

# THE TILLAMOOK THYMES

The Tillamook Master Gardener Association  
April 2018



*The President's Corner*  
*April 2018*  
*Karen Sarnaker*



As the weather shuffling into spring, our gardens are bursting with colors and life. It is exciting around our home as we are making plans to prepare new beds, hardscaping and planting our hill and beginning to prepare the conifer and shrub garden. We have had such a good time visiting various nurseries in and around Portland and down the coast deciding which maples, conifers and shrubs will work best in our space. It is like being kids in a candy store. Benedict keeps muttering about how little space we have, but it is so easy to get carried away!

Our Master Gardener classes finish on April 5th. I have enjoyed attending classes for re-certification. It's excited to learn something new each class and to be reminded of what I may have forgotten. I especially appreciated the classes on fruit trees and how best to prune apple trees which were presented by Jeff Choate, OSU Extension commercial and community horticulture faculty member in Lane County. We put this into practice pruning a semi-dwarf apple tree for friend who is no longer able to prune his own.

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Our Annual Plant Sale is just a month away, May 5, 2018. Many of us are preparing our plants to donate for the sale. Jodi Derrick, Chair of the Plant Sale has reminded us at the last TCMGA Blast to "label your plants with the common name, Latin name, sun/shade water requirements, height/width, spreading, reseeding, bloom color. If it blooms and you have a picture of it in bloom that would be great for the tag too". If you have any questions, please call Jodi on 503-812-1128 or email her [jbflygirl@gmail.com](mailto:jbflygirl@gmail.com). We will be repotting tomatoes Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds Livestock Barn from 10:30AM to 1:00PM and transporting them over to Gary Thompson's Greenhouse. He has been so supportive and generous in allowing us to use half of his greenhouse for our 400 or more tomatoes. We will be setting up on May 2 and Plant Intake on May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>. Come and lend a hand.

*"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" ~ Robin Williams*



*Karen's Korner*  
by  
Karen Keltz

***COME AND GET IT, YOU BENEFICIAL INSECTS!!***

Most of us are thinking about what new varieties of flowers we want to be adding to our gardens this spring. Many of us not only want beauty surrounding us, but also, we want to ensure our environment is friendly and welcoming to birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects that will help us with our IPM intentions. We want to offer an enticing buffet of nectar and pollen to attract pollinators and insects that prey on common insect pests.

I did some research to determine which plants to add to our gardens in order to keep insect pests to a minimum and found these suggestions from the Select Seeds gardening newsletter.

**Queen Anne's Lace:** This is one plant we don't even have to go buy in order to have in our gardens around here, because it's probably already present somewhere near you. It invites Hoverfly, Tachinid flies, and parasitic wasps. Hoverfly larvae decimate aphid populations; Tachinid flies lay eggs on pests including Japanese beetles, eating them from within. Parasitic wasps such as the Brachonid Wasp and Ichneumon Wasp do their number on tobacco hornworms and you can see their egg cases in action on many other pests as well, such as cabbage looper, corn ear worm, codling moth, and cutworm.

**Cosmos:** I love these flowers and how they often re-seed themselves - if you're lucky. They, too, invite Hoverfly, Brachonid Wasp, and Ichneumon Wasp, as well as Lacewing or "aphid lions." These little sweeties are fast-moving predators that patrol plants for aphids, insect eggs and mites. Cosmos also attracts the pest predators big-eyed bugs that consume insect eggs, mites, and leafhoppers; damsel bugs that wipe out aphids, leafhoppers and plant bugs; and pirate bugs that feed on whitefly and thrips.



**Fennel:** I love fennel because I know it provides food for Black Swallowtail caterpillars with the munchies and I like to watch them go at it. Now I know it also attracts Lacewings, Hoverfly, Tachinid fly and Ladybug/Ladybird. Ladybug larvae wipe out many pests, plus the brightly-colored adults eat mites, aphids, whiteflies, and devour the eggs of Mexican bean beetles and squash beetle. You go, Big Frothy Fennel! (Its leaves are also good in salads or on top of baked fish, if you want to get your inner caterpillar on.)

**Goldenrod:** Besides having an herbal medicinal use, this plant also attracts Soldier beetles, Assassin Bugs, and Damsel Bugs to your flowerbed. Soldier beetles hunt down caterpillars, including the one I detest the most, the cabbage looper; they dine on aphids as well. Assassin bugs feed on a variety of insects, including aphids and caterpillars. Damsel bugs wipe out aphids, whiteflies and other soft-bodied insects. Goldenrod also attracts big-eyed bug and pirate bug to help decimate those aphids, thrips, mites, and leafhoppers.

**Zinnia:** Last year I planted zinnia and grew some from seed because I like their deep-hued primary colors and forthrightness. Butterflies love them, too. Zinnias nurture Hoverfly and parasitic wasps. Put some zinnias in your tomato section so the parasitic wasps can attack the tomato hornworms.

Marigold: We plant marigolds everywhere as a matter of course. I like the smell of them, especially lemon marigolds, and Neal likes that they naturally repel aphids and mosquitos. Besides that, they nurture ladybug beetles and hoverflies, the bane of mealybugs, aphids, and other soft-bodied insects.

This is a good beginner's list of plants that will help you out this spring and summer. Some of them you probably plant already, and now you know why gardeners have planted them in their gardens since forever. Put those plants out in flowerbeds and raised vegetable beds alike, garden pesticide-free, and put water sources out in order to keep insect pests out of your garden.

Information obtained from Select Seeds newsletter, February 18, 2019

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***WRINKLE IN THYME***

by  
Cris Roberts

***His Birthday***

It was his birthday, but I didn't know that, so I carried on with our Friday chores, lessons, "please take this here"... "please-do-that-if-you-would"-type stuff, until we wound down at the end of our time together and partook of our gorp (Trail mix). We sorted through all manner of post-hippie grub such as soy beans, sunflower seeds, dried blueberries, pumpkin seeds, dehydrated apple, cranberries, dates, chai seed, flax seed and even added melted (accidentally) chocolate chips.

Cup in hand, he came up to me with a spontaneous grin on his face and an even bigger one showing in his eyes, which surprised me. I thought he was a youth who had forgotten how to smile, so long had it been since he'd tried. "Do you like it?" I queried. "I do!" He said. And for whatever reason in that little, safe greenhouse corner of the world, his defenses dropped like water balloons in the summer heat and he began to tell me that it was his birthday and he hadn't wanted anyone to know, but it was turning out much to his liking. And...did I know that he hadn't celebrated his birthday in about 10 years (it was his 16<sup>th</sup>)? This was, he shared, his mother's choice in an effort to forget that he had been born.

Stab of pain. Slam to the gut. Over-and-over-and-over. Why do we do such hateful things to one another? What value is there in repeatedly flinging messages like: "YOU MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE!" "YOU ARE WORTHLESS, DO YOU HEAR ME?! WORTHLESS!!!" "WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE YOUR BROTHER?" And on and on and on it goes, digging an ill-timed furrow deep into the ground of our heart-soil so that those messages become imbedded and hard to repair. When this happens with soil, we call it compacted. Well, these are compacted messages and they can squeeze out every last bit of oxygen we have in us.

I wanted to breathe fresh life back into him; erase the negative messages that had piled so high that he couldn't see over them to know there were good things to look forward to in life and good things buried under all those junky messages in him. The best I could muster was, "I'm so glad you told me about your birthday. You are so worth celebrating! I'm glad you are having a fun time and I'm glad you were born!"

What do we do when life hands us lemons too rotten to even THINK of making into lemonade? And how can we pull ourselves up by our bootstraps when no laces have ever been provided for the grubby little eyelets of our muddy boots?

If gorp and seeds and soil and time and warmth and patience are all it takes to help celebrate a young man's life when he so badly needs validation, then count me fully in! I want to be a de-compacter, a life-breather, an I'll-give-you-all-I've-got encourager. Want to come join me?

**Photo from T.R.A.P.**



***Neal's Compost Pile***

By  
Neal Lemery

A Book Review:

***Gardening in the Pacific Northwest: The Complete Homeowner's Guide.***

Paul Bonine and Amy Campion (2017)

(Amazon \$20)

Sometimes, I need to admit I have more than one compost pile. On a recent cold and wet day (we've had a few), I found myself rummaging through the accumulated pile of the "things to read" on my coffee table.

With a mug of hot cocoa in hand, and sleet dancing on the windows, I sorted through the accumulation of garden catalogs, interesting books I need to read "soon", and other treasures. Buried near the bottom was a neglected Christmas present from the other gardener in the house, and it is a real treasure.

While there is an abundance of gardening books, this new book is deserving of our attention and a place in the overcrowded gardening bookcase. It has everything a gardener in the Pacific Northwest would need as a comprehensive resource and inspiration. There are excellent and informative discussions on climates, soils, diseases, fertilizing, pests, and other perils, written with enough detail and expertise that even the most experienced gardener will discover new insights and ideas.

The plant selection and recommendation section are a delight, with superb color photographs and descriptions to inspire you. This section will stir you to add to your "must have" list.

Yet, Portland nurseryman Paul Bonine and writer/garden blogger/photographer Amy Campion save the best for last: a thorough and engaging chapter on garden design and style. The discussion and the photographs awakened the garden designer in me, giving me new ideas and settings for those wonderful new-to-me plants in the previous chapter, and lead me to rethink my plans for the garden this year.

The photography alone makes this book an asset to the living room and warms the soul on a bone chilling day. Yet, the wealth of horticulture wisdom and thought-provoking writing gladdens the gardener's heart and will stir up your gardening frenzy.



**These early-blooming perennials will color your garden happy**  
by  
Janet Anderson



*From must-have Wake robins to the charming and rare Soldanella,  
here are some colorful flowers to spring for.*

by  
Ciscoe Morris  
Special to The Seattle Times

WE ALL KNOW that spring-blooming bulbs add color to the spring garden. There's also a wide variety of early-blooming perennials that will light up the spring garden with colorful flowers and beautiful foliage.

No woody garden should be without at least a few Wake robins (*Trillium*). There are more than 40 species native to North America, and every spring, exciting species arrive at quality nurseries. We're fortunate to have

one of the most attractive of all as a Northwest native. *Trillium ovatum*, the one you see when you hike our local woods, adds charm to the shade garden with its nodding white, fading-to-pink flowers.

The most spectacular of the bunch, however, has to be the Oregon native *Trillium kurabayashii*. Eventually forming a 2-foot-tall-by-3-foot-wide clump, each stem on this stunningly beautiful plant is topped with a whorl of black and green deeply mottled leaves crowded with a magnificent deep-red, 4-inch, upright flower. Trilliums are amazingly easy to grow. All they need to prosper are light shade and rich, well-drained soil amended with plenty of compost.

An underappreciated spring bloomer for a shady garden is bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Hailing from eastern and Midwestern woodlands, these native poppy relatives bloom in early spring with flowers made up of layers of satiny white, paper-thin petals. The flowers are a bit short-lived. The blooms on the single-flowering varieties remain for only a day; however, the blossoms on the doubles (*Sanguinaria canadensis* 'Multiplex') can sometimes last up to a week or more. The bluish-gray, scalloped 6-to-12-inch round leaves are so lovely, I grow this perennial as much for the foliage as the blossoms. Given rich humusy soil, bloodroot will spread slowly to form large, much-cherished colonies over time.

If you aren't growin, you're missing out on one of the gems of the spring garden. These members of the poppy family are hardy and easy to grow, and feature colorful spurred flowers held above fernlike foliage. There isn't a blue-flowering one I don't like, but the beauty of the bunch has to be *Corydalis* 'Blue Heron'. Hardy to zero degrees, the fragrant, iridescent flowers shimmer like sapphires above lacy blue-green foliage.

As irresistible as 'Blue Heron' is, wait until you see the red ones! *Corydalis solida* 'George Baker' is adorned with spectacular red flowers, varying from brick to dark red. The flowers of *Corydalis solida* 'Beth Evans' open bright pink before softening to a paler shade as they mature. *Corydalis* tend to do best in well-drained moist shade and will bloom from spring into early summer if they are given adequate moisture. After the blooms fade, cut the foliage down to about 1 inch tall. Your *Corydalis* won't rebloom, but the lacy leaves will grow back looking fresh and lovely.

Finally, if you want some rare treasures, look for the following charmers online or at spring plant sales:

- *Cardamine quinquefolia* is a delightful spring ephemeral. In March, five-lobed leaves emerge to form a loose, open, 9-inch-tall clump, soon covered in a blanket of soft pink flowers. It's frighteningly rambunctious, but politely disappears from the scene just before it overwhelms its neighbors.
- If you want to give kids a thrill, plant Chinese wild ginger (*Asarum maximum* 'Ling Ling') in a shady nook close to a walkway. The 2-inch-long black and white flowers look like little panda faces. Little ones love hunting for them under the highly attractive silvery patterned leaves.
- Finally, no one can look at *Soldanella* sp. aff. *rhodopaea* without breaking into an aria. The dark-purple flowers that occur in April are irresistible, but it's the evergreen foliage that sold me on this plant. *Soldanella* means "little coins" in Italian, and once you see the penny-sized leaves on this irresistibly cute 8-inch clumper, you'll fork over as many coins as it takes to buy a flat of them.

***2018 Wade and Spade Garden Tour  
July 21<sup>st</sup>***

***Introducing the Garden of Dick and Gloria Trapp***

This peaceful garden on Simmons Creek is a real treat to visit. You are greeted by a circular drive that encloses a planted area highlighted by a large goose. Many trees and shrubs have been added to the front yard to set it apart.

The barn to the east of the drive houses many “pets”: the owner’s goat collection. Dick has recently become a “chicken farmer” with the addition of a very cleverly designed chicken coop. It is very comfortable for the girls that live there and the girls that collect the anticipated eggs! At the time of this printing he has a dozen young ladies living in it. At the east of the house is a bio swale area to aid in drain off from the house and a path into the back yard.

Dick is very proud of his collection of berries, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries which are planted on both ends of his vegetable garden. He has been very successful growing many types of veggies, including a great harvest of corn. The garden is a work in progress, constantly evolving as most gardens do. The yard and garden have been cultivated for only three years and are coming along quickly.

The back deck is a “jardin” in itself, with many hanging and potted plants that thrive through the winter months protected by the house. Nearby is the horseshoe pit, which is enjoyed by the kids and grandkids. This garden is a great example of what can be accomplished by a vision, creativity and a lot of elbow grease!

It is obvious that Dick and his family really enjoy their beautiful yard.

***OUR FAVORITE RECIPES***

***CROCK POT HONEY RIBS***

by  
Ken Jackson

If I know I will be spending the day working in the garden I know I might not feel like cooking dinner. On those days I haul out the crock pot and make one of my favorite meals. Honey Ribs.

**Ingredients**

Two pounds of beef short ribs cut in 3 or 4 rib portions

One can of beef broth

½ cup water

3 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons maple syrup

2 tablespoons of your favorite BBQ sauce

½ teaspoon dry mustard

Combine everything in the crock pot and cook on low for 6-8 hours. I serve the ribs with some rice covered with the sauce or a side of corn or green beans – a great meal after a day in the garden.



TCMGA is a non-profit, educational organization that helps to promote the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program

May 5, 2018

9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tillamook County Fairgrounds— 4-H & FFA Pavilion

Local Vendors

- Tillamook High School— FFA—Hanging Floral Baskets
- Book Mobile-Tillamook Co. Library
- 4-HClub Coffee and Donuts at entrance
- Rugs by Anita-Hand loomed washable rugs
- Metalwork-Flowerpot stands
- Karmel Country-Kettle Corn
- Pottery by Young-Creative ceramics & yard arts
- The Sharpinator -Knife & tool sharpening

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Fax: 503-842-7741



# Tillamook County Master Gardener Association

## PLANT SALE

Come see a large variety of Herbs, Vegetable starts, Natives and Perennials. Our Master Gardener Help Desk will be open to answer all your questions, plus our famous Garden Garage Sale. *New this year—* Garage Sale Silent Auction!

BRING YOUR OWN WAGON!



**Proceeds from this plant sale benefit scholarships for Tillamook residents and local Master Gardener Programs.**



**APRIL**

***GARDEN HINTS FROM YOUR OSU EXTENSION FACULTY  
for  
Western Oregon***

“The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices.”

Preventative pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Always identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously). Recommendations in this calendar are not necessarily applicable to all areas of Oregon. For more information, contact our local Extension office at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook/>.

**Planning**

- Write in your garden journal throughout the growing season.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.
- Prepare raised beds in areas where cold soils and poor drainage are a continuing problem. Incorporate generous amounts (at least 2 inches) of organic materials.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. When the soil is consistently above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, some warm season vegetables (beans, sweet corn) can be planted.

**Maintenance and Clean Up**

- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Place compost or well decomposed manure around perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and rhubarb.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.
- Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street.

- Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

### **Planting/Propagation**

- Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- It's a great time to start a vegetable garden. Among the vegetables you can plant, consider on the Oregon Coast: Beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, slicing cucumbers, endive, leeks, lettuce, onion sets, peas and potatoes.
- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; if present, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- If necessary, spray apples and pears when buds appear for scab. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631).
- Cut and remove weeds near the garden to remove potential sources of plant disease.
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- Help prevent damping off of seedlings by providing adequate ventilation.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Spray stone fruits, such as cherries, plums, peaches and apricots for brown rot blossom blight, if necessary.

For additional OSU Extension gardening information, visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>



**TCMGA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Elected:**

President: Karen Sarnaker  
Past President: Neal Lemery  
Vice President: Sarah Ostermiller  
Treasurer: Larry Goss  
Recording Secretary: Jodi Derrick  
Corresponding Secretary:  
    Betty Lyons  
Historian: Jake Lyons,  
    Holly Yingling  
OMGA Representative:  
    Linda Stephenson  
OMGA Alternative:  
    LeRoy Satter  
Class Representatives:  
    2016: Arla Ayers  
    2018: Jerilee Henderson  
Extension Agent: Joy Jones

**Appointed Committee Chairs**

Audit: Cammy Hickman  
    Terri Southwick  
Awards: Karen Sarnaker  
Banquet: Cammy Hickman  
Budget: Larry Goss  
    Karen Sarnaker  
    Sarah Ostermiller  
Communication/WebMaster/  
Grants Committee:  
    Neal Lemery  
    Karen Sarnaker  
    Deb Lincoln  
Publicity -Cammy Hickman  
    Neal Lemery  
Community Pruning Day:  
    Barb Casteel  
    Evelynn VonFelt  
2018 Garden Tour:  
    Karen Sarnaker  
    Betty Lyons  
Growing Gardeners: to be filled  
Hospitality: to be filler  
Membership: Jerilee Henderson  
Mentors: Linda Stephenson  
Nominating Committee:  
    Neal Lemery  
    Karen Sarnaker  
Picnic: Linda Stephenson

Plant Clinics:

Tillamook Farmer Market:  
    Marilyn Perl  
North County Plant Clinics:  
    Mark Kuestner  
South County Plant Clinics:  
    Tim and Pam Burke  
Plant Sale: Jodi Derrick  
Project: Sarah Ostermiller  
    Neal Lemery  
Scholarship: Neal Lemery  
Volunteer Coordinator:  
    Sarah Ostermiller

**Standing Committees**

Learning Garden:  
    Linda Stephenson  
*Thymes* Newsletter Editor:  
    Karen Sarnaker  
*The Tiller* Newsletter Editor:  
    Laura Swanson  
(Editor appointed by the Agent)

**Special Projects**

Gardening Day Camp: Joy Jones  
O.Y.A.: Evelynn VonFelt  
Native Plant Garden Coordinators:  
    John and Barb Casteel

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April 2018**

- APRIL 5**                                   **MASTER GARDENER CLASS, Office Tour & Plant Clinic**  
**Potluck, Exam Review Recognition**
- APRIL 7 & 8**                               **HEADLIGHT HERALD HOME AND GARDEN SHOW**  
**TILLAMOOK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
**Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm, Free Admission**
- APRIL 10**                                   **PLANT SALE MEETING, 9:00AM-10:00AM**  
**TCMGA BOARD MEETING, 10:00AM-12:00PM**  
**GARDEN TOUR MEETING, 12:15PM-1:15PM**  
**OSU Extension Office**
- APRIL 12**                                   **LEARNING GARDEN, 9:00AM-12:00PM**
- APRIL 18**                                   **BONSAI CLUB, 6:00PM – 9:00PM, TPUD MEETING ROOM**
- APRIL 19**                                   **LEARNING GARDEN, 9:00AM-12:00PM**
- APRIL 20**                                   **THYMES DEADLINE**
- APRIL 26**                                   **LEARNING GARDEN, 9:00AM-12:00PM**
- APRIL 28**                                   **SPRING HOME AND GARDEN CLASSES**

