



# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 27 • Issue 2 • Spring 2013**

## *We Are Moving!*

After 20 years on the third floor of the Keystone building at 619 Commercial Ave., we are packing up and moving to ground level a mere 2 blocks away. Yes, it is true; we will soon have a new office in the City's historic railroad Depot Building located at 611 R Avenue in Anacortes. The Friends of the Forest will be in the new space by the end of April. For those of you familiar with the Depot, our office will be the old ticket room within the northern end of the building. We will be sharing the office with the Anacortes Farmers Market.

The Keystone Building has been a great location for the past two decades. We are deeply appreciative of the tangible support Jack and Maria Papritz gave to our organization in providing office space at a time when there was no budget for it. Through the years, we expanded our space and stepped up a bit with rent, and remained always grateful for the beautiful view and subsidized rate. It is difficult to leave, but our new digs are no less historic or beautiful. We are excited about the location and our new relationship with the City of Anacortes and the Anacortes Farmers Market. Moving to the Depot is a natural transition for us given our close work relationship with the City of Anacortes. Our new ground floor location will be more visible and will accommodate access for all of our members. Regular office hours will remain 10 am to 1 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with extra hours provided as able and by appointment. Our Board meetings will be held at the new location on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Please drop by, we welcome visitors! Stay tuned for an Open House.



## **Face of Mount Erie to Change?**

From Left: Bill Dietrich, Charlie Collins, Andy Stewart, Scott Gudmundsen,  
Denise Crowe, Ed Gastellum, Jean Andrich, Monica Ochs, Lin Nichols

As we are headed to press, an application for a forest practice conversion has just been filed for a private 40 acre parcel that lies on the southern flank of Mount Erie adjoining the ACFL. The proposal includes plans to clear cut approximately 900,000 board feet of timber (up to and above the 600' level), excavate and infill significant amounts of soil and subdivide for residential development. The site is located north of 5285 Campbell Lake Road and is known as files # PL13-0102 at the County. More information is available through the Skagit County Planning Office. Public comment will be accepted until April 12th and this may be the only opportunity to speak out on the environmental impacts of this proposal. You may send comments to:

John Cooper, Planner/Geologist, Skagit County Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 or call at 360-336-9410

## Meet our new Board Members!

### Charlie Collins

Charlie is excited to join the board of Friends of the ACFL. He is a Washington native, having grown up in Mukilteo, WA. After attending undergraduate and Dental School at the University of Washington, he and his wife, Ute, moved to Idaho for five years. In 2005, they moved back to Washington to work and live in the Skagit Valley. "Growing up, my parents instilled in me an appreciation of the outdoors! My hobbies are predominantly outdoor-focused including fishing, hiking, and just getting outside and having fun. What we have here in Anacortes – the trails, the water, the forests - is very special and anything I can do to help others realize what we have and take care of what we have is great!"



Flowering Red Currant

### Ed Gastellum

Ed is a Northern Arizona University graduate with BA in Business and Financial Management. His career of 34 years included a bit of military time and he is a Viet Nam veteran. Most of his career was with the National Park Service having lived in some of the crown jewels like Yosemite, Grand Canyon and other historically interesting and significant areas such as Petrified Forest NP, and Hubbel Trading Post NHS. He ended his career at North Cascades NP where he was the Assistant Superintendent.

"Preservation of Special places has been my life work and I have continued to do so as a board member of Padilla Bay Foundation and as a steward with others of Guemes Mountain for the Skagit Land Trust. I am a member of Trail Tales sponsored by Skagit Beaches and the Dept. of Ecology which concentrates on the history of Anacortes and of the clean up taking place in Fidalgo Bay." Ed's other interests include birding, hiking, kayaking, photography and traveling.

## 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

Sandra Starbuck 901-9179  
Brian Wetcher 293-7624  
Marty Laumbattus 293-7940  
Rick Boge 299-2692  
Aaron Rasmussen 293-3018

### PARKS & FOREST LANDS

#### MANAGER

Jonn Lunsford 299-1953

## 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

### E-MAIL

### PHONE

### TERM ENDS

Mayor Dean Maxwell	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/13
W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/15
W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/15
W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/15
P4 Brian E. Geer	briang@cityofanacortes.org	293-4791	12/31/13
P5 Cynthia Richardson	cynthiar@cityofanacortes.org	299-9081	12/31/13
P6 Bill Turner	billt@cityofanacortes.org	293-9658	12/31/13
P7 Erica Pickett	ericap@cityofanacortes.org	293-6264	12/31/13

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.  
Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm 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 Lin Nichols 299-3826

### 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. 2014	akccstewart@earthlink.net
Jean Andrich	293-0124	Jan. 2014	jean@friendsoftheacfl.org
Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2014	lin.nichols@yahoo.com
Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2014	monica.ochs@gmail.com
Bill Dietrich	588-0118	Jan. 2014	williamdietrich@comcast.net
Denise Crowe	293-8426	Jan 2015	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org
Scott Gudmundsen	293-1550	Jan 2015	robertgudmundsen@shell.com
Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan 2015	troutdental@yahoo.com
Ed Gastellum	293-7626	Jan 2015	ecgastel@wavecable.com

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Depot Building, located at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved.





# Doggie Doo? Please Don't!



Embrace your inner first grader and get giddy, because it's time to talk about poop. Anyone who has walked the trails of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) has at some point found themselves grimacing after an unfortunate encounter with a pile of dog poop left behind. While some are vigilant and dodge direct contact, the poop problem still remains.

It should neither shock nor surprise anyone that there is no poop fairy. Yet several members of the community seem to hold fast to this notion, as demonstrated by their negligence of their pets' waste. The purpose of this article is to disillusion any pet owners who fall into this category.

If not misguided by a belief in the mythical poop fairy, perhaps pet owners in Anacortes suffer from a bizarre syndrome in which they believe their dogs to be the only canines enjoying the forest lands, or the only canines to produce waste whilst doing so. Dog owners of Anacortes, this is not the situation. If everyone were to walk their dogs and leave their waste behind, the trails would be significantly less enjoyable. Please, pick up the poop.

Waste left behind poses problems for other dogs, the forest ecosystem and people, too. A pile is teeming with bacteria and parasites which are no longer needed by the dog's body. When another dog comes along and begins to sniff and investigate, he or she risks becoming infected by the abandoned waste.

The forest ecosystem is home to numerous plants and animals. These species are not equipped with the means to resist foreign contaminants, bacteria and parasites present in a domesticated dog's waste. Furthermore, the nutrients and chemicals in the poop do not biodegrade in the same way that poop produced by animals living in the forest naturally does. Protect wildlife by picking up.

If the bacteria and parasites fail to find a new host, they seep into the ground polluting groundwater and other bodies of water. In Anacortes,



Mallorie is an Anacortes High School Graduate and was an intern with Friends of the Forest working on projects for her advanced WWU public relations class.

She created educational materials for forest kiosks, and helped us with social media strategies. Her presence on hikes and at meetings has been most welcome. We look forward to seeing more of her in the woods!

there are several lakes and other bodies of water with which the community routinely comes into contact with. If the poop gets left behind, it has the potential to contaminate these water bodies and human bodies.

The solution is simple. Grab a conveniently located "Mutt Mitt" at the trailhead to collect your dogs' waste. Recycle an old grocery bag, they are equally effective. Consider purchasing a bag dispenser and attach it to Fido's collar so that the two of you are always prepared for his presents. Perhaps you feel squeamish about potentially touching poop, get around this by pulling on a pair of gloves and carry hand sanitizer. Whatever it takes, just pick up the poop.

*Mallorie Estenson*  
Winter Friends of the Forest Intern

## Love Your Dog? Use Your Leash!

Porcupine and coyote encounters with unleashed dogs can happen quickly and within your sight. Please show that you love your dog by keeping them near you and leashed at all times in the ACFL.

When you leash your dog you are demonstrating; that you love and are responsible for your pet, that you care about the needs of the wildlife and wild plants of the forest, that you respect other people who come to the forest and value their experience as equal to your own.

Our community forest belongs to all of us, to care for and enjoy. An off leash dog violates the rights of others. Please do not view yourself or your pet as the exception, no matter how friendly you each may be. Following the rules keeps everyone happy and able to enjoy the forest. In the case of leashes, it is not just a rule - It is the law!

If you encounter an off leash dog in the forest, call 911 and tell them it is a nonemergency call. Tell them where you are and describe the people and/or dogs involved with vehicle license # if available. Then call Jonn Lunsford, ACFL Manager, at 299-1953 to make a report.

Denise Crowe





# Spring Calendar 2013



*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 the 7th grade.

Our community hikes are FREE and no registration is required. Please join Naturalist, Denise Crowe, 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](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) or inquire by email at [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org).

Hope to see you in the woods!

**Please note:**

**These hikes focus on human and wildlife experience, so we ask that you please leave your four legged friends at home.**

## All Ages Hikes

(Great for families and folks of all ages, these are hearty hikes with a naturalist guide.)

Big Beaver Pond  
Saturday, April 13th  
10am until noon

Immerse in the bright beginning of early spring as we explore beaver pond territory. In April we see wood ducks, courting buffleheads, kingfishers, great blue herons, raven, frogs, hummingbirds and garter snakes. 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.

Sugarloaf Wildflowers  
Saturday, May 4th  
10am until 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.

Little Cranberry Lake  
Saturday, May 11th  
10am until around noon

We'll celebrate Mother's Day weekend 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 in our forest. This is the place where deep forest, swamp, rocky meadow, lake, and bog islands converge. Experience the lush green and abundant native bloom of May. Take Georgia south off of Oakes and follow to the gravel road that leads to the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot.

Morning Whistle  
Saturday, June 8th  
9am until noon

Whistle Lake territory is worth the extra time it takes. We will hike all the way around the coldest, deepest jewel of the forest. Will we find the elusive and beautiful Columbian Tiger Lily? Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

**Ethnobotany Field Seminar**  
Friday, June 21st  
10am until 3pm

This adult class is worth taking the day off for. 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.

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





## Senior/Adult Hikes

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



**Little Beaver Pond**  
Friday, April 12th  
10am until 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.

**NW Whistle Lake**  
Friday, May 10th  
10am until noon

Spring growth will be at peak as we hike in to Whistle Lake 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.

**Heart Lake Old Growth Loop**  
Friday, June 14th  
10am until noon

It's time for a visit with our elders on the south shore of Heart Lake. Orange trumpet honeysuckle and Ocean spray will be on display as we slow to the ancient rhythm of our old growth forest. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive

## First Phase of Heart Lake milfoil removal gets funding.

By Jonn Lunsford

The State Department of Ecology has approved the City's grant application to fund a combination of approaches to remove the milfoil at Heart Lake. Following the milfoil management plan, which was approved last year; the first approach will be to use divers to remove the milfoil by hand. The grant also funds two test plots to use the herbicides triclopyr and 2, 4-D to see which works best on the hybrid milfoil at the lake.

The City originally received funds from Ecology in 2010 to create a milfoil plan for Heart Lake. To develop an accurate plan, biologists surveyed the flora and fauna at the lake and several community meetings were held to take public input and discuss treatment options. The plan was approved by City Council and sets the foundation for our current course of action.



Funding for the \$40,000 project will not be available until July of this year so it is possible that work at the lake may not begin until 2014.

You may view the Heart Lake Milfoil Plan at the City website, [www.cityofanacortes.org](http://www.cityofanacortes.org) and go to the Parks and Recreation home page. Our thanks to the committee of volunteers who have helped guide this project and edit the grant with City staff. If you have questions, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 360-293-1918.

## UPCOMING WORK PARTIES

### April 20th @ 9am

Come celebrate Earth Day by helping us remove a grove of non-native invasive Holly and Daphne growing along trail 104 near Little Cranberry Lake. This in turn will help the native plants and trees grow strong and healthy. This work party is to honor Hershel Janz who has dedicated over 10 years volunteering to remove invasive plants from the ACFL. We will be hiking off trail in rough terrain, so be prepared for that kind of environment. Let's meet at trailhead 104 at the west end of 29th Street and we'll hike in from there.

Work Parties generally last 2 hours and severe weather may cancel them. Tools are always provided. Dress warmly, bring leather gloves, boots and wear a smile. Work Party projects can be found at the City of Anacortes website at <http://www.cityofanacortes.org/parks.asp>. Search the Parks and Recreation page under "Top Stories" for more info. Not on the web? Call 661-3554 for the latest information on ACFL Work Parties.







# An Idiot in the Forest.....

by Scott Gudmundsen

Have you ever wondered how many ferns there are in our community forest lands? I was curious so decided to do a Fern Census. After starting the count of all the individual ferns, I realized it would take too long once I got to 20. So I decided to conduct the census via a scientific process. This will be the first, and probably last, official Fern Census of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.



Here is how it works. The Forest Lands contain 2,800 acres. There are 4,840 square yards in an acre. (This data is per Google which is never wrong.) If we assume that there is approximately one fern per square yard, we get 13,522,000 ferns. The one fern per square yard is subject to debate because much of the forest undergrowth is the Salal plant. But there are many areas where the ferns are growing in high density greater than 1 per square yard. So I'm going to stick with my assumptions. This means that there are about 800 ferns per Anacortes resident. We are outnumbered folks. It might make a great science fiction movie, but let us hope that the ferns never decide to revolt if we don't continue to treat our forest lands well.



It was a winter wonderland on Heart Lake in January. During the long cold spell, the lake froze over and was covered with more than 1-inch of ice. Someone got creative near the boat ramp and carved an octagon shaped piece of ice and set it on its side. Take a look at the picture. While I don't recommend getting your feet in the lake in the winter, I appreciated the interesting optical effect this created. During this same cold spell on the very remote trail 247 west and below Mt Erie, the water dripping down the rocks created a beautiful series of icicles and plants encased in ice. Brrrr!



This quarter's featured fungus is called Red Belt Fungus. It is very common throughout our forest lands and adds a nice touch of color. I call it the Giorgio Armani fungus because of the classy red belt. These fungi are very adept at "eating" dead wood and returning them back to the soil. They are sort of the housekeepers of the forest and you don't have to leave a tip.



Did you know that Fungi are not plants and they are not animals? They have their own kingdom. It is called the Fungi Kingdom with head offices located somewhere near Orlando.

Happy Trails in the forest.

## ADULT FITNESS HIKE

A Grand Tour of Little Cranberry Lake  
Friday, April 19th  
1pm until 4pm

Join us for a 9-mile fitness hike in the Little Cranberry Lake area led by *The Idiot in the Forest!* he says, "It will be all downhill (except for the part that isn't downhill)." If this sounds like a fun workout adventure, take Friday afternoon off, bring water and meet at the old city dump gate at 37th and A Ave.



# Thank you to Friends of the Forest 2013 Members and Contributors!



Roger & Kim Aasen  
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Whidbey Island Bank

A Memorial Donation in memory of Ruth Bakke was made by Keith & Roxan Kraft.  
A Donation in honor of Bill Woyski's Birthday was made by Janet Miller

Please let us know if your name is missing, misspelled or if you prefer to be listed differently.

## Membership Notes

January starts the new membership year.

Please renew or join today!

We accept donations online.

Please visit our website and go to Contribute.

i

Confused on a hike location? Check our website for links to driving directions to each hike location.

i

Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.

i

Need an ACFL trail map? We have them for sale in our office or you may also visit our website for a complete list of local sources.

*Save the date, November 2, 2013  
for the Friends of the Forest  
Annual Benefit Event!*

[www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) i [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)



## FRIENDS OF THE ACFL

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Anacortes, Washington 98221

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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!