



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 28 • Issue 4 • Fall 2014

Anacortes Forest Benefit Event

November 1st, 2014

The Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit will be held at the Port Warehouse again this year, starting at 5:30pm. Join us on Saturday, November 1st for “The Best Party of the Year,” while raising funds to support our Forest Education and Stewardship Programs! We provide a wide range of educational activities in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands that inspire a greater understanding of our unique natural treasure. And through our Stewardship Program, Friends of the Forest staff and volunteers are coordinating the campaign to Save South Mt. Erie!

We are pleased to announce that Lanny Bergner will be the featured artist at this year’s benefit. We often see Lanny in our forest and in his artist’s statement he says, “I love the natural world and am constantly inspired by its beauty and infinite varieties of form.” Born in Anacortes, Lanny’s work is in numerous museum collections including the Seattle Art Museum. An image of his sculpture – which will be featured in our live auction – graces the event poster.

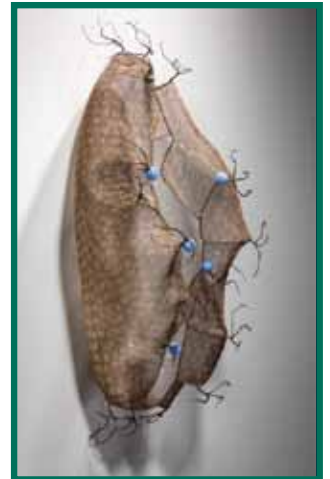


Photo by KP-Studios

Tickets are \$50.00 per person (\$25.00 tax deductible) and tables of 8 or 10 are also available. Tickets may be purchased through the Friends of the Forest Office located at 611 R Avenue, Watermark Book Company, or you can buy tickets online. Please get your tickets early as we sold out last year. Highlights include; music by Fidalgo Swing, dinner by Gere-a-Deli plus a silent and live auction, featuring auctioneer Michelle Westford and an ample sound system. If you have something special to donate to the auction, please let us know. Sponsorships are also available.



Photo by Steven Roxborough

Look for updates on our website:
www.friendsoftheacfl.org
For more information please
contact us at
info@friendsoftheacfl.org
or call 360.293.3725.



South Mount Erie Udd Property Capital Campaign



View looking south from a rocky bald on the Udd Property

Photo credit: David Grant Best

Our effort to help raise money for the City of Anacortes' purchase of 20 acres of beautiful private forested property on the Southeast flank of Mount Erie is continuing. This rare acreage is contiguous with the ACFL, provides prime wildlife and native plant habitat, completes enduring recreational access on trail #247, and maintains the iconic view of Mount Erie as a natural wonder throughout the surrounding area.

The city has committed \$130,000 of Lakeside Quarry revenue toward the \$260,000 total asking price, and has asked local donors to raise a matching \$130,000 plus \$20,000 to fund conservation and stewardship of the property in the future. Our donations are nearing \$50,000.

We are very excited about this opportunity and hope that a successful campaign will help in the continuing effort to conserve other sensitive forested private lands adjacent to the ACFL. Please join this opportunity to add 20 acres to the ACFL and preserve this special area for all to enjoy!

To Donate:

You can make an electronic donation on the Friends of the Forest website, or mail a check made out to the city or the Friends. Please make your donation clearly labeled with South Mount Erie Capital Campaign or Udd Property written in the note section on your check. Please use this address: Friends of the Forest, PO Box #2213, Anacortes WA 98221. Our physical address at The Depot does not have a mailbox. Thank You!

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD		CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS			
<i>The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.</i>		<i>Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.</i>			
<u>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</u>	<u>PARKS & FOREST LANDS</u>	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS
Sandra Starbuck 901-9179	<u>MANAGER</u>	Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/17
Brian Wetcher 293-7624	Jonn Lunsford 299-1953	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/15
Marty Laumbattus 293-7940		W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/15
Rick Boge 299-2692		W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/15
Aaron Ramussen 293-3018		P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com	588-9070	12/31/17
		P-5 John Archibald	john@cityofanacortes.com	395-5923	12/31/17
		P-6 Liz Lovelett	lovelett@cityofanacortes.com	588-8707	12/31/17
		P7 Erica Pickett	ericap@cityofanacortes.org	293-6264	12/31/17
Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried - 299-1950 Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large - 293-1900					

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

<u>OFFICERS</u>			<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>			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.
President	Andy Stewart	299-9406	Andy Stewart	299-9406	Jan. 2016	
Vice President	Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jean Andrich	293-0124	Jan. 2016	
Secretary	Bill Dietrich	588-0118	Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2016	
Treasurer	Lin Nichols	299-3826	Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2016	
<u>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</u>			Bill Dietrich	588-0118	Jan. 2016	
Denise Crowe	293-3725		Denise Crowe	293-8426	Jan 2015	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR</u>			Scott Gudmundsen	293-1550	Jan 2015	
Jean Andrich	293-3725		Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan 2015	
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>			Ed Gastellum	293-7626	Jan 2015	
www.friendsoftheacfl.org						

Crowe's Nest

Adult Hike, Heart Lake Old Growth



All Ages Hike



Our forest is easing in to a well deserved seasonal rest. This year has brought phenomenal weather and an unprecedented level of recreational activity to our green island. Hikers, bikers, and horseback riders from near and far have been exploring the ACFL in abundance. As the temperatures cool and the tourists retreat; our woods will drink in the rain, shed leaves and branches, and slowly recharge before next spring's reawakening. This is a wonderful time to enjoy our trails. Drink in the rain and recharge yourself!

The Friends of the Forest have been bustling as well. Our educational programs and community hikes are at higher levels of attendance with enduring meaningful engagement. The capital campaign for purchasing land on South Mount Erie with the City has been an exciting new endeavor, our office at the Depot is proving to be a very accessible and visible location with more regular public interaction. We are striving to anticipate the needs of the forest and our community with a sustainable spirit as we face the many challenges of growth. Please join us in supporting this work and special place in whatever ways you can. We hope to see you on our membership list, at our benefit event, at our annual meeting, joining a work party, or smiling on a hike!

Denise Crowe



Forest Discoverers hiking
Sugarloaf Mountain - Summer 2014

Forest Discoverers
immerse all of thier
attention in Big
Beaver Pond.





Fall Calendar 2014



*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. 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. Please understand that our hikes are for people only, we ask that you leave your pets at home. Hope to see you in the woods!

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.

Bat Cave
Saturday, October 25th
10am 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 Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the north end of the lake.

Sugarloaf Mountain
Saturday, November 8th
10 am until noon

Experience the golden glow of Sugarloaf Mountain in November. We will hike from the dark woods at the base 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.

Whistle Lake
Saturday, November 22nd
10am until 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.

Ace of Hearts Creek
Friday, October 10th
10am until noon

Maple, willow, cottonwood, and mature alder bring abundant color to the season. This is one of the most deciduous areas of our forest, a real treat to explore in the fall. Expect a wide variety of mushrooms along the way. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.

Heart Lake Old Growth
Friday, November 14th
10am until noon

We have the best remaining stand of Puget Sound lowland old growth forest right here on Fidalgo Island in the heart of our community forest. Come along and experience the big old trees. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Whistle Lake
Friday, December 5th
10am until 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.

ACFL WORK PARTIES



During the fall, winter, and spring we put together “Work Parties” for volunteers to give back to the ACFL and help in ACFL projects, trail repairs, and removing non-native invasive plants. Below is a list of upcoming Work Parties. I hope to see you there, and as always, we’ll supply the tools. Please dress warm and wear boots and gloves. Our work parties generally last 2 hours. We may cancel due to severe winds, rain, or snowfall.

NOVEMBER 8th @ 9:00am: We will be tackling some non-native invasive plants to help the native flora and fauna flourish. Let’s meet at trailhead 126 at the west end of Fir Crest Blvd, off A Ave.

NOVEMBER 15th @ 10:00am: ATTENTION EQUESTRIANS, we are planning a horse-riding Work Party in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. This work party will involve pruning limbs hanging low over horse riding trails. Many of these limbs cannot be reached from the ground but up on a horse it will be a lot easier. Let’s meet at the Heart Lake parking lot at 10am. If you have pruning saws and/or cutters please bring them. The ACFL will supply some as well. If you do not have a horse and still want to participate, we will need folks to prune lower branches and help to remove cut limbs off the trails. Please dress warm and bring leather gloves and boots. This is the first official “Horse User Group” work party in the ACFL. Let’s have a good turnout! Please RSVP, if possible. Especially those bringing horse trailers. You can respond by email to daveo@cityofanacortes.org or to Geri Rubin, ACFL Trail Committee Horse Rider Representative at whiskeyholler@comcast.net.

DECEMBER 6th @ 9:00am: A meadow is under attack from invasive Scotch Broom. Let’s meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot (trailhead 20) off of Whistle Lake Rd and we’ll car pool to trail 202.

Do you have an idea for a work party? Call Ranger Dave at 360-661-3554 or email your ideas to daveo@cityofanacortes.org.

Summer ACFL Lakes - Water Quality

The forest lands on Fidalgo Island are made even more special by the beautiful lakes within them. This summer many people seeking the cool of the lakes were surprised and disappointed to find signs at Heart and Little Cranberry warning of toxic algae.

Typically in the summer our lakes are susceptible to blue-green algae blooms. Cyanobacteria commonly referred to as blue-green algae, have a blue-green pigmentation that can appear as if someone spilled a can of vivid green paint in the water. At times cyanobacteria produce a nerve or liver toxin that can make humans sick and be fatal to pets and wildlife. Whether a bloom will be producing a toxin or not is unpredictable and only detected with water sample testing.

We work closely with the Skagit County Department of Public Health and Community Services to monitor the lakes and test the water for two main toxins (Microcystins and Anatoxin-A) when we observe a bloom. Depending on the level of toxicity we will post signs at the lake either cautioning people that cyanobacteria may be present, or warning them that the water samples have shown toxin levels that could cause harm to humans or animals drinking or recreating in the water. The County will also send out a press release to alert the public. It is best to avoid using the lakes for recreation when signs are posted.

Our lakes are also tested monthly during the summer for fecal coliform bacteria. Many of you may remember that in July 2009 Heart Lake was temporarily closed due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Throughout this summer the lakes in the ACFL have tested clean.

Many people have asked about mats of algae clogging the east side of Heart Lake. Those are mats of filamentous algae that have turned yellow and floated to the surface. Filamentous algae is generally harmless but makes recreation on the lake difficult.

As with the milfoil at Heart Lake we are working with the Department of Ecology to try to find a solution. We continued removing milfoil this summer with divers working near the boat launch and by using the chemicals 2,4 D and triclopyr in two small plots on the western shore. We expect to hear back on the results of the chemical application in October.

If you have any questions please contact Anacortes Parks and Recreation at 360-293-1918.

Thank you to Friends of the Forest 2014 Members!

Kym & Roger Aasen
 Evelyn & Gary Adams
 Ramin Ahsaei
 Kathryn Alexandra
 Kerry Allen
 Terry & Janice Altomari
 Debbie Amos & Phil Cohen
 Jackie & Bud Anderson
 Sandra Anderson
 Bret & Jean Andrich
 Shunji Asari
 Ruth & Mark Backlund
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 Jack Barnard
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 David Grant Best
 Patrice & Phil Blakeway
 Ray & Carolyn Bloom
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 Ric & Janet Boge
 Marcia & Lester Books
 Russ & Vicki Borneman
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 Larry & Shirley Bowlin
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 Jim Ford
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 Michelle Fremont & Jerome McCool
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 Judy Garnett
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 The Runstad Foundation
 Verizon TCC Premium Wireless
 Retailer
 Windermere Real Estate

Mark F. & Constance Wray
 Family on behalf of
 The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H.
 Barnes Family Foundation

Memorials

We wish to acknowledge
 thoughtful donations from:
 Deanna King in memory of Bill
 Folmer; Sunny & Ray Enos in
 memory of Marsha Kaye Mel-
 lana; Bill and Jennifer Woyski in
 memory of Marsha Mellana and
 Bill Folmer.

Gifts

A donation was made by Peggy
 Yeager in honor of Melissa Yea-
 ger and Christopher VanArsdale.
 A donation was made by Dena
 Poling in honor of Keith & Roxan
 Kaft.

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

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 established with the Skagit Community Foundation. 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.



Membership notes:

January starts the new membership year, regardless of what month you joined or renewed. To save resources, we do not send out reminder postcards. Please renew or join today!

Confused on a hike location? Check out our website for links to driving directions to each hike location.
www.friendsoftheacfl.org / info@friendsoftheacfl.org

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. Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.
Location: 611 R Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221



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/contributions to: Friends of the ACFL, P.O. Box 2213, Anacortes, WA 98221 or visit us at 611 R Avenue, 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!



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL
P.O. BOX 2213
ANACORTES, WA 98221

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FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL BENEFIT

Saturday, November 1 ... 5:30 to 11pm

Port Warehouse / 1st & Commercial / Anacortes

MUSIC

Fidalgo Swing

DINNER

Gere-a-Deli

SILENT AUCTION ... LIVE AUCTION

TICKETS \$50 / person \$400 / table of 8 \$500 / table of 10

Watermark Book Company, Friends of the Forest office / 293-3725 or online at www.friendsoftheacfl.org

Lanny Bergner, "Forest Hollow" / Stainless steel mesh, wire, glass frit / H30" x W15" x D10" / Photo by KP - Studios

www.friendsoftheacfl.org

