



Friends of the Forest

Dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach & stewardship

Volume 25 • Issue 2 • Spring 2011

WAYS TO GIVE

Our work depends on a healthy mix of funding sources. All contributions to our group are tax deductible. Please consider the following options for financial contribution to our organization.

1. Active Membership

Dues are due in January! There are different categories of membership to suit your preference. Any contributions to our group above your membership level are greatly appreciated. See our membership form on the back page.

2. Individual Contributions

We greatly appreciate any contributions to help support our education and outreach program. You can make these in honor or in memory.

3. Friends of the Forest Endowment Fund

We have an endowment fund. The purpose of this fund is to create an endowment that will eventually provide interest income to our organization. This is an excellent option for sizeable donations to our group.

4. Planned Giving

If you are making estate plans, please consider including our organization.

You may contact Denise Crowe or Jean Andrich (360-293-3725) at our office to discuss any of these options.



Photo by Limo John Janson

Lonely Forest Concert Fills Port Warehouse!

Our Lonely Forest/Friends of the Forest benefit concert on March 5th brought 750 people to the Port Warehouse in downtown Anacortes for an amazing night of local music and fun. Drink Up Honey and Mount Eerie introduced the largely hometown and truly all ages crowd to some uniquely creative tunes before The Lonely Forest rocked the house. Thanks to all of the bands and everyone for coming! The show was a heartfelt send off for the boys as they travel far and wide in the coming months to support their major label debut, Arrows.

Memorial Trail Created

An old shortcut roadway between Ray Auld Dr. and Heart Lake Road was recently converted to a lovely connector trail and enhanced wetland.

This project is dedicated in memory of Lew Janz and Daniel Aldridge, and in tribute to their families and friends. Special thanks to Hershel Janz for his vision and work, and all who helped transform this bleak little spot into a practical path with natural beauty. Friends of the Forest adult hike participants were the first to take an inaugural stroll on the trail while returning from Pine Ridge on March 11th!



BEFORE

AFTER



Photos by Dave Oicles

SAVE the DATE!

Our Fall benefit event will be October 15th at the Port Warehouse.



Crowe's Nest

Spring is Here!

The Pacific Chorus frog nighttime serenade has begun, bringing a surge of spring awakening to the forest. Bloom of Indian Plum, Red Flowering Currant, Salmonberry, and Skunk Cabbage light the way for rough skinned newts journeying back to their home breeding ponds and Heart Lake. Bird song has grown with the light and though the weather has been wet and windy, a steady warming can be felt. School field trips will soon begin, and hundreds of Anacortes kids will be experiencing the wonders of the woods.

This year, the tender joys that come from the fresh beauty of the season are made all the more profound with the disaster unfolding in Japan. Both the awesome power of nature and twisted human construct have brought to bear immense destruction, with the radiating impact just beginning to sink in. The Pacific Ocean is vast but the islands of Japan and their people are closer to us than ever. Decades of deepening cultural, economic, and personal connections between our people make their tragedy ours. Fond memories of leading Kiskadee (Anacortes Sister City) visiting students and teachers on forest hikes have surfaced with a greater personal realization of how truly knowing someone or something leads to an increased capacity for emotional understanding, active caring, and love. As we stretch in our ability to understand what is happening in the world, our forest is here to keep us grounded. This spring, bear witness to the beauty that surrounds us every day. Go outside to feel the water, the wind. Give your attention to the bloom and the berry, the buzz and the song. Follow a forest path and see where it leads. Listen.

Denise Crowe

KENNY OAKES UPDATE

A lifelong Anacortes resident and forest land volunteer, Kenny Oakes, is battling liver cancer. He is home now but scheduled for surgery on March 30th. A fund for donations has been set up at Washington Federal Savings. Cards can be sent to Ken at 5833 Haddon Lane. Trisha Heglin will also forward correspondence and is available for any questions at tlheglin@aol.com or 360-391-5383.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD		CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS		
The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.		Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried - 299-1950 Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large - 293-1900		
FOREST BOARD MEMBERS	PARKS & FOREST LANDS MANAGER	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE TERMS ENDS
Michelle McPhee 293-2729	Jonn Lunsford 299-1953	Mayor Dean Maxwell	PO Box 547	299-1950 12/31/13
Brian Wetcher 293-7624		W1 Nick Petrish	1907 9th	293-5021 12/31/11
Marty Laumbattus 293-7940		W2 Brad Adams	1908 Cedar Springs Lane	293-3056 12/31/11
Rick Boge 299-2692		W3 Kevin McKeown	3936 W. 12th Street	588-6998 12/31/11
Marcia Hunt 293-0983		P4 Brian E. Geer	2507 Shannon Point Road	293-4791 12/31/13
		P5 Cynthia Richardson	315 V Avenue	299-9081 12/31/13
		P6 Bill Turner	13725 Goodman Lane	293-9658 12/31/13
		P7 Erica Pickett	1112 18th St	293-6264 12/31/13
Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30pm in Council Chambers. Study Sessions are 2nd Mondays, 7:30pm in Council Chambers.				

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

OFFICERS	BOARD MEMBERS			Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in room #31 on the 3rd floor in the Keystone Building, 619 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved.
President Andy Stewart 299-9406	Andy Stewart 299-9406	Jan. 2012	akccstewart@earthlink.net	
Vice President Monica Ochs 293-6003	Jean Andrich 293-0124	Jan. 2012	jean@friendsoftheacfl.org	
Secretary Jean Andrich 293-0124	Lin Nichols 293-3826	Jan. 2012	lin.nichols@yahoo.com	
Treasurer Karen Haynes 708-3910	Monica Ochs 293-6003	Jan. 2012	monica.ochs@gmail.com	
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR	Phil Teas 293-9643	Jan. 2012	phil.teas@shell.com	
Denise Crowe 293-3725	Mary Sikkema 293-4311	Jan. 2013	mary_loves_summer@yahoo.com	
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR	Karen Haynes 708-3910	Jan. 2013	kak.haynes@yahoo.com	
Jean Andrich 293-3725	Denise Crowe 293-8426	Jan. 2013	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org	
WEBSITE ADDRESS				
www.friendsoftheacfl.org				

In the Woods with Ranger Dave

SPRING HAS SPRUNG -

Spring is in the air around the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The transformation from winter to spring happens with the blink of an eye, but if you stop and look around you will see the wonderful changes that are occurring. The most notable for me are the new “sounds” in the ACFL with the tree frogs, seasonal birds, waterfowl, and the return of the Peregrine Falcons on Mt. Erie, just to name a few. The other notable events, are the changes in the trees, shrubs, and meadows; each day showing more growth and development, along with an array of wild flowers in the meadows. And of course, the spring aroma of skunk cabbage growing in the wetlands cannot be missed.

Spring time is also a very busy time for homeowners, cleaning out old flowerbeds, pruning trees and shrubs, and getting the yard ready for BBQs and relaxation. Some folks think that taking their yard waste and dumping it in the ACFL is a way of returning the nutrients of the waste back to nature, but unfortunately this is a misguided thought. Yard waste can contain non-native invasive plants that can easily spread, and it may contain pesticides and fertilizers that could be harmful to the flora and fauna in the ACFL. It also becomes an eyesore at the trailheads. If you see anyone dumping yard waste or other debris in the ACFL, please call 911 and report this crime. Almost every month yard waste or debris is found dumped at a trailhead or along Heart Lake Road. With your help we may be able to stop this from happening, and help protect the ACFL.

PEREGRINE FALCON WATCH -

The return of spring brings the return of monitoring the Peregrine Falcons on Mount Erie. Volunteers Rick Machin and Ranger Dave are spending time each week monitoring the nesting and development of a mating pair of falcons using high powered spotting scopes. The monitoring is done to ensure the successful hatching and fledging of falcon chicks. Currently there is a voluntary closure around the nesting site on Mount Erie, a location called the Skyline Arête. Climbers and hikers are asked to avoid this area during the mating season, which usually lasts until mid-July. If you have any questions about the closure, please call Jonn Lunsford at 299-1953. If you would like to join Dave and Rick during a monitoring day, call Dave Oicles at 661-3554 to set up a time.

Scimitar Trail Hike with Ranger Dave

In late January, Ranger Dave took us on a lovely hike through the property originally part of Scimitar Ranch which was later donated to the city. This 20 acre parcel lies to the east of Whistle Lake and is now part of the ACFL. Soon, trails will be connected to our existing trail system and this beautiful area will be accessible to the public. We look forward to this new trail!



In photo from left:
Scott Olausen - Student Intern from Skagit Valley College
Lin Nichols - Friends of the Forest board member
Jean Andrich - Friends of the Forest staff
Dan Senour - Friends of the Forest member
Annette Lefaive - Friends of the Forest member

Photo: Dave Oicles

Spring Calendar 2011



Get to know your community forestlands! It's time to join a guided hike, and begin to learn more about the fascinating wild heart of our island.

The Friends of the Forest is a non-profit, citizen organization dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach, and stewardship. We have a multi-layered education program that strives to meet the needs of all Fidalgo Island residents. Our education program includes K-12 guided school field trips, Adult/Senior hikes, All ages hikes, Forest Discovery Day Camp, habitat restoration efforts, Ethnobotany field seminars, a quarterly newsletter, and our two comprehensive school district programs; Growing Wild- native plants for all 3rd graders, and Middle School Watershed Discovery for all students in 7th grade. Our community hikes are FREE and no registration is required. Please join us this spring as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together. For more information about our group or these hikes please contact Denise Crowe or Jean Andrich at 293-3725. You may also visit our website www.friendsoftheacfl.org or email us at info@friendsoftheacfl.org. These hikes focus on human and wildlife experience, so we ask that you please leave your four-legged friends at home.

Hope to see you in the woods!

WORK PARTIES

(Work party updates can also be found at <http://www.cityofanacortes.org>. Search the Parks and Recreation page for more info. Dress warm, wear boots and gloves, and be prepared for fun! We'll supply the tools.)

April 2nd @ 9am:

A large field of non-native invasive Scotch Broom needs to go away along trail 126. Let's meet at the west end of Fir Crest Blvd. off A Avenue (across from Lake Park Drive) at the trailhead kiosk. Please park along Fir Crest Blvd.

May 7th @ 9am:

It's the final curtain for a patch of non-native invasive Yellow Arch Angel growing near trail 119. We have hit this site numerous times and hopefully this will be the last. Let's meet at trailhead 119 at the corner of 19th St. and B Ave.

GOT MAPS?

The 2010 ACFL maps are now available!

For only \$10.00 you get 3 color water resistant maps covering all the trails around Little Cranberry, Heart and Whistle Lakes. Maps are available at the following locations:

Friends of the Forest Office, 619 Commercial Ave., #32
Parks Department at City Hall, 6th Street and Q Ave.
Chamber of Commerce, 819 Commercial Ave.
Skagit Cycle Center, 1620 Commercial Ave.

Lake Erie Grocery, 13378 Heart Lake Road
Watermark Book Co., 612 Commercial Ave.
The Business, 402 Commercial Ave.
Bikespot, 210 Commercial Ave.

ALL AGES HIKES

(Great for families and folks of all ages, these are hearty hikes with forest lore suited to the day's participants.)

Little Cranberry Lake

Saturday, April 16th
10:00 am to noon

We'll start the spring season with a hike all the way around Little Cranberry Lake. The trail is rugged in places as it hugs the shore. Explore some of the richest habitat of our forest. This is the place where deep forest, swamp, rocky meadow, lake and bog islands converge. Experience the spring awakening. Take Georgia south off of Oakes and follow to the gravel road that leads to the Little Cranberry parking lot.

Sugarloaf Wildflowers

Saturday, May 7th
10:00 am to noon

This is the ultimate wildflower hike of the year. We will savor the climb through alternating forest and rocky bald meadow, learning each flower as we go. From blue camas lily to red Indian paintbrush, come and see the bounty of color this little mountain has to offer. The views from the summit are not to be missed. Meet at the Southern trailhead halfway up the Mount Erie view road. The trip up and back is one mile, and quite steep in places.

Eastern Heart Ridge

Saturday, April 30th
10:00 am to noon

Scheduled by popular demand, this is the hike that leads through old growth woods and up to the ridge east of Heart Lake. Learn the joys of travelling off the beaten path; see the biggest tree in the ACFL! Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Big Beaver Pond

Saturday, June 11th
10:00 am to noon

Immerse into the rich world of this yellow pond lily filled swamp. In late spring, we see ducklings, wood duck families, kingfisher, swallows, great blue heron, raven, frogs, garter snakes, and dragonflies galore. Learn about the community of beaver that created and maintain our network of wetlands in the Little Cranberry Lake watershed. Meet at the old city dump gate at 37th and A Ave.

SENIOR/ADULT HIKES

(A little bit gentler, with an adult level flora and fauna focus.....)

Little Beaver Pond

Friday, April 8th
10:00 am to noon

Calling all Skyline residents and anyone else who has wondered about the forest on the west side of town. We'll get you connected to Little Beaver Pond territory and the trail network. Meet at the corner of Clyde Way and Cedar Glen Way in Skyline.

Erie View Trail

Friday, June 10th
10:00 am to noon

This is a trail of wonders, twisting and turning through varied terrain all the way to a hidden meadow. The views of Lake Erie and Mount Erie are a rare treat. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Northwest Whistle Lake

Friday, May 13th
10:00 am to noon

Lush spring growth will be at peak at Whistle Lake. We will be surrounded by blooming native berry bushes. Do you know thimbleberry, huckleberry, salmonberry, elderberry, Oregon grape, salal? Do you know the difference between our native blackberry and Himalayan blackberry? The glimmer of the clearest lake on Fidalgo will be your lesson's reward. Bring a friend! Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.

ETHNOBOTANY FIELD SEMINAR

Saturday, June 4th
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Adults only, must register by phone or email. More information will be given upon registration.

Ethnobotany is the study of native plants and the traditional uses of the plants by people. You will learn about food, medicine, and materials derived from the vast array of native plants in our woods.

Thank You to All Friends of the Forest 2011 Members

Evelyn & Gary Adams
Jackie & Bud Anderson
Sandra Anderson
Bret & Jean Andrich
Frances & Frank Arnold
Shunji Asari
Jack Barnard
Jeff & Denise Bauman
Paul Benz
Beverly & Mark Beppler
Richard Bergner
David Grant Best
Ric & Janet Boge
Neil & Cathy Borman
Russ & Vicki Borneman
Jackie Boss
Larry & Shirley Bowlin
Ann & Jon Bowman
Judy Bown
Jane Brandt
John & Rose Brierley
Kevin & Kelly Bright
Laurelynn Brooks
Donald & Stacey Campbell
Pamela & John Caper
Kathryn Cavil & Morty Cohen
Mary & Harry Chandler
Nancy Chapman
Arthur & Sarabeth Clevenger
Curtis Cochran
Charlie Collins & Ute Collins
Bill & Betty Connor
Denise Crowe & Bret Lunsford
Philip Cunningham
Gloria Cutter
Rick & Diane Davidson
Richard & Patricia De La Chapelle
Paul Dinnel & Vicki McNeil
Phyllis & Ivar Dolph
Michael & Sheri Donahue
Greg & Doreen Dunton
Elgin & Karen Edwards
Zac & Sharene Elander
Flip & Janet Elvrum
Susanna & Bill Epler
Susan Ferrel
Maurice & Helene Fink
Cliff & Johanna Finkbohner
Don & Rita Fisher
Kathleen Flanagan
Greg & Leslie Ford
Jim Ford
Stu & Marcy Ford
Arlene & Bill French
Barbara French
Didi Funk

Judy Garnett
Ed & Carolyn Gastellum
Barbara Gilmore
Kay Glade
Albert Green
John & Gerri Gunn
Ramona Hammerly
Sandra & Donald Harper
Greg & Karen & Peter Haynes
Ron Haywood & Leanne Lunsford-
Haywood
Kristi Hein & Casey Bazewick
Helen Heneks
Michael & Carol Herbert
Jan Hersey & Jay Ham
Sally Hill
Harriet Hoffman
Sara Holahan
Bob & Ann Hostler
Sharon Howard
Nancy & Jerry Husted
Pattie Hutchins
Lisa Jackson
Mike & Rita James
Dean Janz
Carl Johansen & Judy Chapman
Russ Johnson & Marianne Baker
Johnson
Thomas & Lane Johnson
Michael & Louanne Jones
Hugh & Wendy Kendrick
Matt & Bonnie Kerschbaum
Eugene & Barbara Kiver
Dick & Dorie Kohler
Roland Kollodge
Von & Betty Kuehn
Trevor & Carol Kyle
Diana Laiche
Carl & Karen Latham
Tom Lebovsky
Bonnie & Todd Lehecka
E. Michael Lindsay-Jones
Grady Lineberger
Mark Lioni
Ruth Lorente
Dean & Rosalie Lueck
Dirk Lunsford
Mira Lutz & Matt Castle
Mary & Pat Lyons
Kris & Mike Lytton
Annette Macartney
Rick & Meredith Machin
Joan & Keith Magee
Don & Chris Magness
Leslie & James Massey
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Forrie & Molly McIntosh
Malcolm & Michelle McPhee
Sue & George Mehler
Judy & Gordon Middleton
Janet L. Miller
Harold G. Mitchell
Patricia Moats & Sila Washburn
Ron & Andrea Moore
Darcie Morris
Wanda Mull
Gene & Ginny Murphy
William & Susan Murray
Burton & Debra Newbry
Linda & Vance Nichols
Gwen & John Nixon
Grace Novicky & Tina Soes
Gabriel & Jeanne Olmsted
Leslie & Jon Ostlund
Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis
Nicholas Petrish III
Nick & Maria Petrish
Mary & David Picht
Andrew & Joan Pitz
Bruce & Zaida Polk
John & Michele Pope
Steve Purcer & Mary Campbell
Denny & Laurie Quirk
Mark & Michael Raphael
Cynthia & Jack Richardson
Dave & Nancy Ridgway
Marah Rockhold & Peter Donaldson
Betty Rockwell
Hal & Susan Rooks
Maria & JM Ruys
Arnie Sansregret
Gary & Bernie Santiago
Robert Scott
Richard & Sue Sigen
James & Mary Sikkema
F. Jay Smith & Susan Wood
Randy & Charlotte Spada
Evelyn Staatz
Todd & Georgia Stewart
Charlene & Wayne Stoner
Vince Streano & Carol Havens
Robert & Marilyn Stubbeman
Margaret Studer
Susan Taylor
Cecil & June Thomas
Blake A. Thomson
Jim & Gina Thompson
Katie Tibbets
Lyle & Carla Tiberghien
Anna & Torolf Torgersen
Dale Ann Trafton
Richard & Carol Treston

HEART LAKE UPDATE

You might have noticed that Heart Lake has been a little bit weedy. We thought we knew what the problem was; the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian milfoil. It turns out that this non-native has hybridized with our native milfoil and is growing along a significant portion of the shoreline.

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Ecology, we have an opportunity to study Heart Lake and work with community members on the best way to care for it. The first step we took was to study the plants in the lake by hiring Herrera Environmental Consultants. Their research discovered the hybrid milfoil. They also found native plants that appeared to be growing at a rate above normal. We are not exactly sure what this means but we hope that our own follow up studies this summer will provide a better understanding.

As we conduct this work, we will be drafting a plan for managing the lake. The plan is known as the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan and it is required by the Department of Ecology before we taken any action in the lake. There are a number of ways to deal with milfoil which involve mechanical, biological and chemical methods.

To date we have held three meetings to educate the community about the problems at Heart Lake. We have hosted experts to tell us what others have done in Skagit County and Western Washington when confronted with similar circumstances. We will incorporate this information as we begin to create our plan. The first draft should be ready for public review in a few months. At that time we will take comments and keep working on a plan that we hope the whole community can support.

If you have any questions you are more than welcome to contact me at the Parks and Recreation Department, 360-293-1918.

Jonh Lunsford
Anacortes Parks and Recreation

Gina Van Hess
Paul & Rene Vance
Floie Vane
Tom & Jean Vicary
Thad & Helga Wakeman
Brenda Meier Walma
Steve & Lynne Webb
Marilee Weber
Steve & Linda Wilhoit
Jan Woodruff
Bob Woods & Lynnette Setmire
Tuulikki & Milton Woods
Bill & Jennifer Woyski
Mark F. Wray
Philip & Carolynne Wright
Margaret Yeoman
Linda Yerby
Anthony Young
Jaime Zullo

Business, Organization and Foundation Members

Anacortes Kayak Tours
Bikespot
Skagit Cycle Center
The Harry F. Barnes & Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation
The Runstad Foundation
The Stubbeman Family Foundation
The Gerry Walrath Fund
Windemere Real Estate

Please let us know if your name is missing, misspelled, or if you prefer we list your name differently.

Membership Notes:

- ❁ Confused on a hike location? Check out our website, we are now posting links for driving directions to each hike location.
- ❁ Please do not bring dogs on organized hikes. We love your four legged friends, but it is very difficult to have them on guided hikes - thanks for understanding!
- ❁ Question about membership? Your mailing label shows the year you are paid through.
- ❁ We would like to thank member Ralph Bennett for his work in our forest. Ralph identifies the location of invasive species plants, puts the exact locations a on a map for Dave, Hershel and team to remove. Together they have made a tremendous impact in our forest - Thank you!
- ❁ Remember, we are in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1pm (also by appointment). We have maps for sale and enjoy visitors!

www.friendsoftheacfl.org / info@friendsoftheacfl.org



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL

619 Commercial #32
Anacortes, Washington 98221

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Please join or renew today!

Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Friends of the Forest is a nonprofit, citizens organization dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach and stewardship. *Friends of the Forest is a not for profit 501 c3 organization. Tax ID # 501c3 91-1430220*

PLEASE JOIN US! Membership and contributions are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Membership Renewal New Member

We offer many levels of annual membership dues. Please choose your level of support for this vital mission in our community.

Annual dues: Individual \$25 Family \$40 Partner \$50 Supporter \$100
 Sponsor \$250 Benefactor \$500 Steward \$1000 Major Donor \$5000 or more

Other _____

Would like to receive newsletter online

Areas of Interest _____ Topics for general meetings or newsletter _____

Please mail memberships and contributions to: Friends of the ACFL, 619 Commercial #32, Anacortes, WA 98221

Thank you to all friends who have renewed their dues and a reminder to those who haven't sent in this year - we need it! Keeping your dues current with the Friends of the Forest is one of the best ways to Think Globally and Act Locally. On Fidalgo Island, thankfully we have the ACFL, and it needs Friends to ensure its preservation. Our Education Program depends on your support. Thank you!