

MEET RHONDA.

“Know your farmer, know your food,” Rhonda Barbieri says with an infectious smile as she gathers bunches of basil at Maple Rock Farm on Orcas Island. A “landless” farmer, she lovingly cultivates three acres with her friends John and Ianine Steward, supplying carrots, beets, radishes, beans, tomatoes, berries and other edibles to people and chefs throughout the San Juan Islands. It’s not easy, but farming never is, even in an idyllic setting. Her 80-hour work week keeps her constantly near the soil, harkening back to a time when families depended on their land for their livelihood. Rhonda is a modern pioneer who advocates open space and naturally organic ecologies that are sustainable and authentic: if you take care of the land, it will feed you. Big ideas often take seed in the smallest places, and Rhonda proves it every day—she’s a part of the Heart of Washington.

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