



South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust

Annual Report to the Membership for 2013

April 11, 2014



SCATTER CREEK FARM AND CONSERVANCY

The vision of the community farmland trust becomes a reality

On October 17, 2013, **South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust** together with the **Heernett Environmental Foundation** and **Kirsop Farms** took possession of a 147 acre farm near Rochester in south Thurston County.

“We are overjoyed at achieving our long-held goal of owning a farm consistent with the Community Farmland Trust model,” said SSCFLT Board Chair, Russ Fox. “By purchasing this land and leasing it to farmers, we are not only providing access to farmland for individuals who do not have the capitol to purchase land themselves, we are contributing to our area’s local food security for generations to come while also providing rural economic development opportunities and restoring important salmon habitat. Further, we are making a commitment to be stewards of this farmland in perpetuity.”

SSCFLT has worked for over 15 years to develop a successful **Farmland for Farmers Forever** project using the community land trust model. Because *continues on p2*

2013 Board of Directors and Staff

Russ Fox, Chair

Jodie DuBois, Vice Chair

Pat Labine, Clerk

Holly Born, Treasurer

Ben Dryfoos-Guss

Marcie Cleaver

John C. MacLean

Jim McGinn

Steve Scheuerell

Loretta Seppanen

Mary Ann Swain, Grant Writer and Project Development Coordinator



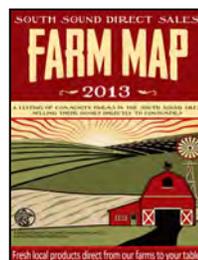
SECURING GRUB’S FOOD PRODUCTION GROUND



Garden Raised Bounty (goodgrub.org) is a nationally recognized, local nonprofit that successfully works

with low income and at-risk youth in an urban agriculture setting. **SSCFLT** partnered with **GRuB** *continues on p3*

DIRECT SALES FARM MAP



The **South Sound Direct Sales Farm Map** is a self-supporting, annual project of the Land Trust. The 2013 edition, elegantly produced by Connie Allison and Rhondi Perdue, listed more than 50 area farms, included a cross listing of seasonal farm products, and ways consumers could access them. The Farm Map makes an obvious and direct contribution to the economic

viability of local farms. With its annual distribution of 10,000 copies to local and regional farmers’ markets, feed stores, hardware stores, *continues on p2*



SCATTER CREEK FARM *continued from p1*

traditional state and federal farmland preservation funding sources only provide funding for conservation easements rather than for acquisition of farmland, and because our model of farmland preservation is unique and relatively untested in both the conservation and community land trust movements, this has been a challenging quest for our small organization.

Kirsop Farms (kirsopfarm.com) owned by Colin Barricklow and Genine Bradwin, holds a 99 year lease on 60 acres of the farmland. Kirsop Farms grows and sells organic produce through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, farmers markets, and direct sales to local retailers, restaurants, and schools. Colin and Genine also partnered in the purchase of the farm by acquiring the historic farmhouse and three of the farm buildings.



Heernett Environmental Foundation, also known as **Creekside Conservancy** (creeksideconservancy.org), is the new owner of 48 acres of the farm bordering the Chehalis River and two seasonal streams now dedicated to restoring water quality, wildlife and salmon habitat.

Enterprise for Equity (enterpriseforequity.org) will lease a portion of the remaining farmland for a “farm incubator,” a new farmer education and training program in keeping with E4E’s mission of helping people with limited incomes start and sustain small businesses.



Thurston County Conservation Futures Program and the **Salmon Recovery Funding Board of Washington State’s Recreation and Conservation Office** provided major funding for the farm’s acquisition. Additional support was provided by: **The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, Squaxin Island Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians,**

Nisqually Indian Tribe, Tides Foundation, Olympia Food Coop, and the members of **SSCFLT**. Discounted or pro-bono professional assistance was provided by **Equity Trust, Trout Unlimited, Capital Land Trust, PCC Farmland Trust, Pacific Groundwater Group, ADESA Consulting, Foster Pepper PLLC** and **Jessica Jensen Law.**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Eighty-five supporters of **SSCFLT** gathered at the **South Bay Grange Hall** on Friday evening,

March 15th for the 2013 Annual Membership Meeting and potluck. Before dinner in the large adjoining ball room, close to 20 local food and farm organizations set up booths displaying a wide range of services and community activities. It was an occasion for networking and for conversation among old and new friends. The long tables in the meeting room across the hall were spread with a phenomenal potluck—some say the best in Olympia. During the dinner program, Mary Ann Swain gave an update on the pending acquisition of the **Scatter Creek Community Farm**. A short annual business meeting followed. New Board members were elected: Marcie Cleaver, a rancher; Jodie DuBois, a community member involved in farm succession research; John C. MacLean, a community member interested in finance structuring and packaging of land acquisitions; and Jim McGinn of **Rising River Farm** in Rochester.

FARM TO TABLE BENEFIT



Kirsop Farm’s annual Farm to Table benefit dinner was hosted at Olympia’s **Acqua Via Restaurant** November

16, 2013 with an outstanding menu prepared entirely from **Kirsop Farm** products by Chef Will Taylor. Participants toured the farm earlier that Saturday afternoon. Totally sold out, the event netted \$1000 for the Land Trust.

FARM MAP *continued from p1*

libraries, local businesses, and government offices, the Farm Map also generates significant good will and public visibility for **SSCFLT**.

To meet the interests of those who look for farm information online the Farm Map is available at farmsforever.org and on the **Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau** site.



FARMS FOREVER DINNER AND AUCTION

On Saturday evening, September 21, 2013, close to 140 friends and supporters gathered at the **Thurston County Fairgrounds Expo Center** for an auction and dinner featuring products from local farms prepared by area chefs. Our hats are off to Chef Treacy Kreger of **Vern's Food and Farm**, a great **SSCFLT** volunteer, who pulled together the creative dinner. Many thanks to the chefs who worked with Treacy to assemble one of the best farm to table dinners ever: Lisa David from **Nineveh Assyrian**, Kristi Dohring from **Paprika Catering**, Thomas Hussman from **Olympia Local Foods**, Chef Lela, Will Taylor from **Acqua Via**, Lisa Owen from **The Mark**, and Lela and Sandy of **Chocolakas**.

And many additional thanks to **Thurston County** for providing the Fairgrounds site, to event sponsors and partners, to those who provided auction items, and to everyone else who helped make this our most successful fundraiser to date (a complete list of contributors can be found at communityfarmlandtrust.org). The event added \$14,400 to SSCFT's operating budget.



GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Thurston County Conservation Futures Program awarded \$91,615 for the purchase of the GRuB Urban Farm. Grants from the **Nisqually Tribe** and the **Irving A. Lassen Foundation/The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound** totaled \$13,000. More than \$70,000 was received from our many individual donors. **The Squaxin Island Tribe, Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel, Kirsop Farm and Acqua Via Restaurant, Olympia Farmers Market, Olympia Federal Savings, Olympia Food Coop, Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater Visitor & Convention Bureau** and **Heritage Bank** provided sponsorship support. Donations totaling more than \$1,200 were contributed by **Olympia Food Coop** shoppers who "rounded-up at the register" during 2013.



SECURING GRuB'S GROUND

continued from p1

sponsoring a grant application to the **Thurston County Conservation Futures** program to purchase land for GRuB's main garden. Funding was awarded in June. The grant is being used to acquire roughly 1.2 acres of urban agriculture land that **GRuB** currently leases from a neighboring property owner. Once acquisition is completed, **SSCFLT** will own the land and provide an affordable, renewable 99-year lease to GRuB, ensuring GRuB's future use of the land for healthy local food production and for its services to area youth.

