



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 31 • Issue 1 • Winter 2017

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service with the Anacortes Community Forest Lands!
All are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting*

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
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. Dessert and refreshments will be provided by Gere-a-Deli.

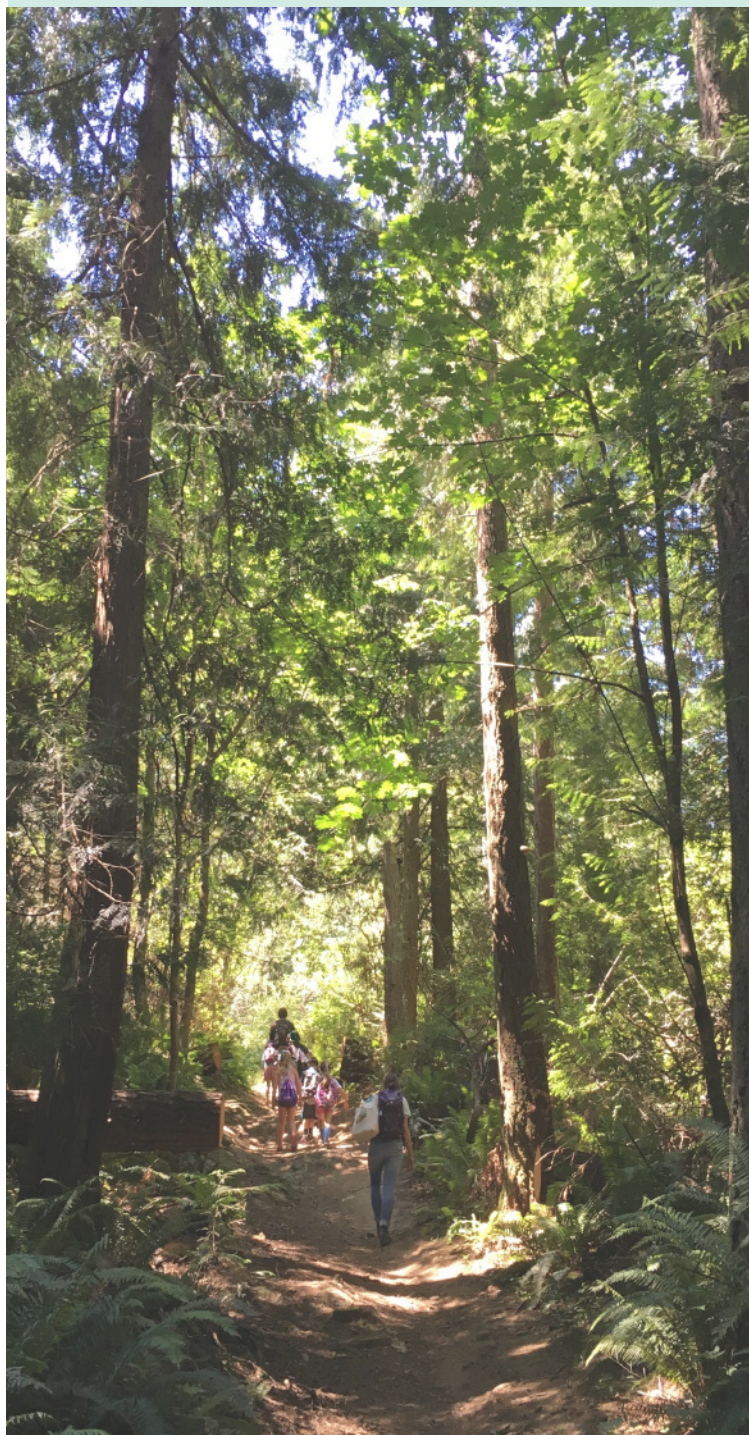
Board members up for reelection are: Charlie Collins, Ed Gastelum and Scott Gudmundsen. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. We will begin with a brief annual report and elections followed by a special program on our forest with the Friends' Denise Crowe, and City Forest Manager Jonn Lunsford.

“Our Community Forest in a time of Change”

Please join us as we explore the green heart of our island through many lenses. We will share intriguing aspects of the natural history of our woods, community history in relation to the forest, and a discussion of the many challenges we face - from climate change impacts on our lakes and plant communities, to forest fires and rapidly increasing recreational use with effect on ecosystem function. We will feature a focus on the Little Cranberry Lake Fire from last August and the Wildland Urban Interface Committee work in progress. Learn about the ways we are stepping up to all of these challenges through more education, research, special projects, and partnerships.

How did this amazing forest preserve come to be here? What is our responsibility to this place, all of the wild inhabitants, and to all of the people before us who have contributed to long-term care and preservation? What are the commonly held rules of the woods, and how do we share our ethic of place with newcomers as well as those just passing through?

As we celebrate thirty years of work in the woods, we hope to honor and acknowledge our many successes and take heart for the work going forward, together.



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

The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.

FOREST BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Starbuck 901-9179
Brian Wetcher 293-7624
Marty Laumbattus 293-7940
Carolyn Moulton 588-1676
Aaron Ramussen 293-3018

PARKS & FOREST LANDS

MANAGER

Jonn Lunsford 299-1953

ACFL RANGER

Dave Oicles 399-3970

CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS

*Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.
Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.*

NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS
Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/17
W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/19
W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/19
W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/19
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	lovelett1@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

President Andy Stewart 299-9406
Vice President Monica Ochs 293-6003
Secretary Bill Dietrich 588-0118
Treasurer Lin Nichols 299-3826

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Denise Crowe 293-3725

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Jean Andrich 293-3725

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.friendsoftheacfl.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Stewart	299-9406	Jan. 2018	akccstewart@earthlink.net
Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2018	lin.nichols@yahoo.com
Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2018	monica.ochs@gmail.com
Bill Dietrich	588-0118	Jan. 2018	williamdietrich@comcast.net
Scott Gudmundsen	293-1550	Jan. 2017	robertgudmundsen@shell.com
Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan. 2017	troutdental@yahoo.com
Ed Gastellum	293-7626	Jan. 2017	ecgastel@wavecable.com
Steve Williams	293-0830	Jan. 2018	stephen.p.williams@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.

Conservation Easement Program News

The ACFL City Conservation Easement Program has continued to accept many generous gifts towards legal protection in perpetuity of all ACFL holdings. Most recently, a bequest for \$102,000 from the estate of Jack and Loretta Penrod was received. Forest Manager, Jonn Lunsford, is scheduled to provide an update to Mayor and City Council on the Conservation Easement Program on February 27. He will discuss with the Mayor and City Council possible ways to conserve any remaining land from the original CEP and recently purchased land on the south side of Mt. Erie as well as a forty-acre parcel known as the VanBuren/McLean land we are currently purchasing close to Heart Lake Road.



“Excessive algal growth has been plaguing Heart lake for years, persistent even into late fall as seen in this photo from mid November 2016.”

Heart Lake Study Results and Forest Advisory Board Discussion Coming Soon

Data from over a year of research on Heart Lake will be presented to the Forest Advisory Board at their March 2nd meeting, 6pm at Fidalgo Center. Findings will be presented and treatment options will be discussed. A tentative plan for a combination of herbicide application on milfoil this summer, and alum treatment in Spring 2018 is being considered. FAB members and City staff encourage public attendance and comment.

New ACFL land acquisition on track to be completed in March!

The City’s acquisition of a forty acre parcel known as the VanBuren/McLean property which lies immediately south and west of the Heart Lake Unit of ACFL is nearly complete. The City has used a combination of Lakeside Quarry revenue from a long term ACFL/Lakeside lease arrangement and citizen donations to complete the acquisition. We are thrilled that this high quality natural area will be officially preserved as part of the ACFL in perpetuity, providing an incredibly important wildlife corridor connection from Heart Lake to Lake Erie. We would like to thank these folks for donating to this effort through the Friends of the Forest.

Thank You!
Van Buren/Mclean
Property Purchase Donors~
Kathryn Alexandra
Sandra Anderson
Robert Higgins
Dean Janz & Leslie Price
Sharon Johnson
Trevor & Delberta Kyle
Diana Laiche
Betty Rockwell

Winter Calendar 2017

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 not for profit, citizen organization dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach, and stewardship. We have been serving the needs of the forest and Fidalgo Island residents since 1987. Our education program includes K-12 guided school field trips, Adult/Senior hikes, All ages hikes, Extra gentle hikes, fitness hikes, Forest Discovery Day Camp, Ethnobotany and Nature Writing 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 7th grade. Our community hikes are free and no registration is required. Please join us this fall as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together.

**For more info 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.
Hope to see you in the woods!*



All Ages Hikes and our full range of programs 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 10th • 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 10th • 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 Dr.

Winter Fitness Hike – for the very fit!

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 board members who love to get out in the woods and really cover some ground.

Cranberry Lake Fitness Hike

Saturday, March 4 • 10am until 1:30pm

Distance: 7 miles

We will cover all of the Cranberry Lake forest lands except for the northeast portion that was impacted by the fire.

We will have a chocolate tasting half way through!

Dress in layers and bring water. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake Parking Lot.



Crowe's Nest

Greetings Friends!

Our traditional winter pause feels different this year, as we are called to action in so many ways. Our Anacortes Senior College Course is brimming full, our annual meeting gathering is coming up soon, adult hikes continue through the winter, fire zone monitoring with associated committee work is active, and an array of other projects are commanding attention as we begin our year long celebration of thirty years as Friends of the Forest!

What we have accomplished in this time is truly amazing.

~We helped bring an end to revenue logging and were integral to the creation, promotion, and completion of the Conservation Easement Program, which has provided legal protection and ongoing financial support of the ACFL in partnership with the City and Skagit Land Trust.

~We have helped the City acquire key adjacent wild properties for inclusion in the ACFL.

~We have helped the City with a wide array of on the ground stewardship activities in the ACFL, including a tremendous continuing effort to keep invasive plants like English Ivy, Holly, and Scotch broom from taking over precious meadow and forest habitat.

~ Throughout all of these years of tangible projects, we have provided and expanded on comprehensive community forest education programming that engages and connects our citizens with our forest. Our education programs are interwoven with all of our other accomplishments. Education is at the core of what we do, and will continue to be our primary investment. As we improve the nature literacy of our community, we improve the chances that our forest will be cared for and maintain ecological integrity into the future.

We are truly fortunate to have this unparalleled green community treasure to enjoy and learn from and care for. It is our modern commons. The rich history, natural experience, and egalitarian spirit of our forestlands brings our citizens together in common cause, and has the potential to continue to bring out the best in us as we strive to do right by the woods.

Denise Crowe



The Friends of the Forest Education and Stewardship Benefit on November 5th at the Port was a tremendous success last Fall! Thank you to everyone involved for helping us raise \$61,000 to support our wide range of forest programs. We offer heartfelt recognition and thanks to all of our sponsors, the individuals and local businesses that contributed to our silent and live auctions, and our Board and team of volunteers that gave tremendous time and energy to make the evening so special.

Thank you as well, to all who came to enjoy the party and contribute! Your love for our forest and strong show of support for our work means so much to so many. 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 day camp for kids, community hikes of all kinds for all ages, and many other education and stewardship activities in enduring service to our beloved Anacortes Community Forest Lands.



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 on behalf of The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation*

Gifts

In Honor of Michelle and Malcolm McPhee for Christmas
 Jack and Sarah Tobien

In Honor of Whyatt Whiton's Birthday
 Michelle Fillion & Kimberly Wylde

On Behalf of Melissa Yeager
 Peggy Yeager

Memorials

In Memory of Clara Bernhardt
 Floie Vane

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In Memory of Don & Rita Fisher
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In Memory of Hershel Janz
 Bonita Janz & Suke;
 Didi Funk

In Memory of Floyd Lunsford
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In Memory of Robert Schaedler
 Jean Hawkins

In Memory of Robin Swain
 Don & Reanne Douglass

Matching Gifts

Microsoft
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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.

Thanks to The Tesoro Foundation!

The Tesoro Foundation has granted the Friends, for the second year in a row, \$10,000 in support of our long-standing and highly successful Watershed Discovery Program. Each year since 1994, all seventh grade students from Anacortes Middle School 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, and how to be an active citizen helping to improve fresh and saltwater quality from the forest to the sea.



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL
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**January is our annual renewal month for all members.
Please renew your membership today!**



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!