



# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 31 • Issue 2 • Spring 2017**

## *Celebrating Our 30th Year in Service to the Woods!*

The first official meeting of the Friends of the Forest was held in the Old Anacortes Public Library in April of 1987. Our membership and organization quickly grew in an effort to halt revenue logging, legally preserve the forest in perpetuity, and provide forest education in the community. We have achieved all of this, and so much more! The forest is now legally preserved in partnership with the Skagit Land Trust, the forest has grown by hundreds of acres, the City holds a 2 million dollar forest endowment, tens of thousands of students and community members have participated in our forest education and stewardship programs... all accomplished through steady work and the efforts of so many friends and partnerships through the years. Join us this year as we celebrate the accomplishments of our group and take heart in what our amazing forest means for all of us here on Fidalgo Island.

### **Fire Zone News**

Please have patience and continue to honor the barricades around the Little Cranberry Lake fire zone from last August. This is for your safety and the health of the forest. City staff are working to re-open trail 103 at the top of Morrison Hill by the beginning of June. The lakeshore trail will take longer to repair.



### **Please Weigh In on the Future of Heart Lake**

The March 2 Forest Advisory Meeting had a special guest. Rob Zisette, a scientist from Herrera Environmental Consulting, was on hand to present findings from their research at Heart Lake. The research was funded by a Department of Ecology grant and included field work by Western Washington University. Rob concluded that an alum treatment at the lake would be appropriate and he estimated it would cost close to \$140,000 and may last 5 to 10 years.

City staff have been working with scientists from Herrera Environmental Consulting, WWU Institute for Watershed Studies, and staff at the Department of Ecology (DOE) to better understand how to treat the hybrid milfoil and algae at Heart Lake.

Forest Lands Manager, Jonn Lunsford, writes, "We have nearly completed research on the algae in the lake and we now have a number of options to consider. To do an alum treatment next spring would cost us close to \$140,000. This treatment would not be a one-time deal, it is likely the City would need to repeat it every 5 to 10 years. If it was not successful, we would have to repeat the treatment sooner. The alum would help to lock up available phosphorus in the lake and hopefully retard algal blooms. For treating the hybrid milfoil there are a number of options as well. We are working with DOE to understand what herbicide treatment would work best. A hybrid milfoil (what we have) can be more difficult to eradicate than Eurasian Milfoil. We are looking into using the herbicides 2, 4D, triclopyr or fluridone this summer. Costs could run in excess of \$60,000 and if successful herbicides would probably have to be reapplied to a lesser extent each year. Doing nothing is an option, but it would lead to the continued plant growth at the lake and inhibit the traditional recreational uses."

The Forest Advisory Board welcomes your comments. The matter will likely go to City Council this Spring.

# Painted Rocks in the ACFL

By Ranger Dave

There is a new trend in town that started a year or two ago and has become more popular. This new trend is occurring around town, out in the County Parks, City Parks, and in our Anacortes Community Forest Lands. And the new trend is... placing painted rocks in various locations including trailheads, alongside trails, and along the edge of creeks, ponds, and lakes. The painted rocks can be a simple drawing or an elaborate "piece of art." Some are placed in hollow tree stumps, on moss covered logs, and among other natural rocks in the landscape. The goal or purpose after placing these rocks, is for someone to find one. There is usually a message on the rock to tell you to post the rock on Facebook, and then keep it or place it out somewhere else for others to find. Young children are the primary targets for these rocks, but anyone can participate. This seems harmless enough, right?



Here's the problem, especially in the ACFL. The rocks have become a distraction along the trails, with folks looking for them, going off trail, and disrupting the flora and fauna. Some folks see the painted rocks as trash or litter along the trails. Others are concerned about the type of paint that is used and whether the paint is harmful to wildlife. Rocks have also been found with metal, plastic, and stickers glued to them. And many folks who venture in the ACFL only want to see nature as its best, without the distraction of manmade objects.

So how many rocks are we talking about? I know that I find a few each week in the ACFL, and other Parks Staff are finding rocks in City parks each week as well. We have collected well over 200 rocks in the past 9 months in City Parks and in the ACFL. It used to be we would find one or two a month, but with parents and teachers encouraging their children to play this game, it is just becoming more popular. Articles in local newspapers have also described this trend as a fun family activity. And last month a special day was organized for kids to go out and put more rocks in the woods and parks, which has only expanded the trend.

So what can we do? I feel this is a fun family and child activity, but we should keep it out of the ACFL because of the concerns listed above, and encourage kids and adults who want to play this game to place the rocks in their neighborhoods, backyards, or on school grounds. The only items that are allowed to be placed in the ACFL are approved geocaches, and that requires a permit and approval process for the location and size of cache. Placement of geocaches in the wrong places have damaged natural areas with people turning over rocks, logs, and tearing apart stumps trying to find the cache, not to mention the trampling of plants. Let's help prevent more of this damage by discouraging the placement of painted rocks in the ACFL. Thank you for keeping the forest green!

## Heart Lake Area ACFL Land Purchase is Complete!

At the end of February the City finalized the purchase of 41 acres of land contiguous to the ACFL from the Van Buren & Mclean families. This property is prime wildlife habitat south of Heart Lake, and a wonderful addition to our woods. The City thanks everyone who contributed to this cause and to our partners at the Friends of the Forest and Skagit Land Trust who worked with us during this process. We plan to put in a trail by the end of this year.

## Spring and Summer Heart Lake Road Work

The City will be repairing Heart Lake Road this year. Currently, the plan is for the road repairs to start in May. The road will be closed during working hours as crews will be cutting up asphalt and installing gravel and new asphalt. After the repairs, this summer the County will be contracted to chip-seal the road. During repairs, some of the trailheads along Heart Lake Road will be inaccessible.

## And in other Heart Lake News...

Beaver have returned to Heart Lake. Our Adult Hikers on March 10th were treated to an up close beaver sighting on the south shore near midday. The beaver was initially on land working on a recently fallen tree. They quickly slipped into the water as we arrived, then swam in circles waiting for us to move on from the area.

Plan ahead for summer - register now!



## 2017 Forest Discovery Program



- 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 25, 26, 27**

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

**Session #2: August 8, 9, 10**



\*Registration is required in advance. Each session is limited to 12 participants.

Sign up by phone: 360-293-3725 or email: [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org)

## ADULT SPECIAL FOREST PROGRAMS

(Require advance registration 293-3725 / [info@friendsoftheacfl.org](mailto:info@friendsoftheacfl.org))



### ETHNOBOTANY FIELD SEMINAR

Friday, June 23rd • 10am until 4pm



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.

### FROM THE FOREST TO THE SEA • Observing, Drawing and Writing in Nature on Fidalgo Island

Tuesday, July 11+ Thursday, July 13 • 10-3 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 two-day workshop engages in fieldwork as an interdisciplinary creative practice. What does field work mean if you are an artist, writer, or biologist? Each discipline draws upon keen powers of observation. We will learn to heighten our senses and ways of knowing through honing our skills in drawing, writing, and journaling.

We will experience the fundamentals of drawing (perspective, gesture, foreground/background, texture, scale) through a variety of medium and techniques useful to the beginner or advanced artist. Equipped with a toolbox of building block drawing techniques, and varied approaches to language we will explore and develop our own voice as observers in the field.

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

*Save the Date!*

Saturday, November 4th ~ Annual Friends of the Forest benefit party, at the Port Warehouse.





# Spring Calendar 2017

**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 not for profit, citizen organization dedicated to the preservation of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands through education, outreach, and stewardship. We have been serving the needs of the forest and Fidalgo Island residents since 1987. Our education program includes K-12 guided school field trips, Adult/Senior hikes, All ages hikes, Extra gentle hikes, fitness hikes, Forest Discovery Day Camp, Ethnobotany and Nature Writing 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 7th grade. Our community hikes are free and no registration is required. Please join us this spring as we continue to explore and learn more about the ACFL together.

**For more info 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!*



## Senior/Adult Hikes

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

**Morrison Meadow  
Friday, May 12th  
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 9th  
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 (New Offering!)

Each of these outings is a mile or less on gentle trails and will last about an hour.

**Sugarloaf Mtn Old Growth  
Wednesday, April 26th  
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.

**Big Beaver Pond View  
Wednesday, May 31  
9am until 10am**

There is a wonderful secret spot on the south shore of Big Beaver Pond with a viewing platform. Some hills. Meet at the gated kiosk at 37th and A Avenue.

**Whistle Lake Madrona Point  
Wednesday, June 21nd  
5pm until 6pm**

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



## FAST PACED FITNESS HIKES For the very fit only!

**A grand tour of the Whistle  
Lake Forest Lands  
Saturday, June 17  
10:00 am until 1:30 pm  
Distance: 7 miles**

For people that want to move fast through the forest, and already know that they can! These offerings are lead by Jean and some of our very athletic board members who love to get out in the woods and really cover some ground.

A thigh-crunching hike through the Whistle Lake area including Sugarloaf, a circumnavigation of Whistle Lake, and Sugarcube. Bring water and meet at the Heart Parking Lot.

## All Ages Hikes

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

**Earth Day  
NW shore traverse at Whistle Lake  
Saturday, April 22nd  
10am until noon**

Join friends for an Earth Day gathering in our beautiful Whistle Lake area of the ACFL. Learn about the history of the day and our community forest lands and the important role we all play in taking care of our community forest in perpetuity. Anticipate lovely wildflowers and great company. Meet at the Whistle Lake Parking lot. This hike is approximately 2.5 miles with some hills and uneven terrain.

**Sugarloaf Wildflowers  
Saturday, May 6th  
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 camus 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 scrubby in places.

**Westside Exploration  
Saturday, May 20th  
10am until noon**

Take a two-mile walk on the wild Westside! Calling all Skyline folk and anyone else that wants to know more about this great part of the woods. We will climb the watertower road and enter the forest from the west, exploring a network of Beaver Ponds that flow into Little Cranberry Lake. Meet at the intersection of Clyde Way and Cedar Glen Way.

**Little Cranberry Lake Loop  
Saturday, June 3rd  
10am until after noon**

The August 2016 18-acre fire on the east side of Little Cranberry Lake damaged trails and created dangerous conditions in the fire zone. The upper meadow trail (103) is scheduled to be open by this date. We will hike most of the way around on shore trail, then elevate to upper meadow through fire zone for the eastside stretch. Rocky meadows, bog islands, and deep forest converge in this basin to create habitat for hundreds of native plants and animals. Will we see river otter? Raven? Red-legged frog? Banana slug sightings 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.)

**All Around Whistle Lake  
Saturday, June 24th  
10 am until after noon**

Revel in the longest daylight of the year on our near summer solstice hike. We will fully explore the trails all the way around the Whistle Lake region of our woods. The route is just over 3 miles with some good hills. Meet at the Whistle Lake Parking Lot.



## **Ways To Give**

Our work depends on a healthy mix of funding sources. All donations to our group are tax deductible.  
Please consider the following options for financial contributions to our organization.

### 1.Active Membership

Dues are due in January. We offer several different categories of membership to suit your preference. Any contribution above your membership level is greatly appreciated. See our membership form on the back page of the newsletter and in our website.

### 2.Individual Contributions, Memorial and Gifts

Any size contribution is greatly appreciated to support our education and stewardship program. These can be made in memory of a loved one or as a gift in honor of someone.

### 3.Friends of the Forest Endowment Fund





The purpose of this fund is to create an endowment that will eventually provide interest income to our organization.

### 4.Planned Giving

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

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

## Membership notes:

-  January starts the new membership year, regardless of what month you joined or renewed.  
To save resources, we do not send out reminder postcards. Please renew or join today!
-  Confused on a hike location? Check out our website for links to driving directions to each hike location.
-  Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.
-  Need an ACFL trail map? Trail maps are now available for download on the City of Anacortes web site. Maps are available for sale in our office or you may also visit our website for a complete list of local sources.



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



FOREST ADVISORY BOARD				CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS			
The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.				Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.			
<u>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</u>		<u>PARKS &amp; FOREST LANDS</u>		<u>NAME</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>TERMS ENDS</u>
Sandra Starbuck	901-9179	<u>MANAGER</u>		Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/17
Brian Wetcher	293-7624	Jonn Lunsford	299-1953	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/19
Marty Laumbattus	293-7940	ACFL RANGER	Dave Oicles 661-3554	W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/19
Carolyn Moulton	588-1676			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	840-5415	12/31/19
Aaron Ramussen	293-3018			P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com	588-9070	12/31/17
				P-5 John Archibald	john@cityofanacortes.com	395-5923	12/31/17
				P-6 Liz Lovelett	lovelett@cityofanacortes.com	588-8707	12/31/17
				P7 Erica Pickett	ericap@cityofanacortes.org	293-6264	12/31/17
				Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried - 299-1950 Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large - 293-1900			

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Denise Crowe 293-3725			Charlie Collins	873-8873	Jan. 2019	troutdental@yahoo.com	
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Jean Andrich 293-3725			Steve Williams	293-0830	Jan. 2018	stephen.p.williams@shell.com	
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>							
www.friendsoftheacfl.org							



# Thank You!

## Friends of the Forest 2017 Members

All donor levels are greatly appreciated and collectively contribute to the wide range of education and stewardship programs that we provide in service to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

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Mountain View Dental Center  
North Sound Oral & Facial Surgery, P.S.  
Port of Anacortes  
Samish Indian Nation  
Sebo's Henery Hardware

Shell Puget Sound Refinery  
Skagit Community Foundation  
Skagit Cycle Center  
Skagit Runners  
Sorooptimist Int'l of Anacortes  
Strandberg Construction, Inc.  
Tesoro Refinery  
Ward Foundation  
Windermere Real Estate/Anacortes  
Mark F. & Constance Wray on behalf of  
The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation

### Memorials In Memory of Keith Kraft

Neil Andersen  
Patricia Botsko  
Paul & Elizabeth Carroll  
Jerry Crail  
Michel Daou  
Ed & Kathi Dinkgrave  
Nels Enderberg  
Paul Hall Brenda Hill  
Steve Hoffman  
Doree Howell  
Karen Jaquish  
David Jones  
Hughes Judith  
Deanne King  
Barry & Kim Klein  
Keith Kraft  
Chris LeMoine  
Jacqueline Leopard  
Pam Manley  
Malcolm & Michelle McPhee  
Michael Moore  
Linda Oku  
Kim & Brice Ort  
Rosemary Podwin  
Janice Postler  
Kathleen Puckett  
Douglas Quinn  
Christine Rathweg  
Michael Roosen  
Charles Saacke  
Tracy Scott  
Shell Deer Park Site  
Shell P & T Manufacturing  
Nancy Tracy  
Barbara Waters Dinkgrave  
Tammie & John White  
Bill & Jennifer Woyski  
Shirley Yap

### In Memory of Lavern M. Deane

Jane Molenkamp

### In Memory of Dr. James Ostlund

Jon & Leslie Ostlund

### Matching Gifts

Microsoft  
Shell  
Tesoro

Please let us know if your name is missing, misspelled or if you prefer to be listed differently.



**FRIENDS OF THE ACFL**  
P.O. BOX 2213  
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*Please renew or Join Today!*



## 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!