



# South Whidbey Tilth

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

Volume 32, Number 1

February-March 2014

## A Full Council Is Elected

Six new members of South Whidbey Tilth's Council of Trustees, were elected at the January 12 annual membership meeting. We now have a full seven-member council. Prescott agreed to run for President and was elected. The new council met to choose officer positions. Edward Hueneke is serving the second year of his two-year term and will continue as treasurer and chair of the Finance and Funding committee. Gary Rassner-Donovan is chair of Membership and Community Outreach, Bliss Knorpp is chair of the Education committee and Tom White accepted chairmanship of the Market committee. Jean Nelson was unable to attend the annual meeting but later agreed to be secretary.

Lynae Slinden was elected to the council but submitted her resignation when she realized she couldn't manage the work with the demands of her full-time paying job at the South Whidbey Senior Center. She is fully committed to continuing as a member of the market committee.

To replace Lynae, the council appointed Kirsten Clauson to the council by an unanimous vote. She eagerly agreed to serve as Land Stewardship chair.

Please give these generous souls your support by volunteering to help with one of the committees. Council member contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter. There was a description of each committee in the *November-December South Whidbey Tilth Newsletter* on page 5. It is available on the [South Whidbey Tilth website](#), click on green text for a link. From the website go to the bottom of the page to see a list of newsletters from the past year.

## Garden Classes Begin with Pruning

The new education chair, Bliss Knorpp, is putting together a year's worth of monthly classes for our membership and our community. If you have a subject you would like to teach, contact Bliss. If you want to know more about something, let Bliss know. She's already planning

a program about mushrooms, starting your first garden on Whidbey, pruning fruit trees, summer planting for winter harvest and more. Email [Bliss Knorpp](#) or call 360-320-7208. To register for a class please contact her.

## Pruning for High Fruit Production

Gary Ingram is teaching a fruit tree pruning class from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 22. It will be at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus orchard 2812 Thompson Road. Gary will prune all of the fruit trees and show you how to prune for maximum fruit production. He will also explain why he does what he does from an arborist's point of view. He will also talk about organic pest and disease control and fertilization, along with tree selection for maximum fruit production in a limited area.

Gary was certified as an arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture in 2003 and worked for nearly 20 years pruning trees and doing professional landscaping.

The workshop is free for South Whidbey Tilth members and \$10 for



Gary Ingram to teach pruning at Tilth

nonmembers; register with [Bliss](#).

For more information email [Gary](#) or call 360-331-0373.

## Getting Started on Your First Garden Here

Longtime Whidbey Island gardener, Michael Seraphinoff, will talk about the various factors to consider when gardening, such as soil, climate, environment, pests, etc. The class is two hours, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 at the Tilth Sustainability Campus at 2812 Thompson Road. The class fee is by donation, or join as a South Whidbey Tilth member — \$25 for one \$35 for two sharing a household; and come for free.

It could be a big year for tent caterpillars on South Whidbey. Early control

will minimize their damage, if the egg cases are scraped off now. This fruit tree in the Tilth orchard has many egg cases such as the one in the hand.



© J. Michael Rowland, looknfeel



Prescott photo

# President's Message Long Range Plans



by Prescott, president

Thank you for electing me as your president at the January 12 annual membership meeting. I'm especially grateful to have such a strong, dynamic council of trustees to work with. I tend to be a background-sort of person, easily lost in details. I encourage you to share your opinions with me and help strengthen my leadership skills.

Early February is the time when the days begin to be noticeably longer, holding the promise of milder spring-like weather. Already spring bulbs are showing, and I noticed the wild black gooseberry is leafing out in the woods.

As I write it the ground is frozen and again we've turned off the water to the main waterline to assure no pipes are broken at the Tilth campus.

I want to invite you to attend a long-range planning meeting on Thursday, February 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It will be at the South Whidbey Community Center (formerly the Senior Center) across from Sebo's.

The regular business meeting of the Tilth Council is from 6 to 7 p.m. Any member in good standing is welcome and encouraged to participate as well.

At the 7 p.m. planning portion of this meeting, we will share ideas about what we want South Whidbey Tilth to focus on this year and in the future. Please volunteer to get involved with a project, such as:

- Water system installation
- Funding and development schedule for office, library and meeting house
- Signage and kiosk on campus
- Farm stand construction
- South Whidbey Music Festival
- Exhibit at the Whidbey Island Area Fair in August
- Tilth's Field to Table Sustainability Harvest Feast
- Halloween Party and Bazaar
- Fundraising strategies, i.e. raffle, auction



## 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.

### 2014 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

President: Prescott.....	360-544-2278	<b>email president</b>
Finance/Funding: Edward Hueneke .	360-331-5806	<b>email treasurer</b>
Secretary: Jean Nelson.....	360-331-5191	<b>email secretary</b>
Membership: Gary Rassner-Donovan	512-965-1625	<b>email membership chair</b>
Education: Bliss Knorpp.....	360-320-7208	<b>email education chair</b>
Land Stewardship: Kirsten Clauson..	360-579-1820	<b>email land steward</b>
Market: Tom White .....	360-331-6062	<b>email farmers' market chair</b>

### PROJECT LEADERS

Native Landscape: J.C. May .....	360-331-1004	<b>email native landscape leader</b>
Water manager: Vacant		
Community Garden: Kirsten Clauson	360-579-1820	<b>email land steward</b>
Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson.....	360-579-2890	<b>email electronic communications</b>

### CONTRACT SERVICES

Market comanager: Edward Hueneke	360-331-5806	<b>market@southwhidbeytilth.org</b>
Market comanager: Kirsten Clauson	360-579-1820	<b>market@southwhidbeytilth.org</b>
Newsletter editor: Prescott.....	360-544-2278	<b>email newsletter editor</b>
Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste.....	360-331-6135	<b>bookkeeper@southwhidbeytilth.org</b>

### 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 at 360-222-3207 or email **member database** 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

### THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE APRIL /MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 1

newsletter are not necessarily the policy of the South Whidbey Tilth Association.  
**Newsletter committee:** A.T. Birmingham-Young, Bliss Knorpp, 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: 360-544-2278  
 Email: **info (at) South Whidbey Tilth (dot) org**  
 Website: **www.southwhidbeytilth.org**  
 Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/SouthWhidbeyTilth**  
 Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

# A Case for Supporting Independent Seed Growers



by Anza Muenchow

Have you seen all the lovely seed catalogs this winter? Though it won't be spring for several weeks, this month offers gardeners an optimistic, exciting time as we order our seeds. Just reading the descriptions of the luscious vegetables makes me hopeful and hungry. I suppose that ordering online is the quickest way to complete the seed order, but I enjoy slowly perusing pictures and descriptions of the new as well as the old reliable varieties. I also enjoy local seeds that grow on South Whidbey Island and are acclimated to our climate.

For many years I ordered out of mostly one catalogue, which specialized in cold-tolerant northwest seed varieties, like Abundant Life or Territorial Seed Company. Osborne Seed Company in Mount Vernon also specializes in varieties for our climate. Then I found several seed suppliers in Maine that offer more options for seeds that tolerate cold temps, like Johnny's, High Mowing (specializing in organics), as well as Fedco, which carefully sources its seed from both organic and nonorganic growers. The additional varieties intrigued me. I also learned how seed catalogue companies source their seeds. I found I wanted to support more small local growers by buying my open-pollinated and hybrid seeds from them rather than from corporations that seek to control seed markets by buying up and discontinuing seed varieties mostly used by small organic farmers like myself. What a lesson in capitalist markets as more and more of my favorite hybrids were bought and then discontinued by the giant seed companies like Monsanto, Dow and Syngenta. More information on seed company mergers can be found online on the *Cornucopia Institute*, "*Seed Industry Structure*, by Dr. Phil Howard."

Now I am ordering from as many as four different seed catalogues, and I am checking prices more carefully. Granted,

the seed catalogues may sell the same seeds by seed count or by weight, which makes it hard to compare prices. I love supporting Uprising Seeds in Bellingham because they trial everything carefully and are offering *cool* new varieties. Local farmers Deep Harvest also offer 15 types of seeds including veggies, grains and flowers. They don't carry everything I want, so then I shop for other favorites in Tomato Growers, Seed Savers Exchange, Kitazawa, Territorial and maybe Irish Eyes. It does make ordering more complicated, but I am doing better this year with record keeping. Last year when early plantings failed and I quickly needed something, I did find that Territorial was super-fast in mailing out additional seeds. Or I would grab something at the grocery store or at the farm store picking through their left over seeds. My main strategy has always been to have something ready to plant in a bed that was empty, whether due to crop failure or early harvesting for quick market sales.

I found some interesting early northern eggplant varieties. We have done well with Little Fingers, but now I see some pale and white varieties I want to try. Early winter squash varieties look appealing too, some trailing and some bush types. I am especially intrigued with some new *brassic*s that either come on quickly or that produce over the whole season. My favorite long-season type being the Chinese brassica gai lan (also known as kai laan), te you, or Chinese broccoli asparagus [the Latin name for all is *Brassica oleracea*]. If harvested correctly and fed additional nitrogen during the summer, this is a real workhorse in the small garden.

In my greenhouse, I have a simple heat mat and grow-light set up that is now in full production. First come the onions then the *solanacea*, with a few

*brassica* and lettuce trays germinating as I find room. Buying sterile seed-starting mix and disinfecting the trays is always the first step. Then allow the seedlings just a few days on the heat mat after germination before removing them and starting another tray. Light source should be just a few inches above the seedlings. Some seeds like light for germination, but others don't care. I just hate having leggy seedlings though, so I try to maximize the light on the young plants. Don't overwater. Keep the soil damp, but not saturated. As weather warms, more trays can be taken outside during the day. Look for a future article on transplanting, including always remembering to harden off the seedlings before transplanting.

Enjoy the new season and, in a couple months, stop by the farmers markets to get to know your local producers. We love the chance to get feedback from our favorite customers.

**Note:** Though there are many seed catalogue companies, there are fewer actual seed supply companies every year. Corporate giants like Syngenta and Monsanto are buying up seed growing companies and eliminating seed stock that farmers have relied on for years. This effort, by these corporate giants, to reduce competition and to promote genetically engineered seeds (they have developed) has led to restricting farmers' choice who have historically grown hybrids or open pollinated plant varieties. The increase in genetically engineered seeds (mostly RoundUp Ready or BT infused) has flooded the seed market with Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds. Farmers who do not want to spray herbicides (glyphosates or 2,4 D) have less choice these days to find appropriate seed stock.

## Help Seed Alliance

The Organic Seed Alliance just celebrated its first decade building an abundant, diverse and secure seed supply for organic agriculture. It is raising funds for the next decade. South Whidbey Tilth has partnered with the Alliance through the corn seed variety trial in 2012. Please support them, [visit them online](#).



from [www.kitazawaseed.com/index.html](http://www.kitazawaseed.com/index.html)

Pictured here are two Chinese brassica varieties. Gai lan is on the left and te you on the right.

# Farmers' Market Committee Readies for the Season

Save the date! Opening day of the South Whidbey Tilth Farmers' Market is Sunday, May 4. We're also looking for new vendors. The 2014 policy, rules and vendor agreement will be posted on the [South Whidbey Tilth website](#) soon; go to the market page.

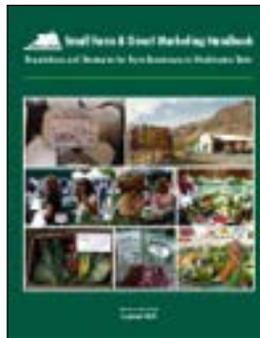
A vendor orientation meeting is being planned for the end of February or early March. Watch for the announcement on drawlist, local newspapers, [Tilth's website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Edward Hueneke and Kirsten Clauson are managing the market as a team until there is a decision to advertise for a manager or not. They can be reached by email at [market@southwhidbeytilth.org](mailto:market@southwhidbeytilth.org).

The market is always a big production, so please contact them if you can help with:

- premarket cleanup
- reroof one of the market booths
- market day setup and/or cleanup
- weekly press releases
- restroom cleaning
- recycling and trash duty

Anza Muenchow attended the Washington State Farmers' Market conference at the end of January and heard about changes to the *Green Book*, the popular name for the *Small Farm and Direct Marketing Handbook: Regulations and Strategies for Farm Businesses in Washington State*. This is the sixth edition of the guide. There are some big changes and Anza will present some of them. The major ones that she thinks will impact Tilth market are the new regulations for nursery plants and salad greens.



Basically you cannot sell your fresh produce in sealed containers unless you have a Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) food processors license. That means no clear clamshells, no taping or stapling produce bags — they must be left open.

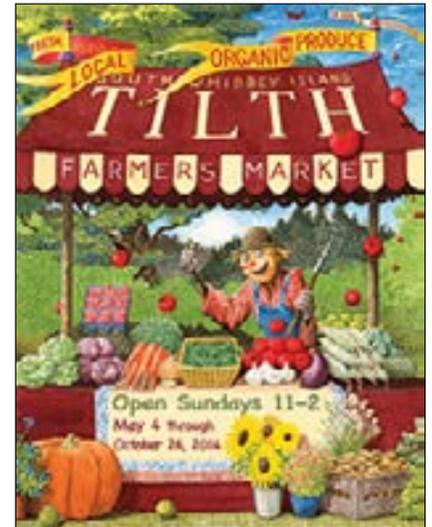
Perhaps those who sell nursery plants could go in together for a nursery license, since the individual license has become prohibitively expensive.

The actual *Green Book* will be sent out mid-March. The [WSDA website](#) has the manual available online, revised as of October 25, 2013 at press time.

The WSDA is also expecting the current legislative session to amend the Cottage Food Operations Law, which took effect in 2012. It allows people to prepare food in their home kitchens for sale directly to consumers, including baked goods like cookies or cakes, as well as jams, seasonings and herb mixes.

As stated in the *WSDA AgBriefs*, January 6, 2014, "The initial law put a \$15,000 cap on revenues generated by cottage food sales. However, after discussions with stakeholders and those home cooks with their own cottage food operations, WSDA supports raising that cap to \$25,000. Legislation to increase the limit is expected."

The Market committee, chaired by Tom White, meets next at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church's community building in Freeland.



## Finally a Farm Bill Was Passed, Though Imperfect

Despite significant cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, there are some good parts to the Farm Bill that offer resources to farmers' markets and direct marketing. Washington State Farmers' Markets Association supports the position taken by the national Farmers' Market Coalition (FMC) on the Farm Bill. To see the FMC's full statement, follow this link online: [farmersmarketcoalition.org/fmc-supports-the-passage-of-of-farm-bill](http://farmersmarketcoalition.org/fmc-supports-the-passage-of-of-farm-bill).

The five-year bill was passed by both the U.S. House and Senate and signed by President Obama during the first week in February. It offers substantial support for farmers' markets, beginning farmers and ranchers, local food systems, organic agriculture and healthy food access.

The Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program

(FMLFPP), Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Community Food Projects and the new SNAP Incentives program were included and represent recognition of the critical importance of a more vibrant local and regional food system, with healthy, affordable food accessible to all.

Farmers' markets bring significant health benefits to consumers, while economically supporting our nation's diversified farmers. Farmers' markets have doubled in number in the past five years, reaching 8,144 documented markets in 2013.

Unfortunately bipartisan majorities in each chamber of Congress had significant reforms to commodity program subsidies in the bills they were working on, but, before the final version of the bill was passed this time around, these reforms were struck down.

## Water Conservation in Your Garden

Join us for a glass and a class by Anza Muenchow at the Roaming Radish on Wednesday, March 5 to learn about soil building, compost, and irrigation related to water conservation in agriculture. This program is about preserving water quality that runs into Puget Sound.

South Whidbey Tilth, a member of Whidbey Education, Community, Outreach (ECO) Network, is promoting the theme “Whidbey Waters Are in Your Hands” through the *Puget Sound Starts Here* partnership.

This Pub Talk is 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Roaming Radish located at 5023 Harbor Hills Drive in Freeland, adjacent to the Holmes Harbor Golf Club Pro Shop. Consider staying for dinner afterward. The Roaming Radish restaurant owner Jess

Dowdell and her husband, JP, emphasize organic and sustainable ingredients on their menu. Some of their farmers include Willowood – vegetables, beans, potato and garlic; Quails Run – vegetables, beans, mushrooms and garlic; Molly’s – vegetables, greens, herbs; 3 Sisters – grass-fed beef; Chia – heritage pork, beef, lamb; Little Brown Farm – goat cheese; Glendale Shepherds – sheep cheese, lamb; Good Faith Olive’s – organic raw olives, Sea Breeze Seafood – sustainable seafood, and Deep Harvest Farms – vegetables, greens, herbs. (Select the umbrella icon above to connect to Whidbey ECO Network.)



## Preparations for Tilth’s Community Garden Are Underway

This season the water lines on the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus are going to be set up for metering. There will be manifolds installed in the Community Garden pea patches with timers and soaker or drip hoses for more efficient irrigation.

The pea patch plot fee is increasing slightly to help with costs. The Whidbey Island Garden Tour has accepted our request for some funds, if enough tickets for the June 28 tour are sold. Other sources of funding are also being sought.

The big red tiller has been repaired by Jason Robey of Small Engine Repair. It is being stored in the garden shed. An operator’s manual is with it. Land Steward Kirsten Clauson will be holding an orientation for pea patch gardeners and tiller use and maintenance is on her agenda.

Kirsten and Jean Nelson have revised the pea patch agreement and will be sending it around to current gardeners after

its approval by the Tilth Council. It will be posted and available to gardeners on the Garden page of the South Whidbey Tilth website.

Later this spring there will be a water use meeting so that everyone has fair access to water for their gardens and projects. This includes community gardeners with pea patches, the Native Plant Stewards, the Lesedi Farm high tunnel hoop house and garden, Sunday Farmers’ Market, children’s garden and the orchard.

## Work Parties on the Land

by Kirsten Clauson, land steward

Until further notice, work parties will be on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or longer, if we lose ourselves and track of time working on great things or daydreaming of spring and summer garden possibilities...). If it is raining quite a lot, then the work party will be cancelled. Those “great things” include, but are not limited to: finishing the hardware cloth installation on the perimeter fencing of the Community Garden that Jo Stephens and Prescott so amazingly half-way finished themselves! This hardware cloth is smaller meshed wire two-foot fencing that will help keep voles and other critters out of the garden (currently a big problem). The project includes digging the small trench, rolling out the hardware cloth and adhering it to the fence, and collecting rocks (little hands love doing this!) to fill in the trench. This will be an ongoing project until finished, so please come help when you can. It’s a big job and it won’t get done without your help. There is also weeding the community areas in the Community garden, weeding any Tilth landscaped areas, picking up litter (there is some collecting on the side of the highway), figuring out what hoses have leaks and making any repairs, and weeding and mulching the fruit trees in the orchard with worm castings and wood chips.

Check the *South Whidbey Tilth Facebook page* and *website*, South Whidbey Tilth garden page, for updates.

## Community Involvement

Deer Lagoon Grange is hosting an open informational meeting/workshop designed to help the people of South Whidbey collaboratively take ownership of and participate in their community. The featured keynote address will be given by nationally known motivational speaker, eastern Washington Rancher and 30-year Grange member Rusty Hunt. This two hour event will result in a better understanding of on another’s interests and a desire to help the Community that we are all a part of. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. How does your group serve the community? Does your group work independently in your effort or collaboratively with groups of similar interests? This event will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 18 at Deer Lagoon Grange, 5142 Bayview Road, Langley.

South Whidbey Tilth has a history of collaboration with Deer Lagoon Grange, including a partnership in the fruit and vegetable department at the Whidbey Island Area Fair.

## BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

## Tilth Council Business Meeting Minutes of December 19

by Edward Hueneke, volunteer

**Attendees** — Tilth members Bliss Knorpp and Warner Scheyer, Tom White, J.C. May and Prescott; President Linda Good and council trustees Jo Stephens and Edward Hueneke. The meeting commenced at 6 p.m.

**Minutes** — Edward volunteered to record the minutes. The minutes of the November 19, 2013 business meeting minutes were approved with the following correction to the water system report regarding the needs of the Native Plant Stewards who “need two direct connections to the water system. One is near the tank which they fill mechanically from the standpipe already in place, but which is now cut off from the water system. The other connection was the one in the forest where the standpipe was damaged and now cut off. They are not particular where the second connection is placed as long as it is easily accessible for watering.”

**Finance report** — Edward indicated he would work up a 2014 budget proposal, send it around

via email for discussion and voting.

The Food Establishment Permit for next year is due January 31. Edward will see that payment of the fee and associated septic inspection and water test are accomplished in a timely manner.

The initial response to South Whidbey Tilth’s annual fundraising letter amounted to \$1,310 in donations and 14 membership renewals.

A motion to donate \$50 to the Organic Seed Alliance, with whom our organization has collaborated, was discussed without moving forward. However, the council urges individual Tilth members to make tax-deductible contributions to the Organic Seed Alliance. Prescott will follow up on this with something in an upcoming newsletter.

**Membership report** — Potential trustee candidates were named and discussed. Linda indicated she is soliciting door-prize gifts to raffle to attendees of the South Whidbey Tilth annual meeting in

January and that the speaker and agenda were in place. Linda will contact Gary to plan details of the event.

**Education report** — Prescott initiated discussion regarding Tilth’s participation in Whidbey Education, Communication, Outreach (ECO) Network’s next grant activity, which will aim to educate and change behaviors of the public as to how their behaviors at home and in their communities help determine the health of our immediate environment, in particular the waters which run directly and indirectly into Puget Sound. Tilth will organize a pub talk at a local pub or eatery at which there will be a presentation regarding water issues, especially as related to agriculture. Tilth will also choose a month to be the “SPOTLIGHT” organization on the Whidbey ECO Network website, where the water issue discussion will continue. Prescott, J.C., Anza, and Edward are presently committed to make this happen.

**Sound Waters** — by email Marc Wilson volunteered to register the

Tilth display for Sound Waters. Prescott will help. Linda will respond to his offer.

**Land Stewardship report** — Jo Stephens noted that the inhouse rototiller still needs to be repaired. There is already acquired fencing that needs to be installed. She initiated discussion regarding recruitment of volunteers to do the common area maintenance of all the segments of the Tilth campus. Also discussed were various topics related to Tilth’s Community Garden.

**Market report** — It was agreed that the 2014 market committee will commence a search for a market manager. Also discussed were signage improvements for 2014. Prescott asked for guidance in selecting the market beginning and ending dates for 2014 so that she can finalize our ad in the *Whidbey Almanac* for 2014. Tom suggested that was a decision for the market committee to make; Edward agreed to expeditiously start an email market committee discussion to get a decision by January 10.

## Tilth Annual Meeting Notes and Minutes of January 12

from notes by Kathleen Kenneweg

The annual membership meeting of South Whidbey Tilth met at 3 p.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church’s Grigware Hall. About 26 people attended the lecture by Chris Korrow, Understanding Garden Ecology. Several visitors left and several Tilth members arrived.

President Linda Good called the business meeting to order at about 4 p.m. Each council member gave a report summarizing the accomplishments of 2013.

Membership Chair Gary Ingram reported membership at about 200. He was asked how many members receive the newsletter by email, Marc Wilson said he sends newsletters to everyone for whom he has an email address. Gary noted most new members request their newsletter come by email.

Market Chair Annapoorne

Colangelo reported on the committee meeting from Saturday, January 11. That market income from commissions and booth fees exceeded the \$4,000 goal by over \$800. Kirsten Clauson and possibly Edward will be the acting market manager contacts until a permanent manager is hired. The committee hopes to build a management team so there is more support. This year vendors will be encouraged to support the market’s intention to be “GMO-free” this season. Most of the policy and rules will be the same as the 2013 season. Dorcas Young was asked if she’d consider vending from the pavilion kitchen and also put her hoop house on the farm tour. She says she has ideas. The full market committee meeting minutes are available in the Secretary Minute Book and from the market committee chair.

Finance and Funding Chair

Edward Hueneke said Tilth had a successful internal audit last year. Tilth’s assets are eroding by \$2,000 for each of the past three years. Tilth has a sustaining fund providing the cushion. He is pleased the market income exceeded its goal so as to cover nearly two land payments. Linda noted that the mortgage burning party for the land is 2025, so next year a countdown begins.

Land Stewardship Chair Jo Stephens noted the beautiful children’s garden built by Calyx Community Arts School and Dorcas Young’s high tunnel hoop house. She noted an expansion to 17 community garden (pea patch) plots. Fencing around the plots is being improved. Work parties are not attended very well. She expressed appreciation for J.C. May’s vigilance keeping invasive thistles and tansy ragwort down. She announced the

Whidbey Island Garden Tour has awarded Tilth \$890 toward the water metering and conservation project, pending successful ticket sales in June.

Newsletter editor Prescott described her paid position as coordinator of content and layout. She requested articles, pictures and ideas by February 1. Members were reminded the newsletter is always available on the Tilth website and encouraged to “like” the Facebook page. She introduced her production team as Gary Ingram who maintains the member data base, A.T. Birmingham-Young, copy editor, Marc Wilson as content and policy editor and Stevie Linton who handles the mailing.

Linda Good presented each council member with a pot of pussy willows and pansies and a

**Annual Meeting, see page 8**

## Garden Insect Is Film Night Feature

Upcoming Tilth Film Nights are Tuesdays, February 11, March 4 and April 8 at Melissa Young and Mark Dworkin's home in Clinton. The couple are filmmakers of a variety of social justice films including *Good Food* and *Shift Change*. Visit the [Moving Images website](#).

### See Green Fire February 28

The Whidbey Greening Congregations are showing *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* on Friday February 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Whidbey Unitarian Universalist Congregation sanctuary. This award-winning film depicts the life, work and influence of Aldo Leopold. Renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate he is best known among lay persons for the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*. A coproduction of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service and the Center for Humans and Nature, the film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today.

The film demonstrates Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land — his call for a land ethic — ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future. As always in this series you will have the opportunity to learn about local efforts to preserve and restore our natural environment, in this case, employing the Leopold land ethic. This is the second event for 2014 in the Greening Congregations series *Moral Ground: Ethics and Action in the Anthropocene Age*.

## Earth Day 2014 on Whidbey Island



April 2014 on Whidbey Island is all about celebrating our planet. Earth Day is officially on April 22, but a month full of activities — collectively known as Whidbey Earth and Ocean Month — is being organized by representatives of seven Whidbey Island organizations. The Whidbey Earth Day

Committee consists of: Citizens Climate Lobby; Whidbey Education, Communication, and Outreach Network (ECO) Network; Goosefoot; Orca Network; Service, Education and Adventure (SEA); South Whidbey Tilth; and Washington State University (WSU) Extension/Island County.

Activities for 2014 include film screenings, a series of science talks and discussions at pubs and wine bars, the Welcome the Whales festival, and an art exhibition.

Specific events include:

- Welcome the Whales festival on Saturday, April 19
- a public showing of the film *Thin Ice: The Inside Story of Climate Science* at South Whidbey High School on Tuesday, April 22 (Earth Day)
- involvement of the South Whidbey High School Green

Join us for a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. The film begins about 7 p.m. For directions and to R.S.V.P. call 360-341-1269. Watch for more information on the South Whidbey Tilth website and Facebook page. There is no cost to attend.



The film for February 11, *Garden Insects*, is 51 minutes, made by local filmmaker Chris Korrow.

Got an idea for future films? Email [Melissa Young](#) or [Mark Dworkin](#) at the phone number above.

### Whidbey Island Garden Tour

Save the date June 28, 2014, to tour five unique, delightful gardens. New this year are garden gift sales at each garden. To volunteer to make this a successful event sign up on the [Whidbey Island Garden Tour](#) website now.

### Glendale Shepherd Cheese Wins

Congratulations to the Swanson family of Glendale Shepherd, in Clinton, who won a Good Food Award for their Island Brebis sheep cheese, against fierce national competition. Read all about it on the [Glendale Shepherd website](#). Out of 1,450 entries, 225 judges picked the top taste entries, which were then vetted for sustainability and social responsibility. Washington had two pickle winners, two coffees and one cheese, Island Brebis; that is five winners out of the 130 total, nationwide.

— from Grange Food News, February 1, 2014, [Christine Williams](#); for other local events, visit the [Farm and Food News website](#)

Team in educational activities at the high school on Wednesday, April 23

- art exhibition at the Bayview Cash Store on the themes of *Green Cities* or *Puget Sound Starts Here*
- a series of *Science While Sipping* pub talks, bringing short talks and discussions to restaurants, wineries, and pubs
- screening of the film *A Sea Change*, date to be determined
- additional activities being organized by other local organizations

For further information, visit the [Whidbey Earth and Ocean Month website](#) or email [Marian Myszkowski](#).

Keep current on [Whidbey Earth and Ocean Month](#) plans on Facebook. Please “like” our page. (Select green text for a hot link to the page.)

South Whidbey Tilth members who have ideas or would like to help prepare our display for April 22 and 23, please email [Prescott](#) at 360-544-2278. The Earth and Ocean planning committee meets Mondays at 3:30 p.m. in the Bayview Cash Store February 17, March 3, 17 and 31 and April 4.

## Annual Meeting Minutes, from page 6

certificate of appreciation.

Russell Clepper was cheered for his work on the Blue Guitar Music Festival last June, the fourth annual music festival at Tilth. She thanked Anza for last winter's gardening classes and Todd and Teresa Spratt for their worm-bin workshop as well as the commercial-grade worm bin they gave Tilth. She noted the Sustainability Feast last summer was great fun as was the holiday party at Anza and Marc's in December. She also praised Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young for hosting Tilth Film Nights.

**Council Elections** — Linda introduced Tom White, Bliss Knorpp, Gary Rassner-Donovan, Jean Nelson and Lynae Slinden as candidates for the council.

Edward nominated Prescott as president. There were no objections. Linda Good agreed to serve on the council, but the bylaws state "up to seven council mem-

bers" and her nomination would make eight, as Edward is serving the second year of his term.

Linda asked if the membership would like to vote by secret ballot or a show of hands. All decided a show of hands was adequate. A motion to approve the slate of council trustees and the president was made and approved by all.

Prescott presented Linda with a certificate of appreciation for her two years of service as president.

Prescott asked the council to meet afterwards to choose a regular business meeting date and time and to choose who would serve the one-year term of odd-year positions and decide each trustee's officer position.

Edward conducted the raffle. Winners included Gary Ingram, first, who chose the shawl; Edward Hueneke chose the knit beret; Bliss Knorpp chose Peruvian gloves and Marc Wilson chose a photograph.

All attendees were invited to a sumptuous potluck.

### Council of Trustees

Prescott called the 2014 council members together for a brief meeting about 5:40 p.m. Attending were Edward Hueneke, Tom White, Lynae Slinden and Bliss Knorpp. Gary Rassner-Donovan had to leave earlier but left his preferences. Jean Nelson was not able to come.

Tentatively, the regular business meeting will continue on the third Thursday of each month. Lynae offered her office at South Whidbey Community Center. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with no potluck. Prescott will cancel the room reservation at Trinity.

Odd-year positions will be held by Gary Rassner-Donovan and Lynae Slinden [see January 16 minutes correction, "Minutes," second paragraph]. Their terms will end after the January 2015 membership meeting as does Edward's.

The trustees present chose the following officer duties:

- Edward remains treasurer and chair of finance and funding
- Tom White, market committee chair
- Lynae Slinden, land stewardship committee chair
- Bliss Knorpp, education committee chair
- Gary Rassner-Donovan, membership and community relations chair
- Jean Nelson will be asked if she will serve as secretary

President Prescott suggested a council retreat for next month to focus on goals for the year.

The next regular business meeting will be 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16 at South Whidbey Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at about 6 p.m. and the room was cleaned up by volunteers able to stay.

## Tilth Business Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2014

by Jean Nelson, secretary

**Attendees** — Prescott, Bliss Knorpp, Gary Rassner-Donovan, Edward Hueneke, Lynae Slinden, Tom White, Jean Nelson. J.C. May and Kirsten Clauson were also in attendance.

Prescott made introductions of the new and returning Council members.

**Minutes** — A motion was made and seconded to accept the December 19, 2013, business meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

There were a couple corrections needed to the minutes of the annual meeting. A first name correction from Kris Korrow to Chris Korrow and odd-year positions from Tom White and Lynae Slinden to Gary Rassner-Donovan and Lynae Slinden were sited. A motion was made and seconded to accept the amended minutes. Motion passed.

**Finance** — Treasurer Edward Hueneke went over the layout of the 2013 year-end report. There was discussion and question on

several line items. It was noted that the \$4,000 grant listed in 2012 actually covered 2012 and 2013. With the approximately 350 annual solicitation letters mailed, there were around 30 donor donations for around \$2,405 compared to \$2,710 in 2012. Along with the donations there were about 30 member renewals included. A receipt for the donations will be sent to donors for their 2013 taxes. Edward stated that as of January 16, 2014 there is a checking balance of \$6,892.

**Committees** — Prescott pointed to page 5 of the December-January Tilth Newsletter outlining the duties/responsibilities of the Council members and Committee chairs and encouraged everyone to build on the existing responsibilities. If anyone feels overwhelmed please don't hesitate to meet with her. She will welcome any and all comments concerning these duties/responsibilities. Prescott would like to meet with each committee before the next Council meeting on February 20.

Kirsten Clauson, interim mar-

ket manager stated that there is a workshop scheduled for sometime during the season on natural dyes by Abundant Earth Fibers.

The current Port grant expires at the end of February and there is an option to re-apply, with application due by March 1. Tom will talk to Anza Muenchow about completing the application. Lynae volunteered to work with Anza on that. It was stated that ultimately the Port grant was designed to be a boost toward self-sufficiency. The council's goal is to have a proposal ready to present at the February 20 meeting.

### Old Business

**2014 Budget** — Edward then was asked to present and clarify the proposed 2014 Annual Budget. He stated that the budget is an educated guess and just a snapshot of what is projected for 2014 based on previous year actuals. [Please see the summary on [page 9](#)] Some of the line items discussed were:

Events: Lynae brought up that though the music festival was supposed to have had an en-

trance fee, because of the lack of personnel, it was for all purposes a free event. That was news to most everyone else, so better support needs to be explored for next year.

Special Order Coffee: The special order coffee sold at the Laughing Cat does not appear to bring in much profit. The thought of increasing the cost was discussed and tabled.

Newsletter: The newsletter expense was discussed. Approximately 90 newsletters are mailed per month with extras taken to the libraries, kiosk, etc. About 40 are emailed.

Community Garden: A small amount of maintenance expense is built into the pea patch agreements this year.

It was noted by Edward that the possible \$890 grant from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour, which is contingent on ticket sales and to be used for the drip irrigation system, is not included in the bottom line. Also not in-

*January Minutes, see page 9*

**January Minutes, from page 8**

cluded is a possible \$500 grant from the South Whidbey Garden Club to enhance water conservation. The Garden Club grant needs to be submitted by January 31. It was moved, seconded and passed that Prescott would have

authority to appoint someone to pursue and apply by January 31.

Both Edward and Prescott stated that if anyone has any income ideas, to not hesitate to bring them up for discussion. A motion was made and seconded

to adapt and approve the 2014 budget as presented. Motion passed.

**Whidbey Eco Network** — A question was raised and discussion followed about the Whidbey Eco Network and the pub talks. The benefits of participating in a pub talk and some of the possible venues were discussed. The talks are scheduled for January, February or March, so if Tilth would like to participate speed is important. J.C. May, Edward and Prescott will spearhead this.

**Nonprofit status filing** — Prescott reported that attaining the 501(c)3 status for South Whidbey Tilth is in progress. She will keep the council updated.

**Septic & water** — Edward reported on the status of the septic and water testing. Since Tilth has a food service establishment, Tilth is responsible for a yearly water test and septic test. Edward had someone come and look at the septic tank to determine the status. After some “homemade” filter cleaning it was determined that we could pass on the pumping this year. Edward will see that the required water testing is done.

**New Business**  
**Operational transitions**  
There was a motion to remove Linda Good from the Whidbey Island Bank check signing and

replace her with Susan Prescott. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Tilth mail pickup in Langley will be handled by Bliss Knorpp with Gary Rassner-Donovan as backup.

The lock combination for the office/library was given to everyone.

**Market season** — Dates for the 2014 Market season are set for May 4 through October 26.

**Newsletter** — Prescott handed out a list of newsletter ideas and encouraged everyone to read them and try to come up with content by February 1.

**Next meeting** — The Council meeting slated for February 20 will include a retreat. Meeting time will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. with the business meeting from 6 to 7 and long-range goal and planning session from 7 to 8:30. It will be in Lynae’s office at the South Whidbey Community Center (Bayview Senior Center), across from Sebo’s.

Thanks to Lynae Slinden for providing her office as the meeting site for tonight’s meeting as well as for the February meeting.

**Adjournment** — With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET		
	Revenue	Expense
MEMBERSHIP .....	2,200	225
FUNDRAISING		
Donations.....	1,100	00
Annual letter.....	2,500	200
Events.....	1,200	700
Annual banquet		
Grants.....	0	0
Laughing Cat.....	1,450	1,000
Special order coffee.....	3,000	2,800
Other (Garden Guides, etc.).....	50	0
EDUCATION		
Classes.....	250	50
Other, i.e. website, displays.....	0	300
Newsletter.....	45	1,450
MARKET .....	5,000	4,200
LAND		
Community Garden.....	500	300
Other, i.e. maintenance, capital improvements.....	0	1,300
Young garden lease.....	150	
Native Plant Stewards.....	450	
Utilities.....	00	350
ADMINISTRATION		
General.....	0	250
Interest.....	65	0
Insurance.....		800
Accounting.....		900
Property taxes.....		950
Land payments.....		5,400
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>17,960</b>	<b>21,175</b>
Deficit.....	(3,215)	

**Join, Renew or Donate to Tilth’s Projects**

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

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please mail to:** South Whidbey Tilth Association, P.O. Box 252, Langley, Washington 98260 or use PayPal or a credit card to join or donate online at [swtilthmembership.yolasite.com](http://swtilthmembership.yolasite.com).

## CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY

- 11 Tilth Film Night**, Tuesday, 6 p.m. potluck, see [page 7](#)
- 15 Tilth Market committee** meets, Saturday, 2 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Grigware Hall
- 17 Earth-Ocean Month Planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m., Bayview Cash Store
- 20 Business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth**, Thursday, 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a planning session 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. at South Whidbey Community Center, see “President’s Message,” [page 2](#)
- 22 Pruning for High Fruit Production**, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tilth campus; register 360-320-7208

## MARCH

- 3 Earth-Ocean Month Planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m., Bayview Cash Store
- 4 Tilth Film Night**, Tuesday, 6 p.m. potluck, see [page 7](#)
- 5 Water Conservation in the Garden**, Wednesday, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Roaming Radish, see [page 5](#)
- 8 Getting Started on Your First Garden Here**, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. at Tilth campus, register 360-320-7208
- 17 Earth-Ocean Month Planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m.,

Bayview Cash Store

- 18 Community Involvement lecture**, Tuesday, 7 p.m. Deer Lagoon Grange
- 20 Business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth**, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at South Whidbey Community Center
- 31 Earth-Ocean Month Planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m., Bayview Cash Store

## APRIL

- 1 Deadline for Tilth newsletter, April/May issue**, send ideas, pictures, articles to [Prescott](#) (select green text to email)
- 4 Earth-Ocean Month Planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m., Bayview Cash Store
- 8 Tilth Film Night**, Tuesday, 6 p.m. potluck, see [page 7](#)

## ONGOING

- Saturday work parties** to maintain the Tilth Sustainability Campus, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; for information email [Kirsten Clauson](#) or call 360-579-1820
- Farm and Food News:** For local events, visit the [Whidbey Island Farm and Food News blog](#)

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- ✓ Finish insulating pump house, donation of insulating material welcome.
  - ✓ Organize the library books in the classroom.
- Please email [Prescott](#) or call 360-544-2278.



## SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH ASSOCIATION

A Nonprofit Corporation and a Chapter of Washington Tilth  
 Post Office Box 252  
 Langley, Washington 98260  
[www.southwhidbeytilth.org](http://www.southwhidbeytilth.org)

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