

SourDough Notes



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ON THE COVER:

“The Bug Boys,” Duke Busch and Ryan Van Duzor, sample aquatic invertebrates in an uplified marsh pond on the Copper River Delta.

Photo by Milo Burcham.

Story on Page 3.

SourDough Notes

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Employee Profile: Alicia Stearns

By John Krosse & Vivian Hjort, Tongass National Forest Aviation

Alicia Stearns is a helicopter manager extraordinaire. The Tongass National Forest helicopter staff has been a little thin of late, anorexic actually, by: 1) lending the Chugach our north end helicopter manager to act as their Forest Aviation Officer; 2) losing our south end helicopter manager to a safety job in Region 6; and, 3) drafting our helicopter program manager to fill in behind our retired Forest Safety Officer.

Fortunately, Alicia stepped up to the plate. She expanded her organizational skills from just providing helicopter transportation support and part-time safety program management for Wrangell Ranger District to coordinating all the helicopter needs for the whole Tongass. With the help of the forest dispatchers and few guest helicopter managers from the Payette National Forest, the disruption to “normal” helicopter operations has been minimized.

This is no small task. Flying in a temperate coastal rainforest can be a challenge, even in good weather. Throwing in changing weather,



Susan Oehlers and Alicia Stearns tag a moose in Yakutat.

scheduling, and the need to ensure everyone gets their requested helicopter time, could make even the boldest person run in horror. But, Alicia handles it all with grace, an eye for detail, and a smile.

Alicia’s safety record is outstanding, whether it’s flying to Yakutat, to Ketchikan, or beyond. Suddenly, the blades begin to turn, and you’re off the tarmac. Alicia made it happen.

If you see Alicia in a jet port, or if you’re in the helo with her, please be sure to give her a big “thank you” for helping us fly safely on the Tongass. She is a key part of why our program works.

“Bug Boys” Investigate Copper River Delta Pond Productivity

By Ken Hodges, Fisheries Biologist, Cordova Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

Mosquitoes, black flies, biting midges (no-see-ums), non-biting midges—Alaska seems to have more than its share of annoying, flying insects. It is this collection of insects and other aquatic invertebrates, however, that makes our coastal wetlands so valuable for birds, fish, and other wildlife.

Affectionately known as “The Bug Boys,” graduate students Ryan Van Duzor from Loyola University and Duke Busch from Michigan State University spent this summer studying the aquatic invertebrates in the ponds of the Copper River Delta, one of the Alaska Region’s “key coastal wetlands.” Their work is one component of a pond ecology project that seeks to understand the relations between the types of ponds on the delta and their biological productivity.

Busch is investigating the relations between invertebrates and different vegetation types, while Van Duzor is looking at invertebrate production. In the future, other graduate students will study how these factors affect the bird species and populations on the del-

ta. This information will be used to help manage the wetland areas, given the continually shifting glacial channels and the ongoing vegetation succession and pond drainage caused by the tectonic uplift during the 1964 earthquake.

Busch and Van Duzor still have 500 to 600 invertebrate samples to sort through, identify, and quantify, so their findings are not yet complete. Nonetheless, there have been some interesting patterns so far.

“We are studying the two main types of ponds on the delta: those on the glacial outwash areas and those in the uplifted marsh areas,” Busch explained. The outwash areas generally have more gravel substrate, whereas the uplifted ponds have clay and marine sediment substrates. “From preliminary samples we took last year and this summer, the uplifted ponds seem to have a greater invertebrate diversity, but the glacial outwash ponds have a greater abundance.”

The overall diversity in these ponds is low, however.

“We’ve only found (specimens from) six to eight different families in these ponds, as opposed to 20 or more in one net in a diverse pond in the lower 48,” Busch says. “But even though there’s not a lot of variety, there are a lot of them.”

Van Duzor feels that the sheer abundance



The “Bug Boys” suggest that you don’t swat this adult damselfly. They feed voraciously on no-see-ums and mosquitoes. Photo by Milo Burcham.

of invertebrates is one of the more significant findings so far.

“One of the important things that people may not understand is that the small insects like midges—those swarms of tiny microscopic insects—are the base structure where a lot of the energy comes from in the system. It’s mind boggling how many midges are in one small patch of mud. Birds, other insects like beetles, dragonflies, and damselflies, are all eating these midges, both as adults and larvae.”

So when you’re out on the delta birdwatching or fishing, don’t curse the bugs crawling down your collar or up your shirt sleeves. Without the bugs, you wouldn’t have the birds or fish. As Van Duzor says, “As much as they’re annoying, they have to be there.”



The aquatic beetle larva feeds on midge, mosquito, and other larvae in the ponds. Photo by Milo Burcham.

The Kings of Twentymile

By Thor Eide, Seasonal Fisheries Tech, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest



Thor Eide visits Carmen River. Photo by Merlyn Schelske.

Little is known about the king salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) population in the Twentymile watershed on the Chugach National Forest. Creel surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service indicate that kings are regularly captured by anglers fishing for other species. These surveys also indicate that as more anglers use the river the overall number of kings being incidentally caught is increasing. Although kings may not be targeted, harvested, or removed from the water anywhere in the watershed, these fish can be subject to stress and delayed mortality from catch and release fishing.

However, fishing pressure isn't the only obstacle that kings in the Twentymile watershed face. As the number of outfitter/guides permits and public use rise in the watershed there is an increasing amount of jetboat traffic on the river. Because jetboats can operate in very low water conditions they can chase fish off their redds and even dislodge and destroy eggs in redds.

The Twentymile watershed has been designated a Scenic River Management Area on the Chugach National Forest. The 2002 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach states "management of fisheries and riparian habitat will emphasize the maintenance of genetic diversity of wild indigenous fish stocks" for the Twentymile watershed. Thus, forest managers and biologist have decided that we should know more about the kings of the Twentymile watershed to help direct future management decisions concerning increased recreational use. In particular, more information is needed about the

quality and quantity of suitable spawning habitat in the Carmen River (a smaller clear tributary in the watershed) and where the kings are spawning in this stream.

So where to begin? We know from visual observations that kings spawn in the Carmen River. We also know that this branch of the river system is one of the few reaches that stays fairly clear throughout the year. The majority of the streams in the watershed are very glacially turbid. Working on a clear stream was important because we needed to be able to see the kings and the substrate to accomplish our objectives.

The first step was to gain a better understanding of what type of substrate kings prefer by conducting a literature review. Then, once we had determined what type (size composition) of substrate is suitable for spawning, we could go into the field to see what types of substrate are in the Carmen River. To accomplish this, our first trip up the Twentymile watershed occurred in late March via snowmobile. Since water conditions are very low and the water clarity is excellent this time of year we were able to map out some of the general areas where we thought kings might dig redds based on visual observations of the existing substrate. Once water levels in the system increased, we were then able to return to Carmen River by airboat to generate a more detailed map of potential spawning site locations.

After mapping areas that appeared to fit the substrate requirements for spawning kings, we had to verify the gravel composition in each area based on our literature review. To do this we took core samples of the substrate and brought them back to the office for analysis. The gravel samples were dried then sieved through different meshes to get information on the gravel size composition at each of the different locations. We also measured water depth and velocity at each location to assess other physical characteristics important for spawning.

So now we know where we, as fisheries biologists, would spawn if we were king salmon but do kings actual spawn there? To find out we had to wait until the kings arrived. We started seeing kings by late June and began taking weekly trips

down the Carmen River on a cataraft with one person observing kings and noting spawning locations while the other person paddled. By doing this we were able to determine if kings were using the areas we thought they might. Plus, we were able to identify other areas where kings were digging redds that we didn't identify and sample previously.

From this study we have learned when kings arrive, when peak spawning occurs, and where kings spawn in Carmen River. Using this information we will be able to provide outfitter guides with a map of areas to be avoided, reducing the impact jetboats have on the kings

Fish techs Thor Eide and Louis Garding count king salmon on a rainy day. Photo by Adam Cross.



Reaching New Forest Users through Big Brothers Big Sisters

By: Faith Duncan, Interpretive & Conservation Education Program Manager, Tongass National Forest

The kids are bowling. Adults are bowling. There are mounds of goody bags. There are shrieks of laughter emanating from the makeshift alley at the Ketchikan Recreation Center. The prize table is weighted down with books and mobiles, soft fuzzy toys of Alaskan animals donated through Forest Service Alaska Geographic outlets.

Now the oohs and aahs are coming from a group of very wet Bigs and Littles—they have been hiking through the Forest, and they keep finding things to look at despite the rain. Several Littles are wearing skunk cabbage head umbrellas. Others lean over the bridge and listen to the rushing stream. Examine a native Alaskan banana slug. Check out the game trails in the muskeg. Search the skunk cabbage for signs of bear bites. What was that sound? Just a scolding jay....Phew!!

The Tongass is proud of its partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters in southeast Alaska. Our MOU was signed in 2007. So far we have participated special events, offered hikes and participation in outdoor events for youth, and Forest Service employees have become involved becoming “Bigs” with “Littles” in a very successful child mentoring program in Juneau and Yakutat, and hopefully in other southeast towns like Ketchikan.

BBBS offers mentoring opportunities in the community or schools. Research has shown that children matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister improves academically, socially, and engages in fewer risky behaviors.



Erin Dovichin, The Nature Conservancy, Faith Duncan, Forest Service, and Dennis Neill, Forest Service retiree, plan outdoor events to connect kids to the woods through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Photo by Joann Flora.

One of the goals of the MOU was working together to make public lands accessible to youth of all ages and providing outdoor opportunities during the summer season for Bigs and Littles to enjoy the forest safely.

For information on how you can make a difference in the life of a child, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at www.bigbrothersbigsisteralaska.org.

BBBS is especially looking for men to be big brothers. Contact one of their offices—you can apply on the web site or contact area managers in Ketchikan at 247-3350, Sitka at 747-3500, or Juneau at 586-3350. Meanwhile, I got a picnic to attend.

Jack Bay Gets a Facelift

By Dixon Sherman, Forester, Cordova Ranger District, Chugach National Forest



Refurbished Jack Bay Cabin. Photo by Dana Smyke.

On June 21, 2008, five Forest Service employees descended on Jack Bay Recreation Cabin on the Cordova Ranger District by sea and by air. Planning started last fall when the Chugach National Forest discussed a new funding source, Recreation Site Improvement Project. These one-time funds were specifically set up to reduce deferred maintenance at qualified recreation fee sites, those in the 50% our Recreation Facilities Analysis (formerly the Recreation Site Facilities Master Plan). The Alaska Region identified five recreation cabins on the Chugach and ten on the Tongass. The region as a whole received \$695,000 in FY08. If we can demonstrate that we used the money effectively, we could see up to \$1.6 million in FY09.

In the late 1970s or early '80s, the Jack Bay cabin was moved from Sawmill Bay, west of the Valdez Narrows to the far end of Jack Bay, east of the Narrows, because of State land selections in Sawmill Bay.

With the assistance of the RSI funds, the aging cabin received a much needed facelift. The crew consisted of Steve Hennig from the Forest Supervisor's office, Dana Smyke and Dave Smith, from the Cordova cabin crew, and Bob Behrends and Dixon Sherman from the Cordova Ranger District. With year's worth of home repair projects under our ever lengthening belts, Steve, Dixon and Bob, armed with sanders, hammers and paint brushes made Dana nervous.

The project entailed replacing all four windows, the oil stove and fuel tank, all interior furniture, the deck and steps, the outhouse, staining belts, Steve, Dixon and Bon, armed with sander, hammers, and paint brushes, made Dana nervous.

The project entailed replacing all four windows, the oil stove and fuel tank, all interior furniture, the deck and steps, the outhouse, staining the exterior and sanding and clear coating the interior walls and ceiling. The sanding component of the project was the most critical. Forty plus years of oil stove soot, candles and lanterns had created a cave-like aura on the inside.

The cabin is one of the early Pan Abode 12x14-foot cedar designs and had been cleaned chemically five years earlier. Dana knew that the only way to really brighten up the interior was to don our dust masks and goggles, our sander of choice, and make some dust.

With the bunk beds, table, windows, and counters all removed, the new oil stove and tank were installed to speed up the drying time for the three coats of water-based clear urethane finish.

The Nordic oil stove is new for us here on the Cordova District, but we understand it has been used in some cabins on the Tongass.

Dana had the fuel tank fabricated by a local aluminum welder in town. It included a larger capacity fuel filter with clear bowl to easily remove any fuel contamination or water. There is a fuel level sight tube on the right side of the tank.



Oil tank

On June 28, the 38-foot Cordova Ranger District boat *Tenacious* came to transport the crew back to civilization. As we ferried our equipment and supplies to our ride home, the next visitors to rent the cabin arrived. They were the first of many to enjoy a bright

and warm interior, windows with screens—a feature not found on many of our older cabins—a solid front deck, and an outhouse with a view.

With luck, this funding source will allow the region to address other cabins with similar needs in future years.



Room with a view

Landmark Year for Invasive Plant Management

By Trish Wurtz, Ph.D., Ecologist, State & Private Forestry

Numerous employees in the Alaska Region and a wide network of cooperators have contributed to several landmark events related to invasive plant management in Alaska this year. Some of these events have been years in the making.

On June 24, as part of Alaska Weeds Awareness Week activities, Governor Sarah Palin signed HB 330, “an act relating to noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and education.” The legislation directs the Alaska Division of Agriculture to establish a position of weed and pest coordinator for the state. The coordinator will develop a state-wide strategic plan for the management of noxious and invasive weeds and agricultural pests, review current laws and regulations regarding importation, sale and transport of plants and other potential avenues of pest introduction, propose revisions, compare land management practices of Federal, State, Tribal, Municipal and other subdivisions of Government within the State with particular attention to construction, maintenance operations and other activities in corridors where invasive plants and agricultural pest movement can occur. Since the bill was signed, the State of Alaska has moved quickly to fill this all-important post.

A citizen-initiated Cooperative Weed Management Area in Anchorage was formally established in January, 2008. Signatories to the memorandum of understanding include the Municipality



Regional Forester Denny Bschor and Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell pull invasive reed canary grass near Cordova in July. Photo by Charlie Krebs.

of Anchorage, the Anchorage Fire Department, the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Division of Forestry, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the non-profit organization Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN). A logo was unveiled by Governor Palin at the June 24th Weed Fair, and five weed pulls have been conducted over the summer, focusing on Canada thistle, orange hawkweed, Ox-eye daisy, bird-vetch, and purple loosestrife.

On July 1, Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell and Regional Forester Denny Bschor were briefed on cooperative invasive plant control efforts on, and adjacent to, the Chugach National Forest. They heard about plans

for the Spencer Whistlestop area from Betty Charnon, ecologist, and about a cooperative reed canary grass control project with S&PF from Director Charlie Krebs. The distribution of reed canary grass in the Cordova area is limited to small populations adjacent to Forest Service land. Realizing the opportunity to control this aggressive wetland invader before it spread to the Copper River Delta, Cordova Ranger District wildlife technician Erin Cooper led reed canary grass removal efforts along the Copper River Highway. The work occurred in July with a combined SAGA and Forest Service trail crew of 16 for one week and a SAGA only crew for a second week SAGA. The Chief and Bschor donned work gloves and joined in the effort.

Keeping Chugach Waterways Weed-Free

By Kate Mohatt, Ecology Technician, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

Alien invaders of the floral kind are having a harder time staying under the radar in the Chugach National Forest due to the second wave of Invasive Plant inventories—this time conducted on major rivers and Kenai Lake. Rob DeVelice developed a systematic invasive plant inventory protocol which was used in 2005 and 2006 to survey all trails in the Chugach and this same protocol was applied to major rivers inventoried this summer. With the help of boat captain and chief rower Sadie Youngstrom, we investigated plots on every kilometer of shore along 20 Mile, Placer, Portage, and Kenai Rivers via two-man Cataraft and popular foot access fishing points along Quartz Creek. We also circumnavigated the entire Kenai Lake in a Zodiak with stops at every kilometer.



Kate Mohatt uses a Zodiak to circumnavigate Kenai Lake, looking for alien invaders. Photo by Sadie Youngstrom.

What we found was largely encouraging. Our main fear was finding white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*), a nasty invasive that is found abundantly along our roadways and can spread readily along waterways, as evidenced by its unfortunate takeover of the Stikine River on the Tongass. Also in the neighborhood of Kenai Lake and River is the nearly impossible to eradicate Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) which can also take-over native plant communities and spread rapidly. Fortunately, neither of these species was found; however, there were a number of plots with other less invasive non-natives.

At the top of the list for most abundant and frequently encountered is the common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). It was found on every river in several sometimes surprising locations, including cliff walls and areas outside

of the plots, and at considerable distances from the shore where people aren't likely to travel. It appears the wildlife, in addition to wind dispersal, may be helping this one get around. At the top of the list for nastiest invasive was a sizable population of butter-and-eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*) found along a large swath of shoreline on Kenai Lake. It appears to have been planted by local businesses or cabin owners along the shore. While taking inventory at one heavily infested plot, we were able to educate a curious homeowner on this plant and she assured us she would do her best to get rid of it. The most colorful and puzzling non-native plant award goes to the Icelandic Poppies (*Papavar nudicaule*) found in several locations along Quartz Creek. How they got there and why they are doing so well remains a mystery.

In addition to inventorying, efforts were taken to control smaller populations via hand-pulling when possible. Most satisfying to eradicate was the only small patch of oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) found in a relatively pristine section of shore on Kenai Lake. As for the sizable patch of butter and eggs, it is in an easily accessible part of the lake shore, which will make control efforts of this infestation a possibility in the future. While the report card for native vegetation along major Chugach waterways at present is good, continued monitoring and control work will be essential to keep these areas weed free in the future.



How these Icelandic Poppies found their way to Quartz Creek remains a mystery. Photo by Sadie Youngstrom.

College Students Gain Practical Experience

By Cassie Bauer and Beth Beimel, Student Interns, Chugach National Forest

It's a typical day in Portage Valley Alaska- a soggy morning of light rain, a slight breeze and a thick layer of clouds resting on the slopes of the Chugach Mountains. The weather may surprise some and leave them questioning the definition of an Alaskan summer day. However, the U.S. Forest Service seasonal naturalists know that it is a great start to another day on the job.

On any given day a Begich, Boggs Visitor Center intern may be found milling throughout the forest serving the public through original interpretive programs, guided ranger hikes, partnership narration, or answering questions at the front desk. Other duties may include but are not limited to educational program and prop development, record keeping of public use in the forest, front-country

clean up, special event preparation, interpretive signage and brochure creation, backcountry hiking guidance, addressing the needs of special groups, and youth conservation education. Though our duties remain the same throughout the season each day is unique. Day after day we meet new people, face different situations, and are presented with new challenges.

College age interpreters gain hands-on experience with the Forest Service, but furthermore they craft life-long connections and learn the importance of networking. Interns at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center are presented with the opportunity to work with other individuals from a variety of backgrounds. Interacting with teachers, biologists, and veterans lends an extraordinary amount of insight into the broad interdisciplinary profession of Interpretation. Working here in the Chugach National Forest is ideal because not only are we able to exercise our skills in the field but days off we get to play tourist as well. The most rewarding part of working at the Begich, Boggs Visitors Center is that we get to do things that directly pertain to what we hope to do in our future professions. We gain valuable knowledge and skills each day we are here. Each experience allows us to practice the skills we have gained in our college classes and also provides us with new skills we could have never imagined we would need.



Student intern Cassie Bauer leads an ice worm safari on the Chugach National Forest's Byron Glacier. Photo by Carolyn Seramur.



Student Intern Beth Beimel talks with visitors about spawning salmon at Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform in Portage Valley. Photo by Cassie Bauer.

Applying for a seasonal position is a fine way to get started in the field of Natural Resources and we would recommend it to any college student seeking practical experience for the future.

Both Cassie and Beth are majoring in Environmental Education & Interpretation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and are due to graduate in December 2008. Cassie hopes to join the Peace Corps and eventually work with the public promoting environmental awareness and focusing on resource interpretation. Beth anticipates continuing work with the public promoting environmental stewardship while working toward becoming a wildland firefighter.

Suzanne and Fred Dow Fulfill a Dream

By Pamela Finney and Teresa Haugh. Regional Public Affairs Office

Connecting people to the woods is an ongoing mission for Fred and Suzy Dow, a couple from Bisbee, Arizona, who spent much of the last 14 years exploring U.S. Forest Service campgrounds across the U.S.

The Dows, authors of the U.S. National Forest Campground Guide series, said they “discovered national forests late in life.” While living in Virginia, they barely realized the nearby George Washington and Jefferson National Forests were there. When they discovered them, however, they “absolutely fell in love.” That was 1993.

After realizing that they did, indeed, enjoy the camping experience, the Dows started to look for more opportunities to camp in national forests. As they searched, they discovered a woeful lack of available information. They could find documents to read about timber and endangered species, but very little about recreational opportunities in the 155 national forests in 44 states.

At that time, Fred was getting close to retirement and Suzy was finishing her Master’s degree. While conducting research in the Library of Congress, Suzy read about a *New York Times*’ project in the 1970s to compile information on national forest campgrounds. Unfortunately, the *NYT*’s efforts were short-lived due to the oil embargo and high gas prices of the 70s. The idea spurred the Dows to do a bit of investigation on their own. Between 1994 and 1996, Fred wrote to forest supervisors’ offices, collected what little infor-



Suzy and Fred Dow (with Dani on table, Ralf in lap) add the Tongass National Forest to their long list they have visited around the country. Photo by Teresa Haugh.

mation was available, and started a campground database. He soon discovered there were over 5,000 developed campgrounds on national forests. The Dows trimmed their research to national forest campgrounds with these criteria: those that contained 10 or more designated campsites; and those that could be reached in a family sedan.

The Dows took a proposal to current Chugach National Forest Supervisor Joe Meade, who at that time, was working in the Washington Office in recreation. They offered to visit the forests, survey the campgrounds that met their criteria, and provide the Forest Service with websites and photos for each. Meade loved the idea. He started a Memorandum of Understanding for the proposal, and by 1996, the

Dows put their house in Virginia on the market to purchase their first RV.

The Dows started with a two-week pilot trip to Vermont and New Hampshire, camping on the White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forests. That was their longest trip in a travel trailer at the time. They read a couple of books about living in an RV which explained how to get mail while on the road. When they started, there was no such thing as wireless internet connections, and as Suzy said, cell phones were “big purse sized.” The Dows had an agreement that they could use Forest Service phone lines as they traveled, but an office was not always available. At times, they stood on the side of the highway in the rain, hooking up an acoustic coupler

up and communicate at the slow speed of 2400 baud. They had to learn about communications along the way. Still, they described their life as a lot of fun. “We have met some fabulous people on our travels,” said Suzy.

Their master plan was to visit all of the national forests east of the Mississippi River first, which they did. Later, when they traveled west, camping on the Coronado National Forest, they were so enchanted with the town Bisbee, Arizona, they bought a house. They decided to enjoy “real plumbing” for part of the year, and now travel from May to October.

When they started, Fred thought they could visit 10 campgrounds a day! That proved a bit ambitious. They soon learned to find a central point and work out from there. Suzy develops their itinerary in January, and they use mapping software to plan their trips. After visiting a campground, they post pertinent information in their website to include the number of RV hook-ups, pull throughs, waste stations, and parking aprons. They list facilities such as hot showers, flush toilets (and whether wheel-chair accessible), playgrounds, public phones, and water spigots. Were reservations required? Was there hiking? Fishing? Swimming, boating, water-skiing, rafting, or kayaking? The Dows include up to 55 fields of information in each campground review, more than any other campground guide.

They take and organize many beautiful photographs and compile information on things for campers to do in each area. They make notes of visitor centers, trails, and local activities in nearby towns. They want to paint the national forest campgrounds as “destina-



RF Denny Bschor presents Suzy and Fred Dow with certificates of appreciation at a Chugach National Forest family meeting while Chief Gail Kimbell looks on.

tions,” not just places to pass on through.

They collect personal stories, too. They watched a father teach his son to fish, newlyweds camping on their honeymoon, and a single mother using camping as a way to provide five kids with a fun, affordable vacation.

The Dows visited their last national forest campground in June, completing their campground directory at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage Valley, Alaska, on the Chugach National Forest. It seemed fitting to end at the forest supervised by Joe Meade, the person who initiated their MOU 14 years earlier. Although Meade was gone, they serendipitously arrived on the Chugach at the same time as Chief Gail Kimbell and Alaska Regional Forester Denny Bschor. In a family meeting, Kimbell and Bschor recognized the Dows and presented them with certificates of appreciation and Alaska Region pen sets for their vast contributions to the Forest Service.

To date, the Dows have published nine books in their U.S. National Forest Campground Guide

series. The Pacific Northwest Region is in progress. Their website information is free, and receives up to 300,000 hits per day. Suzy even has a blog and publishes road-friendly recipes. They self-publish their guide books and CDs and sell them on their website to keep the prices down.

The Dows say they appreciate Forest Service employees, and they have interviewed hundreds on their journeys. They believe that there is currently low morale among employees who have been asked to do more with fewer resources and have to choose between campground maintenance and staff to help the public. They appreciate whenever they see employees in uniform, and regret that concessionaires don’t always display the same sense of mission shown by dedicated employees.

Are the Dows slowing down and relaxing, now that all the national forest campgrounds have been accounted for? Hardly...after a little pressure from areas feeling left out, they have decided to add the national grasslands to their list!

EPA Success in Tribal Government Relations

By Teresa Haugh, Regional Public Affairs office

In August 2008, Carol Jorgensen came home to South-East Alaska, where she is no stranger to the Forest Service or to the Alaska Native community. Jorgensen, a Tlingit from a village near Haines, previously served as a Forest Supervisor on the Tongass National Forest and more recently as the National Tribal Program Manager in the Washington Office. In the past, Jorgensen also worked for the Alaska Fish and Game Commission where she concentrated on subsistence issues.



Carol Jorgensen

In 2002, Jorgensen was appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency to be the national Director of the AIEO (American Indian Environmental Office). Since taking that position, she has worked wholeheartedly to engage American Indians and Alaska Natives in EPA programs that will assist them in improving

their environment, public health, and economies.

Jorgensen visited the regional leadership team August 11 when Alaska Region Tribal Liaison Lillian Petershoare invited her to share about her programs and successes in partnerships with tribal leaders on the local level. Jorgensen was accompanied by her colleague, Michelle Davis, EPA Alaska Tribal Coordinator, who is based in Anchorage.

Jorgensen and Davis reminded the regional leadership team that there are 565 federally-recognized tribes throughout the U.S. Tribal sovereignty in our nation goes as far back as our constitution. Federal agencies can accomplish much when they work with indigenous people of the land to develop important nation-to-nation, tribe-to-tribe relationships. Working with tribes and across agencies can reduce redundancy and bring about a greater good.

Jorgensen and Davis said that not only do the tribes have great needs, but they have great knowledge, also. Scientists are becoming increasingly aware and appreciative of the generational knowledge held by “hundreds of hundreds of years of a people in place.”

Jorgensen said, in fact, that generational knowledge can equal science. That kind of science is getting folded into the work of EPA. For example, stories passed down from generation to generation can tell scientists about changes over the centuries in the location and number of certain fish populations.



Michelle Davis

Elders who live in villages that are currently falling into the sea because of the reduction of the ice-pack can provide insight into climate change. This kind of knowledge is not written down—it is passed on through stories.

“It is,” said Jorgensen, “data collected, peer reviewed, and time tested.” The Natives can tell scientists what happens on a cyclical basis because, “it’s happened before.”

Jorgensen said that resurgence of cultural languages is a key factor in passing on knowledge of flora, fauna, and the environment in Alaska. For example, the Inupik language contains 22 distinct words for snow!

Davis said that Jorgensen works with the big picture, and she works at the grassroots level in regions along Bristol Bay and the Lower Kuskokwim River Delta regions.

Much of what Davis accomplishes on the ground is through the use of IGAP (Indian Environmental General Assistance Program) grants. The IGAP Act of 1992 was passed in order to:

1. *Provide general assistance grants to Indian tribal governments and intertribal consortia to build capacity to administer environmental regulatory programs that may be delegated by the Environmental Protection Agency on Indian lands; and,*
2. *Provide technical assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency to Indian tribal governments and intertribal consortia in the development of multimedia programs to address environmental issues on Indian lands.*

(For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/Indian/gap.htm>.)

Davis said that IGAP grants build environmental capacity and improve health conditions out on the nations. Each of the 229 recognized Tribes in Alaska can receive up to \$110,000 for capacity building. Examples include a program of solid/hazardous waste imple-

mentation and landfill work.

In Bristol Bay, five tribes have completed battery backhaul projects, providing a direct benefit to the ecosystem. Discarded batteries broken down by rainwater were leaching lead into the ecosystem. The backhaul project removed tons of such batteries out of the system.

IGAP grants also allow Tribes to identify key areas that need habitat protection and help Tribes gain access to land management partners. Davis works with Tribes to help them submit detailed workplans and to aid them in administrative capacity building. “We are strict on the basics,” Davis said. “We require quarterly reports, financial reports, and accountability.”

Davis explained that EPA conducts two federal grant management training sessions per year. She said a lot of projects may succeed technically, but then fail on the administrative side. “We want to see them to succeed on both sides,” she said. She expressed that other federal agencies will also benefit from training sessions the tribes have received. “As you

join with the Tribes,” she said, “you will find good financial partners ready to go.”

Davis will be moving this fall to work with Tribes in Southeast Alaska. She is particularly passionate about climate change issues, and is looking forward to working with Tribes to “see what they are seeing.”

Jorgensen will continue in her national leadership position. She meets yearly with EPA’s National Tribal Caucus of 19 advisors to discuss areas of emphasis such as air quality, pesticides, pollution prevention, solid waste management, waste water, non source point pollution, and climate change. She is committed to an agreement signed in 2002 to provide clean water and safe sanitation by 2015. Jorgensen helped to bring about that Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Indian Health Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency. She is also EPA’s representative to the White House Tribal Executive Committee.

A New Tool for Tribal Consultations

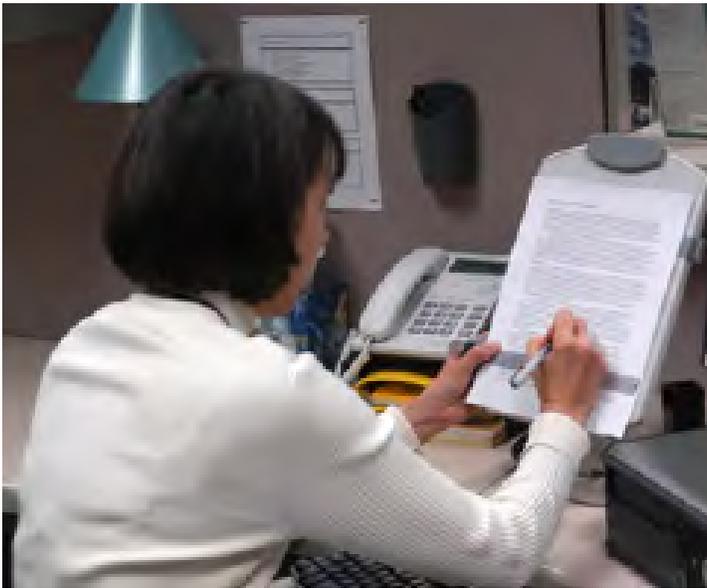
An Interview with Lillian Petershoare, Tribal Relations Specialist, by Teresa Haugh, Editor

In 2006, NEPA Coordinator Ken Post had a problem. How could he properly document and report on the government-to-government consultations he was doing with Tribes in Alaska concerning the use of helicopters in the wilderness? He turned to the person he thought might have a tool—Tribal Government Relations Specialist Lillian Petershoare. Lillian, who had already been giving the process some thought, designed a basic paper template and shared it with not

only Ken, but the regional leadership team as well.

The RLT liked the idea of the template, but recognized the limitations of the paper format. In addition, Chugach Forest Supervisor Joe Meade—a champion for accessibility and ease of use—challenged Lillian to create a user-friendly, electronic database to make the collection and reporting of data easier. From those sugges-

tions, a regional office workgroup was born. The group included Lillian, database developers TJ Holley and Mickie Dutton, Environmental Coordinator Betsy Rickards, Heritage Program Leader Sue Marvin, and Civil Rights Director Linda White. Also included was Bryan Mercier, an analyst with the Washington Office of Tribal Relations.



Lillian Petershoare prepares to enter data into the Tribal Consultation Database.

Tracking the details of Tribal consultations is not optional. In 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13175 that requires the federal government to engage in government-to-government consultations with federally-recognized Tribes on land management policies and actions that have tribal implications. In addition, the Regional Strategic Business Plan directs the region to “develop an effective evaluation system(s) for meaningful consultation” with Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations. Completing the consultations requires some effort, but documenting, recording, and tracking the consultations that follow can be an even greater challenge. Hence the need for a good tool!

In working with Tribes, the Forest Service signs Memoranda of Understanding that usually reference establishing a system for capturing meeting notes and for distributing them to the primary points of contact. The database has been set up not only to capture this type of information but has an optional feature that distributes email summaries of the meeting to the relevant tribal contacts. The database lists Tribal entities (including common and official names of Tribes and Corporations), and has capabilities for creating reports. The database reporting features are flexible, allowing comprehensive overviews or focused reports.

After widespread use of the Tribal Consultation Database, it will become an invaluable tool for historical purposes. This is especially true when there is a change of personnel, or when one employee is filling in for another.



When an employee enters information into the database, a series of prompts will appear. For example, a prompt asks whether a Tribal contact has the authority to speak on behalf of the Tribal council. Otherwise, true government-to-government consultation has not taken place. Prompts in the database remind line officers and staff of these kinds of requirements. One of the best features of the database is the ability to record meeting notes, create a list of follow-up action items, and to email the notes to participants. Lillian believes this will be a great benefit to the Tribes. She said, “Within the Forest Service, we are always juggling so many different things. Well, the Tribes are very busy, too, because they interact not only with the Forest Service, but a multiple number of federal and state agencies. They receive requests from multiple entities. Having agreed upon follow-up action items helps refresh their memories and keep us all focused on what we want to do. This database has transparency and you can see what the follow up action items are. That helps everyone move forward in a common direction.”

Presently, the database is for internal Forest Service use only. A one-year pilot program has been completed, and employees from regional office, forest, and districts have successfully used the system. The use of the database is voluntary, but the workgroup (which has changed over time due to retirements of some of the original members) is very interested in promoting it throughout the region. They are sure that once used, the database will become an indispensable tool to those involved in government-to-government consultations and in less formal meetings with Tribes. And they want to give you an incentive to get started!

For the next year, on a quarterly basis, employees who use the database will have their names entered into a drawing. The winner will receive an attractive messenger bag from the Washington Office of Tribal Relations, as well as a pad folio—just two more tools for successful government-to-government meetings. For more information, please contact T.J. Holley at tjholley@fs.fed.us or Lillian Petershoare at lpetershoare@fs.fed.us.

Adopt-an-Owl-Box: Connecting with Communities

By Amy Birtwistle, Wildlife Technician, & Mary Ann Benoit, Wildlife Biologist, Chugach National Forest



Male Saw-whet photo by Amy Birtwistle.



Female Saw-whet with eggs. Photo by Amy Birtwistle.



Saw-whet babies

A great way to promote wildlife conservation and connect with local communities is to start an Adopt an Owl box Program! Get folks excited about wildlife they can see in their own backyards with a little help from us, and contribute to a national database of knowledge on nesting birds as well.

The Seward Ranger District on the Chugach National Forest has been hosting an Adopt-an-Owl-Box Program for over a decade in the communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing and Hope. In partnership with local families, we monitor owl nesting activity and contribute data on nesting birds to Cornell University as part of their citizen science program, Nest Watch (*The Birdhouse Network*).

Community volunteers, schools, and Forest Service employees have helped to build, install, maintain, and monitor owl boxes in backyards and trails since 1997. Approximately 102 owl nest boxes have been installed, including 56 along forest trails and 46 on private property in four communities.

The owl boxes are designed to attract small owls such as the Northern Saw-whet and Boreal Owls. In both species the male finds a suitable nest site, in a tree cavity or one of our nest boxes in late winter/early spring and sings to attract a female. Once the female has laid her eggs she will incubate them for 3-4 weeks. After the owlets hatch, the young will fledge in 4- 5 weeks.

This year we checked 49 boxes, and 5 were occupied. Four boxes had 3-4 Northern Saw-whet Owlets in them. The fifth had a female Northern Saw-Whet incubating at least seven marble sized eggs. Her mate was using a nearby owl box to cache a mouse. Males commonly hunt for themselves and their mates when they incubate the eggs.



To join the Nest Watch program or for more information, visit Cornell's website at:
<http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest/home/index>.

For information on setting up your own Adopt an Owl box Program, contact Mary Ann Benoit at mbenoit@fs.fed.us.



Papac—New Pacesetter for Cable Logging in Alaska

An Interview by Inga Petaisto, Timber Valuation Specialist, Regional Office

Appraising the value of standing timber (stumpage) is a long, complicated process, especially in the Alaska Region (R10) where the residual value appraisal program is updated each year using the actual costs, values, and volumes collected during cost collection visits, periodic sawmill log tests, and logging production studies.

Logging production studies were added in 2005 to provide better allocation of “lumped” yarding costs and also better calibration

to sale characteristics (piece size, volume per acre, yarding distance, and harvest prescription).

The Tuxekan timber sale on Prince of Wales Island is the site of this year’s logging production study and is a joint effort by three parties: Papac Alaska Logging, Inc., Thorne Bay Ranger District, and R10 Forest Management. Based on 10 weeks of data collection, it looks like Papac may finish stump-to-dump (yard, load truck, haul, sort, and load barge) operations by the end of August.

That means their production rate, quickly estimated by dividing the cruised 7.5 MMBF by 15 weeks, is an astounding 500 MBF per week.

In early July, I visited the Tuxekan sale to find out how Papac Alaska Logging can maintain such a high pace. Throughout my interview with Mike Papac (owner/President) and Marc Boley (logging supervisor), I was struck by how much they recognize the importance of human factors.

Following are highlights from my visit with Papac and Boley.



An 8,600 lb. Boman skyar works harder than any other machine in Papac’s cable logging operation.

are not enough adequate anchors. We have to take equipment out of production to serve as anchors. Anchor failures can be disastrous to equipment, human life, and production. We also had problems in partial cut units—most of the leave trees blew down and we could not log on windy days. Fortunately, the sale administrators were experienced, proactive, and readily available.

Is the volume better in Alaska? Won’t your high production offset high costs?

MP: No. Our production and costs were much better in Washington.

How did you decide to come to Alaska? Do you think you’ll stay?

MP: It was a big risk but in the end, I based my final decision on “Trust” in Kirk and my crew. I will stay if Kirk provides five years of steady volume, preferably on Prince of Wales.

How long has your family been in the logging business?

MP: Just two generations. I have logged over 30 years in Western Washington.

Mostly on National Forest?

MP: No, about 90% private and 10% State land. I never logged on National Forest until Kirk Dahlstrom (owner of Viking Lumber Company) invited me to log in Alaska.

What do you think of Forest Service timber sales?

MP: Costs are much higher in Alaska. For example, our 100 ft tower requires eight guyline anchors and a strong skyline tailhold. Due to shallow root systems (especially in wet soils), there

How many people moved with you to Alaska?

MP: Nine are from Grays Harbor; the other eight are from Alaska.

Do you have problems with constant turnover, tardiness, and accidents?

MP: Nobody has left. In one year’s time, we had one person late (by one hour because he overslept), one injury (a broken ankle), and no equipment or truck accidents.

How do you motivate them to stay, never be late, and keep safe?

MP: I keep my word. They want steady work and a bonus for showing up every day and being safe.

What is so rewarding? Is it excellent pay?

MB: No. Logging labor rates have not changed much in 30 years. Which is unfortunate because loggers sacrifice their bodies and family to work from dawn to dusk, 6 days/week, 50 weeks/year. The reward is seeing progress, accomplishing tasks more efficiently, learning something new every day, meeting challenges, and even simple things like watching the sunrise after many weeks of rain.

What has turned out better or worse than you expected?

MP: My crew has exceeded my expectations. Viking Lumber has provided tremendous assistance with every problem. I guess my biggest disappointment is not enough log trucks.

MB: My biggest disappointment is that we have not yet caught a 300 pound halibut.

Will there be a third generation of Papac Logging?

MP & MB: No, there isn’t much future in the timber business. Plus, they don’t like eating sandwiches in the rain, slipping in the mud, swatting bugs from your face, and shivering most of the year. There is no other line of work that demands more skill, physical labor, and mental alertness for such long periods of time.



Owner/President Mike Papac and Field Representative Marc Boley at the Papac Alaska Logging field office/warehouse located at the sortyard.

Is it possible that a crew member would buy your equipment and continue the company?

MP & MB: No. 95% of our employees live paycheck to paycheck with no savings. Most of them are long term employees who may retire in five more years. It is a risky business but there is nothing more important to a logging company’s success than good people and good equipment to work with.



As I traveled back to Juneau, I realized I had to share this story of exceptional teamwork and leadership. This company clearly credits their success to human factors: relationships, knowledge, skills, experience, training, physical condition, mental alertness, stress, and attitude. Although human factors are difficult to quantify and include as variables in our yarding cost formulas, it needs to be noted as a significant factor.

We hope Papac Alaska Logging continues to work in Alaska for a long time...mainly because they are “good people”.

I Looked Death in the Eye and Googled It

Lesson learned by Ben Van Alen, Subsistence Biologist, Juneau Ranger District

August 5, 2008: the first sunny day Juneau had seen in weeks. And, I would find out, the most dangerous. I had a morning off to run the “Juneau Ridge.” My running buddies, Bob Marshall and Guy Thibodeau must have broke off a Cow Parsnip stem going up Perseverance Trail, or an Indian Rhubarb branch on Mt. Juneau, or a possibly a Wild Celery leaf



Ben Van Alen had a close encounter with Cow Parsnip

coming out of the Nugget Basin. For I got some of that multi-named plant’s sap on my legs running in their vapor trail. Or, perhaps, I simply stepped into some Pushki in the parking lot.

Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)—the tall “celery” stemmed white lacy wildflower—is prevalent; and passing through it, unmemorable. Usually. That day, however, the skin on my legs absorbed the furanocoumarin-laced, lipid-soluble, glucoside phototoxic sap that was turned toxic by the sun’s rays. We’re talking “thermal dermatitis” here. A couple of days after the run, I sported a ½-inch turned 1½-inch blister on my right calf, and a bunch of blister buddies. They persisted for a few days before they popped and oozed and scabbed over in the course of a couple of weeks. A daily soap and water washing followed by Neosporin and Godzilla-sized Band-aids was my treatment routine. The latter helped keep these itch-hungry sores from my scratch-hungry fingers. In fact,

I was irresistibly itchy all over for a few weeks.

Now, all would have been well (for me) if I weren’t a darned salmon biologist, getting wet with the fish in the middle of their spawning and dying season. I did a little wet suit work and handled fish carcasses at Kanalku on August 12-13, then again at Neva for three days after that. When I went to the field on the 21st, I felt a little swelling and pain around my stiffening right knee, accompanied by a flu-like malaise of impending doom!

At the doctor’s the next day I had red swollen skin on the inside of my right knee and a slight fever. I told the cow parsnip story, the itching-all-over story, the swimming-with-the-fish story, and topped it off with an infection-in-the-knee-post-arthroscopic-surgery story.

“Cellulitis,” said the doctor. She had me on an IV antibiotic drip within the hour. The kind nurse in “Infusion Therapy” even

faxed a prescription for a powerful antibiotic to my banker so I could get an instant over-the-counter second mortgage that I needed to pay for the instant, behind-the-counter Rx.

Anyway, all would be well (for me) if this Godzilla-cillin Rx worked, but by the next morning, the red and swelling cellulitis extended to my upper thigh. The ER doctors, looking worried, faxed a

double prescription to the banker, and gave me strict instructions to complete my will if the cellulitis began to extend outside the new Sharpie-drawn boundaries they left on my leg. After more IV infusions, I was off for my 3rd mortgage and the pharmacist.

Now, all would have been well (for me) if the Rx cocktail had worked. My kindergarten teacher would have checked “needs improvement” for the drugs ability to color cellulitis within the lines. I laid flat during the weekend with my eyes glued to the Olympics on TV and mind somewhere between the disgust of drug resistant infections and dreamy exhilaration of winning Olympic gold on my only one leg. In the few minutes before my Monday morning doctors appointment, instead of apportioning my debts to my loved ones on e-will.com, I Googled. First for “cellulitis” then “aeromonas hydrophilia” when I read that exposure to this bacterium in freshwater could cause cellulitis.

I read that *Aeromonas hydrophilia* (or *hydrophila*) is found worldwide in fresh, marine, chlorinated and un-chlorinated waters with highest numbers in the warmer months and polluted waters. I read that this ubiquitous, facultatively anaerobic, bacterium is pathogenic to fish and humans. In humans, *Aeromonas* wound infections are rare, but are becoming more prevalent in the medical literature. I read that cellulitis is the most frequently encountered *Aeromonas* wound infection and, get this, “These infections predominantly affect the lower limbs of middle-aged males with previous history of injury favoring infection.” I resembled that remark! Knowing that finding the right antibiotic is the key, I was now armed with a one-page abstract from *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* with its specific list of antibiotics known to be active *in vitro* against *Aeromonas hydrophilia*.

The *Aeromonas hydrophilia*-targeted drug worked. All symptoms abated with the first pill. I appreciated the willingness of the doctors to work with me. Now, all is well (for me). Bob and Guy were not inflicted but they were probably lucky.



Running partners Guy Thibidezux and Ben Van Alen.

Lessons learned:

- Avoid Cow Parsnip, bare skin, and sun, especially in the summer heat;
- Keep open wounds/sores out of lake, pond, river, stream water;
- Avoid scratching sores;
- Seek prompt medical treatment if you think something is wrong;
- Use reputable sites on the world-wide web to assist physicians in your diagnosis and treatment; and
- Avoid middle age and past medical histories.

Wrangell Ranger District: Site of Documentary

A year ago, Jacqueline Faerman was one of thousands of middle school students in Florida’s Miami-Dade and Broward Counties who entered an essay contest. Little did Jacqueline know, her story, “Why I Dream of Alaska,” would win her an all-expense paid trip to the Last Frontier.

The contest was the third in a series sponsored by the Miami Metrozoo and the local NBC 6 television station. The first contest, “Why I Dream of Africa,” and the second, “Why I Dream of the Rainforest,” awarded the winning students with trips to Africa and Republic of Panama, respectively. Film crews accompanied the students on each trip, and produced Emmy Award-winning documentaries that were shown multiple times.

Zoo Communications Director Ron Magill developed the contests. He remembered in his childhood of “dreaming of traveling to wild places and wondering what it would be like to experience those adventures first hand.” He said, “The goal of this project is to show children that if they can learn to write and communicate well, special opportunities may also be made available to them. Hopefully, this experience will help encourage the winners with the inspiration to seek out his or her dreams and make a real difference in our world.”

Jacqueline and her mother, Lorin, arrived on the Tongass National Forest in July, with a film crew in tow. They were met by the Wrangell Ranger District staff, and put into the capable hands of seasonal interpreter Heather Baltes. Heather made sure that Jacqueline and her companions had close up views of bears, eagles, glaciers, and rivers. The production crew—who seemed to enjoy their adventures as much as the Faermans—are currently working on the documentary that will be aired soon.

Jacqueline’s essay is found on page 20.

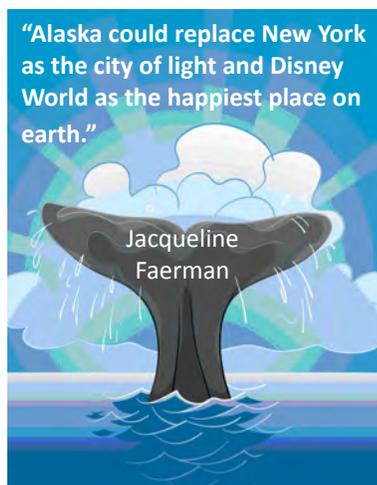
Why I Dream of Alaska.

By Jacqueline Faerman, Westpine Middle School, Broward County, Florida

(cont'd from page 20)

Alaska, a beautiful and enchanting winter wonderland. When I close my eyes I can picture it. Bundled up in jackets, the wind lashes my face as I watch black bears frolic in the white snow, so bright that you could almost believe that the sun is shining up from underneath it. Salmon jump up in the water, perhaps acknowledging how fortunate they are to live in such a gorgeous place. I watch them, their pink, scaly bodies showing through the clear, still ocean that they live in.

The water is interrupted only by one of the most beautiful sights in Alaska, the glaciers. Shining brighter than the sun, they float across the icy ocean. Tiny, diamond-like faces reflect rays of light off the magnificent block of ice. I nestle into my heavy coat, trying to block myself from the freezing wind. As cold as the wind is, somehow it makes me feel healthy and happy.



An Alaskan native, the captain of the boat I am on offers me a warm blanket. I have never before seen such kindness in a place like I have seen in Alaska. The people here are so kind, so special, like they had to be specially trained to live here.

Alaska could replace New York as the city of light and Disney World as the happiest place on earth, for I have never been anywhere that I have felt more peaceful and happy. Alaska proves that somewhere in this world full of war and pain, there is a place that can be beautiful; without loud and wild cities and can please people with only the animals, sights, and hospitality that Alaska has to offer. When you look at Alaska, you feel like you are reading a story about a mystical, magical place, but you then realize that it is real.

I am suddenly disturbed from my daydream and hurry to close my eyes so that I can feel the wind in my face and see the bears just one last time but to no avail. My eyes water at the thought of being torn away from my beautiful Alaska, possibly never to see it again. The South Florida sun, dazzling as it may be, is no comparison to the fresh air and clean landscape of Alaska. Alaska is the kind of land that everyone, including myself, dreams about.



Top: Brook Leslie (daughter of Jim Leslie, Alaska Waters guide, with Jacky Faermann and Heather Baltes. Middle: Film crew Ari Odzer, Mike Zimmer, & Ron Magill join Jacky and Lorin Faerman at Anan Wildlife Observatory. Bottom: Crew at work..

In Search of Chirikov's Men

By Mark McCallum, Archaeologist, Tongass National Forest



The team assembles at the transient dock in Hoonah, Alaska after completing the expedition. (l-r) Mark McCallum, Ken Grant, Gordon Greenwald, Allan Engstrom, Rachel Myron and Don Douglass. Ranger boat skipper Jake Yearty stands on the bow.

About 267 years ago, Vitus Bering and Alexi Chirikov set sail from Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka in search of America's Northwest Coast. Shortly after leaving, the two ships lost sight of each other in a fierce storm and never regained contact. Although Bering is generally credited with European "discovery" of Alaska, Chirikov, aboard his ship *St Paul*, sighted the coast of what is now southeast Alaska about 36 hours before Bering's crew made landfall at Kayak Island. Somewhere off the coast of Prince of Wales Island, Chirikov sent a longboat into a bay hoping to find a suitable anchorage, but they were unsuccessful. Chirikov sailed *St Paul* further north, paralleling the wild and wooly outer coast.

In mid-July 1741 Chirikov dispatched a longboat with 11 men

to seek a suitable shore landing, somewhere north of Sitka Sound. From the ship's log:

At 3:30 in the afternoon we went as close to the shore as we dared. We sent the boat ashore in charge of Fleet Master Dementiev who had with him ten armed men. He took with him a hand compass, a small lead, two empty water casks, a grapnel, and a cable. He had written orders and among other things he was told to make for the opening which seemed to us a bay....

Chirikov's written orders directed Dementiev to seek a suitable shore landing if possible; ostensibly to fill the two water casks as Chirikov was concerned that their supply of water was insufficient for the return voyage. He also directed the crew to:

...look about for human beings; if you find them, be gentle with them and present them with a few small presents with which the ensign Choglokov will provide you, namely a copper and an iron kettle, two hundred beads, three packages of Chinese tobacco, one piece of nankeen, one piece of damask, five rattles, and a paper of needles. From me you will receive ten-ruble pieces which you may distribute among the inhabitants as you think best.

Six agonizing days passed with no return of Dementiev and the crew. The only possible sign of their successful shore landing was columns of smoke observed along the beach. After conferring with the ship's officers, Chirikov decided to send his only remaining longboat ashore with the ship's carpenter, a caulker and two others thinking that perhaps the first boat had wrecked on the perilous offshore reefs. The second crew was instructed to make repairs to the first longboat if possible and to immediately begin bringing the men back to the ship. Although the weather was favorable, hours ticked by with no return of either longboat. The ship's crew saw fire and smoke on the beach and thought they saw the flash of a gun. The following day they noticed two boats headed towards *St Paul*, but they quickly realized the sharp bow on the boats did not match the profile of their longboats. The smaller of the two boats paddled close enough that they noticed four people with "clothes of

our men.” Left without any options Chirikov departed for home. No evidence of Chirikov’s men or their fate has ever been found.

Over the years historians have theorized about the fate of the lost crew. Ideas have ranged from them crashing on the reefs and never making it to shore to being killed by the local inhabitants. One Sitka Tlingit story suggests they landed on Kruzof Island and decided not to go back to *St Paul*; instead intermarrying with local Tlingit women. In the past few years two amateur historians have revived the search. Juneau resident Allan Engstrom, a fourth-generation Alaskan, focused his search on Yakobi Island within the Hoonah Ranger District. Engstrom has spent many hours traveling up and down the Yakobi coast trying to match some

of the geographical descriptions found in the ship’s log. A couple years ago he met Don and Reanne Douglass, authors of several boat cruising guides including *Exploring Southeast Alaska*. The Douglass’s came to different conclusions about the location Chirikov dispatched his crews. In 2007 the Douglass’s found a metal object that they believed might be a dagger associated with the Chirikov crew.

In August Tongass archaeologists Mark McCallum and Rachel Myron organized a trip aboard *Sitka Ranger* to see first-hand evidence gathered by Engstrom and the Douglass’s. District Ranger Rich Jennings consulted with the Hoonah Indian Association whose traditional homeland includes Yakobi Island. Jennings extended an

invitation for two tribal members to accompany the group, which also included Engstrom and Don Douglass. Hoonah tribal cultural advisors Ken Grant and Gordon Greenwald joined in the search. Ideal weather conditions allowed the team to access the areas identified by the historians. The archaeologists used a metal detector and soil probes to hunt for evidence, but nothing definitive was uncovered. The Tongass is working with State Archaeologist Dave McMahan to conduct further analysis of the possible dagger, including x-ray analysis and radiocarbon dating of an attached substance that appears to have been part of a leather sheaf. As a result of the collaboration we are talking with the tribe and others about mounting additional investigations in 2009. Stay tuned!

Hidden Falls Reunion

By Mark McCallum, Archaeologist, Tongass NF

Archaeologists gathered in Sitka over the July 4th weekend to celebrate the 30th anniversary of excavations conducted at an ancient site at Hidden Falls on Baranof Island. Nine members of the excavation crew and some of their families joined Dr. Stan Davis, principal investigator of the archaeological work at Hidden Falls. One of the participants, Martin Stanford, is the archaeologist for the Ketchikan-Misty Fjords Ranger District. Tongass tribal government relations specialist John Autrey, also a member of the crew, says the project was “a stepping stone for our future careers” and he is proud that “the information gathered is still relevant and important today.”

Sitka District Ranger Carol Goularte welcomed the group at the district office on July 4 while

they got a chance to view the artifacts they collected. The following day the group boarded a catamaran to travel back in time as they made their way to the site at Hidden Falls.

While constructing a salmon hatchery at Hidden Falls in 1978, the State of Alaska exposed what turned out to be one of the major archaeological discoveries in Southeast Alaska. That February, Forest Service archaeologist Stan Davis identified layers of charcoal, shell, fish bones, and small stone artifacts buried below the forest floor. Limited by snow cover, Davis returned later that spring and summer and began to expose alternating layers of cultural artifacts and sterile soil. Initial results indicated the site had relatively great antiquity and warranted further examination.



Ricky Lightfoot, CEO of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado, a world-class archeological research and educational institution, relives memories with Steve Klinger, also a former member of the Hidden Falls excavation crew, while reliving memories at the Wrangell Ranger District.

enduring the hardships of excavating in a rainy climate. For two summers the team labored to excavate a portion of the site slated for development. Meticulously excavating the site in controlled levels, they passed the soil through mesh screens, some as fine as window screen. Archaeologists noted 13 distinct layers of soil and cultural material while excavating and ultimately identified three cultural components, or major episodes of human occupation.

The oldest and deepest cultural component at Hidden Falls dates to about 9,500 years ago and yielded a variety of chipped stone tools. The hallmark tool of this earliest occupation are small blades of obsidian (a natural volcanic glass), known as microblades. Microblades, at least twice as long as they are wide, were often fastened to bone or wood implements to create a very effective cutting edge. Examination of these blades revealed the obsidian was obtained from two sources; one on Suemez Island and the other from Mt. Edziza, over 100 miles up the Stikine River. The significance of the Mt. Edziza connection is that it suggests people had trade networks in place by 9,500 years ago. Since trade networks do not appear overnight, the presence of Mt. Edziza obsidian suggests that people were present in southeast Alaska significantly earlier than 9,500 years ago.

Archaeological evidence indicates people abandoned the site at Hidden Falls, perhaps due to advancing glaciers, and did not reoccupy the site until about 4,600 years ago. By the time people returned to Hidden Falls their toolkit consisted of ground stone and bone tools. Microblades were absent and other chipped stone tools were not well represented. The people from this time period relied on a harvest of cod and other bottom fish, sea mammals, deer, and a few birds for their sustenance. Items left by people over a roughly 1,400 year period appear to reflect use of the site as a seasonal camp, with some evidence of a



Hidden Falls Crew, 1978: Front: Craig Smith (sitting), Robin Voglesang, Amy Cockcroft, Barbara Langer, Martin Stanford. Back: Ricky Lightfoot (crew chief), Dale Vinson, Theresa Holtzapple, Steve Klingler, Roger Walkenhorst

structure of modest dimensions.

The most recent component at Hidden Falls dates from about 3,000 to 1,300 years ago. Davis and his team noted a continued use of ground and chipped stone tools, although there appears to have been a greater emphasis on ground bone tools, such as harpoon points for sea mammal hunting. Other recovered artifacts reflect a traditional Northwest Coast adaptation, with stone adzes, axes, mauls, and other woodworking tools common. This layer also yielded large volumes of shellfish, including butter clams, littleneck clams, and mussels. As in the preceding cultural component, archaeological evidence suggests people used the site as a seasonal camp.

The scientific contribution gained by Dr. Davis and his hard-working crew have endured over the ensuing 30 years. Hidden Falls stands as one of the major archaeological studies conducted in southeast Alaska. Revelations about the earliest people in southeast Alaska is comparable to information gathered at GroundHog Bay in Icy Strait and On Your Knees Cave on Prince of Wales Island. Dr. Robert Ackerman excavated the 10,000 year-old site of GroundHog Bay between 1965 and 1973. Paleontologist Tim Heaton was the first to recognize a cultural component at On Your Knees Cave, with discovery of a human jawbone and other items dating to about 10,000 years ago.

Ultimately, the archaeological discoveries made at Hidden Falls, combined with those made at GroundHog Bay and On Your Knees Cave, challenge the long-held theory of the Bering land bridge as being the primary entry point of people into the New World. Mounting evidence suggests that the peopling of the New World was much more complex than previously realized. The notion of a coastal migration has gained traction in part due to the scientific contributions made by Dr. Stan Davis and his diligent team of archaeologists.

More Kids in the Chugach

By Lindsay Butters, Prince William Sound Science Center, Kim Kiml, Cordova Ranger District

This summer, the Cordova Ranger District and the Prince William Sound Science Center provided two one-week educational and recreational camps for 20 underserved youth from Anchorage. The temperate rainforest, Copper River Delta, and Prince William Sound were the settings for this experimental educational program. The More Kids in the Chugach summer camp program recruited campers from the Anchorage Big Brothers Big Sisters program and the Mountain View Boys & Girls Club. For many of the campers, aged 10-14, this experience was their first time camping, hiking, canoeing, riding the Alaska Marine Highway, and being away from home and parents.

The summer camps were funded through the U.S. Forest Service More Kids in the Woods national grant program. The purpose of this grant is to get more kids outdoors to experience nature and have fun, get dirty and get healthy. The Cordova Ranger District and the Science Center worked cooperatively to submit the grant proposal.

The campers' voyage started when they boarded the M/V *Chenega* in Whittier. Both groups were impressed with the high-speed ferry. The captain and crew were very accommodating, and offered a privileged visit to the OC, or operating compartment (formerly know as a wheelhouse.)

Big Brothers Big Sisters, the first group to spend a day at Childs Glacier, were treated with a sunny day. The glacier did not disappoint, either: it calved and calved and calved. A Big Brothers Big Sisters leader said she has never seen the children sit so quietly for over an hour without being in front of a computer. She said of the students, "They did not complain. No one said, 'I'm bored.' No one said, 'This is stupid.' No one asked, 'When are we leaving?'" They sat and waited, and watched and listened to the glacier. They did not want to leave. They wanted to return the next day. I believe they would have been quite content to



Canoeing on the Alganik. Photo by Kim Kiml.

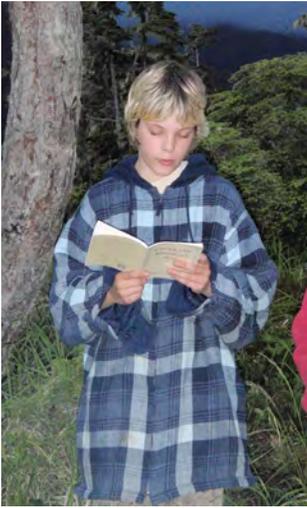
go each and every day for the entire week."

The Mountain View Boys and Girls Club had liquid sunshine, but the activity of the glacier was even more frequent than it was for the first group. Despite the rain, they too waited, and watched, and listened to the glacier, for 3½ hours in the pouring rain. There is a beautiful shelter that would have kept them dry, but they chose to be in the elements, to be as close as they could. They did want to miss a moment or chunk of falling ice.

A number of other partners helped to make the camp a success. Roger Johnson with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game led a tour of the fish counting sonar facilities on the Copper River and explained how it is used to manage the commercial fishery. Forest Service Archaeologist Heather Hall and Public Services Staff Bob Behrends led hikes to the historic Lucky Strike gold mine on the McKinley Lake trail.

The Cordova District fish and recreation crew members introduced the groups to the Copper River Delta with canoeing and fishing trips down Alaganik Slough. Surprisingly, some of these Alaskan kids had never fished before. The crew talked about angling etiquette, recycling old monofilament line, the importance of salmon in the ecosystem and the salmon life history as well as practical hints on casting, tying on the lures, and responsible catch and release fishing.

Wildlife Technician Erin Cooper enlightened the campers with the importance of weeding out our "invasive" species, both figuratively and literally. The group went down to Odiak Slough and got their hands dirty pulling invasive plants from around the pond.



The Ilanka Cultural Center staff members Mary Babic and Patience Faulkner provided the campers with an evening of entertainment and cultural enrichment. Patience and Mary taught the campers how to bead. Each camper made a beaded fish pin, using seed beads and smoked moose hide. The campers then toured the exhibit area while Mary explained the significance of the artifacts and artwork on display.

Urban youth not only developed a personal connection to the land, but a new door has opened for them to be able look beyond and explore a world that is not connected to an outlet, power source or wireless reception. They survived a week without daily distractions of TV, computers, Gameboys, or Wii. Having fun out of doors is the first step to appreciation and a new connection to nature that did not exist before.

The long-term success of this program may not be determined for years, but each camper came away with lifelong memories of the outdoors. Have we created new stewards of the land? We hope so, but we know for certain from their parting comments that they want to return next year.

This Van is Vantastic!

By Carolyn Seramur, Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

The Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest, provided a variety of educational and interpretative programs this past summer to thousands of Kenai Peninsula visitors and residents via their “Vantastic” Program. This mobile station was set up by interpreters in areas such as Tern Lake at the intersection of the Seward and Sterling Highways, or at the sheep viewing pull-off in Cooper Landing (milepost 45.6 on the Sterling Highway).

For people who wanted to see the wild animals of Alaska up close, interpreters assisted them with spotting scopes, shared tactics on wildlife viewing success, and provided a display of skulls, hides, antlers, and horns. Of course, wildlife viewing is all about timing, location, and luck. Visitors to Tern Lake had good luck this summer—the location proved to be an excellent wildlife viewing destination. Not only did visitors see swans, loons, terns, mountain goats, eagles, moose, black bear, bald eagles, magpie, and swallows, but a few lucky people saw green winged teal, a golden eagle, muskrats, a trumpeter swan, and a loon chick with parents.

The Vantastic crew took part in other community events. They helped with Environmental Awareness Days for local elementary students May 20-21 at Trail River Campground. They were on hand for National Kid’s Fishing Day at Lower Summit Lake June 7. The van was set up at the Hope Wagon Wheel Run July 20. The interpreters also helped out with the Seward Parks and Recreation partnership for Chugach Discovery Days, which took youth from Seward to Portage, stopping along the way at Tern Lake, Canyon Creek, Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

Saturday evening campfire programs took place June 14 through August 9, alternating between Trail River and Quartz



Children enjoy the Vantastic Program at Tern Lake during Seward Parks and Recreation’s Chugach Discovery Days.

Creek Campgrounds. Programs included: “Lichenology,” “Outdoor Fun for the Long Haul,” “Hooting Silent Flyers,” “Get to Know Brown and Black,” and “Little Invertebrate Flyers.”

For more information on the Vantastic program on the Seward Ranger District, please call (907) 224-3374.

Community Service at its Best

By Wini Kessler, Director, Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed & Subsistence Management

The 2008 Juneau Federal Employee Association multi-agency awards luncheon was held May 28 in Juneau, with distinguished participation by the Forest Service. Our nominee, Mike Goldstein, was presented with the Community Service Award by Regional Forester and JFEA Vice President Denny Bschor.

At the top of Mike's "service achievements list" is the pivotal role he served in one of Juneau's premier community projects, Project Playground, which resulted in the wonderful new playground at Twin Lakes. He was involved from the beginning, assisting in fundraising and serving as the materials coordinator for the project. The latter role was a challenging one given Juneau's lack of road transport; all materials had to be ordered, transported by barge, and stored in Juneau awaiting the 2-week "construction marathon" in which the new playground would be constructed entirely by community volunteers. In 2007, two years into the project and shortly before construction began, the project manager left during the critical construction period. Mike stepped up to the plate volunteering as Acting General Coordinator of 5,500 volunteers working in four-hour



Top: RF Denny Bschor congratulates employee Mike Goldstein for receiving JFEA's Community Service Award.
Bottom: New playground at Twin Lakes.

shifts. He was on the scene from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. throughout the construction period, overseeing the organization of materials and volunteers, the scheduling of heavy equipment, the acquisition of rented and donated equipment, and many other aspects of this challenging project. Mike used three weeks of his personal leave time.

Mike has a sustained record of community service. For three years, he has served on the Board

for the Juneau Montessori School. He also serves on the Board of Sukkat Shalom, the Juneau Jewish community, and manages the web-based resources that allow the group to outreach to its local and dispersed membership. The acquisition of a synagogue was a milestone that occurred during Mike's tenure on the Board. Currently he is working to accomplish energy upgrades to the building, both to enhance energy efficiency and to improve the environmental "footprint" of the building.

Mike has put his scientific expertise to work in community service. He contributed his vision and many hours of personal time in planning for a Temperate Rainforest Institute, a consortium of the University of Alaska Southeast, federal and state agencies, and other organizations with shared interest in Alaska's coastal forests. If the Institute moves forward, it will serve as a clearing-house for scientific information and a significant force for sound and sustainable management of Alaska's coastal forest resources.

The Forest Service is proud to have Mike as one of its own. He's a great example of a federal employee making a real difference in the environment and social fabric of his community.

Alaska's Regional Foresters: Part II



William G. Weigle, 1911-1919

By Marie Kanan, Procurement Technician, Regional Office

out a combination ax, mattock, and shovel. Pulaski kept using and improving the tool until it became the well-balanced tool with a sharp ax on one side and a grubbing blade on the other that is used by firefighters to this day.

Weigle was a large, powerful, redheaded man, liked by the men who worked for him, and known for his rough frontier humor and sense of fun. One of his first tasks with the Forest Service was to clear saloons and other unlawful dives from national forest lands—first in Idaho and later in Anchorage, Alaska.

Weigle came to Alaska in 1911, and learned how to operate boats from his predecessor, Langille. He represented a new breed of forester who traveled not by horseback, but by boat, including the flagship of the Tongass “navy,” the *Tahn*. These boats served as homes and offices for Forest Service supervisors.

Weigle and his associates faced farming, the setting of boundaries, many obstacles in the field, including bears, mosquitoes, devil’s club,

rough terrain and weather, and “sporting women.” Their day-to-day issues included fox, protecting fish streams, homesteading, mining permits, debates over agriculture, the exporting of lumber, and preservation of Native artifacts.

Weigle’s accomplishments in Alaska were marked by many achievements and he was a strong administrator who used common sense to settle many disputes amicably. He opened the forest to agricultural as well as to timber use. During that time, the Forest Service was under fire almost continually, and he stood firm against many pressures.

After marrying a Ketchikan schoolteacher, Weigle left Alaska to become supervisor of the Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington. Later he became involved in the creation of Washington’s state park system.

Fire Management Today, Volume 63 • No. 1 • Winter 2003, Gerald W. Williams, p. 22

A History of the United States Forest Service in Alaska; Lawrence Rakestraw

William Weigle studied forestry at Yale University, 1904-1906. He became a forest supervisor in Idaho in 1909, and was a hero of the famous fire of 1910. He also gained credit in the invention of the Pulaski tool that became used for firefighting by asking his rangers to replace the mattock for planting and other forestry work by turning

It's a Small World

By Betsy Rickards, Alaska Region Environmental Coordinator, Regional Office

In July, a letter from the Regional Forester should have gone to Gary E. Williams of the Organized Village of Kake, but instead was e-mailed to Gary E. Williams in R8. Fortunately, the error was quickly noticed and corrected, and a note was sent to the R8 Gary E. Williams apologizing for the errant message and letting him know it had been sent to the correct Gary E. Williams

in Kake. It turns out the R8 Gary Williams, District Ranger for the Boston Mountain and Mt. Magazine Ranger Districts in Ozark, Arkansas, is a member of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and White Mountain Village Corporation. His dad was in the Coast Guard in Alaska, met his mom in Juneau and they moved to Oklahoma to be near his family. Gary has spent his

career in R8, except for a year with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anchorage in the mid-1970s until he went back stateside to go to college. Gary says it’s “hotter than the dickens down here right now, and I sometimes question the decision to stay in R8”. We’re all just chuckling at the coincidence and the reminder that it is a small world, even beyond the Forest Service Family!

A Busy Year in Fish Education

By Ruth D'Amico, Fisheries Technician, Seward Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

Forest Service employees who participated in the fish education programs at Seward Ranger District this year experienced both success and calamity! A success story happened at the salmon incubation program at Moose Pass School: we lost only 12 eggs and released a record 272 Coho fry in the spring.

The story of calamity began last October at Bear Creek Weir in Seward. In the first of our fish education programs, we joined the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in a fish egg take. Seward Elementary School students were given a slimy, hands-on experience with the procedure of harvesting salmon eggs and milt, which were then mixed together for fertilization. Then, we returned to the school where the fertilized eggs were nestled into nursery tanks. After that, we prepared to wait—the eggs just sit there for about 14 weeks.

In the interim, Education Specialist Katy Toth-Stauble made several visits to the classroom. Her first fish lesson involved fishing for internal and external organs of a discombobulated foam core fish. As each fish part was caught and put back into place, Katy led a discussion of the part's importance and function. This activity primed and familiarized the students for the time they would dissect a real fish.

In the second lesson, kids learned to navigate like salmon—by smell. They got down on their hands and knees to test their sense of smell by trying to find their “natal creek.” Katy set up “streams” for them to follow with distinctive



Students harvest salmon eggs.

odors, such as “BBQ River,” “Peppermint Creek”, or “Eau de Cologne Stream.”

In the last lesson, students discovered the history and art of Gyotaku, or fish printing.

During those first three weeks, we pulled the eggs out of the tank at various stages of development to inspect them under macroscopes. We also discussed the dangers of invasive Pike and demonstrated their destructive power of by dissecting

the stomach of a Pike and counting how many salmon it held.

One Friday afternoon, however, disaster struck. Someone had unplugged the cooler and the temperature in the tank rose from the recommended 2°C to 20°C. All the eggs in the tank were killed. When we discovered the problem Monday morning, we rushed in and transplanted about 75 alevin from a Soldotna school. We also relocated some of the smaller fish from the Moose Pass School into another tank. We monitored the tanks for signs of hatching, and after much anticipation, the eggs finally hatched!

That's when the real work began. We made numerous water changes while trying not to burst vulnerable egg sacs of the hiding alevin or to suck them up in the cleaning



Incubator with fry.

process. While waiting for the alevins to develop into fry, we pulled a few out from time to time to inspect them under the micro/macro scope and to look at the various body parts now visible in the developmental stages. We watched over time to ensure all the fry were able to swim to the top of the tank and take a gulp of water to inflate their swim bladder (also known as “button up”). It was a must for all the fry to “button up” before we fed them, otherwise the slower developing fry would die off.

Once the feeding commenced, the tank maintenance became the most important component of fry

success. The tank was cleaned and the water changed on a weekly basis. That required hauling our own water to the school each week so we did not have to worry about dechlorination.

In May, the classes met back at Bear Creek Weir, where it all started, to get into the frigid water and conduct a stream survey investigating macro-invertebrates, water quality and habitat types. Our 200-day project culminated with the releasing of the fish back into the system. Calamity was averted!

Also in May, we began a “Wonder of Watershed” series. We discussed the habitat types needed by

the different salmon species and created a stream table demonstration. Students were allowed to build their own watershed and river systems. We talked about the effects of climate change and how warmer temperatures effect fish movement and the spread of disease..

We participated in the District’s 20th Annual Environmental Awareness Days, as well as the Soldotna Salmon Celebration sponsored by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Over 700 students stopped by to learn about river systems.

We are looking forward to another dynamic year.

2008 Regional Forester Award Winners



LILLIAN PETERSHOARE

Hector Gandara Memorial Award for her skill, diplomacy, dedication and leadership in promoting positive working relationships between the Forest Service and the Alaska Native Community. She arranged the Acknowledgement Ceremony concerning the Forest Service removal of Native smokehouses and fish camps in Southeast Alaska.



MATT MURPHY

Employee of the Year Award for the successful renovation of cabins and trails; acting as boat captain for vessels in Prince William Sound; working as snow ranger for daily morning backcountry avalanche predictions as lead forecaster for the Avalanche Information Center; and for the saving the life of an avalanche victim in February 2008 in Turnagain Pass



DR. GORDON REEVES

Excellence in Science & Technology Award for work on the Copper River Delta. He enlisted researchers and parlayed thousands of dollars to study water quality, biological characteristics and food structure of Delta ponds to learn how they had changed. The research is currently used manage fish & wildlife habitat in Alaska and to reconstruct the reasons for failing watersheds and fisheries in the Pacific Northwest.

Double Delight

By Wini Kessler, Director, Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed & Subsistence

Years of giving out the WFEWS Director's Award has shown that maintaining secrecy, so as to surprise the recipient, can be a daunting task. The challenge was doubly great this year as two outstanding professionals, one on each forest, were selected for recognition. Since 1984, the WFEWS Director's Award has recognized employees in the wildlife, fisheries, ecology, watershed, or subsistence management fields who are making significant contributions in their professional fields, in their communities, and in serving to advance the Alaska Region's mission. Because candidates are nominated by their peers, it is customary to present the award when many of the individual's colleagues are on hand.

Julianne Thompson, Forest Hydrologist on the Tongass National Forest, received her recognition during a Tongass Leadership Team meeting. Julianne's peers described her as a professional whose dedicated service over 18 years has significantly advanced the watershed, fish, and wildlife stewardship programs in the Alaska Region. For her former contributions on the Wrangell District, Julianne was credited with building "one of the strongest fisheries,



Forrest Cole, Julianne Thompson, and Tricia O'Connor

Region representative on the San Dimas Watershed Technology & Development Committee; and, her leadership in the development of integrated watershed restoration plan. Julianne has a reputation as a willing and effective mentor of new employees, and as one who builds strong relationships across disciplinary lines. Her skills in collaboration have been instrumental in the growth of external partnerships. In nominating Julianne, her peers emphasized the high level of professionalism that is evident in her behavior as a Forest Service employee and a water resource specialist.

Betty Charnon, Zone Ecologist for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest, received her award during a family meeting at her home unit. Betty's peers described her contributions to the botany and ecology programs as "potent examples of extraordinary professional effort." Betty's exceptional efforts in FY06 and FY07 included 29 sensitive plant biological evaluations and dozens of plant surveys; additionally, she initiated development of conservation strategies for the Portage poppy and Norberg arnica and saw these to completion. Betty's proactive work with the State Department of Transportation, Girdwood Parks and Recreation, Alyeska Resort, and the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service has realized important gains in cooperative weed management. Betty's outreach activities have been exceptional. These include volunteer projects with the Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts, SAGA, and



Joe Meade, Brody, Betty Charnon, and Jim Fincher. Photo by Teresa Benson.

wildlife, soils, and water programs on the Tongass National Forest." Julianne was praised for the extra professional effort she puts into her current position; examples include her leadership for riparian and aquatic effectiveness monitoring; her work on mitigation strategies and restoration projects for fish passage; her service as the Alaska

AmeriCorps as well as various activities on behalf of the Celebrating Wildflowers Program. Her presentations to local groups such as the Rotary Club, Lions Club, and youth groups are promoting awareness and understanding of invasive plant issues while stimulating community involvement. The native plant garden at the

Begich Boggs Visitor Center is another of Betty's special projects. Betty also has a track record of service to the community. Her efforts of behalf of children include volunteer service as a math tutor, and helping kids learn to ski through a partnership with Alyeska Resort. Her services as a science fair judge,

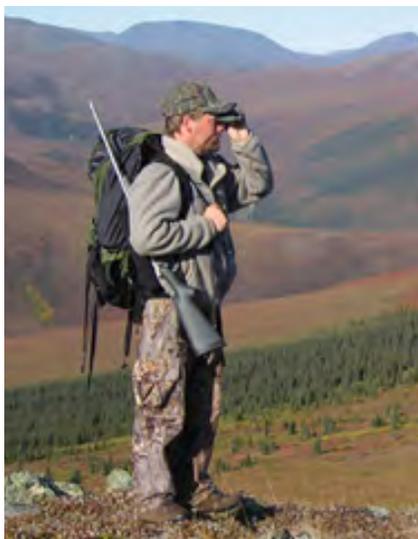
soccer coach, and Boy Scouts volunteer are additional examples of exemplary service.

Congratulations, Julianne and Betty, on inspiring this level of praise and appreciation among your peers. And thanks for your exceptional contributions on behalf of the people and natural resources in the Alaska Region.

2008 Regional Forester Award Winners from the Tongass National Forest



TIM LYDON



ED GROSSMAN

Regional Forester Denny Bschor joined the Tongass National Forest in celebrating four employees who received 2008 Regional Forester Awards.

Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole was received the Meeting America's Needs Award for his commitment to public land stewardship, community stability and earning the public trust on the nation's largest national forest. This was evidenced by his work with the Tongass Futures Roundtable and the completion of the Tongass Land Management Plan Amendment, along with numerous other accomplishments. He was nominated for the corresponding Chief's Award.

Wilderness Program Manager Ed Grossman, Wilderness Program Leader John Neary, and Lead Kayak Ranger Tim Lydon were group winners of the Promoting Recreation Award for their outstanding efforts in developing Best Management Practices for the Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness. They addressed a growing numbers of complaints regarding noise, overcrowding, and air quality, and created a precedent-setting voluntary agreement with 20 tour ship operators. They have also been nominated for a corresponding Chief's Award.

Congratulations for a job well done!



JOHN NEARY



FORREST COLE

Forest Service History Quiz Winner!



Sue Marvin won an Alaska Region belt buckle from Western Heritage Co. for correctly answering the history quiz.



The next prize will be this replica of the Use Book issued in 1905, entitled, "The Use of National Forest Reserves," by Gifford Pinchot, Forester

Congratulations to Sue Marvin, Regional Heritage Program Manager, and winner of the Forest Service History Quiz that debuted in the last issue of SourDough Notes. After a run-off drawing of the six names of those who submitted the correct answer, Sue won an Alaska Region belt buckle courtesy of Pat Lynch of Western Heritage Company.

The other employees and retirees who submitted the correct entry were: Randy Coleman, Judy Bakeburg, Gerald Clark, Bill Ulmer, and Andrew Schmidt. Good job to all of you!

The question: In 1889, the governor of Alaska reported that there were eleven steam-powered or water-powered sawmills in operation in Southeast Alaska. Name as many as you can.

The answer: Steam mills were located at Sitka, Metlakatla, Klawak, Howkan, Fort Wrangell and Juneau. Water-power mills were found at Sitka, Juneau, Klawak, Shakan, and Silver Bay.

The next four-part question is centered around the 50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood. Please take time to send in your answer, please email your name and phone number to: taugh@fs.fed.us

or send a note to:

Teresa Haugh, Editor,
U.S. Forest Service, Public Affairs Office
P. O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802

The person with the most number of correct answers will be the winner. If more than one person has all the correct answers, the winner will be determined by a drawing.

ENTRIES DUE BY NOVEMBER 26, 2008

When Alaska became a state 50 years ago:

1. Who was serving as Acting Territorial Governor of Alaska?
2. Who was Regional Forester of the Alaska Region?
3. Who were the Forest Supervisor/s of the Tongass National Forest?
4. Who was the Forest Supervisor of the Chugach National Forest?