



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 29 • Issue 2 • Spring 2015

In Remembrance

In the past year, we have said farewell to some very dear Forest Friends. Here we hope to honor and remember them, to reflect on what they each brought to our community and how we can continue to help realize their legacy.



Bill Folmer and Marsha Mellana moved to Anacortes in 1978 and soon came to reside in Happy Valley just south of town. They created a beautiful garden and nature haven on their acreage that came to be known as Happy Valley Farms. For decades they cultivated relationships with flowers and veggies, food and friends. Artists and entrepreneur farmers, they made a modest living from farm to market for decades through their own stores in La Conner and Anacortes, as well as Seattle Pike Place Market, Tulip Town, and the Anacortes Farmers Market at the Depot. They worked hard and lived simply, devoting their resources to causes and projects that they cared about. They were always supportive of our group, contributing lovely goods to our benefit event and providing kind words of encouragement for our work. We are grateful for their friendship, and feel deeply honored by Marsha's bequeathment of \$5,000 to the Friends of the Forest through her estate.



Ric Boge was a devoted public servant both in his career as a conservation professional with Skagit County Public Works and his abundant volunteer work. Ric served on the ACFL's Forest Advisory Board for nearly 15 years. His work in service to the forest was always of the highest quality. He brought intelligence, integrity, soft spoken thoughtfulness, and interpersonal respect to all efforts he engaged in. He was incredibly kind and enjoyable to be around. When his wife, Janet, served on our Friends of the Forest Board, he was always willing to help out too in any way that he could. We thank his family for sharing so much of him with our forest community for so long. Our woods are a better place through his committed and diligent effort.



Phil Cunningham was the most recent émigré to our island and he wasted no time in fully embracing life here. He became a regular member of our community hikes, learning all about the forest and the people around him. We quickly grew to appreciate his amazing smile, resonant voice and laugh, his inclusive way with others, and his sincere desire to learn as much as he could of his new home. Be it natural or human history, he was fascinated by and supportive of all opportunities for community knowledge building. He became an ambassador for newcomers to our town through all of his group involvements. We are so sad that his time here felt much too short, yet he shared all of himself with so many in a deep and lasting way. We will continue to feel the love he grew here for a very long time to come.

To all of our dearly departed friends, and their friends and families...May the Forest Be With You!

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.
-  Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.
-  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.			
<u>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</u>		<u>PARKS & FOREST LANDS</u>		<u>NAME</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
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
Aaron Ramussen	293-3018			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/15
				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	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 2017	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR</u>			Scott Gudmundsen	293-1550	Jan 2017	robertgudmundsen@shell.com	
Jean Andrich 293-3725			Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan 2017	troutdental@yahoo.com	
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>			Ed Gastellum	293-7626	Jan 2017	ecgastel@wavecable.com	
www.friendsoftheacfl.org							

Explore the new Udd Addition!

Trail 247 is a secret gem in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. This challenging trail takes you on a journey around the south side of Mt Erie, meandering through abundant stands of Pacific Madrone trees, moss covered rocky points, fern grottos, rock faces, canyons, creeks, and to incredible views of Lake Campbell and the Puget Sound. This is the trail to pack a picnic and plenty of water to have lunch in a remote portion of the ACFL just to enjoy the view and peace and quiet the forest has to offer, while absorbing the warmth of the south facing slope of Mt Erie.



VIEWS & TREASURES AWAIT... TRAIL 247

By
Ranger Dave

The trail was built about 15 years ago, but was soon closed when it was discovered a large portion of the trail was built on private property and not all owners were willing to have the trail cross their property. But recently new owners on a section of trail previously closed has allowed us to keep the trail on their property along with all the other property owners. The only stipulation was for the Parks Department to move the trail a little further north to provide a buffer for a future residence. Last month that portion of trail 247 was rerouted with the help of many volunteers from Anacortes and the surrounding community. We are still

working on improving the reroute to make it more negotiable for mountain bike riding, but for now it is ready for hiking, or walking your bike! Come on out and enjoy the trail less traveled.

The trail begins on Heart Lake Road across the street from trail 249, where the two big trees are very close to the road. The trail is very challenging at some points which is why it is only open to hikers and very skilled mountain bikers. If you want to make your journey a loop, you will need at least 3 hours for someone in good shape. Trails to make it a loop, starting and ending on Heart Lake Road at the trailhead entrance would be trails 247, 22, 21, 207, 230, 226 to 225, 215, 212 to 25, and 220 to 249. This route will change in elevation numerous times, giving you an excellent workout as well. Enjoy!

Trail #247 crosses three parcels of private property, and the newly acquired 20 acre Udd addition. Please respect our ACFL neighbors by staying on the trail, leashing your dog and hauling out any trash. Thank you.

If you would like to help us complete the trail please join us on April 18th for the Dallas Klope Mt. Erie work party from 9am to noon. Meet at 8:50am at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive. Bring a good pair of gloves.



Spring Calendar 2015



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, 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. Our trips focus on human and wildlife experience; please leave your pets at home. 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 Education and Outreach Director, Denise Crowe at 293-3725. You may also visit our website www.friendsoftheacfl.org or email Denise@friendsoftheacfl.org. Hope to see you in the woods!

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.

All Ages Hikes

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

Special Earth Day Whistle Lake Celebration!!

Wednesday, April 22nd
10am until noon



Join friends for an Earth Day gathering in our beautiful Whistle Lake area of the ACFL. Learn about the history of the day and our community forest lands and the important role we all play in taking care of our community forest in perpetuity. We are experiencing an early Spring, anticipate lovely wildflowers and great company. Meet at the Whistle Lake Parking lot.

Big Beaver Pond Traverse
Saturday, April 25th
10am until noon



Spring is here! Yellow swamp lanterns and magenta salmon berry bloom will light the path as we circumnavigate Big Beaver Pond. Emerging plants, frog and bird song, and flowing water will awaken us to the meaning of the season. Meet at the old city dump gate at 37th and A Ave.

Sugarloaf Wildflowers
Saturday, May 2nd
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 Loop
Saturday, May 16th
10am until noon



Little Cranberry is our only lake with a near shore trail all the way around it. The trail provides constant lake views in this wildlife rich area. Rocky meadows, bog islands, and deep forest converge in this basin to create habitat for hundreds of native plants and animals. Will we see river otter? Raven? Red-legged frog? Banana slug sightings guaranteed. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the North end of the lake. (Take Georgia south off of Oakes Ave.- 3 blocks up take a right on Little Cranberry road and follow gravel to parking lot.)

Eastern Heart
Saturday, May 23rd
10am until noon



There is a labyrinth of trails to the East of Heart Lake and North of Sugarloaf that we will begin to decipher together. Come and get your bearings in this amazing area of our forest. From old growth to alder swale, shale deposits and bedrock, stinging nettle to sticky bedstraw, we will notice the hidden details. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.



Senior/Adult Hikes

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

Pine Ridge
Friday, May 8th
10am until noon

This is a beautiful hike through shore pine to a hidden meadow with lovely views. We will continue on around the dark side of the ridge and connect with old growth south of Heart Lake. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Northwest Whistle
Friday, June 12th
10am until noon

With summer nearly here, it is time to visit our deep water oasis. The trails north and west of the lake make for a delightful hike at the peak of fresh green lush growth. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

And for the very fit...

Spring Fitness Hike
Saturday, May 30th
10am to 1 pm

Join some of our Friends of the Forest Board Members for a fast paced spring fitness hike. This 7-8 mile intense workout hike, for the very fit only, will pass all the lakes and ponds of the Little Cranberry forest lands. Meet at the parking lot on 37th and A Ave at 10 am. Bring water and a snack. No dogs please; coyotes, raccoons, deer, beavers, owls OK.



ETHNOBOTANY FIELD SEMINAR

Saturday, June 6th, 10am until 4pm

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.

What do you do when you see something in the woods that shouldn't be happening? If you witness an emergency situation, you call 911! Right? What about those times when you are witness to non-emergency violations of the law or forest policy? You may be surprised to know that you do the same thing. Call 911 and immediately state that it is a non-emergency call. Proceed to describe the violation, the location, and any identifying information. This is important so that people who are breaking the rules/law will be more likely to experience consequence. It is important for City police and city staff to know what is happening in the forest so that they can respond in both short and long term ways. It is also important to curb what may seem like minor infractions, so that they do not grow into larger problems or dangerous situations. Our forest belongs to all of us, and following the rules and laws helps everyone get along and be safe. We need your eyes and ears as well as helping hands in the woods.



Plan ahead for summer - register now!

2015 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 21, 22, 23

Session #2: August 4, 5, 6

All sessions include age groups & times of:

10-12 year olds from 9:00am to 11:30am daily • 7-9 year olds from 1:00pm to 3:30pm daily

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

Heart Lake Algae Grant

By Jonn Lunsford

The City of Anacortes was recently awarded a \$31,500 grant to study Heart Lake and figure out why it has been plagued with toxic algae blooms the past few years. The toxic algae appears as if someone has poured a bright green can of paint in the water of a lake. When this type of bloom is observed samples are collected and tested for toxicity.

Funding for the grant will come from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control program. Lakes with algae problems are typically surrounded by residential neighborhoods or farms; both are sources of excess nutrients such as phosphorus. Heart Lake is surrounded by forest so biologists are curious why it has toxic algae blooms. To help unravel this mystery the City will take sediment core samples to determine nutrient levels and the history of algae blooms in Heart Lake. In addition, water samples gathered from the seasonal streams and wetlands that flow into the lake will provide information about nutrients entering the lake. Staff and consulting biologists will also take water column samples and expand testing for fecal coliform bacteria.

All of this data will shed some clues on the problems at Heart Lake. The grant begins in July and runs until 2018. Updates on the work will be provided at Forest Advisory Board meetings and the final results will be presented by City staff and consulting biologists for public review and questions.



CREATURE FEATURE: Rough Skinned Newts like this one migrate twice a year. In the fall, they leave their natal body of water and migrate to the forest. There, they burrow down deep into the duff or rotting logs where they hibernate for the winter. In late winter or early spring, they awaken again and head back to home water for breeding and summer living. In our forest, Heart Lake and Little Cranberry Lake have the largest populations of these salamanders. They camouflage well on the trails, freezing in place if discovered. If they continue to be disturbed, they will arch to display their bright orange belly, which is a

warning. If pressed, they exude a neurotoxin that can kill if ingested. Do not handle these gentle creatures; use a leaf if you must move them. Our native garter snakes are the only animals to have developed resistance to their poison. Unfortunately, land development and cars kill many more adult phase newts each year than their only natural predator. Water quality is essential to the health and continuing survival of this species.

*Thank you to the many Individuals, Organizations & Businesses
who helped with the purchase of the Udd Property on South Mt. Erie!*

*** Major Gifts**

Evelyn & Gary Adams
Kathryn Alexandra

***Anacortes Parks Foundation**

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*Anonymous -
several donations were received

Gifts

***Barrett Financial, Ltd.** ~ In honor of Jack Barrett, Community Leader
Janice Kheriat ~ On behalf of Carol & Heiko Miles
Janet L. Miller ~ A Christmas Gift honoring Jennifer and Bill Woyski
Janet L. Miller ~ In honor of Jeffry Wade Miller & Jennifer Woyski
Pamela Murphy ~ In honor of Rita Fisher
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In Honor of Ric & Janet Boge

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Mac Madenwald & Wendy Gray ~ In memory of Mike Herbert
Judy & Gordon Middleton ~ In memory of Carol Crawford
Franceene Nebuloni ~ In memory of Kelly Nebuloni
Jean Hawkins-Schaedler ~ In memory of Robert A. Schaedler

Thank You



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Save the Date!
Our Big Party of the Year is Saturday, November 7th at the Port Warehouse!



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!