

HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 11

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2010/11

The Wrangell Mountains Center fosters appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of wildlands and mountain culture in Alaska through scientific and artistic inquiry in and around the Wrangell Mountains.

Raising Capital So We Can Raise the Bar by Jeremy Pataky

This is an exciting year at the Wrangell Mountains Center. Some things have been steady since our beginning nearly thirty years ago, and others have changed considerably. As the WMC has grown and diversified, our commitment to our mission has not wavered. One aspect of the WMC that *has* changed is the sheer number of people we reach, now, and the variety of programs we are able to offer. Demand is growing for the programs and experiences engendered here at the WMC, and we would like to continue to meet that need. We have grown into and maximized our existing facility, though; the people we serve need the WMC to physically grow in order to continue meeting our mission to the fullest extent possible.

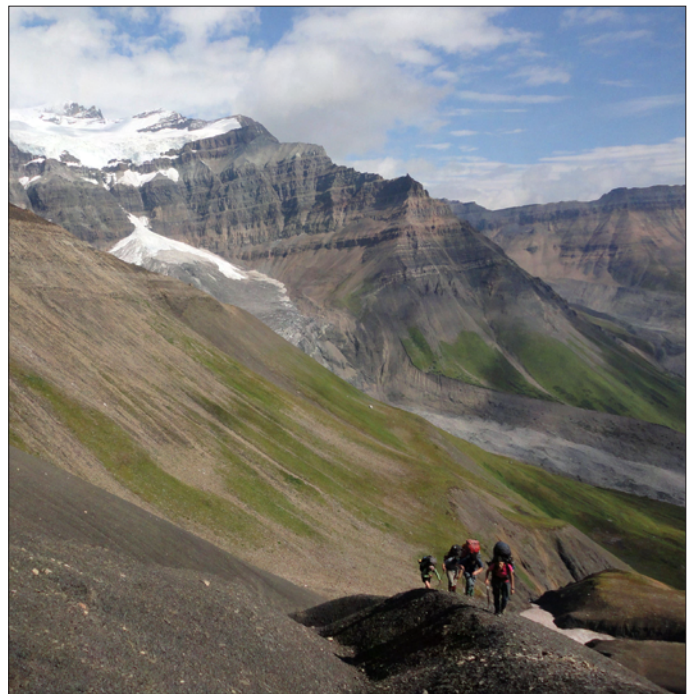


Kristen Link

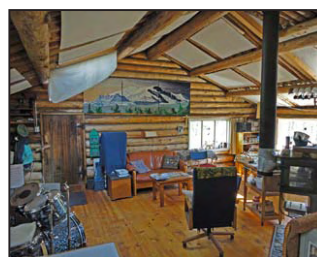
Our present effort to expand from our beloved headquarters at the Old Hardware Store onto a full-fledged campus is part of our answer to the needs we see in the communities we serve—this expansion will allow us to meet the increasing demand for the programs we provide and the role we play in the community, both locally and nationally. By expanding onto Ed LaChapelle and Meg Hunt's properties, called Porphyry Place: The LaChapelle-Hunt Educational Homesite, we will achieve the space and capacity to serve more people and to serve them more effectively. And this option will allow us to do so in as green a manner as possible – effectively reusing and recycling existing structures instead of building new.

The chance we have, right now, to accomplish this goal will not last long. Acting fast will enable the WMC to enhance its long tradition of service to wildlands and mountain culture in Alaska. The investment will pay dividends in the varied ways we meet our mission. I hope you'll take this opportunity to make a financial contribution

Porphyry continues on page 3



Top: Students climb out of the McCarthy Creek drainage, bound for the flanks of the Root Glacier for the next camp in their outdoor Wrangell Mountains classroom. Above: One Wildlands Studies travel group prepares to ascend the moraine back to the Root Glacier Trail on day 20 of their 21 day trip. Below left: One half of the main Porphyry Place cabin. Below right: the upstairs library/ studio on the homesite, a separate structure from the main building. The solar array powering the homesite is located atop the roof of this building.



Jeremy Pataky

Director's Note

No Time Like the Present

by Jeremy Pataky

It's widely known that the Wrangell Mountains Center is actively pursuing goals that will affect the fabric of the McCarthy and Kennicott communities and the entire Wrangell-St. Elias region—we are fundraising to expand onto property adjacent to our current facility, and meanwhile, we have begun talks with the National Park Service in hopes of helping to rehabilitate and use Kennecott's West Bunkhouse for our own residential programs in the years ahead. These are constituent parts of a singular vision to keep our mission alive, improve in all that we do, and to offer more to the communities we serve. We have simply outgrown the beloved Old Hardware Store and plan to remedy that predicament as wisely as possible. We're all ears for input, or questions, from near and far. Our business is your business, and we hope that you will remain, or become, involved.

Big plans are not all we cooked up this year, of course. We more than doubled the size of our seasonal staff in 2010, ran our 28th annual Wildlands Studies course, hosted UAF's graduate-level International Summer School in Glaciology, managed and maintained the availability to the community of non-NPS use of the Kennecott Recreation Hall, launched a new interdisciplinary arts workshop with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, offered a new mosses and liverworts workshop, a community quilt making workshop, launched our capital campaign for Porphyry Place.... The list continues. We hosted many Summer Arts and Lectures Series events and arts workshops for kids, brought music, art, and the natural world into the lives of youth and college students, learned from scientists about cutting edge research happening around us, taught scores of visitors and students about sustainability and conservation, and offered various community events that packed the Hardware Store, the New Golden Saloon, and the Kennecott Rec Hall with pleased audiences; we even screened the film *Mount St. Elias* many months before its release. We will be amping up even more in 2011—stay tuned to our website this winter as our lineup of programs grows.

A whole host of folks, diversely arrayed across geographies, politics, and income brackets, have rallied, grass-roots-style, to support this organization that, in many ways, relates to all the reasons that the Wrangell Mountains region matters to us at all. Our lengthening list of supporters shows that those of us working on behalf of the WMC – our board, our staff, our volunteers, our



fundraisers, many of our partners – are not alone in believing in this endeavor. We remain focused and committed to bringing quality programs to the communities in and around the Wrangell Mountains, and are dedicating a greater portion of our resources to serving those communities even better.

As we rally support for Porphyry Place, we also must attend to business-as-usual and the financial demands of our usual operating budget. It is common for the demands of capital campaigns like ours to put an organization to the test. **We are hopeful that you will renew or begin your annual WMC membership AND make an additional donation toward our capital campaign.** This year is a pivotal and historic year for the WMC as we work to expand our campus, and it's a privilege to have this chance to invite you to be a part of that.

This coming year will mark the centennial for the Old Hardware Store. Surely the old shopkeep Oscar Watsjold, back in the mining days, couldn't have imagined how things would change, how much life would come to imbue that building. The Wrangell Mountains Center has now occupied those walls longer than the period of time it actually operated as a store, and we are looking forward to many more decades there and in our new facilities.

Needless to say, change will continue in the Wrangells, and to the relationship between people and place everywhere. One of the surest ways to make sure those changes are positive is to join up as a WMC member and invest in our mission. We are pleased for the chance to build an enduring and impactful organization capable of serving, for another hundred years, and then some, the lands and people who were and are its inspiration. ∞

Alaskans Pick, Click, Give to the WMC

The Wrangell Mountains Center joined the new Permanent Fund Dividend Charitable Contributions Program in 2009. The Alaska Legislature passed a law making this new way to give possible for all Alaskans filing on-line for their PFD. The WMC received \$1,600 through the program this year. Thanks very much to the 27 donors who contributed a portion of their PFD checks to the Center, and to those who make it possible for Alaskans to give back to the nonprofit sector so conveniently. *Please remember the Wrangell Mountains Center when filing time comes around again this year.* If you did not designate a portion of your dividend this year and would like to give a secure, online donation, please visit our website. ∞



today, either by mailing a check or by donating online via our website. All those who we will serve for decades to come will owe you thanks.

Many lives have been touched—and changed—by the WMC. McCarthy is peppered with alums of our programs, people who came from afar for a summer semester of study in our college program, or for our week-long writing workshop, where their lives were permanently, irrevocably affected by the program, the place, and the kind of educational experience we offer. Others come and continue on, remaining in touch from around the world, citing their studies at the WMC as a pivotal, formative experience which leads them into careers in geology, conservation, glaciology, biology, ecology, environmental education, outdoor leadership, and the arts, for starters. A few have returned, several years and a graduate degree or two later, to become instructors, guest lecturers, researchers, or volunteers; many of our regular donors, in fact, are former students. Our alums seek each other out elsewhere in the world, going out of their way to meet up in remote corners, knowing that the common base of experience afforded by that shared history in the Wrangells will likely provide firm footing for a friendship.

In the last few months, I've heard from many nostalgic alums, and I hope to hear from more of you. Each life that has been touched by the WMC exemplifies how important and far-reaching the work we do is, and how essential this campus expansion is to our ability to continue to serve people from near and far.

Soon, a second generation—the children of some of our earlier participants—will enroll in our programs, learning to live well-informed by a connection with place, an awareness of natural and cultural processes, and an interdisciplinary capacity to find oneself in the world—both literally and figuratively. This is a pivotal moment and your help is essential to the mission. Please contribute to our capital campaign and renew your annual membership now, during this critical and unprecedented moment in the history of the Wrangell Mountains Center. And spread the word! ∞



Right: Ed LaChapelle & Meg Hunt stand on the porch of the main cabin at Porphyry Place, one of five structures sitting on six lots. Below: Friends gather on the porch of Porphyry Place.



Jeremy Putakey



JT Thomas

Dear WMC,

We are happy to support this campaign and we hope the response will make it successful. We ♥ the WMC, its staff, and directors and thank you for everything you do to make this community more educated, inspired, vibrant, aware, and happier!

Also, Ed & Meg hold a dear place in our hearts and we are motivated to donate especially in honor of them. They were some of our earliest and dearest friends, and they helped us tremendously when we needed support and guidance. We feel like maybe we are 'paying back' a bit of our debt to them for all they gave us over the years. Best of luck with this endeavor!

Tamara & Stephens Harper

Porphyry Place Campaign Update

We raised thousands of dollars internally, starting with our board of directors, advisors, and staff before reaching out to members and friends gathered on August 13 for our capital campaign kick-off. Visitors toured Porphyry Place with seller Meg Hunt, and we also announced our new Lifetime Membership, available to households for \$1,500.

We seek support in our efforts to raise the \$250,000 needed to see this vision through to fruition by spring. We are approaching 25% of that goal, all raised from individuals; meanwhile, we're talking with other major donors about their potential involvement.

We enter our second phase of fundraising; once we have raised 50% of our goal, we hope to use those donations to leverage additional funding in time to cross the finish line. Time is of the essence! Checks made out to Wrangell Mountains Center can be sent to WMC, PO Box 142972, Anchorage AK, 99514-2972; or donate online through our secure website, www.wrangells.org.

If you are not already familiar with the details about the properties and this campaign, please visit our website and contact us with any questions. And please contribute today! Invest in the future of the Wrangells, and the WMC's ability to serve communities in and beyond the Wrangell Mountains. ∞

Excerpts from an article originally published in ICE

Report on the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Summer School in Glaciology by Regina Carns

On June 8th, 2010, with the weather obligingly sunny, 27 students and ten lecturers disembarked from their long road journey and marched down McCarthy's main street to the Old Hardware Store that houses the Wrangell Mountains Center. Here they would spend the next week bathed in a sea of glaciological knowledge at the first University of Alaska Fairbanks International Summer School in Glaciology....

UAF faculty designed the summer school to give students a good base of knowledge in their field and an introduction to some of their future colleagues. Several sponsors provided the generous support that allowed students to travel... and spend two weeks concentrating on learning: the UAF International Arctic Research Center (IARC), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), and of course our friends at the International Glaciological Society (IGS)....

UAF chose participants carefully to achieve a varied student body, with research interests stretching from ocean influences on tidewater glaciers to glacial features on Mars. Ice core analysis, remote sensing, ice sheet modeling, subglacial dynamics, glacier-climate interactions, and a wide variety of other subjects filled out the list. The diversity of origins matched the diversity of interests, with students hailing from institutions in eight US states... and twelve different countries (Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.).... ∞

To learn more or read the full article, please see our website.



photos by Andy Aschwanden



How to Draw a Landscape

by Kristin Link

As the sun goes down behind the Chugach, it refracts a crisp, pinky-gold light onto the Wrangells—a distinct October sunset. I observe this and try to remember how to paint a landscape. “Any time you want to draw something, you have to simplify. Start by looking and discerning what is important and what to leave out.”

This is what I told our Alaska Wildland Studies students last summer. We sat in a circle at the toe of the glacier mystified by the complexities of the Wrangell landmass. We cut out two-inch squares in white pieces of paper to use as windows into a small part of what surrounded us. Teaching gave me the opportunity to see the landscape with fresh eyes. Eager students, armed with white pages and watercolors, asked me how to draw conglomerate rocks, the hanging glacier at the headwaters of McCarthy Creek, or delicate alpine Anemones. Each time we got to rediscover this place and to learn about many of the little parts that make it up.

In addition to teaching field sketching, I worked on other art projects for the WMC this summer. This winter, Jeremy Pataky and I will collaborate on a brochure about bear safety, which will be available throughout the community next summer, supported by the McCarthy Area Council, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and WMC.

In the meantime, I look out the window, at Rime and Ahtna Peaks and Goathair Ridge. I wonder how to simplify what I see into a small coherent drawing that I can send out and give a taste of October in McCarthy. ∞

WMC is proud to offer a two-day Natural History Field Sketching & Journaling workshop with Kristin Link July 16-17, 2011. Watch our website for registration details and info about this and other programs.



Glaciology Wrangell Mountains Center-style
by Tim Bartholomaus

About 100 miles south-southeast of the old Hardware Store, at the hinge between Southcentral and Southeast Alaska, I study Yahtse Glacier. Yahtse ends in the ocean, and calves icebergs into remote Icy Bay, a crevice in Alaska’s coastline tucked between two of the biggest glaciers in North America. At Yahtse, I and others from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks are trying to better understand iceberg calving, one of the ways in which the largest glaciers in the world lose mass.

Early this summer, as the fireweed in the Wrangells was just starting to bloom, we flew out of McCarthy, across the Chitina River plain and over the St. Elias Range. For four glorious days, we were blessed with rich, blue skies on the coast, and light winds, so the technical, instrumentation-based work we needed to do by helicopter went quickly. But rather than dashing back home after the active, adrenaline-infused work was complete, this time I was joined by two friends from the WMC for 10 days of focused observation of the glacier terminus. First David Conner, a Wrangell Mountains Center alum and intern, and then Jared Steyaert, former WMC facilities manager, joined me at our Yahtse camp, where together we watched the terminus for 81 hours, and recorded every crack, pop, crumble and topple that occurred as Yahtse’s toe fell off into Icy Bay.

Our specific goal was to build a record of observed calving events that we could compare with data from seismometers. This database of terminus events will allow us to search for patterns of relative quiet and activity at the terminus, and to assess how tide cycles and rates of glacier flow might also influence the frequency of iceberg calving. After recording each of 4,800 events, we now have that database. But beyond that, I also developed, with David and Jared’s help, a better intuition for calving—a more fundamental understanding of when and how ice falls inexorably from the glacier’s terminal cliff. Through careful attention, we became able to predict when the most spectacular calving events would occur and why some parts of the terminus held together while other parts seemed to tumble continuously. Although technology allows for new measurements and knowledge that was not possible 50 or even five years ago, no fancy instrument could have replaced that which I gained from my time spent sitting, watching, pencil in hand, at the terminus of Yahtse Glacier. I think it was Jared who said, “This is *so* Wrangell Mountains Center.” ∞



Heartfelt thanks to our amazing core staff and volunteers who made the Wrangell Mountains Center warm, welcoming, fun, delicious, musical, inspiring, educational, and functional this summer. Well done! *Pictured left to right and top to bottom: Joe Donohue, Allison Sayer, Tyler Boyes, Brita Mjos, David Conner, Andrea Sokolowski, Mark Vail, Lindsey Pepper, Ben Ciampa.* Thanks, too, to our numerous other volunteers (listed on pages 11-12) who were absolutely invaluable.



WMC Wishlist

If you would like to give new or used items that will directly enhance our effectiveness, we could really use the following items...

Satellite phone(s)	Bicycle trailers
Digital Projector	Canning jars
Pick Axe	Laptop Computer
Hatchet	Crampons and ice axes
Firewood	Nice pots and pans
Bicycles	Art supplies

To contribute any of the above items directly, or to make a donation toward the purchase of one of the above, contact jeremy@wrangells.org

Preparing Our Winter Food

By Bruce James

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE), Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC), and our many partners continued a long tradition recently by hosting the 2010 edition of the Nabesna Day Camp. The event was held at the Twin Lakes Campground on September 11th under beautiful fall skies. Youths from Tazlina to Slana enjoyed the opportunity to learn “hands on” about game cleaning and berry processing. The youth processed ducks, berries, silver salmon, moose, and snowshoe hares. Many elders from the area also attended and enjoyed watching the youths perform tasks they had done many times over the years.

Over the course of the day the youths and even some of the adults learned some new skills that will increase their enjoyment of the outdoors and built a stewardship ethic. Along the way, everyone enjoyed a special lunch provided by the Wrangell Mountains Center. Allison Sayer, WMC Kitchen Manager, made chicken chili with lots of vegetables on site and we also enjoyed her homemade bread and rich chocolate cake to go with it. Thanks, Allison! Additional thanks goes to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve for funding and manpower, the Glennallen Field Office of the BLM for lots of help making the “fur fly” and keeping the fires going, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium and the Native Village of Gakona for getting the moose quarter and providing transportation, and Wilson Justin for the lunch blessing and a short remembrance of the tragic loss our country endured nine years ago. But most especially, I'd like to thank the kids that were so willing to get their hands bloody while cleaning the small critters and to taste test the jams until they were just right. ∞



Marnie Graham, BLM

Youths identify two mallards and a greenwing teal and ready them for the roasting pan along with the giblets.

WMC Provides Hydrologic Assistance to Kenny Lake Watershed Group

by Barry Hecht

The Willow Creek Watershed Consortium (WCWC), a community science and service group, coalesced over the winter in Kenny Lake to “understand the factors affecting the quality and quantity of water in the Willow Creek watershed and to conserve the benefits of that water for the future”. Thirty-six local residents signed up to participate in various roles seeking to protect water supply and habitat. Willow Creek originates in the flats between Stuck Mountain and Copper Center, flows through Willow Lake, and under the Edgerton Highway to the Tonsina River. It is the watershed to which most of Kenny Lake drains.

As its initial emphases, the group has chosen to rigorously quantify flow in Willow Creek, and to identify the relationships between the creek and groundwater, which provides most of the community's water supply. It plans to operate stream gauging stations using the standards equivalent to those used by state and federal agencies, and then use this data as the basis of assessing water quality and habitat within and along the stream. WCWC has obtained a \$4,500 grant to purchase the key instruments needed for the high-level data. The group also plans to use the data to establish a quantitative baseline which can be used in the future to assess whether melting permafrost, land use or fire suppression may be changing basic flows in the creek.

Dave Wellman, of the Wellwood Center in Kenny Lake, coordinates the Consortium, with active water-quality technical assistance from Doug Vollman, Kenny Lake Soil and Water Conservation District manager. Among other WCWC members are a number of accomplished professionals with many years of scientific or land-management expertise who are interested in long-term participation in this program.

As part of the Wrangell Mountains Center's goal of providing technical services to community environmental organizations throughout the Copper Basin, WMC board member Barry Hecht is leading this outreach initiative for the WMC. A registered geologist in Alaska, Barry is a professional habitat hydrologist who – among other parts of his practice – has assisted many watershed groups in AK, CA, and OR. Also assisting WCWC with organizational and networking support is the Copper River Watershed Project. Ecotrust, a non-profit with an office in Cordova, is assisting WCWC with GIS, and anticipates a continuing role in linking the data to the GIS maps. ∞

Executive Director Earns Certification

by Thea Agnew Bemben

The Wrangell Mountains Center's Executive Director, Jeremy Pataky, earned a Certificate in Nonprofit Management last winter through a statewide program offered by the Foraker Group in partnership with University of Alaska Fairbanks. This 16 week course, which Jeremy attended during winter 2009, is "designed for Alaska nonprofit professionals in leadership positions who want to enhance their management skills and explore a full range of issues and best practices to use in their organizations." Jeremy was accepted into the course's 10th cohort through a competitive application process. Curriculum covered nonprofit sector

fundamentals, professional and personal development, planning and evaluation, board development, volunteer management, organizational development, human resource management, budgeting and finance, resource development, and marketing and communication. The course also provided networking opportunities with other nonprofit leaders from throughout the state.

Jeremy's dedication to the mission of the WMC made him eager to expand his skills. He was very pleased with the course and learned a great deal that he has been able to apply as we expanded our seasonal staff, embarked on our capital campaign for Pophry Place, and continued to offer existing and new programs. ∞

Steps Toward Eating Sustainably

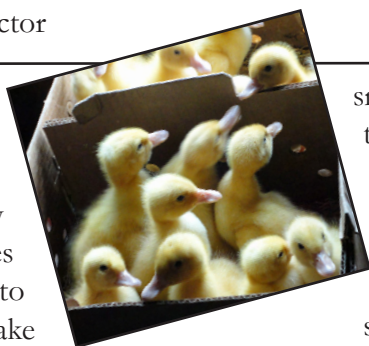
by Allison Sayer

This year the Wrangell Mountains Center Staff worked hard to continue increasing the sustainability of our food choices. As in 2009, we ordered staples from a natural foods wholesaler, which enabled us to provide organic rice, grains, beans, and pasta, and bake bread from organic flour. Of course, as always, we all enjoyed generous salads and delicious vegetables from our garden.

Many foods have always been made from scratch at the WMC, but this year we took that to a new level in order to produce healthier, tastier, more sustainable, and more economical meals while generating less trash. Everyone on the staff learned how to save energy by cooking beans in a pressure cooker and improved their ability to make bread. Several staff members learned to make other fun foods from scratch such as kim chee, jelly, zucchini pickles, yoghurt, sauerkraut, tortillas, soy milk, tofu, rhubarb sauce, mozzarella cheese, sourdough chocolate cake, hummus, and more. Homemade soy milk, yoghurt, granola, peanut butter, rhubarb sauce, hummus and bread were among our weekly staples, and towards the end of the summer we enjoyed passing the big bucket of kim chee around the table and including wild berries in our meals. We also used a lot more whole grains than had been used in previous years.

Staff were not the only ones who learned new things about how to live sustainably. We offered an optional bread making workshop for students during the Alaska Wildlands Studies program this year, and our college students also harvested a heaping bounty of edible flowers to make flower tea for next year's students.

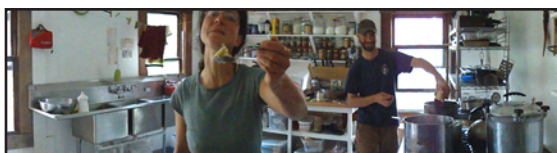
For the first time, the WMC has a



small store of home-canned goods that will reduce our dependence on store-bought products early in the season. We also have a large stockpile of dried homegrown vegetables, continuing a practice started in 2009.

Looking ahead to 2011 there is a lot to be excited about. We can continue to make many of the foods we have before, although with increased efficiency gained through trial and error in the past season. We hope to reduce our trash output and also save money by increasing the amount of loose tea we use and cutting down on tea bags.

Thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation, we will add a new high-efficiency wood-fueled stove for heating water. This institutional 60 Liter stove, developed by Aprovecho Research Center, will greatly enhance both our water heating and cooking capacity, reducing our dependency on propane for cooking. Those familiar with our old water heater, Big Bertha, know that she has seen better days. We are also extremely excited to reduce our consumption of factory farmed eggs next year, as we have entered into a contract with a local farmer to provide duck eggs for the 2011 season. The ducklings were purchased in the summer of 2010 to meet our 2011 egg needs -- let's hope they have a safe and happy winter! ∞



Jeremy Pataky

Cross-pollinating the Arts

by Nancy Cook

The 13th annual Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop expanded ambitiously this year, launching a new interdisciplinary “Creative Cross-pollinations” writing and arts program, supported by a Creative Ventures grant from Rasmuson Foundation. The course was a rousing success, forging new ground for visual and performing arts in the Kennicott Valley while continuing to inspire writers to produce new original work.

The teaching staff was truly remarkable. With writer Frank Soos and visual artist Margo Klass of Fairbanks teaming up with Anchorage quilt artist Maria Shell and Illinois-based performing artist Jonny Gray, the energy and enthusiasm throughout the week was extraordinary. In addition to polishing individual and collaborative writings, under Margo Klass’s tutelage, each student worked diligently to contribute text and a stenciled pochoir illustration to a limited edition run of 23 collaborative handmade artist books entitled *Gravity*. Later in the week, following a lecture entitled, “What do essayists have to learn from quilters?” Maria Shell led writers to craft lovely individualized squares which she then pieced into a stunning community patchwork entitled “McCarthy Day”.

Public events included a full house at the ever popular Community Word Jam and a moving solo performance by Jonny Gray during the staff’s public readings and slideshows at the Kennicott Recreation Hall. In addition to participants from elsewhere in Alaska and out of state, this year’s workshop attracted the active participation of many local residents: Robin Child, Patt Garrett, Lindsey Pepper, Lyn Plomaritis, Cynthia Shidner, Andrea Sokolowski, and Mark Vail. Thanks to all who made this vision of collaborative arts a truly inspired reality. ∞



Jeremy Pataky



We’re excited to announce another interdisciplinary **Creative Cross-pollinations Writing Workshop** offered July 24-30th with Maria Shell, Nancy Cook, and **Kathleen Dean Moore**. We are also excited to announce that poet **Liz Bradfield** will teach the 14th annual **Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop** with interim Program Director Jeremy Pataky from August 12-18, 2011. Watch our website for upcoming details. Limited **scholarship assistance** is available; scholarship applications available online by January 15, 2011.

There's a new way to reach out and help Alaskans. Apply for your PFD online and you can share part of your dividend with some of your favorite Alaska nonprofits. It's a chance for all of us to come together and give a little extra. Just Pick, Click, Give.

Give Cash. Make Change. For Alaska.

PickClickGive.org

Thank you, Pick. Click. Givers! Please remember the WMC again this year as you file for your PFD.

Closer To Home

by Leif Mjos

The Wrangell Mountains Center's Wildlands Studies: Wrangell Mountains Project summer semester field course turned 28 this year with a full enrollment of 16 students from across the country. The Hardware Store bustled with activity as students threw themselves into rigorous study and communal living.

Our students received instruction from Tim Bartholomaeus, Melissa Keevil, Dave Mitchell, Shawn Olson, Ben Shaine, myself, Barry Hecht, Kristen Link, Bill Morris, and Jeremy Pataky. The first week of the course included orientation and preparation in McCarthy. The entire clutch of students and core program faculty—21 of us—headed out onto the Kennicott Glacier for a week long backcountry trip. The roundtrip to Goathair Ridge included studies in glaciology, alpine plant ecology, and human impacts in the backcountry.

After another week back at the Center, it was time for the second backcountry portion of the course—this time for three weeks out. Choosing a long route representative of Wrangells landscapes without relying on air taxi services for anything except food drops can be somewhat limiting; after two years studying in the Mill Creek area, the upper Lakina, Hidden Creek, and the Kennicott Valley, we decided to explore the McCarthy Creek watershed in depth this year. Our students broke into four project groups to study Dall Sheep habitat, the concept of sense of place, the geomorphology of McCarthy Creek, and wildness and land management issues. This time we split into two smaller, separate travel groups. One group left from the WMC and one departed from Kennecott. A rendezvous in upper McCarthy Creek provided us a resupply and engaging afternoon at Ray and LeAnn Kreigs' homestead—formerly owned by the Hale (aka Pilgrim) family.

The journey enabled exploration of the extraordinary McCarthy Creek Glacier, fabulous Nikolai Plateau, and the dramatic upper Root Glacier while also providing a chance to consider how development, mining, and homesteading affect the fabric of a place. While this route ensured that travel groups were never more than 20 kilometers from Kennecott, much closer to home than the last couple years, elements of wilderness were as prevalent as anywhere in the more remote regions of the park.

The Wrangells never fail to deliver profound learning experiences—academic, interpersonal, personal, and otherwise—and this summer was no exception. While the weather presented some significant challenges to all involved, everyone returned to the Hardware Store happily tired, inspired, and rejuvenated. During the last week, the students finished their projects and gave presentations on their semester of study and work. Many thanks to all who supported and aided this semester's Wildlands Studies program! ∞



Shawn Olson

Wrangells Ramblings

The scoop on alumni and former staff of WMC programs

Ben Ciampa (Wildlands '05) is an Environmental Scientist/Geologist working for a consulting firm in Arizona. He spent last summer in McCarthy volunteering for the WMC, and we are excited to have Ben direct our 2011 Songwriters' Workshop.

Will Seitz (Wildlands '97) coordinates Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project, a volunteer endangered sea turtle project based out of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. He's glorifiedly-camped out on his three acres of rainforest and welcomes correspondence from WMC folks at hawksbillwill@yahoo.com.

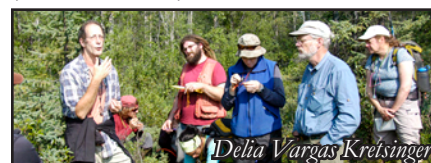
Minot Maser (Wildlands '89) is hunkered down in Montana practicing law, keeping cattle rustlers out of jail. We hope to see Minot in McCarthy this spring after a summit attempt on Mount St. Elias or Logan.

David Ganz (Wildlands '89) lives in Berkeley and leads the Nature Conservancy's forestry programs.

We want to hear from YOU! Are you an alum of any WMC program? Send an update to info@wrangells.org!

Mosses and Liverworts Workshop

Our three-day bryology workshop focused on the identification of mosses and liverworts in the field using a hand lens. The class visited a broad range of habitat around McCarthy and students become familiar with the dominant bryophyte genera and species characteristic of different ecological settings. Field observations of species in nature were supplemented with evening lectures which covered the classification and phylogeny of bryophytes, and overview of useful literature about bryophytes, ecology, and reproductive biology, and morphological variation. The course was taught by Jon and Blanka Shaw of Duke University's Department of Biology. Their work focuses on the systematics and population genetics of mosses and liverworts, with a focus on the peatmoss genus, Sphagnum. The course filled quickly and waitlisted, attracting both local naturalists and agency scientists. Watch for future field identification workshops focused on bryophytes, lichens, mushrooms, and more. ∞



Delia Vargas Krelsinger

A Million Thanks!

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Monitor our website for details on our 2011 lineup of programs...

- Feb 10+17** Interpretive Naturalist Certification Program of Alaska Education Techniques Workshop
- May** Organic Gardening Workshop
- May 28, 7 am** Spring Migrations Birding Walk with Mark Vail
- May 28-29** Memorial Day Weekend Community Work Party
- June 4-6** Natural History for Educators: Tools & Content for Engaging Youth with the Natural World
- June 6-8** The Art of Storytelling: Teaching Natural History & Native Culture through Storytelling, Jack Dalton
- June 18** John Denver Tribute Concert and Community Potluck IV
- June 20-Aug 10** Wildlands Studies: The Wrangell Mountains Project 28th annual college program
- June 29-July 3** Multi-day Family Camp in McCarthy
- July 9** Centennial Celebration of the Old Hardware Store
- July 10-Aug 10** United States Artists Alaska Artist Residency, novelist Justin Torres
- July 16-17** Natural History Field Sketching & Journaling Workshop with Kristin Link
- July 24th-30** Creative Cross-pollinations with Kathleen Dean Moore, Nancy Cook, & Maria Shell
- August 12-18** Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop with poet Elizabeth Bradfield
- August 14** Community Literary Word Jam 7 pm
- August 15** Poetry Reading and Talk, Elizabeth Bradfield and Jeremy Pataky
- August 20, 28** Preserving the Harvest Workshop
- August 27** Tall Tales Storytelling Contest and Silent Auction, New Golden Saloon
- September** Songwriters Workshop
- September 10** Fall Harvest Potluck and Lecture
- TBA** Culture Camp, Nabesna Road
- various dates** Mountain Arts for Youth programs
- June-August, 2nd+4th Sundays & Thursdays** Summer Arts & Lectures Series
- Fridays 3 pm** Wrangell Mountains Naturalist Walks
- June 19, July 17, Aug 21** Community Roundtable Discussions

