



South Whidbey Tilth

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

Volume 21, Number 2

February 2003

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

by Judith Gorman

We are looking for someone who likes people and knows how to connect them with various projects. Many people want to help but need more information. Coordinating people with projects takes a special talent. You probably have just what we need. Please call 360-331-2133 and leave a message if you are interested.

Volunteers needed, too

If you have a few hours each month you would like to give, Tilth needs you! Call or email me (jgorman@whidbey.com) to get your name on a list. Include your telephone number, email address and available hours and days. It is a fun way to be involved and meet other people who are serving the community through Tilth projects. Look at the volunteer opportunities listed below and call me or someone on the list.

Volunteers opportunities

Please call Tilth message phone 360-331-2133 or a contact number listed below:

- volunteer coordinator, see story above;
- construction and planting help twice a week March through April for market buildings and landscaping—if you can't swing a hammer or hoist a shovel, bring coffee and treats—please call Perry McClellan at 360-321-2909;
- thank-you note writing;
- sign painter for market sandwich boards, contact Henry Tunes at 360-341-3202;
- musicians and performers for the Farmers' Market season, also interesting demonstrations like cooking, fiber arts, etc., contact Sharlene Rank at 360-240-8196;
- mulch and plant the forest restoration project, call Michael Seraphinoff at 360-678-4168;
- salvage native plants, contact Barbara Kolar at 360-678-4281;
- help set up and close up the Farmers' Market each week—raise the banner, set out signs, collect trash, recycling and compost, call Henry at 360-341-3202;

Thank you

for an extraordinary show of support! South Whidbey Tilth received \$14,752 from you during our capital fundraising drive held from the end of October through December 2002. We netted a fabulous \$14,463 to begin the health and safety code requirements for continued operation of the Farmers' Market.

Each of you who made a contribution has received this newsletter. We want to reward your generous support of our program goals with regular updates. If you do not wish to continue to receive this monthly publication, please call our message phone at 360-331-2133. We welcome your continued involvement.

Financial contributions are always welcome, but we would also like to have your help. Please consider joining a work party or take up a special project. See "Volunteers Needed" on this page.

- the Laughing Cat beverage booth must be staffed every Saturday from May through October;
- write for the newsletter—member profiles, gardening tricks, issues of concern and book reviews welcome, call Prescott at 360-678-4168.

Planting and Building to Begin Soon

by Perry McClellan, land steward

The news this month is positive regarding our relations with the county regulatory officials. Plans are being made for necessary improvements to support and enhance the Farmers' Market and the development of permanent facilities needed to turn our property from "squatter's camp" into a fleshed out "homestead." The Tilth council of trustees has been blessed with generous support from all of you in the community who appreciate what we have been doing and what we still want to do on the land.

With a pledge of financial support from the Whidbey Island Garden Tour, we have developed a new and wonder-

Building and Planting, continued on page 4

Gardening for Health

by Michael Seraphinoff, education and programs coordinator

J.I. RODALE, an early pioneer and champion of organic agriculture, once said that “not only does physical health come from our food through the fertility of the soil in which it grows, but also our minds and characters are nourished and nurtured through that very soil.” Millions of people today nourish both body and spirit through gardening, and the organic methods advocated by Rodale.

That day 50 years ago when he said those words, Rodale was speaking to a U.S. Congressional committee formed to investigate the possible harm being caused by chemical fertilizers. What he advocated then makes more sense than ever today as the ecological disasters due to chemical farming have multiplied. These disasters range from widespread contamination of drinking water and vast dead zones in our oceans from chemical runoff, to depleted and eroded soils in once-fertile farm regions, to evidence of widespread injury to both humans, plants and animals from the use of certain chemical pesticides, beginning with DDT back in the 1940's, and today including whole classes of chemical compounds that disrupt hormonal and other life functions.

Fortunately each of us has the power to do something about this situation. We can promote the growing of healthier, environmentally-friendlier food through our choices at the market, and we can grow our own food or cultivate our ornamental plants using the friendlier methods of organic agriculture.

Local organizations such as South Whidbey Tilth and more recently Washington State University Agricultural Extension and even some local businesses such as the Bayview Nursery provide programs for gardeners who want to kick the chemical habit. These include lectures, workshops, classes and various forms of assistance to gardeners and farmers.

And for those who lack the right land, adequate fencing, or access to the water, tools or soil amendments required for successful organic gardening, South Whidbey Tilth in cooperation with the Greenbank Farm now offers organic pea patch garden plots at both the farm and Tilth's Thompson Road land.

If you are interested in either Tilth-sponsored gardening classes held at the Greenbank Farm on Monday evenings in March and April or in leasing a garden plot in Greenbank or at Tilth's land, please contact me at 360-678-4168.



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, a chapter of Washington Tilth, 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.

2003 COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

President	Charlis Dunham	360-321-3530	chajer@whidbey.com
	Judith Gorman	360-321-4508	kgorman@whidbey.com
	Perry McClellan	360-321-4508	exserves@whidbey.com
	Frank Parente	360-331-2428	garlic@whidbey.com
	Michael Seraphinoff	360-678-4168	mjseraph@whidbey.net

MEMBERSHIP

An individual membership is \$15 annually; each additional person in a household may become a voting member by paying \$7. One newsletter will be sent for each \$15 membership. Newsletters may be received by email as a pdf document which can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free download.

Questions about membership? Contact Ginny Kuehn, 360-221-8576, ginnyk@whidbey.com.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The South Whidbey Tilth newsletter is a monthly publication of South Whidbey Tilth Association. The primary purpose of this publication is to disseminate minutes of meetings, committee reports, financial statements and information pertinent to the mission and operation of the organization. A newsletter subscription is \$15.

Submissions of letters, articles, book reviews and photos are encouraged. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit for clarity, style and concision. Advertising space in this newsletter is available in multiples of eighths of a page, see details below.

Contact Prescott at 360-678-4168 or prscot@whidbey.net.

The deadline for submissions to the March issue is Monday, February 17.

Editorial committee: A. T. Birmingham-Young, Kathy Welch, Judith Gorman, Mary Donaty and Prescott

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE NEWSLETTER

Per month — 1/8 page \$10, 1/4 page \$18, 1/2 page \$33 and full page \$60
 Discounts for multiple month commitment — five percent for three months, 10 percent for six months, 15 percent for nine months and 20 percent for 12 months.
 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

Telephone: 360-331-2133

Website: www.southwhidbeytilth.org

Email: info@southwhidbeytilth.org



Garden Tips for the Maritime Northwest

by A.T. Birmingham-Young, reprinted from South Whidbey Tilth newsletter, February 2001



It is amazing that late February is the time to plant all sorts of things, indoors in seed-starting flats, and even outside, directly in the ground.

The *Maritime Northwest Garden Guide*, produced by Seattle Tilth, suggests testing the workability of the soil by the clumping-up-a-ball-of-earth-method. After gently compressing your dirt into a ball, toss it in the air six inches and let it fall back into your open hand. If it stays mostly intact, it's too wet to work the soil, but if it crumbles apart, you're good to go. If it's too wet to cultivate you can set up a cloche to dry things out.

And here's what the guide says can be planted outdoors in late February: hardy vegetables and herbs, such as chervil, fennel, rustic arugula, radishes, garlic, shallots, fava beans, snow peas, shelling peas.

In the flower realm hardy annuals including alyssum,

bachelor's buttons, California and Breadseed poppy, larkspur, nigella, annual lupines sweet peas and johnny jump ups can be seeded. A cloche expands the possibilities: beets, spinach, broccoli raab, mustard, turnips and lettuce are among the veggies that will work then.

And indoors there are dozens of plants to start that won't be going out in the garden until April, May or June. For plants like peppers, "the advantage of starting these plants in February and March is that many of them take longer to mature than is possible in the cool summers of the Maritime Northwest."

The wonderful thing about The *Maritime Northwest Gardening Guide* is that it lists not just the types of plants to start, but the specific varieties appropriate for each month, so instead of just any lettuce, start Red Sails, Brune d'Hiver, Perella, Rubens Red and Simpson. You can plant those varieties that will take more heat in May.

Besides all this seed-related activity, the guide suggests dividing perennials that bloom in late spring, summer or fall. Lots to do in the dirt!

The Seattle Tilth Maritime Northwest Garden Guide may be purchased from South Whidbey Tilth for \$11 which includes tax. Copies will be available during the Back to Basics organic gardening classes beginning in early March.

Essentials of Organic Gardening

by Michael Seraphinoff

Learn practical down-to-earth methods of organic growing of fruits and vegetables. Good for you, good for the environment! They will take place on Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Greenbank Farm in the Jim Davis House.

The classes are offered by South Whidbey Tilth and draw upon the broad knowledge and expertise of experienced Washington State University Extension Master Gardener and local farmer and gardener instructors.

Please note: You may sign up for individual classes, \$10 each, or for the whole series at the reduced rate of \$50. Please identify classes by letter and name on the registration form that you fill out for either the Coupeville Community Education or the South Whidbey Community School program.

Contact me for more information, 360-678-4168, and sign up soon for one or all of the following:

March 3—Introduction to organic gardening, an overview;

March 10—Nut trees, types most appropriate to our region, how to establish them, care, feeding and harvesting;

March 17—A team of Tilth gardeners describe how they get results with organic methods;

March 24—Planning a year-round vegetable garden, how to extend the growing season in our mild maritime Northwest climate conditions;

March 31—Composting and mulching, getting the full benefit out of kitchen, yard and garden wastes;

April 7—Soil building through the use of cover crops, compost and compost tea.

Plant Extra For the Food Bank

Fresh garden produce is welcome and needed at the Good Cheer food bank in Langley. The South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees has resolved to support this project initiated by Brian Sandilands. Molly Petersons of Molly's Island Garden kicked off the food drive with two boxes of potatoes in excess of her family's needs.

Brian Sandilands is organizing the food bank drive and "encourages all you super gardeners to plant a little extra for the needy of South Whidbey." Please contact him at 360-579-2775 or blacktom@whidbey.com.

A basket of fresh organic vegetables every week!

Reserve your 2003 vegetable share from Molly's Island Garden

Celebrating our 11th year as a CSA Community Supported Agriculture farm

360-321-5547

petersns@whidbey.com

Planting and Building, continued from page 1

ful master plan for the site that includes landscaping. The plan will be included in the next newsletter for you to see.

As we proceed beyond the collection of roadside stands in the middle of an open field toward a permanent homestead with lush gardens, there will be opportunities for all of the Tilth community to help plant the permanent landscape on our property.

The first phase is scheduled for the 2003 season and will involve an improved gateway onto our site and our parking area using landscaped berms and new trees along the north boundary of our land leading toward the market area. By redefining this area we will be able to maintain our accessibility to the market, while at the same time saving precious land area from the long term impacts of automobile damage.

The second phase, scheduled for the 2004 season, will involve the development of a tree lined pedestrian arcade linking the four major activity areas: gardens, Learning Center, Farmers' Market and restored forest which lie in a rough line from east to west on our site. We see this as a way to unify and encourage exploration of the site by all visitors and members.

The third phase, scheduled for the 2005 season, will establish wildlife habitat corridors, play areas, an orchard, landscape buffers and wood lot resources to help screen us from the noise and pollution along the highway without hiding our interesting activities from the public's eye as they speed by.

Beyond the site design issues, we are planning new buildings for the Farmers' Market, which will be built this spring. Two new hospitality shelters will be installed flanking the market entry gate from the north parking area. These structures, engineered by Peter Vogel of Coupeville, will replace the vinyl tent structures you have enjoyed in

the past. Open and airy now these shelters are designed for later enclosure to protect occupants and allow more permanent storage. They will be developed as a "stock plan," which can be used each time an existing market booth needs to be replaced without the cost of a structural inspection. Using the same plan saves time and precious financial resources.

A new hospitality pavilion will incorporate the Laughing Cat structure, upgraded as a legal food service utility and a seasonal enclosure for social gatherings.

We will be featuring the infamous portable toilets again this season, but in their final performance on the Tilth stage. In concert with the requirements of the county health department codes, we are developing a permanent restroom facility to be shared by the market and our future

Learning Center building. Located south of the main parking area, it will feature low-water-use conventional toilets with a wastewater system providing safe landscape and orchard irrigation for all areas. Davido Consulting Group's Rob Hallbauer is spearheading the design of this much needed infrastructure. Because our portable toilets cost \$10 per hour, we are installing an authentic antique Metro fare box for you

to make donations toward future replacements. (I acquired the fare box from Mark Fessler at the Tilth holiday party white elephant gift exchange. Thanks, Mark!)

This is an exciting time for me as we work together to make our dreams into reality and transform our grassy field into a "garden of growth." We are extending an invitation to directly participate in the actual work to come. You can start by identifying the native and special plants you wish to donate and transplant into our new landscaped homestead. Fran Abel is preparing a plant list so stay tuned!

We will be featuring the infamous portable toilets again this season, but in their final performance on the Tilth stage.


West Coast Seeds

by Janie Pulsifer

As you might guess from their location West Coast Seeds specialize in seed suitable for short season growers. I have purchased both seeds and supplies from them, over the last three or four years and have always been satisfied with both quality and service. The favorable exchange rate is also helpful, about 64 cents US for every Canadian dollar.

Their website is <https://secure.westcoastseeds.com/index3.cfm> or call 604-952-8820 or fax 877-482-8822. Their mailing address is:

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Planning for Market Season Underway

by Prescott

NO MAJOR CHANGES in rules and fees are planned for the 2003 Farmers' Market season. The market committee is proposing an increase to \$5 a day for the drop-in fee, plus no exception for gross sales of \$20 or less. These and other changes will be presented to the council of trustees at the February business meeting. Comments are welcome.

Market committee members Stevie Linton, Molly Petersons, Prescott and manager Henry Tunes have met twice this winter to update details of market operation. The vendor packets and space reservation information will be mailed to interested vendors by late February. New vendors may contact Henry Tunes at 360-341-3202 for information.

Other proposed adjustments to the market policy, rules and agreement include:

- The market season will begin Saturday, May 3 and end October 25, 2003.
- Whidbey Island farmers and crops are given priority over those from off-island. Off-island crops must be preapproved and will be specifically limited so as not to compete with island-grown crops.
- Clearer guidelines are described for crafters and artisans who wish to sell at the Farmers' Market.
- Labeling rules for "organic" comply with the National Organic Standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (see sidebar.)
- There are unlimited drop-in spaces available;
- Home gardeners can have access to a "community produce table" in which produce from one or more backyard vendors can be sold. These vendors pay \$1 space fee plus 15 percent commission at the end of each sales day (eight percent to the market and seven percent compensation to the volunteer who coordinates booth.)
- South Whidbey Tilth Association has insurance which includes members and volunteers
- A program to sort garbage for compost and trash for recycling will be implemented in order to reduce the cost of disposal and use resources efficiently.
- The advertising budget has been increased to provide vendors with greater exposure during the season. Volunteer advertising coordinator Prescott will work with the manager and each vendor for optimum results.
- The Free Speech area has been designated between the Laughing Cat and the sandbox. The Free Speech area is for non-Tilth community issues. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tables. Guidelines

are attached to the vendor policy and may be obtained from the market manager or the membership chairperson.

- Because of insurance and county codes any new selling booths constructed will be the property of South Whidbey Tilth. There is a moratorium on booth construction this season.

How Do Organic Standards Apply to the Small Grower?

According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, sales of organic food products in the state have increased from \$50 million in 1997 to \$200 million in 2001.

During this same time period the number of certified organic producers, processors and handlers has doubled from 381 to 764 and acreage in organic production has more than tripled from 12,000 acres in 1997 to over 40,000 in 2001.

The following guidelines are meant to assist this year's Farmers' Market vendors interpret the new USDA standards on labeling organic foods.

Exemptions and exclusions:

- ¥ growers, producers and handlers are exempt from certification if they sell less than \$5,000 worth of organic products;
- ¥ organic products from exempt producers may not be used in processed organic foods but may be sold at farmers markets and retail stores;
- ¥ retail stores are exempt from certification;
- ¥ processors that produce products with less than 70 percent organic ingredients or limit their organic claims to the information panel are exempt from certification;
- ¥ handlers that only sell packaged organic food products are not required to obtain certification.

For more information about organic certification, contact the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Food Program, Miles McEvoy 360-902-1920 or mmcevoy@agr.wa.gov.

Judith E. Gorman, DCSW

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
Health & Well-Being Consultant • Biofield Therapist & Counselor
Certified BioShen Practitioner & Mentor

Biofield Healing Arts

5275 S April Drive • Langley WA 98260
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Member Profile—Mary Donaty

by Prescott

“I WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN I SAW MY FIRST LLAMA,” said Mary Donaty. “I knew then that one day they would be part of my life.”

She had been visiting The Catskill Game Farm in upstate New York, where a young llama followed her around the whole day and ate the bow decorating her long ponytail.

It would be nearly 28 years later before she realized her dream. Now she and her husband, Lou, boast an impressive herd on their Clinton acreage. Mary grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey. She attended New York School of Interior Design in New York City and worked as a designer in New Jersey before leaving the east at the age of 20. She continued her design work in the state of Washington for a few more years.

In need of a change, Mary found an entry-level position in the aerospace industry in 1972 during a period of massive layoffs. She remembers the billboards of the time stating, “Will the last person leaving Seattle, please turn off the lights?”

Four years later Mary had become the manager of several departments of the then Sundstrand Data Control Corporation, now Honeywell. Besides a heavy work schedule which included travel around the country and Europe, she took night classes. She studied business, math, computer and languages.

“If you add up all the credits, I’ve probably earned a degree in something,” she exclaims.

Her goal was a degree in business administration—she lived it instead, working long days for over 14 years. While still working at Sundstrand she bought her first farm in 1979, located in Carnation. On this land she raised chickens, Chinese quail, ducks, dogs and cats. She was living on her own by this time.

She met Lou Donaty at Sundstrand. They worked together for a number of years before developing a close friendship and they married in 1986. They bought their first two-and-a-half llamas the day after their wedding. “While Lou still had stars in his eyes,” she says with a grin. The first baby llama was born January, 1987. “Those three llamas are still with us,” she adds.

Lou’s work took them to southern California in 1988. They bought an avocado farm and moved down with four llamas. Mary managed the 5-acre avocado farm and the llama herd. Ten years later they returned to Washington and came to Whidbey Island with 29 llamas, dogs and cats.

Mary began her spinning in Washington State, but in California she perfected the skill and learned much more including frame weaving and traditional rug hooking. She credits the Palomar Handweavers Guild as a very inspiring group.

Llama “wool” is actually a hair and when washed, picked and combed into a continuous fiber rope it is called roving. This roving is what spinners work from to spin the

fibers (roving) into yarn. Mary sells clean processed roving to other spinners. She also sells skeins she has spun, plus woven scarves and shawls. Mary is a member of the South Whidbey Spinners where she tends to the secretarial duties as well as a member of several other spinning groups, rug hooking groups and several llama organizations.



Mary Donaty

Mary’s first involvement with South Whidbey Tilth was through the Farmers’ Market where she sold her work and exhibited some of her animals. She was elected to the Tilth council last year and volunteered to be secretary. Shortly after she took office Lou was laid off from his job and Mary worked several part-time jobs before finding a full-time job with a company in Freeland. Lou found work six months later, allowing Mary to leave her full-time job. However the events of this past year, the needs of their farm and participation in the Tilth organization had put Mary a year behind on her own business. Mary recently decided to resign her council position to catch up.

Mary is responsible for the focus and maintenance of Tilth’s successful capital fundraising drive this past fall and winter. She will be missed on the council.

However she will be at the Farmers’ Market where she enjoys the public forum where she can share the wonders of llamas and their fiber. She and Lou have brought two young female llamas to each market for the past two years, although this year they will not be bringing animals because of personal time constraints.

Mary is dedicated to educating the public about llamas. Like any creature each llama has a distinct personality and each is affected by how she or he is treated. Mary says some of her llamas expect a big hug each day and some prefer a little distance. The rumor that llamas are mean is untrue, she explains, “A properly cared for llama will give you a wonderful animal, companion and friend.”

Planning Welcome for Tilth’s Thirtieth

Fellow Tilthies,

We are in the early planning stages for a Washington and Oregon conference and celebration in November 2004 for the 30th anniversary of Tilth. Our first meeting is planned for February 4 at 11:30 a.m. in Portland, Oregon at Kathryn Leech’s house at 3605 SW Canby Street. Her phone number is 503-293-6114. We hope to have phone links to other people who can’t make it. Please let others in your chapter know about all this and email me about your interest and what skills you might bring to the project.

Thanks,

Mary Robinson, Tilth Producers
206-463-3553 or campanula1@yahoo.com

No Spray Along State Highways

LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS are needed to end pesticide spraying along state highways. Island County stopped the practice on county roads, but the state department of transportation continues to maintain SR 525 and SR 20 with toxic chemicals.

Last December South Whidbey Tilth submitted an application to the state requesting no spraying along our property on SR 525. Considering our commitment to organic agriculture and to the health of the planet it was a logical thing to do. We urge our members to join with the Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition to end roadside spraying on all roadways.

Please call or write to the Washington State Transportation Commission chairman, Aubrey Davis, and the department secretary, Doug MacDonald. Davis can be reached at 360-705-7070 and MacDonald is at 360-705-7054. The commission's address is PO Box 47308, Olympia, Washington 98504-7308.

Some talking points are:

- April 1, 2002, Island County Commissioners voted unanimously to stop the pesticide spraying of county maintained roadsides as a result of unprecedented public support;
- known health impacts of pesticide exposures include cancer, learning disabilities and reproductive disorders;
- children are especially vulnerable to toxic environmental exposure;
- there is documented evidence with the Environmental Protection Agency that surface water contamination levels harm fish and their habitat.

Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition Needs Your Help

We welcome anyone interested in helping us educate the public about the hazards of lawn and garden chemicals and also household chemicals. This may take the form of seminars. We are also looking for someone to help us with grant writing and finding ways obtain donations for the Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition.

Our next meetings are Monday, February 10 and 24 at 8:30 a.m. at the Langley Methodist Church. If you have any questions or ideas, please call me at 360-579-6133.

Thank you, Nancy Schaaf

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Marlene Will



What's New in the Library

The following periodicals may be borrowed by Tilth members. Please contact Diane Stone, 360-321-5259 or by email gregdi@whidbey.com.

Journal of Pesticide Reform, Winter 2002, Volume 22, Number 4

- "Meeting the Challenge of West Nile Virus without Poisons," by Deanna McKinney
- "A Voice for Willapa Bay," by Deanna McKinney
- "Changing Roadside Spray Policies," by Megan Kemple

Tilth Producers Quarterly, Winter 2003, Volume 11, Number 4

- "A Large Farm on the Olympic Peninsula," by Fran Taber
- "The Soil Conditioning Index—A Soil Quality Monitoring Tool," by David Granatstein
- "Institutional Sales for Small Farms: A New Marketing Opportunity," by Kelli Sanger

Seattle Tilth, January 2003, Volume 25, Number 1

- "Farm to School Programs Nurture Students, Farmers," by Sara Waldron
- "Intensive Seed Grower Course Offered," sponsored by Abundant Life, Port Townsend, March 7-9; contact Matthew Dillon at 360-385-5660



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BUSINESS OF SOUTH WHIDBEY TILTH

by Mary Donaty, secretary

The regular business meeting of the South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees was held Wednesday, January 8, 2003, at the Freeland Library.

Present —Janie Pulsifer, Prescott, Michael Seraphinoff, Marlene Will, Frank Parente,

Charlis Dunham, Judith Gorman, Perry McCellan, Stevie Linton, Reece Rose and Mary Donaty.

The meeting began at 1:40 p.m.

The minutes were approved as written.

Announcements — Frank Parente announced that he would be stepping down from his position as president of South Whidbey Tilth effective January 24, 2003, thus concluding his one-year commitment to be president.

(Note: Council positions are held for two-year terms. Only the officer position of president is elected. When a president or any council trustee is unable to complete her/his term the council may appoint a replacement.)

Charlis Dunham, currently finance chair, resigned her present council position effective Jan 24 and accepted the appointment of president for one year. Perry McClellan, who will have completed his term January 24, accepted the council's appointment to fill the last year of Charlis council seat.

As a reminder, Mary announced that all business meetings will be held at the Freeland Library for the year 2003.

The honey house offered to South Whidbey Tilth by Myrna Twomey has found a better location and will not be moving to the Tilth land. Tilth wishes to thank Myrna for the offer. Marlene Will agreed to phone Myrna and thank her directly.

Prescott and Sharlene Rank have each accepted the nomination to be South Whidbey Tilth representatives to the Washington Tilth Association board,

Fundraising Report —Funds received to date \$ 14,702 gross (\$14,414 net.)

It was decided that a complimentary copy of the February newsletter will be sent to all who sent a donation in support of our fundraising campaign. A committee of three, Prescott, Marlene Will and Mary Donaty, will meet to plan how to best keep all supporters informed of our progress and future needs.

Nominating Committee —There are three positions open on the council for 2003/2004.

Frank Parente and Judith Gorman will each accept a nomination to the council at

the annual meeting being held January 25 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland. Despite the efforts of the nominating committee, they were unable to find additional members to fill all the open council positions. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Henry Tunes will be leaving the council after fulfilling his two year commitment. He served as market affairs officer to the council as well as market manager since 2001. He will continue to manage the Farmers Market.

Finance —Current assets total \$19,749.88.

Budget —The majority of the January meeting was spent reviewing the 2003 budget.

Additions and deletions have been made. The budget will be reprinted by Judith with all of these amendments, reviewed by an accountant, reviewed once again by the council at the February meeting, and then presented to the membership in the March newsletter, with final sign off by the council at the March meeting.

Land Stewardship — Perry advised that he will once again be meeting with the county to help move along the outstanding open action items. The health department has approved the water system for public use. It appears that to satisfy the needs of the county building department and the Tilth Farmers Market operation we fall under the classification of a carnival. Perry has also drawn up the design for the two shelters which will replace the white tents. Construction on these buildings as well as the new septic system should begin by March.

Grant Status —A Whidbey Island Garden Tour grant in the amount of \$3,000 was awarded to South Whidbey Tilth for the county-required landscape project. These funds are conditional based on the success of the 2003 summer garden tour fundraising event. We have been requested to advise the public of this donation as well as to display a plaque noting the donation on site as part of the landscape design.

We were not awarded the grant from the South Whidbey Rotary Club.

Market —Henry announced that the 2003 Farmers Market will open May 3.

Education —As part of the budget review Judith Gorman made a motion to add a new item to the budget which will be a contract position for an education coordinator responsible for the Tilth pea patch. Michael will put together a job description which will include the Greenbank Farm program, the

Tilth program and other related programs. This position is to be called the education coordinator and the job description will be completed prior to the next council meeting for the council's review and approval.

The annual Back to Basics Gardening class information and schedule will be in the mail to all shortly. To date seven parties have signed up to participate in the Tilth pea patch for the 2003 season.

Brian Sandilands efforts to support the Good Cheer food bank with homegrown garden vegetables was praised and supported by the council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Election Report

The South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees is happy to report the election of Judith Gorman and Frank Parente to another two year term each. They join President Charlis Dunham, Perry McClellan and Michael Seraphinoff.

Annual Report Available

The annual report of South Whidbey Tilth 2002 activities and finances has been published. Anyone who wishes to have a copy may contact Prescott at prscot@whidbey.net or 360-678-4168.

Next Meeting

The next regular business meeting will be **Wednesday, February 12, 1:30 p.m.** at the Freeland Library. The 2003 officer positions will be selected at this meeting.

Every member is welcome to attend. Unless you have trouble getting around, please park in the front or on the street so that library patrons can use the parking lot.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For sale organic coffee, five 1-pound bags of regular Italian roast and one pound of regular Tango blend at \$7.50 each. For pickup arrangements call Judith or Perry at 321-4508 or 321-7226. To purchase additional coffee call 1-800-cafemam or go to the website www.cafemam.com. Living Green in Langley also sells this coffee.

Classified ads are ten cents a word.

Next deadline for ads is Monday, February 17

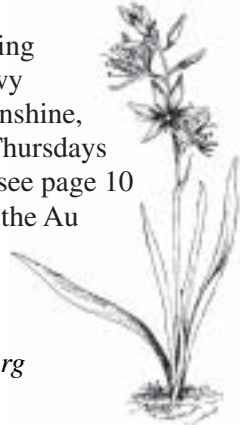
Contact Prescott for more information about classified and display advertising, 360-678-4168 or prscot@whidbey.net

Prairie Restoration

Prairie restoration continues this winter at Au Sable Institute, Smith Prairie Reserve. Thanks to our volunteers, we had a successful fall planting, including planting 5000 plugs of native grasses and planting 200 Garry oak seedlings.

This winter we will continue planting Garry Oak seedlings and plugs of showy fleabane, prairie goldenrod, Oregon sunshine, and Roemer's fescue. We have a few Thursdays and Saturday volunteer days planned (see page 10 for the exact dates and times). Meet at the Au Sable parking lot at 9 a.m. Hot drinks and cookies will be provided.

Steve Byler, restoration ecologist
 360-678-5586 or sbyler@ausable.org
 Au Sable-Pacific Rim
 180 Parker Road
 Coupeville WA 98239



camas lily

Contact Your Legislators to Reduce Mercury Pollution

THE MERCURY REDUCTION AND EDUCATION ACT has been introduced to the Washington State Legislature and your help is needed to address one of the most pressing pollution problems in the state, mercury.

If passed the bill will phase out

- the use of mercury in products where cost-effective, readily available alternatives already exist;
- require the manufacturers of some mercury products to take financial responsibility for making sure their products are collected and disposed of properly;
- establish state government as a leader in reducing mercury pollution through their purchasing practices.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, which can damage the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver. It is especially hazardous for women of childbearing age and children, causing problems such as birth defects and learning disabilities. Mercury does not break down in the environment when it is released and builds up in the food chain and our bodies.

The bill has been introduced as HB 1002 in the House of Representatives, and a companion bill SB 5124 has been introduced in the Senate. The bill has broad support from local governments, public health and environmental organizations, fishing groups, religious organizations and many more, but faces tough opposition from polluting industries.

Please make a phone call or email your representatives and senators and urge them to support HB 1002 and SB 5124. Island County's representatives are Barry Sehlín, sehlín_ba@leg.wa.gov and Barbara Bailey, bailey_ba@leg.wa.gov and the senator is Mary Margaret Haugen, haugen_ma@leg.wa.gov. Call them all on the toll free legislative hotline 1-800-562-6000.

Wendell Berry Writes on Local Economy

Wendell Berry wrote a remarkable article, "The Idea of a Local Economy," in the Winter 2001 issue of *Orion Magazine*. It can be viewed from a link at www.islandeye.org.

Berry is credited with inspiring the sustainable and organic agriculture movement that resulted in the Tilth organizations nearly 30 years ago at the Spokane World's Fair.

Island Eye is a web-based community tool to educate and enable citizens to monitor environmental impacts and encourage consistent and fair land use code enforcement in Island County.

Join us or encourage a friend to join

- Yes, I/we want to join South Whidbey Tilth. There are ___ people in my household who would like to have voting rights. (*Enclose \$15 annual dues for a single membership and \$7 for each additional person. One newsletter is mailed to each household.*)
- I am also a Tilth market vendor I wish to be a Tilth market vendor, send me more information.
- I do not wish to be a voting member at this time, but I do want to receive the newsletter. (*Enclose \$15 for an annual subscription.*)
- I want to make a \$_____ donation to help with the goals of South Whidbey Tilth, a nonprofit corporation, EIN # 91-1456495.
 - I would like my donation to remain anonymous I authorize publication of my name as a donor

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Mailing address _____ Zip _____

email _____ Please indicate if you would like to receive email updates newsletter on line

The following activities interest me/us: _____

Please mail to: South Whidbey Tilth Association, P.O. Box 252, Langley, Washington 98260

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 4 Tuesday —Planning for Tilth s 30th**, Portland, see story on page 6
- 6 Thursday —Prairie Restoration Workday**, 9 a.m. to noon, AuSable parking lot, see page 9
- 10 Monday —Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition** meeting, 8:30 a.m., Langley Methodist Church, see page 7
- 12 Wednesday —Business meeting** of the South Whidbey Tilth Council of Trustees, 1:30 p.m. at the Freeland Library. All members are welcome.
- 15 Saturday — Pea Patch meeting** at the Tilth garden on Thompson Road, call Michael Seraphinoff 360-678-4168
- ¥ **Creating Your Bounty**, Washington State Farmers Markets Association vendor meeting and workshop at Washington State University in Puyallup, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tilth market manager Henry Tunes encourages vendors to attend. For information call the association at 206-706-5198 or see page 9 of the January issue of the *South WhidbeyTilth* newsletter
- ¥ **Prairie Restoration Workday**, 9 a.m. to noon, AuSable parking lot, see page 9
- 17 Monday —February newsletter deadline** for ads, articles, announcements and suggestions. For information contact Prescott at 360-678-4168 or prscot@whidbey.net

- 19-23 —Northwest Flower and Garden Show, *Festa Botanica***, in Seattle at the Washington State Convention Center, tickets \$18, hours Wednesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. to Sunday 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Thursday —Prairie Restoration Workday**, 9 a.m. to noon, AuSable parking lot, see page 9
- 24 Monday —Whidbey Island No Spray Coalition** meeting, 8:30 a.m., Langley Methodist Church, see page 7

MARCH

- 1 Saturday —Prairie Restoration Workday**, 9 a.m. to noon, AuSable parking lot, see page 9
- 7-9 Friday-Sunday —Fundamentals of Plant Improvement for Organic Agriculture** a workshop with Abundant Life Seed Foundation in Port Townsend, for information call 360-385-5660 or email als@olympen.com
- 8 Saturday —Washington Tilth annual meeting**, 10:00 a.m. in the lunchroom of the Good Shepherd Center, in Seattle, the Wallingford area; to carpool and for more information contact South Whidbey Tilth chapter representatives Prescott at 360-678-4168 and Sharlene Rank at 360-241-8196



South Whidbey Tilth Association

A Nonprofit Corporation and a Chapter of Washington Tilth

Post Office Box 252

Langley Washington 98260

www.southwhidbeytilth.org

Address Service Requested

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The date on your address label is your membership expiration date. Please renew before this date.