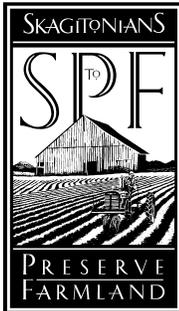


SKAGITONIAN



*Protecting farmers,
farming & farmland
since 1989*

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A Historic Moment for SPF!

June 2007

On Thursday, May 31st SPF successfully launched the Agricultural Marketing Program's "Farm to Healthcare" pilot at Island Hospital in Anacortes. In addition to a farm stand and CSA program for hospital employees, Island Hospital began incorporating local farm fresh produce into their food service program.

For the inaugural event, the Swinomish Tribal Community donated 100 pieces of salmon and the Tribal Chairman's dad cooked the fish in the traditional Coast Salish tradition. Abbi's Northwest, a local distribution company that specializes in connecting local consumers directly with local farmers, donated enough grass-fed beef for more than 60 burgers. Chef Tom French, one of SPF's new collaborative partners, helped prepare fresh and cooked greens for the BBQ.

SPF, Chef Tom French, and our other partners have been working together since earlier this year to impact the food culture within the institutional food system. This growing alliance of partners includes farmers, school districts, hospitals, businesses, non-profits, and policymakers. In our work with schools, hospitals and other institutions we have identified core issues that affect the health and vitality of our children, elderly, and the most vulnerable populations.

SPF and our partners are pioneering a strategy with an interesting mix of action steps that include education, training, resource development, growing and distribution, community awareness, policy change with a commitment to unparalleled collaboration among organizations in the Puget Sound region that share our same vision and values.

"We have learned that Skagit Valley has a critical mass of growers with the capacity and willingness to help us establish a safe, secure and economically viable food growing and production system for the entire Puget Sound region," says Allen Rozema, SPF executive director. "Through our efforts to redefine a food distribution system with Chef Tom French we are making progress in developing market efficiencies and minimizing the carbon footprint for food transportation. The sum total of our efforts is that we are on the leading edge of addressing a major paradigm shift by creating and perpetuating the availability of a food supply and demand system with a focus on fresh, local products and sources."



Chef Tom French demonstrates how to prepare farm fresh produce.



Island Hospital employees enjoy the BBQ.

Welcome to SPF's New Development Director

Moving from a staff of thirty in Seattle to a staff of three in Mount Vernon, Susan Macek this month took over the post of development director at Skagitians to Preserve Farmland. The new job is a marked contrast to her high-profile position as director of communications and marketing at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle, where Macek helped enhance the visibility and reputation of the renowned pediatric center.

At SPF's Mount Vernon office, she will work with Executive Director Allen Rozema and Office Manager Linda Jones to expand awareness of SPF and its goals in protecting Skagit County's agricultural heritage. "We're a small but mighty team," said Macek. "It's an honor to be here."

The new development director brings remarkable skills, talent, expertise and energy to the job at SPF. In addition to leading the Seattle Children's Hospital communications team for more than two decades, she holds a master's degree in non-profit leadership from Seattle University. Her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University is in journalism, but her affinity has always been for non-profit work.



Macek and her husband Dave Buchan are long-time supporters of saving Skagit Valley's farmlands, and, for several years, owned a small farm here. She describes the valley as an "oasis" of beauty and wildlife.

She sees great potential in SPF, which she describes as a viable non-profit with a long history and a clear vision. "It's well-grounded," says Macek. "There is a high level of commitment here, and I'm impressed with the people involved with the organization. I look forward to meeting SPF supporters and helping to inspire new ones to become involved."

She has hefty goals for SPF, from developing farm-based initiatives to spreading recognition of SPF's message to every household in Skagit Valley and beyond. She is, she said, "mission-driven."

When not on the job, Macek likes to garden, cook, and travel. She has two children -- one recently graduated from the University of Washington, the other attends Western Washington University. Her husband is a project manager for the City of Shoreline. The family recently moved to the Swinomish Channel, outside of La Conner.

Sept. 22—Save the Date and Help Procure Auction Items!

The 9th Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction planning is under way. To date 104 tickets have been sold and our Auction Chair Earl Angevine along with fellow board members and volunteers are busy procuring items for the live and silent auction.

Don't wait to make your reservation today for this sell-out event! It takes place on Saturday, Sept. 22 beginning at 5:30 pm at St. Joseph Center in Mount Vernon. Tickets at \$65 per person are available by calling Linda Jones at 360-336-3974.

Your support in helping to bring in items for the auction would also be appreciated. Vacation cruises and travel packages, sports event packages, private dinner events, restaurant certificates, spa certificates, artwork, jewelry, and many more items are always popular. Procurement forms are available by calling the SPF office at 360-336-3974.

SPF Office Move Goes Smoothly, Thanks to GBros Inc.

GBros Inc. in Burlington moved mountains to help SPF move its offices in March. Their ongoing support in making sure we have the right office furniture donated or at cost has saved SPF thousands of dollars that we can now apply to our core programs. When you see a GBros Inc. truck in your neighborhood, think about their generous support to SPF!

