Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share news of how South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust (SSCFLT) has grown in 2016 in our farmland preservation work and our continued investment in the strength of the organization to ensure protection of farmland in perpetuity.

We are continuing to work on the second of two approaches that SSCFLT uses to preserve working farmland for the next generation of farmers: an agricultural conservation easement. Our easement includes stipulations designed to keep farmland in production. Look for more news on this work by the end of 2017.

At Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy, SSCFLT put a portion of the farm’s water rights into a temporary trust through the Department of Ecology’s Trust Water Rights program, to benefit Chehalis River salmon. Ecology’s Trust Water Rights program prevents potential future loss of water rights due to recent non-use, and allows future removal of the water rights from the trust should the water be needed for agricultural use at some future time. Many thanks to Jason Hatch of the Washington Water Trust for his help with this process.

The farm’s community of involvement is well represented in a new sign installed through grant funds from Olympia Rotary Foundation, Lucky Seven Foundation and a local Eagle Scout, Austin Hale-Adams. Richard Geiger, Mason Conservation District Engineer, volunteered his expertise in the structural design of the sign’s housing.

The 2016 SSCFLT Board of Directors continued to build organizational capacity this year, strengthening the operations of our committees and completing a successful external financial review. We are grateful to the dedicated work of three part-time staff members: Mary Ann Swain, Director of Farmland Preservation; Celeste Wade, Program Assistant; and Neil Weinberg, Farmland Preservation Associate.

I am especially thankful to you for being part of the work of protecting farmland for farmers, forever. I am encouraged in my volunteer role on the board by your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

John C. MacLean, Board Chair
Is a Feed Grain Mill In the Future?

While grains and legumes suited for animal feed can grow well in our maritime climate, many farmers lack equipment needed to turn the products of their fields into animal feed or cleaned grains and legumes for seeding fields. Since May of 2016, SSCFLT, in partnership with Stephen Bramwell, WSU Thurston County Extension, have been exploring the feasibility of a local feed grain cleaning and milling complex that could be housed in one of the larger workshops owned by the land trust at Scatter Creek Farm and Conservancy. The facility could provide milling of organic and conventional feed grain and offer grain and legume drying and cleaning services. The culmination of the 2016 work was a Grain Equipment Field Day attended by more than 40 interested farmers in early January 2017.

The Grain Equipment Field Day attendees came from near and far, including Sequim, Oregon and California. Participants braved colder than normal winter temperatures to view the field equipment used for organic and non-organic grain and legume production: manure spreaders, planters, tillers, plows, combines and small tractors; and processing equipment: seed cleaner and milling equipment. Agricultural consultant Brian Thomson led the discussion about each piece of equipment. Equipment owners and grain growers contributed to the Q and A session.

A 2017 project, led by SSCFLT board member, Marcie Cleaver, will survey local farmer’s needs for organic and conventional feed grain. In addition, grain growers will be queried about their interest in growing grain to sell to a local feed mill and about the need for grain processing services.

2016 Board of Directors
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Mary Ann Swain, Director of Farmland Preservation
Celeste Wade, Program Assistant
Neil Weinberg, Farmland Preservation Associate
Sheryl Belcher (Spring & Summer 2016, Development Director)

Grain Equipment at the Field Day

Brian Thomson describing seeding equipment

We thank the many Olympia Farmers Market vendors whose combined contributions to SSCFLT totaled $1,505 for 2016. Your support of Olympia Farmers Market vendors also supports farmland preservation.
Expanded Strategies for Future Farmland Acquisition

In 2016 SSCFLT expanded its approach to farmland preservation by taking on a second strategy – an agricultural conservation easement. This past year, SSCFLT started the work on its first Agricultural Conservation Easements with Option to Purchase. Using this approach, SSCFLT helps landowners receive monetary compensation for permanently removing development rights from their farm property and for accepting farming and affordability requirements. Not only does the easement preclude future subdivision of the farmland, but resale restrictions keep the land affordable for farming, if or when may be sold. We plan to complete acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement by the end of 2017.

We have previously used the strategy of the Community Land Trust Model to purchase and preserve farmland and assure that farmers have affordable access to land. We used this approach at both the Scatter Farm & Conservancy and at the GRuB Urban Farm where SSCFLT owns the farmland and provides 99-year Agricultural Ground Leases to farmers.

In an effort to jointly seek dramatically increased funding to preserve farmland, SSCFLT joined with half a dozen organizations to seek funding under the US Department of Agriculture’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Other partners included the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), Thurston County, Capitol Land Trust, and Nisqually Land Trust. While unsuccessful this first time around, the initial collaboration is a step forward for local groups around the common goal of farmland conservation.

Continuing Organizational Capacity Building

Board meetings and staff work are now being conducted out of the new SSCFLT office housed on the second floor of the Thurston Conservation District offices at 2918 Ferguson St SW #1-A, Tumwater.

In order to assure that the organization’s financial practices meet accepted standards and to be transparent in handling its resources, SSCFLT engaged Aiken & Sanders, Inc., PS to conduct a financial review of the 2015 expenditures. The external evaluation, which was completed in May 2016, recommended minor changes in financial procedures. The review sets the stage for a full audit of the 2016 finances (see the unaudited summary on the following page).

Community Leaders Speak About SSCFLT’s Role

At our fundraising dinner, Farms Forever, which was held on October 8th, Congressman Denny Heck (D-10) described his deep connection to the land and the importance of preserving working farmland. John Dodge, now retired from his longtime role as environmental reporter and columnist for The Olympian, shared stories of farmland lost and the benefit to all when land stays in production. The emcee for the evening, Beth Doglio, Representative for Legislative District 22, shared her view that keeping farmland in sustainable food production ensures environmental protection of the land.

As a result of the amazing generosity of the guests at Farms Forever, we raised more than $34,000 for farmland preservation in the South Sound!

Pumpkins at auction Farms Forever, 2016
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF FARMLAND

You put the “community” in Community Farm Land Trust. Your support makes the preservation of working, affordable farmland in the South Sound region possible. Here are many ways to show your support:

- Monthly Giving – set up an automatic monthly donation through Network for Good
- Online Giving – visit www.farmsforever.org at any time to make a donation
- Shop and Support – look for SSCFLT on the charity list when you shop at Bayview and Ralphs with their Thiftcard, at Amazon through the Amazon Smile program, and when doing a search on Goodsearch.com
- Real Estate Gifts – donate farmland for permanent conservation or real estate for resale to benefit SSCFLT
- Securities Gifts – donate securities to SSCFLT; benefit farmland preservation and potentially provide a tax benefit for you
- Planned Gifts – consider leaving a farmland legacy by including SSCFLT in your will
- Volunteer your time – call our office to learn about current volunteer opportunities – (360) 353-4838

Farmland Preservation is a community effort. On behalf of future generations of farmers and consumers, we thank you.
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

$5,000 +
Espresso Parts
Russell Fox
Pat Labine
Anonymous

$1,500 to $4,999
Nisqually Tribe
Olympia Farmers Market Vendor
Olympia Federal Savings
Loretta Seppanen and Rick Sandler
South Sound Community Foundation

$500 to $1,499
Karen and George Bray
Fred and Mary Gentry
Steve Hallstrom and Cecelia Boulais
Maureen Hill
Heritage Bank
John MacLean
Donna Moir
Melissa and Matt Myer
Port Blakely Tree Farm
Olympia Farmers Market
Olympia Food Coop
Oscar and Barbara Soule
Pat Starzyk
Charlie Stephens and Angela Rush
Squaxin Island Tribe

$200 to $499
Lisa Breckenridge and John Rodakowski
Laurie Kunzang Brown
John Dodge and Barbara Digman
Dorothy Gist
Gary and Linda Glein
Michelle Harvey
Annie Iriye and Steve Pogge
Alvin and Melissa Josephy
Shelley Kirk-Rudeen
Patricia McLachlan
David and Jane Nowitz
Donna and Jack Rice
Karen Valenzuela

$100 to $199
Linda Chesnut and Joe Digranes
Marcie Cleaver
Thad and Jo Curtz
Diane Dakin
Myra Davis
Jeffrey deGraan
David Deitz, M.D.
Beth Doglio and Ed Cates
Liz Douglas
John & Marilyn Erickson
Larry Geri and Rachel Friedman
Linda Fraiburg
Dirk and Dixie Havlak
Denny and Paula Heck
David & Linda Hoffman
Joe Hyer
Bill and Joy Justis
Julie Kintzi
Karyn and Eric Lindberg
Jason and Alicia Martinelli
Aslan Meade and Becky Meyer
Cheryl Meyers
Diane and Mark Miller
Jennifer Miller
Rachel Newmann
Margaret Sabra Noyes
Ernest Paul
Lillian Ryan
Robin Stiritz
Mary Ann Swain
Ann Vandeman
Wim and Rae Verhoeft

$10 to $99
Alyssa Auvinen
James Blakeley
Addie Candib
Suzanne M. Carson
Christine Ciancetta
Kathleen & Mark Clark
Wendy & Ted Clark
Betsie DeWreede
Lowel and Ida Dightman
David Ellis
Enterprise for Equity
Kena Fox-Dobbs
Joseph Gabiou
Arthur Grunbaum and Linda Orgel
Alison Halpern
Joseph M Hiss and Yolanda S Cifuentes
Jennifer Hooper
Matt and Sarah Beth Huot
TJ and Stephanie Peeples Johnson
Mary K Johnson
Lainie Kertesz
Esther and Warren Kronenberg
Debbie Leung
Nate Lewis and Melissa Barker
Maryrose Livingston
Gail MacLean
Ross and Genny Matteson
Jim McGinn and Jennifer Belknap
Molly Mellon
Matthew Monnastes
Gita Moultoun
Peter Moulton
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Justin Smith
R. Peggy Smith
Jennifer Sprague
Meghan M. Sullivan
Elaine Vradenburgh
Lance Winecka
Autumn Witten
Anonymous
Anonymous

In Memory of Nick Russell
Lavinia Wright
Deborah Sargeant

In-Kind Donors
August Farm
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Calliope Farm
Color and White Printing
Don Seneca-Lucky Eagle Casino & Hotel
and the Chehalis Tribe
Evergreen Valley Lamb at Fido’s Farm
Farm Fresh Market
Flying Cow Creamery
Friends of the Farmers Market
Christine Garst
Gravity Beer Market
Grey Hawk Productions
Helsing Junction Farm
Jessica Jensen Law
Jeremy Lester-Bread Peddler
J.Treacy Kreger
Kirsop Farm
Kyle Wnuk-Three Magnets
Lynch Creek Farm
Mike Holbein-Our Table
Newaukum Valley Farm
Olympia Coffee Roasters
Olympia Food Co-op
Pat Labine
Ralph Munro
Rawkstar Creations
Rising River Farm
Steamboat Island Goat Farm
Stottle Winery
Taylor Shellfish Farms
The Fresh Approach
Three Magnets Brewing Co.
Whitewood Cider
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FARMS FOREVER: A BENEFIT FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION
October 14, 2017

at the Lacey Community Center

Don’t miss this unforgettable annual celebration:
Live music
Silent auction of food and farm related items
A farm-to-table meal prepared by local chefs
Your chance to help save farmland

Tickets go on sale in July

More information at www.farmsforever.org