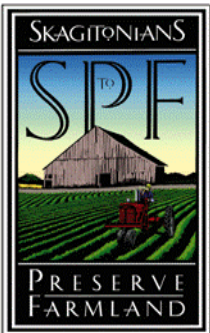




SKAGITONIAN



www.skagitonians.org

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A Message from SPF Executive Director Allen Rozema

Winter 2012

SPF's Mission is Supported!

Amazing support from our members and donors made it possible for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland to exceed our year-end fundraising goal of \$50,000 by raising over \$59,000. Thank you to all of you who contributed to this success!

The Osberg Family Trust awarded a generous Challenge Grant of \$10,000 to match gifts of \$75 or more. That struck a chord with you, and the challenge was met by raising over \$39,000. Then, unexpectedly, the RiverStyx Foundation notified SPF they would like to match the Osberg challenge dollar for dollar with a \$10,000 grant, bringing the grand total to more than \$59,000!



The SPF board and staff are humbled at the outpouring of support for SPF's mission. Your generosity is helping us start the new year with a solid foundation to help keep one of the last fully functioning agricultural valleys in Puget Sound intact.

And we have more good news to share.

- As a result of two years of collaborative work with several organizations and agencies, a \$300,000 grant through the Environmental Protection Agency has been awarded to The Nature Conservancy, Western Washington Agriculture Association, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and SPF to advance the work of farmland protection, fish habitat restoration and flood risk reduction in the Skagit Delta. Approximately \$100,000 of the grant will be funding a *Critical Agricultural Land Base Study* headed by SPF to determine the land base needs to sustainably rotate and isolate the seed and specialty crops grown in the Skagit and Samish Deltas.
- The Lucky Seven Foundation has approved funding for a \$15,000 matching grant to SPF to support our outreach and membership efforts. We are excited to work with Lucky Seven Foundation again on this effort.
- The Puget Sound Energy Foundation and Skagit County's Lodging Tax Fund are supporting SPF's new outreach and education initiative, Talking Fields, at \$5,000 and \$7,500 respectively. Talking Fields, on track to launch in early summer, will be a self-guided tour of the lower Skagit Delta using smart phone technology.
- Shoppers from *The Market* in Anacortes and the *Food Pavilions* in Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon recently donated \$2,249.75 to SPF through *The Market LLC's* nickel rebate program. Every time a shopper brings in a reusable shopping bag, or bags, the store either rebates a nickel to the shopper or the shopper can choose to donate the coin to SPF. That's a lot of nickels!! Thank you!

We are excited about the year ahead. Your commitment and trust throughout challenging times sustain SPF's ability to continue our critical work. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and seeing you at one of our events this year. Thank you for your continued support!



Meet Our Members



Name: Sarah and Larry Eppenbach

Where We Live: Lopez Island, WA

What We Do: We're mostly retired and spend our days working in our garden and helping out in the Lopez community. Larry, an economist and product designer, focuses on the youth sailing program. Sarah, a food and travel writer, sits on the board of our marvelous public library. We're both working on a project establishing a community waste and recycling operation. (If successful we hope to expand services to chipping and composting.) We kayak and sail in summer and dust off our traveling shoes in fall and winter. Last year we celebrated our 40th anniversary in Paris and spent a week hiking in Zion National Park.

How Long We Have Been Members of SPF: 8 years

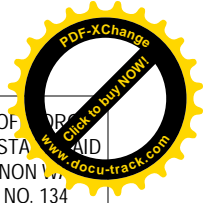
Why We Support SPF: We think of the Skagit Valley as our front yard. A few years ago it dawned on us how much we treasure the drive through the agricultural landscape every time we leave or return to Lopez, noting the coloring of the tulips, the rotation of the crops in the fields, the return of the snow geese. We both love to cook (and eat!) and food has been a professional interest as well as a personal one. We value family farms everywhere for the quality of food they produce and the traditions they represent.

Would you like to share your story as a member of SPF? Please contact susanm@skagitonians.org or call SPF at 360-336-3974.



Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
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2012 SPF Events & Programs

Celebrate Skagit ~ Dinner on the Farm
Saturday, April 14

Saturday, July 21

Field-to-plate dining in the Skagit Valley, for 50 guests at each event, featuring seasonal, fresh, local foods.

Spring Farm Tour Friday, May 18

Summer Farm Tour Friday, August 3

Behind-the-scenes site visits and presentations about Skagit agriculture.

14th Annual Celebrate Skagit Harvest Dinner & Auction

Saturday, September 29

SPF's annual gala celebrating the fall bounty with silent & live auctions at St. Joseph Center, Mount Vernon.

Celebrate Skagit in Seattle
November 2012

Skagit Growers' Dinner at the Seattle Culinary Academy

Look for more information about all of these events soon at www.skagitonians.org.

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