



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 29 • Issue 3 • Summer 2015

Heart Lake News

The City is working with two familiar partners on a contract proposal to study toxic algae blooms at Heart Lake. Herrera Environmental Consultants is working on a plan that would involve their scientists and Dr. Robin Matthews and her students from Western Washington University.

As reported in the spring, funding for this project will come from the Washington State Department of Ecology's Freshwater Algae Control program and will study lake sediment, gather water samples from the seasonal streams and wetlands and take water column samples.

The city has also been sampling the lakes for fecal coliform bacteria and those levels in the three ACFL lakes are low as they usually are. We have not witnessed any blue/green algae blooms, but if you see a bloom in the ACFL, please report it to Parks and Recreation @ 360-293-1918. We will work with Skagit County Health and the Department of Ecology to determine if it is toxic. We would then post each lake accordingly.

We have been working at Heart Lake to rake milfoil from the shore near the parking lot. Our latest work party was sponsored by the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club. We appreciate their support and hard work. If your group would like to volunteer please let us know.

Photo: Fidalgo Fly Fishers



Save the Date!

Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit Event November 7th at the Port Warehouse.

Please join us for The Best Party of the Year, while raising funds to support our Forest Education and Stewardship Programs!

We listened to you and made a few changes.... to make the event even more fun! We are starting at 5 pm to allow for a longer silent auction and more time to socialize with your friends! The live auction will be succinct with just a few special items and a focus on direct giving through "Bid for Kids." We will also offer an easier check in/check out system. Fidalgo Swing will play live music and Gere a Deli will provide dinner and dessert.

Tickets will be available through the Friends of the Forest Office, Watermark Book Company or online at: www.friendsoftheacfl.org beginning in September.

If you have something special to donate for auction or wish to sponsor, please let us know! Look for updates on our website: www.friendsoftheacfl.org

We are pleased to announce this year's Featured Artist - Painter, Cathy Schoenberg. Cathy is a local artist who creates colorful floral oil paintings and graciously supports our work in the ACFL. We look forward to unveiling her painting in early fall, it will also be on our event poster and featured in our live auction.



Meet our new Forest Advisory Board Member – Carolyn Moulton!

Many of you know Carolyn from Bikespot or perhaps you've seen her on one of the ACFL trails. Carolyn has recently been appointed to the Forest Advisory Board. She is also an active member of the Anacortes Bicycle /Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Carolyn has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and previously worked for a non-profit community land trust on Orcas Island before moving to Anacortes. Carolyn and her partner Nick Stowe owns and operate Bikespot in Anacortes.

Her job naturally puts her in contact with many local ACFL trail users as well as out of town guests looking for information on our trails. She says; "I have a huge appreciation for the ACFL as a natural area and recreational haven."

As a business owner, active community member and daily user of the ACFL, we think she offers a great perspective to the Forest Advisory Board and we look forward to working with her.....Welcome Carolyn!

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	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
Aaron Ramussen	293-3018			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/15
Carolyn Moulton	588-1676			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								
OFFICERS			BOARD MEMBERS			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								

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



FIRE DANGER HIGH?

By Ranger Dave

Once again we are faced with a warm and dry summer weather season. The unusual weather pattern began in the winter months, with unseasonably warm temperatures, which accelerated the plant growth during the spring. In some areas along the trails plant growth is 3 times the normal growth resulting in plants like Stinging Nettle to be growing 6-8' tall! And this spring, especially in May and June, we were faced with below normal rainfall. With all these factors in place, it has put the moisture level in trees, shrubs, and soils at a critically low point, resulting in an increase for potential forest fires. As of this writing, it has only rained in Anacortes two days in the past 60 days. Snow pack in the mountains is being reported as 0% of normal.

So far, four fires have been reported in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) in June. One fire burned an area about 40' by 30' in size out by Whistle Lake. Two fires were illegal camp fires that were left unattended, and the fourth fire was started by an illegal BBQ.

Fire of any kind (campfires, BBQ briquettes, gas grills) and even smoking are all illegal in the ACFL at all times year around, to help prevent an unintended forest fire. And if the weather pattern we are currently experiencing in June continues through the summer months the fire danger will continue to rise.

We do have some things in place to help with potential fires. First off, the ACFL Staff does patrols during warm days, asking people to put out their cigarettes and informing the public on the increased fire danger. We also have fire buckets placed at certain locations around the lakes to quickly extinguish campfires when they are found. We also carry a backpack bladder bag of water to use in areas away from a water source and have a water pump and hose to get water from a lake to a fire. The ACFL Staff maintains a series of trails as fire roads for emergency access too. And this year, the City of Anacortes Fire Department now has a small 4x4 ATV that is set up for fighting fires in the ACFL to get to more remote locations where the larger fire trucks are unable to go. The local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also has fire crews that are available to help with fires in the ACFL.

So what can you do to help protect the ACFL from fire? Dial 911 if you find a fire or campfire or even if you smell smoke that seems unusual for the area you are in. Early reporting prevents a small fire from getting large. If you live adjacent to the ACFL, refrain from burning yard waste, especially during windy periods and check with the



local fire department on possible burn bans. Burn bans usually occur in stages, first restricting open fires to campfires only to full ban of all open flame. Also, fireworks are illegal in the City of Anacortes and the ACFL, so you should report fireworks going off in and around the ACFL to help prevent fire.

It should be noted that overall, according to DNR, the potential for a large fire in the ACFL is relatively low due to vegetation type, proximity to the ocean which provides overnight humidity recovery, and quick response by local agencies. With that said, please be diligent in reporting smoke and fire as unusual weather patterns continue to change our surroundings.

Editors note: There is currently a statewide burn ban in place for the summer.

Congratulations to our 2015 Scholarship recipients!

Kylan Hopper, Trevor Derie, and Sahale Riedel each received \$1,000 from the Friends of the Forest towards their future studies in college. Kylan will be in his second year at WWU studying Biology. While Trevor is headed to UW to study Environmental Science, and Sahale is on to Whitworth to study Environmental Studies and Education. We are so proud of these outstanding AHS graduates and we wish them the very best as they make their way in the world!

Summer 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 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. 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!

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.

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.

All Around Little Cranberry
Saturday, July 11th
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, July 25th
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 15th
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.

And for the very fit...

Summer Fitness Hike – Twin Peaks
Saturday, August 22nd
10am to 1 pm

Check out all the high places of the Whistle Lake Forest Lands on an August 22 Friends of the Forest fitness hike. They will include the "Twin Peaks" of Sugarloaf and Mt. Erie as well as Sugar Cube and Little Round Top. At the top of Mt. Erie, we will replace calories with a chocolate tasting. This is a 7 mile hike for the very fit with total elevation gain of about 1,500 feet. bring water and meet at the base of Mt. Erie Road on Ray Auld Drive.

Senior/Adult Hikes

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

Heart Lake Old growth Loop
Friday, July 10th
10am until noon

It's time for a visit with our elders on the south shore of Heart Lake. Snack on wild berries as we slow to the ancient rhythm of our old growth forest. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Erie View Trail
Friday, August 14th
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.

Beaver Ponds
Friday, September 11th
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.

New
Offering!

Tracing Forests and Seas: Observing, Drawing and Writing Natural Histories and Landscapes of Fidalgo Island

Tuesday, August 11th + Thursday, August 13th
10-3 PM

Register by phone: 293-3725
or
email info@friendsoftheacfl.org



Combining observational drawing and writing we will explore the wooded and watery landscapes of Fidalgo Island with local naturalist Denise Crowe and interdisciplinary artist Kate Clark.

This two day workshop explores the idea of fieldwork as an interdisciplinary creative practice. What does field work mean if you are an artist, writer, or biologist? Regardless of background, each discipline draws upon keen powers of observation. We will learn to heighten our abilities of “seeing” through honing our skills in drawing, writing, and journaling.

We will explore the fundamentals of drawing (perspective, gesture, foreground/background, texture, scale) through a variety of medium and techniques useful to the beginner or advanced artist. Yet “observational” drawing isn’t about looking at a tree and making a perfect version of it in pencil. Equipped with a toolbox of building block drawing techniques, we will explore and develop our own voice as observers in the field. Ultimately, participants will heighten their unique powers of investigation and reflection through creating a series of drawings and writings that merge poetry and documentation.

Advance registration is required for this workshop. More details will be given then. It is geared to adults, though ages 13-18 are allowed with an accompanying adult or permission of the instructors. For those who can, there is a suggested donation of \$25 per day or \$40 for both days.

THANK YOU TO FRIENDS OF THE FOREST 2015 MEMBERS!

Kym & Roger Aasen
 Evelyn & Gary Adams
 Kathryn Alexandra
 Kerry Allen
 Terry & Janice Altomari
 Debbie Amos & Phil Cohen
 Sandra Anderson
 Bret & Jean Andrich
 Shunji Asari
 Ruth & Mark Backlund
 Karen & Mark Backman
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 Jeff & Denise Bauman
 Helen Baumgartner
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 Dr. Franklin Bjorseth
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 Mark F. & Constance Wray Family on behalf of The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation*

Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Phil Cunningham
 Jeff & Hilde Radke
 Joanne Witiak

In memory of Bob Lane
 Nancy & Jerry Husted

In honor of Denise Crowe
 Kerry Allen

Matching Gifts

Shell
 Tesoro
 Microsoft

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

All donor levels are greatly appreciated and collectively contribute to the wide range of education and stewardship programs that we provide in service to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.



Friends of the Forest

2015 Forest Discovery Program



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 11:30 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 21, 22, 23

Session # 2 August 4, 5, 6

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. I authorize and consent to *Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands* taking photographs, video film and quotes of me and/or my child to the unrestricted use and publication of my or his/her name and such photos, videos and quotes to promote the activities of the *Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Land*.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Send registration to: Friends of the Forest
P.O. Box 2213
Anacortes, WA 98221



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

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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!