



# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 31 • Issue 2• SPRING 2018**



*For many years volunteers worked to rake in and pull out invasive milfoil from Heart Lake. Their efforts were gallant, yet only provided a temporary dent in the effusive growth.*



*The alum phase of treatment is carefully applied to Heart Lake with specially designed equipment and constant monitoring of water pH balance. The contractor strived to keep the pH level constant and neutral for the duration of the two-day application. The volume of dose is calculated to the depth of water as the boat moves.*

## **Heart Lake Treatment is Complete**

The second and final phase of the Heart Lake treatment plan was completed on April 3rd and 4th. Herrera Environmental and City staff worked closely with HAB Aquatic Solutions, an alum application contractor hired by the City. Western Washington University was on site for water sampling and wildlife monitoring as well. The weather was calm and all signs indicate a successful treatment was achieved. This work culminated a multi year community and state agency process to determine best treatment for the dual problems of excessive invasive hybrid milfoil/filamentous algae growth and increasingly common harmful algal blooms of cyanobacteria. Each of these problems had very dramatic impacts on recreation in the lake, and increasing detrimental impacts on habitat quality for native plants and animals.

All non-chemical means of control were explored, and the decision to try a floridone herbicide treatment last fall followed by the alum application this spring was made. The floridone was applied in three successive doses last September with a noticeable effect on algal growth. The alum treatment was timed carefully for minimum impacts on breeding amphibians and before the annual WDFW stocking of trout for opening day. The alum binds with nitrogen and phosphorus in the water column and sinks it down to the bottom where a capping occurs. The reduction in dissolved nutrient levels in the water should inhibit both microscopic phytoplankton growth and larger aquatic plant growth. The treatment is expected to last about a decade.

Observers present throughout the application process saw no adverse impacts on wildlife. However, the day after the treatment was complete, some fish mortality was observed. City Forest Manager, Jonn Lunsford writes,

“The application went smoothly overall. The alum went out on the lake as planned. The lake had a naturally occurring high pH level that the consultant and contractor were adjusting for during the treatment. Staff did find about 22 trout that died we believe due to aluminum toxicity from the high pH. Aluminum toxicity irritates the gills as the flocculation from the treatment settles in the water and can cause the trout to suffocate. While this is a low number of fish, we are working with the contractor to better understand why this happened by doing further testing and water sample collection.

The aluminum toxicity did not and does not pose a threat to humans or other wildlife.”

Follow up monitoring of aquatic plant growth and water quality will continue.



*Look for red Indian paintbrush on meadow edges and mossy rock forest clearings.*

## Greetings Friends,

Early April showers are drenching the island as I write. With lows still in the lower 40's it is looking like spring will continue to be cool and wet with wildflowers coming on strongest in May. This pattern is matching last year, and the extended forecast is similar as well. We can expect another sunny and beautiful summer to grace our region. This is great news for our summer dreams, and tough news for our forest with increased fire danger, recreational impacts, and drought induced stress on our native flora. Much will depend on whether we get any measurable rain during the summer months. Just a few showers here and there can really make a difference in shrub and tree health. The past three summers have had a distinctive seasonal drought effect, with mortality of young cedar trees and impacted salal and sword fern visible throughout the woods. We will have to wait and see if the pattern shifts this year. For now, it is the time to drink in the lush beauty of spring. The green is never greener, the bird song full of meaning. Follow the buzz of bumblebees and hum of hummingbirds on your next saunter in the woods. Let scent and petal be your delight.

Within the Anacortes Community Forest Lands we have many different kinds of habitats, and each habitat holds different kinds of wildflowers. The dominant habitat is mature second growth natural succession forest. Under the forest canopy, there are many kinds of native shrubs and vines. The first to bloom begin as early as February and the last as late as August. Some examples of these are; Indian plum, red flowering currant, salmonberry, thimbleberry, red huckleberry, trailing blackberry, salal, Oregon grape, and snowberry. Ocean spray puts on a beautiful show and orange trumpet honeysuckle climbs high into the trees. The peak season for shrub and vine flowering is May-July.

Tender forest floor wildflowers include sweet Cicely, foamflower, fringe cup, wild lily of the valley, Siberian miner's lettuce, wild strawberry, star lily, and a variety of native orchids like fairy slippers, rattlesnake plantain (goodyera), and the coral root orchids. April through July is the prime season for these lovelies.

Most people think of our other wildflowers though, the beauties that inhabit our rocky bald meadow habitats here in the islands. On Fidalgo Island we have many areas of this precious and delicate habitat type. Within the ACFL, Mount Erie and Sugarloaf Mountain are the prime destinations. It is so important to stay on the trail when seeking these areas! Prime bloom time is April and May with the peak tending to be right in the middle depending on our weather. Our rocky bald meadows support native grasses and fragile lichens and mosses. The first flowers are spring gold and blue eyed Marys, with a wave of fawn lilies, blue camas lily and death camas following. Red Indian paintbrush, Hooker's onion, blue larkspur, Western buttercup, nodding onion, chocolate lily, and more orchids are also commonly in the mix. Nootka rose and Oregon grape tend to grow thickest along the edges of the meadows.

As our school programs kick in to gear and community hikes increase, I hope to see you in the woods!

*Denise Crowe*



*The cream colored flowers of death camas are distinct from the flowers of blue camas as they grow and bloom together in our native island meadows. Great care was taken in traditional blue camas bulb harvest, to not gather death camas bulbs as well. One provided an essential food, the other a highly toxic danger to the people.*



## 2018 Forest Discovery Program

Plan ahead for summer - register now!

**What:** The "Forest Discovery Program" is an activity oriented summer day camp for boys and girls ages 7 to 12. Each day we explore a different area of our Community Forest Lands. As we hike, play games, make nature journals and experiment, we learn about wild animals, native plants and different habitats.

**Where:** Forest Discovery will meet at a different trailhead each day. More detailed instructions, maps & directions will be sent to you prior to your session. The trails are all within the Anacortes City limits.

**When:** There will be TWO sessions offered. Each session will meet Tuesday through Thursday. Your child may attend only one session. Please do not sign your child up if you do not plan to attend all three days. Dates and Times are as follows:

**Session #1:** July 24, 25, 26

**Session #2:** August 7, 8, 9

10 - 12 year olds from 9:00am to 11:30 am daily

7 - 9 year olds from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm daily

\*Registration is required in advance.

Each session is limited to 12 participants. Sign up early!

360-293-3725 or email: [info@friendsoftheforest.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheforest.org)



## ADULT SPECIAL FOREST PROGRAMS

### ETHNOBOTANY FIELD SEMINAR

Thursday, June 21st

10am until 4pm

Celebrate the Summer Solstice learning about native plants in the forest! Ethnobotany is the study of native plants and the traditional uses of the plants by people. You will learn about food, medicine, and materials derived from the vast array of native plants in our woods. Adults only, must register by phone or email. More information will be given upon registration. (Require advance registration 360-293-3725 / [info@friendsoftheforest.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheforest.org))

### From the Forest to the Sea

Observing, Drawing and Writing in Nature on Fidalgo Island

Thursday, July 12

10am - 4 PM

All abilities are welcome as we combine observational drawing and writing in exploration of Fidalgo Island with local naturalist Denise Crowe and interdisciplinary artist Kate Clark.

This workshop engages in observation as an interdisciplinary creative practice. We will learn to heighten our senses and ways of knowing through varied approaches to documenting what we see, hear, smell, and feel onto the page.

Advance registration is required for this workshop. More details will be given closer to the date.



*Save the Date!*

Saturday November 3rd - Friends of the Forest benefit party, at the Port Warehouse.



# Spring Calendar 2018



*Get to know your community forestlands!  
It's time to join a guided hike, and begin to learn more  
about the fascinating wild heart of our island.*

The Friends of the Forest is a non-profit, citizen organization dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach, and stewardship. We have a multi-layered education program that strives to meet the needs of all Fidalgo Island residents. Our education program includes K-12 guided school field trips, Adult/Senior hikes, All ages hikes, Forest Discovery Day Camp, habitat restoration efforts, adult field seminars, a quarterly newsletter, and our two comprehensive school district programs; Growing Wild-native plants for all 3rd graders, and Middle School Watershed Discovery for all students in the 7th grade.

Our community hikes are FREE and no registration is required. Please join our Naturalist Guide, Denise Crowe, for spring fun as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together. For more information about our group or these hikes please contact Denise Crowe or Jean Andrich at 360-293-3725. You may also visit our website [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) or inquire by email at [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org). These hikes focus on human and wildlife experience, so we ask that you please leave your pets at home. Hope to see you in the woods!

## All Ages Hikes

(Great for families and folks of all ages, these are hearty hikes with a naturalist guide.)

(In collaboration with Future Fest April 21&22 at the Port Warehouse)

### Forest Immersion Experience

**Sunday, April 22**

**9am until 11am**

Join us as we experience and celebrate an especially diverse area of our Anacortes Community Forest Lands on Earth Day morning. We will hike just over 2 miles through varied forest types, along the shores of Big Beaver Pond and Little Cranberry Lake, ascending to a rocky bald wildflower meadow in bloom. Your guide will share knowledge and field questions. Wear sturdy walking shoes and be prepared for times of quiet sense awareness.

Park on the exterior side of the JWKH walled parking lot located near the end of 29th St west off of D Ave.

### Sugarloaf Wildflowers

**Saturday, May 5th**

**10am until noon**

This is the ultimate wildflower hike of the year. We will savor the climb through alternating forest and rocky bald meadow, learning each flower as we go. From blue camas lily to red Indian paintbrush, come and see the bounty of color this little mountain has to offer. The views from the summit are not to be missed. Meet at the Southern trailhead halfway up the Mount Erie view road. The trip up and back is one mile, and quite steep and rocky in places.

### Little Cranberry Lake Loop

**Saturday, May 12th**

**10am until after noon**

The August 2016 18-acre fire on the east side of Little Cranberry Lake dramatically altered a large area of forest terrain. As we hike all of the way around on shore trail, we will take note of the regrowth in the fire zone and see how this lake basin provides diverse habitat for hundreds of native plants and animals. Will we see river otter? Raven? Red-legged frog? Wildflowers guaranteed. Meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot on the North end of the lake. (Take Georgia south off of Oakes Ave.- 3 blocks up take a right on Little Cranberry road and follow gravel to parking lot.)

## WORK PARTY with Ranger Dave

**Saturday April 21st • 9am**

This work party was canceled in February due to snow and frozen ground, so let's try it again to tackle invasive plants. An area along trail 126 is still infested with Scotch Broom and needs a group of volunteers to rip it out by the roots. This plant is easily recognized by its bright yellow flowers in the spring. Let's meet at trailhead 126 at the end of Fir Crest Blvd off A Ave. As always, dress for changing weather and bring good gloves and boots. We will supply the tools. If you need directions, please call Ranger Dave Oicles at 360-661-3554.

## Senior/Adult Hikes

A little bit gentler, with an adult level flora and fauna focus...

### Big Beaver Pond

Friday, April 13th

10am until noon

This gentle, just over one mile hike will lead us past three distinct wetlands and through two watersheds. You will come to know the qualities of a marsh, swamp, bog, and fen. We will explore the role of our resident beaver families in creating and sustaining this rich habitat within the ACFL. Enjoy this excellent birding opportunity. Meet at the end of 32nd St west off of D Ave.

### Morrison Meadow

Friday, May 11th

10am until noon

For those that can handle a little over one mile hike with some hills at a slow pace. This is a beautiful route that culminates in a lovely wildflower meadow, sure to be in bloom. Meet at the end of 29th St. west off of D Avenue.

### Heart Lake Old Growth

Friday, June 15th

10am until noon

It's time for a visit with our elders on the south shore of Heart Lake. Orange trumpet honeysuckle and Ocean spray will be blooming as we slow to the ancient rhythm of our old growth forest. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive. 1.7 miles

## Extra Gentle Hikes

Each of these outings is a mile or less on gentle trails and will last about an hour. An evening, some mornings...

### Sugarloaf Mountain Old Growth

Wednesday, May 2nd

5pm until 6pm

Tucked in to the bottom of Sugarloaf lies a sweet trail through ancient trees. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

### Whistle Lake Madrona Point

Wednesday, June 20th

9am until 10am

We will walk in to the Lake on a wide gravel road and enjoy the view! Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

*Wherever your trail adventures take you,  
please strive to do your part in  
helping to take care of the forest!*

- Stay on the trails that are designated for your particular use.
- Please keep your dogs on leash and pack out their waste.
- Please do not harvest or take anything out of the woods, except what you have brought in.
- Please respect wildlife and keep your distance from their activities and homes.
- There is no camping or drinking alcohol in the ACFL, and no fire of any kind. This includes smoking, fireworks, campfires, or grills and camp stoves.







## In Remembrance

We are sad to say goodbye to a dear forest friend and volunteer extraordinaire, Wanda Mull. She loved the Friends of the Forest and was always generous with her time and energy. Her “can do” attitude and impeccable organizational skills quickly brought her into the role of Auction Chairperson. With her red hair, bright smile and infectious laugh, she added a spark to our annual event year after year. Wanda will be deeply missed in our community and remembered as a true friend of the forest.

## Membership notes:

Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm & always by appointment.

Please renew or join today! We accept donations online. Visit our website and go to Contribute.

Confused on a hike location? Check out our website for links to driving directions to each hike location.

Need an ACFL trail map? We have an electronic version available for download on our website, as well as a listing of where maps are available for sale.

[www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)



## 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.*

### 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 can make these in honor or in memory.

### 3. Friends of the Forest 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 sizeable donations to our group.

### 4. Planned Giving

If you are making estate plans, please consider including our organization.

You may contact Denise Crowe or Jean Andrich (360-293-3725) at our office to discuss any of these options.

## FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.

### FOREST BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Starbuck 360-901-9179  
Brian Wetcher 360-293-7624  
Marty Laumbattus 360-293-7940  
Carolyn Moulton 360-588-1676  
Aaron Ramussen 360-293-3018

### PARKS & FOREST LANDS

#### MANAGER

Jonn Lunsford 360-299-1953

#### ACFL RANGER

Dave Oicles 360-399-3970

## CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS

Meetings are Mondays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers.

NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS
Mayor Laurie Gere	<a href="mailto:coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org">coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org</a>	360-299-1950	12/31/21
W1 Ryan Walters	<a href="http://www.ryanwalters.org">www.ryanwalters.org</a>	360-610-7770	12/31/19
W2 Brad Adams	<a href="mailto:brada@cityofanacortes.org">brada@cityofanacortes.org</a>	360-293-3056	12/31/19
W3 Eric Johnson	<a href="http://www.anacorteseric.org">www.anacorteseric.org</a>	360-840-5415	12/31/19
P-4 Matt Miller	<a href="mailto:mattm@cityofanacortes.com">mattm@cityofanacortes.com</a>	360-588-9070	12/31/21
P-5 Bruce McDougall	<a href="mailto:bmcDougall@cityofanacortes.org">bmcDougall@cityofanacortes.org</a>	303-551-5554	12/31/21
P-6 Liz Lovelett	<a href="mailto:lovelett@cityofanacortes.com">lovelett@cityofanacortes.com</a>	360-588-8707	12/31/21
P7 Anthony Young	<a href="mailto:anthony@cityofanacortes.org">anthony@cityofanacortes.org</a>	360-873-8407	12/31/21

Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried: 360-299-1950

Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large: 360-293-1900

## FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

### OFFICERS

President Andy Stewart 360-299-9406  
Vice President Monica Ochs 360-770-8617  
Secretary Bill Dietrich 360-202-2882  
Treasurer Lin Nichols 360-299-3826

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Denise Crowe 360-293-3725

### DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Jean Andrich 360-293-3725

### WEBSITE ADDRESS

[www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Andy Stewart 360-299-9406 Jan. 2020 [akccstewart@earthlink.net](mailto:akccstewart@earthlink.net)  
Lin Nichols 360-293-3826 Jan. 2020 [lin.nichols@yahoo.com](mailto:lin.nichols@yahoo.com)  
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Charlie Collins 360-873-8873 Jan. 2019 [troutdental@yahoo.com](mailto:troutdental@yahoo.com)  
Ed Gastellum 360-293-7626 Jan. 2019 [ecgastel@wavecable.com](mailto:ecgastel@wavecable.com)  
Steve Williams 360-293-0830 Jan. 2020 [stephen.p.williams@shell.com](mailto:stephen.p.williams@shell.com)

Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in the Depot Building, located at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved.



Kym & Roger Aasen  
 Evelyn & Gary Adams  
 Kathryn Alexandra  
 David Allan & Marcy Shapley  
 Kerry Allen  
 Debbie Amos & Phil Cohen  
 Sandra Anderson  
 Bret & Jean Andrich  
 Shunji Asari  
 Andrea Bachman  
 Maureen Barkley  
 Helen Baumgartner  
 Beverly & Mark Beppler  
 Richard Bergner  
 David Grant Best  
 Patrice & Phil Blakeway  
 Ray & Carolyn Bloom  
 Loren & Teresa Bogart  
 Larry & Shirley Bowlin  
 Ann & Jon Bowman  
 Mary Brady  
 Mark Bunzel  
 Ann Buzaitis  
 Wesley Capon  
 Glen & Carolyn Caporgno  
 Warren Carr & Ruth LeBrun  
 Sommer & Rob Carter  
 Nancy Chapman  
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 Rosemary & Marvin Walter  
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 Ish Wood  
 Betsy Woodson Myles  
 Bill & Jennifer Woyski  
 Philip & Carolynne Wright  
 Karl & Karen Yost  
 Drahomir Zboril & Margaret Rojas

### Business, Organizations, and Foundation Members

A'Town Bistro  
 ACME Creative  
 Adrift Restaurant  
 Anacortes Health and Nutrition  
 Anacortes Window Cleaning  
 Andeavor  
 Anthony's Restaurants  
 Aquarian Audio and Scientific  
 Barrett Financial, Ltd.  
 Bayside Dental Care  
 Bikespot  
 Cap Sante Inn  
 City of Anacortes  
 Coldwell Banker BAIN  
 D Avenue Nursery  
 Dakota Creek Industries, Inc.  
 Derek Damon, Orthodontics  
 ELMM Clinic  
 Emerald Marine Carpentry  
 Fidalgo Animal Medical Center  
 Fidalgo Island Rotary Club  
 Heritage Bank  
 Island Import Garage  
 Kiwanis Noon Club  
 McMullen & Ochs, Attorney at Law  
 Mountain View Dental Center  
 North Sound Oral & Facial Surgery, PS  
 Rosario Skin Clinic  
 Samish Indian Nation  
 Sebo's Henery Hardware  
 Shell Puget Sound Refinery  
 Skagit Community Foundation  
 Skagit Runners  
 Soroptimist International of Anacortes  
 Strandberg Construction, Inc.  
 Mark F. & Constance Wray on behalf of The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation  
 The Milton and Miriam Waldbaum Family Foundation  
 Thrive Community Fitness

### Memorials

In Memory of Earl Whited  
 Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

In Memory of Hershel Janz  
 Dean Janz

### Matching Gifts

Andeavor  
 Microsoft  
 Shell



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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 \_\_\_\_\_



Membership Renewal



New Member

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, P.O. Box 2213, Anacortes, WA 98221 or visit us at 611 R Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221

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