

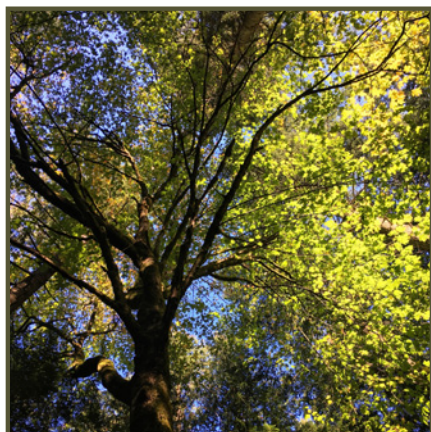


Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 31 • Issue 4 • FALL 2018

Celebrate with The Friends!



It's that time of year again! Please join us in celebrating all that Friends of the Forest has accomplished for the ACFL and help us to continue our work in service to the community forest.



Annual Friends of the Forest Benefit Event

Saturday, November 3rd

Port of Anacortes Transit Shed Event Center

5:00-11:00 PM



Featuring live music from Fidalgo Swing, dinner and dessert by Gere-a-Deli, silent and live auctions followed by dancing.

Look forward to auction items like overnight trips, outdoor experiences, and beautiful art from well-known local artists. The proceeds from this event go to support the Friends of the Forest Education and Stewardship Program, which provides educational activities for all ages in the ACFL. These opportunities promote a greater understanding of and support for our unique community treasure. From the 3rd grade native plant program - Growing Wild, to guided senior hikes; there is a way for citizens of all ages to be involved and enjoy the forestlands.

Generous community support directly benefits the Education and Stewardship Program. Our achievements wouldn't be possible without sponsors, donors, members, volunteers, and those who attend our annual November event. Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you there!

Tickets are now available and can be purchased online at: www.friendsoftheacfl.org, through the Friends of the Forest Office, or Watermark Book Company. Individual tickets are \$65.00 (\$30.00 tax deductible) and tables of 8 and 10 are available for \$500.00 and \$600.00. Please look for updates on our website or call the office at 360-293-3725 with questions, donations, or for ticket availability.



A New Era Begins!



Friends of the Forest begins a new era following the resignation of longtime Education and Outreach Director Denise Crowe in August. With the community's help, the Friends' board plans to expand our programs and redouble our commitment to protecting and studying our forest.

Anacortes enjoys a remarkable resource of approximately 3,000 acres of forest, meadow, wetland and lakes, protected from development by the donations of Fidalgo Island's nature lovers. This green core is traversed by 55 miles of trails and represents what may be the largest ratio of parkland to population in the United States.

Denise's thirty years of work to help preserve this woodland is an achievement of historic importance to Anacortes. As the Friends' primary educator, she has introduced the forest to thousands of school children and adults through classes, camps, and day hikes. It is with regret and appreciation that the Board accepted her resignation.

With any change comes new opportunity. The Friends of the Forest board is reorganizing the staff, and the community will see new faces leading experiences in the woods. We hope to grow our education and recreational programs and expand forest stewardship.

The growing popularity of Anacortes Community Forest Lands is presenting new challenges. We must help preserve the ecosystem and the trail system from increasing use, pet waste, and litter. Lengthening summer droughts, likely exacerbated by climate change, are stressing plants and animals. Disastrous forest fires in the West and our own 2016 blaze bring home the vulnerability of forest landscapes. At the same time, restoration experiments around the world are demonstrating that ecosystems can be sustained and improved.

This is an exciting and challenging time. We hope the community will join us in thanking Denise for her contributions to the forestlands and wishing her well, welcoming new staff as hires are made, and committing time and dollars to making our incredible forest legacy healthy and accessible. Friends hopes to partner with all of you in continuing to make our forest the heart of Anacortes pride.

Friends of the Forest Board

Little Cranberry Lake Beavers

We do not think of ourselves as visitors in our own town, but when we recreate in the Anacortes community forest lands that is what we are. As good guests we try to leave no trace, keep the place as we found it and stay on good terms with our hosts.

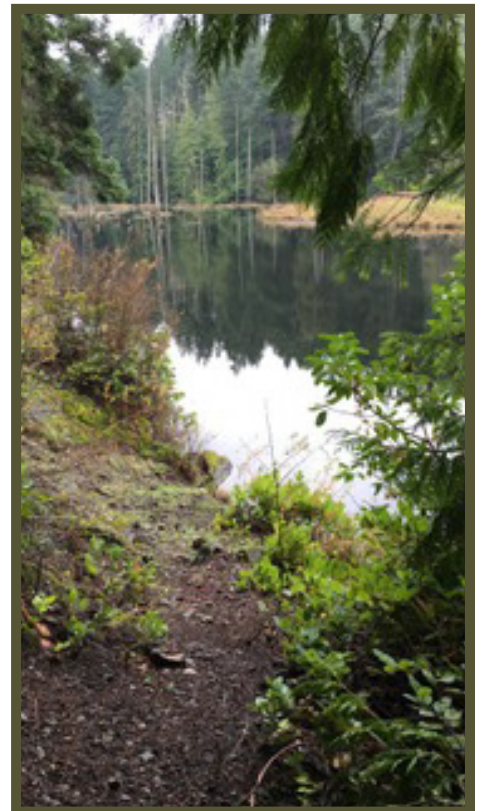
Some of the busiest full time residents of the ACFL are the beavers. You can see their work throughout the Little Cranberry lake area. As the names suggest, they make their homes at Big Beaver and Little Beaver ponds and surrounding wetlands. We have recently seen encouraging signs of their activity at Heart Lake.

Like beavers everywhere, ACFL beavers create their own habitat by building dams to store water for greater access to food, to ensure their own safety from predators and as a bonus benefit other creatures that thrive in a wetland. These wetlands benefit us too as they collect, store and clean storm water.

At times the beavers' habitat expansion is at odds with our activities. Expanding swamps adjacent to homes can flood yards and cause problems with foundations and basements. When this happens the city tries to intervene and keep the peace between the beavers and homeowners by keeping water at a level that will not threaten a home. When beavers build wetlands in the ACFL we can raise a bridge or shift a trail to get out of their way. We cannot move someone's house.

We are proposing to repair and improve our drainage systems, known as beaver deceivers, at the 32nd Street Swamp and Mitten Pond and allow the beavers to stay active and give their human neighbors peace of mind. To do this we are gathering information for submittal of necessary permit applications. If all goes according to plan you may see us working in on these projects soon.

Our goal is to make these improvements with as little intrusion as possible into the beavers' habitat. It is the least we can do as good guests.



Jon Lunsford

Friends of the Forest - Benefit Featured Artist 2018



Peregrine O’Gormley grew up on 40 acres of woods and grazing land in the mountains of central New Mexico where his father taught him to carefully observe his natural surroundings. His stomping grounds included the hills and valleys in the several square mile watershed surrounding their home, with its barbed wire fences, rattle snakes, gopher snakes, rabbits, coyotes, and fox, myriad raptors and small birds, and the odd black bear (who’d get after their bee hives) plus miles of free wandering pinyon juniper woodland.

In remembering his father, O’Gormley states, “My father taught me to see. We’d peer carefully at a pinhead-sized flying insect, and he’d say, ‘A flying miracle! This minuscule thing eats, breathes, sees, hears, has legs...6, did you count them? Did you catch the iridescence in its wings? Does it have two pairs or one? ...AND this tiny thing, CAN FLY! UNBELIEVABLE!’”

Sculpting from his early days through to the present, he first exhibited in a Santa Fe Gallery in his teens. In the fall of 2017, Fine Art Connoisseur included O’Gormley in its “Three to Watch”. He has won multiple National Sculpture Society awards including the Pat Munson Prize for Avian Sculpture 2017 and 2015, and in 2016 the Green-Wood Cemetery Award, Brookgreen Gardens, Pawleys Island, SC.

O’Gormley exhibits work broadly, including the Leigh Yawki, Woodson Art Museum, Museum of National Wildlife Art, National Sculpture Society- Brookgreen Gardens, Museum of Northwest Art, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Smith and Vallee Gallery in Edison, WA, and Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe, NM.

He earned his degree in biology at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO. O’Gormley now lives and works on seven acres with his wife Laurel and their three children overlooking Puget Sound in northwestern Washington.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL BENEFIT

Saturday, November 3
5:00 to 11:00 pm





Fall Calendar 2018

*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 fall as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together.

For more information about our group or these hikes please contact 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!

Big Beaver Pond Walkabout

Saturday, September 29th

10 am until noon

Begin the autumn season with a wonderful hike in beaver pond territory. There is sure to be ample evidence of their latest projects in the forest, and that lovely fall surge of wild-life activity and plant beauty. Meet at the 37th and A Ave kiosk entrance to the ACFL.

Sugarloaf Mountain

Saturday, October 13th

10 am until noon

Experience the golden glow of Sugarloaf Mountain in October. We will hike from the dark woods at the base to the stunning summit view, enjoying every stretch in between. Meet at the trailhead on Ray Auld Drive at the bottom of Mount Erie just off of Heart Lake Road.

Bat Cave

Saturday, October 27th

10am until about noon

Come to the woods for a natural spook time that will help transition us all to the nocturnal season. Our annual bat cave exploration is fun for everyone! Costumes and flashlights are welcome. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the north end of the lake.

Whistle Lake

Saturday, November 10th

10am until noon

Late fall in the woods is a time of hushed beauty. Prepare yourself for the holiday season with a deep forest immersion. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.

Extra Gentle Hikes

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

Wednesday, October 24

5pm until 6pm

Tucked in to the bottom of Sugarloaf lies a sweet trail through ancient trees. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Whistle Lake Madrona Point

Wednesday, November 14th

9am until 10am

We will walk in to the Lake on a wide gravel road and enjoy the view! Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

Senior/Adult Hikes

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

Big Beaver Pond Loop

Friday, October 12th

10am until noon

This gentle, just over one mile hike will lead us past three distinct wetlands and through two watersheds. You will come to know the qualities of a marsh, swamp, bog, and fen. We will explore the role of our resident beaver families in creating and sustaining this rich habitat within the ACFL. Enjoy this excellent birding opportunity. Meet at the end of 32nd St west off of D Ave.

Heart Lake Old Growth

Friday, November 9th

10am until noon

We have the best remaining stand of Puget Sound lowland old growth forest right here on Fidalgo Island in the heart of our community forest. Come along and experience the big old trees. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Whistle Lake

Friday, December 7th

10am until noon

The hush of Whistle Lake near winter solstice couldn't be farther from the madding crowd of summer. Enjoy our deep water jewel of the forest during the season of recharge, and feel the stored sunlight energy emanating from the green. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.



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 on 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
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 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

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.



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!

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.

FOREST BOARD MEMBERS

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

PARKS & FOREST LANDS

MANAGER

Jonn Lunsford 360-299-1953

ACFL RANGER

Dave Oicles 360-399-3970

CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS

Meetings are Mondays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

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 Liz Lovelett	lovelett@cityofanacortes.com	360-588-8707	12/31/21
P7 Anthony Young	anthony@cityofanacortes.org	360-873-8407	12/31/21

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

OFFICERS

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

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Jean Andrich 360-293-3725

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.friendsoftheacfl.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Stewart	360-299-9406	Jan. 2020	yawlsailing@gmail.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
Charlie Collins	360-873-8873	Jan. 2019	troutdental@yahoo.com
Ed Gastellum	360-293-7626	Jan. 2019	ecgastel34@wavecable.com
Steve Williams	360-293-0830	Jan. 2020	stephen.p.williams@shell.com
Lynne Jordan	360-293-3725	Jan 2019	info@friendsoftheacfl.org

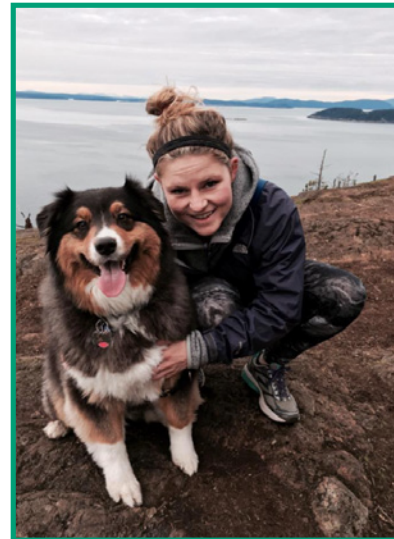
Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Depot Building, located at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved.

New addition to the Friends' Board



Lynne Jordan has joined the Friends of the Forest Board. Lynne and her husband, Dennis, have lived in Anacortes since 2011 and have been Friends supporters ever since. Lynne is a nonprofit fundraising and communications specialist, currently working as the Director of Philanthropy for Summit Assistance Dogs. She holds a Master of Environmental Studies degree from The Evergreen State College and has dedicated herself to conservation and community causes for more than 15 years. In addition to volunteering on the Friends board, Lynne also regularly volunteers with Skagit Land Trust and Washington Trails Association.

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands hold a special place in Lynne's heart. She and her husband frequently run the trails and occasionally fill a backpack with supplies for a full day of exploration. Her favorite forest activities are watching woodpeckers at work; attempting to identify native plants; pondering fresh scat; and touching large trees.



**Welcome
Mackenzie!**

Mackenzie Wilson has joined the Friends of the Forest team as this year's Benefit event planner and administrative assistant. Mackenzie was raised in Anacortes, where the forest lands inspired her love of science and the outdoors. She recently graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in biology and marine biology and has worked as a local naturalist. Her favorite ACFL spots to explore are Sugarloaf and all of the trails around Heart Lake. When not out hiking, Mackenzie enjoys sailing, skiing, scuba diving, and traveling.



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL
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ANACORTES, WA 98221

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FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL BENEFIT

Saturday, November 3
5:00 to 11:00 pm

Port Warehouse / 1st & Commercial / Anacortes

MUSIC
Fidalgo Swing

DINNER
Gere-a-Deli

SILENT AUCTION
LIVE AUCTION

TICKETS
\$65 / person \$500 / table of 8 \$600 / table of 10

Watermark Book Company, Friends of the Forest office / 293-3725
or online at: www.friendsoftheacfl.org

Featured Artist
"Awake"

Bronze Limited Edition Sculpture by Peregrine O'Gormley

www.friendsoftheacfl.org