



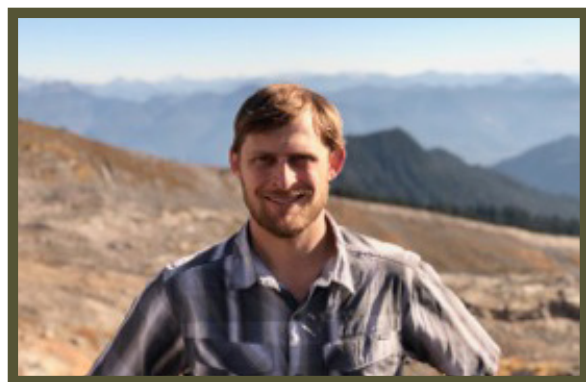
# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 32 • Issue 2 • SPRING 2019**

## **Meet Our New Executive Director Asa Deane**

Asa will join the Friends of the Forest team beginning in April, and we couldn't be more excited to introduce him to our members and community.



Asa grew up in Calaveras County of Central California, a place famous for big trees and jumping frogs. Situated directly between Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe, this setting provided endless opportunity to explore the natural world and Asa spent his youth adventuring in the Sierra Nevada Mountains via foot, ski, and bicycle. Weekends were spent camping, and skiing, summers backpacking and floating down the Stanislaus River. These experiences sparked Asa's passion for environmental conservation. Through his time spent outdoors, it became clear to him that in order to want to protect something, you have to feel connected to it; an insight that would drive his personal and professional life.

In high school, Asa spent a week as a cabin counselor for an outdoor science camp called Exploring New Horizons. Here he discovered the world of outdoor education and the profound impact that it can have on children. As they were guided through the forest by their professional naturalist, Asa was introduced to the idea of bringing people closer to nature as a job. His love for the outdoors, desire to work with children, and mission to help protect the natural world had all come together in one unified career path.

For college, Asa traded in the Giant Sequoias of his childhood home for their taller, slightly less massive cousins, the Coastal Redwoods. The University of California Santa Cruz is renowned for its natural environment and outdoor recreation potential and Asa wasted no time in exploring the Santa Cruz Mountains. He majored in Earth Science; inspired both by the massive granite rocks of his home and by the multitude of hours that geology students got to spend working in the field.

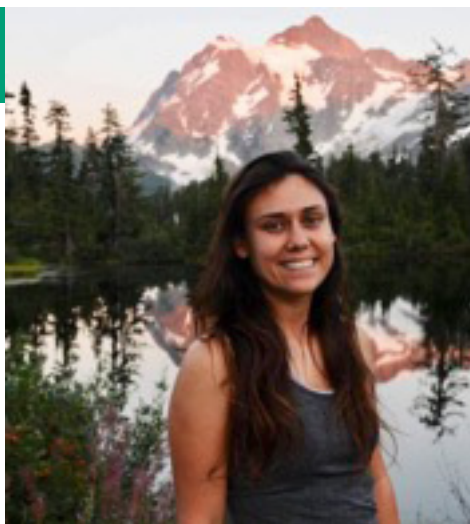
After graduating in 2008 he spent two months camping outside of Bishop, CA, climbing boulders and swimming in rivers in the California desert of the Eastern Sierra.

Inspired by his time as a counselor in high school, Asa pursued environmental education as a career and began an internship with San Mateo Outdoor Education. After a year of learning to teach science and stewardship through connection with the natural world, Asa became a naturalist at the same science camp where he had been a counselor in high school, Exploring New Horizons. After three years, Asa made the transition from Naturalist to Program Director and continued the work of inspiring and empowering students from the administrative and team leader side of the organization. In his five years as Director, he helped provide outdoor experiences for over ten thousand students from across Central California.

Seeking the next step in their careers and excited for a change in location, Asa and his wife Jenna moved to Bellingham, Washington where Jenna had gone to college at Western Washington University years before. Asa became the Program Manager at Wild Whatcom, an outdoor education non-profit based out of Bellingham whose mission is not only education but mentorship of its participants in an outdoor setting. Wild Whatcom continued to foster his growth as a leader and helped him to learn about the Pacific Northwest's natural world as well as the people that make the region such a special place. Now, having accepted the Executive Director position at Friends of the Forest, Asa is ready to jump in and get to work.

### *From Asa:*

*"I could not be more excited to work with Friends of the Forest, both the organization, as well as the people that utilize the incredible resource that is the ACFL. My first time hiking in this forest, along the Heart Lake trail, I was amazed that such a place existed within the city limits and how lucky the people of Anacortes were to have it. As I learned more about the story of the land, this solidified my feeling that this was the work that I was meant to be doing and the organization that I was meant to work with. I hope to help Friends of the Forest protect and utilize this beautiful forest for years to come through the combination of outreach, education, and stewardship - the very three things I feel are most important in successful land conservation."*

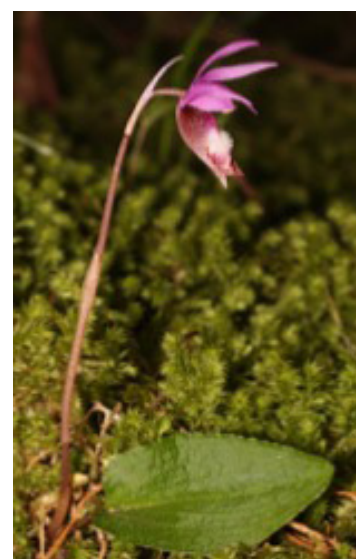


## Melissa's Message : In Full Bloom

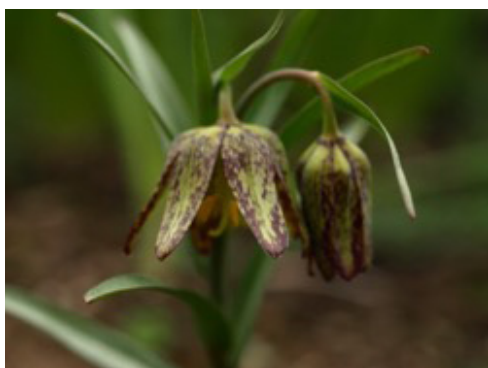
The parade of wildflowers begins with the announcement from the master of ceremonies: spring gold in time with field chickweed, skunk cabbage, woodland star flower, and cam-as, among many more. For novice wildflower enthusiasts, it can be an overwhelming struggle to flip through field guides, hoping to come across a photo of the flower name they seek. If you are just starting out, here are a few tips that can help build your base of knowledge and excitement about getting to know our precious natural heritage.

### TIPS:

- ✔ Choose sunny facing slopes just after a rain for sun loving delicate beauties.
- ✔ Don't forget to look up and in the shadows! Our shrubby plants like salmonberry and ocean spray and other shade loving plants like Fairy Slipper Orchids and Star Lily are blooming in the forest too.
- ✔ Become familiar with just one or two species at a time to build a solid foundation.
- ✔ Bring along a concise photographic field guide or a friend who knows about flowers!
- ✔ Check out <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/> for an interactive guide that lets you search by bloom color and time, light requirement, and region among others.
- ✔ Join our wildflower hikes in May for a closer look at our fragile rocky bald meadow wildflowers.



*Calypso bulbosa*  
Also known as: Fairy Slipper  
Orchid Family  
Grows in full shade  
Moist Soil  
Blooms from March-July



*Fritillaria affinis.*  
Also known as: Chocolate Lily  
Grows in part shade, Dry rocky soil  
Eaten by snails and slugs,  
Blooms from April to July

We have a wonderful season of wildflowers that peaks from April to July, so there's plenty of time to take in many hikes and note the changes throughout the season! We hope that your growing appreciation of the wildflowers will encourage you to preserve them for future generations. Resist that innate urge to pick them and please stay on the trails. We might not be cognizant of it, but wildflowers support entire ecosystems for pollinators and small animals on a micro scale. Some of the tiny pollinators are not very mobile and have very small home ranges that may only span one or two wildflowers! The best way to enjoy wildflowers is from the trails with a camera in hand to capture those most wonderful celebrations of spring!



*Calypso bulbosa*  
 Also known as: Fairy Slipper  
 Orchid Family  
 Grows in full shade  
 Moist Soil  
 Blooms from March-July

**Share your favorite photos** of ACFL wildflowers on our Facebook page in anticipation of this coming wildflower season! If you are unsure of the species, we'll help you out by identifying it and sharing it with our other followers. Together, we will get to know all of the flowers of our forest!



*Camassia quamash*  
 Also known as: Common Camas  
 Lily Family  
 Grows in full sun  
 Moist soil  
 Bulbs eaten by deer  
 Blooms from April-June

## 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. You may contact Jean Andrich (360-293-3725) at our office to discuss any of these options.

- 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 are welcome to 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.

### Congratulations to Jonn Lunsford, Anacortes' new Parks and Recreation Director!

"I am excited to serve as the new Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Anacortes. I have the good fortune of working with a talented and experienced staff that operate and maintain the parks, forest lands and public spaces throughout our community. Parks and Recreation, The Friends, and the Skagit Land Trust have a long history of cooperating to conserve the Forest Lands and most recently adding 60 acres of forest to the ACFL near Heart Lake and Mt. Erie. This partnership is a great platform to build off as we work to balance the conservation and recreation needs of Anacortes in the years ahead.

I grew up in Anacortes, only moving away to attend college and graduate school. My mom's side of the family were commercial fishermen, and I worked on boats in Puget Sound and Alaska to help put myself through school. Growing up and working here I learned to appreciate the fragile beauty of our island home and its long history of conservation dating back generations. I look forward to working with The Friends to continue that tradition." —Jonn Lunsford





# Spring Calendar 2019



*Get to know your community forestlands!*  
**It's time to join a guided hike and begin to learn more  
about the fascinating wild green heart of our island.**

The Friends of the Forest is a nonprofit 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, adult Ethnobotany Field Seminar, a quarterly newsletter, and our two comprehensive school district programs; Growing Wild 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 spring as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together. For more info about our group or these hikes, please contact our office at (360)293-3725 or visit our website at: [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.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!

## Senior/Adult Hikes

For any adult with a desire to learn more about our community forest through an easy hike.

## Extra Gentle Hikes

Each of these outings is a mile or less on gentle trails and will last about an hour.

### Our Earth, Our ACFL Hike

**Friday, April 26th from 10 am-12 pm**

Distance: 1.8 miles roundtrip w./ elevation gain of about 160 feet.

Learn about the history of our community forest lands and the important role we all play in taking care of our community forest in perpetuity. This route is a regular favorite, providing spectacular views and deep woods feel with just the right amount of physical challenge. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.

### About the Wildflowers 101

**Friday, May 10th from 10 am- 12 pm**

Distance: about 2 miles roundtrip w./ elevation gain of 500 feet. This is a trail of wonders, twisting and turning through varied terrain all the way to a hidden meadow. The views of Lake Erie and Mt. Erie are a visual treat. Meet at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

### Wildflower Walk

**Wednesday, May 8th from 9 am until 10 am**

Distance: 1.1 miles roundtrip w./ about 150 ft. of elevation gain. We will trek along the ridge to the west of the lake and observe the fresh understory growth on the land marked by the 18-acre fires of 2016. What new growth has sprung up through the open mineral rich soil? Meet at the water tower at the end of 29th Ave.



## Work Party with Ranger Dave • Saturday, April 6th at 9 am

This work party was cancelled in February due to snow, so it's been rescheduled! It's time for our annual hunt for treasures along Heart Lake Road and to pick up all the trash along the road and parking lots. In the past we have found bird feeders, pocket knives, and hundred dollar bills! What will we find this time? Let's meet at trailhead 215 on Ray Auld Drive at the base of Mt. Erie Road. Safety vests, trash bags, and trash grabbers will be provided. Please bring gloves and good boots. As usual, if it's snowing, super windy, or raining hard, we will re-schedule.

## All Ages Hikes

Great for families and folks of all ages; these are hearty hikes with a naturalist guide.



### Little Cranberry Ridge Spring Celebration

**Saturday, April 27th from 10 am until 12 pm**

Distance: About 2.2 miles roundtrip w./ 275 feet of elevation gain.

Meet at the Cranberry Lake parking lot on the north end of the lake for our circumnavigation of Cranberry Lake. We will trek along the ridges to the east and west of the lake and observe the fresh understory growth on the land marked by the 2016 18-acre fires. Kids: Bring your observation tools (hands, eyes, ears, and nose) to help you find the signs of spring with our forest scavenger hunt!

### Sugarloaf Flowers with Mom

**Saturday, May 11th from 10 am until 12 pm**

Distance: 2 miles roundtrip w./ about 500 feet of elevation gain.

This is the ultimate wildflower walk of the year. From Blue Camas Lily to Red Indian Paintbrush, what a way to enjoy the celebration of the return of spring! The views from the summit are not to be missed. In honor of Mother's Day, we will have a photographer on hand to capture family photos at this beautiful location. Meet at the Ray Auld Drive parking lot at the base of Mt. Erie.

### Tokens for Tomorrow



We are excited to be a recipient of the Tokens for Tomorrow program at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op for the months of April, May, and June. When you bring your own shopping bag, you'll receive a token that can be donated to any of their selected community non-profits and this quarter we are one of them. Happy shopping, friends!

## 2019 Forest Discovery Program

**Plan ahead for summer - Plan ahead for summer-register online starting April 2nd!!**

**What:** The "Forest Discovery Program" is an activity oriented summer day camp for youth 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 23rd, 24th, & 25th**

**Session #2: August 6th, 7th, & 8th**

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 early!

**Now introducing online registration!**

**Register online at [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) starting April 2nd.**

Call 360-293-3725 or email: [info@friendsoftheforest.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheforest.org)



# Thank you to the Brittens!



The Friends of the Forest has received a very generous donation from the Britten Family Trust. The late James (Jim) and Gyvonne Britten [pictured] were California natives, but found a second home here in the Pacific Northwest. After the couple both retired from their careers as aeronautical and aerospace engineers, they developed a strong connection to the San Juan Island area and bought a home in Anacortes, Washington. Susan Hoston, their niece, described her aunt and uncle by saying, "Their generous and giving nature extended beyond the family to many others." Aside from Jim's love of trains and Gyvonne's passion for art, they were both avid philanthropists who cared deeply about conserving land. The Brittens were also supporters of the San Juan Preservation Trust. We greatly appreciate their donation and commitment to our mission of conservation, preservation, and stewardship of the forest land.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD		CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS																																							
The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.		Meetings are Mondays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers.																																							
<b>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</b>  Sandra Starbuck 360-901-9179  Brian Wetcher 360-293-7624  Marty Laumbattus 360-293-7940  Carolyn Moulton 360-588-1676  Aaron Ramussen 360-293-3018		<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION</b>  <b>DIRECTOR</b>  Jonn Lunsford 360-299-1953  <b>ACFL RANGER</b>  Dave Oicles 360-399-3970    <b>WEBSITE ADDRESS</b> www.friendsoftheacfl.org		<table><thead><tr><th>NAME</th><th>E-MAIL</th><th>PHONE</th><th>TERM ENDS</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Mayor Laurie Gere</td><td>coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org</td><td>360-299-1950</td><td>12/31/21</td></tr><tr><td>W1 Ryan Walters</td><td>www.ryanwalters.org</td><td>360-610-7770</td><td>12/31/19</td></tr><tr><td>W2 Brad Adams</td><td>brada@cityofanacortes.org</td><td>360-293-3056</td><td>12/31/19</td></tr><tr><td>W3 Eric Johnson</td><td>www.anacorteseric.org</td><td>360-840-5415</td><td>12/31/19</td></tr><tr><td>P-4 Matt Miller</td><td>mattm@cityofanacortes.com</td><td>360-588-9070</td><td>12/31/21</td></tr><tr><td>P-5 Bruce McDougall</td><td>bmcDougall@cityofanacortes.org</td><td>303-551-5554</td><td>12/31/21</td></tr><tr><td>P-6 To be determined</td><td></td><td></td><td>12/31/21</td></tr><tr><td>P7 Anthony Young</td><td>anthony@cityofanacortes.org</td><td>360-873-8407</td><td>12/31/21</td></tr></tbody></table> Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried: 360-299-1950 Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large: 360-293-1900		NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS	Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	360-299-1950	12/31/21	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	360-610-7770	12/31/19	W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	360-293-3056	12/31/19	W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	360-840-5415	12/31/19	P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com	360-588-9070	12/31/21	P-5 Bruce McDougall	bmcDougall@cityofanacortes.org	303-551-5554	12/31/21	P-6 To be determined			12/31/21	P7 Anthony Young	anthony@cityofanacortes.org	360-873-8407	12/31/21
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FRIENDS OF THE FOREST								
<b>OFFICERS</b>  President Charlie Collins 360-873-8873 Past President Andy Stewart 360-299-9406 Vice President Monica Ochs 360-770-8617 Secretary Bill Dietrich 360-202-2882 Treasurer Lin Nichols 360-299-3826  <b>FOREST EDUCATION:</b> Melissa Courtney  <b>DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</b> Jean Andrich 360-293-3725  <b>COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:</b> Mackenzie Wilson			<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>  Charlie Collins 360-873-8873 Jan. 2021 troutdental@yahoo.com Lin Nichols 360-293-3826 Jan. 2020 lin.nichols@yahoo.com Monica Ochs 360-770-6817 Jan. 2020 monica.ochs@gmail.com Bill Dietrich 360-202-2882 Jan. 2020 williamadietrich@gmail.com Andy Stewart 360-299-9406 Jan. 2020 yawlsailing@gmail.com Ed Gastellum 360-293-7626 Jan. 2021 ecgastel34@wavecable.com Steve Williams 360-293-0830 Jan. 2020 willisp2@yahoo.com Lynne Jordan 360-293-3725 Jan. 2021 info@friendsoftheacfl.org Rob Skelton 360-293-3725 Jan. 2021 info@friendsoftheacfl.org			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.		



# SPOT A CRIME IN ACTION: DIAL 911

By: Ranger Dave

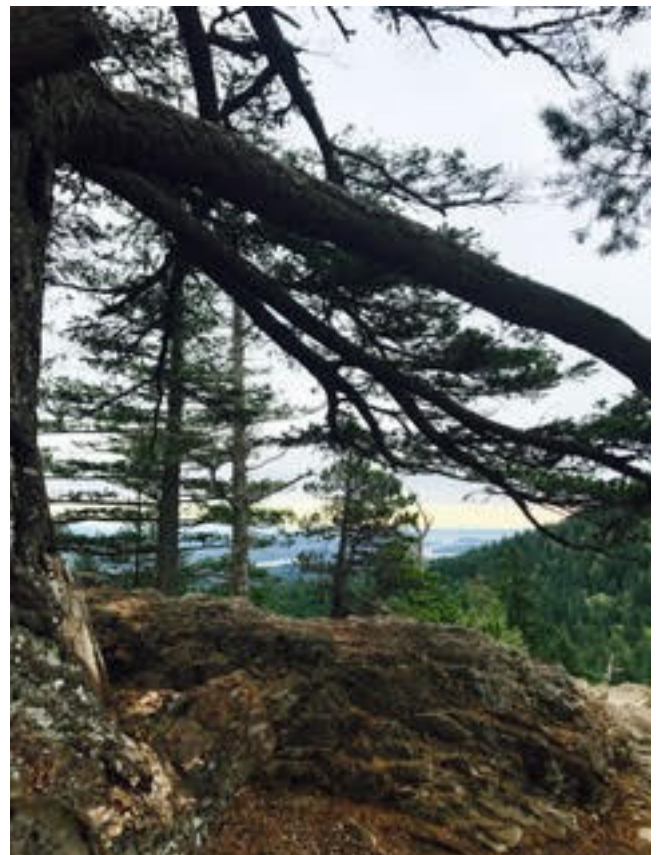


We have the great fortune to have wonderful trail users and forest visitors enjoy our beautiful Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Many folks take great pride in this local treasure and consider themselves stewards of the ACFL, helping to clean up trash along the trail, report downed trees and other maintenance issues to ACFL Staff, and also help to report crimes that sometimes occur out on the trails and at the lakes. Some “crimes” may appear minor like motorcycle riders using the trails dur-

ing the winter closure, or someone picking bags of Salal or fiddleheads. Other crimes may seem more justified to let someone know, like underage drinking or tree cutting. Whatever the offense may be, it is important to let someone know while the activity is occurring if possible, so authorities and staff can respond promptly. It is recommended to dial 911 or the Skagit Dispatch non-emergency number 428-3211 as soon as you can. This way, we may be able to catch the person(s) and stop the crime.

Some crimes warrant a citation or arrest, while others may be given a “no trespass” order, which prevents them from entering the ACFL for a determined amount of time. Others may simply be given an education on our rules and policies. Each situation is decided individually based on the circumstances, and is up to the officer or staff who responded. The important thing to remember is if you let authorities know an offensive is occurring during the crime, you increase the likelihood of the suspects getting caught. I appreciate getting calls and emails of what you observe, and please keep sending them to me, but sometimes it’s after work hours or on my days off so I may not be able to respond right away.

If you dial 911, you increase getting a quicker response. And remember to get as much information as possible, like trail numbers, license plates, clothing, color and model of vehicle, and a description of the person(s). We recently were able to catch someone committing a crime due to a good physical description of the person and vehicle that was near by the crime location. WHEN IN DOUBT, DIAL 911.





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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 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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!