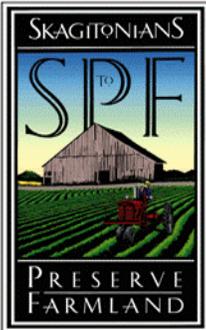


SKAGITONIAN

Summer 2013



www.skagitonians.org

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A Message From The Director

It's summer in the Skagit Valley. The farmers are busy tending their crops getting ready for what looks like an excellent fall harvest, and the many farm stands and markets are selling everything from artichokes to zucchini! At SPF we are continuing to work with our local, state and federal partners on many topics that are critical to keeping Skagit Valley farming. Most notably, we are midway through a 15-month, first of its kind, comprehensive analysis of Skagit County's agricultural industrial cluster. This is a ground-breaking analysis, that when completed this December, will provide the most accurate picture of what makes up the entirety of the Skagit Agricultural Industry – that is the web of economic, social, personal and legal relationships (collectively called agriculture's infrastructure) that support – and are necessary for – a viable and sustainable agricultural sector in Skagit County.

This study, combined with data from previous studies, is indicating that agriculture plays a significant role in keeping the Skagit Watershed the healthiest watershed in the Puget Sound. This news provides much to celebrate and grants a renewed recognition that our farmed lands supply scenic open space, foster tourism, provide forage and shelter for wildlife, and support the protection and recovery of threatened and endangered species.

I want to thank you, our membership, for being a part of the solution, and lending your voice to help protect this valuable legacy. Your voice is joining a growing movement that is recognizing that farmland is critical to Puget Sound and that protecting and preserving farmland is a strategic part of our action plans for improving the health of Puget Sound and the recovery of salmon! In short, keeping Skagit agriculture viable is one of the most cost effective ways to protect what we care about the most: our water, our food and our environment!

Allen Rozema, *Executive Director*

Lots of Great Happenings in 2013

It has been a very busy year for SPF already with lots of events, activities and wonderful support shown by our community! Our **Spring Farm Tour** was a great success and we would like to thank those who participated, including our host farms: George & Eiko Vojkovich at Skagit River Ranch, Andrew and Charles Dykstra at Dykstra Dairy Farm, Jerry Nelson of Nelson Potatoes and Roger & Suzanne Wechsler of Samish Bay Cheese!

In July, we hosted our 2013 **Dinner on the Farm** at Taylor Shellfish Farm and it was amazing! Our 50 guests were able to enjoy and experience the shellfish farm and delight in the delicious bounty from Skagit farmlands and tidelands. Our deepest thanks to Chef Thomas Palmer for creating an incredible five-course meal, and to our gracious hosts at Taylor Shellfish Farm: Bill & Betsy Taylor, Bill Dewey, Irene Fadden and Nicole Hopper. A big thanks goes to our amazing, hard-working Dinner on the Farm Committee: Kim Rubenstein, Laurie Olds, Ginny Vlahovich, Lisette Roozen-Mast, Serena Campbell, Nicole Hopper and Lisa Jensen. What an amazing group of volunteers!

Next up is our **Annual SPF Member and Community Picnic** on Saturday, August 3rd at La Conner Flats. We are so grateful to Jen Hart and Matt Mussivand for opening up their farm to keep this wonderful event and special tradition going! We hope to see you there!!

“How Can I Help?”

For non-profits, the answer to this question is typically, “Make a donation to support the cause.” But there are lots of other, non-monetary ways that you can help support the SPF Mission.

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:

- Tell your friends about your SPF involvement.
- Follow us on Facebook.
- Suggest our Facebook page to friends.
- Pick up an SPF poster and hang it in your workplace.
- Put an SPF bumper sticker on your car.
- Add photos to our Flickr group online.
- Apply for Employee Matching Funds when you renew your SPF membership.
- Volunteer on an SPF Committee.
- Learn about the Farmland Legacy Program.
- Write a Letter to the Editor to voice your support of farmland preservation.
- Host an SPF Membership House Party.
- Call your County Commissioner or City Council Member to let them know preserving farmland is important.
- Give a 4-H student a high five!
- Devote a percentage of your grocery budget to buying local.
- Join us at our Annual SPF Picnic, August 3rd!

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



Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
PO Box 2405
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2013 Events - Mark Your Calendar!

15th Annual Celebrate Skagit Harvest Dinner & Auction

Saturday, September 28, 2013

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

Keep an eye on our website for detailed information and updates on all of our events: www.skagitonians.org.



SPF ANNUAL PICNIC

The Board of Directors of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland invites you to our Annual SPF Member and Community Picnic

Saturday, August 3, 2013 • 12-2 p.m.

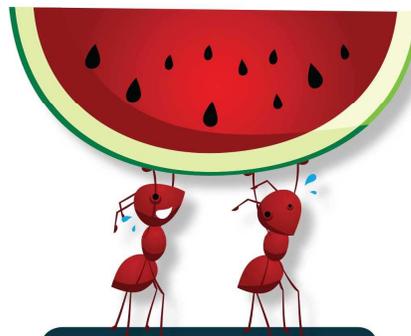
La Conner Flats, 15978 Best Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Bring a blanket and pack a picnic basket! Or enjoy a No-Host BBQ Lunch. Invite some friends... ALL ARE WELCOME!

For Questions or More Information:

Email: LindaT@skagitonians.org
Call: (360) 336-3974

Web: www.skagitonians.org
www.facebook.com/skagitonians



- Featuring Live Music by Knut Bell & The Blue Collars
- Fun Activities
- Guided Farm Tours

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

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