

Spring/Summer 2020

Welcome to the Farm!

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A Little Old News and a Little New News



**President's Letter**  
**Spring/Summer 2020**

As I write this, Pierce County is still in limited Phase 2 mode, and AIHS has cancelled its Annual Salmon Bake for the first time in over 40 years. (See the photo of an AIHS Salmon Bake from 1978).

We are seriously considering what should happen to our fall potluck events. These are indeed challenging and unprecedented



**It takes a whole lot of rebar to prepare the foundation!**

times. Still – there is lots of good news, and I want to focus on that.

First, as I write this in mid-July, everyone associated with AIHS is healthy, and as an organization we intend to do everything we can to keep it that way.

Second, AIHS is financially strong. Although the cancellation of the Salmon Bake and Farm Day has removed almost half our annual funding, we still have adequate funds in reserve to continue our normal programs and farm maintenance this year. The lack of any outstanding mortgages means that we don't have to worry about 'losing the farm'.

Third, we were able to go forward with some of our more popular events, including the spring plant sale, and the weekly garden markets, but not the outdoor concerts in August. Also you all can relive the January program by watching the wonderful *Johnson Farm Story* video on YouTube. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "The Johnson Farm Story", which is located in the Anderson Island Historical Society channel. ([Or click here](#)).

Fourth, we have several significant farm 'improvement' items that are moving forward. These include:

1. A new 2400 sq. ft. storage building on the west end of the farm property, that will soon be erected by volunteers under the direction of Rick Anderson. This will allow us to better protect a lot of farm equipment.
2. A rebuild of the outdoor roof over the salmon-bake serving area, by volunteers under the direction of Wayne Wallace. The current one is over 30 years old and is beginning to rot.



3. Six new community-garden plots, developed under the leadership of Sue Huseby, have already been assigned. The renters of these plots have made tremendous strides since they gained access on June 1st. Come and take a look.

We also recently completed several farm enhancements, including replacing 18 Liberty apple trees in the orchard with brand new 'Cosmic Crisp' trees (thanks to Dave McGoldrick for acquiring the trees and bringing them over from Eastern Washington).

As always, my thanks go out to all our amazing volunteers, for their contributions to the weekly Wednesday work parties, the events, the potlucks, the gift shop, the docents, and the AIHS board. It's because of all of you that the AIHS is such an active and vibrant organization

Our vision for 2025, the fiftieth anniversary of the Historical Society, remains intact. It is to enhance our current museum facilities and have some of the smaller buildings, as well as both chicken coops, open as stand-alone museums under the direction of Rick Anderson, our Archives Director.

Finally, I want to thank all of you, our members, for joining with us to make the AIHS a wonderful part of Anderson Island life, both this (highly unusual) year, and for many years to come.

Bob Bedoll  
AIHS President

***Gift Store:  
Thank You Kathy Bailey***

Last month, after 15 years of dedicated volunteer service, Kathy Bailey stepped down as manager of the Museum Gift Store in Coop 1. Kathy took over the gift shop in 2005, when the previous volunteer crew ran out of steam. Under Kathy's strong leadership, the store grew to become the single greatest contributor

to AIHS funding, and an essential component of the farm and the AIHS. Kathy managed the volunteers, ordered the products, worked with the consignors to provide quality local products, worked in the gift shop almost every weekend, and, as if that wasn't enough, she was also the bookkeeper. AIHS is incredibly grateful to her for her leadership and her commitment to the Gift Store; her presence will certainly be missed.

Stepping into her shoes, Virginia Cummings and Leslie Lamb, who have previously volunteered in the store, have become the co-managers. They are working alongside Carol Pascal, the AIHS Vice-President, to develop a new inventory and financial management system to provide quicker check out and services for customers. Although the store is not currently open pending some safety updates to keep in compliance with the COVID-19 requirements, Virginia and Leslie are bringing a variety of current inventory to the Garden Market on Saturdays from 10:00 am to noon and clearing out some of the seasonal inventory at bargain prices. Be sure to come and check out the merchandise.

**Garden Market and Plant Sales**



The Garden Market under the leadership of Jane Groppenberger held two very successful plant sales to help gardeners get started on this year's planting. Many gardeners on the island provide a variety of both vegetable and decorative plants and due to their efforts, the plant sales earned over \$1,700 for the society this year.

Weekly produce for the market comes primarily from the plots at the farm, but local gardeners also donate their surplus to the society. Each week the offerings differ depending upon what is currently at its peak. Please join us Saturdays from 10:00 to noon for fresh, organically grown produce and enjoy the bounty of the gardens and the

	island. Remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing.
Johnson Farm Museum	Although we cannot yet safely open the Johnson Farmhouse and the Archival Building, please feel free to walk the grounds. All of the buildings have signage that indicates their use. The trail around the two ponds is also marked and helps visitors to know more about the ecosystem on the islands. Docents will be available as soon as safely possible and you will see the OPEN banner in front of the farmhouse.