

## **Sustainable Farming and Farmland Preservation**

**Guest Speakers: Tim Clark, ARC Farmland Preservation Coordinator and Neal Foley, farmer/chef Shaw Island**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the monthly brunch program on Shaw provided a lively venue to explore the topic of farmland preservation. The organizer, Lola Dean, introduced the two speakers. Tim Clark provided an overview of farmland preservation avenues in San Juan County. These include conservation easements involving the Land Bank and The San Juan Preservation Trust, and enrollment in the state Agricultural Open Space property tax reduction program for working farms.

Neal Foley presented an entertaining and thoughtful program, starting with a global and historical perspective, and finding timely local solutions to worldwide problems. Neal's goal is sustainable farming with minimal inputs, a way to make a living while actually improving the health of his soil. It's not always easy, but it does work. The key to this system is managing livestock that convert forage into fertilizer and food. Neal has spent a great deal of time and effort on this system, and is an excellent educator. You can contact him via email at [podchef@gmail.com](mailto:podchef@gmail.com). Tim's email address is [t.clark@sanjuanislandsd.org](mailto:t.clark@sanjuanislandsd.org) or you can leave a phone message at 468-2010.