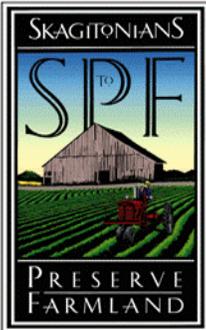


# SKAGITONIAN

Spring 2013



[www.skagitonians.org](http://www.skagitonians.org)

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**Executive Director**

Linda Tyler  
**Development Director**

Elisa Minerich  
**Development Assistant**

## A Message From The Director

There are great things happening for SPF and Skagit agriculture in 2013, and we are excited to have YOU on our team! 2013 has already been a busy year for us. In February, we welcomed Linda Tyler as our Development Director. Linda is a lifelong Skagit County resident and has an extensive background in non-profit work, communications and fundraising. She has jumped right in and is eager to get to know our SPF members! Elisa Minerich has also joined our team and is doing amazing work in the office with our website, membership communications, database, and updating some of our office procedures. Be sure to stop by the office anytime to grab a cup of coffee and say hello. We would love to hear why Skagit farmland is important to you.



Through the dedicated work of our Board, a new multi-year strategic plan is being developed and partnerships are continuing to be forged and strengthened in order to bring a stronger voice to the continued viability of farming in the Skagit Valley and Puget Sound. And staff and Board Members continue to participate on many advisory groups at the local, state and federal level—giving a voice to the importance of Skagit agriculture to the health of our watershed and our local and regional food systems.

All of these things are made possible through YOUR support! Thank you for lending your voice to our mission and for being a part of the story to protect one of the greatest agricultural valleys and most pristine watersheds left in Puget Sound—the Skagit Valley!

Allen Rozema, *Executive Director*

## What Do We Do Anyway?

From time to time we get asked, “*What does SPF do?*” We even have to stop and think about it on some days, as we are a unique organization with no equal in the Puget Sound or Washington State. SPF has a simply-stated mission, but one that is complex to carry out. In addition to our work to see that agricultural easements are secured on at-risk farmland, SPF works to help people understand that simply protecting farmland is insufficient to keeping a viable agricultural community. A viable agricultural community needs economic viability, critical infrastructure and community support. To that end, SPF has implemented a four-legged stool concept for farmland preservation. **Farmland Protection** represents just one leg of the stool. The other legs include **Community Support**, **Economic Viability**, and **Agricultural Infrastructure**. SPF works to strengthen all four legs simultaneously. In any given week SPF is monitoring and responding to local land use actions, participating on local, regional and sometimes national committees, advocating for local and regional policies to support the long term viability of agriculture, and working on programs to inform and educate the public about the important needs and benefits of a healthy and sustainable agricultural community—such as our popular Farm Tours. In the 24 years since SPF’s inception, we have grown to be the community’s voice for keeping Skagit Valley farming.

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

# Meet Our Members

THEN



NOW

**Who I am:** Kim Good Rubenstein

**Where I Live:** I currently live in La Conner. I am a 4th generation Skagitonian. My great-grandfather homesteaded on Fir Island; my grandfather and my father were both born there and farmed the land. Our family still owns a portion of the original homestead which is currently leased/farmed by Hughes Farms. I graduated from La Conner High School., then from Washington State University and I returned to Washington after living in California for 30 years.

**What I Do:** As a profession, I am an independent Educational Consultant, working with school districts to fully include students with developmental disabilities in typical classrooms. As an SPF Volunteer, I am the Chair of the "Celebrate Skagit: Dinner on the Farm" events.

**How Long Have I Been a Member of SPF:** Two years, but my family has been supporting SPF for many years.

**Why I Support SPF:** I support SPF because I believe in and understand the importance of its mission to preserve farmland. Our family has lost 3 generations of farmers; the importance of preserving this rich fertile farmland for future generations was/is a notion my father/family believed is necessary. Having spent my childhood living and working on the farm, I appreciate the hard work of our Skagit farmers.

The idea of "Celebrate Skagit - Dinner on the Farm" was based on my personal experience of spending time back on our farm after being away for 30 years. Digging in the dirt, smelling the smells, feeling the air, eating the bounty from our family farm garden—it felt and tasted like heaven. I hoped that if others had an opportunity to spend time on a farm, they would understand why our preservation efforts are so important. Call it Skagit Pride, call it getting back to my roots. The bottom line: you can take the girl out of the country - but you can't take the country out of the girl!!

**Would you like to share your story as a member of SPF?**  
Please contact Linda Tyler at [LindaT@skagitonians.org](mailto:LindaT@skagitonians.org) or call SPF at 360-336-3974.



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## 2013 Events - Mark Your Calendar!

**Celebrate Skagit ~ Dinner on the Farm**  
**Saturday, July 13**

**Saturday, August 17**

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

**15th Annual Celebrate Skagit Harvest**  
**Dinner & Auction**

**Saturday, September 28**

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

Keep an eye on our website for detailed information and updates on all of our events: [www.skagitonians.org](http://www.skagitonians.org).

*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](http://www.skagitonians.org)**

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