

## Friends of the Forest

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

## Volume 30 • Issue 1 • Winter 2016

# All are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting! Wednesday, February 3rd 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 Dr. William Shaw, Oceanographer and Anacortes School Board member. Dessert and refreshments will be provided by Gerea-Deli. Board members up for reelection are: Andy Stewart, Lin Nichols, Bill Dietrich, and Monica Ochs. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

# We are please to welcome our Special Guest Speaker, Dr. William Shaw "The Retreat of Antarctica's Glaciers: Local and Global Perspectives"

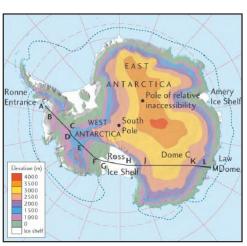
Bill Shaw is an oceanographer and new Anacortes School District Board member. He is a research professor at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He was previously a research associate at University of California, Santa Barbara and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Princeton Univer-



sity and a Ph.D. in oceanography from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Bill specializes in ocean turbulence, dynamics of planetary boundary layers, ocean-ice interaction, and the Arctic Ocean. He has participated in extensive remote Arctic and Antarctic field research expeditions and will share his



firsthand perspective.

The Western Antarctic Ice Sheet contains enough water to raise global sea levels by several meters. Over the last decade, satellite observations indicate that the glaciers flowing off the WAIS are thinning and retreating. Data suggests that these changes are associated with ocean-forced melting taking place beneath the floating portion of the ice sheet's outlet glaciers. Shaw's talk will describe an expedition to Pine Island Glacier, where he and a team observed oceanic processes beneath this primary outlet. He will make connections between his specific research, global climate, and issues of local interest such as sea level rise and conservation efforts. There will be an opportunity for questions. We hope you can join us!







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 Anancortes 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

FOR	EST ADV	ISORY BOARD	CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS					
,	•	s every first Thursday of the month 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 Sandra Starbuck Brian Wetcher Marty Laumbattus	MEMBERS 901-9179 293-7624 293-7940	PARKS & FOREST LANDS MANAGER Jonn Lunsford 299-1953  ACFL RANGER	Mayor Laurie Gere W1 Ryan Walters W2 Brad Adams W3 Eric Johnson P-4 Matt Miller P-5 John Archibald P-6 Liz Lovelett P7 Erica Pickett	E-MAIL  coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org www.ryanwalters.org brada@cityofanacortes.org www.anacorteseric.org mattm@cityofanacortes.com john@cityofanacortes.com lovelettl@cityofanacortes.com ericap@cityofanacortes.org  yor, 4-year term, at large, salariecers (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Ward	299-1950 610-7770 293-3056 840-5415 588-9070	TERM ENDS  12/31/17 12/31/19 12/31/19 12/31/19 12/31/17		
Carolyn Moulton Aaron Ramussen	588-1676 293-3018	Dave Oicles 399-3970			395-5923 588-8707 293-6264	12/31/17 12/31/17 12/31/17		

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST									
President Vice President Secretary Treasurer EDUCATION A Denise Co ADMINIS Jean And	STRATIVE DIREC	25 TOR 25	Andy Stewart Lin Nichols Monica Ochs Bill Dietrich Scott Gudmundsen Charlie Collins Ed Gastellum	BOARD 299-9406 293-3826 293-6003 588-0118 293-1550 873-8873 293-7626	MEMBERS  Jan. 2016  Jan. 2016  Jan. 2016  Jan. 2016  Jan. 2015  Jan 2015  Jan 2015	Akccstewart@earthlink.net lin.nichols@yahoo.com monica.ochs@gmail.com williamdietrich@comcast.net robertgudmundsen@shell.com troutdental@yahoo.com ecgastel@wavecable.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.		







As the last acres of Anacortes Community Forest Lands originally designated as unconserved receive conservation easement coverage through the Conservation Easement Program, a discussion of the future of this program has come to fore.

The CEP was initially conceived of as a way to both legally protect the forest and create a permanent endowment that would ultimately generate revenue to help provide stewardship funding. It took years of collaborative effort between the Friends, the City, and a newly created Skagit Land Trust to fully form the CEP. When the program was first initiated in 1998, 1500 acres of land within the ACFL without protective deed restriction were determined to be eligible. For every \$1,000 donated to the City Forest Endowment Fund, an acre of land was legally protected through the transfer of a conservation easement to the Skagit Land Trust. The easements protect the land from logging, mining, development, and "commercial use". When that funding goal was reached (1.5 million dollars) within ten years, all of the remaining acres without prior protection were identified and entered into the CEP.

As this next phase of easements on ACFL were nearing completion, the Parks Department bought a 160 acre parcel of Public Works Department land surrounded by ACFL using Lakeside Quarry revenue. Stakeholders (including major CEP donors) discussed the conservation status of this parcel. The Friends of the Forest were clear that we thought the land should be designated as conserved in deed language with the purchase. A key point being that as Quarry revenue derived from mining in the ACFL was used to make the interdepartmental purchase, it was a form of appropriate mitigation. Mayor Maxwell and City Staff decided to modify the cost for easements on this parcel and offered them at \$500 per acre instead of \$1,000. Those easements have since been secured. The City will always accept donations to the Forest Endowment Fund (currently nearing 2 million

from the sale of conservation easements and other donations). But for all of us who have partnered on the Conservation Easement Program, it is very important to us that donors to the Endowment understand that all land currently within the ACFL is now (or soon to be) legally protected either through original deed or through the CEP. There are essentially no more conservation easements available on current ACFL lands. We take pride in our part in the success of this program, and are thankful for our partners in this tremendous collaborative effort.

We have since moved on to a next phase of helping the city acquire adjacent private forest properties that are ideally suited to be part of the ACFL. A twenty-acre parcel known as the Udd property on the Southeast slope of Mount Erie was secured early last year through significant private donations and Lakeside revenue. In 2015, the city began a purchase of a 40 acre parcel know as the Van Buren/Mclean property.

There are some who want to keep the Con-

servation Easement Program open for implementation on future acquisitions, as a way to continue to add more revenue to the Endowment fund. We maintain that all future additions to the ACFL should come with conservation protection in the deed, just as some key holdings in the ACFL were deeded to the City with strong conservation protection in place (Morrison Natural Park, Hensler property, Heart Lake State Park). When Lakeside Quarry revenue (from mining in the ACFL) and private donations are funding the acquisition of key private properties adjacent to the ACFL, the ethics are clear. Asking the public to pay another \$1,000 per acre to legally conserve the property is unwarranted. We think we have reached a new phase, where future ACFL acquisitions should honor the intent of all involved. Let's be respectful of the will of private landowners selling their property for ACFL inclusion, the generous acquisition fund donors, and the ethical use of quarry revenue gained from the destruction of leased forestlands.

*Denise Crowe*On behalf of the Friends of the Forest Board



## Winter Calendar 2016



Our first hike of the year in the Beaver Pond Trails was enjoyed by all!

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 12th 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 11th 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 20th 10am until 1pm Join Jean, Monica, Lin and Scott for a fitness hike on Feb 20, 2016. This 8 mile fast-paced hike, for the very fit, will explore many of the trails in the Whistle Lake area of our forest lands. The hike will last until approximately 1 pm. After about 90 minutes of calorie burning, we will stop briefly for a chocolate tasting provided by the Friends of the Forest. Bring water, no dogs please. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at 10 am.



## Whats New in the Forest...

## City of Anacortes is purchasing 40 acres adjacent to ACFL!

The City has entered in to a purchase agreement with the owners of a 40-acre parcel of land flush with the south border of the Heart Lake area. This undeveloped acreage is known as the Van Buren/Mclean property. The acquisition will ensure the continuation of exceptional wildlife and habitat value and function for the ACFL. Revenue from the city contract with Lakeside Industries (currently mining rock on leased ACFL land) has been used to initiate the purchase. The City will continue to make payments over the next year as they pursue grants from conservation foundations to help offset the cost and allow for the possible purchase of more land adjacent to the ACFL in the future.

The Friends are accepting donations to go toward this purchase. If you wish to contribute, please make your check clearly designated for the acquisition fund. If you have questions please contact us at the Friends office, (360) 293-3725.

## Forest Advisory Board (FAB) Considers View Enhancement On Mount Erie

FAB is looking at possible tree trimming and/or select removal to open some blocked views at the top of Mount Erie. Discussion at FAB meetings has been considerate of many human viewpoints on this issue. They welcome your comments!

## Draft City Comprehensive Plan Update Happening Now

The Comprehensive Plan public review process has begun, with public testimony on different sections being conducted at Planning Commission meetings. Written comments will be accepted until February 10th. You can find the plan documents on the City of Anacortes web site, or at City Hall.

## WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE AT HEART LAKE?

By Ranger Dave Oicles



Anyone who has conducted a recent walk around Heart Lake, especially the south and west side trails can't help but hear a constant drone of noise. To me, it sounds like a train coming that never passes. The sound can last for months, then one day it's gone, only to return 6 months or so later. That sound my friend is, well, the sound of money. Let me explain...

In 2000, The City of Anacortes signed a contract with Lakeside Industries, an asphalt and gravel making company, to allow Lakeside to excavate quarry rock on approximately 15 acres of city forest lands SW of Heart Lake. The contract is for 25 years, with exclusive rights to approximately 1,250,000 cubic yards of material. In return, the City of Anacortes receives a minimum payment of \$50,000 annually from Lakeside Industries. The City also received approximately 10 acres of land from Lakeside Industries along Havekost Road. These 10 acres now serve as a connection trail (trail 126) between Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake trails. It is also used by the City to deposit soil and to store tree debris and spent Christmas trees for turning into mulch. A number of work parties have been held on these 10 acres along trail 126 to plant trees and remove non-native invasive plants, primarily scotch broom. Now let's get back to the 15 acres that is being excavated...

The excavation of the 15 acres of leased land to Lakeside is broken down into 3 Phases, with each phase covering approximately 1/3 of the leased land. Lakeside has completed excavation in Phase I and is now currently working in Phase II. The current gravel making schedule is Monday – Thursday with the crew working 12 hour days. So if you want a

quiet walk around Heart Lake, your best times are on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The schedule can change due to weather conditions or other demands.

The proposal to lease this land to Lakeside Industries did not come without many concerns and controversy. Supporters for the Anacortes Community Forest Lands were concerned with adjacent wetlands and water quality being negatively impacted during the land clearing, excavation, and gravel making operations. As a result, a comprehensive Storm-water System Plan was developed and implemented, which addressed water quality, water quantity, and erosion and sedimentation control measures. Also, ACFL Staff visits the site once a month to monitor the activities and take water samples (if water is present) from a detention pond and from a wetland area near Heart Lake on trail 250 to check water color and turbidity.

So what happens to these 15 acres once the contract is over with Lakeside Industries? The land will be reclaimed, with the original top soil put back down, and planted once again with native trees and shrubs. The contract calls for Lakeside to re-establish vegetation cover, provide soil stability, protect water quality conditions, avoid damage to productivity of the land, and ensure site appearance and safety conditions appropriate to the intended subsequent use of the area, which of course will be the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Maybe even a new trail could be made through the 15 acres someday to watch the new forest grow and provide education!



## •

## Thank you to Friends of the Forest 2015 Members!

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Jerome & Janice Schutzler

In Memory of Doyen Vigus from the Gerings

Matching Gifts

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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 Receive \$10,000 Grant From The Tesoro Foundation

The Tesoro Foundation has granted the Friends \$10,000 in support of our long standing and highly successful Watershed Discovery Program, conducted each year with Anacortes Middle School seventh grade students. Each year since 1994, all seventh grade students have participated in a series of classes and field trips with our Education Director, Denise Crowe. They learn about the natural history of our forest and urban environment, basic water systems on our island, native animals, and how to be an active citizen helping to improve fresh and saltwater quality from the forest to the sea.





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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.

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		Sponsor \$250		Benefactor \$500		Steward \$1000		Major Donor \$5000 or more
	Othe	er	_					
Areas of InterestTopics for ge				Topics for genera	al mee	etings or newsletter		
Please mail m	embersh	nips/contributions to: Fri	iends of th	e ACFL, P.O. Box 2213,	Anaco	rtes, 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!



