HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 18

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2017/18

Connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains.



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▲ Students of the 2017 Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies (College Program)

Letter from the Executive Director

I'm consistently reminded of how fortunate we are to call the Wrangell Mountains home. This can be as simple as seeing someone discover this place for the first time or rediscovering it for ourselves after a long winter away. My introduction to the Wrangells came through an unexpected opportunity to study the Root Glacier and Stairway Icefall with logistical and research support from the Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC). As with so many before me, my first summer in the Wrangells had a lasting impact on my life. Facilitating similar opportunities for others through the WMC is a continuing personal and professional goal.

This summer was a success due to our dedicated supporters, stellar staff and volunteers, and devoted board of directors. We worked with researchers, hosted six artists in residence, held numerous lectures, programs, and workshops, and for the first time in four years had a group of 14 students for the seven-week College Program. I hope as you read through this year's Herald, that you'll recall what inspires you about this place. Plans for 2018 are already in the works, and I hope that you're able to join us in the Wrangells.

I encourage you to renew your membership, make a year-end contribution, and let us know how the WMC has enriched your life. Our ability to continue connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains is dependent on your new or continuing support. Thank you!

With gratitude, Nate Anderson WMC Executive Director

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies - College Program



▲ Students and instructors on the Kuskalana Traverse

Discovering Fulfillment Through Group Cohesion in the Wrangell Mountains

by Ryan Neese

ith the support of a scholarship from the Wrangell Mountains Center, Ryan Neese participated in the 2017 Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies, offered through The Evergreen State College. With Ryan's permission, here are a few excerpts from his much longer Essay: "Discovering Fulfillment Through Group Cohesion in the Wrangell Mountains"

"In front of us is a footbridge, the gateway to the towns of McCarthy and Kennecott: formerly abandoned copper mining towns from the early 1900's.... But more importantly, the town of McCarthy represents a diverse and sometimes controversial community of remote Alaskans that is quite unlike any rural town I've ever encountered."

"Working alongside classmates and the staff of Wrangell Mountains Center that first week provided me that same familial feeling as everyone completed their "joys" of gardening, chopping wood, heating water, fixing broken fences, and cooking meals. Immediately everyone had a role to fill and other people to rely on. I began to feel appreciated, needed, and incredibly comfortable being myself and letting my guard down."

"The sun almost never sets, your chair is a rock and your desk is your lap, the temperature could



▲ Staff and faculty meet students as they arrive at the foot bridge

drastically change in a day, it takes a lot of extra effort to do simple tasks like cook dinner and find a bathroom, and you will probably never sleep.... Thankfully what I found this summer is that this environment, sometimes as chaotic as it is, brings out the best in people. I connected very strongly with my classmates within our first week here.... My group members felt they had roles they could fill, people to laugh with, welcoming feelings, trusting relationships, and they were not afraid to be themselves."

"Everywhere I went I saw happy people being themselves, looking out for everyone, welcoming and including outsiders, and doing the many jobs required to keep this town moving.... People smiled and said "Hello" as you walked down the street. This used to be the norm in America but somewhere along the way, as our cities got larger and our technology improved, these ideals were lost. McCarthy, with its diverse populace, represents the ideal community to me. And I feel my group of classmates and I reflected [this] extraordinary community...."

"A lot of residents I met said, 'This place changes you.' And I believe that to be true. Not quite modern, not quite ancient, McCarthy has got it just right."



▲ Ryan Neese on the Kennicott Glacier



▲ Students traveling through the Donoho Basin

Tribute to Marci and Doris

by Lila Vogt and Sally Gibert, WMC board members

he entire WMC community is saddened at the loss of two of our most venerable and beloved members – Marci Thurston and Marci's mother Doris Thurston.

Marci first came to the Wrangells with Ben Shaine in 1974. She and Ben first wintered in the Wrangells in 1975-76, marrying and raising two daughters, Gaia and Ardea, and co-founding the college



field program in 1983. To better support the college program, Ben and Marci teamed up with friend Sally Gibert (current board member) who had purchased

the Old Hardware Store in 1976. Together they founded the Wrangell Mountains Center as a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and research, which enabled WMC ownership of the building.

Marci served as WMC President from 1986 until 2006. More importantly, Marci initiated and mentored the communal way of life at the Old Hardware Store that remains a signature of WMC culture. Marci passed away on May 14, 2016, after a long illness.

Doris Thurston often visited Marci and family in McCarthy, from her home in Washington State. When the WMC began a nature writing workshop in

1998, Doris (a published poet, specializing in haiku) became the guest poet offering instruction and inspiration to dozens of writers over many years. She was always an enthusiastic volunteer at the Hardware Store. Her family noted, when she passed on March 21, 2017, that "Doris placed"



great value in preserving the natural environment for future generations and was committed to fostering a society that demonstrated compassion for everyone."

The Wrangell Mountains Center owes much of its current culture and success to the efforts, hard work, and inspiration of these two beautiful women.



▲ Family Music Camp final performance at Porphyry Place

Who Do We Serve?

by Tim Bartholomaus, WMC Board President

he Wrangell Mountains Center is a non-profit organization. We exist to provide value to others, not to enrich our leadership or non-existent shareholders. Our Board of Directors is entirely volunteer and the compensation earned by our hard-working staff is meager in dollars, though hopefully rich in experiences. So, why do we exist? Who benefits from the Wrangell Mountains Center?

In my view, the Wrangell Mountains Center is a service organization, and we serve a community far more expansive than the readers of this newsletter. We serve the children and families who attend our Family Music Camp. We serve the students who enroll in the college Field Studies program (the founding purpose of the Wrangell Mountains Center). We serve those who walk into the Old Hardware Store, curious about our historic and charming facility. We serve the researchers we host as they deepen understanding of our landscape and share that understanding with others. We serve all those curious about the natural world, who engage with our natural history programming, or attend our Summer Arts & Lectures Series. We serve everyone inspired by our programming or staff. As our current mission states, the Wrangell Mountains Center exists to connect people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains.

But we at the Wrangell Mountains Center are able to serve only with a lot of help – your help. You may own a cabin in McCarthy, or live in a big city in the Lower 48. You may have floated from McCarthy to Chitina this summer with our acclaimed writers' workshop, or once dropped a twenty dollar bill in the donations jar and signed our guest book. But you, you who are reading this annual record of WMC goingson, play an essential role in our service and mission. We cannot serve all those we do without your help.

Your donations, regardless of size, enable us to transform lives, bring families closer together and closer to nature, enhance appreciation of our favorite mountain environment, and bring wildland-inspired art and knowledge into the world.

Donations make up nearly one third of our operating income. Some programs, while central to our mission, could not be offered without your generosity. I hope you will join me and many of your friends, fellow explorers, curious souls, and lovers of mountain culture in continuing to give so that the WMC may continue to serve next year, and in the years to come. Give not for yourself, but for all those who have not yet encountered the Wrangell Mountains Center. I, and all the other Board members, staff, and volunteers working to serve our constituents and meet our mission, thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.



▲ An Art Quilt Workshop with Maria Shell - Presenting Projects

RiverSong

by Arlene Davis Rosenkrans

he energetic river guides hefted the rafts down the gravel embankment of the gray, churning Kennicott River. Along with the normal camping gear, food

and supplies, odd-shaped dry bags protecting guitars, mandolin, percussion and a library of books and songs were loaded. Riversong 2017 launched!

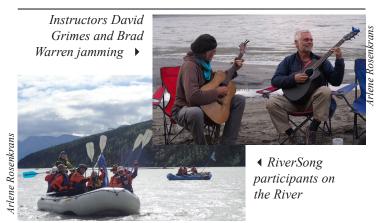
The participants this year, ranging in age from nine AND A HALF to over 70 had gathered at the Wrangell Mountains Center's rustic Old Hardware Store – getting to know each other, and instructors Nancy Cook and guest artists, David Grimes and Brad Warren. The welcoming dinner prepared by Robbie, Dana, and Maya included fresh greens and rhubarb dessert from the Center's garden.

During our writing orientation, we ventured in the rain out to the toe of the Kennicott Glacier for Haiku inspired by mountain vistas, Dryas, rock, and bear. Bright raincoat color

Muted green, gray brown and tan

Black dot moves alone

Ice face reflects white
On gray still waters gliding
Down to turbulence



A Community Word Jam at WMC's Porphyry Place featured writing and song from the workshop leaders, followed by an open mic for an eclectic, entertaining, and compelling mix of song and prose from the community.

The river trip, three nights along the Kennicott, Nizina, Chitina, and mighty Copper was a time for inspiration, with morning writing circles led by Nancy. Writers explored various styles and genres, sharing them in small circles. Evenings were filled with song

around driftwood campfires after hearty meals served up by the McCarthy River Tours & Outfitters crew.

River veteran David unfurled flags for each raft on the first night and theme songs interwoven into RiverSong were David's "Water,

Water, Water" and "The Copper River" along with a collaborative song write led by Brad: "The Waters We Come From". Izzie, on her maiden float along her river namesake the Nizina, led all who ventured to hours of play in squishy, ankle-sucking mud stomps.

The Final Fire was much anticipated by all, with a circle of writing and song shared. And here we share a writing using renga poetic style, where the journal was passed between writers Nancy, Arlene, Meg and Jennifer, inspired after navigating the Nizina Canyon.

At O'Brian Creek, downriver from the town of Chitina, the rafts were unloaded and all said farewell, departing with journals and memories filled with writings, song, and inspiration.



▲ 2017 RiverSong crew headed to the Kennicott River

Mountain Arts & Science for Youth Programs

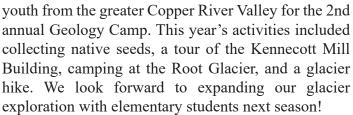
by Lara Applebaum

ver 30 visiting and local youth participated in our five-week series of interactive workshops fostering creativity, understanding, and connections to our local culture and environment.

Our series began by relating local life past and present through the annual Kids Making History workshop. Other workshop topics included birch

watercolors and plant prints, tile painting, archaeological rock art, wildlife habitats and adaptations, plant tinctures, the scientific method, as well as a group mural design and painting project for the community mailshack.

We also hosted middle and high school aged



In addition to hosting science and art workshops twice a week for school-aged youth, we introduced the weekly Mountain Arts & Science for Preschoolers program. Topics and activities for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers included: Alaskan animals, birds and binoculars, nature print prayer flags, sunprints and plant rubbings, as well as nature yoga poses and painting.

Many thanks to our partner organizations and donors, including the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, National Park Service, McCarthy-



▼ Mountain Science for Youth with Cynthia Shidner



Kennicott Historical Museum, Kennicott Wilderness Guides, St. Elias Alpine Guides, and Blackburn Heritage Foundation for their continued generosity. Additional gratitude to visiting and local artists and educators for their willingness to share their time and talents with us! We look forward to another summer of fun and exploration!

McCarthy Half Marathon

by Nate Anderson

cool fall afternoon greeted nearly 50 racers lined up in front of the Glacier View Campground. The McCarthy Half Marathon & 5-Mile Runs continues to be one of my favorite local events. I frequently run sections of the racecourse throughout the summer and it truly lives up to its reputation – run with a view! The first running of the McCarthy Half Marathon took place 15 years ago and it continues to be a fun, local, low-key event. The WMC took over the race only a few years ago, and it has become a staple fundraiser taking place every Labor Day Weekend.

The course started out fast as runners and walkers began with a small loop on the West Side and then crossed the Kennicott River footbridge to make their way to the Wagon Road. The 5-mile racers peeled off the Wagon Road and headed back towards McCarthy, while the half marathoners began the climb all the way up to Kennecott and to the top of the historic mill building. From the course's peak, racers made their way back down to McCarthy. Racers crossed the finish line in front of the Old Hardware Store.

While the race was taking place, WMC staff and volunteers were hard at work in the kitchen and as tradition holds, participants and volunteers partook in the post-race spaghetti feed at the Old Hardware Store. Congratulations to half marathon winners John Wros and Hannah Rowland and 5-mile winners Matej Rybarsky and Lucy and Kristi Shea. Thank you to all participants and volunteers!

Wrangell Mountain Cuisine

by Rob Woodworth

In or many folks in the lower 48, the traditions of homestyle cooking are fading into modernity. Grandma's handwritten recipe cards and age-old culinary tactics are being replaced by digital recipes. Thankfully, the lost art of pioneer meal-planning is still alive and well at the Wrangell Mountains Center where staff, volunteers, and participants are treated to exquisite but unpretentious cuisine that captures the flavor of Alaskan seasonality and the spirit of frontier living.

As one would hope, the kitchen of the Old Hardware Store is the heart of the WMC campus. You can always expect to find strong coffee, good smells, fresh baked goods, and the beginnings of the next meal being served up to a dependable soundtrack of Townes Van Zandt. The walls are decorated with colorful jars of spices and grains that are shelved alongside watercolors, sketches, and postcards from former guests. The warm and buzzing atmosphere, makes it a primary point of congregation for staff and participants—whether a simple noontime lunch or an assembly line of volunteer pancake-flippers feeding more than 150 on Independence Day.

Operating a kitchen in the Alaskan wilderness is no small feat. Beyond a Costco membership and a green thumb, it requires a delicate balance of thoughtful planning and creative ingenuity with a whole 'lotta elbow grease. This past season, the WMC had a rock star kitchen crew. Staff members Rachel Franklin and Rob Woodworth tag-teamed the keystone role of managing the kitchen. Rachel, a classically-trained baker and veteran kitchen-ninja, earned her stripes preparing meals for ravenous hunters and oil camp workers of

the North Slope. Without any formal kitchen experience, Rob provided grassroots approach cookery with foraged delicacies and lacto-fermented oddities like dandelion capers and Lacinato kale kimchi. Rob and Rachel were supported by intern



Maya Heubner, who prepared ornate salads and kept our gardens brimming with fresh herbs and vegetables—becoming known for her decadent rhubarb crisps and diverse knowledge of Alaskan wild edibles.

Our fearless team was able to prepare a diverse menu for our various programs throughout the summer, which also happened to include backcountry re-supplies. Staple dishes like homemade granola, country gravy, and salmon salad were reliable and hearty options that provided endless opportunities for creative variations

depending on which herbs and veggies were available or in demand. Though most meals were plant-based, the dining room table



would occasionally be graced with fresh-caught steelhead, wild hare, smoked sockeye, moose sausage, caribou steak, or Dall sheep stews provided by friends of the WMC. Gluten-free diners and vegans alike were also treated to wheat-free baked goods and savory meals devoid of animal products.

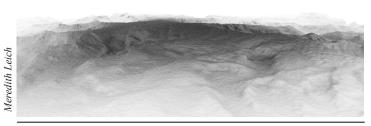
With a steady flow of hungry visitors and relatively little processed food, you'd think the rustically modest WMC kitchen would stick to basic provisions with little extravagance. Though, anyone who dined with us this summer would likely recall unique and exotic offerings that were a feast to both eye and palate. Standout dishes from the kitchen log include coconut and squash curry with fresh-baked naan, sauteed fiddleheads with duck eggs, salmoncaper pizza with homemade alfredo sauce, and fried green tomatoes with wild rice pilaf. There was never a shortage of pickled garden goodies, and confections like black currant jam or cinnamon streusel were also in ample supply. Even the pickiest eaters who visited us left McCarthy with a full belly.

Above all else, the WMC kitchen is a beacon of resourcefulness and community in the rugged terrain of the Alaskan frontier. In our kitchen, nothing goes to waste and every fleeting moment is savored in a way that begets a deep appreciation for the beautiful bounties of the wild. We are grateful for every opportunity to serve the WMC community of strong and vibrant souls and look forward to ringing the dinner bell yet again next season. Until then, bon appetit!

Watercolor of the Root Glacier, 11x15" ▶

Digital image from the "Scaling Quelccaya" project





Meg Hunt Residency Program by Meredith Leich

Ispent a year looking at glaciers from space. How little this prepared me for the real thing. On an unusually warm June day, my friend Nina Elder and I walked north from Kennecott beneath a wide blue sky. Slapping at the slow-moving mosquitoes, we marveled at the expanse of the Kennicott Glacier's moraine, which first appeared to me, confusingly, as a valley of rippling brown and gray dunes. I thought of the ice hidden beneath the layers of rock; how the rock had traveled the length of the glacier over thousands of years; how the glacier's terminus melted into a lake a few miles behind us, rocks occasionally tumbling into the icy water with a satisfying splash.

After half an hour or so, we reached the seam where two glaciers converged: the Root Glacier gleaming white in contrast to the tawny tail of the Kennicott. Turning off the trail, we scrambled down to the winding stream of glacial melt where the Root Glacier met an eroded bank of rock and dirt. Crouching, we strapped crampons over our hiking boots, taking care to avoid gashing our bare legs with the metal spikes. With a large step, we cleared the stream. We were on the glacier. It felt like stepping onto the moon.

Over my previous year in Chicago, I had teamed with glaciologist Andrew Malone on an artscience project. We focused on Quelccaya, the world's largest tropical glaciated area, located high in the Andes Mountains in Peru. Because Quelccaya is so remote, we worked with years of satellite imagery captured by the US's Landsat Program. In the images, Quelccaya's

ice appeared as a white splotch amidst a patchwork of green and brown mountains. In an attempt to better understand, I translated a radar image of Quelccaya into a virtual 3D topography using animation and gaming software. We could digitally zoom over the slopes and dips of the glacier's surface and see how it sat atop mountains in a sprawl that nearly encompassed Chicago -- all within the sterile world of my computer screen.

Now the reflection of the real ice was blinding: white light everywhere. Even with sunglasses, I felt a little dizzy. I had the curious impression we were at the beach. The breeze blew colder over the ice, and I pulled on a jacket. If I held my hand six inches above the ice, I could feel the cool wafting upward like an open refrigerator in summer. The ice rose and fell in banks and valleys, distorting my read on distance: how far away was that ridge? And the mountain beyond? The dimpled surface of the ice was riven with a long crease, from shallow cracks to deep blue slices that cut to the sound of running water far below. Indeed, I could hear water everywhere: the rushing stream behind us, the networks of water trickling over the surface of the ice, and, in the distance, the deeper gush of a glacial waterfall. The glacier was not an immobile slab of ice, nor a fixed mountain, but a vast system of activity, changing, moving, accumulating, melting.

My time in the Meg Hunt Residency Program made it apparent, going forward, I would need ways to portray the glacier in my art. This task will carry me through another winter in Chicago.



▲ Creating stop motion films at Meredith's public outreach event

2017 Artists in Residence

Meredith Leich - Painter, animator, and videomaker Zoe Keller - Illustrator Jowita Wyszomirska - Installations and drawing Gabriela Halas - Writer Sarah McColl - Food writer

Jill Haley - Composer and musician

Thank You Donors and Members!

Up to \$99: Amazon, Christin Anderson, Jeremy & Jamie Anderson, Nate Anderson, Anonymous Donors, Cheryl Antenucci, Dick & Barbara Barnes, Kathy & Bryan Beavers, Weston Bennett, Melissa Blair, Megan & Brendan Bonnett, Bill & Dolores Butler, Erica Byerley, Kristin Carpenter, Jennifer Carroll & Paul Dungan, Robin Child, Jennifer Chung, Copper River Watershed Project, Ruthann Corrao, Bess Crandall, Maria D'Agostino, Christopher Danford, Mike & Megan Danz, Joe & Rebekah Donohue, Barbara Eckrich, Janelle Eklund & Paul Boos, Susan Georgette, Richard & Sue Goodman, Leslie Gustave-Vigil, Greg Handley, Suzanne Hanlan, Carol Harding, Blake Harrison, Brian & Theresa Heckart, Duane Hippe & Shelly Laws, Chandra Howard, Tyler & Lindsey Kellett, David Kessler & Susan Serling, Carolyn Kremers, Kroger, Kristin Link & Greg Runyan, Victoria Lord, Harlan Loso, Ruby Loso, Mark & Cheryl Lovegreen, Keren Lowell, Leigh Lubin, Marie Lundstrom, Karen & Markus Mager, Sarah Marrinan, Carolyn & Larry Mastin, Robin Mayo, Sarah McColl, Mary McKinley, Dave Mitchell, Turk Montepare & Deb Crook, Lisa Moorehead & Bob Dittrick, Kate & Andy Morse, Kevin & Tammy Muente, James Nordlund, Susan & John Nowosad, Natalie Oberman, Tony Perelli & Becky King, Shauna Potocky, Brittany Retherford, Kirin Riddell & Chris Smith, Timothy Ross & Joan Fryxell, Natalie Schuldt, Vicki Snitzler & Marshall Neeck, Jessica Speed, Bill Spicer, Greg Streveler, Dennis Swanson, Dave Syren, Susan Tague, Audrey Taylor, J. Derek Teare & Katharine Reichert, Nora Terwilliger, Mark Vail, Marion Vicary, Dave & Gay Wellman, Charles Wexler, Douglas & Catherine Wheeler, Erika Wolter





for the Arts



Photography Outing hike up McCarthy Creek

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\$2500+: Alaska State Council on the Arts, Blackburn Heritage Foundation, John and Jen Bosshard, James & Ann Johnston, Rasmuson Foundation

ART WORKS.

Special Thanks to our In-Kind Donors and Volunteers

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The Numbers from 2017

WMC Staff/Field Studies Faculty - 12

Individual Volunteers - 115+

Field Studies College Students - 14

Program & Workshop Attendance - 133

Artists in Residence - 6

Researchers - 5

Summer Arts & Lectures Series Attendance - 200+

Half Marathon & 5-Mile Runs - 49

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You can help support us by simply shopping at Fred Meyer and Amazon. Learn more by going to www. wrangells.org/donate. Alaska residents, you can also make a donation directly from your 2018 PFD check using Pick.Click.Give. \$\infty\$

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WMC Wish List

Well running vehicle
Twin/queen size bedding
Wool blankets
Usable lumber
Mountain bikes
Bike tools/parts
Scientific field/lab equipment
Current field guides

Please contact us at info@wrangells.org or (907) 554-4464 if you're interested in donating any items on this list.

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Maya Heubner









Arlene Rosenkrans

"Nizina Confluence"

By: Nancy Cook, Arlene Rosenkrans,
Meg Hunt and Jennifer Chung
Wind and river sing
The Mountain Mama Love Song
To all who listen
They harmonize their heartbeats
Humming a rhythm so deep
How many fathoms of Nizina
In that canyon?
Does depth matter naught?
She flows deep under eddies
She flows shallow over shoals

She flows shallow over shoat Like ideas, rafts stall
On cobbles hidden by silt
Push free, push free
Free

Follow us on social media







Interested in working, volunteering, attending a workshop, or getting involved at the WMC? Check out **www.wrangells.org** for opportunites and more information!