

2019 Statewide Trails Conference Keynote and Breakout Details



THURSDAY KEYNOTE SESSION:

Title: Guides to Trails and Life

Date/Time: Thursday, April 18th, 9:30 AM

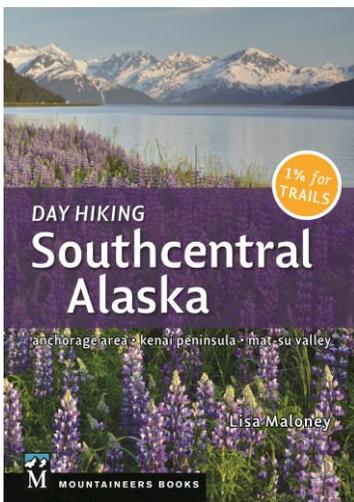
Presenter: Lisa Maloney, Author

Description: Lisa will share the backwards, sideways, upside down path that led her into a very unconventional career, and share the key lessons and risks that've helped make it stick.

A thirty-year resident of Alaska and avid outdoorswoman, Lisa Maloney is the author of three guidebooks, including the just-released "Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska" and the award-winning "Moon Alaska." She's also worked as an outdoors columnist at *The Anchorage Press* and the *Anchorage Daily News*, served a stint as senior editor at Alaska magazine, covered a nationwide hiking/backpacking beat for About.com, and published hundreds of newspaper, magazine and online articles about all things travel, outdoors and adventure.

Lisa is generously donating a portion of the proceeds from "Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska" to Alaska Trails.

Read more about Lisa and her work at her website: <http://maloneywrites.com>



Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 18th, 10:45 AM - Noon

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: RFPs and Contracts – How They’re Different

Presenter: Mike Shields – *Trail Consultant*

Description: Topics covered in this session include: How an RFP is different from RFB/RFQ contracts; when and why it gets used; the RFP process from formulation through Award; defining “deliverables”; evaluating Proposals; negotiating contract requirements; pitfalls and snares; and the basics of contract field administration.

TRACK: TRAIL CONCEPTS

Title: Expanding your Audience: How to Reach New Users

Presenters: Eileen Kazura – *Alaska Geographic and Alaska Trail Stewards*

William Melton – *Alaska Geographic*

Gavin Vaughn – *Anchorage School District*

Description: The presenters will use a couple of case studies/examples to talk about ways that they have had success in reaching traditionally underrepresented users on public lands/trails. This will include discussion of program/event development, partnering, the role of mentorship/continued relationship building, and listening to participants to understand barriers.

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDING

Title: Funding Sources for Trails

Presenters: Katie Sechrist – *State of Alaska ADF&G, Pittman / Robertson*

Kim Sollien – *Development Director, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation*

Lia Slemons – *Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area*

Ricky Gease – *Alaska State Parks Director*

Description: As state coffers continue to shrink, funding sources for trails are even more important. Knowing where dollars can come from is important. Panelists will discuss various government and private grant programs that have funded trails and could provide funding for future projects. Grant programs to be discussed include: the Recreational Trail Program, the Pittman-Robertson Fund, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation and the Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arm Heritage Area.

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN

Title: Trails for the Soul: Aesthetics, Artistry and Trail Design

Presenter: Mark Gronewald - *Trailwerx*

Description: Most of us agree that trail design is both a science and an art. There have been many classes about the science; this one is about the art. In this presentation we take a peek into the cranium of a typical trail user, review lessons learned from landscaping styles of earlier cultures, and identify effective ways to subtly delight the visual senses, enhance satisfaction, minimize conflict, and reduce human-caused trail degradation.”

Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 18th, 1:00 PM – 2:15PM

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: When “Sustainable Design” Elements Don’t Work

Presenter: Mike Shields – *Trail Consultant*

Description: Topics covered in this session include: Discussion of where, when, and why some elements of “Sustainable Trail Design” may not work as they’re supposed to, or be constrained by other trail needs. Can such failures be anticipated before layout and construction, and are there ways to compensate for the absence of a given design element? Are there any effective corrective actions available when such failures occur after construction?

TRACK: TRAIL CONCEPTS

Title: Intro to Turns Part I: Siting & Design

Presenters: Gabe Travis & Christine Byl - *Interior Trails*

Description: When done right, turns on trails are aesthetic, sustainable and fun. Done wrong they can be an expensive mess. Part one of this introductory class will discuss turn design, including user groups, siting & terrain. PREREQUISITE FOR PART 2 occurring at 2:30 on Thurs 4/18.



TRACK: TRAIL FUNDING

Title: [Fund Development and Grant Writing for Trail Organizations](#)

Presenters: [Amalie Couvillion](#) – *Foraker Group*
[Steve Cleary](#) – *Executive Director, Alaska Trails*

Description: Fund development planning is a critical piece of every nonprofit’s long-term success, yet many nonprofit leaders find it difficult to prioritize this process. This session will provide a brief look at the framework to complete different parts of a fund development plan and how to engage board members and others in the success of the plan.

The other half of the breakout will focus on grants opportunities, with a focus on past funding sources for trails and trail organizations. Both government and private foundation sources will be explored. A grant template will be displayed, highlighting the most common elements of a grant proposal and how those can be developed for many uses. Participants are encouraged to bring their own grant proposals to share and a list of grant opportunities will be jointly developed and share for all.

Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 18th, 2:30 PM – 3:45PM

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: [Technology on Trails – Maps and More](#)

Presenters: [Ryan Branciforte](#) – *Cofounder & CEO, OuterSpatial*
[Prof. Jen Schmidt](#) – *UAA GIS Students*
[Wes Hoskins](#) – *Executive Director, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation*

Description: Technology is changing the way we find out about and navigate trails. See how new applications can help more people access more trails.

People are increasingly recognizing the health, quality of life, environmental, and economic benefits that trails offer. As a result, now more than ever it’s important to connect people to your trails!

Specifically, presenters will share how [OuterSpatial](#) is leading an approach to mapping that gives stewards of our open spaces — including government agencies and nonprofits — control over what information is presented and how it’s presented via mobile apps. They’ll feature a few local Alaska based organizations as well as others throughout the country.

TRACK: TRAIL CONCEPTS

Title: Intro to Turns Part II: Field Layout

Presenters: Gabe Travis & Christine Byl - *Interior Trails*

Description: When done right, turns on trails are aesthetic, sustainable and fun. Done wrong they can be an expensive mess. Part two of this introductory class will discuss layout tips & constraints for both switchbacks & sweep turns. PART 1 – IS A PREREQUISITE. It is in the session immediately prior to this one.

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDING

Title: Other Funding Ideas for Trails

Presenters: Steve Cleary – *Executive Director, Alaska Trails*
Beth Nordlund – *Executive Director, Anchorage Park Foundation*

Description: The presenters will share tips, events and ideas for raising money for your trail group, organization or project. Please bring your ideas to this presentation to share with others from around the state on the best ways to raise money for trails.

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN

Title: ATV Trail Design, Construction, and Maintenance

Presenter: Jon Underwood – *Happy Trails*

Description: Sustainable trails share most of the same characteristics. How does these guidelines change for ATV trails? What does our state need? How do we make trails that the ATV owning public will love? This session takes a quick look at the technical aspects of creating great ATV trails.

Joint Session – Thursday, April 18th, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Title: UAA AND APU STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Presenters: Prof. Jen Schmidt – *UAA GIS Students*
Aaron Woelk – *APU Student Presenter*

Description: GIS students from UAA and Outdoor Studies students from APU will share their projects.



Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 19th, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

TRACK: TRAILS INITIATIVE

Title: The AK Trails Initiative: Who, What, and You!
Presenters: Chris Beck – *Principal, Agnew::Beck / Alaska Trails Board*
Lee Hart – *Executive Director, Valdez Adventure Alliance*
Meg Pritchard – *Alaska Trails Initiative Fellow*

Description: An introduction and overview of the goals, process and outcomes of the Statewide Trails initiative – an ambitious collaborative effort between user groups, businesses and agencies across the state to expand support for trails; highlight their importance to the economy, communities, and public health; advocate for greater investment in outdoor recreation, and build a stronger outdoor recreation coalition to reach these goals. The presenters will share work to date and invite your feedback and participation.

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: Sustainable Trails 101: Pt 1 Classroom
Presenter: Jon Underwood – *Happy Trails*

Description: This is a condensed version of the introductory course on sustainable trail building. Come and see what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts. This is a two-part class that will include a field session in the next time slot.

TRACK: VOLUNTEERS

Title: Pt. 1: Creating Meaningful Volunteer Experiences
Presenter: Kristen Mrozowski – *Trails Technician, Alaska Trails*
Joe Hall – *Chugach State Park*

Description: A lot of behind the scenes work goes into a successful volunteer experience. Join Chugach State Park and Alaska Trails staff as they share their experiences organizing meaningful volunteer opportunities. We'll discuss what goes into the partnership before volunteers ever show up and how to align expectations for success.

Recruiting volunteers will also be a big focus of this presentation. And finally, how do you keep volunteers coming back? This session is intended for anyone involved with volunteer projects, whether you're an agency partner, fundraiser or one of the volunteers on the ground.

TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Title: Completing the Network – Trail, Bike and Ped Projects
Presenters: Colin Singleton - PE – *CRW Engineering Group*
Maeve Nevins-Lavtar – *Senior Park Planner, Municipality of Anchorage*
Andrew Ooms – *Senior Engineer, Kittelson and Associates*
Joni Wilm – *Senior Transportation Planner, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator AMATS*

Description: Presenters will highlight a variety of projects that could enhance the network of biking, walking and trail facilities. Connecting a network for safe walking and biking is a key need to increase the number of Anchorage residents using active transportation. The presentations will include an update on the integrated bike, ped and trails plan, an exploration of 8-80 Bike Facilities, examples from Madison Wisconsin on how to build a robust network and an overview of the Chester Creek singletrack trails and how building trails like that can increase the number of people riding to where they ride.

Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 19th, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

TRACK: TRAILS INITIATIVE

Title: The Economic Impact of Trails and Strategies for Future Growth
Presenters: Nolan Klouda – *UAA, Center for Economic Development*
Neal Fried – *Economist, AK Department of Labor*
Sarah Leonard – *Executive Director, AK Travel Industry Alliance*
Gunnar Knapp - *UAA Institute for Social & Economic Research*
Chris Beck - *Principal, Agnew::Beck / Alaska Trails Board*

Description: A look at the underappreciated economic value of outdoor recreation & tourism, and the potential to expand this value in Alaska. Panelists will share results of just published studies of the economic impacts outdoor recreation in Alaska and highlight examples from around the world that show how trails and outdoor recreation can help create healthy, durable economic growth.

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: Sustainable Trails 101: Pt 2 – Field Trip
Presenter: Jon Underwood – *Happy Trails*

Description: This is a condensed version of the introductory course on sustainable trail building. Come and see what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts. This is a two-part class.

TRACK: VOLUNTEERS

Title: Pt. 2: Volunteer Risk Management

Presenters: Kristen Mrozowski – *Trails Technician, Alaska Trails*

Description: Volunteer Risk Management: I wouldn't touch that with a ten foot pole!

This module addresses risk management for trails organizations that do work with a volunteer labor force.

We will explore risk management strategies on three levels: individual, program, and organizational.

For each level we will present case studies of incidents or near misses that occurred as a result of poor risk management. We will also discuss how we can use good risk management in order to do more with volunteers.

TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Title: Pop-Up Projects – How and Why

Presenters: Joni Wilm - *Senior Transportation Planner, Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator AMATS*
Pierce Schwalb – *Executive Director, Bike Anchorage*

Description: Pop-up demonstration projects — also known as "tactical urbanism," "Do-It-Yourself urbanism" or "DIY urbanism" — typically involve community members working together to bring attention to overlooked spaces, address neighborhood issues, or demonstrate things they want changed or improved within a public or sometimes private space such as a streetscape, empty building or underused lot. AMATS and Bike Anchorage are excited to team up on a pop-up demonstration project on Fireweed Lane. Our goal is to implement a Complete Streets design on a portion of Fireweed Lane to demonstrate how the corridor can better serve all users. We plan to roll out this temporary design in conjunction with an Open Streets event, which will increase exposure of the project and elicit community involvement and feedback.

Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 19th, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

TRACK: TRAILS INITIATIVE

Title: Featured Trail Projects of the AK Trails Initiative

Presenters: Amy Dalton - *Alaska Huts Association - Spencer Glacier Hut to Hut system*

Erik Boraas – *Executive Director, Trail Mix – Juneau - Treadwell Ditch Trail*

Lynne Brandon – *Executive Director, Sitka Trail Works - Lucky Chance Trail*

Trena Haugen - *Denali Borough*

Kim Sollien – *Development Director, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation – Kesugi Ken Trail*

Karen Kromrey *USFS* or Paul Clark *NPS/RTCA – Anch-Seward; Iditarod trails systems*

Trena Haugen – *Denali Borough – Bison Trail*

Joe Hall – *Alaska State Parks – Crow Pass/Arctic to Indian/Turnagain Connector*



Description: Presenters from around the state will showcase a set of Feature Trails projects that are one key part of the Alaska Trails Initiative. These Feature Trails represent signature initiatives across the state – projects with big economic benefits and real potential for near term action. A representative from each project will detail progress to date, future work to be done, partners involved, and how these projects can together form a larger network of projects and advocates that will elevate trails in Alaska.

Audience review and identification of additional trails projects will be encouraged.

TRACK: TRAIL FUNDAMENTALS

Title: Accessibility on Trails

Presenters: Ira Edwards – Natural Resource specialist – AKDNR, Trail planner and disability/access advocate
Jared Zimmerman – Crew Leader, National Park Service – Denali
Roy Wahl – GPR Trail booster

Description: Trails that accommodate all users will be the focus for this panel, highlighting what has happened in the past and the philosophical basis for inclusive trails. Speakers will highlight how Alaska can increase such trails with some specific examples and a discussion of how parking lots and other infrastructure also contribute to the accessibility of trails.

TRACK: VOLUNTEERS

Title: Pt. 3: Youth Working on Trails

Presenter: Eileen Kazura – Alaska Geographic, Alaska Trail Stewards
Annie DuBois – Youth Employment in Parks (YEP)
Jeff Samuels – Student Conservation Association

Description: Presenters will discuss best practices on working with youth – how to keep them happy, engaged and productive. They will also discuss the bigger picture - why to work with youth in the first place and the importance of working with the next generation of trail stewards.

TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Title: Anchorage Vision Zero - Streets should be safe for everyone.

Presenters: Wende Wilber - AICP PTP - Principal, Kittelson & Associates
Tanya Iden – Principal/Owner, Agnew::Beck



Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. We know that in Anchorage, traffic collisions disproportionately impact people who walk and bike.

Description: Activating the Vision Zero Network – Let’s implement our plans!

Anchorage has developed a Vision Zero Action Plan and a Vision Zero Marketing & Messaging Campaign Plan. Both seek to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility. To develop these plan a network of many organizations that all share a common concern and have a stake in creating safer streets for all came together to define the problem and develop an approach to achieve real results. In this session, we’ll dig into these plans and talk about tangible next steps our community can take together to save lives, prevent injury, and increase the safety and enjoyment of roads for all people.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE SESSION:

Title: **BIG TRAIL IDEAS – COMING TO LIFE**
Presenters: [Gabe Travis](#) – *Co-Owner, Interior Trails*
[Hig Higman](#) – Groundtruth Trekking
[Eric Clarke](#) – Kachemak Bay State Park

Description: In 2018, Alaskan trail builder Gabe Travis, of Interior Trails, got hired to work in a remote national park in Argentine Patagonia as part of an ambitious conservation-based infrastructure development project. Funded entirely by a private foundation based in New York, the project goal was building 100 km of brand new hand-built hiking trails, and ten remote backcountry huts, in 2 seasons!

Come see images from, and stories about, Gabe’s two and half months designing and laying out trails, and training Argentine trail crews in sustainable construction techniques in one of the most beautiful (and windy) places on the planet.

In 2015, a group of volunteers began looking into the idea of a trail that would cross from the busy shores of Kachemak Bay to the open Pacific coast within Kachemak Bay State Park. They began this project with almost no knowledge of trail-building, nor of how to work with park administration, or even properly organize volunteers. Since then, about 700 days of volunteer time has gone into the project, and hikers are making the 21 mile journey along the Tutka Backdoor Trail between the coasts. The success of this project is largely the result of successful collaboration between the volunteers, lead by Hig of Ground Truth Trekking (a 501c3 nonprofit), and Alaska State Parks - especially Kachemak Bay State Park’s trail specialist Eric Clarke. This relationship has been complex and at times difficult, but give-and-take on both sides has made it possible, and in fact a great success. Hig and Eric will present on the project, the mechanics, and the potential broader application of this sort of relationship.

