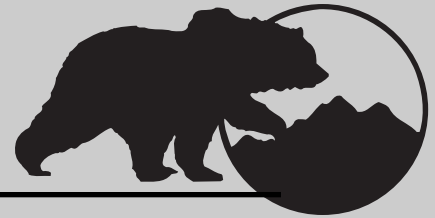


THE NORTHERN LINE



"...in the rest of the country we hear about how to restore what we have lost. The challenge in Alaska is not to lose it."
~ Dale Hale, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director



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Calendar of Events

October 10

Northern Voices speaker series

Heather Lende kicks off the second year of this popular speakers series. Sponsored by NAEC and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Library, the Northern Voices series is a venue for writers, artists, composers, and other visionaries inspired by the Alaskan environment held the second Tuesday of every month. For a complete schedule, see page 12, or go to www.northern.org.

November 11

NAEC's Annual Fundraising Auction

Come show your support for the farthest north conservation group in the U.S. by bidding on some great outdoor gear, trips, art, and fabulous desserts. Tickets are \$20 at the door, and include a light supper. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Social begins at 6 p.m., outcry auction begins at 7 p.m. Donations for the auction are needed – and will be accepted until November 3rd. For more information call 452-5021 or go to www.northern.org.

November 10-11

Far North Conservation Film Festival

Please join us in celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week by attending the Far North Conservation Film Festival. This two-day festival will be on November 10-11, at the Pioneer Park Centennial Center for the Arts (Civic Center) in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Far North Conservation Film Festival (www.farnorthfilms.com) presents a diverse group of outstanding films about the conservation and sustainability of wildlife, wild places and cultures around the world.

December 4-15

Holiday Bazaar at the Northern Center office

An annual holiday sale featuring books, calendars, art and other items celebrating Alaska. If you are interested in having your creations in the sale please contact Sara Elzey at NAEC by November 15. A portion of all sales go to benefit the Northern Center.

THE NORTHERN LINE

Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

The Northern Line is published quarterly by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC), 830 College Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, info@northern.org, www.northern.org. Copyright © 2006 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$33 annually and includes membership. We encourage letters and articles to be submitted for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center promotes conservation of the environment in Interior and Arctic Alaska through advocacy, education, and sustainable resource stewardship. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has 1,000 members.

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Jenny Day, Camp Habitat Coordinator
Sara Elzey, Controller
Nancy Fresco, Boreal Forest Campaign and Local Issues Coordinator
Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator
Meg Schlesinger, Mining Coordinator
Laenne Thompson, Youth Education Director
David van den Berg, Executive Director

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Fran Mauer, Jeff Merkel, Franz Mueter (President), Ritchie Musick,
Michael O'Brien (Treasurer), Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, and
Mary Shields.

Front Page photo: Camp Habitat's Advanced Backpackers took on the White Mountain this summer. Photo: Karen Toland

Shape and Protect Alaska's Future...

...become a member of the Northern Center or make a donation.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Renewal ☐

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Donation ☐

☐ \$33 Individual ☐ \$38 Family ☐ \$55 Sponsor ☐ \$110 Donor ☐ \$275 Patron ☐ \$28 Student/Senior ☐ Other \$ _____

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☐ Please charge my donation to my Visa/Mastercard (circle one)

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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Your contribution is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your support.

Please return to: NAEC, 830 College Road, Fairbanks AK 99701

A Letter to our Members

By David van den Berg
Executive Director



Last spring we mailed a survey to the 400 Northern Center members in the North Star Borough. We asked them to reveal what motivates their membership to the Northern Center and what work we could do together in service to Alaska and humankind. When we figured everyone had responded who was going to respond, we had 188 surveys in hand. That is a 47% success rate (which is unbelievable) and we thank you.

We called upon you this summer to help organize and stage outreach events, and you really pitched-in to build Alaskan support for Alaska's wild lands and a healthy, improving Fairbanks community. We thank you! We thank you for staffing community events or booths at the Farmers Market, the Tanana Valley Fair, the 10th Annual Run for the Refuge, our Annual Meeting and Members Bar-B-Q, the Renewable Energy Fair, Camp Habitat events, and more!

While we were active outside, we also advanced our "indoor" work. Camp Habitat "professionalized" and stabilized this year such that we will retain our Camp Director to direct another summer, which has happened only once before in almost two decades! We advanced on a community plan to bring comprehensive recycling to Fairbanks. The Mining Program joined with the Ecology and Law Institute and the Environmental Working Group on projects to assist the national mining reform campaign. The Arctic Program publicized BP's terrible, systematic failures to maintain pipelines at Prudhoe Bay, and took part in a determined, successful Alaska-wide resistance to Bush administration plans to lease for oil the sensitive habitats around Teshekpuk Lake. ♻

Fall cleaning. That's what comes to mind when I watch leaves sail down. No longer serving the tree such that they must be attached, the leaves fall to the ground. The tree is clean. Fall elections. America's political leadership no longer serves us such that it need remain. Governor Frank Murkowski was the first to fall – lost his primary – because a leader who loses sight of the people is no leader at all.

Even if you haven't seen Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, there's little risk of spoiling the movie by telling you that it starts on election night in the year 2000. At the beginning of a movie about a global threat, you are invited to consider America's leadership in the world. You are invited to wonder: what if there had never been a Bush presidency. What if?

Please actively support candidates strong on conservation in the fall elections. Such candidates would hear the America that wants to efficiently use fossil fuels and transition swiftly to renewable sources of energy. Such candidates would have planks in their platform to protect wild lands and critical ecological functions, safe-guard water quality and air quality, mitigate for global warming, support recycling and innovative urban planning. Such Americans are out there. Running for election. Help them. ♻



*Please actively support candidates strong
on conservation in the fall election*



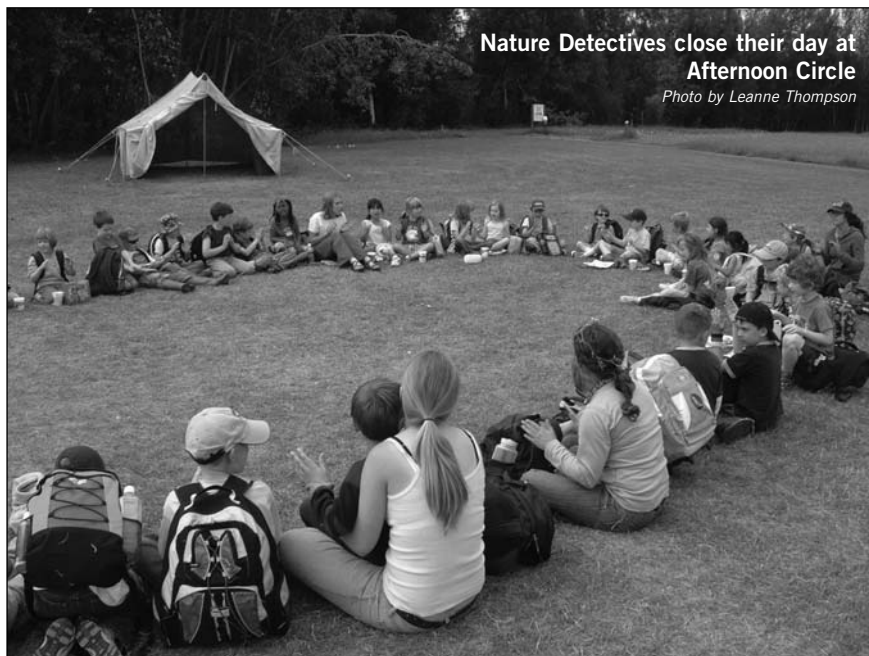
Camp Habitat Corner

Camp Habitat 2006: Cultivating Continuity

By Laenne Thompson, NAEC Youth Education Director

This year's Camp Habitat summer programs were well-attended, thanks to Camp Director Jenny Day. She worked diligently to train and support staff, communicate with parents, and coordinate with various agencies and guest speakers in order to offer a variety of experiences for the participants. We served 167 young people, ages 4 – 18, during seven programs. This year's camp accomplishments include:

- Staff were provided with sessions on youth development practices during staff training, such as cooperative learning, planning and reflection, effective use of open-ended questions, and a youth-centered problem-solving approach to reframing conflict;
- Campers became more observant of their surroundings and increased their awareness and respect for all living things;
- Children learned to reduce waste—this was done at lunch time each day during the day camps where biodegradable things were given to the worms in the worm bin and non-bio-degradable plastic wrappers and non-reusable containers were collected in clear garbage bags, with the goal of reducing the amount of “bad trash” each day;
- Campers decided to reduce their impact on the environment whether stepping into another animal's habitat or “leaving a few berries on the bushes” for other creatures who need to eat them to live;
- Younger children overcame social and separation anxieties—youth were able to work well with others and stay at camp all day when either parents or the children themselves did not think they could do it;
- Nearly 40 young people enjoyed their overnight camp outs at Rosehip and Granite Tors campgrounds—the youth bonded so well on these trips that the parents had a hard time getting them to go home!
- Parents and youth provided feedback on the summer sessions in record numbers! We made a better attempt at designing surveys and administering them in order to maximize the response rate. We value and learn so much from this input each year. To see this year's compiled parent and camper feedback, check out Camp Habitat at <http://www.northern.org>.



Nature Detectives close their day at
Afternoon Circle
Photo by Laenne Thompson

There are two other giant successes this year:

- Jenny Day, this year's director, has decided to direct the summer camp sessions again in 2007! This is the second time in the 15-year history of camp that we will have the same Camp Director. Jenny learned a lot and contributed so much to the program this year, and it is to our great benefit that she will return to provide continuity and preserve the institutional memory gained this year, and
- We won't be putting Camp Habitat to bed as usual for the fall and winter months this year because the Camp Habitat After School Program will begin in October and run through the 2006-07 school year! To learn more about this and other youth programs, please visit us on the web at <http://www.northern.org>.

We are looking forward to a terrific school year and are already making plans for summer programs in 2007! 🌿

The Camp Habitat Advisory Board needs you!

We are looking to recruit more members for our advisory board. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please send an email to Laenne Thompson: laenne@northern.org.



Camp Habitat Corner

Positive Youth Development Supporting Change in Individuals & Society

By Laenne Thompson, Youth Education Director

Several people have asked me, “Why does the Northern Center have a Youth Education Director?” when I tell them where I work.

I tell them that education is the fundamental way to bring about change in any society, so having a position dedicated to youth education is actually a brilliant means by which the Northern Center can bring about positive change. We can also support youth development — helping young people to become more in tune with themselves and the world around them — in hopes that they grow up to be contributing citizens in their current and future communities. Employing best practices of Positive Youth Development (PYD) at Camp Habitat summer camps and after school programs means providing high quality experiences that expand young people’s awareness, and in our case foster their appreciation of Interior Alaska and the quality of life it offers. This can lead to youth taking pride in our area and acting as stewards of our natural wonders. Our goal is to have Camp Habitat youth programs benefit our community today and lay groundwork for the future of Fairbanks and beyond.

Why PYD? Traditional approaches to educating young people saw children in a more negative light, as having deficits and needing to be programmed or controlled in order to prevent negative outcomes, such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and a lack of skills to enter the work force. In contrast, PYD is a strengths-based approach that sees children as having positive assets and skills that need investment and enhancing to help them grow into successful adults. Using this approach, power shifts from adults controlling everything in a top-down approach to adults sharing control by providing a framework within which there are choices youth can make, as well as clear limits to guide them toward success.

Hiring a qualified and caring staff and training them in youth development practices is a key component in high quality youth programs. We employ adults who have experience or a strong, demonstrated interest in teaching or facilitating youth. We develop our staff with interactive training modules in PYD — including developmentally appropriate ways to engage and encourage youth — and orient them to the variety of resources and materials they can use. Our staff then offers an array of activities that provide opportunities for youth to develop positive relationships with their peers, learn healthy behaviors, assume leadership roles, and be intellectually challenged and engaged to help them build their self-confidence, creativity and competencies.

Another way adults can support youth to offer programs that tap their interests and give them a variety of opportunities to build upon their strengths. Many young people are naturally curious and like to explore, so we take them outside to discover the creatures, habitats and climate of Alaska, so they can experience and learn to appreciate what makes it so unique. Camp Habitat summer camps and after school programs aim to increase youths’ interest and achievement in natural sciences in school with activities that engage youth in arts and crafts, music, outdoor games with an ecological theme or concept, outdoor skills, skits, poetry and creative writing, leadership, reading, and hikes as ways of learning more about the natural world and the connectedness of the web of life. These activities are designed to foster healthy cognitive, physical, social, and emotional growth in our youth participants and expand their knowledge of and connection to the greater Fairbanks community and other positive outcomes.

The Northern Center is committed to serve and invest in our community on many levels to protect our health, our local economy, and the natural wonders of The Last Frontier. We invest our time in youth because they can yield the highest return in our communities — they help old eyes see things differently, their voices are spirited, and they breathe new life into our communities and governing bodies. By identifying youths’ assets and supporting their growth using a PYD approach, we just might allow youth to lead us and teach us how to do things better. After all, it is their future with which we are entrusted. 🌱



2006 Camp Habitat Staff

Photo by Laenne Thompson

Camp Habitat says: **THANK YOU**

to the following folks for their support this year!



Agencies & Organizations

- Alaska Bird Observatory
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Alaska Club Tennis
- Arctic Audubon
- Arctic Wild
- Creamer's Field Community Garden Project
- Creamer's Field Family Gardeners
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Migrant Education Program
- Fort Wainwright Officers' Spouses Club
- Friends of Creamer's Field
- Hot Tamale
- Joshua Industries
- Local 375 Plumbers and Steamfitters
- Los Amigos
- Northern Alaska Environmental Center
- Simard Auto
- Taco King
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Community Members, Donors, Guest Speakers & Volunteers

- Erik Anderson
- Jane Atkinson
- Nikki Braem & TohCyahDayMah Tahbone

- Sharon Baring
- Tricia Blake
- Kyle Campbell
- The Crosby Family
- Bruce Delbridge
- Joshua Delbridge
- Laurel Devaney
- Erin Duggan
- Sara Elzey
- Dick Farris
- Nicole Fliss
- Susan Grace
- Art Greenwalt
- The Hannah Family
- Lizanne Hanson
- Cathie Harms
- Dr. Beth Kohlen
- Donna Krier
- Larry Landry
- The Lawler Family
- J.R. Lazar
- Beth Lenart
- Anna Maguire
- The Marchbanks Family
- Jackie Martin
- The May Family
- Gail Mayo
- Pamela Miller
- Mike Musick
- Mary Ann Nickles
- Frank Pavlovic III
- Melissa Provinsal
- Darla Redger
- Mark D. Ross
- Meg Schlesinger
- Mary Shields
- Barbara Sivin
- Diana Sparicino
- Rose Speranza
- The Szymd Family
- Cat Stephenson
- Jim Stoltz
- Jackie Sunnyboy
- Mike Taras
- Jerry & Kathy Thompson
- Karen Toland
- Jim Trombley
- Heather Vikulec

Thank You

We thank you for volunteering multiple times, but we only list your name once.

Summer 2006

Individuals and Families

- Stephen Alexander
- Maureen & Stewart Aull
- Mara Bacsujlaky
- Subhankar Banarjee
- Anna Berge
- Julie Burton
- John Davis
- Linda DeFoliart
- Robin & Margaret Eagleton
- Kerynn Fisher
- Louise Foster
- Brook Gamble
- Faith Gemmill
- Sarah Gilbert
- Rhonda Gilbertson
- Scott Grundy
- Glyn Hoener
- Alicia Holland
- Cheryl Hopcroft
- Jim Hunter
- Betsey Jacobs
- Stan Justice
- Randy Kaihoi
- Frank Keim
- Laurie Klein
- Carolyn Kremers
- Jen Landry
- Van Lawrence
- Sherry Lewis
- Ann Mallard
- Fran Mauer
- Gail Mayo
- Sean McGuire
- Doug McIntosh
- Lisa Miller
- Debbie Miller
- Chris & Angie Miller
- Natalie Monacci
- Rob Morford
- Michelle Murt
- Matt Neville
- Larry Paquin
- Tom Paragi
- Frank Pavlovic
- Elaine Ponchione
- Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
- Margie Dashevsky
- Tako Reynolds
- Andy Reynolds
- Marilyn Richardson
- Sandra Romero
- Ronnie Rosenberg
- Don Ross
- Sue Royston
- Jose Rueter
- Carol Scott
- Betsy Smith
- DeAnne Stokes
- Lane Thompson
- Karen Toland
- John Yurek
- Pat Walsh
- Avalon Wappatt
- Cindy Wentworth
- Mary Wyatt
- Mary Zalar
- Sarah James
- Luci Beach (Gwich'in Steering Committee)
- Mark MacDonald (Episcopal Church)
- Dr. David Klein
- Mary K. Stark
- Katlian Stark
- John Schoen (Alaska Audubon)
- Eleanor Huffines (The Wilderness Society)

Northern Voices Speakers

- Leonard Kamerling
- Anne Hanley, Carolyn Kremers & Debbie Miller
- Dennis Witmer
- Susan Grace
- Seth Kantner
- John Luther Adams
- Mikki & Julie Collins

Businesses and Organizations

- Alaska Service Corps
- Alaska Tent and Tarp
- Calypso Farm & Ecology Center
- David Mollett & Artists of the Arctic Refuge



Three campers head home - arms & legs full of their creations! Photo by Leanne Thompson

Bush Energy Policy Disappoints Alaskans

Interior Secretary Takes Heat

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

Native Alaskans from the North Slope, Gwich'in leaders and conservationists opposed to oil drilling at Teshekpuk Lake gave new Interior Secretary Dick Kempthorne an earful at a Fairbanks' 'listening session' in Fairbanks last month.

Kempthorne, a new Bush appointee, held only one public meeting in Alaska during his visit. The August trip was his first to Alaska.

With the Bush Administration's plans for widespread drilling across Alaska's public lands in mind, those attending spoke on the environmental and human rights concerns raised by plans for Teshekpuk Lake, the Arctic Ocean, the Yukon Flats, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. At the time of Kempthorne's arrival, Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency and others were investigating British Petroleum's problems with pipeline corrosion, spills, detection and maintenance at the vast Prudhoe Bay complex. Also days prior, the Interior Department posted notice of the first-ever lease sale for areas north of Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

The irony was not lost on almost every Alaskan who spoke at the "listening session." Alaskans know the plan for Teshekpuk Lake would allow pipelines to cross key goose and caribou habitat and that maintaining oil infrastructure is costly, disruptive, and risky. The value of this area was recognized even by the Reagan-era Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, who did not lease it; Secretary Bruce Babbitt also protected it from leasing. The Bush Administration plans came under heavy criticism.

"Nuiqsut means someplace rich on the horizon. Teshekpuk Lake is a very rich area for us, Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk, former mayor of the Inupiat village closest to oil fields said. "The cumulative effects are already devastating us in many ways."

"Industry did not truthfully share what was coming to us with Alpine. Industrial development around us changes how we exist, the health of our people."



Earl Kingik, Native Village of Point Hope, testifies at Interior Secretary Dick Kempthorne's "listening session."

Photo by Pamela A. Miller

Dr. Aaron Wernham, of the Alaska Inter Tribal Council, requested Kempthorne withdraw the Teshekpuk Lake sale.

"As a physician, I am disturbed that industry projects are routinely not evaluated for human health impacts. The National Research Council study on cumulative impacts criticized the current North Slope planning process, and the EIS for Teshekpuk Lake still has very little on human health. Subsistence is an integral part of human health on the North Slope."

"If the goal of the listening session is to enhance conservation and wildlife, then we need to cancel the Teshekpuk Lake lease sale and development of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," said Mary K. Stark.

Native Alaskans from the North Slope, Gwich'in leaders and conservationists opposed to oil drilling at Teshekpuk Lake gave new Interior Secretary Dick Kempthorne an earful at a Fairbanks' 'listening session' in Fairbanks last month.

"We have to understand the ecological dynamics of climate change before you can do a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of oil and gas development," said Dr. David Klein, University of Alaska Fairbanks professor emeritus.

Earl Kingik from Point Hope, a community on the North Slope's western tip, discussed his tribes' opposition to Chukchi Sea oil exploration and continued, "I am concerned about the Western Arctic caribou herd, the effects of the Red Dog mine, the most polluted mine in the U.S," and also lands west of NPR-A where "ASRC [Arctic Slope Regional Corporation] wants to open coal mining in their caribou insect relief habitats."

Robert Thompson, from Kaktovik, criticized Interior's decisions.

"A few days ago from my living room window I could see a seismic boat. We learned there was no EIS [environmental impact statement] on this exploration, for oil company actions that will affect our whaling and harm whales' hearing. From my kitchen window, I view the Arctic Refuge, and the drastic effects of climate change. We can conserve some of the last great wilderness for future generations."

In closing, Dale Hale, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, summed up the meeting's sentiments, "in the rest of the country we hear about how to restore what we have lost. The challenge in Alaska is not to lose it."

NAEC Court Victory! The US District Court for Alaska issued a strongly worded decision that could save the internationally significant wildlife habitat around Teshekpuk Lake in the Northeast Planning Area of the National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska (NPRA) on September 25, 2006. The court found the government's environmental analysis violated federal environmental laws. In particular, it failed to consider the cumulative impact of widespread oil and gas development in the NPRA, a key point in conservation groups' arguments against the plan to lease the area around Teshekpuk Lake. The ruling struck down the Interior Department's leasing plan for the area, and prohibits the BLM from proceeding with a planned sale of oil and gas leases on more than 400,000 acres around the lake. The lease sale was to have taken place September 27. 🌿

BP's Prudhoe Shutdown Exposes Poor Environmental Record

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

On March 2, 2006 a large North Slope pipeline was found to be leaking oil and it was not technology that detected the leak.

A favorable wind and an oil worker's nose discovered what would become the largest crude oil spill ever in the North Slope oil fields, one in which up to 260,000 gallons of oil leaked from a corroded pipeline. The Environmental Protection Agency launched a criminal investigation. The U.S. Department of Transportation took a harder look at British Petroleum's monitoring programs, why leak detection systems did not work and why it had not sent a "smart pig" inspection device through the line since 1998.

Then just five months later, BP surprised the nation, announcing on August 6th that it was shutting down half the Prudhoe Bay oil field due to corrosion and spills at a different major pipeline, problems discovered by the federal agencies' corrosion checks.

BP seeks to characterize the corrosion and spills as "unexpected" and isolated events. The spills and corrosion are neither unexpected nor isolated, according to independent researcher Richard Fineberg of Ester, who prepared a report on the [March spill at Prudhoe Bay](#).

"The documentary record suggests that BP does not operate the nation's largest petroleum complex in a safe and environmentally sound manner," said Fineberg.

In fact, the state of Alaska has been aware of the pipeline problems since the 1990s:

- In 1999, whistleblowers, through Chuck Hamel, raised concerns about the integrity of pipelines and the management system
- In 1999, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, as part of the BP-ARCO merger agreement, required corrosion monitoring studies
- In May 2002, because BP had failed to conduct required tests of leak detection systems, ADEC required that BP complete the tests by the end of the year, and 'smart pig' certain key pipelines that are now at issue
- On December 30, 2002, ADEC let off BP off the hook for the pigging requirement

Three congressional hearings during the first two weeks of September brought more of these problems to light. The record at Prudhoe Bay provides an unfortunate preview of just how "gentle" oil drilling operations would likely be if allowed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's fragile coastal plain.

To learn more: See www.northern.org and www.finebergresearch.org. 🌿

10th Annual Run for the Refuge

A Community Celebration

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

It's a run, it's a walk, it's a race – it's a confluence of Alaskans – celebrating that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains wild and free. Like all those before it, the 10th Annual Run for the Refuge was a local awareness-building event that drew 110 racers – many new faces and familiar ones too – on a pleasantly cool Saturday afternoon.

62 people ran or walked our 5K and 48 were in the 10k race. The top 5k men were Jeff Gilbert (20:25), Alex Bluetooth (20:41), and Brendan Ward (20:50). The top 5k women were Kori Smith (21:08), Maggie Lokken (22:21), and Hillary Schwafil (24:49). The top 10k men were Bruce Gard (42:15), Northern Center president Franz Mueter (46:28) and James Dean (46:28). The top 10k women were Heidi Rader (47:04), Kathy Campbell (50:17), and Kathy Johnson (50:51).

We want to thank Melissa Provinsal, ACF summer intern, who organized the event from beginning to end. Special thanks to Sweating Honey for great music at the race start and finish; Maggie Hallam for donating lovely caribou artwork for the Run; Shaylene Newman for hosting an information table for the Gwich'in Steering Committee; Calypso Farms and Ecology Center for donating crisp veggies for after-race snacks.

And special thanks to our race sponsors: Alaska Tent and Tarp, Apocalypse Design, Arctic Treks, Beaver Sports, Blueberry Baby, Cold Spot Feed, College Coffeehouse, College Town Pizzeria, Food Factory, Fred Meyer, Glow Putt Alaska, Golden Heart Vet Services, Gulliver's Books, Hearthside Bakery, Hot Licks, Raven Cross Country, Running Club North, Safeway, Sam's Club, The Alaska Club Fairbanks, The Athlete's Foot, and The Great Alaskan Bowl Co. 🌿



Thanks to everyone who made the 10th Annual Run for the Refuge a success!

Photo by Pamela A. Miller

Arctic Refuge battle to heat up this fall

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

Despite big problems at Prudhoe Bay¹ shooting full of holes the Alaska Congressional delegation's argument that one can protect the Arctic Refuge while one drills it for oil, we still expect a hard fight this fall to defend the Arctic Refuge.

We expect to see drilling riders attached to "must-pass" appropriations bills in a lame-duck session in November or December. We'll also have to be on the lookout for back-handed efforts to drill the Refuge like that of Rep Dennis Nunez, (R-CA), who introduced his Arctic Refuge drilling bill (H.R. 5890, American-Made Energy Trust Fund) on July 26, 2006. As if the only money is oil money, this bill would open the entire 1.5 million-acre pristine coastal plain to oil drilling and use the revenues to subsidize cellulosic biomass ethanol, solar and fuel cells and coal-to-liquid fuel research.

We don't think oil money is America's only source of money for change, and besides, we can substantiate that the revenue projections for drilling are exaggerated. Americans don't want a drilling plan without end to fund the forward-looking energy policy America needs.

What you can do

- **Save Energy**

Find tips at <http://www.ase.org>.

- **Write Letters to the editor**

Explain how the recent BP pipeline corrosion and spills shows their promises are impossible to keep.

- **Call and write to your senators and representatives**

Ask them to oppose any bill that would allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge coastal plain.

Congressional switchboard 202-225-3121

- **The Honorable (full name)**

U.S. Senate/House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510/205151

Detailed in BP's Prudhoe Shutdown, see page 8 of this edition of The Northern Line. 🌿

What Future for the Yukon Flats?

Looking at the proposed land trade and the Rampart Dam

By Roger Kaye, NAEC Member

The Gwich'in of the Yukon Flats and their conservationist allies who seek to protect their region from the potential impacts of the proposed land trade in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge between Doyon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are rightfully concerned about the economic and political power of those who oppose them. But it is worthwhile to remember the overwhelming odds their parents and grandparents faced in the 1960s when they fought to protect their homeland from the proposed Rampart Dam.

The Rampart Dam would have blocked the Yukon River and flooded the entire region. The residents of Beaver, Birch Creek, Chalkyitsik, Rampart, Stevens Village, Venetie, and Fort Yukon were to have been paid and relocated.

Opposing them was Alaska's congressional delegation, including leading proponent Senator Ernest Gruening who declared that the Yukon Flats was "nothing but a vast wasteland . . . notable chiefly for swarming clouds of mosquitoes." Nationally, the powerful AFL-CIO labor union and even President Kennedy promoted the dam. In Alaska, the cities of Fairbanks and Anchorage contributed money to the "Build Rampart Now" campaign. The Alaska state legislators, almost unanimously for the dam, voted to spend more than \$50,000 to promote the project, and refused requests for money to publicize its negative impacts. The editors of the Fairbanks and Anchorage newspapers, and the University of Alaska president lobbied for the dam.

But not dismayed by the odds against them, the Gwich'in, along with Alaskan and Lower 48 conservationists and the Fish and Wildlife Service, rallied to publicize the dam's harmful effects. Jonathon Solomon formed Gwitchya Gwitchin Ginkye — Yukon Flats People Speak.

At the Fort Yukon hearing, Philip Peter testified that "This Land is dear. Millions and millions of dollars wouldn't mean a thing to us . . . if they take those millions and millions of dollars and distribute them among the men, women, and children, they would only be shortening their lives." He went on to ask the officials how they would feel if Indians with money came to their area and proposed to build a dam that would flood them out. "Would you say 'Yes, go ahead' without a fight," he asked. Peter Simple feared a dam would "put our children up against something they don't know."

Representing Gwitchya Gwitchin Ginkye, Jonathan Solomon aptly summarized the local sentiment: This land, he said, "is worth more than money to us."

Despite the strength of the forces against them, those with a different, longer-term vision for the Yukon Flats prevailed. Their descendants inherited a Yukon River that flows free, its salmon run unhindered by a dam. They inherited the landscape that sustained their ancestors and shaped their culture — its wildlife, ecological, and scenic richness undiminished. 🌿

Yukon Flats Refuge Deal to Facilitate Oil & Gas Development

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Native Regional Corporation, Doyon, Ltd., have proposed a land exchange in an Agreement in Principal.

Crafted in private, the deal would give Doyon full title to 110,000 acres and subsurface title to another 97,000 acres of land within Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. In return, the USFWS would get about 150,000 acres of Doyon lands, (and possibly more if oil production proceeds). Doyon plans to drill for oil and gas on the lands it obtains and build road and pipeline corridors south along Beaver Creek Wild River and through the White Mountains National Recreation Area.; the refuge would obtain land parcels nearer to the Yukon River.

This land exchange has some big problems. It will facilitate incompatible oil and gas development on lands now an integral part of the Yukon Flats Refuge. It would give oil companies a foot in the door to gradually transform the

natural landscape of the Yukon Flats into a sprawling industrial complex, with permanent damage to the land, culture, and wilderness. And the land exchange would set an unfortunate precedent of allowing future development on refuges and even national parks.

Native Tribes and conservationists pressed for an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this major change in land use. In August, Doyon got the USFWS to agree to a rushed EIS that will have a public comment period prior to land appraisals — critical to location, habitat values, or number of acres to be traded — and a final EIS timed for the last days of the Bush administration.

For More Information:

See www.northern.org for longer story with links to video and more. 🌿

"Now it is Your Turn to Take up the Fight"

Gwich'in leader Jonathon Solomon Passes On

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

My last conversation with Jonathon Solomon was in his living room in Fort Yukon this spring. As always, he gave razor-sharp strategic counsel for the fights to protect the Arctic and Yukon Flats refuges from oil drilling. He passed away at 74 on July 13, 2006.

"I did not choose this fight," Solomon said many times about his life work to preserve the Gwich'in culture and homeland. "When I was 16, I went with my father up the Porcupine River and there we waited for three days while the Porcupine caribou herd streamed past our boat. My father said, 'Now it is your turn,' to protect the herd."

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge might be drilled today, if not for Jonathon's early leadership in the Gwich'in Nation. His efforts began in earnest in March 1978, when a U.S. House committee unexpectedly proposed a governmental exploration program as part of an early draft of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA.) "We thought it was a refuge, that it was safe," said Jonathon. Ironically, they went to Rep. Don Young (R-AK) who removed the draft bill's provision. Solomon got support of the Gwich'in tribes and City of Kaktovik to designate the entire original Refuge as wilderness that would protect their subsistence resources and way of life in ANILCA.

Jonathon was central to organizing the historic 1988 Gwich'in Niintsyaa gathering in Arctic Village. It resulted in the Gwich'in Steering Committee and a resolution of the whole Gwich'in Nation calling for permanent protection of the caribou calving and nursery

grounds and designation of the coastal plain "1002 area" of the Arctic Refuge as Wilderness. The Gwich'in Nation again reaffirmed this position of no compromise at its biennial gathering in Inuvik Canada in July. Jonathon involved the Episcopal Church in this human rights issue for the Gwich'in early on.

Every summer, Jonathon boated to his traditional salmon fish camp on the Yukon River. He lived subsistence and defended his way of life by organizing everywhere he went. At an emergency gathering in Fort Yukon in 2004, he said:

"I took on this fight for us, it's been a long fight since then. It was 1975 -- 30 years ago. We've been on that road a lot of time. We need your help, you — the young adults, the elders, the youth. You all gonna walk the same hallways as my leaders walk, telling about our life, telling the Congress, telling the Senators, that we don't want no development. We need you."

Jonathon's legacy is up to all of us — to permanently protect the refuge and the human rights of the Gwich'in people.

You can make a donation in his name to:

www.gwichinsteeringcommittee.org. ☘



Jonathon Solomon
Photo by Pamela A. Miller

BLM's Resource Advisory Council Studies South NPR-A

By David van den Berg, Executive Director

The southern planning area of the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) has been “under glass” since 1923 when President Harding made a huge, blind, 24 million-acre stab at creating a petroleum reserve in the Alaska territory.

The NPR-A was then withdrawn from other uses that might impede a search for oil. The 9.2 million-acre “South” has been explored only lightly since. A few rusticated exploration camps dot the treeless landscape a long, long way from anywhere.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning for “South.” Interest in the disposition of this federal land is such that the agency took its 15-member Resource Advisory Council (RAC) on a two-day field trip to paddle a short stretch of river and tour the area by helicopter. The RAC will recommend to the Alaska State Director whether

opening the foothills of the western arctic to mining for base metals and coal should be within the scope of the plan, and to recommend conservation strategies for the area's unique landscape, wilderness qualities and wildlife populations.

“I know I couldn't walk out of here alive if something went wrong,” said John Mehlhoff, BLM Acting Deputy State Director, who, a little earlier, had watched with the rest of the group as three wolf pups ventured from their river bank den to check us out. “South” comprises a huge part of the 500,000-strong Western Arctic Caribou Herd's calving and insect-relief habitat. The wildlife rich region of foothills, plateaus and river valleys is a wellspring for arctic grizzly bear populations across the Alaskan arctic; it has the highest density of wolverines in the world.

The southern NPR-A can survive this round of planning as de facto wilderness. As part of our strategy to protect what's best about Alaska's Arctic, NAEC is asking RAC members and BLM planners to consider if mining, drilling, and roading wild, rich landscapes for starkly marginal economic return is a good fit for the southern NPR-A. 🌿

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center and The Fairbanks North Star Borough Library present

The Second Annual Northern Voices speaker series

The second Thursday of each month 7pm @ the Noel Wien Library Auditorium

October - Heather Lende

Heather Lende of Haines is the author of *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name: News From Small-town Alaska*, which won the Alaska Library Association's Alaskana Award.

November- Adeline Peter-Raboff

Adeline Peter Raboff is a Gwich'in author and researcher. Her latest book, *Gwich'in Family Origins: The Broken Braided* is an ethnographic view of Gwich'in families over several generations.

December - Ken Whitten

Photographer and retired research biologist Ken Whitten has spent years studying and photographing the Arctic.

January - Jamie Smith

Local cartoonist Jamie Smith illustrates how his experiences in the Alaskan wildernesses “have warped my perspective.”

February - Roger Kaye

Pilot and author Roger Kaye's *Last Great Wilderness* chronicles the fight of Olaus and Margaret Murie and that of their compatriots for the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

March - Ned Rozell

Adventurer Ned Rozell writes a popular local science column and is the author of *Walking My Dog Jane: From Valdez to Prudhoe Bay along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline*. His work has also appeared in *Alaska* and *Mushing* magazines.

April - John Haines

Poet John Haines spent more than twenty years homesteading in Interior Alaska. He has published numerous volumes and numerous awards and fellowships.

May - Richard Nelson

Cultural anthropologist, author and radio host, Richard Nelson is the author of a number of popular books including *The Island Within* and *Make Prayers to the Raven*. Nelson served as the Alaska State Writer in 1999-2001.

Northern Voices is a venue for writers, artists, composers, and other visionaries inspired by the Alaskan environment

For more information

Please contact the Northern Center at 452-5021. 🌿



Remembering Nina Dee Mollett

Alaskan Environmental and Political Activist

Juneau and former Fairbanks resident, Nina Dee Mollett, 55, passed away Saturday, April 29, 2006 at University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. An Alaska resident since 1972, she was born in New York City on December 1, 1950 and raised in Queens, the daughter of Jesse and Betty Schectman.

During her early years in Alaska, Nina worked at the tracking stations north of Fairbanks and as an assistant teacher at Headstart. She was an active writer, a reporter for the All Alaska Weekly and arts reviewer for the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. She also worked for the Sea Grant Program at UAF and until her recent illness she worked for the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau.

Nina was an avid birdwatcher and environmentalist. She served as the Associate Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center and edited our publication, The Northern Line for several years. She was a political activist on the Alaska scene for over thirty years taking particular interest in the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, and recently, voter rights and vote count accuracy.

The Northern Center has received nearly \$2000 in gifts in memory of Nina. We thank you for choosing to honor her life and work in this way. 🌿

Will a gold mine backfire in Nome?

Residents push for sensible environmental review

By Meg Schlesinger, Mining Coordinator

Gold is to Nome like dastardly characters are to Westerns. Yet Nomeites are choosy about how their gold is got and they don't like the way the State of Alaska is permitting Canadian mining company Nova Gold to get it.

Nova Gold wants to build the Rock Creek Project, a two-pronged affair with the Rock Creek Mine/ Mill Complex located six miles north of Nome and the Big Hurrah Mine located 42 miles east of Nome. Both are open pit gold mines that would employ a cyanide vat leach for the 4-5 years of mine life.

The State of Alaska has issued permits for the mine proposal and opened public comment periods on each of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) drafts. As of August 9th, final state permits and authorizations have been issued for the DEC Waste Management Permit,

DEC 401 Certificate of Reasonable Assurance, DNR Reclamation Plan Approval, DNR Title 41 Fish Habitat Permit, DNR Temporary Water Use Permit for Rock Creek, and DNR Temporary Water Use Permits for Big Hurrah.

On July 27th, Governor Frank Murkowski traveled to Nome for a ceremonial ribbon cutting of the state-funded \$7.3 million upgrade to 3.7 miles of the Glacier Creek Road to access the mining area. The Governor was met at the airport by about 30 informed Nome citizens holding signs that read "Cyanide Kills!" and "We Want an Independent Environmental Impact Statement!!!!" because cyanide does kill and it is precisely the chemical to be used in open-air fashion without normal environmental review.

The Northern Center, along with Trustees for Alaska and the Center for Science in Public Participation, has assisted Nome residents to build momentum toward the kind of environmental review any community deserves when facing a project with real long-term costs. 🌿

The neighbors add to their property

Fort Knox Gold Mine adds a cyanide heap leach

By Meg Schlesinger, Mining Coordinator

Kinross Gold Corporation, owner of the Fort Knox gold mine has applied to the State's Department of Natural Resources and Army Corp of Engineers for permits to build the Walter Creek Project, a cyanide heap leach facility 25 miles northeast of Fairbanks.

To extend Fort Knox's mine life by 10 – 12 years, the mine proposes to clear more than 300 acres that would be lined to receive 161 million tons of waste rock to be piled in huge heaps to then be saturated with a cyanide solution to strip the waste rock of gold.

Since the 1890s, cyanide has been used to recover gold from rock. More than 100 years later, cyanide is still a part of the mining industry's recovery process for gold and other metals in the hard rock mining industry. About 90 percent of the world's gold is recovered by some form of cyanide process. There are two types of cyanide leaching. Roughly 70 percent of the hard rock mining industry's gold is recovered through cyanide vat leaching; about 30 percent from heap leaching. While cyanide effectively wrests gold from ore, it generates thousands of tons of waste rock while generating only small amounts of gold. Heap leaches create very long-term storage, maintenance and monitoring commitments.

The Northern Center, along with Trustees for Alaska and the Center for Science in Public Participation, commented on the pending state and Army Corps of Engineers permits for the Walter Creek project. We wait to see if Fort Knox will amend their permit, and if they go forward. 🌿

Recycling: Planning for 2007 and Beyond

An update from the Borough Recycling Task Force

By Nancy Fresco, Local Issues Coordinator

The Borough Recycling Task Force is close to reaching consensus on a fairly simple plan that would give all Borough residents the opportunity to keep much of our paper, plastic, and aluminum out of our landfill.

All summer, members of the Borough Recycling Task Force met on Tuesday afternoons to plan a comprehensive recycling program for our community. A public meeting will be scheduled later in the fall to present the task force's recommendations and to seek feedback as to whether the proposed plan is acceptable to local residents.

The Recycling Task Force was created to formulate recommendations for Borough Mayor Jim Whitaker, the Borough Assembly, and the public. The task force includes representatives from the Borough, the City of Fairbanks, the University of Alaska, the School District, Eielson Air Force Base, and Fort Wainwright, as well as from the Northern Alaska Environmental Center.

Many group members have considerable experience with the challenges of waste management in the Fairbanks area, which include illegal dumping and messy, aggressive or even dangerous behavior at Borough transfer sites.

Given these factors, a workable program must be voluntary and relatively fool-proof. Moreover, an economic analysis provided by MACTEC (an independent company acting as a consultant to the Borough) clearly indicates that all recycling options will increase

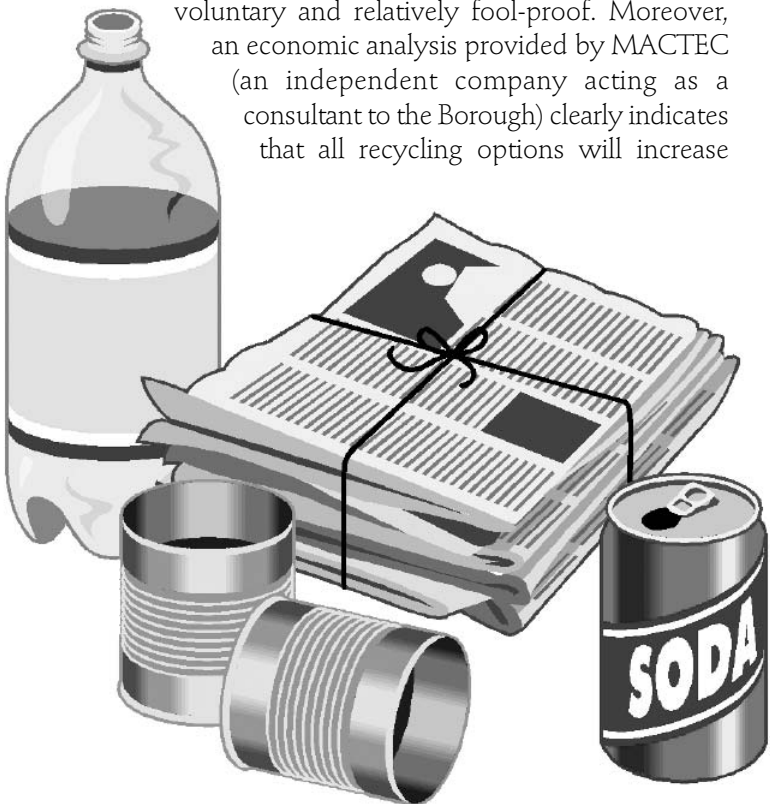
The most practicable option appears to be a source-separated system focusing on 4-5 types of material, and later expanding if possible.

Borough waste management costs. While every member of the Task Force is eager to make a better recycling program available to all, concerns about costs and compliance have to be addressed.

The most practicable option appears to be a source-separated system focusing on 4-5 types of material, and later expanding if possible. In other words, businesses and households would separate recyclable materials into all categories being collected, most likely including all paper and cardboard, aluminum, and one or two types of plastic. The Borough would set up separate bins for these materials at transfer stations and at the landfill itself, and would possibly also set up collection points within city limits for those residents whose trash is collected at the curbside.

The program could cost one million dollars annually, twice the cost of our current recycling program – in other words, about \$10-\$12 annually per Borough resident. There would also be a one-time capital cost of about \$2.5 million. To meet these costs, the Borough would need to raise funds, either from taxes alone or from taxes and tipping fees. Raising the mill rate will require a vote, and thus a year-long wait before it can be placed on local ballots.

This year allows all of us plenty of time to spread the word about the benefits of a Fairbanks recycling program, including reduced depletion of natural resources, decreased landfill space, and creation of potential resources streams for local businesses, e.g. production of cellulose insulation. Task Force members agree that education and advocacy – including everything from paid advertising to school programs to simple peer pressure – will be a crucial component. ♻️



Departures

Meg Schlesinger

Mining Coordinator

After almost two years with the Northern Center, I am sad to leave! I have had an amazing experience living and working in Alaska, something and some place that I will never forget. I hope I have left the mining program a little better than I found it. Alaska has become a part of me and it is truly hard to leave. Thank you all for your friendship and support during my stay at the Northern Center. It has been a pleasure!

Erin Duggan

Mining Intern

I am Erin Duggan and I've been the intern for the Mining Program this summer. Originally from Massachusetts, I just graduated from Montreal's McGill University with a B.A. joint major in environmental studies and international development. I knew that after graduation I wanted to jump into the environmental field, but I also wanted to travel. This internship was the perfect combination! I came to Fairbanks with three goals: to get some hands-on experience dealing with mining issues, to gain experience working at an environmental organization, and to explore some of Alaska. I achieved all three.

For the majority of the summer I worked under Mining Coordinator Meg Schlesinger's supervision to produce materials for the campaign to save Tangle Lakes. My work included writing fact sheets about pertinent topics, producing a brochure about the area, and establishing a database of contacts. Also, I updated fact sheets for the mining program and helped out where needed on other projects.

All in all it was a remarkable summer full of new adventures and experiences. The staff at NAEC was amazing in welcoming me and showing me around. I am so grateful for their hospitality. Next I'll be heading back east to New York City. Although I do not yet have a job lined up, I am certain I will be using the experiences and skills I gained at the NAEC in my future endeavors.

Melissa Provinsal

Events Intern

My name is Melissa Provinsal. I am a junior at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma Washington studying chemistry and environmental studies. Originally from Portland, Oregon, I have been interested in and involved with environmental issues since middle school. I found the Northern Center through the Alaska Conservation

Foundation's Conservation Internship Program and, having never been to Alaska before, I thought this would be a great way to experience the state.

In my three month internship at the Center, sponsored by ACF, I worked very closely with Arctic Coordinator Pam Miller to bring to life this year's 10th Annual Run for the Refuge, as well as to lay ground work for the Center's climate change campaign. One of the biggest tasks that I completed was the organization of a Farmers Market booth for the Center. The booth was a huge success and could not have happened without the participation of all the wonderful people that volunteered their time to help staff it. I thank everyone who took the time to volunteer at the booth. I really appreciate it.

I had a blast this summer working with the lovely people at the Center as well as all my fabulous volunteers. I hope to make it back to this fine city someday in the not too distant future. This fall I am plugging away at my undergraduate degree and then plan to continue my education, focusing on climate change and environmental education.

Thanks for a great summer, and may we meet again! ♻️



Various NAEC staff, interns, board members, and volunteers: Standing left to right: Melissa Provinsal, David van den Berg, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Meg Schlesinger, Rob Cadmus, Kaarle Strailey, Jenny Day, Nicole Fliss, Fran Mauer. Kneeling left to right: Shadow, Sara Elzey, Nikki Braem, Nancy Fresco, Laenne Thompson, and Pamela Miller.

Photo by NAEC

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| * Original Rie Munoz Print | * Free Canine Spay or Neuter | * 4 Family Passes to Tanana Valley State Fair |
| * MYO XP Headlamp | * Kenai River Scenic Float for Two | ...and many more fine items! |

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED and will be accepted until November 3rd.
For more information, please call (907) 452-5021



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