

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

Volume 31 • Issue 1• Winter 2018

All are invited to attend our < Annual Membership Meeting! 🕿 Wednesday, February 28th at the Depot (611 R Ave) Doors open at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7:10pm.

Our Unique Natural Commons- A State of the Forest Address



Board members up for reelection are: Andy Stewart, Lin Nichols, Monica Ochs, Bill Dietrich and Steve Williams. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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 and elections followed by a special program with the Friends' Education Director and Naturalist, Denise Crowe, and City Forest Manager, Jonn Lunsford.

Please join us as we explore the green heart of our island in this time of rapid change. 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 rapidly increasing recreational use with effects on ecosystem function. We will provide fresh information on the Heart Lake treatment process, an update on the 2016 Little Cranberry Lake Fire zone recovery, invasive species management, recent acquisition trail integration plans, and a discussion on how we work with our very active resident population of beaver. Learn about the ways we are stepping up to all of these challenges, and join the conversation!

What is our responsibility to this place, the wild inhabitants, and 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?

Dessert and refreshments will be provided by Gere-a-Deli.

WARNING SIGNS IN ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS

December 26, 2017 - Anacortes, WA - The City of Anacortes has posted Warning signs on four trails in the Community Forest Lands to alert trail users that there is a wild animal refuge in unincorporated Skagit County. The trails with the signs are in the southern end of the Little Cranberry area, including #10, #116, #117, #118. According to two police reports, in February 2012, a wolf from the refuge was captured in the ACFL. In October of 2017, a wolf escaped an enclosure and went on to private land adjacent to the animal refuge.

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The signs read as follows:

Warning. There is a wild animal refuge in unincorporated Skagit County adjacent to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. In the past, wolves have escaped their enclosure on to neighboring properties and the ACFL. Please stay on ACFL trails and use caution when walking with children and dogs. If you encounter a threatening situation call 911 immediately. Call ACFL staff at 360-299-1953 with guestions.

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

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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	FOREST ADVISORY BO	CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS							
notes:	The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thur at 6:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to th	Meetings are Mondays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers.							
Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appoint- ment. Please renew or join today! We accept donations online. Visit our website and go to Contribute.	Sandra Starbuck 360-901-9179 MA	COREST LANDS NAGER 360-299-1953 360-399-3970		www.ryanwaiters.org brada@cityofanacortes.org www.anacorteseric.org mattm@cityofanacortes.com bmcdougall@cityofanacortes.com lovelettl@cityofanacortes.com	360-588-8707 12/31/21 360-873-8407 12/31/19 50-299-1950				
Confused on a hike loca- tion? Check out our website	FRIENDS OF THE FOREST								
for links to driving directions to each hike location. 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	OFFICERS President Andy Stewart 360-299-9406 Vice President Monica Ochs 360-293-6003 Secretary Bill Dietrich 360-202-2882 Treasurer Lin Nichols 360-299-3826 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR Denise Crowe 360-293-3725 DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR Jean Andrich 360-293-3725 WEBSITE ADDRESS www.friendsoftheacfl.org	Andy Stewart Lin Nichols Monica Ochs Bill Dietrich Scott Gudmundsen Charlie Collins Ed Gastellum Steve Williams	BOARD MEM 360-299-9406 Jan. 3 360-293-3826 Jan. 3 360-293-6003 Jan. 3 360-202-2882 Jan. 3 360-293-1550 Jan. 3 360-873-8873 Jan. 3 360-293-7626 Jan. 3 360-293-7626 Jan. 3	akccstewart@earthlink.net 2018 lin.nichols@yahoo.com 2018 monica.ochs@gmail.com 2018 williamdietrich@gmail.com 2017 robertgudmundsen@shell.cu 2017 troutdental@yahoo.com 2017 ecgastel@wavecable.com	Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public.				

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Heart Lake News

The water is high at Heart Lake, thanks to the very active beaver that have established residence there in the last two years. City Staff have been working with WDFW and Dept. of Ecology on the cooperative management of the lake in this regard, as well as the ongoing treatment for excess and invasive algal growth. Last fall, the city worked with Herrera Environmental Consultants to apply floridone in three successive doses to the lake. The treatment appeared to significantly reduce a large amount of invasive hybrid milfoil and other macroalgae. This spring, the city plans to hire a contractor to apply the second phase of treatment that will reduce available nutrients in the water column. Staff is working with Herrera Environmental Consultants to prepare documents for contractors who are interested in bidding on the algae treatment at Heart Lake. The treatment could be aluminum sulfate or another product called phoslock. The goal is to reduce the amount of phosphorus available for a toxic algae bloom. The timing of this application will be based on many factors, including native amphibian reproduction schedule and spring warming. The City is planning a public meeting in early March to go over what they expect to do at the lake.



Ranger Dave illustrates just how high Heart Lake has risen due to heavy rains and beaver dam activity. City staff is working to regulate the lake level while allowing for natural beaver habitat enhancement.



This pile of fish scales & bones is the remains of river otter scat, also called "sprain". River otter frequent all of our fresh water lakes and wetlands in the ACFL, and move back and forth between the forest and the sea.



ACFL Beavers: City Staff is meeting with a biologist from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as part of our permitting process for managing the Beaver dams in the ACFL. We do the best we can not to touch the beaver dams and have moved trails and raised bridges to accommodate their work. There are times when the work of the beavers at Little Cranberry and now Heart Lake threaten roads or private property. We are working with our own Planning Department and WDFW to alleviate these problems and maintain a healthy (and expanding) habitat for the beavers.



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 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 email us at info@friendsoftheacfl.org.

Please understand that our hikes are for people only, we ask that you leave your pets at home. Hope to see you in the woods!

All Ages Hikes (Great for families and folks of all ages, these are hearty hikes with a naturalist guide.)

All Ages Hikes and our full range of programs will return in the Spring! Be sure to check out our website for up to date calendar information at any time. www.FriendsoftheACFL.org

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 9th 10am until noon

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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 9th 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.

UPCOMING ACFL WORK PARTIES:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2018 AT 9AM

While the ground is still damp and soft, it's a great time to tackle invasive plants. An area along trail 126 is still infested with Scotch Broom and needs a group of volunteers to ripe it out by the roots. Its bright yellow flowers easily recognize this plant in the spring. Let's meet at trailhead 126 at the end of Fir Crest Blvd off A Ave. As always, dress for rain and bring good gloves and boots. If you need directions, please call Ranger Dave Oicles at 360-661-3554. Hope to see you there.

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Special Programs

All are welcome at our... Annual Membership Meeting February 28th, 7pm at the Depot (See Cover)

This is a great 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 and elections followed by a special presentation on the state of the forest. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Hope to see you there!

Anacortes Library Speaker Series Celebrate Spring! With Friends of the Forest Naturalist, Denise Crowe Wednesday, March 21st at 7pm

Our 3,000 acre wood holds the nature of our island together. From the summits of Sugarloaf and Mount Erie, to the water flowing through Ace Of Hearts Creek to the sea. Join us in exploring the native plants, animals, and diverse habitats that keep Fidalgo Island alive and wild. What is the natural and human history of this unique place? What is our role in sustaining this exceptional modern commons?

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan:

Anacortes Parks and Recreation is updating its Comprehensive Plan. Public meetings are being set for:

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- •Thursday, February 8th at the City Hall Council Chambers from 6:30 to 8:30pm,
- •Wednesday, February 14 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Senior Activity Center, and
- •Thursday, February 22 from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Senior Activity Center.
- Please follow this link for more information: https://www.anacorteswa.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=101

FREE EVENT

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Hosted By: The Salal Chapter of the Washington State Native Plant Society

Climate Change and Forests, the Pacific Northwest and Beyond 10 am Saturday, February 17

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve 10441 Bayview Edison Road

Dr. David Peterson*, professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Washington, will speak about climate change and the impacts to our forests.

*Contributing author on the intergovernmental panel on climate change, and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He currently works on climate change adaptation on federal lands in the western United States. More info: nativegarden@fidalgo.net

Where the Wild Things Are

Friends of the Forest celebrated 30 years in the woods with our most successful Benefit Event ever on November 4th at the Port! Thank you to everyone involved for helping us raise \$63,000 to support our wide range of forest education and stewardship 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 3,000 acre woods and strong show of support for our work means so much to so many. It is inspiring to feel our community come together and collectively invest in the wild green heart of our island. 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 activities in service to the future of our beloved Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Sincerely, Denise Crowe

Thank You to all Friends of the Forest Members Anthony Davidson Gregory & Pamela Hobson

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*2018 Members

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Gifts In Honor of Michelle & Malcolm McPhee for Christmas Jack & Sarah Tobien

In Honor of Ute & Charlie Collins Heather Romano

In Honor of Bonnie Janz Dean Janz

On Behalf of Faye Litzinger Ronald Litzinger

Memorials

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In Memory of Jim Ford Barrett Financial Community Caring Project **Bundy Family** Gregory & Pamela Hobson Mac Madenwald & Wendy Gray Pamela Richey Jim and Jenny Taylor Jerome & Cheryl Waldbaum Tim & Connie Walters E. Valerie White

In Memory of Don Crabil Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

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In Memory of Robert Tomlinson Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

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In Memory of Bill Carlisle Gayl Mcalister

In Memory of Hershel Janz Dean Janz

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In Memory of Robin Swain Don & Reanne Douglass

In Memory of Don & Rita Fisher Dave & Joanne Witiak

Matching Gifts Andeavor Microsoft Shell

Once again, we thank the Andeavor Foundation! The Andeavor Foundation has granted the Friends, for the third 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, wildlife ecology on our island, and how to be an active citizen helping to improve fresh and saltwater quality from the forest to the sea.

> Winter Is **Time** To Renew!

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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

John & JoAnn Webster*



Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage **PAID** Anacortes, WA Permit #42



Winter is time to renew!

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MEMBERSHIP FORM											
		each and stewardship.	Friends		for pr	ofit 501 c3 organizat	ion. Ta	ommunity Forest Lands through <i>x ID # 501c3 91-1430220</i>			
Name				Phone		Email					
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We offer ma	any lev				your l			al 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			
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Areas of Interes	Areas of InterestTopics for general meetings or newsletter										
Please mail m	embersh	ips/contributions to: Fr	iends of th	e ACFL, P.O. Box 2213,	, Anaco	rtes, WA 98221 or visit	us at 611	R Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221			
with the Friends	of the F	orest is one of the bes	st ways to		t Loca	lly. On Fidalgo Island,		need it! Keeping your dues current Illy we have the ACFL, and it needs			

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