



# Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 35 • Issue 2 • Spring 2022

## A Message from the Executive Director

By Asa Deane

Find some sunshine. Spread your arms out wide, fingers splayed, embracing the space around you. Stretch your ligaments, rotate your arms forward and back, and wiggle your fingers. Move your arms up over your head, reach up high towards the sun, and feel your body start to awaken as it soaks up the beautiful warm rays that blanket the world around you in greater abundance every day. Spring is here.

The forest is doing this very thing as it awakens from its winter hibernation. Leaves are budding out alder, skunk cabbage is in full regale, and red-flowering currant has already bloomed along the lakeside. Birdsong rings in the morning (did you make it to our morning chorus hike on April 13th? Read the story in our latest blog post) and frog and salamander egg sacks hover just underwater, attached to submerged logs worn smooth from time. There's nothing as magical as the emergence of the forest into the spring-time, that perfect balance between short and wet winter days and long, hot, and dry summer afternoons. The whole world lies before us, three glorious seasons before winter lays its gray blanket upon us again. There is simply no time to waste.

Here at the Friends of the Forest, we've been preparing for this time. The coming months are the busiest of the year for us and there is much to look



Trail 113 improvements in-progress!  
Photo courtesy of Washington Trails Association.



Beautiful results (with more drainage=less mud!) on Trail 113. Bravo, WTA volunteers and Parks dept!  
Photo courtesy of Washington Trails Association.

forward to, classic programming and new adventures alike! Just as spring brings the fresh growth of our beloved evergreens, bright yellow-green needles sprouting from old branches, we've been growing at Friends of the Forest as well.

Over the past two years, through all the chaos and confusion, Beck Pitman has been finding new and creative ways to reach the community, to educate our children, and to create new programs in service to the ACFL. This year alone, for the first time, she'll have provided programming for every kindergartener in the Anacortes School District and partnered with Transition Fidalgo and Friends on our new internship program with Anacortes High School students (more on both of these programs inside the newsletter). On the community education side, she's led members of our naturalist club (open to any and all, by the way) in a water quality monitoring project, the first of what we hope will be many opportunities for community science programs in the ACFL.

With the hiring of Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller one year ago, we've also been able to grow the stewardship work we do in partnership with the City of Anacortes. Ashleigh led our inaugural year of the Trail Ambassador program in 2021, a program that in 2022 (Continued on page 11)

## UPCOMING EVENTS (please see complete details on website)

**May 4**

(Weds.)  
6:30 pm  
-8:00 pm

**Owling in the ACFL** - Easy - A-Avenue Trailhead - Join this hike to find out more about owls and their nocturnal adaptations, and if we're lucky, maybe we'll hear or even see one! At this time of day, the ACFL's resident Barred Owls may just be waking up for their evening activities, so we'll stay as silent as an owl's wing as we search for them. No registration necessary.

**May 12**

(Thursday)  
9:00 am  
-1:00 pm

**Wetland Walk** - Intermediate - Clyde Way Access, Trail 109 - Wetlands are incredibly biodiverse ecosystems, and are important providers for ecosystem services like controlling and cleaning water. From red-legged frogs to wood ducks, to salmonberry bursts and celebrations of skunk cabbage, we'll search for it all. Come prepared for the weather and maybe some mud! No registration necessary.

**May 13**

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

**Community Science Wetlands Monitoring** - Easy - 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! Let us know you'll be joining us by signing up online; a registration link is posted on our "Upcoming Events" page.

**May**

**20/21**

(Fri/Sat)  
9:30 am  
-11:00 am

**Small Wonders** - Easy - Little Cranberry Lake parking lot - Choose which day you'd like to participate! We'll take a nature walk, hear a story, and use our senses to observe nature. Small Wonders helps children develop a sense of comfort while in the outdoors and helps caregivers observe and nurture their child's curiosity. Let us know you'll be joining us by signing up online; a registration link is posted on our "Upcoming Events" page. (Event is for toddlers up to 3 years and their caregivers).

## 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.

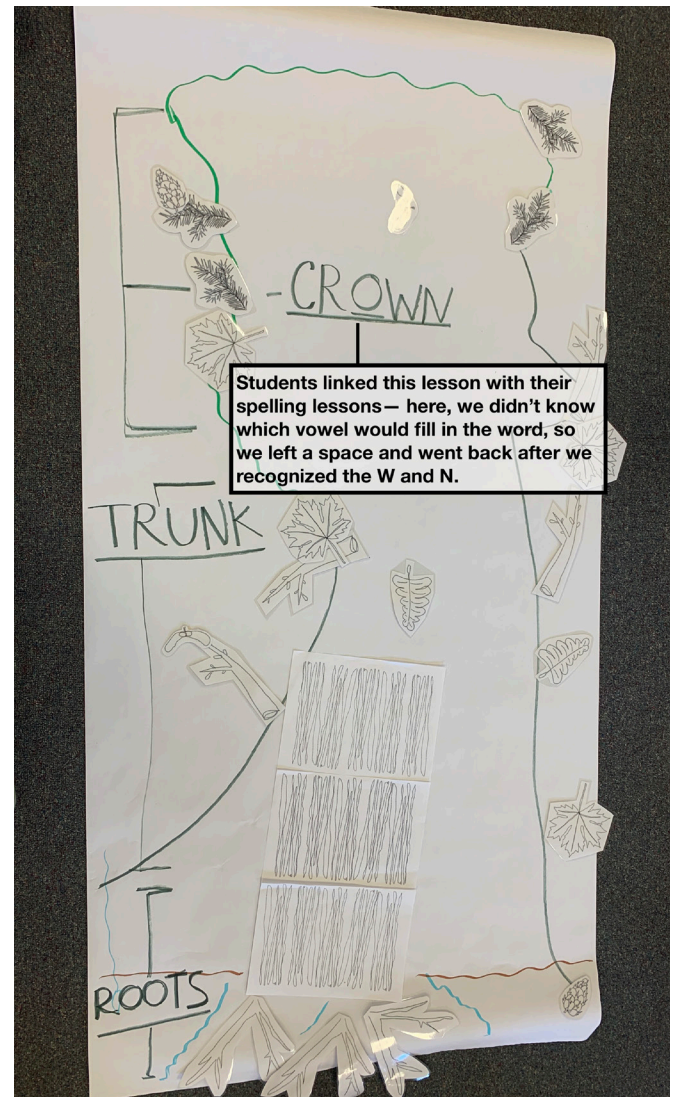
# Spring Youth Education Report by Beck Pittman, Forest Educator

For the first time, Friends of the Forest offered Kindergarten programming for the Anacortes School District! We worked with Kindergarten teachers in the spring of 2022 to deliver a unit of lessons that aligned with the “Trees are Alive” Kindergarten curriculum. In six classrooms so far at Island View and Mt. Erie elementaries, Kindergarten students identified the parts of a tree, modeled the process of photosynthesis, considered what makes a tree “alive,” and emotionally connected with trees.

In the first lesson, students were shown pictures of trees and mimicked the trees’ postures while stretching. One student was then traced on a large piece of paper while creating a tree pose. Using the tracing as a workspace, students helped identify and label the areas of the tree: roots, trunk, and crown or canopy. Students were prompted to sound out and help spell each word for the diagram. Next, students were invited to add pictures of tree parts— roots, bark, branches, leaves, and seeds—to the diagram. Then, using pictures to create a T-chart, students compared how humans drink water, eat, our life span, and our size, with how trees obtain water, make energy, their life span, and their size. The lesson ended with clapping out the syllables for the word “photosynthesis,” and students were told they’d explore this idea in the next lesson.

The second lesson in this unit was a relay-race-style game that modeled what processes take place inside a tree. Students took turns bringing water from the roots, up the trunk, and into the canopy, and also gathered sunshine and carbon dioxide. Once all “ingredients” were present in the tree’s leaf, a student would ring a bell to indicate photosynthesis was happening, and other students would take turns distributing the products back into the tree (sugar, carbon), and oxygen was placed outside the tree. Students reflected that oxygen is produced, that trees have the ability to make their own food, and that the inputs for photosynthesis were different from the materials that were produced and utilized.

In the third and final lesson, students were invited to share about a tree they saw on the way to school. Next, they were asked, “how do you know trees are living things?” Some ideas that students generated included that trees die and trees need energy to grow. (continued)



**Continued on page 11**

Many of us have spent recent months thinking a lot about E-bikes and how they currently—and may continue to—impact our Community Forest Lands. We saw and heard many passionate opinions and stories, as is typical when the ACFL is at the center of the discussion. Nothing surprising here as there are always challenges when working through user group issues. What did surprise me a little was how quickly and willing folks on either side of the issue were to point fingers, make false claims and generally denigrate anyone outside of the user group they were advocating for. There simply is no user group, sanctioned or otherwise, who does not impact our trail system.

Once we start blaming each other from false thrones, the threads of Community in the ACFL are in real jeopardy.



I greatly appreciated the Friends of the Forest maintaining a neutral and educational position during our series of three Forest Advisory Board (FAB) meetings devoted mostly to ebikes. The FAB saw one brand new member join just in time for the months' long exchange of ideas, as well as bid farewell to veteran board member Sandra Starbuck. Sandra stuck around long enough to chair the FAB and guide it to its recommendation to gather a year's worth of data in order to make a more informed decision. The Friends provided support for the process, and Asa contributed a great informational piece of writing.

Since my occupational return to the ACFL a couple of years ago, I have gotten to know Asa and his staff at the Friends, and have come to count on them in the woods. While we could waste a lot of time and energy debating the finer points of conservation, the Friends Team of Asa, Beck and Ashleigh have provided City staff with ideas, support and vision. Questions are certainly asked, and there is no free pass for either organization, but we share a goal at the end of the proverbial trail. The long term health of our woods, along with its native inhabitants and visiting recreationalists. The quest for that razor's edge balance of conservation and recreation. It has never been easy and the last couple of years have emphasized pretty much any challenge society faces.

Last summer we worked to support the implementation of the Friends' Trail Ambassador program. Again, we could have taken months to worry about impacts of this group or that group. Instead, we decided to work with everybody. Why not make knowledgeable locals available to the visiting masses, and improve the experience for the visitor and the woods? A much healthier activity than simply throwing stones at glass houses. Taking a position of positive action without advocating for or belittling another group, the Friends offered help and guidance to all. This made a big difference to those of us getting paid to enforce the rules.

As we move into the spring and eventual summer of 2022, we are working with Friends and other local organizations who love the ACFL to establish a Trail Steward program to the ranks. This will be another valuable volunteer program that will seek out and train "Trail Lieutenants" so that we may diversify our volunteer trail projects a bit, and have more of them. Again, the Friends are not limiting their volunteer program to a particular user group or political belief, but are reaching out to any and all who might just want to help.

While many of us continue to argue over who might be responsible for the expanded mud holes along a favorite path, the Friends of the Forest reach out to the City and say, "How may we help?" This Community has a lot to take care of, and so much to be thankful for. Let's make sure we are building our strength from within, and not collapsing our walls from the outside.

# Become a Trail Ambassador

Help out in the ACFL this summer!



As spring marches on, we can't wait for our second summer with our Trail Ambassador volunteer program!

Visitors come from throughout Washington state, the Pacific Northwest, and even further afield to experience all that Anacortes has to offer, and one of the highlights of our part of Fidalgo Island are the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. With so many people—regular users and newcomers alike—discovering and enjoying the ACFL, it's imperative that we educate them on the wonders of our forest and how to recreate safely and respectfully. Our Trail Ambassadors are at the forefront of this education, strategically stationed at the busiest trailheads during weekends throughout the summer.

We'll have two training days leading up to your first foray into the ACFL as a Trail Ambassador, and are flexible as to how many and which weekends you can/want to work over the summer. Some of your duties as a Trail Ambassador would include:

- Tabling with a partner at various trailheads on weekends over the summer to interact with ACFL visitors (we provide all supplies)
- Answering questions about the ACFL's trails, history, and native flora and fauna (we provide training)
- Conveying the rules and expectations to those visiting the forest and reporting any rule/regulation infractions to us and/or the Parks and Recreation Department (you are NOT expected to confront those breaking any rules other than simply informing them of the rules)
- Collecting demographic data on the number of visitors, types of activities they are doing, parking lot numbers, etc. (we'll provide further instruction)
- Hiking the trails and interacting with visitors (we do not expect, nor want you to sit at a table all day without having some trail time for yourself!)
- Handing out doggie bags for pet-owners as a gentle reminder to Scoop the Poop! (we provide the baggies)
- Representing the Friends of the Forest and the City of Anacortes to all ACFL visitors and helping us to fulfill our mission of preserving the ACFL through outreach, education, and stewardship!

**Head to page 9 to learn more!**

**Ready to sign up?**

**Check out: [friendsoftheacfl.org/volunteer](http://friendsoftheacfl.org/volunteer)**

# 2021 Friends of the Forest Members

Due to a technical error, the following member names were inadvertently omitted from the January newsletter member listing. We apologize for the oversight; we are so grateful for each one of you!

A busy spring is already underway, and we look forward to even more opportunities throughout the year for education, outreach, and stewardship. Annual membership dues are due in January. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022, please consider making a gift today.

Willard Aldridge, Jr.  
Anthony Angell & Elizabeth Rolfe  
Amanda Avallone  
Paul G Bieker  
Tony and Tanya Bigge  
Jane Brandt  
Parker and Carol Cann  
Herb Courtney & June Link  
Barb Daugherty  
James Dimond & Julie Barber  
Michael & Sheri Donahue  
Robin Donovan  
Eileen & Larry Eimmermann  
Phil & Jan Eley  
Phil Elverum  
Marlene Finley  
Thomas Foster III  
Katherine Garza  
Matt & Sara Gill  
Mac Madenwald & Wendy Gray  
H. Green  
Ramona Hammerly  
Carol Herbert  
Catherine Houck & David Rolph  
Roxan Kraft  
Mary & Pat Lyons  
Heather Macphail  
Matt Gill  
John & Kim McCollister  
Gretchen McIndoe  
Forrie & Molly McIntosh  
Dorothea Mecklenburg  
Anne & Jack Middleton  
Gary & Pam Miller  
Darlene Mindrum  
Dan Mosby & Kathy Peterson  
Robb Nichols  
Tom and Sandy Norris  
Kathleen Pokorny  
Wendy and Jeffrey Robinson  
Lee & Lynn Schroeder  
Carla and Dan Seaton  
Terry & Lois Slotemaker  
Diann and Wayne Smith  
Paula Stewart  
Marcy Stringfellow  
James & Michele Tangaro  
John Waldbaum  
Sarah & Jack Tobien

Phil & Cathy Tribuzio  
Daniel Walters  
Amy and Rick Wilson  
Karl and & Karen Yost  
Holly Dietrich  
Wyndham Jackson  
Ashleigh and David Ellsworth-Keller  
Gina Thompson  
Susan Hill  
Threse Deane  
James and Michele Tangaro  
Teresa and Loren Bogart  
Jenna Deane  
Kim Erickson  
Emmie Schlobohm  
Kristen Murphy and Bob Vaux  
Pardeep Brar  
Cynthia Richardson  
Mary Lynn Lyke  
Debra Forman  
Jane Wagner  
Jeff Holtgeerts  
Steve Purcer  
Derek Damon  
Charlie Collins  
Susan Pittman  
Herb Courtney  
Greg Ford  
Jan Hersey  
Lin Nichols  
Nathan Barlow  
Susan Barror  
Martin Bullard  
Heather Burke  
Wesley Capon  
Betty Carter and Eric Shen  
Kaitlin Chamberlin  
Jane Collins  
Dan Coutice  
Todd and Sharon Dale  
Jennifer Devlin  
Ev Earhart  
Hannah Earhart  
Katie and Mike Earley  
Michael Fong  
Mike Gaitley and Mike Dragovich  
Susan Garrett and Roy Megill  
Tim and Cindy Garrison  
Laurie Gere

Gina Gillespie  
Kay Glade  
Peggy Gurrad  
Katie Haug  
Kimarie Henning  
Charles Herron  
John and Peggy Hilburn  
Nelle Jacobson  
Rachael Jeffers  
Brian and Pat Kelley  
Karen Haynes  
Marc and Laura Knowles  
Terry and Sheryl Kylo  
Ron Lindsay  
Don and Effie-Jo Lindstrom  
Dian Listberger  
Sarah and John Loudermilk  
Shona Martin  
Malcolm and Michelle McPhee  
Kim Meier  
Nat Mengist  
Libby Mills and Rusty Kuntze  
Corliss Perdaems  
Teresa Perillo  
Shannon and Brian Peters  
Tracy Peterson Foy  
Kat Phillips  
Carrie Pittman  
Andrew Powers  
Jose Riefkohl  
Rob and Erin Rieger  
Joanna Rolfes  
Craig and Heather Romano  
Patricia Rose  
Dennis and Nancy Schafer  
Rob and Nichole Skelton  
Michelle Song  
Kathryn Sooter  
Melissa, Sebastian, and Layla Sua  
James and Michele Tangaro  
Linda Tennant  
Gina Van Hess and Don White  
Jan Weedman  
Bill and Jennifer Woyski  
Georgiana Wynn

# Become a Trail Ambassador (continued)

When you serve as a Friends of the Forest Trail Ambassador, you'll receive:

- Free Friends of the Forest gear to help folks identify you/deck you out with sweet clothing to sport around town/in the forest
- Training and deeper insight with Friends and City staff about the natural (and not-so-natural) history of the ACFL
- First crack at future volunteer opportunities and volunteer-exclusive events, including an end-of-summer gathering (with food)!
- A chance to give back to the incredible ACFL and help protect it amid an enormous increase in users
- The opportunity to connect and bond with the public, users of all ages and types, and other Friend of the Forest members.

If you like connecting with people, love our forestlands, and want to become an ambassador for the ACFL, please check out our website, [friendsoftheacfl.org](http://friendsoftheacfl.org). The only necessary previous experience you need is to love the outdoors and enjoy interacting with people. After you fill out the application, we'll get in touch with you as we gather participant information and will keep you in the loop as we piece together the summer schedule.

Training dates will be Saturday, May 21 and Saturday, May 28th. Sign up for details, and we hope to see you in the forest!

QUESTIONS: Reach out to Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller at [ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org).

## Business Memberships: Help show your support!

We are incredibly fortunate to be a part of a community that values so highly the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and our work in service of them. Local businesses are an integral part of this community and have long sponsored our annual benefit dinner and auction.

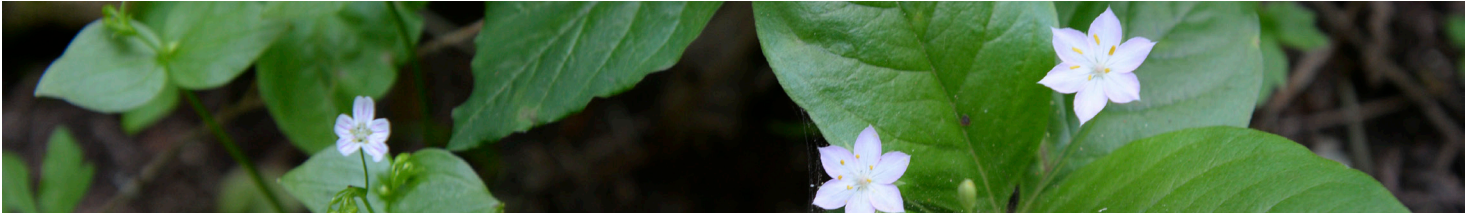
In gratitude, we are excited to offer a new Friends of the Forest Business Membership as a way for you to support our work and receive recognition year-round, not just during our benefit event. By becoming a Business Member, you demonstrate your support

for our beautiful forest lands. Six membership levels are available, each with its own variety of benefits, starting at only \$250. Your business will still be featured at our benefit event as before but there are a range of new benefits depending on your contribution level, with all business members receiving a window cling to show their commitment to supporting the Friends of the ACFL (pictured).

To learn more, please visit our website, [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) or contact Executive Director Asa Deane at [asa@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:asa@friendsoftheacfl.org).



# First Annual Member Photo Contest



Calling all member-photographers! We want to see YOUR photos taken in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands!

We are so fortunate to have access to 50+ miles of trails and nearly 3,000 acres of this special conserved forestland right in our backyard. We know that so many of you know intimately the beauty and wonder of the ACFL, and that's why we're offering what we hope will be the first annual ACFL photo contest!

What is the prize? The satisfaction of sharing the beauty of the ACFL with others, of course! We will also feature the ten category winners in a future newsletter and on social media.

We're seeking photos in these 10 categories:

- Interesting Scenery
- Water and wetlands
- Trails and trees
- Plants
- Wildlife: Birds
- Wildlife: non-birds
- Pets in the ACFL
- People enjoying the ACFL (please see guidelines below)
- Youth Photography (age 17 and under with parent permission-youth may also submit in any category)
- Miscellaneous (anything that doesn't fit into one of the other categories)



Sugarloaf at Sunset



Fairy Slipper



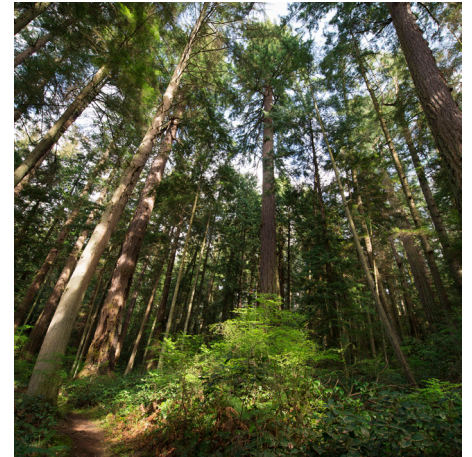
# Send your pictures to: [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)

## Submission Guidelines:

- You may send us up to 10 photos to be considered. There is no time range for when the photo must have been taken (if you have a beautiful photograph of Whistle Lake from 2009, we'd still love to see it)!
- Please stay on trails to capture your photo, stay a safe distance from any and all wildlife, and if you're sending a photo of a pet, make sure they're on a leash (your photos should set a good example for all ACFL users)!
- We will accept photos from the general public, but winners will be limited to current Friends of the Forest members only. (It's easy to join or update your membership—simply mail us the back page of this newsletter or renew by going to our website)!
- If there are any human subjects in your photo, please make sure you have permission to a) photograph them and b) submit their photo to this contest.
- Submitting to the contest (even if you do not win) means that you accept that your photo is available for Friends of the ACFL to use in print and email newsletters, on social media, and possibly on our website and other promotional materials (we will credit you as the photographer).

We will accept photos at any time, but to be considered for the contest, please submit your photo(s) to [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org) by July 1st. Please make sure to include your name, phone number and email, category/categories you're submitting to, and any other details about the photograph you would like us to know. We will contact the winners by August 1st.

Questions? Reach out to Ashleigh at [ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:ashleigh@friendsoftheacfl.org). We can't wait to see your pictures!



Old Growth (Credit: J. Sua)



Forest Discovery 2019

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

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

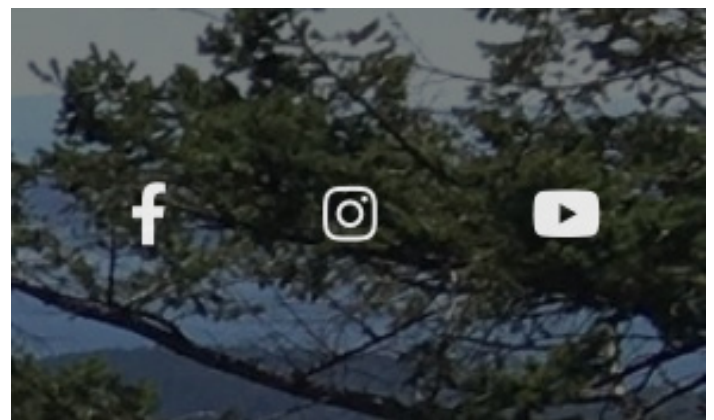
[anacortes.friendsoftheforest.acfl](http://anacortes.friendsoftheforest.acfl)

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

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

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

# “Dear Hoo” A quarterly column to answer all of your burning ACFL questions!

Email your questions to Hoo the Owl, Friends of the Forest’s Wise Advice Columnist! [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)



Dear Hoo,

We were walking in the ACFL near Mitten Pond and smelled a skunky smell. Around the corner in the pond were dozens of beautiful yellow flowers. My friend told me that these are called Skunk cabbage. Is this true? What’s the story about these lovely (but odorous) plants?

Sincerely, A Rose By Another Name

Western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) is also called swamp lantern (for obvious reasons) and is found in bogs, swamps, and wet wooded areas in the Pacific Northwest, essentially from Northern California through British Columbia and up to Alaska. That means that the ACFL is right smack dab in the middle of its territory, and we are fortunate to have a plethora of these lovely, stinky little plants in our wetlands.

Skunk cabbage is propagated thanks to its pollinators, scavenging flies and beetles, who are attracted to the strong smell it produces. In large numbers, such as those in Mitten Pond or other ACFL wetland areas, the odor permeates the surrounding air and is impossible to miss in early spring. The scent can be described as both skunky and floral; doesn’t that just sum up the spectrum of all the wonders that the natural world has to offer?!?

## 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](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. 2023

**Lin Nichols** | Treasurer | Jan. 2022

**Lynne Jordan** | Secretary | Jan. 2023

**Andy Stewart** | President Emeritus | Jan. 2022

**Steve Williams** | Board Member | Jan. 2022

**Rob Skelton** | 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 | 360-399-6184

**Beck Pittman** | Forest Educator | 971-248-6618

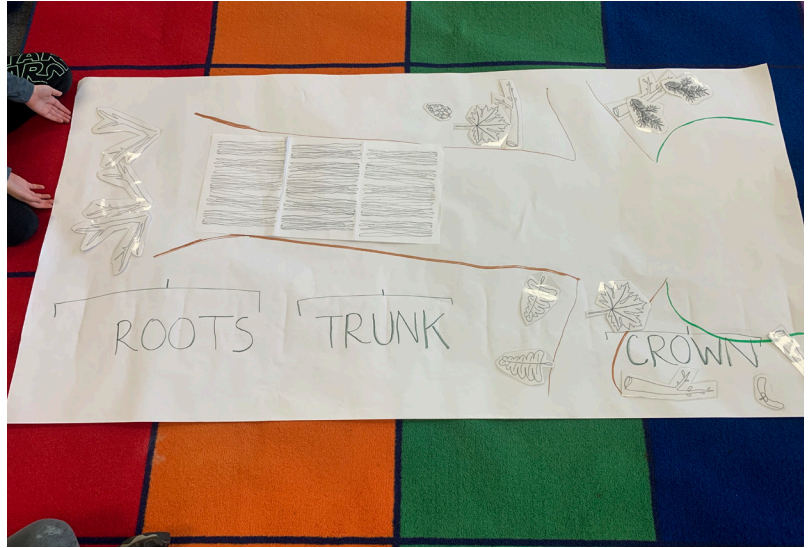
**Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller** | Outreach and  
Development Coordinator | 928-607-2961

## Youth Education Report (continued from page 3)

Additional ideas about what makes something alive were introduced by our educator. Finally, by rolling three story-cubes (one for tree species, one for creatures, and one with weather options), students co-wrote a story about a tree and a creature that relied on it, employing social and emotional skills to create the story. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the activities and learned a lot!

In addition to new Kindergarten programming, Friends of the Forest has also begun a new program with high schoolers. With the help of

Anacortes High School physics teacher Jeff Holtgeerts, and in partnership with Transition Fidalgo, we are facilitating an internship for two high schoolers gathering data from Ace of Hearts creek within the Heart Lake corridor. The students meet weekly to measure the rate of flow in the creek, building the ground level of data that will help our organizations track the seasonality of water in the creek channel. At the end of the school year, the students will present a short scientific report to our organizational governing boards as well as the City of Anacortes. We are excited to continue this project in following school years so that more students can have the experience of real-world environmental field work.



## Executive Director's Message (continued from page 1)

...will continue to grow to meet the increasing educational needs of the community, new and old alike (more on Trail Ambassadors inside the newsletter). Her newest project is a collaboration with the city and a variety of user groups to train volunteers known as Trail Stewards to provide new and diverse ways to work on projects in the forest. Finally, we've been a part of a burgeoning partnership between the Friends, the City, and the Washington Trails Association to offer even more opportunities for the public to participate in forest stewardship in the coming years. You may have even noticed some of their handiwork already, with some essential trail raising and water flow adjustment on Trail 113! (See photos on cover page).

With the creation of all of these new programs we find ourselves in one of those unique "good problem" situations, the kind of problem that you like to have as an organization: there is just too much good stuff and not enough time to work on it all! It is with that in mind that we are thrilled to announce that we are currently in the process of hiring a new staff member at Friends of the Forest. Beck has been putting in the work of two staff members already, so we've decided to split that role into two; Beck's new title will be Youth Education Coordinator and the newly created role will be the Community Programs Coordinator.

This will allow Beck to focus on the planning and execution of our pool of growing programs for kids, including school programs, after-school programs, summer camp, and work with partners like the Family Center and the Fidalgo Nature School. The Community Programs Coordinator will take the lead on organizing all of our popular community hikes and growing our other community programs like the Naturalist Club and community science projects, not to mention creating new and exciting opportunities for people of all ages to get outside and learn about the forest. However, if you, like many, have grown to love spending time with Beck out in the ACFL, fret not—both of these roles will support each other on hikes and activities out in the forest.

We could not be more excited about what's on the horizon for Friends of the Forest. It can't be stated enough how fortunate we are to be a part of such an incredible community. Your support is what makes all of this work possible and helps us to meet the growing needs of Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Our partnerships with the City of Anacortes and an ever-increasing number of community organizations and forest user groups are unique in the world of land preservation and allow us a multitude of opportunities to protect the ACFL. Our gratitude knows no bounds.



Friends of the ACFL  
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 Anacortes, WA 98221

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 WA 98221



## 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. 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!