



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 25 • Issue 4 • Fall 2011



"Vortices" by Ora Mae Petersen "This work is drawn from a photograph I took off the Deception Pass Bridge. The tide was in full force & a rock outcropping caused this fantastic set of whirlpools. In my painting I rendered the features of the vortices as faithfully as I could in reverence for their mathematical grace." This is one of a limited edition set of giclée prints. The original work hangs in Adrift Restaurant.



You are cordially invited
to attend

The Friends of the Forest Benefit Party

Saturday, October 15

5:30 pm to 11:00 pm

The Port Warehouse



Fall is always a favorite time of year for Friends of the Forest!

Not only is it a wonderful season to be in the woods but it's a special time to gather with friends and celebrate our unique natural treasure – *the Anacortes Community Forest Lands*. Please join us for a fun filled evening; starting with music by Fidalgo Swing and great food prepared by Gere-a-Deli, a silent auction and short live auction followed by dancing to the music of Spoonshine Duo.

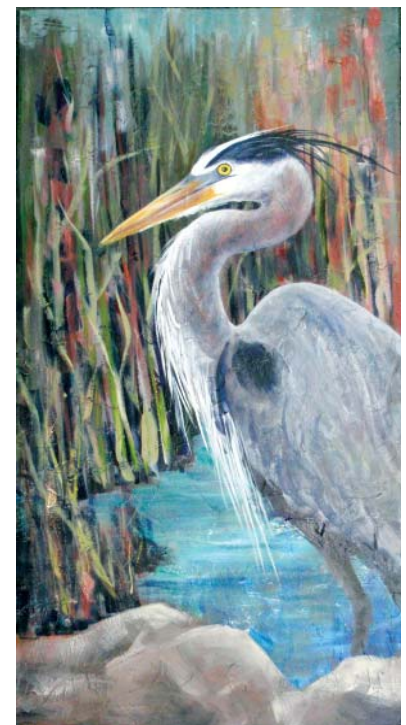
The event has sold out in past years – don't be left out of the party this year. Individual tickets are \$50.00 (with \$25.00 being tax deductible) or by the table: \$400.00 per table of 8, \$500.00 for a table of 10. Purchase tickets at Watermark Book Company in Anacortes or through the Friends of the Forest Office by calling 293.3725. We are also pleased to offer tickets online at: www.friendsofthecfl.org.

Phil McCracken is our featured artist for this year's event. His beautiful bronze sculpture called "Mother and Young" will be the highlight of the live auction and the image is on the event poster. Phil and his wife Anne have always supported the Friends of the Forest and we are honored with their thoughtful donation.

Other artists who have generously donated original work include; Alfred Currier, Anne Schreivogl, Jennifer Bowman, Cynthia Richardson, Leo Osborne, George Way and others. Many other individuals and businesses in Anacortes have donated a wide assortment of fantastic items for the silent and live auctions. Please go to our website for a list of auction items.

This event provides the primary funding for our entire Forest Education and Stewardship program. For 24 years, the Friends of the Forest have provided multi-layered forest education programs that strive to meet the needs of all Fidalgo Island residents. In partnership with the City and School District, our Forest Education Programs work to connect citizens of all ages with their community forest and deepen their understanding of the watershed flowing into the sea around us. Over fifteen hundred local citizens of all ages participate in our programs each year!

Mark your calendar for October 15th, invite friends to sit at your table and plan to have a fun evening with forest friends, great food, varied libation and wonderful entertainment.



"Marsh Stalker" by Cynthia Richardson

There is No Poop Fairy! Please clean up after your dog!

by Ranger Dave Oicles

Like the Loch Ness Monster or better yet Bigfoot, the fabled poop fairy has been the stuff of legend. Flying undetected along the ACFL trails, parking lots, and lakesides, she was said to follow close behind dogs and their owners... picking up what the dog left behind, before flying off to the next canine creation. A widespread belief that she existed seemed to reassure some that cleaning up after one's dog was sort of.....optional.

However, there are a growing number of poop piles in the ACFL and a growing number of citizen complaints, along with concerns over the health and welfare of our forest due to the lack of, well, a poop fairy because there is no poop fairy in the ACFL. Below are a few facts about dog poop:

Dog Poop Doesn't Biodegrade Like Wild Animal Poop

Because we feed our pets food that's very different from the food wild animals eat, dog waste does not biodegrade quickly like wild animal waste. And because of the sheer number of pets in suburban neighborhoods and in local parks, this hardy dog waste accumulates.

Dog Poop Contains Harmful Bacteria and Parasites

Dog waste can contain harmful organisms like E. coli, giardia, salmonella, roundworms, hookworms, and cryptosporidium. These can be passed on to you or your pet, and may cause health problems. Wildlife illness in the Salish Sea has been linked to dog waste in recent studies.

Dog Waste Pollutes Groundwater, Water Bodies

Bacteria in dog waste can harm water quality in creeks and rivers, and alter the ecosystems of these stream corridors. Humans who come in contact with creek water can also face health hazards.

City of Anacortes Ordinance Requires Cleanup After Your Pet

A City of Anacortes ordinance makes "Failure to remove fecal matter deposited by his or her dog on public property or private property of another" an offense with a fine of \$65. An additional \$65 citation can be issued if the owner is not carrying a poop bag or other means to clean up after their pet.

Dogs Off Leash Poop Too

Many dog owners release their pet from a vehicle to let the dog lead the way down a trail, way ahead of the owner. How can you see where your dog poops if you cannot see your dog? Having a dog on leash at all times when in the ACFL is required by City of Anacortes Ordinance, with fines starting at \$65 for the first offense, \$130 for the second, and \$500 for the third. Please respect the ACFL and your neighbors by cleaning up after your pet and remember: THERE IS NO POOP FAIRY.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.

FOREST BOARD MEMBERS		PARKS & FOREST LANDS MANAGER	
Pending			
Brian Wetcher	293-7624	Jonn Lunsford	299-1953
Marty Laumbattus	293-7940		
Rick Boge	299-2692		
Marcia Hunt	293-0983		

CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried - 299-1950
Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large - 293-1900

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	TERMS	ENDS
Mayor Dean Maxwell	PO Box 547	299-1950	12/31/13	
W1 Nick Petrish	1907 9th	293-5021	12/31/11	
W2 Brad Adams	1908 Cedar Springs Lane	293-3056	12/31/11	
W3 Eric Johnson	2017 Piper Circle	840-5415	12/31/11	
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

President	Andy Stewart	299-9406
Vice President	Monica Ochs	293-6003
Secretary	Jean Andrich	293-0124
Treasurer	Karen Haynes	708-3910

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Denise Crowe 293-3725

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Jean Andrich 293-3725

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.friendsoftheacfl.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Stewart	299-9406	Jan. 2012	akccstewart@earthlink.net
Jean Andrich	293-0124	Jan. 2012	jean@friendsoftheacfl.org
Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2012	lin.nichols@yahoo.com
Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2012	monica.ochs@gmail.com
Mary Sikkema	293-4311	Jan. 2013	mary_loves_summer@yahoo.com
Karen Haynes	708-3910	Jan 2013	kak.haynes@yahoo.com
Denise Crowe	293-8426	Jan 2013	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org
Kara Fox	420-7372	Jan 2013	kararfox@gmail.com

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.

The Man, the Myth: Volunteer Bruce Rustad

by Ranger Dave

Twenty five years ago there was a man who decided to buy a mountain bike and ride the trails in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Five mountain bikes and thousands of hours volunteering later, Bruce Rustad has helped make one of the best trail systems in the Pacific NW.

Bruce started by helping to clear downed trees each winter off existing trails, and then later built new trails to improve the trail system. Bruce also repaired mud holes, solved erosion issues, and constructed trail bridges. After the big wind storm of 1990, Bruce worked for weeks reopening trails that were blocked by downed trees and over the years removed hundreds of downed trees to keep the trails open for everyone to enjoy.

In 2001, Bruce came out of hiding and joined the ACFL Trail Committee as the Mountain Biker Representative, replacing Justin Bannerman who was on the Committee from 1991-2001. As a Committee member, Bruce has been able to weigh in on trail management issues including building new trails and repairing existing trails. Today, Bruce still holds this position to represent the mountain bike rider user group.

Bruce has helped many Boy Scouts on their Eagle Scout projects in the ACFL, and assisted in Search & Rescues along our trails. Bruce also developed and has updated the ACFL trail maps using an Auto-Cad program on his computer for the past 11 years.

Bruce has been a “hero” to many, including animals. During one cold winter night while riding our bikes out at Whistle Lake, we came across a lost dog shivering, cold, and wet. Bruce picked up the dog and wrapped it up in his jacket. He then devised a way to carry the dog out of the woods to safety, on his mountain bike. As soon as Bruce began pedaling, the dog went fast to sleep nestled in a make-shift backpack. The dog was eventually returned to its owner. It’s just one of the many days as a “hero” for Bruce.

Bruce told me one of the craziest things he had ever seen in the ACFL was during a bike ride around Heart Lake where he came across a confrontation between a porcupine and an owl on trail 210. The owl was determined not to let the porcupine cross the trail. For 15 minutes Bruce watched this discussion, with the owl much louder than the porcupine. Eventually, the owl won the debate, and the porcupine changed course.

Thank you Volunteer Bruce Rustad for all your hard work and dedication to the ACFL, and thanks to all the volunteers who help make the ACFL a better place for everyone!



Membership News

- U Confused on a hike location? Check out our website for links to driving directions for each hike location.
- U We ask that you not bring dogs on organized hikes. We love your four legged friends but it is difficult to have them on guided hikes - thanks for understanding!
- U Memberships - January starts the new membership year, regardless of what month you joined or renewed. To save resources, we do not send out reminder postcards.
- U Got maps? See our website for a complete list of sources for Anacortes Community Forest Land trail maps.
- U Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.

Fall 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 not for 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. Because our hikes focus on wildlife and human experience, we ask that you leave your pets at home. Please join us this fall 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.

Hope to see you in the woods!

WORK PARTIES

(For a list of upcoming work parties in the ACFL, please visit the City of Anacortes website at <http://www.cityofanacortes.org> and search the Parks and Recreation page.) Our past work parties have included projects to repair trails, build trail bridges, remove non-native invasive plant species, prune fire roads, plant trees and clean up trash. If you have any questions, please call Ranger Dave at 661-3554.

October 1st at 9 am, TRASH PICKUP:

Let's meet at trailhead 215 on Heart Lake Road.

November 5th at 9 am, INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL:

Let's meet at trailhead 20, Whistle Lake parking lot.

December 3rd at 9 am, INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL:

Let's meet at the Little Cranberry parking lot off Georgia Ave.

Hope to see you there, and as always, we'll supply the tools. Please dress warmly and wear boots and gloves. Our work parties generally last about 2 hours, rain or shine. We may cancel due to severe winds or snowfall.

ALL AGES HIKES

(Open to children accompanied by an adult, individuals, and small groups. Ideal for families, friends, and anyone ready to explore and enjoy our community forest lands with the safety and knowledge of a naturalist guide.)

Sugarloaf Mountain

Saturday, October 8th
10:00 am to noon

Experience the golden glow of Sugarloaf Mountain in the fall. We will hike from the dark woods at the bottom to the stunning summit view, enjoying every stretch in between. Meet at the trailhead on Ray Auld Drive at the bottom of Mount Erie, just off of Heart Lake Road.

Heart Lake Traverse

Saturday, November 19th
10:00 am until a little after noon

This is a beautiful area to get to know. We will circumnavigate the lake and become familiar with the many route options available to you when you explore on your own. Home to an exciting array of wildlife and habitats, this is truly the heart of our island. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.

Bat Cave

Saturday, October 29th
10:00 am until about noon

Come to the woods for a natural spook time that will help transition us all to the nocturnal season. Our annual bat cave exploration is fun for everyone. Costumes and flashlights are welcome. Meet at the the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the north end of the lake.

Whistle Lake

Saturday, December 10th
10:00 am to noon

As glorious in late fall as in the heat of summer, this place is a treasure to know deeply. Dress for the weather and join this hearty hike. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.

SENIOR/ADULT HIKES

(For any adult with a desire to learn more about our community forest lands through an easy hike in fine company, with a naturalist guide.)

Big Beaver Pond Loop

Friday, October 14th
10:00 am to noon

Our hike will explore the center of beaver pond habitat in the ACFL. Are you curious about the wildlife that make their home in our woods? Fall is a great time to witness animal clues as they step up activity in preparation for the long dark days ahead. Meet at the forest kiosk at A Ave. and 37th St.

Little Beaver Pond Loop

Friday, November 4th
10:00 am to noon

Winter waterfowl have arrived in our forest ponds and lakes, ready for a safe place to rest and feed. We'll venture deeper in to the woods to Little Beaver Pond, hopefully for the flash of bufflehead or dive of merganser. Meet at the end of 29th St. west off of D Avenue.

Whistle Lake

Friday, December 9th
10:00 am to noon

The hush of Whistle near winter solstice couldn't be farther from the madding crowd of summer. Enjoy our deep water jewel of the forest during the season of recharge, and feel the stored sunlight energy emanating from the green. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.



LIFE OF A CRAYFISH

CRAYFISH MATE IN AUTUMN, SPRING, AND REQUIRE OPEN WATER. MALES DIE RIGHT AFTER MATING AT ABOUT 2 YEARS OLD. FEMALES WILL MATE WITH MORE THAN ONE MALE.

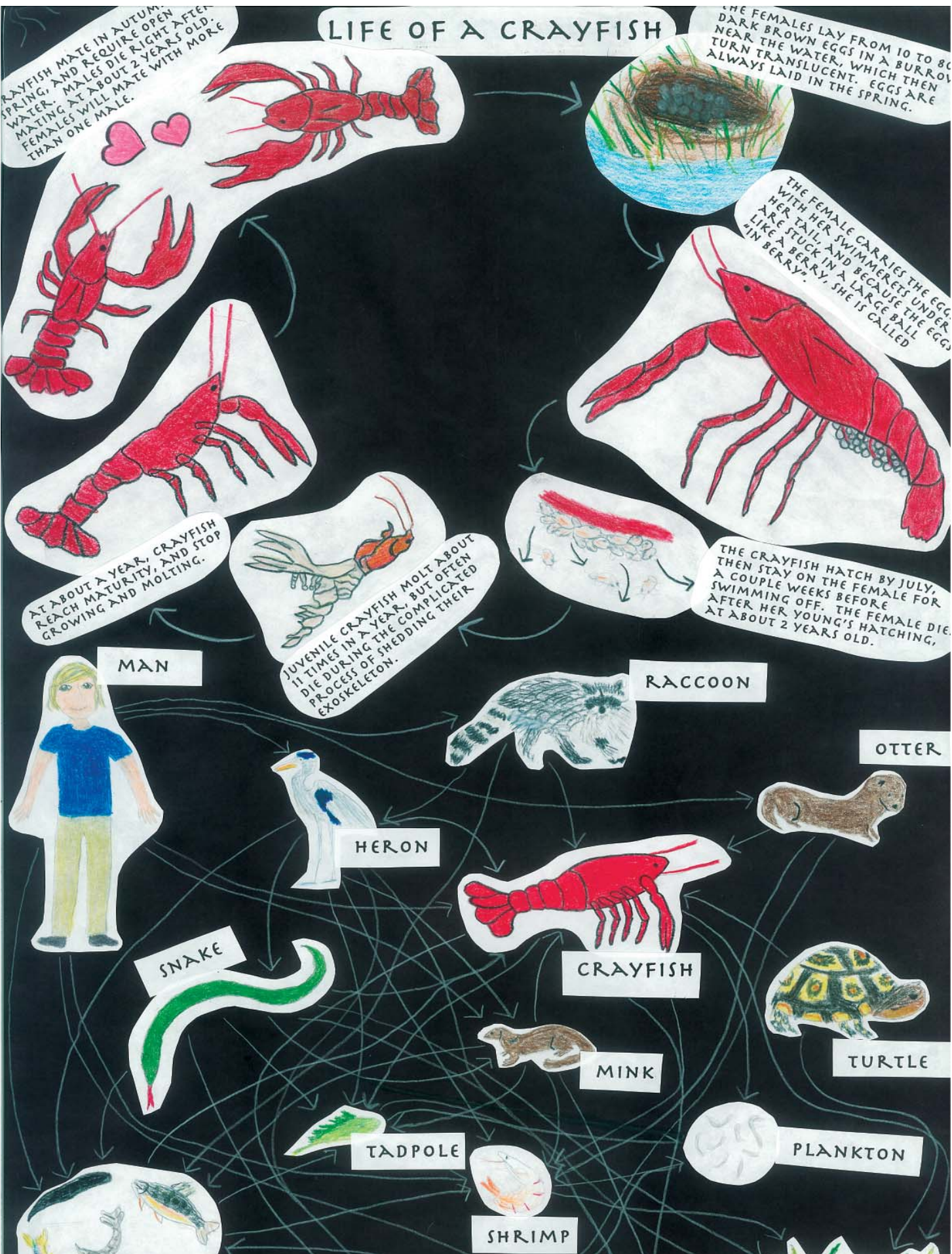
THE FEMALES LAY FROM 10 TO 80 DARK BROWN EGGS IN A BURROW NEAR THE WATER, WHICH THEN TURN TRANSLUCENT. EGGS ARE ALWAYS LAID IN THE SPRING.

THE FEMALE CARRIES THE EGGS WITH HER SWIMMERETS UNDER HER TAIL, AND BECAUSE THE EGGS ARE STUCK IN A LARGE BALL LIKE A BERRY, SHE IS CALLED "4 IN BERRY".

THE CRAYFISH HATCH BY JULY, THEN STAY ON THE FEMALE FOR A COUPLE WEEKS BEFORE SWIMMING OFF. THE FEMALE DIES AFTER HER YOUNG'S HATCHING, AT ABOUT 2 YEARS OLD.

JUVENILE CRAYFISH MOLT ABOUT 11 TIMES IN A YEAR, BUT OFTEN DIE DURING THE COMPLICATED PROCESS OF SHEDDING THEIR EXOSKELETON.

AT ABOUT A YEAR, CRAYFISH REACH MATURITY, AND STOP GROWING AND MOLTING.



MAN

RACCOON

OTTER

HERON

CRAYFISH

TURTLE

SNAKE

MINK

TADPOLE

PLANKTON

SHRIMP

Greetings Friends!



Crowe's
Nest

September has never felt so good, bringing sunshine and heat after such a strange and cool weather year. That said, I don't know if our forest lands have ever been busier. General recreation levels are high. Our Forest Discovery Day Camp was at maximum capacity this summer, and our community hikes have tended toward large groups. The odd weather has made our forest even more fascinating than usual. Just studying the different native berry plant responses to the weather has been quite intriguing. Salmonberries in August, and have you ever seen red huckleberries so big? In general, plant development has been two to three weeks behind schedule, and the fruiting season has been extended with berries edible for a longer period of time. There are still peak salal berries to snack on while out exploring the trails, enjoy!

Growing Wild, our third grade native plant program, is beginning this week. In the coming weeks, every third grader in Anacortes will be learning about native plants in general, and becoming familiar with their very own native plant both in class and on field trips to the woods. Fall will be full of school program activity and more community hikes, as well as our annual benefit party on October 15th. Our benefit party helps keep all of our group's forest work going. Preparations for this year's event have been underway for months. The generous support from our community and our hard working board and volunteers make for a very special time. I am

so deeply thankful for everyone's contributions and participation. The event provides for a grand celebration of our beloved forest, and a tangible commitment to the work that needs to continue. Hope to see you there or in the woods,

Daniel Crowe

Thanks! to this year's

Friends of the Forest Benefit Event Sponsors:

McMullan & Ochs, Attorney at Law

Samish Indian Nation

Shell Puget Sound Refinery

Adrift Restaurant

Island Import Garage

Global Diving & Salvage Incorporated

Sebo's Hardware

Skagit Runners

Anderson's General Store

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Emerald Marine Carpentry

North Harbor Diesel

R. Charlie Collins & Ute J. Collins, DDS

Whidbey Island Bank

Thanks to contributions from:

Port of Anacortes

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Ghost Indian pipe - A flowering saprophytic plant that acquires energy through fungus that is attached to tree roots.

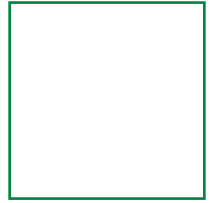
←Opposite page:

Excerpt from Matti Maston's 7th grade Watershed Discovery Project Creature Feature. Her crayfish lifecycle and food web are beyond brilliant. Apologies to Matti for not including the whole thing.



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL

619 Commercial #32
Anacortes, Washington 98221



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Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit

**Saturday, October 15
5:30 to 11pm**

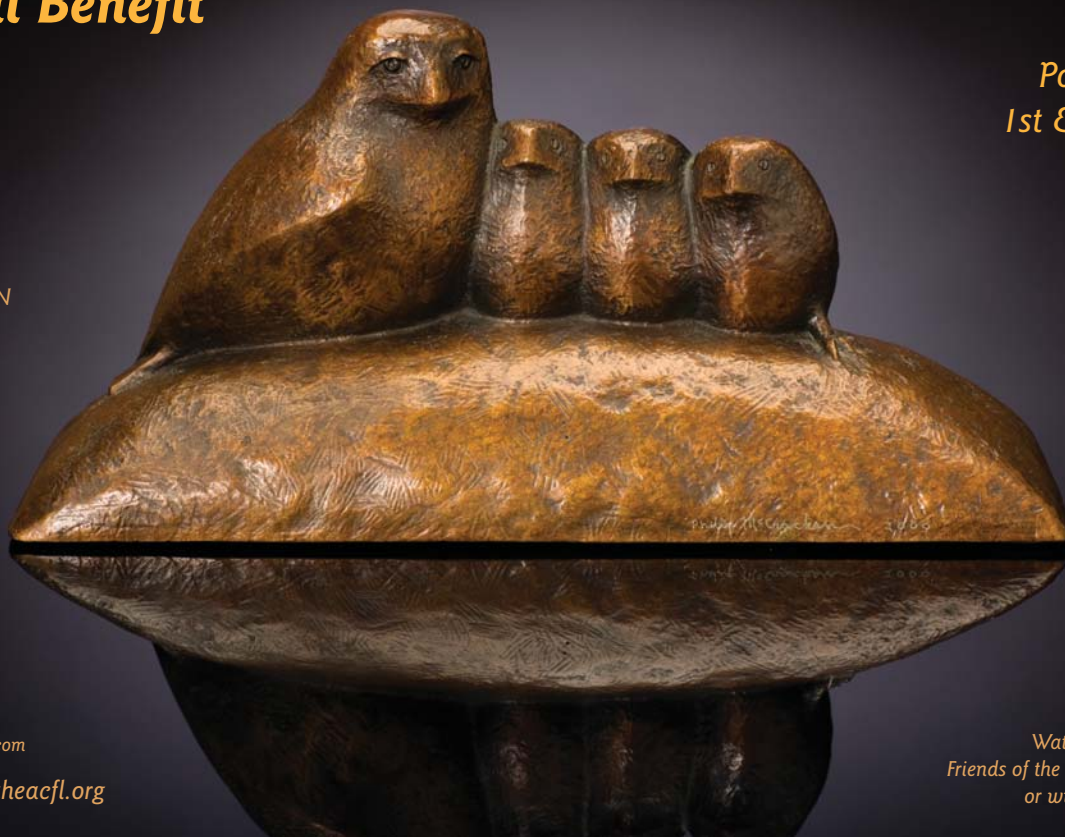
MUSIC
Fidalgo Swing
Spoonshine Duo

DINNER
Gere-a-Deli

SILENT AUCTION

LIVE AUCTION

**Port Warehouse
1st & Commercial
Anacortes**



"Mother and Young"
Phil McCracken
Bronze Sculpture

photo by kp-studios.com

www.friendsoftheacfl.org

TICKETS
\$50 / person
\$400 / table of 8
\$500 / table of 10
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or www.friendsoftheacfl.org