



Anderson Island Historical Society

A Little Old News, A Little New News

Spring 2024



In This Issue:

President's Message

Gardens

Garden Market

Events

2024 Projects

Docents

Vision 2025

Volunteering

President's Message

It is my pleasure to report that 2023 was a great year for AIHS, and we expect 2024 to be just as good as we ease into 2025, which will be our fiftieth anniversary!

REPORT ON 2023.

Our facilities have become a focal point for the community. Last year almost 300 classes and events were held at the farm, including 220 recurring events and classes, and almost 100 unique events.

Our membership has been holding steady at around 250 members.

Our finances continue to be strong, with a significant reserve to handle any downturns. It costs us around \$30,000 a year just to keep the farm open, with our biggest expenses being insurance, utilities, and maintenance. Although membership dues pay for a small part of that (about 5%), the bulk of our funding comes from the gift shop and our major events: The salmon bake and silent auction, the plant sales, garden market, farm day, and the apple squeeze. Fortunately 2023 was an excellent year for our events.

Each year we use some available funds to make capital improvements to the farm. In 2023 we made about \$13,000 in capital improvements, including improvements to the greenhouse, the bandstand, the well, the sound system, the gardens, and we added a new reader board.

As always, a big "thank you" goes to our volunteers, who contribute countless hours to keep the farm a jewel for the island, and the Historical Society a vibrant and welcoming community.

Thanks,
Bob Bedoll, AIHS President

OFFICERS

Bob Bedoll, President

Carol Paschal, Vice
President

Ed Stephenson, Past
President

Sally Buchanan,
Secretary

Todd Billett, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Rick Anderson,
Archives

Lee Ann Whitaker,
Education

Jon Field, Public
Information

Serena Frank, Events

Jim Battishill,
Operations and
Facilities

MUSEUM STORE

Leslie Lamb
Virginia Cummings

ARCHIVAL BUILDING

Ed Stephenson,
Jon Field

Gardens

New life at the Heart of the Farm

This year the AIHS greenhouse is bursting with new life. The greenhouse crew, led by Val Oppenheim, has been raising hundreds of seedlings to be sold at the plant sale. As I write this, the greenhouse is completely full of seedlings. One side of the greenhouse is lined by a NEW set of custom shelves built by Clete Rodocker. An automatic misting system has been installed. Members interested in growing seedlings for the plant sale are encouraged to show up at the greenhouse on Wednesday mornings at 9 AM to join the work party.

Forty gardeners are enjoying the benefits of our sunny and protected gardens this year (and another seven on the waitlist). If you are interested in having a community garden plot, contact Kathy Gadbois (206) 372-1990, our garden administrator. Alternatively, you can add yourself to the waitlist by going to our website and clicking on "Join/Renew", then enter your name and click on "Find Me" – your membership record will appear, and you will see a checkbox labeled 'Waitlist' – click on that and then on 'Submit'. There is no charge for being on the waitlist (but you must be a member).



COMMITTEES

Carol Paschal –
Garden Director

Kathy Gadbois -
Garden Assignment

Laurie Opsal –
Landscaping

Val Oppenheim -
Greenhouse

Jerry Simonsen –
Orchard

Larry Gramling –
Market Garden

Dave Durrett –
Membership

Mary Rabe -
Farmhouse Curator

Melissa Anderson -
Coop 2 Curator

Rick Anderson –
Bandstand Roof

Bob Bedoll – Web site

Lane Sample, Peggy
Hodge – Vision 2025

Kathy Gadbois, Laurie
Opsal, Jimmy Ng, Larry
Gramling – Garden
Coordinators

Bob Bedoll, Sally
Buchanan - Newsletter

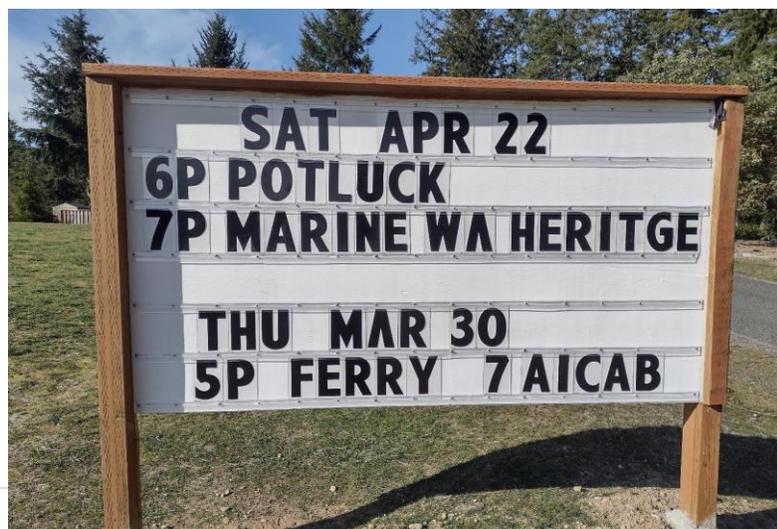
The Garden Market

The weekly Garden Market is an AIHS tradition going back at least 20 years. Every summer the market is open every Saturday morning (10:00-noon) and features only locally grown produce and flowers. For many years, Jane Groppenberger ran the Garden Market. Larry Gramling is our new market manager. We are always looking for volunteers to help gather the produce and flowers, and act as cashiers. Last year we established a plot in the community gardens which is dedicated to growing produce for the Garden Market – in addition to the produce that is donated by island gardeners.

Flower Arrangements have become a new favorite market product. The team of volunteer florists pick flowers from our own gardens, primarily, and welcome new volunteers to create bouquets.

Reader Board

We are very excited about our new reader board just north of the Archival Building on Otso Point Road, built by our volunteers last year. It features large, 6” letters on both sides, making it easy to read. Jon Field, our Public Information Director, has been actively keeping it up to date, so you can see the list of upcoming events, as you drive past. We will upgrade our other reader boards, and hopefully add a new one somewhere along Ekenstam-Johnson road.





2023 Concerts



2023 Apple Squeeze



2023 Holiday Open house



2023 Programs

2023 Events

Last year was a great year for the Farm and Archival Building as an event venue for Anderson Island. There were almost 300 classes and events this year, including 220 recurring classes/events, plus about 100 unique events, including:

- Eight Concerts with AIA and Island Arts
- AI Film Festival
- Winter Art Show (with Island Arts)
- 84 Monthly meetings
- 150 weekly activities
- Two weddings
- Two showers
- Two memorials
- Several private events
- Ten workshops and classes

Potlucks and Programs

The 2023-24 Potluck programs (always the 4th Saturday of the month) have been varied and enjoyable. The member potluck precedes the 7:00 program, which is always open to the public. If you have suggestions for a program, please contact Lee Ann Whitaker, our Education Director.

Upcoming Programs:

March – *It’s Always Uphill from the Dock: The Story of the Puget Sound Islands*”

April – Anderson Island Health Advocates



Reenactment-June 7,8



Plant Sales – May 4 & 25



Salmon Bake – July 6



Silent Auction – July 6

Upcoming Events

Historical Reenactment. Come and immerse yourself in 18th century history at Johnson Farm the weekend of June 7-8. Browse through the authentic encampments to experience the history and material culture of the Revolutionary War period and Peter Puget’s landing on Anderson Island in 1792. See original and replica artifacts and talk to costumed reenactors as they demonstrate skills such as rope work, cooking, navigation, music, weaponry, drill, and more. Admission to the event is free but donations will be accepted.

Plant Sale and Farm Day. Volunteers have prepared a great Farm Day for you to enjoy on Saturday May 25 (Memorial Day weekend). As in previous years, we will have two plant sales: an early one on Saturday May 4, and the traditional sale on Farm Day. Over 1,500 seedlings and starts will be ready to sell, all raised locally by AIHS volunteers. Like last year, Farm Day will feature food (chili, hot dogs and cinnamon rolls), lots of kid’s activities (crafts and animals), and information tables from island organizations. If you would like to help, please contact Serena Frank, our Events Chairman.

Spring Concert. This year the annual spring concert will be at 7pm on May 4th in the Archival Building. The spring concert is the major fundraiser for AIA, the Anderson Island Association. Tickets will be available at the Island Store and at the door. This year’s theme is “The Beatles” and island bands will perform those familiar songs.

Salmon Bake. The 48th annual AIHS Salmon and Rib bake will be Saturday, July 6, from noon to 3 pm. Once again, we will have fresh barbequed Alaska salmon and Rick’s Famous Ribs. Early online ticket sales will begin in late May.

Silent Auction. The annual Silent Auction will happen on July 6 during the Salmon and Rib bake. Doors open at 10am, 9am for AIHS members. Last year there were over 200 items at the silent auction. Consider donating quality items to the silent auction for this major fund- raiser. Contact Jill Aschendorf at 503 730-3475.

Concerts. This summer we again have a full plate of free, outdoor concerts at the farm bandstand.

2024 Projects

The Wednesday morning work parties are busy planning and implementing improvements to the farm. Here is a partial list of the projects they have planned for 2024:

- Replace all the garden gates with new gates.
- Widen sidewalk between gardens.
- Repair and rehang the Welcome sign.
- Install a Filter in well water line that irrigates the gardens.
- Erect 'No Smoking' signs.
- Apply the preservative Timbor to the Barn.
- Rebuild the road between the lower SW gardens and the barn.
- Install a Heat pump in the Lois Scholl room (Coop 2).
- Replenish Farm supply of woodchips.
- Improve and insulate the display area in Coop 2.

With such an ambitious list of projects, volunteers are always welcome. Contact Jim Battishill, our Operations Director, or just show up on Wednesday.



New Garden Gates



Docents in the Farmhouse

Docents

It's time to start thinking about spring, summer, and fall at the Johnson Farm. Our team of **docents** will be there each weekend day (and at special events) sharing the farm buildings.

Here is an opportunity to join our Johnson Farm **AIHS Docent team**. Docents act as volunteer guides & hosts at the Farm. Now it is your turn to think about getting actively involved in the AI Historical Society as a **DOCENT**. Be a bridge between visitors and the AIHS Johnson Farm and our island. Stimulate curiosity and a deeper understanding of our island history. Actively engage visitors of all ages on their journey of discovery of the historical farm and the island. For more information about **AIHS docents**, go to the AIHS website. Select the "docent" tab and check out the information regarding docent roles, responsibilities and benefits. We are recruiting for the next training planned for April 30, 2024. Please contact LEE ANN WHITAKER anytime to sign up for this opportunity. You can reach her at 253-858-5678.

Vision 2025

2025 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Historical Society! In preparation for 2025, we have put together a 'Vision 2025', which is what we would like AIHS to look like in 2025.

A big part of that vision is upgrading all our displays and exhibits. We currently have 11 major exhibit areas – all of which we would like to upgrade and open to the public on summer weekends. The exhibit areas are:

1. The Farm House (the farm's gem).
2. The Archival Building (presenting the history of Anderson Island in posters, videos, and displays).
3. The Barn. Built in 1917, and on the Washington register of historic barns.
4. The Water Tower and Milk Room.
5. The Tool Shed.
6. The Egg Room.
7. The Brooder Shed.
8. The Tahoma Wheel House.
9. Coop 1 – the Gift Shop museum.
10. Coop 2.
11. The Logging Exhibit.

Currently, only the Farm House, Archival Building, and Gift Shop museum are open on weekends. But for our 2025 vision we are putting together plans for upgrading and opening all of the above exhibits.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to become curators for many of these exhibits – if you are interested, please contact Rick Anderson, our Archives Director.



The Tool Shed



The Brooder Shed



The Barn



The Garden Market



Event Setup



Weekly work party



Greenhouse work party

AIHS Volunteering

Our beloved farm is sustained by an army of committed volunteers. We invite everyone, and especially AIHS members, to volunteer for AIHS events and work parties to preserve this jewel of Anderson Island. Gardeners are expected to volunteer for six hours each year.

Volunteering is the easiest way to meet people, have fun and feel like you are making a contribution. Please select at least one volunteer opportunity. There are so many amazing things you can do to help.

Contact Serena Frank to volunteer for events, Carol Paschal to volunteer for garden projects, and Jim Battishill to volunteer for work party projects.

Weekly Farm Work party

When: Every Wednesday, from 9am - noon.

Join the weekly Farm work party team: Farm Maintenance and Light Construction. We need your help in maintaining the farm, things like lawn mowing, pruning the orchard, repairing fencing, painting and staining, improving the road, and grooming the landscape. Nursery work in the greenhouse is enjoyed. A major deep clean of the farmhouse and other buildings may be just your cup of tea! Join a great team of workers who turn out every week to do this. The sense of community working together is fulfilling. **And** lunch is served every other week.

Weekly Summer Garden Market

When: Every Saturday 9am-noon, June-mid September. Join the Garden Market team. Help gather produce, set up, tear down, sell produce, arrange flowers, and be a cashier.