



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 30 • Issue 2 • Spring 2016

*This Spring has brought the passage of some of our dearest elder Forest Friends.
We give tribute here to three amazing people who each gave tremendously to our beloved community forest in their lifetimes.*



Margaret Yeoman ~ October 10, 1922 to March 25, 2016

Margaret was an exceptional civic activist devoted to participatory democracy, education and the nature of this island. She was an early champion of ACFL preservation and enduring member of the Friends of the Forest, as well as a member of Friends of the Library, Native Plant Society, Skagit Land Trust, and the Democratic Party. Her community involvement was manifest in word and deed. She did the hands on work. She wrote letters to the editor, called the phone tree, attended meetings, baked cookies, spoke for the record, and paid generous dues on time. She created beauty in her garden and planted native plants in public spaces. She stood strong for the truth as she saw it, and inspired others to do the same. Her consistent support and advocacy for the whole spectrum of our work in the woods will be missed.



Hershel Janz ~ March 31, 1938 to April 2, 2016

Way back in 1999, when we decided to throw ourselves at the invasive ivy problem with little hope, Hershel Janz appeared. He joined in on some work parties and quickly became our invasive species warrior! He was a shining light in the forest; making fast work of the ivy problem and helping us to discover the prickly extent of English Holly's hold. That first year, we clipped away at the holly. The next year, we knew better and loppers were forbidden. After any work party, we all wondered how Hershel kept at it day after day, pulling and hauling. We are so deeply thankful he did. His constant presence, tenacity and big hearted devotion to our forest will always inspire and inform us.



John Tursi ~ July 24, 1917 to April 8, 2016

When John was just 16, he escaped from a truly hard scrabble life in Brooklyn by padding his age and signing up for the Civilian Conservation Corp. He arrived by train to our mysterious and wild forested island, and was stationed at Deception Pass. Fed and clothed amply for the first time, entrusted with real work, his CCC fellows became his new family and Fidalgo Island became home. He embraced the beauty of this place and the opportunity to make a good life. He married an island girl, Doris Anderson, and the two of them gave to our community beyond measure. Together, they loved nature and friends, good food, dancing and travel. They played well and worked hard at their careers, and then they worked more in a multitude of community endeavors. They were intrinsic to the early preservation of local history, and core members of the local Soroptimists with an unparalleled dedication to giving others a helping hand with respect and dignity. In later years and after Doris' passing, they shared their bounty by giving big to Anacortes Parks, the Skagit Land Trust and the ACFL Conservation Easement Program, as well as Deception Pass State Park and Friends of the Forest. Their love and generosity will live on in our hearts and our forest forever.

Rest in peace, dear friends. May the forest be with you.

The HOLLY ANNIHILATOR: MR. HERSHEL JANZ

by *Ranger Dave*

I remember the first time I met ACFL Volunteer Hershel Janz. It was 2003 and I had just started working in the ACFL and was attending a Forest Advisory Board meeting. When it was time for public comments at the meeting, Hershel spoke up about all the damage that was done on trail 23 by “somebody” driving a big truck down the trail creating large tire ruts and mud. Well, the driver was me, and after a brief explanation of why I drove down the trail during a wet season, Hershel and I soon became good friends. Over the next 13 years, Hershel and I worked together in the ACFL on various projects including bridge repairs, trail repairs, and of course removing tons and tons of non-native invasive plants and trees. Hershel had almost 100% attendance at ACFL Work Parties over the years as well, and I could always count on him to be there and help me teach the other volunteers how to remove invasive plants the correct way.

Hershel’s favorite task in the ACFL was looking for invasive holly trees. He made it his personal mission to eradicate all holly trees that were visible along all the 52 miles of trails. Piles and piles of holly trees began appearing at trailheads, as Hershel would pull out and dig out holly trees and drag them to the trailheads for me to pick up and haul away. He always said, “You need to get them out by the root” or they will just grow back. He soon became self-proclaimed as the “Holly Annihilator” for the ACFL, and began the program of flagging known holly tree locations with yellow tape so he could go out and find the tape and remove the holly. Truck load after truck load have been removed from the ACFL thanks to Hershel. You are hard pressed to see a holly tree along the trails today.



Denise, Hershel and Dave sharing good times
at a Friends' Annual meeting.

It is unknown how many thousands of hours Hershel volunteered in the Forest Lands, while always being accompanied by his dog Lupe, and later by Suke. He has left a legacy of volunteerism that will never be forgotten. Hershel’s enthusiasm about removing non-native invasive plants was infectious, as he “hooked” others to join his cause to annihilate holly and other invasive plants. Over the years, he gathered volunteers to help him on locating and removing invasive plants, and even had one volunteer walk every mile of trail, using binoculars, and map out and flag all locations of holly found, so Hershel and other volunteers could use the maps and go out and remove the holly. Many Work Parties were held thanks to Hershel finding a location filled with invasive plants that needed many hands to conquer.

One of my favorite memories of Hershel was in Hawaii, where we were vacationing on Maui. While having a picnic at the beach, Hershel noticed a plant near the picnic table that he said just didn’t look right, so he began pulling it out. I yelled “Stop!” as I was sure he did not know what the tropical plant was or whether it invasive. He stopped, and with his famous crooked grin, smiled and said “I got you!” Hershel, my friend, you will be dearly missed. Thank you for all you have given to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and to the City of Anacortes.

The Parks and Forest Lands recently lost a long time friend and volunteer. Hershel Janz lead the charge against invasive plants, particularly holly, English ivy and daphne for 16 years. When he was a younger man, in his early 60’s to mid-70’s, he would often work in the morning pulling out holly plants and then hike the trails with his golden labs Lupe or Suke. For years he did this 7 days a week. He improved the way we eradicate non-native invasive plants; showing us field tested methods, mapping where ivy patches were located and inspiring us all with a lot of hard work!

Jonn Lunsford,

Parks and Forestlands Manager

ADULT SPECIAL FOREST PROGRAMS

(Require advance registration 293-3725 / info@friendsoftheacfl.org)

ETHNOBOTANY FIELD SEMINAR

Friday, June 24th • 10am until 4pm

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. Adults only, must register by phone or email. More information will be given upon registration. This is worth taking the day off of work for!

TRACING FORESTS AND SEAS:

Observing, Drawing and Writing Natural Histories and Landscapes of Fidalgo Island

Tuesday, July 5 + Thursday, July 7 • 10-3 PM

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 and a materials fee will be given closer to the date.



Plan ahead for summer - register now!



2016 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 19, 20, 21

Session #2: August 2, 3, 4

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 by phone: 360-293-3725 or email: info@friendsoftheacfl.org



Spring Calendar 2016

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, trail and habitat restoration, Adult 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 our Naturalist Guide, Denise Crowe, 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 Denise or Jean 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 pets at home.

Senior/Adult Hikes

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

**Morrison Meadow
Friday, May 6th
10am until noon**

For those that can handle a little over one mile hike with some hills at a slow pace. This is a beautiful route that culminates in a lovely wildflower meadow, sure to be in bloom. Meet at the end of 29th St. west off of D Avenue.

**Heart Lake Old Growth
Friday, June 10th
10am until noon**

It's time for a visit with our elders on the south shore of Heart Lake. Orange trumpet honeysuckle and Ocean spray will be blooming as we slow to the ancient rhythm of our old growth forest. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive. 1.7 miles.

Extra Gentle Hikes (New Offering!)

Each of these outings is a mile or less on gentle trails and will last about an hour. Some evenings, some mornings...

**Sugarloaf Mountain Old Growth
Wednesday, April 27th
5pm until 6pm**

Tucked in to the bottom of Sugarloaf lies a sweet trail through ancient trees. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Dr.

**Big Beaver Pond View
Wednesday, May 25
5pm until 6pm**

There is a wonderful secret spot on the south shore of Big Beaver Pond with a viewing platform. Some hills. Meet at the gated kiosk at 37th and A Avenue.

**Whistle Lake Madrona Point
Wednesday, June 22nd
9am until 10am**

We will walk in to the Lake on a wide gravel road and enjoy the view! Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

Fast Paced Fitness Hike - For The Very Fit Only!

For people that want to move fast through the forest, and already know that they can! These offerings are led by Jean and some of our very athletic board members who love to get out in the woods and really cover some ground.



“The Lakes of the Anacortes Forest Lands” • Saturday, May 14 • 9am to 3pm

Distance: 12.5 miles

Join Jean, Monica, Lin and Scott for a longer fitness hike on May 14th. This Hike includes all three forest land areas including circling all of Whistle Lake, part of Heart Lake, and circling all of Little Cranberry Lake. Bring Lunch and Water and meet at Heart Lake Parking Lot.



All Ages Hikes



**Earth Day NW shore
traverse at Whistle Lake
Saturday, April 23rd
10am until noon**



Join friends for a day after 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. This hike is approximately 2.5 miles with some hills and uneven terrain.

**Sugarloaf Wildflowers
Saturday, May 7th
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 camus 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 and scrubby in places.

**Little Cranberry Lake Loop
Saturday, May 21st
10am until noon**



Little Cranberry is our only lake with a near shore trail all the way around it. The trail is just under two miles long, and can be rough in places. It 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.)

**Westside Exploration
Saturday, June 4th
10am until noon**

Take a two-mile walk on the wild Westside! Calling all Skyline folk and anyone else that wants to know more about this great part of the woods. We will climb the watertower road and enter the forest from the west, exploring a network of Beaver Ponds that flow into Little Cranberry Lake. Meet at the intersection of Clyde Way and Cedar Glen Way.

**All Around Whistle Lake
Saturday, June 18th
10 am until after noon**

Revel in the longest daylight of the year on our near summer solstice hike. We will fully explore the trails all the way around the Whistle Lake region of our woods. The route is just over 3 miles with some good hills. Meet at the Whistle Lake Parking Lot.

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? Trail maps are now available for download on the City of Anacortes web site. Maps are available 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			
<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	12/31/19
Marty Laumbattus 293-7940		W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/19
Carolyn Moulton 588-1676	<u>ACFL RANGER</u>	W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/19
Aaron Ramussen 293-3018	Dave Oicles 399-3970	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. 2018 akccstewart@earthlink.net	
Vice President Monica Ochs 293-6003	Lin Nichols 293-3826 Jan. 2018 lin.nichols@yahoo.com	
Secretary Bill Dietrich 588-0118	Monica Ochs 293-6003 Jan. 2018 monica.ochs@gmail.com	
Treasurer Lin Nichols 299-3826	Bill Dietrich 588-0118 Jan. 2018 williamdietrich@comcast.net	
<u>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</u>	Scott Gudmundsen 293-1550 Jan 2017 robertgudmundsen@shell.com	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.
Denise Crowe 293-3725	Charlie Collins 873-8873 Jan 2017 troutdental@yahoo.com	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR</u>	Ed Gastellum 293-7626 Jan 2017 ecgastel@wavecable.com	
Jean Andrich 293-3725		
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>		
www.friendsoftheacfl.org		

Thank You! Friends of the Forest 2016 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 Lands.

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

Memorials

- In Memory of Jim Murphy from Shirley Lavine, Carolyn Kloke and Gary & Colleen Thramer
- In Memory of Rita & Don Fisher from David & Joanne Witiak

Matching Gifts

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



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Save the Date! Saturday, November 5th, 2016

Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit Party 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!