



Sierra Borealis *alaska report*

SIERRA CLUB ALASKA CHAPTER
SEPTEMBER 2020



Meet new Alaska Chapter Director--Andrea Feniger

In August, I became the director of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I could not be more excited to join you all in advocating for the beautiful, wild lands of Alaska. While I am the first director in a long time for this chapter and now the only staff member, I am fortunate enough to join a devoted group of Executive Committee members and volunteers around the state in this work. First and foremost, thank you for all you have been doing for Alaskan lands.

I am originally from the opposite corner of the country, South Florida, but have always dreamed of mountains and wide-open spaces. I visited last summer for a backpacking trip in Wrangell St. Elias National Park. I was looking for adventure, but what I was given from the people and lands of Alaska was serenity and meaning... and some adventure. It strengthened my resolve to protect these wild spaces for future generations.

In my role as Chapter director, I will identify legislative priorities that protect our environment and help you get involved in making them a reality. I know times are tough and uncertain, but luckily the outdoors never close. I look forward to utilizing our beautiful public lands together, planning safe, virtual

events with environmental voices around Alaska and ensuring that our elected officials do not forget that environmental preservation is a top priority for Alaskans.

Few states have as much to lose to climate change and environmental

degradation as Alaska. We are home to more than half of America's national park land and just about every kind of terrain. We are home to incredible wild animals and untouched spaces unlike any other state in the country. We have a lot to lose because of all we have to enjoy. The beautiful lands and people of this state deserve better than being sacrificed to the highest bidder. More people around the country are learning about and fighting against the attacks on Alaskan lands--from Pebble Mine to The Arctic Refuge. We must keep these issues in the forefront of their minds and work hard to channel that energy for good.

We must of course always center our work around people. The people of Alaska need these lands because of their resources, beauty and history. Indigenous people and people of color are most affected by climate change, despite often being the biggest defenders of our planet. I am so thankful to the Native people of Alaska for fighting for these lands so hard for so long. We are all indebted to you.

I have already had the pleasure of speaking with many incredible conservationist voices around the state and country, but needless to say I still have a lot to learn. I welcome any opportunity to hear more about the lands and people of this great state, and to hear what our chapter can do better. Once again, I cannot thank you enough for protecting this special, wild corner of our country. *Let's get to work.* ❖

-- Andrea Feniger



photo: Andrea Feniger

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Conservation-minded candidates for Alaska State Legislature in November 2020

What can we do to support conservation legislation and renewable energy projects? What can we do to support efforts to pass climate change legislation? We can learn which candidates support and value conservation as well as renewable energy. We can vote for candidates who understand the science, the cause and the threat of global warming in Alaska, we can work in their campaigns and support them on Nov. 3, 2020.

Currently the Alaska State Senate has 13 Republicans and 7 Democrats. In the Alaska State House there are 40 Representatives. The fragile majority caucus consists of 15 Democrats, 2 Independents and 6 Republicans. The House majority caucus votes together on legislation and pushed back on Governor Dunleavy's drastic budget cuts to the University of Alaska campuses, the ferry system, k-12 education, and Dunleavy's proposal for full permanent dividend checks (PFDs).

Several of the incumbent Republicans who pushed back on Governor Dunleavy's drastic budget cuts were voted out in the August 18, 2020 primary. They were replaced by Republicans who support Governor Dunleavy's budget cuts to basic services. These won their campaigns by promising to support full PFDs.

Conservation-minded candidates who are in tight races for the Alaska State House and Senate in November are listed below and on the next page. Incumbents' names are underlined.

Both Representative Andy Josephson (D-Anchorage) and Senator Tom Begich (D-Anchorage), are running unopposed in the November 3 election. Other legislators who also support climate change legislation include Senator Bill Wielechowski (D-Anchorage) and Representative Adam Wool (D-Fairbanks). The latter two legislators have opponents in this election. Their races are not expected to be tight, but it is important to vote.

(Please see "Endorsements for the Fall 2020 Elections - The Alaska Center" <https://akcenter.org/elections/> for more information on Alaska State conservation-minded candidates.)

You can also find information about all Alaska candidates from local to national as well as ballot initiatives on your local ballot on Ballotpedia https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page (just enter your address). Register online or update your registration at the Alaska Division of Elections.

ALASKA STATE SENATE CANDIDATES		
DISTRICT	PRO-CONSERVATION CANDIDATES (Concerned about conservation, renewable energy and climate change)	THEIR OPPONENT
District B – North Pole, parts of west Fairbanks	Marna Sanford (Independent - Fairbanks) Work Experience: Director of Government Relations for Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Assembly Board Member	Robb Myers (Republican - Fairbanks) Robb Myers defeated John Coghill by 18 votes in August 18 primary.
District L — southwest Anchorage, Klatt Rd	Roselynn Cacy (D- Anchorage) Work Experience: Director of Literacy Council of Alaska, UAA and Director of the Adult Learning Center, etc.	<u>Senator Natasha Von Imhof</u> (R-Anchorage)
District N – NE Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside	Carl Johnson (D-Anchorage) Education: Attorney, Photography Work Experience: 9 years as an Attorney in Anchorage working in environmental law, Indian law, etc. Award-winning Nature photographer Owner of Arctic Photo Treks	1) Roger Holland (R-- Anchorage) is a conservative Republican. Holland believes in supporting Governor Dunleavy's drastic budget. Holland defeated Senator Cathy Giessel in the GOP primary on August 18, 2020. 2) Carolyn Clift (Independent-Anchorage) Clift is a member of the Alaska Libertarian Party. She ran as a Libertarian for Governor of Alaska in 2014 and as a Libertarian for Lt. Governor in 2018.
District M -- O'Malley, Abbot Loop, Independence Park, East Dowling Areas	Andy Holleman (Independent—Anchorage) Work experience: Science teacher, Business Ed teacher, President of Anchorage Education Association	<u>Senator Joseph Revak</u> (R- Anchorage). Appointed by Gov. Dunleavy in Sept. 2019

John Lewis regarded our right to vote as precious, almost sacred. "It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect Union."

(2012 speech in Charlotte, North Carolina).

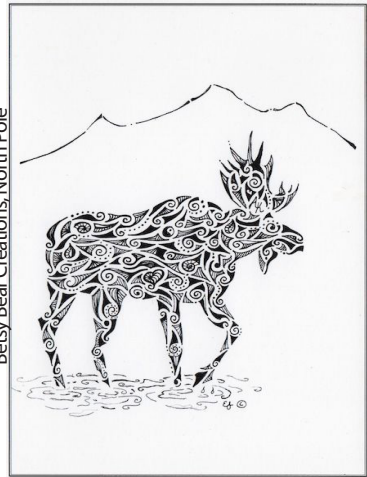


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Alaska Chapter Election Coming up soon

The 2020 Sierra Club Alaska Chapter election will soon be held for three 2021 volunteer positions on the Chapter Executive Committee. Simply voting in the election lets you, a Sierra Club member in Alaska, help decide policy indirectly, but why not go a step further and run for office yourself? Or nominate someone else?

Volunteer Executive Committee members elected by the Club's members in Alaska set policy and conservation priorities for the Sierra Club in Alaska and decide on **how** this Chapter allocates our resources (e.g., hiring staff, joining or filing lawsuits for environmental protection.) ExCom members also plan trainings, educational sessions, outings, social gatherings, comment to government agencies, and write for this newsletter.



The Sierra Club is the nation's largest, most effective grassroots conservation organization, and it is the Chapter Executive Committee members who plan how to improve our state's environment.

Executive Committee terms are two years, with terms staggered so that half the committee is elected each year.

Volunteering for the Sierra Club is a rewarding and exciting experience, and we hope you consider stepping up to serve. If you are a Sierra Club member and would like to run for ExCom, or would like to nominate another member who is willing to run, please contact one of these members of the Chapter Nominating Committee for the 2020 election:

- ▶ Heather Jesse: heather.g.jesse@gmail.com
- ▶ Alyssa Schaefer: alyssaschaef@gmail.com
- ▶ Traci Bunkers: tnbunkers@gmail.com
- ▶ Christin Swearingen: mushroomchristin@gmail.com.

The deadline to submit names to the Nominating Committee is Tuesday, October 20, 2020. The Nominating Committee will report the names to the ExCom at the regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 27. Members who wish to run but are not nominated may run if they submit to the nominating committee a petition to run signed by fifteen (15) members of the Alaska Chapter. The deadline to receive petitions is Nov. 10. This is also the deadline to submit ballot issue petitions.

The Chapter Executive Committee will appoint an Election Committee at its regular meeting on Tuesday, November 24; no candidates may serve on the Election Committee. Ballots will be printed and mailed on Tuesday, December 8. Marked ballots must be received at the Sierra Club office (PO Box 230323) in Anchorage by Tuesday, January 5, 2021, and will be counted by the Election Committee starting at 5 pm.

(Christin Swearingen helped in preparing this notice and schedule, which are in compliance with Sierra Club bylaws.) ❖

ALASKA STATE HOUSE CANDIDATES		
DISTRICT	PRO-CONSERVATION CANDIDATES (Concerned about conservation, renewable energy and climate change)	THEIR OPPONENT
District 6 -- Nenana, Healy, Tok & several Yukon River villages	Julia Hnilicka (D - Nenana) Education: Masters in Rural Development UAF. Work Experience: managed a small barge company (10 years)	Michael Cronk (R - Tok)
District 22 – Sand Lake	Steven Trimble (Independent – Anchorage). Work Experience: Owner and CEO of Arctic Solar Venture, a solar engineering and construction firm.	Rep. Sara Rasmussen (R - Anchorage)
District 25 -- E. Dowling Rd. E Tudor Rd., Basher Dr., E.64th Ave to E. 88 Ave.	Calvin Schrage (Independent-Anchorage) Education: BA in accounting UAA 2015 Work Experience: Owner, Anchorage tutoring business. Interests: Clean energy	Representative Mel Gillis (R-Anchorage) Guide (hunting and fishing) Appointed by Governor Dunleavy
District 27 -- Basher, East Anchorage	Liz Snyder (D-Anchorage) Education: Ph.D. Work Experience: Associate Professor of Public Health UAA.	Representative Lance Pruitt (R-Anchorage)

Sources of information about these candidates come from Ballotpedia, campaign websites, Alaska State Legislature -31st (locating and tracking bills) and interviews with Alaska State legislators. ❖

-- by Susan Hansen, Alaska Chapter conservation chair
(With thanks to Susan Todd for table design)

Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee

Highlighting those fighting against racism in Alaska

Introduction: *There is no environmental justice without racial justice. There is no justice at all without racial justice. As our National Director, Mike Brune has said, "The environmental movement does not exist in a vacuum, and it is our responsibility to use our power to help abolish systemic racism, which is destroying lives, communities, and the planet." People of color being disproportionately affected by climate change is just one of the many ways systemic racism continues to plague our world. As the Sierra Club and this country reckon with our histories, The Alaska Chapter wants to be sure that we amplify voices in our community who are fighting against racism. Alumni for Change is a group of former students who are demanding accountability for widespread racism and abuse in Anchorage Christian Schools and Grace Christian Schools. We are glad to use our platform to call attention to this group and their cause. We are outraged by their treatment and inspired by their advocacy, and we stand by them in their call for a safe learning environment for all students. The Sierra Club Alaska works to protect this planet because we want healthy, fulfilling lives for those who occupy it. Groups like Alumni for Change are fighting for that same goal.*

Thanks to Chapter vice chair Hope Meyn for working with Alumni for Change to bring their article to us.

-- Andrea Feniger, Alaska Chapter Director

Alumni for Change calls for end to racial abuses

Recently, graduates from Anchorage Christian Schools and Grace Christian Schools have spoken out about widespread racial and physical abuses perpetrated by teachers and staff within their schools. Empowered by the racial justice movements sparked by the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, students from various exempt private Christian schools in Alaska have shared their stories of racial discrimination and abuse on social media and with local reporters.

In response to insensitive Facebook posts by ACS staff, Anna Simmers, a biracial West Point graduate and 2009 ACS alumna, began compiling testimonies of students, parents, and families about their experiences within the school. Around 60 testimonies that could be verified by witnesses have been publicly posted on her page. Many others were never shared, either because there were no witnesses, or because people feared retaliation from the school.

The experiences extend from the early 1980s to currently enrolled students. They include: faculty members repeatedly calling students racial slurs, a "Slave for a Day" fundraiser where Black students were auctioned off, staff normalizing racial abuses by peers, a student dressing in blackface for Spirit Week, and multiple instances of staff physically assaulting Black student athletes during sports events. These allegations implicate the current leadership at these institutions.



Betsy Bear Creations, North Pole AK

After the initial outpouring, more people began contacting Simmers. To date, there are around 170 reports of

racial abuses from ACS and Grace Christian School. An Instagram page sprang up for people to submit their testimonies (Instagram: @a.christian.school). Students and parents who reported abuses to the school administration consistently met with either silence and inaction or retaliation on the part of the administrations. In other cases, staff responded to complaints by writing negative letters to prospective colleges.

Many students report a school culture of normalizing racial slurs. One student reports, "On the cross-country team, we had an exercise called the 'cherry picker', unless you were black, then it would be called the 'cotton picker.'"

A 2005 ACS graduate reports being called a racial slur by a coach during a sports practice. He also says, "I remember my coach asking an Alaska Native man if he liked muk-tuk. My educators did not stop discrimination, they encouraged it."

A coalition of alumni from GCS and ACS have formed Alumni for Change and are calling for an end to racial abuses within these institutions. A 2008 GCS graduate reports, "A history teacher ... referred to Barack Obama as a monkey. On more than one occasion." Another student reported, "A teacher was talking about Natives and said that they're cursed and that's why their community has so much drinking and child abuse and rape. There were at least two other adults in the room. Nobody acted like that was not okay."

Alumni for Change is calling for changes to ensure future students are treated with respect. The demands include a call for these schools to implement a Zero Tolerance policy for racial harassment, to diversify their staff and leadership, and to conduct mandatory cultural and racial sensitivity training for school faculty and staff. Said Simmers, "Racism is antithetical to the message of Jesus. Racism cuts to the core of people's identity and self-worth. Our hope is that there will not be any future testimonies of racial mistreatment within ACS." ❖

-- from Alumni for Change

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge -- Trump administration closes in

In late August, plaintiffs Sierra Club and several other environmental organizations joined the Gwich'in Steering Committee in a legal challenge to the Trump Administration's oil and gas leasing program on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt is being sued in federal district court as he prepares to auction oil and gas leases on the 1.56 million-acre coastal plain. Attorneys for the plaintiffs are Trustees for Alaska, an Anchorage environmental law firm. Sierra Club Environmental Law Program is attorney for plaintiff Sierra Club.

For more than 30 years Sierra Club has strongly supported the Gwich'in people as they fight to keep the coastal plain safe from oil and gas extraction. The plain has critically important calving areas of the Porcupine caribou herd, the Gwich'in's primary subsistence resource. The herd divides its time between northeast Alaska and northwest Canada.

In 2017 Senate Republicans led by Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski tacked a rider mandating the leasing program onto the major tax reduction bill. That was the first step in a long process aiming to open the biological heart of the Arctic refuge to oil leasing, The BLM's August 17 Record of Decision for its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) allows leasing throughout the sensitive Coastal Plain.

Just one week after the BLM issued its final document on August 17, the coalition of environmental organizations filed their lawsuit. Plaintiffs argue that Interior and BLM failed to comply with NEPA, the National Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act. "Plaintiffs bring this action to invalidate BLM's unlawful final EIS and Record of Decision, which violate [the subsistence provision] of ANILCA, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion, and any related or subsequent decisions based on those docu-

ments" (Emphasis added). For the text of the complaint see trustees.org/news-blog, press release, complaint.

Thus if plaintiffs prevail in court, BLM's leasing plan, based on the documents cited above, would be canceled. Meanwhile, Sec. Bernhardt has said he could hold a lease auction, originally scheduled for 2021, this fall or winter.

If Joe Biden is elected this November, an auction before he takes office is a sure bet, because one would not happen under a Biden Administration. Biden wants the coastal plain added to the existing refuge wilderness, a congressional effort that would include revocation of Sen. Murkowski's rider.

A week after filing the Refuge lawsuit, Trustees for Alaska was back filing a second suit for the coalition groups--against similar violations in the Western Arctic--illegally expanding fossil fuel exploitation on the wild lands in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve. ❖

(Jack Hession contributed to this update.)



Pebble Project hesitates--but gathers forces to push forward Your opposition pressure on EPA needed

On August 24, one month after the US Army Corps of Engineers released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pebble Mine, in July, grassroots expressions of outrage and pressure from influencers on all sides of the party lines had pushed the Corps of Engineers to take a further look at the real damage this mine will cause.

The Army Corps issued an August 24 statement that outlined new requirements for fixing the damage done to Bristol Bay by the proposed Pebble Mine. In that letter, the Corps clearly stated that Pebble "would cause unavoidable adverse impacts." They have given Pebble Limited Partnership 90 days to respond with an update to their plan.

This is a HUGE step in the right direction. The Corps seems to be listening to Alaskans. Instead of blindly pushing this project forward, they begin to admit that Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place.

Since 2005, the Sierra Club has followed and publicized every step in the long, drawn out complicated process by the Pebble Project to acquire necessary permits and authorizations for its massive gold and copper mine in a sensitive area between two national parks (Katmai and Lake Clark) and in the heart of the vital Bristol Bay area salmon watersheds. (See [alaska report](#) from 2005; [sierra borealis](#), March 2019, March 2018, June 2017 and earlier.)

Now, while the Army Corps' altered outlook is a victory, it is temporary only; this does NOT stop Pebble - it slows the process down; the Pebble Partnership can meet those further requirements. Alaskans need to tell the Environmental Protection Agency to stop the project altogether.

The Pebble proponents will do everything in their power to push this mine forward, but Alaskans know the true value of Bristol Bay and will not sit idly by. We must continue to speak up.

-- continued page 6, bottom

Seeking mushrooms on Chugach forest hike

The Chugach National Forest in south central Alaska, at 6,908,540-acres, is second only to the Tongass in size. It spans the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and Copper River Delta. For residents of Girdwood like Megan Keller, the Chugach National Forest, with 500 miles of hiking trails, is full of treasures-- especially the diverse and and delicious funga!

Our August walk through Girdwood up the Crow Creek Mine Road yielded a variety of beautiful and interesting fungi.

Puffballs: *Lycoperdon sp.* Round or shaped like upside-down pears, puffballs do not have a cap and stalk. They are edible when solid white inside. As they age they become greenish or brown, and at maturity make poofs of spores when stepped on.

Admirable Bolete: *Aureoboletus mirabilis.* Velvety brown cap, streaked reddish stalk, and bright yellow pores! This large bolete is beautiful, and delicious too!

Cat's Tongue: *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum.* This is a bizarre

mushroom that looks like a translucent cat's tongue, with rows of tiny, soft spines on the underside of a smooth cap. It can be eaten raw, and tastes like a flavorless gumdrop.

Winter Chanterelle: *Craterellus tubaeformis.* Three key characteristics are a slender yellow stalk, grey cap with a deep dimple in the center, and whitish gills that run down the stalk. It is similarly shaped as the poisonous false chanterelle, which is orange.

Most of the Chugach National Forest is protected under the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which limits logging, new mine leases, and road construction. Trump's Forest Service seeks to roll back the Roadless Rule. Legal battles to keep the Roadless Rule have been centered on the Tongass National Forest. In June Sierra Club joined other environmental groups in winning a Tongass case, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council v. USFS. As a result, the Forest Service will need to publish a new EIS to continue pursuing that area's timber cutting.

Remember to consult a field guide or experienced mycologist before eating any new mushroom, and always cook wild mushrooms (except the cat's tongue). ❖

-- Christin Swearingen



Megan Keller with "Admirable Bolete"

Pebble Project

-- from page 5

⇒ WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please contact the Environmental Protection Agency by email or regular mail: <epa-seattle@epa.gov> or

U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 155,
Seattle, WA 98101

Tell the EPA (in your own words) more or less all or parts of the following:

"I am writing to express my concerns, as an Alaskan, with the Pebble Mine.

Bristol Bay has the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery. That fishery supplies nearly half of the world's sockeye salmon and supports more than 14,000 fishing jobs, in total generating more than \$1.5 billion of economic activity every year.

Pebble poses ominous risks to this economic wealth, Indigenous communities, and world-famed salmon habitat, and yet you have so far failed to stop this risk to world class national parks and outstanding world-famed fishing.

EPA's scientists have given strong evidence of environmental catastrophe through years of peer-reviewed research, from the Bristol Bay watershed assessment to reviewing the Army Corp DEIS. The EPA wrote that the development of Pebble Mine would likely lead to the "permanent loss of 2,292 acres of wetlands" and "hundreds of miles of streams." The ugly menace of potential, virtually inevitable leaks and failure of the huge dams meant to contain billions of tons of toxic mining waste in a seismically active region is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Even minor leakage would be too dangerous for local people and the sensitive environment. Yet, the EPA has failed to act in a meaningful way to stop the Pebble permitting process. Please veto Pebble now." ❖

(Based in part on a report from The Alaska Center from Aug 24, 2020.)



www.savebristolbay.org

Federal Subsistence Board reviews snowmachine use in hunting wolves and wolverines

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) is currently considering a regulation change that would allow subsistence hunters “to use a snowmachine to position wolves and wolverines for harvest** on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands [in the Bristol Bay region] provided the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.”

The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (RAC), one of ten such councils that advise the Board, submitted the proposed rule change. It would use wording in the State’s snowmachine positioning regulation for caribou.

- “Assist in the taking of a [wolf or wolverine]” means a snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of [a wolf or wolverine] at speeds under 15 miles per hour, in a manner that does not involve repeated approaches or that causes [these species] to run. A snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing [wolf or wolverine].”

Background

The Office of Subsistence Management (OSM in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) analyzed the proposal for the Board. Key findings:

1. --“Little is known about wolf or wolverine populations and harvest levels in these units. Wolverines, in particular, occur at low densities and are vulnerable to hunters on snowmachines. Using snowmachines to position and shoot wolverines may present conservation concerns if it results in increased harvest. However, the [inter-agency staff committee of the OSM] also noted that harvest of wolves and/or wolverines by rural residents while snow machining is typically opportunistic, which may limit negative impacts to either species.”
2. --“The most recent available reports suggest that, in the Bristol Bay region, the majority of wolves are harvested by firearm, while the majority of wolverines are harvested by trapping. The proposed regulation may not result in an increase in harvest of wolves and wolverines by trap or snare. However, such regulatory changes could increase the take of wolves and wolverines by firearm, and may result in more opportunistic harvest. Currently the wolf population is believed to be stable. Less is known about the resident wolverine population and this change in regulation could result in increased biological vulnerability.”

Enforcement is another problem, according to the OSM: “If the proposal is adopted, it will be very difficult to

enforce, or to determine if hunters have violated the regulation. Hunters will need to be able to differentiate between state-, BLM-, and USFWS-administered land.” State regulations allow positioning for wolves, but not for wolverines.

BLM does not have regulations on snowmachine positioning. National Park Service and FWS regulations prohibit using snowmachines to position animals in park and wildlife refuge lands.

The OSM suggested that the Board, in addition to evaluating the RAC’s proposal, “...consider a more universal approach to identifying the appropriate use of snow machines for harvest of animals by federally qualified subsistence users. Creation of regulations that are enforceable, are compatible with existing Federal and State regulations, and allow efficient harvest, may be worth further discussion and evaluation.”

At its April 2020 meeting the Board agreed with the OSM. It postponed action on the proposal and established an *ad hoc* “Working Group” of RAC members, federal and state land managers, and representatives of area residents. The Group is evaluating the proposal and considering the OSM’s “universal approach,” i.e., a rule that would apply to national park, wildlife refuge, and BLM lands in the region and perhaps state-wide. In October the Working Group will meet with the RAC to discuss the Group’s recommendations. Early next year the Board will make a final decision on the proposal. ❖

-- Jack Hession

**Editor's Note:

An obvious misuse of the term "harvest". There are other perfectly usable words for the amount of wild animals killed by hunters and trappers, such as bag/bagged, consumed/consumption, kill/killed, and take/taken.



Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau

Sierra Borealis / *alaska report*

is the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Pat Fort retires as Chapter treasurer

Longtime Chapter treasurer enjoys outdoor Alaska

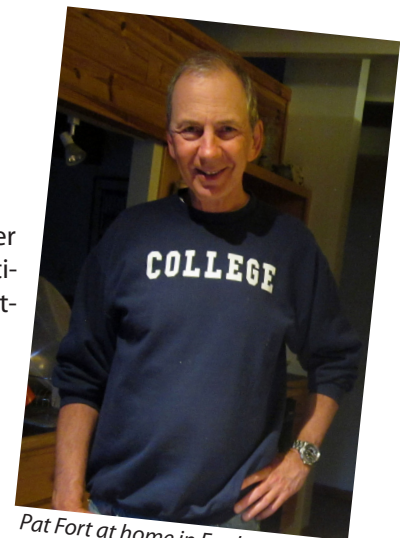


Former Alaska Chapter chair Pam Brodie worked with Pat Fort while she was chair. Pam says, "Pat was treasurer before I was chair, the entire time I was chair, and kept on afterwards - an amazing longevity. That kind of job takes great self-discipline because he had to do a lot of work on his computer, alone at home--work that is of great value to the Club but never praised enough. Pat is a quiet, unsung hero. He's also very welcoming and a great host."

Yasuhiro Ozuru says: "Thank you very much to Dr. Patrick Fort for his long service as volunteer chapter treasurer. We are so grateful he shared his highly advanced and professional knowledge of accounting to keep our chapter's finance in good order. Four years ago when I took up a chapter leadership role, with other new ex com members, Pat helped us maintain the continuity of the chapter with important advice and accounting support. He really helped me as the new chair to keep our chapter operational at that transition time."

Vicky Hoover reminisces, "I used to enjoy seeing Pat's familiar face occasionally in San Francisco, where

he attended "Chapter Treasurer trainings" at Club headquarters. As a veteran in the role, he'd help new volunteers. And I had a splendid kayak trip in 2004 with Pat, Irene Alexakos and Jack Hession, from Juneau to Berner's Bay--an outstanding three-day adventure." ❖



Pat Fort at home in Eagle River