

# FRIENDS

• *of the San Juans* •



*2006 Annual Report*



# *Message from the President*

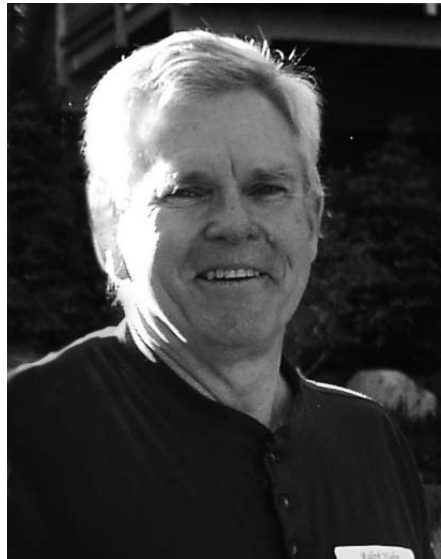
## *We Need Your Voice... Too!*

The FRIENDS of the San Juans depends on membership dues and donations for about a third of our annual budget (the other two thirds comes from grants). We could not exist without your financial support. As much as we rely on and appreciate your financial support, we need more. We need your voice also.

First, everyone knows that word-of-mouth testimonials have greater impact on opinion formulation of the general public than any amount of marketing. Your conversations with your neighbors and friends about the achievements of the FRIENDS will help create a tone and attitude in the community that makes joining FRIENDS attractive. It doesn't take a lot of effort. With over 1600 members, a little effort from each of us can have a huge impact. Remember, the more our membership increases, the more money FRIENDS has in its annual budget and the more we can accomplish.

Second, there is a lot of misinformation circulating in the community about the goals of FRIENDS. We need help setting the record straight. The FRIENDS is a good organization doing good work for our community. You know that, that is why you belong to the FRIENDS. We need you to talk about our good work and tell Board members how to help correct the misinformation that does circulate. Our 1600 members know a lot more people than the 14 people who sit on the Board ... and talk to a lot more people.

Obviously, you know more about the work of the FRIENDS than non-members. We need you to share your knowledge. This annual report, for instance, lists our four goals and highlights our annual



accomplishments. We need you, our members to know our goals, to know about our accomplishments, and to share them. We do not want to be a "mystery" organization. We want everyone in our community to know our goals and accomplishments.

Finally, we need to hear from you. In the next two years, the Board will be discussing a wide variety of policies that will guide the work of the organization. We need to hear your opinions and suggestions about how we can be more effective in our work. Our membership constitutes a tremendous social resource and we want to use that resource to shape an even better FRIENDS.

Please read the annual report carefully. Use the knowledge it contains. Most importantly be a voice for change.

Thank You,

Ralph Hahn, Board President

## FRIENDS

*of the San Juans*

### OUR MISSION

To protect the land, water, sea and livability of the San Juan Islands through science, education, law and citizen action.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ralph Hahn - San Juan  
Lynn Bahrych - Shaw  
Jon Christoffersen - Shaw  
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Tom Owens - Orcas  
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David Sarver - Orcas  
Farouk Seif - Orcas  
San Olson - Lopez  
Mark Gardner - San Juan Island  
Larry Marx - San Juan Island

FRIENDS Newsletter is published four times per year.

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## *Best Friend of the Year Award*

### *David Dehlendorf and Lori Stokes*

Each year FRIENDS celebrate exceptional members of our community who contribute their time and energy to make our islands a special place to live. This year's recipients of the Best Friend of the Year Award are: Lori Stokes and David Dehlendorf co-founders of the newly created San Juan Island Anti-Litter Initiative. Since 2003, David and Lori have been coordinating "Trash Masters" a volunteer group that collects trash once a month along San Juan Island's Roche Harbor Road. **Thank You!**

*Best FRIEND of the Year Recipients Lori Stokes (left) and David Dehlendorf (center) and FRIENDS Executive Director (right)*



## **FRIENDS 2006 Annual Meeting**

Over 130 members gathered on Shaw Island this September to celebrate 27 years of protecting the land, water, sea and livability of the San Juan Islands. "The annual event is an opportunity for all of us who live in, and enjoy the San Juan Islands to celebrate the work of the FRIENDS," stated Board President, Ralph Hahn. Hahn discussed the goals of the FRIENDS: Preserve the Character of the Islands, Conserve Natural Resources, Promote Ecological Stewardship, and Promote Environmental Protection.



*Dr. Peter Ross speaks to over 130 members on the historic Thorald homesite porch at the Ellis Biological Preserve on Shaw Island.*

"For over 27 years, members, staff, and board of FRIENDS have been standing at the forefront of conservation throughout the State. Our strength is our relations....to this place, to our grandchildren, and decision-makers throughout the region," stated Executive Director Stephanie Buffum-Field to a capacity crowd at the Ellis Biological Preserve.

The Annual Meeting's keynote address was made by Dr. Peter Ross, a Research Scientist with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans in British Columbia. Dr. Ross spoke about "Toxics in Mammals of the Salish Sea: Orcas, Seals, and Humans." He explained that despite years of cleanups, bans on certain chemicals and increasingly stringent regulations, pollution in Puget Sound remains pervasive. Fish and mammals are bathing in microscopic bits of plastic, toxic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and caffeine. Dr. Ross and his research was recently featured in the Seattle P-I's five part series, "The Sound of Broken Promises" the Tragic Tale of the Demise of Puget Sound.

Support for the event was provided by members, Spring Street School, Shaw and Orcas Village Stores, and Shaw Islanders, Inc.

## *27 Years of Conservation in Action*

FRIENDS protects the land, water, sea, and livability of the San Juan Islands through science, education, law, policy, and citizen action. We collaborate with diverse stakeholder groups, citizens, decision makers, tribes, business leaders, and service organizations to accomplish our mission.

FRIENDS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. For more information on tax-deductible giving see page 13.

# *Goal 1: Preserve the Character*

## **Objectives:**

- Preserve the character of our small island communities.
- Support hamlet planning where desired by local citizens.
- Conserve rural, natural, conservancy, and resource land.
- Participate in land use planning and monitoring.
- Support island scale, sustainable, economic development.

## *Highlights & Accomplishments*

### **Helping Concerned Citizens**

When concerned members and citizens call, FRIENDS provides expert assistance and works to empower them to take actions that will protect the environment. FRIENDS conducts research, provides technical guidance and when possible on-site expertise.

### **Protecting Water Quality at an Island Farm**

To ensure continued clean water at Synergy Farms, an organic farm, FRIENDS is helping reduce the risk of contamination from stormwater and septic leaching from a neighboring residential development.

### **Review of County Plans**

To protect water resources, fish and wildlife habitat, and rural land uses, FRIENDS reviews and comments on numerous county land use plans including comprehensive plan and development code updates; Lopez Village and Eastsound Urban Growth Areas and Stormwater Facility Plans; the East Orcas Water Supply Report and Deer Harbor and Olga Hamlet Plans.

### **Rosario Resort**

FRIENDS appreciates the vital economic role that Rosario Resort plays on Orcas Island and in the County. FRIENDS submitted extensive comments and attended public meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosario Resort Master Plan. Comments focused on development of 2,100 feet of marine shoreline, failure to consider the cumulative impacts of the resort and marina expansions, noise, fresh water, and stormwater management.

### **Turtleback Mountain**

FRIENDS provided early-on assistance to the San Juan Preservation Trust and the Land Banks' efforts to purchase Turtleback Mountain by outlining the probable hurdles to large scale development of the mountain. Our analysis included allowable land use, opportunities to develop the site in an environmentally conscious manner and elements of concern such as: areas of cultural significance, water, road access, stormwater, habitat functions and sensitive site features, the County's conservation design, light and glare, buffers of sensitive areas like wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas.





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## *Ongoing & Next Steps*

### **Protection through Permit Review**

Poor development choices and practices can easily harm limited island resources and permanently alter the rural qualities that make it desirable to live here. FRIENDS reviews land use permits from clearing and grading permits, short plat applications, transient rentals, docks, bulkheads, and shoreline exemptions. FRIENDS staff works to ensure that developers, excavators, builders, and public land managers are not violating county, state, or federal laws or compromising the freshwater, wildlife, and quality of life that defines the San Juan Islands.

### **Roche Harbor Watershed**

Westcott Bay is home to one of the islands largest commercial shellfish farms and spawning ground for salmon prey or “forage fish.” As Roche Harbor expands their dam, FRIENDS will work with neighbors to ensure continued in-stream water from Doe Creek flows to Westcott Bay for aquaculture, wildlife and people.

### **Critical Areas Ordinance Update**

Designation and protection of critical areas is the first mandate of the Growth Management Act. Five types of critical areas are identified: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Wetlands, Frequently Flooded Areas, Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and Geologically Hazardous Areas. San Juan County is required to designate, map, and protect the functions and values of these critical areas.

FRIENDS will continue to review, comment, and help citizens contribute effectively in our local Critical Areas Ordinance update process in order to protect and preserve critical ecological functions; prevent loss of property and human life caused by inappropriate development; and maintain the quality of potable underground water supplies for all our citizens.

## *Guest House Solution A Win/Win for All*

In 1979, the FRIENDS was formed to defend the county’s first comprehensive land use plan. Now, 27 years later, the last phase of this decades-long task, the establishment of limits to residential density, is complete. In June of 2006, after extensive public comment, the County Council adopted an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or Guest House ordinance that complies with state law to protect rural lands and water. Several significant judicial decisions followed the adoption of the ADU ordinance. The order of invalidity imposed in November of 2000 was finally lifted in August of 2006. The vesting ordinance that FRIENDS supported was also found to be a legally adopted ordinance. San Juan County now has new ADU regulations that provide for a limited number of new guest houses every year and provides a fair resolution for folks with bona fide guest houses who had not yet built main houses by 2000.

FRIENDS believes that these solutions allow some flexibility in island housing while discouraging sprawl. Our successful appeal has assured that we will not have a “free-for-all” that could spoil our rural landscapes. San Juan County now has a good comprehensive plan with reasonable ADU regulations. Although a number of citizens have appealed the ADU ordinance, FRIENDS believes that the county will prevail in its defense. Like every ordinance or law, it will undoubtedly be changed in the future to fit future needs. For now, it is a legally valid ordinance that stands a good chance of working.



# *Goal 2: Conserve Natural Res*

## **Objectives:**

- Conserve our biological diversity.
- Protect critical and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Initiate scientific study and recovery planning.
- Participate in marine, stormwater, watershed, and fresh water resource planning.
- Compile Best Available Science for inclusion in local, state, and federal decision-making.

## *Highlights & Accomplishments*

### **Protecting Marine Species and Habitats**

From the uplands to the marine waters, human activities can significantly alter ecosystems needed for forage fish, salmon, seabirds and orca. With local salmon and orcas listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, governments, tribes and NGOs are stepping up efforts to protect and enhance the marine environment. With primarily healthy shorelines, San Juan County's recovery focus is protecting existing high quality habitat. Conservation and best management practices can generate economic benefits and prevent future costs. For example, low impact development can reduce costs and limit the need for additional water quality and stormwater facilities.

To protect San Juan County's ecological and economic resources, FRIENDS devotes significant time and energy to environmental and economic planning processes including: the Marine Stewardship Area 5S Process, Marine Resources, Salmon Recovery, Stormwater, Septic Management, Fresh Water Resources and Economic Development Committees. FRIENDS also dedicates significant resources working with individual property owners.

### **Stormwater Management**

In response to increased awareness of the environmental and economic impacts of stormwater runoff and updated state protection policies, San Juan County created a new stormwater utility and appointed a steering committee to guide the process. FRIENDS participated on the steering committee, which developed recommendations on the mission, goals and rate structure for the new stormwater utility.

### **County Nearshore Impact Assessment**

To better understand the County's direct role in shoreline habitat protection, FRIENDS completed a spatial assessment of San Juan County shoreline ownership, infrastructure, eelgrass, forage fish spawning sites and coastal streams and wetlands. FRIENDS analysis found that the County's largest impact, and opportunity for improvement, is shoreline hardening and stormwater outfalls associated with the county road system. Project results are being used by Public Works, Planning, Parks and the Land Bank to improve management and identify opportunities for restoration projects on public lands.

### **Eyes on Eelgrass**

FRIENDS is facilitating an innovative public-private partnership to investigate the cause of significant declines in eelgrass at multiple sites in San Juan County. Extensive research on water quality, substrate, eelgrass plant condition and distribution has been conducted over the past two years. This fall, project partners will gather at Friday Harbor Labs to review results, outline a research and monitoring plan and develop management recommendations to improve protection and restoration of this critical shallow water species and habitat.

### **Protecting Fresh Water Resources**

In an effort to prevent degradation of our islands' precious groundwater, FRIENDS worked with the Water Resources Committee to adopt a revised County policy to determine the type and amount of well testing necessary for new groundwater sources.





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## Ongoing & Next Steps

### Salmon Habitat Protection Blueprint

FRIENDS is creating a nearshore habitat model that will apply scientific and social data to the identification of priority sites for voluntary long-term protection through conservation easements, acquisition, or the open space program. To achieve this, FRIENDS will implement an extensive outreach program, providing information on priority species and habitats and available protection strategies to all shoreline landowners. FRIENDS will also survey landowners to determine their level of interest in utilizing voluntary conservation on their property. This social data will be incorporated with biological information (such as locations of eelgrass and forage fish sites) and landscape ecological factors (such as habitat connectivity) to rank beaches for protection. Results will help the Land Bank and the Preservation Trust focus their limited resources on shorelines with the highest ecological value and the highest likelihood of landowner participation.

### Management of On-Site Sewage Systems

Washington State recently adopted new rules for on-site septic systems, extending the landowner's responsibility to include operation and maintenance activities. FRIENDS Development Director, Shannon Davis, is a member of the advisory committee that is addressing the ongoing management of on-site sewage disposal systems countywide. FRIENDS is ensuring that San Juan County's local management plan includes protections for nearshore and fresh water resources.

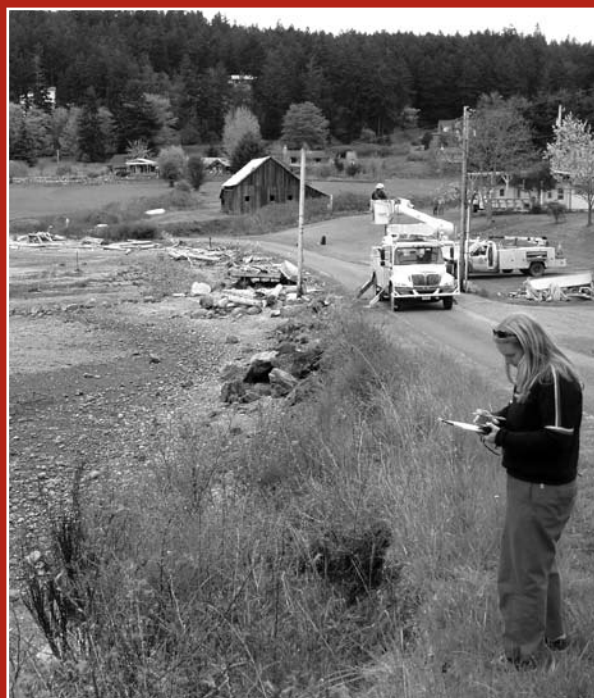
### Kelp Assessment

Kelp forests are the marine counterparts to the Pacific Northwest's rainforests providing food, shelter and migratory corridors for a wide range of marine species. FRIENDS partnered with Washington Department of Natural Resources to map San Juan County's floating kelp habitat. Aerial photography was collected in July 2006 and photo processing is underway. FRIENDS will create floating kelp maps and apply assessment results to existing shoreline protections including: San Juan County's Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program updates; shoreline project review; and federal policies including salmon and orca recovery plans.

## Shoreline Restoration Projects Identified

FRIENDS partnered with Coastal Geologic Services to combine physical, biological and social data to identify and prioritize soft shore restoration sites for San Juan County. Soft shore techniques are an ecologically-sensitive alternative to traditional beach armoring.

Over 100 properties with bulkheads and 10 miles of shoreline roads were analyzed in the project. 51 potential soft shore restoration sites were included in the final prioritization matrix, which assessed the feasibility of modification or removal as well as the habitat value of the restoration. Significant enhancement opportunities were identified along 19 county roads and at one county-owned beach. Over 30 feasible beach restoration opportunities were identified on private property. Currently, FRIENDS is working with landowners and applying for grants to fund the highest priority beach restoration projects.



*Andrea MacLennan, of Coastal Geologic Services, surveys armoring along a Lopez Island road.*

# Goal 3: *Promote Ecological Stewardship*

## Objectives:

- Foster a stewardship ethic among residents, visitors, tribes, and other governments.
- Promote low impact development.
- Increase the capacity of planners, land managers, educators, and consultants through information sharing and trainings.
- Serve as a community resource.
- Promote the Precautionary Principle.
- Preserve our natural and cultural heritage through public and private partnerships.

## *Highlights & Accomplishments*

### **Educating Realtors and Contractors**

In San Juan County, real estate professionals have the opportunity to transfer conservation and stewardship information to their clients. In 2006, FRIENDS offered our second real estate education program titled, “Water in San Juan County.” This for-credit workshop for real estate professionals provided information about stormwater, waste water and fresh water resources from scientific, regulatory, property owner and developer perspectives. This locally developed workshop educated over 50 realtors, land use professionals and interested citizens about the County’s water resources.

### **Endangered Species Lecture Series**

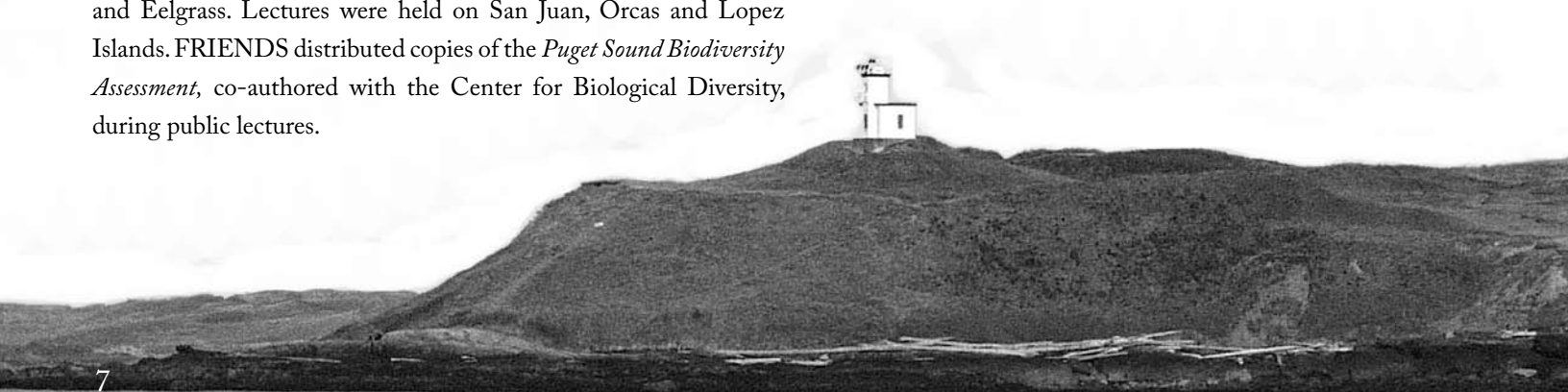
FRIENDS hosted four regionally renowned experts in our lecture series on threatened marine species and habitats. Lecture topics included Cherry Point Herring, Pinto Abalone, Marbled Murrelets and Eelgrass. Lectures were held on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands. FRIENDS distributed copies of the *Puget Sound Biodiversity Assessment*, co-authored with the Center for Biological Diversity, during public lectures.

### **Green Building Resource Page**

Since 2003, FRIENDS has been promoting Low Impact Development (LID) and green building in San Juan County. In 2006 we developed the first comprehensive list of LID and green building resources for the County. Visit [www.sanjuans.org/pdf\\_document/Green\\_Building\\_2006.pdf](http://www.sanjuans.org/pdf_document/Green_Building_2006.pdf) for a list of businesses that are incorporating LID and green building in their work today.

### **Marine Education**

FRIENDS staff participated in multiple marine education programs with local students over the past year, including the popular annual beach seine at Jackson’s Beach with the Friday Harbor Marine Labs K-12 Outreach Program and 5th graders from Friday Harbor Middle School. FRIENDS also led a field trip with 3rd graders from Olympia and provided students attending YMCA Camp Orkila and the Orcas Christian School with nearshore habitat educational materials.





# Stewardship

## Ongoing & Next Steps

### Education for Excavators

To prevent shoreline and wetland degradation at the pre-residential stage of property development, FRIENDS will host a workshop tailored for excavators and land managers. The goal of the workshop is to improve understanding of shoreline management rules, low impact development, shoreline armoring alternatives, and the associated public benefits of wetlands and shorelines.

### Shoreline Landowner Education

Shoreline landowners have a unique opportunity to be shoreline stewards. In 2005 FRIENDS designed and printed a limited number of the *Living with the Shoreline Stewardship Guide*. This guide informs landowners about the importance of our nearshore resources and introduces best management practices for shoreline development. The 2007 updated *Stewardship Guide* will be reprinted and mailed to all shoreline property owners and distributed by realtors and the Planning Department.

### Annual Spring Beach Clean-Up

Cigarette butts, plastics and styrofoam are some of the more numerous objects littering our shorelines, while tire floats, broken up docks and fishing nets are the largest. Marine garbage is not just unsightly and unsafe; it is an ecological disaster for the animals that live with it. Over 300 volunteers, service groups, schools participated in the 2006 Beach Clean Up. This stewardship program depends on group and individual volunteers for its ongoing efforts and benefit to the community. The FRIENDS beach clean-up program continues to collect data on marine refuse in San Juan County. Call 378-2319 to sign up for the 2007 Annual Spring Beach Clean Up.

## Expert Assistance for Shoreline Landowners

With over 400 miles of primarily healthy nearshore habitat, San Juan County shorelines support forage fish spawning sites, eelgrass meadows and kelp beds as well as feeding, resting and migration corridors for salmon. Shoreline property owners play an important role in the stewardship of the region's nearshore environment. Landowner actions have a direct impact on the health of eelgrass, forage fish, salmon and orca resources.

As the majority of San Juan County's shoreline development occurs through single-family residential development and individual shoreline alterations voluntary protection is essential. While interest in shoreline protection by most San Juan County residents is high, many landowners lack access to the detailed, site-specific information required to make decisions that protect property and habitat over the long term. Because shoreline technical assistance is not available through a public agency in San Juan County, FRIENDS secured grant funding to support expert site visits with interested shoreline landowners.

To date, engineering geologist Jim Johannessen and shoreline ecologist Elliott Menashe have visited 10 sites and provided recommendations on the management of water, erosion, vegetation and development activities. Additional site visits are planned through Spring 2007.

For more information on the shoreline technical assistance program, please contact FRIENDS at 360-378-2319.

photo by Mark Gardner

# *Goal 4: Ensure Environmental*

## **Objectives:**

- Monitor compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws, intervening legally when appropriate.
- Ensure use of Best Available Science in local, state, and federal decision-making.
- Develop partnerships to support conservation campaigns.
- Promote consistent implementation of conservation policies through information sharing.

## *Highlights & Accomplishments*

### **Land Use Compliance**

To prevent land use practices that compromise the law, FRIENDS made over 25 formal code complaints to local, state, and federal land managers in 2006. Common complaints include illegal wetlands dredging and filling, shoreline tree removal, bulkhead construction and endangered species harassment. Before filing a formal complaint, FRIENDS conducts research to determine potential risks to environmental resources and permit status. As part of our code compliance work, FRIENDS helps concerned citizens navigate the local, state and federal regulatory maze.

### **Land Use Decision Upholds the County's Conservation Design Requirements**

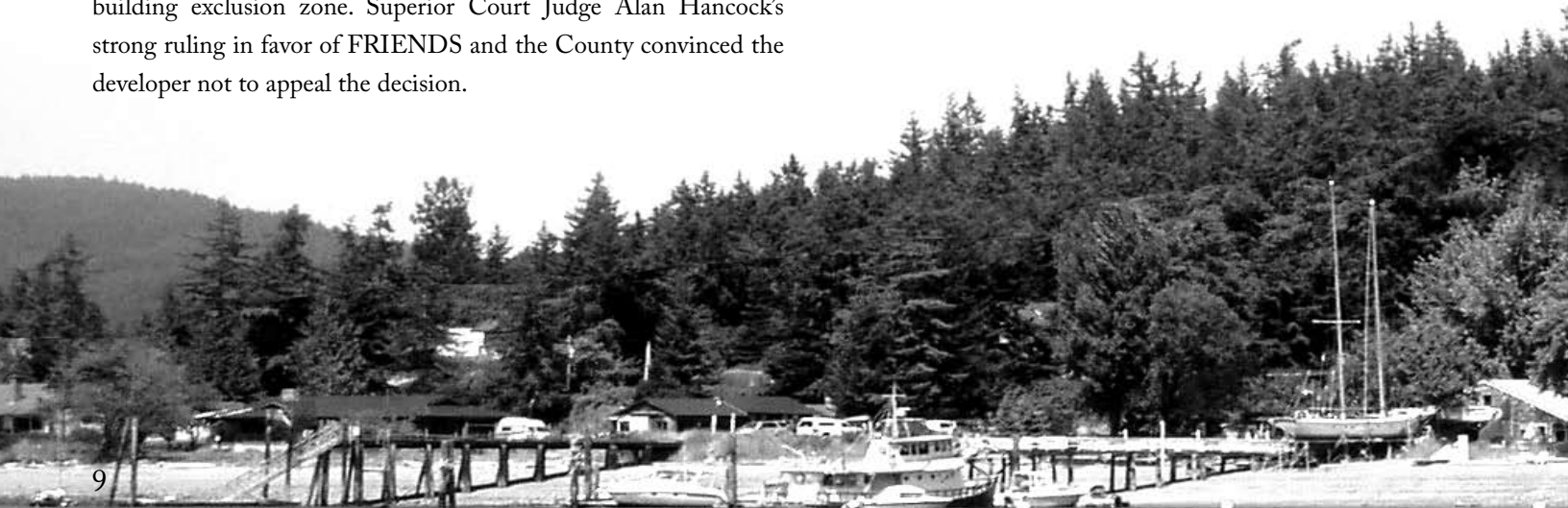
FRIENDS wrote an amicus brief to support San Juan County's Conservation Design Requirements (CDRs) for subdivisions. The CDRs require that at least 60% of the most significant and sensitive areas of property be kept as private open space and in a residential building exclusion zone. Superior Court Judge Alan Hancock's strong ruling in favor of FRIENDS and the County convinced the developer not to appeal the decision.

### **Filled Wetland to be Restored**

FRIENDS worked with Seattle attorney Richard Smith to hold a local excavator accountable for multiple years of wetlands destruction on his property. The local excavator is in the process of restoring the wetlands and is required to monitor the restoration for five years. FRIENDS out of court settlement provides funding to educate local land managers and excavators about the sensitivities of the nearshore environment and wetland areas.

### **Preserving the Character of Deer Harbor**

In an effort to ensure adequate project review, fresh water availability, and the protection of historic structures, FRIENDS worked with the residents of Deer Harbor on Orcas Island to challenge a proposal to expand the Resort at Deer Harbor by Trendwest, an international time-share company. After the Hearing Examiner ruled in FRIENDS and the residents' favor, the developer appealed the legal issues to the State Superior Court.





# *al Protection*

## *Ongoing & Next Steps*

### **Holding the Line for Eelgrass**

This summer, the San Juan County Prosecuting Attorney's office made a settlement agreement to allow an experimental dock to be built over eelgrass. The agreement compromises local and state natural resource protections and was settled without the knowledge of the County Council. FRIENDS is pursuing legal action on this matter. FRIENDS has also requested that the County Council prohibit experimental docks in San Juan County because of potential damage to critical nearshore habitats.

### **Orca Critical Habitat**

FRIENDS helped to secure protection for Southern Resident Orca Whales (Orca) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with coalition of conservation partners. This summer, FRIENDS commented on the Orca recovery plan focusing on military and open coast exemptions, prey abundance, toxins, noise, major project review, and climate change. FRIENDS also encouraged orca conservation planning between Canada and the United States.

### **Tidal Energy Proposal**

The Snohomish Public Utility District has proposed to place 116 turbines in San Juan Channel and 168 turbines in Spieden Channel to generate energy. While FRIENDS favors the use of renewable, sustainable forms of energy, there is limited information about the ecological effects of the proposed projects. FRIENDS filed a motion to intervene with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that all environmental issues are considered throughout the process.

## *Is Shoreline planning in San Juan County Meeting the Goal of 'No Net Loss'?*

Over the past five years, FRIENDS has played a key role in developing new information on the nearshore marine habitats of San Juan County. Despite improved scientific understanding of the location of priority species and habitats, development activities continue to occur on these beaches.

In 2006, FRIENDS created a searchable database for all San Juan County shoreline permits issues since 1970, including developments, variances, exemptions, and violations. Phase I results are being mapped and analyzed and will be presented to decision makers in 2007.

This winter the database will be analyzed to evaluate the success of local Shoreline Master Program and Environmentally Sensitive Area policies in meeting the goal of "no net loss of ecological function necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources," (State of Washington Shoreline Management Act, WAC 173-26-201-2C). Results will help determine the best strategies to address the ongoing issue of site specific and cumulative nearshore habitat loss, such as education, enforcement, or development of new voluntary or regulatory protection mechanisms.



# Volunteers Make the San Juans a better place to live...

**Volunteers** make the San Juans a better place to live by providing a variety of services. The FRIENDS of the San Juans would like to thank all the individuals who contribute their valuable time and support our efforts to make the San Juans Islands the special place that it is. For more information about volunteer opportunities contact Jana Marks at (360) 378-2319.



*A few of our 2006 Earth Day Beach Cleanup Volunteers*

## *San Juan Island Rideshare*

FRIENDS is excited to support the new RIDESHARE program. Just imagine you could regularly leave your car at home and safely find a ride to town or work, or in turn offer someone a ride home. The RIDESHARE program will create a friendly transportation option that supports sustainability while reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gases. Planning is underway to install signs marking safe roadside stops on San Juan as part of a pilot project. Rideshare stops on Orcas and Lopez Islands are also being discussed. Flexible ridesharing combines the ease of hitchhiking with the safety of a membership program. For more information you can visit [www.sjrideshare.org](http://www.sjrideshare.org), email [info@sjRIDESHARE.org](mailto:info@sjRIDESHARE.org) or call Liza at 378-3875.



## *FRIENDS New Board Members*

### **Mark Gardner**

Mark returns to the FRIENDS Board of Directors after a three year break. Most recently Mark was the Managing Director of OnTarget, one of the world's leading sales training and consulting firms. Currently, Mark provides consulting services and is the owner of Rainshadow PhotoGraphics, a photography and digital imaging company. Mark published a book of photographs called *The San Juan Islands: Crown Jewels of the Pacific Northwest*. Mark began his career as a fish biologist and has had a lifelong interest in ecology and the environment. He holds a BS and MS from North Carolina State University, and an MBA from the University of Washington. Mark generously donates the use of his incredible photographs for FRIENDS publications. Welcome back Mark!



### **Larry Marx**

Larry is a new Board Member from San Juan Island. Larry Marx is currently Director of Corporate Development at Exponent, Inc., an internationally recognized engineering, environmental and health consulting company. Prior to being at Exponent, he was one of the founders of PTI Environmental Services, an environmental science consulting company founded in 1987 in Bellevue, WA. Larry has served on the Board of Directors of PTI and of Washington Water Trails Association. He holds a BS in Marine Biology from the University of California at Berkeley, and an MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Southern California. Welcome aboard Larry!





# Get Involved *and* Stay Informed

## *Local Planning and Advisory Committee Efforts*

### San Juan County Council

Meets weekly on Tuesday at 10 am in the County Courthouse. Agendas are posted at [www.co.san-juan.wa.us/bocc/currentagenda.pdf](http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/bocc/currentagenda.pdf).

### Hearing Examiner

Hearings on proposed land use permits are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, at Key Bank in Friday Harbor. Agendas are posted at [www.co.san-juan.wa.us/cdp/default.asp](http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/cdp/default.asp)

### Water Resources Committee

Meets the first Monday of each month, 8:30 a.m. at the San Juan Island Grange. Contact Vicki Heater at [vickih@co.san-juan.wa.us](mailto:vickih@co.san-juan.wa.us) or call 378-4474. Amy Trainer represents FRIENDS of the San Juans on this committee.

### Planning Commission

Meets the third Friday of each month. Call Lynda Guernsey, Departmental Assistant at 370-7579 to receive agendas.

### Marine Resources Committee

Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Islanders Bank Annex on San Juan Island. For more information go to [www.sjcmrc.org](http://www.sjcmrc.org) or call 378-1095. Tina Whitman represents FRIENDS of the San Juans on this committee.

### Agricultural Resources Committee

Meets on the 4th Monday of each month. Meeting locations rotate around the County. Visit [www.sanjuancountywaarc.net](http://www.sanjuancountywaarc.net) or call Ron Zee at the Conservation District at 378-6621 for more information.

## *Farm Plans Help Protect Critical Wetlands*

FRIENDS believes that Farm Plans developed with the assistance of the San Juan Conservation District may be an effective strategy for developing site specific wetland buffers in San Juan County. Call Bryan Cornelius at the Conservation District to schedule a Farm Plan assessment at 360-378-6621. Critical Areas Ordinance meetings will occur throughout the County later this year.



# Ways to Support FRIENDS...

## *Tax-free Giving from IRA's Allowed through 2007*

There is great news for senior citizens with Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and charitable objectives. During the remainder of 2006 and all of 2007 people over 70 ½ have an opportunity to take advantage of a newly enacted tax benefit. They can make a charitable contribution from their IRAs without having to report a taxable distribution from the account. They can direct the IRA trustee to pay up to \$100,000 to charities of their choosing. They do not report the distribution as income; neither do they report a charitable deduction if they itemize deductions.

Under current law IRA owners over 70 ½ must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their IRAs whether they need the income or not. This results in unnecessary taxes. Under the new rule, direct distributions to charity from IRAs count toward the RMD. Thus, seniors who order the IRA administrator to make qualifying charitable distributions will be able to report less taxable income than otherwise. However, because the distribution does not create income, there will not be an itemized deduction and the tax benefit may be reduced or lost entirely for some high income seniors.

Such gifts are also exempt from the limitation on charitable deductions based on a percentage of the taxpayer's income. Finally, these distributions will not cause any reduction in the amount of Social Security payments one receives. This new provision is a big win for charitable seniors with IRAs and for the charities of their choice. Remember, this works only for the remainder of 2006 and 2007.

FRIENDS of the San Juans is a charitable not-for-profit organization that qualifies for this tax-exempt donation. Our IRS Tax number is 91-1087153. Please speak with a financial advisor about this giving option.

## *You Can Make a Difference... With Your Will!*

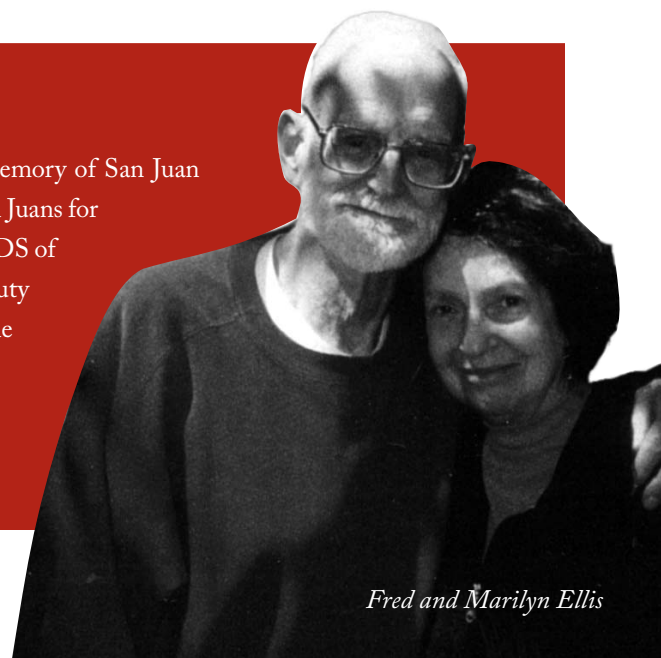
It's been estimated that nearly 2/3 of Americans do not have a will... and many of those that do have a will have not updated it in the past 5 years. If you do not have a will, the government may decide who gets your money, property and other assets. It may, depending on circumstances, also decide who raises your kids, cares for your elderly parents, takes care of your pets, decides how much tax your estate pays and it won't make gifts to charities and nonprofits like FRIENDS of the San Juans.

If you have a will, even if you are not wealthy, you can make a gift to FRIENDS of the San Juans that will have significant impact. A bequest to FRIENDS of the San Juans can be part of your conservation legacy. You can donate specific property, a fixed sum, or a portion of your estate, and receive an estate tax deduction for your bequest.

If you wish to make a bequest, please discuss it carefully with your attorney. Our suggested bequest language is: I give, devise, and bequeath to the Board of FRIENDS of the San Juans, (specific amount, percentage of estate, or property description) for FRIENDS of the San Juans. As the old saying goes ... "Where there's a Will, there's a way." For more information, please contact: Stephanie Buffum Field at (360) 378-2319.

## *Marilyn Ellis Endowment Fund*

The Marilyn Ellis Endowment Fund was established in 2000 to honor the memory of San Juan County Conservationist Marilyn S. Ellis. Marilyn Ellis was a resident of the San Juans for more than 50 years. Fred and Marilyn Ellis were founding members of FRIENDS of the San Juans. It has always been important to them to protect the islands' beauty and the diversity of marine, bird, and animal life for future generations. The Endowment was created to celebrate Marilyn Ellis' life by providing long-term financial support for FRIENDS. Donations to the Marilyn Ellis Endowment Fund may be in the form of cash, check, stock, property, or through a bequest.



*Fred and Marilyn Ellis*



# 2006 Financial Highlights

FRIENDS of the San Juans is a 501(C)(3) non profit organization. FRIENDS income primarily comes from membership contributions and grants. FRIENDS expenditures are for science and education programs costs, legal and other issue expenses, publications, and administrative support. This is a financial snapshot for our 2006 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006) and does not include all final adjustments.

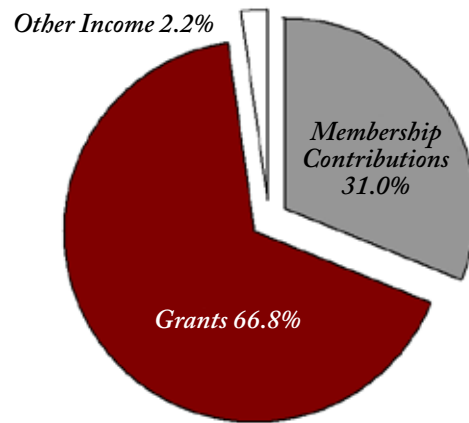
## Summary of Financial Position

### *Current and Fixed Assets*

Cash and Other Unrestricted	2006
Marilyn Ellis Endowment	\$156,185
Other Assets	\$74,339
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,207</b>
	<b>\$235,731</b>

### *Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus*

Current Liabilities	\$1,787
Accumulated Surplus	\$233,944
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>\$235,731</b>



REVENUE SOURCES

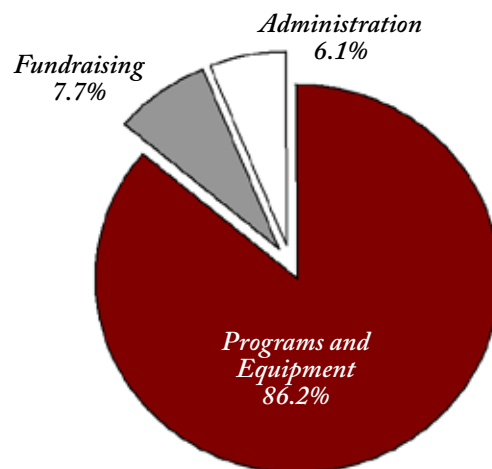
## Statement of Activities

### *Income*

Membership Gifts	2006
Other Contributions	\$94,760
Investments, Events and Other Income	\$34,370
Grants	\$9,060
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$278,985</b>
	<b>\$417,175</b>

### *Expenses*

Programs	\$359,168
Fundraising	\$25,494
Administration	\$32,034
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$416,696</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$479</b>



EXPENDITURES

## *Thank You Funders & Partners!*

**Grant Funders:** The Bullitt Foundation, The Charlotte Martin Foundation, ESRI, The Harder Foundation, Horizons Foundation, Northwest Fund for the Environment, The Puget Sound Action Team, The Russell Family Foundation, San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, The Tulalip Tribe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board

**Project Partners:** Center for Biological Diversity, Coastal Geologic Services, Conservation Northwest, EarthJustice, Friday Harbor Labs, Friday Harbor Labs K-12 Science Outreach Program, Futurewise, Greenbelt Consulting, National Park Service, OASIS Home School Program, Ocean Advocates, Orcas Funhouse, Orcas Christian School, Port of Friday Harbor, Rozewood Environmental, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, San Juan Island Anti-Litter Coalition, San Juan Island Lion's Club, San Juan National Historical Park, San Juan Preservation Trust, Shaw Island 4-H, Swinomish Indian Nation, Tulalip Tribes, United States Geological Service, University of Washington, Waldron School, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Environmental Council, Xerces Society, YMCA Camp Orkila

**THANK YOU MEMBERS, WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**



# FRIENDS of the San Juans *Winter Celebration*

Thursday December 7, 2006, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
at the Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union

Hosts Jon and Joan Christoffersen  
Guest Speaker Phil Johnson

Hors D'oeuvres by Herban Feast

RSVP - space is limited.

Please call FRIENDS office at 360-378-2319 to RSVP.

### *About the Artist...*

*David Ridgway lives on Orcas Island. He was born in Seattle in 1949. He is primarily a landscape painter. Recurrent elements in his work include architecture, mechanical and man made objects including vehicles, farm machinery and boats. While in the San Juans you can see his work at Crow Valley Pottery on Orcas Island or Waterworks Gallery on San Juan Island. David and his wife are long time members of FRIENDS of the San Juans.*



FRIENDS  
OF THE SAN JUANS  
P.O. Box 1344  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
360.378.2319  
[www.sanjuans.org](http://www.sanjuans.org)

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***Please Send Your Annual Gift Today.***