

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

Fall/Winter 2010 Volume XXXII, Number 3

Momentum

Arctic Protection: Make it public. Make it personal.

Celebrate it!

Grand Prize winning image from our photo contest and cover of our 2011 Arctic Refuge 50th Anniversary Calendar. See Page 10 for details on how you can get a copy of this special calendar! *Kongakut River Delta* © Cameron Baird.

The protection of wild and special places in America's Arctic has always been close to the hearts of Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) board, staff, and members. Thanks to your support and participation in the **public hearing and comment process**, this year NAEC has taken a strong conservation message to planners and managers in both the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and farther west in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Offshore, NAEC's efforts to protect Arctic seas and coasts against the growing threat of offshore oil drilling gained momentum in the wake of April's oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico (p. 6), but your voice remains critical if we are to prevent such a catastrophe in the Arctic.

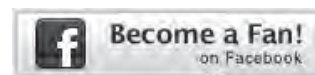
Your **personal actions** can also help tremendously to protect wild and special places—oil, gas and coal development are, after all, driven by our energy needs. Look for reminders about upping your energy conservation game as we head into another spectacular winter (p. 5). Those energy-savvy practices will also pay off in improved air quality and reduced exposure to toxic waste for you and your neighbors (p. 3).

And then there is **celebrating!** NAEC continues a year-long series of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (p. 6). The Refuge's unparalleled wilderness qualities have inspired activists from the venerable Ginny Wood (p. 6) to NAEC's newest staffer (p. 9, Jenna). Get *your* inspiration at the next Northern Voices event or NAEC book club gathering (p. 12). And then join us for a big **Arctic Refuge 50th Party at NAEC's Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction** on November 6 at the Princess Hotel. I look forward to celebrating with you!

Karen Max Kelly, *Executive Director*

CONTENTS

NAEC Member Profile	2
Membership Survey	2
Building Healthy Communities ...	3
EPA to Strengthen Regulations ...	3
Summer Clean Energy Report	4
Camp Habitat's 20th Season	4
Smarter, Not Harder	5
Conversations About Wilderness ...	6
Ginny Wood Received Medal	6
Hot Race Celebrates Arctic Refuge	8
Finding Caribou: A Love Story	9
Thank You's	9
Citizens' Guide to Mining	10
Meet Pete Dronkers	10
Bear Tragedy and Triumph	11
2010 NAEC Award Winners	12
Calendar of Events	12



NORTHERN CENTER

Save The Date!

NAEC ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION

50^{WILD} YEARS

Celebrating the Arctic National
Wildlife Refuge!

SATURDAY, NOV. 6

5pm Doors Open / Silent Auction
6pm Sit-down Dinner
7pm Outcry Auction
@ the Princess Hotel.
Admission by Reservation Only

\$30/person includes choice of entrée
RESERVE YOUR SEAT by 5pm Nov. 3!
CALL (907)452-5234 to reserve by
credit card STOP BY the NAEC to
reserve and pay with cash, check or
credit card.

The Northern Line

Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

The Northern Line is published by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC), 830 College Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701. EMAIL: info@northern.org WEB: www.northern.org Copyright © 2010 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$35 annually and includes membership. We encourage submission of letters and articles for publications. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has 1376 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.*

STAFF

Karen Max Kelly, *Executive Director*
 Lori Hanemann, *Membership Coordinator & Office Administrator*
 Jenna Hertz, *Program Assistant*
 Lissa Hughes, *Legislative Liaison & Conservation Solutions Coordinator*
 Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Program Director*
 Jessie Peterson, *Renewable Energy Program Director*
 Amy Snider, *Campus Energy Organizer*
 Laenne Thompson, *Communications & Development Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Pendergrast (*President*), Cara Brunk (*Vice President*),
 Trey Simmons (*Treasurer*), Lou Brown (*Secretary*), Dan Adams,
 Jon Miller, Karl Monetti, Paul Reichardt, Bill Schneider, Judie Triplehorn, and Mary Walker.

ADVISORY BOARD

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

Edited by Laenne Thompson
 Layout by 5th Avenue Design & Graphics, Inc.
 Printing by Advance Printing

JOIN the NAEC BOARD



NAEC Board, September 2010. © Laenne K. Thompson

Serve on the NAEC Board and help shape strategy and policy, fundraise, keep track of budgets, look over legal proceedings and more. Big picture thinkers and doers have kept the organization on-track for nearly 40 years. Be part of the legacy of habitat protection in Interior and Arctic Alaska!

Contact Don Pendergrast for details: don_pendergrast@yahoo.com

Membership Notes

MEMBER PROFILE:

Eva Saulitis

Where your feet are right

now: On Cape Cod; I'm visiting family. When I'm technically home, my feet are in Homer, but when I'm really home, my feet are wandering (shoeless if possible) through the muskeg bogs of Prince William Sound.

Occupation: Writer; Associate Prof. of Creative Writing at UAA; marine biologist.

Favorite Mountain:

Grace Ridge, in Kachemak Bay State Park

Favorite ice cream flavor:

Prudhoe

Outdoor recreation of choice: Hike, pick berries, run, walk, bike, hide in nature.

Became a member of the Northern Center because...: Because of the passion of the people associated with it, especially Larry Landry, Celia and Ginny, and for their passion for protecting the wild lands and wildlife of Alaska.

Member since: 1990

When I travel, I always bring my: journal, and way too many poetry books to ever read.

3 things that can always be found in your refrigerator: Ancient Latvian sourdough starter, ancient miso soup paste, and fresh vegetables.

Special talents: Creative writing, naming killer whales, baking Latvian bread, making wreaths out of bull kelp and other things I find on the beach.

We like to learn more about you, our members, so we can better serve and engage you. We like to know where you travel, why you're part of NAEC, and other fun facts. Occasionally we'll publish these, so you can get to know your fellow NAEC supporters. To share your info, send an email to Membership Coordinator Lori Hanemann at lori@northern.org and she'll be in touch.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DATABASE!

We are pleased to announce that we installed a new powerful database system for membership & volunteer management. To get the best productivity out of this software, we need accurate and current member information. **Please send us your updated contact information so we can keep you engaged and informed: SEND TO lori@northern.org**

2010 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

What motivates you to be a member of the Northern Center? We'd like to learn why you're committed to our organization, and this fall we'll be sending out a Membership Survey to help us answer that question.

How do you connect with NAEC? What environmental topics interest you most? We would like to discover better ways to communicate with you and make sure we're working on your behalf for issues you value.

FOR THE NEXT for the next

The NAEC is now part of "For the Next" a website that brings together everyday people, who want to help make a positive impact, with a community of environmental nonprofit organizations that share their ideals. Make a secure donation and learn about other environmental non-profits doing great work for the next generations! **SEE MORE at www.forthenext.org**



Eva Saulitis with her dog, Gris-Gris, on Grace Ridge in Kachemak Bay State Park.

Protecting Our Communities & Protecting Our Health

By Lissa Hughes

Borough Implements Wood Stove and Wood-fired Boiler Replacement Program

On June 10, 2010, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly took progressive measures to protect the public's health by adopting Ordinance 2010-28, which creates a PM2.5 Air Quality Control Program and tightens up regulations on wood smoke. A recent study released by the state Department of Health revealed that when pollution levels are high in Fairbanks from PM2.5, more people go to the hospital. Pollution data were compared to the rate and timing

of hospital visits as related to worsening levels of particulates. Particulate matter is small particles and liquid droplets. The particulates are small enough to travel into the lungs, which increases the risks of heart attack and stroke, lung inflammation and the occurrence of asthma attacks. In an effort to reduce particulates from wood smoke, the Borough Program features a Voluntary Wood Stove and Wood-fired Boiler Repair and Replacement Program that provides financial incentives

to remove, replace, or repair older, more polluting wood-burning devices. \$1 million has been dedicated to pay residents to either remove a stove, replace and old stove with a more efficient model or repair damaged stoves. For more information on the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Voluntary Wood Stove and Wood-fired Boiler Exchange Program or to see if you qualify, please visit www.aqfairbanks.com. ☘

EPA Looks to Strengthen Regulations for Coal Ash

Coal combustion waste, or coal ash, is the particulate material that remains after coal is burned. It contains dangerous toxins that can cause cancer, damage the respiratory, cardiovascular and nervous systems. Living near coal-fired power plants, coal ash ponds, landfill sites, or coal amended soil can put people at risk.

Alaska has six coal-fired power plants located between Fairbanks and Healy. Coal ash from these facilities is either dumped in landfills or reused as fill in public spaces, university grounds, and residential neighborhoods. Improper storage and reuse of coal ash threatens

the public health of our community by exposing Alaskans to toxic chemicals. Exposure can occur by touching coal ash, inhaling particulates, drinking water, or consuming fish or other foods that have been contaminated with coal ash.

The EPA is now considering two possible alternatives for federal regulation of coal ash: "Subtitle D," would set guidelines for coal ash disposal, but allow states to opt out of them. Storage sites not following the optional guidelines could be labeled as "open dumps" — and then citizens would have to file suit against utility companies in order to enforce the legal prohibitions against open dumps.

"Subtitle C," would enact strong, federally enforceable safeguards that guarantee coal ash will not pollute our drinking water, our rivers, our streams, our wildlife and our communities. This option is overwhelmingly more protective of human health and the environment. ☘



Dumping steaming coal ash in Fairbanks, AK June 2010
© Russ Maddox

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tell the EPA you want strong protections in place against toxic coal ash! Submit comments for the EPA's public comment period, which ends NOVEMBER 19.

Urge the adoption of "Subtitle C," a clear definition of "beneficial use," and prohibit coal ash as mine-fill. Refer to docket number EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640

- **SUBMIT COMMENTS ONLINE**
www.regulations.gov and follow directions (may be anonymous).
- **EMAIL** rcra-docket@epa.gov with the docket # subject line (not anonymous)
- **FAX** 202-566-0272, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640
- **MAIL** (include 2 copies):
Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-RCRA-2009-0640 Environmental Protection Agency 5305T 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20460

For more information about coal ash, please contact Lissa Hughes, Legislative Liaison & Conservation Solutions Coordinator at (907)452-5021 ext. 22

A Summer of Clean Energy

By Amy Snider and Siri Simons

In May we were hired by Alaskans for Energy Freedom, a coalition of over 30 organizations working to move Alaska toward a sustainable, clean energy future by decreasing our reliance on coal-fired power generation and mining. Our role was to promote energy efficiency in the community, since using less power to do the same amount of work will decrease our need for coal consumption.

At various events around Fairbanks, including the Midnight Sun Festival and the Tanana Valley State Fair, we engaged the community by distributing educational materials and energy efficient light bulbs. We worked with an energetic group to develop letters to the editor and had a weekly presence in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner. Five letters have appeared thus far, with hopefully more to come. On July 4th we collected hundreds of written and photo petitions in Seward to support a law prohibiting mining in a salmon stream.

We celebrated individual measures and collaborative efforts for energy efficiency in Fairbanks at Sean McGuire's Cloudberry Bed & Breakfast. Speaker, Jessie Peterson and Gary Newman urged Golden Valley Electrical Association (GVEA) ratepayers to keep asking the cooperative to invest in clean energy. At every event we collected hundreds of signatures for our letter of support that strongly suggests GVEA increase its commitment to energy efficiency. Finally, we filmed local ratepayers who have benefited from investing in energy efficiency in their own homes. Look for a link to our film at www.alaskacoal.org. We especially thank the Alaska Conservation Foundation, NAEC, and Alaskans for Energy Freedom for providing us with this opportunity. We are grateful to the Cloudberry Bed & Breakfast for hosting our clean energy celebration and potluck. Finally, we would not have been able to do any of this without our wonderful volunteers and film subjects; thank you for your interest in these issues and caring about our community. ♡

Camp Habitat's 20th Season: Success & Growth

By Adele Wiejaczka



Campers hug a Birch tree. Hitting the trail at Camp Habitat.

Camp Habitat was in such high demand this year that new sessions were opened to accommodate all of the campers interested in attending. We also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of camp in June, and Camp Habitat founder, Susan Grace, produced a Camp Habitat CD with all of our favorite camp songs. It was an exciting summer! Thanks to local donations and grants, Camp Habitat was able to purchase the needed materials for the record enrollment year and allowed us to host a staff intern again. We had another top-notch staff who hailed from both the local area and across the country, which added to the energy and excitement that constantly surrounds our camper village at Creamer's Field Refuge. There were many highlights

this camp season, including: original camper songs, an "award-winning" staff-produced tracking skit, and outstanding overnights in the boreal forest. With the help of 2010 staff we added curriculum pieces and activities that will help camp to be engaging and fresh each year for returning campers. The campers themselves will always remain the most memorable; the audible and frequent wishes to attend camp "all summer long!" and the looks of awe and excitement as they observed an insect. This enthusiasm to explore, innate curiosity, and sheer joy campers demonstrate especially while singing and dancing to the "Habitat Song" (and typically keep singing for weeks after camp!) is what makes Camp Habitat a true success year in and year out! ♡

Smarter, Not Harder: Save Big with Energy Efficiency

By Jessie Peterson

You may be wondering, “is *energy efficiency* anything more than the new buzz phrase around Alaska? Will it actually make a difference in our statewide energy needs, and in my personal banking account?”

Fortunately, yes – energy efficiency is much more than a catchphrase, and Alaska is poised to take meaningful steps towards significantly reducing energy demand in the coming years. The less energy we demand, the less pressure for mega-energy projects and reliance on dirty fuels such as coal. Implementing some basic efficiency measures into your home and workspace, and on a broader level into our statewide utility policies, are the first steps towards a clean energy future, stable energy rates, and a warmer home during the long Fairbanks winter.

The most daunting aspect of any new idea is implementation. Where does one begin with energy efficiency improvements? The first step to make significant energy improvements in a home or business is to complete an energy audit. Energy audits identify specific inefficiencies that are wasting energy (and money), and can provide a clear path to make significant efficiency improvements. The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation also provides no-cost home weatherization improvements for qualified home owners and renters. To learn more about how to get started, visit the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation website (details below).

While you are waiting for your weatherization upgrades or energy audit, start today with simple steps that will save energy and money immediately. Turning the temperature on your water heater from 135°F to 120°F can save you more than \$20/month on your utility bill, as water heaters typically consume



Easy energy efficiency habits allow for cleaner, cheaper, and healthier ways to power our homes this winter.

14% - 20% of household energy. Eliminate phantom energy loads that use power even if the appliance is turned “off” by using power strips instead. And if you haven’t yet

invested in compact fluorescent lights, do it today! CFLs use 75% less energy than regular bulbs, and an average household that changes 30 bulbs to CFLs can save \$440 - \$1,500 over the 5-year lifespan of the bulbs. Lower your thermostat at night and when you’re not at home to reduce your monthly heating needs, and do not forget to check your window and door seals. A well-insulated home will

use significantly less energy. Simple measures, huge savings.

If the costs of energy improvements and weatherization seem daunting, remember that energy efficiency improvements are an investment, not simply an expense. There are home energy rebate programs and assistance for low-income households and renters available through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. And if you have old, inefficient appliances, look to replace them with *Energy Star* models. Take the steps this year to improve the efficiency of your home, and reap the benefits for years to come.

Implementing a few (or all!) of these basic energy efficiency measures into your home or business will increase Alaska’s momentum of moving towards a clean energy state. Our local economy will benefit from energy efficiency improvements, as energy saved equates to budget savings and more ability to invest in local businesses. Simply put, energy efficiency is the cleaner, healthier, cheaper way to power our homes – and communities. ☘



WHAT YOU CAN DO

LEARN MORE about home energy rebates and weatherization programs here

www.ahfc.state.ak.us/home/index.cfm

REVIEW Energy Star appliances and learn about rebates, improvements and savings here www.energystar.gov



Conversations about Arctic Wilderness

By Pamela A. Miller



Conservationist Ginny Hill Wood, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Director Geoff Haskett, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Acting Director Rowan Gould at Presentation of Citizen's Award © Amy Johnson

Happy Birthday Arctic Refuge! 50 years is just the beginning

Ginny Hill Wood, 93, is one of the visionary leaders among Alaskans who worked to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 50 years ago. In August the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presented a national award to Ginny for her role in Alaska conservation. "My first act as an environmentalist was to testify at the Fairbanks field hearing on the establishment of the Arctic Refuge," said Wood. She is still here to guide us as a new generation celebrates this remarkable achievement.

Later in August the Interior Department kicked off their 50th celebration in Anchorage with birthday cake and a sneak preview of the film *America's Wildest Refuge*. Assistant Interior Secretary Tom



Strickland, after camping in the refuge, said, "The Arctic Refuge is truly the wildest place in America and one of the greatest wilderness areas on earth... We met with tribal leaders in Arctic Village who have depended on the caribou that have migrated there for thousands of years... Elder Sarah James said to us, 'wilderness is to leave the land as the creator made it.'" Strickland noted Ginny's contribution to Eisenhower's establishment of the refuge December 6, 1960, and said, "Let's keep it like it is for another 50 years, then 500 years, and the next thousand years."

On September 27 the Fish & Wildlife Service announced it will move forward with the wilderness review for all lands in the Arctic Refuge not yet designated as Wilderness – including the "1002" Coastal Plain area. **THANK YOU** for all

your comments, including public hearing testimonies – they made a difference! Watch our website for information on the draft Conservation Plan in early 2011. www.northern.org.

What Lessons Does the Arctic Refuge Offer us Today?

Americans made a commitment to protect the Arctic Refuge wilderness as an intact landscape in 1960. This enduring protection is an emblem of hope for future generations. It shows we can find solutions to problems in the face of climate change, and while rapid industrialization heads north. Visionary Alaskans showed boldness in setting aside this special place. Today, we must show restraint, especially in the wake of BP's Gulf of Mexico spill, which heightened our nation's awareness of the cost of drilling.

"True national security lies in our hearts," said Glendon Brunk in *The Last Great Wilderness* slideshow, produced in 1990, the year after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He noted greater benefit from increasing fuel economy standards than from opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling. Still, today, setting aside whatever oil and gas might exist in the refuge, as a first step, shows our intent to address climate change and move Alaska and the nation away from fossil fuels and on a new direction of clean, renewable energy for sustainable communities. Author Terry Tempest Williams dedicated her September lecture at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to the Arctic Refuge 50th anniversary. She shared a quote from her mentor and Arctic Refuge founder, Mardy Murie, who said, "If you take one step with all the knowledge you have, there is usually just enough light shining to show you the next step."

Seeds for Protection Planted at Western Arctic Hearing

The Bureau of Land Management began a plan for the entire National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska that will encompass the full range of values of the lands and their future management—not just oil and gas leasing. On September 13 it was a remarkable hearing in Fairbanks where 15 people spoke from their hearts about the values of intact ecosystems with rich wildlife habitat, subsistence and Alaska Native cultural values, wild rivers, pristine coasts, and wilderness in the Western Arctic; all of which would be lost to oil and gas leasing. Unlike the Anchorage hearing, which was dominated by oil and gas interests and the Alaska Miner's Association, the public – including NAEC members – had the floor to describe the remarkable lands they had experienced on trips via boat, dog sled, and snow machine. It was a night to discuss climate change impacts on ecological processes, caribou and coasts, and the lasting harm seen from oil development.

Dr. David Klein, *UAF Arctic Biology Professor Emeritus*, said, “You don’t even have the basic ecological inventory data that is needed for a plan to base decisions upon.” Jenna Hertz, new *NAEC Program Assistant*, said she had grown up in Detroit by the first paved road in America and that permanent roads would change everything in the Western Arctic. She remarked, “We are answerable to an old, more sacred reality that the whole is worth more than its parts. As a society, we have to have the courage to draw lines, to protect special areas like Teshekpuk Lake, Kasegaluk Lagoon, Utukok Uplands, Colville, DeLong Mountains... ‘Utukok’ means old and ancient, we need to use this knowledge.”

Carol Kasza, *Wilderness Guide* with the family business, *Arctic Treks*, said, “Protect areas as large as possible. Special areas need to be authentically managed, not just as names... We need to think in a bigger way about what meeting the energy needs of the nation is.” Earlier Hertz noted, “We are not short of energy but short on imagination.” NAEC’s Youth Activist of the Year, Joseph Randsell-Green, said, “Keep oil and gas out of the calving, insect relief, and migratory routes of the Teshekpuk Lake and Western Arctic Caribou Herds. The Arctic is changing, and the least we can do is minimize the impacts on the land.”

The next night, Williams asked Debbie Miller to the stage to answer a question about how the rhetoric of Alaskans may be different from the Lower 48. She said about the previous night’s Western Arctic hearing, “In this meeting we’re planting a seed of hope that in the future some of this area would be protected.”



Photo contest entrant Melissa Head captured Fragg Ice in the braided river shallows along the Upper Kongakut River
©Melissa Head

Protect Special Areas in the Western Arctic

In 1976 Congress recognized and directed the BLM to provide “maximum protection” for Special Areas in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). In September 2010 the NAEC submitted a number of requests to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in scoping comments for the new plan covering the entire NPR-A. Below are some of NAEC’s comments:

- ❖ Existing Special Areas need stronger protection: **Teshekpuk Lake, Kasegaluk Lagoon, Colville River, and Utukok River Uplands.** Additional biological hotspots also deserve more protection: **Peard Bay, Ikpikpuk River, and Dease Inlet, including no oil and gas leasing in the most sensitive areas with concentrated wildlife.**
- ❖ In the South of the Reserve, another new Special Area is needed in the **DeLong Mountains and Arctic Foothills in the remote headwaters of the Colville and Utukok River.** This area provides habitat for bear, wolf, wolverine and caribou as well as high wilderness and wild river values.
- ❖ There should be no leasing of oil and gas or coal bed methane or permanent infrastructure, including roads and pipelines, within the primary calving and insect relief habitats and migration routes of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herds.
- ❖ Cumulative impact analysis should look at climate change and industrial activities, including:
 - Potential Chukchi and Beaufort Sea offshore exploration and development activities, infrastructure, and spills
 - Onshore oil & gas exploration and development, pipelines and other infrastructure and pollution
 - The State’s proposed Road to Umiat & other transportation; Alaska Natural Gas Pipelines and spur routes
 - Coal and hardrock mining exploration and development beyond the Reserve’s border
 - Climate change impacts on fish & wildlife habitats, ecological processes, and science gaps to be filled
- ❖ Coal and hardrock exploration and mining in the NPR-A should continue to be prohibited by law and beyond the scope of this planning process.
- ❖ By keeping Special Areas off limits to oil and gas leasing and development, and by recognizing wildlife habitat, subsistence, wild river, and wilderness values, BLM can find the necessary balance in managing the Reserve to meet energy needs, incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation precautions, and conserve special ecological and cultural areas of America’s Arctic.

Hot Race Celebrates Arctic Refuge 50th

By Hannah Thornton



Nearly 200 runners and walkers came out on a hot day to race for the Arctic Refuge. © Laenne K. Thompson

This year's Run for the Refuge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on a memorable, hot, sunny day of 91°F with more than 200 runners, volunteers and supporters! A record number of 188 runners participated in this 14th Annual event on Sunday, August 15th. Runners and walkers ages 4-82 took part in the 5 & 10K race through the beautiful boreal forest on the University of Alaska Fairbanks ski trails. The men's winner and the first finisher of the 5k race was Jason Walker, 32, with a time of 18 minutes, 26 seconds followed shortly by the women's 5K winner, Christina Turman, with a time of 21 minutes, 1 second. The winner of the 10k men's race, Dylan Nixon-Helms, 17, finished in 39 minutes, 59 seconds, and Wendy Sailors-Johnson, 41, took the women's race with a time of 46 minutes, 28 seconds. The race this year was dedicated to Fairbanks conservationist Virginia "Ginny" Wood, who received the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Citizen's Award earlier in the week. The race brought together Fairbanks' fine and diverse citizens and businesses in celebration of the Arctic Refuge and many special, protected, and wild places. 🍄



THANK YOU

to the generous 2010 Run for the Refuge sponsors and dedicated, hardworking volunteers and supporters!

SPONSORS Alaska Salmon Bake and Palace Theatre, Apocalypse Design, Arctic Audubon Society, Arctic Traveler's Gift Shop, Arctic Treks, Beaver Sports, Blockbuster Video, Bruegger's Bagels, Calypso Farm and Ecology Center, Cold Spot Feed, College Coffeehouse, Frontier Outfitters, Gambardella's, Grassroots Guitar, Gulliver's Books, Homegrown Market, Hot Licks, Joanne Gates Massage Therapy Assoc., Lavelle's Bistro, McCafferty's Coffee House, Nomadic Stars, Northern Alaska Tour Company, Pike's Landing, Prospector Outfitters, Raven Cross Country, Sam's Club, The Blue Loon, The Great Alaskan Bowl Company, Wright Air and Zoodio Studio, Janet Cerretani.

VOLUNTEERS Stacey Baldrige, Lisa Baraff, Kevin Brinegar, Dawson Fickus, Lori Hanemann, Jenna Hertz, Mindy Juliana, Stan Justice, Karen Kelly, John Lyle, Matt McGill, Ben Nelson, Hollie Nunez, Keith Pollock, Sarah Ronea, Aurora Roth, Joan Sargent, Mary Shields, Robert Stolzberg, Toka Smith, Laenne Thompson, and Adele Wiejaczka.

Finding Caribou: A Love Story

By Jenna Hertz

NAEC welcomes back 2009 Arctic Program Intern, Jenna Hertz, to Fairbanks where she is settling in for the long, cold, dark winter (her first in Alaska!) after graduating from Kalamazoo College. Jenna is assisting NAEC Program Directors with their work and shares this personal tale of inspiration.

I came to Alaska for the first time last June as an NAEC Arctic Program Intern through the Alaska Conservation Foundation's internship program. Growing up on the words of Emerson, Goodall, and Naess in suburban Detroit, Alaska was the landscape of my dreams. At Kalamazoo College I became fascinated with ideas of frontier mythology, indigenous wisdom, and environmental history. I spent my junior year studying at the Institute for Sustainable Development Studies International in Chiang Mai, Thailand where I had the privilege of interning with EarthRights International as a teacher at the Burma School. I learned far more from my Burmese students than I could hope to imagine they learned from me; the most important thing being that life is far too precious to spend even a minute not pursuing your deepest dreams.

Everything that has happened since I applied to intern at the NAEC seems to follow the narrative of a love story. Last summer I lived in Torre and Janet Jorgenson's cabin and enjoyed many hours biking through Goldstream Valley. Working alongside fellow Arctic Program Intern, Stacey Baldrige, on the Alaskan Voices project, I spent many memorable hours talking with over 50 Alaskans about why the Arctic Refuge is such a special place. The eloquence of these remarkable participants was more than convincing, and as I returned to Michigan to finish my final year of school and write my thesis on "Rampart Rhetoric: The Role of Frontier Mythology on the Development of Alaska's Natural Resources and Identity," Alaska was never far from my heart.

Before returning to Alaska this summer I prepared a laundry basket full of "winter clothes" and consoled my parents that it was "just in case." After only a week of living in a wall tent on Jen and Larry Landry's property on the banks of Goldstream Creek I knew that I would need that basket. Among the many wonderful things that this summer has brought, the highlight was an early September caribou hunt with Jon Miller. At the edge of the Arctic Refuge I discovered an entirely new palate of favorite colors, a journal's worth of inspiration, and a more honest and holistic understanding of the interconnectivity of life. As yet another best summer of my life comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on how incredibly fortunate I am to be surrounded and embraced by the wonderful community of Fairbanks. I look forward to my first winter and all of the adventures and cold toes I am sure it will bring.



Jenna finding caribou north of the Brooks Range © Jon Miller

THANK YOU TO...

...our Book Fair Helpers!

Sarah Campbell
Merritt Helfferich
Nancy Kuhn
Margaret Randsell-Green

...our spirited "caribou herd" cheered on by Arctic Intern Hannah Thornton in the Golden Days Parade!

Stacey Baldrige
Elizabeth & Rilene Ann Bilecki
Jenny and Kira Campbell
Nancy Fresco and twins
Janice Golub
Jenna Hertz
Karen Kelly
Bess Matlock
Debbie & Robin Miller
Pam Miller
Don & Tracie Pendergrast
Lisa Schumacher

...our many friends who volunteered at the Tanana Valley State Fair Booth

Dan Adams
Martin Becker
Nicole Eiseman
Dawson Fickus
Betsy Greslin
John Hagey
Lori Hanemann
Glynn Hoener
Stan Justice
Karen Kelly
Nancy Kuhn
Larry Landry
Laurel & Ed McLaughlin
Karl Monetti
Ritchie Musick
Carol Nielsen
Barb O'Donnell
Jan Ohmstede
Don Pendergrast
Jessie Peterson
Paul Reichardt
Marilyn Richardson
Aurora Roth
Cindy Shagren
Brad Snow
Dan Swift
Paulette Willie
Christiana Wright

Citizens' Guide to Hardrock Mining in Alaska:

A General Guide on Required Mining Permits in Alaska

By Jennifer Hanlon

This summer, the NAEC's Clean Water & Mining Program - in partnership with the True North Foundation - researched, wrote, and produced a new publication entitled "Citizens' Guide to Hardrock Mining in Alaska." Our goal with authoring the *Citizens' Guide* is to provide citizens with general information on the permitting process required for hardrock mining and how to get their voices heard.

Despite Alaska's long history with mining, the pace and scale of mining has grown significantly in recent decades. Environmental regulations are relatively new in comparison. Over 90 percent of state lands, approximately 25 percent of federal lands and most private lands in Alaska are open to mineral exploration and development. This vast area of land open to mineral entry in Alaska is equivalent to the total area of the State of Texas (268,601 square miles) plus the State of Maine (30,865 square miles). With such a vast amount of land open to mineral entry, many Alaskan communities could be potentially impacted by mining. There are many federal, state, and local government permits are required before the construction and operation of a mine- regardless of land ownership. The *Citizens' Guide* compiles information on the major requirements into one resource.

The *Citizens' Guide* will be a resource for concerned citizens around the state who want information on the permitting process required for hardrock mining operations in Alaska. The topics in the *Citizens' Guide* will include the major permits required by federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; state authorizations and requirements such as water quality standards and reclamation plans and bonds; the National Environmental Policy Act process and commenting opportunities; and government-to-government consultation. The *Citizens' Guide* focuses on hardrock mining and not placer/dredge and recreational mining or extraction of energy sources such as coal.

The *Citizens' Guide* will be available in PDF format on the NAEC's website upon publication so check the website often! Hard copies will also be available upon request. 🐾



WELCOME PETE DRONKERS

Clean Water & Mining Program Director

Pete joins the NAEC after working on several environmental campaigns in Nevada, including: a successful legislative push to designate 13 new Wilderness areas; an organizing effort to pass a comprehensive energy and climate change bill in the US Senate; and a watchdog campaign dealing with exploratory mining activity on Nevada's undeveloped National Forest lands. He graduated from the University of Nevada with a degree in journalism, and has also worked as a features writer and photographer for various publications over the years. Ready for the next professional challenge, he's also thrilled to be living near the Alaska and Brooks Ranges, where his alpine climbing addiction can be supported. When not at work or in the mountains, Pete spends time scheming about his beloved 21 acres, solar panels and straw bales, biofuels and water wells.

BROOK BRISSON

now at Trustees for Alaska

Brook departed her post as Clean Water & Mining Program Director in July to take what she learned about mining and lands protection while at NAEC and put it to work as a staff attorney at Trustees for Alaska. While she was sad to leave NAEC, Brook was excited to continue to be an advocate for conservation in Arctic Alaska.

**HOLIDAY
GIFT IDEAS**

*Thinking about holiday gifts?
Look no further!*

2011 Arctic Refuge 50th Anniversary Calendar!

See our photo contest's winning images that celebrate this special place! Filled with facts, information and quotes about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Stop by NAEC or email jenna@northern.org to inquire. \$15 each.

NAEC Gift Memberships

Give the Gift of Conservation - healthy habitats & wildlife, clean air & water, and wilderness for future generations. **Fill out the enclosed envelope and give an NAEC gift membership to a friend or family member this season.** They will be grateful to receive less "stuff" and enjoy peace of mind, knowing NAEC is working hard for a healthy Arctic Alaska.

Bear Tragedy and Bear Triumphs at Denali

New gun law will complicate a previously successful management plan

By Denali Citizens Council

The shooting of a grizzly bear by a hiker in Denali this May was a terrible tragedy that stands in sharp contrast to the National Park Service's remarkable success in managing bear-human conflict at Denali over the past 25-30 years.

Bear-Human Conflict Plan has a long history in Denali. As visitation to Denali began growing in the 1970s, so did problems with bears. By the early 1980s, the number of reported incidents since 1949 in which a bear encounter resulted in an injury to a park visitor or employee had risen to nearly a dozen. The National Park Service (NPS), aware of the long-term bear problems in parks such as Yosemite and Yellowstone, took a pro-active stance to prevent bears from becoming conditioned to human food and to educate park visitors how to behave in ways that would avoid triggering aggressive bear responses. Initiated in 1978 and updated periodically, the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan prescribed measures that park managers felt would reduce interactions between bears and people.

Among the measures are the requirement to carry bear-resistant food containers in the backcountry, the use of bear-proof garbage containers throughout the park, and instructions on how to behave if they encounter a bear (i.e., don't run, wave your hands in the air, etc.). The NPS employs wildlife technicians every summer to monitor problem bears and situations. If a bear shows signs of aggression toward people, signs of habituation, or an attraction to human food, the plan prescribes more vigorous responses by NPS, including tagging of the bear for monitoring, hazing with firecrackers and rubber bullets, and relocation or removal from the park.

The theory is that if we can be responsible with our food and garbage, and if we respect the bears' concerns for their cubs, natural food sources, and personal space, we can coexist peacefully to the benefit of all.

How successful has this program been?

Very. After the peak of 3 injuries in 1980, the number of such incidents began diminishing. There were another 6 incidents the entire rest of the 1980s, only 1 in the 1990s, and only 3 in the 2000s, and the last injury was over 5 years ago. Another gauge: from 1949 to 1989, NPS destroyed 24 problem bears, relocated 29 (plus 3 cubs with their mothers), and moved 3 to captive facilities outside the park. By comparison, since 1990, only 8 bears have been destroyed, 1 relocated, and



Hikers in Denali are not the only ones to visit Eielson. Thanks to the Bear-Human Conflict Plan, visitors are educated on how to behave if they encounter a bear. © Unknown

1 moved to a captive facility outside the park. Bears living near the park road have become habituated to people as a neutral presence in their lives, neither food nor threat, which enables tens of thousands of park visitors to see them each summer. At Denali, we have proven that people can coexist with bears if we exercise a little responsibility, awareness, understanding, and respect.

Legalized carry of guns will complicate this previously successful program

The recent legalization of the carrying of loaded firearms at Denali threatens to undo this success story. Many of us who have hiked extensively in the Denali backcountry have had experiences similar to those of the hikers involved in the 2010 shooting incident; each summer NPS receives a few reports of visitors being charged or otherwise approached by a bear. In general, charges represent some other behavior – perhaps an effort to intimidate and scare away, a test to see if the person is “prey” by provoking a flight response, or something else known only to the bears. While behavior patterns observed at Denali may not apply elsewhere in Alaska where bears have had different experiences with people, in Denali we have shown that conflicts with bears can be successfully resolved without a gun. 🍄



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

Nonprofit Org
US postage
PAID
Permit No 201
Fairbanks, AK

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Calendar of Events:

November 6 NAEC Annual Benefit Dinner & Fundraising Auction – 50 Wild Years, Celebrating the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge!

5pm Doors Open/Silent Auction, 6pm Dinner, and 7pm Outcry Auction @ the Princess Hotel. This year's theme is at the core of our founding and mission – the Arctic Refuge. Come celebrate its 50th anniversary with us and enjoy a night of music, fine dining, socializing and generosity! Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased by Wednesday, Nov. 3. Call Laurel at (907)452-5234 to purchase tickets by phone with a credit card or stop by the NAEC to pay with a credit card, check, or cash.

November 8 NAEC Book Club

7pm @ Noel Wien Public Library. This month we will discuss *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* by Jared M. Diamond. For more information, contact Judie Triplehorn at jtriplehorn@gi.alaska.edu.

November 10 Public Lands and National Security: A Veteran's Perspective on the Arctic Refuge

7 - 8:30pm @ Noel Wien Public Library. In honor of National Veteran's week, Veterans including Alaska Native Pete Peter will discuss the connection between preserved public lands and National Security. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge there will be cake and ice cream!

December 3 First Friday – Arctic Sanctuary Photo Exhibit by Jeff Jones

5 – 8pm @ Well Street Art Co. (1304 Well St.) Landscape photographer Jeff Jones talks about his exhibit in celebration of Arctic Refuge 50th at First Friday opening reception at the Well Street Art Co. www.wellstreetart.com or (907)452-6169 for more information.

December 4-5 Wild Legacy – Play about the Arctic Refuge Time

TBA @ Lee H. Salisbury Theater, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Original play about Olaus and Mardy Murie's 1956 expedition and visionary work to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge written for its 50th Anniversary by Voices of the South theater company.

December 6 50th Birthday of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

(stay tuned for event information)

December 9 The Alaskan Voices Project: Reflections on the Fight for Wilderness

7 - 8:30pm @ Noel Wien Public Library. Join us for the Fairbanks Premiere of the Alaskan Voices Project. Over the summer of 2009 NAEC interns Stacey Baldrige and Jenna Hertz conducted 50 interviews with Alaskans about why the Arctic Refuge matters to them. The result is a short documentary, the Alaskan Voices. As our final Northern Voices Series tribute to the 50th birthday of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, come watch the documentary, eat cake, and discuss wilderness advocacy strategies with the film makers!

December 13 NAEC Book Club

7pm @ Noel Wien Public Library. This month we will discuss *Walden or A Life in the Woods* by Henry David Thoreau. For more information, contact Judie Triplehorn at jtriplehorn@gi.alaska.edu.

VISIT www.northern.org for up-to-date events information.

CONGRATULATIONS to 2010 NAEC Award Winners!

Volunteer of the Year
RITCHIE MUSICK

Activist of the Year
NANCY KUHN

Conservationist of the Year
AMY SNIDER

Youth of the Year
JOSEPH RANDELL-GREEN

Business of the Year
Jeffrey Johnson of
HOMEGROWN MARKET

Florence Collins Award
DAN SWIFT

Outstanding Service Award
KARL MONETTI

All awardees were recognized at the June 2010 NAEC Annual Meeting & Picnic. There was also a dedication and tree planting to celebrate the life of author and NAEC Board Member **MARJORIE KOWALSKI COLE**.



Joseph Randell-Green received an award for his many actions and testimonies to protect the Arctic and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges. © Laenne K. Thompson