

NorthernLine

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

~ Gary Snyder, *Front Lines*



Northern
Alaska Environmental
Center

Thanks Ginny

by Jenna Hertz

I have a feeling Ginny Hill Wood would groan a little as this issue of *The Northern Line* hit her kitchen table. "Less about me, more about the issues!" I imagine her saying.

When Ginny passed on March 8, 2013 at age 95, the Northern Center received an incredible outpouring of warm thoughts and memories. On Sunday, April 7th, Ginny's friends and NAEC sponsored a community celebration of Ginny's life that filled the UAF Wood Center Ballroom.

Her passing is an opportunity for us all to reflect. So here is a start, an entire issue dedicated to a woman that lived a remarkable life and in doing so gave generations following her gifts that reverberate throughout our lives in the North.

Ginny was many things—an adventurer, pilot, wilderness guide, business entrepreneur, gardener, community builder, and a committed conservationist. She lived a good, full life doing things that filled her with vision and perspective. Ginny explained, "In Alaska, I was motivated to protect the environment because it became important to protect where you lived and how you lived."

Ginny put her foresight to work protecting the wild landscapes of her adventures as well as the trails in her own backyard, for future generations. Along with Woody Wood and Celia Hunter, Ginny built Camp Denali, Alaska's first ecotourism enterprise. She established the Alaska Conservation Society, our state's first environmental group, and took on tasks like setting aside and repeatedly defending the Arctic National Wildlife Range (now the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), from her living room.

Ginny was active in the Northern Center from its launch in 1971. She began *From the Woodpile* as a regular feature of *The Northern Line* in Feb 1982 and kept writing for 25 years. In the column, Ginny tied together her views of daily life in the woods and garden with concepts of sustainability and specific turns of the environmental outrages of the day – as well as lessons from the long view. As a writer, Roger Kaye observed that Ginny had an "unusual talent for writing about issues in a way that enlarged people's thinking, motivated them, and made a big difference in so many conflicts."

We owe her so much, and though her boots are hard ones to fill, Ginny would probably want us to get up from the scenic vista and get some blisters started! We hope you find this issue inspiring, and that you use Ginny's lessons to deepen your connections to the places and way of life she fought so tirelessly to protect. ♡



Ginny Hill Wood at Lake Baikal in 1991 (Ginny Wood Collection)

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2013 Northern Center Auction

The Northern Line

*Environmental News of Arctic
and Interior Alaska*

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MISSION: The Northern Alaska Environmental Center promotes conservation of the environment and sustainable resource stewardship in Interior and Arctic Alaska through education and advocacy.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has 1577 members*
**To accurately reflect the number of household members who reside at the same address as partners and spouses sharing similar environmental values and read the Northern Line, it is standard practice to use a single multiplier factor of 1.67 to estimate members who have given in the past 18 months.*

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David L. Arnold, *Executive Director*

Lori Hanemann, *Membership
Coordinator*

Lissa Hughes, *Legislative Liaison &
Conservations Solutions Coordinator*

Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Program Director*

Jill Yordy, *Clean Water and Mining
Program Director*

Daniel Lum, *Northern Regions
Outreach Specialist*

Anna Sorensen, *Office Manager*

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Bohemian Nights

by Lori Hanemann

STORYTELLING, MUSIC, POETRY, ACTIVISM, COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This summer, the Northern Center launched a new tradition: open mic nights in our very own backyard. Bohemian Nights is about unplugging and building community. We're building a sustainable community that is economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient. The Center is a gathering place where our local community can get together for some social fun and share ideas and creativity to nurture an active, organized, and informed citizenship.

We had great participation this year, and plan on bringing the program back next summer. We'll have our new wood-fired oven and more backyard improvements. Thanks for helping create a great new Friday night tradition in Fairbanks. ♡

NAEC's New Vision

by David L. Arnold, Ph.D.

After assuming my position as Executive Director, among my first tasks was continuing to conduct formal organizational assessment through Training Resources for the Environmental Community. Following the organizational assessment, we began an organization-wide visioning process that resulted in the following vision statement adopted by the NAEC Board of Directors on May 20th, 2013:

"We envision a Northern Alaska far into the future that remains a land of superlatives – as inspiring, healthy and supremely beautiful as it is today. Our globally important wildlands will remain biologically diverse and productive, with abundant fish and wildlife that support vigorous subsistence traditions and an extraordinary, increasingly sustainable quality of life for Alaskans. Alaskans will maintain these enviable qualities undiminished across generations by protecting our vast expanses of ecologically intact habitat, by shifting our economy toward sustainable use of renewable resources, and through careful stewardship of non-renewables. We thrive by respecting environmental carrying capacity, thereby safeguarding the rich natural environment that has supported Alaskans for over ten thousand years. We envision a Northern Alaska Environmental Center that plays a leading role in achieving this promising future through strong grassroots and organizing, defensive work, exploring solutions, and by building broad coalitions that translate Alaskan's passion for our home into an environmentally and culturally sustainable future."

This is a pretty ambitious vision that will require several shorter-term organizational goals to be met. The priorities involved in realizing these goals are to: 1) maintain and support a high-quality staff and operating facility; 2) greatly enhance fundraising development; and 3) improve our conservation messaging.

We thank all of you for your continued support, and ask that you participate in a process that will allow us to enjoy this ambitions vision. ♡

Another Fun Summer at Camp Habitat!

by Erica Carroll & Louise Foster,
Camp Habitat Directors



Habitat, Habitat - Have to Have a Habitat" can be heard while walking through Creamers Field on a sunny Fairbanks afternoon during the 2013 Day Camp Season.

Camp Habitat is celebrating its 23rd year of bringing place-based environmental education to youth in Fairbanks. We owe a huge thank-you to all the hard work and dedication the Northern Center does year-round to make camp possible this summer. NAEC is one of the three partners of Camp Habitat (along with Friends of Creamers Field and Alaska Department of Fish & Game), contributing board members, diligently fundraising for scholarships/financial assistance and providing a "habitat" for our staff to train and bond. This year, NAEC donated \$5,000.00 to Camp Habitat; all in part to a generous grant as well as fundraising from the Annual Auction this past November 2012.

Thanks to many of your donations, Camp Habitat was able to give \$2,000.00 of scholarship/financial assistance to 12 campers, who would not have been able to attend otherwise. Camp Habitat was also able to purchase much needed educational supplies; including exciting new books to our library, overnight/camp-out gear and supplies, hands-on activities, and much more. These items helped over 220 campers experience the wonders and beauty of Alaska; which we hope they will continue to love and protect throughout their life. ♡

If you would like to support Camp Habitat, please email camphabitat@gmail.com or call (907) 750-2298 and Don't Forget to "Like" us on Facebook!

Surprise Bequest

by Kristen Sullivan

One otherwise normal day last August, we opened the Center's mail to find a check for \$50,000 from the estate of Eva Schiffer in Amherst, Ma. Eva had specified us in a long list of non-profits all over the country to receive funds upon her passing in 2010. We'd like to thank Eva Schiffer for her mind-blowing donation and reminding us that there are people everywhere that value protecting wilderness. Opening the mail has been a bit more exciting ever since. ♡

2013 Northern Center Annual Award Winners

Volunteer of the Year: DOUG MCINTOSH, for his constant and reliable help at the Center, inside and out.

Conservationist of the Year: COLIN O'BRIEN, at Earthjustice. Colin provided stellar contributions of advice, expertise and encouragement for healthy air in northern Alaska, both locally with Clean Air Fairbanks and a key asset in protecting the Arctic Ocean from risky and polluting drilling.

Activist of the Year: CARRIE DERSHIN, for her community leadership and dedication to defending our clean air.

Youth of the Year: ALEA HALE and SHANNYN BIRD, both with Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action. We chose Alea and Shannyn for their outstanding leadership on a statewide AYE project, a local foods book: *Recipes for Alaska's Food Future!*

Business of the Year: ALASKA OUTDOOR RENTALS & GUIDES — LARRY KATKIN, Larry's business behind Pioneer Park encourages and enables our community and visitors to get out on our rivers and explore the places we protect. They have always been incredibly generous donors to our auction and other events year round.

Florence Collins Award: DAN AND ANN SWIFT, in recognition of lifetime conservation achievement.



Daniel Lum

Daniel Returns

Daniel Lum rejoined NAEC as Northern Regions Outreach Specialist this winter. In addition to digging into arctic issues, he was the grand champion recruiter of NAEC's spring membership drive, bringing us new friends and members from all over Alaska. His book, *Nuvuk the Northernmost: Altered Land, Altered Lives in Barrow Alaska* was released June 15th with a special signing at the Northern Center for members and later showcased with a slideshow at Gulliver's Books. The Inupiaq author and former wildlife tour company owner married his photos and stories about life in Alaska's northernmost community in his book published by the University of Alaska and University of Chicago Presses. Lum continues to use his book as a platform to work towards Arctic Ocean conservation and we are honored to have him at the Northern Center.

Meet Anna

Anna is a lifelong Alaskan who spent most of her childhood on a small farm in Palmer. In 1997 the family moved north to Fairbanks where she decided to stay. After earning her B.A. in History and minor in Political Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Anna worked for the Alaska State Legislature in Fairbanks and Juneau for six years. During this time, she and her husband Joe settled into a 20 foot diameter, off-the-grid yurt that they called home for four years. They now live in a small, efficient house they built in the Goldstream Valley. In her spare time, Anna can be found in her garden, volunteering around town, skiing in the Goldstream Public Use Area, hiking in the woods, or harvesting for winter. Anna is excited to join NAEC as the Office Manager and looks forward to working with the staff and board to help the organization thrive.



Anna Sorensen



Jill Yordy

Welcome Jill

Jill Yordy originally hails from the front range of Colorado but has called Fairbanks her home since August of 2009. Having spent her early childhood in a tiny mountain town without paved roads, she has had a lifelong relationship with wilderness. She has a BA in Anthropology with minors in Museum Studies and Classical Studies from Luther College in Iowa. Since arriving in Fairbanks for Master's level studies in archaeology and stable isotope research at UAF she has traveled all over interior and northern Alaska, worked for an environmental testing firm, and fallen in love with Alaska. Jill is thrilled to join NAEC as Clean Water and Mining Director to advocate for environmental conservation and sustainable resource management in Alaska. In her free time, Jill continues to work with her husband to finish their energy efficient house and enjoys camping, pottery, reading, and family time. Jill files the shoes of Pete Dronkers who moved on to Earthworks in Colorado. ♣

NAEC Wins Family Friendly Award

by Lori Hanemann

This year the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Early Childhood Development Commission recognized NAEC as a recipient of the 2013 Family Friendly Workplace Award. The award recognizes six area businesses for their efforts at offering support to their employees in balancing work and family life. This staff support is critical to maintaining a sustainable and happy workforce. Balancing home and work is a significant accomplishment for a tireless non-profit organization and we are pleased at the recognition. Lissa Hughes accepted the award, on behalf of Northern Center staff, from Mayor Luke Hopkins. ♣



Lissa Hughes accepts Family Friendly Business Award from Borough Mayor, Luke Hopkins

2013 Summer Interns

NIKKI NAVIO

Hometown Anchorage, AK

Project Name Alaska Wilderness Stories

Favorite Arctic Animal Narwhal, "unicorns of the sea"

School University of Alaska Fairbanks

Major Political Science, minor in music and East Asian studies

AVIVA HIRSCH

Hometown Homer, AK

Project Name Alaska Wilderness Stories

Favorite Arctic Animal Snowy Owl

School Wesleyan University

Major Anthropology and Environmental Studies, certificate in writing

BECCA LACROIX

Hometown Seattle, Washington

Project Name Open Space of Democracy

Favorite Arctic Animal Dall Sheep

School Kalamazoo College

Major Political science

Project Brief: Alaska Wilderness Stories

Alaska Wilderness Stories is a compilation of short radio segments focused on different wilderness regions across the state. Nikki and Aviva have spent the summer interviewing people from a wide range of backgrounds — federal agency employees, adventurers, indigenous Alaskans, and youth about their feelings regarding wilderness designation and their individual experiences and relationship with wilderness. Alaska Wilderness Stories depicts why wilderness management is crucial and how Alaskan wilderness is unique. The series will air next year in 2014 as part of the national celebration of the 1964 Wilderness Act! Stay tuned at www.northern.org.

Project Brief: Open Space of Democracy

For her senior thesis project, Becca is researching public participation in the Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan. She is examining how the agency responsible for managing the Eastern Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is creating space for public involvement and incorporating various voices from local governments, agencies, and citizens. She is interested in learning about how resource management can encourage and inspire a more open and collaborative democracy. ♣



Becca, Aviva, and Nikki loving the White Mountains.

The Greenpages: Volunteer Help Wanted!

Web Page Designer

html or programmer people out there?

Committee Member

serve on our Auction and Education Committee. Not as big of time commitment as being on our Board, but meaningful hands-on work with a great group of people.

Poster Distributor

put up event posters around town.

Auction Assistant

help with database entry and pre-auction chores. Also night-of auction help.

Event Tabling Assistant

greet attendees and help with set up.

Wilderness Baker

add your name to our list of bakers for special events and weekly treats for the Center.

Member Recruiter

planning and assisting with a fun project to increase our outreach and membership to the Lower 48.

Junior Advisory Board

seeking the next generation of environmentalists to make a difference.

Media Mapper

we need a skilled person to help with a mapping project

Don't Be Fuelish Planner

we need two assistants to help with administrative and event planning work for this Borough-wide effort!

See yourself fitting into any of those shoes? Call Lori 452-5021 or lori@northern.org

Tribute to Ginny Wood

by Deborah Williams



Ginny was a prolific writer on a variety of issues.
(Ginny Wood Collection)

From the moment I met Ginny over 30 years ago, I was inspired. We were in Fairbanks and she was telling a story that was adventuresome, hopeful, fun, and inspirational — a story that left the listeners, including me, ready to do more for Alaska, to dig deeper, and to act on a positive and vibrant vision of the Great Land that we could proudly bequeath to future generations.

Continually, Ginny masterfully blended the past, the present, and the future into a magical recipe that resulted

in meaningful conservation action and caring. Once you knew Ginny, saw the twinkle in her eye, and heard her words, you felt elevated and motivated. As others have observed, I always felt that if Ginny could do it, I could and should do it.

Simultaneously, Ginny made you feel better about yourself. This was one of her greatest gifts. She was so appreciative, humble, delightful, and charming. It is no wonder that despite her foresighted views, which were often at odds with “the powers that be,” that Ginny was beloved.

Ginny’s many great conservation contributions were fueled by her boots-on-the-ground love of Alaska’s incomparable environment. She trekked the talk, and reminded all of us about the importance of engaging in and advancing outdoor recreation to strengthen ourselves and to build lasting constituencies. She fostered a spirit of adventure, while helping all of us to see what Alaska could be.

Ginny made us — and Alaska — measurably better. Her legacy, together with Celia’s legacy — as two of this state’s greatest Alaskans — will never be forgotten. Like so many others, I feel blessed to have known Ginny, and will never stop being inspired by her and thankful for all that she did for the last frontier. ♡

Epitaph For Me

by Ginny Hill Wood

*I have been but one expression
Of one Creation.
A part of the magic, the hope, they yearning,
The love,
The disappointment, the anguish and the ecstasy
Of life expressing life.
Sharing the glory
And the shame
And the pain
Of human-kind’s brief journey
Through a moment of time
In this wondrous universe
On this sacred planet
About which we yet know so little,
Much less ourselves.
Thanks for the odyssey, Great Spirit!*

Ginny wrote this on her 75th Birthday.

Save Me a Campsite

by Jenna Hamm

Conclusion of comments at Fairbanks Celebration of Life



Ginny flew planes for the Womens
Airforce Service Pilots during World War II
(Ginny Wood Collection)

When Celia died, Ginny wrote a lovely letter to her, in which she asked Celia to save her a campsite. We have the letter framed and hung on a wall in the Camp Denali lodge. After Ginny passed away my dad reminisced to me about Ginny’s wish. He wrote: “When Ginny asked Celia to save her a camping spot, in my mind I can see their greeting. And I can hear

Celia’s chuckle. She probably asked why it took Ginny so long. Knowing Ginny, Celia no doubt retracted the question, because of course she knew that Ginny would have taken the long trail. It was more adventurous.” ♡

Ginny Wood's Place in our World

by Pamela A Miller

Adapted from remarks at Ginny's Celebration of Life - April 7, 2013

I would not be standing here today if not for Ginny Wood.

I would not be back living in Fairbanks if not for the warm community and connection to this place, its role on the front lines of our biggest national and global conservation battles. Ginny has been at the center of both.

It is the neighborhood where she lived for over 50 years, where I live today, and for her diligent conservation work one decade after the next. She wove a fabric of life in this place with tall white birch trunks, so green from floor to sky, knitted with wild roses in spring, the musty high-bush cranberries in fall, just a short ski away from my place.

Our friendship took off in 1986 when I moved into the cabin (the middle cabin) where the mimeograph machine cranked out Bulletins for the Alaska Conservation Society, the first statewide group of its kind in Alaska.

Over the years, as we gathered around her living room table, with Celia, and with other friends it became clear that stamina, humor, and lots of good friends are necessary to make progress for conservation.

Always, I struggled alongside her example of living close to the land at the fringes of this northern city. Her huge gardens with double moose fence, freezers full of peas, beans, and berries, freshly baked bread, clothes hung to dry in the basement. We have a long way to becoming a sustainable society. Next to her example I always fell short but learned that each step is meaningful.

Ginny always said she was free to speak her mind, because she was not in the employ of anyone or beholden to anyone. So, she served many times as the ACS editor, was a founder of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, served on its



"She wove a fabric of life in this place with tall white birch trunks, so green from floor to sky, knitted with wild roses in spring, the musty high-bush cranberries in fall, just a short ski away from my place."

board and wrote *From the Woodpile* in the Northern Center's newsletter for decades.

When we gathered at the table, she always asked up to the last days, what's going on now down at the Center, what are the issues, how's it going. Over the years, meals with unexpected visitors, soup and bread to draw up the courage to do something bold. Ginny and Celia too created this gathering space, and without it, I never would have taken my most important action to save the Arctic Refuge.

The day I took my last ski to Ginny's to say goodbye, friends had gathered around her polished wooden table. I skied home on the beautiful ski trail through birch woods that Ginny had built and neighbors still groom. In my cabin and the Center there is a comfortable kitchen table. It's time for me to gather friends for the long trails ahead. ♡

LESSONS FROM GINNY

THE NORTHERN LINE WINTER 2012

Ginny and Celia

by Carolyn Kremers



Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter, best of friends. (Ginny Wood Collection)

Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter sit in my cabin, conversing (Scotch-taped to the washer-dryer) and petting a happy, black dog. Like my mother and father—captured in black-and-white, Kodak photographs in the 1950s and early '60s—Ginny and Celia wear jeans rolled up at the cuffs and long-sleeved, plaid flannel shirts. Sitting on the porch-step of a cabin hewn of medium, round logs neatly chinked, the two women look content and fit—intent on whatever they're discussing.

"I figured maybe their image could help remind me, at key moments, why I came to this smoky, mosquito-y, freezing-cold, far-away place and, like them, decided to stay. And fight."

Months ago, when I first saw Celia and Ginny captured this way (in summer?) on a page in the Northern Line, I took some scissors and carefully cut them out, then stuck them here, in my own log cabin, on the door of the dryer. A classic duo: the measured and unmeasured, the rational and spontaneous. I figured maybe their image could help remind me, at key moments, why I came to this smoky, mosquito-y, freezing-cold, far-away place and, like them, decided to stay. And fight.

Today I received a letter in my box at the post office (Fairbanks, 99708). June 20, 2013, the letter said.

Dear Carolyn,

...In the last Congress, the House of Representatives passed a bill deceptively titled the "Sportsmen's Heritage Act." The sponsors said they were guaranteeing hunters and anglers access to public lands, but their real purpose was to gut the Wilderness Act. The bill authorized what wilderness law now bans: roads, motor vehicles, habitat manipulation, logging, water developments, and virtually anything if done for hunting, angling, recreational shooting, or wildlife "conservation."

The good news is the bill died a well-deserved death in the Senate in 2012. Now the bill is back, though, with a new title...

It took eight years to pass the Wilderness Act...That was an enlightened era, when Congress passed nearly all of our country's key environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, National Environmental Policy Act, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Most—like the Wilderness Act—passed with nearly unanimous support. Yet not a single one of these bedrock laws could pass today...

At the top of the letter, the lovely, round logo floated near the Missoula, Montana, return address: four mountain ridges and a tiny person looking toward them through binoculars. The peaceful scene hung encircled with the words, WILDERNESS WATCH • KEEPING WILDERNESS WILD.

My eyes lingered on the logo, as they often do. I was a member of the organization, but I had no extra money to give. Still...I had to read that line again.

Yet not a single one of these bedrock laws could pass today.

Part of me wanted to scream. Or curse. Or throw something at a window(!) But I was standing in the Geist Road post office, near a blue recycle bin, and just then a teacher-friend walked up and said hello. I smiled, we talked, she left to go about her day. Then I placed the letter—not in the recycle bin—but in the pile of medical and dental bills, Fred Meyer grocery coupons, and paltry UAF pay-stub to take home.

Somehow I knew that Ginny and Celia had read this letter—years, decades, centuries ago. And that, as always, they would have something wise and hopeful—ethical, persistent, uncompromising—to say. ♡

LESSONS FROM GINNY

THE NORTHERN LINE SUMMER 2013

Community Trailblazer

by Dave Norton

If you've ever contributed to building, clearing, marking, mapping, protecting or grooming trails in Interior Alaska, you've fine-tuned legacies of Ginny Wood's unique leadership in developing local trails. The unconventional tactics

by which Ginny contrived to mesh her own interests and energies with the diverse interests of many other people--from horseback riders' to State governors'--are dignified in Karen

Brewster's book, *Boots, Bikes and Bombers* (p 365-377). That chapter, and her own amusement at discovering which tactics actually worked, bring Ginny's spirit into focus as sharply as maintaining Nordic ski trails radiating outward from Dogpatch and Pearl Creek valley north of our University campus. Today when laying ski tracks in fresh snow, or

helping clear brush around Pearl Creek Nordic Ski Park, I picture Ginny herself, around the next corner, pausing with saw in hand. Her wariness (especially if I'm pulling a tracksetter by snowmachine) is replaced by Ginny's encouraging welcome, "Oh, Hey!"

"Today when laying ski tracks in fresh snow, or helping clear brush around Pearl Creek Nordic Ski Park, I picture Ginny herself, around the next corner, pausing with saw in hand."

Community-based recreational trails depend on advocacy and volunteerism now more than ever. Ginny's tireless efforts from the 1950s

into the 21st century showed the way. If you're looking for a hands-on way to honor Ginny, walk on over to lend a hand and enjoy the incredible trails she pioneered. Volunteer signups and contributions are welcomed by a number of local trails organizations. Please contact me at pearlcreektrails@gmail.com to get started. ♣

My Ginny Story

by Arthur Hussey

In 2001, when I was the director of the Northern Center, we prepared to buy a new building, needing to move out of our lovable but hopelessly small abode on Driveway Street. Lacking much in the way of assets, the Board approached many long time NAEC stalwarts to loan the Center money for the purchase rather than going the much more expensive route of getting a bank loan.

One winter morning, Ginny and Celia barged into my office, both smiling faintly, both somewhat irritated. "What's this?" Ginny demanded, thrusting a piece of paper in front of my face. I looked at it and, simplistically, said, "Well it's a request from a Board member for a loan to buy the new office." Ginny snapped that she knew that. I looked again and saw the letter was written to Celia. "Well I didn't get one of these letters and I've got money too." Visibly miffed, Ginny wrote a loan check on the spot. Just as quickly, she and Celia left in a huff and out the door to Driveway Street.

Thereafter, I made real sure to never make the mistake the Board member made....of seeing Ginny under Celia's shadow. ♣

Planned Giving

by Pamela Miller

"I intend to die young as old as possible." Ginny Wood wrote decades ago when she planned a major bequest to NAEC. We just received this major gift, "to fund interns or other special issue person or projects that would not otherwise be funded." Thanks again, Ginny! ♣



Ginny and Toklat at home in Fairbanks 1961 (Ginny Wood Collection)

LESSONS FROM GINNY

THE NORTHERN LINE SUMMER 2013

Memorial for Ginny Wood

read at Camp Denali
on June 8, 2013

by Carl Rosenberg & Romany Wood

Life is a prayer
Prayer is a conduit
For human beings to connect...

To Spirit-Creator-God-Gaia

That which resonates for us
Though we may not see
Measure or understand

We each have our own way

Ginny spent her life
In pursuit of and service to Gaia

Creating Camp Denali was a
Collective effort of many people

This is a special place
And yet is also everyplace

What started out as a dream
And an adventure here at Camp
Has become a global imperative

Our actions and omissions
Are out of balance
With the forces of nature

We must live within the limits
And laws of nature
If we love the world around us

Romany and I chose not
To fly 8000 miles in April
To honor Ginny's memory

Here and now we choose
To honor Ginny's memory

These are stones
from Ginny's yard in Dogpatch
invite each of you to choose one

As you hold this stone
Feel what your connection to
Ginny means to you

While Ginny is no longer with us
Her spirit will live on
As long as you keep that spark alive

What commitment to conservation,
Sustainability and preservation
Can you make in Ginny's memory?

Keep this stone, if you wish
As a symbol to your commitment.

Inspiring People Everywhere

by Mary V Hoffman

Upon her passing, the Northern Center received an outpouring of kind words from far-flung places. The following was excerpted from an e-mail from Mary Hoffman now of Shelburne Vermont. It is a good example of how Ginny, along with Celia, touched many lives and created networks of lasting support for the land they loved.

"I would like to add my appreciation to that of others for the immense work that Ginny Wood did for Alaska and the entire environmental movement. In the early 1980s I stayed at Camp Denali for several days, and left fascinated by the tundra, the expansiveness of the country, and of the vision and actions of Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter. I began to follow the efforts to preserve it. A few years later I traveled to the Noatak, saw caribou in fall migration, and more grizzlies than people. Later, some 20 years ago, I had the pleasure of traveling with Ginny and Celia on the Kongakut, and visiting them in Fairbanks.

Urban Ohio may seem like a far cry from Alaska, but from shared experiences on trips to the arctic and interior, we created a strong contingent working on support of ANWR, with letters, op-eds, and talks. Ginny's *Notes from the Woodpile* were a welcome and fun way of keeping in touch.

Meeting those two women and traveling with them in their country has been among the most valued experiences in my life." ♡



Anna Plager celebrating Ginny's adventurous spirit at Memorial on Cranberry Ridge, Camp Denali. Photo by Pamela A. Miller

Honoring Champions

by Pamela A. Miller



RANDELL RAY "RANDY" ROGERS 1954 – 2013
NAEC Executive Director (1984-1987)

Randy came to Alaska in 1979 for a "dream job" as BLM's river ranger on Birch Creek, Beaver Creek, and other proposed National Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR), but right away documented placer mining damage. He was NAEC's Executive Director in the pitched days of ANILCA implementation; he received death threats. Rogers led citizen involvement in BLM's first plans for the newly designated Wild Rivers and NAEC joined successful legal fights for water quality standards as well as for BLM to assess cumulative impacts of placer mining on these rivers. Today's clear waters of Beaver Creek and other Interior rivers are testament to this work.

In 1987, Randy married Liz Peltola on the Hulahula River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Earlier that year, Rogers departed NAEC after leading intense public engagement in the Arctic Refuge "1002 Report." After a long career in natural resource management, Rogers retired from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and continued his passion for reintroduction of wood bison into Alaska, and his lifelong love of paddling wild rivers with friends and family.

LAURENCE "LARRY" PAQUIN
1938 – 2013

Larry moved to Alaska with his wife Miriam in 1972. They taught in Wainwright and Shageluk for 5 years, then moved to Fairbanks. After retirement from teaching, Paquin was a passionate advocate for Arctic wilderness, testified at countless hearings, and wrote inspired letters to the editor. He was an active NAEC volunteer and committed to citizen input into public policy.

"If we destroy what has been working in harmony for thousands of years, then we lose sight of what a refuge is: a safe place where the land itself is protected for Alaskans, the wildlife, indigenous people, tourists, and for future generations."

– Larry Paquin, Arctic Refuge CCP Hearing, Fairbanks, October 2011

Remembering Don and Rose de Lima

by Teresa de Lima

Don and Rose de Lima of Manley Hot Springs were buried side by side on June 8th, 2013. Modern day gold miners, Don and Rose loved the natural world, but weren't "greenies." Don had a brilliant mind and was masterful at operating a successful placer operation for many years. He had an exemplary working relationship with Department of Natural Resources & the Environmental Protection Agency.

Rose, a 6th generation Alaskan, worked alongside Don, as his partner. Together they raised 3 children, Jay, Teresa and Peter. When they got into their 70s they decided that living in Fairbanks during the winters, would be preferable to living in Manley in the winter. Sadly, they moved into the "big house" on First Avenue, located a stone's throw from the power plant.

Some diseases associated with long term chronic exposure

to coal fired power plant emissions and coal combustion waste are: Rheumatoid Arthritis, Alzheimers, Parkinsons, Cardio and Vascular problems.

The only remedy is to get away. And get them away Teresa did. The last two years of Don and Rose's life were back in the wonderful sanity and sanctuary of Manley Hot Springs. Rest in peace and know that we carry on the good fight in your name.

In May of 2011, Teresa de Lima filed a petition with the EPA Region in regards to a black particulate which blanketed the house. The EPA came, in September 2011, performed a preliminary assessment and as of this date, we are still awaiting their report. ♡

Arctic Ocean Update

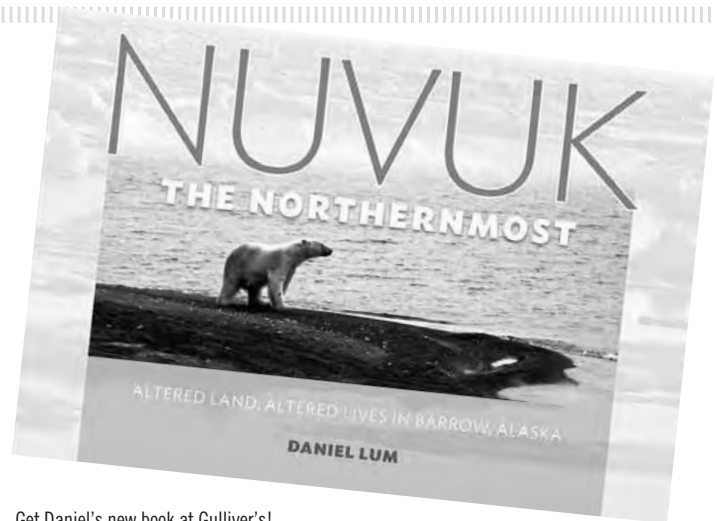
by Daniel James Inulak Lum

The Arctic Ocean is an important advocacy region for the Northern Center. Both the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas face imminent industrial threats in 2013 and 2014 through planned exploratory activities and eventual development of oil. The Northern Center works with other environmental and Alaska Native groups to comment and, where appropriate, appeal these dangerous projects.

As you read this, multiple offshore seismic explorations are staging for massive activity in several regions of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. And they're not limited to United States waters. Russian and Canadian seismic explorations are being simultaneously planned on both sides of our borders, as well as farther north in international waters. Seismic exploration involves huge seismic pulses that alter the marine mammals' natural movements, creating both an obstacle and a deterrent to their migratory routes. This is especially devastating to marine mammals like bowhead, beluga, and gray whales that use sonar location.

2012 was a year riddled with industry failures. We watched multiple rig and vessel failures, culminating in the grounding of Shell's drilling vessel the Kulluk near Kodiak. Industry has shown they are not ready to operate safely in our waters! Therefore gauging their actual response abilities, such as simple booming in varied ice conditions, should be the priority of everyone, because to this day there has been no proven spill response on the Arctic Ocean especially in broken ice conditions.

There is new scientific information about a huge subsurface ocean current –the divergent current– in the Chukchi Sea that would bring any oil spills from the offshore drill sites straight to shore, spreading up and down both coasts of the entire North Slope. Near the offshore drilling sites in the Chukchi Sea there are often huge fields or plates of ice that can completely halt any operations. If they industry is not able to contain blowout or other major spills from wells before ice season, we risk months of uncontrolled spread of a Very Large Oil Spill –ending our hunting and fishing as millions and millions of barrels of oil line the shores



Get Daniel's new book at Gulliver's!

The dangers are cumulative: massive offshore seismic activities, the inability of industry to operate safely offshore, the divergent current, and the Arctic Ocean environment itself create an unprecedented threat to the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and surrounding shorelines, and the marine mammals

(and humans) that depend on them. Industry is far from ready to operate in these sensitive offshore waters in such dangerous conditions, without any proven spill response and their recent history of failure.

There is a safe path through all of this danger. We still can work towards ocean conservation. The Arctic Team at Northern

Center continues to fight for Arctic Ocean conservation – one of the cornerstones of the wild Arctic. Quyanaq (thank you) Northern Center members for supporting our fight to protect marine mammal habitat! Arctic Ocean Forever! ♡

The dangers are cumulative: massive offshore seismic activities, the inability of industry to operate safely offshore, the divergent current, and the Arctic Ocean environment itself create an unprecedented threat to the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and surrounding shorelines, and the marine mammals (and humans) that depend on them.



TAKE ACTION

Arctic Action: Post your Photo Jewels

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is asking for your favorite photos from trips. Help us fill her files with the beauty and splendor of Alaska's wild places! Post your summer Arctic Refuge or Arctic Ocean shots online at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/summerago/pool/>

Gov. Parnell's Recycled Bad Idea: Drill the Arctic Refuge

by Pamela A. Miller

In May 2013, the State of Alaska released a 7-year plan to explore for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain with 3-D seismic surveys covering 3,305 square miles, 235 miles of ice roads or rolligon trails, and drilling 16 wells.

Gov. Parnell wrote to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that he would ask the State Legislature for \$50 million toward funding the program if the federal government partnered and claimed that the pending Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) should have considered an oil and gas alternative.

The Obama Administration position is clear, as Secretary Jewell's testimony at her first hearing on June 6 said, "The president has made it clear that it is not part of his agenda to do oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and I support that position."

Secretary Jewell rejected Parnell's offer by letter June 28 and said, "we... conclude that any new exploratory activity, which would include seismic work by the statutory definition, is prohibited by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and would require Congressional authorization..."

While Parnell touts "new technology" to reduce impacts, his plan notes more intensive "3-D seismic 'shoots' can have greater surface impacts than 2-D surveys." The National Research Council found that "despite technological improvements... the potential for damage to the tundra still exists because of the large number of vehicles and camps used for exploration... current technology and governmental regulations will not prevent damage to the tundra."



Alaska Wilderness Week group delivers letter to Interior Secretary Jewell asking her to finalize Arctic Refuge CCP.

The 3-D seismic scheme is a recycled bad idea that was first promoted in a bill by Sen. Frank Murkowski in 1998. At that time, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt made clear, "The transparent objective of people arguing for more information is to break open that refuge."

Exploration is the first step toward year round production with traffic on roads, helicopter, and aircraft that would turn the refuge's biological heart into an industrial complex.

As noted by Sec. Jewell's letter, the Fish and Wildlife Service received over 600,000 public comments on the Draft CCP. The overwhelming majority supported Wilderness recommendation for the Coastal Plain, and most comments by Alaskans supported protection, not drilling. We continue to await the final Arctic Refuge CCP / Wilderness Review. ♡

SEISMIC EXPLORATION HAS LONG-LASTING EFFECTS

Further seismic exploration in the Coastal Plain of the refuge is not only prohibited but it is also incompatible with all the purposes of the refuge.

The one-time mandated seismic surveys during the mid 1980's resulted in long-term changes in the Arctic Refuge to natural habitat diversity including changes in plant species composition and permafrost stability. Jorgenson et al (2010) found through long-term monitoring that "recovery to pre-disturbance communities was not possible where trail subsidence occurred due to thawing of ground ice... we found that severe impacts to tundra vegetation persisted for two decades after disturbance under some conditions."

Alaskan Voices: A Triumph and a Threat

by Lissa Hughes

CREAMER'S FIELD VICTORY

Last winter the state scrapped its plan to build a road along the eastern corridor of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge! Creamer's Field has been a long-time treasured place right in our backyard. The board and staff at the Northern Center would like to thank our colleagues at Friends of Creamer's Field and the many Fairbanksans who wrote letters to the editor, sent official comments to the Department of Transportation, and testified in public asking the department to preserve the character of the refuge by not building the road. We would also like to thank Al Beck, Meadow Bailey and the rest of DOT project staff for their transparency and respect they showed by meeting with us to explain the scope of the project and the most effective way for the public to be involved in the decision making process.

LEGISLATIVE THREATS TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND YOUR RIGHT TO COMMENT

This past legislative session the Northern Center worked collaboratively with allies throughout the state to challenge the Parnell Administration's effort to diminish your rights as an Alaska resident. The governor introduced legislation that would have taken unprecedented actions to strip away the role of public participation in addressing oil, gas, and other industrial projects in Alaska's rivers, streams, wetlands, coasts and prime fish and wildlife habitats. Several bills that would lock out the public from having a say on the future of Alaska's resources were fast-tracked through legislative committees, providing only the bare minimum of 24-hour notice for public

testimony before being immediately voted on.

House Bill 77, which passed the House and died in the Senate on the last day of the legislative session, would have made several changes to statutes that govern the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It would have revoked the right of any and all Alaska residents, tribes and organizations to reserve enough water in streams for salmon to continue to spawn, as well as to maintain adequate hydrologic flow for protecting other fish and wildlife habitat, maintain water quality and recreational uses. There are more than 400 pending applications for in-stream water reservations; this bill would have immediately canceled all 400. There

"Several bills that would lock out the public from having a say on the future of Alaska's resources were fast-tracked through legislative committees, providing only the bare minimum of 24-hour notice for public testimony before being immediately voted on."

are 35 reservation permits held by individuals, tribes and organizations; this bill would have revoked all of them. HB 77 would have also changed the law by removing the public right to notice and comment for Preliminary Best Interest Findings and severely limiting who can participate in the administrative process before DNR.

NAEC and our colleagues will continue to challenge HB 77 or any similar legislation that has such blatant disregard for the public's role in the



Daniel Lum at WEIO educating about HB 77 which would impact subsistence and remove the public voice on projects affecting subsistence, water rights, and fish habitats.

development of Alaska's natural resources. Article VIII, Section 3 of Alaska's Constitution states, "Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use." HB 77 takes direct aim at Alaska citizen involvement. We expect that this legislation or something very similar will be back when the legislature goes back into session in January. ✦



TAKE ACTION

Contact your Representative and Senator and tell them you are opposed to HB 77 or any legislation that reduces the ability for the public to participate in decisions that affect natural resources owned in common by all Alaskans. For more information contact Lissa Hughes at 452-5021 ext.22 or at lissa@northern.org

FAYEA Cookbook

by Shannyn Bird

This past year, Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, (FAYEA) has worked in conjunction with statewide AYEa to publish a cookbook, *Recipes for Alaska's Food Future*. The book features recipes that can be made with local Alaskan food as well as quotes, anecdotes, and art from AYEa teens. FAYEA came up with the original idea, contributed many of the recipes, and helped compile submissions from Alaskan youth. Assisting in the process was challenging and sometimes even frustrating, but very rewarding and inspiring for the people involved. FAYEA is selling the cookbooks for \$10 each to raise money for both local and statewide AYEa. Cookbooks are available online at ayeal.org or through FAYEA (contact NAEC for more information). ♣

Aluutigaaq: Caribou Chunks with Gravy on Rice

by Daniel Lum

Aluutigaaq is a common dish around Alaska, often called different names in different regions. It is relatively easy to make and requires just a few ingredients. Fresh or frozen caribou (or reindeer) is the base of this recipe and many Alaskans customize this recipe to their own tastes.

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs Caribou or Reindeer meat (cubed)
¼ cup Crisco (or vegetable shortening or olive oil)
2 cups white rice
1 cup cold water
¼ cup flour
Spices (salt, pepper, granulated garlic etc.)
Diced onions (if desired)

Begin preparing rice, following specific rice instructions. With a non-stick frying pan heat Crisco, or shortening, and add caribou. Add salt, pepper and preferred other spices. Fry for about 5-7 minutes until browned. Remove grease from frying pan and place into a gravy pan. Continue frying caribou on low for another 3-4 minutes, and then remove from heat. Re-heat grease in gravy pan. Add ¼ cup flour to one cup cold water, mix thoroughly. When grease is boiling, add the cold water and flour mix into the gravy pan, stir, and then lower heat to simmer. Stir gravy often until thickened. Place rice on plate, add meat on top of the rice and finish with the gravy. Enjoy your Aluutigaaq! ♣



Get yours today!

Ginny-isms:

"The ethic, spiritual, recreation, and educational values of such an area are those one cannot put a price tag on any more than one can on a sunset, a piece of poetry, a symphony, or a friendship." Ginny Hill Wood on the Proposed Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 1958-59

"This is the last great wilderness left under the American flag, almost the world. Our children and their children deserve to find some of it as wild, unspoiled, as unique, and as exciting as we have found it." Ginny Hill Wood on the Proposed Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 1958-59

"Alaska has always been a victim of what I term the Big Solution Syndrome. A project (always gargantuan) is proposed (usually with ulterior motives) that promises to stimulate the lagging economy, strengthen our national security, and promote the public welfare. Immediately, our congressional delegation, the governor, major newspapers, the chamber of Commerce and our politicians jump on the bandwagon, not stopping to question whether what we would gain is worth what we would be giving up. Soon it is a "motherhood" issue. Those who do question it are labeled communists, conservationists or at the least just against progress." Ginny Hill Wood From the Woodpile, Fall 1987. ♣



830 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 452-5021
www.northern.org

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Photo by Amy Johnson 2010

Sneak Peek

Ginny Hill Wood presented her life as a tale of serendipity, "I was the right age, at the right time, in the right place." In this issue, we found ourselves hard-pressed to recount even a fraction of her adventures. Ginny biked Europe for a year after her freshman year in college, flew planes around the country for the Women Air Force Service Pilots in World War II, captained her sailboat along the Inside Passage, and as a pilot, tourism and wilderness guide, and just for fun, explored more places in Alaska than we have room to print. We hope you enjoy this tribute issue!