



#### 2013 Board Members

Betty Carteret, President

Sue Ehler, Vice President

Wayne Huseby, Secretary

Pat Steffani, Treasurer

Tracy Alker

Morty Cohen

Pattie Hutchins

Regan Weeks

### † Annual Report Newsletter †

*Mark your calendar! January 22<sup>rd</sup> Padilla Bay Breazeale Interpretive Center*

*Lunch 11:30 AM to 12:15; FOSB Annual Meeting 12:15 to 12:45 PM;*

*Program Speaker 12:45 to 2 PM; Lunch provided by FOSB*

#### *Friends of Skagit Beaches expands our support to volunteer projects and the community*

Over the past year, Friends of Skagit Beaches (Friends) has provided support to our members, community volunteers, and other organizations in the form of insurance coverage for shared events, direct financial support, or organizational assistance for planning and promotions. Several of those projects are highlighted here and additional details are provided below.

- ✓ Annual Lecture Series in Anacortes.
- ✓ Fidalgo Shoreline Academy
- ✓ Trail Tales Shoreline Interpretive Program (WA Dept. of Ecology)
- ✓ \$300 grant to Pacific Biodiversity Institute's Harbor Porpoise Study
- ✓ National Estuaries Day /Fidalgo Bay Day Celebrations
- ✓ Collaborated with Washington Environmental Council to support Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen's Stewardship Committee work.
- ✓ Collaborated with WA Dept. of Natural Resources on developing and installing interpretive signs highlighting Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve.
- ✓ Worked with the Samish Indian Nation to highlight cultural traditions history with interpretive signs and presentations.
- ✓ Partnered with Skagit Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and WWU Shannon Point Marine Center to premiere the film "Ocean Frontiers"

#### **Community Education Highlights**

- ❖ Friends is now the primary sponsor of the annual Lecture Series (previously Beach Watcher lecture series) that was moved to the Northwest Educational Services District Building last year to accommodate an ever-growing audience. Four lectures were hosted with very engaging speakers and informative topics. The Lecture Series continues to be a popular event during the dark winter months, helping us make it through to spring. The lectures now routinely draw over 100 attendees due to the engaging presentations and the organizational skills of the volunteers that organize the project. Thanks to the team members for their good work and service to the community. Friends support included providing the insurance liability coverage, facility rental fees, and printing costs. Planning for the 2014 Lecture Series is underway.

Friends of Skagit Beaches, P.O. Box 481, Anacortes, WA 98221

Email - [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

Page1

Website - <http://www.skagitbeaches.org>

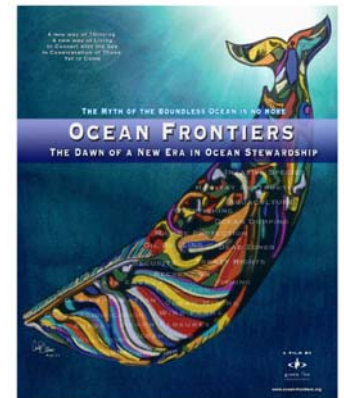
- ❖ Friends sponsored the second annual Fidalgo Shoreline Academy in April 2013. The event was held at the Fidalgo Bay Resort without charge courtesy of the Samish Indian Nation. Approximately 70 people attended the day-long symposium that offered a keynote address and selected topics from multiple offerings in three workshop sessions. Offerings included presentations and interpretive walks. Surveys indicated that attendees enjoyed the day and plan to attend next year. The event is the primary fundraiser for Friends and proceeds from event were ~\$2,000. Earnings were from the registration and a raffle with donated prizes that were awarded at the event. **Next year's symposium is tentatively scheduled for April 5, 2014** at the Resort and the program and registration information will be available on the Friends website in the February/March timeframe. If you would like to receive an announcement when event information is available, go to the Friends website and sign up for our quarterly newsletter or email us at [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org).



- ❖ The Friends' Trail Tales project, funded through a grant from the WA Department of Ecology had another very successful year. Trail Tales provided educational and interpretive programs aimed at raising public awareness about Ecology's Anacortes Baywide Cleanup project, focusing on the cleanup of the Custom Plywood Mill site, which is nearing completion. A secondary goal of the Trail Tales project is to promote stewardship of the Skagit County's marine ecosystems in support of the State's Puget Sound Initiative.

- ❖ In partnership with the Skagit MRC and WWU Shannon Point Marine Center, Friends co-sponsored the Skagit County premiere of the documentary "Ocean Frontiers – The Dawn of a New Age of Ocean Stewardship" in Anacortes at the NW Educational Services District Building. The event was attended by over 100 people and was highly praised by attendees. Friends is looking into partnering with these groups again in 2014 to offer the film at the Lincoln Theatre.

- ❖ During the past year, Trail Tales offered 15 interpretive programs including 13 walks and 2 bike rides. In collaboration with the City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department, Friends installed 15 interpretive signs covering topics including shoreline history, ecology, and cleanup work. Friends hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony that included State Representative Kris Lytton, Mayor Maxwell, Parks & Recreation Director Gary Robinson, City Council members, Samish Indian Nation members, WA Ecology, WA DNR, Tesoro, Soroptimists and community members dedicating the signs along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Download our trail brochure and map by clicking a link posted on the website homepage at: <http://www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home.html>.



**ANACORTES FILM PREMIERE**  
**Friday, October 11, 2013 • 6:00 PM**  
 NW ESD Building • 1401 R Avenue, Anacortes  
 Reception 5:30; Panel discussion to follow film 7:15  
 Event is free and open to the public



Friends of Skagit Beaches, P.O. Box 481, Anacortes, WA 98221

Email - [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

Page2

Website - <http://www.skagitbeaches.org>



- ❖ The Trail Tales project has expanded the Friends website with new content related to the interpretive sign subjects. Over the next two years, the online content on these topics will be expanded. New features that will be developed include posting “Creature Features” audio tales about life in our local marine environment. The project also plans to engage WWU interns to develop a documentary video about the Anacortes Baywide cleanup that WA Ecology is undertaking in partnership with other local organizations. Visit the Trail Tales website addition at <http://www.skagitbeaches.org/trail-tales-home.html>.
- ❖ Using a portion of the Trail Tales grant, Friends provided funding to WWU’s Shannon Point Marine Center to develop a model curriculum and deliver a class focusing on the watershed that feeds Fidalgo Bay. Several in-class units were presented on the history of the waterfront, Fidalgo Island watershed, sources of water pollution, and included a field trip. The class was offered to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Anacortes Middle School. Surveys of teachers involved with the class highly praised the work of Denise Crowe who developed and presented the curriculum to the students.



- ❖ Friends sponsored a National Estuaries Day celebration event in conjunction with Fidalgo Bay Day. This event offered information and activity tables strategically stationed along the Tommy Thompson Trail. Discovery passports developed in collaboration with the Washington Environmental Council were made available for both kids and adults to learn about Ecology’s cleanup work, the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve, and local marine ecology. The passport contained questions about each station that, if answered correctly, earned the participant a reward sticker. Participants completing most of the stations were awarded a recycled glass sun catcher. Based on the success of this year’s event, Friends plans to continue sponsoring this as part of next year’s Fidalgo Bay Day offerings.



## Citizen Science

- ❖ Friends provided a \$300 donation to the Pacific Biodiversity Institute to support their research on harbor porpoises in Puget Sound. This is a popular project with local volunteers with a number of Friends members volunteering to collect observational data on harbor porpoise in Skagit County. Their work has been highlighted in the news media recently as an important research effort on an indicator species that can be tied to the health of our marine ecosystems. To learn more about this project visit the PBI website at [http://www.pacificbio.org/initiatives/harbor\\_porpoise.html](http://www.pacificbio.org/initiatives/harbor_porpoise.html).

Friends of Skagit Beaches, P.O. Box 481, Anacortes, WA 98221

Email - [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

Page3

Website - <http://www.skagitbeaches.org>

- ❖ A number of Friends members are supporting a WA DNR sponsored citizen science forage fish survey program in conjunction with the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee. Friends has offered funding to support equipment and supplies needed by volunteers and will continue support the program in the coming year. Additional information about this work will be added to the Trail Tales webpage related to forage fish at <http://www.skagitbeaches.org/wetlands/forage-fish.html>.



### *Friends of Skagit Beaches Trail Tales Public Participation Grant renewed.*

The WA Department of Ecology has awarded Friends of Skagit Beaches a two-year renewal grant under the Public Participation Grant program. Ecology officials stated at the recent ribbon cutting ceremony that the project has been one of the most successful that they have funded. They also indicated they feel the grant has been very well managed by Friends.

The new grant will provide \$116,000 through June 30, 2015 to continue the education and outreach work that was begun under the prior grant. Approximately 15 additional interpretive signs will be installed along the Tommy Thompson Trail and north from 34<sup>th</sup> Street extended to Guemes Channel. Friends will be working with the Anacortes Parks Department and Port of Anacortes on the development and installation of these signs. The Port has committed to provide \$5,000 matching funds to support development of signs that will be installed on their property. Interpretive walks, bike rides and special events will continue to be offered to the community. If you would like to become involved with Trail Tales as a volunteer you can contact volunteer coordinator, Nancy Olsen, at [nancy.skagitbeaches@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.skagitbeaches@gmail.com). Training for new volunteers is planned for early in 2014.

***Does your project need support?*** If you have a local marine education, citizen science, or stewardship project that needs a little money we want to hear from you. Friends of Skagit Beaches can offer a few small grants to nonprofits and community volunteers for local marine education, citizen science, or stewardship projects to help support your printing, supplies, or other expenses. Contact us by email at [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org) for a funding request form or to present your project at our next Board meeting. The Friends Board must review and approve all funding requests prior to authorizing project funding.

### † **Last but not least ... *It's membership renewal time!*** †

We thank you for your continued support of our work and hope that you will renew your membership before our annual meeting on January 22, 2014. Your Friends of Skagit Beaches Board pledges to manage the non-profit funds wisely and grow our support of the great work that local volunteers and environmental groups are doing to protect and preserve Skagit County marine ecosystems.

Lastly, I want to thank the 2013 Board members for their dedication, time commitment, and support through the past year. We extend special thanks to Sue Ehler who will be leaving the Board, after serving on our Board for a number of years. I think Friends has really come a long way since conceiving the idea for this non-profit back in 2007. We truly appreciate your input and suggestions to help us make our non-profit successful. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or email [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org).

*Best wishes, Betty Carteret, Friends of Skagit Beaches President*

**“In every outthrust headland, in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth.” Rachel Carson**

Friends of Skagit Beaches, P.O. Box 481, Anacortes, WA 98221

Email - [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)

Page4

Website - <http://www.skagitbeaches.org>