

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

Volume 28 • Issue 1 • Winter 2014

# All are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting. Wednesday, February 5th at the Depot (611 R Ave)

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7:10pm.



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, City Staff update, and elections followed by a special presentation on Mountain Goats by WWU Huxley College of the Environment Professor, David Wallin. Dessert and refreshments will be provided by Gere-a-Deli. Board members up for reelection are: Andy Stewart, Monica Ochs, Jean Andrich, Lin Nichols, and Bill Dietrich. Nominations will be accepted from the floor



# Mountain Goat Conservation and Restoration in Washington

Mountain Goat populations in the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington State have declined by over 70% since the 1950s. This talk will describe a ten-year effort to understand the causes of this decline and the factors that seem to be limiting the recovery of this population. A



major focus of this effort has been to understand the ways in which landscape pattern, both natural patterns and patterns altered by human activities, influence population dynamics and long-term population viability. The influence of landscape pattern on population dynamics is largely mediated by the process of dispersal. This is a challenging process to study since dispersal events are infrequent and many are unsuccessful in

that they do not result in survival and successful reproduction. We have used genetic techniques to address this issue. A genetic approach is quite useful since the genetic structure of a population integrates the successful dispersal events that have occurred over the past several generations. If genetic samples obtained from two different locations are quite similar, this implies that the intervening landscape is conducive to dispersal. Conversely if these samples are quite different, it implies that the intervening landscape includes features that impede dispersal. Genetic data can be used to evaluate the influence of different factors (e.g. landcover, elevation, roads) on dispersal. Our results suggest that the road network and other landcover changes have had a major influence on mountain goat populations in the Cascades.



# 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? We have them for sale in our office or you may also visit our website for a complete list of local sources. www.friendsoftheacfl.org / 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

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.

# City Seeks Comments on Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan Update

As part of the City of Anacortes' effort to update its comprehensive plan in 2016, it will take public comments on changing and updating the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan. The Forest Advisory Board will hold a special meeting at 7pm Thursday, January 23, 2014 at the Senior Activity Center, 1701 22nd St., to begin the process of taking comments from the public. More meetings will be scheduled.

For more information about the plan update process, contact Jonn Lunsford, Forest Lands Manager, at 299-1953 or Jonnl@cityofanacortes.org. Those unable to attend the meeting can submit comments to Parks and Recreation Director Gary Robinson at gary@cityofanacortes.org. To view the current plan go to www.cityofanacortes.org/Parks/Documents/Comp\_Plans.



Rob Roy was captivated with a river ofter sighting at Little Cranberry Lake during the big freeze in December. Their adorable playing was enchanced with a very fast duck kill and the ensuing feast became a scene he will not soon forget.

# 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.

# FOREST BOARD MEMBERS

Sandra Starbuck 901-9179 Brian Wetcher 293-7624 Marty Laumbattus 293-7940 Rick Boge 299-2692

# **PARKS & FOREST LANDS MANAGER**

Jonn Lunsford 299-1953

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NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE	TERM ENDS	
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			40104145	

W1 Rvan Walters www.ryanwalters.org 610-7770 12/31/15 W2 Brad Adams brada@cityofanacortes.org 12/31/15 293-3056 W3 Fric Johnson www.anacorteseric.org 840-5415 12/31/15 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 lovelettl@cityofanacortes.com 588-8707 12/31/17 P7 Erica Pickett ericap@cityofanacortes.org 293-6264 12/31/17

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Study Sessions are 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

# FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

299-9406

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Jan. 2014

Jan. 2014

Jan. 2014

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Jan. 2014

Jan 2015

Jan 2015

Jan 2015

Jan 2015

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akccstewart@earthlink.net jean@friendsoftheacfl.org lin.nichols@yahoo.com monica.ochs@gmail.com williamdietrich@comcast.net denise@friendsoftheacfl.org robertgudmundsen@shell.com troutdental@yahoo.com ecgastel@wavecable.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.

# We encourage you to support our schools in the February 11, 2014 election

By Jeannette Papadakis, school board president



Island View Elementary 3rd grade student, Lucy Marshall, proudly identifies her native plant Horestail.

The school levy election on February 11 is an important one for us. We are asking voters to replace a four-year Maintenance & Operations levy and to approve a four-year technology levy.

Last fall, Denise Crowe and Jean Andrich met with our new superintendent, Mark Wenzel, to discuss Friends of the Forest programs such as the third grade "Growing Wild" native plant program and the seventh grade "Watershed Discovery." In these programs, students actively apply science within our forest lands. Both Mark and the board are very pleased with this continued partnership with Friends. It connects to our goal of providing rich science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education for our students.

As a district, we are interested in continuing to promote hands-on learning for our students – particularly opportunities that take advantage of our amazing local environment. Such programs are partially funded with local Maintenance & Operation (M&O) levy dollars.

The Maintenance & Operations levy supports 26 percent of the district's budget. It funds teachers, counselors, classroom supplies, extra-curricular activities, transportation, day-to-day operations and more.

The technology levy will help our schools catch up on the technology front. It funds infrastructure such as wireless, classroom technology and staffing to ensure we maintain and use equipment as effectively as possible in our classrooms.

The technology levy will also support improvement in STEM. We're way behind in our access to and use of technology in Anacortes schools. Our alumni continually tell us the biggest gap they face in college is technology. School districts across western Washington have passed technology levies. We need to ensure that our students receive the same opportunities as students in other districts.

We look forward to deepening our partnership with Friends of the Forest as we move forward. We believe this kind of partnership fills an important need in providing a high-quality education to each of our 2,700 students.

The Anacortes American, Senior College, and Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors all endorsed both levies. They noted the importance of dynamic, innovative schools as a critical part of a vibrant community. Please join us in voting YES twice on your ballot in this election. It will make a notable difference in children's lives in this community.



Mica Gold, 3rd grade student at Mount Erie Elementary, blends in well with her native plant, Red Huckleberry.

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. 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 . Please understand that our hikes are for people only; so we ask that you leave your pets at home. Hope to see you in the woods!

# **Adult Hikes**

For any adult with a desire to learn more about our community forest lands through an easy hike in fine company, with ACFL naturalist, Denise Crowe as your guide. All ages hikes will return in the spring.

# **Heart Lake**

Friday, February 14th 10am until noon

Our Heart Lake hike is the perfect valentine to give to 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.

# Pine Ridge Loop

Friday, March 14th

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

# And for the very fit...

(Fitness hikes are led by enthusiastic board members who really like to sweat! Please take note of the distance and pace and be sure of your ability before attending.)

# Whistle Lake Backroads Fitness Hike

Saturday, February 8th

10am until 1pm (be sure to arrive on time!)

Please join us for a challenging and fast paced 8 to 9 mile hike into the backroads of the Whistle Lake area. After we get our heart rate up, we will stop briefly for a gourmet chocolate tasting with chocolate provided by the Friends of the Forest. Dress in layers and bring water. Meet at the Whistle Lake parking lot.

# **Special Events**

Annual Membership Meeting February 5th- Please see front page!

Photo by Gene Kiver

The Friends' first hike of the year at Big Beaver Pond was January 10th. It was a lovely calm day before the storm. We were treated to a great view of this Trumpeter Swan couple, casually feasting on underwater plants. Swans have also been enjoying Heart Lake this winter.

Library Speaker Series on Wednesday, March 19th at 7pm

An exploration of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands with naturalist, Denise Crowe.

Spend an evening indoors exploring your community forest with friends. Denise will provide an overview of local forest history, ecology, and community. Learn about education programs, volunteer stewardship opportunities, and the balance of recreation and conservation that makes our unique forest the wild heart of our island.

# A REVIEW OF 2013 IN THE ACFL

by Ranger Dave

As I reviewed my daily log book recently of the past 12 months, it was evident that 2013 was another eventful year in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. A mild winter and wet spring created extra pruning needs along many trails. The beavers, enjoying the rains, created their own extra work load by plugging up culverts and waterways near homes and trails. This gave Staff the feeling of being Bill Murray in the movie "Caddy Shack" while attempting to unplug their high water dams on a weekly basis, but as usual the beavers won. And the long warm and dry summer presented ACFL Staff with more visitors to the lakes and trail system. Emergency situations Staff responded to include a drowning at Whistle Lake, a wildfire on the island at Whistle Lake, medical responses to swimmers jumping off the cliffs at Whistle Lake, and miscellaneous search and rescues of lost hikers. And a Navy helicopter crew responded to an injured climber on the south side of Mt Erie with the climber being rescued off the mountain via helicopter. Yes, it was hard to find a dull moment but that is the normal life of a Park Ranger.

But it was not all mayhem in the ACFL. In 2013, we accomplished a large number of maintenance projects in our trail system. Besides pruning the 52 miles of trails, other projects included repairing long muddy stretches of trails 208, 250, 108, 10, 128, 105, and trail 132. Culverts were installed on trails 201 and 241 to divert water away from trails. A new trail bridge was built on trail 218. Hundreds of downed trees and hazard trees were removed off the trails as this is a weekly chore throughout the year, especially after a major wind event. And a number of volunteer work parties were held to remove non-native invasive Ivy, Scotch broom, Holly, Daphne, and Goat's Ear out along the trails. There were also immeasurable accomplishments. Who knows how many lives were saved or how many wildfires were averted, by the hundreds of visitor contacts the ACFL Staff make during the summer

to help enforce the "no alcohol" and "no fireworks" City of Anacortes ordinances. Maybe that last beer that was confiscated from a lake visitor was the one that would have caused a car accident or swimming tragedy. Maybe the fireworks that were confiscated at the top of Mt Erie prevented a black scar on the mountain. Who knows? Maybe all the dog leashes that Staff handed out this past year while enforcing the "pets on leash" City of Anacortes ordinance prevented a child or adult from getting bitten or prevented other pets and wildlife from getting attacked. Who knows? It was just another day as a Park Ranger.

Thank you to all the volunteers who once again gave their time and energy in 2013 to help make the Anacortes Community Forest Lands a better place. Many truck loads of non-native invasive plants were removed during work parties. Other volunteers helped on repairing trials and assisting with the removal of downed trees that were blocking the trails. It's these little acts of kindness and giving that make Anacortes a great place to live, and makes walking along our trails a true wonderland. I would also like to thank ACFL summer Staff members Diana Burr and Nick Hatton for their hard work and dedication toward keeping both the forest and the forest visitor safe and for pruning the majority of the forest trails. And thank you to the Anacortes Police and Fire Departments for all their quick responses to emergencies out on the trails and for patrolling the lakes during high visitor days. Looking forward to working with you all in 2014! Thanks again...





# Thank you to Friends of the Forest 2013 Members and Contributors!



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We wish to acknowledge a donation from Ramona Hammerly in memory of Don DeLlamas; a donation from Harriet Hoffman in memory of Elaine Hounsell and a contribution from Sandra Booren in memory of Jack Webb.

A donation was made in honor of Bill & Jennifer Woyski by Janet Miller. We also received a gift from Sheri Miklaski in honor of Rick & Meredith Machin.

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

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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!