



SHARE LEARN CONNECT
FEBRUARY 24 - 26, 2017 | HAINES, ALASKA

Hosted by:
Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Takshanuk Watershed Council,
Sustainable Southeast Partnership



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Spruce Root
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for all of their efforts to make the Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit possible.

- Bo Varsano
- Joe Orsi
- Marja Smets
- Mountain Market
- Pilotlight
- Sally Boisvert

AGENDA - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 | CHILKAT CENTER

4:00 Lobby	<i>Check-in at Chilkat Center</i>
5:00 Lobby	<i>Welcome, Summit Kick-off</i>
5:30 Lobby	<i>Dinner and Presentation: History of Agriculture in Haines</i> The Sheldon Museum will share the history of agriculture in Haines.
6:45 Lobby	<i>Introductions, Ice Breakers, Mixers</i>
8:30 Lobby	<i>Wrap-up</i> Shuttles will be provided to hotels and homestays.



AGENDA - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 | CHILKAT CENTER

7:30 Lobby	Welcome, Breakfast
8:30 Auditorium	Soils 101: Ecological Soil Management Doug Collins, Extension Faculty and Soil Scientist, Washington State University Small Farms Program This workshop will cover soil formation and the relationship between fertility, soil health, and till. Dr. Collins will discuss the physical properties of soil, soil nutrient pools, the importance of nitrogen and how to interpret a soil test. Specific sustainable farming practices such as cover cropping and adding compost, manure, and organic fertilizers can increase soil productivity and incorporation of these techniques in soil building will also be covered.
10:30	BREAK
10:45	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Lobby	Looking Ahead: Economic Impacts and Opportunities for Agriculture in Southeast Matt Kern, Co-owner, Wild Alaska Kelp Co.; Dan Lesh, Research Analyst, McDowell Group A recent McDowell Group report documents current levels of household and commercial growing in Southeast Alaska. Dan will overview the findings, including the associated economic impacts and considerations for growing the industry. Matt will share insights from the recent launching of Wild Alaska Kelp Co. and discuss opportunities for local value-added processing. Matt will also share a study on the feasibility of commercial rhubarb production in Southeast Alaska.
Auditorium	Building Community Supported Agriculture Megan Talley, Spring Creek Farm Manager, Alaska Pacific University Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a model for successful farms across the country. In this session we will provide the basics of running a CSA program and explore non traditional markets for small scale farmers. We will discuss the key components to building and retaining a strong customer base for your farm. We will collectively look at the assets available to farmers, and consider how we can better connect and support each other's work to form a strong local food community in Southeast.
11:45	BREAK
12:00 Lobby	Lunch and Presentations: Strategies to Support Food Systems and Resources for Farmers Paul Hackenmeuller, Spruce Root Community Development; Lia Heifetz, Grow Southeast and Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition; Colin Peacock, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition While enjoying lunch, hear about Salt & Soil Market, a web based farmers market; the Path to Prosperity business planning competition for Southeast food businesses; and learn about scholarships for farmers to attend a national farming convention.
1:00 Auditorium	Farming in Southeast: Operations and Innovations 30 minute presentations from Southeast farmers. Raising Pigs with Food Waste Bobbi Daniels, Sawmill Farm, Sitka The Sawmill farm strives to close the food and garbage disposal loop in Southeast Alaska. Learn about this innovative approach to raising livestock on feed that would have otherwise been discarded as garbage. Bobbi Daniels will share some of the unexpected challenges the Sawmill Farm has faced working on this endeavor.

1:00 Auditorium	Farming in Southeast: Operations and Innovations Continued... The Future of Seed Saving in Alaska Foundroot Farm, Haines Foundroot is your local open-pollinated seed company providing a one-stop-shop for the specific needs of Alaskan farmers and gardeners. Foundroot believes that seeds are a critical part of food security and are working to transition the company into all Alaska Grown seed. Learn about the challenges of growing seeds, why it's worth fighting for, and how you can help create a future of food sovereignty through the small but ever mighty seed.
2:00	BREAK
2:15 Auditorium	High Tunnel Panel Moderator: Samia Savell, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Experiences and recommendations from the field.
3:15	BREAK
3:30 Auditorium	Farming in Southeast: Operations and Innovations 30 minute presentations from Southeast farmers. Building and Using Cold Storage on a Small Vegetable Farm Sally Boisvert, Four Winds Farm, Haines A discussion of post-harvest produce handling and storage, including the use of a farm-made electric walk-in cooler and root cellar. The talk will detail the construction of both cold storage units. The topic of produce handling will be presented from an on-farm food safety perspective. Four Winds Farm is a Certified Naturally Grown vegetable farm selling fresh produce weekly at the Haines Farmers Market and to a local restaurant. Biomass-Heated Aquaponics Greenhouse Colter Barnes, Principal, Southeast Island School District; Damon Holtman, Student, Southeast Island School District, Prince of Wales Island The Southeast Island School District, on Prince of Wales Island, has taken the lead when it comes to agriculture education. Colter and Damon will share how the schools on Prince of Wales use aquaponics to produce year round vegetables, and discuss what should and can be replicated around the region. Learn about what they are doing, why they are doing it, and lessons they have learned along the way. Per Foot Crop Values from Farmers Market Sales in Juneau Joe Orsi, Orsi Organic Produce, Juneau Seasonal crop production values are needed in Southeast Alaska to determine the feasibility and profit margin for future farming enterprises in this region. This talk will share an individual grower's estimate of crop-specific values per growing area sold at Juneau Farmers Markets in 2016. The intent of this talk is to present actual farm sales revenue of different crops to establish how much land might be necessary to run a profitable farm in Southeast Alaska.
5:00	BREAK
5:30 Lobby	Dinner
7:00 Auditorium	Movie with the community of Haines The Symphony of Soil

AGENDA - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | CHILKAT CENTER

7:30 Basement	Welcome, Breakfast
8:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Auditorium	Optimizing Nitrogen Management on Organic Biologically Intensive Farms Doug Collins, Extension Faculty and Soil Scientist, Washington State University Small Farms Program Organic farmers face a difficult problem in managing nitrogen: the magnitude and timing of nitrogen mineralization from organic matter cannot be easily predicted. Well-managed plant-soil systems are tightly coupled; they are balanced in terms of nitrogen availability and nitrogen uptake. This presentation will cover ongoing research working to place dollar values on the importance of optimizing soil nitrogen fertility. Growers will be able to more accurately estimate nitrogen mineralization from soil organic matter and adjust fertilizer applications up or down accordingly.
Basement	Business Planning and Small Farm Finances Paul Hackenmeuller, Spruce Root Community Development; Megan Talley, Spring Creek Farm, Alaska Pacific University From business planning and financial literacy to market validation and practical advice, this session will connect you with the resources you need to start thinking like an entrepreneur. This session will introduce tools that can help turn your small farm into a small business.
9:30	BREAK
9:45	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Auditorium	Using Local Amendments to Improve Soil David Ianson, Soil Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Kenai Field Office What do all those numbers mean in a Soils Report? What do I do with those numbers? In this presentation Dr. David Ianson will explain what the numbers mean for crop production in Southeast Alaska and the best way to address any problems in the unique growing conditions of the region.
Basement	Techniques for Growing Crops in Southeast Alaska - Fruit Trees and Grafting Rob Bishop, Game Creek Orchards, Hoonah; Joe Orsi, Orsi Organic Produce, Juneau Is it possible to grow a commercial quality apple or a raise a one pound tomato in Southeast Alaska? This informal workshop will explain how to overcome common apple fruiting problems (i.e., sun scald, certain diseases and pests, the correct way to plant, importance of pruning, etc.) and give some insight on how to increase crop production. Joe and Rob will share some of their experiences growing crops in high tunnels and demonstrate how to graft apples and tomatoes. Come learn, and feel free to share your "success" stories.
10:45	BREAK
11:00	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Auditorium	Discussion: Policy and Initiatives for Commercial Agriculture Facilitator: Greg Smith, Alaska House Majority Coalition Staff
Basement	Discussion: Growing Future Farmers with Internships and Education Facilitator: Megan Talley, Spring Creek Farm, Alaska Pacific University
12:00	BREAK

12:15 Lobby	Lunch and Presentation: Building Twitter Creek Gardens Emily Garrity, Twitter Creek Gardens, Homer Emily Garrity will present the process of cultivating Twitter Creek Gardens over the past 12 years in Homer, Alaska. What started on a small section of borrowed land developed into acquiring acreage for the now thriving, diversified vegetable farm. TCG currently supplies multiple local restaurants, a Farmers Market, a CSA, and an online food hub. Soil health, incorporation of animal rotations, educational exchanges, and utilizing governmental funding sources have all played key roles in the growth and success of the business.
1:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS / ROUNDTABLES / ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS
Auditorium	New Directions for Cover Crop Management in Reduced Tillage Organic Agriculture Doug Collins, Extension Faculty and Soil Scientist, Washington State University Small Farms Program Systems that reduce frequency and intensity of soil disturbance during organic vegetable production can improve soil quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This presentation will briefly cover recent research in reduced tillage organic agriculture and highlight two new directions for cover crop management.
Basement	Discussion: Using Salt & Soil Market to Connect with Local Consumers Colin Peacock, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition Are you interested in selling through the Salt & Soil Market, a new web-based farmers market? Stop by, sign up, and find out more.
Lobby	Roundtables / One-on-One Consultations Meet with agencies and experts. Sign-ups will be available in advance for one-on-one meetings.
2:00 Lobby	Roundtables / One-on-One Consultations Meet with agencies and experts. Sign-ups will be available in advance for one-on-one meetings.
3:00 Lobby	Wrap up, Closing Remarks
3:15 Lobby	Shuttle leaves for ferry



