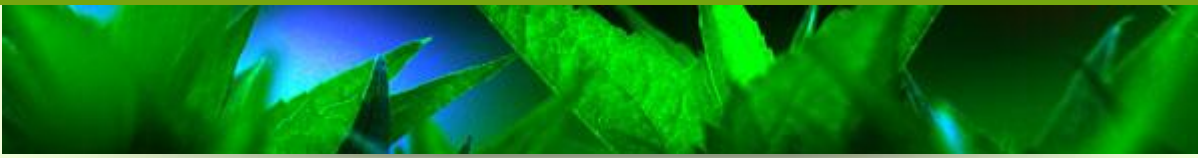


Farmers Market Messenger

March 2010



Spring is near and the buds are starting to burst. Granted it's kind of cold this week, but we have had such a spring like winter that the reopening of the farmers markets feels so near. Only a little over 2 months until the first market reopens!! Here's a reminder of our markets reopening dates and times:

Broadway Market

Downtown at Ninth and Broadway
Thursdays, 9 am - 2 pm
Reopening May 20, 2010

Sixth Avenue Market

Between Sixth and Seventh on Pine
Tuesdays, 3:30 - 7:30 pm
Reopening June 1, 2010

***New* South Tacoma Market**

Washington and 56th at Heritage Bank
Sundays, 10 am - 3 pm
Debut's June 20!



Community News

Help for Haiti CD

Farmers Scholarship

Have Foodstamps? Use them at our Markets!

Permaculture is where it's Happening

State Grants for Farmland Preservation

Getting back to our Roots (I mean Tubors)

Property Tax Exception Approved (SHB2402)

Small Farm Internship (SB 6349)

Too Many Farmers Markets?

Upcoming Events

Help Wanted



"Help for Haiti" Certificate of Deposit



On the morning of January 12, 2010, a powerful earthquake rocked Haiti, killing as many as 200,000 people and destroying the livelihood of millions.

In keeping with our mission of building strong communities, ShoreBank Pacific has partnered with our Portland neighbor, Mercy Corps, to offer a special 'Help for Haiti' Certificate of Deposit (CD). The CD partnership will generate ongoing support for Mercy Corps' rebuilding efforts, helping Haiti to transition from receiving aid to leading their own recovery.

Check out <http://eco-bank.com/company/mercyCorps.php> for more information



Farmer Scholarship

The Tacoma Farmers Market (TFM) is offering brand new growers the opportunity to participate in the 2010 market season with coaching - Free! TFM received a Green Partnership Grant, drawn from the Pierce Conservation District, administered by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to fund this farmer education program. **You can request an application by calling us at (253) 272-7077 or you can download an [electronic copy](#).**



Tacoma Farmers Market(s) received a Green Partnership Grant to coach new Pierce County growers with direct marketing methods at local Farmers Markets. Selling at farmers markets is not as easy as it looks. Seasoned farmers have already planted much of what consumers will see at Market this spring. New farmers must go through the learning curve of knowing how much land to dedicate to crops, quantity of seeds to plant, what yields they will get - and when, how much to harvest for each market day, what value to use when pricing their produce, how to set up displays and so much more. The "Growing Our Future" program designed by TFM provides such coaching.

Local Markets are trying to *grow* the amount of food that comes from Pierce County, thereby increasing the number of farmers in our direct region. This program aims to fulfill that goal and simplify the process by coaching new farmers through as many phases as possible. Preserving farmland through organic and natural farming methods is good for our local ecosystem.



Real Food Is...2010 National Video Contest

Real Food Is...2010 National Video Contest challenges students to define what real food means to them by creating a short video that completes the phrase "Real Food is..." Created by the [National Farm to School Network](#) and sponsored by the [Lunch Box Project](#), this contest is open to K-12 and college students and runs until March 29, 2010. The winners will receive \$1,000 and an all expenses paid trip to the conference to show their videos during the opening plenary. More info is available at video.farmtoschool.org.



Have Foodstamps? Use them at our Markets!



Cathy Bussewitz posted an article, "Lawmakers help food stamps get to farmers markets", on Friday, February 12, 2010. Farmers Markets in the US are starting to, and have been, accepting food stamps as a means of getting locally grown produce. For a Complete story go to <http://gazettetimes.com>

The Tacoma Farmers Markets have been accepting food stamps and WIC successfully using a token model as outlined on <http://www.wafarmersmarkets.com/>. It's wonderful that this trend is spreading and more people are able to enjoy the benefits of local fresh produce.



Permaculture is where it's Happening



Permaculture spreads around South Sound. In Carolyn Hartt's South Tacoma yard, straw covers the grass. Self-seeded brassicas poke up through the soil, dried stalks feed the birds. A reclaimed swing set supports a grape vine, a barrel makes organic compost and an even bigger one catches rainwater. Inside, buckets transfer shower water to flush the toilet.

For the complete story go to [The News Tribune site](http://www.thenewstribune.com)



State Grants for FarmLand Preservation

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will accept applications from March 1- May 3, 2010 for grants to protect farmland. Eligible farmland may include ranch land and irrigated or dry cropland.

Grants may be used to buy conservation easements to protect valuable farmland from being converted to another use. Portions of grants also may be used to enhance the agricultural production of preserved farmland or help restore or enhance ecological functions, including providing benefits to wildlife.

You can register [online](http://www.rco.wa.gov) or for more informatoin go to <http://www.rco.wa.gov>



Getting Back to our Roots (I Mean Tubors)

Makah Ozette Potato seeds are in!

According to [Slow Food USA](#) in the 1980's this fingerling potato was recognized to be part of a staple diet of the Pacific Coast Native Americans of the Makah Nation. This potato has been consumed for over 200 years, but with very limited commercial production. A small group of people from [Slow Food Seattle](#) got together and organized the production of these treasured potatoes and because of their effort there are plenty of seeds available!



There are about 10 nurseries in our region that have these potatoes available, but due to limited space I'm only listing ones within 25 miles of Tacoma. You can go to [Slow Food Seattle](#) for more information.

Portland Ave. Nursery

Ph. 253.473.0194
1409 East 59th Street
Tacoma, WA 98404-3555

Stroh's Feed & Garden Supplies

Ph. 253.858.2051
3408 Hunt St NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335-2097



Property Tax Exception Approved!

SHB2402 Approved 2/18/10

The Farmers market/property tax [SHB 2402](#) just passed in the Senate chamber with a vote of 46-1!

Check out this [PDF file](#) for the entire story on this bill.



Pilot Program for Small Farm Internships

SB 6349 ([Legislation history of this bill](#))

The WA State House has voted to create a pilot program for small farm internships as a way to encourage a younger generation of farmers.

In order to qualify for the program, farmers with gross annual sales of less than \$250,000 must submit a written application to L&I for certification, and include the nature of work and how it will provide the intern with vocational knowledge and skills.

A detailed [PDF Senate report on SSB 6349](#) is available.



Can there be too Many Farmers Markets?

Farmers Markets See Risks from Growth ([Wall Street Journal](#))

An article in the [Wall Street Journal](#) talks about Bay Area market overdose and shortage of farmers to supply them all. What an interesting article to open our eyes about the side effects of too many Farmers Markets with unplanned growth.

"I can see how it happens", reports Laura Edwards, TFM Director. "An over-abundance of markets in an area creates a tough ride for local producers and growers. A ripple effect happens that not only affects the markets, but the consumer and farmers. Markets suffer loss of sales, which really means the farmers suffer loss of sales. If sales suffer too much it may result in closure of markets and loss of needed revenue to farmers. Without that revenue - farms may be forced to shut down. Farmers that used to earn a set revenue at 1 market are now having to travel to 2 or 3 to make that same income."

It sounds great to have more markets for better availability for everyone. Markets are fun, trendy and even romantic.

Unfortunately, if only \$1.3 million dollars are being spent on locally farmed products in Tacoma...it doesn't make sense to continue opening more markets because they'd only be dividing a percentage of that figure more ways. Research shows that only 1 in 20 Tacomans currently shop at a farmers market. We need to increase the demand for local produce before we can increase the supply. Our hope is to see more organizations practice the same level of commitment to education and outreach that TFM does - to help reduce obesity and heart disease in our beloved city.



Upcoming Events

Wow our community is full of great events this spring!

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- Announcing **Tacoma Farmers Market Rodeo Barn Dance** on **May 8th** at 6pm. We're celebrating 20th anniversary with a night of local food, fun, and entertainment (i.e. local band The Oly Mountain Boys). Proceeds will benefit the Farmers Market to continue with its goal to connect community with local producers. Tickets are available [online](#) now!
- South Sound Sustainability Expo at Pacific Lutheran University, Saturday, March 13, 10am - 3pm. For more information [click here](#). Come visit our booth!
- Seattle Tree Fruit is presenting our **Spring Fruit & Grafting Show** on **March 14** at the Center of Urban Horticulture in Seattle. If anyone has any questions, they are welcome to contact us at phone: (206)715-4149 or email seattletreefruitsociety@hotmail.com
- Please join **Stewardship Partners** for a hands-on classroom workshop on designing and installing rain gardens to prevent stormwater pollution, attract beneficial wildlife, and beautify the landscape. Contact Stacey Gianas at Stewardship Partners to register and for more details call 206-292-9875 or email sg@stewardshippartners.org. Visit http://stewardshippartners.org/raingarden_central.html for more info.

○ Pierce County Schedule:

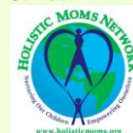
03/11	Graham
03/16	Spanaway
04/08	Fircrest
04/13	Sumner
04/20	Gig Harbor
04/29	Puyallup
05/06	Steilacoom
05/12	Milton



- Are you interested in producing red meat for direct markets, but unsure of your options? WA Dept. of Agriculture is hosting a **tour of Heritage Meats** on **March 15th**. For more information go to <http://wsdatouredmeat.eventbrite.com>
- **WEBCAST: Purchasing and Procuring Efficient Equipment** will take place on **March 17, 2010**, from 1-2 PM EDT. The webcast will cover ENERGY STAR resources to help your organization purchase products with superior energy performance, guidelines that define energy performance for numerous products, sample procurement language, and energy-saving software that calculates the life cycle costs of ENERGY STAR products and their less efficient counterparts. Visit <https://energystar.webex.com> to register or for more info.
- **Saturday, March 20 (big day): Community Garden Expo!** at Manitou Community Center, [Community Garden Expo Details](#) - we'll see you there between 10 - 3...FREE!
- **Saturday, March 20:** Chili Cookoff at Freighthouse Square ([mmmm mmmm good!](#))
- Saturday, March 20: **Healthy Kids & Green Parenting Summit**, 10 - 3, South Park Community

Center..FREE!

- **Winter Cover Crop School** (Selection, Nutrient Availability, and Integration into Cropping Systems) - **March 22**. For more information contact Chris Benedict at (253) 798-7028 or at chrisbenedict@wsu.edu. Information can also be found at: <http://pierce.wsu.edu/ag/index.html>
- **WEBCAST: March 31, 2010**, 2-4 pm EDT-**Using Smart Growth Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (introduction to federal programs and resources related to smart growth). To register for this webcast [online](#)
- **Chicken Management 101** (Small Scale Egg Production) on **April 4th** is hosted by WSU Pierce County Extension. For more information go to <http://pierce.wsu.edu/ag/index.html>. You can register [online](#) or by contacting Chris Benedict at (253) 798-7028 or at chrisbenedict@wsu.edu
- Come join the **Holistic Moms Network Tacoma Chapter** for their 1 year anniversary on **April 29th** at 6:30pm. The Open House event is located at Bates Technical College, South Campus, Home and Family Life Building located at 2201 S. 78th St. in Tacoma. Families and friends are encouraged to attend. For more information email hmntacomawa@gmail.com or go to <http://home.homewebs.com/hmntacomawa/>
- Cascade Harvest Coalition's 2010 **Food Lust** is coming up on Saturday, **June 5, 2010**. Tickets go on sale April 1, 2010. Check out <http://cascadeharvest.org> for more information and pictures from [last years event](#).
- Come out and help us celebrate **Tacoma Farmers Market's 20th Anniversary** at our **Broadway Market's Opening Day, Thursday, May 20th** from 8:30am to 2pm!
- **6th Avenue Farmers Market Opening Day: June 1st** from 3:30-7:30pm! Come and help us kick-off another great season!
- **South Tacoma Farmers Market Opening Day, and Father's Day Fun Run, June 20th!** Check our website for more information! [Click here!](#)
- **SAGE** (www.seattlecentral.edu/learn/sage) is offering two new courses this **Spring quarter!** [Online registration](#) is currently open.
 - Landscape Agroforestry: Integrating Forests and Farms
 - Biointensive Urban Food Production (urban food systems pathway course)



Help Wanted

- **Tacoma's Food Co-op** is currently looking for a **Project Manager** to develop and launch an upcoming member loan campaign, planning a search for a General Manager and initial phases of store start up. If you or someone you know is interested PLEASE contact our Board President, [Amber Englund](mailto:Amber.Englund), or visit <http://www.tacomafoodcoop.com/> for more information.
- **Internship Opportunity at Hogsback Farm**, located on Vashon Island, is looking for an apprentice for the 2010 growing season. The apprenticeship seeks to give young farmers a solid base when it comes to all aspects of operating a small market farm, including all aspects of growing, greenhouse work, farm planning, marketing, and soil maintenance. The work is 35 hours a week, give or take, starting asap and ending the last week of October. Stipend and housing is provided, in addition to food from the farm obviously. Please contact Brian Lowry at hogsbackfarm@gmail.com for more information or if you're interested in applying.
- **Terrys Berries**, located in Tacoma, is seeking a full-time **Grower Manager** for its 20 acre certified organic vegetable and berry farm for the 2010 season. Email info@terrysberries.com or go to <http://www.terrysberries.com/Employment.html> for more information.

- **Seattle Department of Neighborhoods P-Patch Community Gardening Program** is in need of a **Multi/Bi-Lingual P-Patch Community Garden Outreach Consultant**. Go to <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/levy.htm> for more information or contact [Laura Raymond](#) (206) 615-1787
- **The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)** is looking for volunteers to help **review and evaluate grant applications** for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. For more information go to <http://www.rco.wa.gov/>
- The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** seeks one or more **specialists from USDA agencies or Land Grant Colleges and Universities** to participate as members of short-term post-disaster agriculture assessment teams in Haiti. To apply, please send the following: a) a cover letter that directly and separately addresses each of the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above; and b) a current resume of experience and qualifications. Both should be sent to:
 - Point of Contact: James Davis
Division: USDA/FAS/OCRA
Internet Address: <http://www.usda.gov/fas>
James.Davis@fas.usda.gov
Telephone: (202) 720-1338
FAX: (202) 720-9473
Mailing Address: U.S. Department of Agriculture, FAS/OA, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20250.

We strongly urge candidates to fax or email their application materials due to service delays in the postal system.



Spring is near, the sun is starting to come out, the rain is subsiding, and the plants are coming to life again. It's time to go out and about to enjoy our community activities. We hope to see you all at the Rodeo Barn Dance (May 8th) to help support our market.

Sincerely,

Kristine Strange
Tacoma Farmers Markets

