



# Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 33 • Issue 1 • Winter 2020

## From the Director:

Winter is officially here! With the days getting longer and a new year freshly dawned, it's a great time to look forward to the future. New Year's resolutions are, of course, the traditional method of beginning the year anew. They often seem to focus on negative aspects of our lives that we hope to change; the things that we'd like to cut out or do less of.

While resolutions may be a way to bring happiness into your life or improve your health, so often they are only followed for one or two months before they are abandoned or shelved until the next new year when they are pulled out again and reused for the next set of resolutions. In my experience, I have much more success when I instead set goals that will push me to do things that I am excited about. I like to combine things that will help me to grow as a person but also that I will enjoy doing and can easily work into an already established routine.

For example, my wife and I like to set outdoor goals for ourselves, but it's not enough to just 'go outside more'. We want to learn a specific skill or explore a new area. Last year we joined an outrigger canoe club, providing us the opportunity to experience the bay from a whole new perspective. This year, we are making the investment in winter-travel gear with the intention of exploring the snow of the Pacific Northwest. By setting these goals, we're inherently tackling other, broader goals or resolutions (exercise more, be outside more) but in a way that is approachable.

Here at Friends of the Forest, we have our own set of goals for the new year that we are incredibly excited about. Some of these goals you'll see in this issue of the newsletter, like our new Kindergarten Program. Some you'll hear about and see as we unveil additional activities and programs throughout the year, including fresh community hikes, a summer camp program for the families at the Anacortes Family Center, a quarterly forest speaker series, and a more effective volunteer program.

We are starting out 2020 thankful...thankful for you- our members, donors, and community supporters.



Without your generosity and commitment to the ACFL, our goals and mission would not be possible. Thank you for choosing to be a part of the vital work that we do.

So remember to be easy on yourself; set achievable goals that you are excited to accomplish! And whatever they may be, may we suggest that they include spending a little more time exploring the ACFL and hanging out with your friends?

Happy New Year, and we'll see you in the forest!

Asa Deane  
Executive Director

Our Director, Asa Deane, and his wife, Jenna, skiing at Mt. Baker, December 2019 with Mt. Shuksan in the background.

**"...I have much more success when I instead set goals that will push me to do things that I am excited about."**

# Melissa's Message:



“We are excited to announce a new addition to our K-12 school field trip programs. This year we will pilot a new Kindergarten forest education program with the support of the Anacortes School District Assistant Superintendent, K.C. Knudson, along with great interest from the Kindergarten teachers. All Kindergarten classrooms in the Anacortes School District will participate in the new program this spring. Each Kindergarten class will receive an in-class pre-visit and a forest field trip experience.

Our program will use sensory exploration to help build student's scientific inquiry skills, practice careful observation as an avenue for learning, and provide the opportunity for the students to build a sense of place and connection to the ACFL. Students will use four out of the five senses to smell, hear, touch, and see the forest in new and meaningful ways.

We are looking forward to having a great time in the forest this spring with our local kindergarteners! Thank you for helping to make this new program a reality through your continued support. ” - Melissa Courtney, Forest Educator

## 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.

# Winter Event 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!

February  
22nd



## Little Cranberry Corridor Hike

9 am - 12 pm

This hike is about 4 miles roundtrip. Let's enjoy the trails in the southwest corner of the Cranberry Lake Area bordered by Little and Big Beaver Ponds and Mitten Pond. We will wind through these trails, enjoying the beauty of our second growth forest as we go. Meet at the ACFL kiosk on "A" Avenue and 37th St. This hike is listed as challenging: can be challenging for unconditioned hikers. May include moderate to significant elevation gain, or steady and often steep inclines. May include difficult terrain or obstacles.

March  
20th

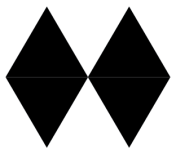


## Big Beaver Pond Loop

9 am - 12 pm

This hike is about 3 miles roundtrip. Let's get a deeper look at the Cranberry Lake area by taking a hike to Little Beaver Pond. Our path will be highlighted with a great look at beaver lodges and other signs of beaver engineering. The majority of this hike is generally flat but does include some more challenging rooty sections and moderate hills as we pass to the southwest of Little Cranberry Lake. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot. This hike is listed as Intermediate: suitable for those in fair hiking condition or novices who want a bit of a challenge. May include moderate elevation gain or some obstacles along the trail that require balance or maneuvering.

March  
28th



## Little Round Top Traverse

8 am - 12 pm

This hike is about 5 miles roundtrip. Come traverse the ridge to the northwest of Whistle Lake. While we're out, we will crest Little Round Top and Sugar Cube before catching a glimpse of the Salish Sea from a lesser known vista. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot. This hike is listed as advanced: strenuous and suitable for well-conditioned hikers only. May include significant to extreme elevation gain and likely to include a fast pace, steep inclines, trail obstacles, or all of the above.

February  
26th

## Annual Membership Meeting

6:30 pm - 8 pm

@ The Depot Building, 611 R. Ave, Anacortes

Members and non-members alike are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting. Board elections and a brief review of the Annual Report will kick things off, followed by a presentation by our Director, Asa Deane. Asa will share stories about the fascinating history of The Friends and the Anacortes Community Forest Lands along with the organization's current goals as we look to the past, present, and future. Beverages and desserts provided. We hope to see you there!

# 2019 Friends of the Forest Members

We feel so much gratitude, both for individuals who may have recently joined us as members and for those who have supported our mission since day one. Our donors are the true heroes responsible for the work that is accomplished in the community and in the ACFL. It would not be possible without you! If you see your name listed, know that we appreciate your contribution and look forward to a new year of education, outreach, and stewardship. Annual membership dues are due in January. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020, please consider making a gift today.

Barrett Financial, Community Caring Project	Steven & Robyn Johnson	Jean Fike & Sandra Nunn
Sommer & Rob Carter	Trevor & Delberta Kyle	Cissy Fisher & Richard Pavelec
Pamela Doddridge	Mark Lawrence & Jackie Davison	Ginger Forner
Molly & Larry Dutton	Mary & Pat Lyons	Luanne Freer
Nick Fahey & Debbie Martin	Rose Mallon	Michelle Fremont & Jerome McCool
Mieke & Bharat Gael	Jenni & Ken, Brent, Shelby & Alyssa Morrison	Mike Gaitley & Mike Dragovich
Sara & Adam Hough	Marcia Neu	Ed & Carolyn Gastellum
Rebecca & William Kennedy	North Sound Oral & Facial Surgery, PS	David Gurney
Joan & Keith Magee	Denny & Laurie Quirk	David & Deborah Hall
Mountain View Dental Center	Jon Ranney	Sonia & Jeff Hambleton
John Nixon	Jose & Diane Romero	Ramona Hammerly
Joann Russell	Dennis & Nancy Schafer	Ernie & Joan Handelman
Skagit Community Foundation	Rob & Nichole Skelton	Karen Haynes
Kathryn Alexandra	Brian & Amye Webster	Victoria Head
Helen Baumgartner	Jennifer & Scot Wilson	Peter & Roxann Heffelfinger
Beth Bell	Anthony Young	Helen Heneks
Marcia & Lester Books	Drahomir Zboril & Margaret Rojas	Carol Herbert
Cap Sante Inn	Willard Aldridge Jr.	Jonathan Hodgdon
Darrell & Debbie Cornelius	Debbie Amos & Phil Cohen	Harriet Hoffman
Derek Damon, Orthodontics	Aquarian Audio and Scientific	Bob & Ann Hostler
Bill & Holly Dietrich	Ruth & Mark Backlund	Everett & Elizabeth Huff
Deanna Emsley	Karen & Mark Backman	John & Linda Hunt
Kevin & Ginger Harris	Shelley Balanko	Nancy & Jerry Husted
John & Aleli Howell	Tom Balestreri	Joe & Seren Huston
Lynne Jordan & Dennis Clark	Patrice & Phil Blakeway	Nelle Jacobson
Hugh & Wendy Kendrick	Ray & Carolyn Bloom	Michael & Rita James
Von & Betty Kuehn	Ann & Jon Bowman	Bob & Fran Jepperson
Richard Morrison	Mary Brady	Sharon Johnson
Steve & Susan Schwalb	John & Rose Brierley	Brian & Pat Kelly
Sebo's Henery Hardware	Steve Clarke & Stella Spring	Marjorie Kilbreath
Todd & Georgia Stewart	Richard Crabill	Lauren Kinderknecht
Katie Tibbetts	Jo Critchlow	Dick & Dorie Kohler
Windermere Real Estate, Anacortes	Bailey & David Cunningham	Rae Kozloff
Kerry Allen	Geralyn Curtis	Ryan, Lindi & Parker Kudlacek
Bret & Jean Andrich	Todd & Sharon Dale	Diana Laiche
Wendy Barto-Logan	Doug & Judy Davidson	Carl & Karen Latham
Beverly & Mark Beppler	Hope Dean	Rick & Kathy Latham
Tomas Burfield	Paul Dinnel & Vicki McNeil	Tom Lebovsky & Jane Billingham
Diane Eiesland	Lani Donohoe & Tom Griffin	Ron Lindsay
Greg & Leslie Ford	Julie Drake & Steve Lloyd	Rick & Meredith Machin
Donald Frey	Ann Dursch	Mac Madenwald & Wendy Gray
Tim & Cindy Garrison	Katie & Mike Earley	Leslie & James Massey
Laurie Gere	James Eberhardt	Barb Mathison
John & Gerri Gunn	Marie & John Erbstoesz	Meredith McIlmoyle
Marcia Hunt	Cory & Naomi Ertel	Don McLaskey & Susan Hill
Dian & Steve Jahn	Bruce & Margaret Evertz	Malcolm & Michelle McPhee

Sue Mehler  
Robert C. & Barbara J. Meier  
Janine Moden  
Linda & Vance Nichols  
Gabriel & Jeanne Olmsted  
Susan Parke & Dederick Ward  
Patti Pattee  
John & Marilyn Pinquoch  
Rob & Erin Reiger  
Suzette Richards  
Bob Rose & Mary Lynn Luke  
Emily & Eric Schuh  
Charlie Schultz & Terri Bakke Schultz  
Dan Senour  
James & Mary Sikkema  
Patrick Smedile  
Sarah & Jamie Southard  
Mary Stark  
Charles Stavig & Candice Reid  
Pat Sterling  
Andy & Kristin Stewart  
Tom & Barb Stockton  
Richard & Daphne Storwick  
Darcy Swetnam  
Mike & Laura Taylor  
Jim & Gina Thompson  
Jill Thomson  
Sarah & Jack Tobien  
Jane Wagner & Bruce Bollert  
Pinky & Duff Walker  
Daniel L. Walters  
Dedrick Ward & Susan Parke  
Bob & Judy Weathers  
John & JoAnn Webster  
Jan Weedman  
Ron & Jan Wesen  
Dave & Joanne Witiak  
Bill & Jennifer Woyski  
Philip & Carolynne Wright  
Sandra Anderson  
Andrea Bachman  
Amanda Baltazar  
Susan Barror  
David Grant Best  
Bikespot  
Jackie Boss  
Thomas Boyle  
B.J. Carol  
Warren Carr & Ruth LeBrun  
Betty Carteret & Eric Shen  
Katharine Dreyfuss  
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Cheryl & Doug Everhart  
Tom Flanagan & Kathleen Lorence-  
Flanagan  
Jean Galeazzi  
Kenley & Joan Gard  
Jan Hersey & Jay Ham  
Gene & Bette Huff  
Dean Janz & Leslie Price  
Thomas & Lane Johnson

Beverly Kalani  
Eugene & Barbara Kiver  
Bonnie & Tod Lehecka  
Don & Chris Magness  
Judy & Gordi Middleton  
Dan Mosby & Kathy Peterson  
Justin & Kimberly Munoz  
Maura Rendes & David Johnson  
Craig & Heather Romano  
Patricia & Mark Rothman  
Richard & Sue Sigmen  
Susan & Alan Smith  
Kimberley Standard  
Susan Taylor  
Lyle & Carla Tiberghien  
Anna & Torolf Torgersen  
Rosemary & Marvin Walter  
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Larry & Shirley Bowlin  
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John Courtney  
Rick & Diane Davidson  
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Patsy Falke & Ralph Rowland  
Ron & Jeanette Fernandez  
Maurice & Helene Fink  
Cliff & Johanna Finkbohner  
Marlene Finley  
Tom & Sally Foster  
Didi & Steve Funk  
Patrick Gallagher  
Katrina Gardner  
Joel & Clara Hamel  
Ron Haywood & Leanne Lunsford-  
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Lisa Lee  
Jeff & Kelly List  
Edmund Marmol & Kathy Van Alstyne  
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Sylvia Pippen  
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Kevin & Corinne Saylor  
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Randy & Charlotte Spada  
Suzanne Spracklin  
Nancy & Paul Stannert  
Bill Stone  
Charlene & Wayne Stoner  
Tom Strawman  
Linda & Lynell Tanigoshi  
Gina Van Hess & Don White  
Paul & Rene Vance  
Tom & Jean Vicary  
Patricia Winkler  
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Laura & Paul Spehar  
Mary Stahl  
Nancy Van Dyke-Dickison  
Joan Voorheis  
Clay Wilcox  
Betsy Woodson Myles

# Your Forest, Your Pacific Northwest Trail



Have you seen this bird while hiking in the Northwest? Look for the iconic Thunderbird service mark at a growing number of trail junctions along the 1200 mile corridor.

Do you know what Mount Erie, Mount Olympus and Mt. Baker have in common? They're all key landmarks along the Pacific Northwest Trail, one of America's newest National Scenic Trails! The Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) is a 1,200 mile footpath which runs from the Rocky Mountains in Glacier National Park to the Pacific Ocean in Olympic National Park.

Across Washington, Idaho, and Montana, dozens of gateway communities act as local stewards of the trail by helping to ensure it remains open and safe for everyone to enjoy. Much like the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, the PNT is an example of how local citizens can work together to create outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and safeguard natural resources to improve the quality of life in their communities.

While many of our favorite trails are located within one single park, National Scenic Trails, like the PNT, can span multiple states

and jurisdictional boundaries. In the Puget Sound, the PNT follows six miles of beautiful tread within the ACFL between Fidalgo Bay and Deception Pass. The PNT also traverses three National Parks, seven National Forests and six Washington State Parks.

For over 40 years, hikers, equestrians and others have found adventure along the Pacific Northwest Trail. Ron Strickland, the trail's founder, was inspired to create a route from the Crown of the Continent to the Pacific Coast during a backpacking trip with guidebook author, Harvey Manning in the 1970s.

## Friends of the Forest

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of every month. We meet in the Barrett

Financial office conference room, located at 1809 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved!

### 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

### 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

**Lynne Jordan** | Secretary | Jan. 2021

**Andy Stewart** | Past President | Jan. 2020

**Ed Gastellum** | Board Member | Jan. 2021

**Steve Williams** | Board Member | Jan. 2020

**Bill Dietrich** | Board Member | Jan. 2020

**Rob Skelton** | Board Member | Jan. 2021

**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

**Melissa Courtney** | Forest Educator  
360-399-6292

**Mackenzie Wilson** | Communications Director  
360-399-6472

Today most folks enjoy the PNT one trip at a time with some ambitious backpackers attempting to take in all of its natural beauty in a single go. Although long-distance hiking has become more popular on the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails over the last 50 years, the PNT sees relatively light use among thru-hikers. Less than 400 people have walked the trail from end-to-end so far.

During the prime hiking season, residents of Anacortes may notice thru-hikers around the city resupplying and resting up for the next leg of their trips. As the story goes, during his historic 1983 thru-hike, Ron Strickland was asked how to spot a thru-hiker. Strickland smiled, pulled down the top of his gym sock, and said, "by their bad tans and easy smiles."

To reach trails in the ACFL, westbound thru-hikers will have spent six weeks walking from the Rocky Mountains -- ample time to develop awkward tan lines, rarefied tales, and some huge appetites. After spending weeks in remote wilderness with scant provisions, PNT thru-hikers welcome the amenities found in the Puget Sound, including clean sheets on soft beds, fresh local foods and new environments with hundreds of miles of shoreline to explore.

Volunteers from communities along the trail, like Anacortes, have a big effect on the PNT experience. Good samaritans provide assistance to thru-hikers, and volunteers help enhance the 1200 mile Pacific Northwest Trail system. Since 1977, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association has worked with grassroots volunteers to maintain the PNT and scout the best possible routes for world-class footpath between the Continental Divide and westernmost point in the lower 48.

Today, ten years after PNT was designated a National Scenic Trail, the PNTA continues our work to enhance the trail system and to protect the resource by providing free up-to-date maps and trip planning information.

PNTA also works with local youth and a variety of organizations in the maintenance and construction of the trail such as the Washington Trails Association and the Back Country Horsemen of America.

In the Puget Sound, the Skagit Whatcom Island Trail Maintenance Organization (SWITMO), has been instrumental in the maintenance and construction of the PNT in places like Deception Pass State Park, Blanchard Mountain and many other popular trail segments.

So, the next time you visit the Pacific Northwest Trail in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands, imagine what it might be like to continue making your way along the trail. In a few weeks time, you could traverse the Olympic Mountains and wiggle your toes in the sandy shores of the Pacific. Or if its solitude you seek, you could head east through breathtaking landscapes so wild and remote that animals iconic of wilderness, like the grizzly bear and gray wolf still roam.

To plan your trip or learn more about the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, visit us online at: [www.pnt.org](http://www.pnt.org), or at our new office in downtown Sedro-Woolley.

Written by Sterling Collins-Hill,  
Western Washington Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association



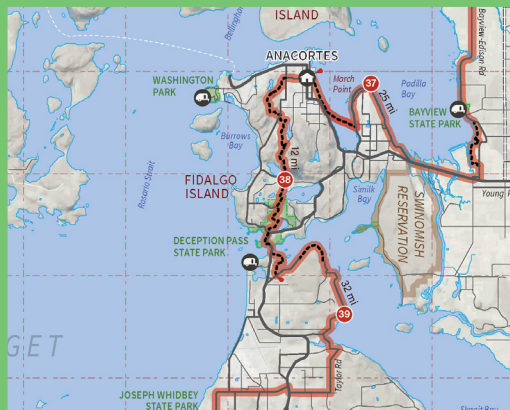
Hole-in-the-Wall in Olympic National Park is a popular destination for day hikes. Photo by Alex Maier.



The Belly River Valley in Glacier National Park is home to the Eastern Terminus of the PNT. Photo by Ashley Hill.



The PNTA performs 80% of the maintenance on the PNT with local youth from gateway communities along the trail.



Nearly 70 miles of the PNT are located in the Puget Sound. Visit [www.pnt.org](http://www.pnt.org) for more info.



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!