

HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 20

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2019/20

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



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WMC Board of Directors

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- Tyler Boyes
- Nina Elder
- Sally Gibert
- Sophie Gilbert
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▲ **Left:** Gathering for dinner in front of the Old Hardware Store. **Right:** The backyard of the WMC is full of inspiration - Root Glacier and Donoho Peak. Both of these photos were taken by Helene Fischman as part of the Meg Hunt Residency Program. See more work by summer artists in residence throughout the newsletter and on pages 6-7.

Glacier Silt

by Howard Mozen, WMC Board Member

The Powerhouse was in danger of being swamped by McCarthy Creek when I first trammed and waded into McCarthy during the fall floods of 1985. My powerful first reactions to the area can be summed up by the words emblazoned in my bad memory: “Wow! This place is wild!! I never want to leave!” I came for the wilderness, and as I got to meet folks, I stayed for the people. I stayed for that ephemeral concept called “community.”

I have given my heart to the Wrangells – and have been affiliated with the Wrangell Mountains Center since I first arrived. The Wrangell Mountains Center is like the glacial silt that settles at the river’s bottom and cements the varied pebbles and boulders in their place, connecting them.

I believe strongly that the Wrangell Mountains Center’s work is powerful and positive. Like the silt, the WMC is often the substrate that binds together and connects the many and varied folks who live in and visit our McCarthy/Kennicott home.

The energy of caring folks like you keep us strong – and keep us grinding toward our mission. Thank you for your support; for keeping that magic silt swirling. ✎

Migrations

by Mark Vail

Each Spring as the snows of winter retreat and the days lengthen, the annual migration of summer residents is in full swing. Both people and birds take part in these migrations. For the past seven years, the WMC has hosted a season-opening event that encourages early risers to learn more about the birds that make their summer homes here. On a late May or early June weekend, I lead a morning bird-watching walk.

Participants meet at the Old Hardware Store between 7:30 and 8:00 for a quick cup of coffee and catch up with neighbors while folks make their way from far corners of the community. After sharing references, we embark on a leisurely walk that includes frequent stops to look and listen. With each new find, we help others in the group locate and identify the species at hand. I use my 30 plus years of study to discuss their life history, habits, and habitat. Field guides and binoculars are helpful, and the group shares, so no one is left out. As town comes to life and the streets become busy with the traffic of the day, we make our way back to the OHS for refreshments and a review of our finds. Past walks have produced up to 17 species, from Ravens and Swallows to White-Crowned Sparrows and Yellow Warblers. A list is compiled and shared.

Beginners and accomplished birders alike are welcome and add to the enthusiasm for this first outing of the Center's season-long programming where Arts and Sciences are shared with visitors and locals enhancing our understanding of our environment here in the Wrangell Mountains.

Watch your inbox or online for next spring's annual event and join us for the 2020 season opener. 🐦



WMC photo

Sustainable Gardening

by Arlene Rosenkrans

Sustainability and organic in relation to food and our food systems are topics of great interest. Mark Vail and myself applied these topics to the local gardening level for a small group of interested Alaskans at the WMC in late June. I am a retired Resource Conservationist with USDA and have been gardening in the Kenny Lake area for more than 25 years. Mark is well known as a master gardener and has a large garden which he shares locally. He also helps immensely with the WMC community garden.

Learning about sustainable garden systems leads directly to improving and maintaining soil health through additions of compost and other organics. WMC has an effective composting system in place, and the front garden beds were sampled and sent to a soil lab for testing and used as a teaching tool. The garden beds were found to be full of healthy rich organic matter, serving as a training tool for beginner gardeners.

With cost and time savings in mind, we discussed nutrient and water management, so that the gardener and the garden are sustained. For example the use of some fertilizer instead of fish and blood meal in bear country is more sustainable but not necessarily organic, and the gardener survives to till another year!

Topics also included the importance of understanding microclimate and selecting appropriate varieties and crops for your area and family preferences. We discussed natural pest and disease control, thinning, and water management, and setting up a simple drip irrigation system. After a wonderful lunch, participants learned how to propagate and grow healthy seedlings, followed by a seedling transplant exercise.

Attendees were encouraged to network with other gardeners in the region such as the Copper Valley Farmers and Gardeners Facebook Group. Visiting other gardeners was also encouraged, with some discussions about future garden tours. Some of the class participants left the garden class to help out at the WMC community garden near the Hardware Store which helps feed attendees to other WMC programs. This class could be offered again in the spring if there is enough interest from the community. 🐦

◀ Mark Vail starts garden goodies for the WMC. Students in the Sustainable Gardening workshop learned how to propagate and grow seedlings.

Art and Science Outside

by Ashley Bobowski

This summer we had a wonderful group of volunteers and youth participate in our weekly Mountain Arts and Science for Youth (MASY) programming. MASY is a two hour – twice a week program geared towards connecting kids to the outdoors via the arts and sciences. Highlights from the summer included an electricity lab, archeology exploration with the National Park Service, sun printing, recycled cap mosaics, and much more. The summer was spent outside, exploring the area, and expanding both the student and teachers' minds. It was exciting to connect with kids, hear their stories week to week, and see them apply art and science in different and unique ways.

This year, kids started the summer off exploring the world of oceanography and learned about Kristin Link's experience doing research and art with zooplankton. Participants did an amazing job at creating beautiful paintings of polar bears in fireweed with artist Naomi Young, cyanotype printing using naturally found materials with Robin Child, and using power tools and recycled bottle caps to make mosaics with Stefanie Tschappat. Cynthia Shidner led the students in an electricity lab to explore what materials conduct electricity. We discussed how electricity and the copper wire are not only related but are also relevant to the Kennicott community. It was impressive how much background knowledge the students had on the topic, and they even correctly answered the question, "What animal was the battery created after?" Smartly, one participant answered the electric eel and went on to explain the reason why.

Another highlight included the annual Kids Making History Day. Scheduled to coincide with the 4th of July, participants did a scavenger hunt in the museum with historian John Rice. Afterwards, they had the opportunity to write down their own history and add it to a collection of all the kids who have participated in Kids Making History Day throughout the years. It is slowly becoming a wonderful time capsule of the lives of McCarthy kids. 🌀

◀ Scenes from the summer's youth programs. **From top to bottom:** Learning about electricity with Cynthia Shidner, Studying archeology in the field with Lee Reininghouse, Posing with finished bottle cap art; Making cyanotype prayer flags in front of Porphyry Place.





▲ Students learning and enjoying the alpine of the Wrangells on a sunny day.

▶ Hiking through an ice bridge on the edge of the Kennicott Glacier.



The Lasting Impact of the Evergreen–WMC College Field Studies

by Elvia Cruz, one of two students receiving WMC scholarship assistance for the 2019 program

Through the field studies program, I learned so much about myself!! The interdisciplinary approach of mixing geology, ecology, and social sciences really helped change my perspectives.

My professors invited me to challenge my definition of disturbance as a bad thing, and instead to not see it as so black and white. Their lectures pointed to patterns in ecosystems that were disturbed and how the environment responded to it. Most of the time, ecosystems have learned to adapt and become resilient to disturbances. Witnessing the adaptation and resilience in the environment firsthand made an impression on me, and inspired me to focus more on the adaptation our society can take in the face of climate change, which was very apparent in the Wrangells due to the heat waves we experienced, as well as glacier retreating. This perspective helped me emotionally. It is not as emotionally crippling for me to think about climate change if I consider the fact that I can use my education to see how I can help communities build resilience in the face of climate change. This trip helped me to see patterns between our environment and our current state which overall made me see things from a different perspective.

The mindset that I can play a positive role made me get excited for this upcoming school year at UC Santa Barbara. I will co-chair two organizations, Environmental Justice Alliance and Making Adventure Possible for All Students (MAPAS). I plan to help create spaces that will uplift and inspire students of color and low income to work on shaping a just future in the face of climate change after they graduate from college.

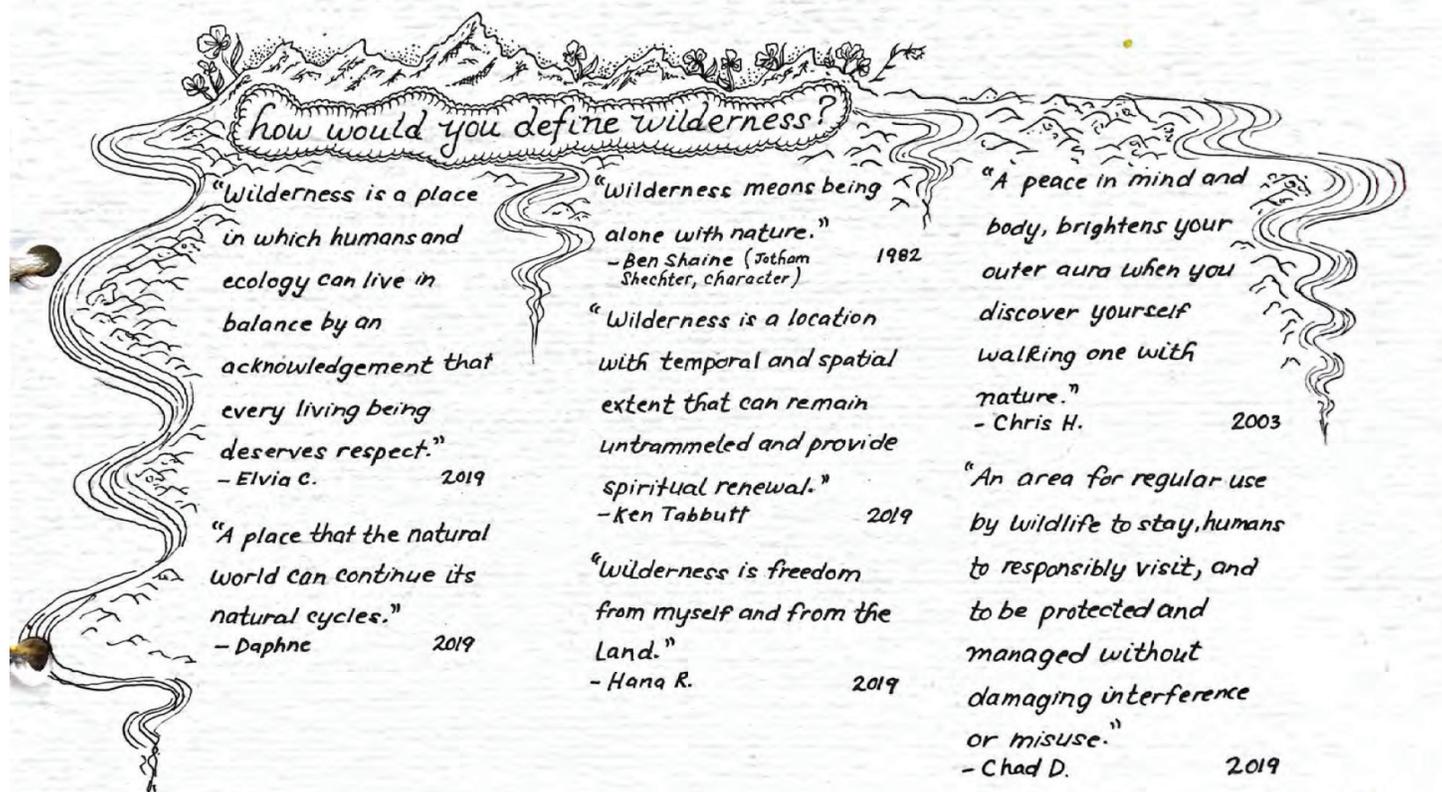
This trip also made me reflect on the privilege I had to have attended a program like this. I was the only person of color so it felt like a window to a lifestyle of recreational activities such as backpacking in Alaska that is not attainable for others with limited finances. I am really grateful for your support!! Learning more from the outdoors has been life-changing, something that I hope others can experience. This trip only solidified my perspective that the outdoors should not be exclusive and I feel much more excited and uplifted to believe that the actions I can take at UCSB through MAPAS will allow others to experience camping and backpacking without having to worry about the costs.

Overall, this experience did help me nurture a relationship with an environment I never thought I would ever see. An environment I only had dreams about seeing. I am still deeply humbled by the opportunity of this experience. ✨

These reflections are lightly edited, from a letter of thanks initially sent to the Field Studies Scholarship Committee, and republished with permission.

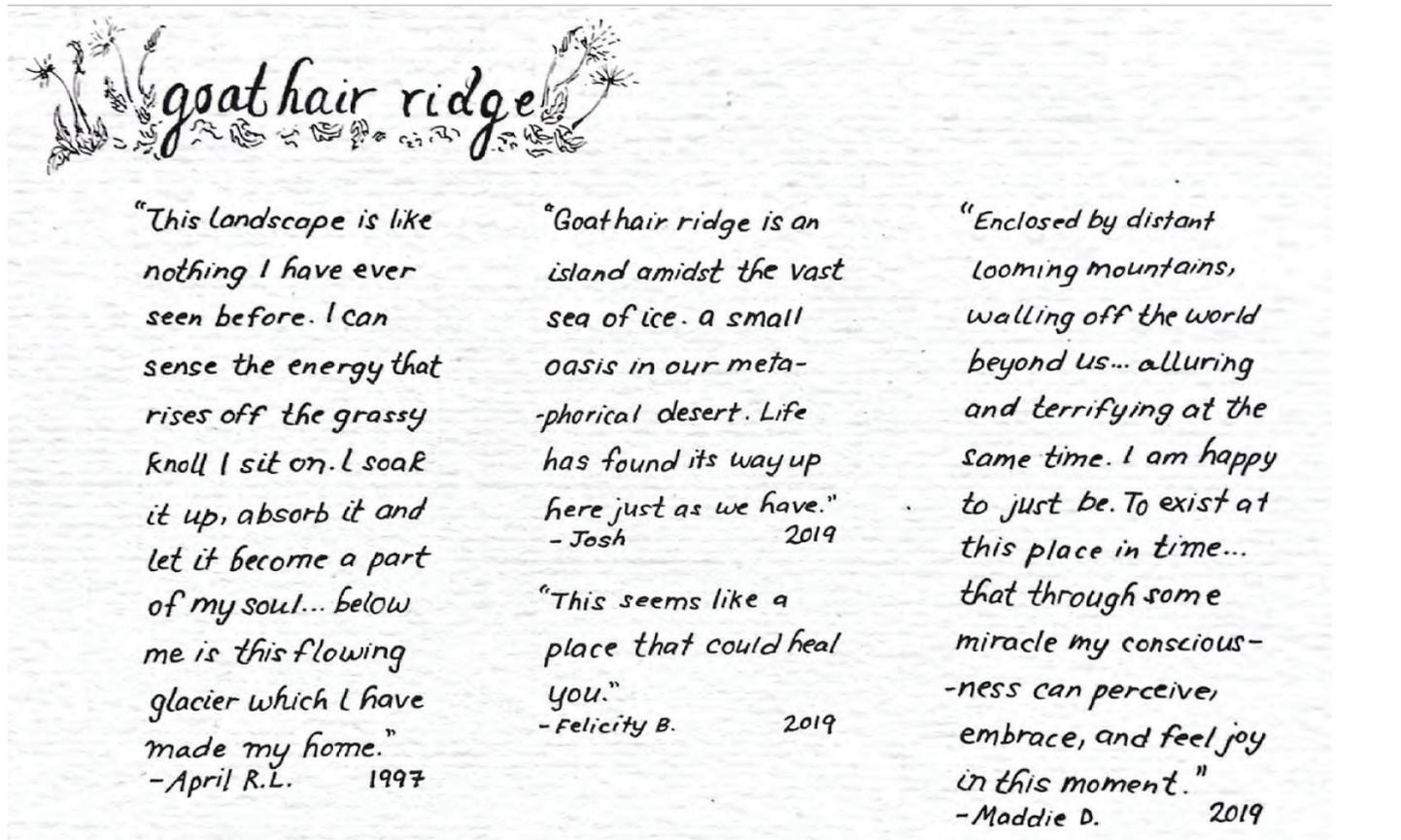
Excerpts from Collective Experiences In the Wrangell Mountains

2019 Student Project by Elvia Cruz, Hana Rothner, Madeline Dike, and Felicity Bidwell



▲ Journal entries from past student projects and reflections. Quote from Alaska Dragon

▼ Journal entries collected at Goat Hair Ridge, past and present





Artist in Residence

by Paul Scannell

Returning to McCarthy was a momentous journey – at times an overwhelming whirlwind. My first chaotic and magical experience of town in 2016 had seen me rise from a random wanderer to the position of WMC volunteer gardener. Skipping two flights back to Europe, I enjoyed a fairy-tale summer of creativity and inspiration. To be invited back as an artist in residence three years on was truly a great honor.

Driving from Anchorage with my dear friend Patt Garrett gave us time to reminisce and catch up on local affairs. Dusky summer rain was falling as we arrived at the landing strip. I stepped out of the car and breathed that familiarly sweet, smoky air so deeply, my lungs might have burst. Coming from London's bustle, I readjusted slowly but steadily to the pace and closeness of people. Each morning from my porch I watched clouds tumble and melt over distant rolling layers of evergreens. The sky was as wide as I remember and fringed with snow-tipped mountains. Every Cessna that pierced the sky reminded me I was back within a hike of adventure; of glaciers, endless forests, bears and mines. Every person I passed had a smile and a nod.

My residency brought me back to the beloved dusty old Hardware Store and the warmth of its summer occupants. I caught up with old friends and made new ones, hiked known paths and bushwhacked unfamiliar ones. Whilst in town I continued researching and photographing for my upcoming book on the area's many wonderful abandoned sites - 'Abandoned Alaska', due for release in March 2020.



▲ Paul Scannell explored Bremner Historic Site during his artist residency to collect inspiration for his book, 'Abandoned Alaska'
◄ The outside and inside worlds of the Wrangells captured by Helene Fischman

Kindly facilitated by Wrangell Mountain Air, I got to visit Bremner. Offering some of the region's most untouched mining history, it is as far-flung as to appear remote to McCarthy – itself a tiny speck in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. When you're there, you're alone, except for the bears, birds and an odd species of land squirrel whose aggressive friendliness can be alarming at times. Pulling a thick pin from each make-shift clasp, I dragged open heavy log doors to reveal irresistible rags and rusty riches, spades, screws, nails and all manner of discarded tools, lying mostly where they were left almost a century ago. To experience and capture this precious history was a transformative privilege.

With the help of the WMC staff, I was afforded the precious time to develop my work and immerse myself in the inimitable quirkiness of this unique place. Initially nervous about returning to a site of such personal meaning, I was relieved to find the same tapestry of care that had held and healed me three years before. McCarthy is everything about community that I cherish and I look forward to its part in future chapters of my Alaskan story. ✨

2019 Meg Hunt Residents:

Paul Scannell – Photography

Kelsey McDonough – Landscape and plein air painting

Helene Fischman – Photography and Poetry

Karl Becker – Watercolor painting and field sketching

Riversong

by Robin Child and David Lynn Grimes

This summer, a jolly 15-piece band of writers, musicians and raft guides floated from McCarthy to Chitina, creating songs splashed and scoured from the silty waters, and crafting group poems, rengas and pantoums both silly and profound. Led by instructors David Lynn Grimes, Michelle McAfee, and Nancy Cook, this 5th almost-annual Riversong workshop yet again offered the participants a wondrous Wrangell Mountains experience.

The river's wild flow served as a spontaneous catalyst for creative expression, collaboration, and community. From picking old-time fiddle tunes as the mighty Chitina roiled past, to spawning like the salmon of Skull Creek, admiring sunsets dyed deep red, creating river shrines and cyanotypes, howling at a rare showing of August northern lights, and joining one another in fireside song, story, and laughter, we surely felt blessed.

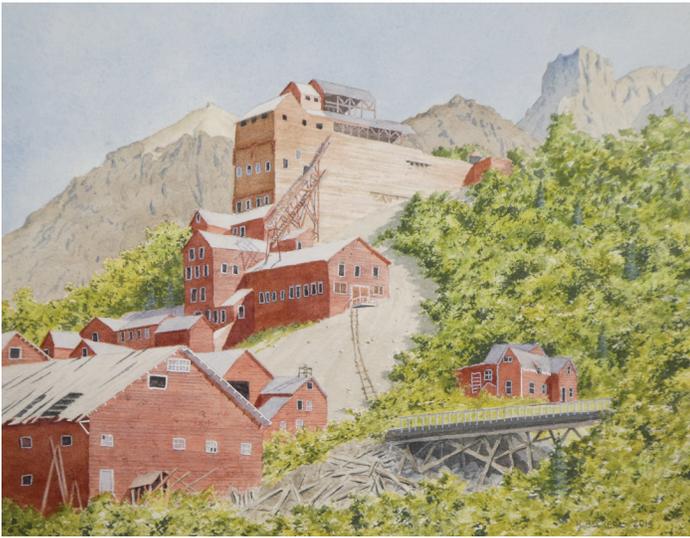
This year five participants attended Riversong by way of the recently created Eva Saulitis Watersong Scholarships— sponsored in part by David Lynn Grimes, Eva's whale brother, and Irish music partner, Peggy Shumaker, Eva's poetry sister and former Alaska State Writer Laureate, and Craig Matkin, Eva's former life partner and whale research counterpart.

"The Scholarships," writes David, "celebrate our dearly departed Eva's multifaceted life and brave generosity of spirit. Eva Saulitis was a wonder of Nature in human form, a smorgasbord of gifts and riches— renowned killer whale scientist, writer, musician, poet, educator, gardener, community resource, great friend, wicked wit, and boat mechanic when necessary.

"She leaves in her wake a shimmering legacy that inspires and enlivens many hearts, and this year's Eva scholars, with their own multi-varied life paths, help represent the kaleidoscope of gifts Eva offered the world. We give thanks to our intrepid scholars, and many thanks to sister Eva for her continued blessings from the Great Beyond." ❧



Robin Child



Karl Becker



Kelsey McDonough



Paul Scannell Photography

▲ **Top:** Karl Becker's watercolor painting of the Kennecott Mill. **Middle:** Work in progress by Kelsey McDonough. **Bottom:** Each resident offers a community workshop or lecture. Kelsey taught a plein air painting class. Here students sketch the landscape from the McCarthy softball field.

► RiverSong rafts make their way down silty glacier rivers, adorned with colorful flags and full of inspiration.



▲ Students get together for meditation practice in Porphyry Place with Michelle Latvala

McCarthy's Community Meditation Day

by Michelle Latvala

I found myself both honored and, honestly, a little hesitant when the Wrangell Mountains Center asked me if I would offer a mindfulness meditation day for the community. Would anyone carve out time to come? Would teachings rooted in Buddhism be welcome in McCarthy? Would I be willing to trade my relative anonymity to serve the larger community?

YES to all three! Eight of us gathered in mid-June, just as the summer season was intensifying, to catch our collective breath. We met from 10am-4pm on a Saturday, including a silent sitting meditation in Porphyry Place, outdoor walking meditation by McCarthy Creek, periods of sharing together, as well as questions and answers. As community member Robin Child reflected, “The day was a gift of repose from a busying summer season—from sitting in contemplative silence, meditating on the soft rain falling on the roof of Ed and Meg’s cabin, to participating in a walking meditation around the garden, to slowly enjoying the savory soup from the Hardware Store’s kitchen—it was a joy to slow down and practice mindfulness in downtown McCarthy.”

I offered some basic instructions on mindfulness meditation, which—simply put—is a process of following your breath as it naturally occurs, gradually increasing your awareness of other sensations, sounds, thoughts, and feelings happening internally as well as around you, in the service of greater clarity of mind and heart. We discussed some contemporary interpretations from Sylvia Boorstein, one of the founding teachers of Spirit Rock Meditation Center in California (my

workplace when I’m not in McCarthy), where she discusses the Buddhist teachings around “hindrances” that arise when we’re challenged.

According to Boorstein, each of us generally has one of five primary “defaults” that we go to—often without recognizing it—when we get stressed:

1) Get angry 2) Get worried 3) Get numb/check out 4) Get hungry/ thirsty/ indulge 5) Doubt yourself/ lose confidence. Mindfulness gives us the chance to see these mechanisms in play so that we have more choice when we’re distressed, and ultimately do less emotional harm to ourselves and others around us.

As participant and NPS law enforcement ranger Jon Cooperman commented, “Sitting with other people in the community helped to renew my personal meditation practice. It’s good to be compassionate to ourselves as well as others.”

I’m grateful to everyone who participated that day, and to the WMC, for the ease and connection that quiet time together created between us that persisted all season. As community member Tamara Harper later shared, “Meg and Ed (the original residents of Porphyry Place) would love that the space is being used for purposes like today.” May all of our community share in the benefits of that day. 🍃



Wendy Pollock

▲ Wendy Pollock shared later that “Mindfulness training helped me to be present in the moment through many breath-taking moments that followed our day long retreat” This leaf photo is from her walking meditation.

Smitten by the Wrangells

by Wendy Pollock

I was smitten by the proximity to wild this summer when, after many hours and weeks in the kitchen, I was able to get into the backcountry and feel my absolute insignificance and my place on the food chain when walking on the tundra and the Russell Glacier at Skolai pass.

The kitchen at the Hardware Store is a place of refuge for students, wayward travelers, and anyone who ever participated in the WMC programs. Many times, often just prior to a big meal, a new face would appear in the doorway – looking with longing at the food. This is how I came to know Meg Hunt of Porphyry Place, Wonderwoman Patt Garrett, Barry Hecht of California & McCarthy hydrology fame, WMC board members Tim & Sophie, and so many other amazing people. There was a nonstop stream of Who's Who peeps that came in over the summer, with willing hands & hearts and stories to share.

Big kitchen news was the addition of hot water in the kitchen – thanks to Jared Steyaert. Also the wiring up of a new water pump at the Porphyry Place well to fill the water tank without traipsing to the beaver swamp - kudos to Adam Tschappat. The able leadership of Stef Tschappat and her awesome trio of kids resulted in so much rhubarb ginger preserves, and over a gallon of dandelion pesto, which made many a sourdough pesto pizza!

The WMC volunteer of the year was Jon Cooperman, often seen perusing the WMC manuals & fixing the endless issues of the Hardware Store from filling the water tank to rewiring the bear fence. Then there must be mention of Mark Vail, whose TLC of seedlings made the garden produce in spite of the record heat and drought. The summer work was made doable through the tireless efforts of WMC interns, Ann Robinson (sourdough queen) and Ashley Bobowski (the intrepid), as well as Jonathan Douglass (waterman). The person who had the most fun of all was Paul Scannell, artist-photographer in residence, whose appreciation of morning coffee is unrivaled in the history of the Hardware Store.

Many thanks to everyone who stepped in to make it all happen – both when I was injured and later my family emergency exit in August. Summer 2019 was likely one of the more memorable summers of my life to date, thanks to the people of MXY. ☞

Chocolate Paleo Decadence Cake

YIELD: 1 (*very rich*) pie for 8-10

ACTIVE TIME: 1 hour

INGREDIENTS

Crust

- 3 C mixed nut meats
- 1/2 C Butter or Coconut oil
- 1 tsp Cardamon powder
- 1 T Cinnamon
- 1 tsp Nutmeg

Filling

- 1 17 oz dark chocolate bar, melted
- 4 eggs
- 1 can Organic Coconut cream
- 2 T vanilla
- Optional- 2 C dried cherries or fruit

INSTRUCTIONS

Crust

1. Pulverize crust ingredients and press into pie pan or bundt pan
2. Bake 350 for 10 minutes

Filling

3. Melt Chocolate, cool a bit, then add Vanilla and Coconut cream
4. Whip eggs and add to mixture, then pour in pan
5. Bake 350 until set, about 45 min
6. Serve with whipped cream &/or fruit puree

PS All the 125+ recipes I used for the summer are located in a "WMC 2019 Cookbook" on the kitchen shelf and all are online at the share site below. Many are gluten-free and most are memorable.

<http://www.pepperplate.com/recipes/default.aspx>
Wendy Pollock- account name
Recipe password WMC2019

The WMC welcomes a new Outhouse!

by Tyler Boyes

The Wrangell Mountains Center is getting a much-needed outhouse/toilet facility this fall to be ready for the 2020 season. The 2-hole pit toilet is under construction by Rowcon and funded with help from a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation as well as many additional donations, both large and small, from WMC supporters. Many hours of volunteer labor by WMC staff, board members, and friends also made this project possible. When completed, this will be the only ADA-accessible facility in McCarthy, thus anyone in need of such facilities are welcome.

The existing outhouse, long-overdue for replacement, has been decommissioned and the structure has gone to WMC supporter Patt Garrett to be repurposed as a tool shed. What a wonderful outcome for a “historic” building that was long on charm but short on sanitation. This construction project involved a year-long effort with planning and grant writing beginning in January, to final completion in late 2019! Thank you to all who made this possible and here’s to the future of the WMC campus. 🌸

▼ New outhouse under construction behind the Hardware Store



Kristin Link



Sophie Littee

▲ Winners from this year’s five-mile race cartwheel across the finish line.

McCarthy Runs

By Sophie Littee

The smoke and fires that invaded most Alaskan towns at the end of August luckily blew away from McCarthy during Labor Day weekend. Our little town welcomed 72 runners from all over the state to participate in the Half Marathon and 5-mile races. We even had an uncharacteristically cool and cloudy day at the end of the summer’s record-breaking heat wave, which made for perfect running conditions. As is standard in WMC operations, enthusiastic volunteers appeared at all the perfect moments and at all the crux locations to make the event run smoothly and enjoyably.

The first man to cross the finish line of the half marathon was Matt Sorum, 1:41:42 and McKenzie Barnwell was the first woman with a 1:48:01 finish. The top finishers of the 5-mile race were Connor van Huene 37:59, and Elizabeth Miner came cartwheeling in not far behind at 38:20.

The dinner and awards ceremony hosted in the Old Hardware Store consisted of a lovely spaghetti with a sauce infused with delights from our garden along with all the energy and love from the helping hands that came through our Center this summer. A brilliant a cappella performance by Vocalocity Quartet entertained while dessert was served.

It was a beautiful finale to our 2019 season that would not have been possible without our fantastic volunteers, for whom I am always grateful. To all of you who participated, thank you for coming! See you next year. 🌸

Geology Camp

By Ann Robinson

Geology Camp is an annual partnership between the WMC, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE), and the BLM focusing on introducing youth ages 11-16 to backpacking and basic geology concepts. This year, students came from across the Copper River Basin, from Gakona to McCarthy, with ten students in total.

When students arrived in McCarthy, they first visited the Kennicott-McCarthy Historical Museum to get acquainted with the local mining history. Afterward we shared a meal at the WMC and spent the night in Porphyry Place. We discussed positive behavior and created a group contract for our time together. A walk along McCarthy Creek got the kids familiar with observing rocks and their various characteristics.

The following day, we toured the Kennecott mill building, before starting our hike to Sam Gregory's. We camped at his property just off the Bonanza Trail, where students were given present and historical pictures of the area to compare and write about. The following day we tackled our day hike to Bonanza Mine. Everyone was fantastic and supportive of each other. A few students chose to stay below the ridge for an informal orienteering and compass practice lesson with Kenny and Amanda (BLM), while the rest continued up to the bunkhouse.

The sense of accomplishment at the top was well deserved. The excitement was palpable, and the impressive geology of Bonanza Ridge was enhanced



WISE photos

▲ *Top:* Students hike up to Bonanza Ridge as part of geology camp. *Bottom:* Reflecting and writing observations at the edge of McCarthy Creek.

by the visible mining history. We learned about copper formation and enjoyed looking for malachite, azurite, native copper, and artifacts left by miners. On our return to camp, we reflected on our experiences hiking up. A special thanks to Sam Gregory for his hospitality. 🌿

Please help us grow! Make your gift to the WMC today.

Name: _____ **E-mail:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount:

- \$30 Basic membership \$50 Swimming Hole level \$100 McCarthy Creek level
- \$250 Kennicott River level \$500 Fireweed Mountain level \$1,000 Donoho Peak level
- \$2,500 Mt. Blackburn level Other Amount: _____

Please mail donation to the Wrangell Mountains Center, PO Box 142972, Anchorage AK, 99514-2972
Or go online to wrangells.org/support-us#give

For your records: The WMC is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit and your donation is tax-deductable. Tac ID # 92-0117864

Gift Amount: _____ ***Date:*** _____

Building an Endowment

As an organization embedded in a small community but with an outsized mission, the Wrangell Mountains Center has always run on duct tape, bailing wire, and beans and rice. Some perceive this minimalist, hand-to-mouth persona as part of our charm, but is this a good thing? In the never-ending daily grind to make ends meet, it's easy to lose sight of longer-term goals. Striving for financial sustainability is one of our goals, and the Wrangell Mountains Center now has a new way for our cherished supporters to contribute to that sustainability.

In the past year, WMC Board member Sally Gibert honored the recent passing of her father, Ralph Gibert, by using a portion of her inheritance to launch a first-ever Wrangell Mountains Center Endowment Fund. Sally's Dad seriously questioned her sanity when she told him of her plans, at age 24, to buy the dilapidated Hardware Store back in 1976. But by 1978, he was literally in the trenches ripping out rotten floorboards and helping hordes of other volunteers (fueled by beans and rice) prop up the sagging structure with a new foundation of railroad rails and recycled bridge timbers. Sally knows he would be proud that a portion of his assets will support the beginnings of a new financial foundation for the WMC in perpetuity.

The Wrangell Mountains Center Endowment Fund is independently administered by the Alaska Community Foundation, with the WMC as the sole beneficiary. A sustainable percentage of the Fund will be distributed to the WMC on an annual basis while preserving and growing the Fund's principal. You've all probably heard of legacy giving or planned giving, and now the Endowment Fund offers this option for the Wrangell Mountains Center.

To learn more about the Endowment Fund or to make a contribution, go to <https://alaskacf.org/blog/funds/wrangell-mountains-center-endowment-fund/>

To learn how to include the Endowment Fund or the WMC directly in a will or other form of planned giving, please write to info@wrangells.org. 🐼

Thank You Donors and Members!

\$2500 +

Alaska Community Foundation, John and Jen Bosshard, Karen Ruud and Peter Mjos, Network for Good, Rasmuson Foundation, Sally Gibert and Dick Mylius

\$1000 - \$2499

Cindy Hendel, Court Ballinger, Gary and Katherine Bartholomaeus, James and Ann Johnston, Lauren Padawer/Alaska Glacial Mud Company, Maria Shell and Walt Tague, Paul and Glenda Barrett, Tim Bartholomaeus and Sophie Gilbert

\$500 - \$999

Agnew::Beck Consulting, Charlotte Henson, David Lynn Grimes, Grant Crosby and Petra Wilm, Howard Mozen and Elizabeth Schafer, Leif Mjos and Christine Stirling, Mark Vail, Matt and Carrie Heavner, Mt. McKinley Moose Legion #51, Patt Garrett, Ryan Dickinson, Thomas Luster

\$250 - \$499

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\$100 - \$249

Barbara and John Rice, Barry Hecht, Beth Hammond, Bonnie Neugebauer, Brad and Chrisy Richie, Brian Ashmore, Carolyn Mastin, Christopher Helmer, Conner Truskowski, Dominique Snyers, Dorothy Widmann, Edward Berg, Francis Nelson, Greg Handley, Jackie Heupel, Janet Clarke, Jaqui Brumm, Jennie Tschappat and Dan Case, Jessica and Nikolai Speed, Joan Behrends, Jon Cooperman, Judy Cook, Julie Keniry, Keira Armstrong, Kerri McQueen Green, Kirk Hoessle, Kroger/ Fred Meyer's, Kurt Koldinger, Lila Vogt, Marc Wilhelm, McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum, Meg Jensen and Mike McQueen, Meg Omullane, Megan Gahl, Milt Mozen, Nancy Cook, Neil O'Donnell and Margaret Stock, Nina Elder, Odette and Alain Littee, Olaf Zerbock, Owen Mozen, Peggy Morsch and Kathy Herson, Pete Sennhauser, Peter Bartholomaeus, Robert Wesson and Gayle Gordon, Sally Yates, Steve Goudreau and Sara Irwin Goudreau, Susan Joy Share, Tamara and Stephens Harper, Thea and Will Bembem, Tyler Boyes and Brita Mjos

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As well as to the 2019 staff:

Ann Robinson (Intern), Ashley Bobowski (Intern and MASY Program Coordinator), Jonathan Douglass (Intern), Lara Applebaum (Youth Programs Coordinator), Sophie Littee (Operations Manager and Field Studies Recruiter), Stefanie Tschappat (Executive Director), Tamara Harper (Administrative Assistant), Wendy Pollock (Kitchen and Garden Manager)

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Robin Child



Helene Fischman



Wrangell Mountains Center
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▲ **Top:** RiverSong participants dressed for the river. **Bottom:** Toe of the glacier captured by artist in residence, Helene Fischman.

Spring Breakup Fundraiser A Huge Success

by Brita Mjos

Thank you to all the WMC friends and supporters who attended the annual Spring Breakup Party in April. It is always fun to catch up on everyone's winter activities and share the exciting summer season that is about to launch. This year, we enjoyed the comforting vibe of LaPotato in Anchorage to appease our McCarthy nostalgia with excellent food and beverages, accompanied by the foot-stomping tunes of Whistlepig. Thank you to all the businesses and friends who donated items for the silent auction. As one of two main fundraisers for the WMC, this event is vital to the organization's financial stability, and this year's party was the most successful fundraiser in WMC history! Thank you for your continued support! 🍷

Join the WMC for mid-winter Happy Hour

Mark your calendar for the next Happy Hour on Thursday, February 13th, 2020. Come join us for a casual evening at Resolution Brewing, which donates 10% of beer sales to the WMC! Bring your friends! Resolution Brewing Company, 3024 Mountain View Dr., Anchorage AK 99501



Stef Tschappat

▲ Scenes from the 2019 Spring Break Up Party. Please join us this coming February!