



# *Friends of the Forest*

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

**Volume 31 • Issue 3 • SUMMER 2018**



*Heart Lake is  
Beautiful!*

## **FAB and Friends Flotilla Meeting July 5th**

Members of the Forest Advisory Board, Friends of the Forest Board and staff from the City and the Friends gathered for our annual joint meeting in the woods on July 5th. We were eager to experience the results of the long process of treatment at Heart Lake that culminated this spring. We had an amazing evening exploring this once again beautiful lake with our flotilla of small boats, kayaks, and paddleboards. With water so clear you can see the bottom in places, we observed fish and healthy plankton galore. We expect more native algae growth to come back in to balance as the summer progresses. It is a wonderful feeling to know that the extensive years long community process combined with state agency and city government support for best science professional treatment has resulted in bringing our beautiful Heart Lake back to shimmering health. Be sure to get out and see for yourself with a swim or a paddle soon!

*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.
- If you see any rules being broken in the forest, please call 911 and state if it is a non emergency call, then report the violation.

### **Special Notice:**

Fire Danger is going to be at high levels this summer. Please do everything you can to avoid any kind of spark source in or around the woods. Cigarette butts are the leading cause of fire in our forest lands, please do not smoke in the ACFL! If you live near the woods, check out the Firewise program at [Firewise.org](http://Firewise.org) to learn about how you can help reduce wildfire risk in your neighborhood. Working together, we can make a difference!



"This is a healthy native banana slug feasting on oyster mushrooms. Banana slugs help spread fungal spores throughout the forest as they help decompose all kinds of organic matter and turn it into nutrient rich soil."

## A question from high school students working on a climate change project this spring...

### Well, How do you get affected by climate change?

Dear Baylie and Anissa,

Well, that could be a very big question so I will tackle just one area that is affecting me every day. We are seeing effects of climate change in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands where I work. Weather patterns have been changing in accord with climate change predictions for our area. Simply put, rain is more in the winter season and Spring- Fall is dryer. The past three years have brought significant summer drought and we are seeing high levels of tree and shrub mortality throughout the forest. Younger western red cedar and hemlock trees, sword fern, salal, and other shrubs are dying off due to lack of water and hotter temperatures. Little animals that have important decomposer roles like Banana slugs and yellow spotted millipedes are greatly reduced in number most likely from drought conditions as well.

We know that forest fire danger is increasing. What are the long-term effects of these changes on forest health and food webs? We don't know fully, and the changes are happening rapidly. It is concerning and it is a challenge to connect the dots for people in a way that will inspire action to change our ways. Most people are happy to have sunny summers and don't have compassion for banana slugs or millipedes. Yet I fear that the changes we are seeing now are just the beginning and that native animals and plants will struggle to adapt.

I hope this helps you out. Please let me know if you have any other questions!

*Denise Crowe*

## Save the Date!

### Friends of the Forest Annual Benefit Event

**November 3rd  
at the Port Warehouse**

**Please join us for The Best Party of the Year**, while raising funds to support our Forest Education and Stewardship Program. This program provides a wide range of educational activities in the ACFL that promote a greater understanding of our unique community treasure.

The format will be the same as last year, casual and relaxed! We are starting at 5 pm to allow more time for silent auction browsing and socializing with forest friends. The live auction, hosted by Bob Vaux, offers a few select items and will include a direct giving opportunity through "Wave a Branch." Fidalgo Swing will play live music throughout the evening and Gere a Deli will provide appetizers, dinner and dessert.

Tickets will be available through the Friends of the Forest Office, Watermark Book Company or online at: [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org) beginning in September.

If you have something special to donate to the auction, please let us know. Sponsorships are also available. Look for updates on our website: [www.friendsoftheacfl.org](http://www.friendsoftheacfl.org)

### **Featured Artist: Peregrine O'Gormley**

We look forward to unveiling the Featured Artwork in early fall, it will also be on our event poster and featured in our live auction.



## ACFL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



*Hershel Janz at work.*

Greetings from the ACFL Crew! We are already off to a wonderful summer, with warm days and plenty of sunshine. The ACFL Crew, (Dave, Julia, and Chris) are busy pruning along the 52 miles of trails and patrolling the lakes during warm weather events. Our summer is generally short with the summer crew available to work from mid-June until Labor Day. During the rest of the year it's just Dave out there maintaining the trails and managing the forest lands. We also do a number of work parties during the winter months which consist of repairing trails, picking up trash, and removing non-native invasive plants (which is a never ending task).

**This brings me to the topic concerning VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

In the past, we had an amazing volunteer, Mr. Hershel Janz aka the “Holly Annihilate-tor” who roamed the ACFL seven days a week looking for and removing non-native invasive plants. He focused on holly and it was his goal to hike every trail and remove all holly that was visible from the trail. After he reached that goal, he then would go into the woods and find more holly to remove and drag out to the trail-heads. Over 20 years Hershel removed hundreds of truckloads of holly and other invasive plants and gave thousands of hours of his time. When he would find an area heavily infested, we would organize a work party to get other volunteers to help with these huge tasks. Collectively with Hershel and other ACFL volunteers, it has been a huge successful program in our community forest lands. However, non-native plant seeds are constantly being deposited in the ACFL by birds, wind, animals, and sometimes by humans dumping yard waste along roads and in the woods behind their yards. So the task of removing invasive plants is never ending.

Hershel was a unique man, and I don't expect to ever find someone with the tenacity and drive to put in the thousands of hours of time he did, while walking his beloved dog Suke out on the trails. But the hope is we can find volunteers who are willing to scout out non-native invasive plants, flag with yellow tape, and spend a few hours a week removing invasive plants. I will provide any training needed on plant identification, yellow flagging tape, methods of removal, and the necessary tools needed to accomplish the job. So do I have any takers? Please call or email me and we can set up a time to get you started in a rewarding volunteer experience!

Thank you, I'll see you in the woods.

Ranger Dave Oicles 360-661-3554 [daveo@cityofanacortes.org](mailto:daveo@cityofanacortes.org)

### Trail #137 Opens With Help From Volunteers!

There is a new ACFL trail connecting the very top of Rock Ridge with trail #129 in the Little Cranberry Lake Area. This trail was proposed years ago and was scouted by staff and volunteers, with potential routes discussed and reviewed on site by FAB and the trail committee. Ranger Dave worked closely with lead volunteers, Bruce Rustad, Kevin Foss, and the Fidalgo Trail Riders.

Thank you to all that worked hard on this project and collectively clocked 130 hours!





# Summer 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 green 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 summer 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 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.)

### All around Heart

**Saturday, July 21st**

**10am until after noon**

There is no better place to be in the middle of summer than in the middle of our woods. Get to know the heart of the forest on this wonderful 2.7mile journey all the way around Heart Lake. Lush deciduous areas flow into an amazing old growth grove. Meet at the Heart Lake Parking lot.

### Mitten Pond Loop

**Saturday, August 11th**

**10am until noon**

Summer isn't over yet! The cool smell of water floats up the path as we near Mitten Pond. Whirligig beetles spin shining patterns in the glowing green duckweed. Dragonflies drift and zoom around us. Enjoy this wide path 2.4mile hike through the best of beaver pond territory. Meet at the ACFL kiosk on A Ave. and 37th.

### Erie View Trail

**Saturday, September 8th**

**10am until noon**

This is a trail of wonders, twisting and turning through prime wetland wildlife corridor all the way to a hidden meadow. Our most recent forest acquisition of 40 contiguous acres is in this area. The views of Lake Erie and Mount Erie are a rare treat. This hike is approximately 2.8 miles. Meet at the base of Mount Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

## Senior/Adult Hikes

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

### Northwest Whistle

**Friday, August 10th**

**10am until noon**

This route is a regular favorite, providing spectacular views and deep woods feel with just the right amount of physical challenge. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot. Just over 2 miles

### Northwest Heart

**Friday, September 14th**

**10am until noon**

We will explore a maze of trails in the Ace of Hearts Creek terrain. There will be some gentle hills on this just over 1 mile hike. Meet at the Heart Lake Parking Lot.







Watershed Discovery students write quiet observations on a field trip near 32nd St. Swamp.

## ***Congratulations to our 2018 Scholarship Recipients!***

Caitlin O'Connor, Liam Patrick and Adrianna Garner were each awarded \$1,000 from Friends of Forest. Caitlin is planning to major in Environmental Studies at Western Washington University. Liam is attending California State University at Monterey Bay this fall and will study Marine Science. Adrianna has plans to attend Stanford University and major in Linguistic Anthropology, as a way of preserving native culture.

On behalf of the Friends of the Forest, we congratulate these three outstanding students!

## **Beaver Dam Work Scheduled For This Summer**

Our beaver population in the ACFL is thriving, and they do very important work in our island watershed. The Little Cranberry Lake area is home to over 10 active lodges and multiple dams. Their dams have created and maintain an extensive network of varied wetland habitats that support diverse aquatic plant and animal species. Without our beavers, we would have less diversity of habitats and less diversity and abundance of wildlife in our woods.

Unlike beaver on a river system, ours have adapted to a very stable system of ponds. They rely on evergreen trees and aquatic plants for food and building materials. Typically, beaver will focus on deciduous trees for tender cambium and branches for food. Our beaver utilize cedar for tender branch tips and inner bark, as well as preferred sticks for construction. They also eat pond lilies and cattails.

We like to let the beaver expand their ponds when we can. However, there are key dam areas that border neighborhoods or essential trails where city staff intervene. It is illegal to alter beaver dams or lodges without permits. Our city staff has recently completed a process with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to be able to manage key dam areas in these interface zones. Later this summer, they will be doing some major dam work at 32nd Street Swamp and Mitten Pond. New "beaver deceiver" pipe systems will be put in place that will help keep these ponds from flooding or dam failure from flood events.

### **2018 Forest Discovery Day Camps**

Session #1: July 24, 25, 26 - Full

Session #2: August 7, 8, 9 - Full

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. Forest Discovery will meet at a different trailhead each day.

Our sessions are all full with wait lists. Please let us know if you are interested for future capacity planning!

## Friends of the Forest 2018 Members

*Thank You*

### Business, Organizations, and Foundation Members

A'Town Bistro  
Anacortes Health and Nutrition  
Adrift Restaurant  
Anacortes Window Cleaning  
Andeavor  
Anthony's Restraunts  
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  
Industrial Machine Tools, Inc.  
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 Hershel Janz  
Dean Janz

In Memory of Edith Tokola  
Miki & Claudia Tokola

In Memory of Marina Balestre  
Barrett Financial Community Caring Project

In Memory of Bob Pickett  
Barrett Financial Community Caring Project



## 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				CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS			
The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.				Meetings are Mondays, 6:00pm in Council Chambers.			
<b>FOREST BOARD MEMBERS</b>		<b>PARKS &amp; FOREST LANDS</b>		<b>NAME</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
Sandra Starbuck	360-901-9179	<b>MANAGER</b>		Mayor Laurie Gere	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	360-299-1950	12/31/21
Brian Wetcher	360-293-7624	Jonn Lunsford	360-299-1953	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	360-610-7770	12/31/19
Marty Laumbattus	360-293-7940	<b>ACFL RANGER</b>		W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	360-293-3056	12/31/19
Carolyn Moulton	360-588-1676			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org	360-840-5415	12/31/19
Aaron Ramussen	360-293-3018	Dave Oicles	360-399-3970	P-4 Matt Miller	mattm@cityofanacortes.com	360-588-9070	12/31/21
				P-5 Bruce McDougall	bmcDougall@cityofanacortes.org	303-551-5554	12/31/21
				P-6 Liz Lovelett	lovelett@cityofanacortes.com	360-588-8707	12/31/21
				P7 Anthony Young	anthony@cityofanacortes.org	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							
<b>OFFICERS</b>				<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>			
President	Andy Stewart	360-299-9406		Andy Stewart	360-299-9406 Jan. 2020	akccstewart@earthlink.net	
Vice President	Monica Ochs	360-770-8617		Lin Nichols	360-293-3826 Jan. 2020	lin.nichols@yahoo.com	
Secretary	Bill Dietrich	360-202-2882		Monica Ochs	360-770-6817 Jan. 2020	monica.ochs@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Lin Nichols	360-299-3826		Bill Dietrich	360-202-2882 Jan. 2020	williamadietrich@gmail.com	
<b>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</b>				Charlie Collins	360-873-8873 Jan. 2019	troutdental@yahoo.com	
Denise Crowe 360-293-3725				Ed Gastellum	360-293-7626 Jan. 2019	ecgastel@wavecable.com	
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</b>				Steve Williams	360-293-0830 Jan. 2020	stephen.p.williams@shell.com	
Jean Andrich 360-293-3725							
<b>WEBSITE ADDRESS</b>							
www.friendsoftheacfl.org							

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.
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# Thank You

## Friends of the Forest 2018 Members



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 Evelyn & Gary Adams  
 Kathryn Alexandra  
 David Allan & Marcy Shapley  
 Kerry Allen  
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 Sandra Anderson  
 Bret & Jean Andrich  
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 Andrea Bachman  
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 Jim & Betsy Walker  
 Pinky & Duff Walker  
 Rosemary & Marvin Walter  
 Connie & Tim Walters  
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 Sarah Welch & Jon Riedel  
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 Don Wick  
 Clay Wilcox  
 Susanne Wilhelm  
 Steve Williams  
 Jennifer & Scott Wilson  
 Dave & Joanne Witak  
 Ish Wood  
 Betsy Woodson Myles  
 Bill & Jennifer Woyski  
 Philip & Carolynne Wright  
 Karl & Karen Yost  
 Drahomir Zboril & Margaret Rojas

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





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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!