

# THE TILLAMOOK THYMES

The Tillamook Master Gardener Association  
August 2018



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



The month of July was a productive and exciting month for TCMGA. Why productive and exciting, you ask? In a year-long preparation TCMGA proudly organized and celebrated six fantastic gardens on our 2018 Spade and Wade Garden Tour on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Our mission was to educate and experience gardening at the highest level.

Our garden owners opened their gardens with enthusiasm and pride. The 40-plus volunteers warmly welcomed the visitors to the gardens, offering cookies, water and lemonade. The artists displayed their creative endeavors with zest. The weather couldn't have been more cooperative offering a warm sunny day that enhanced the beauty of each garden.

Thank you to all the Garden Home Owners: John and Barb Casteel, Don and Ruth LaFrance, Randy and Spike Klobas, Betty and Jake Lyons, Barbara and Vern Swanson and Dick and Gloria Trapp. Thanks also to the TCMGA liaisons who organized all the volunteers and the artists: Marcille Ansorge, Arla Ayers, Pat Collins, Lynette Fannon-Lamkin, Carolyn Hindman, Sharon Hundley, Mark Kuestner, Deborah Lincoln, Sarah Ostermiller and Marilyn Perl. Special thanks to Louise Bogard for hosting the Pre-Tour Potluck at her home; Dee Harguth for planning and preparing the Post-Tour Reception; Cammy Hickman for her fine work on publicity, most especially the Passport, and our partners and Hidden Acres Greenhouse and Café and Five Rivers Café and Coffee Roasters.

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You all made this an exceptional experience.

Please don't forget about the upcoming TCMGA Picnic/Potluck, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Learning Garden. This is a great opportunity to meet our apprentices if you haven't already done so and to visit with one another and enjoy what we do best, dare I say it – eating good food!

*"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."* ~ Gertrude Jekyll



***What I Learned at Growing Gardeners***

by  
Marcille Ansoerge

Question: Why is OSU trying to develop a blueberry tree?

Orchids, roses, hydrangeas, dahlias, iris, succulents, bonsai, insects, poisonous plants, weeds, plant identification, oddball plant problems, rain gardens. So many topics to choose from! What to choose?

I decided to focus on agriculture research and development which included a tour to the 160-acre North Willamette Research and Extension (NWREC) Center near Aurora. It was a good choice. In the morning we had a presentation by Mike Bondi, director of the NWREC, who gave us interesting facts about agriculture in Oregon, which is not like agriculture in any other part of the country. 227 commercial agricultural crops and many in which Oregon is lead producer.

While I was not surprised to learn that Oregon produces 100% of the crop in most berries and hazelnuts for the United States, I learned that it also produces 85-95% of many of the grass seeds needed for farming and lawns. And that Madras is a center for the production of carrot and onion seeds, making Oregon the #1 producer. In fact, Oregon is one of the three primary places in the world that produces the majority of vegetable seed for commercial farmers. (Other two are Skagit Valley in Washington and the country of New Zealand.) I could give you lots more facts but won't unless you want to know.

The afternoon was a tour of the Research Center. Only five of us were going, so we all piled into Mike Bondi's air-conditioned truck, much appreciated on a 90+ degree day, and had a running narration about Oregon agriculture on the 45-minute drive to the Center. Along the way Mike pointed out nurseries, berry farms, hazelnut groves, fields of hops, and talked to us about the industries. It is apparent that there is a close relationship between the Research Center and the farmers working these farms. Once we arrived at the Center, Mike drove over uneven lanes and fields to take us to the research plots of berries, both conventional and organic, (stopping at times to let us get out and taste them), Christmas tree development, and trials for reduced water usage. A new crop of interest is quinoa and research are being done for that.

Why a blueberry tree? To make harvesting easier. One of the important issues for producers of Oregon crops is getting necessary labor; anything that can make production more mechanical is a big help. With a tree, one does not have to go down low to harvest blueberries and thus can use a machine to harvest the crop. Our observation: it has a way to go to become a producer of delicious blueberries.

NWREC holds Fields Days throughout the summer on strawberries, cane berries, blueberries and vegetables. The producers of these crops are invited to come to the Center and to observe and taste varieties of the crops and learn of the latest developments related to growing them and use of pesticides whether organic or not. In late July, NWREC holds an annual Community Open House, to which everyone is invited, where faculty and staff have displays and demonstrations of their work. Mike encouraged all of us to come visit and if you have the opportunity to do so, it will be worth your while.

More information at: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/nwrec>

*Neal's Compost Pile*

by  
Neal Lemery

*Tending to My Mycorrhizae: Fungi Friendly In My Garden*

“The soil is the key,” and “fungus is our friend” have become my new gardening mantras, as Karen and I continue to look for ways to improve our garden and be better gardeners. Part of that work includes enhancing the work of mycorrhizae (literally “fungus + roots”).

The role of fungi in our gardening deserves a great deal more attention. Karen has researched “top dressing” her perennial beds with compost, and I have been looking into recent research on the benefits of fungal soil networks that interconnect plants and fungi, enhancing nutrient availability. This winter, we read a fascinating book, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate: Discoveries From A Secret World*, by Peter Wohlleben and Tim Flannery (2017). The book has been on the best sellers list and it is a page turner for gardeners and nature lovers.

How can we improve our soil? As Master Gardeners, we are always looking at how to be better gardeners, and using our garden as our laboratory. Our large pile of “three way” soil amendment from Averill Landscaping has become depleted and we gave serious thinking to what our land really needed.

A few weeks ago, we gained the benefit of a truckload of compost, still warm and “working”. Time to put our research and wheelbarrows to work! Compost is loaded with the wide range of fungi and bacteria needed for healthy soil and I wanted to put them to work in our laboratory. Our research pointed us in the direction of adding compost as a “top dressing”, adding organic nutrients, structure, and the spores for a healthy fungal network.

“What is called a mushroom is merely the temporary structure some fungi grow to produce spores. The main body of a fungus typically consists of a network of fine-branching threads known as “hyphae.” While you’ll sometimes see them massed together, spread like a web across a decomposing log, they’re usually hidden underground and essentially invisible to us; the individual filaments are only a *single cell* wide. The network of fungal hyphae is called a “mycelium.” As it turns out, the largest known creature on Earth is neither a blue whale nor a redwood tree; it’s the several-hundred-ton mycelium of one humongous fungus that’s between 2,000 and 8,000 years old. Spread across 4 square miles of Oregon’s Blue Mountains, the fungal network grows at an average depth of only a few feet. By contrast, the mycelia of most species are small, but they’re as common as, well, dirt. If you pick up a pinch of soil almost anywhere, you’ll have miles of hyphae in your hand.

“Estimates for the number of fungi species run in the millions. Mycologists have identified close to 100,000 so far. Of those, nearly 6,000 interact with plants’ roots.” --Mother Earth News,

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/gardening-techniques/mycorrhizal-fungi-zm0z14aszkin>

Washington State Extension has an excellent, in depth, publication on the benefits of Mycorrhizae in our soil, *A Gardener's Primer to Mycorrhizae: Understanding How They Work and Learning How to Protect Them*. (2017) <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS269E/FS269E.pdf>

The fungi develop networks in soil and connect with plant roots. They are very effective in providing phosphate and water in a symbiotic relationship, especially in woody plants, that has long been unfamiliar to science. The fungi receive sugars, B vitamins, and other essential chemicals from the plants. As fungi roots are thin and long, they are effective conveyers of these elements needed by the plants and more efficient at this work. Some “roots” (hyphae) surround and connect with plant roots, while others actually penetrate the roots.

These are primitive associations which developed hundreds of millions of years ago when vascular plants emerged on land. Originally, mycorrhizal relationships were thought to be unusual oddities. We now know that they are the rule, rather than the exception, especially in woody plants.

The fungi improve disease resistance and protects plants from heavy metals and salt, by inhibiting their intake by plants. They also reduce excessive soil nutrients from seeping into aquatic ecosystems.

Fungal spores lie dormant in soil, especially compost, and plants emit chemical signals which stimulate fungal spore germination. Inoculated plants have shorter roots and root hairs and expend less energy in root growth. The root “clumping” improves soil stability. Plants have multiple fungal “partners” and fungal bodies have multiple plant hosts.

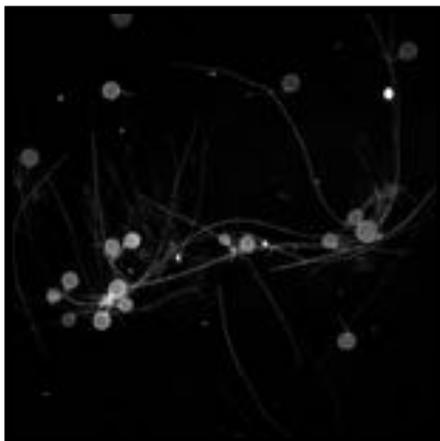
Gardening practices can have a detrimental impact on these relationships. Excessive fertilization, (especially phosphate), rototilling, soilless potting mixes, and soil compaction greatly reduce these networks. Removing topsoil and flooding the land also depletes the system.

I’ve used the commercial mycorrhizal granules (available at Fred’s for a hefty \$20/bag), but research shows that local compost and soil contains plenty of “native” fungal spores, and often, the commercial spores often aren’t observable within a year of application.

The WSU publication recommends avoiding soil disruption, actively topdressing with compost, and adding bark mulch. You should avoid adding unnecessary fertilizer, as well as fungicides and bactericides.

Adding a handful of “local soil” to your planters and planting low growing perennials (which are popular “hosts” for the fungi), are ways to add to your population of mycorrhizal in your garden. And, have a diverse population of plant species in your garden.

I haven’t noticed an “overnight miracle” in my garden because of these practices, but the research indicates that being aware of these primeval relationships between fungi and plants will likely provide you with long term garden health and viability.



Other sources:

WSU publication adapted from Chalker-Scott, L. 2009. Mycorrhizae – So What the Heck Are They, Anyway? Master Gardener Magazine 3(4): 3-6.

**Further Reading**

Chalker-Scott, L. 2015. Using Arborist Wood Chips as a Landscape Mulch. WSU Extension Publication FS160E.

Cogger, C. and G. Stahnke. 2013. Organic Soil Amendments in Yards and Gardens: How Much is Enough? WSU Extension Publication FS123E.

*Photo taken at the Growing Gardeners Conference  
by  
Evelynn VonFelt*



**OMGA's 2018 Growing Gardeners (formerly mini college) Educational Conference  
Linfield College**

by  
Evelynn VonFeldt.

I just thought I'd share some of my observations from the keynote speakers and classes that I attended.

Friday 7-13 Keynote: What Does Climate Change Mean for Gardeners? By Phillip Mote OSU.

He started with charts showing the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> and how 10,000 years ago it was at >200 parts per million and now is >400 ppm. According to computer models - if we do nothing to improve air quality by 2100 temperatures will be up 9°, and all scenarios show warming. And worst of all for gardeners - WEEDS thrive on more CO<sub>2</sub> and are more resistant to pesticides!

**Session 1** Break Free from Power Point: How to Engage Adults for More Impactful Learning. Rachel Suits (Program Coordinator Central Gorge).

She talked about the goals of teaching adult learners - Think-Pair-Share. We were asked to talk about a workshop that was impactful and I spoke about Jay Scheidt's methods - role playing, interactive, and the plant disease songs he plays at break times. I hope to use some of the things we talked about to make MY presentations more interesting.

**Session 2** Behind the Scenes Peek at OSU Research. Brook Edmonds.

She told about some of the projects worked on by OSU staff including one by Dr. Alexander Stone called "Eat Winter Squash", this was presented by chefs to show growers and breeders improved storage and to increase consumption of new varieties that could be grown commercially. Vegetable breeder Jim Meyers featuring tomatoes, peppers (including a mild Habanero) and dry beans. Brook Edmonds showed breeding programs for flowering currants, cotoneasters, sterile seed maples and mock orange. Dr. Patrick Hayes new barley variety for home growers and beer makers. Dr. Alec Kowalewski - turf grass that requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides. Work done on Brown Marmorated stink bug (David Lowestien & Nick Wiman), slug and snail management (Roger McDonnell), Pollinator Health Lab (Anthony Metathopoulos), N.W. Plant Evaluation Project (Neil Bell). Most of these can be looked up in Oregon Ag. Progress or Terra Research magazine.

**Session 3** What's That Plant? With Linda McMahon former extension agent Yamhill County.

We use a dichotomous key to ID plants. I hate to say this, but I was disappointed in this class - our Barb Casteel does a BETTER JOB!

Saturday keynote: Gail Langellotto gave us an overview of her 12 years as head of the Master Gardener program year by year and admitted how much she has learned along with us. 2008 - Backyard Gardening - food and landscape, Garden Smart in Oregon publication. 2009 - Metro Natural Gardening - Growing Healthy Kids. 2010 - Mini college switched from OSU to OMGA running it. Ask and Expert launched, social network. 2012 - She joined National MG program, Peer Review. 2013 - Endowment pledge. 2015 - Recert. standards, Garden Ecology Lab launched, Citizen Scientists policies. Then time ran out. But one take away: we need to revise "Just add organic matter", tests show that we gardeners are using too much phosphorus!

**Session 1** Current and Future Exotic Garden Pests in Oregon. James LaBonte Ore. Dept. of Ag.

Since 2007 102 exotic pests have been intercepted in Oregon alone most by Customs agents. 3 billion live plants are imported into the U.S. every year - that's 43 million plants per inspector. See how they can slip by? *Imminent exotic list*: Black Stem Borer, Rose Stem Girdler, European Pine Sawfly, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Japanese Beetle, Jumping Earthworm. *During his talk I realized exactly why the 2019 rule to not **have native soil on any of our transplants at our plant sale is so important.***

**Session 2** Landscape & Lifecycles OR Knee Deep in Weeds. Chip Bubl Extension Agent Columbia County.

He talked a bit about when rain gardens have been designed weeds may not have been considered. Some of the newer ones in NW Oregon are Parsley Piert, Shiny Geranium, Laurel Spurge, and Nipplewort. Others we know of: Garlic Mustard, Horsetail, Knotweed, Canada Thistle, English Ivy. I asked him if they would ever improve the PNW Weeds and what we should do about internet influence of our clients - didn't get an answer for either.

**Session 3** Growing Hydrangeas in the Garden. Heather Stover Yamhill Co. Hort. Specialist.

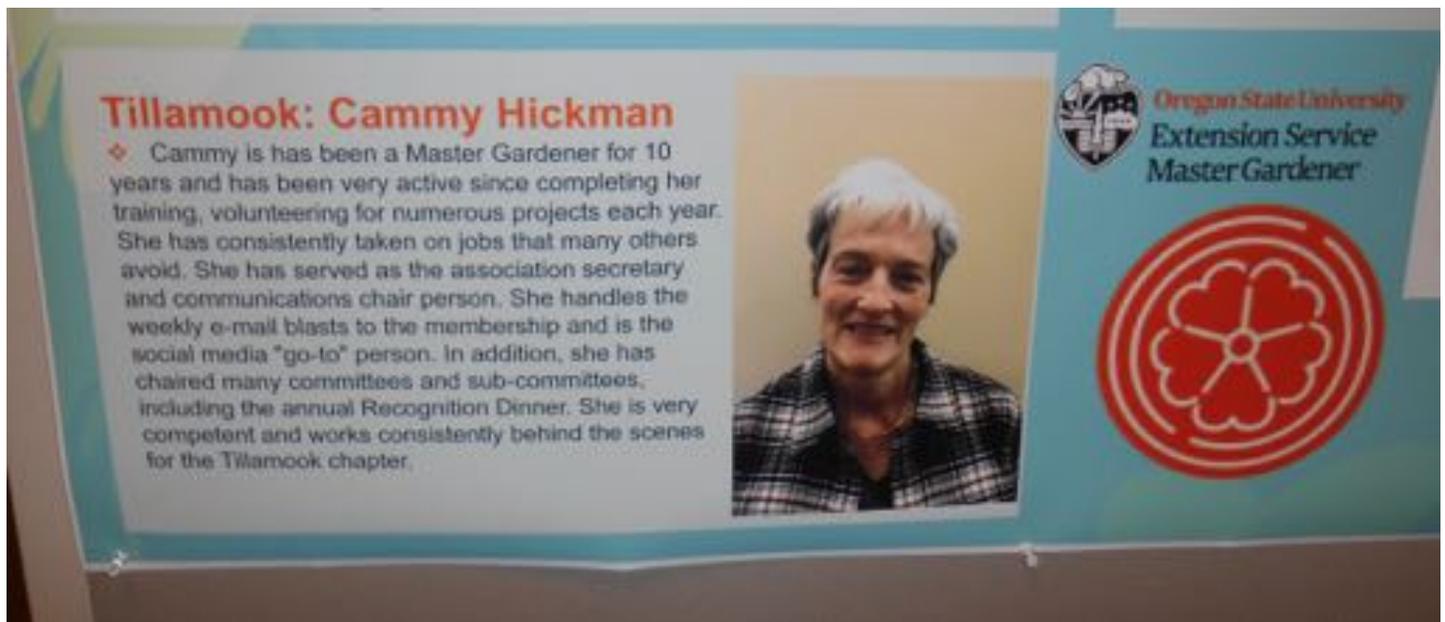
So many pretty hydrangeas so little space... There are four main of hydrangeas: *H. arborecens* (smooth hydrangea) include mop heads pink to white bloom on new wood, like part shade. *H. quericfolia* (Oakleaf hydrangea) white turns pink in fall, blooms on old wood. *H. paniculata* (panicle hydrangea) pink to green, blooms on new wood. *H. Macrophylla* (bigleaf hydrangea) mop head or lace cap pink to blue and white, older varieties bloom on old wood, some newer varieties bloom on new wood.

I had a wonderful time and Linfield is a beautiful campus, we were treated great and the building our classes were held in was very good for teaching smaller groups.

*Barbara Casteel honored as TCMGA Master Gardener of the Year*



*Cammy Hickman honored for the TCMGA Behind the Scenes Award*



*John Casteel holding the 2018 Karl Carlson Award presented to TCMGA*



*Barbara Casteel holding the 2018 Magee Luce Search for Excellence Award present to TCMGA*



**OUR FAVORITE RECIPES**

presented  
by  
Karen Sarnaker

**Avocado Chicken Salad Recipe**

**Prep Time:** 15 minutes **Total Time:** 15 minutes

I made the Avocado Chicken Salad for the Pre-Tour Potluck and was asked to share the recipe.

**Servings:** 6 as a side dish

**Avocado Chicken Salad Ingredients:**

2 large cooked chicken breasts shredded or chopped. 2 large avocados  
1 cup corn from 1 cooked cob  
6 oz lean bacon cooked and chopped  
1/4 cup Chives (or green onion), chopped  
2 Tbsp Dill chopped, or to taste

**Lemon Dressing:**

3 Tbsp lemon juice freshly squeezed  
3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
1 tsp sea salt or to taste  
1/8 tsp black pepper

**Instructions**

1. Dice or shred the 2 large cooked chicken breasts and place into a large mixing bowl.
2. Peel and pit 2 large avocados, slice into bite-sized pieces and add to the mixing bowl.
3. Add 1 cup of cooked corn (freshly cooked corn is best), toss in 1/4 cup chopped green onion, chopped bacon, and 2 Tbsp fresh Dill.
4. Add dressing ingredients to a small bowl and stir to combine. Drizzle over your salad and toss to combine. Serve with slices of hard-boiled egg if desired.

**Recipe Notes**

\*You can use rotisserie chicken, cook your own chicken breast seasoned with salt and pepper or use well-drained canned chicken.

\*\*For a healthier salad, you can use uncured turkey bacon which tastes amazing, but has less fat.

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**AUGUST**

***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**

- Optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August through mid-September.
- Damp wood termites begin flying late this month. Make sure your home is free of wet wood or places where wood and soil are in contact.

**Maintenance and Clean Up**

- Make compost of lawn clippings and garden plants that are ready to be recycled. Don't use clippings if lawn has been treated with herbicide, including "weed-and-feed" products. Don't compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120 degrees to 150 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Fertilize cucumbers, summer squash, and broccoli to maintain production while you continue harvesting.
- Clean and fertilize strawberry beds.
- Use mulch to protect ornamentals and garden plants from hot weather damage. If needed, provide temporary shade, especially for recent plantings.
- Camellias need deep watering to develop flower buds for next spring.
- Prune raspberries, boysenberries, and other cane berries after harvest. Check raspberries for holes made by crown borers, near the soil line, at base of plant. Remove infested wood before adults emerge (approximately mid-August).
- Monitor garden irrigation closely so crops, and ornamentals don't dry out.

- If green lawn is desired, frequent watering is necessary during periods of heat and drought stress. Irrigate 0.25 inches four to six times per week from June through August. Measure your water use by placing an empty tuna can where your irrigation water lands.
- Prune out dead fruiting canes in trailing blackberry and train new primocanes prior to end of month

### **Planting/Propagation**

- Plant winter cover crops in vacant space in the vegetable garden
- Plant winter kale, Brussels sprouts, turnips, parsnips, parsley, and Chinese cabbage.
- Mid-summer planting of peas; use enation-virus-resistant varieties, plant fall crops of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli.
- Plant spinach.

### **Pest Monitoring and Management**

- Remove cankered limbs from fruit and nut trees for control of diseases such as apple anthracnose and bacterial canker of stone fruit. Sterilize tools before each new cut.
- Check apple maggot traps; spray tree if needed.
- Control yellowjackets and wasps with traps and lures as necessary. Keep in mind they are beneficial insects and help control pest insects in the home garden.
- Check for root weevils in ornamental shrubs and flowers; codling moth and spider mite in apple trees; scale insects in camellias, holly and maples. Treat as necessary.
- Watch for corn earworm on early corn. Treat as needed.
- For mite control on ornamentals and most vegetables, hose off foliage, spray with approved miticide if necessary.
- Check leafy vegetables for caterpillars. Pick off caterpillars as they appear. Use Bt-k, if necessary.
- Continue monitoring peaches, plums, prunes, figs, fall-bearing raspberries and strawberries, and other plants that produce soft fruits and berries for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). If SWD are present, use an integrated and least toxic approach to manage the pests. Learn how to monitor for SWD flies and larval infestations in fruit.

**TCMGA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Elected:**

President: Karen Sarnaker  
Past President: Neal Lemery  
Vice President: Sarah Ostermiller  
Treasurer: Larry Goss  
Recording Secretary:  
    Cammy Hickman  
Corresponding Secretary:  
    Betty Lyons  
Historian: Jake Lyons  
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  
    Deb Lincoln  
    Nika Van Tilburg  
Publicity: Cammy Hickman  
    Neal Lemery  
    Tabitha Bettencourt  
Community Pruning Day:  
    Barb Casteel  
    Evelynn VonFelt  
2018 Garden Tour:  
    Karen Sarnaker  
    Betty Lyons  
Hospitality: to be filled  
Membership: Sarah Ostermiller  
    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  
Projects: 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 Coordinator:  
    Marilyn Per



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**AUGUST 2018**

<b>AUGUST 4</b>	<b>TILLAMOOK FARMERS MARKET, 9AM – 2PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 8 – 11</b>	<b>TILLAMOOK COUNTY FAIR</b>
<b>AUGUST 12</b>	<b>PACIFIC CITY FARMERS MARKET</b>
<b>AUGUST 14</b>	<b>TCMGA COMMITTEE CHAIR’S MEETING, 10AM-11:30 SPADE AND WADE GARDEN TOUR DEBRIEF, 11:30-12:30 OSU Extension Office</b>
<b>AUGUST 15</b>	<b>BONSAI CLUB, TPUD MEETING ROOM, 6PM – 9PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 16</b>	<b>LEARNING GARDEN, 9AM -12PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 18</b>	<b>TILLAMOOK FARMERS MARKET, 9AM – 2PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 20</b>	<b>THYMES DEADLINE</b>
<b>AUGUST 23</b>	<b>LEARNING GARDEN, 9AM – 12PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 30</b>	<b>LEARNING GARDEN, 9AM – 12PM</b>
<b>AUGUST 31</b>	<b>MANZANITA FARMERS MARKET</b>

