



# Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

## Friday Night Insight 2026 Schedule

2026 events will be held in the Elizabeth Peratrovich Theater on Fridays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Programs are focused on the natural and cultural history of Alaska.

### **January 9 – Life in the Cold: The Winter Ecology of Alaska’s Wildlife**

Winter in Alaska is long, dark, and cold, yet animals thrive here. How do warm-blooded creatures survive months of freezing temperatures and scarce food?

In this talk, Dr. Catherine Haase explores the remarkable behavioral, physiological, and morphological adaptations that allow mammals and birds to endure one of the harshest environments on Earth.

### **January 16 – The Magnificence of Moss**

The smallest plants in the forest are also the most diverse and resilient. Join naturalist Jenny Ballif to learn more about the biology of these fabulous plants and how to identify 20 of the most remarkable mosses and liverworts of the Tongass.

### **January 23 – Mapping Your Adventure**

Have you ever struggled with planning your outdoor adventure? Join Geographic Information Specialist Ryan Sears as he reviews the trips and tricks for custom map building.

### **January 30 – Time Travel on the Tongass: The Archaeology of Southeast Alaska’s Rainforest**

Evidence of past human use and occupation lie all around us, and the study of these remains (archaeology) is integral to the management of all resources throughout the Tongass National Forest.

This presentation will briefly cover the history of the Tongass from long ago through the present, discuss how information gathered through archaeology helps managers to better understand past human use, and provide an overview of the archaeological resources the Tongass National Forest manages. Come join us to learn about the cultural resources of the Forest and ways that you can help steward these resources into the future!



## **February 6 – Meeting the Gus’k’ikwáan: Early Tlingit Interactions with Europeans**

Lingít (Tlingit) people have been travelers and explorers who interacted with other nations since time immemorial. However, the year 1775 marks when Lingít began to interact continuously with the Gus’k’ikwáan, or "people at the base of the clouds"—Europeans, Asians, Americans, and others who arrived on sailing ships from other continents.

This presentation will paint a picture of the time period of 1775-1840 when people from around the world interacted with Lingít, and it will analyze how Lingít responded to and benefitted from these outsiders, making profits and maintaining their sovereignty.

## **February 13 – Elizabeth Peratrovich Celebration**

Ginger McCormick, member of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood of Camp 14 Ketchikan, hosts a lecture on subjects relevant to American civil rights activist Elizabeth Peratrovich who worked on equality for Alaskan Natives.

## **February 20 – Spruce Root Business Development**

Spruce Root is a Native-founded nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) supporting regenerative economies and amplifying our Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian ancestral imperative to ensure Southeast Alaska thrives for future generations. We achieve this through technical resources, entrepreneurial mentoring, business coaching, small business lending, education, access to funding sources, and collaborative partnerships.

Learn how Spruce Root can support you; most of our programs are open to all Southeast Alaskans, and some are specifically for Alaska Native clients and Sealaska shareholders.

## **February 27 – Sasquatch: Legends & Myths Meet Science**

Join Rob Holston for an entertaining 45-minute collision of contradictory yet collaborative evidence surrounding Bigfoot. Featuring publications by Dr. Rob Alley, Dr. Matt Johnson & Dr. Jeff Meldrum.

Fascinating IM Index evidence exposed. Bigfoot DNA controversy explained. Plus, locals with Bigfoot encounters will be invited to share and enjoy a Q&A session.

## **March 6 – KMRD Update**

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District continued to move forward Caring for the Land and Serving the People in 2025. Join Recreation Staff Officer Denise Wolvin as she highlights some accomplishments and join the discussion on recreation priorities in 2026.

## **March 13 – The Art of a Community**

Ketchikan is one of the most uniquely vibrant artistic communities in Alaska. Join multiple local artists as they demonstrate their art and discuss their journey. Are you interested in presenting? Email Hazel at Hazel.Brewi@usda.gov.

## **March 20 – Wildflowers of Rivilla**

Celebrating the Wildflowers of Revilla Island Description: Ketchikan has an abundance of wildflowers. This lecture will feature a selection of wildflowers found on Revilla Island, from just above the high tide line to the alpine area, including muskegs, meadows and forests, photographed by Barbara Morgan.

### **March 27 – Ketchikan - Gero Kanayama Exchange**

The Ketchikan Gero Kanayama Exchange with Japan is a long-term sister city educational exchange. Hear from former and current teachers and students about the exchange's history, future, and the positive effects it's had on hundreds of people over the past 38 years

### **April 3 – Alaska Hummingbird Festival Juried Art Show Opening**

Join us for opening night of the Alaska Hummingbird Festival juried art show. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### **April 10 – Ketchikan Indian Community**

Description to be announced.

### **April 17 – Birding, It's Awesome and You Should Be Doing It!**

Watching birds is a fascinating pastime with a wide range of skill and interest levels of those that partake in it from those that delight in watching the common birds in their back yard, to those that chase species around the globe.

Enjoy learning about the hobby itself, why it's so much fun, how to get started, and of course learn a bit about birds themselves. Ben Limle is a wildlife biologist on the Tongass National Forest who spends much of his free time out looking for birds.

### **April 25 – Living in Bear Country**

Join ADFG wildlife biologist Mark Williamson for a presentation on staying safe in bear country. Topics include properly securing attractants, black bears vs brown bears, staying safe while recreating, what to do during an encounter, and more! PLUS an opportunity to deploy inert bear spray cannisters!