

FRIENDS

of the San Juans

Spring 2004

Executive Director's Report

The familiar sounds of the tree frog and red winged blackbird and the sight of emerging daffodils define our sense of place here in the Islands at this time of year.

This newsletter focuses on Livable Communities and the people, places, and natural history that make our region so special. You'll read about some of the actions our members are taking to retain the character of our rural islands—from low impact development and “green” construction, to preserving neighborhoods from proliferation of transient rentals. You'll also read about *FRIENDS'* actions to protect wildlife and their habitats through our eelgrass and forage fish projects, and our efforts to gain Endangered Species Act listings for Cherry Point herring and Southern Resident orca.

In the News section, you'll meet the newest members of our Board of Directors—Farouk Seif, Fred Croydon, David Sarver, and Steve Brandt—while this edition's Profile is of *FRIENDS'* Treasurer, Jon Christoffersen.

We've developed some new materials and clarified our goals and objectives this winter to keep pace with the issues affecting San Juan County. We look forward to sharing our work with you during our spring house parties and encourage you attend our 25th Anniversary celebrations (throughout the month of July) culmi-

nating in a grand celebration July 31st at the Fred and Marilyn Ellis Biological Preserve on Shaw Island.

Back on the topic of livable communities, I was hoping to report in this newsletter that the County has responded to our calls to complete and codify five hamlet plans on Orcas Island



(Deer Harbor, West Sound, Doe Bay, Olga, and Orcas), and also a plan for the future of our Urban Growth Areas, but despite promises of action from the County's Department of Planning and Development, they remain incomplete and years behind schedule. I encourage each of you call the County Commissioners and tell them of your desire for the rapid completion

of the hamlet plans; and for a coordinated work plan for the Eastsound and Lopez Village UGAs.

Finally, a very big thank you is due to Judy and Steve Brandt of San Juan Island. Thanks to their generous support, we are able to feature the work of local photographers and artists in full color on the covers of our 25th anniversary newsletters—as always, printed on recycled paper.

I appreciate your calls and emails. Together we are making a difference.

Stephanie Buffum Field

FRIENDS of the San Juans

MISSION

To protect and promote the health & future of the San Juan Islands: land, water, natural & human communities.
To support comprehensive planning.
To encourage individual and community participation.
To foster a stewardship ethic.

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Meets alternate months.
Members are welcome.
Please call for time and location.

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VISIT US ONLINE AT

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Cover photo: Dinner Island from Garrison Bay,
San Juan Island

One of the three main headings of FRIENDS' list of major program areas for 2004 is "Livable Communities." What do we mean?

FRIENDS' three program groupings are Managing Growth, Habitat Protection—From Science to Stewardship, and Livable Communities. There are overlaps between these headings, but the first is generally concerned with efforts to manage growth through land use planning, the second includes our marine survey and nearshore projects, while the third covers the areas discussed in this newsletter. So what exactly do we mean by "livable communities"?

For most of us in the San Juan Islands, the word "community" can mean—depending on the context—our immediate neighborhood, the hamlet or village we live in, our home island, or the entire county. It's where we live, where we work (or not), where we interact with others, and where we enjoy the islands.

Livability means that we enjoy living there, that it's good for our spirits, that we can do so economically, and that the community will retain its attractions for us—there will continue to be jobs, our neighborhood will continue to be a pleasant place to live, and the beauty of the surrounding lands and waters, will not suffer from insensitive development or pollution.

Islanders have defined their ideas of a livable community.

"Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced."

The Vision Statement that forms the preamble to the County's Comprehensive Plan says:

"We envision a community that is primarily rural, made up of islands of varying character, each with its own unique qualities... We foster a sense of neighborliness, of self-sufficiency, and community pride that has long been part of our island character... The supply of affordable housing is adequate... We support a pattern of economic growth and development which serves the needs of our community, and which recognizes the rural, residential, quiet, agricultural, marine and isolated nature of the islands... We support and encourage traditional industries... We encourage new ideas and new

What's a Livable Community?



technology... Environmental conservation and sustainable development are balanced."

The Navigating Our Future conference in late 2003, co-sponsored by FRIENDS, produced a similar vision:

"The foundation of sustainability is community—with soul, a shared story, and common identity... The successful community shares information, recognizes its members, and bases its success on local skills and talents. It realizes the importance of human capital...

...supporting local products and services. The successful community conserves resources and recycles materials, reducing its footprint. It manages growth and change responsibly... The successful community values and protects the natural environment and its natural heritage and finds balance in the needs, views, and backgrounds of its members. Such a community is sustainable and prosperous and a model to others."

FRIENDS strongly supports these vision statements, and our Livable Communities program focuses on preserving the island

character that makes the San Juans so wonderful, while recognizing that change will happen.

We enthusiastically support efforts to keep agriculture and forestry viable, while participating in the County Economic Development Council's efforts to encourage more high-tech business development. We support neighborhood efforts to prevent their small communities from being dominated by transient rentals, while recognizing that thoughtful and sensitive tourism creates jobs and depends on preserving the beauty of our islands. We endorse the development of clustered communities, because these foster traditional island friendliness while minimizing the blight

of sprawl on our lovely islands. We endorse efforts to minimize the impact of new homes through use of "green" construction materials and low-impact building

techniques, and landscaping that respects natural beauty.

As FRIENDS' President Roger Collier says "We must blend with nature, not overwhelm it."

"We must blend with nature, not overwhelm it."

Building a Livable Home

When FRIENDS' Board member, architect, and professor Farouk Seif and his wife Michele decided to design and build their home on Orcas Island, their goal was to create a place that was truly livable – sensitive to its surroundings, with minimal impact on the environment, and located in a community whose values were compatible with their own.



First, the community: Eagle Lake on Orcas' north shore is an area of 300 acres of woodland, lake and shoreline, with 53 housing sites. Eagle Lake has replaced the traditional division of every square yard of real estate into individual lots with a series of hundred-foot diameter building circles—areas within which development can occur, leaving the remaining acreage untouched and in common ownership. In concert with what Farouk calls “an appropriate and responsible approach to the land,” Eagle Lake fosters a sense of neighborhood with a community building and community garden, while respect for the beauty of the land is reflected in exceptional sensitivity to tree removal and clearing for house building.

As Farouk Seif says: “I really believe

the essence of livable communities depends on the reciprocal congruence between humans and the natural environment. Paradoxically, however, to maintain this congruence, communities must engage in an ongoing creative change to preserve the good of the common in a complex and unpredictable world.”

And the house? The 2600 square foot home and studio reflect both the values of the community and those of the Seifs, as well as Farouk's professional skills and interests as a faculty member of

Antioch University's Center for Creative Change. It features innovative construction methods and materials, with a roof of structured insulated panels, and exterior walls built using insulated concrete forms. ICFs offer a new way of concrete construction, with dramatic improvements in energy use. Hollow foam blocks are fitted together and filled with concrete to become a permanent part of the wall assembly. The walls are fire, earthquake, and termite resistant, and the layers of foam provide soundproofing as well as increases in energy-saving from conventional stick-frame construction's typical “R-value” of 21 to as much as 50.

If this sounds too high-tech to be charming, it isn't. Farouk's architecture fits as well within Eagle Lake's design guidelines as that of traditionally-built homes. Materials, style, and exterior colors are each chosen to harmonize with the rural woodland environment and to be compatible with neighboring structures. Reflecting Farouk's desire to blend with nature rather than overwhelming it,

“...the reciprocal congruence between humans and the natural environment”

the single-story home and studio follow the contours of the land to create a multi-level interior, while rainwater collection is used to augment the community well.

The home is still under construction but the eventual result can already be imagined: a handsome home, nestled in the woods, minimizing resource consumption, and leaving the least impact on the island landscape.

NEWS UPDATE

FRIENDS' Rentable Guest House Position Upheld – But Threatened Again

FRIENDS won another legal victory in January in the ongoing dispute over San Juan County's attempt to allow a rentable second residence on almost every rural lot in the islands, when Thurston County Superior Court Judge Daniel Berschauer upheld a key decision of the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board. The Board had ruled in March that detached Accessory Dwelling Units (or guest houses) in rural areas must be counted for density calculation purposes. Given the Board's prior rulings that densities greater than one house per 5 acres represent "sprawl," this decision meant that new detached ADUs would be allowed only on lots of 10 acres or larger.

Testifying before Judge Berschauer, FRIENDS' legal team noted that the Hearings Board's ruling was by no means excessively restrictive. Other forms of ADUs, such as attached guest houses and mother-in-law apartments, are allowed and can be rented. The thousand-plus existing detached ADUs are not affected by the Hearing Board ruling, while "bunkhouses" designed to accommodate larger groups are also permitted on the majority of rural lots.

Unfortunately, this latest victory does not mean the ADU issue has been resolved. At press time, the County had decided to appeal Judge Berschauer's decision to the State Court of Appeals, and also to push for legislation weakening the ADU clauses of the Growth Management Act. FRIENDS' President Roger Collier and Vice President Lynn Bahrych testified against this attempt to cripple the GMA during the first week of February.

The bottom line for San Juan taxpayers: notwithstanding the clear language of both the Hearings Board ruling and the Superior Court decision, it appears that both County property owners and FRIENDS will be forced to pay for yet more legal costs.

Eelgrass—Good News, Bad News

FRIENDS' Eelgrass Survey project, funded by the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Russell Family Foundation, is well on its way to completion. During the summer and early fall, the survey team led by Dr. Jim Norris and Dr. Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria utilized the 35-foot research vessel Brendan D and a smaller Zodiac to examine known and potential eelgrass beds throughout the County. The high-tech approach used allowed the researchers to view eelgrass beds on a plasma monitor while simultaneously collecting samples and recording the location and extent of the eelgrass.

On the bad news side, the Eelgrass Survey has identified some dramatic losses of eelgrass—and therefore of fish and crab habitat. In 2000, there were some 45 acres of eelgrass growing in San Juan Island's Westcott Bay. By the time of the 2003 survey, almost all of this eelgrass had disappeared, and with it much of Westcott Bay's ability to serve as a nursery for fish and crab stocks. Similar disastrous trends have been observed at Garrison Bay, and potentially at Blind Bay on the north side of Shaw Island. The chain of marine life dependencies suggests that unless the trends can be halted, there will be serious impacts on herring, crab, bottomfish, and salmon, and ultimately on our orca whales.

FRIENDS Awarded PIE Grant

FRIENDS was notified in January that it has been awarded a \$40,000 grant by the Puget Sound Action Team, a partnership of State, Federal, local, and tribal government organizations, dedicated to the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. The grant, one of the largest awarded in this biennium, is for Public Involvement and Education (PIE) and will support FRIENDS' Science to Stewardship project.

Science to Stewardship is a focused education cam-

paign designed to increase the stewardship capacity of shoreline landowners, educators, and land managers. Project activities will include workshops on coastal processes and upland impacts, an educator workshop, and land manager training.

FRIENDS' Vice President Appointed to State Conservation Commission

FRIENDS' Vice President and Washington Environmental Council member Lynn Bahrych has been appointed by Governor Gary Locke to the Washington State Conservation Commission. The Commission and its staff provide leadership and resources to support local conservation districts—like that of San Juan County—in promoting conservation stewardship. As one of the only two members appointed by the Governor, Lynn notes: “This is a great honor, both personally and for FRIENDS, the Washington Environmental Council, and the entire environmental community.”

Finally, a Win for Orca Whales

The San Juan Islands' iconic orca whales gained a big win just before Christmas, when a federal judge in Seattle ruled that the National Marine Fisheries Service broke the law in ignoring available science when it declined to grant our dwindling numbers of killer whales protection as an endangered species.

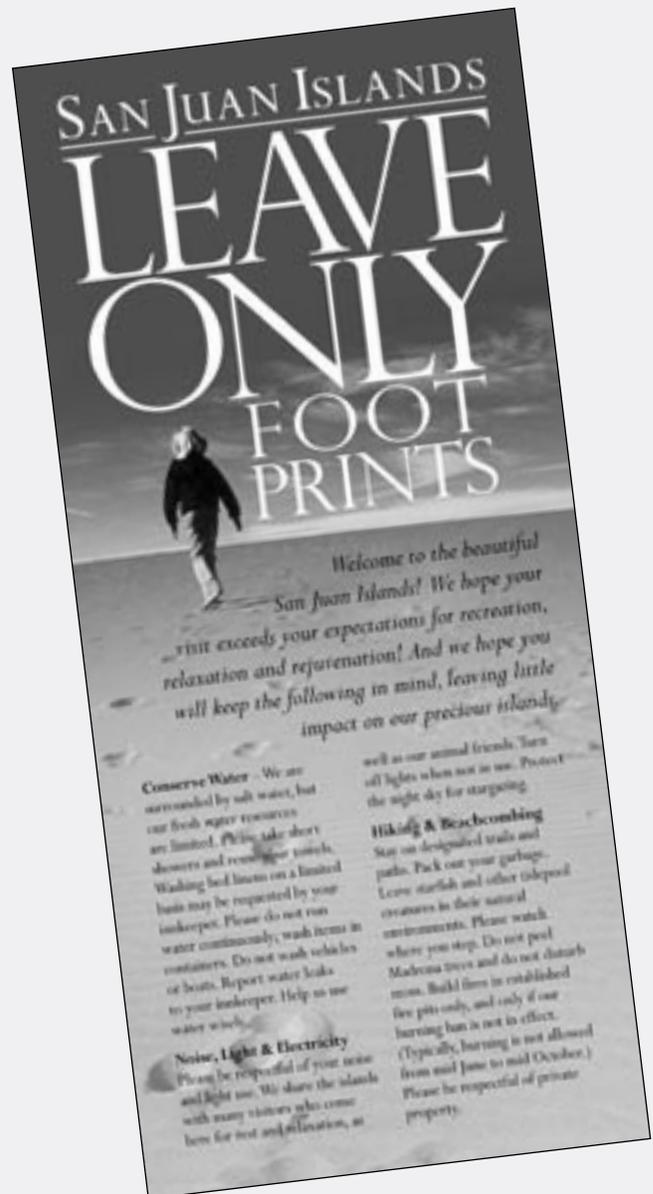
In ruling on a lawsuit brought by FRIENDS and five other conservation groups, US District Court Judge Robert Lasnik said the Fisheries Service failed to use “best available science” when it determined that Puget Sound orcas did not qualify for protection because they were not a significant segment separate from larger healthier populations elsewhere in the Pacific.

The Fisheries Service had argued that orcas worldwide were generally in good health, and if those in Puget Sound disappeared, their numbers would be replaced by orcas from offshore or Alaska waters, an assumption that Judge Lasnik castigated as “not supported by the available science.”

The Fisheries Service now has twelve months to reconsider its earlier ruling.

“Leave Only Footprints” a Winner, Too

As one of the partners with the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau in the development of a handsome new visitor education brochure, FRIENDS garnered an accolade when “Leave Only Footprints” won a major award in Vancouver BC. The brochure, designed to encourage responsible tourism and conservation, won an “Outstanding Achievement” award at the Western Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus annual meeting. It is available on the ferries and at numerous locations throughout the islands.



Forage Fish Training a "Big Success"

FRIENDS' three-year Forage Fish project moved off the San Juans' beaches and waters and into the classroom in mid-January with a major training session for County staff. The session was hosted by the County's Department of Community Development and Planning, and included speakers from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as FRIENDS.

The half-day training, described by FRIENDS' Executive Director Stephanie Buffum as a "big success," included introductory presentations on forage fish biology and habitat, and on nearshore permitting requirements, as well as detailed discussions by FRIENDS' Environmental Programs Manager Tina Whitman and marine researcher Jim Slocomb on the findings, maps, and data from the Forage Fish project.

The project, which started in 2001, is now in its final phase of mapping and data base review.



FRIENDS Joins Herring Protection Effort

FRIENDS was one of six environmental organizations that filed in late January for endangered species protection for a herring species that forms a critical part of the food chain supporting chinook salmon, bottomfish, and orca whales.

The Cherry Point herring, genetically distinct from other Puget Sound herring species, and once the State's

largest herring population, has suffered a calamitous population decline in the past 30 years. State fish researchers estimated a 2001 hatch of less than 1000 tons, down from 13,000 tons in 1973.

Cherry Point, just outside Bellingham, is the site of two oil refineries and an aluminum smelter, with a deep water port and massive pier now proposed for the area. As FRIENDS and its partner petitioners noted in a news release: "[these developments] have directly impacted herring spawning grounds through dock construction and operation, outfall discharge, vessel traffic, and disease and foreign species introduced from ship ballast."

New Representative for FRIENDS on Economic Development Council

Newly-elected Board member Steve Brandt has replaced FRIENDS' President Roger Collier as FRIENDS' representative on the San Juan County Economic Development Council. As Roger Collier commented: "Steve's practical experience as an entrepreneur and his years of teaching marketing and business development at one of the world's top graduate business schools should be of enormous value to the EDC."

FRIENDS' Web Site Revamped

Under the direction of Membership and Development Manager Shannon Davis, FRIENDS' web site www.sanjuans.org has been redesigned to improve ease of readability and to include more current information about FRIENDS' activities. As Shannon noted: "Our goal is that the web site will be everyone's first stop for news and events about FRIENDS, and about what's happening that could affect our islands' quality of life."

FRIENDS Meets with Northwest Straits Commission

Executive Director Stephanie Buffum and Environmental Programs Manager Tina Whitman made a presentation to a critical meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission in mid-January. The presentation on FRIENDS' Forage Fish project, partially funded by the Commission, was especially important because the meeting included congressional evaluators who will help decide the future of the Commission.

New Members Add Skills, Experience (and More PhDs and MBAs) to FRIENDS' Board

Four new members have been added to FRIENDS' Board, bringing broader representation and a remarkable set of skills and experience, as well as doubling the number of PhDs on the Board (the others are Fred Ellis and Lynn Bahrych) and also the number of MBAs (the others are Roger Collier and John Marx).

Dr. Farouk Seif (not pictured) is a professor at Antioch University in Seattle, where he teaches whole system design through the Center for Creative Change. He is an architect who has designed and is now building his own home on Orcas Island, where he chairs the design review committee for Orcas' Eagle Lake community. He has taught architecture in Texas, Louisiana, Washington, and in Cairo, Egypt.

Fred Croydon lives on Orcas Island, and is a former

member of the San Juan County Planning Commission. His professional career was as a metallurgical engineer, and included responsibilities for directing research and development and for establishing a \$10 million subsidiary company. Since joining the Board, he has been elected as Secretary of FRIENDS.

David Sarver also lives on Orcas Island. With degrees in philosophy, law and business, he lived in such jewels of the environment as Chicago, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles before moving to the San Juans. He was formerly a partner in a national accounting firm, and continues to provide financial and tax consulting services to a very limited list of clients.

Steve Brandt lives on San Juan Island. He is Senior Lecturer in Management, Emeritus, at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, where he taught management and entrepreneurship for 21 years. He has been extensively involved in starting businesses and in strategy development, and he is also the author of five popular books on management.



Steve Brandt



David Sarver



Fred Croydon

Save the Date! **Spring Beach Clean Up**

Saturday, March 20, April 24, and May 22
Please call to sign up your site and receive monitoring survey forms.



Can a neighborhood of reasonably-priced homes be built in the San Juans without subsidies and without compromising on design?

Creating a Livable Neighborhood

Old timers in the San Juans occasionally bemoan the loss of island neighborliness as—increasingly—new development comes in the form of single homes on five-acre lots. At the same time, escalating land and construction costs make it increasingly difficult for those with more modest incomes to buy homes.

The islands' affordable housing groups have done heroic work in responding to both issues. The "community land trusts" on Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan have focused efforts on developing neighborhoods of modestly priced homes on land whose ownership is retained by the trust. The results are pleasant small communities—livable communities. Take a look, for example, at Opal Commons on Orcas Island, or at Coho on Lopez Island, models of what can be done to create charming neighborhoods of low-priced homes.

But what about housing that doesn't qualify for subsidies or low-interest loans? What about the needs of those who don't meet the income and asset tests for affordable housing? What about those who just want to live in a pleasant neighborhood? Can such livable neighborhoods be developed without subsidies? Orcas Island builder John Miller and architect John Campbell think so.

Miller is the builder and Campbell the architect of Cottages at Crossroads, in Orcas' Eastsound village. Ten charming brightly-painted craftsman-style cottages are clustered round a landscaped courtyard, a stone's throw away from the Orcas Senior Center. The sense of community is enhanced by a shared community building and garden, while Eastsound's shops and cafes are within walking distance.

Why build such a community? "There was a need," Miller answers simply, while

Campbell emphasizes the importance of the urban growth area setting. Urban growth must be encouraged if growth management is to work, with rural areas preserved, Campbell says. He's fascinated also by the challenges of what he calls "the spaces between the buildings" in a multi-unit development. And while his design provides a prototype for higher-density development, it's one that reproduces the building spacing of Eastsound's original streets.

Were there problems? "Of course," says Miller. The worst, he says, was the frustration of dealing with County officials unfamiliar with multi-unit development, so that it took a year and a half to get final approval.

Will it work financially? With three of the ten homes sold, and the "buying season" about to start, Miller is optimistic.

Will they do it again? "Love to," says Miller. "Of course," says Campbell.



Transient Rentals – Threat to Livability?

Many mainlanders love the idea of a summer vacation in the beautiful San Juans, and a lot of island property owners are eager to help them—and gain some extra income—by renting out their homes and guest houses.

Some rentals are short-term—so-called “transient rentals”—less than thirty days, others are long-term. Some owners rent their property in the summer months only, while others rent year round. There is also the owner who will rent at an “affordable” rate for nine months, then evict the unfortunate renter during the summer to fill the property with higher paying vacationers.

While some transient rentals have little impact, an increasing number do result in problems for neighbors. As the proliferation of short-term vacation rentals grows, so does the list of impacts that neighbors raise in public hearings: public safety, water supply, septic failure, water treatment costs, traffic, accidents from visitors unfamiliar with roads, road maintenance costs, noise and annoyance, decreased property values, trespass and disturbing the peace.

So far, San Juans’ Board of County Commissioners has been unwilling to tackle the issue. Instead, citizens have had to spend their own money and time to protect their neighborhood quality of life. Some have a legal hook—a protective neighborhood covenant or deed restriction—that allows them to challenge the “conditional use permit” for a vacation rental in court. Others have little protection, and must watch as the livability of their neighborhood is eroded.

FRIENDS is not opposed to rentals. We recognize that transient rentals have historically helped meet the needs of vacationers. We are also encouraging the County to create policies that make better use of existing guest houses for affordable rental housing. However, County policies that provide blanket permission and no limits for transient rentals—while failing to consider pre-existing neighborhood agreements—can only result

in the degradation of island neighborhoods.

To help give such neighborhoods the tools they need to challenge vacation rentals that violate deeds of trust and other private restrictions, FRIENDS has created the League of Neighborhood Associations to link neighbors and provide legal assistance when possible. But we strongly encourage individual islanders to be pro-active. There are many things that those concerned about the issue can do.

What You Can Do...

- 1) Monitor the local press for permit notices that impact your neighborhood.
- 2) Submit comment letters to San Juan County’s Department of Planning and Development on permits that impact your home.
- 3) Attend public hearings for permit activity (watch for legal notice of time and location), where you can read comment letters into the record in the event that a written comment period was missed.
- 4) Ask the County Commissioners what percentage of our County’s housing they are willing to convert to vacation rentals?
- 5) Tell the County Commissioners that vacation rentals should be subject to standards similar to those for hospitality commercial establishments. Such use should be classified as a commercial, not residential, use for purposes of land use regulations.
- 6) Request that Ordinance 21-2002, the Comprehensive Plan amendment that reclassified vacation rentals from commercial to residential use, be repealed.
- 7) Write to the County’s Department of Planning and Development to tell them how you feel about points 4-6 today!

SYMBIOSIS

FRIENDS and the EDC

A healthy economy is an essential part of a livable community. But the wrong businesses and the wrong jobs can be as destructive to a community as no jobs at all. (Imagine a Wal-Mart on the edge of Lopez Village.) Although San Juan County enjoys a low unemployment rate, many jobs are in the cyclical construction industry or in low-paid, seasonal tourism, while our traditional agricultural, timber, and fishing industries have all suffered dramatic declines.

With a half-million dollar budget for

2004, *FRIENDS* is already a significant employer. With membership in San Juan County’s Economic Development Council, *FRIENDS* can influence creation of new jobs and enriching of existing ones. By encouraging businesses that are “low impact,” compatible with the character of the islands, better paid than minimum-wage tourism, we can help build on our island strengths and resources.

So how does it look after a year as a member of the EDC? Gratifyingly, the

EDC’s focus has been on just the kinds of business development that *FRIENDS* wants to encourage. Efforts are being made to support agriculture, expand marine research, and make broadband access available so that high-tech businesses can profitably locate in the County. At the same time, the EDC is offering technical assistance to local small businesses, and taking steps to maximize the “multiplier effect” that ensures that dollars earned in the County continue to be spent here.

Profile: Jon Christoffersen

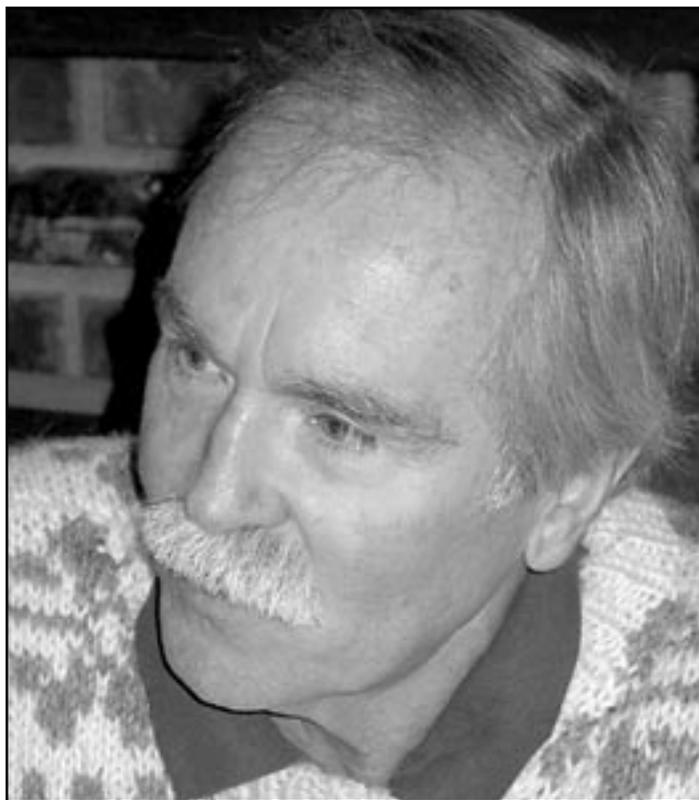
When FRIENDS' assets reach \$20 Billion, our Treasurer will be ready – Jon Christoffersen has the experience!

Jon Christoffersen was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, but moved to Seattle in time to become a Post-Intelligencer paper delivery person, an early but decisive introduction into the world of business. After a brief foray into industry (laborer at Eagle Foundry) he progressed to the classic Seattle education of the 1960s: Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington, followed by training as a gentleman soldier at the hands of the United States Army.

Freed from his military bonds, Jon collected an MBA from the UW and joined Citibank in New York, starting a banking career that spanned the next 25 years. At Citibank, his initial assignment in the Big Apple was followed by spells in Tokyo, Seoul, New York (again), Taipei, and Sydney—unfortunately all before the introduction of frequent flyer miles—finishing as CEO of CitiNational Ltd, one of the leading merchant banks Down Under.

Recovering from the Coriolis effect (below the Equator, bath water spins in the opposite direction), Jon moved back to the Pacific Northwest to join Rainier National Bank. Showing excellent judgment, he started at the top, first running the International Division, then becoming President of the \$10 billion commercial banking corporation. With growing consolidation in the industry, Rainier was snapped up by Security Pacific Bank, and it was soon time to move on.

On the principle of “you can't hit a moving target,” Jon moved to California as President of VISA USA, then switched back to old-fashioned banking (with money in the accounts, not just debts), as President and Chief Operating Officer of First Nationwide Financial Corporation. This modest business had \$26 billion in assets, 7000 employees, and operations in ten states, but also dramatically large losses. With the help of able colleagues, Jon



restored the company to profitability, so successfully that First Nationwide was bought by an investment group, and it was again time for a change, back to the Far East, where Jon helped set up, then run, a Singapore-based insurance company.

The mists of the Pacific Northwest called, and in 1996 Jon returned to the Seattle area, where to help fill his days, he became Chairman of a privately-held \$500 million forest products company, Managing Partner of an investment group, and a member of the University of Washington Business School Advisory Board.

So what about the San Juan Islands? Jon reports that he saw them first at 14 years old, as a Camp Orkila camper (a trip financed by selling Cashmere

Soap door-to-door, successfully enough to get rid of half his inventory and dump the rest on relatives the following Christmas.) Mesmerized by the beauty of the islands, he promised to return one day, hopefully as a full-time resident. This was delayed by banking, but in 1995 Jon and his wife Joan bought land on Shaw Island, and at press time Jon was moving furniture to Shaw in a Penske rental truck.

And *FRIENDS*? Jon joined in 1995, becoming a Board member in 2001, and Treasurer in 2003. He's also an active member of the Sierra Club, the Washington Environmental Council, and People for Puget Sound. His thoughts about *FRIENDS*: “*It's a wonderfully proactive grassroots organization, with excellent volunteer and professional leadership, in a spectacular environment that's both sensitive and endangered.*”

For the longer term, Jon is hopeful of seeing a realization among elected officials that the health of our environment in many ways reflects the health of our society.



Preserve, protect, and enjoy the beauty of the San Juan Islands – *forever!*

Please consider a legacy gift to support FRIENDS for the next 25 years.
For details of our Planned Giving programs, please call Shannon Davis at (360) 378-2319

photo@peter fromm



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