



## Sno-Valley Tilth Annual Report 2008

Our sixth year as a Tilth chapter continued to bring us growth and success. This year we focused on chapter organization and policy issues related to land use in our Agricultural Production Area. Our bylaws were amended resulting in the addition of up to 4 new Board Members and changing our Annual Meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year. We worked extensively on an ECO-APD proposal that was instrumental in providing King County with a cautionary approach to land use in our valley.

### Chapter Business

#### Board Officers Elected February 2008

President:	Andrew Stout, Full Circle Farm	WA Tilth Rep
Vice President:	Amy Turner, Blue Dog Farm	
Secretary:	Claire Foster, Stuart Landing	WA Tilth Rep
Treasurer:	Sharon Coutts, Moonshadow Farm	
Member at Large:	Sarah Cassidy, Oxbow Farm	
Executive Director:	Heidi Bohan	

### Carnation Farmers Market

This was our fifth market season and our second with Heidi Bohan as the market manager. Vendor gross sales at the market were up over 10% over 2007 and both vendor and customer counts were above 2007 levels, adding more diverse products. Our 'Friends of the Market' committee was a great help in mobilizing volunteer efforts. We continue to make Market Day educational, fun and community focused through chef demos, music and special events.

Together with the City of Carnation, we are working on a permanent shelter and commercial kitchen. To date we received \$58k in grant funding and have an operating budget of \$85k. We are hopeful for additional grants and state funding to realize a full build out in 2009. The first part of the installation is scheduled to begin this summer.

### Membership

We conducted monthly membership meetings from November through April, preceded by an informal potluck dinner to build community and give opportunity for non-members to meet our farmers. SVT maintains an email listserv that promotes communication between members and between the membership and outside resources. Member meeting will now be held monthly throughout the year with a focus on bringing in new community members through relevant topics of discussion.

## **Community Outreach**

A strong focus of the Sno-Valley Tilth is community outreach. We achieve this goal both through active involvement in events and workshops and collaboration with supportive agencies to help educate and change policy in benefit of sustainable agriculture.

Farm to School connections are being made with the Riverview School District. While this is going to take some time to fully realize the potential, the groundwork is being laid to have our local schools serve local foods.

The First Annual Tour de Farms Bicycle Tour was created to serve as a fundraiser for the Carnation Market Permanent Shelter Project. Many cyclists touring through the valley visiting farms had a fun day learning about the role of agriculture in our valley as well as enjoying the beautiful scenery we help create.

Future of Farming and Flood Task Force Issues were the principal matters concerning Sno-Valley Tilth. We refined our ECO-APD concept and worked with the King County Ag Program to allow farm pads in the APD. We are concerned that while necessary for successful farming operations, especially those threatened by flood waters, approved building in the valley could inadvertently result in non food, fiber, and forage activities to gain prominence in the valley ultimately forcing ag out. We are dedicated to voicing this concern.

Partnering with Viki Sontag of ECO-Praxis to work on research on the productive capacity of the Snoqualmie Valley and also to further determine statistics on the economic sustainability of farms and the community.