

# THE NORTHERN LINE



*"Behind is a great forest that goes to the Arctic...  
and here we must draw our line." ~ Gary Snyder, Front Lines*

## New Energy

With midsummer's warmth and light, there is new energy around the Northern Center! Many thanks to all of you who have stopped by to welcome me to my job, and to join me in thanking Interim Executive Director **Dan Adams** for his dedication in leading the NAEC through long months without a permanent Director. Dan was blessed with hardworking and competent NAEC staff, and I am grateful to have these stellar professionals smoothing my path. Other inspiring bursts of new energy from the few weeks since I joined NAEC on June 1st:

- Our Arctic Program Director, **Pamela A. Miller**, was awarded the prestigious Wilburforce Conservation Leadership Award for her decades of conservation activism in defense of the Arctic. Pam's award includes a generous grant to NAEC from the Wilburforce Foundation. Congratulations and many thanks to Pam for her extraordinary conservation work!
- We welcomed four new members to serve on the Board of Directors: **Lou Brown, Crystal Frank, Jon Miller and Don Pendergrast.**
- We have hired a new Clean Water & Mining Program Director, **Brook Brisson**, J.D. to start later this summer (more about Ms. Brisson in the next Northern Line!)
- Camp Habitat is inspiring the next generations of environmental activists with its new Director **Adele Wiejaczka** and crew of instructors and counselors. And of course, our program staff are working to keep you informed of new energy initiatives—good and bad. Read on to learn about energy in the Interior (p. 3), emerging conservation issues in the Arctic (p.4), and ways to lend your energetic voice to the fight to preserve Arctic wilderness and enhance renewable energy in Alaska (p.4). I've enjoyed settling into NAEC's newly energy-efficient office, and look forward to putting my head, heart and energy into working with each of you to protect what is special about this place we inhabit. 🌱

*Karen M. Kelly*

Sincerely,  
Karen Max Kelly, Executive Director



**Pamela A. Miller**, Arctic Program Director, received the Wilburforce Conservation Leadership Award for her Arctic work.

**Save The Date!**

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 RUN FOR THE REFUGE

Celebrate the continued protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by running or walking a 5k or 10k through beautiful wooded trails at the University of Alaska Fairbanks! Great prizes • Live music by Indian Pete & the Cruiserz • Skin drumming by youth in the Dancing with the Spirit Program

Visit [www.northern.org](http://www.northern.org) and click on "Upcoming Events" to find out more!



## 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 © 2009 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$35 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 1523 members\* members.

### STAFF

Karen Max Kelly, *Executive Director*  
Stacey Carkhuff, *Arctic Multi-media Intern*  
Jenna Hertz, *Arctic Intern*  
Jessie Peterson, *Local Issues & Energy Coordinator*  
Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Program Director*  
Heidi Supkis, *Membership Coordinator*  
Laenne Thompson, *Communications & Development Dir.*  
Adele Wiejaczka, *Camp Habitat Summer Camps Director*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Schneider (*President*), Ritchie Musick (*Vice President*), Trey Simmons (*Treasurer*), Lou (Linda) Brown, Cara Brunk, Crystal Frank, Jon Miller, Karl Monetti, Franz Mueter, Don Pendergrast, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Mary Shields, and Kara Weller.

### ADVISORY BOARD

Sylvia Ward Schultz (Chair), Jim Hunter (Vice Chair), Cindy Adams, John Luther Adams, G. Ray Bane, Florence Collins, Dan Swift, and Ginny Hill Wood.

\*To accurately reflect number of household members who are residing at the same address as partners and spouses sharing similar environmental values and who read the Northern Line, it is standard practice to use a simple multiplier factor of 1.67.

Front Cover:

20th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Gathering; Arctic Villagers out in the tundra for an aerial photoshoot © Stacey Carkhuff

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## Ginny Hill Wood:

## Winner of the Florence Collins Award

*By Jim Hunter, NAEC Advisory Board*

On behalf of NAEC's Advisory Board at the Annual Meeting on May 29, Sylvia Ward Schultz and Florence Collins presented the 2009 Florence Collins Award to **Ginny Hill Wood**, a founding member of the NAEC, WWII pilot, Denali Park Lodge owner, and now life long Fairbanksan. Many of Ginny's longtime friends were present to congratulate her including Nancy Baker who also ferried airplanes during the Lend Lease program during World War II. Ginny entertained the audience with a story of a float trip she took with Florence and others down the Yukon from Whitehorse to Eagle. Their greatest challenge was to get all the members of the float party on the same side of the mighty river at the same time to finally set up camp. Her humorous story was a relevant, if unintended, metaphor for the challenges of coordinating our various conservation campaigns. Read more about Ginny and the Florence Collins Award on the web at [www.northern.org](http://www.northern.org). 🌿

## Denali National Park Gets \$16 million in Stimulus Funds

*By Nancy Bale, Denali Citizens Council President*

In the recent allocation of stimulus funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Denali National Park has been favored with \$16 million for various "shovel ready" projects. National Parks in Alaska received \$21,866,00. Denali's projects will include a large allocation to replace the waste water treatment facility at the entrance area. Other projects include trail rehabilitation, mine reclamation and replacement of chemical toilets with pit toilets. Replacement of chemical toilets with pit toilets was given a high priority in a recent EA that proposed removing all remaining chemical toilets from Denali rest stops as soon as possible to reduce the burden of chemical waste on the existing waste treatment facility. The new waste treatment facility will be configured to dump the treated effluent into the Nenana River. Nearby hotels have wastewater treatment facilities that dump effluent into the river. Total impact upon the Nenana River from these collective systems has never been studied. 🌿



**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

**The 2009 NAEC  
AUCTION**

**is scheduled for  
November 14th**

**at the Princess Hotel** (note the new location!) with the theme *"It's EASY being GREEN."* We will need items donated from businesses and individuals alike, especially items that fit the theme to generate a "frenzy of bidding." Please join us as a volunteer to help organize this fundraising event by calling Heidi @ (907) 452-5021 ext 26.

# The Dirt Behind the Healy “Clean Coal” Project

By Jessie Peterson

**R**emember that old mantra “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is?” Well, in the case of the Healy “Clean Coal” project, the saying rings true. The mothballed project has been thrust back to center stage with claims that it will assuredly lower energy rates and provide consistent baseload power, while simultaneously managing to be a clean burning coal? There is one simple question that has yet to be answered: how will these lofty promises be met by a project that is relying on technology that did not work the first time?

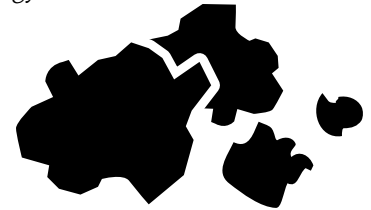
It is necessary to review a brief timeline of the plant’s muddled history to illuminate the complex issues and uncertainties of the project. The Healy “clean coal” project began as a demonstration project to test experimental coal technology. The plant was constructed and began testing in 1998, then shut down by 2000 due to a steady stream of plant failures; the most significant of which was the plant did not pass the commercial operation tests required under its operating permit. A statement released by Golden Valley Electrical Association (GVEA) made the shutdown appear as if it was intended to be permanent, “during the engineers’ testing of the technology, and as each major system was verified and brought on, it became clear to GVEA that HCCP had no chance of actual commercial operation using the experimental technology” (GVEA Statement of Facts). From January 2000 through the fall of 2008 GVEA and the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) tried to punt the plant like a hot potato, each recognizing the failures of the clean coal technology and therefore the project’s lack of viability.

In Fall 2008 AIDEA, GVEA, and the Homer Electric Association (HEA) met in a series of meetings in an attempt to resolve outstanding differences and get the plant operating under GVEA. On January 14, 2009 the three parties announced the approved terms for the partnership and power sales agreement between GVEA and HEA.

However, the drama certainly did not end on that cold January morning. On May 14, 2009 the HEA board of directors announced its decision to end all involvement in the restart of the Healy Coal Plant #2 (HCP2). HEA cited several reasons for its brave and independent decision, including: the soaring costs of the project (it is projected that renovations of the plant will cost millions more to complete); a commitment by HEA to explore clean and renewable energy solutions that can provide more reliable and affordable power; significant pressure and public disapproval by HEA ratepayers who didn’t want to see their utility spend \$48 million of ratepayers’ money on an experimental facility that is plagued with faults; and HEA’s recognition of the potential for significant added costs from having to comply with mercury and greenhouse gas emissions regulations. The HEA board ultimately decided to back out of the deal due to the unknown costs of the project that could put the ratepayers at risk.

It is critical for GVEA ratepayers to stand up and insist that our utility leaders, elected officials, and state policy makers stop trying to squeeze clean and affordable coal out of a failed plant that can offer nothing more than increased emissions, risky energy prices and a long-term burden to Alaskans.

GVEA has a direct goal of bringing its’ ratepayers consistent and affordable energy; but it is up to the ratepayers to advocate for the type of energy sources we want our cooperative to explore. We are blessed to live in a state with abundant and diverse renewable energy sources, innovative citizens, and even a pledge by Governor Palin to reach the lofty goal of 50% renewable energy by 2025. It is time to smudge out the misnomer “clean” in the title of the Healy experimental coal project and look towards a progressive, renewable energy future. ☘



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

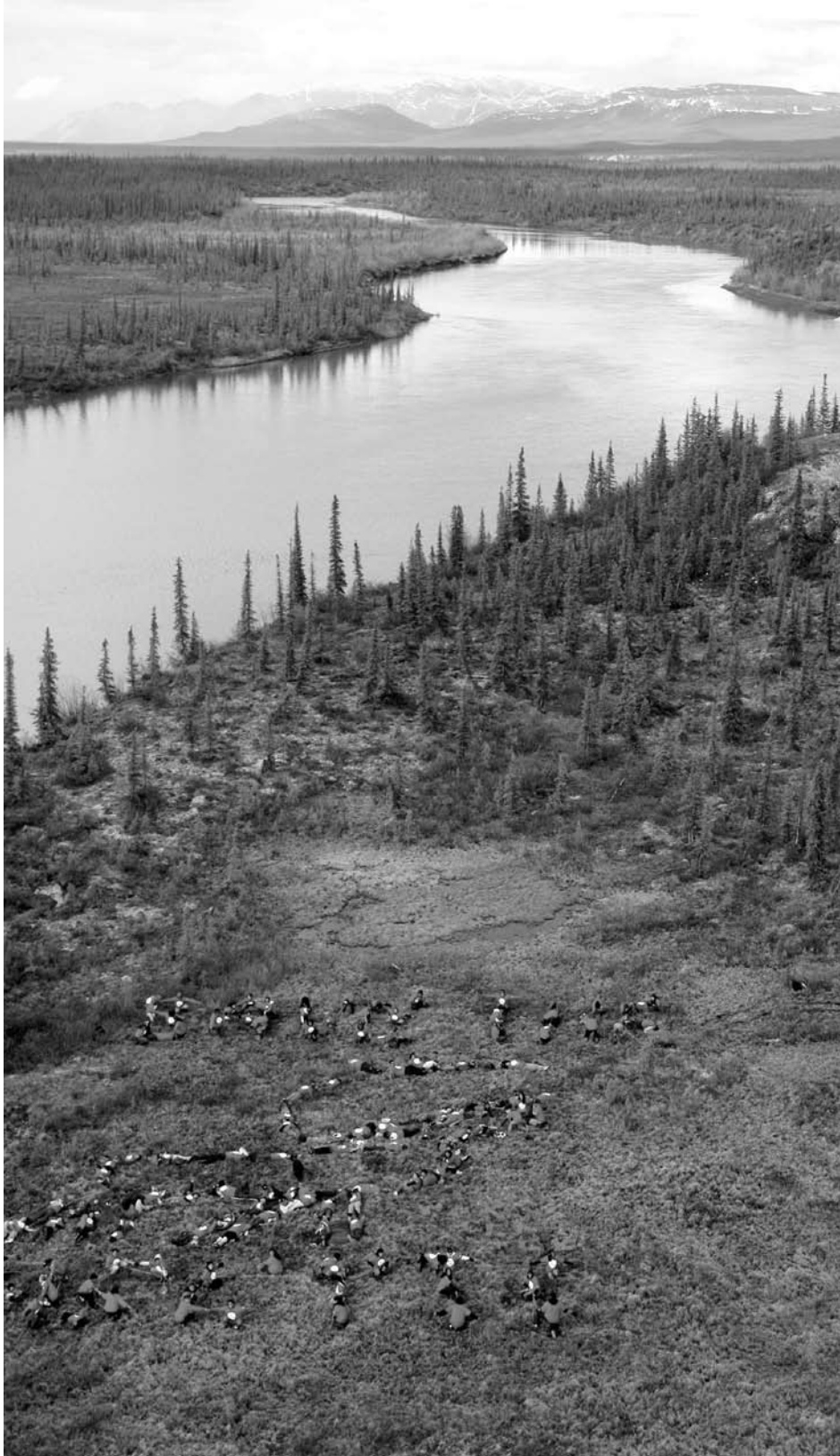
- ☛ **Contact the GVEA Board of Directors.** Tell them to stop misleading the public on the true costs and risks of HCP2 and to reconsider the project. <http://www.gvea.com/about/contact.php>
- ☛ **Attend GVEA member meetings and voice your opinion about HCP2** [www.gvea.com/about/board/meetings.php](http://www.gvea.com/about/board/meetings.php)
- ☛ **Contact your legislators** Tell them you support renewable energy projects for Alaska, and disapprove of any additional state funding of HCP2. We do have other options beyond coal and costly oil-fired power generation. [w3.legis.state.ak.us/](http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/)

Have more questions about this issue or want to get more involved? Contact Jessie Peterson, *Local Issues and Energy Coordinator*, at the NAEC to learn more! [jessie@northern.org](mailto:jessie@northern.org)



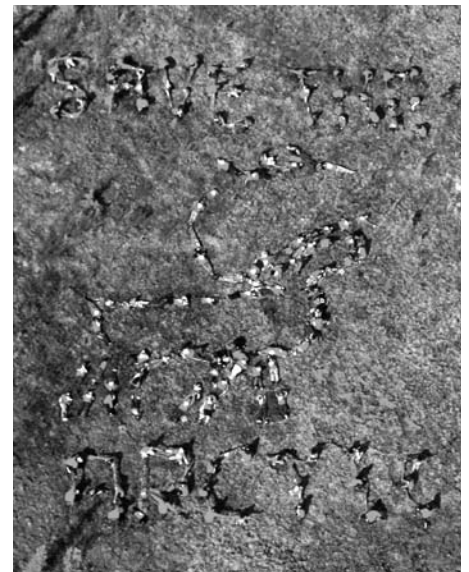
# Heartbeat of the Arctic

by Pamela A. Miller



## A Gwich'in Gathering: Celebrating the Sacred Place Where Life Begins

Nearly the entire community of Arctic Village laid down on wet tundra to spell "Save the Arctic" and form the outline of a caribou to call for permanent protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to send a message to global leaders meeting in Bonn, Germany regarding climate change. Celebrating 20 years of protecting the Sacred Place Where Life Begins - the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge - the event was organized by Gwich'in Steering Committee, Arctic Village Council, and others. Two decades earlier, the 15 Gwich'in villages had come together in the same place and resolved to educate the world to permanently protect the calving and nursery grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd as wilderness. In the midnight sun, we heard stories of past successes and the fights to come. We danced to jig, two-step, traditional songs and even rock and roll oldies sung by Robbie Romero in the community hall ringed inside with caribou hoof prints. "I can see the Arctic Refuge from my house," joked Sarah James. 🌿



Aerial Art © Lou Dematteis/Spectral Q/Redux

## Waves of Wildlife on Refuge Coast at Risk

The caribou hoof north from Arctic Village in May to Canada on their way to the vital calving and nursery grounds of the Refuge coastal tundra. As if "marine mammals," they often seek escape from fierce mosquitoes on chunks of Beaufort Sea ice. Sea ducks wing low over icy water along with millions of other birds to nestle into nests. Under spring sun, polar bear cubs depart their birth dens their mother clawed in drifted river and coastal banks, and search for ringed and bearded seals from one diminishing ice floe to the next. This "Arctic Ring of Life," the productive waters between shore and pack ice named by a Russian polar bear scientist, faces intensified threats. 🌿

## More Arctic Coastal Drills and Spills?

The state of Alaska seeks to further expand the reach of its oil and gas leasing to cover its entire 3-mile wide zone of Beaufort Sea coastal waters from Barrow to Canada. Offshore drilling and seismic exploration poses a major threat to refuge coastal resources from oil spills, ship and aircraft noise disturbance. *There is no proven technology for the up to 100 mile-long buried subsea pipelines necessary to connect leases off the Refuge coast to existing North Slope oil fields; the longest subsea pipeline to-date in Alaska's Beaufort Sea is 6-miles at the Northstar field.*

In a victory for conservationists and Alaska Native organizations, Shell Oil Inc. withdrew its oil drilling plans off the Arctic Refuge coast in the federal waters of the Beaufort Sea after three years of legal and administrative proceedings. But soon, *Shell filed anew to drill Beaufort Sea wells right the migration path of thousands of bowhead whales and also expanded the planned drilling to the Chukchi Sea.* NAEC and other groups are pressing for a full environmental impact statement for these projects.

NAEC testified at Interior Secretary Salazar's Anchorage hearing in support of his reassessment of the Bush Administration's aggressive new five-year plan for the nation's Outer Continental Shelf waters which includes many Alaska oil lease sales in

Arctic Ocean. *NAEC and others seek a time out from leasing and drilling in these climate sensitive waters until: there are adequate scientific baseline studies of Arctic seas; adequate spill response is proven; and an Arctic Ocean conservation and energy plan is completed.* 🌿

## Sen. Murkowski's Trojan Horse Tries to Sneak in Refuge

We won the opening volley and beat back Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Arctic Refuge drilling amendment (the so-called "Directional Drilling" bill) to a new energy bill in the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee with a vote of 13 to 10. Sen. John McCain sustained his long-time support of keeping the Arctic Refuge a true Refuge! Sen. Murkowski's defeated amendment as well as her bill, S. 503, would crack open the Arctic Refuge coastal plain to oil leasing and development and undermine the fundamental purposes of the refuge to preserve wilderness and wildlife. NAEC and dozens of Alaska Coalition organizations wrote to Congress in opposition to this bill also sponsored by Senator Mark Begich (AK-D). The bill's sponsors tout unproven, exaggerated oil potential from the Refuge's speculative resources sought ostensibly through directional drilling and buried subsea pipeline technology that is currently untested in Alaska.

At the same time, S. 503 would allow surface activities including seismic and exploratory drilling across the biological heart of the Refuge, disturbing denning habitats used by threatened polar bears and harming sensitive tundra vegetation. The legislation promotes increased development focused along the Canning River and across the entire Refuge coast, activity which risks dangerous spills in key wildlife and subsistence areas of the coastal plain. Furthermore, the bill would waive vital environmental laws and destroy the very values for which the Refuge was originally set aside nearly 50 years ago.

This legislation with its tricky details is a Trojan horse aimed at opening the entire Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain to oil leasing, exploration, and development. Sen. Murkowski promised to offer her amendment again when the renewable energy and climate change bill comes to the floor of the Senate later this summer. 🌿

## Historic Climate Change Legislation Passes U.S. House

On June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed by a vote of 219-212 the first major legislation to curb global climate change. The centerpiece is a cap-and-trade system putting limits on overall greenhouse gas emissions while allowing utilities, manufactures, and others to trade pollution allowances much like was done for acid rain solutions. The bill also set standards of 20% renewable electricity by 2020 and will dedicate billions of dollars for renewable energy projects.

It is exciting that our nation is on a path away from fossil fuels oil toward clean renewable energy solutions. Already, changes in policy and practices from just the past few years have set us on track to reduce our oil consumption by an amount 17 times greater than the speculative oil potential estimated from the Refuge over the same period. And with the current legislation underway in Congress, there is so much more that can be done. With the right leadership, America can have energy policy that continues to reduce our use of fossil fuels, while ensuring that wild treasures like the Arctic Refuge passed on to future generations. 🌿

## Yukon Flats Refuge Land Trade: Agency Prefers "No Action"

As this goes to press, NAEC has a great victory to report. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service selected "no land exchange" as its preferred alternative for the final environmental impact, statement due out in late 2009 on the proposed Yukon Flats Refuge land swap with Doyon Ltd. The vast majority of 100,000+ comments sent to the agency opposed the trade. "Going into this effort we did not anticipate the level of opposition that we heard from some of the most affected communities within the Yukon Flats," said Refuge Manager Rob Jess. "I am very happy on behalf of the tribe," said First Chief Mike Peters of Fort Yukon's Gwichyaa Zhee Tribal Government (Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, July 3, 2008). "We value clean air, clean water and a traditional way of life living off the land, while oil and gas development brings toxins and roads... People want to keep their lands the way they are." 🌿

## A mighty THANKS to all these great folks for all they contributed to our Annual Meeting!

**Alaska Tent and Tarp** for donating the cost of half of the big tent; **Susan Delisa** for your help in getting the hot food; **Anne Harrison, Alice Mural & Kara Weller** for washing dishes; **Larry Landry** for coming to set-up for the Annual Meeting and painting instead!; **Mary Ann Nickles** for being the gracious greeter; **Marilyn Richardson** for setting up tables and chairs; **Tim Robb** for the great tunes; **Mark Ross** for loaning us equipment, tents, chairs and tables; and **Michael Supkis** for safety code compliance check and the pick-up and delivery of tables and chairs

## CONGRATULATIONS to these 2009 AWARD WINNERS!

**Mary Zalar**, *Volunteer of the Year*

**Karl Monetti**, *Activist of the Year*

**Mary Shields**,  
*Conservationist of the Year*

**Spirit of Alaska Credit Union**,  
*Business of the Year*

**Ginny Wood**, *Florence Collins Award*

# Staff Transitions



**Stacey Carkhuff**, *Arctic Multimedia Intern*, moved to Fairbanks in September 2007. She earned a B.A. in Modern History at University of Akron in Ohio in May 2007 and completed an M.A. in Northern Studies at University of Alaska Fairbanks in May 2009. Stacey enjoys mountain biking, hiking, learning about wildlife, fishing, and playing with cats. Her summer website project entitled, "Alaska Voices," is to compile stories, quotes, and photos from a wide range of Alaskans about why Alaskans support protecting Arctic Refuge Wilderness.



After years as an adventure guide, **Adele Wiejaczka** moved to Fairbanks seeking an outlet for her environmental education degree. Adele attended Prescott College in Arizona where she developed a passion for reaching out to youth as an outdoor educator. Adele has embraced the role as the Camp Habitat Director with a strong love of the Fairbanks area and dedication to keep Creamer's Field Refuge an area of exploration and excitement for youth.



Goodbye and Thank you  
From Zak Richter

*The time has come for me to take a new direction. Working at the NAEC has been good and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work for Alaska's environment and look forward to the future good works of the Clean Water and Mining Program. Please use our new web site to learn, grow, and stay connected with Alaska's environment. I have enjoyed working with you all.*

*Thank you.*



**Andrew Althoff** grew up in California where he found himself most comfortable spending time outdoors. His appreciation for nature led him to Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona where he is currently enrolled as an environmental education student. He came to Fairbanks to fill the newly created intern position at Camp Habitat, a place-based environmental education summer camp. He is currently gaining experience in developing the Camp Habitat curriculum.



**Jenna Hertz**, *Arctic Intern*, is a Michigan native and senior at Kalamazoo College where she studies history and political science, is involved with campus environmental justice organizations, and completing her senior thesis about Alaska as a frontier. She spent her junior year abroad in Thailand and taught art as a form of activism to Burmese Refugees, lived with Karen villagers, and interned with EarthRights International. Jenna enjoys ultimate Frisbee, windsurfing, cooking local food, and is thrilled to be spending her summer at NAEC.

# NAEC reMEMEBERS

We've celebrated the lives and legacies of many NAEC friends in the last few years. Below are a few we'd like to highlight for their commitment to conservation and bighearted bequests.

**Elizabeth Waterman Eagleton** (1930 – 2006) Elizabeth Eagleton gave a bequest to the NAEC and to NAEC's endowment, hosted by the Alaska Conservation Foundation. She named the NAEC (along



Karen Fant (1949 – 2006)

with other organizations) in a charitable remainder trust. Called "Whiff" by her loving family and friends, she was deeply moved by nature. "Two things that sum up my life, give it meaning and without which I would never have existed beyond childhood are: a sense of humor and the spirituality that nature gives me."

✱ **Karen Fant** (1949 – 2006) Karen practiced what she believed in, lived within her means, dedicated decades of her life to protect the places she loved, and left behind a bequest to NAEC to protect Northern Alaska into the future. She led tours into Alaska's Arctic Refuge and encouraged participants to weigh-in with letters and phone calls to protect the coastal plain from oil drilling. Karen and fellow grassroots advocates promoted the passage of ANILCA in 1980 and defended it through the Alaska Coalition. She co-founded the Washington Wilderness Coalition in 1979 and worked to

enact the 1 million-acre 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act. ✱ **Richard Honrath, Jr., PhD** (1961 – 2009) We wish to acknowledge the passing of an NAEC member- Richard Honrath, Jr. PhD of Houghton, Michigan who is survived by his wife Lori, son, Ramey and daughter Prabha. The Honraths' resided in Fairbanks from 1987-92. Richard was an Atmospheric Scientist who published a landmark study on air pollution from Prudhoe Bay.

✱ **David Lawrence Lacey** (1945 – 2009) Dave first visited Alaska in 1966 and later settled in Fairbanks in 1976. He worked for various Native organizations for nearly three decades, most recently as the business manager of Stevens Village Corp. Dave had tremendous respect for indigenous peoples' values and cultures and worked tirelessly on economic stability, sovereignty, human rights and other Native issues. He also campaigned on environmental issues by serving on boards, protesting, writing and lobbying.

✱ **Michael Alan Masters, PhD** (1949 – 2007) Mike Masters of Fairbanks left a bequest to the NAEC which works to protect the wild areas he treasured. "If you didn't know Mike



Michael Alan Masters, (1949 – 2007)

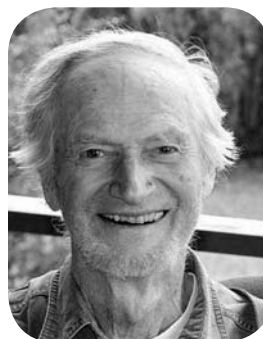
out on a wilderness trip, you didn't know the best part of Mike," recollected longtime friend Barbara Powell of Fairbanks. Mike backpacked, skied, climbed, and kayaked (often solo) into wilderness areas in Mexico, Costa Rica, and New Zealand, returning most often to the remote areas of Alaska's Brooks Range and the Colville River watershed. According to NAEC member Stan Justice, Mike was "a dependable travel partner who found ice forms, whales, and every sort of natural phenomenon fascinating."

✱ **Leslie Abram Viereck, PhD** (1930 – 2008) Les was drawn to Alaska during his college years when he and two friends drove a Model A Ford up the Alaska Highway. Les taught and researched at the University of Alaska then later worked with the U.S. Forest Service and wrote a definitive book on the classification of the trees

and shrubs of Alaska. He focused on the permafrost of Alaska and succession of forests in the Interior, and he kept a personal journal with dates of annual bird migrations, greening of the trees, flowering and the high and low temperatures of the day. This curiosity led to the establishment of a personal permafrost study below his house and this record of the depth of permafrost is a unique climatic record that has gained new attention with the advent of the global warming.



Richard Honrath, Jr., (1961 – 2009)



Leslie Abram Viereck, (1930 – 2008)



## THANKS for all the help to keep the NAEC in good shape!

Margaret Eagleton and Mary Zalar for office filing; Riley Hinz for mowing the lawn and weed whacking services; Karl Monetti for replacing the refrigerators in the apartments and painting the fence and trim on our retrofitted building. Great color scheme!; Ryan Middle School Clean-up Crew for picking up trash along College Road and yard work around the exterior of the NAEC.; Stephanie Parker & Erin Walsh for helping with the Major Donor campaign.



*Call us if you are interested in leaving a bequest to the NAEC or contributing to the NAEC endowment. (907) 452-5021.*

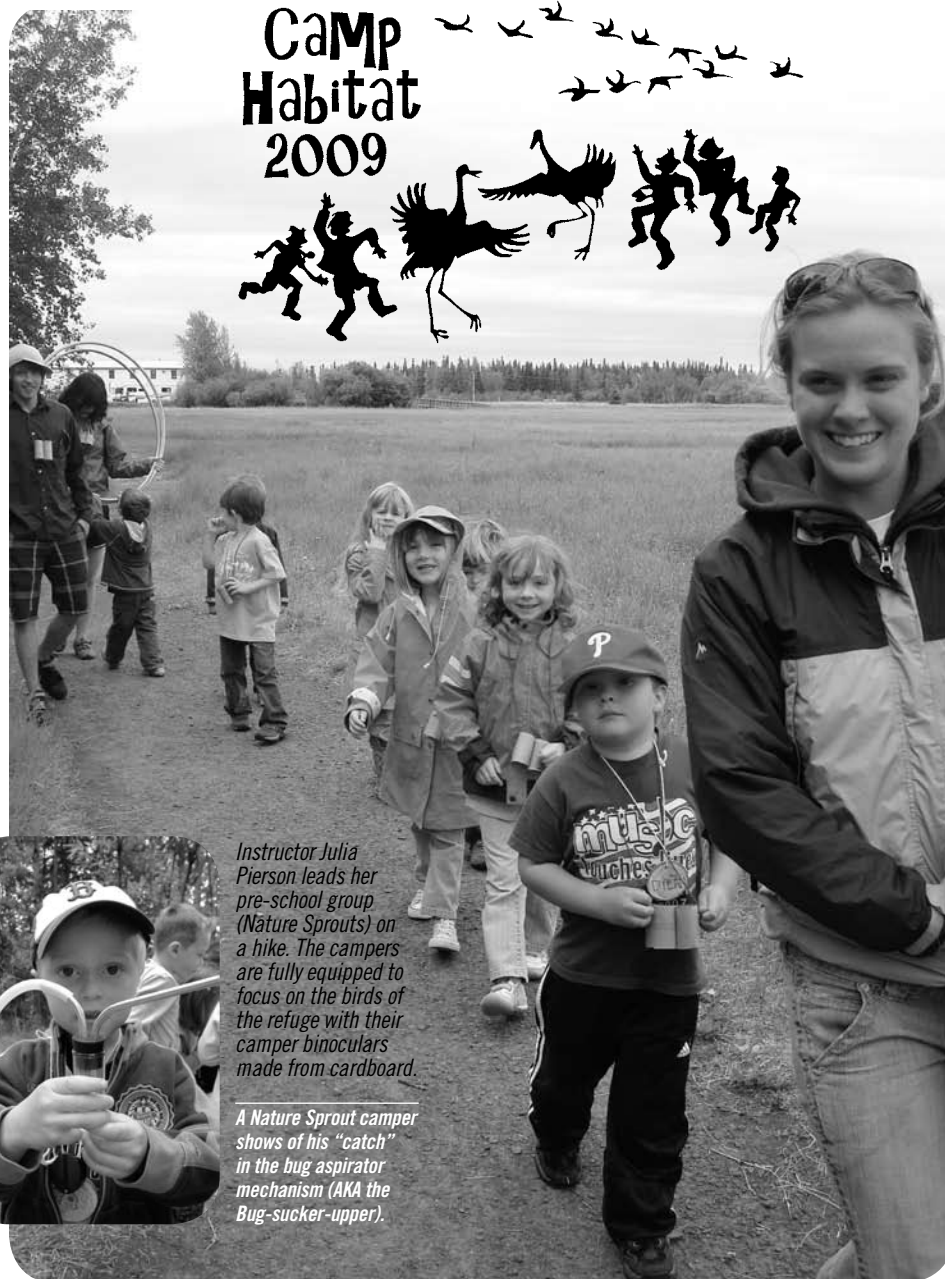


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# Camp Habitat 2009



*Instructor Julia Pierson leads her pre-school group (Nature Sprouts) on a hike. The campers are fully equipped to focus on the birds of the refuge with their camper binoculars made from cardboard.*

*A Nature Sprout camper shows his "catch" in the bug aspirator mechanism (AKA the Bug-sucker-upper).*

Camp Habitat 2009 has kicked off with continued curriculum developments, a new intern position, and camp enrollment reaching 98%. With the help of local donations and grants, we have been able to push camp to its full potential as a developmentally-appropriate exploration of Creamer's Field Refuge. 🌱



*Instructor Eric leads his Nature Sprouts group, the "Sandhill Crane" group, to catch and observe insects from the field in the nets. Don't worry, all the kids return the insects to their habitat when they are done, with a special *thank you*.*