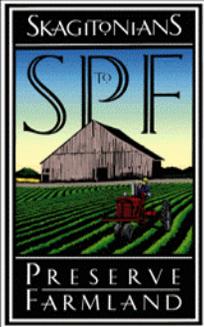


SKAGITONIAN

Fall 2013



www.skagitonians.org

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A Message From The Director

I'd like to start out by saying THANK YOU to all of you who support our efforts to preserve farmland, and for the generous contributions you make towards our mission. Whether that be in the form of a monetary donation, volunteering your time, serving on a Board or Committee, or through "water cooler" advocacy by sharing the importance of agriculture in the Skagit Valley— thank you.

There have been some very exciting developments in 2013 for Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland. After a long and thoughtful process, our Board of Directors has adopted a **new Strategic Plan for 2014-2020**. Short term, mid-range, and long-term goals focused on farmland preservation, fundraising and public awareness were adopted.

Also, after a lengthy testing period our **Talking Fields program** will be launched at eight sites in the Skagit Delta before year-end. Be sure to look for the signs and scan the QR code to hear educational and historical information about each site.

Finally, we are extremely happy to report that another **103 acres of farmland** is being protected with a conservation easement in one of our priority areas: the I-5 corridor south of Mount Vernon. More detail to come...

Another great win for Skagit agriculture!



"Coming Home" view, facing north from Starbird Hill

Thankful For Many Things in 2013

At a time of year when most are giving thanks, we at Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland are also counting our blessings and celebrating many great successes this year.

We are very thankful for the outpouring of support at our **15th Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction**. It was a fantastic, sold-out event on a very stormy September night, but the weather didn't dampen the spirits or the bidding inside. Many thanks to our sponsors, donors, guests and countless volunteers who helped to raise more than \$108,000 for Skagit farmland! THANK YOU! Thank you to many of our supporters in King County, for showing their support at the **"Celebrate Skagit in Seattle"** dinner recently. This dinner, held annually at the Seattle Culinary Academy, is a fantastic way to bring the amazing bounty of the Skagit to those who support our mission outside of the Skagit Valley. Many thanks to the Seattle Culinary Chefs and Students for creating such a wonderful meal and highlighting the "Magic Skagit."

And a **big thank you** to the many volunteers and supporters, who lend their time and talents in support of our mission. YOU are SPF, and we are grateful to have you on our team! THANK YOU!

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland exists to ensure the continued viability of Skagit County agriculture and its required infrastructure.

SPF Events in 2014

One of the most important things that Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland does is inform the public about the importance of preserving farmland and what that means to the Skagit Valley, as well as the Puget Sound region. The battle to save farmland is not a battle that can be fought quietly or without a lot of support!

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland hosts a variety of events throughout the year as a way of reaching new supporters and staying connected to current SPF Members.



Here's a look some of our outreach programs and events coming up in 2014:

Farm Tours—Hop on the charter bus and enjoy a tour of some of Skagit Valley's favorite farms. Lunch is included. Farm Tours are very popular and informative!

Talking Fields—Drive through the Valley and stop to hear what the fields have to tell you about farming, history and Skagit agriculture.

Dinner on the Farm—This farm-to-plate dining event will leave you in awe of the amazing bounty grown in the Skagit Valley, all expertly prepared by a guest chef.

Crop ID Signs—Look for the Crop ID signs to tell you what's growing in the fields as you drive around the Valley.

Harvest Dinner & Auction—Our fall celebration featuring outstanding food, terrific auction items and lots of fun!

SPF Community Picnic—An open event for SPF members and non-members to learn more about SPF, our mission, our goals and our successes. Come one, come all!

Celebrate Skagit in Seattle—In partnership with the Seattle Culinary Academy, we bring the Skagit bounty to Seattle for an evening of exquisite dining and conversation.

InFARmation Radio—Motorists heading north on I-5 can tune into a special message on our InFARmation Radio station.

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is a small but very busy organization that relies heavily on community support and a core group of volunteers that give their time and talents to support and advocate for farming and farmland here in the Skagit. We couldn't achieve our goals without our "team" and we are thankful for each individual and what they contribute to make our organization stronger.

For more information on getting involved, visit our website at www.skagitonians.org or call SPF at 360-336-3974.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



GREAT NEWS!!

Thanks to all of our supporters who voted on Facebook, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is a \$10,000 winner in the Tom's of Maine "50 States for Good" grant competition. We are so grateful for everyone's support and for voting each day for an entire month. Your persistence paid off and **WE WON!**

The grant money will go to support our outreach programs, in order to further inform the public about the importance of preserving the farmland in our beautiful and productive valley.

Many thanks to Tom's of Maine for their generous support, to SPF Member Tony Angelis for nominating us, and to YOU for voting for SPF!

THANK YOU!!!!

Would you like to receive our News Bulletins and other communications via EMAIL?
Sign up for our E-Mailing List on our website at www.skagitonians.org

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