



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 35 • Issue 4 • Fall 2022

Welcome Back, In-Person Benefit Auction and Celebration!

By Asa Deane, Executive Director

The time has finally come. After two years of virtual-only benefits, with folks gathering remotely for guest speakers and trivia nights, for virtual auctions and bidding remotely, we are beyond excited to bring back our in-person benefit and auction for 2022! While we have been completely blown away by the support of our incredible community over the last two years, there's just something so special about all of us gathering together in person to eat, drink, dance, and celebrate all of the important work that Friends of the Forest continues to do. And with the plethora of new programs and opportunities we are offering to the community, there's never been a better time to support the ACFL and have a darn good time while doing it!

So on Saturday, November 12th, we'll all gather together again at the Port of Anacortes Transit shed to ring in a new era of service in the preservation and protection of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Parts of the benefit will be familiar to Friends of the Forest veterans, including a silent and live auction, music by Fidalgo Swing, and delicious food put together by our good friends at Gere-a-Deli. Fresh this year will be three new staff members Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller, Ellie Kravets, and Hannah Katz, all attending their first ever Friends of the Forest benefit and indicative of the incredible growth that we've achieved even during a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

We're also incredibly excited to be featuring the artwork of Anacortes' own Jennifer Bowman (pictured) who created our featured artwork, 'Bending Branches', specifically for the Friends of the Forest auction. A third generation artist and "winner of the coveted Skagit Valley Tulip, Edmonds Arts and the Anacortes Arts Festival posters," Bowman has worked with Eddie Bauer and has artwork displayed in collections both locally and internationally. Jennifer believes in the power of light and says that the "investigation of how light plays off of an item is what galvanizes me into painting a subject. It doesn't matter if it is a ferryboat or a bouquet of flowers."

That investigation of light is on full display in 'Bending Branches' as it illuminates the interweaving trunks of the Madrona tree hovering over the Salish Sea with the indomitable Komo Kulshan, or Mount Baker, peeking through from the background. The vivid oranges and reds of the Madrone contrast beautifully with the blue of the bay and the sky as it dances, perched cliffside, sentinel and celebratory. While it hung for several weeks in our office, we were somehow able to pry it away and deliver it to its current display at Watermark Books where it will reside for any and all to come and view it in hopes of walking away with it from the benefit on November 12th (maybe you, dear reader, are the fortunate one who will take it home)!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete details on the “Upcoming Events” page on our website at www.friendsoftheacfl.org/upcomingactivities. Or simply scan the QR code on the right to get there!

We have begun using a registration system so that we can contact you if the hike needs to be cancelled or rescheduled. Walk-ins are always welcome but we do appreciate if you'd fill out the RSVP located on each event page.



Oct 28

(Friday)
5:00 pm
-7:00 pm

Halloween Night Hike - Easy - Little Cranberry Lake parking lot - Celebrate the spooky season with Friends of the Forest! We'll start by exploring an old copper mine before heading out to search for anything that glows, hoots, or creeps in the night. While we walk, we'll get a chance to appreciate our own adaptations for nighttime exploration. Wear sturdy shoes and make sure to bring your headlamps and/or flashlights!

Nov 4

(Friday)
9:00 am
-11:00 am

Senior Stroll - Easy - A Avenue Trailhead - Join Friends of the Forest on an immersive stroll through the ACFL. Meet at the A Avenue trailhead, where we'll set off to explore the areas around Mitten Pond. We'll keep the pace of this hike slow as the group's curiosity guides our learning, so feel free to bring your own field guides, binoculars/magnifiers, and whatever gear you'll need for walking on trails.

Nov 11

(Friday)
10:00 am
-1:00 pm

Community Science Wetlands Monitoring - Easy - Location TBA - We'll be meeting on the second Friday of each month during 2022 to monitor wetlands around Little Cranberry Lake and Big Beaver Pond. Wear weather-proof clothes and bring your curiosity! Location will be emailed to registered participants prior to the hike.

Nov 17

(Thursday)
10:00 am
-11:30 am

Gratitude Hike - Easy - A Avenue Trailhead - During this time of year when the light is low again and we're heading into winter, it's natural to reflect on the things we are grateful for. Friends of the Forest is especially grateful for all that we've accomplished, and for the community who supports us. This gentle hike will offer quiet times for the group to reflect on all that you may be grateful for this year.

Nov 19

(Saturday)
10:00 am
-12:00 pm

Family Nature Walk - Easy - Location TBA - Join a gentle family hike, where we will have family-friendly nature activities, games, and stories to share. Come prepared for the weather. You are welcome to bring your own binoculars, plant books, water bottles, snacks, hand sanitizer, and whatever child-care gear your family may need on the trail. We'll follow the kids' pace and let them guide the nature inquiry.

Are you receiving our bi-monthly e-newsletter? It's chock full of Upcoming Events, interesting stories, volunteer opportunities, and more! E-newsletter recipients are the first to know when registration goes live for our most in-demand kids' programs, and members get first dibs on registration--don't miss out!

Email info@friendsoftheacfl.org if you're not sure you're subscribed and we'll sign you up!

Thank You, Trail Ambassadors!

If you hiked in the ACFL on a weekend this summer, you may have seen some of our Trail Ambassadors posted at Little Cranberry and Whistle Lake Trailheads! We welcomed 16 volunteers this summer who gave their time to represent Friends of the Forest and share information, greet visitors, and collect data on where our thousands of forest users are coming from! They met folks from as close as across the street (naturally, some of the Trail Ambassadors themselves live adjacent to the forestlands) and from dozens of states, as far east as Maine and even England!

This volunteer program is a partnership between Friends of the Forest and Anacortes Parks and Recreation to keep our forests safe, welcoming, and sustainable during the busy summer months. We are grateful for the generosity of our Trail Ambassadors' time and also for Parks staff for their support on this program. Look for a new and improved program next summer!



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 a 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 of a loved one or special person.

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.

Forest Discovery Day Camp: A Special Tradition

By Ellie Kravets, Community Programs Coordinator

As the school year gets rolling and summer comes to a close (goodbye, beautiful sun!), it's worthwhile to reflect back on a summer of programming in the ACFL. Our Forest Discovery Day Camp was back in full swing this year, with four camp sessions spread over three amazing weeks in July. Campers spent either full- or half-day sessions exploring all corners of the ACFL - from the top of Mt. Erie to the lowlands of the beaver ponds - while learning about the rich ecosystems of Fidalgo Island.

July proved a fruitful season for spending time in the woods. Campers spotted bugs galore, finding wriggling pupae hidden in the leaf litter, luminescent inchworms crawling across vegetation, and even a few stag beetles rooting through the wood of a decaying log! (Some campers even mastered the art of dragonfly whispering, and coaxed busy damselflies to take a rest on their outstretched arms).

We spotted more than just invertebrates on the trail: over the month, campers watched osprey dive into the waters of Little Cranberry, saw a family of barred owls teach this year's juveniles the basics of hunting, and witnessed a dramatic squabble between a band of crows and an intrusive red-tailed hawk at the top of Sugarloaf. Campers dove into investigations of trailside scat and other clues that pointed



Campers dragonfly-whispering at Heart Lake



Nature Journaling at Whistle Lake

Campers also challenged themselves with brain teasers, riddles, and other trailside games. They melded minds with other campers and together crafted collaborative stories, woodland art pieces, and - for one group - an entire new society built on the economic power of a pine cone scale. It was amazing to see how naturally the groups' curiosity, collaboration, and teamwork flourished against the backdrop of the ACFL.

Although our summer season might be over, there are still lots of opportunities to get out into the woods! I'm thrilled to see many of our campers returning to join us for our Afterschool in the ACFL program in the coming months, and we're building more opportunities for all ages to grow and learn with us! For our other campers who live a little further afoot: see you out on the trails next summer!

Got a question for
Hoo the Owl?
Email

info@friendsoftheacfl.org!



Thank you for coming to our 1st Annual Summer Party!

We were thrilled to have such a great turnout for our Summer Party Fundraiser! On a sunny Saturday in July, we gathered at the Heart of Anacortes for music, drinks, socializing, and celebrating the Forestlands. We loved seeing our members, young and old, and enjoyed talking and laughing with you (in person!), a much-needed balm after these past few years. So many of the youth who participated in our Forest Discovery Day Camp came and brought their parents! We can't wait for next year!



Thank you to:
Anacortes Brewery and Rockfish Grill
The Enthusiasts
Anacortes Parks and Recreation
The Heart of Anacortes
The City of Anacortes
How It Works
Friends of the Forest staff and Board members
YOU!



Here are a few pictures from the day--
to see all of them, check out our website:
friendsoftheacfl.org/summer-party-gallery



Photo Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the winners of our first ever photo contest! We received almost 100 submissions from members, and it's clear that we have many talented eyes in our ranks. Finalists were blind-judged by Friends staff and winners were selected by local professional photographer (and member of Friends of the Forest) Mark Gardner.



Pictured, clockwise from top left: “Morning Fog in the ACFL” (Interesting Scenery) by Barbara Lechner, “Beaver lily stalk” by Kristi Jue (Wildlife: Non-birds), “Winter Morning Hike at Whistle Lake” by Jeff Maynor (People Enjoying the ACFL), and “Swamp Lantern” by Kristi Jue (Water and wetlands).

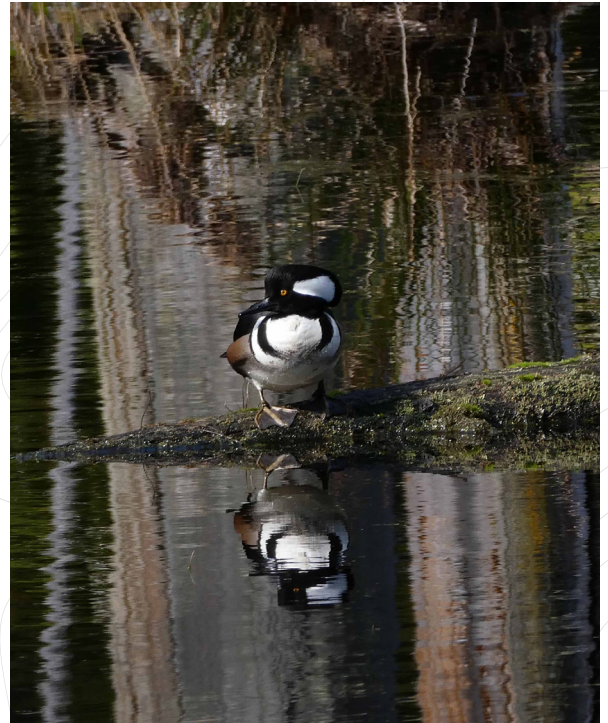


Photo Contest Winners!

These photos represent the first place winners in each category. Check our social media channels (info on page 9) throughout the year for these photos and the second place winners. Winners were notified via email in early October. Thank you to all who participated!



Pictured, clockwise from top left: “Wait for me!” (Pets in the ACFL) by Scott Smeltzer, “Sundew” by Aurora Everhart (Plants, Flowers, and Fungi), and “Male Hooded Merganser on Little Beaver Pond” (Wildlife: Birds) and “No Gnome Bridge” (Trails and Trees), both by Barbara Lechner.



After a long hiatus, School Programs are back!



Kindergarteners will hit the trails throughout October and into November to learn about the forest using their senses! Kindergarteners and third graders will continue to learn about the ACFL all year long through classroom visits, field trips, and sneak peeks into the forest. Seventh graders will visit the ACFL in the spring and learn about habitats and adaptations on their journey to making The Ultimate ACFL Beast!

These field trips are made possible by the generosity of local businesses, grants, and community members like you. Stay tuned for more forest adventures throughout the school year!

By Hannah Katz, Youth Education Coordinator

School programs are back in full swing this year for the first time since 2019! Our suite of programming kicked off with third graders from Mt. Erie Elementary at the end of September, followed by Island View Elementary third graders and kindergarten classes from all three elementary schools. Led by our new Youth Education Coordinator Hannah, Friends of the Forest expects to take close to 250 Anacortes School District students into the great outdoors to explore their backyard forest this fall!

Third grade students focused on getting to know plants in the ACFL through song and dance, observation, and forest inquiries. Students learned about plant parts and how plants use their different parts to obtain sunlight, water, nutrients, and air. Then they spent some one-on-one time asking questions and using observation to get to know a plant and sharing what makes their plant special with the class. After a plant hunt looking for cool adaptations, students combined their knowledge and imaginations to create new, highly adapted plants or “Frankenplants” that would thrive in the ACFL.



Welcome Back to our In-Person Benefit Event!

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If you do go to Watermark to visit your possible future art piece (wink wink!), please, also, pick up some tickets to the benefit itself! Individual tickets as well as full table tickets are available at Watermark as well as on our website, www.friendsoftheacfl.org until they are sold out. We do expect tickets to move quickly, so don't delay—pick yours up as soon as possible.

Unable to make it to the event but want in on the fun? This year we are adding an online-only silent auction with exclusive items that will be available to everyone, whether attending the event or not! While we will still have an event-only silent auction, this virtual version will allow for everyone to participate in the fun, bid on several tempting items, and support Friends of the Forest in the process.

We cannot wait to see many of your smiling faces in person! Thank you for all of your support and we look forward to celebrating with you on November 12th.

-Asa Deane

Are you following us on all three of our Social Media channels?

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/anacortes.friendsoftheforest.acfl)

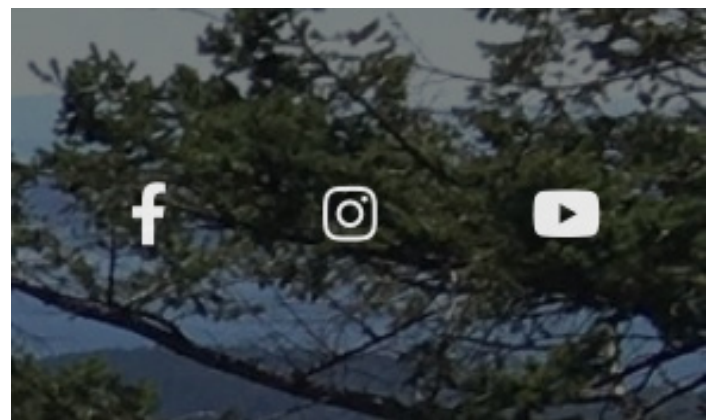
anacortes.friendsoftheforest.acfl

[www.instagram.com/](http://www.instagram.com/friends.of.the.acfl/)

friends.of.the.acfl/

www.youtube.com

Search “Friends of the ACFL”



These icons above are located on the top right corner of our website. Simply click on each to go to the appropriate page, and Like, Follow, and Subscribe!

Summer Fun Snapshot Our youngest campers know how silly the forest can be!



Friends of the Forest

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. We are currently meeting via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public- please email Director Asa Deane for more information on how to join.

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

Bob Vaux | Parks and Recreation
Asst. Director | 360-299-1918

Board Members

Charlie Collins | President | Jan. 2023

Rob Skelton | Secretary | Jan. 2023

Steve Williams | Vice President | Jan. 2022

Lin Nichols | Treasurer | Jan. 2022

Andy Stewart | President Emeritus | Jan. 2022

Lynne Jordan | Board Member | Jan. 2023

Andrea Petrich | Board Member | Jan. 2024

Wyndham Jackson | Board Member | Jan. 2024

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 | asa@friendsoftheacfl.org

Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller | Outreach and Development
Coordinator | ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org

Ellie Kravets | Community Programs Coordinator |
ellie@friendsoftheacfl.org

Hannah Katz | Youth Education Coordinator |
hannah@friendsoftheacfl.org

Thank You to our 2022 Business Members!

A big Thank You to all our Business Members for 2022! We are still accepting sponsors or are happy to roll over your membership to 2023. We wouldn't be able to have such a successful organization without these local businesses. Most importantly, though, we are grateful for the PEOPLE behind the businesses that support Friends of the Forest--YOU are an integral part of our community, and we love doing this work with you. THANK YOU!



**McMullen & Ochs
Attorney at Law**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
MARK GARDNER

Alice Bohnker Insurance



Friends of the ACFL
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 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



<--Save a stamp-renew by scanning this QR code!

Other amount _____

_____ 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. Annual dues should be renewed each January.

Thank you to all the friends who have renewed their dues! Keeping your dues current with the Friends of the Forest is one of the best ways to Think Globally and Act Locally. Here on Fidalgo Island, the ACFL needs Friends to ensure its preservation. Our Education program depends on your support.

Thank you!