

Friends of the Forest Dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community

Forest Lands through education, outreach & stewardship

Volume 29 • Issue 1 • Winter 2015

All are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting!

Wednesday, February 25th at the Depot (611 R Ave) Doors open at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7:10pm.

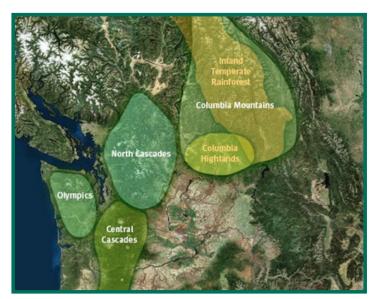
This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know more about the Friends of the Forest and our work in service to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. We will begin with a brief annual report, City Staff update, and elections followed by a special presentation by Mitch Friedman, Executive Director of Conservation Northwest. Dessert and refreshments will be provided by Gere-a-Deli. Board members up for reelection are: Charlie Collins, Denise Crowe, Ed Gastellum and Scott Gudmundsen. Nominations will be accepted from the floor

We are pleased to welcome our special guest speaker, MITCH FRIEDMAN



Mitch Friedman is the executive director of Conservation Northwest, which he founded in 1988 after being an activist leader in efforts to save ancient forests. He was a founding board member of the Wildlands Network, Western Lands Alliance, and the Bellingham Bay Foundation. He has a degree in zoology from the University of Washington and has received conservation awards from Sunset Magazine, Society for Conservation Biology, the Wilderness Society, and others. In 2003 he was named by Washington Law and Politics Magazine as one of the "25 smartest people in Washington." At Conservation Northwest, Mitch has led the effort to infuse landscape-scale conservation biology into advocacy strategy. The success of this approach is evident in great gains protecting habitat

connectivity between the North Cascades Ecosystem and wild areas to the south (Central Cascades, across the I-90 landscape), east (the Rockies), and northwest (BC Coast and Chilcotin Ranges), as well as recovery of native carnivores including wolves, fisher, lynx and wolverine. He is known for his efforts to organize the first spotted owl protection protests; spending several days in the canopy of an ancient tree as one of the first tree-sitting protesters; having conceived and organized the Ancient Forest Rescue Expedition, nationwide educational tours featuring a giant log towed by a semi-truck; executing the first non-logging high bid for a Forest Service timber sale (called Thunder Mountain); and spearheading the dramatic protection of the Loomis State Forest wildlands.









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.



FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

www.friendsoftheacfl.org / info@friendsoftheacfl.org



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| The City Forest Advis at 7:00pm a | • | s every first Thursday and is open to the pu | | | re 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pr | | |
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| FRIENDS OF THE FOREST | | | | | | | | | |
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UDD PROPERTY UPDATE



Purchase of 20 acres on south Mt. Erie completed

(by Jonn Lunsford)

On January 21st the Anacortes Community Forest Lands grew a little larger. The purchase of 20 acres on the south side of Mt. Erie was successfully completed by the City and placed in the ACFL. The land was owned for more than 50 years by the Udd family. It had been logged in the last century but currently hosts nice second growth forests, wildflower meadows and outstanding views.

This ACFL addition could not have happened without financial support from local residents, outreach and education by the Friends of the ACFL and sage advice from the Skagit Land Trust. The Friends staff and Board of Directors helped raise over \$92,000 towards the \$260,000 purchase price. (City funds from the guarry rock sales will cover remaining costs). The Skagit Land Trust provided guidance to the City from the appraisal process to the final acquisition. It is another example of the private/public partnership that has enriched the ACFL and Anacortes over the past two decades.

Many of you avid hikers and mountain bikers have already enjoyed the views from south Mt. Erie and this new 20 acres of forest land. Trail #247 starts by the two big trees on Heart Lake Road, ascends part way up Mt. Erie to about the 500' elevation line and curls around the south side of the mountain and terminates near Whistle Lake. The trail crosses this new 20 acres and three parcels of private land whose owners have generously given the public permission to cross their land. If you have not had a chance to explore the south side of Mt. Erie yet this New Year it is a great time to get out. It can be a strenuous hike, but your exploration of this ACFL addition may also aid any personal subtractions that are part of your New Year's resolutions.

Donors will be listed in the Spring Newsletter.





Winter Calendar 2015

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 us this winter 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

All Ages Hikes will return in the Spring!

Senior/Adult Hikes

Join Naturalist Denise Crowe for a gentle hike in good company with a casual exploration of local natural history knowledge.

Heart Lake Friday, February 13th 10am until noon Our Heart Lake hike is the perfect valentine to give to yourself, or to share with a friend. Together, we will look for the many early signs of spring. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.

Pine Ridge Loop Friday, March 13th 10am until noon What treasures await in this lovely, hidden meadow? Enjoy a hike to this unique and secret spot off of the beaten path. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

And for the very fit...

Heart Lake Fitness Hike Saturday, February 21st 10am until 1pm Please join Jean Andrich and some of our board members for a challenging and fast paced 8 to 9 mile hike in the Heart Lake area. After we get our heart rate up, we will stop briefly for a gourmet chocolate tasting with chocolate provided by the Friends of the Forest. Dress in layers and bring water. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot. Again, this special fitness hike is for people with a known high level of physical condition!

ACFL WORK PARTIES

MARCH 7th @ 9:00am HEART LAKE ROAD CLEAN-UP: It's been awhile since we cleaned up the trash along Heart Lake Road, so there should be plenty to do. Let's meet at trailhead 215 on Ray Auld Drive off Heart Lake Rd. Safety vests, trash bags, and trash grabbers will be provided.

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







Greetings Friends,

As I write, the steady rain of a classic Northwest Winter day is laying beats upon the ground. Rivulets soak into every surface exposed. While we take shelter in this season, the microscopic life of our forest is more active than ever. In these temperate days all of the green we see is taking in the muted sunlight and transforming that energy into held reserve. Each cell open and drinking it all in. The mosses and lichens and fungi are experiencing waves of fertility, spore releasing structures emerge perfectly timed with the abundantly wet and mild weather ideal for reproduction. Though we have had some frozen moments, warmer than normal temperatures have been the trend. If frog song and Indian Plum bud swell are to be believed, spring is sure to be early this year.

Our group is preparing for 2015 to be another very big year. Last year was filled with a wide array of education and stewardship program activity with a very high level of participation. School programs and Forest Discovery Day Camp were scheduled to capacity, continuing our deep commitment to local nature literacy and connection for our youth. Our all ages and adult hikes enjoyed the presence of a noticeable surge in newcomers eager to learn the enticing natural mysteries of their freshly chosen home. We partnered with the City of Anacortes in a successful capital campaign to bring 20 acres of private land on South Mount Erie into the ACFL fold. Our annual Fall fundraising event was a joyful celebration of our forest and the people who love it, while providing a solid financial commitment as we move forward. Through all of our work, there is an ever growing sense of the importance of our mission in service to our amazing community forest lands. It is in this spirit that I am happy to announce I will be expanding my hours from half time to more beginning this spring! We are excited to be able to expand our capacity in response to changing needs.

Our human community is growing on Fidalgo Island. New folks are moving in, tourists are exploring our previously hidden places, and long time residents are rediscovering the joys of regular recreation just outside their doors. Our forest is bustling with new levels of human activity and there is a real challenge for us in providing fundamental education and stewardship opportunities for all. We will continue to help people find the wild free joy they seek in the woods, while learning to embrace a sense of caring respect for the needs of others. And on an enduring level, we will work for a deeper understanding of and provisions for the very real needs of wildlife and wild place that keep our woods alive.

Denise Crowe





Thank you to Friends of the Forest 2014 Members!

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

*2015 Members

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Windermere Real Estate Gifts and Memorials

A Christmas donation was made in honor of Michelle and Malcolm McPhee from Jack and Sarah Tobien.

Verizon, TCC Premium Wireless*

A donation honoring Jeanne Robinette for her work in creating the CEP was made by Jim Eberhardt.

We were honored to receive a generous bequeathment from Marsha Mellana's

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



Gabriel & Jeanne Olmsted³

Susan Parke & Dederick Ward

Curt & Monica Oppel

Leslie & Jon Ostlund'

Maria Papritz



2014 Friends of the Forest Benefit *Thank You* Forest Education Benefit a Great Success!

The Friends of the Forest Benefit on November 1st was once again very successful! Thank you to everyone involved for helping us raise over \$47,000 to support our wide range of forest education programs.

Sponsors for the event have our deepest gratitude. Essential financial support came from McMullen & Ochs PLLC, Samish Indian Nation, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Charlie & Ute Collins DDS, Emerald Marine Carpentry, Fidalgo Animal Medical Center, Island Import Garage, North Sound Oral and Facial Surgery, Sebo's Hardware, Skagit Runners, Skagit Ultra Runners, Verizon, Anthony's Restaurants, A'Town Bistro, Dakota Creek Industries and North Harbor Diesel.



We offer heartfelt recognition and thanks to all of the individuals and local businesses that contributed art, goods and services for our silent and live auctions. Lanny Bergner was our featured artist with his original sculpture titled "Forest Hollow." Thank you to Bob Vaux for being our master of ceremonies and to Auctioneer Michelle Westford of Charity Auction World.

Thank you to the Port of Anacortes for the use of the Port Warehouse. Gere-a-Deli Catering served a wonderful meal and beer was supplied by Anacortes Brewery. Music by Fidalgo Swing completed the night.

The Friends of the Forest Board and many other volunteers gave tremendous time and energy to make the evening so special. Bret Lunsford served as auction co-chair, Mary Sikkema was in charge of tickets and seating, Wanda Mull put together the silent and live auctions. Patti Pattee and her staff at Watermark Book Company sold event tickets. Many other volunteers helped in meaningful ways to make this fundraiser successful.

And last but not least, thank you to all who came to enjoy the party and contribute. Your love for our community woods and strong show of support for our forest education program means so much to us and our work. It is inspiring to see our community step up and collectively invest in our island's natural future. With everyone's help, we will continue to provide all seventh and third grade students in Anacortes with forest field trips and classes, forest discovery summer camp for kids, community hikes of all kinds for all ages, and a range of other educational, stewardship, and conservation activities in ongoing service to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Sincerely, Denise and Jean









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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 | | | | | | | | |
| | | Member | ership Re | enewal | | □ New | | |
| We offer ma | any lev | els of annual membe | ership du | ues. Please choose | your l | evel of support f | or this vit | al mission in our community. |
| Annual dues: | | Individual \$25 | | Family \$40 | | Partner \$50 | | Supporter \$100 |
| | | Sponsor \$250 | | Benefactor \$500 | | Steward \$100 | 0 🗆 | Major Donor \$5000 or more |
| | Other | | _ | | | | | |
| Areas of Interes | st | | | Topics for genera | al mee | etings or newsle | tter | |
| Dlagga mail m | amb anak | ning/contributions to Emi | ands of th | ACEL DO Doy 2212 | A no oo | rtas WA 09221 ar x | riait va at 61 | 1 P Avanua Anggartas WA 08221 |

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!

