



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 28 • Issue 3 • Summer 2014

South Mt. Erie Update

By Jonn Lunsford



We are happy to announce the re-opening of trail 247 around the south side of Mt Erie.

Some of our most popular trails in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands cross private property. The City has agreements with over a half dozen landowners granting the public permission to cross private land. Trail 247 across the south side of Mt. Erie is one of these. It crosses land held by four different families as it takes off from the two big trees along Heart Lake Road before it reaches the forest south of Whistle Lake.

Trail 247 was closed for the past few months where it crossed a 40 acre parcel owned by the Harkness family. Their property was caught up in a land use appeal between Evergreen Islands and Skagit County. That appeal was settled this spring through a decision by the County Hearings Examiner who in his ruling stated that the landowner and the City shall enter into an agreement regarding the trails the public will be allowed to use. This was an extension of a previous trail agreement between the City and the Harknesses.

The ACFL trail system simply would not work as well as it does now without public/private partnerships.

Here are some examples: Trail 250, which allows bikes and horses to travel around the west side of Heart Lake, is on land owned by Lakeside Industries; Trail 300, aka Surveyors Trail, crosses private land to connect O Avenue to Whistle Lake; and trail 241 cuts through a forested area owned by the Parkside Homeowners to complete the link between Heart Lake and Little Cranberry.

The City is grateful to all the private property owners who let the public recreate on their land. Our most recent agreement with the Harknesses on trail 247 demonstrates how important these links are to get around in the ACFL. Please help us show our appreciation to our ACFL neighbors by respecting their rights and privacy as you travel on trails through their land. Thank you.

The South Mt. Erie (Udd property) Purchase

We're making progress but still need your help! Thanks to all who have contributed to the capital campaign to help purchase land on south Mt. Erie. This parcel will add 20 acres with high recreational and conservation value to the ACFL and includes the continuation of trail 247 from the Harkness property listed above.

The City has a signed option to purchase land from the Udd family for the appraised value of \$260,000. The City has committed to spending \$130,000 of quarry revenue and has asked local donors to help raise the other \$130,000 to purchase the land plus an additional \$20,000 to fund conservation and stewardship of the land in the future.

Cont. on page two...

Guided Hikes of this property:

The Friends of the Forest will be leading hikes on trail 247. Meet at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive and we will carpool to the trail.

Tuesday, July 15 from 3pm to 5pm

Thursday, August 14 from 5 pm to 7 pm

Cont. from cover

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!

Update - Milfoil Removal at Heart Lake

Divers are scheduled to return to Heart Lake on June 25th to continue milfoil removal along the south shore of the parking area. The City also plans to use the herbicides triclopyr and 2, 4-D in two small test plots in the lake to see which works best on the milfoil.

The City originally received funds from the Washington State Department of 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. The funds for the work this summer also come from an Ecology grant.

If you have questions about lake management, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 360-293-1918.

Membership notes:

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

We did not have space to print the membership list, please refer to your mailing label to see if you are current.

Please renew or join today! We accept donations online. Visit our website and go to Contribute.

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

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.

www.friendsoftheacfl.org
info@friendsoftheacfl.org

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.				Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.			
FOREST BOARD MEMBERS		PARKS & FOREST LANDS		NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERMS
		<u>MANAGER</u>		Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/17
Sandra Starbuck	901-9179	Jonn Lunsford	299-1953	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/15
Brian Wetcher	293-7624			W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/15
Marty Laumbattus	293-7940			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/15
Rick Boge	299-2692			P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com	588-9070	12/31/17
Aaron Ramussen	293-3018			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>			
President	Andy Stewart	299-9406		Andy Stewart	299-9406	Jan. 2016	akccstewart@earthlink.net
Vice President	Monica Ochs	293-6003		Jean Andrich	293-0124	Jan. 2016	jean@friendsoftheacfl.org
Secretary	Bill Dietrich	588-0118		Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2016	lin.nichols@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Lin Nichols	299-3826		Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2016	monica.ochs@gmail.com
<u>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</u>				Bill Dietrich	588-0118	Jan. 2016	williamdietrich@comcast.net
Denise Crowe 293-3725				Denise Crowe	293-8426	Jan 2015	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR</u>				Scott Gudmundsen	293-1550	Jan 2015	robertgudmundsen@shell.com
Jean Andrich 293-3725				Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan 2015	troutdental@yahoo.com
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>				Ed Gastellum	293-7626	Jan 2015	ecgastel@wavecable.com
www.friendsoftheacfl.org							

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.

TENT CATERPILLARS: What can you do?

By Ranger Dave Oicles



2014 has been another banner year for the insect that nobody seems to love: The Western Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma fragilis* & *californicum*). The City of Anacortes has received numerous calls on how to remove, kill, and prevent the tent caterpillar from attacking trees and shrubs. Many calls were in reference to trees in our City Parks and along our streets in Anacortes, as well as trees along the Forest Land boundary. So, what can you do? First, let me give you some background information on the Western Tent Caterpillar.

Tent caterpillars have one life cycle each year. They first start out as eggs, which overwinter on trees and shrubs. In the spring the eggs hatch when new foliage emerges. The larvae travel to branch crotches and branch tips and spin a dense web. As the colony of larvae grow, the web expands into “tents” which are easy to see and identify. The larvae (caterpillars) mature in 4-6 weeks and can be seen wandering in search of places to pupate. By June and July moths emerge, mate, lay eggs and the cycle repeats again the following spring.

Each year, the outbreak of tent caterpillars varies, depending on climate and natural life cycles. Natural enemies that include wasps, flies, and disease build large populations over a few years and eventually bring tent caterpillars under control. That is why there appears to be a cycle for tent caterpillar outbreaks.

So, what can you do? Are they really all that bad? After all, it is a natural life cycle in our environment. Well, the answer is simple. If the caterpillars are not bothering your garden, shrubs, trees, or fruit trees, the recommendation from scientists at Washington State University is to leave them alone and allow the natural enemies to control the caterpillar population. A couple of caterpillar “tents” in a healthy tree will not harm the health of the tree. I

have observed many trees that had 90% of its leaves removed by caterpillars bounce back with no health issues. However, weak or newly planted trees and saplings can die from the defoliation damage. It is best to remove the caterpillars and their tents on these trees. The best way for removal is by hand, pulling off the tents and caterpillars and then burning or placing in soapy water to kill them. For tents that are hard to reach, use a pole pruner and prune off the affected area if it does not cause structural damage to tree. I have found that removing the tents in the early morning seems to work best for collecting the most caterpillars. Another option to control caterpillars is to use a naturally occurring organic bacteria called Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Bt is sprayed on caterpillars and interrupts their digestion so they stop eating and die. According to the label, Bt is not harmful to the environment, animals or humans. Bt is available at local hardware stores. Chemical pesticides are not recommended.

Tent caterpillars do provide a positive addition to a natural forest setting. Besides providing food to certain birds, bugs, and parasitic insects, the consumption of leaves by tent caterpillars thins the canopy of the forest, providing young conifer trees more sunlight to grow. Caterpillar droppings also help fertilize the understory of the forest. For more information on managing tent caterpillars, visit this Western Washington Extension newsletter: http://forestry.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Newsletter_05_04.pdf.



Editor's Note: *The white dot on this caterpillar shows it has become a host to a parasitic Tachinid fly. The fly's larvae will eat the host from the inside out.*



Summer 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 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, for summer fun 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 inquire by email 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!



All Ages Hikes

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

All Around Little Cranberry
Saturday, July 26th
10am until a little after noon

Little Cranberry Lake holds a rich convergence of habitat with bog islands, rocky shore and mixed forest surrounding. This is beaver, river otter, raven, and alligator lizard terrain. July brings forth a multitude of berries and deep green growth. Learn all about this amazing place and enjoy a challenging hike for all ages. Take Georgia south off of Oakes and follow up to the ACFL road, take a right and follow to the parking lot.

All around Heart
Saturday, August 9th
10am until noon

There is no better place to be in the middle of summer than in the middle of our woods. Get to know the heart of the forest on this wonderful journey all the way around Heart Lake. Lush deciduous areas flow into an amazing old growth grove. Meet at the Heart Lake Parking lot.

Mitten Pond Loop
Saturday, August 23rd
10am until noon

Summer isn't over yet! The cool smell of water floats up the path as we near Mitten Pond. Whirligig beetles spin shining patterns in the glowing green duckweed. Dragonflies drift and zoom around us. Sound good? Please come along! Meet at the ACFL kiosk on A Ave. and 37th.

Special Guided Hikes of South Mt. Erie
Tuesday, July 15 - 3 pm to 5pm
Thursday, August 14 - 5 pm to 7 pm

Trail 247 recently reopened and we want to show you this beautiful part of Mt. Erie. Meet at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive and we will carpool to the trail.

Senior/Adult Hikes

A little bit gentler and just around two miles, with an adult level flora and fauna focus...

Erie View Trail
Friday, July 11th
10am until noon

This is a trail of wonders, twisting and turning through prime wetland wildlife corridor 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
Friday, August 8th
10am until noon

This route is a regular favorite, providing spectacular views and deep woods feel with just the right amount of physical challenge. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

Beaver Ponds
Friday, September 12th
10am until noon

The Little Cranberry Lake area is filled with a network of beaver ponds created and maintained by local beaver families. We will explore trails that reveal their lodges, dams, mounds, and other daytime clues to their nighttime secret ways. Meet at the ACFL kiosk on A Ave. and 37th.



Friends of the Forest

2014 Forest Discovery Program



What: The "Forest Discovery Program" is an activity oriented summer day camp for boys and girls ages 7 to 12. Each day we explore a different area of our Community Forest Lands. As we hike, play games, make nature journals and experiment, we learn about wild animals, native plants and different habitats.

Where: Forest Discovery will meet at a different trailhead each day. More detailed instructions, maps & directions will be sent to you prior to your session. The trails are all within the Anacortes City limits.

When: There will be TWO sessions offered. Each session will meet Tuesday through Thursday. Your child may attend only one session. Please do not sign your child up if you do not plan to attend all three days. Dates and Times are as follows:

Session #1: July 22, 23, 24

Session #2: August 5, 6, 7

All sessions include age groups & times of: **10 - 12 year olds from 9:00am to 11:30 am daily**
7 - 9 year olds from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm daily

*Registration is required in advance. Each session is limited to 12 participants. **Sign up early!**

-----cut on the dotted line and send lower portion in -----

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

Session: (Circle one) Session # 1 July 22, 23, 24 Session # 2 August 5, 6, 7

In signing below, I understand that participation in this activity is at my own or my child's risk. I agree to hold harmless the Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and Denise Crowe from any and all claims resulting from injury as a direct or indirect consequence of participation in this program. I also acknowledge that no insurance is carried for this program.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Send registration to: Friends of the Forest

P.O. Box 2213
Anacortes, WA 98221

2014 Friends of the Forest Scholarship Recipients

Spring is a beautiful time of year where new growth in the woods is enjoyed by all. We also celebrate spring by awarding scholarships to students who have shown tremendous growth in the field of environmental studies.

The purpose of our scholarship is to see our mission of environmental education, stewardship and outreach be carried forward to future generations. We look for students who have a strong desire to be involved in the natural world. This year, three very deserving students were selected to receive Friends of the Forest Scholarships.

Stella Tsitiragos was involved in numerous volunteer projects with the High School Green club. In 2011, she was selected to participate in the Cascades Climate Challenge through North Cascades Institute. In 2012 and 2013, she worked with the Student Conservation Association and contributed over 350 hours of time to trail restoration work in Pacific Northwest National and Provincial Parks. Stella plans to attend Western Washington University to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis on Environmental Policy. She hopes to eventually study Environmental Law. She says, "As I further my education, I can share my knowledge with others, continuing to work towards the ultimate goal of a healthier planet."

Carly Christenson is the President of the Green Club and has volunteered extensively with environmental efforts throughout our community with groups such as Friends of Skagit Beaches and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group. She plans to attend the University of California Davis and major in Marine Coastal Science and Animal Science. She says, "I am extremely grateful for Anacortes' environment for showing me what I am truly passionate about.... I am certain that I will end up in an environmental career that I will truly be happy to pursue."

Mary-Ellen Renya is very involved with Key Club and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2012 and received the Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award for 2012-2013. She was appointed to the Key Club Pacific Northwest District Board of Directors as Growth Director for the 2013-2014 year. She plans to attend University of Montana and pursue a degree in Forestry. She wants to eventually work in the woods, among wildlife and nature. She says, "It is my goal to improve my community by working to improve the environment and protect the earth and its resources for the future."

We think our forest and other special places will be in good hands with Stella, Carly and Mary-Ellen to help look after them! On behalf of the Friends of the Forest, we congratulate these three outstanding young women!



From left is Jean Andrich, Mary-Ellen Renya, Stella Tsitiragos, Carly Christenson and Denise Crowe

Save the Date!

Annual Benefit Event – November 1st

The Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit will be held at the Port Warehouse again this year, starting at 5:30. Join us for The Best Party of the Year, while raising funds to support the Friends Forest Education and Stewardship Program! This program provides a wide range of educational activities in the ACFL that promote a greater understanding of our unique community treasure.

We are pleased to announce this year's Featured Artist - Sculptor, Lanny Bergner. 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." We look forward to unveiling his sculpture in early fall, it will also be on our event poster and featured in our live auction.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person (\$25.00 tax deductible) and tables of 8 or 10 are also available. Tickets will be available through the Friends of the Forest Office, Watermark Book Company or online at: www.friendsoftheacfl.org beginning in September. **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 short live auction. If you have something special to donate to the auction, please let us know. Sponsorships are also available. Look for updates on our website: www.friendsoftheacfl.org

Connecting with our schools

Mount Erie Elementary School/Anacortes Community Garden

By Deborah Martin

Friends of the Forest Member and Volunteer

*Science students at Mt. Erie School
are avid gardeners this year!*



Alan Cibraian and Logan Horr working together to create the garden reptile habitat.

While raising nutritious spring crops, the 2nd and 3rd graders ran a snap pea trial to see which variety did best in their Fidalgo Island garden location. The garden is located at the northwest end of the school field, just adjacent to a beautiful forested area of Anacortes School District property, almost contiguous with the ACFL.

A favorite activity in the garden is observation of the living systems in the garden and surrounding area.

Students have planted specific habitat support for local pollinators and beneficial insects, and love to spot them. Students know their garden offers support for invertebrate life on up through the organic gardening practices used in the Anacortes Community Gardens.

A celebrated activity this year was the construction of a native reptile habitat by the 1st grade. If you're looking for creative, enthusiastic hard workers, look to 1st graders! Students created a rock scape and set aside a grassy meadow area to invite the helpful garter snake and alligator lizard to share the garden.

Gardening with 300+ students a week can be very busy! A contrast to this feeling is one we like to find equal



Volunteer Martha Harper and 1st graders bringing rocks to build the reptile habitat.

time for in the garden. It always occurs when we enter the forest at the trail alongside the garden for a walk. The simple joy of quiet and discovery become the group energy. A special kind of focused happiness takes over. 3rd graders have been sharing their knowledge of native plants learned through the ACFL school program. The relationships of living systems found in nature demonstrate how we can support success in the garden.

Thank you Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, for holding the space of our living world so well for all of us here. Evidence of its unparalleled value is in our local children.



Zinnia with her native plant, Sword Fern.

Photos by: Amanda Carmichael



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ANACORTES, WA 98221

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Save the Date! Our Annual Benefit event will be on November 1st, 2014.



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!