



Focused on Fidalgo

Fidalgo Food

Food Stands
Gardening Blog
Seed Saving

Fidalgo Energy

Solar Program

Fidalgo Waste

Fix-It Ways

Fidalgo Education

Gatherings
Scholarships
The Pathfinder

Fidalgo Forests

Cedar Trees
Soil Moisture
Plant Timings
Burn area photos

Fidalgo Climate

Weather Station
Climate numbers

Fidalgo Networking

Salish Sea Transition Hub

Fidalgo Service

Board members
Fiscal Responsibility

2020 Annual Report



All articles on these two “Food” pages
by Evelyn Adams
Board Member Emeritus

While discussing how TF&F could best serve its community during a pandemic full of restraints and fertile with opportunity, the subject of food soon came to the fore. Early on we noticed how quickly people turned to gardening as supply chains faltered, and we launched a three-pronged effort to encourage that impulse toward resilience.

We began by creating “**Fidalgo Grows**,” a gardening blog with **Peter Heffelfinger**, who has grown food on Fidalgo Island for over 40 years. He posted a weekly “TWIG” (This Week In the Garden) where readers could follow along in his garden, ask questions, and gain from his experience.

For those who’d like local tips on everything from growing garlic to storing potatoes, all of Peter’s posts are still up at <https://www.transitionfidalgo.org/fidalgogrows> Check it out for a head-start on planning next year’s garden!

Below: Peter Heffelfinger at work in his greenhouse. Photo courtesy of Skagit Valley Herald



Saving seeds



In 2020, nurseries saw “unheard of” sales of edible seeds and plants as the pandemic prompted panic buying and concern over the stability of the food system. Delays and cancellations on seed orders were common as growers struggled to keep up.

At one time it was popular to save seeds, and we decided to revive the practice. It’s not only economical but farsighted to grow, save and share seeds adapted to our specific climate and soils, as well as to depend less on companies that may not be able to supply what’s needed.

Board member **Sequoia Ferrel**, owner of Gaia Rising Farm on Guemes, spearheaded the project by pulling together local gardeners eager to help. TF&F purchased several screens, framed by Board members **Warren Carr and Bud Anderson**, for future seed-cleaning.

We hope to expand the project in 2021 with the goal of setting up a local seed library to which gardeners can not only donate seeds but withdraw what they need. Post-pandemic next year, we envision threshing and winnowing parties and a strong start on a community seed supply.

Share The Bounty

Once the blog was up, we wanted to make it easier for the growing number of gardeners to share their excess fruit and veggies. This would not only provide for those among us unable to afford healthy, home-grown food but would reduce food waste as well

In a gratifyingly short time, three “Share the Bounty” stands sprouted in Anacortes to offer fresh, free garden produce to anyone who wanted it.

TF&F volunteer **Tony Idczak** built one stand, and **Dave Steele and Kris Abshire** from the NW Corner Woodworking Association made two more. Local artists then stepped up, stamping each stand with its own unique flavor.

The H Ave stand was painted by **Zack Bowman and Marissa Carr**, mentored by **Jennifer Bowman**. **Carla Seaton** painted the Library stand. And the Harbor House stand was painted by **Anne Schreivogl and Al Currier**.

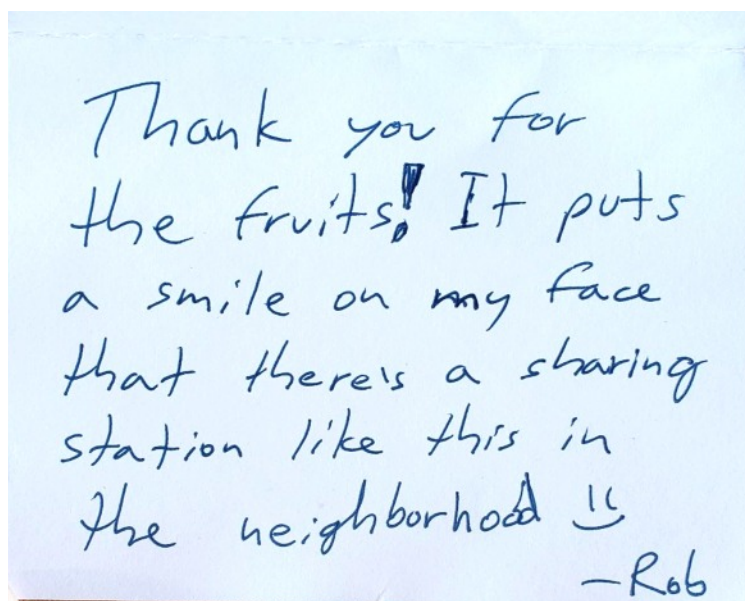
Once the stands were placed around town, gardeners provided produce into October, and two vendors at the Farmers’ Market donated unsold produce weekly.

Where were the stands located?

- 2509 H Avenue, the Warren Carr residence;
- Entrance to the Library on 10th St.;
- Harbor House at 719 Q Ave.



Volunteers regularly monitored the stands and enjoyed a few surprises left among the food, including **one heartwarming thank-you note** (see image to left).



The stands are in storage for the winter, and will be in place again for the coming season! Thanks to all our volunteers for making this happen: **Heather Burke, Warren Carr, Evelyn Adams, Mary Beth Conlee, Robbie Hutton, Becky Vavrosky, and Rosann Wuebbels.**



In 2019 our Fidalgo Forest Stewards began studying forest plots and trails in the ACFL to get scientific answers as to how our trees and forests are doing with our changing climate.

This year, Covid challenged us. To keep our volunteers safe, we could not do our annual plot studies, but we did continue our trailside cedar tree monitoring, which could be done safely. This year's volunteers included:

Abby Weaver
Adam Erie
Becky Vavrosky
Carolyn Gastellum
Dan Miner

Eric Shen
Evelyn Adams
Herta Kurp
Jan Hersey
Jon Ranney

Josh Smith
Lauri Racicot
Laurie Sherman
Mary Stoughton
Patricia Rothman

Paul Sherman
Regan Weeks
Rob Adler
Robbie Hutton
Robin King

Rosann Wuebbels
Ruth Bachrach
Shirley Hoh
Taft Perry
Tom King
Tori Hunter

Plant Timings

We also added a new category of studies to our work this year, called **Phenology**. Volunteers looked at specific branches on specific trees and plants throughout the ACFL to see when they opened buds, brought forth flowers and leaves, and in the fall when the leaves changed color and finally fell away.

This meant having people out on the trails at least a couple times a week during the active growing season of spring, and again in the fall, to be there when the changes happened.

As this was the initial year of this study, the dates don't have any meaning by themselves. But over time, they will take on a growing importance if we start to see the dates inch ever earlier or later in the year. The new year's leaves will be emerging in February, so our volunteers are already gearing up for heading out again!

Top of page: Ruth Bachrach and Regan Weeks assess the health of a cedar tree on trail 108.



Above: Abby Weaver and Tori Hunter look for new leaves last spring on an alder in the ACFL.

Soil Moisture Monitoring

By Eric Shen
TF&F Board member

The ACFL Monitoring Project started in 2019 over concern for the health of our community forest due to impacts from climate change now and in the future. 2019 was a baseline year to examine and document what we have now and give us a basis to know what has changed in the future.

This year we added a new component to our project -- the ability to monitor the moisture in the soil at various depths.

The lack of moisture in the soil during the spring, summer and fall months is the prime suspect in the decline in the number of young cedar and hemlock seedlings, and in the large number of dying cedar and hemlock trees of all ages.

Thanks to generous donations, we were able to acquire good quality soil moisture measuring equipment. From this, we have obtained some soil moisture data, but the information we receive in the coming months will start telling the story about what is happening beneath the surface.

This information coupled with the weather data that the project is already gathering will provide some of the answers about why we are losing so many trees.

Above right: Installation of the soil moisture monitoring equipment followed Covid best practices, but still involved heavy labor and sweat equity. Our thanks to our science advisor Dave Peterson, above left, who did most of the digging, and UW student intern Adam Erie, above right, for helping with the installation work and also ongoing data recording.

Below right: Eric Shen downloading soil moisture data in the field at one of the test sites.



Little Cranberry Burn Area

By Jon Ranney

Volunteer Fidalgo Forest Steward

A group of volunteers is taking photographs at designated locations in the area burned in the Little Cranberry Lake fire of August 2016. This collection of photographs over the coming years will provide a valuable visual record of the post-fire recovery process.

Eight sites were selected in the spring of 2019 to represent a variety of environments in the area, four on Trail 102 along the east shore of the lake, and four on Trail 103, which runs roughly parallel to the lake at a higher elevation.

The photographic record is capturing the understory in multiple directions at each site four times a year, or once each season.

Some examples of the burn area photos:

Top right photo: Trail 103, July 2019

Bottom right photo: Trail 103, July 2020

Something that amazed us is the amount of new madrone seedlings we found sprouting across the forest floor.

The fire might have helped remove seedling competition, or created better soil conditions, or some other explanation. But look at all the new baby madrones!

Right: Madrone seedlings dominating the forest floor in the burn area.

Photo by Eric Shen



Changing Weather

We discovered last year that the Anacortes area has no official weather station.

Considering how our weather is unique here, and how we have questions about the health of our ACFL trees that might be caused by the changes in our climate, we asked for help to re-establish a quality weather station here.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, including one large and specific donation from **Ruth Bachrach and Rob Adler**, we now have a weather station in Anacortes!

And thanks to a cooperative agreement with the City of Anacortes, that station is permanently mounted in a city utility area that allows for accurate assessments of the weather in a secure location.

The program has been spearheaded by our Fidalgo Forest Steward volunteer Jon Ranney. His exceptional work in documenting Anacortes' weather over the past 100 years and more gives us data that will continue to provide insights into the weather we see today and into the future.

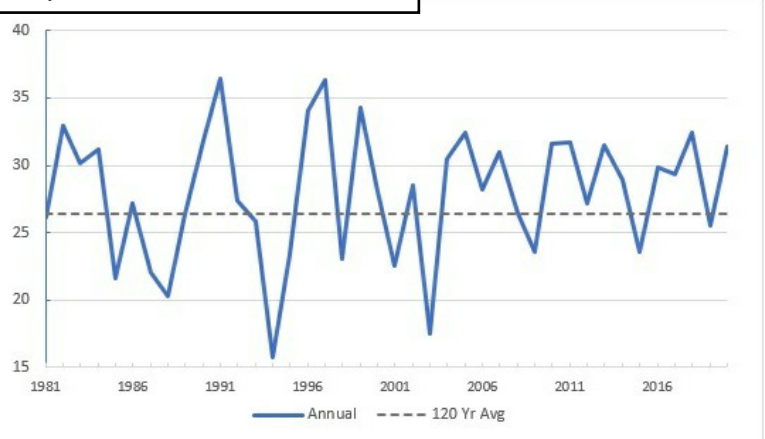
With the money granted by our donors, he acquired the equipment we needed and helped install it on city property.

Now he records the information it provides, compares it to other stations to make sure ours is calibrated accurately, and analyzes the data to give us analyses like these graphs to the right:

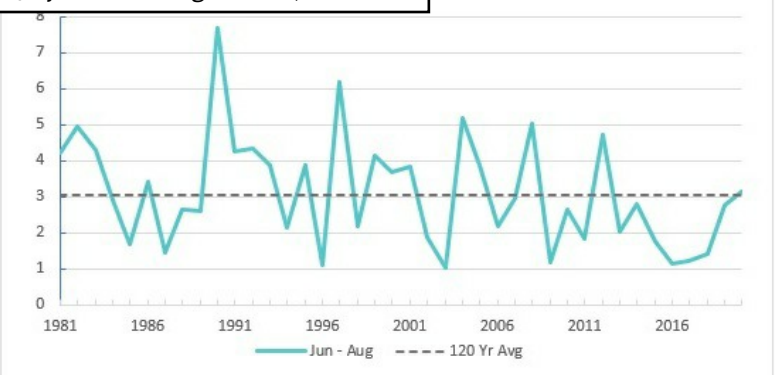
These numbers are based on the pages and pages of data he has already gathered from the past century of observations.

We will now look for correlations between the ongoing weather numbers with the soil moisture readings in the ACFL. This is critical information to help us, and foresters around the northwest, understand what our trees are experiencing as our climate changes.

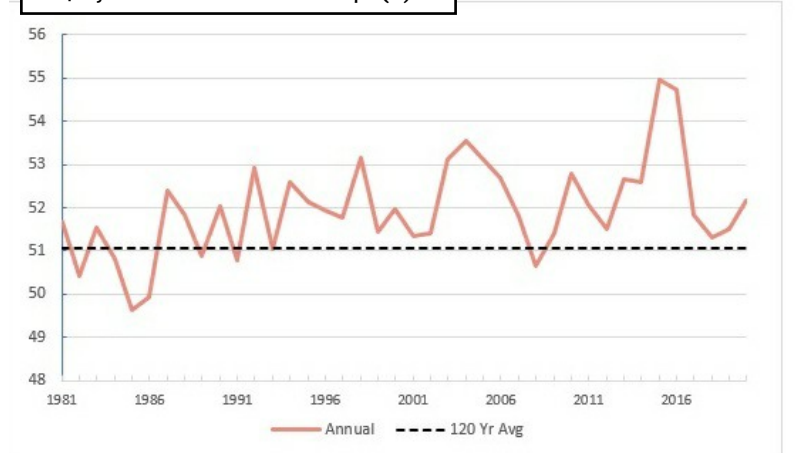
40-year Annual Rainfall, Inches



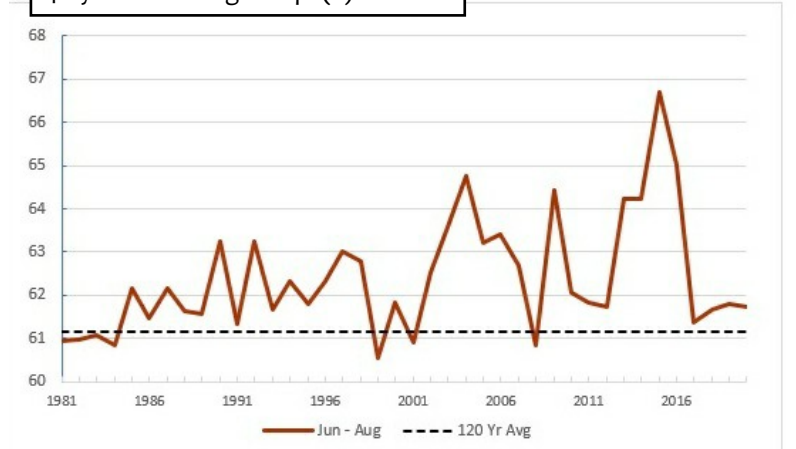
40-year June-Aug Rainfall, Inches



40-year Mean Annual Temp. (F)

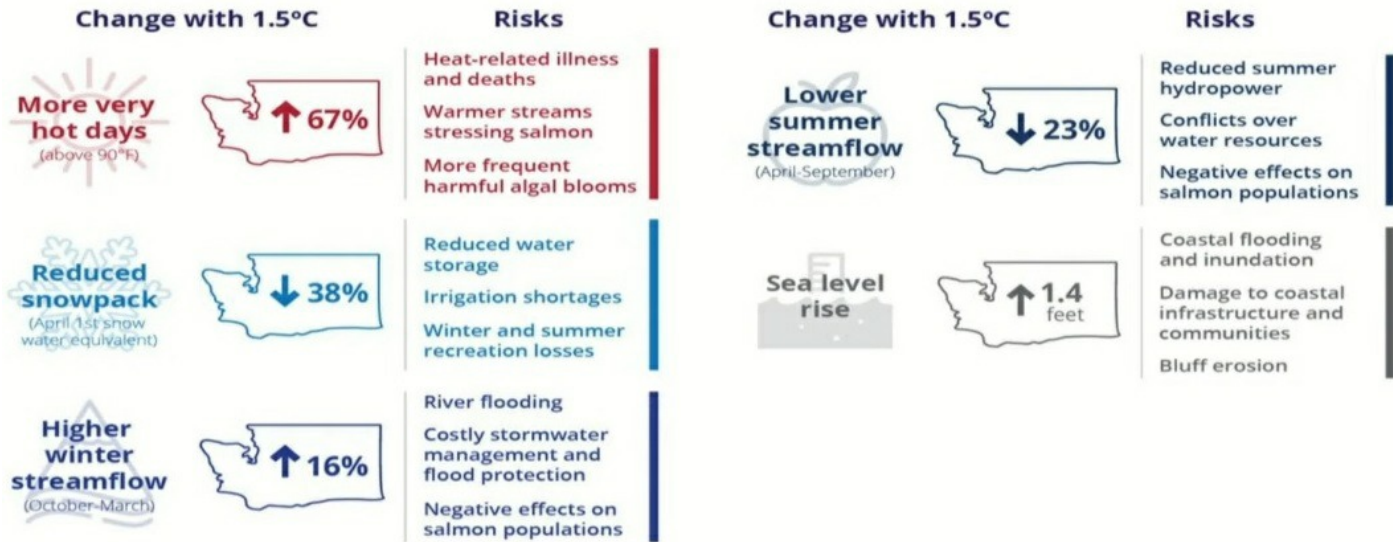


40-year June-Aug Temp. (F)



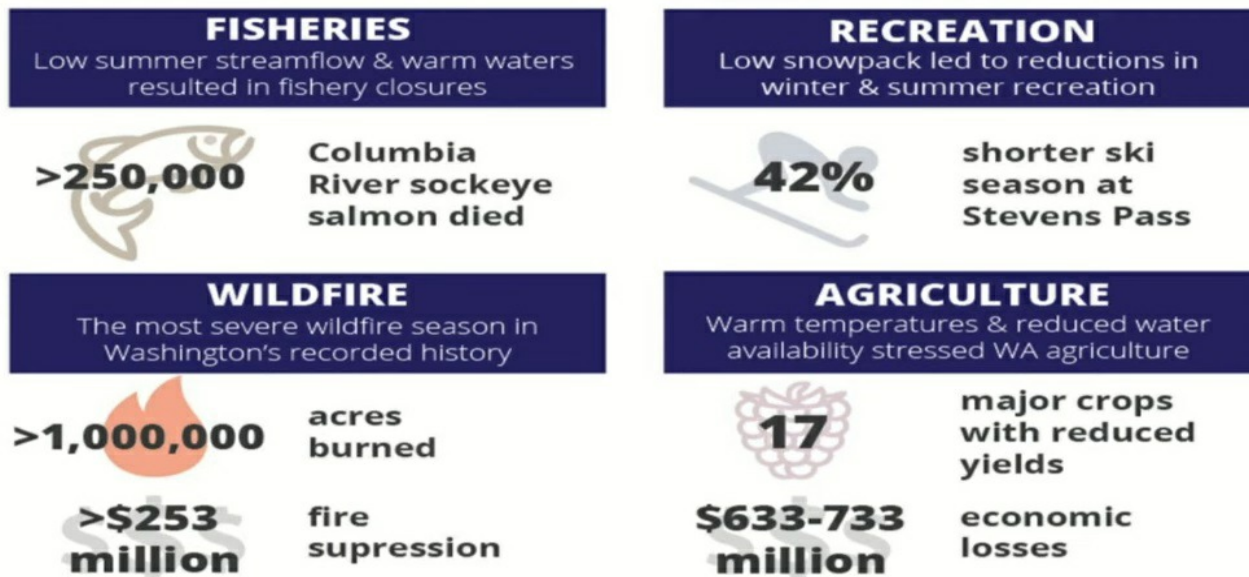
A reminder of the changes heading our way as the climate changes continue to strengthen in the Pacific Northwest:

A small amount of additional warming will challenge Washington's communities, economy and ecosystems



And below is what we saw in the year 2015 as a prelude to what we will see in the next couple of decades:

2015 provides a preview of impacts likely to become more frequent under global warming



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkOQxg7zMBA> Amy Snover of the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group discusses climate change in the Pacific Northwest with King 5 meteorologist Rich Merriott. 36 minute episode.

our Skagit Community Solar

By Eric Shen
Board Member

2020 marks the successful conclusion of Skagit Community Solar. Our five solar projects generated more than 615,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity. That is equal to preventing 368 tons of CO₂ from being emitted into the atmosphere, or 54,000 gallons of gasoline from being burned.

In July of 2013, Representative **Kris Lytton** threw the switch on first project, which was followed by four additional projects launched in 2015.



TF&F's membership and members of our community raised more than \$450,000 to fund these projects to help raise community awareness about solar generated electricity, and to demonstrate a practical alternative to fossil fuel generated power. These objectives were met and exceeded. Anacortes and the surrounding area is now one of the solar power hotspots in the state.

In July of this year, all five projects were turned over to the Anacortes School District, City of Anacortes, and City of La Connor whose facilities hosted our solar arrays. Each of these systems will produce fossil fuel free power for many years into the future.

Congratulations to all our partners who came together to support these projects. They were an outstanding success.

Fix-It Ways

By Larry Collinge,
TF&F Member

The Fix-it Booth is alive and well in Old Town. We (the Fix-it Techs) missed this summer season at the Farmer's Market because of Covid concerns.

Maggie and I are not going to Mexico this winter, so we've decided to re-boot the Fix-it Booth in my garage, located at 1914 11th St.

My phone number is 360.202.5618.

Give me a call if you have a small appliance, lamp, furniture or what have you that needs some TLC, and I'll give it my best, or tell you that it may not be worth the time and energy to repair it. I'm doing this free of charge, with the exception of any new parts (switches, sockets or wire terminals) that may be necessary to complete a repair. I also do small welding jobs, as long as it isn't aluminum. All I ask is for a donation to Transition Fidalgo & Friends.

If and when you visit my shop, please wear a mask, and I'll do the same. Thanks.

Scholarships Given

By Bud Anderson
Board Vice-president

TF&F is pleased to continue our four year tradition of awarding scholarships to Anacortes High School graduates. The money comes from donations specifically targeted to be given to deserving AHS graduates.

This year we awarded a \$500 Scholarship to **Cali Swain** who is attending Seattle University and studying Civil Engineering and Environmental Science. Additionally, we awarded a \$1,500 Scholarship to **Grace Hill** who is attending Scripps College and studying Environmental Science.

Special thanks to **Konrad & Herta Kurp** who made a generous gift to support this program.



Top right: Bud Anderson awards a \$1,500 scholarship to Grace Hill.

Bottom right: He awards a \$500 scholarship to Cali Swain.

2020 Gatherings (and Zoomings)

Usually held the last Tuesday of every month, this year's Covid concerns changed our method but not our goal to provide challenging and rewarding educational presentations to our members.

- January: Bridging the Communication Divide, by Karen Gimnig
- February: Love and Beauty in the time of turbulence, by Jack Hartt
- March: [canceled due to Covid. The rest of the presentations were all via Zoom.]
- April: Hiking Close to Home, by Maribeth Crandell and Jack Hartt
- May: Can we Talk? by Evelyn Adams
- June: Carbon Tax: A Game Changing Solution, by Betty Carteret and Steve Rothboeck
- July: Rainwater Collection Systems, by Eric Shen and Keith Magee
- August: Pacific Mammals and Climate Change, by Cindy Elliser
- September: Food Preservation, by Jenny Goforth

"The Pathfinder"

TF&F's monthly newsletter began as *The Catalyst* in 2013. It became **The Pathfinder** in November 2018, following the IPCC's "Special Report on 1.5C Warming" that set off sirens around the world. The report laid out just how perilous the climate situation is, warning that humanity must change course at a speed and a scale that has "no documented historic precedent."

The Pathfinder includes a monthly rundown of the latest climate developments and reports. It doesn't soft-pedal our situation, respecting our readers' ability to handle hard information. But it also gives equal weight to the good things that are rising up in response, as well as how to face challenges that can easily feel overwhelming.

As climate breakdown upends the world we've known, **The Pathfinder** offers reflections and guidance from those learning to navigate a world of unimaginable loss.

It explores questions we all need to ask ourselves in times such as these, such as: what paths of service to the world should we now pursue? How do we hasten a paradigm shift from a worldview of supremacy and separation to one that fosters a caring coexistence with Earth? What role does imagination and vision play as the world tumbles around our ears? How do we care for ourselves and each other as things fall apart, and where do we find our hope, and our joy?



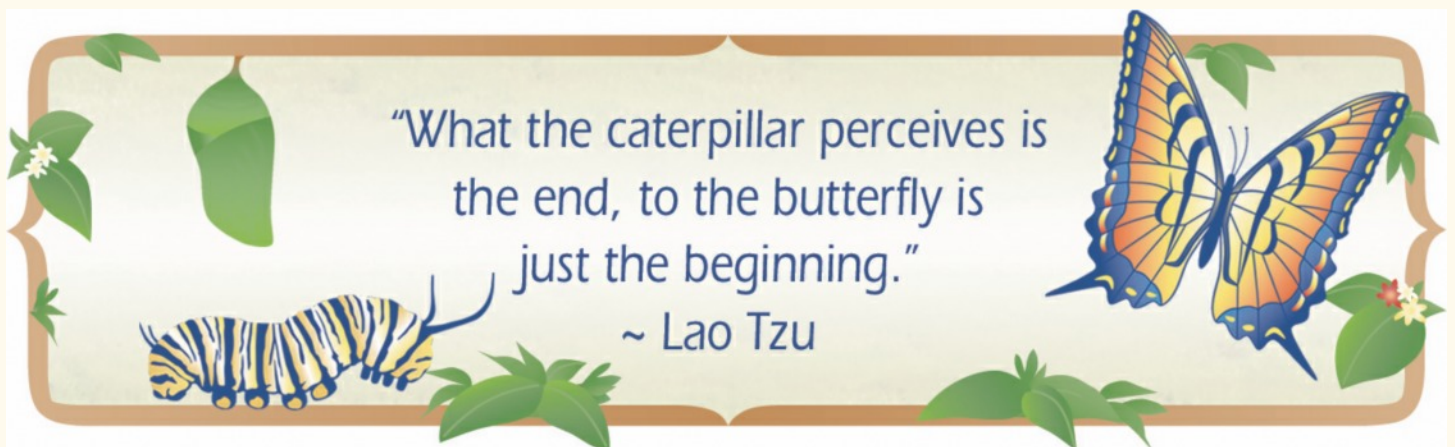
You can find back issues of **The Pathfinder** at www.transitionfidalgo.org/learn/pathfinder/ and can also subscribe there to receive the newsletter.

We invite you to join us on the journey of our time.

OUR MISSION:

... to raise awareness of and develop solutions to the challenges of climate change, energy uncertainty, and economic instability.

Transition Fidalgo & Friends promotes a move away from fossil fuels through decreasing demand, increasing efficiency, supporting renewable energy, and fostering the local production of food, energy, and goods.



Forest Studies Partnership

The ACFL Monitoring Project is now a formally affiliated pilot of the **Cascadia Biodiversity Early Warning System.**



Conservation Biology Institute

Visit the working concept website at <https://pbarnard9.wixsite.com/website-3>

or the more institutional portal at

<https://consbio.org/products/projects/early-warning-systems-for-biodiversity-and-ecosystem-health>

Salish Sea Transition Hub

By Evelyn Adams
Board Member Emeritus

This is the time Transition groups were made for, a time of existential crises that hold the potential for radical, life-enhancing change.

Fueled by that conviction, TF&F decided to find out what our Transition neighbors were doing to build the world we all want to see on the other side of the pandemic, economic collapse, and climate chaos. What, we asked, is most important to focus on now? What can we do to support each other in our efforts? How should we prepare ourselves and our communities to "live lightly, land softly" (Chuckanut Transition's credo)?

We initiated our first regional Transition meeting on June 1. Seventeen reps from Port Townsend, Whidbey, the San Juans, Chuckanut, Bellingham, Goshen, and Fidalgo attended (virtually). We heard about Transition Lopez' "Fossil Free by '33" campaign, Chuckanut's Bow Little Market, Transition Whatcom's goal to help make Bellingham a pollinator sanctuary city, Port Townsend's 12 action groups, Goshen's skill-share fair and barter economy, and so much more.

Energy was high, new connections made, intriguing ideas floated.

Since then we've met several more times to discuss how we can work together to maximize our efforts, and a collaborative project is on the horizon.



REBUILDING
COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE AND
SELF-RELIANCE



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL.
BRINGING THE HEAD, HEART AND HANDS
OF COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO MAKE THE
TRANSITION TO LIFE BEYOND OIL.



President's Message



“What if there was a daily imagination lesson?”

That was the title of a recent [speech](#) by Rob Hopkins, who founded the Transition Movement 15 years ago.

Hopkins went on to talk about longing and imagination.

He admits that longing is a “strange word to use in relation to the climate emergency.” To further explain he uses this quote by Antoine de Saint-Exupery: “If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.” I’m not interested in building a ship; but I am interested in the need to create a longing for a more sustainable and resilient local community.

“... we will not live in a sustainable community if we don’t imagine a sustainable community.”

This quote from Ursula Le Guin explains the importance of imagination in creating this longing. “The exercise of imagination is dangerous to those who profit from the way things are because it has the power to show that the way things are is not permanent, not universal... We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom.” Or as I would add, we will not live in a sustainable community if we don’t imagine a sustainable community.

What can we all do to help imagination flourish? One answer Hopkins provides is using ‘yes, and’ instead of ‘yes, but.’ “‘Yes, but’ is where good ideas go to die. ‘Yes, and’ opens up possibilities for the imagination,” he said.

Hopkins ends his talk with these four words: **“Power to the imagination.”**

The pages of this annual report show how the members of Transition Fidalgo & Friends have used imagination to increase our longing for a more sustainable and resilient community. Although my years as board president will end in January, I will continue to serve on the board to help fire up our imaginations to build the future we all want. We will strive to live up to the aspiration of our logo and tag line: “What the caterpillar perceives is the end, to the butterfly is just the beginning.”

Richard Bergner
Outgoing Board President

Link to Rob Hopkins speech:

<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-11-13/what-if-there-was-a-daily-imagination-lesson/>

Fiscal responsibility

Treasurer's Report 2020

By Eric Shen
Outgoing Treasurer

2020 was a tough year, but our members made sure that Transition Fidalgo & Friends remained financially healthy with their donations. Thank you for your financial support and positive reinforcement throughout the year. This puts us in a good position as we enter 2021.

As you can see in this annual report, TF&F was able to accomplish much throughout the year. Our 2020 accomplishments are even more impressive when you consider the fact that they were done with 20% less than was budgeted for the year. The one item that exceeded the budgeted amount was caused by an almost \$500 increase in our insurance coverage.

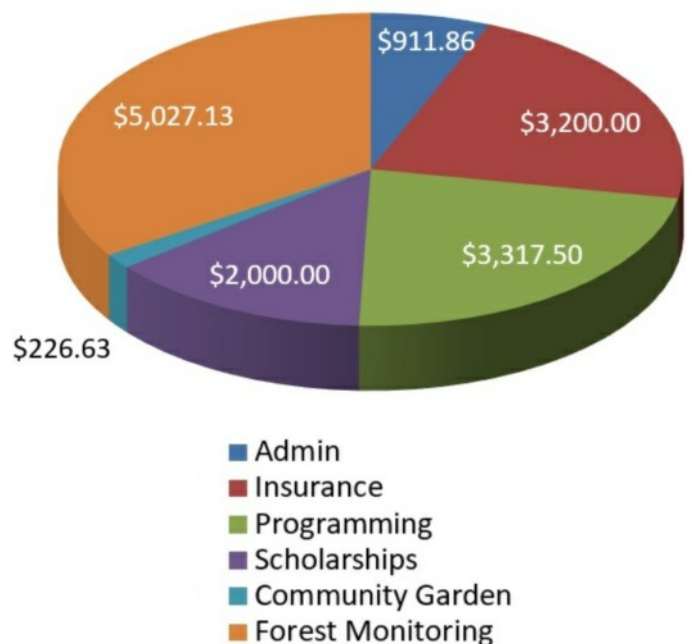
Our revenues came from two sources: your donations, and income from our solar projects. However, this was the last year we will be receiving income from the community solar projects, which will put TF&F into a deficit-spending position starting next year. Your Board is working on ways to compensate for this loss of income. If you have any ideas, we would like to hear from you.

Finally, it is my pleasure to let you know that Warren Carr will be taking over as treasurer. Warren is a long time Transition Fidalgo member, and has an excellent background to assume this responsibility. Thank you, Warren.

2020 Revenue



2020 Expenses



A special request:

By Richard Bergner
Outgoing Board President

I am writing to you, our Transition Fidalgo & Friends (TF&F) members, requesting that you consider joining the TF&F board.

How do I write such a general request without sounding desperate (we aren't), elitist (we try not to be), or impersonal (probably will be, but I will try my best to avoid being that)?

The board members are dedicated to our mission and friendly (most of the time); but we need help in meeting the challenges of climate change. We are looking to expand the board membership.

Here in one sentence is my request to you: Please consider using your talents, interests, presence and time by serving on the TF&F board.

But wait. There's more. You don't need to be an expert or superhero. You need a readiness to try, an openness to learn, and a willingness to work together. We all need to do our part in meeting the climate change challenge. The reward is knowing that you are doing your part.

We have a process for joining our board. If you are interested, submit a brief Letter of Interest to TF&F by mail or email stating why you are interested in being a board member, what skills you can bring, and whatever else you want to write; and meet with a couple of board members to get information and have questions answered. If the interest persists and is mutual, you are invited to a board meeting so that you can "test the waters" to see if it is truly "a match."

Currently our monthly board meetings are on Zoom.

They say that repetition is important. Please consider using your talents, interests, presence and time by serving on the TF&F board.

Thank you for considering this opportunity.

How can you help?

Subscribe to our monthly newsletters.

Become informed.

Read the monthly **Pathfinder**.

Be involved.

Live sustainably.

Attend our monthly Gatherings.

Like our Facebook page.

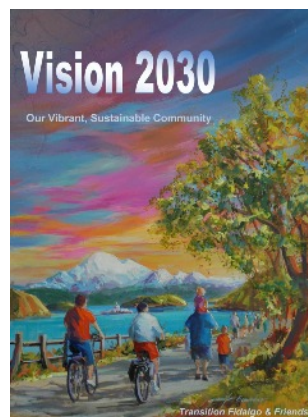
Contribute financially to the work.

Visit www.TransitionFidalgo.org to donate.



Read how you might be able to apply our **Vision 2030** in your community. Download a free copy:

https://www.transitionfidalgo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Vision_2030.pdf



Read and implement the **Living Well, Living Green** concepts in your life. Download a free copy here:

<https://www.transitionfidalgo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/81018-Living-Well-Complete.pdf>

Meet Warren Carr!

Warren Carr, our newest Board Member, welcomed the opportunity in 2020 to be more involved with Transition Fidalgo and Friends (TF&F) as a board member after six years of general membership.



Warren helped expand the Share the Bounty program by hosting a “free produce” stand at his home in Anacortes, and invested a great deal of time in keeping the stands running and the produce fresh. His personal interests include gardening, fly fishing, metal art and home projects.

Starting in 2021 Warren will serve as TF&F Treasurer, drawing from his business school education (BS from SDSU) and experience as a CPA. Expect to see Warren involved with projects surrounding locally-grown food, and educating others interested in home gardening.

On the cover: Kiwanis Park near 6th Street and H Avenue in Anacortes.
Photo by Jack Hartt

Transition Fidalgo & Friends

Board of Directors: 2020

Rich Bergner
President

Bud Anderson
Vice President

Eric Shen
Treasurer

Roger Fuller
Secretary

Warren Carr
Board Member

Phoebe Barnard
Board Member

Heather Burke
Board Member

Sequoia Ferrel
Board Member

Evelyn Adams
Board Member Emeritus

Jack Hartt
Communications Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator

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