



# Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 36 • Issue 4 • Fall 2023

## Join us for our Benefit Auction and Celebration! Saturday, November 4 5:00-9:00 pm

### Port of Anacortes Transit Shed

#### *Featured Artist 2023: Driftwood Sculptor Joe Treat*

Tickets are selling fast for our 2023 Auction and Benefit! Get yours online at [friendsoftheforest.org/annual-benefit](http://friendsoftheforest.org/annual-benefit), in person at Watermark Books, or at our office at the Depot Arts Center. Individual tickets are \$100 or buy an 8-top or 10-top table at discount. Grab seven or nine friends and join us for appetizers, dinner, and dessert from Gere-A-Deli, music from Fidalgo Swing, and complimentary drinks. See friends, celebrate the thriving community we all belong to, and join in our silent and live auctions to support all of the wonderful work that Friends of the Forest does to educate all ages about the stewardship and protection of the ACFL.



Joe Treat lives and works in Skagit County. He began creating his driftwood sculpture animals just about five years ago, and since then has created large pieces like dinosaurs, gorillas, giraffes, and elephants, as well as many smaller pieces like fish, beaver, birds, and, of course, owls! His work can be seen all over the county and beyond! We're grateful that Joe has donated this wonderful piece to our Benefit this year, and she can be yours if you come to our event and bid during our live auction. See her in person, for now, by the front desk at Watermark Books! And learn more about Joe's work by visiting his site at [washedupcreator.com](http://washedupcreator.com).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Complete details on the “Upcoming Events” page on our website at [www.friendsoftheacfl.org/upcomingactivities](http://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 14**  
(Saturday)  
9:00 pm  
-12:00 pm

**Trail Work Party** - Medium - Location TBA - Join us for a day of work in the Anacortes Community Forestlands alongside Anacortes Parks and Recreation and other community volunteers! We’ll likely pull invasives, shore up trails, and perhaps create some other lasting pieces that will continue to make the trails user-friendly for all those recreating in the forest! (Please check our website for updated location)

**Oct 17**  
(Tuesday)  
9:00 am  
-11:00 am

**Senior Stroll** - Easy - A Avenue Trailhead - Join Friends of the Forest on an immersive stroll through the Anacortes Community Forest Lands starting at 9:00am and ending around 11:00am on Tuesday, October 17th. Meet at the A Avenue trailhead, where we’ll set out to explore the wet and low lying places around Big Beaver 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.

**Oct 21**  
(Saturday)  
10:00 am  
-12:00 pm

**Family Nature Walk: Bats** - Easy - Whistle Lake Trailhead -Join Friends of the Forest to learn all about our favorite spooky mammal, bats! We’ll read a story to learn all about bats, play a bat themed game and do some bat themed nature art all while exploring the depths of Whistle Lake.

**Oct 27**  
(Friday)  
Early Option:  
5:00 pm-  
6:00 pm  
Late option:  
6:30 pm-  
8:00 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! NOTE: Please consider your group’s comfort with being out in the woods in the dark, and plan accordingly. We suggest that groups with younger kiddos attend the early hike option to make sure that everyone has a positive nighttime forest experience!

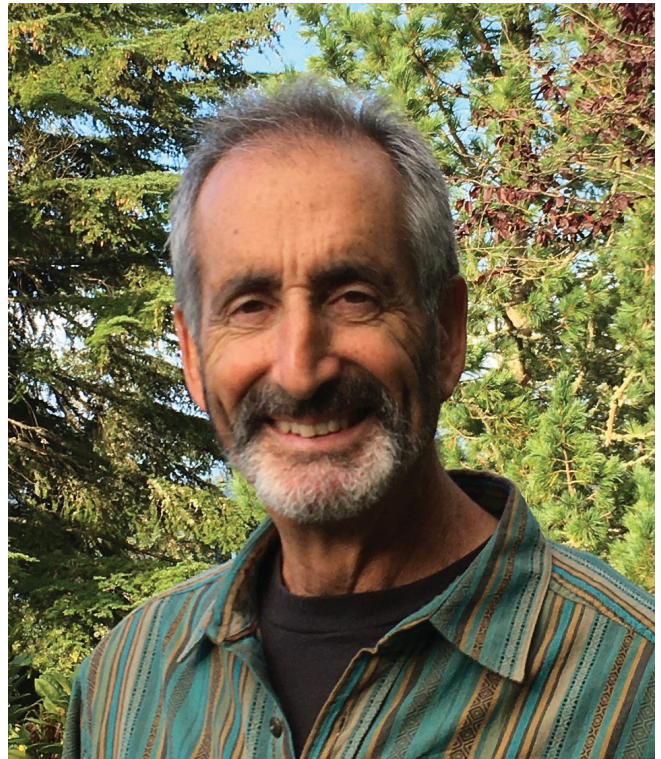
Are you receiving our bi-monthly e-newsletter? It’s chock full of Upcoming Events, interesting stories, volunteer opportunities, and more! E-newsletter recipients are the first to know when registration goes live for our most in-demand kids’ programs, and members get first dibs on registration--don’t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

Email [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org) if you’re not sure you’re subscribed and we’ll sign you up!

# Welcome new Board member, Aaron Katz!

Aaron and his artist wife, Kate Dougherty, moved to Anacortes in April 2019 after living in Seattle for more than 40 years. They enjoy hiking, biking, pickleball, eating in the area's great restaurants, listening to music, dancing, and traveling. When they moved into their Anacortes home, Aaron and Kate knew nothing about the ACFL, their new "neighbor." But they quickly gained a great appreciation of this gem during the COVID-19 pandemic, as they explored its trails and lakes.

In 2020, Aaron retired from the University of Washington School of Public Health as Principal Lecturer Emeritus at the University of Washington School of Public Health where he taught graduate level courses in health policy and conducted health policy projects and research on a wide variety of issues. During his 32 years at UW, Aaron held numerous academic leadership positions and has received various awards, including the American Public Health Association's Award for Excellence in 2006 and the Outstanding Teaching Award from the UW School of Public Health in 2004.



## 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.

# Volunteer/Board Member Spotlight: Marsha Morris

This quarter, our volunteer spotlight is on Marsha Morris – one of the dedicated team of citizen science volunteers that support Friends of the ACFL’s wetlands monitoring program. Every month, you can find Marsha hiking out with our wetlands group to monitor the water quality in the Little Cranberry Lake watershed. Since joining us as a volunteer in January, Marsha has spent nearly 30 hours recording chemical water quality data (dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, etc.) and sorting macroinvertebrates (aquatic water bugs) to support our scientific understanding of water quality in the ACFL. A huge thank you for all the time and energy Marsha has put into our projects this year! (And, if you’d like to join Marsha and the wetlands team, look for more details at the end of this article!)

*Tell us about yourself! How did you join the Anacortes community, and how did you learn about the ACFL?*

I was introduced to the Anacortes community when I visited some friends here in the summer of 2019. They organized four days of experiences that included visiting the Farmers’ Market, listening to live music at Seafarer’s Park, hiking trails in the ACFL and in Washington Park, visiting the shops in town, and feasting on locally harvested salmon. One morning I walked across the street to Little Cranberry Lake with my cup of coffee in hand and felt like I was home. I moved to



At work doing wetlands monitoring



Marsha Morris

Anacortes in January 2020.

*What drew you to join our wetlands monitoring team?*

When I saw an announcement for the ACFL Wetlands Monitoring team it sounded like a fun way to learn more about the forest. My background is in Aquatic Ecology so it was an especially good match for my interests and a way I could contribute something back to the ACFL.

*What aspects of volunteering with the wetlands crew do you enjoy most?*

I look forward to working together with our small group to collect and test monthly water samples within the ACFL. It’s enjoyable to visit the same sites through the seasons and to discuss what we observe. It seems there is always something new to discover.

(continued on following page)

# by Ellie Kravets, Community Programs Coordinator

***“One morning I walked across the street with my cup of coffee in hand and felt like I was home.”***

***–volunteer Marsha Morris, on visiting Anacortes in 2019 and her decision to move here soon after***

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*What do you love about the ACFL?*

The ACFL is ultimately what attracted me to move to Anacortes. I value having miles of hiking trails through beautiful natural spaces, accessible from my front door. I walk the trails on most days. It's like an extension of my home.

*What advice would you give to someone wanting to volunteer?*

If someone is looking for a way to contribute to this community, it's easy to volunteer for the wetlands monitoring program. You don't need any previous experience. You will learn everything you need to know on your first sampling round. It's a very rewarding and fun way to spend a couple of hours out in the ACFL. I highly recommend it.

If you are interested in joining Friends of the ACFL's Citizen Science team, check out the Upcoming Events page on our website or visit [bit.ly/ACFLwetlands](http://bit.ly/ACFLwetlands) to register for one of our monthly monitoring projects! We hope to see you out there!

If you'd like to nominate a member or volunteer to be featured in next quarter's newsletter, please email [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org) with their name and contact information.

These icons below 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!

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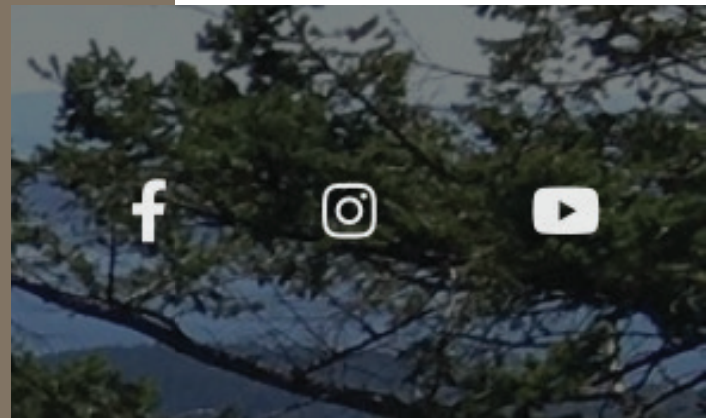
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[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Search "Friends of the ACFL"

*See you over there!*



# Forest Discovery Summer Camp: A WILD Ride!

Bug hunts, adopting plants, and building community, oh my! Thanks to the support of our members and the rest of the Anacortes community, we hosted 60 kids ages 6-12 over the summer for Forest Discovery, our no-cost summer camp. Over 5 sessions campers explored the depths of the ACFL while playing team-building games, building their own personal connections with the ACFL, and taking time to be artists, scientists, and engineers. Let's take a look at some camper favorite activities from Forest Discovery!



## *Full Day Camp (Ages 8-12) Sessions 1, 3 and 4*

Full Day Campers explored all over the ACFL including Big and Little Beaver Ponds, Little Cranberry Lake, and a full loop around Heart Lake, all building up to climbing Mt. Erie on Friday! Along the way they solved riddles, completed partner challenges, made group stories, and had lots of impromptu silliness. Some camper favorite activities included The Bug Hunt, group drawings, sit spots, and games of Sundew and Flies.

**Exploring the ACFL's Many Beings:** On our trek around Heart Lake campers learned about and searched for bugs in the ACFL. During our bug hunt, campers predicted which bugs they would see the most of and where. They found damselflies, spiders, beetles, mosquitoes, and more. We played a spider-themed partner game, got up close with our bugs to draw them, and made our own bugs at the end of the day! We also spent time being scientists and adopting our own plants, and marveling at all the animals we found along the way including frogs, squirrels, owls, and more.

**Building Community:** In the spirit of teamwork, campers made group art (nature art and group drawings) and worked on a week-long challenge to beat Ellie (our Community Programs Coordinator) at a game of Sundew and Flies. In this game campers work together as flies to take an object from Ellie, our Sundew, without showing who has the object. If our sundew guesses who has the object, the flies get eaten by our bug-loving carnivorous plant and have to start over again. This game requires communication, patience, and everyone doing their part to not get caught by the Sundew. Campers also worked together to build freestanding towers, got to know each other through human bingo, and cheered each other on as we climbed Mt. Erie.

**Personal Connection with the ACFL:** Ask our campers what they remember from camp, and I'm sure you'll hear about their "sit spots." Every day, our full day campers had time to recharge, create, or discover during their solo sit spots. Sandwiched by our staff, campers were placed individually along a trail and given time to do whatever was speaking to them. Campers came back from their 20-30 minute sit spots telling of animal sightings, building stick castles, making art, or taking an awesome nap.

# by Hannah Katz, Youth Program Coordinator

## *Half Day Camp (Ages 6-8) Sessions 2A and 2B*

Our half-day campers spent the mornings or afternoons with us exploring logs, watching weasels, listening to stories and playing games. Campers learned about how to respect their community of other campers, and the forest around them while getting to know plants, playing group and partner games, and working together to climb Sugarloaf!

**Forest Scientists:** Our young campers used their senses all week to gather information about the ACFL. They used their ears to practice human echolocation (clapping call and response) during 'Bat and Mosquito', felt and smelled plants, looked closely at bugs and more, all while asking and answering questions about the forest. Campers also used their inquiry skills during partner interviews to get to know each other and throughout the week to get to know bugs, slugs, plants, and more throughout the ACFL.

**Teamwork:** Throughout the week our young campers worked together to play games, make up stories, make animals homes, and explore the ACFL. From a camper created-forest zombie game to making dirt potions and more, our campers practiced listening, sharing, and working together every day.

We could talk about summer camp forever, but we won't! Over the summer we also hosted field trips for Summer IMPACT (Anacortes' extended school year program) grades K-5 to get them out exploring their backyard forest. Thanks to all the community members, including donors, businesses, teachers, and parents who make our summer youth programs possible. As the school year gets into full swing, we are transitioning to field trips, classroom visits, after school, and more exciting ways to reach our youngest community members. Check out our website to learn more!

Pictured, Left: Full day campers testing their engineering skills to build the tallest tower, Full day camper with nature art from her sit spot

Pictured, Below: Half day campers playing the game "Bat and Mosquito", Full day campers at Sugarloaf drawing their favorite memory from the week





# Friends of the Forest

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

## 2023 Benefit Auction

Saturday, November 4th  
5pm - 9pm  
Port of Anacortes  
Transit Shed

Join Friends of the Forest to continue our important work in service to the ACFL and the incredible community surrounding it!

In-person event featuring appetizers and dinner by Gere-a-Deli, drinks, music from Fidalgo Swing, and a silent and live auction.

Tickets are on sale now on our website (below) or in person at Watermark Books.

Scan the QR code or visit [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) for more information!



2023 Featured Art by Joe Treat.  
On display at Watermark Books in downtown Anacortes.

Thank you to all of our sponsors!



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# Thank you to our Veterans!

Members of the military and veterans are an essential part of our community, here in Anacortes and beyond! We are grateful to count many veterans as members of Friends of the Forest as well.

This Veterans Day, we wanted to recognize our members and volunteers who are veterans or active members of the military. Below are the names of some of the current members who have also served or are currently serving in the armed forces. (Please note: this is not a complete list-if you do not see your name listed and would like it to be, please email [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org) to be included in a future publication).

Thank you all for your service to our country and for being such an important part of our community, whether you're further away or closer to home.

Philip Eley, US Navy, Retired

Commander Helen Worthington,  
US Navy, Retired

Commander Brian Worthington,  
US Navy, Retired

John E. Hilburn, US Navy, Retired

Captain Jason Wells, US Navy,  
Active Duty

Joel Hamel, Air Force and Air  
National Guard, Retired

Lieutenant Commander  
William Bogdanowicz, US Navy,  
Active Duty

Lieutenant Commander  
Josette Curtis, US Navy, Retired

Commander Jack Curtis,  
US Navy, Retired



Commander Kristen Ellsworth, US Navy,  
Active Duty

Commander Carl A. Ellsworth, Jr., US Navy,  
VAQ-130 Commanding Officer, Active Duty

Colonel Carl A. Ellsworth, US Army, Retired

# Another successful season for Trail Ambassadors!

This was our third year for the Trail Ambassador Program, a partnership between Friends and Anacortes Parks and Recreation. Trail Ambassadors spend several weekends per summer stationed at trailheads throughout the ACFL, welcoming visitors and residents alike, educating visitors about the ecology of the forest, walking the trails to meet people, and enjoying the company of others who love the forestlands! Trail Ambassadors interacted with over a thousand visitors this summer and we're so grateful for their dedication to the ACFL!

Dale King	Aven Wright-McIntosh
Shannon Pickens	Joel Hamel
Aurora Everhart	Sean Beebe
Aaron Katz	Mark Gardner
Rae Kozloff	Erika Friesth
Jim Wells	Mike Antrim
Sara Cambron	Denise Antrim
Jacqueline Illman	Will Bogdanowicz
Connie Harris	Lin Nichols



*Friends of  
the Forest*

## Friends of the Forest

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Barrett Financial Conference Room. Meetings are open to the public—please email [board@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:board@friendsoftheacfl.org) for more information on how to 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 | 360-299-1918

## Board Members

**Charlie Collins** | President | Jan. 2025

**Rob Skelton** | Secretary | Jan. 2025

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

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

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

**Lynne Jordan** | Board Member | Jan. 2025

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

**Aaron Katz** | Board Member | Jan. 2025

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

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

## Staff

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

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

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

# More fun from Forest Discovery Summer Camp



Pictured, clockwise from top left: Full day campers look out across Burrows Bay on their way from Sugarloaf to Erie, Full day campers take a break to “dress up” with mosses found on the ground, Half day campers play games, and Half day campers hear a nature story on the shores of Heart Lake,



Friends of the ACFL  
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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



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\_\_\_\_\_ 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!