



Email - [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org)  
Website - <http://www.skagitbeaches.org>  
P.O. Box 481, Anacortes, WA 98221

#### 2011 Board Members

Betty Carteret, President  
Erica Pickett, Vice President  
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Sue Ehler      Caroline Spehar  
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Brian Stafki, WSU Ex-officio

#### † Winter 2011 Newsletter †

*Friends of Skagit Beaches takes the leap.* Friends of Skagit Beaches (FOSB) was started to raise funds locally to help support our WSU Skagit County Beach Watcher program. We've been working to build our 501c3 non-profit budget through membership dues and sales of ID and note cards. Your membership dues and donations have been used to make some small donations to support Beach Watcher training (ID Cards for new volunteers) and projects (printing costs and registration fees), as well as non-profit administrative costs (e.g. PO Box rental, 501c3 application fees).

We are excited to tell you that FOSB is taking the leap and pursuing grant funding to increase our financial capacity. We have submitted our first grant application to the WA Department of Ecology Public Participation Grant (PPG) Program, which is only open to non-profits. FOSB is applying for \$118,000 for a project called "Trail Tales", which will offer a multi-dimensional education and outreach program centered along the Tommy Thompson Trail in Anacortes.

Our Trail Tales partners include WSU Skagit County Beach Watchers, WWU Shannon Point Marine Center, City of Anacortes (Parks Dept. and Museum), Port of Anacortes, Friends of the Forest, and Samish Tribe. We have received commitments of matching of ~ \$18,000 from the Anacortes Parks Foundation, Port of Anacortes, and Soroptimist International of Anacortes to support our grant application. The grant application includes a scope of work for the Beach Watcher Coordinator that was developed by Brian Stafki. It also includes funding for the Shannon Point Public Outreach Specialist (Denise Crowe) to work with local schools.

We've gotten positive feedback on our proposal from the Ecology PPG staff and Sandra Caldwell (Ecology's project manager for the Anacortes Baywide Cleanup) and feel confident that we'll do well in the evaluation process. We will be notified if we're selected around May and funds would then be available in July or August. The Port of Anacortes has agreed to provide early funding to hire a professional interpretive planner to develop a comprehensive plan for the project after we receive a notice of award in May.

Key features of the project proposal include:

- \* Working with Ecology's Anacortes Baywide Cleanup Project to increase public awareness
- \* Interpretive trail signs along the Tommy Thompson Trail from March Point to Guemes Channel
- \* A Trail Tales section added to our website [www.skagitbeaches.org](http://www.skagitbeaches.org) that correlates to the signs
- \* Interpretive guides (Trail Tales docents) offering hikes and special presentations/demonstrations
- \* A Watershed-to-Bay pledge program
- \* A Watershed-to-Bay class at Anacortes Middle School for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders in 2012 & 2013
- \* Four Trail Tales videos created by the Anacortes High School Broadcast and Green Clubs

How can you get involved with Trail Tales? There are a number of opportunities to help kick off this project – see our “Help Wanted” ad below. For more information contact Betty Carteret at [sydst2@wavecable.com](mailto:sydst2@wavecable.com).

**Annual financial review completed:** We have completed the annual review of the FOSB financial records in partnership with another non-profit, Skagit Beat the Heat. We partnered with their Treasurer, Ron Larsen (a retired CPA), to organize a review of the financial records for both non-profits. FOSB Treasurer, Fran Jepperson, received a glowing review for her management of our finances. Fran will give a report on our finances and results of the review at our Annual Meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am held in conjunction with the Beach Watcher 5-Year Reunion meeting at Padilla Bay.

**Does your project need some funding support?** If you have a local Beach Watchers project that needs a little money to support costs such as printing, low-cost supplies, or other expenses, we want to hear from you. Just submit a request form to the FOSB Board by email to [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org). For a copy of the form or if you'd like to discuss your project at our next Board meeting, contact Catherine Davis at [cathmdav@yahoo.com](mailto:cathmdav@yahoo.com). All funding requests are reviewed and approved by a vote of the Board prior to authorizing funds to be spent.

### † Help Wanted †

**Trail Tales:** There are a number of opportunities to get involved with this project now or later in the year. We are looking for a group of individuals willing to survey existing signage along the Fidalgo Bay shoreline and document the results. Assuming we are awarded the grant funds, we will be recruiting a group of volunteers to be trained as interpretive guides (Trail Tales Docents). The training will be developed by a certified interpretive trainer and it should be a very interesting class on the history of the working waterfront, sources of contaminants and cleanup work underway, Samish cultural history, and marine ecology. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Betty Carteret [sydst2@wavecable.com](mailto:sydst2@wavecable.com) (sign survey) or Sue Ehler (docent program) [setehler@msn.com](mailto:setehler@msn.com).

**Grant writing:** If you have any experience in grant writing or would like to learn and help us seek funds for the program or a specific Beach Watcher project you are passionate about, please contact Pattie Hutchins at [mphspsyhop@comcast.net](mailto:mphspsyhop@comcast.net). We could use some additional help in this area and your talents could be put to good use. There are a lot of opportunities out there and we just need some volunteer support to make it happen.

**Photos for 2011 card set:** Last year we created a note card set featuring lovely photos of marine life by Ivar Dolph. We're interested in offering a 2011 note card set with beautiful photos of Skagit beaches and waterfronts. We'll be collecting photos and selecting 4 for our new card set. If you'd like to submit a photo for considering you can email a jpeg format copy to the FOSB email [friends@skagitbeaches.org](mailto:friends@skagitbeaches.org). We could also use some help with packaging the card sets. Contact Erica Pickett [ericapickett@frontier.com](mailto:ericapickett@frontier.com) if you'd like to help with card set creation, packaging, or sales.

### † The last word... †

Your FOSB Board pledges to manage the non-profit funds wisely and grow our support of the Skagit County Beach Watchers program. We truly appreciate your input and suggestions to help us make our non-profit successful. Lastly, I want to thank the 2010 Board members for their dedication, time and support through the past year – they've all worked hard for us. I think we've really come a long way since conceiving the idea for this non-profit back in 2008. Should you have any questions about the organization or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of our Board members or email us.

**Happy New Year**  
**Betty Carteret, FOSB President**