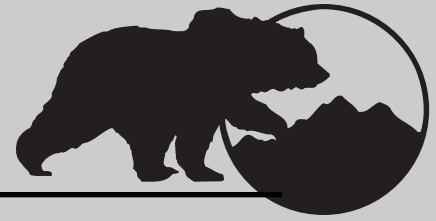


THE NORTHERN LINE



"The conservationist's most important task, if we are to save the earth, is to educate." - Peter Scott, founder, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund



YOUTH: CONSERVATION'S FUTURE...

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THE NORTHERN LINE

Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

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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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Dana Boyd of the Fairbanks Chapter of Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) whistles sea grass as she hikes along the Sitka Sound during a Chapter Leaders Retreat in October 2006. Front Page photo by Laenne Thompson

Calendar of Events

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.

Northern Voices

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

The Third Annual Northern Voices speaker series

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

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."

January 20- Global Warming Group Meeting

NAEC Office 6-7 pm.

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.

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A Letter to our Members

By David van den Berg



The only thing we have to fear is fear of the wrong stuff. November's election results assert that in recent years America wrongly defined its interests, feared the wrong things, and misallocated its resources. It would be naïve to think we can now steer the ship of state quickly from the course we're on. But America will change course. Moving America to contend with national security, energy use and environmental issues as the interconnected web that it is will take an inter-generational effort, of which we are the vanguard.

This issue of *The Northern Line* is devoted to the newest generation – the cohort we call 'youth' – because these impressionable pre-teens and teenagers will one day lead America. They have much to gain if today's leaders would but re-define America's interests. As it is, youth are awakening to and rising to meet global challenges – and asking the same of us adults. As you read this edition, you will see that Alaska's youth are dying for a seat at the table where decisions affecting their future are made today.

No matter the lens through which we view youth engagement, we are fortunate to have young people willing to accept responsibility and participate in civic life with the confidence, optimism and empathy necessary to lead. We say to these youth, 'bring it on.' We're here to support you.

2,000 years ago, Seneca the Younger observed, "Thrift comes too late when you find it at the bottom of your purse." Or, thrift is better chosen than forced upon us. This Roman echo frames the challenges ahead. Can the global consumer economy continue, fueled and fed like it is? Leaders today haven't plumbed this chilling question. We need leaders today and tomorrow who will.

I sleep a little better knowing that youth are cutting their teeth in the same venues that we do. As they urge of adults better leadership and wiser allocation of resources, they cannot help but imbibe their message and the leaders we need. ♻

David

What the November Election Means for the Arctic

The shift in Congressional power to the Democrats puts brakes on some of the Bush Administration's worst ideas, like drilling in the Arctic Refuge (though Ted, Don, and Lisa will undoubtedly still try to ram it through as a rider in the November lame duck session or next year as an energy bill amendment). The seismic shift of the House is bittersweet as we lost most Republican champions of the environment, including Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT), the lead Republican co-sponsor of the Arctic Refuge wilderness bill and Rep. Charlie Bass (R-NH) who organized the 24 moderate Republicans who repeatedly

blocked Arctic Refuge drilling in the budget bill.

In the next Congress, we can expect some real environmental oversight, including further investigation of the BP pipeline spills, scrutiny into the Cheney Energy Strategy and the Interior Department's suppression of science and drill-it-all policies. While the fight to protect the Arctic Refuge got a real boost, it will continue in a different form. We need to continue "endless pressure, endlessly applied," to move forward our long sought goal of wilderness designation for the Arctic Refuge. ♻

New Energy in Alaska

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Coordinator

Fairbanks is at the epicenter of some of the most rapid climate change in the world. Our new generation of conservation leaders – Alaska's youth – are speeding up a paradigm shift regarding energy. November's changed political winds may push this along.

"What Fairbanks can do is join the hundreds of cities who have agreed to curb greenhouse gas emissions," youth leader Jennie Moore said to Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Jim Whitaker in a summer briefing she requested.

"Our state is really rich in resources that are never going away, so Alaska could be the leader in renewables," Gabrielle Vance from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action's Juneau chapter said. Moore also testified at the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly meeting that evening, asking them to take action on global warming.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly did pass a climate change resolution drawing on Fairbanks' opportunities to show the way, such as commending the first commercial geothermal project at Chena Hot Springs and the University of Alaska's scientific work in support of the International Polar Year. The Assembly urged the Alaska legislature and Congress to move forward on programs to cap or reduce emissions, stimulate adoption of renewable energies, to promote research to improve science and forecasting of climate change and to identify strategies to mitigate and adapt to the changes.

November was not a usual Alaskan election season. Candidates for state office talked about renewable energy and the natural gas line, and rarely mentioned drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "The state needs to 'shift gears' away from petroleum-based fuels and look toward alternative energy," said new Republican Governor Sarah Palin.¹ "...We have the tides and the biomass and the geothermal, and we have the winds. Alaska should be the leader on a national energy policy that really encourages and supports alternative energy."

It's now up to the citizens of Alaska to press for these steps.

The transition to renewable fuels has begun in this state, at first tucked in remote corners of the state, like Alaska's first wind farm in Kotzebue. In the past year, the high price of oil sent shock waves into the rural villages across Alaska especially when combined with Governor Frank Murkowski's evisceration of key programs. One such example: in Arctic Village gas topped \$7 per gallon. BP's Prudhoe Bay shutdown reverberated with a sense of



betrayal that promises of environmental safety were hollow, adding to the trend away from enthusiasm for fossil fuel development.

Everywhere I go, people are talking about the need for renewables both to reduce costs and global warming pollution. Both the Alaska Inter-tribal Council and Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) passed resolutions recognizing our local and national responsibility to reduce global warming pollution and to promote the adoption of renewable energy within a timeframe to prevent irreversible harm to public health, the economy and environment. The Alaska state legislature formed an Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission to hold state-wide hearings on the effects of global warming.

"It's like a freight train with no brakes," Caleb Pungowiyi, a St. Lawrence Island Yupik leader said at an AFN convention panel. "We're already in disaster mode, such as the village of Shishmaref, but we need to be proactive, to prevent this from occurring. If we're going to have any change, we have to make national policy, not just in Alaska but in the rest of the U.S. and the world."

"My generation needs to be listened to," youth leader Katlian Stark said to Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne this summer. "Drilling in ANWR is bad idea. Why not change our ways now to healthier ways, to create energy without compromising animals and ways of life. Renewable energy is a clear and obvious solution." ♻️

¹ *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, November 2, 2006.

Environmental Parenthood

By Nancy Fresco, Local Issues Coordinator

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center regularly reviews land management plans put forth by federal, state, local, or private entities. These documents have sweeping impacts on the future of Alaska. Thousands and even millions of acres are up for consideration.

For example, the State of Alaska recently created a 10-year strategic plan for State Parks. Public review of the draft plan - including input from NAEC - has just ended, and we are awaiting a final version. At the same time, the drawn-out process of updating the management plan for one of our nearby State Parks, the Chena River Recreation Area, has finally been completed. Both plans primarily uphold long-term sustainability and good stewardship, but both also contain elements that appear to cater to unsustainable public demands.

As in previous land planning processes, there has been discussion of increasing use, future pressures on the land and natural resources, money and jobs, and conservation for future generations.

Concern for the future is central to environmentalism, and at the heart of NAEC's mission. As a goal, long-term sustainability seems eminently reasonable. Who wouldn't want to leave the world in good shape for the next generation? Who would knowingly choose to be unsustainable? Why, then, does conservation seem to be such an uphill battle?

Part of the problem seems to be that "sustainable" means different things to different people, and for many it seems too nebulous to have much emotional clout.

Advocates of other causes tend to speak of the future in much more concrete terms. "Jobs for your children," they promise. "Permanent Fund Dividend checks for your kids' college." Such personalized incentives have always seemed over-simplified to me, and perhaps even selfish. The future is for everyone's children, not just ones own.

However, having become a parent a few months ago - and a parent to twins, at that - I have been thrust abruptly into a new perspective, and I think I'm beginning to understand why such messages work. It's not that your own children are better or more important, but merely that they are always at the forefront of your mind. Now, when someone says "ten years from now..." I find myself thinking, "the kids will be fifth-graders by then!" and when someone says "the impacts of climate change over the next seventy-five years..." I think, "the impacts that will be seen, and suffered, by my daughters in their lifetimes."

Children - specific, individual, imperfect children - provide a context for a universal environmental message, because it is as individuals rather than as a vague collective notion that they most inspire us. It is inevitable that given the subject of the environment and kids, I find myself pondering the future of the two small people in my lap, and wondering whether clean rivers, remote places, and unpolluted air will be left for them - even as I try to prevent them from whacking the computer keys.

I now realize that personalizing an issue doesn't necessarily make it narrow or unscientific, and that caring about the future of one child doesn't preclude working to improve the future of all children. Becoming a parent has not changed the issues I address at NAEC, the facts I use to back up those issues, or the range of opinions held by those I come across in my work. However, parenthood may have made me better equipped to talk to other parents about why sustainability matters, one little Alaskan - or one little human - at a time. ♻️



Nancy Fresco, Molly and Elizabeth.

Photo by: Tom Moran

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

By Nancy Fresco, Local Issues Coordinator

How do you persuade set-in-their-ways adults to change their habits enough to use a recycling bin? How so you convince voters that starting a more comprehensive recycling program is worth paying a little extra?

Convince their kids first.

This “bottom up” approach to environmental public education seemed to be the conventional wisdom around the table at last summer’s meetings of the Recycling Task Force. The group represented a diverse coalition of solid waste managers, Borough leaders, and environmental advocates, but all agreed that education — particularly education of kids — would be crucial in order to raise the necessary funds as well as to improve participation. While direct advertising will no doubt play an important role, parents in the group agreed that a child has enormous leverage.

Targeting children in order to create positive change in a community is not a new idea. According to a 2002 study by J.J. Dillon, there is empirical evidence that children can influence adult priorities and values and cause adults to

look at the world with more wonder, awe, or curiosity. Not only recycling programs, but also road safety and energy efficiency programs have all used outreach aimed at children, and, as demonstrated in a 2003 study by L. Lindseth & K. Dyhr-Mikkelsen, in many cases these efforts have been more successful than similar outreach aimed directly at adults.

Thus, although only those old enough to vote can decide whether to approve funding for recycling in Fairbanks, NAEC’s efforts to educate the public about the issue over the next year and beyond will not be limited to adults. We will partner with the local chapter of Green Star and Fairbanks’ Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, as well as with schools, clubs, and businesses to help spread the word — and to help encourage persuasive, eloquent, and influential young spokespeople. ♻️



Northern Center Welcomes New Mining Coordinator



*By Shauna Mikelich,
NAEC Mining Coordinator*

I’ve been interested in environmental issues my entire life.

I grew up in the small town of Truckee, California, in a solar house which backed to a year round creek and a ski hill. Our nearest neighbor was a quarter mile down the road and much of my childhood was spent roaming the hills, exploring. Those early years gave me a healthy appreciation for nature and all her gifts. Throughout high school and college I was (and still am) an avid hiker, camper and backpacker. I gravitated toward geology in college because of my long standing love of rock hounding and earth processes. I find there is something humbling about thinking in terms of million year timescales and taking a step back to realize that we humans are just a small part of the planetary whole.

While working on my masters, I had the opportunity to travel. I journeyed to Ghana, Africa, and toured the gold mines there. In Ghana, I saw first hand the result of mining on ecosystems and communities, and the poverty of a third world nation. I spent two field seasons in Antarctica on the volcano Mt. Erebus as part of my MS field work. I was able to travel around New Zealand and see first hand the viability of geothermal energy. These experiences and many others have helped shape my outlook and lead me down the path of environmentalism.

I hold a Bachelors of Science in Geological Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters of Science in Geochemistry from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. My MS work was a characterization of aerosol and acidic gas emissions for Mt. Erebus, Antarctica, attempting to quantify the heavy metal background of the Ross Sea area. ♻️

Hardrock Mining and the Health Effects of Environmental Contamination

By Shauna Mikelich, Mining Coordinator

Hardrock mining, as practiced today, results in the single largest sources of pollution in the world.

For instance, the Red Dog zinc mine released 498 million pounds of toxins in 2005 according to the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), making it the single greatest source of pollution in the United States. Additionally, as of 2002, the eight worst polluters in the entire U.S. are mines, two of which are Alaskan: Red Dog and Greens Creek.

As the Northern Center Mining Coordinator, I work to protect the lands, waters and air of Northern Alaska from the harmful effects of mining processes and, in so doing, protect subsistence, water and air quality of Alaska.

Mining pollution affects all aspects of life for those living nearby, from heavy metal contaminated dust to cyanide poisoned fish. Children, women of childbearing age and mine employees are especially susceptible to mine pollution exposure. Mining pollution consists of heavy metals, acid mine drainage, and toxic compounds like cyanide. Heavy metals can contaminate the air through dust kicked up by mining activities and pollute surface waters via dust fallout and acid mine drainage.

Heavy metals liberated in Alaskan mining include mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, nickel, chromium, copper, zinc, manganese, and cobalt. Each metal deposit contains a different metallic signature and, consequently, different metals will be an issue at different mines. The Red Dog mine releases all of the above except arsenic. Fort Knox gold mine emits all except cadmium, arsenic, and cobalt. Cyanide is also used and emitted by Fort Knox.

Mercury is a developmental toxicant, an agent causing adverse effects on the developing child, crossing the placenta from the mother to the fetus (levels in the fetus are often double those in the mother) and accumulate, resulting in mental retardation, brain damage, cerebral palsy, blindness, seizures, and inability to speak.

Lead health affects are well known. Children are particularly sensitive to lead, absorbing as much as 50% of the ingested dose, and lead exposure in women of childbearing age may result in birth defects, mental retardation, and

autism. Chronic exposure symptoms include psychosis, allergies, dyslexia, hyperactivity, weight loss, and shaky hands.

In adults, exposure to arsenic increases the risk of skin and lung cancer. Chronic exposure can lead to progressive peripheral and central nervous changes, such as numbness and tingling and muscle tenderness.

The fumes and dust of the metals cadmium, nickel, and chromium are known to cause lung cancer.

Mined sulfide mineral deposits (think pyrite or fool's gold) produce highly acidic, heavy metal laden waters known as acid mine drainage (AMD). Metal oxides associated with AMD smother aquatic life and result in dead streams and lakes. AMD occurs when sulfide minerals decompose into component parts: sulfur and metal. The sulfur interacts with water and the oxygen in air, producing sulfuric acid while the metal portion is carried along in the acidic water until the water pH rises and metal oxide precipitates out.

Cyanide (chemical formula CN) is highly toxic and used as a gas chamber killing agent. One teaspoon of a 2% solution can kill a person. Human cyanide poisoning can occur through inhalation, ingestion, and skin or eye contact. Fish and aquatic life are far more sensitive to cyanide than birds and mammals. Generally speaking, fish kills result at cyanide concentrations in the microgram per liter range (parts per billion), whereas bird and mammal deaths result in the milligram per liter range (parts per million). Evidence shows that cyanide compounds linger in affected plant and fish tissues and can persist in the environment for long periods of time.

The intentional releases of mining pollutants are usually small quantities deemed harmless with dilution. The accidental releases are the great unknown of the equation and the cause of much concern. Preventing accidental releases through our work on mine permitting, compliance and design is our way to secure Alaska's future, minimizing or eliminating legacy costs to future generations. ♻️

"Additionally, as of 2002, the eight worst polluters in the entire U.S. are mines, two of which are Alaskan: Red Dog and Greens Creek."

Youth Turn Passion Into Action

By Laenne Thompson, Youth Education Director

Earlier this summer I was invited to sit in on a meeting with youth from all over the state who had worked on a youth-driven initiative to present 5,000 teen signatures on a petition asking legislators to take action on climate change.

A young woman from Fairbanks wanted to get other local youth involved in similar projects. Immediately I knew NAEC could help her and support this statewide group, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA.)

AYEA is a statewide environmental education and leadership program for teenagers which is part of a nationwide program called "Earth Tomorrow" initiated by the National Wildlife Federation. The mission of AYEА is to inspire and educate young people to take action on environmental issues in our communities.

Why teens? As youth enter adolescence they become more aware of: their communities; local, state, and federal government officials and their roles; and challenges faced by the planet. Their desire to do something concrete and make a meaningful impact on the world around them takes hold. AYEА provides numerous opportunities for youth involvement and for youth to develop skills that they will use throughout their adult lives, from writing formal letters to public speaking to organizing an event complete with media involvement.

This year, the six AYEА chapters will work on "renewable resources" as their theme. The recently-formed Fairbanks chapter is gathering around an ambitious slate of goals. FAYEA (Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action) youth will tackle recycling in our community by

starting at their schools to recycle aluminum. They will work with Interior GreenStar on upcoming electronics recycling events. They also want to reduce carbon emissions and raise awareness about the harms of petroleum-based plastics, while presenting alternatives to using them. A statewide team will work to educate fellow teens about issues associated with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Lastly, the chapter is actively recruiting more youth members — middle and high schoolers — to come to their weekly Wednesday night meetings to learn, take action, have fun and succeed on all these fronts.

These young adults realize that they have to start with themselves and their peers if they want to bring about behavior and attitude changes around recycling and global warming in Fairbanks. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is glad to finally work with AYEА and have local young people join and inspire us on some of the issues on which we work.

Now, four months after that initial meeting, I can say it was pivotal to increasing opportunities for youth voice to be heard in our community. It's been energizing for me to advise and support such enthusiastic youth at training events and weekly meetings to get this chapter off the ground. I encourage you to listen to, invite, and support youth to share their opinions and express their desire to bring about positive changes in your community. You are sure to be rewarded with their perspective, ideas and can-do spirit. ♻️



To learn more about the new FAYEA Chapter

- Please call Laenne Thompson at: (907) 452-5021 ext. 31
- or email: laenne@northern.org

To learn more about AYEА, please visit:
www.ayea.org.

Fairbanks Chapter
of Alaska Youth
for Environmental
Action

*Photo by Laenne
Thompson*



Camp Habitat Advisory Board Seeks New Members

By Carrie Dershin, Camp Habitat Advisory Board Secretary

The Camp Habitat Advisory Board consists of representatives from the community and the three collaborating organizations that support Camp Habitat: the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Friends of Creamers Field and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Together with the Youth Education Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, we are responsible for the oversight of the Camp Habitat Summer and After School Programs; the curriculum, policies, procedures and financial sustainability.

The group has met monthly throughout the fall in an effort to evaluate the 2006 summer programs and make tracks toward the 2007 season. We currently wish to recruit

additional community members who have interest in supporting these high quality experiential nature education and ecology programs which have made a positive impact in the lives of Interior children and youth, ages 4 – 17, for over sixteen years. 🌿

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Advisory Board, please contact Carrie Dershin at carrie@dershin.com or Ritchie Musick at ritchiemusick@gci.net.



A Day in the Life of a Camp Habitat After School Instructor

By Melissa Sikes, Camp Habitat After School Instructor

The library buzzed with activity as students worked on assignments and others whose work was complete milled about. The after school program at North Pole Middle School was just about to shift gears from the hour of academic time to an hour of enrichment activities.

I walked in carrying a large bin and cloth bag full of furs and skulls. One student ran up to me and asked, “What are we doing today?” “What is that?” Then he tried to let the steam out of my excitement by saying to a friend, “I don’t want to go to Camp Habitat, it’s gonna be boring.” I hoped the activity I prepared would be able to engage him and the other youth.

Since it was Halloween week, I decided to highlight “scary” animals and chose bears as the topic. I set up the bear furs and skulls. The students arrived, talking in excited tones and began the activity. We talk about the bears for almost 20 minutes: the types of bears found in Alaska, what they eat, how to recognize them, and where they live. The skeptical student had so many great stories to share; I could see his interest in and knowledge about bears deepen and expand.

I then led an activity about habitats where the students create murals for each type of bear and represent the specific needs of food, shelter, water and space for each species. Youth worked so hard on their murals that

lively discussions of food and habitat filled the room. They were focused so intently that the rest of the time just slipped away.

When it was time to finish, they all declared that they needed more time. They asked if they could work on them the next day. My previously doubtful participant asked if he could take his mural home to show his folks. Time was short and we had to wrap up, so I let the group decide. They agreed so he proudly rolled up the paper and headed toward the door. We all left the room energized — them having enjoyed our time together and looking forward to going home, and me feeling like I met their needs for an activity that wasn’t at all “boring.” I love this job! 🌿



**Camp Habitat After School Instructors (L to R):
Melissa Sikes, Darla Hasselquist, and Art Greenwalt.**

Photo by: Laenne Thompson

Book Review: *The Last Great Wilderness*

By Fran Mauer, NAEC Board Member

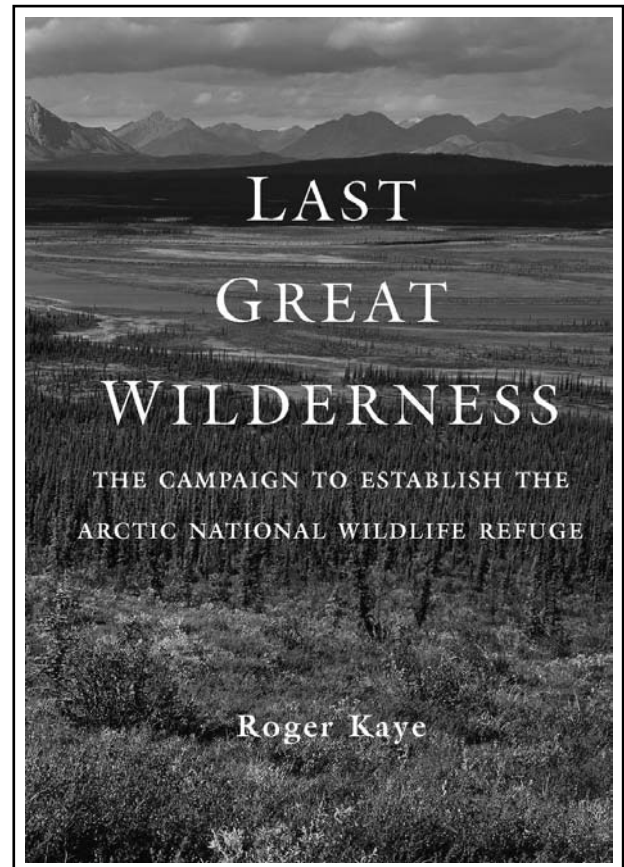
As conservationists continue the prolonged struggle to protect the Arctic Refuge from oil development and other encroachments, the epic story of the campaign to establish the original Arctic National Wildlife Range, documented in *Last Great Wilderness*, now provides new inspiration and deeper understanding of why the Refuge should remain protected.

This is an invaluable resource for all who will face the battles that lie ahead because in revealing the idealism and values upon which the Arctic Refuge was founded, it provides the most persuasive arguments for keeping it wild. While *Last Great Wilderness* is a thoroughly researched and authoritative history of the conflict, it is at the same time an absorbing, hard-to-put-down story. Color and black and white historical photos lend interest.

Of special interest to NAEC members, *Last Great Wilderness* documents the remarkable role that Fairbanksans played in creating the Arctic Refuge. Groups like the Tanana Valley Sportsman's Association and the Fairbanks Garden Club, along with University of Alaska scientists and educators united in support for the Refuge. Even the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce and Daily News Miner supported the campaign.

This moving account shows how conservation pioneers George Collins, Lowell Sumner, Olaus and Mardy Murie, Justice William O. Douglas, and Sigurd Olson united with Ginny Wood, Celia Hunter and other Alaskans to forge a highly effective strategy of grassroots action on a national scale. Their successful struggle set a number of milestones in conservation history: establishment of the nation's first vast ecosystem-scale conservation unit and the first administered as an adventuring ground — a place for the kind of challenging, self-reliant, and exploratory journeys that Bob Marshall had extolled. The Arctic Range exemplified the wild values and recreational opportunities its advocates soon succeeded in enshrining in the wilderness Act of 1964. The victory laid the groundwork for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

While *Last Great Wilderness* is about what happened in the past, like any history, it was written to serve the future. In the near future, the Fish and Wildlife Service will begin the process of updating the Arctic Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which will determine the types and levels of public use, management actions, and protective



Last Great Wilderness: The Campaign to Establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; by Roger Kaye

Published by the University of Alaska Press; 1-888-252-6657;
www.uaf.edu/uapress; Hardcover, \$29.95

provisions that will determine the Refuge's long-term future. For those who believe the vision, values and ideals that led to its establishment should guide its future stewardship, *Last Great Wilderness* will be an invaluable guide. And for those interested in the evolution of the wilderness movement, and especially its influence upon Alaskan conservation efforts, this book is a must-read.

Roger is well known to most members of NAEC, being a member for nearly thirty years. Following passage of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act in 1980, he was instrumental in developing the conservation community's recommendations on stewardship of Alaska's northern parks and refuges. A PhD in wilderness studies, Roger has been the Arctic Refuge's wilderness specialist and pilot since 1985. 🌿

"For those who believe the vision, values and ideals that led to its establishment should guide its future stewardship, Last Great Wilderness will be an invaluable guide."

Small-scale Land Conservation: An Example and Invitation

By Jon Miller, NAEC Member

As the state continues transferring valuable public recreational lands and wildlife habitat into private hands, in some cases concerned individuals can pool resources to purchase key properties — the Nature Conservancy model, writ small, if you will. The same is true for well-loved neighborhood areas facing eventual development. Land trusts and conservation easements are a real boon for owners who seek long-term protection of their land. If you love an area, take heart and get involved!

When threatened by the imminent sale and possible subdivision of a key 20-acre parcel on the shore of Jack Bay in Prince William Sound, as a last resort we and several others purchased the land from the state.

We are now looking for two additional parties to co-own this valuable land and participate in local stewardship. The property faces a state marine park, abuts USFS conservation land and is highly visible from the bay. It is wild, attractive, and surrounded by a dramatic and productive coastal-montane ecosystem. Our goal is to use and enjoy the property without diminishing the public recreational appeal and habitat value of the area.

For more information, give us a call: Jon Miller and Lou Brown, 479-5629. 🌿



January paddle in Jack Bay.

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ALASKA CONSERVATION ABSTRACTS | OCTOBER 2006

Compiled by Florence Collins. The complete Conservation Abstracts are available each month on our website, www.northern.org, and by standard mail if requested by calling (907) 452-5021. Items from the Abstracts may be produced in nonprofit newsletters or similar publications; please credit the original source.

The Lower Slate Lake waste disposal plan was halted by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. *Earthjustice*, October 24, 2006.

PETROLEUM

At the Prudhoe Bay oil field, BP was told by Alaskan regulators in 2002 to clean pipelines, but the order was "relaxed" by the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation, which accepted the company's claim that scraping out the lines was "not necessary. Whether it could have helped avoid the recent leakage is unclear." The company shut down the field "for several days" to fix an electrical problem caused by three days of dust storms with winds to 60 mph, plus rain that coated the insulation on high voltage lines with mud. *Fairbanks Daily News Miner*, October 12, 2006, p. A1, A5.

GLOBAL WARMING

The Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission was created earlier this year, and its members were appointed by the legislature on October 5, 2006. They include two Republican and two Democratic legislators, and officials of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, the Juneau Economic Development Council, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, an engineering firm, Conoco-Phillips, a Siberian Yupik Eskimo from St. Lawrence Island, and the Resource Development Council. *FDNM*, October 6, 2006, p. A3.

More than 10,000 Alaskan lakes and ponds between the Brooks and Alaska Ranges have been shrinking, drying up or disappearing altogether, in the last 50 years, mostly since the 1970s. Others have lost much of their surface water area. The water bodies studied are "closed-basin ponds" that lack drainage in or out, and are mostly upheld by permafrost. *FDNM*, Oct. 22, 2006, p. B1, B2.

WILDLIFE

Aerial shooting of wolves will be stopped if an initiative, which has 56,574 signatures (far more than needed to get on the 2008 ballot) is on the 2008 ballot. It is "basically the same as those that were presented in 1996 and 2000, and like them, would not affect legal hunting by sport and subsistence hunters and trappers. So far, under the aerial hunting program, 564 wolves and "a smaller number" of bears have been killed. *FDNM*, October 25, 2006, p. A3.

The total North Pacific groundfish bycatch increased by 7000 million tons, from 2003 to 2004, though the total catch declined by more than 12,000 metric tons: salmon by catch rose, and rockfish discards decreased, in the Aleutian Is. and Gulf of Alaska. *Sea Change*, Fall 2006, p. 10.

HERBICIDE SPRAYING

Herbicide Spraying on "nearly 2000 acres" of Long Is., near Prince of Wales Is., was challenged in court by the City of Hydaburg, Tlingit and Haida tribal organizations, ACAT, and SEACC, claiming the Dept of Environmental Conservation "ignored overwhelming public opposition in issuing a permit to spray from the air". *FDNM*, October 5, 2006, p. A3; *Redpoll*, October 2006, p. 2.

LAND

The 400-acre Isberg Recreation Area just west of Fairbanks is having a multi-use trail system planned by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Dept.. The Master Plan will get public comments from several local recreation groups, with the plan completed by April 2007. *FDNM*, October 26, 2006, p. B1.



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