

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILDERNESS ACT:

The Wilderness We Love

by Debbie S. Miller



Lake Selby. Photo by Ken Tape

In brilliant summer light, we climb up a ridge of flower-speckled tundra gazing at the magnificent view. The Kongakut River shimmers in the valley below us, a silver ribbon dancing across the land. Our eyes follow long ridge lines of tundra, with a string of caribou in the distance, a soaring eagle above. From where we stand, the shrouded mountains of the Brooks Range run east and west for more than 600 miles, appearing endless. From those rugged, snow-clad mountains, the coastal plain sweeps north toward the Beaufort Sea and beyond.

The eye can't possibly contain it all.

We breathe deeply, smelling the clean, invigorating arctic air. Cupping our hands, we drink icy water from crystal streams. We listen carefully and hear the cheerful songs of Lapland longspurs, white-crowned sparrows, and the buzz of an arctic bumblebee as it pollinates. We are grateful that this precious wilderness of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge exists because enough people cared and worked hard to protect it.

On this breezy day, the flower heads of white dryas nod to the grassy earth. Yes, this is wilderness. Pure, untrammled, unaltered land. Roadless, noiseless, fenceless, and priceless. A land filled with the mosaic of flowers, nesting birds and thousands of wandering caribou. This beautiful land mingles with a fullness of life beyond measure, and we grow to love and cherish it.

As we walk, there is a strange feeling that eyes are watching. Turning around I scan the open tundra and see a huge brown bear resting in a patch of cool shade beneath a pinnacle of rocks. His massive head is cradled between his legs and curving paws. Eyes wide open, the bear studies us. What is the bear thinking?

We keep walking slowly away, giving this prodigious animal space, its fur rippling slightly in the breeze. Our hearts keep pounding long after we cross the ridge and are out of the bear's view.

Ken Tape is a lifelong Alaskan nature and science photographer, whose artistic interests are concentrated on landscape, aurora, aerial, and adventure photography. His passion for the outdoors and the beauty of the Arctic has motivated him to seek out and record the timeless moments of remote Arctic locations. This stunning photo, taken at Selby Lake in the Upper Kobuk region of the Brooks Range within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, conveys the solitude and grandeur of remote wilderness areas. To see more of Ken's work visit: www.arcticcirclephoto.com

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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 1600 members.

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50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act

continued from cover page

Yes, this is wilderness — a place where creatures have natural, undiminished habitat, where they can wander freely as they have for the millennia. A healthy, wild, and beautiful home for future generations.

This wilderness is also a place that inspires and humbles us. It rekindles our creative spirit and joy of discovery. It allows us to slow down, listen, reflect, ponder, and be grateful.

In one hundred years I picture a huge brown bear resting in the same patch of cool shade above the Kongakut River. 🌿

Debbie S. Miller is a wilderness lover who has authored many books for children and adults about Alaska's natural world based on her explorations over the past 40 years. Her new children's book, *Grizzly Bears of Alaska*, was released in March with stunning photographs by Fairbanks photographer Patrick Endres. She is currently at work on an adult book that will describe the Nellie Juan Wilderness Study Area in Prince William Sound. Visit her web site to learn more: www.debbiemilleralaska.com



Time to Celebrate 50 Years of the Wild

by Anna Sorensen

Many of you, our wonderful members, may be noticing a trend in our themes this year — time. When we began brainstorming for topics this little word kept popping up. An unassuming appearance — short, easy to say — yet with such an omnipresence in our lives. Time is used in a vast array of contexts and here at NAEC we feel this single word ties together so much of what we do:



Time to reflect on our priorities. Building bridges one conversation at a time. Timing our actions to have the greatest impact. Quality time in the places we protect. Time invested in educating our next generation of advocates. Insisting environmental issues be given time in local, state, and national policies.

Our last issue was a call to action — The time is NOW! Our inaugural digital issue (saving material resources as well as financial ones) was filled with calls to action: now is the time to donate, to speak up against the Road to Ambler, to oppose HB 77, to host a house party fundraiser, and more!

This issue, Time to Celebrate, is dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and some important successes. We invite you to celebrate with us and hope you enjoy the articles and artwork contributed by several NAEC Members and supporters as much as we do! Their passion and appreciation for the timelessness of Alaska's wild places truly shines through and the inspiration nurtured through their time out in the wilderness is manifested beautifully.

Thank you for reading — may it be time well invested! 🌿

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

**Do you have: Comments about articles?
Corrections to point out? Accolades to share?**

We would love to hear from you! Letters to the Editor can be sent to officemanager@northern.org or mailed to The Northern Line Editor, 830 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

A selection of letters to the editor will be published in future issues of *The Northern Line*.



Annual Membership Meeting & Picnic

by Lori Hanemann

It's your meeting — the Annual Membership Meeting — and you showed up with enthusiasm and excitement! Our entire team of board and staff thank you for the terrific turn-out and support. The weather was welcoming and we put out a plentiful spread of lasagna, Lu-Lu's bread, green salad with homemade dressings, pizza from our wood-fired oven, and HooDoo beer. Volunteer Marilyn Richardson acted as our greeter, as she does every year — thank you Marilyn! We were honored to have in attendance Mike Holloway and his wife Margie, for a book signing of his book *Dreaming Bears*. Past Board member Karl Monetti put together a band to give us enjoyable Hawaiian music throughout the night, and we're still getting feedback about how great they were. Acting Executive Director, Paul Reichardt, got the meeting going by introducing our Board members, Advisory Council, and Junior Advisory Board members. Our award winners were presented certificates and patches for their service to the Center. Paul gave a report on what we have been working on in both the Arctic program and the Clean Water & Mining program, as well as presenting our June Membership Drive information and Annual Report. We tried out a new schedule with a much shorter meeting and more time for conversations and mingling. Let us know what you thought of the meeting so we can make next year even better. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend and many thanks to all of the hard working volunteers who helped put together the fun evening. See you next year!



Hawaiian music was a popular hit at this year's meeting. Photo Sarah Hong



Member Mary Shields presents Service awards to Paul and Terry Reichardt. Photo Sarah Hong.

2014 Awards

Volunteer of the Year
NAEC Facilities Committee

Conservationist of the Year
Susan Grace

Activist of the Year
Ron Yarnell and John Gaedeke

Youth of the Year
Ana Thayer

Business of the Year
Reina, LLC.

Florence Collins Award
Lori Hanemann

Service Award
Paul Reichardt with special mention to Terri Reichardt.



Thorsten Chlupp, right, accepts the award for Business of the Year - Reina, LLC. Photo Sarah Hong.

Meet Elisabeth Dabney, NAEC's New Executive Director



I am pleased to introduce Elisabeth Dabney as the new Northern Center Executive Director. Elisabeth is a lifelong Fairbanksan. She has a B.A. in history from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, has worked at the University of Alaska Press as the acquisitions editor and marketing manager, and more recently has run her own literary agency. She has been an active volunteer for several non-profit and civic organizations including the Northern Center. Her strong background in philanthropy includes volunteer service as a fund-raiser, committee member, political activist in Juneau, and public relations professional. Elisabeth's driving passion is to see Alaska's northern wildlands protected for future generations. We welcome her to our Northern Center family and look forward to her leadership as we build our membership and strengthen our voice for wilderness protection and a healthy environment.

Paul Reichardt, Acting Executive Director

Party for a Purpose

A report on Northern Center House Party fundraisers

by Lori Hanemann

We've been asking you to host a House Party fundraiser to benefit our work and you've been responding — thank you! The way our work is funded is changing as foundation giving is slowing, and we're having to count on unrestricted donations from members to keep doing our work protecting Interior and Arctic Alaska. House Party donations go directly into our general operating fund which helps pay staff salaries and keep the lights on.

Our membership has responded with clever and prosperous ways of hosting parties. The first heroic member to step forward and support us with a party was Martha 'Tako' Raynolds. Tako now lives in the cabin previously owned by the beloved Ginny Wood — legendary Alaska wilderness activist. Tako organized a tea party at the famous cabin and titled it 'Tea at the House of the Grandmothers of Alaska Conservation.' Tako shared some of the history of the cabin, "This house

was the place where Mardy Murie met with Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter to discuss how to best protect Alaska's most valuable and spectacular wilderness. It's the place that the first Alaska conservation organization started in 1960, with the creation of the Alaska Conservation Society. ACS went on to tackle issue such as the Rampart Dam, Project Chariot, ANILCA and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." The small home was packed with friends and supporters who enjoyed a lovely afternoon of tea, treats, and great conversation. Thank you Tako!

Did you get to tour the Sunset Roost House? This was the setting for another successful and fascinating House Party — Karl & Billie Kassel's off-grid renewable energy home in the hills outside of Fairbanks. The Kassels hosted a brunch of homemade southern foods cooked in the oven component of their large and stunning masonry heater. Guests got a personal tour from Karl who highlighted the energy

efficiency elements of the structure and the renewable energy systems utilized to keep the home comfortable all year without using fossil fuels for space heat and only a small amount necessary for back-up domestic hot water and electric. The design and artistic touches throughout their home created a lovely setting for raising support for the Northern Center's work. Thank you Karl and Billie for the successful fundraiser and for being such gracious hosts.

Ian Olson and Janelle Perry welcomed guests into their home for a delectable dinner of Copper River grilled Alaska salmon and vegetables with couscous. As they gathered around the table for this mouthwatering meal, the topic for the night was the Alaska Legislative Session and the legislation and regulations which the Northern Center are working on. As the current Legislative Session was nearing the end, House and Senate bills were seeing a lot of action and movement in committees. The hosts, along with Northern Center staff Pam Miller, were there to provide updates and information on action needed in the diminishing days of session at our state Capitol. Thank you Ian and Janelle for the fun and educational evening as well as the supportive donations we received from your House Party.

If you are interested in hosting a House Party Fundraiser for the Northern Center please write lori@northern.org for more information. Parties don't require a large venue or big crowd. Please consider inviting a few friends over to share with them your interest in northern Alaska wilderness and offer them the opportunity to support the Northern Center just as you do. 🌱



The Kassel's masonry stove was a highlight of their house party. Photo by Karl Kassel

You've Made a Difference

by Lori Hanemann

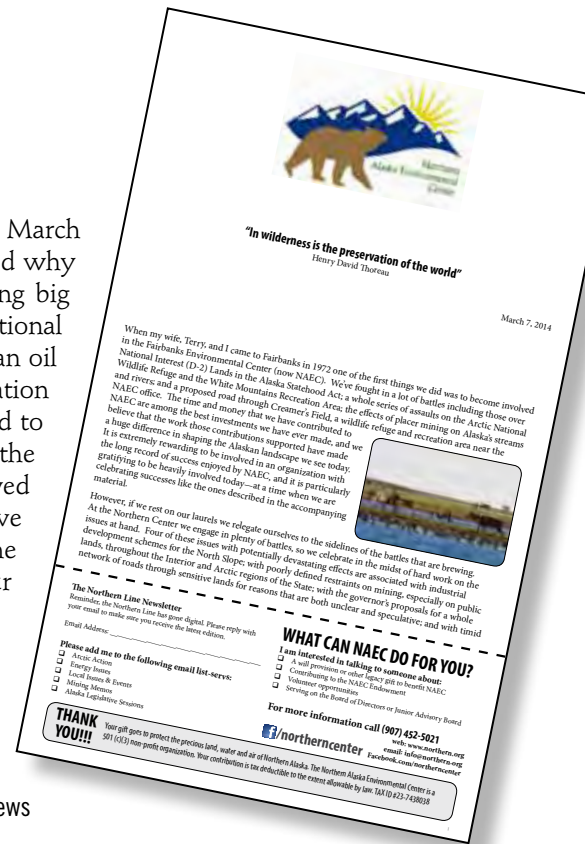
Our Acting Executive Director, Paul Reichardt, wrote to our membership in March asking for your financial support as we face fiscal hard times. He also explained why your donations are so important this year as Alaska's wilderness is also facing big challenges. "We want to fight for you and with you to keep the Gates of the Arctic National Park free from roads; to maintain the Arctic Refuge as a place for caribou rather than oil wells; to ensure that the White Mountains National Recreation Area remains a recreation area rather than a mining district; to protect wildlands and free-flowing streams; and to demand clean air for Fairbanks." Our entire staff and Board say thank you for taking the time to read the appeal and for the plentiful reactions we received! Donations arrived from all around the country. We are appreciative of the support and care you have provided us and we will continue to fight with optimism as together we take on the challenges ahead of us. Thank you to the members listed below who responded to our fund appeal and to the members who help in other ways. 🌱

Glenda Aasland
Dan Adams
Francis Adams
Dr. Vera Alexander
Beverly Anderson
Clifford Anderson
Patricia Barron
Bill & Sue Beaver
Vicky Biondi & Ron Huffman
Marzina Bockler
David & Susan Braun
Abel Bult-Ito
Daniel & Jamie Callahan
Julie Clayman
Doug Colclasure
Frank Maxwell & Jeanie Cole
College of Environmental Sciences /
Williams College
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Walt & Sherry Hunner
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Jan Justice-Waddington
Robert Kaiser
David Klett & Liz Halloran
Jean Kyle
Jessica LeClair
Robert & Dee Leggett
David Levine
Ralph & Margaret Lewis
Sherry Lewis
Rick Luttmann & Chuna Mc Intyre
James & Dee Mahaffey
Philip & Jacqueline Martin

David & Carolyn Matthews
Mary Matthews
Jack & Bette Mc Carron
Alan McGowan
Larry Medland
Rob & Judith Mintz
Kate Moitoret
Philip Moran
Alice Mural
Daniel & Lori Nelson
Carol Nielsen
Jan Ohmstede
Stacy Pargett & Michael J Dixon
David & Patricia Peach
Rich & Dee Ann Peine
Barbara Powell
Herman & Jane Richey
Bob & Bobbie Ritchie
Jean Robbins
Roger & Diane Ruess
Kurt Sahl
Natalie Saltiel
Martin Scharf
Lee Schmidt
Bob & Frances Schulz
Rich & Patricia Seifert
Mary Shields

Anthony Sisto & Deanne Adams
Frank Soos & Margo Klass
Robert & Gail Stagman
Sid Stephens & William Schneider
Kathi Stevens
Alice Stickney
Cindy Stragier
Faith & Piers Strailley
Dorothy Thompson
Robert & Diane Thompson
Karen Toland
Tonya Trabant & Patrick Mc Kenna
Daniel Wallace
Stephen Wallace
Nigel & Avalon Wappett
Thomas Warner
Kesler Woodward & Dorli McWayne
Bernard Zeligman



THANK YOU!

CENTER NEWS EVENTS

THE NORTHERN LINE SUMMER 2014

18th ANNUAL Run for the Refuge



Sunday July 27, 2014 at 1pm
UAF WEST RIDGE SKI HUT

12pm registration on race day (\$5 more)

Early registration \$25 Adults / \$15 Kids

Registration link at www.northern.org

Open to the Public

BROOKS RANGE

Benefit Concert

Join us for live music
performed by
local artists and
help support the
Northern Center's
work to protect the
Brooks Range!

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Saturday, August 9th

**The Back Yard @
the Northern Center
830 College Road**

This stunning wilderness region is being threatened by development plans for a 220-mile industrial road, two open-pit copper mines, and the Bureau of Land Management's Central Yukon Management plan which could open even more land to new mining operations.



Wilderness Has the Power to Heal

By Sherry Lewis

Wilderness can heal. Spring five years ago was devastating to me. I buried my 16 year old dog in April and my Dad in May. In June, I buried my Step-dad. My dog and my Dad had been in decline. My Step-dad's death however was sudden and unexpected. Dealing with my emotions and that of my family's weighed heavily on me.

Luckily, friends had invited me on a raft trip on the Marsh Fork of the Canning River. I kept telling myself "I can make it to the Refuge" (The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). There, I was able to process my emotions in the quiet beauty and peacefulness of wilderness among supportive friends.

Wilderness has the power to heal us and ground us in the simple beauty of being alive. I hope designated wilderness areas will be around for many generations as a healing place for the body and soul, and the earth. 🌱

.....
Sherry grew up on the East Coast but fell in love with Alaska in the 6th grade. She first came north in 1975 to teach preschool in Toksook Bay. Always interested in nature, Sherry was a naturalist/guide at Camp Denali in Denali National Park, for Wilderness Alaska/Mexico on backpacks, and raft trips in Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



Gates of the Arctic by Bill Brody

In 2009 Bill Brody became the first ever winter artist in Gates of the Arctic Wilderness/National Park. With support from sled dogs, he was able to travel throughout the region. This is one of the works he completed on location, portraying the stunning winter landscapes on canvas. See more of Bill's work at www.billbrodyartist.com.



Summer and Fall Wilderness Act 50th Events

The Northern Center has joined with other groups, agencies, and wilderness enthusiasts to plan events and activities as the Fairbanks Committee for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Wilderness Act. Learn more here: www.wilderness50th.org

July 27

Walk for Wilderness ~ Run for the Refuge!

For the Wilderness 50th, we have added a new short "Walk for Wilderness" to our fun, family Run for the Refuge events. The Walk and 5K and 10K Races start at 1 pm at the UAF ski hut. We are looking for volunteers. Contact lori@northern.org.

Aug. 1 (and Sept. 5)

First Friday receptions for Voices of the Wilderness Travelling Art Exhibit 5-8 pm, Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitor Center

Artwork inspired by 20 wilderness areas, sponsored by Alaska Geographic (in Fairbanks July 14 – Sept. 19)

Aug. 13

Call of the Wild: Adventures in Alaska's Arctic Wilderness

7 p.m. UAF Murie Building
Discovering Alaska Lecture by Frank Keim, writer, anthropologist, and environmental activist.

Sept. 1-30

Wilderness Exhibit at Noel Wien Library

Fall Northern Voices Series features three Wednesday evenings of Wilderness Stories
7 pm, Noel Wien Library:

Sept. 24

Voices from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Oct. 22

Voices from the Brooks Range

Nov. 19

Voices from Other Wilderness Areas



Grotto Creek by Bill Brody

Bill Brody painting on location at the seldom visited Grotto Creek in Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness during the summer of 2013. See more of Bill's work at www.billbrodyartist.com.

My Life in Wilderness

by David Payer

My father introduced me to the wilderness of swamps and forest behind my boyhood home. Later I ventured farther into the wilds of northern New England. There I learned to listen to the rhythms of nature. I often travelled alone, and was increasingly drawn to ever more remote places. It was wilderness that called to me in my late 20s when I questioned my headlong career path. I left that behind to travel to the great open spaces of the American West. I spent months at a time without

human company, studying the land's wild inhabitants. Indelible images from those years will always be with me.

The pull of wilderness drew me on, to Alaska. This great northern wilderness moves me like no other, it is my spiritual place where I feel most closely in touch with the energy that connects all things. I am a scientist, trained to interpret things as the sum of their parts. Wilderness teaches me to experience things holistically. Wilderness has challenged me,

but I always return. It's my balm for living on this noisy, devastated planet.

Every time I go to the Arctic wilderness of the Brooks Range I feel I am returning home, to the place I most belong. There will come a time when I won't go back, but until the day I die that wilderness will be part of me, and I'm profoundly grateful to know that because of the Wilderness Act, it will persist long after I'm gone.



Dave Payer is a NAEC member and avid Fairbanks Paddler.

NOATAK WOLVES

We hear them scuffle in the willow scrub,
watch them step one by one into the river,
swim across, single-file, to open ground.
They yip and bark, tumble for an hour,
collapse against each other.

We paddle on, think of them curled asleep
on the tundra, how lucky we were to see them,
when suddenly they appear again:
five wolves perched on a cut bank above us,
shoulder to shoulder, heads cocked, staring.

Miles downstream, we walk up a low ridge:
they're waiting. Closer.
Breeze off the river bells over us.
One breath follows another, and another.
They turn back to their invisible trail.

Time resumes its arc into the future where
a lifetime from now I will relinquish my
last breath, close my eyes, think of them,
their tracks winding up from the river,
my voice whispering, "Wait. Wait."

by Susan Campbell

Why I Value Wilderness

by Susan Campbell

For me, Alaska's wilderness is a refuge and a sanctuary. In the midst of our human struggles to understand endless questions, I have found that when I'm in the wilderness, or even when I'm remembering trips in the wilderness, I feel the mystery of the world held in a delicate balance.

During the 24 years I've lived in Alaska, I've been fortunate to be able to spend time in many of Alaska's wild landscapes. Before his death in 2010, my husband, Keith Echelmeyer, and I would spend at least a month each summer backpacking and paddling across northern Alaska, through places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Noatak National Preserve, and Gates of the Arctic National Park. Last summer, I backpacked, pack-rafted, and kayaked with five friends from the upper Sheenjek River, over the Brooks Range to the Beaufort coast.

Each one of those far-reaching adventures was filled with a multitude of individual experiences. Each one a gift: surrounded by thousands of caribou on the Ekaluakat River, surprised by grizzly bears near Cape Lisburne, stopped motionless in the presence of a wolverine at Demarcation Point, enthralled by the sweeping flights of dozens of jaegers and plovers on the Aichilik River, mesmerized by a wolf pack crossing the Noatak, humbled by immense peaks in the Arrigetch and crumpled sea ice on the Beaufort, surprised by snow in July on the Ribdon, lulled to sleep next to pristine streams, grateful for dry socks and hot tea. I remember each experience with gratitude and I am filled with a renewed sense of hope for our world. 🌱

Susan Campbell has lived in Fairbanks for 24 years, teaching elementary school for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, currently 6th grade at Anne Wien Elementary. She has traveled thousands of miles through Alaska's wilderness areas, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, and pack-rafting.

Celebrate the Wild...In Wilderness

We kicked off celebrations of the Wilderness Act 50th anniversary in Fairbanks with an inspirational talk by Brock Evans, a 50-year veteran of the conservation movement. Also a Marine Corps veteran, shown by the insignia on his blue shirt, Brock spoke about "Wilderness as a fundamental part of our national identity." Brock became a wilderness warrior in the wave of campaigns to designate new Wilderness Areas after the Wilderness Act of 1964. He made many trips to Alaska in the late 1960's and 1970's and was very involved in ANILCA among conservation fights.

Brock told one story about being asked by a Forest Service official after a great public hearing in the North Cascades, "How do you get the quality of people to testify that you do? We can't get that kind of people, they're on the clock." Brock told him over beers, "The reason we do it is because of a 4-letter word. LOVE." According to Brock, "things have an ebb and flow...we win when we act together and fight for what we love." He listed five principles for success (also in his new book, *Fight and Win*):

- Don't be afraid
- Never quit
- Know your facts
- Get involved in politics
- The "Secret Magic" is: endless pressure, endlessly applied.

It was inspiring to hear about the "Secret Magic" from the man who coined it. It has been our mantra so many times in the long wonderful fight and celebration for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska's wild and precious places. 🌱

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDERNESS?

While some spoke up with testimonials at the Celebration of the Wild, others jotted thoughts on index cards afterwards.

Here are four:

"I am a city girl." I was proudly saying so when I was young. After so many stages of my life passed, I found myself over 40 and had nothing particular in which to be proud of myself. "Hum, I am just disappearing from the world. Do I like it? "No." I asked my best friend, Will Steger, what I should do after the Noatak River training trip. I knew I was going to do so, even without his suggestion. The Arctic Wilderness of Noatak River was the definite destination of my life. Wilderness / wildness is the one way to simplify my mind and direction with no doubt. I am here since then, and even found a man to share everything. I celebrate Wilderness.

~ Yoriko Freed



Yoriko Freed and Gail Mayo write about wilderness at the Celebrate the Wild Event. Photo by Pam A. Miller.

Like everyone here I love being outdoors. But what the Wilderness Act means to me is that for once, wilderness voice can be heard as loudly as humans' and nature is given the freedom to make its own choices.

~ Julia Miakley

Wilderness heals and makes us whole in a way that human-made things cannot. But it is not the lack of the human spirit — for that is very much there- tens of thousands of years of being in awe of wilderness.

~ Martha Raynolds

Keep the wild places

*for the river's meander
for the cloven hoof and the wolf's howl
the songbird's nest and wildflower magic
the bumble's buzz and mosquito's whine
the whisper of wind and gentle mist
the howling storm and stinging snow.*

*Let the Wild follow its own pace
free from human entanglement
to show us where we come from
and where we are going.*

~ Gail Mayo



Brock Evans signs book for Gail Mayo at Fairbanks' kick off Wilderness 50th anniversary event. Photo by Pam A. Miller.

Forever Wild: Celebrating Earth Day and Wilderness Act 50th



Above, Susan Grace sings on Earth Day with Peace Choir and young "Chickadees;" also on stage is Andy Keller, Fairbanks Wilderness 50 Committee. Right, Sharon Alden quotes John Muir on stage at Earth Day celebration at Pioneer Park. Photos by Pam A. Miller.

Excerpt from *River Of Light: A Conversation With Kabir*

by John Morgan

River of Light: A Conversation with Kabir is a book-length poem that takes the reader on a week-long raft trip down a wild river in south-central Alaska. The trip becomes a spiritual journey as well, since the poem incorporates commentary by the 15th century Indian mystic poet Kabir (pronounced kuh-BEER), who serves as a kind of mentor for the poem's narrator. Recently published by the University of Alaska Press, the book includes art-work by the distinguished Alaskan artist Kesler Woodward.

The river widens, mountains
backing off. A young bald eagle,
watches from
a branch beside a steep
embankment where
the current swerving
undercuts the rock—
pebbles and sand break loose,
sliding in glitters of
mica, sparks of
ruby, silver-blue and green. We paddle
backwards, hold
our place and gaze
as to our left another
cache spills down with a delicious
sound like
bells—entrancing like a piece
for gamelan. Amazing how this cliff
is opening itself, giving
its wealth away
perpetually to no one
when no one
is here, but now to us. How wonderful
my luck is, says Kabir, my god
caresses me
with tenderness that never ends!

The river quickens, plunging through

a gap with
riffles, whitecaps,
whirlpools, church-size rocks. Our skipper
steers us left, but the raft, defiant,
wanders,
spins. Fighting with paddles,
shouts, as a panicked
swirling shunts us through
the cleft between
one hellish rock
and that sheer cliff—and suddenly, I'm in
the sky,
then under, battling
in the eddy's drum and
thunder, dragged down,
and then
spewed upward,
Maytagged in the clatter,
rack and din
of the cycle's
rinsing spin.
Whirled gasping to the surface—
sucked back in! Friend prophet, have you
any words for me
in my distress? Kabir
replies, There are no travelers on

the river, no ropes, no one to pull.
The breath inside the breath
is all there is.

Strength sapped by cold, I gurgle
to the surface, belch
out water, head
reeling past all speaking as
the raft
pulls up beside me, offering
a paddle which I cling to, gasping,
as my fellow rafters drag
me out. Doused,
chilled—giddy pints of water
bolt my
stomach—laughing, tearing,
gagging,
as I strain to suck air in...

John Morgan moved to Alaska in 1976, to teach in the Creative Writing Program at UAF. He has published five books of poetry and a collection of essays. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and many other journals, as well as in over twenty anthologies. In 2009, he was chosen to be the first Writer-in-Residence at Denali National Park. Learn more about John's work at: <http://www.johnmorganpoet.com/>

Why Alaskans Care About Arctic Refuge Wilderness

We still expect the long awaited Arctic Refuge's final Comprehensive Conservation Plan to come out later this year. It should recommend Wilderness for the Coastal Plain among other areas not yet so designated. As we celebrate 50 years since the Wilderness Act's passage, it is time for President Obama to do everything within his power to advance Wilderness protection for the Coastal Plain this year.

The public provided over 600,000 comments to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the vast majority, including Alaskans, supported Wilderness for the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, not oil development, and sought the wholeness of the refuge to be protected. Here is a sample from Alaskans:

"This is our home, the legacy of our bloodline of ancestors and the spirit of the last great wildlife area on earth."

Rochelle Adams, Beaver

"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."

The late Larry Paquin, Fairbanks

"As an Alaskan who has much income and money to gain if this area is developed I value the wilderness aspect of this land more. It is a treasure that is much more valuable than the oil that lies beneath it. We need to start developing sustainable sources of energy, not unsustainable."

Leslie Law, Juneau

"I don't want to live in an oilfield. I don't want my future generations to live in an oilfield. So those people who support that are going to have to answer to the future generations a hundred years from now."

Robert Thompson, Kaktovik

"We can do this. We can have a civilized wonderful country without the development of fossil fuels."

Susanne Osborn, Fairbanks

"My visit to ANWR was, without a doubt, the greatest experience of my life (I will be 76 years old in ten more days). It is my greatest wish that the ANWR be protected, and left "as is" for others to enjoy, and for the wildlife using it to continue to be able to do so."

Gerald R. Brookman, Kenai

The USA needs wild spaces like this so we can remember and appreciate the power of the natural world."

Krista Mann, North Pole

"This is our home, the legacy of our bloodline of ancestors and the spirit of the last great wildlife area on earth."

Rochelle Adams, Beaver

"Across the Arctic Circle, virtually all major caribou herds are under threat from industrial development. In order to maintain big migratory herds, you must have large landscapes and you can't afford to fraction them."

Dr. Robert White, Caribou Scientist

"This intact community of life should be allowed to exist in its natural diversity, with natural cycles and interactions persisting."

Karl Monetti, North Pole

"We wouldn't know what to do without it. We look forward to caribou every year, year round."

Nina John, Arctic Village

"I believe that resource is the wrong word to use when we refer to Alaska's wilderness because we view resources as something to be used; in fact, to be used up. We must recognize that Alaska's wilderness areas are a national treasure, irreplaceable, to be valued, protected and preserved at all costs."

Vicky Biondi, Fairbanks

"As a young man, when I first heard about a refuge being established, I was in a way very happy because I knew that refuges designed elsewhere in the world were protected as a whole. I do not believe in development on the refuge period."

Clarence Alexander, Fort Yukon

Arctic Refuge Update

State Sues Interior's Sally Jewell over Arctic Refuge Seismic Exploration

by Pam Miller

The State filed a lawsuit (State of Alaska v. Jewell, et al.) in the U.S. District Court of Alaska on March 14, 2014 concerning the Department of the Interior's rejection of State of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge seismic exploration application.

Last May, Gov. Parnell floated a 7-year exploration plan for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge for 3-D seismic surveys covering 3,305 sq mi, 235 miles of ice roads or rolligon trails, and drilling 16 wells to Interior Sec. Jewell (see Northern Line, Summer 2013). Jewell rejected Parnell's offer in June. Gov. Parnell submitted a formal 3-D seismic plan and permit application in July to the Interior Secretary which was rejected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Regional Director as "years too late." The State requested reconsideration to Dan Ashe, Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Director in August; and it was denied in September 2013.

The state's exploration proposal is a threat to the extraordinary values of the Arctic Refuge. The Northern Center and our allied conservation and Alaska Native organizations will take all steps necessary to protect the 'biological heart' of the Arctic Refuge, its Coastal Plain. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is home to some of the most rare, unique, and spectacular wildlife and wilderness in the world and is vital to Gwich'in and other Alaska Native subsistence activities. "Any threats from exploration or development on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge are an affront to the human rights of the Gwich'in," said Princess Lucaj, Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee. "As we have for the last 30 years, we continue to protect the birthing and nursing grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd that maintain our subsistence way of life." 🌱

"If I was governor today, I'd probably invade ANWR," said Dan Sullivan on Ketchikan's KRBD radio on May 14, 2014. "What are they going to do, shoot you?"

(This Dan Sullivan – on the campaign trail for Lt. Governor – is currently mayor of Anchorage, while another Dan Sullivan – running for the seat held by Sen. Mark Begich – was Gov. Sarah Palin's attorney general then Gov. Sean Parnell's DNR commissioner until Sept. 2013).

John Luther Adams Wins Pulitzer for Music

by Pam Miller

In April, Northern Center leader John Luther Adams was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music for *Become Ocean*, a piece premiered by the Seattle Symphony, and called "a haunting orchestral work that suggests a relentless tidal surge, evoking thoughts of melting polar ice and rising sea levels."

Asked what inspired this piece in an NPR radio interview, Adams said, "Aren't we all thinking about global warming all the time? It's perhaps the central defining issue of this moment in our history as a species, so it's always on my mind in everything that I do."

Back in 1982, Adams left the post as Northern Center's Executive Director, after a 3 1/2 year run of dedicated work, to focus on his work as a composer. Early on, the Festival of Native Arts commissioned his piece *Earth and the Great Weather* that included natural sounds from the Arctic. He has composed for orchestra, chamber ensembles, percussion and electronic.

Recently, he told NPR, "part of what I've tried to do in my music, in my life's work, is to try to help us broaden and deepen our attention to the larger music of the world that we inhabit- through listening, maybe to remember our rightful place in the greater scheme of life."

John Adams had moved to Fairbanks in the mid-1970s and became active in the campaign for the Alaska Lands Act. He oversaw our name change in 1981 from the Fairbanks Environmental Center to Northern Alaska Environmental Center to reflect the broader scope of our work. John and his wife Cindy Adams have been long-time Northern Center supporters, and together received our Florence Collins Award for lifetime achievement in 2012. While they moved to New York last year they keep a cabin here and Alaska's wilderness in their hearts. 🌱

Congratulations on your Pulitzer Prize!

Voices Uniting: Public Opposition to the Road to Ambler

by Jill Yordy

We all know that the proposed Road to Ambler would be a scar on the land that we work so hard to protect. This is definitely not just a “greenie” issue and we are starting to see that many people from all walks of life are standing up to say no to this road. Wilderness values, subsistence rights, clean water, economic responsibility, public trust responsibility — these are all reasons that people have given to oppose the road. Hearing individuals speak out is great! Letters to the editor, phone calls to legislators, and donating time or money to help stop the road are incredible ways to take action. But, we also need unified voices of opposition to impact decision makers. In the past six months we have started to see these unified voices emerge through resolutions and petitions.

Five villages from across the area that would be impacted by this road have passed resolutions opposing it — Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Huslia, and Kobuk. The message from all is clear — the risks to their existing way of life and future generations is far greater than any benefits that the road would bring.

A spirit of solidarity has also emerged in some of the efforts to stop the Road to Ambler. The Kobuk Traditional Council worded their resolution as a joint resolution that any tribe, nation-wide, who agrees with the message, can sign on to. We are looking forward to seeing where this open invitation goes! Additionally, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a consortium of 42 federally recognized Native Alaskan tribes, passed a resolution opposing the road at their annual convention to



Many people from the villages of Ambler and Shungnak made the trip by boat on the Kobuk River to attend a public meeting about the Road to Ambler in the village of Kobuk on June 2nd. Photo, Zachariah Hughes, KNOM

show support to the few tribes within TCC that had already passed individual resolutions.

On the national scale we are also starting to see voices of support. The Brooks Range Council, an ad-hoc group that came together to protect the Brooks Range from this threat, has gotten over 1700 signatures on their online petition against the road. Signers from Shungnak, Alaska to Andover,

Massachusetts are showing their desire to protect the Brooks Range, for all its inherent values, from the proposed Road to Ambler. Add your voice here if you agree that this place is worth protecting! 🌱

Petition Link: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/no-road-to-ambler?source=s.tw&r_by=10301568

Alaska Legislative Tally

by Pam Miller

Besides fighting HB 77, we focused on road to Ambler. However a number of other bills flew below the radar, some good, others aimed at silencing Alaskans' voices. We also partnered on the report Easy to Start, Impossible to Finish III. The report highlights 10 major transportation and energy projects started by the State. The projects have an estimated collective cost of \$17.7 billion, and funding all of them is projected to quadruple Alaska's debt service.



UP: HB 77 Dead! ~

The "Silencing Alaskans Act"

This bill would have rolled back safeguards for involving the public in management of state lands and waters. (See article on page 15).



UP: HB 246 Passed ~

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Expanded

This bill promoted by the Wildlife Society's Alaska Chapter added land already owned by the State to the refuge. People had donated these lands to the state intending them to be part of the refuge, and now ADF&G can manage them for that purpose.



UP: SB 211/ HB 371 Died ~

Transferring land from ADNR to ADOT without public process

This bill required ADNR to turn over any non-park land to ADOT that it says it needs for legislatively funded transportation projects. It would silence Alaskans by not requiring public comment or a Best Interest Finding process. Former long-term ADNR officials testified in opposition to the bill.



DOWN: Another \$8.5 million for Road to Ambler in Capital Budget

The state's consultants have estimated the cost of the 200+ mile road to Ambler to be between \$430 and \$990 million. With this year's appropriation of \$8.5 million, Gov. Parnell's capital budgets have provided this project with \$26.25 million over the past five years.



Blanket toss in Barrow by PA Miller ©2006



DOWN: HB 47 Passed

This bill puts a price tag on permit challenges to industrial operations by ordinary citizens by requiring court bonds to be posted. But neither the State nor municipalities have to pay bonds — only individual Alaskans, tribes, and organizations. State permits that have federal oversight through EPA and national surface mine law are excepted.



DOWN: SB 140 Passed

This bill creates an Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund within the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA); provides incentives for development with low interest loans; and sets up complex ways for AIDEA to pay for studies, rights-of-ways, ports, shore-based fishery facilities, and other developments across a huge swath of the state. 🌱

Legal Victory!

Chukchi Sea: wild and free again this year! The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled in *Native Village of Point Hope et al v Jewell* that the Interior Department violated the law when it sold offshore oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea because it did not fully consider environmental risks. Days later, Shell halted plans to drill in the Arctic Ocean off Alaska in 2014.

The Northern Center joined with Point Hope, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and a coalition of other Alaska Native and conservation groups in this series of legal challenges which began prior to the 2008 Chukchi lease sale. For the second time, a court found that the government ignored basic legal protections for our ocean resources in deciding to open the Chukchi Sea to offshore oil leasing. The court ordered that a supplemental EIS with public comment be done and that no drilling can proceed during this new review. The Obama administration now has the chance to seriously re-think whether to allow risky industrial activities in the Chukchi Sea.

As Shell's problems have clearly demonstrated, companies are not ready to drill in the Arctic Ocean. In 2012, Shell's debacle from oil spill equipment failures, environmental violations, grounding of the Kulluk rig, to an engine fire in its Discoverer drill ship led to the company cancel its drilling plans in 2013. This spring the U.S. Coast Guard issued a scathing report and continues legal investigations on the two drilling vessels in which the Commander of the 17th District stated 'I feel that an inadequate determination of risk occurred, demonstrating a lack of respect for the unique risks inherent in Alaskan operations.'

A Victory for the People – House Bill 77 Dies!

by Daniel Inuluk Lum

This year the Northern Center played an important role in a statewide effort to defeat legislation (proposed by our own Governor Parnell) designed to remove Alaskans from the permitting process along State lands and waterways.

House Bill 77 was crafted to strip Alaskans of the ability to comment about development along streams and rivers, and also to make it difficult to challenge bad development project permits or in court. It would have also created a “super” commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources with unequaled permitting powers, able to approve gigantic mega-mines or dams without Alaskans’ full input and participation.

This legislation was so bad, so

outrageous, that citizens organized all over the state to protect our rights in the permit process! Alaskans from all walks of life, tribes, fishermen, and others flooded Legislative Information Offices in communities around the State during House Bill 77 hearings to let their State Senators know that HB 77 was absolutely unacceptable. Fairbanks was no exception.

Northern Center mobilized our members — we were writing letters to the editor, opinion pieces, letters and comments to our legislators and we talked to many others to show up in force to the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office for two statewide hearings. Not everyone got a chance to speak as there were hundreds of Alaskans around the State

overwhelmingly speaking out 4:1 against HB 77 — 137 testified opposed to HB 77 while only 29 in support — from Ketchikan to Kodiak, Sitka to Nuiqsut. The legislative staff at the Fairbanks LIO said that we set a record as to the number of written comments ever submitted during a hearing as everyone who showed up made sure their opinion was heard!

We participated in a statewide effort that was successful to protect our rights and our voices, in the permitting process over our lands and waters! This was a long, hard fought battle — we were successful only because of our members’ active support and linking with others statewide! 🌱

**Thank You,
Northern Center Members!**



A crowd of Fairbanks residents turned out to oppose HB 77 at the March 14 bill hearing at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office. Photo by Pam Miller.

Meet Bennett Wong, Environmental Education Intern!

by Lori Hanemann

The Northern Center is very pleased to offer a summer Internship to a member of our Junior Advisory Board, Bennett Wong. Bennett is currently working on his Masters in Secondary Education, focused on environmental education. With his strong background in education and nonprofit work, Bennett will be working on ramping up our Education Committee, bringing in many of our members and local community residents with education backgrounds.

Bennett is clear on his internship goals: "With my current education, I have skills in research, collaboration, communication, and pedagogy, the culmination of which in the near-term will enable me to work closer with environmental groups in advocacy and promoting stewardship. As a founding member of the Junior Advisory Board, I can couple my own thrilling experience in teaching with an exciting, mutual learning opportunity with this internship to become an effective intern and leader to benefit both our global community and young learners."

This internship is possible because of funding directly from our members for our Fund a Youth program.



Meet Emma, our CWMP Summer Intern!

by Jill Yordy



The Clean Water and Mining Program is going to have an intern this summer, Emma Hedman, to help us out with our No Road to Ambler Campaign! She'll be developing surveys, reaching out to supporters, and tabling at events. Here's a few words from Emma:

"My name is Emma Hedman and I am a recent graduate with a Masters of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. I have a concentration in Ecosystem Science and Conservation and a certificate in community-based environmental management. I have a background in scientific research, but have spent the past two years working on community involvement and education in conservation, issues of environmental justice and equity, and participatory management techniques.

I grew up in rural Maryland, and have always dreamed of traveling across the country and seeing some of the "great outdoors" that made me want to work with the environment and conservation in the first place. I can't wait to explore all Alaska has to offer!"

Thank you to the Alaska Conservation Foundation for their support of this position through their Conservation Internship Program.

Meet Sarah Hong, Arctic Intern

by Pamela A. Miller

Arctic Intern Sarah Hong is the recipient of a Tishman Environmental Merit Scholarship supporting her work this summer at the Northern Center, awarded by The New School. She sent in this introduction:

My name is Sarah Hong and I am a freshman at Parsons the New School of Design. I expect to major in Environmental Studies and minor in Communications Design. Hopefully, I can combine my interest in the arts and green innovation in my future career work. I hail from a small county in Tennessee and grew up loving the rural scenery. I am an experienced fencer and was in the Junior Olympics. Alaska is rich with wildlife and I'm interested in learning more about its diverse ecosystems. The topic of environmental preservation cannot be more relevant. I hope my presence, no matter how small, might make an impact and I'm eager to make a splash.

We appreciate our partnership with The New School, fostered by professor Alan McGowan since his visit to Fairbanks last summer.



Experience and Defend the White Mountains

by Lori Hanemann

An April ski trip into the White Mountains was enough motivation to get our Junior Advisory Board excited about heading into the popular Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Area in Fairbanks' backyard. Lilly Sawle, Callen Christensen, and Ana Thayer were thrilled to meet up with our Acting Director, Paul Reichardt, to ski out to Lee's Cabin — one of the twelve public cabins in the recreation area. We have an amazing group of members at the Northern Center; and, when they heard our Junior members were going to do this trip, William Walters and William Schneider packed up and led the way mushing with their dog-teams as support. Board member Carol Norton and her husband Dave also joined the enthusiastic group and hauled firewood out to the cabin. The skiers were delighted they didn't have to carry all of their gear on their back or pull sleds and that the beautiful strong dogs would do the chore for them. Besides learning about the dogs, the trail system, and the grand landscape, the group also learned that the White Mountains are under threat from a potential mining leasing program.

Earlier in the year, the Northern Center organized its members to learn about the plan and testify at local hearings. Pam Miller, our Arctic Program Director reports, "BLM plans to release its final plan later this year, and is in the final steps of deciding its preferred alternative. It is still considering opening the White Mountains NRA in the headwaters of Beaver Creek Wild River to a mining leasing program (hardrock minerals, placer gold mining) that is unlike any in the nation; there is no mining there today. It is also still considering opening parts of the Steese National Conservation Area to mining claims (hardrock and placer), to oil and gas leasing near Preacher Creek on its north side and around the Birch Creek headwaters area next to some pre-ANILCA mining claims."

Experiential learning leaves a lasting impression. Our members joining together and recreating in this stunning place we protect has reinforced for them that the White Mountains is no place for mining. Please 'LIKE' the I Love the White Mountains Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ILoveTheWhiteMountainsAlaska>) to keep up to date on information about the final plan from BLM, and post pictures of yourself out experiencing the White Mountains to the Facebook page so everyone can see the beauty and importance of protecting this one of a kind place. 🌱



William Walters readies his dog team to haul supplies to Lee's Cabin. Photo by Paul Reichardt



William Walters dog team lead the way to the cabin. Photo by William Walters

**I ♥ The
White Mountains**
www.northern.org



Callen, Paul, and Lilly enjoy Lee's Cabin, part of BLM's trail cabin system in the White Mountains. Photo by William Walters