

From left to right, top to bottom, Island County Fair Board members Ken Schillinger, Jon Gabelein, Gwendy Hastings, Tarey Kay, Marilyn Gabelein, Barbara Pearson, Diane Divelbess, Bill Carruthers, Leandra Reuble, Klaas Zuiderbaan and Dan Ollis invite you to

**MEET US
AT THE GATE
IN 2008!**



The purpose of our Fair is education.

Quality exhibits from the farm, including all types of livestock and crops, horticulture and floriculture, are on display. From the home, all types of handwork are represented: clothing, needlework, art exhibits, baking, canning and fiber arts.

Our young people share their interests and development through various projects chosen for recreation and learning. There are demonstrations throughout the Fair to inspire an interest in the talents and abilities of the people in our unique county. It is our sincere wish that everybody attending our Fair leaves knowing something they did not know before they came.

The Island County Fair also provides entertainment and a place for us to gather with family and friends to celebrate the fruits of our labors and enjoy that which is so special about Island County.

ISLAND COUNTY FAIR HISTORY

With roots dating back to 1895, the Island County Fair was started as a project of the County Horticultural Society. There have been a few years since then that the Fair was not held, principally during wartime.

But since 1920, the Island County Fair has been held on the south end of Whidbey Island, most often in Langley. When the County Extension Agent originally asked all communities to host a fair, only Bayview residents were willing. A year later, the fair site was moved to Langley and the following year to the schoolgrounds next door to the present fairgrounds.

The first parcel of the fairgrounds, consisting of a five-acre chicken ranch, was acquired in 1934 for \$300. In 1937, a WPA crew completed the first structure – the Pole Building – which today houses the auditorium and offices.

As the Fair settled into its beginnings in the early '20s, the need to organize became apparent. Although the first bylaws were signed in 1912, it was 1923 before the Island County Fair Association filed incorporation documents with the state of Washington, still making it one of the oldest fair organizations in the state. The same non-profit association has been responsible for the Fair ever since.

Although more land has been acquired and more buildings have been built, the focus and intent of the fair remain unchanged. Our mission is to improve the Fair and enhance the fairgrounds, but it is with the fervent hope that we never lose sight of our beginnings as an old-fashioned county fair.

Except for a small staff, the entire Fair is presented through the efforts of volunteers. Each department Superintendent and Steward in attendance during the Fair is a volunteer. The ticket sellers and 4-H club leaders are volunteers. The Board of Directors, which assumes responsibility for the different phases of the Fair, is all-volunteer.

Fair Association members are interested in presenting the best possible Fair. Membership is open to all who share that goal. Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month and dues are just \$10 per year. If you enjoy the Fair, consider being a part of it! We welcome new people and new ideas. Drop by our office on the fairgrounds, give us a call at (360) 221-4677 or visit us on the World Wide Web at www.islandcountyfair.com

ISLAND COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT
Diane Divelbess
- VICE PRESIDENT
Lynda Knapp
- SECRETARY
Barbara Pearson
- TREASURER
Bill Carruthers

ISLAND COUNTY FAIR BOARD

- CHAIRMAN
M. Dan Ollis
- VICE-CHAIRMAN
Marilyn Gabelein
- Bill Carruthers
- Diane Divelbess
- Jon Gabelein
- Gwendy Hastings
- Tarey Kay
- Barbara Pearson
- Leandra Reuble
- Ken Schillinger
- Klaas Zuiderbaan

ADMINISTRATOR

- Sandey Brandon

MAINTENANCE

- Scot Frederickson

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- SOUTH WHIDBEY
-District 1-
Phil Bakke
- NORTH WHIDBEY
-District 2-
Mac McDowell
- CAMANO ISLAND
-District 3-
John Dean