

Day One Presenters

Erin Collier and Brice Esplin



Subaru/Leave No Trace Team members, **Erin Collier and Brice Esplin** use their combined experience in education, stewardship, marketing and communications to teach Leave No Trace ethics and create unique content for our online audience. They practice Leave No Trace daily as they travel and camp across the United States, educating diverse communities in responsible recreation techniques.

Tatyana DiMascio



Tatyana DiMascio (Technical Lead) received her MS in Environmental Management from Duke University and has dedicated the last 13 years as GIS professional in environmental planning, hydrography, and recreation in both private and public sectors.

You can read more about the National Digital Trails Project at their website:

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/national-digital-trails>

Elizabeth McCartney



Elizabeth McCartney (Project Manager) is a cartographer with the USGS. Past roles include Applied Research, National Map Corps Team Lead, and regional POC for the National Hydrography Dataset.

You can read more about the National Digital Trails Project at their website:

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/national-digital-trails>

Thursday and Friday Conference Presenters:

Lee Bolling



Lee is President of the Singletrack Advocates (STA) and led the development of the Kincaid Singletrack Trails in 2011 and 2013, as well as the one-way trails at Hillside in 2018. Over the last two years he has been working with Chugach State Park to develop the Hemlock Burn Trail, which is the first singletrack bike trail designed in the park. Lee's passion is making trails fun for everyone. He also wrote a book called "Welcome to Earth Fellow Human" and works as an engineer at Coffman Engineers.

Steve Cleary



Alaska Trails Executive Director Steve Cleary is a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville MN. Steve first came to Alaska by bicycle from Minnesota in 1998. He worked for the Anchorage Daily News, the Red Cross and as a Spanish tutor. Steve was the development director at the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG) from 2000 to 2003. In 2003, he took over as Executive Director of AkPIRG, where he stayed until his son Liam was born in 2008. Steve and his family are avid bikers, hikers and skiers and love to enjoy Alaska's trails.

Nicolette Dent



Nicolette joined the Anchorage Parks and Recreation team at the end of 2020 after graduating with a Master of Urban Planning degree from McGill University. She was born-and-raised 1 block away from the Chester Creek Trail in Anchorage and gained an array of Outside perspectives while living and working in Oregon, Arizona, and Quebec. With previous work experience in public health, Nicolette is motivated by the power that parks and trails have to improve health and well-being.

Mindy Eggleston



Mindy Eggleston holds a BS in Recreation Administration, and is an outdoor enthusiast. She and her partner Gene ran away from California 47 years ago, to find “the path not traveled” in rural Alaska! Settling in the Delta Junction area, there were opportunities to create a full rich family life, with dreams, goals and lots of hard work. Mindy is currently the President of Delta Junction Trails Association, enjoying retirement and able to follow her passions with the business of trails.

Ricky Gease



Ricky Gease is the Director of the AK DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Prior to this position, he served in various non-profit executive management positions for twenty years, including as the Executive Director of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Kenai Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as the museum manager of the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center. He also served as a Park Ranger at Kenai Fjords National Park for six years. He holds Master’s and Bachelor’s Degrees from Stanford University in Biology, and a Certificate in Non-profit Executive Management from The Foraker Group. He has extensive service on various boards and commissions relating to natural and cultural resource management. He and his wife Bunny Swan reside in Kenai.

Tyler Glenn



Tyler Glenn is the Recreation Program Manager for the Chugach National Forest. Tyler was raised in a military family having traveled the world before settling in Eagle River, AK in 1994, the last duty station for the Glenn family. Prior to joining the Forest Service, he worked on JBER leading the Recreation and Community Services Programs, providing vital programming that supports the overall resiliency, esprit de corps, and comprehensive fitness of our Service Members and their families. Mr. Glenn now supports the Chugach National Forest through multiple measures concerning Recreation and Programming across the entire Forest, with a large part of his job coordinating efforts to build and improve the Iditarod National Historic Trail segments located within Forest Service lands.

Tim Gurnett



Tim started his career in land management on prescribed burn crew after serving in the US Navy. He went on to work as a wilderness trails tech, Conservation Crew Leader, Squad Leader for wildland fire crews, a Recreation Manager for the National Forest, and the Crew Lead for the State Park Mat-Su Trail Crew. Tim currently serves as the Park Specialist for Chugach State Park. Tim's goal in this capacity is to ensure Chugach State Park's Trail System is adequately maintained to provide public access for various outdoor pursuits.

Lee Hart



Lee Hart has specialized in the outdoor, snow sports, bike and adventure travel industries for the past two decades as a communicator and brand strategist. As founding executive director of the Alaska Outdoor Alliance, her coalition-building effort marries her professional expertise with a fervent belief in the positive impact the outdoor recreation sector can have on small town economies as well as the mental and physical benefits of recreating outdoors.

Mike Hopper



Mike Hopper's tenure at the old man of Black Rapids began when he was a much-younger backcountry skier eager to find land for a ski cabin in Isabel Pass. Two decades, one cabin-and-a-lodge later he is now an aging hiker who has come to appreciate the civility of European style hut to hut hiking, while treasuring the pristine alpine wilderness of the Eastern Alaska Range. With EARTH, and the Alliance for Access to the Eastern Alaska Range, Dr. Hopper hopes to create an entirely new tradition of sustainable long-distance hiking in our vast and wonder-filled state.

Ben Hughey



Ben grew up working and playing outdoors on the Tongass, touring Baranof and Chichagof Islands on trail and cabin maintenance crews with Sitka Trail Works and the US Forest Service. Last fall, he returned to Sitka to lead a Conservation Corps program with CARES Act funding and then joined the staff at Sitka Trail Works. The first six years of his career was spent with a Seattle-based non-profit focused on recreation and conservation planning and advocacy. In 2019, as a post-graduate policy fellow in Senator Cory Booker's office, he helped draft legislation proposing to put Americans to work restoring public lands, a dream he hopes to realize in his hometown.

Haley Johnston



Haley Johnston joined the staff of Alaska Trails in January 2021 as the Tongass National Forest Sustainable Trail Strategy Project Manager. Haley comes to Alaska Trails with extensive experience in outdoor recreation as a long-time wilderness guide and outdoor educator. She also brings significant nonprofit expertise having served on several nonprofit and citizen advisory boards and working as the Business Specialist at the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage. Haley passionately believes recreation is critical to the quality of life in Alaska, the mental health of our communities and the resilience of the Alaskan economy. Haley spends her non-working hours trail running, backpacking, Nordic skiing, packrafting and backcountry skiing with her partner, friends and dog.

Emerson Kruger



Emerson has been working at the Mat-Su Borough since 2007, helping with land use planning, land management, and most recently with managing the Borough's natural resources. Since 2018, he has worked closely with Alan McClain, and the Borough Trail Crew, planning and building the Settlers Bay Coastal Park. Emerson drafted the Park's Recreation Development Plan, then, in partnership with Great Land Trust and the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, began securing funding and permits to open the Park to the public. He has lived in the Palmer area, off and on for the last 30 years. Emerson has a BS in Environmental Studies with an emphasis on hydrology, and has worked as an environmental scientist, a natural resource manager, a compliance cleanup manager, and a land use planner. As with most long-time Alaskans, Emerson enjoys being outdoors winter and summer, and has found building trails in public parks to be a pinnacle of his career.

Van Le



Van Le came up to Alaska for graduate school over 20 years ago and has never left. She has been using trails as a free-range kid since her childhood in a small community in Northern British Columbia. Her day job includes planning parks, trails and active transportation facilities as part of a collaborative team at R&M Consultants, Inc. where she is the Planning Department Manager. She believes that the number of bikes you should have is $n+1$ for all the different types of trails and seasons you can use them in Alaska. She lives in Anchorage and enjoys winter fatbiking, hiking, skiing and mountain biking with her family including her husband, teenage son and 2 huskies. She is currently working on the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan update, Chugach Foothills NE Trail Connector Phase II, Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan and Government Hill Parks and Trails Plan in Anchorage. Van serves on several youth soccer boards at the local and state level. Van holds a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Geography from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and a Master's of Science in Environmental Science Degree from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage.

Alan McClain



Alan has been working with the Mat-Su Borough Trail Crew since 2016 and has been the Outdoor Recreation Trails Specialist since 2017. In the summer, he oversees a Crew of 12 hardworking people as they build and maintain trails managed by the Mat-Su Borough. In the winter he helps to snowplow the trailheads, grooms trails, removes downed trees, serves as the Borough representative on the Mat-Su Greenbelt Committee, and plans for the summer season. Alan has lived in Alaska for 23 years. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University in Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management, where he specialized in Adventure Education. When not at work, Alan enjoys spending time with his family exploring the outdoors and experiencing all that Alaska has to offer.

Beth Nordlund



Beth Nordlund is the Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation. A lifelong advocate for public spaces and civic engagement, Beth has served as Executive Director since Anchorage Park Foundation's inception in 2004. Many of her greatest joys come from convening with community leaders and working with volunteers, working together to make something magical out of an idea.

Beth lives with her husband Jim and daughter Ella next to a great sledding hill at Balto Seppala Park.

Geoff Orth



Geoff is a trail advocate and consultant (www.straydogs.us), member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission, board member of the Fairbanks Cycle Club, Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation, and former board president of the statewide non-profit, Alaska Trails. A former biologist, anthropologist, photographer, commercial fisherman, Geoff has lived in Alaska since 1972... enjoying the benefits of trails.

Adam Robinson



Adam is the Hillside Trail Boss for the Singletrack Advocates (STA) and was the major force behind the development of the 2018 Hillside Trails, especially the building of Dig Deep trail, which was completed all by hand. He probably has spent more hours than anyone on this fantastic, rugged masterpiece! Adam is the Hillside Trail Boss and loves keeping the trails in tip-top shape.

Kathy Sarns



After moving to Homer in 2008 Artist Kathy Sarns was thrilled to discover Kachemak Bay State Park's uniquely wild & stunning trails by the ocean. She signed up to volunteer in 2016 when her favorite KBSP trails began disappearing and was surprised to learn there was little or no State Park maintenance being done for most of the existing trails in KBSP. Concerned that more trails would disappear (some having already been reclaimed by nature as recently as 2016) she learned to use a gas brush-cutter and lead small trail clearing parties with friends. She became a board member and then president of the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, helping organize FKBP trail work parties & tool acquisition. Kathy thrives on wild trail adventures by foot & XC skis and has a deep appreciation and passion for

preserving KBSP trails that access some of the most beautiful wilderness that Alaska has to offer for both local Park users & visitors from around the world.

Gabe Travis



Gabe Travis, co-owner of Interior Trails, has been a professional trail builder since 1996. Gabe has led trail crews in Glacier National Park, Chugach National Forest, and Denali NP; in 2008 Gabe and his wife, Christine Byl, began Interior Trails to address the need for specialized trail expertise in Alaska. In addition to design and layout, assessment and prescription, and hand and mechanized construction for clients statewide, Gabe has taught introductory and technical trails courses in the Lower 48, Canada & Argentina. An avid skier, biker, and runner, Gabe is also a visual artist who brings his eye for design and detail to the trail layout and construction process. He lives in a yurt north of Denali National Park. For more information on Interior Trails, visit www.interior-trails.com.