



## Friends of Sunset Farm

### Board of Directors:

President: Robbie Harris	360.319.1138	mrgword1@msn.com
Vice Pres: Roger Edmonds	360.296.3512	waterwyzrd@aol.com
Secretary: Kim Sauter	360.354.5052	davesauter@msn.com
Treasurer: Tina Young	360.366.0980	t.m.young@comcast.net

### Next Meeting

Date: March 7, 2011

Time: 7:00pm

Location: The home of Roger Edmonds, 8491 Blaine Rd., Blaine, WA

Their farm is on the SW corner of Blaine Rd and Lincoln Rd., turn onto Lincoln Rd and take the second driveway near the barn. The meeting will be in the barn.

The meeting agenda will include the master plan for the Park, the improvement projects planned for 2011 and fund raising ideas.

### Been to the Park lately?

If you have, you may have noticed the new sign on the road front... does it look different? The name of the park was officially changed on May 20, 2010 at the meeting of the Whatcom Parks Commission. The decision was based on a written document found last year from the donor stating her desire that it be named "Sunset Farm Park". The new sign was installed in December 2010.

### Donation from Conoco-Phillips

New member Rikki Smeltzer translated her own volunteer hours at the Park into a \$500 donation from her employer to the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Foundation, earmarked for Sunset Farm Park. We will be able to use the money for improvements that are planned for this year (see "Master plan" on the next page). Rikki had previously used her employers volunteer matching program to benefit "Girls on the Run". Thank you for joining us Rikki!

## 2010 Financial Report

### Expenses

Liability Insurance .....	1,305.00	(Paid on our behalf by the WCDEA)
Mowing	380.00	
Website	22.16	
Bank Fees	5.00	

**Total Expenses** 1,712.16

### Income

Cash Donations and arena "fees"	213.00
Event Camp proceeds	657.07
Event Derby proceeds	777.06
2010 Memberships	555.00
2011 Memberships	75.00

**Total Income** 2,277.13      **Cash on Hand** \$1,869.97

## Master Plan

The Parks Department has asked the Friends to come up with a master plan for the long range development of Sunset Farm Park. The board members, with the technical assistance of member Heather Cruise, have been working on the plan and anticipate presenting it to the Parks Department for approval early in February .

### The items on the master plan include:

1. A second sand arena with a deeper/ softer footing than the existing arena.
2. Expanding the existing gravel parking area.
3. Adding a second set of 10 paddocks for additional stabling
4. Installing all weather sand footing in the round corral
5. Create several RV parking spots with hookups
6. Install lighting for the existing arena with a pay-by-the-hour meter
7. Create two 12x12 compost bins with ecology blocks on the concrete slab remaining from the old dairy barn (near the existing paddocks)
8. Build a gravel path from the parking area to the existing arena
9. Move the sign and donation canister to start of the path to the existing arena
10. Build gravel roads to the paddock areas, the proposed second arena and to the shed at the NE corner of the existing arena
11. Adding water lines and freezeless hydrants that will serve the paddock areas and both arenas
12. Correct the drainage from the arena on the east end (send the water to the south instead of across the parking area towards the renters residence)
13. Building a trail obstacle training course, designed by National Champion Mark Bolender (see "*Mark Bolender*" next page)

### **Mark Bolender**

If you are a trail rider, you have undoubtedly heard of Mark Bolender, multi-year national Trail Challenge Champion. He designed the recently completed trail challenge training course at the Washington State Horse Park in Cle Elum. Vice President Roger Edmonds has been in discussion with Mark over the possibility of Mark designing a trail training course right here at Sunset Farm. Because it will be available to the public for unsupervised use, it WON'T be "extreme" in any way, but will be a collection of just about any kind of obstacle you might encounter on the trail. There will be several different kinds of bridges (with and without railings), logs and large rocks to go over and around and more. Mark's website is: [www.uniquehorsemanship.com](http://www.uniquehorsemanship.com)

Mark will be teaching a clinic in our local area at Faith Equestrian Center on March 19 and 20th. Faith Equestrian Center is located on the Birch Bay Lynden Rd, just about 1/4 mile west of Portal Way. Contact Shelly DeBoer at 360.201.9209 if you are interested in riding or auditing the clinic, also their website is: [www.faithequestriancenter.webs.com](http://www.faithequestriancenter.webs.com)

### **Our Mission:**

The Friends of Sunset Farm was formed on May 17, 2010 for the sole purpose of assisting the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Department to support, maintain and fund raise for the Whatcom County Public Equestrian Park now known as "Sunset Farm Park," located at 7981 Blaine Rd., Blaine, WA 98230.

***We encourage all park users to join us in our efforts, no matter their riding discipline or club affiliations.*** We are transitioning into this position with the gracious assistance of the Whatcom County Dressage & Eventing Association, who had previously provided this support for Sunset Farm since the Park was created in 1994.

Our current fund raising plans are to hold equestrian related activities at the Park, so as to not only raise funds to keep the Park maintained, but to provide more opportunities on a local level to Whatcom County Equestrians. We have so far created eventing related activities because that is the personal interest of the person who organized them.

**We WELCOME other types of fund raising activities! We need people with those other interests to step forward and offer ideas for fund raising activities and the energy to implement them.**

## **Upcoming Volunteer Needs:**

### **Trail Clean Up Work Party:**

Date TBA, volunteers bring their tool of choice (loppers, chainsaw, weed whacker , etc) and we walk the trails in the woods, picking up winter storm debris, cutting out anything that is blocking the trails. At least 10 volunteers are needed for this project.

### **Annual Water Jump Cleaning Work Party:**

Late April or early May, after the water jump is completely drained, we clean the “sludge” out of the bottom of the jump. The preferred tool is a plastic manure fork. Tractor with a front end loader is provided to haul the muck away. Pizza is provided beforehand. At least 7 volunteers are needed for this project.

### **Other volunteer needs that can be done on an individual basis:**

#### **Cleaning:**

Clean the arena fence of the green winter mold/ mildew. Bucket, cleaner and scrub brush provided.

Clean the paddock fences, same as above.

#### **Mowing and weedwhacking:**

Field mowing. If the volunteer has their own tractor and mower, they would be reimbursed for fuel costs and a modest amount per hour of mowing (currently \$10 per hour). Renting a tractor will be considered if necessary, so volunteers to run the rented tractor could be needed, but would be on a scheduled basis.

Weed whacking. Volunteer would bring their own weedwhacker and trim around the arena, round corral, paddocks, cross country jumps. Fuel and line costs will be reimbursed.

Mowing and weedwhacking are done between May and October.

#### **Painting:**

Currently the posts on the north side of the arena need to be primed, and then the entire arena fence needs to be painted. Paint, primer and brushes provided.

Painting needs some dry and mild weather... May? June?

If any of these volunteer opportunities appeal to you, please contact Robbie Harris at [info@friendsofsunsetfarm.org](mailto:info@friendsofsunsetfarm.org) or call 360.319.1138 to sign up!

**Visit our website:**

**[www.friendsofsunsetfarm.org](http://www.friendsofsunsetfarm.org)**