTS

www.southwhidbeytilth.org
 Langley, Washington 98260
 Post Office Box 252

A Nonprofit Corporation and a Chapter of Washington Tilth
SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH ASSOCIATION

