



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 32 • Issue 4 • Fall 2019

It's Time to Celebrate!

It's that time of year again! We are celebrating all that Friends of the Forest has accomplished for the ACFL, forever protecting 3,000 acres of forestland. This year, the 32nd annual Friends of the Forest Benefit Event will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at the Port of Anacortes Transit Shed Event Center from 5:00-11:00 PM and will feature live music from Fidalgo Swing, dinner and dessert by Gere-a-Deli, and 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.

“Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online, in our office, or at Watermark Book Co. in Anacortes.”

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 multi-use trail system. From our 3rd grade forest education program to free guided community hikes, there is a way for citizens of all ages to be involved and enjoy the forestlands. We also have several new programs and partnerships underway that we can't wait to share with the community.

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 \$70.00 and tables of 8 are available for \$525. Please look for updates on our website or call the office at 360-293-3725 with questions, donations, or for ticket availability.

This summer, campers attended our Forest Discovery Day Camp in the ACFL to learn about native plants and animals, sharpen observation skills, practice good forest etiquette, and have fun! Education programs, like this one, are funded in part by proceeds from our Annual Benefit Event.

Meet Our Featured Artist:

Dederick Ward



// Dederick Ward's oil paintings are of western landforms, waters and atmosphere and often include aspects of geologic time and evolution. His works are in private and corporate collections in the US, Canada, England, Germany, Australia and in the permanent collections of Museum of Northwest Art and Whatcom Museum of Art.

Ward has been represented in shows throughout the area, including Fresh Air at the Museum of Northwest Art, 1997 and From Here to the Horizon at the Whatcom Museum in 1999. One person exhibitions include Blue Horse Gallery, Bellingham (1995, 1996, 1998, 2006), Friesen Gallery, Seattle (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003) and Mary Pauline Gallery, Augusta, Georgia (2003).

Start Browsing: Other Auction Items

- Unlimited food and beverages for a table of 8 at The Brown Lantern.
- Two night stay at the Guemes Island beachfront resort.
- Day trip to Cypress Island and lunch aboard 39' sailboat, PANGAEA.
- Distillery tour and tasting for 12 at Valley Shine Distillery in Mount Vernon.

// Dederick exhibits his work locally at Scott Milo Gallery, Smith + Valley Gallery, and Karla Matzke Fine Art and has a studio right here in Anacortes. Before turning to full time painting in 1989 he spent 28 years as a professor of geoscience information at the University of Colorado and the University of Illinois. His background in geology shines through in the themes of much of his work. Ward's piece (top, left) titled 'Ice Front' is the featured art for our 2019 Annual Benefit and will be available to bid on during the live auction on November 2nd.



Bid on the ultimate staycation! Relax at the Guemes Island Resort for 2 nights. Includes a \$50 giftcard to the Guemes Island General Store.



You and up to 11 friends could enjoy a private tour and tasting at Mount Vernon's best boutique distillery.



Guests of Pat Barrett and Mary Staley enjoy dinner and wine pairings as part of the live auction item they won at last year's benefit.

The Friends' annual event offers a vast range of both silent and live auction items at all pricepoints. Fine art, wine baskets, and local crafts are a few of the items that will tempt you, but some of the most popular items have been experiences that can be shared with friends. Last year, a farm to table dinner prepared by award winning chef, John Enright, was hosted by Pat Barrett and Mary Staley in their elegant Old Town mansion. Accompanied by the music of Fidalgo Swing, guests enjoyed wine pairings with each course and a personal bartender and server. Thank you to the generous donors who contributed to this unforgettable night!



Check out Chef John Enright's Bellingham restaurant and piano bar, Cobalt Grill and Lounge, for great local food and beverages.

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.

Upcoming Calendar

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. Our Community Hikes are FREE and no registration is required unless noted. Please understand that our hikes are for people only; we ask that you leave pets at home. See you in the woods!

October
10th



Sugarloaf Sunset Hike

5:15 pm - 7:15 pm

This hike is about 2 miles roundtrip with approx. 500 feet of elevation gain. Join us for a hearty hike to the top of sugarloaf for a calm October sunset. The challenging hike up is rewarded with a stunning summit view of the San Juan Islands and Olympic Mountains. Make sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring your head lamps or flashlight for the return trip down after the sun has set for the night. Meet at the Ray Auld Drive parking lot at the base of Mt. Erie.

October
17th



Plants and People Walk- Members Only

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

This walk is for Friends of the Forest members. Registration is required. Join our Forest Educator, Melissa, on a walk in the ACFL that will highlight practical uses of our local flora. Our experience will emphasize the plants that have unique relationships with humans and provide an opportunity to exercise ethical foraging by appreciating wild edibles. Please register by email at info@friendsoftheacfl.org or by phone at 360.293.3725. Please include your name, phone number, and email address.

Registration is limited to 12 participants.

October
30th



Cranberry Halloween Family Hike

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

This hike is about 1 mile with 75 ft. of elevation gain. Come to the woods for our annual evening dark cave exploration! Costumes with sturdy shoes and flashlights are encouraged on our evening trek. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the north end of the lake.

November
14th



Heart Lake Old Growth Hike

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

This hike is about 3 miles with 150 ft. of elevation gain. We have the best remaining stand of Puget Sound lowland old growth forest right here in the heart of our community forest. Come along and get to know the big old trees. Meet at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

December
4th



Whistle Lake View Gentle Walk

9:00 am - 10:00 am pm

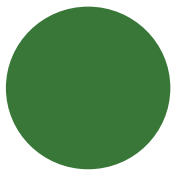
This easy hike is about 1 mile roundtrip with 50 feet of elevation gain. We will walk to the lake on the wide gravel road and enjoy the view of the lake at the heart of the ACFL. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot at the end of Whistle Lake Road.

We've Updated Our Community Hike Categories

For those of you familiar with our community hikes, you're probably used to seeing each outing listed under categories like Senior and Adult, All Ages, Extra Gentle, and Fitness Hikes. Our hikes aren't changing, but we've decided to reclassify and rename the categories. We are doing so with the goal of making our hikes accessible to more people.

Instead of limiting hikes to certain age groups or user groups, we're just categorizing the hikes, based on a variety of metrics, into levels of difficulty. We'll leave it up to you to determine which hikes are geared towards the experience you're looking for! As always, please contact us with any questions about particular hikes or if you'd like help determining which hikes would be ideal for you and your family.

Our new categories are as follows:



Easy

These hikes are gentle and suitable for all hikers. Generally 2-4 miles roundtrip with minimal elevation gain and very few obstacles along the trail.



Intermediate

These hikes are suitable for those in fair hiking condition or novices who want a bit of a challenge. Generally 2-4 miles roundtrip with moderate elevation gain. May include some steep sections and some obstacles along the trail that require balance or maneuvering.



Challenging

These hikes are challenging for unconditioned hikers. Generally 4-7 miles roundtrip with moderate to significant elevation gain. Steady and often steep inclines. May include difficult terrain or obstacles throughout.



Advanced

These strenuous hikes are suitable for well conditioned hikers only. Generally 7+ miles roundtrip with significant to extreme elevation gain. Likely include a fast pace, steep inclines, trail obstacles, or all of the above.

Is Orange the New Green?



A volunteer records data from a plot study in the ACFL which will be used to assess cedar tree health and changes in the forest.

For the past several years, you have probably seen trees in the ACFL becoming stressed by recent drought. The needles of cedars are turning brown on a large number of trees. Grand fir and hemlock are under attack from pathogens as they lack the sap strength to resist. This may be a phenomenon related to the acceleration of climate change we are witnessing in this area, with wetter, warmer winters and drier, warmer summers. But we don't know. We don't really know how many trees are dying, or whether the struggles we are seeing are just temporary, or even just anecdotal.

Transition Fidalgo & Friends (TF&F) began as Beat the Heat in 2007 to educate our community about the

climate crisis, and to demonstrate sustainable resiliency by creating skill-share workshops, eat-your-yard classes, solar panel funding, monthly community gatherings to discuss issues, community gardens, gleaning programs, and much more. At the 2018 "FutureFest" event that TF&F organized, they queried attendees to see if there was interest in helping study the ACFL through citizen science projects. Fifty people said yes!

Friends of the Forest

Friends of the Forest Board

Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of every month.

We meet in the Depot Building, located at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved!

How to reach us:

Email

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

Forest Advisory Board

John Lunsford

Parks and Recreation Director
360-299-1953

Board Members

Charlie Collins | President | Jan. 2021

Jean Ford Andrich | Vice President | Jan. 2020

Lin Nichols | Treasurer | Jan. 2020

Bill Dietrich | Secretary | Jan. 2020

Andy Stewart | Past President | Jan. 2020

Ed Gastellum | Board Member | Jan. 2021

Steve Williams | Board Member | Jan. 2020

Lynne Jordan | Board Member | Jan. 2021

Rob Skelton | Board Member | Jan. 2021

board@friendsoftheacfl.org 360-293-3725

Staff

Asa Deane | Executive Director
360-399-6184

Melissa Courtney | Forest Educator
360-399-6292

Mackenzie Wilson | Communications Director
360-399-6472

Is Orange the New Green?

TF&F then created a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Anacortes to proceed. Local forest scientists and groups such as the Friends of the Forest and individuals like Dave Oicles helped design a program to assess our ACFL forests accurately. When we had a plan in place, I was tasked with coordinating the work of volunteers to help carry out these assessments. Thirty volunteers have been very active so far, with more on the sidelines waiting for additional opportunities to help. We are calling these volunteers the Fidalgo Forest Stewards. You may have seen them this summer, wandering the trails wearing orange vests and carrying clipboards, rangefinders, cameras and tape measures.

This year was all about getting studies underway that we knew we could accomplish successfully. We have accomplished plot studies on twelve different ACFL areas, studies that will be ongoing into the coming decades. We have monitored more than a half dozen trails to track hundreds of individual cedar trees in order to assess the changes these specific trees are undergoing. We have begun photo studies to visually document what we are seeing.

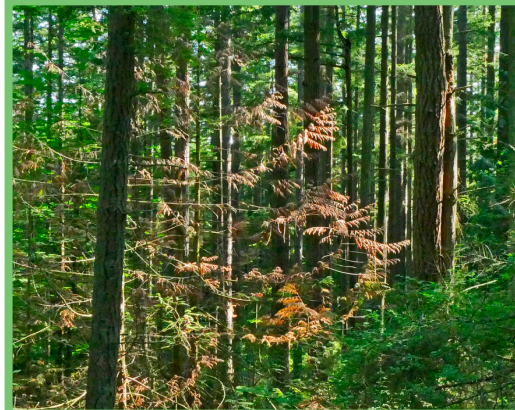
Next year, with expanded capacity, we hope to be able to grow our studies to provide a greater depth of understanding. We have begun a weather monitoring system, but have no equipment yet to actually do the monitoring. We'd like to have soil moisture monitoring and hydrological studies to track what is actually happening in the ground. Finally, we want to share with our community the results that we discover in the ACFL.

All of this is prelude to our ultimate goal: learning how to mitigate and conserve this large forest ecosystem, to protect the diversity in the forest, to broaden our community's awareness of environmental changes taking place around us, and to strengthen our message to our community and our world about the need to live sustainably.

TF&F would love to have you join us in these studies if you are interested in volunteering a few hours a year. The studies could also benefit from your financial gifts to help us acquire the soil monitors and other hydrological equipment we need to measure what is happening in the ACFL. The ACFL is a community treasure for us all. Our care for these lands will make a difference.

Written by Jack Hartt
skagitjack@outlook.com
www.TransitionFidalgo.org

Thirty volunteers have been very active so far, with more on the sidelines waiting for additional opportunities to help. We are calling these volunteers the Fidalgo Forest Stewards.



A young cedar tree's branches are more orange than green; a sign of local changes.



A Fidalgo Forest Steward identifies local flora in the ACFL.



The recovering burn zone from the 2016 18-acre Little Cranberry Lake fire is one of the photo study locations.



Fidalgo Forest Stewards measure and record data during a plot study.



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 _____

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, PO Box 2213, Anacortes WA 98221
 or visit us at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes WA

Thank you to all the friends who have renewed their dues and a reminder to those who haven't sent it 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!