



Welcome to the AIHS Farm: Fall 2021 Newsletter

President's Letter: 2021

As I write this, Pierce County and the rest of the nation are slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. The past year and a half has been a challenging time - January 2020 was our last regular potluck and program, and we hope to restart the potlucks in January 2022. As we move forward, there is lots of good news, and I want to focus on that.

First, everyone associated with AIHS has been healthy (and busy), and as an organization we intend to do everything we can to keep it that way.

Second, AIHS as an organization remains financially strong. Although the cancellation of Farm Day and the monthly potlucks has removed some of our annual funding, we were able to hold the Salmon and Rib Bake along with the Silent Auction, one of our major fundraisers. We are proud to announce that this was one of our most successful events ever and we thank you for your support.

Third, we are able to go forward with some of our more popular events, including the spring plant sale, the weekly garden market, and the outdoor concerts in August and the Apple Squeeze

Fourth, we have several significant farm 'improvement' items that have been completed.

These include:

1. A new 2400 sq. ft. storage building on the west end of the farm property, known as the Annex, has been erected by volunteers under the direction of Rick Anderson. (See the article at the end of this newsletter). This will allow us to better protect a lot of farm equipment and materials.

Further enhancements of this building are in the works.

2. A rebuild of the outdoor roof over the salmon-bake serving area, by volunteers under the

direction of Wayne Wallace and Sutton Stephens. The old one was over 30 years old and was beginning to rot.

As always, my thanks go out to all our amazing volunteers, for their contributions to the weekly Wednesday work parties, the events, 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. New and enhanced facilities are in the works which will include a greenhouse to further support the plant sales as well as the Garden Markets, and a covering for the bandstand to increase its usability. Look for these to appear in 2022.

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 year, and for many years to come.

Bob Bedoll
AIHS President

Gift Store

Virginia Cummings and Leslie Lamb, co-managers, working with Carol Pascal, the AIHS Vice-President, have developed a new inventory and financial management system to provide quicker check out and services for customers. The store is open every weekend and will have extended hours over the Thanksgiving weekend to coincide with the Holiday Bazaar. Friday and Saturday 10 to 4 and Sunday 10 to 4. The store has been rearranged to provide more accessibility and to meet COVID-19 guidelines. There is lots of new inventory including t-shirts, sweatshirts, pillows, mugs and can coolers with a new Anderson Island design. Island photographers have provided pictures of the farm which have been used to develop the first ever exclusive calendar for the Gift store to bring in the new year. You will find fun stocking stuffers, Christmas gift ideas, and of course, a wonderful selection of handcrafted items for our island crafters and artists. The Gift Store will be open through Sunday, December 19 and will be closed until spring 2022, so be sure to visit soon.

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 \$4,000 for the society this year. In addition, the Garden Markets, which rely not only on contributions from gardeners at the farm, but throughout the community, provided additional \$3,000 for the society. The gardens themselves, which are rented on an annual basis, raised another \$1,400. To further enhance this element of the Historical Society, a new Garden

Club is being organized to provide additional support to the gardeners at the farm and throughout the island and a greenhouse will be built.



Johnson Farm Museum

The Johnson Farmhouse and the Archival Building are open on the weekends through October and then on Saturdays. We are following COVID-19 protocols and ask that you wear a

mask indoors. Feel free to wander our trails and 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 are available and you will see the OPEN banner in front of the farmhouse. In addition the Archival Building now has tablets that have short videos which explain each of the displays and can be checked out by visitors.

AIHS docents have been busy volunteering at the Johnson Farm in the Farmhouse and the Archival Building museum from early spring until late fall. A new addition for visitors in the AB Museum is the use of tablets with narrated videos accompanying the poster and display history of the island, following it's progression from the late 1800's to the present. The tablets are available during visiting hours on Saturday and Sunday through November. Please check the website for current open hours. If visitors or islanders require visits on weekdays, please call Peggy at 760-521-4972 to arrange a museum visit.

Speaking of docents, there is now a new opportunity to join our Johnson Farm docent team. Docents act as volunteer guides at the Johnson Farm. Now it is your turn to think about getting actively involved in the AI Historical Society as a DOCENT.

<p>Be a bridge between visitors and the AIHS Johnson Farm Stimulate curiosity and a deeper understanding of our island history Actively engage visitors of all ages on their journey of discovery of the island</p>

For more information about AIHS docents, go to the AIHS website <http://anderson-island.org/hs/>. Select the "docent" tab and check out the information regarding docent roles, responsibilities and benefits. We are **recruiting now** for the next training planned for Spring. Please contact Peggy anytime to sign up for this opportunity. 760-521-4972 or bookwoman1@centurylink.net.

We are all looking forward to getting back to the activities we enjoy on the island. Watch for news of the OPEN HOUSE in December, it will be held in the AB, complete with apple cider, Lefse, and other goodies. AIHS is planning to resume POTLUCKS and SPEAKERS early in 2022. If you have an idea to share for a program speaker or know of someone with an interesting topic, please let Peggy know. The winter line-up will begin with a program featuring Peter Puget.



Restoration of the Johnson Barn



John Johnson together with his sons Oscar and Rudy built this pole barn in 1917, which is one of the centerpieces of the farm.

The barn was provided with a new foundation and roof through a grant from the Washington State Historic Barns Program in 2010. An additional grant was awarded in 2014 for the replacement of a deteriorated column and girt on the north wall. This work was contracted out and performed by White's Inc. of Anderson Island. About this time, some deterioration in the barn floor was detected, and volunteers replaced the entire floor with new lumber.

In August 2014, in response to an anonymous complaint after a wedding had been held in the barn, a county inspector visited the barn and declared it closed to all occupancy until further notice.

Among the issues raised by the county were the lack of a designation of the site as a museum by the Pierce County Planning Department, the lack of Handicapped Parking spots, and the probability that the structure would not meet the current code requirements for resistance to wind and earthquake loads.

Pacific Northwest Engineering (PNE) donated their engineering services to address these issues, providing an initial comprehensive lateral analysis of the barn and submitting it to the county in June, 2015. Dr. Sutton Stephens, at that time a board member and active volunteer with the Historical Society, submitted this report. Subsequently, construction drawings and calculations also created by Stephens and submitted by PNE to the county in March, 2016, resulted in a building permit being issued for construction in July, 2016. The package included numerous pages of calculations and drawings. The County Engineer Building Official stated that he had never seen such a thorough analysis of a historic structure and that he was going to provide copies of the report as a model for similar future projects.

The new bracing called for in the construction documents was to consist mainly of peeled Douglas Fir Logs to match what was used in the original construction. Volunteers cut and stripped the bark off timbers donated by Dave and Lynne Jacobsen from their Anderson Island property.

During the following winter, numerous volunteers led by Stephens and Jerry Bausman performed the interior structural upgrade, installing new log bracing, steel straps, and bolts. In addition, the handicap entrance ramp on the north side was completely rebuilt and a Handicap Parking pad constructed. Following the final inspection in February, 2019, more that 100 years after its initial construction, the barn was classified as a museum with a maximum permitted occupancy of 48 persons.

AIHS Documentaries

Over the past several years, the AIHS has been busy producing two video documentaries about Anderson Island.

The first one, “The Johnson Farm Story”, was produced in 2019, and tells the story of the Johnson Farm, which is the foundation of the historical society. We first showed the video at our January, 2020 meeting – the last potluck and program we had before COVID-19 shut us down. The documentary tells the story of the Johnson family, Swedish Finns who left Sweden in the 1880’s before founding the farm in 1896. It follows the Johnson family up through the founding of the historical society in 1975, and then covers the activities of the historical society up to the present day. Islander John Larsen directed the video, Rick Anderson wrote the script, and Bob Bedoll put the final product together. You can watch the video any time on YouTube – just search for “Anderson Island Historical Society”, and click on “The Johnson Farm Story”. The video is 1 hour 20 min



The Johnson Farm Story

836 views • 1 year ago



Anderson Island Historical Society

The story of the Johnson Farm on Anderson Island, from its founding in the 1890s to its current role as a museum for the

The second video is “The Anderson Island Story”, and tells the broader history of Anderson Island, beginning 20,000 years ago, and going up through the present day. The video loosely follows the history posters that line the walls of the Archival Building. Originally we were going to show the video in October 2021, but the COVID-19 surge caused us to postpone our programs. Our current plan is to premier the video during one of the potlucks in early 2022.



Building the Annex

Around thanksgiving of 2019 - about two years ago - AIHS took delivery of a new, 2400 sq. ft. storage building, known as “The Annex”. By 'take delivery', I mean a giant truck drove up and AIHS volunteers used two tractors to unload tons of steel girders, beams, siding, roofing, nuts, bolts, and screws. We piled the pieces up on the lawn, on the bandstand, and even in the barn.

Fast-forward to summer, 2020, and work began on the concrete foundation, under the direction of Rick Anderson. We thought it would be quick, but it actually took us the entire summer to get the foundation in place, including four separate concrete pours and a huge amount of fill-dirt and rebar. Finally, in September of 2020, a small team of volunteers - none of whom had ever done this before - began erection of the building. We worked three mornings a week (except when it was raining convincingly). It took a month to put up the skeleton (80 pieces), a month for the siding (104 panels), a month for the soffit, and finally a month for the roof (66 panels). We finished in February of 2021. The finished structure gives us a safe, dry, storage area for materials and equipment, and a dry work area for equipment and artifact renovation.

The team included Rick Anderson (who got to drive the big machines), Bob Bedoll (who tried to translate engineering drawings into an assembly sequence), Jim Battishill, Paul Dugger, Chuck Hinds, Mike Wallentini, and Todd Billett. Paul Oppenheim and Glen Robb also helped out. Jim and Chuck deserve special mention for installing all 66 roof panels (see the picture below). Thanks go to all the volunteers for a job well done. And special thanks to Bob Peterson for the loan of the GradAll lift, and the Riviera Water Department for the loan of their scissor-lift.





This newsletter was edited by Penne Wilson, Public Information Director.
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