

# THE TILLAMOOK THYMES

The Tillamook Master Gardener Association  
December 2017



## Meet the 2018 TCMGA Officers



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Left to Right Front Row: Jodi Derrick, Jerilee Henderson  
Row Two: Arla Ayers, Betty Lyons  
Row Three: Larry Goss, Sarah Ostermiller, Karen Sarnaker  
Fourth Row: Neal Lemery and Jake Lyons  
Neal and Jake are wearing our new TCMGA Hats!



*Your Elected TCMGA Board  
Who we are*



**Karen Sarnaker, President**

My interest in gardening began as a child helping my mother pulling weeds, planting seeds in the vegetable and berry garden. I was thrilled to see the seedlings popping their wee heads up from the soil.

While living in England and Maryland, I developed a love for herbaceous borders and gardens that incorporate herbaceous flowers with roses, various clematis, shrubs and conifers. I enjoyed visits to several marvelous gardens, especially the famous Chelsea Garden Show in England and Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Those gardens inspired my ideas in design and which plants would work in my London and Maryland homes. I loved to grow vegetables and berries for us and our two dogs. The dogs loved their green beans, carrots, raspberries and blueberries – especially when they could steal them when our backs were turned!

I recently retired and moved back to Oregon. I hadn't lived near the Oregon Coast for over 30 years, so I enrolled in the 2016 Tillamook Master Gardeners Classes to become familiar with what types of plants, shrubs, conifers and vegetables would successfully grow in our home in Nehalem. Benedict and I were thrilled when we found that Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Camellias would love this space – Maryland's colder climate was not so kind to them.

I thoroughly enjoyed the classes and loved volunteering and meeting so many friendly, creative and knowledgeable individuals who are passionate about gardening - and also love to cook!

I am also deeply honored to be elected President of TCMGA.

**Neal Lemery, Past President**

I think I was always a gardener. Home movies showed me as a toddler in my mother's garden, and sitting on my grandmother's lap shelling peas with her. At age five, I sliced open my toe by dropping some pruners on my foot, requiring stitches. I'm an early recipient of the horticultural Purple Heart.

As a kid, I planted trees in the forest, spaded and hoed the garden, helped my grandmother gather chicken eggs, and planted bean seeds in milk cartons in grade school.

I've always gardened. Even in college, I maintained flower boxes in the dorm. And, in choosing where I've lived, garden sites and soil quality were significant factors.

Gardening is a part of my daily life. We grow vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees. Our homegrown vegetables have a big place in our diet, and we actively use our herbs. My greenhouse and my garden are laboratories for experiments and for engaging in the meditative tasks that gardening offers. We enjoy the birdlife and the beauty of our garden. I learn something every day, and that keeps me young and curious.

**Sarah Ostermiller, Vice President**

I really don't remember a time in my life when I didn't have some kind of garden. I started as a toddler following my grandmother around her small city lot planting, and eating, nasturtiums and peas. That quickly led to a love of cooking and the realization that home grown was so much better than store bought.

By the time I was 10 I was growing herbs and vegetables in my mother's back garden.

After 60 years of gardening mostly in the Willamette Valley, my husband and I relocated to Garibaldi for his retirement. It was 2016 when I was finally able to retire and the first thing I did was sign up to take the Master Gardener training, class of 2017.

I have been so inspired by the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm of the people at Tillamook County Master Gardeners Association that I have jumped into volunteering with both feet. I am honored that the TCMGA members have entrusted me with the roles of volunteer coordinator and Vice President for 2018 and I look forward to working with all of you in the next year.

**Jodi Derrick, Recording Secretary**

My passion for gardening started at the young age of two when my mom allowed me to plant the beans. She would place the seed on top of the soil and I would push it down. From there I started sneaking to the neighbor's yard when they were in the yard to "help" garden whenever I could. Thirty-eight years later I still enjoy gardening and pushing the seeds into the soil.

**Larry Goss, Treasurer**

Born in NJ. Grew up in NJ, Chicago, Colorado, So California, Virginia, Back to NJ, then back to So. Cal. After 33 years in California IBM moved me to Portland to continue support for a banking software project I was assigned to. Moved from Portland to the Oregon coast in '04 after Andrea "retired" because her company ran out of work for her to do.

After graduating high school in Los Angeles, I met Andrea and we had a teenage romance which has lasted five decades. I attended East Los Angeles College (a "community college") but left prematurely (I was married and had a family to support) to join IBM. If I told you everything I did at IBM you would die of boredom.

I can tell you that I learned how to play pinochle.

My first interest in gardening was that as a preteen in Chicago I mowed lawns to earn spending money. In Denver, I planted carrots in our yard and saw that real, home-grown carrots are funny little things that are too small to bite. In Los Angeles, I learned that chard would grow in anything dirty, and was something you could eat! In Alhambra (still Southern California) I learned that a shrub fence would not keep out the noise from the freeway we lived next to. After moving to Portland, Oregon, I learned that the month of April turns an ordinary lawn into a consuming monster that has to be cut every other hour lest you accidentally wander into it, never to be seen again. At the coast, I was overjoyed to find that thousands of crane fly larvae would help the cause and turn our small lawn into a desert that Andrea would allow me to pave with bricks. Good-bye lawn mower!

My favorite stuff in Master Gardeners is the science. Especially the botany. And even the "bugs". They are so amazing! It used to be that bugs were little nothings. Smashing a bug was like wiping up a spilled crumb. But now I know that to smash a bug is to destroy an unbelievably complex structure that's evolved over billions of years. I think I could agree with Marcus Aurelius that our web of life is divine.



**Betty Lyons, Corresponding Secretary and Jake Lyons, Historian**

Jake and Betty moved to Tillamook about five years ago from Utah. After 40 years in the desert they wanted a wetter climate and love the rain!

They are both retired from Ma Bell and are enjoying their time of rest—ha ha. Betty has been gardening most of her life, having grown up on a dairy farm in southern Michigan, Jake grew up in southern Florida near the ocean. Tillamook is the best of both worlds.

Gardening in Tillamook is definitely different from anything they had experienced before so they got involved with the Master Gardener program after moving here. Betty went through class in 2015 and Jake in 2016. They have been involved in the Learning Garden, Pruning Day, and have been part of the Mentoring team for two years. They are both enjoying the entire Master Gardener program, the new friends they have gotten to know, and being able to feel that they are benefiting their new community.

**Arla Ayers, 2016 Class Representative**

Moving to the Oregon coast in 2015 after 40 years gardening in Colorado has been, to say the least, a horticulture challenge.

I knew that after being a Master Gardener and Certified Nursery Professional for 27 years in Arapahoe County, just south of Denver, that the best way for me to learn about Oregon coast gardening was to continue with the Master Gardener program. I have found the Tillamook training and volunteer opportunities rewarding and well thought out.

In 1988, I started a casual part time job working in a garden center near our home in Centennial, Colorado but quickly found that gardening on a professional level was my calling. So back to school along with industry education and certifications and the Master Gardener program I advanced to managing several garden centers retiring just before moving to Oregon.

I am amazed at how well plants grow here. My love of all things green and enjoyment in just growing stuff is what I want to share with everyone. Meeting the challenges of weather and wildlife will keep me learning and experimenting. I have learned that gardening is never mastered and that's what keeps me going.

**Jerilee Henderson, 2017 Class Representative**

I began gardening as a girl helping my Dad string up the peas as they grew. We used to sing 🎵"Hold, tight, hold tight". 🎵:-).

I'm interested in flowers, shrubs, vegetables and berries...a little bit of everything. Many of the shrubs around my house are original to the home site circa 1950. I also have a female monkey puzzle tree that has just started producing cones after 30 years of maturity. I've learned so much this past year as a 2017 Apprentice and look forward to the coming year of classes and friendships as I re-certify.



*Karen's Korner*

by

Karen Keltz

**SURPRISE!**

That's what plants in the garden are still shouting this late in the year. I am agog to find a stalk of gladiola blooming yellow, even after the frosts we've had. Wandering the yard after a long walk last week, I spied a tall stem of hollyhock sporting vermillion flowers amidst the other blackened stems and seed buds. Wha???



Then, in the herb garden was a blooming calendula where I'd planted seeds way last spring. Some sprouted and grew about an inch and a half and stayed there all summer. I dumped the soil from one of Neal's grow pots onto the area, and a few weeks later, this calendula was where it should have been by June. Guess it helps to amend the soil from time to time.

Lavender is still blooming in the herb garden, as well as echinaceas up the front walk. What is going on, anyway? Back behind my Japanese Willow, the red dahlias that should have been here by September at least, have finally arrived, short and spindly, but here, nevertheless. I will dig them up and replant next spring in an area with more sun.



Obviously, these surprises can point out gardening lessons.

Even in the pouring rain, outside my bedroom window I can take delight in the two mounds of mauve heather. Every year I go out when it's the least wet and cut myself some heather here and there to make some flower bundles for my tiny vases. Just today, my garden tour in the surprise of November sun netted me the vision of a hot pink blooming rose, royal blue lithodora, and the beginning dusky rose blooms of the baby hellebores that sprouted up this past spring.

Speaking of surprises —

Lots of us gift our friends with amaryllis bulbs at Christmas time, and they us, so we all can watch the beauty of Nature unfold into gorgeous red blooms. When it was done blooming, I placed mine from last year on the garage floor and ignored it where it sat without water in the dark most of the time until last week when I noticed—surprise!—a green leaf had begun growing. I found a pretty red pot, put the plastic white pot containing the bulb into it, refreshed the required amount of soil on top, fed it a teensy amount of fertilizer, and placed it inside where I can watch the miracle of growth again this Christmas. I love saying “Oooh!” and “Ahhh!”

My friend Sherryl gave me the idea for how I could give another surprise for Christmas to my plant-loving friends. Because she buys tulips from a company that sends only in bulk, 50 at a time, she shares with her friends. She plants a cluster of tulips, usually three, in cute flowerpots, then gives the recipients the colorful little garden-to-go as gifts. That's a good idea because it circumvents inadvertently feeding those nasty rodents that like tulip bulbs for breakfast, lunch, and dinner when you plant the bulbs into the ground.

I love foiling them! Nyah-ha-ha!

No matter what season they arrive in, typical or not, or from what provenance, I am grateful for the surprises the miracle of Nature provides me with. I hope this season provides you with an abundance of wonderful surprises as well!

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*A Wrinkle In Thyme*

by  
Cris Roberts

*Paying Me Back*

Opportunities abound here at OYA for interacting with our youth — one of the things I love most about being a teacher. Never does a day go by when I can say that I have been bored. My days fly by like honeybees heading for a floral landing pad.

In this interacting, I have many chances to observe the youth in their humor and/or to dish some of that back to them! Often when one of the youth asks me for something (“Mrs. Roberts, can I get you to sign this tag form?” or “Could I puh-leeze hold one of the chickens?”) I’ll lick my right index finger, make an invisible mark in the air and say, “Yep, but you owe me a Snicker’s Bar.” When I say this to a new youth, they invariably get a panic-stricken look on their face...for about 5 seconds...until they realize I am jesting with them.

My youth at OYA do not have the option of paying me back in Snicker’s Bars, nor would I truly want them to. (Well, o.k., I could do with a few Snicker’s Bars in my pocket!) The truth is, I cannot have them “pay me back” with Snicker’s Bars or any other item. But that doesn’t keep them from doing it unknowingly.

You see, I am paid back on a daily basis. I’m paid back by the youth who briefly sticks his head in my office door at the end of the day to wish me a good evening. I am paid every time they want to walk beside me, not behind me, on our trek to the garden each morning. They pay me back by their vulnerability in sharing about difficult things they are going through or about monumental personal challenges they are facing. I love that they pay me back when they’ve had a rough day, yet chose to participate in our garden with a glad heart anyway.

Being rich when you work with these youth is just a given. Sometimes the youth change for the better; sometimes we change for the better as adults. Sometimes we irk, motivate or challenge each other to change. At other times, we are like contented comrades just enjoying that resting place of being at peace with one another and with life. Sometimes the teacher does the learning; sometimes the student, the teaching.

I watch my Master Gardener volunteers also doing the giving and taking with their own sense of humor. I love seeing our youth catch-on to a different way of looking at life. They are paying us back every day, these youths of ours, and we count their payments like gold, or honey, or...Snicker’s Bars.

*Photos from T.R.A.P*



*Oncidium Orchid*



*Extracting Honey*



*Extracting Honey*



*More T.R.A.P. Photos*





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

***Introducing the Jake and Betty Lyons Garden***

Our garden on Fawcett Creek is a study in contrasts. The creek area is left natural, even though there is an inviting swing to enjoy while looking at the creek and meditating on whatever crosses your mind. On the higher end of the garden is the forest, also left in its natural state. A bench hiding in the rhodies and spruce trees on the hill is another fun spot to relax. There are inviting steps up to that “secret” garden.

In between these two natural spaces are areas of gardens that are much more “un-natural”. Blueberries, strawberries, and a vegetable garden of raised beds inhabit the middle of the yard. Our “in house” carpenter, plumber and electrician has made it and the greenhouse a wonderful place to grow veggies (including starts for the MG plant sale and our own garden).

Around both ends of the house are azalea, hydrangea, and dahlia beds. Some of these beds are inherited from the previous owners and some are new. The bed in front and around the deck is new; perennials and a variety of annuals keep it colorful through much of the year.

Behind the house is another inviting deck area, enclosed by a new trellis on the east. Many annuals are in pots and hanging baskets around the deck. It has a wonderful view up into the forest.

Our garden is definitely a “work in progress” and will continue to grow as the years go by. 2018 might bring some other new changes and areas to enjoy, we hope so!



***I made Lots of Mistakes. That's how I learn things. - Robert Heinline***

by  
Janet Anderson

Mistakes are made; who doesn't make them? I sure do. Some of them I could talk about; others I won't talk about in public.

How about the time I took cuttings from a hydrangea in July in Ridgefield, Washington. I came home to the coast and potted them up, placed them in the shade and waited. They were watered, perfectly shaded, not bothered by any kind of pest: neither the insect kind, the plant kind, or chemical kind.

After watching for six months and seeing nothing, I carefully pulled one out of the soil and looked. Nothing. There was nothing going on.

So, I read about propagating hydrangeas in the book the book ***Plant Propagation*** by the American Horticultural Association

*Take cuttings in the spring, remove the bottom 3-4 leaves. Make sure 3-5 of the nodes are in the soil. Pot up in sterile potting soil. Place in the shade. Water weekly.*



So, I did that by taking cuttings from that beautiful huge blue macrophyll hydrangea that is out on the corner. Within a few weeks I began to see tiny, exquisite little growth coming out. It was working.



So, I read the directions and it worked.

Would I have pursued reading about the propagation of hydrangeas so carefully if my initial try had not been a mistake? I doubt it. I am a better propagator of hydrangeas because I made a mistake.

So, the question of growing enough plants for all the wonderful plant sales that happen in the spring with gifts to friends, garden clubs, individual gardens like the Connie Hansen Garden, and with the Master Gardeners becomes important. Read the instructions. Fall is the time to take cuttings for many perennials. Spring is the time for others. Know which is which.

In the Spring I frequently bemoan the fact that I did not take the perennial herb cuttings and get them started. So this year I'm paying attention. Rosemary, thyme, sage, and lavender are the ones I'm working on. I've never done this before. In the book on pages 132-133 are the following directions for propagating lavender with cuttings:

*Take 2-3 (6-8cm) softwood or semi-ripe cuttings from young plants in early to midsummer, trim below a node, and strip off the bottom 1 1/4" (3cm) of foliage. Apply hormone rooting compound and insert in free-draining media. Early summer cuttings root reasonably under mist or unheated opaque plastic. Air cuttings regularly and spray with fungicide. Rooting takes 4-8 weeks. Take semi-ripe cuttings with a heel and root in a frost-free place.*

*Hardwood cuttings are taken as for semi-ripe, but after flowering and preferably from new flushes of growth. In winter, they may take three months to root. Keep frost free to prevent premature shooting. This plant may also be layered.*

Then there was the time I tried to propagate kelp in the pond, but we won't go into that one here.



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

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices.

**Maintenance and Clean Up**

- Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.
- Spread wood ashes evenly on vegetable garden. Use no more than 1.5 pounds/100 square feet/year. Don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.
- Protect new landscape plants from wind. Use stakes, guy wires and/or windbreaks as needed.
- Yard sanitation: rake leaves, cut and remove withered stalks of perennial flowers, mulch flowerbeds, and hoe or pull winter weeds.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- During heavy rains, watch for drainage problems in the yard. Tilling, ditching, and French drains are possible short-term solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a longer-term solution.
- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Tie limbs of columnar evergreens to prevent snow or ice breakage.
- Make sure that landscape plants in protected sites receive water regularly during the winter.

**Planting/Propagation**

- Good time of year to plant trees, and landscape shrubs.

### **Pest Monitoring and Management**

- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.
- Monitor spruce trees for spruce aphids. Treat if present in large numbers. Read and follow pesticide label directions.

### **Houseplants and Indoor Gardening**

- Protect poinsettias from cold, place in sunlight, don't let leaves touch cold windows; fertilize with houseplant fertilizer to maintain leaf color.
- Monitor houseplants for adequate water and fertilizer. Water and fertilizer requirements generally are less in winter.

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



## **OUR FAVORITE TCMGA RECIPES**

featuring

### **YAM ENCHILADAS**

by

Karen Keltz

#### **SAUCE**

- 1 cup diced onion
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 TBS ground cumin
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 TBS ground coriander
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 TBS salt
- 3 TBS paprika
- ¼ cup rice flour (I don't use)
- 3 C tomato sauce (2 cans)

#### **FILLING**

- 3 cups yams, sliced in ¼ inch rounds
- 2 cups cheese
- ½ cup green onion
- ¼ cup olives
- ¼ c green chiles, diced
- 12--18 small corn tortillias
- ½ cup sour cream

For the yams, preheat oven to 400 degrees, toss them in the cumin and garlic with generous oil, and bake on a cookie sheet until soft, about 30 minutes. (I used “just enough” oil to make the spices stick.)

For the sauce, sauté the onions, adding all the remaining spices after a few minutes, and cook a few more minutes. Add the rice flour (I don’t use this because you really don’t need it) and tomato sauce, and whisk thoroughly. (I did not use as much salt as it says—only about 1 tsp and it was just fine.) Put this sauce on low heat, adding a little water if it sticks to the bottom too much. Stir occasionally and cook for at least ten minutes. After it was cooked, I added the sour cream as the original recipe never did say what to do with it. Also added the green chiles and olives at this point. That worked well.

In an oiled casserole dish or loaf pan 9 x 13 or one size bigger put down a layer of sauce, and one layer of tortillas. Next put down a layer of yams, half the cheese, and the sauce on top. After another layer of tortillas, put down the yams and the sauce and a little bit of cheese. Make a third tortilla layer and put on the rest of the sauce, then the rest of the cheese. Cover tightly and bake at 350 degrees for an hour, then uncover and brown the cheese before removing your enchiladas to cool before serving. Serves 6-8

***TILLAMOOK MASTER GARDENERS***  
***are famous for their wonderful***  
***Potlucks***

***We would like to establish a recipe page and welcome you to share your favorite recipes. Please make sure to state that it is your own original recipe or site the original Cookbook and author.***

***TCMGA Executive Board***

**Elected:**

President: Neal Lemery  
Past President: Barbara Castell  
Vice President: Deborah Lincoln  
Recording Secretary: Jodi Derrick  
Corresponding Secretary:  
Linda Stephenson  
Treasurer: Larry Goss  
Historian: Holly Yingling  
OMGA Representative:  
Marcille Ansonge  
OMGA Alternative: Sam Sadler  
Class Representatives:  
2016: Arla Ayers  
2015: Lisa McRae  
Extension Agent: Joy Jones

**Appointed and Standing Committee Chairs**

Audit: Jean Scholtz, Jon Orloff  
Awards: Neal Lemery  
Banquet: Cammy Hickman  
Budget:  
Larry Goss  
Deborah Lincoln  
Neal Lemery  
Communication/Webmaster:  
Cammy Hickman  
Neal Lemery  
Lisa McRae  
Community Pruning Day:  
Betty and Jake Lyons  
Garden Tour: Karen Sarnaker  
Betty Lyons  
Hospitality: Betty Lyons  
Learning Garden:  
Linda Stephenson

Mentors: Linda Stephenson  
Newsletter: Karen Sarnaker  
Nominating Committee:  
Barbara Casteel  
Neal Lemery  
Picnic: Linda Stephenson  
Photo Contest: Holly Yingling  
Plant Clinics:  
North County Farmers Market:  
Karen Sarnaker  
Tillamook Farmers Market:  
Marilyn Perl  
South County Farmers Marker:  
Tim and Pam Burke  
Plant Sale: Jodi Derrick  
Publicity: Cammy Hickman  
Volunteer Coordinator:  
Sarah Ostermilller

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
DECEMBER 2017**

**DECEMBER 20**                      **BONSAI CLUB, 6PM - 9PM, TPUD MEETING ROOM**  
**DECEMBER 20**                      **THYMES DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER 24-25**                  ***CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED***

**WHAT'S COMING UP**

***2018 Master Gardener Classes Coming in January!  
Time to Recertify***

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

