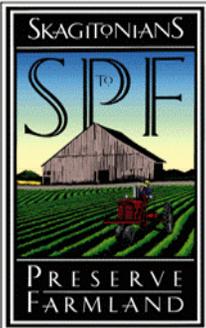


SKAGITONIAN

Fall / Winter 2017



www.skagitonians.org

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Message from the Director: Delivering the Mission

The mission of Skagitians to Preserve Farmland is to ensure the continued viability of Skagit agriculture and its required infrastructure. While our mission is simply-stated, the work itself can be quite complex and diverse—from retiring development rights on properties to working on agricultural issues—and threats—at the local and state level.

Certainly one of the highlights for SPF this year has been forging a strong relationship with the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Along with our Skagit agricultural partner agencies, including Western Washington Ag Association, Skagit County, the Port of Skagit, WSU-NWREC, WSU Skagit County Extension, NW Ag Business Center, and the Bread Lab, Skagit agriculture is “on the radar” of the WSDA like never before. WSDA Director Derek Sandison and his staff regularly attend meetings in the Skagit Valley to hear first hand about the issues, challenges and successes of our Skagit farmers and farms. One of the goals of SPF from our earliest days has been to serve as a *convener/collaborator* in support and advocacy of Skagit agriculture. It is these partnerships, meetings, discussions and “a thousand cups of tea” around the table, that is critical in keeping the Skagit Valley one of the greatest agricultural valleys in the Puget Sound and arguably the world.



Thankful For Many Things in 2017

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

We are thankful for a huge outpouring of support during our **19th Annual Harvest Dinner & Auction**. We pulled out all the stops and—THANKS TO YOU—we reached our goals!!

We have **EXPANDED** our **Youth InFARmation Program** from one school to **THREE** schools! 250 fifth graders got to spend a day on local farms learning about agriculture this past spring and fall.

Through a series of **community forums**, we gathered information from the greater agricultural community to help guide our work and strategic planning into the next few years.

We were invited to lead a team that presented to **Governor Jay Inslee** and his cabinet team on how community collaboration is keeping Skagit agriculture viable, and could serve as a model for the rest of the state.

We are thankful for leaders and a **community** that cares deeply about local agriculture, food and farmers!

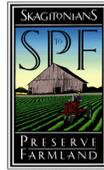
Most of all, we are thankful for **YOU**: our members, our volunteers, our board, our sponsors. Whether you support SPF through your time, talents or resources, **YOU ARE SPF**, and we feel very fortunate to have your trust and belief in our mission and our very important work on behalf of Skagit agriculture. **THANK YOU!!!**

SMILE from A-Z!!

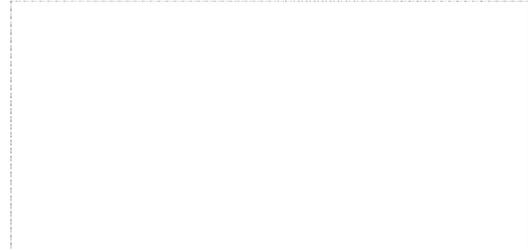
Holiday shopping is here! Wouldn't it be nice to know that your purchases are helping your favorite non-profit? They will, if you shop online at Amazon Smile! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of AmazonSmile purchases to the charity of your choice (hopefully SPF!!) It's just like shopping on Amazon: same user ID and password, same prices and selection. Just select "Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland" as the charity you wish to support and then do your shopping at Smile.Amazon.com.

The donation is automatic!

Thank you for thinking of SPF!!



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SPF Events in 2018



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.

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 at our 2018 programs and events, so far:

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 ag.

Our Valley, Our Future Breakfast— Join SPF for a hearty breakfast and learn about our mission while we recognize achievements in Skagit Ag—past, present and future.

Crop ID Signs— Look for our renovated Crop ID Sign program 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!

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

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

Check out website in the coming months for dates and more information!!

How YOU Can Help SPF

The backbone of our organization is community support—getting people to **know** what we do, **understand** what we do, and **feel** that our mission is important to them and our community. You can help share our mission and our important work a variety of ways:

- Pick up a SPF poster and hang it in your workplace.
- Put a SPF bumper sticker on your car.
- Share your SPF involvement with your friends.
- Apply for Employee Matching Funds when you renew your SPF membership.
- Volunteer on an SPF Committee.
- Follow us on Facebook.
- Learn about the Farmland Legacy Program.
- Write a Letter to the Editor to voice your support for farmland preservation.
- Host a SPF Membership House Party.
- Give a 4-H or FFA student a high five!
- Devote a percentage of your grocery budget to buying local.

For more info, please contact SPF at 360-336-3974 or visit our website at www.skagitonians.org

Would you like to receive our News Bulletins and other communications via EMAIL?
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