Friends 2015 – A Year in Review

With your support in 2015, Friends of the San Juans was able to undertake both innovative and sound projects to protect and restore the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

A few of these notable projects included the ambitious and promising effort to designate the Salish Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area to improve protections from international shipping. Another project involved enhancing shorelines for fish, seabirds and whales by initiating the idea of “feeder estuaries” and “soft shorelines” in the early 1970s. Keith and his late wife, Georgia Baciu, were exceptional volunteers for Friends and established an honorary memorial fund to celebrate his love of the islands by protecting the San Juan Islands for future generations. Georgia’s generous estate planning included Friends, and we are deeply honored to carry on her mission of caring for the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

Friends has two amazing members we lost in 2015: Wolf Bauer and Georgia Baciu. Their environmental visions and contributions continue to help care for the San Juan Islands, and they are warmly remembered by our members and staff.

Friends’ Staff and Board of Directors thank our dedicated supporters, partners, and funders. Together this community improves and strengthens our environment. Thank you.

Friends of the San Juans Mission: To protect and restore the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature.

Friends of the San Juans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 91-3073861. Financial statements and reports are available upon request. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Expenditures pay for publications, science and education program costs, legal and policy projects, and administrative support.

Statement of Activities

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\begin{align*}
\text{Expenditures} & = 1087153.00 \\
\text{Endowment} & = 118,195.00 \\
\text{Cash & Other Unrestricted} & = 540,432.00 \\
\text{Grants} & = 462,449.00 \\
\text{Investments, Events, & Other} & = 7,737.00 \\
\text{Programs} & = 604,279.00 \\
\text{Purchases} & = 184,949.00 \\
\text{Salaries & Wages} & = 268,254.00 \\
\text{Travel} & = 110,193.00 \\
\text{Total} & = 658,627.00 \\
\text{Liabilities & Accumulated Surplus} & = 0.00 \\
\text{Endowment} & = 118,195.00 \\
\text{Cash & Other Unrestricted} & = 540,432.00 \\
\text{Grants} & = 462,449.00 \\
\text{Investments, Events, & Other} & = 7,737.00 \\
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\text{Total} & = 658,627.00 \\
\end{align*}
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Expenditures include the cost of professional staff and board member travel, books and other materials, consulting services, and postage.

In Memoriam

Friends honors two amazing members we lost in 2015: Wolf Bauer and Georgia Baciu. Their environmental visions and contributions continue to help care for the San Juan Islands, and they are warmly remembered by our members and staff.

Wolf Bauer instilled the idea of “feeder estuaries” and “soft shorelines” in the early 1970s. Wolf’s leadership showed the potential of the marine environment and the need to care for it. Friends honors Wolf for his family, for establishing and expanding the idea of “soft shorelines,” and for his significant financial and personal support.

Georgia Baciu and her late husband, John Marx, were exceptional volunteers and advocates of protecting the San Juan Islands. Georgia named Friends in her will, she was present for the formation of “Friends,” and she protected it. We thank Executive Director Stephanie Buffum, a friend of Wolf Bauer and a leader of Georgia Baciu and John Marx, for their work on projects to support the wildlife and places they loved.

Friends thanks two amazing members we lost in 2015: Wolf Bauer and Georgia Baciu. Their environmental visions and contributions continue to help care for the San Juan Islands, and they are warmly remembered by our members and staff. Two other exceptional volunteers and advocates of protecting the San Juan Islands, and they are warmly remembered by our members and staff.
Healthy Seas

Friends cares for and restores the Salish Sea for nature and people.

Friends has been pursuing a new tool to protect our Salish Sea from the impacts of increasing vessel traffic: a transboundary Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) designation. A PSSA is an International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) designation that promotes the protection of marine resources through the adoption of the highest international standards and best practices in global shipping. A PSSA designation will help protect our region’s endangered and threatened species, cultural rights, and the over $10.8 billion in economic activity that is reliant on the health of the Salish Sea.

In December, we hosted a PSSA workshop to discuss threats to our shared waters and how a PSSA designation provides compelling solutions to safer shipping. With First Nations and Tribes, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, and industry, we built relationships and shared data. With the help of these stakeholders, a nomination report will be drafted in late 2016.

Our relationships with individuals and organizations equally passionate about this designation also flourished in 2015. We received funding from Washington Women’s Foundation, the Satterberg Foundation, and private funders, who helped build community and momentum around this pursuit. Friends cares for and restores the Salish Sea for nature and people.

Friends’ actions reinforce our commitment to place-based relationships. This strengthens our entire community by deepening people’s awareness of how the places we live and come from deeply inform who we are. Through our many rewarding relationships, Friends is creating ways to reconnect people to nature and the cultures that have shaped these islands for thousands of years.

Accomplishments: By the Numbers

- 32 students and 20 community members volunteered 280 hours to beach and stream habitat restoration efforts.
- 2,000 native trees and shrubs planted at 3 stream and 2 shoreline restoration sites.
- 14 shoreline property owners received free expert technical assistance through shoreline site visits.
- 150 islanders participated in shoreline walks, boat trips and field adventures, forage fish egg hunts, and beach seineing events.
- 2 workshops hosted on local sea level rise science and adaptation.
- Over 7,500 views of our new video highlighting the importance of forage fish and beach restoration. Check it out: https://youtu.be/aPlsoDwV8Es

Natural Shorelines

Friends protects and restores our naturally functioning shorelines through scientific research, habitat restoration, and advocacy.

Over 100 Friends members provided public comment on the Shoreline Master Program Update.

1 surf smelt spawning and top salmon recovery beach protected from unnecessary armoring across multiple parcels—appeal successfully defended.

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Friends collaborated with the Lummi Nation, San Juan Islands National Historic Park, San Juan Islands National Monument, Madrona Institute and the San Juan Youth Corp to host the first Coast Salish Mini University on San Juan Island. The Mini-University created a space for Lummi Youth to experience their traditional landscape. Friends also worked with a Henry Island resident and members of Lummi Nation to host the first Naming Ceremony in the islands in over 150 years.

Friends continues to build place-based ecological, social and cultural alignments with a growing list of partners and collaborators.

Thriving communities depend on viable forests, farmland and community spaces. In 2015 our work was primarily in the policy arena, helping to support good transportation siting, energy alternatives, and planning for community resiliency in the face of climate change. Our critical areas work sought to educate people about and ensure clean water for fish and wildlife, farms and forest. This work extends into 2016 as we continue to build place-based, ecological, social and cultural alignments with a growing list of partners and collaborators.

From Olympia to Vancouver and beyond, we presented the PSSA purpose, criteria, and benefits to regional stakeholders. In December, we hosted a PSSA workshop to discuss threats to our shared waters and how a PSSA designation provides compelling solutions to safer shipping. With First Nations and Tribes, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, and industry, we built relationships and collected and shared data. With the help of these stakeholders, a nomination report will be drafted in late 2016.

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