HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 14

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2013/14

The Wrangell Mountains Center fosters understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wildlands and mountain culture in Alaska through scientific and artistic inquiry in the Wrangell Mountains.



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~

WMC Board of Directors

Sally Gibert

Lilly Goodman-Allwright, vice president

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Margot Higgins

Howard Mozen, president

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Mountain Culture 2013

by Howard Mozen, WMC Board President

ome time ago-the WMC board amended its mission statement to include the term "mountain culture." What is this mountain culture we hold up for fostering appreciation and understanding? I took a moment to write my definition of the term, and how that intertwines with the Wrangell Mountains Center.

Mountain Culture is a connection to the land born of gathering, gardening, strolling, building, climbing, running, logging, hiking, rafting, flying, sledding and skiing in and about the mountainscape of one's home. Mountain culture is self-reliance, off-the- grid-living, and face-to-face human communications. It engenders rough hands, a sore back, a somewhat demented sense of humor, a flare for story telling, and the art of the two-and-a-half-hour cup of coffee. Mountain culture includes thoughtful, tasty, healthy food shared with neighbors, fixing your axe handles, and maintaining a shop. Mountain culture is reflecting the nearby mountains in your eyes in a way



ders Lin



▲ Final Performance of the Family Music Camp on the front porch of Porphyry Place

that says "I belong here, I've been out there, and I will again venture out into those nearby wilds." *Mountain culture* includes a community of independent and self-reliant people, and interestingly, they are more willing and able to help their neighbors because of that self-reliance.

Mountain culture is a committed love affair with the jagged landscape of the Wrangells. For the WMC board and staff, mountain culture includes the sharing of our love of the Wrangells with others, with you -- our members – to whom we are grateful for joining and supporting us for over 25 years. Thus the WMC moves into its 26th year as a non- profit organization with our ongoing commitment to working together to keep the Wrangell Mountains Center producing excellent programming focused on our mountain home.

Yes, we are self-reliant. But we do need your help. We strive to embody *mountain culture*, which keeps us working hard to support this non-profit. Check out what we are doing. Support us and join in the conversation to help shape our future. Please renew your membership, and contribute generously if you can. Take a moment to ensure the ongoing health of the Wrangell Mountains Center as we move beyond our first quarter century!

Thank You! Howard ❖

First Annual Family Music Camp

by Lilly Goodman-Allwright

Taybe it was the merriment of the folk tunes, or perhaps it was the lively spirit ▲ **V** ▲ and encouragement of the instructors Brian DeMarcus, Ian Wahl, and Mary Schallert, but I couldn't peel my kids away from their instruments during the McCarthy Family Music Camp in July. Whether it was hoe-ing down during the community Barn Dance called by Brian, jamming out in the sunshine on the back deck of Porphyry Place, or performing for fellow campers during the final concert, kids and parents alike wore grins that begged for more. If you missed the chance to see a band that includes a 1/10th sized violin, a seven- foot tall bass, and a ukulele tuned like a guitar, don't worry - the McCarthy Family Music Camp will be back July 17-20, 2014. Bring your family and your instruments and join us for the camp, or just come on down for some dancing – we hope to see you there! -



New College Program Develops

by Karen Mager and Sally Gibert

as our group of 14 students and instructors winds through a towering medial moraine. The hot sun creates a shifting soundscape of drips and burbles, popping ice, and sliding rock. At the transition from moraine to white ice, we unexpectedly encounter a glacial stream that at first appears impassible. We must find a safe crossing or turn back. After careful scouting, we descend a short slope, remove our packs and pass them across the stream, and reach the other side with the help of trekking poles and out-stretched hands. In this largely trail-less wilderness, this is only one example of the need to be adaptable.

As college program alumni and McCarthy residents know, the ever-changing Wrangells landscape regularly requires creative solutions to sustain one's self, both at home and in the backcountry. The summer of 2013 marked the last year of the college program under Wildlands Studies LLC, yet the intellectual foundation for a WMC college program remains as strong as ever.

We are working towards an exciting new partnership with University of Colorado, Boulder to maintain the structure of interdisciplinary, backcountry oriented teaching that students have experienced in McCarthy for the last 32 years. This is an important opportunity to take one of the most outstanding field courses in the country to an even higher level in 2014. We welcome support from our community of student and faculty alumni, WMC members, and valley residents who share the conviction in the spirit of the college program. To support this effort stay in touch and share your ideas with any of the WMC staff or board members or with program faculty Karen Mager at karen.h.mager@gmail.com (907) 590-5346. See a list of things you can do to support the Wrangell Mountains Center on page 11.❖



Wrangell Ramblings

Updates from Wildland Studies Alumni

Tom Luster, 1987 or 88, took a break from San Francisco city life to visit McCarthy last summer. He hiked from the Lakina back to town through Hidden Creek Valley with friends and put the skills he learned with the WMC to work. He also enjoyed seeing the Old Hardware Store with new upgrades (stainless steel sink! refrigerator! huge garden!).

Marta Krynytzky, 2005, is a hydrographer working in Palmer, Alaska. She travels all over remote AK from Homer to Dutch Harbor and Kotzebue. She also volunteers for the Arctic Valley Ski Patrol in Anchorage.

Jon Twena, 2005, is tutoring High School students in Geometry, Biology, and Spanish in Berkeley. He says the Wildlands program created a deep and lasting connection with the outdoors that inspired him to pursue being a teacher and outdoor educator. He participated in Wildlands Himalayas, NOLS Outdoor Ed Course, and to work as a backpacking guide.

Nicole Chatterson, 2007 or 8, moved to Hawaii to work for a marine debris research mission, and fell in love with the state. She is a mentor for a sustainability and green workforce development program where she specializes in sustainable food and waste systems and works for an outdoor education program, Wild Kids.

Jessica Howard, 2010, received an MS in Remote Sensing and moved to Virginia. Currently she is traipsing around Caribou-Targhee National Forest wondering where she will go next. She says hi to Mark and Jeremy, and is enjoying their posts.

Pierron Tackes, 2011, just started law school at the University of Oklahoma pursuing a dual degree in law and with a Masters of Public Health (JD/MPH).

Rachel Kaplan, 2012, is working on a geology degree at Brown University. Last spring she spent six weeks sailing from Key West to St Croix.

Erin Tudor, 2012, is studying abroad in Trondheim, Norway. She says it's absolutely beautiful and reminds her of Alaska. She'll be back to finish her degree at University of Washington next year.

Jeff Svoboda, **2013**, is making and surfing surfboards as well as having fires in the back yard and listening to Grandma's vinyl's

Shawn Olson, instructor, is living in Logan, Utah working on a PhD in Natural Resources Sociology at Utah State University, and loving it.



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▲ Kristin Link teaches 8th graders from Fairbanks' Watershed School observational drawing and field sketching.

Krim Jink

▲ Students work with instructor, Jessica Allen, to identify lichens in the alpine zone above Kennecott during this year's Introduction to Lichen Identification Workshop.

Wrapping up Research

by Margot Higgins

Taving spent extensive time conducting interviews, engaging in participant observation Land doing archival work, I am excited to have completed the fieldwork for my dissertation in June. My experience in the Wrangells since 2004 has left a deep imprint on me and has helped me gain understanding into the ways that people conceive of wilderness, national parks, indigenous rights, subsistence and climate change. National parks are one lens through which we can examine how people view the interaction of nature and culture and how this relationship has changed over time. In the 1970s, most of the people who testified in Congress in favor of establishing vast swaths of Alaskan wilderness, had never set foot in the state. National visions for Alaska were voiced with moral conviction. Almost 50 years after the 1964 Wilderness and Civil Rights Acts, the dominant narratives in our biggest national park are still entangled with national and local debates.

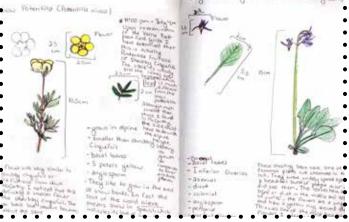
▼ Margot and Jim Edwards while she was gathering research in 2011



Here, statehood, civil rights, subsistence claims and wilderness protection are inextricably intertwined and their meaning has yet to be closely understood. For the past three years, I have been examining the role of local and national narratives in molding management conflicts in Wrangell Saint Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) and the unique role that local residents living in the 23 resident zone communities of the Park may play for monitoring changes in the land and shaping the way we view these lands.

It has long been a part of the WMC's mission to provide a forum for research and to document the region's natural history, community development, aesthetic values, and cultural resources. Nevertheless, while WRST has a more extensive history of scientific research than most other boreal areas in the Western Hemisphere, as stated in the Wrangell Mountains Center Bibliography, there has been very little critical social science research in the area. My PhD research contributes to this research gap. I have been fortunate that the Wrangell Mountains Center has supported me in this process particularly by providing a housing for my research assistant, creating multiple forums for community dialogue, and access to an extensive set of historical archives, including academic and grey literature, policy, and primary source documents.

A former AWS instructor and Interim ED for the WMC, Margot Higgins is a 4th year PhD candidate in the Environmental Science, Policy and Management Department at UC Berkeley. She is most grateful to the WMC, NPS and the community members of WRST for all of the generous support in this process and looks forward to sharing more of her research soon!



▲ Lina's journal entries describing alpine plants

Wildland Studies

by Lina Mann

his summer I got the privilege to participate in the Wrangell Mountain Center's summer college program through Wildland Studies. It was my third summer in McCarthy and I was excited to do something a bit different and to get involved with this amazing program that so many students before me have done. It did not disappoint. Not only did I get the chance to expand my knowledge of environmental science and natural history, but I also got to do it in one of my favorite places on Earth during some of the best weather I have ever seen in McCarthy. The sun shone almost every day of our twenty-one day backcountry trip and the temperature was nearly always in the mid sixties.

I arrived at the Old Hardware Store in mid-June to volunteer for the week prior to the program's start. I witnessed the beginning stages of the gardens and helped out with the lovely Hardware Store staff. The following week all nine of my fellow students arrived and we jumped into the seven-week program. We spent time familiarizing ourselves with the area



and identifying key features of the landscape and the park. We got the chance to talk to many town members including Stephens Harper, Mark Vail, and Dianne Milliard.

The next couple weeks were spent in the backcountry and in town preparing for research projects on invasive plant species, marmots, and the rock formation called a "runnel". For the longer three-week backcountry journey we traveled up the Root and Kennicott glaciers, through Hidden Creek Valley, OZ, and down the Lakina River. The trip was amazing with lots of time for research, discussion, and fun. It was a highlight to have visiting instructors in the field: Bill Morris, Tim Bartholomaus, Sophie Gilbert, and Billie Armstrong, who extended to us their knowledge of alpine plants, glaciers, and wildlife ecology.

We all departed the Wrangells with a greater appreciation of the wilderness and greater knowledge of a spectacular corner of the world.

Running with a View

by Cobi Harris-Seslar

fter days of rain, the McCarthy streets splashed mud with every pounding footstep. 36 out-of-towners and locals braved the mud and threatening rains of August to run the McCarthy Kennicott Half Marathon & 5k. The McCarthy marathon has been a part of local Labor Day activities for many years and the Wrangell Mountains Center is pleased to have the opportunity to host it as a new fundraiser.

The route went from the West side of the Kennicott River, along the wagon road to Kennecott and around above the Mill building, down Silk Stocking Row into town and down the main road to McCarthy. The festive finish line was at Wild Alpine where Stephanie Sever gave 10-minute massages to each participant. After every last runner crossed the finish line, the evening events at the WMC began.

A cozy fire and the smell of fresh baked bread greeted everyone at the WMC Old Hardware Store. Spaghetti, bread, and dessert were served. The long-time marathon host, Dan Meyers, graciously gave out awards. It was a lovely, celebratory evening where everyone enjoyed the gifts from sponsors including beer, gift certificates, and t-shirts. This event took many hands to plan, organize, and implement. Thank you!

◀ Alaska Wildland Studies student Camden Nix and guest instructor Barry Hecht measure the flow of Clear Creek







▲ This year's writing workshop participants enjoying the natural splendor of the glacial river valley.

Wrangell Mountains Writing Workshop Hosts Writing on the River!

by Nancy Cook

he WMC was pleased to host a new twist on a long-standing program. collaboratively with Nik Merlino's McCarthy Tours and Outfitters, this year's writers' workshop spent two nights and a full day enjoying McCarthy and embarked for three nights and four days floating the Kennicott, Nizina, Chitina and Copper River to O'Brien Creek. Huge thanks to accomplished Anchorage writer Sherry Simpson for joining us on this grand adventure. Look for her new book Dominion of Bears this fall from University of Kansas Press. The student writers were wonderful, and the weather was fabulous, which led to high waters (!!) all the way down. Luckily our team of guides was indefatigable--and good humored, too. Highlights included a hike into the fireweedcovered Chakina Burn, a grizzly the color of single malt scotch, and a bald eagle who sang harmony with us while spawning salmon splashed percussion in the background. This was a real good time, and we did some writing, too! Kudos to Nik, Greg, and Howard for helping to make river rafting affordable for all. For more photos, search the Writing on the River group page on Facebook.

Mountain Arts for Youth

by Lara Applebaum

ur Mountain Arts for Youth Program had a great turnout this summer! Kids of all ages from our community came together for four workshops inspiring creativity and awareness of our surroundings. Our workshops this year included individual activities such as recycled instrument building and nature collage, as well as group projects such as found-art mosaic and creating a community field guide. Thank you to the local artists who volunteered their time to make this season's programs a success!

We are excited to share that the Blackburn Heritage Trust will be generously helping to fund Mountain Arts for Youth, and a similar program modeled after it, Mountain Science for Youth, next season.



▲ Creating a Community Mural with Gina Merlino



▲ Eva Gregory and Avery Mozen work on paintings of local flora as part of Mountain Arts for Youth.



▲ Participants in the Ecology of Migratory Birds workshop looking for waterfowl on a pond along the Nabesna Road.

Birding in "Nabesna"

by Kristin Link

Y season as the new Program Development Coordinator got off to a rocky start when our first program, the Ecology of Migratory Birds, almost got cancelled. We were planning on running the program at Devil's Mountain Lodge at the end of the Nabesna Road, but the morning the workshop was scheduled to start the Nabesna road washed out somewhere near mile 20. Plans A and B were scratched, and we were trying to work on a plan C. Margot Higgins, who was attending the workshop, mentioned that she stayed at Huck's Hobbit Hostel in Slana and that Joy Hobbs, who ran the place, might be able to help us out.

Joy has an amazing homestead with a large, welcoming kitchen, a talent for putting together meals for 12 with no notice, and excellent birding out her back door. Carol McIntyre who is a NPS bird biologist and instructing the course was adaptable and able to put together a birding curriculum for a new location. The workshop participants were positive, flexible, and ready for adventure. The combination allowed for a successful and extraordinarily fun workshop. We didn't even mind that we never made it to the end of the road.

We are excited to launch the artist and writers residency program

Check the website in early January to learn more and to apply!

Sew Fun

by Maria Shell

Being a good six to eight hours away from the nearest quilting and/or sewing supply store, the community of McCarthy has a strong desire to make things with what they have. As a response to this desire, I set up a makeshift off-the-grid sewing studio in the Old Hardware Store. For three days in July, I hosted a Sew Fun Workshop. During the workshop, I taught anyone who wanted to learn how to use a sewing machine. Participants pieced quilts out of old shirts, patched their pants with upholstery fabric, stitched curtains for their cabin out of old mailbags, and made oven mitts from repurposed jeans.

While stitching, stories were told, problems were solved, and friendships were made. The community deepened its connection to each other through the use of stitch and up-cycled materials. I think all who participated in the workshop realized that making is a valid method for foster creativity and community. I hope you will join me for next year's workshop. It's going to be sew fun.

▼ Cheslea Swafford and Beth Nordlund show of bags they stitched. Maria shows the stitch work on the back a quilt.





Maria S



▲ McCarthy's youngest play in cozy Porphyry Place under the guidance of volunteer mothers, Jen and Amber.

Kid's Camp

by Jen Gessert

as a way for the parents of McCarthy to work collectively to give our children healthy social stimulus in a remote community. While the kids have become more and more like siblings during their two 3-hour play sessions per week (10am to 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays) parents have received the benefits of a supportive parenting community with strengthened camaraderie and the ability to have time for self-care and other necessities. Because parents are all volunteers for this program as well, we have all gotten to know and love one another's children.

Kid's camp was held at Porphyry Place, where two parents per session volunteered to watch over the children, take them on forays around McCarthy, and provide their snacks. The kids enjoyed many wonderful hours together this summer, some of the most fun activities included art projects, birthday celebrations, visits to the museum, and lots of time outdoors. The target age-range for the group is "walking age through 7", but children younger than that came with their caregivers, and older children came to help. By midsummer we were also employing a helper to cover one slot per week, lightening the volunteer demand for the parents, and giving the children yet another opportunity to bond with the great people in our community.

With support from the Blackburn Heritage Foundation, we are thrilled to expand the program next summer. The Wrangell Mountains Center will be filling the helper position and providing the children



▲ A handful of McCarthy's youth pose outside of the Museum during Kid's Making History.

with fun and creative activities. The program will be extended an extra hour, include lunch, and will also acquire some new toys and books. Kid's Camp is sure to continue to be a success for many years to come!

Kennecott Recreation Hall Lease Expands Opportunities for Community Use and WMC Programming

by Sally Gibert

he WMC is excited to facilitate community and private events in the Kennecott Recreation Hall consistent with its historical use and long-standing contemporary community interest. We now hold a five-year, seasonal lease from the National Park Service, securing opportunities for non-NPS use of the Rec Hall through the summer of 2017. The lease also represents a continuation of the original partnership model underlying the National Park Service acquisition of Kennecott Mines National Historical Landmark in 1998.

The historic Kennecott Recreation Hall has long been locally used for a variety of activities and, more recently, for conferences, weddings, educational programs, community events, exhibits, concerts, children's programs, and receptions. The Rec Hall offers 1,800 square feet of well-lit space for up to 200 people, overlooking the Kennicott Glacier. Coordination with the Kennicott Glacier Lodge also expands options for food and lodging.

The Rec Hall is available for rent from May 15

▶ Paleontologist Patrick Druckenmiller explains what a dinosaur is as part of the Summer Arts and Lectures Series in the Kennecott Rec Hall.



through September 15, and reservations may be made far in advance. To inquire about scheduling, amenities, equipment, and pricing, contact rec_hall@wrangells. org. Our fee schedule is under review as we gain experience with operating costs. Our dual goals are to increase volume of use so we can lower per-event prices.

Preserving the Harvest with Mark Vail

by Kristin Link

highlight of the summer was getting to attend Mark Vail's two workshops on preserving the harvest: Pickling (where we made zucchini relish) and Jams and Jellies (highbush cranberry jelly and butter). Both workshops were held in the "teaching kitchen" at Porphyry Place. Participants learned proper canning techniques, tricks, and recipes for putting up the local bounty.

I was particularly excited to learn what to do with my highbush cranberries. Mark admitted that he was never fond of the fruit "because it smells like dirty socks" but felt bad not using something that is so abundant in the area. He shared his trick of picking the berries earlier, just after they turn red, when they contain more natural pectin (and don't smell as fragrant). In class we made jelly with the cranberry juice (recipe follows) and then processed the berries and added spice to make cranberry butter. Each participant got to enjoy samples from Mark's pantry and to take home a jar.

To Make Highbush Cranberry Jelly

- 1. Sterilize half-pint jars in boiling water for 10 minutes.
- 2. In a heavy saucepan, cover 4 cups of berries with water and bring to a boil. Let simmer until most berries pop, expelling their juice.
- 3. Strain the berries out of the juice.
- 4. Measure and pour juice back into the clean saucepan and add an equal amount of sugar. If you had 3 cups of juice, add 3 cups of sugar.
- 5. To make sure contents jell add a packet of pectin.
- 6. Bring to 220° F (104° C).
- 7. Pour jelly in jars and process.

▼ Mark Vail demonstrates how to properly can jars of relish



Kristin L

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\$500-999: In honor of the marriage of Sophie Gilbert and Timothy Bartholomaus, Lilly Goodman-Allwright & Michael Allwright, Patt Garrett, Ralph Gibert, Leif Mjos, Jason Reitmeyer, Wells Fargo Foundation, Nathanial Wilder.

\$1000+: Sally Gibert & Dick Mylius, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

\$2500+: Alaska Humanities Forum, Barry Hecht, Ann & James Johnston, National Park Service.

\$5000+: Alaska State Council on the Arts, Maria Shell & Walt Tague.

\$10,000+: John & Tana Bosshard, Ruth Schmidt.

Scholarship Fund: John & Tana Bosshard, Ann & James Johnston.

Tall Tales \$500 cash prize: McCarthy Lodge

Half Marathon & 5K: Agnew::Beck Consulting, Twin Peaks Construction, Wild Alpine

Supporting Organizations:

Alaska State Council on the Arts National Endowment for the Arts Wells Fargo Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Rasmuson Foundation











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As well as to the 2013 staff:

Emily Bass, Interim Executive Director; Mary Convey, Kitchen Manager; Cobi Harris-Seslar, Operations Manager; Tamara Harper, Rec. Hall Coordinator; Sam Jessup, Work-Trade Volunteer, Kristin Link, Program Development Coordinator; Dianne Milliard, Volunteer Host & Early Season Operations; Michelle J. Rodriguez, Work-Trade Volunteer; Jenny Rosenbaum, Finance Director.

Ways to support the WMC:

- Renew your membership.
- Stay in touch--Keep your contact information up to date.
- Spread the word about our programs to prospective participants.
- Donate to invest in exceptional program development.
- Donate airline miles for WMC volunteers to make on-campus visits to spread the word about the new college program.

Wish List:

- Food processor
- Large metal mixing bowls
- Pie Pans
- Satellite Phone
- Art Supplies
- Bicycle Trailer











www.wrangells.org

Watch our website for details on our 2014 program lineup, which will include:

- Kids Making History program (July 3)
- Family Music Camp (July 17-20)
- True Story: Writing Workshop with Frank Soos, Tom Kizzia, and Nancy Cook (July 22-28)
- Glaciology Summer School (Aug 6-16)
- Birding Seminar with Carol McIntyre (TBA)
- Natural History Field Sketching with Kristin Link (TBA)
- Sew Fun with Maria Shell (TBA)
- Preserving the Harvest with Mark Vail
- Mountain Arts for Youth Series
- Mountain Science For Youth Series
- Summer Arts and Lectures Series
- Yoga
- Kid's Camp (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

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