

**VASHON MAURY ISLAND LAND TRUST**

*December 10, 2015*

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

Tom Dean, Executive Director

tom@vashonlandtrust.org

206-463-2644 (W)

206-650-8191 (C)

**VASHON LAND TRUST ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM FARMERS**

The Vashon Land Trust announced today that it will begin to accept proposals to return Matsuda Farm to active agricultural production. "We are looking for a farmer or farmers with experience who can turn Matsuda Farm into a fantastic public asset," said board president Charley Rosenberry. The Land Trust has established five goals for the project: food production, wildlife habitat, public benefit, public access, and honoring the rich history of the farm.

The Land Trust purchased the 12-acre Matsuda Farm in September of this year for \$510,000 using a bridge loan from The Conservation Fund and a down-payment of \$110,000. That loan will be retired early next year through the sale of a farm easement to King County. The Land Trust is looking for another \$30,000 in private donations to complete the budget.

Work will begin next week on rehabilitation of the farmhouse, built in 1930 by the Matsuda Family. Senator Sharon Nelson was instrumental in securing a grant of \$150,000 through the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for the repairs. This will allow the Land Trust to return the house to its historic use as a functioning part of the farm.

Proposals may be submitted at any time, with a deadline of February 29, 2016. The Land Trust will lead a tour of the farm for prospective candidates on January 13, 2016.

# # #