



South Whidbey Tilt

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

Volume 32, Number 3

June/July 2014

South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival *What's five years old and twice blue?*



Emory Lindgard photo

Larry Dobson, as a pirate on stilts, dances to the music with Steve Showell.

Why, the fifth annual South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival (SWAM) in its second year of the Blue Guitar. The event is held at South Whidbey Tilt during and after its Farmers' Market at the intersection of Highway 525 and Thompson Road. This year it will be on Sunday, July 6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Painting an old guitar blue and making it a mascot of the SWAM festival was former Tilt market manager Lynae Slinden's idea," said Russell Clepper, founder and producer of the event. "We thought about naming the festival The Blue Guitar Festival, but thought people might think it was a blues kind of gathering."

"While acoustic blues would certainly

be welcome," said Clepper, "the lineup is an eclectic one that

is weighted toward folk and singer-songwriter styles of music." The roster of performers this year includes Talia Marcus, the Cranberry Bog Bluegrass Band, Bekah Zachritz, Linda Good and her Island Strings students, Timothy Hull, Nick Toombs, Matthew Austin Williams, Brian Kenney, Steve Showell, Joanne Rouse, the Muse & eye and Rick Ayedotte.

"All the performers are local, Whidbey Island musicians and songwriters," Clepper said, "although Bekah is in the process of moving to Bellingham. But Whidbey will always claim her."

Music Festival, see page 7

Enter Your Bounty in the Fair *Volunteers are needed to help before and during the fair*

The Whidbey Island Area Fair is early this year, opening on Thursday, July 31 at 9:30 a.m. for four days. The deadline for agricultural entries, including fruits, vegetables, herbs, grasses, grains, compost and honey is Tuesday, July 29 between 1 and 7 p.m.

South Whidbey Tilt is partnering with Deer Lagoon Grange to setup, judge and steward the Agriculture Department. We need helpers not only during the fair days, but especially the two days before the fair. We are specifically responsible for vegetables, fruits, herbs and honey, plus the Garden Critters. Compost is being handled by Island County Extension's Waste Wise program. Grains and grasses are overseen by Whidbey Island Conservation District.

You may have already heard from Tilt member Pam Nodus, who is recruiting members to take a three-hour shift during the fair days. Volunteers receive a free pass for that day. It's a fun way to see the fair. All you need to do is walk around the room to see that entries and ribbons are intact, answer questions if you can, keep the area tidy, encourage visitors to vote for their favorite Garden Critter. To sign up, email [Pam](#) (click green text) after July 6 or call 360-222-3207.

Before the fair starts we need people to help judge entries, assist others with entry forms and arrange entries in numerical

Music Festival Volunteer Tasks

- set up the stage Saturday
- mark the parking areas on Saturday
- direct traffic Sunday
- collect and manage donations
- keep track of set lists
- run the sound
- bring extra coolers with ice to store customers' produce
- direct children's activities, Tilt will fund some supplies

Email [Russell Clepper](#) (click green text) or call 360-632-0593

Fair Duties, see page 7

Farm Tour Destination

We're on the Whidbey Island Farm Tour Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21. We're calling for volunteers to get the campus ready and to be available the days of the event. Email [Anza Muenchow](mailto:Anza.Muenchow@southwhidbeytilth.org) or call 360-579-2890 to get involved. Visit our page on the [Whidbey Island Farm Tour](http://www.southwhidbeytilth.org/whidbey-island-farm-tour) site by selecting green text.

Some needs include staking signs, cleaning up the forest walking trails, setting up tents and chairs, working the Tilth information booth and guiding tours around the campus. Market vendors, a mini market could happen on Saturday as well as the regular market on Sunday.

Scholarship Raffle

Calyx Community Arts School is holding a raffle to benefit its student scholarship fund. Leonard and Linda Good are donating a chicken tractor as the prize. Leonard designed and built it originally. Tickets are on sale at \$2 or three tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held on Sunday, October 26 during the Halloween Party at the last outdoor Tilth Farmers' Market of the season. The tractor may be seen near the Children's Garden at Tilth. The children will be repainting the outside.

Summer Camp Returns to Tilth

The Calyx Community Arts School is holding four weeks of summer camp at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus again from June 30 to July 24. The schedule is 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. from Monday through Thursday. The children will be at Tilth on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and off to a beach or a forest on Thursday.

This is a perfect activity for your child or for young visiting relatives. Registration can be for one or all four weeks at \$175 each week. The Nature of Seeing is June 30 to July 3; the Nature of Sound is July 7 to 10; the Nature of Story is July 14 to 17 and the Nature of Movement is July 21 to 24. Please bring a lunch and a snack will be provided.

For more information contact Lisa Kois at 360-331-4811 or 917-859-4522. Check out the [Calyx Community Arts School](http://www.calyxcommunityarts.org) blog.



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 AND OFFICES

President: Prescott..... 360-544-2278 *email president*
 Finance/Funding: Edward Hueneke . 360-331-5806 *email treasurer*
 Secretary: Jean Nelson..... 360-331-5191 *email secretary*
 Membership: Marc Wilson 360-579-2890 *email membership chair*
 Education:
 Land Stewardship: Kirsten Clauson.. 360-579-1820 *email land steward*
 Market: Tom White 360-331-6062 *email farmers' market chair*

PROJECT LEADERS

Native Landscape: J.C. May 360-331-1004 *email native landscape leader*
 Education chair: Michael Seraphinoff 360-544-2278 *email education chair*
 Community Garden: Kirsten Clauson 360-579-1820 *email land steward*
 Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson..... 360-579-2890 *email electronic communications*

CONTRACT SERVICES

Market manager: Kirsten Clauson 360-579-1820 *market@southwhidbeytilth.org*
 Newsletter editor: Prescott..... 360-544-2278 *email newsletter editor*
 Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste..... 360-331-6135 *bookkeeper@southwhidbeytilth.org*

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](mailto:memberdatabase@southwhidbeytilth.org) or visit [swtilthmembership.yolasite.com](http://www.southwhidbeytilth.org).

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 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 1

Newsletter committee: A.T. Birmingham-Young, Michael Seraphinoff, 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](mailto:info@southwhidbeytilth.org)
 Website: www.southwhidbeytilth.org
 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SouthWhidbeyTilth
 Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

Clinton Food Lab — It Could Take an Island

by Marc Wilson

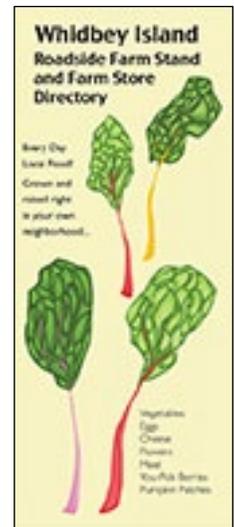
In early May, a workshop was held to explore the possibilities of food as an economic stimulant for Clinton and all of Whidbey Island. Carol Flax convened and Vicki Robin facilitated the discussions.

On Monday night, attendees were treated to presentations on successes from organizations and people doing good work now. Richard Conlin, cochair of Regional Food Policy Council, concluded, “We should have food utilities (to gather and deliver food).” Gary Vallat told about the founding of Skagit Valley Food Coop. Mary Fisher described Whidbey Island Nourishes. Vicki Robin, author of *Blessing the Hands that Feed Us*, talked about Whidbey Island Friends of Food and Farming (WIFFF). Carol Flax addressed the functions of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Clinton Thursday Market, popup dinners and the Clinton Progressive Club. Judy Feldman presented about the Greenbank Farm and Organic Farm School. Kathy McLaughlin McCabe told how Good Cheer serves the hungry. Sandra Whiting represented Goosefoot. Cary Peterson talked about food gardens at Good Cheer, Whidbey Institute and *South Whidbey School Gardens*. Chris Williams of the Deer Lagoon Grange, described the *Grange Food News* she emails to subscribers and has Claire Accord post on the *Whidbey Island Farm and Food News website*. Stories were shared about vision, starting small, commitment and taking advantage of opportunities.

On Tuesday Vicki Robin facilitated the group generating ideas for projects that would bring economic prosperity to Clinton. After a morning of brainstorming and fleshing out

a few ideas, the group had a wonderful local food lunch and then worked to build out the idea for a food hub in Clinton. There were many ideas about the food hub, but basically there would be a place where local consumers (commercial and residential) could buy food from local farmers, with opportunities to expand the market for produce and processed products throughout Whidbey and the region. The farmstand could also be a gateway for agritourism on Whidbey Island. Commuters could pull over and pick up their boxes of produce on the way home. There were concerns voiced, such as, the difficulty of marketing produce to local folks and, since many people on Whidbey already work on personal projects, it might be difficult to gather them for this idea. Workshop participants were encouraged by the mutual energy and interest in making the food economy in Clinton more viable, and three participants agreed to carry the idea forward.

Already Marian Myszkowski of Goosefoot has completed a brochure listing island-wide farm stands, farmers’ and outdoor markets. The idea was developed by WIFFF to help farmers marketing their produce and consumers looking for more ways to eat locally. For a copy of this colorful brochure visit the *Goosefoot website* and see farm stands.



Grange Bux to Buy Critter Making Materials

Garden Critters are one of the most popular entries at the Whidbey Island Area Fair. Market vendors are encouraged to bring their vegetables and fruits (the more deformed the better) to the July 27 South Whidbey Tilth Farmers’ Market. Crafts vendors may bring scraps of material as well.



This Critter was made during one of the Garden Critter workshops.

The Deer Lagoon Grange returns for the fifth year to conduct this Garden Critter workshop between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Children up to 16 years old will receive “Grange Bux” (a dollar value each) to purchase items from vendors to build their own People Critter or Animal Critter to enter in the fair. The workshop is open to both children and adults, but only children receive the bux. A Grange member will reimburse each vendor with Grange Bux before the end of the market.

Both Grange and Tilth volunteers are needed to help young

critter creators between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Sunday July 27. This is a fun project for out of town visitors, but to participate they must live in adjoining counties. The critters will be prepared to enter into the fair, Tuesday, July 29 between 1 and 7 p.m. To learn more, check out the booklet “How-to-enter the Fair Guide and Premium List,” page 25, Division J: Ag Contests. *Or find it online*. Note there are no premiums (cash) for this division this year, however, People’s Choice awards will be given for critters receiving the most votes.



Saturday & Sunday • 10 to 5
Visit all 8 locations and have your free ticket initialed to be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate.
For EVERY \$25 purchase, you are entered to win a \$50 gift certificate.
Plus each fiber shop will have its own ways to add additional fun to the event.

learn more at www.WhidbeyFiberQuest.com

FIBER FARMS: Paradise Found Fiber Farm • Fern Ridge Alpacas
 Olympic Mist Farm Alpacas • Pronkin’ Pastures Alpaca Ranch
 Frosen Acres Alpacas • Island Bliss Alpacas
KNIT SHOPS: Whidbey Isle Yarns, Gifts and Teas • Knitty Purls

Plan your Fall Fiber Projects in July

Billings Middle School Visits Whidbey Island

Seattle's Billings Middle School eighth-grade class has a several-day celebration each June that includes a stay at Camp Casey and service projects. Returning for the sixth year on June 4, they worked at Good Cheer and the Tilth campus. Working with Tilth members Marc Wilson, Prescott and Anza Muenchow, the market area landscaping was weeded and mulched and thistle was controlled along the north edge of the campus. Thank you Billings Middle School!



Prescott photo

Two students help Marc Wilson fill his truck with woodchips to use as mulch on weeded beds.



Prescott photo

The Canada thistle, removed from Tilth's campus by the children, was consumed by Chris William's sheep — a "win-win" for all.

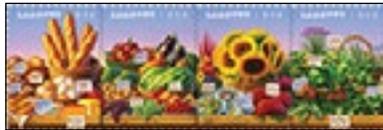
Noxious Weed Identification and Control Workshop

About 10 people attended a workshop on June 21 by Tilth's own chief weed-control person, J.C. May, on the 11-acre South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus. May discussed common invasive plants such as Himalaya blackberry, Scots broom, Canada thistle, tansy ragwort, English ivy, holly and poison hemlock.

These plants can be harmful in a number of ways. Some grow so aggressively they can crowd out the native landscape that provides food as well as habitat for wildlife. Some invasive plants can take over pastures, and tansy ragwort is toxic to domestic grazing livestock. Ivy can choke and kill trees. Most of

Postage Stamps Feature Markets

As the summer farmers' market season starts across the country, the U.S. Postal Service has unveiled a set of stamps commemorating the markets, set to be issued in August.



Planning the Banquet

August 20, a Wednesday evening, is the date for our annual summer party on the Tilth Sustainability Campus. This has become an annual event to thank our volunteers and donors. It is usually a potluck emphasizing local food. Tilth provides the salmon or meat and some beverages. We acquire a wine and beer license for the event.

We're looking for some key people to help organize it. We need music, salmon and raffle prizes. We're looking for someone to coordinate raffle prize donations and the drawing.

We also need a general coordinator to direct volunteers. Helpers are needed to prepare the invitations and manage responses, welcome guests and sell raffle tickets, guide campus tours, serve beverages, setup and cleanup the grounds. If you can join our crew, email Membership chair Marc Wilson or call 360-579-2890.

these plants are on the Island County noxious weed list, requiring landowner control.

For information, email J.C. May.

J.C. May, second from right, describes how the Native Plant Stewards are dealing with a Canada thistle infestation in their wood chips. Household vinegar (five percent acetic acid content) was sprayed on the thistles during hot weather,



Prescott photo

causing the plant membrane to breakdown. By stressing the plant, the pernicious root may be killed over time.

2014 Prairie Seed Challenge

The challenge is a volunteer initiative to provide critical seed for native prairie restoration, sponsored by the Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Studies.

How it works:

1. Sign up to be on the Prairie Seed Challenge volunteer list by emailing Holly Syreen at Pacific Rim Institute.
2. Watch for weekly emails that list scheduled collection times.
3. Come out as often as possible from now until Labor Day.
4. Rack up your hours to compete for special prizes.

Collecting native seeds is easy, and training is provided. Come on your own or come as a group. There will be prizes for the top three individuals with the most hours logged.

Tilth Farmers' Market Music and Events

We're off to a great start with music for the Tilth Market, thanks to music organizer, Linda Good. July 6 is the Acoustic Music Festival and a long day of music as described on page 1. Danny Ward returns the following week (as well as August 10 and September 14). Sommer Harris plays and sings on July 20. The Island Ukeleles play for market shoppers August 17.

In addition to music, there will be some special events. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 13 learn about Food, Prana and Ayurveda with Kumudini Shoba. Sunday, July 20 get tips for beach salmon fishing and crabbing from Kevin Lungren of the Whidbey Island Fishing Club. He plans to return several more times in August.

The Garden Critter workshop is on July 27 (see page 3). Also that day Lydia Christensen of Abundant Earth Fibers is providing a natural dyes workshop. Check the calendar on the market page of the *South Whidbey Tilth website* for updates.

Earlier this season, Island Strings students and Maypole organizer, Anza Muenchow, braved wind, rain and cold on opening day, May 4. On May 11 Steve Showell and Joanne

Rouse had help from David Englebretson (thanks for taking time in your busy season). Danny Ward brought his professional talent May 18. Brian Kenney of DoReMi Farm played for Memorial Day weekend (thanks to his family members who took over his produce booth). In June the Muse & eye (Russell Clepper and Sarah Primrose) performed, followed by Nick Toombs the next Sunday. Alex

Bonesteel stepped in for the Safety Pin Café, which was postponed on June 15. Koto musician, Chigusa Kitai, accompanied butoh dancer, Kaoru Okumura, and mesmerized everyone on June 22. Acoustic guitarist Quinn Fitzpatrick took the stage on June 29 (he returns August 31 and September 7).



Emory Lindgard photo

Brian Kenney playing traditional Irish and American fiddle tunes.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Market

Opportunities to help include both setup and breakdown of the musician's and dining tents, tables, benches and

chairs. Setup is at 10 a.m. and breakdown is at about 2 to 2:30 p.m. You could come for either setup or breakdown. This opportunity requires some semi-heavy lifting.

Farmers Take FMNP Coupons

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) created the Washington State Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (FMNP) to:

- Improve the health of participants by providing access to fresh, nutritious, unprocessed, locally-grown fruits and vegetables.
- Raise awareness and increase the use of farmers markets and farm stores.

Qualifying participants are now eligible, through October 31, to use their checks at many growers' booths at the market. For 2014, WIC checks are orange and Senior FMNP are turquoise. Participating vendors include Full Cycle Farm, Gourmet Organics, Maha Farm, Nettle Hollow and Tom's Market Garden. There are likely to be other produce vendors who may accept these coupons later in the season. These growers sell a large variety of fruits and vegetables, mostly Whidbey-grown and all organic. Fresh fruits and vegetables, cut herb are the items that may be purchased (seniors may purchase honey too). Look for the signs with blue and yellow writing located on each participating growers' booth. The farmers will be glad to help.



Presently, helpers setting up the market are usually plentiful, but we are stretched at the end of the day at 2 p.m. It would be especially helpful to have volunteers stick around to take down the canopies, return the music equipment to the pump house, take down the banners, flags and wooden letters by the highway, wash and fold the tablecloths, sort the trash and recyclables and move the heavy picnic tables off the grass for the mowers. It would also be helpful to have someone stationed in the Tilth information booth, to explain how to join South Whidbey Tilth, offer the self-guided tour map, sell Seattle Tilth *Maritime Northwest Garden Guides*,

Market helpers, see page 9

Whidbey Island Fabulous Fun Fiber Sessions

Saturday, August 9 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Paradise Found Fiber Farm, 4081 Springwater Lane, Clinton

A DAY OF CLASSES • please register by July 10

9:30 to 11 a.m.: Learn all about your spinning wheel with Barbara Seeler, \$25; bring your wheel

11:30 to 1:30: Spinning 101 with Barbara Seeler, \$35; bring your wheel, 1 to 2 oz fiber provided

2 to 4:30 p.m.: Needle felt an alpaca with Mia Natale, \$35; full kit provided

All classes will take place in the barn at Paradise Found Fiber Farm. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Bottled water and a light snack will be provided.

Register with Mary Donaty

360-579-1906 • lamalou@whidbey.com

www.paradisefoundfiber.com/events

fiber goods available for sale too

Click here for details

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes April 17

by Jean Nelson, secretary

Present — Council members Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Jean Nelson, Kirsten Clauson and Tom White. Also present J.C. May and Michael Seraphinoff.

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:37p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church's Grigware Hall.

Announcements/introductions — Marc Wilson has accepted the position of membership and community relations committee chair.

Minutes — A motion was made and seconded to accept the March minutes with the requested changes. Motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report — The monthly profit & loss and balance sheet was reviewed. Edward stated that the current balance was \$4,789.43. He also indicated that membership was way up from last year and that a lot of the renewal memberships come as a result of the annual letter mailing. A question was raised as to what was included in "total fixed asset dollar amount." It was explained that items such as the septic system, pump and all the buildings are part of the fixed asset dollar amount.

Edward informed the council that he has processed a recent donation through the PayPal account and the process is working. Notification to Edward is still not working smoothly, but the account is.

Market — Market Manager Kirsten Clauson reported that there has been no response to the two requests for mowing bids. Both Kirsten and Prescott will follow-up. After some discussion it was decided if no response is received by Tuesday April 22, the mowing contract will be given to Bob Wendt. If bids are presented, they will be reviewed by the council and a final decision made. A swift conclusion is important as South Whidbey Tilth does not own a mower and is dependent on outside service. The 2012 and 2013 mowing expense was

approximately \$800. Several Council members volunteered their time and personal mowers if necessary.

Kirsten reported she has completed cutting out the letters for the signage along the highway. All that is needed now is the sanding, painting and mounting of the 12 letters. J. C. May will secure the paint and Pete Little will help secure the letters in front of the fence along the highway. It was decided that there would be a painting/sanding work party on Saturday, April 19 at 11 a.m. Tom White will contact the market committee members and Marc Wilson will email Tilth members asking for volunteers.

South Whidbey Tilth welcomes new Sunday market vendor Hunters Moon Blueberry Farm.

Thanks to Edward Hueneke, Michael Seraphinoff and Judy Brown for the good job painting the pavilion trim and porch ceiling. Edward has repaired the market information booth roof and is pleased that it remained dry during the recent rain. A list of tasks needing to be completed during the April 26 and May 3 work parties was distributed to the council. The list will be reviewed by Tom White and Kirsten Clauson and when approved will be sent to Marc Wilson for email distribution to the membership. There was discussion about the weekly tasks needed both before and after each market day. Kirsten will remind the vendors that their help is needed and much appreciated. It was acknowledged that it is not convenient for vendors to assist with market setup as they will be busy getting ready themselves. The market committee role is to assist with pre-market-day task responsibilities. Prescott and Kirsten will be responsible for the weekly press releases and the market announcement that will be sent to the local papers and to Drew's List.

It was agreed to send \$50 to Drew's List. A concern was

expressed regarding the Tilth website and how current the pictures are. There are more recent vendor pictures available, and it was hoped that the site could be updated. Prescott said that someone from the state had indicated to her that South Whidbey Tilth may be the longest continuously operated seasonal market in the state. Tilth's market is in its 43rd season; the first 10 years it was the South Whidbey Market. The market sales/vendor commission spreadsheet will be turned over to Edward, Kirsten and Jean to update and maintain. Prescott reminded Edward that \$90 is needed for the market manager's till and \$30 for the Laughing Cat. Kirsten brought up the subject of the Tilth shopping bags available for purchase last year at the market. Inventory is low, so Tilth will look into procuring a less expensive, yet quite usable bag to be available for purchase this year.

Education — Michael stated that we have had some good programs already. There have been three Saturday classes so far and all were well attended with anywhere from 8 to 15 people. Tilth has made \$134 so far this year from the monthly classes. The water installation demonstration program is scheduled for May, and J.C. will present *Controlling and Identifying Invasive Plants* in June. Prescott is also trying to arrange to have various people present events that will help draw people to the market. This could include booth displays and/or talks. Kirsten and Prescott will contact some of the popular events from last year and secure them for this season.

Prescott reminded everyone of the Earth Day events and asked for volunteers to setup and staff the Tilth booth. Edward and J.C. volunteered.

Land stewardship — Kirsten reported that a watering schedule is set up. Tilth plans to purchase and install a meter to record water usage. Prescott reported that the water test came back okay.

Kirsten reported the last of the pea patch plots has been filled. She also said tent caterpillars continue to be a problem.

Membership/community relations — Prescott reported that the newsletter is late, but in process. Gary Ingram reported that we have 220 paid members covering 160 households with one to three people. Also 22 complimentary newsletters are mailed to community partners and other Tilth chapters. Marc Wilson is our electronic communications person and sees that the 83 newsletter subscribers are emailed. He is now notifying ALL members with emails that a copy of the newsletter is available.

Old Business

Market manager agreement — Kirsten has reviewed and accepted the Market Manager agreement. Kirsten, Tom and Prescott signed the agreement and copies were distributed for the files of the treasurer, secretary and market manager.

ECO-Network Block Grant — The South Whidbey Tilth's mini grant application has been accepted. One of the other applicants dropped out so funds were redistributed and our original \$611 has been increased to \$880. Most of the money is to be used for development, outreach and implementation of the water conservation workshop in May. Approximately 30 hours at \$25 an hour has been allotted to pay an instructor and perhaps assistants. Prescott is contacting a possible instructor. The materials are coming from the \$890 Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant. The extra \$5 charged to the pea patchers will bring in an additional \$85 to the project.

Member survey — Tabled for the moment.

Bylaws — Prescott distributed a copy of the proposed new bylaw amendments along with a summary of the changes that were made, for ease of discussion.

April meeting, see page 8

President's Message: the Bylaws Are Amended

by Prescott, president



We did it! We received a simple majority of the ballots from our entire membership to approve the bylaw amendments reported in the April-May newsletter. Any member who has paid their membership dues is considered a member in good standing. Each member should have received a ballot

in their mailed newsletter. If you receive your newsletter by email, you would have received a mailed letter. It was a good opportunity to check the list and remind members of their renewal date.

Music Festival, from page 1

The market will be in full swing during a good part of the afternoon. Food vendors, arts and crafts vendors and children's activities will provide extra attractions for attendees. Vendors are encouraged to stay later. Extra coolers with ice would be very welcome so shoppers can keep their produce cool while enjoying the festival (put your name on any coolers you can loan).

Extra parking is available in the field by the highway. Come down the driveway and follow signs around the market area to the field nearer the highway. There are two restrooms on the campus.

"We're hoping that people will bring frisbees, balls, balloons, whatever they want to create color and fun," said Clepper. "Last year a talented girl came out and performed tight-rope walking to raise funds to support South Whidbey Tilth. Larry Dobson has come out every year since the beginning with his stilts, his big hat and colorful costume. Someone set up a kid's swimming pool to help them beat the heat last year. It's a community event and people from the community are making it fun."

The schedule of performances will be published on *Drewslist*, in *Whidbey Life Magazine* and on posters and fliers placed around the island. Clepper

is also looking for volunteers to help set up the stage the day before, Saturday, July 5, and to help with various tasks during the festival itself. Please email Russell or call 360-632-0593 after July 2. Check it out on [Facebook!](#)



Emory Lindgard photo

Children splashing in a little pool adds to the festive atmosphere at the festival.

I especially appreciated the thoughtful notes from members when they sent in their ballots. The response for membership renewals was also wonderful.

This newsletter issue is the last time the business meeting minutes will be published. They will appear on the [South Whidbey Tilth website's "About" page](#).

One member caught an item in the amendment of Article Eight: Quorum, Section B, Decision Making, Number 5. State law mandates an email decision needs to be unanimous. This finding has been sent to the Rules committee to develop and incorporate into the bylaws, as well as to develop clear procedures for electronic correspondence among council trustees.

Our market manager and land steward, Kirsten Clauson, has found that managing the market and managing the Tilth Sustainability Campus is too much. I heartily agree. Kirsten is offering her land stewardship position to someone else. She is still holding the place on the council but really needs someone else to take on the coordination of land and facility work. Might that be you?

Finally, I want to thank Marc Wilson for conducting a really fine water irrigation workshop on May 24. Several of us received the training needed to fit the gardens and landscaped areas with efficient and sturdy manifolds, timers, emitters, etc. A master water meter has been installed by the well.

Fair Duties, from page 1

order by class, within each division. For example, Department 204 is "Agriculture," Division A is "Vegetables" and class number 35 is "5 pea pods, edible."

Bring your own agriculture entries on Tuesday, July 29 between 1 and 7 p.m., then plan to stay to help for an hour or two. It would be helpful to know who can come and when. Please contact Pam or Prescott (360-544-2278 or email prscot@whidbey.net). More help is needed Wednesday to place ribbons on class items and continue arranging them.

The fair is for bragging, so be sure to enter as many things as you can in any department from Home Economics to Animals. Whatever you enter earns you premium points, which equals cash. To learn how to do this go to the [Whidbey Island Area Fair website](#) and select Premium List. There are hard copies of the premium list booklet at area libraries, feed and farm stores, and South Whidbey Tilth will have a supply.

You can save a lot of time if you enter online. On the homepage select "click here to register your exhibits online for the 2014 Fair!" and follow directions. Be sure to download the "Online Fair Entry Checklist" to be sure you have everything covered. Print entry tags and fill them out before you come. Create an account or login using your account from previous years; complete as much information as possible before July 29.

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

April meeting, from 6

Each of the proposed changes was discussed and accepted and a motion was made and seconded to adopt the amended bylaws as presented and to recommend that it be mailed to the membership for majority ap-

proval of the eligible ballots cast. Members will be invited to attend a discussion at the next council business meeting on May 15. If adequate ballots are received the bylaws will be amended. The motion passed.

South Whidbey Tilth Business Meeting Minutes May 15

by Jean Nelson, secretary

Present — Council members Prescott, Edward Hueneke, Jean Nelson, Kirsten Clauson, Marc Wilson and Tom White. Also present J.C. May, Anza Muenchow and Michael Seraphinoff.

The meeting was called to order by President Prescott at 6:40 p.m. in Grigware Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Announcements/introductions Dorcas Young's Lesedi Farm produce stand is now open. She has indicated that she welcomes produce from other Tilth gardeners.

The Senior Center will be borrowing Tilth's two canopies for their Walkathon benefit for Meals on Wheels on May 18. The canopies will be returned either Saturday night or Sunday in time for the Sunday Market.

Prescott distributed copies of the weekly brochure currently published by the Clinton Visitor Kiosk manager Katy Shaner. Prescott is sending Katy Tilth updates to include.

On June 4 Billings Middle School students will be returning to Tilth for their annual service day. Ideas for projects were discussed. Volunteers may contact Marc Wilson with any project needs as he will be coordinating.

Prescott announced that on June 18, ECO-Network is offering a wastewater training field trip to the Puyallup Waste Water facility.

Marc Wilson spoke about his visit to the food lab meeting in Clinton. Three people are holding the energy for the "food hub" idea in Clinton. It would be a traditional food hub and an aggregator of local farm goods with the goal of local food consumption.

proval of the eligible ballots cast. Members will be invited to attend a discussion at the next council business meeting on May 15. If adequate ballots are received the bylaws will be amended. The motion passed.

Minutes — a motion was made and seconded to accept the April minutes as written. With one abstention, the motion was carried with no objections.

Treasurer's report — The monthly profit & loss and balance sheet ending April 30 was reviewed. Edward stated the current checking balance was \$4,004.32. There has been no activity on PayPal. Going backwards to January 31, Edward noted that the checking balance was \$6,158.47 and it should be turning around soon with the market income and fewer promotion expenses. The May 4 and May 11 market commissions have not been included yet. As a review, it was pointed out that the timing of the annual letter has influenced any comparisons of the 2012, 2013 and 2014 actuals.

Kirsten was commended for her work as land steward and for increasing the income from pea patch use agreements from the year before. No word yet from the bank concerning the change in signatures on the sustaining fund account. Jean Nelson is tracking the weekly income from the Sunday Market. Prescott is tracking comparisons with income from prior years as well as maintaining an event calendar on the Tilth website.

President's report — The April/May newsletter is published, but can't be sent until May 18 because the bylaws stipulate notification to the membership be no less than 10 days and no more than 30. The bylaw amendments are to be ratified at the next council meeting June 19. Prescott is working on the cover letter and ballot to be mailed to the membership on Monday.

New Business

New standing committee chairs

— A motion was made and seconded to accept Michael Seraphinoff to the Education chair position. The motion was approved.

A motion was made, sec-

Market report — Kirsten Clauson reported that a particular vendor, selling prepared food, must have their own insurance and does not. Edward will forward information from the Farmers' Markets Association and North Sound Insurance Company to assist Kirsten and this vendor. Kirsten has confirmed a Natural Dye workshop with Lydia Christiansen for July 27. The music schedule is looking good. A new musician has contacted Kirsten and will perform this summer. There has been some assistance on the market setup and cleanup, but getting enough help each week continues to be a problem. The concern that the workload is too much for a few people and that the overall responsibility falls on the market manager lead to a lengthy discussion of possible solutions. It was agreed to encourage more active involvement by council and market committee members when possible. Along with awareness, talking it up and personally pitching in to help, council members can remind each other and the vendors of the tasks needed each week. Along with a thank you to those vendors and Tilth members who have and continue to volunteer, Prescott has included a reminder in the latest newsletter of the continued need for assistance and a request to pitch-in or check with the market manager for direction. There have been some comments from Market visitors concerning the tattered condition of the flags at the scarecrow and at the entrance, so they will no longer be displayed.

Education — Michael Seraphinoff reminded everyone about the water conservation workshop coming up on May 24 and the

ended and passed to appoint Marc Wilson to the Tilth Council of Trustees with the officer duty as membership and community relations chair.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

workshop in June with J.C. May.

Land stewardship - Kirsten Clauson reported that Lesedi Farm is having trouble at times with the water pressure for their drip water system. With the obvious water demands on the pump from other plots, Tom White will talk with Lesedi Farm about an alternative staggered schedule for watering.

Marc Wilson will be attending a training class on drip irrigation in preparation for his May 24 workshop at Tilth and will visit Tom White's farm to look at his drip system in action. The workshop at Tilth will give attendees the knowledge and experience to setup their own drip system. Tilth will provide the timers and flow meters for each of the hydrants at the campus. The lower level pea patches will have water from the orchard hydrant. A master water meter is being installed at the pump house.

J.C. May reported that there are still quite a few tent caterpillars on the property. Everyone continues to work at keeping some control until a specific wasp comes to the area and parasitizes the caterpillar, consequently killing it. Prescott reminded everyone there is a spray bottle and a container of concentrated Safer's Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) available in the shed to use.

Membership/community relations — Marc Wilson reported that along with catching up on the committee status, his main concern is getting an up-to-date and accurate list of Tilth members for the mailing of the proposed bylaw changes. Marc is working on a way to simplify the current staggered process of notifying mem-

Market helpers, from 5

sell our shopping bags and more.

Restroom cleaning is another necessary chore. Kirsten Clauson has done most of the weekly cleaning and stocking of the bathrooms. The Calyx Community Arts School teachers and parents have agreed to clean it every Wednesday through July. It must be done using fragrance-free ingredients such as dish soap, baking soda and vinegar. Please sign up to help from August through October.

Volunteer Sheila Mohn stepped up to be the visitor counter

May meeting, from 8

bers of renewal dates. Ideas for this will be discussed more fully at the June council meeting. The committee will also be working on having just one major database to work from. It was noted that fundraising is proposed as a bylaws amendment to be a responsibility of the membership/community relations committee. Marc asked for guidelines and clarification of that responsibility.

Old Business

Bylaws meeting — The ballot in the mailing will give the members the option of returning the ballot by mail or bringing their ballot to the June 19 business meeting. Prescott has included in the newsletter a notification of the meeting to be held at the Tilth campus, where there will be an open discussion of the bylaw changes, counting of the ballots, and announcement of results. If the weather is bad, the meeting

will be held at Grigware Hall. A ballot will be sent to each person in a Tilth member household.

Billings Middle School — Anyone who is available to come and help direct the work party, please contact Marc Wilson. Request was made to bring a wheelbarrow if you have one. The date is Wednesday, June 4 around noon.

New Business

USDA Farmers' Market promotion grant — The application is due June 20. There is a yearly webinar discussing the grant and the application process. There is quite a lot of groundwork in the process, so, with the time restraint and trying to complete the 501(c)3 paperwork, the council tabled making an application until next year.

South Whidbey Music Festival Prescott will contact Russell to see what the status is.

South Whidbey Tilth fair dis-

on most Sundays. We could use another person willing to spell her or come when she isn't available, such as July 6. There is a handheld counter that is held and clicked to keep track of visitors that you see at the market. You wouldn't have to sit in one place the whole time; you wouldn't even have to commit to the duration of the market. Longer-term commitments are definitely welcomed.

If you can commit to any of these tasks, let Market Manager Kirsten Clauson know. She can be reached at market@southwhidbeytilth.org or find her at her selling space in the market, the Herbal Workshop.

play — Michael is proposing a fair committee meet to brainstorm ideas for the Tilth display at the Whidbey Island Area Fair. The committee could be made up of education committee members. Tilth will again be partnering with the Grange and the Beekeepers. Help is also needed to steward the vegetable, fruit and grain displays. Volunteers are needed to setup, check-in and judge entries. Work starts in early July with initial cleaning of the buildings, working through the fair time and clean-up.

Field to Table Sustainability Banquet — Options for the banquet are Wednesday, August 13 or August 20. Due to some member conflicts, it was rescheduled from August 13 to August 20.

Whidbey Island Farm Tour Anza has agreed to be the lead. The dates are September 20 and 21. Prescott and Lynae will

organize the campus tours with a tour sheet and map. Anza informed the Council that Slow Food might want to partner with Tilth. She will coordinate with them and with Edward concerning kitchen use. Volunteers are needed for the Tilth information booth those days.

Tractor donation — Marc informed the council of the donation from a Tilth member of five old tractors. Marc will meet with someone who is very interested in restoring two of them, leaving Tilth with the remaining three. There was a discussion about where to park the tractors until the mowing in June is finished. After a reminder that council meetings will be held this summer on the Tilth campus on June 19 and July 17, and hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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 renew, join or donate online at swilthmembership.yolasite.com.

CALENDAR

JULY

- 6 South Whidbey Acoustic Music Festival**, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., see [page 1](#)
- 10 Class registration** to Whidbey Island Fabulous Fun Fiber Sessions, see page 5
- 12 to 13 Fiberquest** with a Twist, see page 3
- 13 Food, Prana and Ayurveda** with Kumudini Shoba, Sunday, 11:30 to 12:30, at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 13 Jazz with Danny Ward**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the market
- 17 Business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth**, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus
- 20 Sommer Harris sings; Tips for beach salmon fishing and crabbing with Kevin Lungren**, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tilth Farmers' Market
- 27 Workshop on natural dyes** with Lydia Christensen, Sunday, Tilth Farmers' Market
- 27 Garden Critter workshop** with Deer Lagoon Grange, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 29 Fair entries for perishable items**, Tuesday, 1 to 7 p.m., Burrier Building at the Fairgrounds in Langley
- 31 to August 3 Whidbey Island Area Fair** in Langley

AUGUST

- 1 Deadline for articles** to South Whidbey Tilth newsletter, August-September issue; email the [editor](#) or call 360-544-2278

- 10 Jazz saxophonist Danny Ward**, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 17 Island Ukeleles**, Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tilth Farmers' Market
- 20 Tilth Sustainability summer party**, Wednesday evening, at the Tilth Sustainability Campus

SEPTEMBER

- 5 to 6 Whole Grains Conference**, Friday and Saturday at Pacific Rim Institute, Coupeville
- 18 Business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth**, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran community building, Nursery
- 20 to 21 Whidbey Island Farm Tour**, Saturday and Sunday, see [page 2](#)

SAVE THE DATE

- November 7 to 9**, Tilth's 40th Anniversary Conference, Vancouver, Washington; www.tilthproducers.org

FIND US ONLINE

Did you know you can view a year's worth of South Whidbey Tilth newsletters on the [South Whidbey Tilth website](#)? Select the green text. The links are at the bottom of the page. When you select an issue it opens as a downloadable portable file document (pdf). It is also the same version that members receive who prefer an online version. Any text that is colored green is hyperlinked. In other words, when you select that green-colored phrase, the designated website or email address will open.

Select here to see the [South Whidbey Tilth Facebook page](#). Watch for current events there and please "like" us.

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