



# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 32 • Issue 1 • WINTER 2019**

## ***2019 Annual Membership Meeting***

*All are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting!*

*Wednesday, February 27th at the Depot (611 R Ave)*

*Doors open at 6:45 pm. Meeting begins at 7:10 pm.*

This free event is a wonderful opportunity for members and non-members alike 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 by Dr. Michael Medler, a professor at Huxley College of the Environment at WWU.



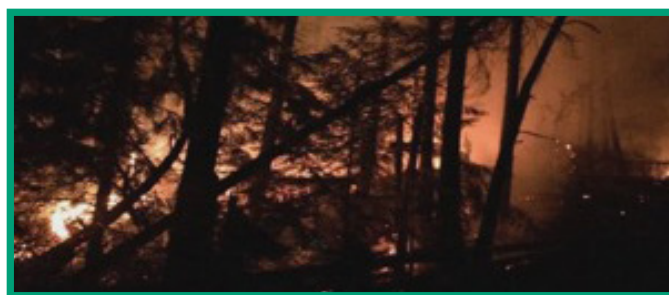
Dr. Medler is an associate professor at Western Washington University in the Environmental Studies department. He is a past president of The Association for Fire Ecology, and the founding editor of the scientific journal Fire Ecology. In the 1980s he worked on fire crews in the Pacific Northwest and fought fires across the west including the 1988 fires in Yellowstone. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 1997, where he researched improving methods for wildland fire mapping using satellite data. Since that time he has been a wildland fire researcher who has provided information and testimony for groups ranging from the United States Congress, to local homeowners organizations.

His presentation at the annual meeting is titled:

### ***“The Changing Pyrogeography of Fires in the West”***

The last few summers have brought about a real reckoning about the “New Normal” we are seeing with wildland fire in the American West. Climate change, building practices, and a century of fire policies have combined to leave many of our forests explosive. Wildland firefighters, trained for work in the backcountry, are increasingly expected to protect homes and communities. Meanwhile, fire-suppression costs are going up even in moderate years, and many people are pressuring wildland agencies to vastly increase the acreage of fuel reduction programs. We are now facing a situation in which we must reevaluate our systematic responses to these fires. Dr. Michael Medler will discuss many of the spatial considerations in this debate, presenting his findings about the spatial scale of some of the problems and the potential of some of the solutions.

Forest fires, exacerbated by new symptoms of climate change, present an ever-growing threat to Fidalgo Island and the ACFL. Our town and forest interface has never been more dynamic; making this topic quite timely. You won’t want to miss it!



We are hoping to unveil our new comprehensive ACFL brochure, loaded with maps, trail info, and the history of the forest lands on our island at the Annual Meeting. The Friends are excited to share this long-anticipated resource with our members and the city. Please take a moment to meet and speak with our new Forest Educator, Melissa Courtney, at the event as well. Dessert and refreshments provided by Gere-a-Deli will follow. We can’t wait to see you all there.

\*\*The Membership will vote on a proposed by-law amendment at the Annual Meeting. Please visit our website for details.

\*Board Members up for reelection are: Charlie Collins, Ed Gastellum, Rob Skelton, and Lynne Jordan

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><u>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</u></b>		<b><u>PARKS &amp; FOREST LANDS</u></b>		<b><u>NAME</u></b>	
Sandra Starbuck	360-901-9179	<b><u>MANAGER</u></b>		Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org
Brian Wetcher	360-293-7624	Jonn Lunsford 360-299-1953		W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org
Marty Laumbattus	360-293-7940	<b><u>ACFL RANGER</u></b>		W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org
Carolyn Moulton	360-588-1676	Dave Oicles 360-399-3970		W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org
Aaron Ramussen	360-293-3018	<b><u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u></b>		P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com
		www.friendsoftheacfl.org		P-5 Bruce McDougall	bmcdougall@cityofanacortes.org
				P-6 Liz Lovelett	lovelett@cityofanacortes.com
				P7 Anthony Young	anthony@cityofanacortes.org
				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	

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST					
<b><u>OFFICERS</u></b>			<b><u>BOARD MEMBERS</u></b>		
President	Andy Stewart	360-299-9406	Andy Stewart	360-299-9406	Jan. 2020
Vice President	Monica Ochs	360-770-8617	Lin Nichols	360-293-3826	Jan. 2020
Secretary	Bill Dietrich	360-202-2882	Monica Ochs	360-770-6817	Jan. 2020
Treasurer	Lin Nichols	360-299-3826	Bill Dietrich	360-202-2882	Jan. 2020
<b><u>FOREST EDUCATION:</u></b>			Charlie Collins	360-873-8873	Jan. 2019
Melissa Courtney			Ed Gastellum	360-293-7626	Jan. 2019
<b><u>DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</u></b>			Steve Williams	360-293-0830	Jan. 2020
Jean Andrich 360-293-3725			Lynne Jordan	360-293-3725	Jan 2019
<b><u>COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:</u></b>			Rob Skelton	360-293-3725	Jan 2019
Mackenzie Wilson					

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.
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## Membership notes:

•Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm & always by appointment.

•Please renew or join today! We accept donations online. Visit our website and go to contribute.

•Confused about a hike location? Check out our website for links to driving directions to each hike location.

•Need an ACFL trail map? We have an electronic version available for download on our website, as well as a listing of where maps are available for sale.

[www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org)  
[info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)



## 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 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.

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





## WHY ARE THE TREES DYING?

By Ranger Dave Oicles

Earlier this year, I thought I was imagining things when I really began to notice just how many Western Red Cedar trees have died in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) in the last 6 months... to put it bluntly, 1000's. I invited Denise Crowe, ACFL Naturalist, on a walk down trail 22 where the brown and orange needles of hundreds of dead and dying cedar trees could be easily observed. She too, had been noticing the decline in our forest health. We both concluded that the trees have succumbed to the four summers in a row of drought conditions and warmer weather and warmer winters. Last year, I noticed 100's of Western Hemlock trees were dying as well in the ACFL. Along with the forest lands, I have also been observing trees dying in homeowners' yards all around Anacortes this year. So I began to wonder, is anyone else observing this?

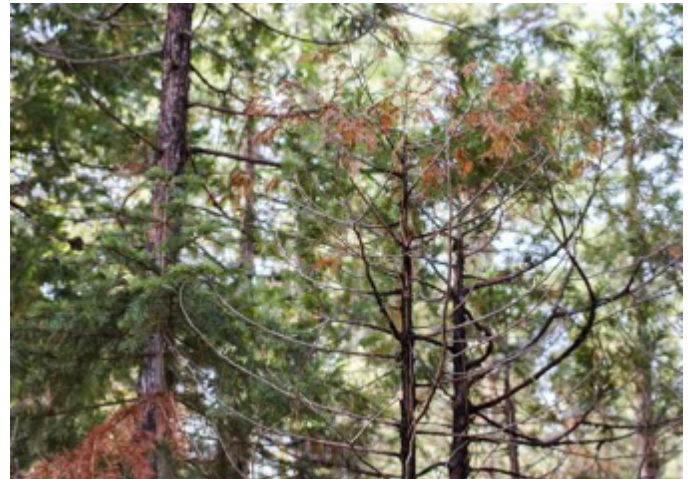


At a recent tree seminar I attended called "Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities" I decided to present this question to the instructor Ben Thompson, Urban Forestry Specialist with WA State Dept. of Natural Resources. His direct answer was YES. Tree mortality was being observed all around western Washington with pocket areas in rain shadows (like Anacortes) seeing a higher mortality rate. He stated there has also been an unusual mortality in Big Leaf Maples in certain locations in our State as well. So the next question I asked was "why"?

Mr. Thompson stated that it is tough to prove drought stress is causing trees to die, but the stress put on trees from lack of water makes them susceptible to diseases and insect pests which are identifiable. Dan Omdal, WA State Forest Pathologist, said he has been observing Western Red Cedar mortality at sites around Mount Vernon and at Deception Pass since 2015, the beginning of our 4-year drought. Observations of drought-stressed trees may include a tree dropping some of its needles or leaves to conserve water. The growth rings in a tree trunk

will be smaller during drought periods. Branch and/or tree top die-off can be observed during drought conditions. But the overall belief from scholars and tree management professionals is that our trees are dying from drought related conditions and warmer weather patterns. These conditions weaken a tree's defense and allow for disease and pests to come in and finish off the tree. Continued drought conditions can create embolisms in a tree's water vessels, preventing the tree's vascular system from operating effectively. The tree essentially dries out and dies. Some trees may appear green and healthy, but they are reaching their threshold to hold on, and certain tree species in the ACFL have tipped over that threshold. I have observed recently Western Hemlocks snapping in half midway up the tree, only to find the inside of the trunk dry and soft, unable to hold itself up anymore. And dead cedar trees can be observed along almost every trail in the ACFL. At first it was just the small 2-4" diameter trees, but recently I am seeing the 24" trees dead as well.

What does the future hold for our trees? Maybe a new ecosystem of different, more tolerant tree species. Maybe we will get back to a more "normal" weather pattern, but experts say this is the new "normal". San Diego, Washington.



For more in-depth information about this subject matter, please visit the following websites:  
<https://www.greenseattle.org/western-redcedar-die-off-in-seattle-parks/>

<https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2018/08/10/focus-on-drought-timely-tree-tips/>

<https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2018/07/03/emerging-issues-with-western-hemlock-and-douglas-fir/>



**Special Hike with Ranger Dave:  
Changing Trees  
Friday, February 22 • 10 am-12 pm**



# Winter 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, 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 our office at (360) 293-3725. You may also visit our website [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) or email us at [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto: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!

## Senior/Adult Hikes

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

### Heart Lake Hills Friday February 1 10am-12pm

Distance: 1.5 miles

Join us for this great opportunity to get out and stretch your legs during the winter months. We will be exploring what the forests to the east of Heart Lake have to offer while taking in the sights and sounds of the winter. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.

### Heart Lake Friday, February 15 10am-12pm

Distance: 1.5 miles

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 signs of spring. We will amble along the east side of Heart Lake and continue north on a nice stroll through the Heart Lake forest area. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.

### Pine Ridge Loop Friday, March 1 10am-12pm

Distance: 1.25 miles

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.

## Special Hike- Ranger Dave: Changing Trees Friday, February 22 • 10 am-12 pm

Have you noticed any changes to our trees the past few summers? Take a walk with Ranger Dave to explore and examine trees dying in the ACFL, presumed to be caused by the last 4 years of draught-like conditions specifically here on Fidalgo Island, a rain shadow area of the Pacific NW. Dave will take you on a journey pointing out subtle to dramatic changes that have occurred in the past few years to our resident trees and understory. Dave, who is also a Certified Arborist with a B.S. in Natural Resources Management, will present some technical observations from an arboricultural point of view. Let's meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot off Whistle Lake Road. Be sure to dress warmly and have a good pair of hiking boots. A camera may be an item to bring along as well. Hope to see you there!







## Meet the new *Friends* of the Forest



Melissa Courtney recently joined the Friends of the Forest team as the new Forest Educator. She grew up in Jupiter, FL and spent nearly every day while growing up outside playing in the empty lot and forest preserve next to her family home. It was this time spent with nature that ignited her passion for the conservation of our natural world. Melissa graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in environmental science and minors in natural resource ethics and policy and soil and water science. After graduation, she realized the important role education plays in conservation efforts which led her to complete her M.Ed. in environmental education at Florida Atlantic University. Locally, Melissa has completed the Salish Sea Stewards course and has worked as a leader for middle school youth in the San Juan Island Youth Conservation Corps. Her favorite pastime in the ACFL is trail running. When not out running in the ACFL she loves sailing, creating art, and hiking.



Rob Skelton recently joined Friends of the Forest as a board member. As an Anacortes native growing up next to Mount Erie, Rob's love for the outdoors was cemented at an early age. After spending over a decade working in the real estate industry in Malibu, CA, Rob returned to Anacortes to raise his own family. Through his profession, he is often the initial point of contact with newcomers moving to the area and uses that unique opportunity to introduce and educate others to the vast resources that the ACFL offer.

Rob returned to Anacortes with a renewed appreciation for the matchless adventure, beauty and richness that is encompassed in the ACFL. With their three young children in tow, he and his wife, Nichole, can often be found recreating in the diverse outdoor offerings of Fidalgo Island including hiking, biking, camping, boating, swimming in Whistle Lake and paddle boarding.

### Work Parties

#### **Invasive Holly Removal • Saturday, January 26th • 9am-11am**

Dan Senour, hiker representative for the ACFL Trail Committee has spotted a large patch of non-native invasive holly growing along trail 21 that needs to be removed. Let's meet at trailhead 215 on Ray Auld Drive at the base of Mt. Erie Road. From there we will hike to trail 21 via 215 and 320. It's about a 15-minute walk to the holly site. We will have all the tools, just bring gloves, boots, and dress warmly. If it's snowing, super windy, or raining hard, we will re-schedule.

#### **Heart Lake Road Clean-up • Saturday, February 23rd • 9am-11am**

It's time for our annual hunt for treasures along Heart Lake Road and to pick up 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 reschedule.

#### **Invasive Ivy Removal • Saturday, March 16th • 9am-11am**

On a recent walk along trail 218 I discovered a very large patch of non-native invasive ivy, along with some holly trees, that need tackling with a large group of volunteers. Trust me, there will be plenty of ivy to spread the cheer. I have not seen a patch of ivy like this one in a long time in the ACFL. Let's meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot off Whistle Lake Rd. From there we have a short 7 minute hike to the ivy. It's a little wet at the site, so if you have rubber boots please bring them. If not, there is still ivy and holly outside the wet area. Thank you!

## Thank you to all 2018 Friends of the Forest Members

\*denotes 2019 Members

Kym & Roger Aasen  
Evelyn & Gary Adams  
Willard Aldridge Jr.\*  
Kathryn Alexandra  
David Allan & Marcy Shapley  
Kerry Allen\*  
Debbie Amos & Phil Cohen  
Sandra Anderson  
Bret & Jean Andrich\*  
Shunji Asari  
Andrea Bachman  
Ruth & Mark Backlund\*  
Karen & Mark Backman  
Tom Balestreri  
Amanda Baltazar\*  
Maureen Barkley  
Jack & Nancy Barnard  
Wendy Barto-Logan\*  
Helen Baumgartner\*  
Laura Beck  
Beth Bell\*  
Paul Benz  
Beverly & Mark Beppler\*  
Richard Bergner\*  
David Grant Best  
Patrice & Phil Blakeway\*  
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Loren & Teresa Bogart  
Marcia & Lester Books\*  
Larry & Shirley Bowlin  
Ann & Jon Bowman\*  
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Jane Brandt  
John & Rose Brierley\*  
John Buchanan  
Mark Bunzel  
Thomas Burfield\*  
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Pamela Caper  
Wesley Capon  
Glen & Carolyn Caporgno  
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Sommer & Rob Carter\*  
Betty Carteret & Eric Shen  
Nancy Chapman  
Ginny Chitwood\*  
Tron Clark & Brenna Clair O'Tiernery  
Steve Clarke & Stella Spring\*  
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Debbie Cole  
Charlie & Ute Collins\*  
Barbara Cooper  
Darrell & Debbie Cornelius  
Jack Courtney\*  
Richard Crabill\*  
Jo Critchlow\*  
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Bailey & David Cunningham  
Alfred Currier & Anne Schreivogl  
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Stacey Curtis  
Todd & Sharon Dale\*  
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Marilyn & Gene Derig  
Suzanne Dervin\*  
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Pamela Doddridge\*  
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Eileen Eimmermann\*  
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Kathleen Erdman  
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Cliff & Johanna Finkbohner  
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Sharon Finley  
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Tom & Sally Foster  
Kecia Fox & Brian Adams  
Luanne Freer\*  
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Judy Garnett  
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Barb Mathison\*  
Gayl Mcalister  
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Sidney & Judith McHarg  
Forrie & Molly McIntosh  
Dan McKinney  
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Malcolm & Michelle McPhee\*  
Margie & Scott McPhee  
Sue Mehler  
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Connie & Tim Walters  
Daniel L. Walters\*  
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Brian & Amye Webster\*  
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Jan Weedman\*  
Regan Weeks & Scott Petersen  
Leonard Weingarten & Claudia Fromm\*  
Sarah Welch & Jon Riedel  
Mark & Julie Wenzel\*  
Ron & Jan Wesen\*  
Ed & Mary Ellen West  
Don Wick  
Clay Wilcox\*  
Susanne Wilhelm  
Steve Williams  
Jennifer & Scot Wilson\*  
Patricia Winkler\*  
Dave & Joanne Witak\*  
Ish Wood  
Betsy Woodson Myles  
Bill & Jennifer Woyski  
Philip & Carolynne Wright  
Karl & Karen Yost\*  
Anthony Young\*  
Drahomir Zboril & Margaret Rojas\*

#### **Business, Organization and Foundation Members**

Adrift Restaurant  
Anacortes Arts Festival  
Anacortes Window Cleaning  
Andeavor  
Aquarian Audio and Scientific\*  
A'Town Bistro  
Azusa Farm and Gardens\*  
Barrett Financial Community Caring Project\*  
Bayside Dental Care\*  
Bikespot  
Cap Sante Inn\*  
Chandler's Square\*  
City of Anacortes\*  
Coldwell Banker BAIN  
Dakota Creek Industries, Inc.  
Derek Damon, Orthodontics\*  
ELMM Clinic  
Emerald Marine Carpentry\*  
Fidalgo Animal Medical Center\*  
Fidalgo Island Rotary Club\*  
Heritage Bank\*  
Industrial Machine Tools, Inc.  
Island Import Garage\*  
Kiwanis Noon Club\*  
Marathon Petroleum Corporation\*  
McMullen & Ochs, Attorney at Law\*  
Mountain View Dental Center\*  
North Sound Oral & Facial Surgery, PS\*  
Rosario Skin Clinic  
Samish Indian Nation\*  
Sebo's Henery Hardware\*  
Shell Puget Sound Refinery\*  
Simply Yards\*  
Skagit Community Foundation\*  
Skagit Runners\*  
J.M Smith Foundation  
Soroptimist International of Anacortes\*  
Strandberg Construction, Inc.\*  
The Britten Family Trust\*  
The Milton and Miriam Waldbaum Family Foundation\*  
Thrive Community Fitness\*  
Windermere Real Estate, Anacortes\*  
Mark & Constance Wray on behalf of the Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation\*

#### **Memorials**

*In Memory of Donald Douglass*  
Ann Bowman  
Investment Company Institute  
Anne Kilkenny  
The Douglass-Hemingway Charitable Fund  
Leonard Weingarten & Claudia Fromm  
Katharine Dreyfuss  
Marica Nix  
Jack Hutteball  
Jill Princehouse  
Don & Karen Buell  
Ken & Jenni Morrison

#### *In Memory of Hershel Janz*

Bonita Janz  
Dean Janz

#### *In Memory of Suke*

Bonita Janz  
Didi Funk

#### *In Memory of Keith Kraft*

Kelly Harrison

#### *In Memory of Robert Schaedler*

Jean Hawkins

#### *In Memory of Edward Schwabe*

Baden Family  
Deborah Jarboe  
Effie-Jo Lindstrom  
Kukulan Family  
Cynthia & Dave Nowowiejski  
Jean Reilly  
Karen Lund Schwabe

#### *In Memory of Marina Balestreri*

Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

#### *In Memory of Ken Guernsey*

Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

#### *In Memory of Bob Picket*

Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

#### *In Memory of Vivian Van Wieringen*

Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

#### **Gifts**

In Honor of Bonnie Janz  
Dean Janz

In Honor of Robert Laws  
Jim Laws

In Honor of Susan & Alan Smith  
Allison & Eric Wetzel

In Honor of Marisol and Azuul  
Richard Bergner

#### **Matching Gifts**

Andeavor  
Microsoft  
Shell

#### ***Winter is time to renew!***

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

#### *Andeavor Thank you*

Once again, we thank the Andeavor Foundation! The Andeavor Foundation has granted the Friends \$20,000 in support of our long-standing and highly successful Watershed Discovery Program. Each year since 1994, all 7th grade students from Anacortes Middle School have participated in a series of classes and field trips with our Forest Educator. 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 the fresh and saltwater quality from the forest to the sea.



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL  
P.O. BOX 2213  
ANACORTES, WA 98221

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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!