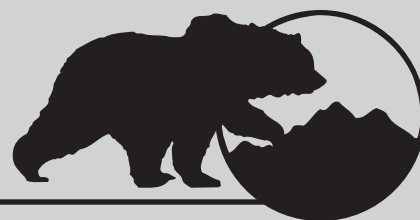


THE NORTHERN LINE



"Behind is a great forest that goes to the Arctic...and here we must draw our line."

~ Gary Snyder, Front Lines



Local is Global...

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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 © 2007 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$33 annually and includes membership. We encourage submission of letters and articles for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

MISSION: 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 1,452 members.

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Front Page photo: *Midnight Sun at Teshekpuk Lake* © Gary Schultz
Page 12 photo: © Pamela A. Miller

FAIRBANKS ALASKA YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Middle & high school teens are making a difference in Fairbanks—from promoting electronics recycling to talking to legislators about what matters most, from educating others about climate change to offering simple solutions to reduce energy use. Come join a group of teens that take action and make positive impacts locally, statewide, and nationally. Call the Northern Center at 907-452-5021 for more details and meeting times and visit www.ayea.org for the big picture!



Calendar of Events

October 9 Global Warming Working Group

12 - 1:30pm @ the Northern Center. Join this action oriented group, the second Tuesday of each month, to discuss Global Warming issues relevant to Interior Alaska.

October 11 Northern Voices Series: Walt Tape

7pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. The Northern Voices series opens with "A Halo Detective Story," with some science, some history, and some mystery. Walt Tape has been a sky freak for several decades and has journeyed to Antarctica and Chile in search of atmospheric halos. He has written two books on halos, the second of which won awards from the Association of American Publishers and the Atmospheric Science Librarians International. The second award was shared with Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth."

October 12 & 13 Electronics Recycling

10am - 4pm @ Gavora's Liquor and Fine Wine, 1255 Airport Way (adjacent to Shoppers' Forum Mall, attached to Gottschalk's). Free up space in your home or office by bringing stray printers, fax machines, CPU's, monitors, keyboards—even TV's & stereo equipment. For fees and more information, please call (907) 452-5021 or visit www.northern.org.

October 16 UAF International Polar Year Event – Smart Climate Solutions: Using Clean Energy to Reduce Global Warming

Time & Location TBA. Presentation by Jeff Deyette who specializes in Climate Change and Renewable Energy for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

October 17 Renewing Where We Live: Tackling Climate Change in Your Home and Community

7 - 9pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Global warming panel discussion featuring Union of Concerned Scientists' Jeff Deyette and experts from Interior Alaska.

November 8 Northern Voices Series: Sounds of Nature

7pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Gail Mayo, Diane Okonok, and Kathy Turko share tips on capturing natural sounds and share their work from the far corners, of Alaska such as the boreal forest and walrus on Round Island.

November 10 NAEC Annual Auction

Doors open at 5:30pm @ Wedgewood Resort. 6pm Hors d'oeuvres. Outcry Auction at 7pm. Come show your support for conservation's northern voice by bidding on high quality outdoor gear, fun trips, one-of-a-kind artworks, and decadent desserts! Tickets are \$20 at the door and include hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar. Donations for the auction are still needed – and will be accepted until November 2. For more information, please call (907) 452-5021 or visit www.northern.org.



November 13 Global Warming Working Group

12 - 1:30pm @ the Northern Center. Join this action oriented group, the second Tuesday of each month, to discuss Global Warming issues relevant to Interior Alaska.

November 13 NAEC Board of Directors Meeting

6 pm @ the Northern Center. Meetings are open to NAEC members. Comments are welcome during the scheduled comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

December 3 – 21 Annual NAEC Holiday Bazaar

9 – 5pm, Mon – Fri @ the Northern Center. Shop for Alaskan books, calendars, greeting cards, art, and NAEC gift memberships! NAEC members interested in selling creations please contact Sara Elzey by November 16. A portion of all sales go to benefit the Northern Center.

December 11 Global Warming Working Group

12 - 1:30pm @ the Northern Center. Join this action oriented group, the second Tuesday of each month, to discuss Global Warming issues relevant to Interior Alaska.

December 11 NAEC Board of Directors Meeting

6 pm @ the Northern Center. Meetings are open to NAEC members. Comments are welcome during the scheduled comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

Local is Global

By David van den Berg
Executive Director



OUR CONTINUING GOAL OF PROTECTING THE REFUGE as Wilderness is situated in the broader push to drill for oil throughout the Arctic. The implacable force is a global hunger for energy; the consequences, diminished wildlife habitat and global warming. While we strive to protect wilderness and wildlife in northern Alaska from these global forces, we work in Fairbanks to address the cost of energy because local solutions have global impact.

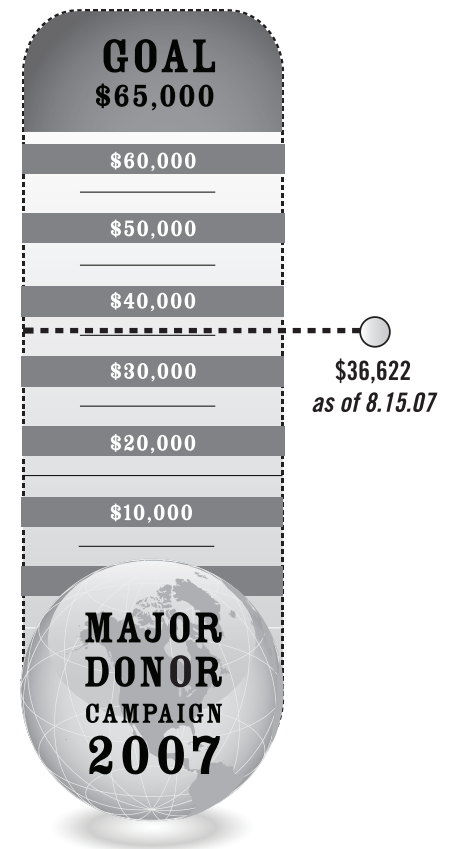
About a year ago we prevailed in a lawsuit to halt a drilling plan around Teshekpuk Lake on Alaska's North Slope. The Bureau of Land Management's new plan, released this month, attempts to address the court's opinion by analyzing the cumulative impacts to sensitive habitats from the combination of oil drilling and global warming-induced coastal erosion. But the plan would still allow drilling in sensitive habitats.

Farther to the east, just offshore of the Arctic Refuge, Shell Offshore, Inc. brought their Gulf of Mexico drilling know-how to exploit the Arctic Ocean's Outer Continental Shelf. At the peak of the Bowhead Whale migration season, Shell proposed seismic and exploratory drilling preparatory to developing what oil they may find beneath the frigid, icy waters. We appealed the government's weak permitting process; that project is halted as well.

And way out west, an incipient coal mine might rely on an expansion of the DeLong Mountain Terminal System to ship coal from a deep-water port. We challenged this expansion on the basis of a flawed cost-benefit analysis the Army Corps of Engineers performed to qualify the project for federal funding. This pork-barrel project, too, is stalled.

While the Arctic is seized with energy issues, so is Fairbanks. Business and community leaders have identified the high cost of energy as an obstacle to economic growth and quality of life in the Interior. The Northern Center is working with Fairbanks leaders on a plan to generate power – for utilities and for transportation – in a fashion that protects us from high price fluctuations and that reduces Alaska's own greenhouse gas emissions.

Your commitment to our common goals makes the difference every day. As year-end approaches, I hope you will help us meet our fundraising goals, thereby keeping us afield protecting wilderness and wildlife in northern Alaska, and leading Fairbanks to local energy solutions that can have a global impact.



Congress Turns to Clean Energy, Arctic Drilling Bills Killed

By Pamela A. Miller

A sea change is taking place as Congress tackled forward-looking clean, renewable energy legislation. Alaska's U.S. Senators contributed to the momentum by introducing bills intended to create new opportunities for renewable energy in Alaska and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"We have certainly seen firsthand the effects of a warming climate in recent years," said Senator Lisa Murkowski upon introduction of her bill supporting renewables dubbed REFRESH Act (S. 298). She reported it would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels by about 530 million metric tons in the U.S. by 2025, a 7% cut over business as usual. Senator Ted Stevens introduced S. 183 which raises car mileage (CAFE) standards and increases investments in renewable energy. In July, both of Alaska's Senators co-sponsored S. 1766, the "Low Carbon Economy Act" (Sen. Bingaman's bill) designed to cap carbon greenhouse gas emissions.

As good renewable energy bills moved through the Congress, we had several fire-drills regarding Arctic Refuge drilling amendments. The U.S. Senate passed H.R. 6 on June 21, 2007. This bill includes energy efficiency standards for appliances and buildings and increased car mileage standards (CAFÉ) to 35 mpg by 2020. While Sen. Stevens helped to broker this strong CAFÉ standards amendment, he backslid to his old tricks, introducing an Arctic Refuge drilling amendment, which was ruled "non-germane" and never came up for a vote. While Alaska's Senators dubbed their scheme the "Strategic Petroleum Ready Reserve" this is just another label for opening the refuge's 1.5 million coastal plain where polar bear mothers have their cubs in winter to noisy seismic exploration and oil drilling.

Again, on August 4, the U.S. House passed the Clean Energy bill, H.R. 3221 by a vote of 241 – 172. This forward-looking bill includes a renewable energy standard requiring commercial utilities to obtain 15% of power from energy efficiency and renewables such as solar, wind, and biomass

by 2020. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates this would save consumers \$13 billion on energy bills, create 100,000 jobs, and reduce global warming pollution by 27 million metric tons. It also bolsters solar, geothermal, and global warming research.

Yet, skullduggery often happens as Congress hurries to go home. In the wee hours at the end of the Clean Energy bill debate, Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) made a procedural move with a substitute bill containing Arctic Refuge drilling legislation, but a vote of 244-169 struck it down. Earlier in the debate this bill, we bird-dogged other Arctic Refuge drilling amendments, such as one by Reps. Barton and Thornberry

(R-TX) but these never came to a vote. In September, Congress will reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills; we will keep our eyes peeled for bad schemes and opportunities for even better clean, renewable support which reduces global warming pollution.

Our co-sponsorship drive on the Arctic Refuge wilderness bill is a major focus of the Alaska Coalition's Arctic Refuge work and H.R. 39 now has 140 co-sponsors. ♪

This forward-looking bill includes a renewable energy standard requiring commercial utilities to obtain 15% of power from energy efficiency and renewables such as solar, wind, and biomass by 2020.

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1-time price of \$5/ream.

2007 Run for the Refuge

By Caitlin Caulfield

The morning of August 19th was bright and clear, and by afternoon the weather turned hot for over 100 runners who came out to the 11th annual Run for the Refuge on UAF's West Ridge trails.

John Adams, a local composer and a former NAEC Executive Director, set the tone for the day, reminding us why we run for the Refuge. His many experiences in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge over the past few decades have influenced his music, and he spoke of the Refuge as a "sublime land," a place of both biological importance as a breeding and birthing ground for the Porcupine caribou herd, polar bears, and countless migratory birds and other species, as well as a place of great cultural importance to the Gwich'in Athabaskan people who depend on the caribou for subsistence. Adams also paid tribute to great Alaskan conservation leaders including Celia Hunter, Ginny Wood, Glendon Brunk, Jonathan Solomon, and Sarah James.

The race included both 5k and 10k components, and canine companions joined many of the participants. The run also included people of all ages: the Baurick family showed up to walk the 10K trail, with Josh, age 3 and Dale, age 5 in a jogging stroller and baby Ingrid, age 6 months in a kangaroo sling on dad Karl's front. Mom Kari ran the 10K, coming in at just over an hour. Karl and the kids were the last ones across the finish line, but when they arrived they found they were the winners of many prizes from the general raffle! A separate raffle, won by Jim Vogt, was held for two round-trip tickets

THANK YOU to our 11th Annual Run for the Refuge Volunteers!

Elizabeth Aiken
Annie Armstrong
Andy Baker
Annie, Julia & Rick Caulfield
Ana Fickus
Dawson Fickus

Stan Justice
Salma Monani
Franz Mueter
Stan Read
Mary Shields
Karen Toland

Thanks to our Run for the Refuge Sponsors!

The Alaska Club of Fairbanks
Alaska Club of Fairbanks
Alaska Rag Co.
Apocalypse Design
Basically Basil
Beaver Sports
Blueberry Baby
The Blue Loon
Boston's Pizza
Calypso Farm and Ecology Center
Cold Spot Feed
Gambardella's
Glow Putt Alaska
The Great Alaska Bowl Company
Gulliver's Books
Holm Town Nursery

Hot Licks
Lemongrass
LuLu's Bagels and Bread
Maggie Hallam
McCafferty's Coffee House
New Horizons Gallery
Pike's Landing
Raven Cross Country
Safeway
Test the Waters Adventure Sports
Trademark
Food Factory
UAF
Wright Air Service
Westmark Hotels

from Wright Air. After the race, participants were treated to fresh vegetables from Calypso Farm and Ecology Center, and bagels from LuLu's Bagels and Bread. Gaelic Fusion (Gary and Max Newman, Pat Webb, and Paige Steiner) played Irish music throughout the afternoon.

The top finishers in the women's 5k were Michelle Sanderson (20:39), Sara Elzey (21:12), and Kayla Clark (21:16). Leading 5k men were Paul Wayfield (16:14), Robert Jahn (16:53), and Mark Ross (18:02). The women's 10k field was led by local athlete Krynna Finstad (48:17), Heather Knudsen (48:47), and Natalia Sweddina (52:46). Men 10k leaders were Greg Finstad (42:57), Ilya Batin (44:24), and Alex Johnson (44:43). Alex Johnson also won the "Best Costume" award for his outfit which included a fuzzy moose hat with antlers, and a stuffed moose riding in a baby backpack.

The Northern Center's own "Fight Global Warming" Polar Bear also made an appearance, charming the crowd with its antics and starting off running the race with the rest of the crowd. 🐻



Fairbanksana run for the Refuge
© Pamela A. Miller

Cheney Energy Plan Continues to Steamroll Arctic

By Pamela A. Miller

This summer, at the behest of the oil industry, the Bush Administration took giant steps across the Arctic Ocean and Western Arctic, disregarding scientific concerns, local Alaskan communities, the American public, and the causes and threats of global warming.

ARCTIC OCEAN The Cheney Energy Task Force lives into the next presidential administration through the Interior Department's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Five-Year Plan. Sale 193, the first of three in the wild Chukchi Sea, is slated for early 2008.

Interior Department and other agencies failed to take a hard look at the impacts of Shell Oil's proposal to drill four wells off the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Endangered bowhead whales, polar bears and migratory birds could be devastated by oil spills that cannot be cleaned up in broken ice.

The Northern Center, Redoil (an indigenous network with members in Kaktovik, Point Hope and elsewhere) and other conservation groups filed an administrative appeal of EPA air quality permits for Shell's Beaufort Sea oil drilling rigs before the Environmental Appeals Board of the EPA. "EPA is listening to industry, not us," said Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk, resident of Nuiqsut.

We filed this appeal to protect the clean air of Camden Bay and the nearby Arctic Refuge.. EPA authorized Shell's activities pursuant to "minor source" permits. The Clean Air Act says that when a drill ship emits more than 250 tons of an air pollutant (as Shell's would have), it is not a "minor source" and therefore must meet more rigorous "major source" rules. Drilling cannot begin while the appeal is pending.

Our action is part of a suite of steps conservation and Alaska Native organizations are taking to protect sensitive coastal areas and hold the government accountable to environmental laws. In other legal action, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals placed an injunction on Shell's drilling program preventing it from starting exploration until the court rules on a challenge regarding the Interior Department's failure to complete an environmental impact statement on the drilling plan.

TESHEKPUK LAKE UNDER ATTACK...AGAIN. About a year ago, the Interior Department was a day away from holding its first-ever oil lease sale in the wetlands north of Teshekpuk Lake in the Western Arctic. But then the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in our favor and halted the sale. The court agreed that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) needed to do a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve) to consider – finally – cumulative impacts from sprawling industrial oil leasing and drilling.

Last month, the BLM released its draft SEIS. The new plan aimed to satisfy the deficiencies identified by our lawsuit, and renewed its attempt to drill for oil in the sensitive Teshekpuk Lake area despite overwhelming opposition from scientists, local communities and the general public.

The Northern Center will continue to fight this leasing plan. We need your help. 🙌



WHAT YOU CAN DO

To support protection for Teshekpuk Lake's unique goose molting and caribou calving and post-calving habitats, please write the BLM!

Comments on the Draft SEIS are due by October 23, 2007. Please support Alternative A which continues to protect Teshekpuk Lake's unique wetlands from leasing and drilling, and upholds environmental standards. For more information and to e-mail comments, go to:

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/nprane/comment.php>

You may also fax your letter to 1-888-907-3677.

ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO:

Jim Ducker, BLM
c/o Northeast NPR-A Supplemental IAP/EIS Comments
ENSR Project Office
1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508



Photo: Caribou and Black Brants near Teshekpuk Lake, National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska. © Gary Braasch

The DeLong Mountain Terminal Port Expansion Project: NW Arctic Export Coming Soon!

By Shauna Mikelich

OVERVIEW Red Dog is the largest zinc mine in the world, producing approximately 1.2 million tons of lead and zinc ore concentrates per year. Operated by Teck Cominco, the mine is located approximately 50 miles east of the Chukchi Sea in the DeLong Mountains within the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Red Dog Mine is linked to a port facility by a 52-mile long, 30-ft wide all-weather gravel haul road. The road and the port facility together make up the DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) which is owned by Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA). The port facility is on property owned by NANA, which is leased by AIDEA, and is operated by Teck Cominco. Ore containing lead and zinc is milled at the Red Dog mine producing lead and zinc concentrates in a powder form. These concentrates are hauled year-round from the mine via the DMTS haul road, stored at the port for summer loading onto barges which shuttle concentrate to tankers anchored offshore. Very soon that could all change as the Army Corps of Engineers investigates expanding the DMTS port.

DMTS PORT EXPANSION The DMTS is currently undergoing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for a proposed expansion to create a deep water channel and an extended docking facility. The study, conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) and co-sponsored by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, was initiated by AIDEA. AIDEA owns the current DMTS and Red Dog Mine pays a usage fee throughout the life of the mine. The expansion and deep water port are touted as regionally beneficial for the following reasons: (1) reduce Red Dog concentrate spill potential, (2) cut loading time in half, (3) reduce weather related downtime, (4) extend the shipping season to December, (5) reduce operating cost of exports and imports like fuel oil, (6) improve the DMTS multi-purpose options so it can act as a regional hub for mineral and coal export. The expansion is estimated to cost \$240 million, roughly \$200 million from AIDEA/state funds and \$40 million federal.

The Army Corps of Engineers is developing the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the port expansion. Last year, the Northern Center commissioned the Center for Sustainable Economy (CSE) to update the 2003 Benefit Cost Analysis of the DMTS port expansion. The updated Benefit Cost Analysis found the Draft EIS to be a slight improvement over the Scoping EIS, but overall the DEIS is still lacking on a number of counts, especially on the Benefit/Cost ratio. For a project to receive federal funding it must have a Benefit/Cost Ratio over 1,

and CSE calculated the DMTS port expansion ratio to be 0.22, making it ineligible. We here at the Northern Center submitted the CSE report to the Corps and are currently waiting to see what results our report will bring in the Final EIS.

BOTTOM LINE If the DMT is expanded, the port will have the capacity to provide a shipping outlet for other mining in the region, most notably coal, in addition to damaging subsistence food sources that Western Arctic villages depend on. At present, the Final EIS process is stalled out due to lack of funding: no federal money is forthcoming and the state is being fiscally conservative. If and when funding does become available we will argue the limited "benefits" of this project far out weigh the costs to regional communities and subsistence. The proposed expansion is nothing more than a preemptive attempt to expand resource exploitation in the region. 🌿

NAEC STAFFING CHANGES

NICOLE BRAEM, our Membership & Communications Director, is moving on. She has worked here since April 2004 making sure membership renewals and fund appeals got sent. She spent many hours putting together the Northern Line, and in her "spare time" she kept all matters of technology running smoothly. We'll miss her. She will stay in the Fairbanks area to pursue other professional goals, so we hope to see her from time-to-time.

SHAUNA MIKELICH, our Mining Coordinator, is also moving on. Shauna arrived in September 2006 and has pursued mining reform on Alaska's northern mines, with special focus on the Red Dog zinc/lead mine and the proposed DeLong Mountain Terminal System expansion. Shauna will help us with the transition to a new Mining Coordinator. We wish her well in her new locale.

SARA ELZEY, our Controller, is now also our Assistant Director. This new additional title is an acknowledgment of the many things Sara does to keep the Northern Center running well.

LAENNE THOMPSON, our Youth Education Director, is transitioning into our Communications & Development Director. She will perform some of her Education Director functions through year-end, at which time she'll devote all her time to strengthening the Northern Center's "look" and improving the way the Northern Center communicates with its members, donors and the general public, as well as increasing our membership and income from unrestricted and restricted sources.

Global Warming Working Group: Call to Action

By Lori Hanemann Fickus

Global Warming stories show up daily in newspapers around the world. Our state, national, and local leaders are now paying attention. What is Fairbanks doing to respond to all of this interest from the community? The Northern Center hosts a monthly meeting of the Global Warming Working Group (GWWG), an action-oriented assemblage of Fairbanksans with the goal of supporting personal, borough and statewide measures to mitigate global warming.

The meetings began with a small core group meeting in the evenings. Then word spread about the group through the University, Borough, and local businesses. Attendance has doubled with an attendance of 10 - 20 local community members willing to give an hour and a half of their time to combat this global issue.

The first goal set by the Working Group was to advocate for the passage of a Borough resolution which would have the Fairbanks North Star Borough join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). ICLEI is a membership association made up of local governments focused on achieving improvements in sustainability. How does this relate to Fairbanks? A resolution on record would serve as a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the Borough and throughout the community by meeting five milestones:

- conduct an emissions inventory of all borough operations
- adopt a reduction target
- develop a local action plan of policies to take to reduce GHG emissions
- implement policies and measures to reach the target
- monitor and verify results

These milestones have been reviewed by UAF scientists and adapted to Fairbanks' unique environment. As of this print date, the ICLEI resolution will be heard by the Borough Assembly on September 13th, where the GWWG will have rallied a vocal group to show support.

With the hopeful passage of this resolution in September, the GWWG will need to discuss new goals. You can be part of this by attending our next meeting at 12pm on October 9th at the Northern Center. Contact Lori Hanemann at 452-5021 x 27 for more information. 🌱

Community Energy Plan and NAEC

By Lori Hanemann Fickus

As we transition to colder temperatures, thoughts of high heating costs fill our wool cap-covered heads. Fairbanks business and community leaders have identified high and volatile energy prices a primary threat to Interior residents and future economic growth. Mayor Whitaker has asked the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) to seek affordable options to reduce Fairbanks' energy costs, while also bearing in mind a range of other considerations: among them, Environmental Protection Agency regulations on "fine particulate matter" and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Northern Center joined the 'Cost of Energy Task Force' to see what can be done to address energy prices.

The Cost of Energy Task Force is chaired by Steve Haagenon, Golden Valley Electric Association President and CEO. Mr. Haagenon details the goals as "Our short term goal will be to evaluate a fuel source that can be moved into production. Our long-term goal is to create an Energy Research Center and select an energy production business model to reduce the cost of energy in Fairbanks."

To reduce the cost of electrical generation or transportation fuels – or both – the Task Force is analyzing how to get energy from the following processes: conservation, waste-to-energy, gasification, biomass combustion and extraction, geothermal, hydro-electric, and distributed generation. The Cost of Energy Task Force will then select one – or a combination – that presents the best business plan while meeting Fairbanks North Star Borough needs.

We believe any new fuel source or power generation should be cost-effective, sustainable and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There is a sense of hope in this energy development which departs from the one-sided reliance on fossil fuels. You can follow this process at the FEDC website <http://www.investfairbanks.com/> 🌱



Camper Caterpillar! © Jenny Day

The Camp Habitat After School Program is now hiring!
Bring nature education and fun outdoor activities to youth at their schools.
Call the Northern Center at 907-452-5021 for more details or visit
www.northern.org and click on Job Opportunities to see the job description.



5 Highlights of 2007 Camp Habitat Summer Camps

By Jenny Day

① CAMP OUT ON CREAMER'S FIELD MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE

This year 8 to 11 year old campers camped out in the refuge for the first time in Camp Habitat's history! Alaska Department of Fish & Game Educator, Mark Ross, chose a birch island amongst a tussock swamp about a mile away from the Camp Habitat Tent Village. Volunteers and Jr. Counselors hauled gear by truck, garden cart and backpack to our designated location where we set up tents, ate s'mores, sang songs and learned about the habitat differences between fields, forests and tussock swamp. By staying at Creamer's Field Refuge, we showed youth how to "have fun in your own backyard" instead of driving far away to have a good time. We encouraged youth to get up close and explore beyond the boardwalk into new ecological communities and micro-habitats of Creamer's Field.

② STAFF COHESION The 2007 Camp Habitat Staff was a close-knit, fun, diverse group of individuals. I worked with staff to build an interdependent group by modeling inclusion. I created safe spaces for each staff member to be heard and acknowledged as a necessary voice of the 2007 staff team. It paid off when staff, who had the night off, volunteered to go on camp outs. We all checked in with each regularly and helped gather supplies or if there was a problem. It was a true community of people instead of each man for himself. I am proud to say that exemplary staff teamwork contributed to a creative, well-planned, thoughtful and educational summer for all participants!

③ CAMP HABITAT WEEKLY OPEN HOUSE Camp Habitat Weekly Open Houses were a terrific way to close the week and celebrate accomplishments of campers and staff. Parents who attended left with a stronger sense of what their children did throughout the week. Tent groups performed skits, poems and songs to illustrate something they learned during the week. Sometimes campers would teach the audience a loud, silly song! Half-day campers dressed in costumes made of recycled materials and full-day campers wore masks they created for the weekly parade which was accompanied by clapping and singing of newly made-up verses to the tune of Camp Habitat's theme song.

④ HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS AND JR. COUNSELORS We had increased volunteer participation this year and were delighted with the can-do spirit of those who came to help. The overnight camp out at the refuge was a success thanks to dedicated, strong and tireless volunteers and Jr. Counselors. Their fresh, positive energy was key to our new camp out endeavor and sparked us to keep going when we got tired!

⑤ CALL AND RESPONSE SONGS One of this year's instructors brought an assortment of fun call-and-response songs that swept through the entire camp. As I walked from tent to tent, and accompanied hikes, campers would often burst into song with dramatic gestures and voices. These songs helped staff cultivate a loud, fun, comfortable environment for campers to be themselves. Singing is a great learning tool, so this is a great tradition to continue.

Camp Habitat says THANK YOU to the following folks for their help and generous support in 2007:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS, DONORS, GUEST SPEAKERS & VOLUNTEERS

Jeanie Adams
Erik Anderson
Becky Baird
Peggy Birkenbuel
Amber Borner
Kyle Campbell
Marjorie Cole
Adia Cotter
April Crosby
Bruce Delbridge
Christine DeLeon
Carrie Dershin
Laurel Devaney
Keith Eichelmeier
Sara Elzey
Dick Farris
Kristin Fischer
Dr. Timothy Foote
Susan Grace
Keith Hanneman
Lori Hanemann Fickus
Cathie Harms
Shirley Harris
Jeff Jacobson
Shann Paul Jones
Donna Krier
Kathy Lang
Shauna Mikelich
Debbie Miller
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Mandy Morell
Alice Mural
Ritchie & Mike Musick
Ingrid Pabon
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Mary Shields
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Alexis Runstadler
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Fred Meyer Foundation
Friends of Creamer's Field
Gallo's
Goldstream Sports
Grenold & Dorothy Collins
Alaska Charitable Trust
Holland America Line, Inc.
Hot Licks Ice Cream
Hot Tamale
Image Optical
J.P. Jones Community Center
June Weinstock Trust
Laborers
Mt. McKinley Bank
Northern Alaska
Environmental Center
Sunshine Health Foods
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Volunteers for Alaska
Wright Air Service



Flock of Camp Habitat birds! © Jenny Day

Let us know if you'd like to volunteer next year by emailing us at camphabitat@northern.org.

Alaska Conservation Foundation Intern

By Caitlin Caulfield



© Pamela A. Miller

Born and raised in Alaska, I call Fairbanks home. This fall I'm starting my senior year at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. At Smith, I study anthropology and elementary education, and I'll be student teaching in an elementary school this year as well as taking classes.

Living Outside has made me realize that some of the things I take for granted in Alaska are not found everywhere. So each summer I've come back to Alaska to work and rejuvenate. I knew how much I enjoyed doing work that would benefit the community, so I started looking for a summer job that would be **more** than just a summer job.

When I learned about the Celia Hunter Conservation Internships offered by the Alaska Conservation Foundation, I knew that would be a good fit. Growing up, I was lucky to live down the trail from Celia and Ginny Wood, and I have great memories of spending time with them at neighborhood gatherings and at Camp Denali. My work at the Northern Center has been a tribute to their influence in my life, through the internship opportunity, and through their influence on me as a young person.

My main job this summer was to coordinate three events: the Golden Days Parade, the fair booth, and the Run for the Refuge. My biggest job was organizing the Run for the Refuge, an annual event including both 5K and 10K races on UAF trails, and a post-race raffle with food and live music, for over 100 runners attending! Meeting the Northern Center members and volunteers has been a real highlight of the summer. It's really encouraging to realize how many Fairbanksans take care of and educate people about the incredible place we live in.

I also learned more about the role of grassroots organizations like the Northern Center. I saw how the Northern Center provides a vital link between community members and legislators and policymakers. The work here is often a combination of education and mobilization, and I've learned a lot about how to do both.

I think that it's really important to have opportunities for students from Alaska who go to college Outside to come back and engage with the community. Sometimes it seems like all the action is taking place elsewhere, and so once people leave the state – for college, or a job, or whatever – they don't come

back. Internships like the ones ACF offers are a wonderful way for Alaskan students to return and work at worthwhile jobs in communities around the state.

I've had a wonderful summer. I spent much of my time off berry-picking, camping, and on the rivers, and I've fallen in love with Fairbanks all over again. So thanks, Fairbanks, for being such a great hometown, and especially thanks to all of you who I've reconnected with or met for the first time, including the staff here at the Center. I'll miss you – but I'll be back! 🍄



NAEC's "Rich in Renewable Resources" people-powered float!

© Pamela A. Miller

A BIG THANKS to all volunteers who made NAEC look good at the Golden Days Parade and Tanana Valley Fair!

GOLDEN DAYS PARADE

Irene Allman
Martin Becker
Hannah Bouta
Betsy Chronic
Jeannie Cole
Annie Caulfield
Keith Echelmeier
Dawson Fickus
Dick Flaharty
Sarah Gilbert
John Hagey
Lori Hanneman Fickus
Glynn Hoener

Linda Hutton
Don Kiely
Ed & Laurel McLaughlin
Debbie Miller
Franz Mueter
Kelly Newman
Maryann Nickles
Jim Norman
Marilyn Richardson
Arianna, Sandra & Skyler Romero
Bill Schneider
Mary Shields
Katlian Stark
Anne Swift

MANY THANKS to the following folks for their help with fundraising & facilities!

Cara Brunk
John Davies
Aana Prentzel
Tim Fickus
Kerynn Fisher

Nancy Fresco
Stan Justice
Karl Monetti
Rocky Pavey
Dan Swift

Meet our new Local Issues Coordinator

By Lori Hanemann Fickus



© Laenne Thompson

As with most of you, I've always loved the outdoors and treasured wild places. Growing up in Washington State, wandering around the cedar-scented Cascade Mountains and living under the grand presence of Mt. Rainier, I always felt at home in the woods. I moved to Alaska in 1996 and put down roots above the Arctic Circle in Bettles, population "about 45". I had terrific times exploring the Brooks Range and living along the winding Koyukuk River with my two kids, but eventually moved to the big city of Fairbanks to raise my children.

Somewhere along the way, I hit some bumps in the road of life and gained too much weight. Getting outside to play became less frequent, and working for environmental issues was just too awkward. So, I stayed indoors and only read about the issues and paid money to a few chosen organizations I wanted to support - the Northern Center being one of them.

I began reading more about Global Warming. I could feel the urgency coming off of the pages at me. This was a threat to my children! It was time to put aside my worries, and get active protecting their future.

I applied and was accepted to The Climate Project in Nashville, Tennessee. I went and trained with Al Gore on how to give his presentation from the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. This experience motivated me to keep moving forward, taking action.

Next, I called the Northern Center about becoming a volunteer. The staff was welcoming and found a volunteer position for me right away. I went from volunteer to accepting a job as the Local Issues Coordinator. I work on recycling and renewable energy legislation, in the context of reducing carbon emissions and fighting global warming.

I sincerely appreciate the help and input I've received from members, and look forward to meeting many more of you. I'm passionate about my work here, and feel fortunate to be part of NAEC. The most rewarding part of being at the Center is the daily reminder the work gives me of just how much I do love being in green spaces. Somewhere I'd forgotten that. It feels good to play outside again!

Please do stop by and see me to talk about Local Issues. ☘

A Last Great Wilderness Champion Gone

By Pamela A. Miller

Our community lost a great champion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge when Glendon Brunk, 62, died suddenly of an unexplained illness on May 13, 2007. A celebration of his life was held June 9, at the Dog Musher's Hall in Fairbanks. Visit www.glendonbrunk.com to see many tributes to his life and work.

Brunk scripted and produced *The Last Great Wilderness* slideshow with musician Richard Dale and photographer Lenny Kohm in the late 1980's. For about three years, Glendon crisscrossed the country giving the show at a time when few knew the Refuge. It made a huge difference! Brunk was the Arctic Refuge Project Director here at NAEC from 1989 to 1991 and significantly increased national grassroots efforts and public participation in the Arctic Refuge Campaign. As we watched clips at the memorial, the slideshow's moral imperative to protect the refuge for future generations and far-sighted vision of a clean energy future were as timely today as when it was first made nearly twenty years ago.

We appreciate the many bequests made in Glendon's name to the Northern Center. ☘

"Change follows imagination... As the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said, 'Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognized. In the first it is ridiculed. In the second, it is opposed. In the third, it is regarded as self-evident.' A strong enough vision of change, shared by enough people, and it can happen... On the other hand, if you say it can't happen, all you do is add to the inertia of our time; you perpetuate the status quo. I'm willing to imagine another way. Because I want this earth to survive. If not for me, then for my daughter and for the children of my friends."

—Glendon Brunk, *Yearning Wild*.



Helping Alaskans Protect Alaska! L to R: Larry Landry, Glendon Brunk, Marie Beaver, Trudy Heffernan, Lou Brown, and Rex Blazer.

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please call (907) 452-5021
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