

# FRIENDS

*of the San Juans*



2008 Annual Report



# From the Director

**F**rom preserving farmland, drinking water, wetlands and shorelines, to advocating for greater protections for fish and wildlife, in 2008, FRIENDS of the San Juans succeeded in protecting the San Juans and preserving our quality of life through science, policy, law and citizen action.

We could not have accomplished these great strides without you, our members, who stepped up to testify to preserve iconic places like Crow Valley, San Juan Valley, Blind Bay, and Fisherman Bay. Without your emails and letters, species like eelgrass, forage fish, salmon and orca would have fewer places to live; and our freshwater resources would be available to the highest bidder.

This year, we held the line against attacks on habitat protection, winning a critical shoreline protection case along the west end of Pearl Island, near Roche Harbor. We proved again that mere convenience does not outweigh the public's interest in preservation of critical eelgrass habitat for forage fish, salmon and orca whales.

**"Please Join Nora and me in supporting the work of FRIENDS of the San Juans...They are preserving the quality of life that we all moved here to enjoy."**

*Odd Fausko, Member*



*Photo l to r) Executive Director Stephanie Buffum Field, Nora and Odd Fausko, Staff Attorney Kyle Loring, Office Manager Jana Marks and Membership Director Scott Boye.*

We continued science-based restoration on Lopez and San Juan islands. These projects, when completed in 2009, will improve habitat for forage fish and salmon by removing harmful shoreline structures.

Partners like you make our work possible...and inspire our conservation team to improve our skills and services to better protect the land, water, sea and livability here in the San Juan Islands. During this challenging

economic climate, your support is as valuable as ever. Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to carrying on our mission with you to protect the San Juans and preserve our quality of life.

Stephanie Buffum Field  
Executive Director

## **FRIENDS of the San Juans**

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

P.O. Box 1344, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 360-378-2319 [www.sanjuans.org](http://www.sanjuans.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** *Orcas* - Tom Owens, Farouk Seif & Janet Alderton

*San Juan* - Ralph Hahn, Bill Watson, Mark Gardner & Larry Marx

*Shaw* - Lynn Bahrych & Fred Ellis | *Lopez* - San Olson & George Lawson

**STAFF:** *Executive Director* - Stephanie Buffum Field ([stephanie@sanjuans.org](mailto:stephanie@sanjuans.org))

*Science Director* - Tina Whitman ([tina@sanjuans.org](mailto:tina@sanjuans.org)), *Staff Attorney* - Kyle Loring ([kyle@sanjuans.org](mailto:kyle@sanjuans.org)),

*Office Manager* - Jana Marks ([jana@sanjuans.org](mailto:jana@sanjuans.org)), *Membership Director* - Scott Boye ([scott@sanjuans.org](mailto:scott@sanjuans.org))

*Grants Manager* - Shannon Davis ([shannon@sanjuans.org](mailto:shannon@sanjuans.org)).

Newsletter design by Tif & Gif Creative. Cover photo by Mark Gardner

Printed with Soy Ink on Paper that is 100% PCW, 100% Recycled, Processed Chlorine Free, Ancient Forest Friendly, FSC, Green-e and manufactured with wind power. No seriously, it is!

# Science

## Highlights & Accomplishments

*With over 400 miles of shoreline, San Juan County plays an essential role in regional salmon and orca recovery efforts. Over the past year, FRIENDS science and education programs have actively aided in marine recovery, reaching over 4,500 citizens, assessing shoreline development trends, and implementing restoration projects at priority sites. Together, we are making a difference in protecting the San Juans and the greater Puget Sound/Georgia Basin ecosystem.*

### Shoreline Habitat Values, Threats and Opportunities

FRIENDS conducted multiple presentations of our report, Shoreline Habitat Values, Threats and Opportunities which used science and landowner outreach to identify the most important shoreline properties for the recovery of critical species, including salmon, forage fish and eelgrass. FRIENDS presented report findings to: San Juan County Council, San Juan County Public Works Department, WSU Extension / Beachwatchers, San Juan Preservation Trust Board of Directors, San Juan Initiative Policy Committee, Leadership San Juan Islands, and the County Planning Commission.

### Eelgrass Research

Eelgrass prairies provide critical food, shelter and migratory habitat for hundreds of species of fish, birds and invertebrates, including migrating juvenile salmon, Pacific herring, Dungeness crab and Great Blue Herons. To help protect this valuable marine resource, FRIENDS is monitoring eelgrass distribution in four priority bays where eelgrass declines have been documented since 2004: Westcott, Garrison, Fisherman and Blind Bays. In 2008, FRIENDS completed three years of detailed eelgrass mapping of those bays and has shared the results with the state Department of Natural Resources, and the County's Marine Resources Committee. Research findings have been incorporated into comment letters and oral testimony to advocate for eelgrass protection at the local and state level.

*Nearshore Field Day at MacKaye Harbor, Lopez Island.*

*Photo by Mark Gardner*







l) FRIENDS completed San Juan County mapping for bull kelp habitat. Photo by Chris Homan r) Restoring forage fish spawning habitat at Shoal Bay, Lopez.

## Mapping Kelp Habitat

Over the past two years, FRIENDS mapped bull kelp habitat for San Juan County in partnership with the state Department of Natural Resources and the UW Friday Harbor Labs. FRIENDS also developed a white paper identifying kelp habitat threats and opportunities and circulated that paper, and detailed bull kelp distribution maps, statewide to over 100 shoreline planners and managers. This data is helping to inform land managers about this important marine habitat.

## Shoreline Protection

Over the past two years, FRIENDS created a Shoreline Protection Blueprint to give land conservation organizations and interested landowners scientific information to ensure the most important nearshore habitats are targeted for protection. This protection focuses on the use of voluntary conservation tools including: the donation of land, conservation easements and enrollment of property in Washington State's Open Space tax incentive program. To achieve the goals of the Shoreline Protection Blueprint, FRIENDS used both landowner participation and science.

FRIENDS partnered with the San Juan County Land Bank and

the San Juan Preservation Trust to communicate with shoreline landowners through informational mailings, a shoreline landowner survey, and community workshops. A shoreline survey along with FRIENDS Living with the Shoreline Stewardship Guide was mailed to all 4,500 shoreline property owners in the County. Over 16% of landowners completed their survey and provided information on site characteristics, habitat changes observed by the landowner over time, and interest in long-term protection of tideland and shoreline habitat. Over 449 landowners expressed high interest in learning more about long-term shoreline protection programs, conservation easements, or protecting their tidelands in perpetuity.

FRIENDS also identified at-risk, high quality habitat sites, through analysis and mapping of existing biological, physical and land use data. A computer model was created to combine current development status, risk of future shoreline modification, and nearshore habitat value to identify priority sites for protection. The effectiveness of protection efforts can be monitored over time as the computer models allow analyses to be updated as new information becomes available.

The Land Bank and Preservation Trust are both applying results to internal planning processes. The

Blueprint will help them and other conservation entities become more strategic in shoreline protection efforts.

## Shoreline Restoration

To improve habitat conditions for forage fish, eelgrass prairies, shellfish beds, a sand spit and coastal lagoons, FRIENDS is working with interested private and public landowners on Lopez, San Juan and Shaw to restore shoreline properties that are being impacted by unnecessary shoreline modifications. Additional shoreline restoration project designs are underway in partnership with public and private landowners on Lopez, Shaw and Blakely Islands in 2009.

**Community Restoration Planning MacKaye Harbor, Lopez** - MacKaye Harbor and Barlow Bay's nearshore supports eelgrass prairies, documented surf smelt and Pacific sand lance spawning beaches, extensive coastal wetlands, and out-migrating juvenile salmon.

Derelict piers and piles, concrete, boats, shoreline armoring, and a tide gate currently degrade the bay's coastal wetlands, upper beach, and intertidal habitat. FRIENDS partnered with Coastal Geologic Services, San Juan County, The Tulalip Tribe and the south Lopez community to complete



l) Coastal Geologists survey for the Turn Point Salt Marsh restoration project. r) FRIENDS protects and restores nearshore habitat to improve juvenile salmon survival. Photo by Peter Kiffney, NOAA Fisheries

a feasibility analysis for restoring the area's coastal habitats including beaches, tidelands and coastal wetlands. That effort completed land use, habitat analysis, and engineering surveys. FRIENDS shared a draft restoration plan for the intertidal, beach and wetland habitats at community meetings this fall. The community is identifying restoration priorities for the next phase of this project.

**Shoal Bay Shuffleboard Court Removal, Lopez** - In 2008, FRIENDS coordinated the removal of an old concrete and creosote log 'shuffleboard court' located adjacent to documented surf smelt spawning habitat. This derelict modification is interrupting the natural transport of sediment and, over time, will change the size and composition of the gravel on the beach, reducing forage fish spawning habitat. This project restores over 600 square feet of upper beach habitat and removes a barrier to natural geologic processes. Removal of creosote pilings also provides both environmental and human water quality benefits; creosote is toxic to fish, other marine organisms and humans.

**Turn Point Salt Marsh Restoration, San Juan** - Turn Point supports suitable forage fish spawning substrate, extensive eelgrass beds, areas of dense marine riparian vegetation and salt

marshes. This area provides high quality feeding and resting areas for out-migrating juvenile salmon. FRIENDS has designed the Turn Point Salt Marsh Restoration Project to remove a 200-foot long unnecessary rockery from beach habitat along the front of a coastal wetland. The rockery blocks tidal exchange between the salt marsh and the marine environment and buries potential forage fish spawning habitat. Removal of the rockery will restore upper beach habitat and wetland hydrology, naturally improving the condition and function of the salt marsh, an important and rare coastal habitat type within San Juan County.

### Shoreline Permit Analysis

In 2008 FRIENDS applied the results from our San Juan County Shoreline Permit Analysis, 1972-2005, to the Critical Areas Ordinance Update and the San Juan Initiative process. Our report identified major shoreline permit activity trends in San Juan County from 1972 through 2005.

Some of the results were startling. For example, we found that the rate of permit issuance for docks on shoreline parcels with eelgrass actually increased after the adoption of environmentally-sensitive area regulations intended to protect eelgrass (5 per year from 1972-1992 and 10 per year from

1993-2005). Likewise, permits for bulkheads on parcels with forage fish spawning increased from a rate of 0.42 per year for 1972-1992 to 0.85 per year from 1993-2005, after the adoption of environmentally-sensitive area regulations.

The Analysis allows San Juan County to guide future planning processes with increased knowledge of past shoreline land use activities. The Analysis also increases our understanding of the relationship between shoreline development and nearshore habitat conditions. We shared the results of the Analysis with over 75 local scientists, planners and managers, and you can find the report at [www.sanjuans.org](http://www.sanjuans.org).

### Integrating Science into Countywide Planning

FRIENDS participated in major planning processes to ensure that the best available information on priority habitats and species was applied to decision making, including: the Public Works Department Road Plan, Marine Resources Committee Marine Stewardship Plan, San Juan County Critical Areas Ordinance Update, San Juan County Land Bank and San Juan Preservation Trust Habitat Assessment, and San Juan Initiative's Science Team and Policy Group.



# Law & Policy

## Highlights & Accomplishments

*With your help, FRIENDS participated actively in public processes to protect our shorelines, water supplies, farmland, and other critical areas. And as the only environmental advocacy group in the San Juans with the in-house capability to legally challenge unlawful activities, we served as the last line of defense to enforce state and local laws established to preserve the quality of life that San Juan County residents expect. Every time you support our efforts, you tighten this safety net.*

### Protecting Farmland

In 1990, with residential sprawl consuming farmland across the state, the state legislature recognized the need to protect our ability to grow food in Washington and enacted the Growth Management Act with a requirement that counties ensure the conservation of agricultural lands. When farms are legally subdivided, they must be designed to conserve farmland and agricultural resources.

In 2008, FRIENDS vigorously challenged inappropriate development of farmlands. In San Juan Valley, the heart of farming on San Juan Island, FRIENDS urged the County to deny a permit to subdivide farmland in the absence of any demonstration that the developer had evaluated and proposed to protect the highest quality farmland on those parcels.

In Blind Bay, FRIENDS advocated against the conversion of Shaw Island's gateway farmland into a subdivision and unnecessary 175-foot dock without conserving agricultural lands. That farm had in the past raised chicken and sheep, reared horses and cattle, and produced hay crops. Like the San Juan Valley proposal, the applicant had not sufficiently assessed the most environmentally or agriculturally rich areas on the property. On October 6, 2008, the Hearing Examiner denied the dock, but approved the subdivision subject to several conditions that may diminish the impact of the development on the shoreline.

### Protecting Precious Water Resources

In collaboration with neighborhood groups, FRIENDS requested that County officials permit new development only after assuring residents of sufficient water supplies. In False Bay, FRIENDS worked with neighbors of a proposed subdivision to evaluate the impact on existing wells of water use for 9 proposed homes.

In Crow Valley, FRIENDS urged the County Council to comply with their duty to determine that a private waterline would be in the public interest prior to allowing a developer to use the public right-of-way for that waterline. That waterline could remove nearly 15,000 gallons per day from a Class III wetland on productive agricultural lands and transport it approximately 3.5 miles to a speculative development near the shoreline along Dolphin Bay. In a September 29, 2008 public hearing, FRIENDS and a roomful of residents demanded that the Council analyze impacts that the waterline would cause to the wetland, to Crow Valley farms, and to the watershed. On October 20th the Council agreed with Orcas residents and FRIENDS and denied the franchise permit.





## Protecting the Shoreline

Over the years, FRIENDS has established a healthy legacy of shoreline protection. This past summer, FRIENDS built upon that legacy with the successful appeal of a permit for the construction of a single-user dock over eelgrass on the west end of Pearl Island. On August 25, 2008, the Shorelines Hearings Board reversed the County's issuance of the permit, agreeing with FRIENDS that it violated both state and local law, and noting that the applicant's "...desire for convenience does not outweigh the public's interest in preservation of fragile off-shore environment." The dock would have shaded a portion of an eelgrass prairie, likely impacting its ability to provide critical food, shelter and migratory habitat for hundreds of species of invertebrates, birds, crab, and fish like migrating salmon and Pacific herring. The applicant has appealed the Shorelines Hearings Board decision.

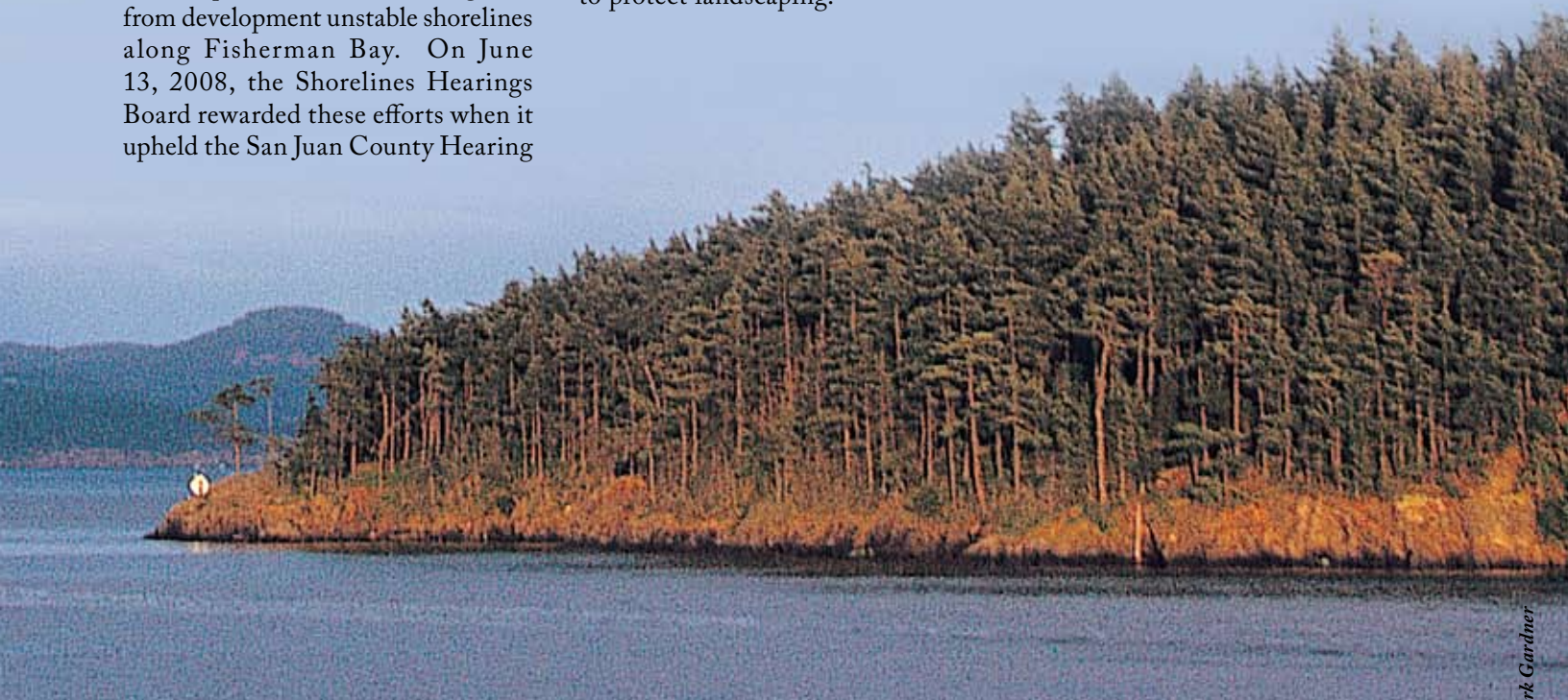
Since August 2007, FRIENDS has also worked with the County and Lopez residents to safeguard from development unstable shorelines along Fisherman Bay. On June 13, 2008, the Shorelines Hearings Board rewarded these efforts when it upheld the San Juan County Hearing

Examiner's denial of a shoreline setback variance for a house on an unbuildable lot along the eastern shore of Fisherman Bay, Lopez Island.

FRIENDS has also challenged applications for unnecessary shoreline armoring. As we have learned from downsound areas like Hood Canal, bulkheading shorelines can cause substantial disruptions to shorelines by deflecting wave energy and scouring beaches, off-shore sediments, and neighboring shorelines. Accordingly, on June 10, 2008, FRIENDS appealed the County's determination that a bulkhead would not cause significant environmental harm when we learned that the County had reached that decision without considering the surf smelt spawning habitat that would be covered by the bulkhead, or the eelgrass meadow growing just off-shore. On October 29, 2008, the San Juan County Hearing Examiner issued a decision agreeing that FRIENDS had filed a valid SEPA appeal, and denying the bulkhead on the separate grounds that it was unnecessary and not allowed merely to protect landscaping.

## Strengthening Our Islands Safety Net

FRIENDS lends its expertise to help shape local policies that benefit our unique home. We review land use permits in the county, and when necessary comment and testify against development that harms our agricultural lands, water, or shorelines. We participate on numerous committees to ensure the environment has a voice at the table, including the Critical Areas Ordinance Committee, Marine Resources Management Committee, Water Resources Committee, and the San Juan Initiative. In addition, in 2008, FRIENDS has diligently pursued effective enforcement authority for County officials to ticket those who flagrantly violate land use laws. FRIENDS also helped facilitate the September 17, 2008 San Juan County Transportation Summit that initiated a forum for increasing mobility for people and goods to and through the San Juans.







l) Orca Sing Celebration r) 2008 Canoe Journey stopover in Roche Harbor

# Outreach & Education

## Highlights & Accomplishments

*In addition to science, policy and law, FRIENDS of the San Juans makes time to celebrate this place through events such as Orca Sing, Canoe Journey, Conservation Summit, community restoration projects, lectures, and our annual meeting. We strive to inspire the human spirit to preserve our unique environment for generations to come.*

### Canoe Journey 2008

This summer, FRIENDS hosted over 200 Native Americans on Shaw Island and Roche Harbor as part of the 2008 Canoe Journey. 14 sea going canoes, paddlers, and ground crew traveled through the islands en route to their final destination of Cowichan, B.C. Canada (near Duncan). Over 110 ocean-going canoes, from a variety

of nations, paddled to Cowichan. The Journey is filled with ceremony symbolic of ancient times when one nation would travel into the territory of another, reminding us of the importance of the sharing of culture and respect for Indigenous people all over the world. Many San Juan County community members assisted with this incredible celebration.

### FRIENDS Annual Meeting

Over 100 members and guests attended our Annual Meeting on Shaw Island at the Ellis Biological Preserve. Highlights included tours of the Preserve and keynote remarks by coastal geologists, Wolf Bauer and Jim Johannessen, who discussed coastal processes, climate change, and opportunities to protect our shorelines.

### Raising Awareness for Orca Protection

On summer solstice the City Cantabile Choir, directed by Fred West, ACS/PS, FRIENDS of the San Juans, People for Puget Sound, the Whale Museum, and Lime Kiln State Park hosted the 10th Annual Orca Sing at Lime Kiln State Park.

The 2008 Orca Sing was honored by the attendance of our special guests: a superpod of over 55 of the Southern

Resident orca whales, representing J Pod plus members of K and L pods.

The Southern Resident Orca population has become a compelling example of the impact of the West Coast salmon collapse. Seven of our Southern Resident orca have gone missing this season, reducing the population to 83 southern residents. Marine biologists believe the missing adult whales, which include two reproductive females and K-7 (Lummi) who is considered the oldest female in the Southern Resident Community, starved to death.

Southern Resident Orca rely heavily on endangered chinook salmon whose stocks have plunged. While ocean warming might also be a factor, loss of habitat and overfishing have more significant direct effects. Researchers are also concerned about other threats to the orca habitat including toxins, vessel disturbance, and the effects of military sonar on the mammals. The three pods that comprise our southern resident population are slow in regenerating. The challenges are vast and complex and it may only take a few more deaths to tip the balance for this endangered species.

### Marine Debris Presentation

This fall FRIENDS and member Doris Estabrooks sponsored Charles Moore for an evening lecture about





l) Lopez residents attend community meeting to Preserve Fisherman Bay. r) Salmon in the Classroom program founder, Bob Boye discussed nearshore habitat with Coastal Geologist Wolf Bauer at FRIENDS Annual Meeting.

plastics in our oceans. Moore shared his lifelong crusade to remediate the ocean's plastic load. In 1997, after a yacht race to Hawaii, Moore veered from the usual sea route and saw an ocean he had never known, a "garbage patch," the size of the Continental US, floating in the Pacific Ocean. FRIENDS is working on reducing marine debris through annual beach clean ups and the San Juan Anti-Litter Initiative. FRIENDS will be petitioning the County Council to ban Polystyrene containers in San Juan County in 2009.

## Conservation Summit

In commemoration of Earth Day 2008 over 100 citizens and 15 conservation organizations came together at the Lopez Center. Tom Cowan, regional liaison to the Puget Sound Partnership, was the keynote speaker. Stephanie Buffum Field, Executive Director of the FRIENDS served as the co-chair of the Conservation Summit Steering Committee.

Six awards were given to San Juan County residents and businesses that have shown outstanding stewardship of the land and water.

**Blossom Organic Grocery** was recognized for making efforts to stock island grown products and for buying only green power from OPALCO.

**Island Paper and Supply** received an award for their sustainability management practices, which include selling post-consumer waste products and non-toxic cleaning products.

**Fred Ellis, Sr.** of Shaw Island won an individual award for his commitment to saving the fauna and flora of the San Juan Islands since 1937.

**Ona Blue and Neil Hanson** were recognized for their 16 years of commitment to the free "Take it, or Leave it" facility at the Lopez Transfer Station.

**Bill and Barbara Humes**, farmers and ranchers of Warm Valley Farm on Orcas Island were awarded the farmland stewardship award for their 45 years of protecting land through conservation trusts and mentoring of other farmers.

**The Port of Friday Harbor** was recognized for being among the first ports in the State to meet the shoreline stewardship criteria, using electric cars for Port business, their innovative pump-out station, oil, battery and trash recycling facilities, "repair it, re-use it" shelter and the 400-gallon marine education aquarium at the Spring Street Pier.

***FRIENDS has a long history of preserving the land, water, sea and livability of the San Juans. As we move into our 30th year, FRIENDS has a steep conservation agenda ahead. We will depend on you to help engage your friends, neighbors, decision-makers and businesses to help protect and restore the San Juan Islands.***

The 2009 Conservation Summit will be held April 18 in Friday Harbor. For more information visit [www.stewardshipsjc.org](http://www.stewardshipsjc.org).

## Project Partners

In 2008, FRIENDS worked with a variety of partners on a diversity of projects. These partners included: Coastal Geologic Services, Doug Bison Gallery, Friday Harbor Labs, Fred Felleman, Lummi Nation, National Park Service, Portals Group, Roche Harbor Resort and Marina, Rozewood Environmental, Samish Indian Nation, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, San Juan County Parks, San Juan County Public Works Department, San Juan Islands Conservation District, San Juan Initiative, San Juan Island Anti-Litter Initiative, San Juan Preservation Trust, San Juan Visitor Bureau Scenic Byways Committee, Soroptimist, Swinomish Tribal Community, The Whale Museum, United States Geological Survey, University of Washington, the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



## 2008 Financial Highlights

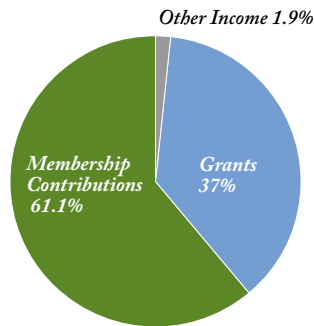
FRIENDS of the San Juans is a 501(C)(3) non profit organization. FRIENDS receives its income primarily from membership contributions and grants. Expenditures pay for science and education program costs, publications, legal and policy expenses, publications and administrative support. Below is a financial snapshot for our 2008 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008) which does not include all final adjustments.

### Statement of Activities

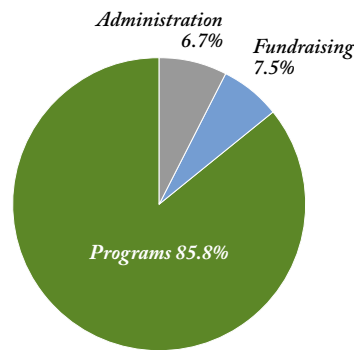
<b>Income</b>	<b>2008</b>
Membership Contributions	\$334,912
Grants	\$202,919
Investments, Events & Other Income	\$10,507
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$548,338</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programs	\$390,414
Fundraising	\$34,430
Administration	\$30,539
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$455,383</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$92,955</b>

### Financial Position

<b>Current &amp; Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2008</b>
Cash & Other Unrestricted	\$272,125
Marilyn Ellis Endowment	\$68,824
Other Assets	\$3,051
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$344,000</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Accumulated Surplus</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$1,348
Accumulated Surplus	\$342,652
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>\$344,000</b>



REVENUE SOURCES



EXPENDITURES

We would also like to thank the generous foundations and in-kind supporters that make our work possible, including: Bullitt Foundation, EcoTrust, Northwest Fund for the Environment, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Russell Family Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Community Salmon Fund, Patagonia, Washington Department of Ecology/ Northwest Straits Commission, the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds, Private landowners Patty and Gary Bergren, Nick and Sarah Jones, and the Ruckelshaus Family. In-kind supporters include: San Juan County Public Works, San Juan County Beach Watcher volunteers, Tulalip Tribes, and FRIENDS volunteers.

## Thank You Members, We Truly Appreciate Your Support!

### Call for Volunteers

Do you have some time to spare? We are looking for volunteers to attend meetings, coordinate events, participate on committees, and assist with FRIENDS projects. See the following list for some ways you can get involved and help FRIENDS protect the environment of the San Juan Islands. For more information or to discuss your interests, please contact Jana Marks at 378-2319, or at [jana@sanjuans.org](mailto:jana@sanjuans.org).

#### Attend Meetings

- Agricultural Resources Committee
- Marine Resources Committee
- Planning Commission
- County Council
- Town of Friday Harbor

- Eastsound Committees
- Hamlet Plans

#### Activities and Events

- Beach Clean Ups
- Earth Day
- Orca Sing
- Canoe Journey

- Fairs
- Annual Meeting
- Setting Up for Events
- Event Hosting
- Photography
- Mailing Parties
- Media
- Website Updates

#### Science/Field Work

- Participate in Projects as Needed
- Research and Database Assistance

#### Legal/Policy Work

- Pro Bono Legal Assistance



## Staff and Board Updates



*FRIENDS Science Director, Tina Whitman and husband Mike O'Connell welcomed their new son Soren this July.*



*FRIENDS Grants Manager, Shannon Davis and husband Brandon, welcomed their new daughter Tayla, this August.*



*Executive Director Stephanie presents Fred Ellis with a commemorative blanket from the Lummi Nation during the Annual Meeting on Shaw.*

## Membership Survey

Last spring FRIENDS of the San Juans mailed out a member survey. 412 of you replied and the results of the survey provided us with valuable information about what is important to you!

### Your support

**71%** strongly support our educational programs

**69%** strongly support our science programs

**67%** strongly support our policy & law programs

### Planned Giving

**10%** of you expressed interest in planned giving, and 3% of you informed us that you have already named FRIENDS in your estate planning. Thank you for your commitment to our long term success. For more information about including FRIENDS in your estate planning, please contact our office.

### Top five activities enjoyed by FRIENDS members

- #1** Hiking/walking
- #2** Gardening
- #3** Bicycling
- #4** Sea kayaking
- #5** Fishing

### Tree-Free Communication

*MANY* of you reported that you want to hear from us via email only. We are redesigning our website this winter, and are compiling a comprehensive email list of members, so that we can provide paperless communication for members who prefer this level of service.



# Leave A Conservation Legacy

The financial and estate planning decisions you make today can help us ensure the San Juan Islands are protected for generations to come. There are several methods to accomplish this:

***Tax-free Charitable Transfers from IRAs:*** The recent federal legislation, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 allows people over 70 ½ the 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.

***Bequests:*** 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. As the old saying goes ... "Where there's a Will, there's a way."

***Marilyn Ellis Endowment Fund:*** Founding Board member, Fred Ellis created the Marilyn Ellis Endowment to provide long-term financial support for FRIENDS' efforts. Donations to the Marilyn Ellis Endowment Fund may be in the form of cash, check, stock, property, or through a bequest.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Buffum at (360) 378-2319.



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