



# Friends of the Forest

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

## 2021 Annual Report



Reflecting on the previous year is something I always enjoy, especially in the slower pace of winter. It is easy to ponder what was missing in 2021, but once one looks at the good things the past year had to offer, it is hard to not be proud. Especially with the Friends of the Forest! New challenges to our forestlands are ever-present, but so are our education, outreach, and stewardship goals and activities!

Most everyone reading this understands and appreciates the sanctuary that the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) provide. You also know that the ACFL has been a part of this community for a long time now. As we enter our 35th year as an organization, I am proud of where we started, but even more proud of what we have become, especially with the unique circumstances of the last 2 years.

With Beck Pittman, our Forest Educator, having had a full year under her belt, our community hikes were restarted safely and effectively so that people could get together to hike and learn about the forestlands again. Because a moratorium on field trips did not allow schools to go to the forest, Beck brought the forest to the schools and led outdoor education lessons in the elementary school yards, a huge hit with students and teachers alike. And because our after-school program was so popular towards the end of 2020, we continued it on into 2021 with Beck leading regular after-school activities so kids could safely be outside learning, exploring, and socializing.

We also fulfilled our goal of hiring a full-time Outreach and Development Coordinator and were thrilled to welcome Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller to the Friends of the Forest family. Ashleigh has completely reinvigorated our newsletters, social media, and email outlets, and, even more importantly, oversaw the first year of our new Trail Ambassadors program. The inaugural summer was incredibly successful, with these dedicated volunteers posted at trail-heads, greeting and educating forest users during the busiest time of year, and has laid the foundation for even more outreach to the many new users of the ACFL.

Asa, our Executive Director, welcomed his first child Cypress Deane this past year. Asa has obviously been involved in much of what I've mentioned so far, but also has overseen an increase in activities with the Anacortes Family Center, expanded programming with the Boys and Girls Club of Anacortes, and teacher training and outings with the Fidalgo Nature School and the families they serve.

None of this would be possible without our generous Business sponsors and individual members and donors. I personally thank you for your support! We also couldn't do what we do without our dedicated Board, and of course, our staff. The many, many hours put in by everyone shows, and is appreciated.

It is sometimes difficult to appreciate all the work that goes into looking after something as special as the ACFL. I feel fortunate to live in a community that understands the need for support, and I'm thankful to be involved with a group of staff and volunteer board members who work so hard to ensure the ACFL's protection. Thank you.



**-Charlie Collins, DDS  
Board President**

# 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 our office at 360-293-3725 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 this in honor or in memory.

## 3 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 sizable donations.

## 4 Planned Giving

One of the best ways you can continue supporting the work of the Friends is through a legacy gift. If you are making estate plans, please consider including our organization.

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of every month. We are temporarily meeting via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public- please email Director Asa Deane for more information on how you can join.

### How to reach us:

#### Email

[info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)

#### Office

611 R. Ave. Anacortes, WA

#### Office Phone

360-293-3725

#### Mail

PO Box 2213 Anacortes, WA 98221

#### Web

[www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org)

### Forest Advisory Board

#### Bob Vaux

Parks and Recreation Asst. Director  
360-293-1918

## Board Members

**Charlie Collins** | President | Jan. 2023

**Jean Ford Andrich** | Vice-President | Jan. 2022

**Lin Nichols** | Treasurer | Jan. 2022

**Lynne Jordan** | Secretary | Jan. 2023

**Andy Stewart** | Past President | Jan. 2022

**Andrea Petrich** | Board Member | Jan. 2024

**Steve Williams** | Board Member | Jan. 2022

**Wyndham Jackson** | Board Member | Jan. 2024

**Rob Skelton** | Board Member | Jan. 2023

**board@friendsoftheacfl.org** 360-293-3725

\*Emails sent to the board are received directly by the executive committee & are not seen by staff.

## Staff

**Asa Deane** | Executive Director | 360-399-6184

**Beck Pittman** | Forest Educator | 971-248-6618

**Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller** | Outreach and Development Coordinator | 928-607-2961

# From the Executive Director:

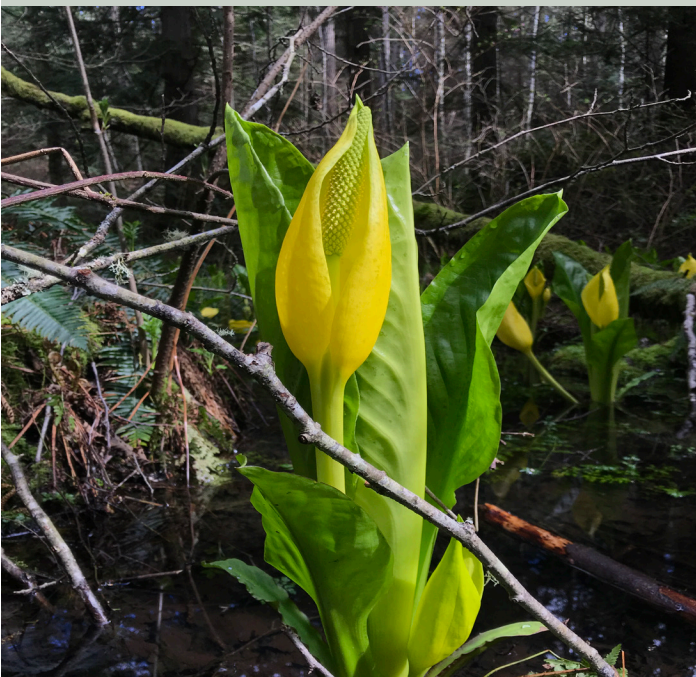
Somehow, some way, another year has passed and the world has refused to return to what we would consider “normal;” indeed, that very idea of normalcy may have gone away forever. Despite 2021 looking nothing like many of us hoped it would, there was something that continued to draw us together as a community, that bolstered our spirits and kept our health—and sanity—intact. The Anacortes Community Forest Lands remained a refuge while the world seemed to ignore our dreams of reaching that “normal” space again. It was a constant reminder that, even when things don’t go as planned, we are an incredibly lucky group of people. And as Uncle Ben famously said to Peter Parker (aka Spider Man), “With great luck, comes great responsibility.” Or something like that.

We take that responsibility very seriously here at Friends of the Forest, and as we move forward into 2022, we are excited to serve the ACFL and surrounding community in even more novel and exciting ways. After an incredibly successful inaugural year of our Trail Ambassadors program, we’re excited to continue and expand the number of our amazing volunteers this summer to connect with even more forest users who flock to the ACFL for summer recreation. While continuing to run seasonal work parties in conjunction with Anacortes Parks and Recreation, we’ll be expanding work party opportunities for both the community and the Anacortes High School Green Club. On the policy side of things, we’re exploring ways to identify and protect wildlife movement areas within the ACFL as well as the surrounding greenspace to ensure the forest doesn’t become an island within an island.

In the forest education realm, we’re hard at work with new programs and partnerships to connect and teach in new and novel ways. We’ve expanded our work with the Anacortes Family Center to hold monthly outings all year long, bringing kids and families out to the ACFL to explore and connect with nature and each other. We’re thrilled to begin two new community science programs, one collecting water quality data surrounding Big Beaver Pond and one in conjunction with Transition Fidalgo and Anacortes High School where we’ll run an internship focusing on waterway data collection and scientific report construction. Finally, we have the most robust and diverse community hike calendar in years, outpacing even those before the pandemic, connecting the community to the forest to help us all understand that stewardship is everybody’s responsibility.

These are a few of the highlights of how we envision the path of 2022, with many more plans and partnerships on the horizon. Because of this incredible community that we are a part of, we’ve been able not only to weather the storm, but to thrive and build our work in service of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Thank you for all of your support, your dedication, and your commitment to the Preservation of the ACFL. And here’s to an even better year appreciating our incredible luck together, and embracing our responsibility.

**-Asa Deane, Executive Director**



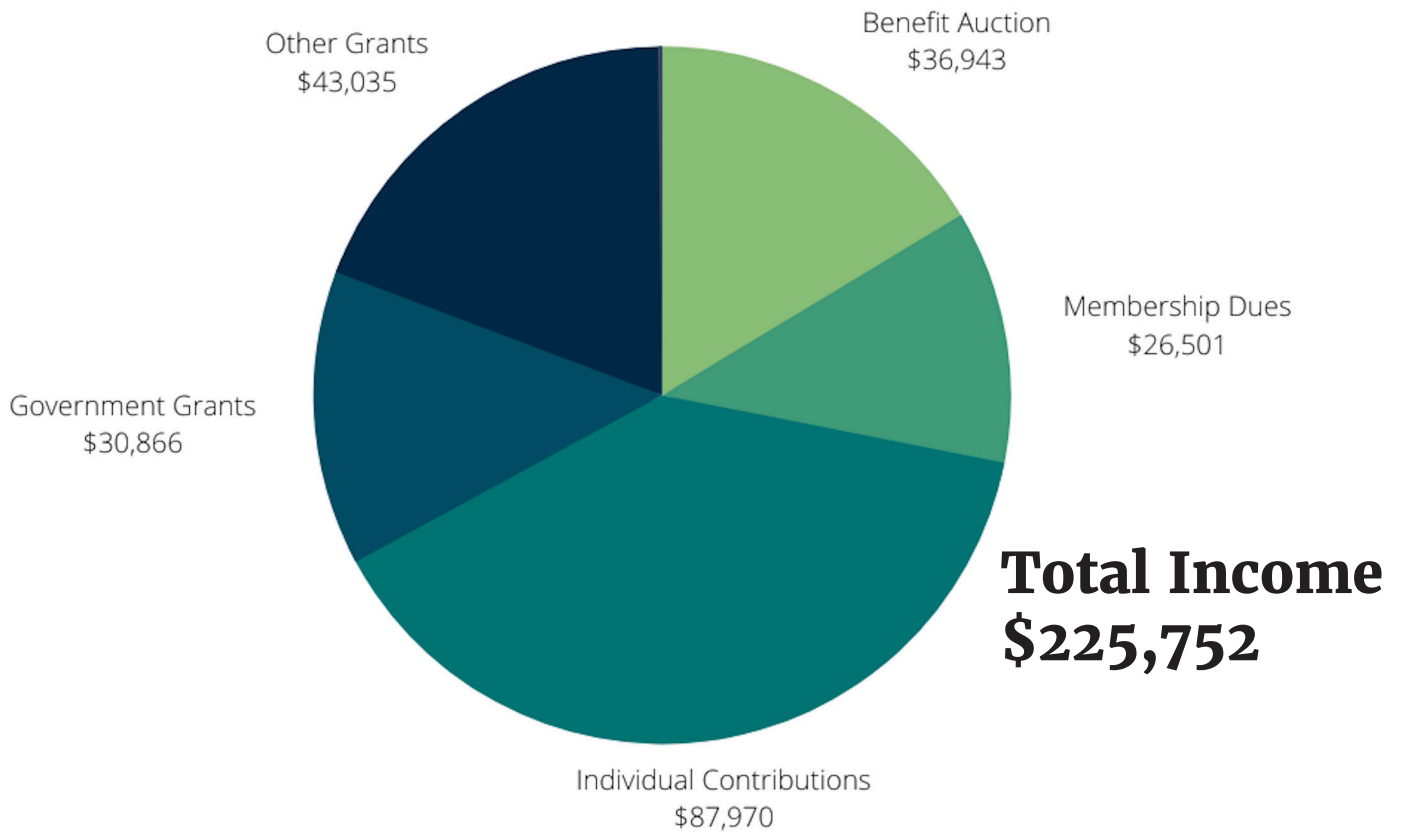


# Annual Financial Report for the 2021 Calendar Year

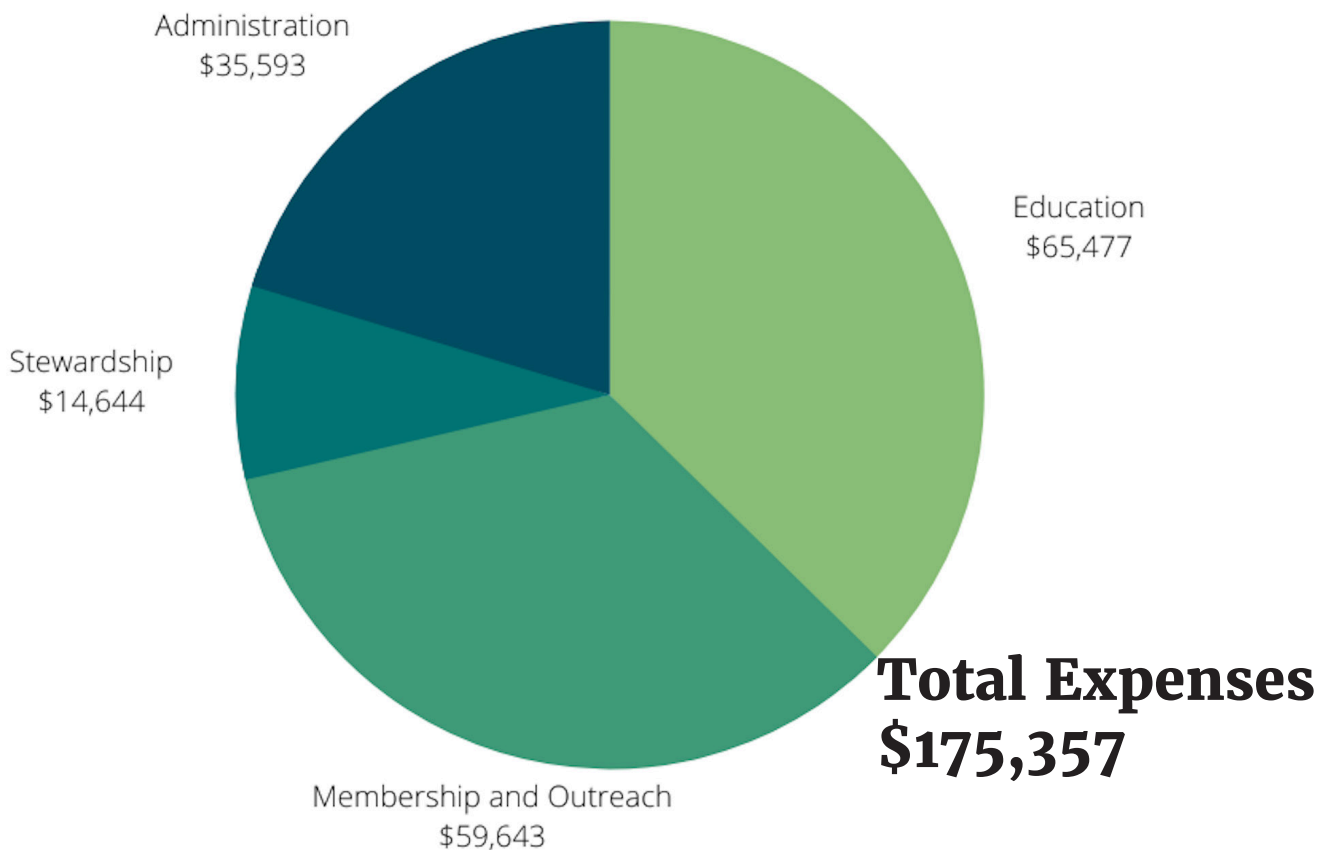
	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>		
Benefit Auction- net of costs	36,943	39,927
Membership Dues	26,501	38,442
Individual Contributions	87,970	38,107
Government Grants	30,866	29,417
Other Grants	43,035	43,632
Other	437	437
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$225,752</b>	<b>\$189,961</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Education	65,477	63,654
Membership & Outreach	59,643	53,000
Stewardship	14,644	8,456
Administration (incl. CC processing fees)	35,593	30,740
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$175,357</b>	<b>\$155,850</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$50,395</b>	<b>\$34,111</b>
<b>Endowment Balances</b>		
New Endowment Funds	455,310	346,233
Endowment- Skagit Community Foundation	57,901	49,022
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$513,211</b>	<b>\$395,255</b>

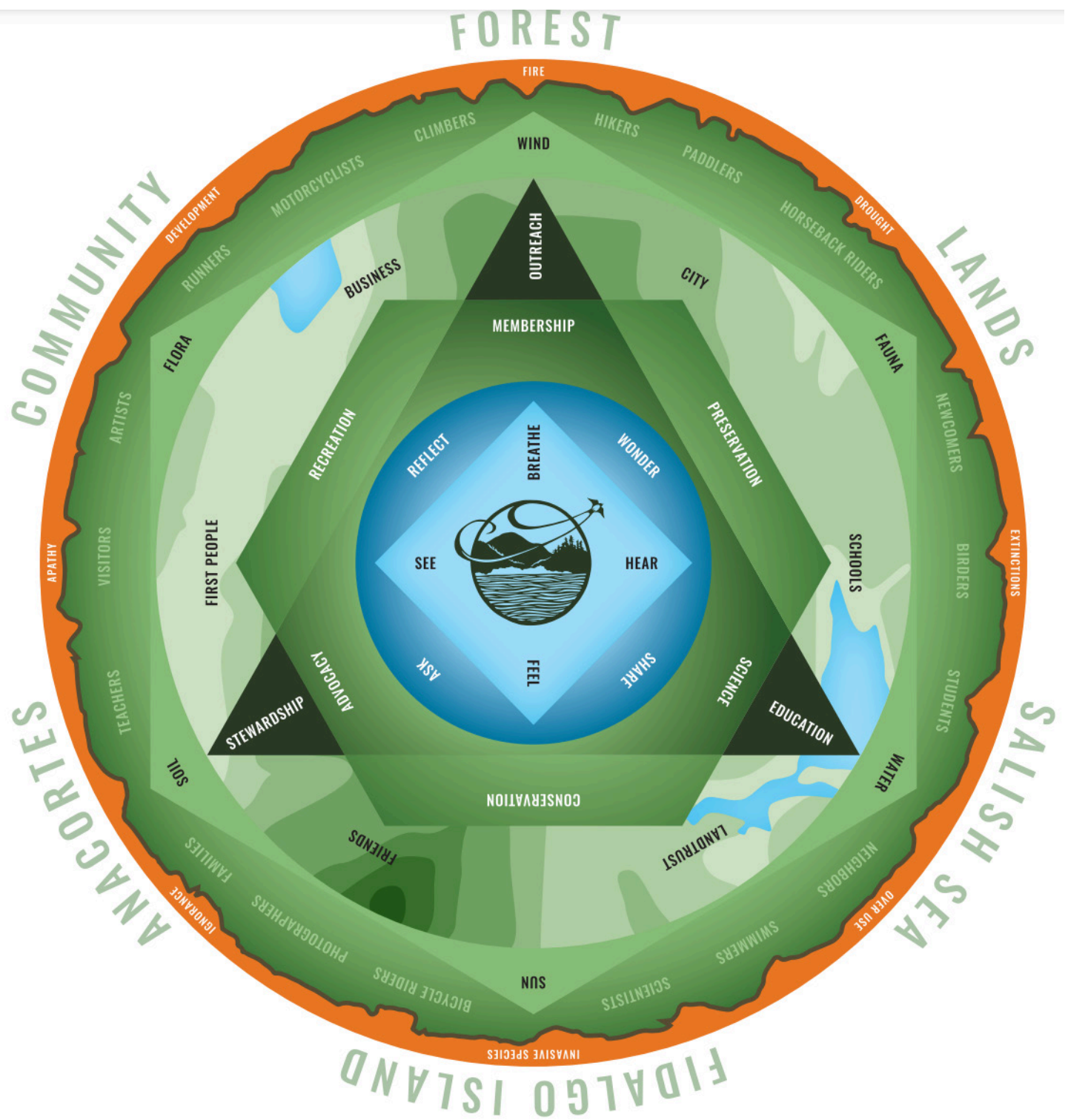


# Friends of the Forest 2021 Revenue



# Friends of the Forest 2021 Expenses





## Our Common Weal

The idea of the common good or common wealth has been around for millennia. Common weal is a 14th century Old-English phrase defined as “what is achieved by citizenship, collective action, and active participation in the realm of politics and public service.”

We think that is a fitting description of how our unique natural commons, the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, came to be. This graphic represents the culmination of 35 years of work focused on developing community partnerships, educating all ages, and preserving wild spaces. With so many layers, this weal is not meant to be digested in one sitting.

Instead, we invite you to pause and reflect on our incredible commons, and where you may fit on the weal yourself, with every journey into our beautiful forest lands.