

Fireside Lectures 2013



Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

January 11: Juneau's Backyard: Bears, Whales and Wilderness

Celebrate the magic of Juneau's natural beauty with photographer Mark Kelley as he explains why and when he decided to make Juneau his home.

January 18: Attu Island: WWII Continues to Wage War on the Environment

US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Deborah Rudis delves into contaminant challenges to the refuge's lands and wildlife from remnants of WWII activities.

January 25: Across Juneau's Icefield

In May, 2012 Mike Hekkers, Franz Mueter and Dan Lesh skied the icefield from Juneau to Skagway, navigating a seldom-used route across glaciers. Ten of 12 days were whiteout conditions with 55 inches of new snow. Travel along with them!

February 1: Weather, Currents and Rubber Duckies

From National Weather Service forecaster Joel Curtis learn how waves, weather and currents move ocean debris, including Japan's 2011 earthquake tsunami residue, around the ocean.

February 8: Harbor Seals on the Move

National Park Service biologist Jamie Womble tracks the migrations of harbor seals from Glacier Bay throughout Southeast Alaska using satellite-linked transmitters.

February 15: Power to the People: Avalanche Mitigation and History at Snettisham

Alaska Electric Light and Power Company's Eric Eriksen and avalanche forecaster Mike Janes explain how procedures and the new avalanche diversion structures are keeping Juneau's electricity source safe.

February 22: A Sea of Otters

From near-extinction 100 years ago to slow recovery in some areas of Alaska today, sea otters are reclaiming significant habitat in Alaska. Researcher James Bodkin has studied the charismatic marine mammals for years and explains some of the challenges they face.

March 1: Living with Bears in Juneau

State Fish and Game biologist Ryan Scott gets the call when bears are in trouble around Juneau. Discover how scientists check on the bears as they try to "keep bears wild and people safe."

March 8: From Icefield to Ocean: Impacts of Glacier Change in Alaska

University of Alaska Southeast professor Eran Hood and others explore how glacial runoff from coastal Alaska's thinning and retreating glaciers impact hydrology, ecology and oceanography.

March 15: Calving Glaciers: Making a Big Splash

See how calving glaciers work, how climate change affects them and how they might affect climate from Roman Motyka, of the Geophysical Institute University of Alaska Fairbanks and Southeast.

March 22: Golden Girls: Peterson Sisters Make History.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum horticulturist and manager Merrill Jensen explores homesteader John Peterson's ventures, taken over after his death by Peterson's teenage daughters.

Mar 29: Superflyers: Arctic Terns

Each summer these long-distance migrators breed on the shore of Mendenhall Lake. The Forest Service's Gwen Baluss keeps track of the glacier's colony and studies the birds that winter in Antarctica.

Free lectures occur at 6:30pm and repeat at 8pm Friday nights. Doors open 6pm. 789-0097

USDA Forest Service