

# HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 21

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2020/21

Connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in Alaska



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▲ *The Old Hardware Store - Photo by Jeremy Pataky*

## Investing in Connections: Moving Beyond 2020

by Jon Erdman, Executive Director

What was it that first sparked your interest in the Wrangells? How did curiosity manifest itself into a sojourn into the remote Alaskan wildlands of the Wrangell Mountains?

And what connection did you make to this place, when you arrived? What experiences did you have, here, that left an indelible mark on your life, that led you to become a supporter of the Wrangell Mountains Center?

I came to the Wrangells in May of 2014 to work as an accountant with the McCarthy Lodge. I hit the ground running. There was much to do. Seasonal businesses out here have to restart themselves every summer. I only began to really appreciate the richness of this place when I took a time-out and attended the WMC Writer's Workshop taught by Nancy Cook, Frank Sous, and Tom Kizzia.

Through that workshop the Wrangells began to take on a vivid texture for me. The history and culture came alive and sparked my curiosity. Even the landscapes, which speak well enough for themselves, became more profoundly personal.

I have since returned to the Wrangells every summer. This May I returned as the new WMC Executive Director.

From time to time as I've relayed to folks my enthusiasm for my new position, they will sometimes ask me a question: "Are you going to do it again next year?" The first time I heard this question, I was confused. Does this person not realize that the ED position is permanent?

I've recently realized that people who ask me this tend to be locals who have been around town for a while. They perhaps remember a time when the ED position actually was a seasonal gig. And there has been much staff turnover in recent years, so I'm starting to appreciate where folks are coming from when inquire.

I'm here to stay, to make the Wrangells my home, but there have been unexpected challenges, especially in getting set up for the winter during a fall season where the snow and

## Investing in Connections

(Continued from page 1)

cold came early, including: learning about local firewood; wood stoves suitable for thirty-below-zero; mechanics of chainsaws, generators and inverters; stocking up on food and supplies for the long winter months; navigating the water and laundry situation (i.e., how long can I get away with wearing the same socks?); and the myriad other tasks that year-around locals will recall from their own first winters.

Then there is the challenge of keeping up with all of this while still keeping the WMC healthy and strong, including meeting the financial needs of the present and preparing for God-knows how many different possible scenarios that may play out next summer.

There has not been as much time as I had hoped to simply enjoy the wonders of the Wrangells. As residents out here put it, "Just living is a full time job." So maybe that's one of the wonders.

But my commitment is an investment in my connection with this place, the community, and this remarkable and unique organization. It's an investment that I feel delighted to make, an investment that I feel privileged to be able to make, given the vision of the WMC and the dedication of the Board and our wide network of supporters.

Our organizational mission is connecting people with wildlands. During the uncertainty of the pandemic period the WMC has anchored itself in this mission, and you have responded with support and a generosity that has impacted me deeply.

Our organization has invested in connections for many decades, and the WMC community of supporters is now a family. With this network, we move forward. Whatever the future may hold, we will continue to invest in these same connections for many decades to come. 🌿



## Media Spotlight

by Jon Erdman

“Never let a good pandemic go to waste.”

These words were heard often this spring by Laurie Wolf, CEO of the Foraker Group that supports non-profit organizations in Alaska. Indeed, the pandemic has forced many organizations to find new ways to connect with supporters. With all our regular summer programming and fundraisers cancelled, we began investing in media, using the web to keep ourselves connected.

Jessie Sheldon came on board as a Media Artist for the summer and helped us set up a professional grade podcast. With our in-person programming mostly postponed, Jessie and I turned the Old Hardware Store into a studio, and a podcast was born.

Then, with the energetic push of Maria Shell, we held an online Tall Tales. Board members and volunteers stepped up and worked to help make it happen and our 2020 online Tall Tales event was attended by approximately 200 people -- and it all went off without hardly a hitch!

We also hosted a Fall Living Room Word Jam [see pg 4] with McCarthy residents and other WMC supporters sharing music and spoken word. And we launched a short, monthly e-Newsletter to keep everyone up to date.

When we resume our normal in-person programming, we hope to continue to provide quality media that will keep our extended WMC family connected to our work and to each other. This new endeavor extends our vision and mission to new supporters. Your financial support will enable us to continue to share these little pieces of the Wrangells with our supporters regardless of where they live.

Go to [www.wrangells.org/end-of-the-road](http://www.wrangells.org/end-of-the-road) to find our latest podcast where Sally Gibert discusses the Pilgrim fiasco of the early 2000s and how this McCarthy conflict catalyzed resolution of certain long-standing tensions between the National Park Service and park inholders throughout the state. And check out our other new social media content!

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/wrangellmntnsc](http://www.youtube.com/wrangellmntnsc)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wrangells](http://www.facebook.com/wrangells)

Instagram [www.instagram.com/wrangellmountainscenter](http://www.instagram.com/wrangellmountainscenter)

And look for other links to media throughout this newsletter! 🌿

◀ Jon and Jessie hosting the new  
*End of the Road* podcast  
Next page: Jon interviewing Sally  
Gibert for the podcast



## ***Sally Needs A Break: Fourth of July, 1977***

**F**resh out of the University of California Santa Cruz, WMC founding member Sally Gibert moved to Alaska in 1974. Sally was energized by the landscapes and the sense of opportunity. She soon set her sights on getting out to the Wrangells and eventually she did just that.

Sally connected with the place and with the community and through a series of serendipitous events, Sally purchased an old, vertigo-inducing Hardware Store in McCarthy. But she had plans and determination, so she applied her focus and organizational skills to the task.

But renovating this wreck on a shoe-string budget with volunteer labor would prove to be a challenge for the young 24 year old Sally. During her first McCarthy summer in 1977, she assembled students and volunteers for a barn-raising style kickoff on the Fourth of July weekend.

Before the hard work, however, the whole crew would have some fun on the Fourth, in town and up in Kennicott where there was a grand opening land sale celebration. Play over the weekend, then hit the ground running on Monday.

Sally was ready for the fun. She was feeling the pressure and stress of putting all of this together, like a weight on her shoulders. She needed a break.

While in Kennicott, a group of locals started a daring game. People would get a running start and launch themselves into the air, and touch down on a sliding slope of loose mill tailings.

Sally hung back, feeling a little nervous about the whole thing, but after watching the fun for a while and seeing that no one was hurt, she eventually decided to give it a try. Unfortunately, no one noticed the loose scree had shifted, exposing hard-packed ground that had no give.

It was bound to happen to someone.

Sally estimates it was like jumping from a second story building. She landed awkwardly, with legs straight.

Sally immediately went into a state of shock. She had crushed one vertebrae and cracked three others. She couldn't move.

A 19 year old college student with wilderness first aid training took charge. She got down close to Sally's face and

said, "Everything is going to be okay. Just listen to my voice and do what I say."

Gary Green drove Sally to the airstrip. As she lay on a salvaged door in the back of his pickup, she could literally feel in her bones even the smallest jostle of the truck, to say nothing about potholes and other obstacles. Then came the painful flight to Glennallen.

The Crossroads medical center in Glennallen diagnosed Sally with a broken back but didn't want to treat her, which meant another plane trip. The pain medication they gave her didn't treat the pain but put her in a delusional state.

Sally wanted a break, and she certainly got one!

Things that weekend had not gone according to Sally's plans, to say the least, but what appeared to be a major setback turned out to be something special.

The dozen or so assembled volunteers awoke the next day, to discuss the situation. The consensus was, "We don't need Sally." Sally's job, they reasoned, was to form the vision, to gather everyone together, and to provide the food and supplies. Everything was staged and ready to go.

"It was astounding," Sally says, in hindsight. "The whole culture of the Hardware Store got started, that Monday."

It was the beginning of the communal culture of the WMC, where people work together and play together, too, a philosophy that marks rural Alaska. When people see something that needs to be done, they do it. Meals are cooked and shared together.

Perhaps it is a paradox, but this culture of cooperation and collaboration is the basis for individuals to dig deeper into themselves, to open themselves to personal insights and individual transformation. It's a rare thing in this world to find the kind of community that allows us to understand ourselves better, as individuals, within the context of such a close communal togetherness. That culture continues to this day, at the Old Hardware Store in McCarthy Alaska.

You can hear Sally tell this story (and others) in her own words in our August 11 podcast, "Sally Gibert: Shaped By The Wild" at <https://www.wrangells.org/sally-gibert> or visit <https://www.wrangells.org/end-of-the-road> to see all podcasts. 🍷

## Hosting UAF Glaciologists

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to host our sixth bi-annual glaciology program with glaciologists arriving from around the world to collaborate and study the local glaciers. But we hosted a few glaciologists from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks who placed equipment on the glacier and returned periodically throughout the summer to check on things.

It did the heart good to see wet clothes hanging in the Classroom of the Old Hardware Store, with a lovely fire burning as four young glaciologists relaxed, their rose-cheeked faces sagging from fatigue, tired but happy after another hard day of hoofing it on the ice. ❄️

## Word Jam Brings Wrangell Mountain Voices Together...Virtually

by Allison Sayer, CRR staff – Originally published in the Copper River Record on November 19, 2020 and reprinted here with permission

The Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC) Word Jams are typically summer events held in the large front room of what was once a mining-era hardware store in McCarthy. Held in conjunction with the annual Writers' Workshop, the events showcase original wordcraft by visiting writers and locals in the form of prose, poetry, or song. One of the most memorable things about these events is the attention, respect, and absolute presence in the moment of the audience. Although the large room is always packed with residents and seasonal workers, the crowd is quiet and focused completely on each performer. Due to the facility's off-grid nature, there are no humming or whirring appliances to fill in each pause between words, just a rich and present silence punctuated occasionally by barking dogs outside.

In subsequent years, singer/songwriter Michelle McAfee brought the community together around music showcases at the Wrangell Mountains Center as part of the "Living Room" series. Events like these are what many of us miss most during the current pandemic.

On November 17, "The Living Room Word Jam" went virtual. Writers and musicians shared their work via Zoom amongst an audience of people on the WMC mailing list. Author, professor, and long time workshop facilitator Nancy Cook was the emcee.

The event featured a musical remembrance of the late musician Jason Esler. Attendees watched video of Jason performing in a crowded bar, and his brother Jamie shared songs he had written in tribute to his brother's memory. Michelle McAfee and Robin Child shared their remembrances of how Jason's improvised words and beautiful voice impacted everyone around him.

Diverse spoken word subjects ranged from an essay by Kathleen Dean Moore fortifying the spirits of those working for a better world, a poetic portrait of a unique Alaskan musical voice by Jeremy Pataky, a fanciful imagining of a real-life McCarthy outlaw by Jon Erdman, and a tribute to an old truck by Dianne Milliard, among others.

Several musicians performed as well. Robin Child and Michelle McAfee, major forces in Wrangell Mountain music, shared the results of an experimental collaboration using software to perform "together" virtually. It was a much-missed treat to hear those voices together, even if it required engineering and social distance. Molly Mylius, whose

## A short selection from "Moraine Morning"

A song written by glaciologists Nicole  
Trenholm and Eric Petersen

There'll be loose rock  
You'll have your fill  
There'll be a cave  
Glacial water chill

Misty mornin'?  
You gotta stay dry  
Sunny mornin'?  
Don't let yourself fry

It's a moraine morning  
So do take warning

Ain't no mistaken  
Our bodies are achin'

The drillin' takes too long  
Cause my stake's twelve meters long  
We'll return to measure melt  
Another day

Come and have this drink with me  
We'll toast the glacier and the scree  
The light shines through the ice  
Like golden embers burning bright  
Against the deepest blue of Alaskan  
summer nights

▲ Find "Moraine Morning" on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/SWzu3pTcj94> – look for a few shots of the crew at the Old Hardware Store!

McCarthy connection spans her whole life, shared a video of the acapella group she performs with in Anchorage that many people in the Wrangell Mountain community had never seen.

Most surprising about this virtual event was that the group mindset of a fully present audience was still palpable. It was not the same as getting together in person. It was a deeply felt experience that strengthened community ties. ❄️

# Food Security: The WMC Responds to The Pandemic

By Sophie Littée

Sophie has been in the community since the 2000's and now has a homestead of her own on McCarthy's West Side. Sophie has served as Operations Manager for the WMC and continues to support the WMC in many important ways as a super volunteer.

My time at the WMC has made me realize you can get almost everything you need here, in this remote community. Everyone has something to offer.

Kennicott-McCarthy are remote and resources can be scarce. You have to get to know your neighbors. We need and rely on each other for a multitude of things.

The collective knowledge right here is impressive and there is often an abundance of resources. I have experienced a profound relational connection in this small town. We need each other in the city, too, of course, but often there is detachment because while it's easy to get things done, it's often by people we don't know.

I was here in McCarthy last March for the start of the pandemic, and in the early stages there was this feeling of scarcity and fear. Without proximity to health care and a skeletal first responder crew, people started wondering, "How are we going to do this thing, we're at the end of the road? We will need food, but we don't want to go to Anchorage." Many were worried also about people entering and bringing the virus into the valley.

The anxiety was real. This was a very pivotal time and there was no playbook on what to do.

None of us have ever experienced anything like this.

As Operations Manager in the fall of 2019, I helped shut down the WMC Campus. So I knew that we had a good stock of food staples in the Old Hardware Store, food that

the people of McCarthy might need. After conferring with the board, I made an announcement at one of McCarthy's weekly community Zoom calls, then I created a list of quantities that could be offered along with a suggested donation and sent it out to the community.

We were able to give people what they needed from what we had. It was great. People used the service, but for a lot of people just knowing that it was there gave them comfort because they realized that they weren't going to be in dire straights if they ran out of rice, beans, flour or some other food staple.

That's what I love about the WMC - as it enabled me to be useful and share its resources in a time of crisis.

We've become an organization that is able to provide for our community in different ways at different times, whether it's providing a place to gather and share ideas about diversity, listen to scientists who learn from our environment, sing, create art, or to distribute food during a pandemic. My heart is in it with the Wrangell Mountains Center, and I want to see these things continue to happen. I would like to see the WMC continue to be a support and a critical resource for our remote Alaskan community. ☺

## WMC Gardens

In addition to helping with food scarcity during the pandemic, Sophie Littée also worked on staff in 2020, in the WMC gardens. She helped organize this year's McCarthy Market (farmer's market) in a COVID-cautious manner that allowed the WMC to distribute fresh produce to the community from our gardens. Many thanks to Sophie for her dedication and contributions to the WMC!

Thanks also to the generosity of John and Donna Watson who once again allowed the Wrangell Mountains Center to use their plot of land to grow fresh produce. ☺



▲ Sophie at the McCarthy Market this summer with produce, kombucha, and rhubarb jam

Sophie Littée's Scrumptious Scone Recipe ▶

HI. SPOT'S 375°  
350°

### LEMON - CURRANT SCONES

<b>DRY</b>	2 1/4 c. flour (white) <small>more flour if it's a juicy lemon</small>	1/2 c. butter (cold) (1 stick)
	1/2 c. sugar	1/4 c. buttermilk or 4 T. Plain Yog
	3/4 tsp baking powder	1 large egg
	3/4 tsp baking soda	grated lemon peel
	1/2 tsp salt	the juice of one lemon
		a cup or so of currants (handful)

OR PARCHMENT PAPER

Butter 10" diameter on baking sheet.

- Mix dry ingredients. Cut in butter (don't overmix) till crumbly.\*
- Mix wet ingredients and add to dry. Lift from underneath w/ hands. Don't overmix.

With lightly floured hands pat into 9" frisbie on baking sheet.

Cut into wedges but don't separate. Bake 25 min or so till lightly browned

\* you want the butter to stay COLD & crumbly. maybe even start w/ a frozen butter stick...

## Thank you Maria Shell!



▲ Maria in her McCarthy studio

### ***Maria Shell: Champion Extraordinaire***

*By Sally Gibert and Howard Mozen*

Maria is an artist, and Maria loves McCarthy. These facts are obvious to anyone who has spent even just a little bit of time getting to know her. Maria is driven to share her passion for art, and McCarthy, which made her a good fit to be a WMC board member. After 14 years of service, Maria is retiring from the board to focus more on her quilting and teaching career.

Fortunately, she and her family remain neighbors and will always be part of the WMC family.

This is an especially good time to celebrate Maria's contributions to the WMC. In thinking about her unstoppable energy and dedication, the word "champion" comes to mind. Maria has the vision and ability to grab a task or goal and run with it until completion.

For example, Maria was the key board fundraiser for the 2011 purchase of Porphyry Place. Porphyry Place was, and remains, a testament to the community spirit shared by Meg Hunt and the late Ed LaChapelle, which integrates so perfectly into the WMC culture.

Maria initially came to McCarthy in 2006 to participate in a WMC Writing Workshop. Her very first impressions are captured in the Hardware Store Herald: How to Dress for Church (Fall 2006 Volume 8), reprinted here. Like so many others that come to McCarthy, she was hooked.

While supporting the broad WMC mission, Maria has always seen herself as a champion of the arts, in particular Artists in Residence. Dozens of artists have come to engage with both the landscape and the community, many becoming community members themselves!

Maria volunteered countless hours of her time working

on WMC objectives. If that weren't enough, she also gave generously of her resources, be that the donation of her art, her teaching, her letter writing skills, her personal financial support or her house for fundraisers.

She took her WMC board work very seriously; and she inspired all of the board to work harder to make the organization ever better. Maria leaves a board legacy that will help to keep the WMC strong and on track towards its mission for many years to come. She has earned her board retirement, and we look forward to seeing how she champions her creative energy in the future.

Maria – Thank you – It has been *Sew Fun!!* ☞

### ***“How to Dress for Church”***

*By Maria C. Shell, Reprinted from our 2006 Hardware Store Herald...Maria attended the 2006 Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop*

I choose to wear my Jackie O' 60's style sandals to McCarthy this year. Each sandal features a large metal ring on top of a black leather triangle. The triangle sits on the top of my foot with the point going between my big toe and my second little piggy toe. The other points of the triangle are anchored to a two-and-a-half-inch rubber bottom. These sandals are flip flops with panache. They are endlessly stylish, by this I mean they go with everything. I'm not a bush babe, and I wanted my feet to say that – screw the Chacos. I was gonna walk on rocky ground with style. McCarthy dirt, jagged terrain, ankle-twisting acne scarred divot dirt would not stop me from sashaying.

So on a Sunday afternoon in August, I planted my pink pedicured toenails onto the rocky soil near the McCarthy foot bridge. Well, kind of. I did get from my car to the bridge without falling, but my left heel slipped off its platform and hit rock, and my right foot became a claw just to hold onto its leather toe strap.

Alright, two minutes into my trip and I'm stumbling. I turn and face the water of the Kennicott River and look across the foot bridge to the ground on the other side--my destination--the remote Alaskan town of McCarthy. I shake my head. Defeat at the bridge. I must admit I cannot even climb the rocks of the parking lot in these shoes let alone hoof it into town.

My fashionable flipflops are not tenacious toe toppers. They are unacceptable attire for this landscape. The signs say so. (Including the one at the footbridge, which says something along the lines of Rocky Terrain Sturdy Footwear Recommended.) These are city slicker shoes built for level pavement, for flat black surfaces, for smooth manufactured flooring. If I was going to get around on McCarthy ground, I was gonna have to strip down. There are no high heels in this Cathedral.☞

## Diversity Discussions at WMC

Jon Erdman's Zoom Interview with Cassidy Maya Austen

Cassidy grew up spending summers in the Kennicott-McCarthy community. She just graduated from high school, a member of the historic pandemic class of 2020, collecting awards for her active involvement in environmental causes. Cassidy concluded her high school career, not by tossing her cap with her fellow classmates, but by uploading assignments at the Kennicott River footbridge from her car, trying to get a decent internet signal.

Cassidy helped organize the Community Diversity Working Group, in response to the Black Lives Matter protests at the beginning of the summer. The WMC agreed to host and offer a space for community discussions of white privilege, diversity, and welcoming communities.

**Jon:** Promoting diversity in a small, rural Alaska community will necessarily look different from many other places in the United States. How do you think things went? And what challenges did this group face?

**Cassidy:** Due to the pandemic there was already so much conflict, which could be intense since the community feels like a family. Given the polarized climate, it was easy for our group to get labeled as being on a particular side of the national tension. But our goal wasn't to push a political agenda, it was simply to invite people into our community who might not otherwise feel welcome, given that we are a predominantly white community in rural Alaska. This fact alone is already pretty intimidating to people of diverse backgrounds.

**Jon:** Right, and the group was a discussion group, too, which reflected that it wasn't about one person pushing their own agenda. So, how did the discussions themselves go?

**Cassidy:** All the discussions that I attended seemed very interactive. Everyone had an equal voice. I feel like the topics -- white privilege, diversity, and being a welcoming community -- were definitely topics people really wanted to interact with and push forward in our community as points of discussion. But people definitely had different ideas of how we should do that.

**Jon:** Hence the discussions were lively. And you know, we had a lot of people that showed up.

**Cassidy:** Up to 30 people, I remember, at some of the discussion groups. And for our community, that's a lot!

**Jon:** What do you think motivated many people to invest their time in these community diversity discussions?

**Cassidy:** Those issues dominated the media this year so it was almost impossible to ignore. I thought it was really cool how people were taking what was going on this summer and actually wanting to work at it because what we need right now is not for people to be "not racist" but for people to actively try to be anti-racist.

**Jon:** And given how much it dominated our national attention, people were asking, "What can we do?" For me, when I look around at this beautiful and amazing place I think that it is something to be shared, that at a core human level the wonders of the Wrangells should be shared by diverse people.

**Cassidy:** It's also indigenous land, and so we should acknowledge that more often.

**Note:** At the end of summer, Nina Elder, a discussion group participant, created and installed a sign at the local Museum that acknowledged the Ahtna-Athabascan land and welcomed visitors to town. The WMC joins Nina in acknowledging and honoring this ancestral territory. ✨



### *Yes, I support connecting people with wildlands through art, science and education in Alaska!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Wrangell Mountains Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. Tax ID # 920117864*

## Remembering Gregg Wheatland

By Shirley Wheatland

Gregg Wheatland's love for the Wrangells blossomed in 1971 when he walked 60 miles into McCarthy from Chitina. Gregg was part of the initial University of California at Santa Cruz student group studying the region for establishing a new National Park under ANILCA. He was an Environmental Studies major and had a special interest in land use. He also was an avid photographer, contributing many photos that summer to the UCSC report, published in 1973.

He spent several summers in the Wrangells in the 1970s working on the report and enjoying the bounty of the beautiful backcountry, and although he did not move to Alaska permanently, he loved returning to the area periodically for visits and had always hoped he might one day have a cabin of his own.

Gregg went on to become an attorney for the California Energy Commission, an Administrative Law Judge for the Public Utilities Commission, and eventually worked for a small energy law firm in Sacramento. His practice focused on protecting consumers and developing renewable energy sources in the State of California.

Gregg wistfully wished he had put down some roots in McCarthy in his early years there, but it turns out that a love for the area runs in the family. One of Gregg's happiest times in the year before his death in 2017 was watching his daughter Tara and a group of hardworking friends build a cabin on her own piece of property in McCarthy.

In remembrance of Gregg and his love of the Wrangells, I decided to make a contribution to the Wrangell Mountains Center Endowment Fund. I'm glad that in this way Gregg's initial contribution of time and effort will be perpetuated by helping the Center continue its good works in the future.

For information about the WMC Endowment Fund, administered by the Alaska Community Foundation, visit [alaskacf.org/blog/funds/wrangell-mountains-center-endowment-fund/](http://alaskacf.org/blog/funds/wrangell-mountains-center-endowment-fund/)



## Ed and Marion Doherty Scholarship Fund

In 2006, with a generous donation from Jim and Ann Johnston, the WMC established the Ed and Marion Doherty Scholarship Fund. The WMC is pleased to announce we have added a donor button on our Support page to make it easier for others to donate directly to this dedicated Scholarship Fund.

The Johnstons created the fund so students with financial challenges could have a similarly awesome life and educational experience as their son Tod in 1998.

Their wish is that the Scholarship Fund be available to assist others hoping to participate in this high-quality, accredited academic field program, who would otherwise not have the financial means to so. The Fund has provided scholarships to over a dozen students since its inception. We currently partner with Evergreen State College, who provides the academic accreditation for this program.

A small sampling of testimonials from past Field Studies programs: "the most powerful experience in my life" "An incredible outdoor classroom" "A wonderfully structured academic and backpacking program" "empowering". We welcome donations to our Scholarship program to help us provide this life changing experience to deserving students with financial challenges.



## Supporting Organizations

- Alaska Community Foundation
- Alaska Humanities Forum
- Alaska State Council on the Arts
- National Endowment on the Arts
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve



ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



ALASKA  
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## ***Thank You Donors!***

### **\$2500 +**

Alaska Humanities Forum, John Bosshard, Maria Shell & Walt Tague, Patt Garrett, Sally Gibert & Dick Mylius, Shirley Wheatland

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Alaska Community Foundation, Cindy Hendel, David Lynn Grimes, Erin K. Johnson Memorial Fund, Karen Ruud & Dr. Peter Mjos, Sophie Gilbert & Tim Bartholomaus

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**Wrangell Mountains Center**  
PO Box 142972  
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[www.wrangells.org](http://www.wrangells.org)

▲ WMC volunteer Shannon with an abundant raspberry harvest



▼ Top: Sam Gregory performing at virtual tall tales  
Bottom: McCarthy Market this summer



## ***2020 WMC Events and Happenings***

- Mark Vail birdwalk
- Provided space for a series of Diversity discussions open to all community members
- Hosted the McCarthy Market, a small farmer’s market, and sold produce from the WMC gardens
- Launched podcasts and media outreach (Karinna Bakker and Jessie Sheldon)
- Hosted a small team of glaciologists from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, monitoring glacier activity in the Wrangells
- Tall Tales 2020 held virtually and attended by approximately 200 persons. Shauna Potocky’s tale was the winner.
- Fall Living Room Word Jam, a night of Wrangell Mountains music and spoken word, held virtually
- Drilled of a new well, thanks to the generosity of our donors

***The WMC is located on the traditional territories of the Indigenous Ahtna People. We acknowledge and honor the ancestral & present land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of this territory.***