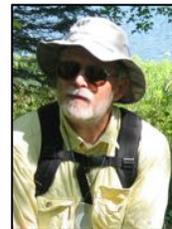


ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

COLLECTING WELL WISHES FOR INJURED ALASKA TRAILS FOUNDER

One of Alaska Trails' founders and long-serving board members, Jack Mosby, was in a car accident in Hazelton, BC, in late April. He was in the hospital in Terrace, BC, with fractures in his sternum and T12 vertebrae. He spent much of May recovering in Terrace, BC. His wife and daughter were there with him now and hope to have brought him back to Anchorage by the time this newsletter is published.



Steve Cleary, Alaska Trails executive director, is gathering Get Well wishes for Jack via e-mail. Steve will compile all of them and deliver them to Jack. If you would like to send a message to Jack, please e-mail office@alaska-trails.org and put Jack's name in the subject line.

Thanks for joining us in wishing him a speedy recovery.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TRAIL WORK IN CHUGACH STATE PARK

As part of the Alaska Trail Volunteers (ATV) program, Alaska Trails is recruiting volunteers for trail maintenance work in collaboration with Chugach State Park.

We are recruiting 15 volunteers for each of the days listed below:

- Saturday, June 4th 9am-4pm (Middle Fork, meet at lower Glen Alps lot)
- Saturday, July 16th 9am-4pm (Middle Fork, meet at lower Glen Alps lot)
- Saturday, July 16th 9am-4pm (Arctic Valley, 12 slots open)
- Saturday, August 20th 9am 4pm (TBD)
- Saturday, Sept. 24th 9am 4pm (TBD)

If you would like to sign up, please contact Steve Cleary, Alaska Trails executive director, with the date(s) you wish to volunteer: office@alaska-trails.org. Steve will then follow up with an e-mail to confirm that you are one of the 15 volunteers for those day(s). You must be signed up to participate!

(Note: State Parks will waive parking fees for the volunteers.)

What to bring?

Please bring gloves and enough food and water for the 7 hours of work. Please dress for the weather. Rain gear, warm and cool layers, pants and sturdy boots are a must.

What to expect?

Please plan to show up at 8:45am time and be prepared for hard work. Volunteers will hike approx 1.5 miles each way, carrying tools and their gear. Work on the Middle Fork trail will include removing tundra and dirt, and reshaping the trail surface or "tread." Please expect to be bending, hauling, lifting, swinging (a tool), digging and doing other VERY physically demanding work while maintaining good humor and a positive attitude. The hard work will be rewarded with a huge sense of satisfaction and an improved trail!

TOOL TRAILERS CITED IN RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM REPORT

The 2015 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report has been released and the Alaska Trails tool trailers program is cited as one of the successful examples. It is listed under "Equipment for construction and maintenance" (Category C) on page 12 of the report. Below is a description from the report.



Since 2007, Alaska Trails has fielded two mobile tool trailers that are rented by trail constructors or donated for use by nonprofits and volunteer trailbuilders. The trailers, one in Fairbanks and one in Anchorage, have supported trail building by local, State, and Federal agencies, service groups, and Girl and Boy Scouts. Both trailers are equipped with over 50 different hand tools and safety equipment. Alaska Trails was awarded an RTP grant in 2013 to replace the popular tool trailers and purchase new tools and equipment to outfit them.

The trailers have been used by many youth trailbuilders including the Student Conservation Association, the Anchorage Youth Employment in Parks, and the Chugach Children's Forest—a partnership led by Alaska Geographic and the U.S. Forest Service that provides life-changing expeditions and educational experiences for young Alaskans of all backgrounds.

❖ 2014 Coalition for Recreational Trails Award Winner

If you would like to borrow one of the trailers for your trail project, please contact us (info on masthead).

See the 2015 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report here: <http://tinyurl.com/j4tlqfh>

Many thanks to Jack Mosby, one of the founders of Alaska Trails, for all his work on this project.

CONFERENCE CONTEST PRODUCES GREAT IDEAS FOR TRAILS

At the Statewide Trails Conference, Alaska Trails held a contest for the best idea to build and maintain Alaska's world class trails. Congrats to Adam DePesa who turned in the winning idea to use the web to form a statewide volunteer network that land managers around the state can tap to maintain trails. He wins two train tickets courtesy of the Alaska Railroad. Stay tuned to the Alaska Trails website for more info on that.

Other ideas that rose to the top included: Get Fit on your Trail - with rewards for participants; a weekly/monthly column in the Alaska Dispatch News on trails; materials salvage - from old projects to new; and trailhead BBQs.

ALASKA TRAILS HAS INFO TO HELP GET ALASKANS ON TRAILS

Alaska Trails has an online database of trail guides and other trail-related information found on the Internet. The information is broken down into folders based on regions including statewide, Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior. Clicking on a folder gives a user more folders from which to choose.

People interested in exploring new trails will find an abundance of resources at their fingertips.

See the database at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/cgi/otg/trailguide.cgi>

(Graphic from Alaska State Parks [Trail Browser](#), one of the resources in the database.)

ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Mapping, Trail Tourism Spotlited at Alaska Trails Conference: <http://tinyurl.com/z8afqr>
- See us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Alaska-Trails-707066126002590/>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director

Statewide Conference Attendees Stay Optimistic, Share Ideas

Despite the state's grim fiscal situation, attendees at the recent Alaska Trails 2016 Statewide Trails Conference were optimistic about the future. Trail



managers and advocates are used to overcoming obstacles—whether a downed tree, a malfunctioning chainsaw, or a funding gap—so they seemed to take the latest news about Alaska's fiscal situation in stride.

More than 100 attendees, presenters and volunteers gathered for the conference, held May 5-7 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. In response to the state fiscal news, Alaska Trails expanded the number of sessions on trail funding options and volunteer trail stewardship with the goal of making trails relevant and sustainable during these tough economic times.

But instead of focusing on the bad news, conference attendees spent their time learning, sharing ideas, and networking. Lots of networking. I spent much of my time urging people into the next round of breakout sessions, because they were networking so much between sessions! It is a good problem to have.

No matter the economic climate, trails play a vital role in communities across the state. This was highlighted by many conference presenters.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz kicked off the conference with both a welcome and a challenge. He stated that Alaska needs to not just do more with less, but to do things differently. There will have to be new and innovative ways to pay for, maintain, and enjoy the things we want for our communities – including trails.

Keynote speaker and author Ned Rozell of Fairbanks shared stories from *Walking My Dog*,

Jane, his book about his 800-mile walk along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. This set the stage for Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins of Sitka to speak about his idea for the Trans-Alaska Trail, which would follow the pipeline corridor and right-of-way. The final keynote, by Anne Johnson of the Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative, highlighted the new mapping technology in Alaska and how it can benefit trails.

There were many sessions on the nuts and bolts of trail construction and maintenance, including Terrain Dynamics, Trail Bridge Options, Mountain Bike Trail Styles, and Physics for Trail Builders. A packed presentation on Maps and Apps featured five speakers on new technology relevant to trails, including Patrick Kell of the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). This was the second year of the popular Trail Olympics, in which teams of four competed to complete several trail-related tasks and obstacles. Blaine Smith and Joe Hall of Chugach State Park engineered this year's event, which saw teams working together to start a chainsaw, haul brush and build a bridge – all while being pursued by a moose (in costume) and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) inspector. Those watching saw a lot of skills on display and shared a lot of laughs!

We hope to see you at future conferences.

Happy summer,
Steve

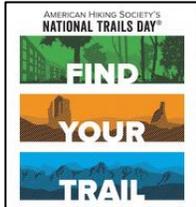
Thanks to our 2016 Conference Sponsors:

Alaska Recreation and Park Association
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Mat-Su Health Foundation
Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
Techno Metal Post Alaska

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE

Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day. Most will be held on Saturday, June 4. For information on specific events see the Southcentral, Interior and Southeast regional news sections.



National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects.

For more info see: <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>.

Several of the NTD events are hosted by Hike It Baby, a relatively new online parents group focused on getting families outside and active as quickly as possible after babies are born. To find out more about Hike It Baby see: <http://hikeitbaby.com/about-hike-it-baby/>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE

The Alaska Department of Transportation recently announced the Alaska Transportation Alternatives Program (ATAP), with over \$15 million in grant funding available in three different categories.

The TAP replaces the funding from pre-MAP-21 programs including the Transportation Enhancement Activities, Recreational Trails Program, and Safe Routes to School Program. Map-21 apportioned funding distributions to cities with greater than 200,000 urbanized area populations, and apportioned funding to rural, urban and a statewide program. A match of 20% is required for all TAP projects. (ATAP is the Alaska version of TAP.)

Applications for ATAP projects are due June 30. ATAP funds can be used for “design and construction, of facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.” A recent Anchorage-specific TAP funding round including safety, trail repaving, trail construction, multi-modal counting and a school-based bike safety program.



The statewide ATAP will give weight on shovel ready infrastructure projects. No planning projects will be accepted during the 2016 grant cycle.

Eligible project sponsors include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resources or public land agencies, school districts, local education agencies and schools, tribal governments, any local or regional governmental entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than a metropolitan planning organization or State ADOT&PF). Under the FAST ACT, nonprofits are now eligible as a direct grant recipient of the funds as long as they are responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs. Nonprofits are also eligible to partner with any eligible entity on an eligible TAP project.

Full ATAP details here: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/atap/>

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFERS COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Challenge Cost Share Program of the National Park Service (NPS) supports local projects that benefit NPS parks and promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education, and engaging youth in the outdoors. NPS administered parks that are eligible include national parks, national trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Local project partners work with NPS staff. Applications are submitted by NPS staff in collaboration with project partners. This partnership challenge rewards those proposals that highlight long lasting benefits while developing new partnerships. Partners may be educational institutions, private for-profit entities, or not-for-profit organizations.

Project applications are accepted between May 2, 2016 and July 1, 2016 for Fiscal Year 2017. The maximum Challenge Cost Share project support is \$25,000 and projects should be completed within the fiscal year. The program requires equal matching share. Cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources can be considered as a cost share.

For more information see: <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/>

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROGRAM OFFERS TRAILS ASSISTANCE



Could the National Park Service help your community create close-to-home recreation opportunities and protect nearby nature? The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) can help you and other local leaders to take your project from concept to completion. RTCA offers expertise to help move your project forward, but it depends on your leadership, drive, and commitment to carry out the project.

Apply by June 30 to be considered for technical assistance in fiscal year 2017 (October 2016 – September 2017).

RTCA community assistance specialists can help:

- Create or improve nearby parks, trails, and other greenways
- Conserve landscapes and natural resources effectively
- Establish water trails
- Build strong partner networks for your project
- Promote healthy lifestyles and communities
- Connect your community to nearby public lands
- Provide opportunities for youth to get outdoors and become conservation stewards
- Develop tourism plans.

If you are interested in applying, please review the application for assistance at <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>. Then contact Paul Clark by phone, e-mail, or mail before the June 30 application deadline to discuss your proposed project. To learn more about the Alaska RTCA program, visit <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1005/index.htm>.

For more information check out these resources:

- RTCA description: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/whatwedo.htm>
- Recent RTCA Alaska projects: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/upload/AK-FY16.pdf>

(From Paul Clark)

WATCH FOR MAMA MOOSE WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's that time of year again when we get something magical and dangerous at the same time. It's calving season for the moose right now and it can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. We've had a few reports at Kincaid this week of moose getting stressed by off leash dogs and getting aggressive so let's be extra cautious in this sensitive time of year.

Check out this flyer to learn more and have a safe and healthy outdoor experience:

<http://tinyurl.com/hwb48yg>

(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook page)

NPS, UAF OFFER CANOE TRIP DOWN THE YUKON AS A COURSE

As part of the celebration of its centennial, the National Park Service is partnering with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Summer Sessions & Lifelong Learning to offer field courses in Gates of the Arctic National Park And Preserve (GAAR) and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (YUCH) this summer. One of those courses is a 100-mile canoe trip down the Yukon River from July 12-17. During the trip, National Park Service rangers and other NPS personnel will provide opportunities for participants to explore sites associated with the area's gold rush history and to its present-day use. This trip is for experienced paddlers, i.e. individuals must have intermediate level canoeing skills and have completed previous multi-day trips in remote and primitive conditions. (NONC F041-F01)

A complete listing of courses is available at www.uaf.edu/summer. For additional information and answers to questions contact UAF at summer@alaska.edu, (907) 474-7021 or toll free at (866) 404-7021.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

PUBLIC NOTICES DUE IN JUNE FOR SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM

Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program have been available since April 1. Public notice for applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1.



This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety and educational programs.

Matching funds are not required for safety and educational grant programs. Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the State by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269-8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. "Take" includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest *at any time* leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. "Active" is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest. For a PDF document with more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see:

<http://tinyurl.com/kwubruc>

COMMENT DUE ON MINE THAT WILL AFFECT IDITAROD TRAIL

Comments are due May 31 for the Donlin Gold Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

In addition to a proposed mine, the project would construct a 315 mile natural gas pipeline from Cook Inlet through the Alaska Range to the mine site. The pipeline will affect the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

The Donlin gold mine application can be viewed at www.donlingoldeis.com/EISDocuments.aspx. For more information, contact Keith Gordon at (907) 753-5710, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or email POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil. Submit comments at <http://www.donlingoldeis.com/Comment.aspx>.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

BILL THAT WOULD HAVE RAISED SNOWMACHINE FEES DIES

A bill that would have raised registration fees for snowmachines (HB 319) did not make it out of the House of Representatives before the end of the session. The bill would have raised registration fees on snowmachines from the current \$5 per year/ \$10 for two years to \$20 per year. Snowmobile registration fees currently pay for the Snowmobile Trails Program, which funds grooming and trail improvements for snowmachine trails (which are used by many other trail users). The bill had the support of snowmachine groups. However, the bill was not included in Gov. Bill Walker's list of bills for the special session.

- See the bill here: <http://www.akleg.gov/PDF/29/Bills/HB0319A.PDF>
- See the bill's progress here: <http://tinyurl.com/jnm5nmb>
- See Gov. Walker's special session proclamation here: <http://tinyurl.com/zxz5bye>

'ALASKANS AFIELD' CLASSES OFFER OUTDOOR SKILLS TRAINING

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is holding "Alaskans Afield" classes throughout the summer and fall. The classes provide hands-on learning of outdoor skills, including some trail-related skills. Classes are designed for both youth and adults. Alaskans Afield classes are made possible by a cooperative effort between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska. Alaskans Afield classes will be held in the Fairbanks, Juneau, Mat-Su and Nome this year. Choose from a variety of classes such as outdoor survival, small game hunting, map & compass, tracking, fly fishing, riflery, archery and more. Class schedules can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/hygzhcz>



STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (April): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatchcurrent.pdf>
 - Includes photos and copy about:
 - Recently passed Senate Bill 101, which allows Alaska State Parks to sell merchandise to help underwrite operational expenses.
 - A safety re-route of a portion of the Yukon Quest Trail that was washed out by the Chena River.
 - Alaska Trails Executive Director Steve Cleary and State Park Specialist Blaine Smith discussing trails on the *Outdoor Explorer* radio show.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Couch potato or outdoor recreation? Motivation is the arbiter.: <http://tinyurl.com/hgy7f8t>
- National Park Service's Challenge Cost Share Program (applications due by July 1): www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Water Taxis to Wilderness: <http://tinyurl.com/ng2j7qh>
- Creating time for outdoor exercise: <http://tinyurl.com/hx8m5no>
- Know Alaska's national parks? Take this quiz to see.: <http://tinyurl.com/z4t7dm6>
- 15 Incredible Hikes Under 5 Miles Everyone In Alaska Should Take: <http://tinyurl.com/j9a5zdp>
- 9 Trails In Alaska You Must Take If You Love The Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/z8vfgb2>

NORTHWEST LINKS

- Fat-bike touring Northwest Alaska in March: <http://tinyurl.com/za2h6y7>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Twelve-year-old Romanian ties record for youngest girl to reach Denali summit: <http://tinyurl.com/zsxo3wq>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS SOUTHCENTRAL

The events below are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities in southcentral Alaska.

Kenai Peninsula area

Historic walking tour of the first mile of the Iditarod National Historic Trail

What: A walking tour of the first mile of the Iditarod National Historic Trail through Seward.

Who: Hosted by Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers

When: Saturday June 4; 7pm - 8pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/hs82wyb>

Toddler Stream Stomp

What: Come celebrate National Trails Day toddler style with some stream stomping, puddle jumping, and beach walking fun in Hope. We will start our welcome circle where the edge of the parking lot meets the grass field for tents. From here we will walk to the stream and beach.

Who: Hosted by Hike It Baby

When: Saturday, June 4, 4pm-4:45pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/zem7fz5>

Resurrection Pass Trail Hike

What: An adult-paced hike about 2 miles in on the Resurrection Pass Trail with gorgeous views of the creek and valley. After a short snack and stretch break for the little ones, we will head back to the start.

Who: Hosted by Hike It Baby

When: Saturday, June 4, 10:30am-1pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/z78bbjp>

Trails Day Discovery Hike

What: Join Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Rangers for a guided 3-mile hike on the Keen-Eye and Centennial Trails.

Who: Hosted by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Please leave all pets at home. This walk is designed for older elementary students through adults

When: Sunday June 5; 2pm – 3:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/zwyvpow>

Homer area

Coalition Trail Clearing Overnight

What: An overnight trip to clear downed trees and brush trail from China Poot Bay to Halibut Cove Lagoon.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park; trip leader Mako Haggerty (399-4133)

When: Friday, June 3 (1:30pm) to Saturday June 4 (4:30pm)

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/jfb9tqm>

Diamond Creek Trail Cleanup

What: Help perform brush clearing, tread work, raking and trash cleanup on the Diamond Creek Trail.

Who: Hosted by the Homer Cycling Club.

When: Sunday June 5; 10am – 4:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/h4jzuwb>

National Trails Day Across the Bay

What: Volunteers will take a boat across Kachemak Bay to help with trail maintenance, clearing, or beach cleanup. A requested \$20 donation covers the water taxi expenses associated with transporting everyone across the bay and also supports volunteer efforts in the park throughout the year.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park and the Anchorage REI store

When: Saturday, June 4, 7:30am-6pm

More info:

- <http://tinyurl.com/hf8evxe>
- <http://tinyurl.com/hvtw5op>

Sadie Knob Trail Clearing

What: Volunteers will take a water taxi across the bay to Kachemak State Park to brush Sadie Creek Trail and clear it of any downed trees. Sadie Knob Trail accesses an alpine ridge between Sadie Cove and Kachemak Bay. The north and the south routes connect the north and south ends of Eldred Passage; both join the Spur Trail at Quiet Creek.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 7:00am-4:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/z6ldxkl>

South Grace Trail Clearing

What: Volunteers will take a water taxi across the bay to Kachemak State Park to brush and clear South Grace Trail.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 7:00am-4:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/gvchb57>

Glacier Spit Cleanup

What: Volunteers will take a water taxi across the bay to Kachemak State Park. From Right Beach, this group will walk along Glacier Spit towards Humpy Creek, picking up beach litter along the way. This group also will collect data for Coast Walk, a program of the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 7:00am-4:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/gmsq8s3>

Tutka Bay Lagoon

What: Volunteers will help maintain a trail that joins Tutka Bay Lagoon and the Rocky River Road.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 7:00am-4:30pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/jerbyz9>

Family Hike To Grewingk Glacier Lake

What: Participants will take a water taxi across the bay to Kachemak State Park to hike the Glacier Lake Trail. The trail follows flat terrain through stands of cottonwoods and spruce, and across the dry outwash plain of Grewingk Glacier. It ends at the broad open beaches of Grewingk Glacier Lake.

Who: Hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park

When: Saturday, June 4, 8:30am-6pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/zfqgrja>

MONTHLY GUIDED HIKES OFFERED IN KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK

Kachemak Bay State Park is offering guided hikes on the first Saturday of each month this summer. Discounted round trips to cross the bay (\$60) are offered for the guided hike with enough participation. Hikes will last from about 9am-4:30pm. They will be led by a state park staff member or qualified volunteer. For more information call 907/226-4689.

SUMMIT ON THE OUTDOORS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT APU

Confluence: Summit On The Outdoors conference will be held on June 6 at the Alaska Pacific University campus from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

There's almost never been a better time to talk about the outdoors. Low oil prices. The \$4 billion budget deficit. The gallows talk of a statewide recession, wondering how to grow and diversify Alaska's economy into new and underrepresented sectors with the assets we already have. The outdoor economy generates billions in consumer spending, wages and salaries in Alaska and with your vision can become an even greater engine for economic diversification as well as an instrument for rural economic development, a foundation for healthy communities and a world-class destination for adventure travelers.

Hear from guest speakers including Brad Peterson, the nation's first director of a statewide Office

of Outdoor Recreation, Cailin O'Brien-Feeney of the Outdoor Industry Association, Palmer-born mountaineer Ben Erdmann, and businesswoman Heather Kelly among others.

The event is hosted by Valdez-based non-profit Levitation 49 and supported by the Outdoor Industry Association, Recreational Equipment Inc., Adidas Outdoors, The North Face, Agnew Beck Consulting and Denali Brewing. To register, go to <http://www.levitation49.org/tickets>.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP TRASH AT BELUGA POINT

Have you noticed all of the trash at the trailheads that has accumulated over the winter? Ugly for sure! But, thanks to the volunteers at Bristol Engineering, Beluga Point has been cleaned! They removed approximately 10 bags of broken bottles, candy wrappers, cans and just plain trash! Wowsa! After a hard day of cleaning up the area they met for lunch and celebrated another successful year of helping to beautify our park for everyone to enjoy. A huge round of applause for Bristol Engineering and all of your fantastic employees who volunteered their time and efforts! Yay! Thank you very much!!!



If you see trash on the trail, be a good steward and pick it up and dispose of it properly.

(Photo and story from Chugach State Park Facebook post)

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is planning a Mormon Pioneer Handcart Trek re-enactment with approximately 200 youth and 60 adults between July 20 and 30 starting at Sexton Trail off of Sullivan Avenue in Butte: <http://notice.alaska.gov/181311>
- "Soles in the Backcountry Mountain & Adventure Challenge" by Palmer's Active Sole shoe store: <http://www.activesoles.net/training.php#3>
- Part of trail around Mat-Su's Reflections Lake washed out: <http://www.adn.com/article/20160510/part-trail-around-mat-sus-reflection-lake-washed-out>
- Non-profit fixes up 25 miles of bike trails ahead of season: <http://tinyurl.com/juhk5au>
- Get it while it's cold: Touring Prince William Sound glaciers by kayak: <http://tinyurl.com/gvsc462>
- Headed out for a hike? ADN's interactive Southcentral map can help.: <http://tinyurl.com/z2xtkge>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Anchorage Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/hk5hbtw>
- New Wetland Boardwalk Into The Palmer Hay Flats Refuge Officially Opens To The Public: <http://tinyurl.com/go959oc>
- Need outdoor gear for fast-growing kids? Sometimes renting makes more sense: <http://tinyurl.com/jxszech5>
- Turnagain Arm Trail: Equal-opportunity hike for all ambitions: <http://tinyurl.com/z2sj66k>
- 1960's-era bridge fails on Denali State Park trail: <http://tinyurl.com/zssx3qs>
- Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Management Plan - Final Adoption: <http://notice.alaska.gov/181567>
- Anchorage Park Foundation fundraiser June 16: <http://tinyurl.com/zxkao5m>
- Current trail conditions website (Alaska Outdoor Reports): <http://www.snowio.com>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS INTERIOR

The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around interior Alaska.

Fairbanks area

National Trails Day Stewardship Project

What: Trail work followed by a picnic celebration.

Who: Everyone's invited to help. Sponsored by the Alaska Songbird Institute and REI.

Where: Creamer's Field. Meet at the Farmhouse.

When: Sunday, June 5, 12-4 pm.

RSVP?: Register online at rei.com/fairbanks

More info: See the AK Songbird Institute site: aksongbird.org/national-trails-day-at-cfms/

Delta Junction area

Hike Donnelly Dome with DJTA

What: Hike up Donnelly Dome

Who: Hosted by Delta Junction Trails Association

When: Saturday June 4; 11 am - 1 pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/j2n4946>

Tok area

Tetlin's Walk on the Wild Side

What: Join ranger Dana Fjare for a 3-mile hike. The hike will begin at the Tok Dog Musher's Association Hall at MP 1312.7 on the Alaska Highway. It will follow the trail used for the spectacular Tok Race of Champions down to the river and then back to the Musher's Hall.

Who: Hosted by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

When: Saturday, June 4, 8am-11am

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/jcstmmv>

Denali National Park area

Dandelion Demolition at Denali National Park

What: Try your hand at exotic-invasive vegetation removal. Learn the difference between native dandelions and invasive dandelions in the park, then demolish the invaders.

Who: Hosted by Denali National Park and Preserve

When: Saturday, June 4, 9am-1pm

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/jnym38n>

NEW EDITION OF INTERIOR TRAILS GUIDEBOOK RELEASED

A new edition of the Interior's best trails guidebook, *Outside in the Interior*, was recently released by the University of Alaska Press.

This guidebook is filled with descriptions of water and land trails throughout interior Alaska. It has 59 trips, some with a single trail while others with multiple trails. A few have no trails, instead describing overland wilderness routes.

Written by Kyle Joly, a wildlife biologist who has been exploring the Alaska interior for more than 20 years, this book is the most comprehensive trail guidebook for interior Alaska. It's great for people new to the Interior (or new to trails). It's also a great reference guide for interior Alaska trail veterans.

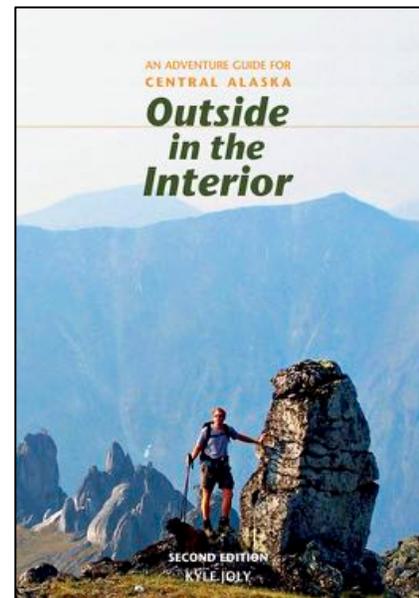
The new edition has been mostly updated to include changes to included trails since the first edition came out in 2007. New to the book are several trips: Tanana Lakes Recreation Area in south Fairbanks, Mastadon and Nugget Creek trails in the Chena River State Recreation Area (Mastadon Trail is still under construction), and Coal Mine Road south of Donnelly Dome on the Richardson Highway.

As with most any book project of this size, a few mistakes made it into the final product, but they are mostly minor. Some of the trails on the maps are not completely accurate, though they are very close. As author Joly points out, people should not rely solely on the book's maps when heading out, so use the book's maps as a general reference guide only. The description of the Caster Glacier trip is outdated because the glacier has receded considerably. The trip description will still work, but accessing the glacier works better from the north side of Castner Creek. Probably the biggest mistake is that Appendix C, the "Trip Locator Table," was not updated to account for the added trips. The table is based on the trip numbers. As a result, some of the trip suggestions are accurate while others are completely wrong (Pinnell Mountain Trail is NOT good for skate skiing!). It's best to rely on the individual trip descriptions rather than use this table.

However, don't let the book's mistakes discourage you. *Outside in the Interior* is still the best trail guidebook for trails in Interior Alaska and well worth its \$26.95 price tag.

The book is available at area book and sporting goods stores, on the University of Alaska Press website (<http://tinyurl.com/j5893z5>) and on Amazon at: <http://tinyurl.com/jqq2rk5>

(Note: The editor of this newsletter was paid to edit this edition – and the first edition – of *Outside in the Interior*.)



STATE PARKS SEEKING INFO ON ANGEL ROCKS VANDALISM

Alaska State Parks is seeking information about vandalism on the Angel Rocks Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area. Angel Rocks is a popular trail located at mile 49 of the Chena Hot Spring Road. The trail consists of a 3-mile loop that leads up to several unique rock outcroppings. The trail is one of the most popular day hikes in the Fairbanks area.

Some of the rock outcroppings were recently vandalized. The vandalism consists of graffiti on the rock outcroppings and a significant amount of litter. It is illegal to disturb, damage, deface, or remove natural objects including trees, plants, moss, rocks, gravel, or minerals within Alaska state parks. It is also illegal to litter in the state parks.

If you have any information about the vandalism, or if you witness a park violation during normal business hours, please report it to Alaska State Parks Fairbanks office by calling 451-2695. If you witness a park violation at night or on weekends, please report it to Alaska State Trooper Post in Fairbanks at 907-451-5100; the dispatcher will forward the information to park rangers.

(From Alaska State Parks press release)

- A Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story on the vandalism: <http://tinyurl.com/jcocr6v>
- A News-Miner editorial on the vandalism: <http://tinyurl.com/hqceo6w>

STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANS TRAILS WORK

The northern region of the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) has plans to work on several trails in the Fairbanks area this summer, including those along Yankovich and Miller Hill roads, Badger Road, and Auburn Drive. For a full list of DOTPF Interior-area projects see:

<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/files/2016-construction-map.pdf>

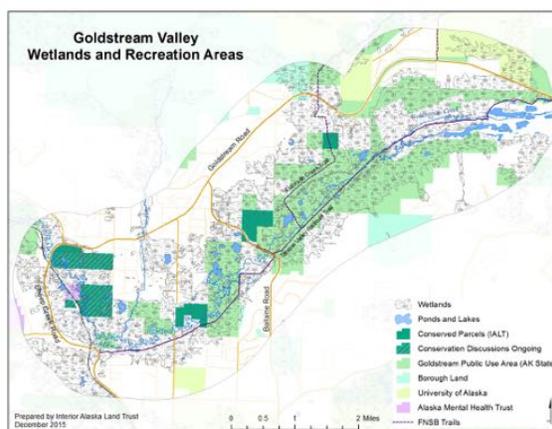
TRUST LOOKING TO CONSERVE GOLDSTREAM VALLEY LAND, TRAILS

After having success in helping preserve land in the Chena Flats Greenbelt, the Interior Alaska Land Trust is turning its attention to the Goldstream Valley, where it hopes to help preserve more land and trails.

The trust had a meeting in late May at Goldstream's Ken Kunkel Community Center to announce its intentions and to encourage any interested landowners to contact the trust. Goldstream Valley has acres of wetlands that are criss-crossed by many trails. Most of the trails are used mainly in winter, though some are used in summer, especially by berry pickers.

Large portions of the valley are preserved as open space for public use as the Goldstream Valley Public Use Area, which is state land. However, the public use area is not contiguous and much of the valley's land is in private hands. A few large blocks of land already have conservation protections thanks to the land trust, and the trust is discussing conservation protections for two more large blocks of land.

Despite those protections and efforts, many trails that run through the valley cross private land. Most landowners have been gracious in allowing use of the trails, but that does not guarantee future trail



use. Some of the valley's trails are included in the Fairbanks North-Star Borough's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. The plan guarantees that the trails be given an easement but only when and if the land is subdivided.

The land trust board of directors recognizes that trails are an important aspect of land conservation, because people who use trails have a vested interest in helping preserve the land those trails cross. This is a positive development for trail users in the Goldstream Valley.

To find out more about the land trust, including the work it has done to help protect land and trails in the Chena Flats Greenbelt, between Chena Pump Road and Chena Ridge, see: <https://interioraklandtrust.org>

SKIING ACCESS TO UAF'S SMITH LAKE TO BE IMPROVED

A proposal to create easier skiing access to Smith Lake on the University of Alaska Fairbanks is moving forward.

Interim Chancellor Mike Powers accepted a recommendation from the university's Master Planning Committee to accept a plan developed by a group of UAF engineering students, according to Kara Axx, North Campus manager.

"Construction will take place once the ground is frozen, sometime in the fall or early winter," Axx wrote in an email.

The University Trails Club made the original proposal to widen and reroute existing access to Smith Lake in order to accommodate skiers, especially beginning skiers and skate skiers.

Smith Lake is popular with beginning skiers because it is flat and has groomed skate and classic trails. It has several access points. However, getting to Smith Lake is difficult for beginners and requires either hills, a long walk, or the single-track trail that ends in a steep bank, which is about three feet high.

(The single-track trail connects Smith Lake to the low point of the Big Whizzy Trail. Big Whizzy is one-way for most of its route, but two-way traffic is allowed between the single-track trail and the Big Whizzy access point across from the Sheep Creek parking lot. The access is signed.)

PLAN WOULD APPLY HERBICIDE TO INTERIOR WATER TRAILS

Comments are due June 2 on an application for a permit to apply herbicide to control invasive elodea in Chena Lake, Chena Slough, and Totchaket Slough.

Elodea is an invasive aquatic plant that has the potential to grow abundantly and compromise water quality, hinder boat and float plane traffic, reduce dissolved oxygen, and impact fisheries. Early control of this invasive plant will help prevent spread to other locations. Physical or mechanical controls are inappropriate, as these methods break the plant into fragments, which can then reproduce.

Copies of the application are available online <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/pest/publicnotice.htm>. For specific information regarding the application, contact Karin Hendrickson at (907) 376-1856 or email Karin.Hendrickson@alaska.gov. For more information or to submit comments, contact Rebecca Colvin at: 907-269-7802 or email Rebecca.colvin@alaska.gov

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

NEW FAIRBANKS-AREA TRAIL EVENT LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

A new trail running race in the Fairbanks area is still looking for volunteers to help with its inaugural event. If you're interested please see the message below:

On Saturday, 4 June, runners and walkers will gather to participate in a new ultramarathon in the Interior: The Alaska Endurance Trail Run. This is a timed race, where the runners and walkers

put in as many miles as they can in either 6 or 12 hours on a course on the UAF West Ridge.

You can see the race Web site for all the details at <http://aetr.us>. If you'd like to participate in the race, whether running or walking, we'd love to have you! Signup details are at the Web site.

To make the event successful, we need volunteers! Whether you can come out and help for an hour or two or more, or stay all day, we'd love to have you! All volunteers can enjoy the food at the same aid station as the runners, and attend the post-run BBQ.

We need help in four ways:

- 1 Aid station: Keep the food table well-stocked with water and goodies, and the unmanned water station out on the course full to the brim. (It's a short ways off of Yankovich near the musk ox farm.) Later in the day, manage the BBQ. One to two hour shifts, or more.
- 2 Timers: Interact with racers as they finish each lap, recording their bib number, which loop they just completed, and their time. We'd like to schedule these in four hour shifts for continuity, but you can have lots of breaks!
- 3 Setup and breakdown: Various miscellaneous jobs, including things like marking the course, setting up the start/finish area and water station, breaking down at the end of the race and BBQ.
- 4 If you're a solo musician or part of an amateur group, we'd love to have you come out and perform on the course for an hour or two. You'll have a captive audience who will really appreciate your talents!

We'll do our best to make it a fun experience for you! Please contact Don Kiely at don@donkiely.com or [907-455-6749](tel:907-455-6749) if you can help or have any questions.

Thanks!!!

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Plug pulled on project to realign Skarland Ski Trail: http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/plug-pulled-on-project-to-realign-skarland-ski-trail/article_87b8e5ee-18db-11e6-baf2-674b9356767c.html
- Interior Alaska trip report map: <http://tinyurl.com/z24ojt3>
- Snow persists on Pinnell Mountain Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/jn7zsv5>
- New fees implemented at Lower Chatanika and Big Delta park units: <http://tinyurl.com/jb92vtu>
- Trip report: Black Rapids Glacier runoff was fun to packraft, but watch for rising water levels: <http://tinyurl.com/z25p2uh>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST

The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities in southeast Alaska.

Juneau area

NTD Perseverance Trails

What: This is a beautiful trail with waterfalls and rivers and mountainous views. Somewhat toddler friendly, there are places that are safe to let your early walker roam, and other areas where it would be best to carry or stroll. This trail starts out with an incline, but levels out after the first quarter of a mile or so. This will be an adult paced hike.

Who: Hosted by Hike it Baby Juneau.

Where: Perseverance Trail.

When: Saturday, June 2, 12-4 pm.

More info: <http://tinyurl.com/j6zol56>

GIRL SCOUTS HELP CLEAN JUNEAU'S UNDER THUNDER TRAIL



Juneau's Trail Mix teamed up with Girl Scout Junior/Cadette Troop 4036 recently to clean up the Under Thunder Trail. These young ladies were an enthusiastic group and excited to help, despite the crazy weather! We couldn't make it all happen without help from our amazing community members, so thank you Troop 4036!

(From Trail Mix Facebook page)

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Baranof Wilderness Lodge is requesting a land use permit to offer paid, guided hikes on Baranof Lake Trail and Sadie Lake Trail. Public comment is open until June 7: <http://notice.alaska.gov/181615>
- Sitka Trail Works 2016 Weekend Hikes schedule: <http://www.sitkatrailworks.org/weekend-hikes/>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

AMERICAN TRAILS SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After serving for over 19 years as American Trails' Executive Director, Pam Gluck has decided to resign due to health challenges effective June 30, 2016. Pam has been the face of American Trails for a long time and has shepherded the organization from a mid-size trail advocacy association to a much larger organization that hosts the biennial International Trails Symposium, manages one of the world's largest online resources for trails (www.AmericanTrails.org), and advances and promotes trails for those that build, maintain, advocate for, use, and dream of them.

The Board and staff are grateful for Pam's years of dedicated service and are working closely with her to prepare for transition to new leadership.

Applications are being accepted until June 14. To find out more about the position see: http://www.americantrails.org/NewsAction/ED_Job_Announcement.html

(From the American Trails [website](http://www.americantrails.org))



COMMUNITY WORKBOOK PAIRS HEALTH WITH PARKS, TRAILS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Park Service have created a new tool to help communities encourage physical activity in the natural environment. *The Parks, Trails, and Health Workbook: A Tool for Planners, Parks and Recreational Professionals, and Health Practitioners* is quick guide for incorporating public health considerations in the development and improvement of a park or trail. This tool can help start collaborative discussions about the health benefits of parks and trails and prepare for a health impact assessment (HIA). The tool includes information to help users find health data and learn about completed HIAs that included parks, trails, or greenways. See the workbook at:

https://www.nps.gov/public_health/hp/hphp/resources.htm

(From *Complete Streets newsletter*)

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html
- National Equestrian Trails Conference (NETC) Raleigh, NC, July 8-10: <http://natetc.org>

RECENT TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS/MAGAZINES

- American Trails (May): <http://tinyurl.com/h9heq2e>
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation approved by Senate
 - World Trails Conference coming to Tottori, Japan
 - Envisioning a 1,450-mile network of trails in the American Rust Belt
 - Imagining a new hut system for America's national parks
 - and more...
- National Forest Foundation *Tree-mail*: <http://tinyurl.com/j8lfhxj>
 - 10 Great Places to Ride a Mountain Bike
 - Nine National Forests to Visit If You Want to Climb a Mountain
 - and more...

GRANTS

- National Forest Foundation (NFF) Matching Awards Program
 - Includes trails; next deadline is June 16: <https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/map>
 - Recent projects: www.nationalforests.org/who-we-are/press-news/map-funding-spring-16

STUDIES

- What The Outdoors Does To Your Brain: <http://tinyurl.com/zp2ch6j>
- US to study economic benefits of outdoor recreation: <http://tinyurl.com/hbrzj43>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Best hikes in and around D.C.: <http://dcrefined.com/sports-fitness/the-best-hikes-in-and-around-dc>
- 3 popular D.C.-area bike trails you should ride now: <http://tinyurl.com/zld727v>
- Eat your way through 3 of D.C.'s most popular bike trails: <http://tinyurl.com/hs885lc>
- Top 10 Trails To Try (in Madison, WI)—And Why: <http://tinyurl.com/jfnxrpm>

- Chicago's best bike paths and trails: <http://tinyurl.com/hzgkeyd>
- 12 of the Best Flow Trails in the USA (mountain biking): <http://tinyurl.com/jkzmotv>

ADVOCACY

- Outdoor Alliance's Advocacy 101 Series: 4 Easy Ways To Make A Difference In Protecting Your Favorite Places: <http://tinyurl.com/hs9hs3n>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- NOHVCC & Back Country Horsemen Present Webinar On Preventing Trail Conflict: <http://tinyurl.com/zrtbbaj>
- What It Took To Get A Unanimous Vote On Wisconsin's Motorcycle Sticker Program: <http://tinyurl.com/jhckdrh>
- Interactive, on-trail exhibit about trail building opens in New York: <http://tinyurl.com/hgzmlal>
- Spring Break on the Trail: <https://www.americanhiking.org/alternative-break/spring-break-trail/>
- Major Victory for Conservation of America's Great Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/h53a6wk>
- Conservation Volunteers International Program: Trips for Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/gofquex>
- Bucket List Trails for Hikers (video): <http://tinyurl.com/jq9scod>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- Quake damaged trails in Nepal in disrepair: <http://tinyurl.com/gwqc4gj>
- How more world-class trails would make Hong Kong a magnet for adventure tourists: <http://tinyurl.com/zdke86k>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. More info: office@alaska-trails.org

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org