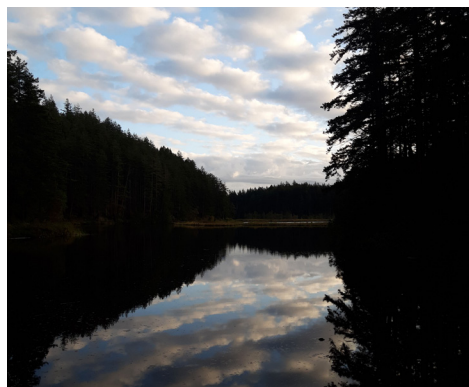




# Friends of the Forest

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

## 2022 Annual Report



As we begin 2023, it is nice to reflect on all that we have done at The Friends over the last year. We were able to host our annual fundraiser in person for the first time since 2019! We were joined by new board member Andrea Petrich, and we finished the year with four full-time staff, the most to date! Feel free to swing by the office and meet Ellie and Hannah, our most recent additions. It feels as if we are entering a new chapter for the Friends of the ACFL!

Getting here has been a thought-out and methodical journey. More demand has been placed on the ACFL as Anacortes has grown. That is no surprise and will continue. As this demand has increased, so has the desire to learn more about this special place. Expanding our staff has allowed us to continue to support our public school programs, offer walks and hikes, and provide the community education that you have all come to know us for. In addition, it has allowed us to add several new programs, all of which are offered free of charge. Two of these new programs are our Trail Ambassador Volunteer Program and Afterschool in the ACFL, our seasonal afterschool education program. The Trail Ambassador Program allows individuals the chance to get training on the finer points of the ACFL and make contact with users of the ACFL. This brings a deeper appreciation and respect for the woods for both the ambassador and individual. The afterschool program offers education for children from 3-5:00 pm, seasonally, for several weeks at a time. This is not only a fantastic, cost-free learning opportunity for kids; it provides much-needed support for working parents in our community who are looking for enrichment opportunities in addition to afterschool child care.

Above are just some of the programs offered by FOF. I encourage all to dig into our website or social media to learn more about what we are up to. These additions to what we offer have not happened overnight. Having a longstanding Board of Directors and dedicated staff have set the framework to meet the needs of the community and forestlands.

Additionally, we would not be here without the amazing support of our community. All of our programs are funded by community donations. Last year our membership increased by 10% and continues to climb. We have always had strong financial support from our community, and we expect that to continue for many years to come.

The Board and staff thank you--we couldn't do this without your support!

See you in the woods,



**-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

**Steve Williams** | Vice-President | Jan. 2024

**Lin Nichols** | Treasurer | Jan. 2024

**Rob Skelton** | Secretary | Jan. 2023

**Andy Stewart** | President Emeritus | Jan. 2024

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

**Lynne Jordan** | Board Member | Jan. 2023

**[board@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto: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

**Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller** | [ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org)

| Outreach and Development Coordinator |

**Ellie Kravets** | Community Programs Coordinator |  
[ellie@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:ellie@friendsoftheacfl.org)

**Hannah Katz** | Youth Education Coordinator |  
[hannah@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:hannah@friendsoftheacfl.org)

# From the Executive Director:

As an exercise in gratitude, I often challenge myself to think of five things that I'm grateful for, whether they be about my family, my friends, my work, or something completely random. Since I came on at Friends of the Forest in 2019, my work gratitude has been incredibly easy to come up with. Between the fact that I get to work with such an incredible piece of land, that I absolutely adore our Board members, that I have an amazing staff, and that the community, and our members specifically, are so committed to and passionate about the forest, there's plenty to appreciate! I constantly thank my lucky stars that this is the world I get to live in.

Because of all of these amazing people, places, and things, we find ourselves at an interesting juncture in the life of the Friends of the Forest. With everything changing so rapidly in the world around us, it was inescapable that our organization would have to change in order to keep up with the demands of, and dangers to, the ACFL. As Board President Charlie Collins points out in this report, this inevitability was recognized and planned for by the Board of Directors some years ago, so they began the long task of changing the landscape, so to speak. Last year, with the hiring of two new staff members, Ellie Kravets and Hannah Katz, to join Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller and me, we saw the culmination of what could be considered a kind of Phase One of that vision of change: the building of staff to be better able to provide programs and services to the community and the forest lands. Now, the real work begins.

With these new hires, we'll finally be able to grow our programming and more fully realize the potential of the Friends of the Forest. Hannah, our Youth Education Coordinator, has already made an impact with the launch of our long-awaited kindergarten program, weekly after-school programs, and more frequent school programming both in the forest and in the classroom. She's also created brand new programs this year, offering a half-day camp in February for Anacortes School District's early-release week and a spring break camp for older, middle-school kids in April. With these ever-increasing avenues and opportunities for youth, Hannah is connecting more kids than ever to the ACFL, inspiring a love of nature and the forest lands that will last a lifetime, ensuring the forest has people to care for and protect it for generations to come.

Ellie, our Community Programs Coordinator, has a calendar full of community hikes for people of all ages and skill levels, offering a plethora of opportunities for people to get out and learn in the forest. Ellie has already expanded Community Science programs (begun in 2022) and has partnered with Transition Fidalgo to support the Forest Monitoring Project, gathering real data that can be used to determine the health of the forest and provide the city with a roadmap of how it is managed. She's also resurrected the ACFL Naturalist Club and put together a top-notch set of classes and field trips for those that want to learn more and dig deeper (so to speak) into the workings of the forest.

Finally, Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller has been hard at work bettering our communication strategies and volunteer opportunities. With the great success of our Trail Ambassador program, she's leading the charge to make this the best year yet with more people at trailheads this summer than ever before. These Trail Ambassadors are the first line of educational defense, engaging forest users as they enter the forest, both to ensure they understand the rules and also to inspire their wonder and embrace their curiosity as they learn about our incredible ACFL and all that it contains. These volunteers have consistently provided guidance and knowledge to the many new visitors to the forest at the busiest trailheads over the last couple of summers and we're so excited for the program to grow in scope and style.

So what's next? What more can Friends of the Forest do to help ensure the preservation of the ACFL into the future? With our team in place, we are ready to look to the next step and see how we can best serve the forest lands and the community that surrounds them. Our programs will continue to grow and evolve, of course, but there are some potentially big things on the horizon that we're excited to share with you when the time is right.

Until then, let me express one more time how grateful I am to be a part of this organization and community. Thank you for supporting the Friends of the Forest—without your ongoing support, we would never have been able to reach the heights we have. Without you, we may not even have an ACFL to protect. Thank you for caring, thank you for donating, and thank you for joining us on this journey.



**-Asa Deane, Executive Director**





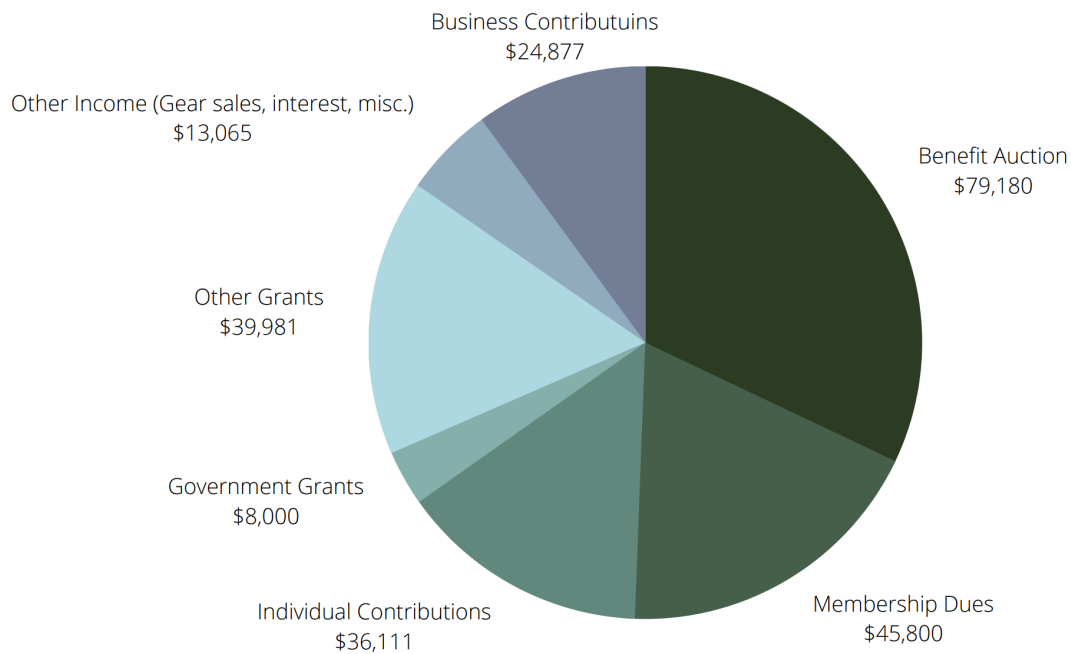
# Annual Financial Report for the 2022 Calendar Year

	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
Benefit Auction-net after expenses	79,180	36,943
Membership Dues	45,800	26,501
Individual Contributions	36,111	87,970
Government Grants	8,000	30,866
Business Contributions	24,877	n/a
Other (gear, interest, etc.)	13,065	437
Other Grants	39,981	43,035
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$247,014</b>	<b>\$225,752</b>
<b>Expenses (includes personnel)</b>		
Education	107,895	65,477
Membership & Outreach	65,988	59,643
Stewardship	57,895	14,644
Administration (incl. CC processing fees)	15,236	35,593
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$247,014</b>	<b>\$175,357</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,395</b>
<b>Endowment Balances</b>		
New Endowment Funds	384,658	455,310
Endowment- Skagit Community Foundation	49,166	57,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$433,824</b>	<b>\$513,211</b>



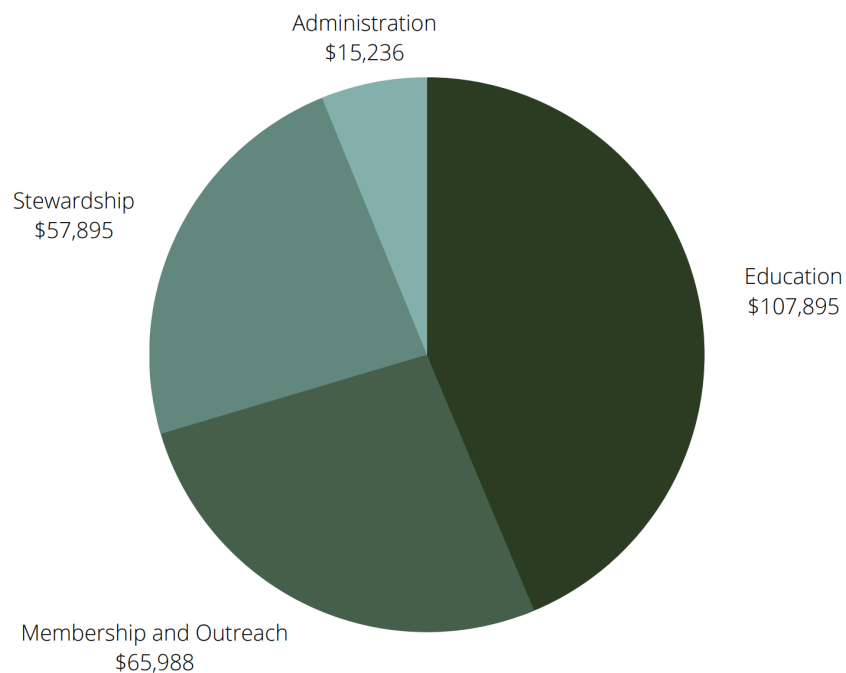
# Friends of the Forest 2022 Revenue

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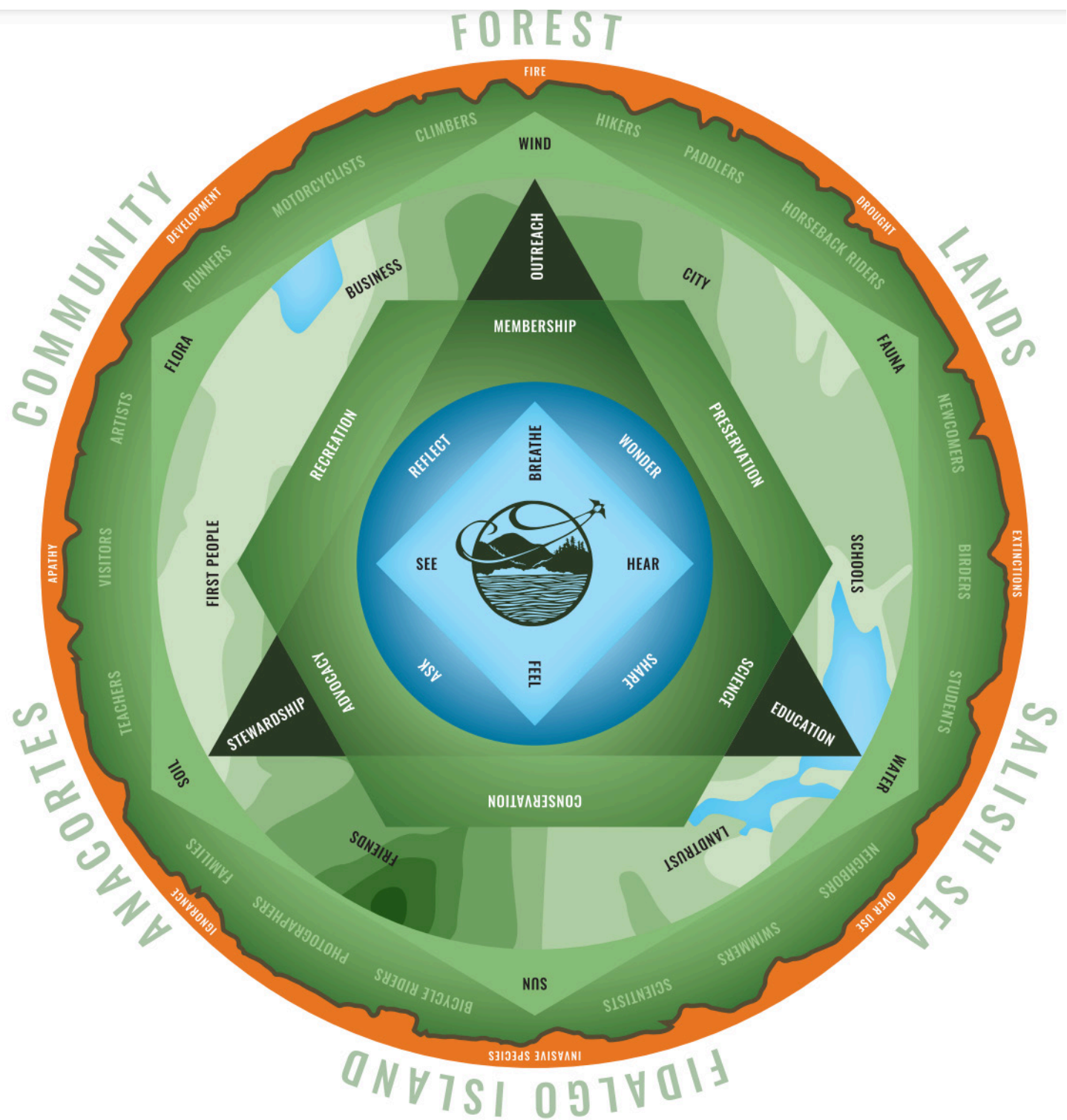


**Income \$247,014**

# Friends of the Forest 2022 Expenses



**Expenses \$247,014**



## 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.