All year, Seattle vegetable gardeners anticipate the unique vegetable offerings Seattle Tilth will be putting out for sale the first weekend in May. We always deliver, with varieties that you won’t find anywhere else, chosen by staff because they will produce well in our climate. As a bonus, most of our vegetables are rare and heirloom varieties that not only taste good, but also have a story.

Each winter we scour the seed catalogs and Web listings to find unique veggies to grow just for our customers. Some of the exciting offerings this year include Italian heirlooms Prosperosa eggplant, Pantano Romanesco tomato and Striata d’Italia summer squash.

We know that some of you have hot, south-facing gardens and love a sweet and juicy melon, that’s why we keep looking for new melon varieties that will produce in our short summer; favorites include Minnesota Midget cantaloupe and Haogen muskmelon. This year we are offering three: Hero of Lockinge, a British heirloom that produces one-pound fruit with sweet, white flesh; Oka, an heirloom from Quebec that was popular in the mid-1900s but was thought until recently to be lost; and Small Shining Light, a rare watermelon with yellow skin and red flesh.

Tomato lovers know the Tilth sale has the widest selection of early tomatoes from Russia, Northern Europe and Canada, as well as audience favorites from our annual Tomato Tasting you won’t find anywhere else like Egg Yolk, Urbikany and Tonadose des Conores.

Foodies and historians alike will jump for joy over Slow Food USA’s Ark of Taste varieties we will be offering, such as Jimmy Nardello and Fish peppers, as well as Cherokee Purple, Valencia and Red Fig tomatoes. Ark of Taste varieties are chosen because they have cultural, social and historical significance in the United States and are in danger of disappearing. By offering these vegetables to our customers, we are helping to keep these varieties alive and relevant in our culture and kitchens.

With so much to choose from, how can you decide? Go to our web site at www.seattletilth.org and download complete vegetable descriptions. Make your list, and when you arrive, look for a friendly volunteer to help you shop. The Edible Plant Sale is May 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and May 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Meridian Park in Wallingford.

Unique, Heirloom and Edible: Our Plant Sale, May 3-4
Laura Niemi, Garden Coordinator
Transitions

Mike Schut has accepted the Environmental Programs Manager position at Seattle Tilth. He has 11 years experience at Earth Ministry and previous experience in federal environmental agencies, and has also worked as an independent educator and writer. He has an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon and a BS in Biology from Wheaton College. He will manage the Natural Soil Building program as well as new environmental initiatives.

Katie Pencke has begun as a Garden Coordinator. She has a BA in Ecology from the University of Arizona, a Certificate in Landscape Management from South Seattle Community College and a Permaculture Design Certificate from the Bullock Brothers Permaculture Farm on Orcas Island. She has a strong background in racial and social justice work in south Seattle and in the Seattle Latino community.

Jessica Heiman joins the Children’s Garden as an Educator with experience teaching preschool and elementary school children in Italy, following a Certificate of Permaculture Design, also at the Bullocks Permaculture Homestead, and an AA degree from Seattle Central Community College.

Graham Golbuff is the new Volunteer Coordinator for the Master Composter/Soil Builder program. Graham coordinated volunteers for the Synergy Conference for three years while he was a student at Evergreen State College. Graham is replacing Angelina Shell, who is now working for the City of Seattle and continuing to assist Seattle Tilth part-time with programs and events.

Updates on former staff: Kathy Dang has joined the staff of Oregon Tilth as Garden Coordinator. Sam O’Brien & his partner Heather Brandon celebrated the arrival of their daughter Elspeth on Feb. 25.

Correction: Seattle Tilth thanks Marcia Rutan for providing the photographs of the January 24 Reunion event used in the last issue.

Volunteer Now to Help With Our Plant Sale

Volunteers are being sought for all jobs at the Edible Plant Sale, May 3-4. Please contact plantsalevolunteer@seattletilth.org or call (206) 633-0451, ext. 1 to sign up.

Recent Grants Support Permaculture, Teaching Peace

Seattle Tilth received a grant of $1,300 from the Washington Foundation for the Environment to support the Permaculture classes which took place in January. We also received a grant of $2,500 from the Schiff Foundation to support our Teaching Peace Through Gardening program, a multi-session program offered free of charge to groups of economically disadvantaged children.

Seattle Tilth Association is a non-profit organization and an urban chapter within Tilth’s regional network.

Our Mission Statement

Seattle Tilth inspires and educates people to garden organically, conserve natural resources, and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy urban environment and community.

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206-633-0451 Office Phone
206-633-0450 Fax
206-632-1999 Executive Director
206-633-0224 Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline
206-633-0097 Master Composters/Soil Builders
206-633-5045 Volunteer Line

Web site
www.seattletilth.org

E-mail
Send to firstnamelastname@seattletilth.org

Address
Seattle Tilth Association, 4649 Sunnyside Avenue North, Room 120, Seattle, Washington 98103

Seattle Tilth Newsletter
Bill Thorness Editor
Sarah Kulfan Design/Production

The Seattle Tilth Newsletter is published by the Seattle Tilth Association. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, ideas for articles, original artwork, and other commentary. All material should be mailed c/o The Newsletter to the address above or e-mailed to karenluetjen@seattletilth.org. Submissions will be printed as space allows. Seattle Tilth reserves the right to edit for interest, length, and style.

Tilth \\tilth\
[ME, fr. OE, fr. tilian to till]
(bef. 12c) 1: quality of cultivated soil
2: cultivation of wisdom and the spirit
Preparing for the Next 30 Years: Seattle Tilth’s 2007 Annual Report
Karen Luetjen, Executive Director

In 2007, Seattle Tilth adopted its first Strategic Plan and jumped right into implementing the action steps for the plan’s “Five P’s.”

Programs: We are adapting and editing curriculum and to facilitate significant expansion of our programming in the region. Next steps will be securing copyright of our successful educational curriculum so we can license it to other organizations.

People: We are training 75 Children’s Garden volunteers and 90 Garden Crew volunteers each year, in addition to contract educators. Over 250 volunteers are needed for the Edible Plant Sale and 100 for the Harvest Fair. We are implementing codes of conduct for volunteers, starting an organization-wide volunteer orientation program and revising our Employee Handbook. To achieve long-term goals of improving performance management, risk management and leadership development, we need to continue to build capacity among our administrative staff.

Places: With a $15,000 grant from Seattle’s Neighborhood Matching Fund, we are currently engaged in a master planning process for our Wallingford teaching gardens. Though not yet complete, the priorities that have emerged from community outreach include: a sheltered outdoor teaching area for inclement weather, re-design of garden beds to improve access to garden spaces, signage, an outdoor kitchen for garden-to-table instruction, and a replacement of our current greenhouse, which has a failing foundation. The UW Design/Build Studio will design and construct the sheltered gathering area this spring. We intend to fully implement the master plan and explore the creation of new demonstration gardens in the region.

Partnerships: We are currently negotiating with the City of Issaquah to bring a full schedule of programming and install a Tilth garden at the Pickering Barn. In addition, we will continue to work with Downtown Seattle Association and Department of Neighborhoods to take programs throughout Seattle. We are planning grant-funded outreach to low-income and Spanish speaking populations.

Public Relations: We have completed an internal communications audit and are finalizing a branding process with a marketing consultant. We will implement a new logo and tagline, and will ensure that internal and external communications are all on-brand. We plan to develop new outreach materials and a more content-rich Web site to reach ever-wider audiences.

Income in 2007 was $617,281 and expense was $617,268 for a surplus of $14, our fifth consecutive year “in the black.” Of this budget, 72% was spent directly on delivering educational programs.

Our Web site contains an honor roll of donors, sponsors, grantors and other contributors. Thanks to the entire Tilth community for your support in making 2007 a year of excitement and growth as we prepared to celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

Thank You to Garden Show Volunteers

Many volunteers, led by super volunteers Meredith Dineen, volunteer coordinator, and BJ Hedahl, load in and load out, made our presence possible at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show. Thank you!

Carol Allen
Brad Bantel
Rick Barrett
Karen Bretesani
Pam Burton
Hariana Childstrom
Sharon Chung
Nancy Coomer
Janice Cotton
Meredith Dineen
Judith Duncan
Mike Ewanciw
Debra Glover
Sue Hartman
Sylvia Haven
BJ Hedahl
Liz Herlevi
Jerry Hoo
Michelle Ilhan
Lain Kahlstrom
Jo King
Jen Krenz

Linda Langford
Joyce Larson
Lucy Lauterbach
Karen Loeser
Terry Lovins
Laura McCrae
Cristina Mone
Kara Moser
Eytan Navah
Penne O’Grady
Lucinda O’Halloran
Heather Peake
Kathy Pelish
Rachel Petrich
John Roach
Fabiola Rodriguez
Ann Tamura
Ursula Valdez
Cheryl Wheeler
Silvia Wilson
Christine Yarrow

Growing edibles in containers was the focus of the Seattle Tilth booth at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in February.
Tilth’s Greatest Hit: the Edible Plant Sale

Bill Thorness, Editor

Next month, hundreds of shoppers will form an orderly line under Meridian Park’s plum trees, getting out early on the first Saturday in May to make sure they get the pick of the plants at Seattle Tilth’s annual Edible Plant Sale. By the end of the weekend, thousands of area gardeners will be nursing their four-inch pots of tomatoes, peppers, basil and an astonishing variety of culinary edibles.

For the 25th year, Seattle Tilth will have signaled the start of the veggie growing season.

The plant sale has become such a rite of spring (it’s common to hear “I always get my tomatoes at Tilth”) that it is likely the first thing non-members think of if someone mentions Tilth. It has always been Tilth’s biggest fundraiser, but it has evolved, along with the organization, from humble beginnings.

The first sale, held March 19-20, 1983 (that’s right, a two-day undertaking), brought in $500 “clear profit,” according to the newsletter. Weather for the day, always crucial for a successful sale, was perfect. (Some years have not been as stellar as others, weather-wise. For instance, the 1997 sale was called a “great sloppy success” under regular downpours.)

The many flats of perfect plant starts didn’t always come from professional growers, either. In the early years of the sale, the greenhouse was used to start many plants, and it took countless volunteer hours to tend the plants, pot them up and label them.

In fact, the plants were not just grown at Tilth or by professionals; members made considerable contributions from their own gardens. Early in the sale history, some more expert members, like long-time GSC groundskeeper Gil Scheiber, were asked to grow specific things on contract. But plant starts and perennial divisions were accepted from members as well. “One gardener’s extras are another’s delight,” said core volunteer David Johnson in 1985.

Volunteers have always been essential to make the sale happen: moving flats of plants on Tilth-designed two-person gurneys, wrangling the inevitable shoppers’ line, serving as cashiers and telling buyers about the plants. In 1997, garden coordinator Carl Elliott praised the many core volunteers who, months before the sale, adopted a group of plants, helped grow them, and then shared their knowledge with buyers at the sale.

Sale proceeds marched ever upward, and by 1999, the sale was earning $16,000 over direct expenses, helping to fund the work of the garden coordinator, who has always been a primary leader for the event. Last year, the two-day sale netted nearly three times as much for Tilth coffers.

Rain or shine, Seattleites know that a trip to the Tilth plant sale is a must to get their garden going. In return, the successful event has helped keep Tilth going for nearly the length of its existence. This year, celebrate Tilth’s 30th anniversary with a trip to the sale and make your contribution. And just in case, wear your Gore-Tex.

Weeds? No, Wild Plants

Arthur Lee Jacobson

Seattle Tilth’s Demonstration Garden “Weed Patch” was born April 2, 1982. In the fall of 1985, a new location, larger and more varied in soil types, was made for the patch. On that date, 55 different kinds of weeds were present, each with a name tag. As Tilth members and visitors often sought to know more about a given weed than its name and appearance — information available at the patch — I started profiling weeds for the newsletter. The final article (100th weed) was in the August 1995 newsletter. The Weed Patch was maintained for 24 years, until April 2005.

The article versions on my Web site, www.arthurleej.com, are mostly improved from the newsletter originals, though three lack illustrations. In my 2001 book “Wild Plants of Greater Seattle” all these articles were additionally polished, edited, manipulated and illustrated anew. The wild plant book contained not only weeds, but wildflowers, escaped garden plants, shrubs, ferns, trees and so on.

The book is uniquely aimed for this region: woods to alleys. It offers notes on edibility, toxicity or medicinal roles, and states where to find and how to identify species. The book’s first printing sold out. The second edition, being released this month, includes six years of changes: new plant finds, updated names, new learning resources, improved illustrations and the like. The new edition is still a 496-page softcover with more than 500 line drawings. It is available from me for $24.95.
Local Food Action Initiative Proposed to City Council; Richard Conlin Seeks Gardeners’ Support

A new policy to strengthen our local food system is needed in Seattle, City Council President Richard Conlin told Tilth members and friends in introductory comments at the 30th anniversary event at Town Hall on March 13. An initiative proposed by Conlin will be considered by the Council this spring, and he asked for citizen action to raise awareness of the issue. “We need to convince people this is a priority,” he said.

The Local Food Action Initiative would create a “policy framework” that brings together issues of local agriculture, community gardens, urban-rural community connections, public health and greater food self-sufficiency, he explained. City goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development and emergency preparedness would also benefit, he said.

Currently, an ad-hoc interdepartmental city team is working with the Acting Food Policy Council, of which Tilth is a member, to identify issues and opportunities around food security and a sustainable local food system.

Conlin’s initiative, Resolution 31019, can be found at www.seattle.gov/council/conlin. He said citizen support will be essential during a public comment period in the first part of April. He hopes to vote the resolution out of committee on Earth Day, and bring it before a full council vote in late April or May.

Build Awareness of Big Ag’s Role in Climate Change, Lappé Tells Tilth Audience

Continued from page 1

greenhouse gas emissions, but much of that activity is due to operations in those countries by U.S.-based companies or demand from developed countries.

Today, while the presence of climate change is less controversial, she said the “deniers” have shifted focus to causation. “Very soon people will start asking, ‘is there a link between our carbon-intensive food systems and climate change?’ ” In response, big agriculture firms are “in full gear” to strike poses as sustainable corporate citizens.

“It’s clear that we need bold action, and that must include rethinking our food,” she said.
Naked Gardener: The Ire of the Afflicted

One cold day last winter a local tree company backed their truck up to our driveway and dumped a huge load of woodchips on it. This did not surprise us: we had asked them for the chips. But we were surprised at the size of the heap. It exceeded our expectations, and it probably exceeds our needs. I fear it may be in violation of several local ordinances.

Our house occupies roughly the middle of its suburban lot, leaving garden spaces of various sizes around the edge. Over the years we have overlaid the grassy areas with cardboard and woodchip until almost no grass remains. Into the woodchip we plant shrubs and small trees. The remaining uncovered, unplanted, and uncultivated areas are pathways and work spaces, and that’s what the heap in the driveway is for. If we can cover those areas—we’ve finished that job. But like I said, that heap may outlast us. We’ve been trundling back and forth with the wheelbarrow, delivering woodchip where it’s needed, but the pile dwindles s-v-e-r-s-o s-l-o-w-l-y.

So much for the plain facts. But we don’t live in a world of plain facts, do we? It’s a much more complicated place, involving relationships and feelings and mistakes, misunderstandings and habits and jam, personal histories and prejudices and blind spots, and according to Eddie Izzard, jam, and even more jam perhaps.

The subplot to this simple de-grassification project relates to the weeds that can grow through the woodchip mulch if you don’t put down any cardboard. Why wouldn’t you put down any cardboard? After all, we know it helps to block the sunlight and defeat the photosynthesis that would otherwise allow smothered weeds to grow right through the layer of mulch, especially the strong ones like dandelions and quack grass.

Some years ago, when I had more influence over her than was good for either of us, my wife accepted my blithe assurance that the cardboard—or the multiple layers of newspaper—were unnecessary if you put down a good 4 inches of mulch. Well, of course I was proved wrong, and the splendid crop of mulch-penetrating weeds that resulted provoked her ire. Her ire persists. She revisits it upon me when we discuss more woodchip mulch work, and reminds me about the importance of the cardboard. “Yes, dear” I say. This episode from our past has become one of those private treasures that those of you in long-term relationships will recognize.

To be fair to her I have to mention that my wife suffers from Irritable Spouse Syndrome, or ISS, which is a lamentable condition. Those afflicted with ISS suffer from spouses who exhibit irritability. That spouse, in the present case, would be me. I sympathize with her suffering because, well, I have a touch of it myself from time to time.

I should like to shift our attention from the ridiculous to the sublime. One of my all-time favorite Medieval thinkers was Julian of Norwich, who famously said “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” Her theology is said to be “optimistic.” By accident of history and personal experience this quote always puts me in mind of Chance the Gardener who, in the novel and movie “Being There” famously said something like “Spring will come—and all will be well—in the garden.”

I place a lot of trust in the truth of that. That spring will come, and all will be well in the garden.

Not so for the driveway. Unless we level it, that mountain of woodchips blocking our driveway is likely to start sprouting vegetation this summer. I foresee a steady progression through the colonizing species to a climax forest of Western Redcedar, Douglas Fir, and Sitka Spruce. I foresee Salal, Sword Fern, and Oregon Grape. I foresee mountain goats!

Classifieds

Cynthia Creasey, real estate agent specializing in gardens that come with houses in Seattle. Call 206-276-8292, Lake & Co. Real Estate.

Eat Your View! Incorporate food, and medicines into your organic landscape. Use our services to make your yard work manageable, or let us do it all; and you can harvest all year long. You can have a 50 ft diet! Free Quote - Jayne@sistersageherbs.com or 206-898-2101.

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Rain Barrels. 60 gallon, food clean, fully assembled with brass fittings and removable mesh screen. Available in black, terra cotta and blue. Excellent value, only $65 plus tax each (delivery and installation available). Call or e-mail me, Dan Borba, at 253-272-8173, naturalrainwater@yahoo.com. Harvesting the rain since 1999.

Green Light Gardening Specializing in child-friendly and bird-friendly gardens with year-round beauty. Consultation, design, and pruning lessons. Emily, 206-523-1774, greenlightgardening.com

Worm composting on the Eastside? Red wigglers for sale. Call Judy, 425-868-2694, or e-mail judy1007@comcast.net.

See your garden with new eyes – Offering experienced, educated and thoughtful garden coaching and consulting arborist services. Katy at 206-351-1375 or www.gardenvision.net

Need help with your worm bin? Good health begins in the soil. Worm bins are a fun, earth friendly way to recycle food, reduce waste, and produce nutrient rich plant food. I provide professional consultation on all your needs from getting started to operating an existing bin more successfully. Individual, family, school, business, workshop rates. Exceptional quality worm compost also sold. Call Barb, Wiggle Worm Farm Owner, Master Composter, 206-297-7303.
The Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline now has a new name, new logo, and a new Web site! But what has not changed is the fast, free, and friendly answers to all your gardening questions. Our staff is a team of professional horticulturists and educators with experience and expertise on:

- Safe, effective pest and weed control
- Resource conservation
- Plant care and disease solutions
- Plant selection
- Composting & soil building techniques

Call the Garden Hotline at (206) 633-0224, Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or e-mail us at help@gardenhotline.org. And check out our new Web site: www.gardenhotline.org.

**Hot Questions from The Garden Hotline**

*Contact the Hotline at 206-633-0224 or help@gardenhotline.org.*

Q. I don’t have a dedicated space for food gardening in my yard but want to grow some edible plants. Do you have suggestions about how to incorporate edibles into my yard?

A. There are many ways to add edible plants to your yard and at the same time add to the beauty of the landscape. As with any plant you have to bear in mind each individual’s need for sun, soil type and moisture.

- Pole and espaliered fruit trees are a great choice for an edible plant that also adds style to the garden. Their spring bloom is showy and the tree’s form can be a good anchor point in the garden. Fruit trees will need a sunny site with well-draining soil.

- Blueberry shrubs are decorative in all seasons with showy colored stems, spring bloom and bright blue berries in late summer. These shrubs thrive in sun, acid soils and with regular watering. You can add leafy greens to your shrub borders for lots of color. There are many decorative lettuces like Flashy Trout’s Back and Red Sails. Lettuce will need to be protected from slugs, and needs adequate water and at least partial sun.

- Try some Rainbow Chard as a brilliant foil to dark green shrubs. In addition, determinate tomatoes and bright red or yellow pepper plants can double as summer shrubs.

**Join Seattle Tilth!**

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- New contact information?

**Name(s) ______________________________________________**

**Address ______________________________________________**

**City/State/Zip _____________________________________________**

**Phone ______________________________________________**

**E-mail ______________________________________________**

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- $30 Regular
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- $100 Sustaining
- $500 Lifetime
- $15 Limited Income

**Membership levels**

- $30 Regular
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**Yes, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support Seattle Tilth operations.**

$ ________ per  O Month  O Year  O Check  O Charge

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**Maritime Northwest Garden Guide**

For an indispensible regional guide to year-round gardening enclose $19.50 (includes tax and postage) per copy. Please send me _____ copies.

**Mail to** Seattle Tilth, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Room 120, Seattle, Washington 98103

**Household Membership Increases to $35 in May**

Join or renew your membership in April to take advantage of the $30 rate for household membership, which has not increased since 1999. In those nine years, the costs of maintaining the membership program—as well as the numbers of programs offering discounted admission to members—have increased. Look for a special membership incentive this year at the May 3-4 Edible Plant Sale, but renew before then if you’d like to take advantage of the pre-Millennium rate.

**Calvin Creasey : GARDENER**

**Free consultation for Tilth members**

Complete services. No space too small.

206 789-6456

The best plants, grandly grown
Register Now for Popular Children's Garden Programs

April 14-June 2, Monday Mornings at the Children's Garden. Fun, hands-on garden camps for parents and children ages 2 to 5 years. $20/$30.

June 9-Aug. 22, Preschool Morning Programs. Theme-based, two-day sessions that introduce children ages 3-5 and their parents to insects, flowers and the garden world. Sessions include gardening, art projects, stories, our famous sun tea and yummy snacks! $40/$50 (plus $20 for additional sibling ages 1-2)

June 19-July 3, Preschool Afternoon Programs. Same curriculum as preschool morning programs. $40/$50 (plus $20 for additional sibling ages 1-2)

Get Growing: Take a Tilth Class

Spring garden classes, including short sessions at the Plant Sale, will help you get growing. See the basic class listings below, then visit our Web site for complete details and registration forms. Please note:

Lower member prices are shown first on the listings below.

Classes are held in north Seattle at the Good Shepherd Center in Wallingford (GSC) or in south Seattle at Bradner Gardens Park in Mt. Baker (BGP).

Pre-registration is required.

April 13, Biointensive Gardening – Growing the Most in a Small Space, $15/$20, BGP

April 16, Container Gardening, $15/$20, BGP

May 3 or May 4, Plant Sale Clinic: Edible Container Gardening, $10/15, GSC

May 3 or May 4, Plant Sale Clinic: 1,2,3 Grow a Garden, $10/15, GSC

May 15 and May 17, Grow More in a Small Space, (2-day workshop) $75/$85, BGP

Tilth in the News

Coverage of the March 13 Anniversary event included listings in the Seattle Times, radio spots on KBcS, radio interviews with Anna Lappé on KUOW's Weekday and KEXP, as well as Anna's op-ed piece in the Seattle P-I, “There's a home grown way to address climate change.”

Save the Date For Upcoming Tilth 30th Anniversary Events

25th Annual Edible Plant Sale
Saturday May 3, 9 am to 3 pm and Sunday, May 4, 11 am to 3 pm
Meridian Park at N 50th Street

Ribbon Cutting for Teaching Garden Enhancements
Thursday, June 12, time TBA
Reception and brief program featuring the work of the UW Neighborhood Design Build Studio to create community-inspired features for the Seattle Tilth Teaching Gardens. This process has been supported by the Seattle Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Children's Garden 20th Anniversary Reunion & Picnic
Saturday, August 9, 2008, 4 pm to 8 pm
Meridian Park at N 50th Street

Seattle Tilth Harvest Fair & Tomato Tasting: Your Locally Grown Food Festival
Saturday, September 6, 2008, 10 am to 4 pm
Meridian Park at N 50th Street

Recharge Your Eco Batteries at the Seattle Green Festival

Inspirational and practical ideas for healthy, earth-friendly living will be found at the Seattle Green Festival, happening April 12-13 at the Washington State Trade & Convention Center.

More than 150 speakers, many how-to workshops, interactive kids’ activities, organic cuisine and live music are planned. Shop a “green marketplace” of more than 300 exhibits ranging from all-natural cleaning products and Fair Trade gifts to solar panels, eco-cars and socially-responsible investing. More information can be found at www.greenfestivals.org.

Tilth staff will lead four programs at the Green Festival:

Saturday, April 12: Slippery Stories by Lisa Taylor at 11 a.m.; Bug Tales by Lisa Taylor at 1 p.m.; Gardening for Wildlife by Emily Bishton at 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 13: Planning Your Summer Vegetable Garden, by Christina Mone at 1 p.m.

Volunteer at Seattle Tilth's booth at the Green Festival by contacting Super-Volunteer Meredith Dineen at (206) 633-0451, ext. 1.

Tilth at IKEA
Visit Seattle Tilth at the IKEA Environmental Fair at 601 SW 41st St. in Renton on Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.