



South Whidbey TILTH

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

Volume 30, Number 5

September/October 2012

Last Market Day Is Halloween Party and Bazaar

Celebrate the harvest at the South Whidbey TILTH Farmers' Market with a community bazaar on Sunday, October 28. Join us in costume or not.

Enjoy live music by Bob Effertz and friends on his didgeridoo and hammered dulcimer. Calyx students also plan to perform. Activities for children and adults may include pumpkin carving, bobbing for apples and more. Got pumpkins?

The market committee is organizing this Halloween event, including invitations to all the vendors of other markets, since TILTH's is the final market before the holiday markets begin. Guest vendors will be charged a space fee of \$10. All vendors will pay the usual 10 percent sales commission.

The transition of fall to winter is marked by Halloween, traditionally a time that straddles life and death, plenty and paucity. There will be a bonfire, so bring a message or symbol of something you want to leave behind as you finish the harvest season and prepare for the dormancy of winter, a time to incubate new plans.

The last permissible bake sale is happening that day. Next year Island County will require stricter guidelines. Donated baked goods will be sold to benefit the market operation. We'd love to have a

volunteer to coordinate this.

To help plan this event or for guest vendors to preregister *email market manager Lynae Slinden* or call 360-341-4456 or her cell 360-632-4451.

TILTH Celebrates Washington Organic Week September 9 through September 15 as proclaimed by Governor Christine Gregoire. Local farmers are bringing squash, corn, beans tomatoes apples, plums, onions, garlic and more.

Watch a weaver warp a loom with handspun yarns during the second Sunday Sheep to Shawl event, September 9. The fiber was produced during prior events. Knitting and crocheting will be demonstrated too. Throughout the season, on the second Sunday of the month, one step in the garment making process has been demonstrated. Don't miss the final product October 14.

There are lots of crafts and nursery products, especially by fiber artists with handspun wool and fiber for sale. Picnic on the grassy field, choosing from hot food to freshly picked vegetables and fruits. Come

Market season, see 4

Barn Owl Habitat

Barn owls have been seen swooping along the meadows and woods along Thompson Road.

Janie Pulsifer arranged to have George Potter build a nesting box for the TILTH campus on the western edge of the forest understory recovery area. More details next issue.

Nick Fowler photos



Gleeful Gleaners Kick Off Third Harvest Season

Seeking donated equipment, help and fruit

Summer has finally ripened, and fruit is busy growing on trees all over South Whidbey. The Gleeful Gleaners of Good Cheer kicked off its third year of harvesting extra tree fruit from generous South Whidbey tree owners starting with Shiro plums in mid-August. In 2011, we harvested more than two tons of apples,

pears, Asian pears and plums, feeding people through the Good Cheer Food Bank, Whidbey Island Nourishes, and the Senior Center. Last year we started harvesting plums in August and continued picking forays until January 2012, when a strapping Granny Smith apple tree bestowed an abundant 200-plus pounds of near-perfect fruit on us. Just before the snow!

Individual tree owners who can share

their extra fruit and volunteers who come and pick once or many times throughout the season make this happen. It's fun, it's easy, it's tasty! Why not join in and have some fun while getting good food to our community? We reserve part of the harvest for the tree owner and for harvesters if they request it. Even the fruit that wasn't fit for human consumption found eager consumers among several

Gleaner harvest, see 5

President’s Message

by Linda Good



Thanks to everyone who helped with and attended South Whidbey Tilth’s annual Field-to-table Sustainability Banquet. *Muchas gracias* to those who renewed their membership and/or made donations.

As we move into harvest season we can be grateful for the bounty of Tilth’s pea patch plots and the corn variety trial, the orchard, and the Rhode Island Reds [hens] that are now laying eggs.

Please keep looking out for ways you can learn and help. Thanks to all who volunteered at the Whidbey Island Area Fair. Kids, the Vegetable Critters were great!

Outdoor Classroom Teacher Training

The Whidbey Watershed Stewards’ Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom welcomes volunteers to join the fun by teaching elementary students about the wonders of nature at the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom.

This fall’s volunteer training is Thursday, September 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Outdoor Classroom in Clinton. Lunch is provided.

The teaching session is Tuesday through Friday from September 27 to November 9 depending on when classes sign up to come. Volunteers are asked to teach one small-group lesson a week, morning or early afternoon, working with other volunteers. Volunteers receive lots of information and support to be successful!

This fall the theme is the incredible journey of the Pacific salmon, its unique anatomy and how it changes to meet the needs of each life cycle stage, and how stream dynamics like silt and sand impact the health of the aquatic environment.



For more information and to sign up, email *Outdoor Classroom teacher Lori O’Brien* at 360-579-1272.



WHAT IS TILTH?

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

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

MISSION

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

South Whidbey Tilth Association is a diverse network of people working cooperatively within our organization and in the community. Our commitment is to advocate, study and teach agricultural practices consistent with stewardship of the natural world. We promote and demonstrate principles and practices of sustainable agriculture, as well as cultivate a variety of opportunities for local market gardeners and farmers.

2012 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

- President: Linda Good 360-221-6439 *email president*
- Finance/Funding: Edward Hueneke 360-331-5806 *email treasurer*
- Secretary: VACANT
- Membership: Gary Ingram 360-331-0373 *email membership chair*
- Education: Eric Conn 360-321-2805 *email education chair*
- Land Stewardship: Anza Muenchow 360-579-2890 *email land steward*
- Market: Annapoorne Colangelo 360-579-3735 *email market chair*

WASHINGTON TILTH REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE

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

PROJECT LEADERS

- Native Landscape: JC May 360-331-1004 *email JC*
- Water manager: Bob Wendt 360-579-5844 *email Tilth water manager*
- Community Garden: Anza Muenchow 360-579-2890 *email community garden coordinator*
- Webmaster/Email: Marc Wilson 360-579-2890 *email webmaster*
- Calyx School: Lisa Kois 917-859-4522 *email Calyx*

CONTRACT SERVICES

- Market manager: Lynae Slinden 360-341-4456 *email market manager*
- Newsletter editor: Prescott 360-544-2278 *email newsletter editor*
- Bookkeeper: Jeanne Celeste 360-331-6135 *email Tilth bookkeeper*

MEMBERSHIP

South Whidbey Tilth membership is \$25 annually. Additional people in a household may join for \$10 each. The newsletters can be received by email or by USPS mail, one per household. To update membership information, email *Gary Ingram* or call 360-222-3207 or visit swtilthmembership.yolasite.com.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The South Whidbey Tilth newsletter is a bimonthly publication of South Whidbey Tilth Association. The primary purpose of this publication is to foster communication among our membership and friends with information about our mission and our organization, including meeting minutes and project reports. A newsletter subscription is \$25. Submissions of letters, articles, book reviews and photos are encouraged. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit for clarity, style and concision. Advertising and opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily the policy of the South Whidbey Tilth Association.

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

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 19

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE NEWSLETTER

Full page \$70, half \$40, quarter \$22 and eighth \$12. **Classified ads** are also available for a dime a word.

HOW TO CONTACT US

- Mail to: South Whidbey Tilth
PO Box 252, Langley WA 98260
- Phone: 360-579-2892
- Email: [info\(at\)southwhideytilth\(dot\)org](mailto:info(at)southwhideytilth(dot)org)
- Website: www.southwhidbeytilth.org
- Physical location: 2812 Thompson Road, off SR 525

Winter Garden Care, Soil Building and Seed Saving



by Anza Muenchow

As you finish your fall harvesting and your garden beds become more empty, consider the ways to “feed” your soil for the coming years. There are several legumes that can be planted as “green manures” in September or October. In our region we recommend Austrian field peas, vetch or fava beans. Besides adding nitrogen to the soil, they crowd out weeds. In the spring the plant tops can be removed and the roots tilled into the soil providing a richer base for crops. For some beds, I prefer to pile on dried leaves and cover with burlap bags collected from local coffee roasters. This nicely increases earthworm activity. The best part of the fall rains is how the moisture activates and increases the beneficial microbes and soil critters. All that life in the soil increases its fertility and makes organic gardening a simple pleasure.

This time of year I look for my favorite shrubs and perennial herbs, and attempt to propagate them. Some of my favorites to propagate by clone are rosemary, thyme, sage, daphne, artemesia, and bay. This year I’ll be attempting French tarragon. I take a healthy looking twig with a semi-hardened stem and strip off about two-thirds of the leaves, keeping the leaves at the very top of the twig, and three to four inches of stem. Dip the bare stem into a rooting hormone, powder or liquid, purchased this year. Press the stem securely into a clean tray filled with at least two inches of sterile seed starting mix. The cuttings need to be in an environment where you can control the moisture and they need good light. Sometimes I like to use

a water-tight deli tray with a clear plastic dome-shaped cover that is taller than the cuttings. Giving the tray cool light under a florescent tube and keeping it around 70 degrees (basic room temperature), I can expect about a 50 percent rate of success on most types of plants. I check the tray of cuttings about every other day. I make sure they are moist and blow some CO₂ on them. I remove any moldy leaves and check for root growth in six weeks. I may leave the cuttings in the trays till I feel a lot of resistance when I tug on them. Then I transplant the new little cloned plants into a good potting mix and keep a close watch on their moisture and growth.

Our late summer gardens change abruptly in September. Early plantings of lettuces, broccoli, chard, bok choy, spinach and arugula have either been harvested or are now shooting up their seed stalks, also known as “bolting.” I will keep a few bolting plants so I can collect their seeds for next season. I want the future seeds to be from plants that were robust and well established before they bolted. Tie the plant stalks to stakes to mark them by variety and prevent them from being blown over in the wind. You may need to protect them from birds, with a cover. It would be best to keep them dry as much as possible. Once the seeds have matured you can snip the plant stalk and, if they are not completely dry, lay them out somewhere dark with good air circulation. The seeds will be ready to harvest when they are dry and hard. Once you’ve removed most of the moisture, you can keep your seeds in a paper bag or envelope in a cool, dry place labeled with the plant variety and the date you collected the seeds. Be sure to mark the seeds with the date and information about the variety. It feels so good to be more self-reliant with seeds I grow.

Whidbey Farm Tour Is September 15 and 16

The seventh annual Whidbey Island Farm Tour is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16. Whidbey Island farmers are raising all kinds of crops and livestock — from Rockwell beans to blueberries, from grain to flowers, and from chickens and beef to alpacas and horses. Many are also producing products directly from what they raise. Taste locally made cheese and jam — or don a scarf made from alpaca fiber. Many farms will be hosting other farmers, food purveyors, and entertainers, so join the kids and go on a scavenger hunt, learn about composting, see raptors up close, or sip some wine and listen to music. Stop for lunch at one of the local outdoor markets.

Sunday, September 16, South Whidbey Tilth Farmers’ Market concessions from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. include the Left-over Queen and Woodfire Pizza.

The tour is free. Visitors can start anywhere and take in as many or as few farms as they like. Some farms are offering events at specific times and a few are open Saturday only. Check the [Whidbey Farm Tour website](#) to download a map and schedule of events. Brochures with maps can also be found in

the rack section on the Mukilteo/Clinton ferry; at the Chamber of Commerce kiosk on SR 525 at the intersection of Langley Road in Clinton; at the Chambers of Commerce and libraries in Langley, Freeland, Coupeville and Oak Harbor.

Those who missed Tilth’s July tour of Glendale Shepherd Creamery have another chance. See #18 on the tour map.

5th Annual Fiber Celebration

Whidbey Island Fabulous Fall Fiber Sale
part of the 2012 Whidbey Island Farm Tour
(click here for tour information)

September 15 & 16
Saturday - 10 to 5 • Sunday - 10 to 4
4081 Springwater Lane, Clinton

Yarns • Roving • Weavings • Fleece • Felt • Quality Handmade Products
Books • Animals to Visit • Demonstrations
Japanese Kumihimo Braiding • Refreshments
• and more

Contact Mary Donaty
360-579-1906 • lamalou@whidbey.com
www.paradisefoundfiber.com
Most Artists prefer cash or check

Click here for poster & vendor list

Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet

by Lynae Slinden, market manager

On a warm sunny Thursday afternoon in August, Tilth again celebrated the abundance of living, learning, working, and playing on South Whidbey at its Annual Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet. This year's banquet was organized by the planning committee of Linda Good, Anza Muenchow and Gary Ingram with



Prescott photo

Island Strings performers include Linda Good, Talia Marcus, Kimmer Morris, Arthur Keast, Louise Holloway-Stanely and Avery Scharwat.

Linda acting as hostess and emcee of the festivities. As with all of Tilth's activities, it took the efforts of many to create a successful event and, in recognition of their efforts, a big thank you to all who donated time and food for the banquet and produce, gifts and crafts for the raffle.

The salmon chef for the evening was Edward Hueneke. He reported that in addition to an abundance of wonderful food dishes brought by members and guests, South Whidbey Tilth grilled 35 pounds of frozen King salmon over an open fire pit to serve at its annual banquet. The salmon was acquired from the Swinomish Fish Company, which represents Indian Tribal Councils. The fillets were brushed with olive oil and lightly sprinkled with salt and pepper. It proved to be good quality salmon. Each fish was 11 to 18 pounds and filleted out to around seven pounds.



Prescott photo

Edward Hueneke grilling salmon to perfection at the banquet.

Edward explained, "The cook failed to remember from 2011, how long each side of salmon takes to finish in the middle, so diners were waiting in lines all evening. Most eventually sampled the finest culinary treasure of the Northwest."

A huge thank you to Edward, it was delicious and worth waiting for.

Market season, from 1

for brunch. The market is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays at 2812 Thompson Road off SR 525; look for the scarecrow. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards and

Entertainment was provided by Calyx students and staff including young Aaliyah Kois. Linda Good teaches music for Calyx and was joined by fellow Island Strings teachers Talia Marcus and Kimmer Morris and some of their students, including Arthur Keast and Avery and Dustin Scharwat.

Calyx students also assisted Linda Good with the raffle drawing raising \$425, to be used primarily for matching funds to a possible grant for capital improvements and advertising for next year's market. Thank you to Jane Wilson for organizing the raffle and to those who made the following donations:

Marc Wilson: Microsoft Office for PC
 Holly Muenchow: Microsoft Office for MAC
 Don Miller: framed photograph
 Paul Iddins: matted photograph
 Tinker Iddins: matted photograph
 Jane Wilson: basket of gifts
 Wendy Ferrier: children's slippers
 Louise Holloway-Stanley: silk/wool beret
 Frank Parente and Sally Nelson: garlic and jam
 Eric Conn: potatoes
 Kim McJury: casserole
 Ginny Kuehn: potholders
 Susan Knapp: flower frog
 Brian Kirkpatrick and Fred Schram: cut glass bowls
 Annapoone Colangelo: gift certificates for yoga classes and an intuitive reading
 Paradise Found Fiber Shack: gift certificate

And, of course, more thanks to the many people who helped set up and clean up for the banquet and festivities, including Anza Muenchow and her interns Jess and Christi, Leonard and Linda Good, Judy Brown, Prescott, Michael Seraphinoff, Andréa Linton, Karen Epifano, Louise Holloway-Stanley, Nancye Good and family and Edward Hueneke. Apologies and thanks for anyone omitted from this list. Special thanks to Saint Peters Church in Clinton for loaning Tilth extra tables and chairs. Thank you to Anza Muenchow and Marc Wilson for transporting them.

To those attending, thank you for celebrating the Tilth Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet. Your participation and contributions are what keeps the Tilth campus sustained.



Andréa Linton photo

Maha Farm interns Christi and Jess preparing pizza in the wood-fired cob oven.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons are welcome. Regular vendors pay no space fee, only sales commission.

Calyx Concludes Its First Year with Busy Summer

Calyx Community Arts School concluded its first year with a busy and exciting summer program. Thirty-three children took part in the program, with 25 mostly volunteer adult and teenage mentors working with the children as they explored earth, water, air, fire, wood and universe through Spanish, stories, song, art, science, service and play. Three of the four days each week were spent at Tilth, with one day each week at either South Whidbey State Park or Legacy Forest at Chinook.

Cob Playhouse

One of the most exciting parts of our Calyx summer has been working together to build a natural playhouse as part of the new community children's art garden being built at Tilth. Led by natural builder Eli Adadow, with help from Tom Giffin, this all-volunteer community effort has had adults and children working side by side to build the cob structure. Cob, which means loaf or clod, is comprised of clay, sand, straw and water, all of which were obtained locally. Currently shakes are needed for the roof. The children's art garden is being supported in part by a grant from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour.



Nick Fowler photo

Looking from the playhouse interior, the exposed rafters need donated shakes.

Village Learning

With so many adult volunteers contributing their time and skills, and the campus alive with Tilth members working in pea patches and on the campus, we got much closer to the village vibe we strive for at Calyx, where adult mentors teach through doing. Children are free to move in and out of activities, watching, engaging, experimenting and learning from adults who are doing what they love.

Summer Highlights

We began our summer by marching in the Maxwelton Parade to the tune of “*Esta Tierra es Tuya*,” followed by, *esta tierra es mia*, (“This Land Is Your Land,” this land is my land), and ended it by acting out the universe story. Other highlights came from the community, through the skills and passions brought by our volunteers. These included harvesting our

small garden crop (and eating it!) with Anza Muenchow; learning the pirate version (!) of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” from Vern Olsen and Dr. Bob Wagner of the Shifty Sailors; making bubbles and a solar oven with Larry Dobson; making kites with Leonard Good; learning Spanish songs and *adivanzas* with Laura Payne Martinez; making natural dyes, walking sticks and bird houses for residents of Brookhaven with Maiteryi Nagarkar and Susie Richards; making music in the forest with Martin Payne and friends and at Tilth with Linda Good; and exploring one of South Whidbey's new fire trucks with firefighters Jerry Beck and Alex McMahon during a visit to the Tilth campus.



Gary Ingram photo

Proudly showing off the \$2,200 check for the children's garden from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour are Tilth land stewardship chair Anza Muenchow, Calyx co-coordinators Marta Mulholland and Lisa Kois.

Gearing up for Fall

Calyx begins its fall quarter on Monday, September 17. Calyx is a multilingual arts and nature based learning experience for ages 5 to 9. Calyx offers a three-day program week, Monday through Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and meets at the South Whidbey Tilth Sustainability Campus, Legacy Forest (Chinook) and South Whidbey State Park. For more information about our program, email Lisa Kois or Marta Mulholland or call Lisa Kois at 917-859-4522. Donations to enhance our program may be sent to South Whidbey Tilth, our nonprofit fiscal sponsor. See the donation coupon on page 9.

Gleaner harvest, from 1

farm animals. We're keeping extra tree fruit from going to waste and putting it to good use instead.

Several South Whidbey Tilth members helped start this group and stay active, harvesting. To further leverage the work of this all-volunteer, no-overhead enterprise, we're looking for a 6' orchard ladder (or two), picking bags, pole pickers, and other helpful harvesting tools. If you happen to have any equipment to donate, we'd sure be grateful. And we'll put it to good use!

Please also let us know if you have fruit to share or if you're interested in helping harvest or organizing. We appreciate as much advance notice as tree owners can give so that we can prepare for harvests before the fruit is dropping off trees

Contact A.T. Birmingham-Young by email or call 360-221-3419 or to either donate fruit or to offer to harvest or help in other ways. You can also just go online to connect with the project through GoodCheer. We're eager to make the best use of the food and volunteer resources here in our community.



Resources for Local Food

Grange Food News is a newsletter that Chris Williams writes about food and farming on Whidbey. It grew out of the Food Basics classes held at the Deer Lagoon Grange. Anybody can get on the list, it's free, just *email Chris Williams*. To put something in about an event or something wanted or for sale that is food or farming related, that too is free but it is Chris's decision whether to include it. Please give as much advance notice as possible because this newsletter goes out on an irregular schedule. Grange classes may appear in multiple issues, other events may appear only once.

For a complete events calendar, go to the *Whidbey Farm and Food News blog* being maintained by Claire Acord, sheep raiser and Border Collie trainer, who is compiling information from the *Grange Food News* and other sources. This is a team effort trying to figure out how local food and farming works on Whidbey and to make the information available. We'd welcome input and help from others. If you know of new farmers, services or food buying opportunities, contact Chris.

Editor's note: The September 4 issue of *Grange Food News* is chock full of intriguing subjects including follow-up from the Whidbey Island Fair, "What happened with Raspberries on Whidbey", "Westport Tuna Run and Grange building repairs," hunter education class notice, Small Grains Field Day at WSU Research Station in Mount Vernon, comb honey and Whidbey Beekeepers, blackberries, canning and so much more.

The *South Whidbey Tilth newsletter* is available as a PDF download from the *website* and scroll to the bottom of the page. It is in color and contains hyperlinks that automatically connect to a website or create an email message when viewed from a computer or mobile device.

Grange, Tilth and Beekeepers a Success at the Fair

by Chuck Prochaska, superintendent of Department 203, except floral

Thank you to all the volunteer stewards for helping in a very big way to make the Whidbey Island Area Fair 2012 a great success. Many of you are not aware that the Washington State Fair Judge awarded the "Black and White" award to the Superintendents collectively. That wouldn't have happened without our Departments (203, Divisions B, C, D, E, and F) Vegetables, Fruit, Herbs, Honey and Grains and Grasses looking great. But not just looking great, it included the interaction with the fairgoers of all ages as well.

Here is a list of those who participated in working one or several shifts as steward. From Deer Lagoon Grange: Daniel Abat, Yvette Cadwallader, Jim Hicken, Kristi Johansen-Abat, Andréa Linton, Phyllis Rainey, Ken Schillinger and Michelle Schmidtke; from Tilth: Bliss Knorpp, Alex Bonesteel, Linda and

ECO-Net News

South Whidbey Tilth is a member of Whidbey ECO-Net, one of a network of local ECO-Net groups throughout Puget Sound set up by Puget Sound Partnership. The Partnership issues grants used by the Eco-Net groups to further the goal of maintaining a vibrant Puget Sound environment. Edward Hueneke is serving as Tilth's liaison with the network.

Joe Laxson, Island County Health Specialist, is coordinating the local ECO-Net group for 2012. Assuming this role from Nancy Waddell, the past ECO-Net coordinator.

Joe says, "I am very excited to help out and work to expand our efforts. We have a fabulous community on Whidbey and the ECO-Net has the potential to be instrumental in protecting our natural resources through education, coordination and outreach."

Joe Laxson may be reached by email or call him at 360-678-7910.

Susie Richards of Service, Education and Adventure (SEA) announced that the South Whidbey School District Superintendent Jo Moccia has designated sustainability and environmental education as one of the district's key priorities for the 2012–2013 school year. SEA will be coordinating a workshop/training for the entire K–12 South Whidbey School District staff. The focus of the workshop will be on building strong and ongoing school/community partnerships for sustainability/environmental education — and participation by ECO-Net and other community partners will be the key to the success of this day and initiative.

The workshop is Wednesday, September 26 from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will include an opportunity for community partners/ECO-Net members to set up display booths. For more information contact Susie Richards at 360-929-2606 or through the *SEA website*.

Leonard Good, Karen Epifano, Dawna and Nick Fowler, Louise Holloway-Stanley, Edward Hueneke, Stevie Linton, Anza Muenchow, Pam Nodus, Prescott, Gary Rassner-Donovan, Michael Seraphinoff and Marc Wilson; and from Whidbees: Dan Maxwell, Ziva Naph-tali and David Neel.

Again, a big thanks from Pam Nodus, Ken Schillinger, and myself.



Prescott photo

Pam Nodus accepting garden people and animals at the fair. Many of them were made at Tilth's market.

Eleventh Annual Native Plant Education and Plant Sale Is *Every* Thursday this October

The Native Plant Stewards announce its 11th Annual Native Plant Education Day and Plant Sale is every Thursday during the month of October.

This year they are changing the event to all four Thursdays of October from 1 to 5 p.m. in the upper meadow of South Whidbey Tilth's property. Thursdays are the Stewards' regularly scheduled workday during the year. They will be there working and will also be available to answer questions and assist with plant selections. The holding facilities will be opened to the public and plants can be purchased directly from the capillary beds. Visitors interested in helping weed around the oaks in the meadow for an hour will receive a 10 percent discount on plant purchases.

They have a large selection of native plants available for purchase at very low prices:

- Shrubs, ferns, understory perennials, ground covers for forest and garden
- Vine maples, cascara, red twig dogwood, Indian plum and other deciduous plants for spring/autumn color
- Garry oak trees and oak meadow understory plants
- Sedges, rushes and shrubs for rain gardens
- Douglas fir, cedar and spruce trees for forest restoration



Nick Fowler photo

Native Plant Salvage facility at Tilth.

or enhancement (please ask for these trees in advance. The trees do much better if they are salvaged and planted immediately rather than held in our beds.)

The Resource Library will again be set up in the greenhouse and literature on a wide variety of topics will be available for visitors to take home for future reference.

For information or to arrange a different date or time to purchase plants, contact *Mark Fessler and Barbara Kolar* by email or call 360-678-4281.



VISIT ALL

- 4 fiber farm stores
- 1 yarn shop

with an added twist!

ENJOY SPECIALS at 2 local wineries, a chocolate boutique and a scrumptious deli only with your FIBERQUEST ticket.

2 Gift Baskets to Win PLUS Online Contests
check it out at WhidbeyFiberQuest.com

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

Tilth Council Minutes of June 10, 2012

by Anza Muenchow

The business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth was called to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Laughing Cat porch on Tilth's campus on Thursday, June 10.

Council members present: Linda Good, Eric Conn, Edward Heuneke, Gary Ingram, Anza Muenchow and Annapoorne Colangelo

Other members present: Prescott, Lynae Slinden, glass artist Maria Garcia and Lisa Kois for Calyx.

Minutes — the minutes for the May meeting were unanimously approved after a few corrections and edits.

Treasurer's report — Edward Heuneke reported that we will move the general checking and savings accounts to Whidbey Island Bank when current checks are used up. The joint Tilth and Friends of Friends plant sale

grossed \$1,034 which will be split equally between the organizations. Edward proposed that Tilth cover the \$53.00 in expenses. The motion was called and approved by all with one abstention.

Education — Lisa offered a Calyx report. The youth educational program will be on break during June. During that time they plan to focus on work parties on the Tilth campus and on planning for their six-week summer session starting June 2, which will run Monday through Thursdays. Lisa also proposed an initial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Calyx and Tilth, which passed unanimously. A more complete MOA will be completed in September, which will be comprehensive enough to include all aspects of the year-around program.

Eric Conn reported the corn seed trial is planted and growing. The council agreed to promote

the seed trials with a generic banner that can be used from year to year. Prescott got two bids. It was agreed to accept Symbols and Signs' offer to print a larger banner for \$75 on used material, in good condition

Market — Linda agreed to give the music schedule to market manager, Lynae. Sales for June have been increasing; the best for the year was on June 10. Lynae recommended a new publicity campaign, "Tilth, it's more than a market" to promote entire grounds as a Sunday destination. Weekly lists of vendor sales are being kept private. Maria Garcia proposed new highway signs to advertise the market. Up to \$200 was approved for the signs. The council also approved moving market banner posts closer to the highway.

Membership — Gary reported that he is making additional attempts to get old members to

renew. The Tilth farm tour will happen on Saturday, July 21 and will include Maha Farm, Glendale Shepherd Creamery and Sky Root Farm.

The Field-to-Table Sustainability Banquet will be Thursday, August 9 at 5:30 p.m. The planning committee includes Linda, Gary and Anza. Please contact them to volunteer to help with the many tasks to put on the banquet.

Pam Nodus will organize stewards and judges for the Island County Fair which will be held on August 15 through 19.

Land Stewardship — Anza reported that work parties are happening in conjunction with the Calyx families' work parties on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Priorities for the coming month are the children's garden

June 10 meeting, see 8

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

June 10 meeting, from 7

and getting electricity into the bathrooms. The field of sunflowers were planted north of the corn

Tilth Council Minutes of July 12, 2012

by Annapoorne Colangelo

The business meeting of South Whidbey Tilth was held at its Sustainability Campus, beginning at approximately 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

Council members present — Edward Hueneke, President Linda Good, Annapoorne Colangelo. Also present - Lynn Geri (Calyx), Prescott, Matt Young, Janie Pulsifer and Market Manager Lynae Slinden

Minutes — The June 10 business meeting minutes taken by Anza were approved with clarifications and corrections.

Report about Matt and Dorcas's high tunnel hoop house

This falls under Anza's committee, Land Stewardship, and she is looking over the lease and will inform us when she returns from her rafting trip.

Matt is working on bringing water to their area. It was proposed that they bring it to their space from the orchard hydrant. They already have purchased a meter from Andy Campbell.

As we met, Jim Hyde was plowing the area for the tunnel. It will be tilled and buckwheat will be seeded. By then, Matt and Dorcas will have their own water. Lisa Kois had said the Calyx kids would help seed. Marc has designed a way that they will know exactly when they have completed sowing a row and can go to the next row. Matt is concerned about the liability of having children (e.g., from Calyx) there and reported he and Anza agreed to include in the lease the requirement that parents sign a waiver of liability for each child visiting the hoop house. This arose due to Anza's suggestion that the children may spend some time there.

Electricity — Anza has presented the council with the following bid from electrician Lance Moore

trials. We have a Canada thistle problem in several areas of the campus. We need volunteers to pull them or remove the flower heads of the plants.

for bringing the grid-powered electrical line from the pump house to the restrooms:

Run conduit and wire from the well house to an exterior panel on the restrooms. Install a baseboard heater in the custodians room. Install two dedicated receptacles outside for the music people or whomever. Install a handhole, (junction box), in line with the future greenhouse for future power for the greenhouse to tap on to later.

The price I've come up with is not to exceed \$2,900. This wire can be temporary or not. It will be able to run 100 amps. If you want to run larger wire, (200 amp maximum) now and get that out of the way you can add another \$350 to the \$2,900.

I decided to install a 200 amp panel at the restroom instead of a 100 amp panel because the price difference between the two is not much and that would be one less expense later.

Matt is interested in having Lance Moore put a box on Tilth's electrical line which they can pull electricity from. That would not require a permit. There could be a line from the pump house to the bathrooms with a junction midway. They will need another meter for their electricity. Perry McClellan, an experienced contractor and former Tilth land steward, has agreed to coordinate between Lance and Matt. Luke (a Calyx parent) has agreed to dig the trench in trade for his children's tuition to Calyx.

Edward mentioned that Tilth does not have enough working capital to pay for electrical line aforementioned to the bathrooms. It seems unclear as to who will pay. Linda suggested that it be divided between Calyx and Matt and Dorcas. To eliminate digging a ditch and another

meter, cords could be run from the bathrooms to the tunnel.

Janie Pulsifer has graciously offered to provide barn owl nest boxes for the campus.

A Calyx children's playhouse was discussed.

Matt reported that in the next six months, the high tunnel hoop-house will be built and the lease signed. For liability, they have business insurance.

Janie Pulsifer's barn owl nesting boxes

— Janie heard barn owls on Tilth land at 2 a.m. A friend of hers has plans to build a nesting box and is willing to build one in his workshop for free. He will need a ladder to install it. Both Lynn and Annapoorne offered use of theirs. Barn owls are cavity nesters in existing cavities. Old barns served this purpose. New barns are tighter and the owls cannot get in. They need homes. This is one reason that they are disappearing. The nesting box needs to be cleaned once a year.

Treasurer's report — Edward said there is nothing unusual to report, as all council members have received a monthly balance sheet, profit and loss statement and comparison between last year's budget to this year's and the actual income and expenditures. Linda said Gordon Collins was given the \$300 for the raffled chicken tractor as agreed last winter.

Calyx — Lynn Geri said several community members (including Dorit Zingarelli, a Tilth member) are excited about the children's sensory garden and read Dorit's statement. She handed out sheets, "What the Community Is Saying." The garden will be on the land where Dorcas and Matt's tunnel will be and the market site.

They are researching the history of the Tilth land to incorporate it in the garden somehow. And, Calyx would like the garden to fit with Tilth's mission statement. They also feel it will attract people to the market. Lynn handed out another sheet, "A Story of Place."

Regarding maintenance,

The next meeting is Thursday, July 12 at the Tilth Campus, potluck at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

there is a seven-year plan for what it will take to increase its potential, regenerate the land. "Dream Keepers" (such as Calyx, community members and Tilth members) are asking the land what it wants. They are teaching sustainability, regeneration to the children — the next generation.

Investors are Tilth and the Whidbey Garden Tour.

There will possibly be a juried art in the garden. There will be a play house — 14 feet, 2-foot thick walls, 10-foot diameter play area inside. It will be a cob-constructed house. The drain line from the septic will determine where the house will be. Calyx will provide the insurance, which they already have.

Lynae asked if the planning cleared with the county. Edward said as Calyx isn't a school (technically they are home schoolers), it fits with our educational mission. It fits with our temporary use permit. The playhouse is small enough it would not require a permit. The overall site plan is not yet "nailed down".

It was asked if Calyx would pay for another electrical meter. Lynn thought so, but we need to be certain and ask someone at Calyx, such as Marta or Lisa.

Action Item: Edward moved that construction of the play house begin if it is at the location agreed on at the meeting and if it fits the size for which a permit is not required. The motion was seconded by Annapoorne and passed by all.

Market committee — Lynae said the Music Festival date brought us a 50-percent increase in income. She also stated that several vendors did not want their names on the reports, so she has not included names, but has categories with totals. Edward asked her to give weekly bank deposit

July 12 meeting, see 9

BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

July 12 meeting, from 8

slips to both the bookkeeper, Jeanne and him.

Maria Garcia has been putting up handmade market signs the day of the market to direct people to the market. The large sign still needs to be moved closer to the road.

The Port Commission allocates money for projects by nonprofit organizations which will attract tourism and promote the Island. Proposals are accepted in March and September. Suggestions for a request will be asked of the membership. Lynae suggested that if Calyx Tilth, and the Music Festival work together as one rather than separate entities, we would have more asking power. Some suggestions at the meeting: gardens need money for power and water; rebuild the farm stand with a kiosk map of the activities on the grounds; improve the pavilion. We agreed to form a Fundraising Committee for this. Someone suggested that Anza would be good at this and Lynn, Linda and Lynae said they would help. Possibly, Lisa Kois would like to, as well.

Linda presented the schedule of market musicians.

Education — Chair Eric Conn was not present, but sent a message proposing the next corn

work party be on Tuesday, July 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Land stewardship — Chair Anza Muenchow was not present, there was talk about the pea patch, etc. The thistles that have been pulled (mostly by Edward and John Lee) will be given to Chris Williams for her llamas. Linda will call her or bring them to her in their pickup truck.

We will wait for Anza to decide how to arrange volunteer mowing of the grounds. Edward said he would weed-whack or mow the planted area he did last season for \$10 per hour.

UUCW dedicated offering — Linda requested input for a proposal to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation’s dedicated offering for next year. Edward suggested renovating the pavilion and seating area, the kiosk and electrical expansion. No one objected.

Sustainability Feast: We need a coordinator for the raffle. Linda will ask Jane Wilson and Tinker Iddins. Edward will get salmon and cook it, as he did last year. Eli will make pizza. There will be donation cards on each table and possibly a table captain who will talk of our needs.

The feast will be potluck for the side dishes and desserts. It is for members and supporters. Lynae will sit at the membership table and talk about the feast.

Farm/garden tour — See July/August newsletter. Prescott is setting up a potluck after the tour.

Fair committee — Pam Nodus will coordinate stewards, Prescott has set up a meeting on Monday, July 16 to plan Tilth’s educational display at the Fair. Pam will work at the Fair. See page 1 of the July/August newsletter. Pam needs help with the staffing, judging and taking entries.

Jade’s Tiny House — Annapoorne will ask Dan if we will get a commission if someone hires him to construct a Tiny House after seeing it at Tilth. (He has already agreed to a small commission if the existing house sells while at the campus.)

Canopy rental to Meerkerk — Following an email agreement by the council on June 26 to loan the large canopy to Meerkerk on June 30, Anza suggested that we charge rent in the future, as we recently spent money for repairs. Prescott will prepare a form for this and we proposed to charge \$20 for the big canopy and \$15 for the small one. The rental proposal will be presented at the next meeting and voted on.

Next meeting — There is no meeting in August.

The next business meeting is 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13 in the Trinity Lutheran community building, 18341 State

Route 525, north of Freeland. Anza Muenchow has arranged for Kim McJury, the Left-over Queen, to bring a delicious fennel, gruyere casserole. Anza says, “The meeting will have lots happening but we can eat while we meet and discuss the Calyx proposal and the electricity needs and lots of appreciation for all you do for Tilth.”

Agenda, September 13 by President Linda Good

1. Review and approve July 12 minutes
2. Treasurer’s report, Edward banquet finances
3. Market: Lynae and Annapoorne
4. Education: Eric and Calyx representatives
5. Land stewardship, Anza
 - a. rabbits in the community garden, presented by Liam Aalijah
 - b. Calyx agreement with Tilth
 - c. electrical line to restroom
 - d. high tunnel hoop house
 - e. children’s garden
 - f. farm stand and kiosk
 - g. pavilion kitchen improvements
6. Membership, Gary
7. Newsletter and fair report
8. Native Plant Stewards’ letter
9. New business

Any member of South Whidbey Tilth is welcome to attend and participate. Contact the president with agenda items.

Join Us, Renew or Donate

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

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

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

I/we want to donate \$_____ to the Calyx Community Arts School for children, a project of South Whidbey Tilth

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

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

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ Zip _____

email _____ I want to receive: email updates newsletter online

Please mail to: South Whidbey Tilth Association, P.O. Box 252, Langley, Washington 98260 or use PayPal to join or donate online at swtilthmembership.yolasite.com.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **Good Cheer 50th Anniversary Party**, 2 to 6 p.m., Saturday, music, food, children’s activities, classes at 2812 Grimm Road, Langley
- 8 **Growing Groceries**, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Good Cheer Garden; featuring Chris Korrow, biodynamic gardener; at 2:30 is Ed Hume
- 9 **Sheep to Shawl** at Tilth Farmers’ Market, weaving, knitting and crocheting
- 9 **Danny Ward** performs live jazz at Tilth Farmers’ Market
- 13 **Maxwelton Outdoor Classroom training**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, **2**
- 13 **Business meeting, South Whidbey Tilth**, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, potluck and meeting at Trinity Lutheran
- 15–16 **Whidbey Island Farm Tour**, *select for the website, 3; check out WIFFFS too*
- 16 **Nick Toombs** performs 6- and 12-string acoustic guitar at Tilth Farmers’ Market
- 17 **Calyx Community Arts School** begins Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., **5**
- 17 **Washington Tilth Conference** call among chapter representatives, 4 p.m. on Monday
- 26 **South Whidbey School District** environmental training, Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., **6**
- 30 **Alex Bonesteel**, performs lively fiddle tunes at Tilth Farmers’ Market

OCTOBER

- 1 **Earth Day planning**, Monday, 3:30 p.m.; Bayview Cash Store

- 7 **Danny Ward** performs live jazz at Tilth Farmers’ Market
- 11 **Business meeting, South Whidbey Tilth**, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by potluck at 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran
- 14 **Sheep to Shawl**, Sunday at Tilth Farmers’ Market, finishing the garment
- 14 **Sound Singers Japanese chorus** returns to perform at the Tilth Farmers’ Market
- 19 **Tilth Producers conference registration deadline** for November 9 to 11
- 19 **South Whidbey Tilth newsletter deadline** for November/December issue, page 2
- 28 **Halloween Party and Community Bazaar**, Tilth Farmers’ Market, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., **1**

NOVEMBER

- 2–4 **FiberQuest** with a twist, **page 9**
- 8 **Business meeting, South Whidbey Tilth**, 6 p.m., Thursday, preceded by a potluck at 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran community building
- 9–11 **Tilth Producers Annual Conference**, Growing Forward: Holistic Management for Organic Farms at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, check the website for information

ONGOING

- Sunday South Whidbey Tilth Farmers’ Market**, 11 a.m to 2 p.m., 2812 Thompson Road of SR 525, through October 28
- Tuesday Work days** at the Tilth Sustainability Campus, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Calendar.....	10
Membership/Donation form ...	9
Meeting agenda, 9-13-2012 ..	9
Tilth Minutes of July 12	8
Tilth Minutes of June 10.....	7
Native Plant Sale in October ..	7
ECO-Net News.....	6
Success at the Fair.....	6
Resources for Local Food	6
Calyx’s First Year	5
Sustainability Banquet	4
Whidbey Farm Tour	3
Winter Garden Care	3
What is Tilth?	2
Outdoor Teacher Training	2
President’s Message	2
Barn Owl Habitat	1
Gleeful Gleaners Harvest	1
Last Market Day	1

CONTENTS