



Friends of the Forest

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

Volume 26 • Issue 1 • Winter 2012

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 (360-293-3725) at our office to discuss any of these options.

All are welcome at our . . .

Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 1st

7-9 pm

Anacortes Senior Activity Center

1701 22nd Street

Special guest presentation by Author Bill Dietrich

This is a great opportunity to get to know more about the Friends of the Forest and our work in service to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. We will begin with a brief annual report and elections, followed by a very special presentation. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Hope to see you there!

Our guest speaker, Bill Dietrich is a NY Times bestselling author and Pulitzer-winning journalist. He has written fifteen books, including historical thrillers that have been sold in 31 different languages and prize-winning Northwest environmental texts. Bill and his wife Holly have made Anacortes their home and Bill will be sharing his thoughts on the Anacortes Community Forest Lands with us.

Board members up for re-election are:

Andy Stewart

Monica Ochs

Lin Nichols

Jean Andrich

Open – Proposed Board Member Bill Dietrich
(Nominations will be accepted from the floor)

Guemes Mountain - Check it Out!

The Friends of the Forest Board recently hiked Guemes Mountain. If you haven't been on the new trail, it's worth the ferry ride and the 550 foot elevation gain to reach a panoramic view of the San Juan Islands and Anacortes. We also enjoyed lunch at Anderson's General Store as part of the experience!

About Guemes Mountain – In 2009, a large community effort protected Guemes Mountain. The Skagit Land Trust now owns and manages the conservation area and the San Juan Preservation Trust holds a conservation easement. Skagit Land Trust and The Washington Trails Association, along with 175 volunteers, built the 1.2 mile long trail to the summit. For a map and more information, go to www.skagitlandtrust.org.



Friends of the Forest Board Members from left are Lin Nichols, Monica Ochs, Kara Fox, Jean Andrich, Andy Stewart, Denise Crowe and Karen Hayes. Not pictured, Mary Sikkema

Conservation Easement Program Update

By Jonn Lunsford, ACFL Manager

Congratulations, we are nearly there! The 160 acres that we set out to protect near Sugarloaf at the beginning of the year are almost completely protected through conservation easements.

Thanks to the generosity of many Fidalgo Islanders and friends, enough money has been raised to protect almost 1,800 acres in the Community Forest Lands in 13 years. When the City started the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) in 1998 to protect the Forest Lands from logging, mining, or development I do not think anyone predicted such a rapid response.

We want to acknowledge our partnership with the Friends of the ACFL and Skagit Land Trust which helped to make the Conservation Easement Program so successful. If you are considering donating to conservation and stewardship in Anacortes, please consider the Friends' ongoing efforts to raise funds for education and stewardship in the ACFL. Donations are still accepted for the CEP and as land becomes available the City will apply the funds towards conservation.



TRAIL 200 NOW OPEN!

By Ranger Dave

The long awaited new addition to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands is now open for trail users to explore and enjoy. This new 20 acre parcel adds approximately a half mile of trail to our 52 mile trail system and is open to hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders.

In December of 1996, Floyd and Mary Willette of Anacortes donated the 20 acres, located east of Whistle Lake, to the City of Anacortes with a deed restriction stating, "for park purposes only." The property was once part of the area known as Scimitar Ranch, and included an established bridle trail system. Just recently, ACFL staff and volunteers built an access trail into the donated land from the northeast end of trail 29. Volunteers helped move large rocks, haul gravel, install a culvert and block off redundant trails.

The trail, numbered 200, meanders through a large grove of Big Leaf Maples, large Western Red Cedars and crosses a number of seasonal creeks. During the height of winter, water can be heard flowing in all directions. In the fall, much of the trail is covered in a yellow and orange blanket of Big Leaf Maple leaves. On your next visit to the Forest Lands, take a stroll or ride into this new addition and enjoy!



FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

The City Forest Advisory Board meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Fidalgo Center and is open to the public.

CITY OF ANACORTES ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor, 4-year term, at large, salaried - 299-1950
Council Members (7) 4-year terms - 3 from Wards, 4 at Large - 293-1900

FOREST BOARD MEMBERS		PARKS & FOREST LANDS		NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS
Pending		<u>MANAGER</u>		Mayor Dean Maxwell	coa.mayor@cityofanacortes.org	299-1950	12/31/13
Brian Wetcher	293-7624	Jonn Lunsford	299-1953	W1 Ryan Walters	www.ryanwalters.org	610-7770	12/31/15
Marty Laumbattus	293-7940			W2 Brad Adams	brada@cityofanacortes.org	293-3056	12/31/15
Rick Boge	299-2692			W3 Eric Johnson	www.anacorteseric.org/	840-5415	12/31/15
Marcia Hunt	293-0983			P4 Brian E. Geer	briang@cityofanacortes.org	293-4791	12/31/13
				P5 Cynthia Richardson	cynthiar@cityofanacortes.org	299-9081	12/31/13
				P6 Bill Turner	billt@cityofanacortes.org	293-9658	12/31/13
				P7 Erica Pickett	ericap@cityofanacortes.org	293-6264	12/31/13

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30pm in Council Chambers.
Study Sessions are 2nd Mondays, 7:30pm in Council Chambers.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

OFFICERS			BOARD MEMBERS				Friends of the Forest Board Meetings are at 7pm the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in room #31 on the 3rd floor in the Keystone Building, 619 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. Meetings are open to the public. Please come and get involved.
President	Andy Stewart	299-9406	Andy Stewart	299-9406	Jan. 2012	akccstewart@earthlink.net	
Vice President	Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jean Andrich	293-0124	Jan. 2012	jean@friendsoftheacfl.org	
Secretary	Jean Andrich	293-0124	Lin Nichols	293-3826	Jan. 2012	lin.nichols@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Karen Haynes	708-3910	Monica Ochs	293-6003	Jan. 2012	monica.ochs@gmail.com	
<u>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR</u>			Mary Sikkema	293-4311	Jan. 2013	mary_loves_summer@yahoo.com	
Denise Crowe			Karen Haynes	708-3910	Jan 2013	kak.haynes@yahoo.com	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR</u>			Denise Crowe	293-8426	Jan 2013	denise@friendsoftheacfl.org	
Jean Andrich			Kara Fox	420-7372	Jan 2013	karafox@gmail.com	
<u>WEBSITE ADDRESS</u>							
www.friendsoftheacfl.org							

Happy New Years Greetings, Friends!



Crowe's Nest

As I reflect on the year just passed, I am overcome with a deep sense of thankfulness and cumulative accomplishment. The Friends of the Forest have had a tremendous year.

Our forest education programs were fuller and busier than ever. The challenges of weird weather, school testing schedules and tight budgets were overcome as we kept on doing what we do - getting citizens of all ages out into the woods for knowledge, recreation and enjoyment. Our investment in the forest is through an investment in the people, growing our capacity to understand and care for our green community treasure.

We reached a true milestone in 2011. Our forest is now legally protected in perpetuity through the conservation easement program. The city CEP fund will stay open for donations, and as new lands become available for protection they may be added.

And last but not least, our fall benefit event for education was our most successful ever! The outpouring of excitement, generous contributions, hard work and volunteer time came together to make for a truly amazing and fun filled evening for hundreds of forest friends. Thank you to EVERYONE involved. Our program work is on solid footing as we look to the future.

We live in interesting times, and this New Year feels more portentous than ever. Know that we feel buoyed by the collective accomplishments of our group and the devoted spirit of the forest community. Thank you for being part of this great effort!

We hope to see more of you in the coming year.



Students journaling at Little Cranberry Lake.



We have a fabulous opportunity to help make a difference for those who also love art. One of our supporters, noted Skagit Valley artist Alfred Currier, has generously offered to donate 40% of sales from a select group of his tulip field paintings to approved non-profits that support basic human needs and the environment. One of those is ours! Questions? Contact Al at (360) 293-8988 or email at alfredcurrier@yahoo.com

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!*
- We are now able to accept donations online. Please 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.
- We ask that you not bring dogs on organized hikes. We love your four legged friends but it is difficult to have them on guided hikes - *we appreciate your understanding.*
- Our regular office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and always by appointment.
- Need an ACFL trail map? We have them for sale in our office; you may also visit our website for a complete list of local sources.

www.friendsoftheacfl.org / info@friendsoftheacfl.org

Winter Calendar 2012



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 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, Ethnobotany 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. Because our hikes focus on wildlife and human experience, we ask that you leave your pets at home. Please join us this winter 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 or email us at info@friendsoftheacfl.org.

Hope to see you in the woods!

ALL AGES HIKES

All ages hikes will resume in the spring.

SENIOR/ADULT HIKES

(For any adult with a desire to learn more about our community forest lands through an easy hike in fine company, with a naturalist guide.)

Double Watershed Tour

Friday, January 13th
10:00 am to noon

Start the New Year off right with a hike in the woods with friends! This is a gentle, one and a half mile route through varied forest and wetland habitats. Learn about the beaver that maintain these wetlands and the winter waterfowl that we will be sure to see. Meet at the end of 32nd St. off D Ave.

Pine Ridge Loop

Friday, March 9th
10:00 am to noon

What treasures await in this lovely, hidden meadow? Enjoy a hike to this unique and secret spot off the beaten path. Meet at the base of Mt. Erie on Ray Auld Drive.

Heart Lake

Friday, February 10th
10:00 am to noon

Our Heart Lake hike is a perfect Valentine to give yourself, or to share with a friend. Together we will look for the many early signs of spring. Meet at the Heart Lake parking lot.



Bat Cave hike in October - 60 people!

Photo by Tim Schmidt

IN THE WOODS WITH RANGER DAVE

ACFL Reflections on 2011by Dave Oicles, Forest Ranger

2011 has been an interesting year in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The extremely wet winter and spring provided trail users with views of seasonal waterfalls, some that have not shown up in years. Damp, and in some cases muddy conditions on the trails persisted well into June and July. The cool summer caused wildflowers and berries to last well beyond their normal season. and the fall colors on all the deciduous trees and shrubs were some of the most vibrant and long lasting I've ever seen in over a decade. As always, the ACFL never stops providing us with a fun and unique trail and forest experience. Some say the year was too cold and wet to enjoy. Others embraced the changes outside of the "normal weather" as a gift. I hope you enjoyed 2011 out on the trails as much as I did. For me, it was extra special.

One of the best parts of my job is having a summer seasonal crew to assist me with daily chores of the woods and maintenance on the trails. For 2011, Diana Burr and Marcus Hanson were the summer ACFL staff. My hat goes off to both of these individuals, who provided excellent customer service to trail users and visitors to the ACFL. As most summers, the crew pruned all 52 miles of trail system, responded to search and rescues, wildfire reports, law enforcement issues and the daily clean-up of trash and toilets just to name a few of their responsibilities. This summer we were also able to get a number of trail repair projects completed, thanks in part to cooler summer days.

Another great part of my job is working with the many ACFL volunteers who give hundreds of hours every year removing non-native invasive plants like holly, ivy and scotch broom. Other projects have included trail building, repairs and building trail bridges. 2011 was another banner year for volunteerism in the ACFL. Thank you to all who offered their time and energy. Your efforts are very much appreciated, needed and loved. See you on the trails.....

UPCOMING WORK PARTIES:

January 7th at 9 am: IVY PULL:

Let's meet at the trailhead located at the east end of West 12th St., near trails 128 and 105. We will be removing a small ivy patch along trail 132 on the south end of Little Cranberry Lake. Come enjoy the New Year sunrise over the lake!

February 4th at 9 am: TRAIL REPAIR:

Let's meet at the Little Cranberry Lake parking lot off Georgia Avenue. We will be planting small trees and native plants to control erosion. Bring your valentine for an early celebration or maybe meet someone new?

March 3rd at 9 am: HOLLY REMOVAL:

Let's meet at the Heart Lake parking lot at trailhead 242. We will be removing holly sprouts along trails 242 and 210 and maybe some ivy too. Get a jump on spring and maybe win a new set of 2012 ACFL maps!

Work Parties generally last two hours and severe weather may cancel them. Tools are always provided. Dress warm, bring leather gloves and boots and wear a smile. Work Party projects can be found at the City of Anacortes website at <http://www.cityofanacortes.org/parks.asp>. Search the Parks and Recreation page for more info. Not on the web? Call 661-3554 for the latest information.

Thank You to All Friends of the Forest 2011 Members!

**2012 Member - Thank you for your Bid for Kids donation!*

Evelyn & Gary Adams
Kathryn Alexandra
Debbie Amos
Jackie & Bud Anderson
Jim and Joyce Anderson*
Sandra Anderson
Bret & Jean Andrich
Kay Andrich
David & Myra Appel
Frances & Frank Arnold
Shunji Asari
Karen & Mark Backman*
Bruce Baglien*
Jack Barnard
Jeff & Denise Bauman
Bob & Pat Bell
Benbrook-McDill Family
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Beverly & Mark Beppler
Richard Bergner
David Grant Best
Glee & Dick Blank
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Marcia & Lester Books*
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Bill & Betty Connor
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Darrell & Debbie Cornelius*
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Justin Curran
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Rick & Diane Davidson
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Marilyn & Gene Derig

Bill & Holly Dietrich
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Ann Dursch
Elgin & Karen Edwards
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Zac & Sharene Elander
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Frank & SueAnne Ellis
Flip & Janet Elvrum
Phyllis Ennes
Susanna & Bill Epler
Cheryl & Doug Everhart
Bruce & Margaret Evertz
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Kathleen Flanagan
Bill Folmer
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Jim Ford*
Stu & Marcy Ford
Dale & Elizabeth Fowler
Michelle Fremont & Jerry McCool*
Arlene & Bill French*
Barbara French
Didi Funk
Judy Garnett
Ed & Carolyn Gastellum
Ann Gayle
Barbara Gilmore
Kay Glade
Laura Goddard
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Linda Yerby
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Jaime Zullo

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Anacortes Health and Nutrition
Anacortes Kayak Tours
Anderson's General Store
Barrett Financial, Ltd.
Bikespot
Crescent Moon Yoga*
Emerald Marine
Fidalgo Island Rotary Club
Gerry Wallrath Fund
Global Diving & Salvage
Island Import Garage
Kiwanis Noon Club
Kiwanis Sunrisers
KP Studios
McMullen & Ochs, Attorney at Law
North Harbor Diesel
Samish Indian Nation
Sebo's Hardware
Shell Puget Sound Refinery
Skagit Cycle Center
Skagit Runners
Soroptimist International of Anacortes
The Harry F. Barnes and Carol H. Barnes Family Foundation*
Watermark Book Company
Whidbey Island Bank
Windermere Real Estate

A donation was recently made by Cimini family members in loving memory of Gary Blakesley.

It is with great sadness we note the passing of longtime City Council Member Nick Petrish. Nick was an advocate for the Community Forest Lands, promoting both their conservation and stewardship. His love for his hometown also played out in his support for the conservation of Causland Memorial Park and his work to help restore Cap Sante's forests and bluffs to their natural state. He will be greatly missed.

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



FRIENDS OF THE ACFL

619 Commercial #32
Anacortes, Washington 98221

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Please join or renew 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 _____

☐ Would like to receive newsletter online

Areas of Interest _____ Topics for general meetings or newsletter _____

Please mail memberships and contributions to: Friends of the ACFL, 619 Commercial #32, 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!