I grow a vegetable garden each year because I love working the soil and the taste of produce right off the vine. By using organic methods I help the environment by keeping pesticides and chemical fertilizers from damaging the soil, water and wildlife. I am reducing greenhouse gasses by eating food that did not have to be transported to my plate from the next state or maybe a far-off country. I can appreciate the work that goes into growing food organically and prefer the superior flavor so I shop at local farmers markets. Many Tilth members are like me. We are each a catalyst for change every day that we make these choices. Yet sometimes we forget to share these ideals with the people close to us.

Thanksgiving is a holiday that brings friends and family together around the dinner table for a feast and celebration. This year I have volunteered to host the dinner because I am going to try something radical – a meal prepared with ingredients (mostly) from Washington State. I will be joining a growing group of people who are taking the Eat Local for Thanksgiving pledge by agreeing to serve a dish at my Thanksgiving table made with food that has been locally raised, harvested or grown. I see this as a great way to introduce my friends and family to our food system and let them know how important I think it is to eat local food.

Grant Received to Plan Garden Improvements

Seattle Tilth has received a $15,000 grant from the City of Seattle’s Neighborhood Matching Fund to launch a Community Planning Process to guide program development and improvements of the Seattle Tilth teaching gardens in Wallingford. We want to engage the community in a dialog about the role and value of both Wallingford teaching gardens that have been successfully operated by Seattle Tilth for decades. As the organization celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2008, we pledge to reinvest in the garden spaces to ensure they are at their best in terms of program functionality, safety and attractiveness.

Funding will support a process of engaging the community in the planning process as well as demarcating the garden spaces under consideration. Serving as Project Manager will be Nicole Kistler, a long time volunteer for Seattle Tilth. Nicole and Tilth staff will contact a wide array of Seattle Tilth program participants, volunteers, members and other supporters. In addition, the process will closely involve neighbors, P-Patch gardeners, park users, and tenants of the Good Shepherd Center. We will be researching the original plans and subsequent ideas for the gardens in order to gather all of the best ideas into a master plan for the gardens to be implemented over time.

Plans that emerge will be submitted for the review by the Parks Department and Historic Seattle. Possible outcomes of the Community Planning Process could be plans and guidelines for improved or...
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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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 n [ME, fr. OE, fr. tillan to till] (bef. 12c) 1: quality of cultivated soil
2: cultivation of wisdom and the spirit
Changing the World,
One Meal at a Time
Continued from page 1

I’ve discovered that it won’t be that hard to stick close to traditions. I’ve ordered an organic turkey from Thundering Hooves in Walla Walla. Instead of candied yams, I’ll try baked or braised winter squash. I can buy my squash, plus salad greens, pumpkin for pie and mashing potatoes at the farmers market. Or look for the Puget Sound Fresh signs at the grocery store to find locally grown produce.

Think of the impact we could make in the local economy and environment if we all simply served one dish that was locally grown on our Thanksgiving table. Please join me in taking the Eat Local for Thanksgiving Pledge this year. Go to www.pugetsoundfresh.org and take the online pledge and to learn what other people in the community are doing to support the Eat Local for Thanksgiving campaign.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Sustainable Soirée Event Volunteers
  Emi Morgan, 206-633-0450
- Children’s Garden Earth Steward Tours
  Sam O’Brien, 206-633-0451

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Thanks to Our Musicians!
an Tri
Opossum Wranglers
Creepin’ Critters
Na Hila Hila Boys
Atlas Stringband
Squirrel Butter

Laura Niemi & Kathy Dang, Tomato Tasting

Super Volunteers
Meredith Dinneen, volunteer coordinator
Elizabeth Mullaly, program & flyer design
Carly Matison, farmer and non-profit coordinator

Charmaaine Slaven, music coordinator
Pete Covell, sound technician
Meagan Bemer, Awesome Helper

Free Educational Presentations
David McBride, Master Beekeeper
Emily Bishon, Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline Educator
Arthur Lee Jacobson, author of Trees of Seattle
Mike Broili, Phinney Neighborhood Association

Thanks to our amazing volunteers!
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Thank You to All of Our 2007 Harvest Fair Contributors...

You Helped Make This Year's Festival a Smiling Success!

The Harvest Fair is all about learning from your neighbors, whether it is about tomatoes, chickens or landscape improvements. Michael Lockman (photo at right) of WE-Design was just one of our generous sponsors, making this year’s event an educational experience as well as great fun!
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Thanks to Harvest Fair Sponsors:
The precursor of what was to become the Tilth Organic Harvest Fair was an event called the Tilth Summer Picnic, held in August 1983. The Tilth Summer Picnic was intended as a trade show to introduce commercial food buyers to local organic farmers. Organized by Mark Musick with the assistance of Anya and Carl Woestwin, the event was co-sponsored by the Tilth Association and the Northwest Culinary Alliance.

The Tilth Summer Picnic was a classic story of good news, bad news. The good news was that the dozen or so farmers attending presented stunning displays of everything from premium fruits and vegetables to freshly cultured mushrooms and bamboo.

The bad news was that few consumers showed up. There were more farmers at the event than buyers. That’s when we learned that, if we were to host a trade show, participating farmers would have to have an immediate economic return.

Five years later Mark revived the idea of an all-organic farmer’s market as the centerpiece of Seattle Tilth’s 10th Anniversary celebration. Held in September 1988, this time the event was a resounding success.

Billed originally as the “Taste of Organic Seattle,” the fair attracted nearly 20 organic farmers and more than 2,000 consumers. The event was a perfect blend of food, music, education, and fun. When it ended, both farmers and Tilth members clamored for more and the “Taste” was on its way to becoming an annual event.

The Taste of Organic Seattle was an all-volunteer undertaking the first year, but it was obvious that the event required so much advance planning and coordination that a part-time staff person would have to be hired. Monique Villages-Reed stepped forward to lead the event in both 1989 and 1990. Mark Musick coordinated the fair in 1991. Bejurin Cassady led the event for three years, Phil and Nieve Megenhardt stepped in next, and Seattle Tilth staff person Lisa Taylor followed. The event has been led by Tilth staff and board ever since.

Early models for our event were San Francisco’s Tasting of Summer Produce and The Bite of Seattle. Because of our name, “The Taste of Organic Seattle,” one of our problems the first couple of years was that many people came expecting it to be just food sampling. To correct that, in 1991 we changed the name to the Tilth Organic Harvest Fair, and all of our publicity stated that this is an organic farmers’ market to emphasize that the event is an opportunity to not just browse but to stock up on organically grown produce.

The Tilth Organic Harvest Fair grew steadily over the years. Both farmers and consumers now look forward to the event, with many returning every year. A reliable slate of food vendors, sponsors, donors and musicians help Tilth stage this vibrant harvest event.

Each year the Tilth Organic Harvest Fair increases in diversity and complexity, requiring at least six months of advance planning and the dedicated efforts of dozens of volunteers. It’s become a Seattle tradition, not just for farmers and consumers, but for Tilth volunteers. Now in its 20th year, the Harvest Fair’s original purpose has taken hold in neighborhoods across Seattle, as consumers now wholeheartedly support the concepts of farmers’ markets, buying local and buying organic.

This article was taken from a longer piece by Mark Musick, one of the original founders of Seattle Tilth.

Naked Gardener: On Vacation

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

Hot Questions from the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline

Contact the Hotline at 206-633-0224 or info@lawnandgardenhotline.org.

I would like more privacy from my neighbors, and have empty space along the property lines of my urban-size lot. What plants do you suggest?

Your timing is excellent! Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs to add a “green screen” to your garden. Choosing the right plants is the key to ensuring that the privacy doesn’t cost you or your neighbors all your sunlight, or become a high-maintenance burden for everyone. This is why Photinia, English Laurel and Leyland Cypress are not good choices for neighbors all your sunlight, or become a high-maintenance burden for everyone.

Important things to consider: Are you screening your view into a neighbor’s property, their view into yours, or both? This will determine how much height you need. How much width do you have, and what are the sun/shade conditions? There may be only 5ft between your house and the property line, with very little sunlight. Plants that grow too wide will create a high-maintenance job, and sun loving plants will not thrive in the shade.

Do you need evergreen screening year-round? Some areas of your garden may not require coverage in the winter.

The list that follows contains plants with a narrow growth habit, are relatively fast growing, beautiful and easy to care for. Consider a variety of deciduous and evergreen plants for interesting texture and color that allows winter sunlight to reach your home or backyard. Descriptions include evergreen (E) or deciduous (D) foliage, shade tolerance (SH) and height x width.

Eucryphia nymansensis – Delicate, white camellia-like blooms cloak the branches in late summer with an apple-blossom fragrance. E, SH, 15’ x 5’

Azara microphylla – Tiny, glossy leaves on loosely held branches. Blooms in late winter with small, yellow flowers that are scented like chocolate chip cookies! E, SH, 15”-20’ x 6’

Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Gracilis’ – Sprays of cedar-like foliage turn a beautiful bronze color in winter. E, SH, 12’-15’x 6’

Cryptomeria japonica ‘Elegans’ – Lacy plumes of foliage are delightfully clustered and layered on the tree, giving the plant a ‘Michelin Man’ appearance. The foliage takes on striking copper and bronze tones in the winter. E, SH, 20’ x 6’

Magnolia grandiflora ‘Little Gem’ – This is a dwarf and bushy variety of the typically wider Southern Magnolia. Waxy-white blooms are fragrant and appear throughout the summer. E, 15’-10’ x 8’

Mahonia x media ‘Charity’ – This leather-leaf mahonia has distinctly barred foliage in a delicate blue-green. Large plumes of fragrant, yellow flowers bloom in late winter providing nectar for overwintering hummingbirds. It is wide, so plan accordingly! E, SH, 8’-10’ x 6’-8’

Laurus nobilis – Great source of bay leaves for decorative wreaths and culinary use. E, 10’ x 15’ x 6’-8’

Viburnum bodnantense ‘Dawn’ – Blooms in winter with sweetly-scented pink and white tubular flowers, hardening the call of spring! Striking fall color as well. D, 8’-10 x 4’-6’

Ribes sanguineum – Our native flowing currant blooms in early spring attracting hummingbirds to the garden. Available with pink or white flowers, it has excellent fall color as well! D, SH, 6’-8’ x 6’

Phyllostachys nigra – Black bamboo is a little better behaved than most but still requires the installation of bamboo barrier or can be grown in a pot. Does, however, reach 15 feet pretty quickly and the harvested, older canes are useful in the garden. E, 15’-20’ x indefinite width
Fall Classes and Programs

Third Thursday: Community Planning Process for Seattle Tilth’s Wallingford Teaching Gardens

Thursday, October 18, 2007 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Good Shepherd Center Room 140 (Senior Center)

Be a part of planning educational enhancements to the Urban Agriculture Center, in use since 1978, and the Children’s Garden, operating since 1988. Elements under consideration will include covered gathering areas, improved storage, signs, paths, raised beds and other elements to improve the educational function of these popular teaching spaces. UW’s Neighborhood Design Build Studio will construct some improvements in Spring 2008. Supported by Seattle’s Neighborhood Matching Funds Grant.

Putting the Garden to Bed

Saturday November 3, from 11 am to 12:30 pm

Good Shepherd Center Demonstration Garden

The rain and dark has snuck up on us and the garden is winding down. Grab those last few days of sunshine and put your garden to bed. Fall is a fantastic time to replenish the soil that has offered you its bounty all year long. Learn inexpensive or free ways to build your soil using materials on hand. Let the Tilth gardeners show you how a little work now will pay off big time next spring. To register for this class, please download the registration form on our website and mail it in with your payment. $15 for Tilth members, $20 for non-members. Pre-registration is required.

Monday Mornings at the Children’s Garden

Even our youngest friends enjoy the garden. These one-day sessions introduce children and parents to insects, flowers and the garden world. We will sing songs, find colors & shapes, and taste the flowers and plants that grow in the garden. Each class is one morning from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Ages 2–5 years. Classes are intended for both parent and child. Registration per class: $25 / $20 Tilth members.

Oct 1. Harvest Hoopla. Garden vegetables and fruit just ripe for the picking (and eating too)!

Oct 8. Seeds in the Ground. Big seeds and small seeds, seeds that explode and seeds that fly.

Oct 15. Tools are Cool. Dig in the soil using an enormous variety of tools.

Green Gardening Program to present annual workshop on practical IPM strategies for landscape professionals

Wednesday, November 7th, 7:15 am to 4:00 pm

South Seattle Community College

Sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities, King County, and Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Fee $45 full-day (with lunch) or $30 half-day (no lunch). Preregistration required. Pesticide recertification and continued education credits from WSDA, ISA, CPH, and CLT.

Climate change, stormwater regulations, stormy winters, and customer demands for organic landscaping are changing the way we design and maintain landscapes in the Pacific Northwest. The 2007 Green Gardening IPM Workshop will address these changes and ways to reduce maintenance costs and create healthier landscapes. Workshop topics include: attracting beneficial insects, proper pruning, products to improve soil health, organic weed and pest control, marketing green services, and more. NEW THIS YEAR! A separate afternoon session for landscape company owners and managers on green marketing. PLUS, a separate session on weed identification and control for Spanish speaking landscape professionals (taught in Spanish!). The workshop includes both indoor and outdoor portions.

Attendees can earn pesticide recertification credits from the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Continuing education credits are also available for Certified Professional Horticulturists, Certified Landscape Technicians, and from the International Society of Arborists.

Download the registration flyer at www.saveingwater.org or call (206) 343-9759 ext 108 for more information.