

Field Notes

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Friends of Creamer's Field Presents:

Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk!

Imagine a perfect spring day. Swallows dip down to snatch the few early mosquitoes out of the air, iris bloom in the swales, and music wafts out over a winding row of festive canopies bedecked with ribbons and balloons.



On Saturday, June 3rd, from 10 am-2 pm, we will kick off our first Design Alaska *Wild Arts Walk*. This event is a fundraiser for Friends of Creamer's Field Nature Center. Proceeds support this and other family-oriented activities. Design Alaska has graciously agreed to be our event sponsor.

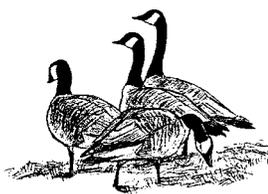
Artists and musicians will be stationed along a loop trail that begins and ends near the Creamer's Farmhouse at 1300 College Road.

There will be approximately 40 stations representing a wide array of arts, crafts and music. For those of you who enjoy making crafts, paint on rainy Saturdays, or just want to see a range of talents, this is a chance to meet artist guild members and see them at work. In the event of rain there will be three large tents set up near the farmhouse for those artists who need shelter.

The general public will pay to attend this event as it is a fundraiser for Friends of Creamer's Field. In return for a contribution, the public will receive a cup of coffee, cocoa or tea, a locally-made pastry, and a very attractive gift mug from Design Alaska.

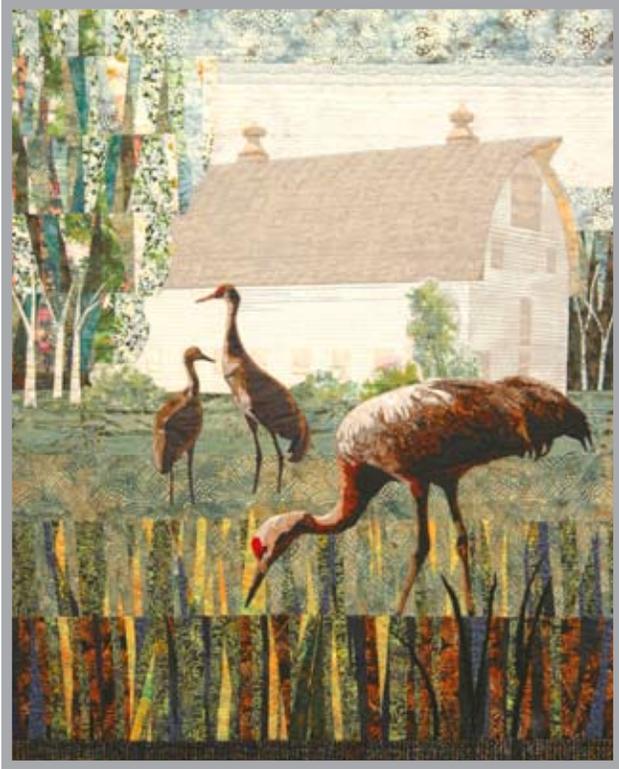
Friends of Creamer's Field members receive \$5 off the admission price of:
 \$15 per person; \$25 per family

For more information on this very exciting event, contact Friends of Creamer's Field at 452-5162 or creamers@ptialaska.net. See you there!



Our Mission

Friends of Creamer's Field is a community based, non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational, historical, and interpretive programs throughout the year at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.



Taking Refuge

Photo by James Barker

Wouldn't this quilt look spectacular
in your living room?

Annual Quilt Raffle!

Each year for the past several years, Friends of Creamer's Field has received a quilt from a local quilter for a summer raffle. The proceeds from the quilt help pay for the Tanana Valley Crane Festival (August 25–27 this year), and each year the winning ticket is drawn on the last evening of the Festival.

This year we are thrilled to offer a quilt donated by quilter extraordinaire Karin Franzen. This gorgeous quilt (wait 'til you see it in color!) is about 4' by 5' and currently hangs in a show at the Bear Gallery in Pioneer Park. It will then be in a quilt show at Denali State Bank from June 1–30.

Tickets are currently available at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse and will also be sold at the Tanana Valley State Fair, August 4–12.

Tickets are \$5 each
or 5 for \$20

From the director...

Farmhouse Visitor Center Volunteers Needed

If you enjoy sharing what you know and love about Alaska with area visitors, consider becoming a Farmhouse Visitor Center Volunteer. Volunteers staff the Visitor Center from either 10 am–1:30 pm or from 1:30–5 pm during weekdays from June 1–August 31. Most volunteers pick one day of the week as their regular spot, but we're flexible. It's not strenuous, and you don't need a background in history or biology. We'll provide training to orient you, and we're usually available during weekday shifts to help out with questions or concerns. If you're interested, call Mark Ross at 459-7301.

So Close!

Now normally I don't beg. I may whine a little, but begging is best reserved for housedogs and table scraps. But I'm making puppy eyes and asking for your help here.

During the past two summers we have toiled on the Boreal Forest Trail, and we're so close to finishing it! We've had great volunteers, and we've done a great job. Now we need ten or twelve dedicated folks to pitch in during three weekends in June (the 9–11, 16–18, and the 23–25) and we can knock this out.

Just think, an easy fall-time stroll along a completed trail that you helped build. Your mother comes to visit, and without having to find mud boots in a size six, you can take her on a lovely walk. Even your toddler can navigate this boardwalk once we're done.

Please, lift up the phone and call me—I'll sign you up for a day or a weekend. We'll throw in lunch, and I'll even give you a great Friends T-shirt. Okay, I've wiggled and begged. The phone number is 452-5162.



Boreal Forest Trail renovation in 2004

Photo by Jess Ryan

Saturday Mornings with an Artist

Cremer's Field Farmhouse Visitor Center

June 10th–August 12th, 10:00 am to 2:00pm

Saturday Mornings with an Artist: Share the beauty of wildlife and nature by local artists' paintings, portraits, carvings and sketching media!

The Cremer's Field Farmhouse Visitor Center will host displays of these artists' particular works, items for sale, and in some cases demonstrations of the artist's techniques from 10:00 am through 2:00 pm each Saturday.

June 10th *Gina Hoppner* – watercolor of wildflowers of Alaska

June 17th *Betsy Bear* – watercolor, giclee' prints and notecards of Alaskan scenery and wildlife.

June 24th *Dee Dee Hammond* – watercolor and sketches of migratory birds.

July 8th *Betsy Chronic* – carved wooden boxes of chickadees, caribou and other wildlife.

July 15th *Amy Noon* – pencil sketches of wildflowers of Alaska and Cremer's Field.

July 22nd *Ellen Harney* – oil landscapes of Cremer's Field and Seasonal Pond.

July 29th *Judy Farnham* – Tole Painting

August 5th *Brenda Jones* – portraits of Athabascan Interior people.

August 12th Open



Come join us!

We're at the Farmhouse Visitor Center of Cremer's Field, in back of Fish and Game.

Sponsored by Friends of Cremer's Field

Information at 452-5162

Spring Migration Celebration in Review

Friends of Creamer's Field

Board Members

Bob Craig
Jim Chumbley (President)
Jeannie Creamer-Dalton
Susie Crevensten (Secretary)
Pat DeRuyter (Membership)
Ray Hadley
Donna Krier
Sherry Lewis
Gail Mayo
Herb Melchior
Joy Morrison

Non-Voting Members

Cathie Harms (ADF&G)
Mark Ross (ADF&G)
Jess Ryan (Executive Director of Friends)

This issue of *Field Notes* was produced by Mary Zalar

This year's Spring Migration Celebration was a hit despite a cold breeze that had folks reaching for their winter hats. With a colorful collection of activities at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse and at the Alaska Bird Observatory (ABO), there was a lot to do. This year we had financial support from the Alaska Conservation Foundation and participation from the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, ABO, Ducks Unlimited, the University of Alaska Wilderness Society, Calypso Farms, Arctic Audubon Society, the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game!

There were activities for all

Photos: Above right, Addie Willsrud watches a puppet show at the Spring Migration Celebration. At left, Don Pendergrast with the National Park Service visits with children after the puppet show.

Photos by Jess Ryan

interests and age levels, from bird identification, sketching, and live raptors to puppet shows, games, and craft activities. In keeping with the international theme of the Boreal Forest as an important birthplace for migratory birds, Glenn Juday from UAF spoke about global warming and the Boreal forest.

Thanks to everyone who helped out and everyone who attended!



The renovation of Creamer's Farmhouse is one of several projects at the Creamer's Field supported by Ducks Unlimited.

Praise for Partners

Ducks Unlimited (DU) has long been a contributor toward education and wildlife viewing opportunities on the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. In the late 1980's they provided funding for the construction of seven ponds containing numerous small islands for the purpose of increasing breeding duck populations on the Refuge. When the Farmhouse was renovated in 1992, DU stepped in with a sizeable contribution. And again in 1993, DU played a vital role in waterfowl preservation by funding the construction of the crane pond, where cranes can safely rest after their long migration.

These improvements have been vital to the overall management plan of the Refuge, and are a fine example of the importance of partnership.

Camp Habitat Summer 2006

An Outdoor Education & Ecology Camp for Youth ages 4 - 17



Program Schedule

Pre- School Program: 9 am - Noon

- * Nature Sprouts I (ages 4 - 5) *June 19 – 23* \$105
- * Nature Sprouts II (ages 4 - 5) *June 26 – 30* \$105

Day Camp Programs: 9am – 4pm

- * Nature Detectives I (ages 6 - 7) *July 17 – 21* \$175
- * Nature Detectives II (ages 6 - 7) *July 24 – 28* \$175
- * Water Striders I (ages 8 - 9) *July 17 – 21* \$200
- * Water Striders II (ages 8 - 9) *July 10 – 14* \$200
- * Refuge Adventurers (ages 10 - 11) *July 10 – 14* \$200

Backpacking Programs:

- * Backpacking I (ages 12 - 13) *June 26 – 30* \$275
- * Backpacking II (ages 13 - 15) *July 10 – 14* \$300
- * Backpacking III (ages 15 - 17) *July 24 – 29* \$300



Hike at Creamer's Field Summer 2005

Registration Information

Online: www.northern.org

Call: (907) 452-5021 ext. 32

Email: camphabitat@northern.org

NEW!

Camp Habitat Wish List 2006

Summer Camp Needs

Equipment

- 4 four to six person tents with good rain flies
- 4 backpacking tents
- 1 large tarp for camp site to shield rain and sun
- 6 small backpacks for youth (not day packs)
- Water filters and replacement cartridges for water filters
- Bear spray (2 -3 cans)
- Epi pens (6 or 10)

Supplies Needed

- Rope of all sizes and lengths
- 2 small hand brooms for sweeping out tents
- Hammer
- Bag stuffer for grocery bags
- Small paint brushes
- Fimo Dough (blue, green, white)
- Eye droppers (12 or more)
- Feathers (legally obtained)
- White yogurt containers/white margarine tubs (20 each)
- 14 gallon Rubbermaid tubs with lids (5-7)
- Colored chalk
- Colored pencils
- Clear and colored 2-liter bottles (lots)
- Aquarium nets (5-10)
- 4-6" kitchen strainers (10 or more)
- Paper towel and gift wrap tubes
- Toilet paper rolls
- Egg cartons
- Cereal Boxes
- Poster board
- Cloth (felt, cotton, etc)



Backpackers in the White Mountains Summer 2005

Have you heard?! Camp Habitat also has an AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM?! At 4 schools in Fairbanks, staff offered a variety of nature & outdoor education activities during the winter 2006 semester. We look forward to continuing the program for the 2006-07 school year!

Both
Camp Habitat & Camp Habitat AFTER SCHOOL
 benefit from community support. To contribute
 or volunteer, please contact Laenne Thompson
 at laenne@northern.org.

**To donate, please call 452-5021 or stop by the
 Northern Alaska Environmental Center.**



Recycling Reborn

By Jess Ryan

Before moving to Alaska, I was a devoted recycler and prided myself in how little refuse I threw away. When I relocated to Fairbanks in the early 1990's, I found that recycling options were limited at best and sometimes almost nonexistent. I reconciled to pitching the bottles (rinsed) and even chucking the occasional pop can. In truth, I've gone too far the other way. In an effort to educate myself and regain some of my former good karma in recycling, I've determined to uncover just what Fairbanks has to offer for the born-again recycler.

To Burn or Not to Burn

My first thought was to set up a burn barrel in my backyard and dispose of anything burnable in this way. I had visions of wrestling an old 50-gallon barrel out of the underbrush where it lies on the edge of my property and blasting a spray of air holes in it (never mind that I don't own a shotgun). A quick web search on the subject of backyard burning, however, reveals that burning those greasy plastic bags, Styrofoam meat trays, and glossy junk mail adds dioxins to the air. A call to Nancy Fresco at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center confirms this. Moreover, plastic only makes up about 5% of what we landfill, and it's pretty inert stuff. Paper and cardboard on the other hand account for 50% of our landfill waste and release carbon dioxide as they break down, adding to global warming.

These should be bundled and taken to the landfill. From there they will be transported to Eielson Air Force Base and formed into pellets to be burned in the power plant on base.

As a part-time employee of the University of Fairbanks, I had noticed the paper recycling bins on campus. According to Ely Sonafrank who works with the ASUAF Recycling Center, the University saves thousands of dollars annually in trash-hauling fees by recycling copy paper and cardboard. The student-run recycling center oversees all other forms of recycling at UAF, including aluminum, printer cartridges, batteries, grocery bags, and Styrofoam packing peanuts, which are reused locally. They offered glass recycling for a short period, with Lynden Transport hauling the glass for free to Polar Supply in Anchorage. Polar Supply initially accepted the glass at no cost and crushed it for sandblasting and the like. But the glass recycling program fell through when Polar Supply announced they would require a tipping fee of several thousand dollars a month for the glass. Ely hopes that the Fairbanks North Star Borough will see fit to crush glass locally. And maybe in time it will.

Borough Recycling Plan

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is exploring the possibilities of effective recycling. Recently, the Borough contracted with MAXTEC, an independent consulting

firm in Seattle, to assess our waste woes and report on possible means of reducing mixed wastes and increasing recycling. The "Recycling Plan and Analysis Summary Report" is available online at www.co.fairbanks.ak.us under "hot topics." While we probably won't see color-coded curbside bins any time soon, we may be presented with easier ways to dispose of paper and some plastics.

Redemption

As it turns out, recycling in Fairbanks isn't impossible, just a little complicated. The Borough transfer sites—like those located on Badger Road, Farmer's Loop East, Farmer's Loop West, Fox, and Chena Pump Road—accept metal, batteries, and brush. And if you're lucky, you'll have a co-worker like I do who keeps an eye out for specific items on the reuse platform she calls "Treasure Island." The Borough landfill, which is located at 455 Sanduri, is the place to take motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, paint and solvents, along with those papers, magazines and boxes.

K&K Recycling on the Old Richardson Highway and C&R Pipe and Steel on Van Horn Road will pay for your aluminum, along with wire, foil, and other metals including car radiators.

Both Fred Meyers and Safeway accept clean grocery bags. (Of course if I'd just remember the canvas bags in my car *before* I get to the checkout counter, I wouldn't

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This one-year-old Peregrine Falcon was handraised and frequently visits Creamer's Field as part of her falconry training. Photo by Jess Ryan

Recycling Reborn

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need the plastic bags.)

Got dog yard wastes? Dogs darn near outnumber residents in the Borough, and each spring those dog yards start thawing. The UAF Cooperative Extension has an online article for composting it. Check out www.uaf.edu/coop-ext/compost/dogs.html.

Planning a run to Anchorage? Save up your glass and take it to the "One Stop" Recycling Center at the Highland Road Landfill. You can also find a home for old tires at Alaska Tire Recycling in Anchorage.

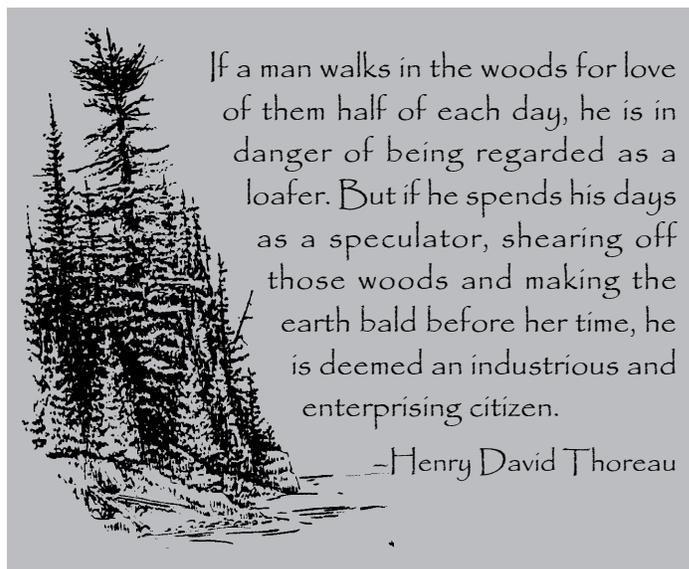
Reducing the amount of paper coming into your mailbox is even better than recycling.

You can remove your name from mail, telephone, or email marketing lists. Stop junk mail by using one of the one-stop services such as www.stopthejunkmailnow.com. If you have more time and less money, check out free services such as:

www.optoutprescreen.com
www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html

www.donotcall.gov.

There are always a few companies whose catalogs we like to receive, although maybe not every month. Call these companies and customize your account so you receive a minimum number of catalogs each year.



If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.

—Henry David Thoreau

Membership Response Form

Has your membership expired? Please check the date in the corner of your mailing label. If your membership has expired, or is due to expire soon, this will be your last issue of *Field Notes* unless we receive your renewal prior to the next newsletter. Your membership dues support our many popular programs that school children, nature lovers, bird enthusiasts, and families enjoy throughout the year. Friends does not share or rent our mailing list.

_____ \$15 Students & Seniors _____ \$75 Supporter _____ \$500 Patron*
 _____ \$20 Individual _____ \$100 Contributor _____ \$1000 Lifetime*
 _____ \$40 Family _____ \$250 Steward _____ Donation \$_____

**Patron and Lifetime members will receive a historic Randall Compton print of Creamer's Dairy signed by the Creamer family.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

- This is a gift membership for the above name from _____
 I have a new mailing address, phone, or email.
 I would like to receive my newsletter electronically.

I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me with information on how I can:

_____ Become a Volunteer Naturalist _____ Volunteer in the Visitor's Center
 _____ Help with Events & Programs _____ Help in the Vegetable Garden

Friends of Creamer's Field
 PO Box 81065
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 907-452-5162 (office)
 907-459-7309 (Visitor's Center)
 email: creamers@ptialaska.net
 website: www.creamersfield.org

Events at Creamer's Field

Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk! (Friends Fundraiser)	June 3, 10 am-2 pm	Starting at the Farmhouse \$15 for individuals \$25 for families (\$5 discount for members of Friends)
Boreal Forest Trail Completion	June 9-11 June 16-18 June 23-25	Individuals and crews needed! All skill levels needed! Call 452-5162 for information.
Nature Walks	June 1-August 31	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00 pm Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 pm Wednesday 9:00 am
Saturday Mornings with an Artist	June 10-August 12	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tanana Valley State Fair	August 4-12	
Sandhill Crane Festival	August 25-27	Schedule available soon!
Farmhouse Nature Center	June 1-August 31	10 am - 5 pm daily
Trails are always open!		

See our website at www.creamersfield.org for more information.



Is it time to renew
your membership?



Friends of Creamer's Field
P.O. Box 81065
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

