



South Whidbey Tilth

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

Volume 31, Number 2

March/April 2013

2013 Veggie Passion

Organic Food Growing for the Motivated Eater

Learn the best and most productive techniques for growing fresh food for yourself and your family at the South Whidbey Tilth organic food growing class series. The class is every Thursday in March from 6 to 7:45 p.m. in the Calyx Classroom in the Tilth market, 2812 Thompson Road. The cost of the full course is \$35 for South Whidbey Tilth members and \$55 for nonmembers. A single class is \$10 for Tilth members and \$15 for nonmembers. The series is complementary to one person willing to be responsible for registration and deposits. Please register early by emailing South Whidbey Tilth.

The Seattle Tilth *Maritime Northwest Garden Guide* will be for sale for \$15, which includes tax. Also available will be Tilth membership forms to join or renew.

March 7: Garden sites, rotations, soil preparation and planting strategies

Instructors are Anza Muenchow and Marc Wilson, co-owners of Maha Farm. This

class will help you plan your garden in a most efficient way. Learn soil types and specific soil amendments for bed preparations, where and what to plant, trellising, planning for easy care and protecting your harvests from common pests. Learn about compost, watering, mulches and weed management strategies. We'll include some discussion on planting rotations and common planting mistakes. This will be a fast-paced class and we can elaborate in later classes.

March 14: All about seeds and propagation

Instructor Anza Muenchow will explain the germination requirements of common garden vegetables including

Learn to Prune Fruit Trees

A fruit tree pruning workshop will be held at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, March 9** with instructor Gary Ingram at his farm, 440 Peters Road in Greenbank. Gary became a certified arborist in 2003 by the International Society of Arboriculture and has nearly 20 years experience as a professional landscaper. He and his wife, Pam Nodus, work their small farm where they care for goats, poultry, bees, a large vegetable garden and 23 fruit trees, mostly dwarf and semi-dwarf. Come and work beside Gary as he prunes his apple, pear, peach, cherry, plum and fig trees. Dress warmly and bring tools. The cost is \$10 for Tilth members and \$15 for nonmembers. Email Gary Ingram or call 360-331-0373.



Michael Seraphinoff photo

Six yards of rock from Landshapers was spread to repair the driveway into the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus in February. Calyx children had dubbed the grounds, Lake Tilth, following the unusually heavy rain this season. Pictured above are Matt Young, Edward Hueneke, JC May and Prescott. Also on the crew were Jo Stephens and Michael Seraphinoff.

Whidbey Celebrates Earth and Ocean Month

by Prescott

April is all about celebrating our planet this year. Earth Day is officially April 22, but lots of activities are planned from late March through April all over the island. The Naval Air Station is planning clean-up activities on the base. Other activities include concerts, art shows, lectures, pub talks, green tours, a birding watching field trip, beach cleanups, children's activities; plus the documentary film, *Chasing Ice*, returns. Watch for more information as the schedule builds.

MARCH 25 to 29:

- The **Geodome Project** exhibit is at the Middle School in Langlely, then it will be set up at the old Bayview School.

MARCH 29, FRIDAY:

- **The Great Coal Train Tour** featuring singer **Dana Lyons** performing a concert and giving a short informational presentation on the effects of the proposed coal export trains. He'll present a new song about the life of Granny, our matriarch Orca, and her experience of sound throughout her 100-year life. It will be at 7 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist meeting house near Freeland and sponsored by Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Orca Network, Whidbey Environmental Action Network and Citizens Climate Lobby.

Veggie Passion, see page 2

Earth/Ocean Month, see page 4

Veggie Passion, from page 1

inside and outdoor sowing. Find out all you need to know about direct seeding as well as using transplants. We will cover selecting the best varieties and sourcing seeds from stores, catalogs and friends. If there is time, we will introduce seed saving, how to select and preserve seeds, as well as which crops are easiest to experiment with.

March 21: Know which cool season vegetables to grow and when to plant them

Instructor Eric Conn of Full Cycle Farm on Maxwelton will help you choose what and when to plant for the best production in your food garden. All the popular varieties and several uncommon crops will be examined for nutrition, production and ease of harvest. For this class we will emphasize the cool season crops like leafy greens, root crops, and all the brassica family, including some discussion of overwintering crops.

March 28: Planning your warm season crops

This year’s climate forecast is for a long, warm, dry autumn. Let’s get excited about those favorite garden fruits and vegetables: tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, beans, squashes and maybe even melons. What are the best varieties and the most important cultivation techniques to know? Learn the tricks to extending the growing season and maximizing your harvests. This class will help you when you have a bounty of crops and no time to eat them all at once. Some recipes and preserving strategies will be included. Instructor Anza Muenchow will guide you to success and answer all those questions about your warm season crops.

Dogs Are Welcome, but...

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER VOICE COMMAND at all times when visiting the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus. When there are activities going on, or if your animal does not respond to commands, it must be on a leash.

There are plastic bags for poop on the directional post by the restroom.

Thank you!



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.

2013 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

- President: Linda Good 360-221-6439 *president@southwhidbeytilth.org*
- Finance/Funding: Edward Hueneke 360-331-5806 *So WhidbeyTilth treasurer*
- Secretary: VACANT
- Membership: Gary Ingram 360-331-0373 *So WhidbeyTilth membership chair*
- Education: Marta Mulholland 360-331-7621 *So Whidbey Tilth education chair*
- Land Stewardship: Jo Stephens *So Whidbey Tilth land steward*
- Market: Annapoome Colangelo 360-579-3735 *So Whidbey Tilth market committee*

WASHINGTON TILTH REPRESENTATIVE

- Prescott 360-544-2278 *So Whidbey Tilth rep to WA Tilth*
- Alternate: Marc Wilson 360-579-2890 *So Whidbey Tilth alternate rep*

PROJECT LEADERS

- Native Landscape: JC May 360-331-1004 *So Whidbey Tilth native landscape*
- Water manager: Vacant
- Community Garden: Jo Stephens *So Whidbey Tilth land steward*
- Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson 360-579-2890 *So Whidbey Tilth webmaster*
- Calyx School: Lisa Kois 917-859-4522 *Calyx Community Arts School*

CONTRACT SERVICES

- Market manager: Lynae Slinden 360-341-4456 *So Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market*
- Newsletter editor: Prescott 360-544-2278 *So Whidbey Tilth newsletter*
- Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste 360-331-6135 *So Whidbey 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, contact *Gary Ingram by email* 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.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE IS APRIL 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: 360-221-6439
- Email: *info (at) South Whidbey Tilth (.org)*
- Website: *www.southwhidbeytilth.org*
- Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

Projects Aplenty on the Tilth Sustainability Campus

by Jo Stephens, land steward (click Jo's name to email her)

Carrots and Cabbages and Kale, Oh My! Rent a Pea Patch

With the return of sunlight and (occasional) blue skies, all avid gardeners are experiencing the itch to get their fingernails dirty. Tilth has just the cure for those who lack the property for a garden of their own.

Our Community Garden offers 20-by-20-foot pea patch plots for a yearly fee of \$40. Tilth members receive a discounted rate of one plot for \$25 or two plots for \$45.

Many of our pea patchers renew every year and any remaining plots are leased on a first-come basis. The

plots are going quickly and former pea patchers have been contacted to renew their agreement by March 1. Visit the [South Whidbey Tilth website](#) and select “garden” from the menu and download the agreement, fill it out, write a check and mail it in

In addition to growing their own fresh vegetables, pea patchers enjoy making new friends at the garden, sharing information and advice on crops and on new ways to improve their gardening skills. We use only organic methods at Tilth, and strive to be sparing in our water use. There’s excellent sun at the garden, but the wind can be a bit brisk.

There’s a storage shed with rakes, hoes and shovels; and a compost pile to recycle garden wastes. Nearby are all sorts of fruit trees and several active beehives.

Pea patchers are encouraged to join the South Whidbey Tilth Association for a cost of just \$25 per year for an adult, and \$10 extra for each additional adult member of a household. Members receive a bimonthly newsletter, qualify for discounts at Tilth classes and get to help set policy for the organization. See the membership form on [page 9](#) of this newsletter.

Tilth members firmly believe in the philosophy of “buying local,” especially when it comes to food production. Our Sunday Farmers’ Market is a weekly chance to buy from some of the best organic growers on the island. We also intend to have a farm stand that operates daily throughout the summer, for gardeners who find

themselves with an excess of, say, zucchini...

In keeping with our goals as a nonprofit educational and research organization, the South Whidbey Tilth Community Garden project is designed to promote biologically sound and sustainable agriculture. We hope pea patchers will join some of our weekly work parties (tentatively on Thursdays) to take care of communal areas such as paths, fruit trees and compost piles; and to keep up with grass-mowing and fence maintenance. People with expertise to share are also invited to contribute articles to the newsletter.

We’d love to have you join our gardening community at Tilth.

Special Talents Needed

Do you have mechanical skills? Construction knowledge, especially road-building? How about an artistic eye?

As Tilth continues to improve its campus on Thompson Road, we find ourselves in need of some expertise. First, the driveway needs upgrading to help channel away some of the waterflow that has turned parts of the road into a rutted, muddy mess. It’s been suggested that we install another culvert across the road and, possibly, build a pond to contain the overflow during the rainy season (October through May). We had six yards of road rock spread in February, which will help a lot. Anyone with experience in affordable road maintenance, who could give us advice about how to solve the drainage problem and an estimate on the materials needed, is urged to contact me at

We also need a handyman/woman who can do little fix-it jobs around the place — gate latches, cranky weed-whackers and rototillers and mowers that don’t mow no mo.’ A lot of



Prescott photo

Teresa, JaNoah and Todd Spratt are among the newest pea patchers at Tilth. They’ve already started building raised beds and brought their chickens to live in their garden plots. Todd will be presenting another vermiculture workshop at the market April 28. The family’s company, BugaBay, donated an in-ground worm bin to Tilth.



Prescott photo

Jo Stephens and Lynae Slinden helped finish the path between the gardens and the market. Others who helped were Edward Hueneke, Judy Brown, JC May and Lisa Kois.

More Land Stewardship, see [page 5](#)



VISIT ALL

- 6 fiber farm stores
- 2 yarn shops

with an added twist!

ALSO ENJOY

2 local wineries, chocolate & lavender boutiques and a deli featuring local foods.

FIBER FARMS & KNIT SHOPS: Island Bliss Alpacos • Crafter’s Co-op • Frosen Acres Alpacos Pronkin’ Pastures Alpaca Ranch Olympic Mist Farm Alpacos • Knitty Purls Paradise Found Fiber Farm • Fern Ridge Alpacos

PARTICIPATING FOOD AND WINE SHOPS: Lavender Wind Farm • Comfort’s Winery Greenbank Deli and Grille • Spoiled Dog Winery Sweet Mona’s Chocolate Boutique

2 Gift Baskets to Win PLUS Online Contests

get all the details at WhidbeyFiberQuest.com

Film Nights Focus on Lessons from the Dust Bowl



Photo by Arthur Rothstein, The Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division

A young boy covers his mouth during a dust storm on a farm. Cimarron County, Oklahoma. April 1936.

South Whidbey Tilth Film Night features the film *The Dust Bowl* in two parts, on Tuesday, March 12 and Tuesday, April 2. Tilth members and their guests are invited to share a potluck at 6 p.m. followed by the film at 7 p.m. The free viewing is at the home of our local filmmakers, Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, who live off Log Cabin Road on Beaver Creek Lane in Clinton. Please R.S.V.P. and get directions by contacting them at 360-341-1269 or email Melissa or Mark.

The Dust Bowl was made for the Public Broadcasting Service by Ken Burns. It aired last November on KCTS-TV. “*The Dust Bowl* chronicles the worst man-made ecological disaster in Ameri-

can history, in which the frenzied wheat boom of the “Great Plow-Up,” followed by a decade-long drought during the 1930s nearly swept away the breadbasket of the nation. Vivid interviews with twenty-six survivors of those hard times, combined with dramatic photographs and seldom seen movie footage, bring to life stories of incredible human suffering and equally incredible human perseverance. It is also a morality tale about our relationship to the land that sustains us—a lesson we ignore at our peril.”

Frequent film-night attender, John Lee, grew up in Oklahoma and can share his perspective on the reality of how the dust storms affected the area.

Earth/Ocean Month, see page 1

MARCH through APRIL:

- **Earth & Oceans Art Show** at Bloom’s Taste for Wine & Art in the Bayview Cash Store

APRIL 5 to MAY 6:

- **Earth Day Art Show** in the Bayview Cash Store Hub

APRIL 7, SUNDAY:

- **Annual Peace Picture** at 1 p.m. at Bayview Cash Store parking lot
- **Earth Day Art Show Reception** from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Bayview Cash Store Hub

April 11, THURSDAY:

- **Beach Cleanup** at Double Bluff County Park, noon to 2 p.m.; email [Scott Chase](mailto:Scott) or call 360-387-3443, ext. 258. Several other cleanups are scheduled on other days

APRIL 20, SATURDAY:

- **Orca Network’s Welcome the Whales Parade and Festival** in Langley starting at 11 a.m. with educational displays and costume making at Langley Methodist Church; 1:30 parade downtown; 3 p.m. **Gray Whales as Sentinels of Climate Change** by Sue Moore, PH.D.

APRIL 21, SUNDAY:

- **Orca Network’s Whale Watch** from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **A Brief History of the Salish Sea: How We Got to Where We’re Going** with Elliott Menashe at 3 p.m. at Langley Methodist Church

Forest ecologist Elliott Menashe, [Greenbelt Consulting](http://GreenbeltConsulting.com), will explore the history of the Salish Sea and Puget Sound, Sunday, April 21.



APRIL 22 through APRIL 26

- **Environmental speakers in school classrooms** every day this week

APRIL 24, WEDNESDAY:

- **Micro-plastics — Here There and Everywhere** a talk with Julie Masura, 6:30 to 7 p.m. at Mo’s Pub and Eatery in Langley

APRIL 26, FRIDAY:

- **Salmon, Streams and the Sense of Smell** a talk with Nathaniel (Nat) Scholz, PH.D. 6:30 to 7 p.m. at Ott and Murphy’s Tasting Room in Langley

APRIL 27, SATURDAY:

- **Birds with Whidbey Audubon** for children kindergarten through eighth grade at the South Whidbey Commons
- **Chasing Ice** screening at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA), plus **information and networking displays** from noon to 3:30 p.m.
- **Calyx Community Arts School and Island Strings** perform 12:30 p.m. at WICA

South Whidbey Tilth is a member of the Earth/Ocean planning committee. We are working with Goosefoot, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Citizens Climate Lobby, Education, Communication and Outreach Network (ECONET), Service, Education & Adventure (SEA), Thriving Communities and Washington State University Waste Wise Program of Island County. In addition to your attendance at these wonderful events, we can use some help with set up, reception, financial sponsorship and donations and more. Please email Prescott for more information or call 360-544-2278. Send tax-deductible contributions to Goosefoot, PO Box 114, Langley, Washington 98260, on the envelope write: attention Earth/Ocean Month.

More Land Stewardship, from page 3

maintenance gets delayed because a willing volunteer doesn't have the mechanical skill to coax a cantankerous machine back to life. Someone who likes to tinker with small engines would be a big asset.

Plans are underway to restore the solar hotwater heater for restroom use, but we need a **tempering valve** to control the temperature when the sun power is at its greatest. Does anyone have one sitting around unused?

And, with our vendor booths and other buildings in need of a coat of paint this spring, we'd love to find someone who could draw murals of sunflowers, trees, fences, cabbages, kids and other wonderful things to brighten up our weekly markets. We're thinking of having an adult artist draw the outlines, and letting our Tilth and Calyx children fill in the colors. Anyone with designs in mind who would like to see them brought to life in the vendors area, please get in touch with Jo. Paint and supplies and helping hands will be cheerfully provided.



Matt Holtby built this beautifully fashioned children's garden gate, on the right. He is pictured above fitting the second gate on the north side of the garden.



Prescott photos

Calyx Music Program

by Linda Good, Calyx music teacher

The weekly Calyx Community Arts School music class is held at the Chinook Legacy Forest's Story House on Wednesdays. Students choose violin or recorder. One student has been learning violin for several years so she's a helper in violin. Another is studying both violin and recorder. One girl was at Calyx but is now at the Coupeville School. She, along with four others, participated in the recent Island Strings Recital at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island meeting house. Calyx and Island Strings students are celebrating the worldwide fiftieth anniversary of the Beatles and will have a Beatles-songs sing-along at Tilth during market season.

These young Calyx students have a busy performance schedule this season. On April 28 they'll be at the Tilth Farmers' Market opening day for the Maypole weaving, followed by Youth in Arts at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) on April 29. They will also make an appearance at the Annual Tilth Music Festival on June 30, the Maxwellton Fourth of July

With the addition of the Calyx Children's Garden and Dorcas Young's soon-to-be hoophouse, there's a whole new feel to the campus already this spring. Thanks to our volunteers and the efforts of the Tilth Council over the past year, we can look forward to an increasingly beautiful and enjoyable venue for our Farmers' Market and special events. Can you lend a hand?

Adopt a Bed

Dotted around Tilth's market area and along the driveway, there are dozens of saplings and little plantings of shrubs and flowers. As part of the landscaping, they're an important part of the lovely garden setting we're seeking to create at Tilth.

Although we'd all like to think these plants got there by magic and they will grow beautiful and strong all by themselves, we green-thumbers know that isn't true. Even the hardiest shrubs can fall victim to pernicious weeds, and trees need pruning to look and grow their best. In fact, it's time to prune all the fruit trees.

If you'd like to help us maintain our landscaping, please consider "adopting" a bed or a tree and giving it the care it needs. We want to have weekly work parties, but haven't settled on the best day. What do you think? Thursdays? Saturdays? Let me know. Those who adopt a bed are welcome to stop by and tend your area anytime you'd like. The plants would thank you and our visitors would thank you. Contact me, *Jo Stephens*, to volunteer.

Gardening for Life Is March 9

The Island County Master Gardeners Annual Workshop is 9 a.m. Saturday, March 9 at Oak Harbor High School. Check out over 52 offerings for the new and experienced gardener at the *Master Gardener's website*. Guest Speaker is Ciscoe Morris at 2:30 p.m. Register at *with the County's Washington State Extension Service* or request a registration packet at 360-240-5527.



Sarah Gillett photo

Music instructor Linda Good works with Calyx children learning violin and recorder.

Parade, the following weekend at Choochokam and at the end of July, the Greenbank Farm's Loganberry Festival. Also, look for them in April as part of Earth/Ocean Month Festivities.

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

South Whidbey Tilth Council Minutes of January 10, 2013

by Prescott, volunteer

The business meeting of the South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees was called to order at 6:04 p.m. on January 10, 2013, by President Linda Good. The members present included council members Edward Hueneke, Annapoorne Colangelo, Anza Muenchow and Gary Ingram. Other members present were Jo Stephens, JC May, John Lee, Marta Mulholland and Prescott.

The minutes of the December 13 business meeting taken by Gary Ingram were approved as published in the January-February issue of the *South Whidbey Tilth Newsletter*.

Finance — Edward presented the 2013 amended budget, reflecting last year's income and expenses. He said events did well, but there were a lot of expenses this past year for facility

improvements and the classes did poorly.

A motion to accept the budget was approved by all.

The annual fundraising letter was responded to by 31 households and yielded \$2,710.

Collecting mail: Marta has been collecting the mail from the Langley Post Office and bringing it to Gary Ingram's office in Freeland each week for him to distribute and to deposit checks. She asked for a break. Anza will collect the mail for a month and Linda will do so next.

Education

Calyx Community Arts School: Marta announced a work party for both Calyx and Tilth on Saturday, January 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Projects include building the children's garden fence, mulching the salmonberry-filbert boulevard

between the gardens and market areas and, possibly, repairing the original chicken tractor.

Winter session begins Monday, January 14 and continues until the last weekend of March. The program will be at Tilth on Mondays only during the winter and at the Chinook Legacy Forest on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A curriculum meeting is Friday, January 11.

Marta left after her report.

Tilth Film Night: Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young say that Tuesday, February 5 is the most suitable night for them to host the event. A series of short films by the innovative gardener, Sepp Holzer, is the likely choice. Maha Farm's intern, Benjamin Brewer, experienced Holzer's techniques this summer where he interned in Montana. Anza will follow up.

Membership — Gary reported 186 paid members. The new procedure to include a reminder in the bimonthly newsletter and mail to those whose renewal is becoming due seems to be effective. He and Prescott revised the membership directory and it was included in the recent newsletter mailing, only to members.

Land stewardship — Anza reported the custodial room has been insulated by Matt Holtby and the restroom water has been turned back on. Perry McClellan moved the pipes to the solar hot water heater inside to protect them from freezing. The land is saturated due to the unusual amount of rain, putting the new worm bin from BugaBay in danger. The Spratt family moved the bin to slightly higher ground, just west of the pavilion. One of the large windows in the pavilion was shattered and has been repaired.

Work has begun on the path between the market and gardens. It will be covered with cardboard and topped with chipped brush. The Native Plant Stewards are arranging for Tilth to have rolls of clean cardboard. [Island Transit is the source and expects an exchange of labor from nonprofits who benefit. The exchange is

coordinated by the Native Plant Stewards.] Tilth's large roll of landscaping cloth will go to the Native Plant Stewards.

Linda suggested a motion-sensor light might help deter property destruction. She was encouraged to follow through.

BugaBay land use agreement: John Lee, who had agreed to be the lead person in negotiating an agreement between Tilth and the BugaBay Company, reported that while initial contacts with BugaBay seemed promising, the company has yet to present a specific proposal for their use of Tilth land. John no longer feels that Tilth and Bugabay are in productive contact. Since Linda Good and other Tilth members are in more regular contact with BugaBay's owners, they will ask if BugaBay intends to proceed.

Community garden: Anza drew a map of the current pea patch layout and will provide council nominee, Jo Stephens, with a list of members who should be signed up for the season in March.

Native Plant Stewards agreement: The September 13, 2012, business meeting minutes stated a committee had formed to explore ways to make the South Whidbey Tilth campus more sustainable and suggested the possibility of selling a portion of the campus. The Native Plant Stewards (NPS) reacted with alarm and requested clarification before the end of the year. A letter of reassurance was prepared describing how the Tilth-NPS Land Use Agreement would be honored. The letter was agreed upon by the council via email during the last week of December. The NPS responded affirmatively.

John clarified that the portion of the Tilth campus that is taxed less, is not a conservation easement, but a nature conservancy, a tax classification by the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Market committee — Annapoorne reported the 2013

South Whidbey Tilth 2013 Annual Budget

Class/Account	Revenue	Expense
MEMBERSHIP	\$2,200	\$150
FUNDRAISING		
Donations	1,500	50
Annual letter	2,500	150
Events	2,000	1,000
Friends' of Friends Plant Sale		
Annual Banquet		
Grants.....	0	0
Laughing Cat.....	1,450	1,000
Special Order Coffee.....	2,500	2,200
CALYX.....	18,000	18,000
EDUCATION		
Classes.....	500	250
Garden Guides, books, etc.	50	0
Other ie. website, displays	0	300
Newsletter.....	100	1,650
MARKET	5,400	4,400
LAND		
Community Garden	175	100
Demonstration Farm/Farm Stand.....	200	150
Other, i.e.maintenance, capital improvements .0	0	1,300
Dorcas & Matt lease.....	150	0
Native Plant Stewards	450	0
BugaBay lease	unknown	
ADMINISTRATION		
General.....	0	450
Interest	65	0
Insurance.....	0	1,000
Accounting	0	1,200
Property Taxes	0	950
Land Payments	0	5,400
TOTAL	\$37,840	\$39,700
Net Revenue.....	(\$1,860)	

Beware of Manure from Animals Fed Eastern Washington Hay

Before last year, Mary and Lou Donaty of Paradise Found Fiber Farm generously shared the manure their llamas and alpacas produce with local gardeners, including Tilth. Last year, they noticed their own tomatoes, tomatillo and dahlia plants had cupped leaves plus fiddle-necking and stunted shoots. They immediately stopped offering their manure and proceeded to get answers from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). They were using hay purchased in Eastern Washington to feed their llamas and alpacas where broad-leaf weeds are controlled by a product that includes the chemicals chaminopyralid and clopyralid. Since 2011, the regulations for selling hay exposed to these chemicals are stricter. (See WAC 16-228-1235 and visit the [WSDA website](#) to download the portable document file.)

While the weed-control-treated hay is not known to harm the animals consuming it, the animal manure is contaminated, producing the characteristics described above. Mary says, “The new label description for use still does NOT protect us. So we all need to ask the hay grower prior to purchase if any aminopyralid or clopyralid were used in their fields — not only for the current crop, but for the past few crops, and on adjoining fields.” She

Raffle Tickets on Sale Soon

Three prizes will be raffled during the annual music festival at South Whidbey Tilth’s Farmers’ Market on Sunday June 30. Proceeds will benefit the campus infrastructure improvements.

Three prizes have been donated: a tuned piano from Dean Petrich, a Navajo-style loom from Eric and Britt Conn and a gift basket of items from market vendors.

For more information contact *President Linda Good* by email or call 360-221-6439.

also says the advice from the WSDA is to do a bioassay before using any soil you are suspicious of.

Mary says, “This is not an isolated problem. This chemical is found nationwide and used in many applications, wood shavings, straw, and I have also heard of livestock grains being part of the problem. And it is also part of lawn management.”

The Donatys are happy to share their farm report from the WSDA. Email *Mary Donaty*.

President’s Column

by Linda Good, president



Linda Good is holding an exotic Naked-neck chicken.

In March Anza Muenchow, Marc Wilson and Eric Conn will share their *veggie passion* at four Thursday night classes in the Calyx classroom on the Tilth Sustainability Campus.

Lynae Slinden has agreed to continue as market manager and organized a vendors meeting. She has great ideas for the coming season, which will start on April 28 with the annual Maypole winding.

We’ll be offering classes at the Farmers’ Market, starting with a worm bin (vermiculture) workshop taught by Todd Spratt, also on April 28.

I’ll teach an introductory workshop on raising chickens on Sunday, May 8.

We also hope to see you at Earth Day events in April!

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

January 10 minutes from page 6

vendor policy is in process. There will be a selling-space fee of \$35 per 10-foot by 10-foot area for the season and \$5 each time for guest vendors. Sales commission is ten percent up to \$500 in sales. Musicians will be invited to perform from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with hourly breaks; Tilth can offer \$25 each day, plus complementary beverages from the Laughing Cat. Musicians are encouraged to collect tips and sell recorded material. The committee is working on educational events throughout the season. The vendor orientation meeting is February 10. Tilth is sending Lynae Slinden to the Washington State Farmers’ Markets Association conference at the end of January.

Annual meeting planning — Prescott reported a press release had gone to local newspapers

and a special email reminder had gone to the membership. She, Anza, Linda and Ed will meet at Trinity Lutheran’s community building to set up on Sunday, January 13 at about 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. business meeting. Anza and Prescott will get membership materials from the campus. Gary will bring an updated membership list and serve as the greeter. Linda will officiate.

Events/Newsletter — Prescott reminded everyone that articles and suggestions for the March-April newsletter are due February 15.

Almanac: Prescott distributed several versions of Tilth’s advertisement design for the *Whidbey Island Almanac 2013*. Suggestions were made and the ad will be submitted before the January 15 deadline. Marc Wilson’s offer

to donate the cost was accepted with appreciation. Anza is working on the language for the free listing.

Sound Waters: Prescott asked for feedback and help with the display in Oak Harbor High School on February 2.

Earth/Ocean Week: Prescott is serving as Tilth’s representative on the planning committee. This year EcoNet will join the committee and make it an island-wide event throughout April, with a focus between April 19 and 27. She described some of the events planned and announced the next planning meeting at the Bayview Cash Store.

New Business Pavilion kitchen rental — Tilth has been approached by a person interested in renting the kitchen several times a month. Prescott

will invite the person to see the facility to better understand its limitations. Edward will check with the Island County Health Department for guidelines to legally rent the kitchen. An agreement modeled after existing facility agreements will be prepared and proposed to the council.

Greenbank Farm — Anza reported an advisory committee has recommended the Port of Coupeville not renew its contract with the Greenbank Farm Management Group in 2014. The Port may divide the commercial facilities to be managed separately from the open meadows and agriculture portion. There was some discussion and all were encouraged to follow developments.

Adjournment — The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

Annual Membership Meeting, January 13, 2013

by Edward Hueneke, volunteer

President Linda Good called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. and asked for the trustee reports for 2012.

Finance chair Edward Hueneke thanked the community for its support of South Whidbey Tilth through generous donations. Thanks to the Port of South Whidbey for awarding grants of \$4,000, subsequent to two proposals submitted to them, one by Anza Muenchow, one by Lynae Slinden. Thanks to the Whidbey Island Garden Tour for granting \$2,200 to Calyx, an alternative educational experience project for which South Whidbey Tilth acts as a fiscal sponsor. Our organization now does all its day-to-day banking with Whidbey Island Bank.

Membership chair Gary Ingram pointed out that membership renewal notices are now sent via email and enclosed in mailed newsletters. He estimates membership fell by 20 percent in 2012.

South Whidbey Tilth Council Minutes of February 7, 2013

by Prescott, volunteer

The business meeting of the South Whidbey Tilth Council Trustees was called to order at about 6:10 p.m. on February 7, 2013, by President Linda Good. The members present included council members Jo Stephens and Marta Mulholland. Other members present were JC May, John Lee, Lynae Slinden and Prescott. Council members Annapoorne Colangelo, Gary Ingram and Edward Hueneke were unable to attend.

Normally the regular business meeting is the second Thursday of the month. It was rescheduled to avoid a conflict with Valentine's Day and an email notice was sent well in advance to most Tilth members.

Minutes of the January 10 business meeting taken by Prescott were approved. The minutes of the January 13 annual meeting recorded by Edward Hueneke were approved with

Education chair Eric Conn noted a low attendance to our homesteading classes last spring at the Grange Hall. Then he spoke of the successful completion of a sweet corn variety trial sponsored by Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Collaborative (NOVIC), which looks for varieties best suited for the Northwest.

Land steward Anza Muenchow listed accomplishments including bringing electricity to the bathrooms, making it more available to use for the Calyx project and other activities near the pavilion and the market. Thanks to Perry McClellan for leading the project. There was a cobb playhouse built and various gardens laid out. She thanked JC May for his invasive-weed control efforts. She has initiated the separation of land steward responsibilities. Two trustees will take those responsibilities.

Newsletter editor Prescott recognized the help of A.T. Bir-

minor spelling corrections.

Finance — The financial report indicated a deficit of \$1,420 compared to last year at this time, which showed an increase of \$1,112. Linda proposed making a new set of canvas bags with the Tilth market poster design on it to sell as a fundraiser. John Lee recommended a fundraising conversation about a long-term strategy to generate resources. A meeting will be called by Linda to include John and JC May.

Education

Calyx Community Arts School: Marta reported Calyx is losing two students and will only have seven. She announced special programs by Cave Man of Seattle. Planning for the summer program has begun. This year there will be two summer camps instead of four. Next school year Calyx plans to be in session four days instead of three. Space is a problem, especially having to move back and forth between Tilth's campus and

mingham, Marc Wilson, Gary Ingram and Stevie Linton. She thanked Anza for her gardening article series. Prescott is also our representative to Washington Tilth and serves as secretary to that Board of Directors. Marc Wilson is our alternate to that board. She has been and is again on the Earth Day planning committee, which consists of several nonprofits from Whidbey Island. This year's celebration will span the week of April 20 to 27 and will have events Islandwide.

Linda Good recognized Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young for hosting monthly film nights during the winter, Russell Clepper for organizing the June music festival, BugaBay for donating a commercial worm bin and for a workshop, Molly Petersons for overseeing the Sheep to Shawl programs last season, Gordon Collins for the chicken tractor, everyone who volunteered for the Sustainability feast, and Lynae for organizing the end-of-market

gathering. Thanks to Michael Seraphinoff for writing the annual fundraising letter.

Linda then explained the council positions open. Already nominated were Edward, Jo Stephens and Marta Mulholland. She called for nominations. The election went forward and all three nominees were elected.

Our guest speaker this year was Laura Lewis, PH.D., currently director of the Kitsap County Washington State University Extension Service.

She presented a fascinating historical overview about plants — their genetic commons and centers of origin. She went on to discuss the present day dynamics of seed control, the various participants who grow and sell seeds, and a myriad of information and seed sources, including NOVIC, a collaboration between four universities, nonprofits and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

the Legacy Forest. There is a plan toward a more comprehensive program, possibly in cooperation with Tilth's long range plan to build a classroom. The children's garden is coming together and a bit is happening with the sensory/art garden.

Gardening classes: Linda read Anza Muenchow's proposal for four gardening classes to be held once a week in March. The classes will be held in the Rose market booth, which has been converted to a classroom for Calyx. Anza was not available to answer other questions.

Marta needed to depart at 7:05, leaving the meeting without a quorum.

Land stewardship — Jo Stephens presented a well-developed list of items to report and some to discuss.

Thanks to the efforts of Leonard Good, there is now a sensor light installed at the Laughing Cat. He and Michael Seraphinoff

Painted the custodial room.

Matt Holtby may donate a small electric water heater to install for winter use, after which the sink will be put back in the custodial room. Perry McClellan and Blaine England intend to restore the solar hotwater heater for summer use.

Perry also suggests that the buildings be painted soon and that the driveway needs to be graveled and crowned. As for the standing water on the campus, it was the council's consensus that it's due to heavy winter rainfall, not a leak in any waterline. Prescott will check with the neighbor up the road to see if the rains have degraded the pond system, which may be affecting the accumulation of water. JC May said the children's playhouse may need a French drain to keep water away from it.

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

February 7 minutes from page 8

The council agreed we should schedule a workday soon.

Marta volunteered to clean the bathrooms and Jo will share that duty, if necessary.

Jo said she fixed the new red shirt on the scarecrow, but it still needs a hat, a new face and maybe some farm tools to hold. Lynae suggested that for the annual music festival the scarecrow could hold a blue guitar as a roadside advertisement.

Lynae says the children’s sandbox needs new sand. Prescott said Whidbey Topsoil donated a load two years ago. Jo said she’ll try to get some donated and delivered.

So far, three pea patch plots of the 13 plots have been renewed and several current pea patchers have indicated their intention to renew. The deadline is March 1. Jo said she’ll try to find out who else is intending to renew, so we can offer any unused plots to new pea patchers.

Teresa and Todd Spratt have expressed an interest in opening two new pea patch plots along the southern fence of the orchard/ beehive area. After discussion, the Council agreed it would prefer to rent out all current plots before opening any new areas. Jo will check with Eric Conn to see if he intends to do another seed variety trial and if not, she will

encourage the Spratts to work that area where Eric lead corn trials last year, south of the hoop house. (“They are going to take it,” said Jo, later.)

Anza forwarded the land lease agreement with Dorcas and Matt Young and it just needs to be signed by President Linda Good. Linda said she will sign.

Linda noted that Teresa Spratt donated a bag of quality manure for the worm bin. Teresa’s family’s company, BugaBay, will be holding several vermiculture workshops during the market season and the Spratts want Tilth’s bin to be performing well.

Market committee — The council and regular attenders to the business meeting had received a draft of the 2013 Farmers’ Market policy, rules and agreement prior to the meeting. Discussion followed and smoother language regarding semi-permanent selling structures was suggested. Prescott moved that the policy, rules and agreement, with the suggested language, be accepted by the council. Jo seconded the motion and all approved it. Gary Ingram had emailed his approval earlier, therefore the necessary quorum to approve the motion was available.

Lynae presented a well-organized layout of up to 31 selling spaces for market. She described focus areas for prepared food,

children’s activities, educational presentations and musical performances.

She described the agenda for the vendor orientation meeting on February 10. The approved 2013 vendor policy will be available and also posted on our website.

She also described the Washington State Farmers’ Markets Association conference she’d attended. She recommended reviewing the insurance question and provided contacts for two other companies to interview.

Events/Newsletter — Prescott requested ideas to include in the March-April newsletter, due February 15. Suggestions include promotion of Earth/Ocean month; Farmers’ Market opening April 28, Calyx update, the President’s message by Linda, the gardening class series by Anza, the community garden pea patch status, and sponsorships

Sound Waters: Prescott reported a good attendance at Oak Harbor High School on February 2. She said our display had to be smaller than usual because table space was short. Quite a few brochures and newsletters were taken by attendees.

Earth/Ocean Month: Prescott reported the date of the next planning meeting. Elliott Menashe will be the featured speaker Sunday, April 21 at Langley Methodist

Church. Whidbey Island Center for the Arts will be the venue for the climate-change film, *Chasing Ice*, where information booths will be set up. During that week several pub or coffee house talks with environmentalists will be happening.

New Business Raffles: Linda proposed another raffle. Prescott described some of the process we’ve used in the past. She emphasized the need to use pre-prepared two-part forms on which donors can fill out the item description, value and expiration details in two places, so that Tilth has a copy and the donor has a copy that also includes our federal nonprofit tax identification and a warm thank-you. The raffle idea will be referred to the fundraising conversation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned about 8:30 p.m.

March Business Meeting
These minutes will be approved at the next regular meeting on Thursday, March 14 at 6 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran Church community building at 18341 State Route 525 in Freeland. Every member of South Whidbey Tilth is welcome to participate, vote and attend the potluck, which precedes the meeting at 5:30. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own table ware to reduce trash.

Join, Renew or Donate to Tilth’s Projects

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. Please list **each** member’s name.)

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.

Enclosed is a donation to the Calyx Community Arts School, \$_____

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

- 7 Organic Food Growing class series begins, 6 to 7:45 p.m. every Thursday at Tilth campus; [page 1](#)
- 9 Fruit Tree Pruning workshop, 10 a.m.; [page 1](#)
- Washington Tilth annual meeting, 10 a.m., Saturday, Seattle Tilth office, [contact Prescott](#)
- 12 Tilth Film Night, *The Dust Bowl*, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. movie, [page 4](#)
- 14 Business meeting, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by a potluck at 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran community building

APRIL

- 11 Business meeting, South Whidbey Tilth, 6 p.m., Thursday, same location as March meeting

Farm and Food Calendar and News

GRANGE FOOD NEWS is a newsletter Chris Williams writes about food and farming on Whidbey. Anybody can get on the list, it's free. [Email Chris Williams](#). Also email her to put something in about an event or something wanted or for sale that is food or farming related, that too is free, but it is Chris's decision whether to include it, please give as much advance notice as possible because this newsletter goes out on an irregular schedule. For a complete events calendar, go to the [Whidbey Island Farm and Food blog](#), maintained by Claire Acord. Input and help from others is welcome.

Tilth Market Opens April 28

Get ready for a new season at the South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market located at 2812 Thompson Road off State Route 525, between Freeland and Bayview. Beginning April 28 the market is open every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 27.



An early-bird discount for vendors who sign up before April 14 is a \$25 selling-space fee. The regular season rate is \$35. Vendors also pay a 10 percent sales commission. For a copy of the policy and the agreement to sign, go to the [Tilth Farmers' Market website page](#). [Lynae Slinden](#) is returning as our market manager and may be reached by email, click on her name above, or call 360-341-4456.

Food vendors must have the appropriate permits. Anyone wishing to sell food to the public for profit must have a master business license, must pay a \$103 plan review fee, then must fill out the County's food establishment permit package. The County will review and advise what type of permit is needed and the cost; half-year permits are available.

Items prepared for a bake sale to benefit a nonprofit organization are exempt from these regulations as is food prepared for a community potluck.

Please come and enjoy the market and contact the market manager to volunteer time, either before or after the market, to setup and cleanup.

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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SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH ASSOCIATION
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