Photo courtesy of Clark Fair

Working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

Oncorhynchus kisutch (pronounced uncle rhine-cus key-such)

By Patti Berkhahn, Habitat Biologist, AK Dept. of Fish & Game

What is about 2 inches long, has parr marks (dark stripes) on its side, has a fully speckled adipose fin, and has white followed by black on the leading edges of the anal and dorsal fin? It is the juvenile coho (silver) salmon, commonly called a coho fry or fingerling. To the untrained eye, they look very similar to the juvenile Chinook (king) salmon. When identifying juvenile salmon it takes a keen eye to focus on the differences in the adipose and the anal fin to delineate the species.

Governor and Mrs. Parnell talk to KWF about Pick.Click.Give.

Let's backup and check out the life cycle of coho salmon. Most adult coho salmon begin to migrate to their natal streams after spending only one year in the ocean. They arrive instream in early August with the runs lasting well into winter. (Do you ever notice the eagles hanging out in the trees overlooking the upper Kenai River in November and December - it's likely they are looking for a coho dinner.) Adult coho have been detected in the Kenai River drainage 11 out of 12 months, with the river life of some spawners lasting up to six months (Rob Massengill, ADF&G). Once the coho salmon spawn, the adults guard the redds (nest) until they die. The eggs mature at a speed directly related to water temperature. The colder the water, the longer it takes for the eggs to develop. With our cold water temperatures, the eggs generally hatch to the alevin stage in December. The alevin button up (egg sacs diminish) normally in April or early May. The fry are now out of the gravel and need to eat, so they seek safety of undercut riverbanks or lakes until they smolt and head to the ocean.


Juvenile coho salmon about 50 mm (2 inches) – ADF&G photo

Continue - Coho, Page 4

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- Our Top Ten in 2012
- What's CESCL?
- Winter Waters - what happens to all the leaves
- Pick.Click.Give. to KWF
- LEED Certification
- Salmon Minute
- Membership Update
- Calendar of Events
- A letter from KWF Executive Director

What happens to all the leaves?

By Dr. David Wartinbee, Kenai Peninsula College - Professor of Biology, KWF Board of Directors

There are estimates that large trees can produce more than 200,000 leaves each year. As Fall approaches, valuable nutrients are extracted from the leaf and drawn into the trunk and roots. During that removal of nutrients, changes in biochemistry within the leaf, and changes in temperatures, we get the beautiful "fall colors". Then the millions of leaves are dropped and they cover the ground some distance from the parent trees.

The leaves pile-up along the ground and many get blown into our rivers and streams. The smaller

Continue - Leaves, Page 7

Postage

To:

This newsletter was prepared by Kenai Watershed Forum under award NA08NMF4380597 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the health of the watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. KWF is recognized as the regional watershed organization of the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, successfully identifying and addressing the needs of the region by providing high quality EDUCATION, RESTORATION, and RESEARCH programs.

Our mission is "working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula". KWF is a dynamic and maturing organization that is poised to serve the Kenai Peninsula and the State of Alaska with increasing effectiveness in the near and distant future.

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A letter from Executive Director

Dear KWF Members, Supporters, and Friends,

The end of the year is a time to reflect on accomplishments and hopes for the upcoming year. There are many ways for Kenai Watershed Forum to quantitatively measure success in recent times: miles or acres of salmon habitat opened up through our restoration efforts; number of kids attending summer camp or participating in the Adopt-A-Stream program; participation in the annual Kenai River Festival; number of ideas set into motion through the Caring for the Kenai; or any of the other programs and events our organization takes on.

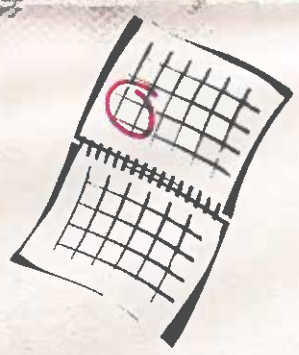
While measures such as these are important to help the organization keep focus, some of the most rewarding reflections for me personally are those that can't easily be quantified. Many rewards come in the form of simple compliments from Kenai Peninsula community residents that I barely know. When someone I've met once our twice comes up and tells me how their daughter or son had such a good time in summer camp or how much they appreciate the stream restoration or opportunity to volunteer through the Stream Watch effort in their neighborhood or community, or how they recognize that our interest truly is in protecting our waterways without ulterior motives, even though it affects their short-term interest, I know we are on the right track. And I do know we are on the right track. The respect we've earned over the years does not go unnoticed or unappreciated by any of our board of directors and staff. We will continue to earn and maintain this trust in the years to come.

Our board will be meeting shortly after the new-year begins, just as it does every year, to discuss the future direction of the organization. Our major programs of Education, Research and Restoration will get a thorough review. We are excited to continue each of these efforts and encourage feedback from our members, supporters and members of the community as it is so important to our continued success.

Wishing everyone the very best in the New Year!

~ Robert Ruffner, KWF Executive Director

KWF Calendar of Events



February 19 & 20, 2013 • CESCL Class

8am - 5p daily at Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building
Provided: All course materials, certification of completion, light breakfast, snacks and lunch
Cost: $350 (cash, check and/or credit card)
Contact Rhonda at rhonda@kenaiwatershed.org
Learn more about CESCL in Stormwater Pollution Prevention article on Page 5.

April TBD • KWF Hosts the Wild & Scenic Rivers Film Festival

Considered one of the nation's premiere outdoor and adventure film festival's, this year's films combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform and inspire. KWF will host the first Wild & Scenic Rivers Film Festival on the Kenai Peninsula. We will be choosing a date and venue soon... stay tuned!

April 17 & 18, 2013 • Watershed Symposium

The Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership will be hosting a Watershed Symposium on April 17 and 18 at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer, Alaska.
Guest speakers, presentations and discussions on marine and freshwater habitats across the Kenai Peninsula Borough will be on the agenda. You don't want to miss this!

May 16-19, 2013 • Kenai Birding Festival

Highlighting the natural wonders that draw thousands of birds and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula, the annual Kenai Birding Festival is designed for birders of all levels and interests. With guided hikes, river trips, presentations, children's activities, and self guided tours there is an opportunity for every interest and level! For more information, visit www.kenaiwatershed.org or find the festival on Facebook!

June TBA, 2013 • Stream Watch Ambassador Orientation

Make a difference this summer: Become a Stream Watch Ambassador! Ambassadors provide a stewardship presence on the river by sharing information on ethical angling, bear safety and river health. Meet river enthusiasts from across the state, enjoy a volunteer campsite and make a difference by protecting local rivers. For more information contact StreamWatch@kenaiwatershed.org or (907) 398-4304.

June 7, 8, 9, 2013 • Kenai River Festival

Let's Celebrate! Free, Family Fun for Everyone! The 23nd annual Kenai River Festival, June 7-9, grew out of the Kenai Watershed Forum's desire to provide a free, fun setting for the community to celebrate the river that gives so much. Learn how to give back to the river keeping it healthy and productive for generations to come. Legendary festival highlights include 20 foot long magical Łuq'a the salmon, world famous pioneer salmon dinners, Run for the River 5K/10 mile race, free riverside entertainment and more. To learn more, visit www.kenaiwatershed.org.

Top 10 in 2012

It is hard to believe that another year of working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula is on the books. Let us not forget the many Kenai Watershed Forum successes that this year has brought to the Kenai Peninsula:

10. Stream Watch Success—The volunteer river protection program experienced continued growth and success including additional funders and national recognition through the Great American Outdoors Initiative.

9. Spectacular Summer Camp—Dan Pascucci and Hannah Romberg set the bar high after their first summer of KWF Summer Camp in 2011. This year the bar was surpassed for a summer full of fur, fins, feathers, flowers and fun.

8. Organizational Excellence –With the retention of a highly professional and competent staff, an effectively organized board of directors and great summer interns, the Kenai Watershed Forum is poised to have continued success in 2013.

7. LEED Headquarters—The historic Soberg House in Soldotna Creek Park was transformed into an energy efficient, environmentally sensitive headquarters for KWF and became move in ready in late 2011. The first year in the building has been a treat.

6. Kenai River Festival Improvements—KWF is proud to coordinate the River Festival each year to bring families and friends together to celebrate the river and its protection. In addition to new activities, the festival had the most sponsorship support in history.

5. Kenai Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination—KWF is coordinating the development of the Kenai Fish Habitat Partnership to bring together agencies and entities to raise awareness of fish initiatives, assign priorities, and generate congressional support to improve aquatic habitats.

4. Strategic Funding –In 2012 a new strategic funding plan was unveiled which has resulted in diversified funding sources through planned giving opportunities, continued support from long standing funders and the facilitation of new donor relations making KWF a financially responsible and resilient organization.

3. Salmon Stream Documentation—Over the course of the 2012 field season, KWF was able to document and submit over 7 miles of new salmon bearing streams to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Anadromous Waters Catalogue for listing and protection. Previously the presence of salmon was unknown in these streams.

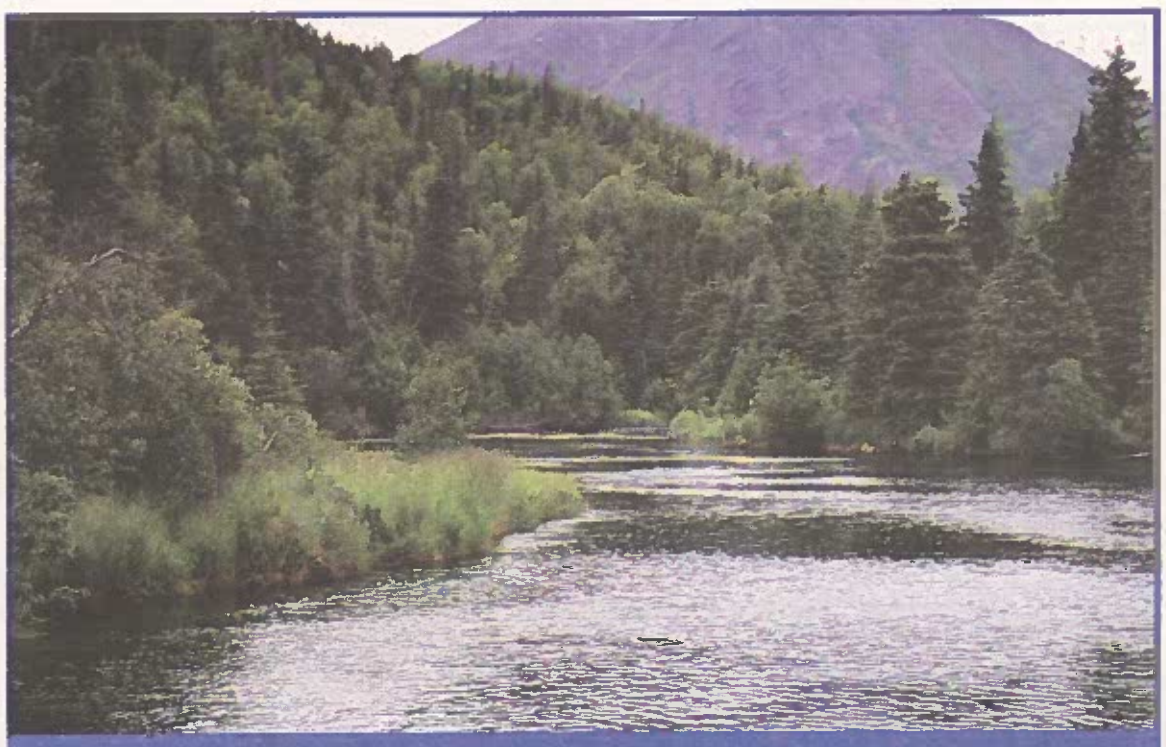
2. Fish Passage Successes—Culvert replacement is a cost effective means of fish habitat restoration in Alaska. A culvert can create a bottleneck or fish passage barrier and once remedied can reconnect otherwise unreachable pristine habitat. Since inception, KWF has completed over 60 culvert replacements. In 2012, 6 more culverts were replaced to open 350 acres of habitat on 4 different lakes.

1. KWF Membership Record—KWF felt the love in 2012 with the highest number of KWF supporters ever! KWF appreciates the on-going community support and looks forward to an equally successful 2013 with the support of people like you!

Thank you for your support of the Kenai Watershed Forum. Your support, whether through a financial contribution, volunteer effort or business donation, keeps KWF completing peninsula wide projects and facilitating educational events for the community. We hope to continue working together for healthy watersheds with you in 2013.

Coho, continued from Page 1

Successful freshwater coho production is often linked to the length of healthy freshwater shoreline habitat available. The shorelines act as a buffer to the waterbody. These little fish cannot fight the fast currents of the rivers; therefore, they seek the protections of shorelines with slower currents. A healthy riparian zone around a lake, river, or stream consists of good shade and cool water, abundant woody and organic debris, abundant vegetation, and roots to protect and stabilize the bank. The eight essential elements to a healthy waterbody include cover (shoreline vegetation), clean and clear water, proper temperature, adequate dissolved oxygen, food, proper substrate, flow, and access for the fish. Without a healthy riparian zone and waterbody, these juvenile salmon will not survive to smolt size. This is especially important for coho salmon as they tend to spend two years rearing in fresh waters before heading to the ocean. Consequently, lake or stream bank habitat alterations/damages can affect the sustainability of the coho runs. If vegetation is cleared from the banks, the banks can collapse eliminating shelter for the fry, causing erosion, turbidity, higher temperature, and reducing their food supply - macroinvertebrates (which also live near shore).



Lower Russian Lake outlet – excellent bank habitat – ADF&G photo

A crushed culvert impeding fish passage
River Center Photo

Coho salmon are the most widely distributed salmonid on the Kenai Peninsula – if it's wet and a connected system, you will likely find juvenile coho. They are found rearing in places where other juvenile salmon aren't found. For example, they can be found during the summer months in the smallest tributaries high in the watersheds. These streams may only be a foot wide and several inches deep; they may even dry up in the winter. Yet they thrive in these streams which are rich in nutrients and loaded with macroinvertebrates.

Coho salmon cover a large area of their natal watershed during their two years in freshwater. An estimated 19% - 45% (average 28%) of the Kenai River drainage-wide juvenile coho rear in the Moose River for part of their freshwater life. Coho tagged as juveniles in the Moose River have been recovered as spawning adults throughout the drainage including systems such as the Russian, Funny, and Snow Rivers (ADF&G Sportfish study 1992 – 2007).

Most folks think sockeye salmon are the only salmon species that rear in lakes; however, lakes also attract coho. This author spent years working at the Russian River weir at the outlet of Lower Russian Lake. When my kids visited the field camp, we spent hours capturing and identifying juvenile salmon. Approximately 95% of the juvenile fish captured at the lake outlet were coho salmon.

Invasive Northern pike and juvenile coho salmon have overlapping habitat requirements which make coho very susceptible to pike predation. They both like slow moving waters surrounded by grassy banks. Think about the Moose River and all the coho that rear in that system; a pike invasion to that system would be catastrophic to the Kenai River coho runs.

Besides bank habitat degradation and pike predation, another threat to juvenile coho salmon, are the improperly placed culverts impeding fish passage. Since coho rear high in the watersheds, they face the daunting task of navigating through perched, steep culverts with fast flowing water. Many of these culverts cut off miles of rearing or spawning habitat for salmon. These culverts are located on major highways, side roads, abandoned roads, and even driveways. It is estimated there are approximately 200 of these culverts on the Kenai Peninsula. The Kenai Watershed Forum, as well as other non-profits, ADOT, USFWS, and private citizens are stepping up to replace these failing culverts. However, it will take many years to accomplish the task.

As you see, coho salmon meet many challenges in their short four years of life. If they survive the challenges of gravel scouring during floods,erosion and turbidity issues, predation, habitat degradation, migration blockage, and pollution, they may complete their life cycle. (Only one percent of the eggs laid survive to return as spawners.) So, the next time you observe an adult coho salmon, think about all the obstacles it overcame and the miles it traveled to spawn or to grace your dinner table.

A successful day coho fishing for a Becoming an Outdoors Women group – ADF&G photo

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

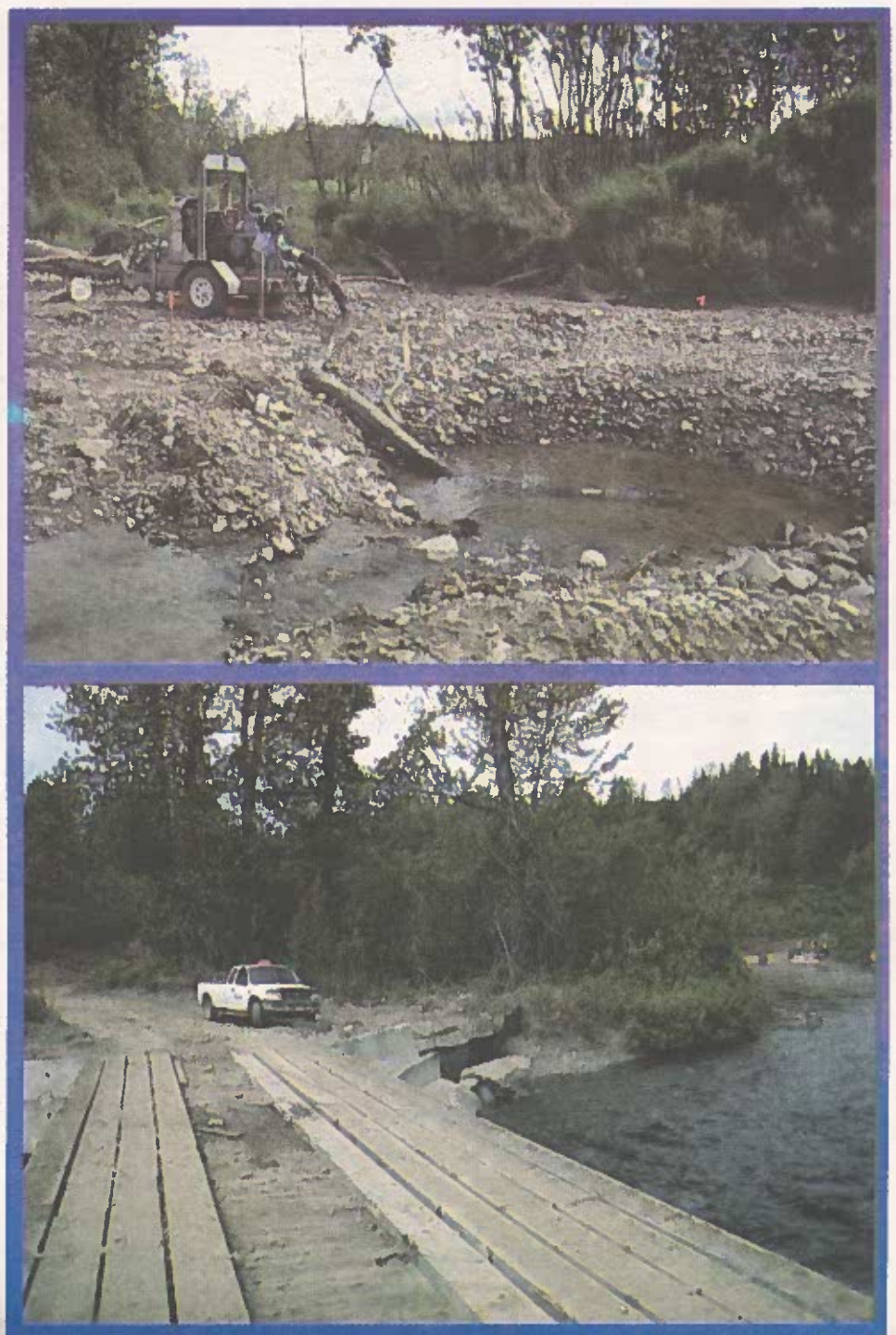
By Branden Bornemann, KWF Environmental Specialist - GIS and Water Quality

While driving down one of the many roads on the Kenai Peninsula this past summer you likely ran into myriad road construction activities. While passing through any number of these construction sites you may or may not have noticed a plywood or metal structure on the side of the road with pieces of laminated paper stapled to it and reading "SWPPP Info" across the top in big bold letters. Chances are you didn't stop to read any of that paperwork. Do not worry, now is your chance to comprehend some of that interesting literature. "SWPPP" stands for Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and most likely all of those construction sites were required by law to create one.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program regulates stormwater discharges from three potential sources: municipal separate storm sewer systems, construction activities, and industrial activities. On October 31, 2009 the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) assumed authority from the EPA to administer the storm water program to fit AK conditions. The State's program is the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AKPDES). As an operator in AK you are required to manage materials, equipment, and runoff from construction activities operating under the AK General Construction Permit if your project meets any of the following criteria: your project area disturbs greater than one acre, your project area is less than one acre but is part of larger common plan of development, or your project discharges water directly into waters of the U.S.

The development and implementation of a SWPPP, while required by State and Federal regulations, also provides many tangible benefits to your project. Improperly designed or neglected SWPPPs can lead to environmental degradation and consequently a loss of invaluable project time, resources, and money. However, designed properly, a SWPPP can save your organization time and money and most importantly fulfills your commitment as an environmental and cultural steward of the resources you're working with. An essential part of any properly designed and executed SWPPP are frequent site inspections conducted by a Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL).

As an operator you have a couple of options regarding your SWPPP and its resulting inspections, (1) you can hire a CESCL to write your SWPPP and conduct your subsequent inspections or (2) you can become a CESCL yourself and likely save time and money, all the while gaining a deeper and more intimate understanding of your project and its potential environmental and cultural impacts. AK-CESCL training is a two-day course that includes valuable information on erosion and sedimentation processes, the regulatory requirements, SWPPPs, Best Management Practices, inspection, record-keeping, and cold climate challenges. At the close of the course you will be required to pass a written exam and upon doing so your certification will be valid for three years. Becoming a CECSL can provide many quantifiable benefits to your organization and its projects, not to mention your development as a professional.



Top: A properly designed and functioning settling pond.
Bottom: BMP's in place to capture stormwater runoff before it enters the Anchor River. Both pictures taken during KWF's Anchor River restoration during the summer of 2011.

Fortunately, the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) plans on continuing its tradition of hosting a CESCL class for locals on the Kenai Peninsula hoping to further their understanding of the potential impacts their project may have and mitigation strategies to alleviate that impact. Furthermore, this certification provides valuable insight into the regulatory requirements of the AKPDES, ultimately saving your project time, resources, and money.

REGISTRATION OPEN!
CESCL Class: Feb 19 & 20, 2013
8am - 5p daily
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building
Provided: All course materials, certification of completion, light breakfast, snacks and lunch
Cost: $350 - cash, check and/or credit cards accepted
Certification good for 3 years
Email: rhonda@kenaiwatershed.org
Registration forms at: kenaiwatershed.org

A successful re-vegetation/stabilization of disturbed areas. Anchor River 2011.

Her Voice

A short story by Dan Pascucci

Nobody noticed her at first. But they would never forget her. The room was crowded. Biologists, fishing guides, commercial fishermen, and subsistence fishermen flooded the meeting space, spilling out into the hallway. She had to push her way through the river of bodies in order to find a suitable place to observe the events unfolding.

At the front of the room, there were representatives from the many user groups sitting around a table, with microphones situated in front of each seat to record the proceedings. Attire for the event ranged from suit coats and ties to pink-stained Carhartts and baseball caps. There was a faint scent that resembled the Pillars boat launch on a hot summer day after the pinks had been running.

In front of the table of microphones, there stood one microphone. It was this single microphone that had attracted so many of the people here today. One by one, people from the audience took turns standing at the microphone and addressing the group. Some told stories with teary eyes about the good old days, and some yelled into the microphone while shaking fists. Some people talked science, some spoke of the economy. Tradition was a popular topic, as was the future.

The crowd had started to get slightly uncomfortable and were now fidgeting in their seats or rocking back and forth on their feet in the back of the room. As time passed, she listened calmly, taking in what everyone was saying. She wasn't judging, she wasn't accepting, she was just listening.

An old man was talking about wanting to share his memories with his grandkids…and their kids. Next, a woman stood up and shared her family connection to the summer ritual. Then a large man with fiery red hair stood up and started to yell about something having to do with the commercial fishery and guides on the river. "That's how it goes with fishing," she thought, "everyone has a story."

There was a great deal of blame being passed around, and everyone's solution seemed to shortchange someone else. Occasionally, the crowd would get riled up and shout back at the person on the microphone, sometimes in support, sometime opposition. The meeting was getting to a point where it was hard to tell if people were yelling in support or opposition, they were just yelling as far as she could tell.

Then she pushed her way up to the microphone and spoke, her scales shining underneath fluorescent lights. She spoke eloquently and clearly. Her words flowed through the microphone's speakers, and everyone stopped and listened. What she said was true, and everyone knew it. When she finished speaking, the room was silent. Not one person sitting at the front table looked her in the eye. Some of the audience walked out without saying anything, others bowed their heads in either prayer or shame. It was hard to tell.

And that was the day the salmon finally had their voice heard.

Pursuing LEED Certification for KWF's New Headquarters Building

Bill Garthwaite, KWF Environmental Specialist

It's hard to believe that it has already been a year since KWF moved into its new headquarters building at the former "Soberg House." Originally built in the early 1950s, the Soberg House was one of the first permanent structures erected in Soldotna. It was originally used as a road commission headquarters and then as a residence, but eventually, over the decades, it fell into disuse and disrepair. By the time that the City of Soldotna and KWF began discussing the prospect of KWF assuming the building as its headquarters (2007), the building had been neglected and vandalized, and needed significant renovations to bring the building up to code requirements and make it suitable for office use. Thanks to great support from the local community and many funding partners, KWF was able to move forward with work on its new headquarters, and took this opportunity to incorporate one additional objective in the building renovation project: demonstrating the latest in environmentally-friendly design and construction techniques.

Accordingly, KWF decided to include many innovative features at its new headquarters site, and to also pursue LEED certification for the project. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification program is administered by the U.S. Green Building Council and is recognized worldwide as a means for identifying and measuring the impacts of green design and building practices. In a multi-stage review process, projects are evaluated by experts who award points for inclusion of certain features, techniques, and technologies that represent the current best practices for environmentally-friendly buildings. Points are awarded on a 110 point scale, and a minimum of 40 points are required to achieve project certification for commercial buildings. KWF has already completed its design and construction with these environmentally-friendly practices in mind, and now, with the generous assistance of Denise Newbould, KWF is currently progressing through the LEED project review process.

When visiting the new KWF headquarters, one might immediately notice several interesting features before entering the building. Because of the site's close proximity to Soldotna Creek and the Kenai River, controlling pollutants from parking lot runoff is especially important. To address this, the site uses "green parking" technology and a rain garden. With both features, the idea is to allow water to percolate through the ground and be filtered naturally rather than running off directly into the river (carrying pollutants). Furthermore, with a solar panel installation outside and a range of other technologies utilized in the building's energy and heating and ventilation systems inside, it is estimated that KWF's headquarters building will require 40-50 percent less energy than a similar building in this climate that was constructed using traditional techniques and technologies.

All are welcome to come tour KWF's headquarters building and learn more about the techniques and technologies incorporated in the project. Please feel free to stop by for a tour anytime during the week, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Top: Completed project, view from the front of the building
Bottom: Prior to renovation, view from the back of the property which once served as the front facing the river.

Leaves, continued from Page 1

streams receive a larger proportion of leaves than larger rivers since smaller streams may be completely shaded by overhanging limbs & trees. Leaves falling into moving waters get swept into piles above rocks, roots, or in-stream obstructions. Other leaves settle-out into deeper, slow-moving pools.

Through bacteria and fungus, leaves provide critical, usable nutrients for river systems, including the aquatic insects that are a food source for fish.

Initially these leaves contain mostly cellulose and are of little nutritional value for most organisms. (While cellulose is a polymer of glucose, only a few bacteria or fungi can break down cellulose.) However, after soaking in the stream for only a few days, the leaves become covered by aquatic fungi and bacteria that are able to break-down cellulose. As the fungi & bacteria layer grows, the overall nutritive value of the leaves increases significantly. Now the leaves become a desired food source for a variety of in-stream insects. The fungi and bacteria are the source of the nutritive value...and were once described by Stream Ecologist Ken Cummins as the "peanut butter on a tasteless cracker".

The guild of aquatic insects that work on those leaves are called "shredders". Basically, they feed on the leaves and convert the leaf into a skeleton of its former self. The fine particles that were chewed from the leaves provide nutrition for the growing insects. A couple of the common shredders in our area are the large, dark stoneflies called Pteronarcella. We don't often see them unless we dig into a pack of leaves and specifically look for them. Another group of shredders are called craneflies. As fat, worm-like larvae, they borrow through the leaves and chop them into fine particles. (Craneflies are often see as adults during the summer since they look like giant mosquitoes buzzing around. Note that they don't feed as adults.)

The particles that the shredders create from leaves will pass through their gut mostly intact. Insect guts are able to extract only about 5% of the leaf particles that passes through. So, there are lots of small particles released into the water by these shredders. The fine leaf fragments are then a food source for another guild of aquatic insects called collectors. Collectors trap the fine particles drifting with nets, leg hairs, or special antennal fans. They then consume the particles and pass them through their gut for a second round of nutrient extraction. Some of the common insects that use these fine leaf particles are the mayflies, many chironomids, many caddisflies, and the black flies.

After the particles have passed through a number of guts, they are then so small that it only takes bacterial action to completely transform the leaf particles. Eventually all the sugars and nutrients that were in the leaf have been transformed into a water soluble or animal form. The leaves no longer exist.

This spring when the ice melts from our rivers and streams, there will be only a few fall leaves left from September. They will be gone. Where have they gone? During the coldest time of the year, the aquatic insect community, the collectors and the shredders, has been busy feeding on the leaves that arrived a few months earlier. These stream insects that fed on leaf particles all winter will become the food for young salmon fry as they emerge from stream gravels in the spring. Leaves truly provide some of the fuel needed for a healthy river system. Without one piece of the puzzle, the aquatic insects or the leaves, the system ceases to function as a healthy river system.

CAMP DAYS

Alaska summers are short, so the last thing that I want to do is spend my summer stuck inside every day. At the Watershed Camp, they take us outside so that we can learn about the environment. We study different types of animals, plants, and habitats. We go exploring in the woods, hiking on the trails, we go to the park, play games in the field, sing songs, and do crafts. The camp is a lot of fun, and it has even helped me get ahead in school by teaching me the different parts of plants, the anatomy of a fish, how to do water quality testing, how to tell different species of birds apart, and much, much, more! Our camp counselors know a lot about the environment, and they are really good at making learning interesting. And the best part is that we aren't stuck inside at a desk, we go to the Soldotna Creek, or the forest, or the Kenai River. Every day is a field trip! We have an awesome Camp Leader named Dan, who is super funny and knows everything about everything. We spend most of each day laughing and playing, and having a good time. One of my favorite things about the Watershed Camp is that it has small groups of campers, so that it is easy to make friends, and everyone gets to participate and have fun. I go to the Watershed Camp every summer, and now my little sister goes too!

~ Raven Patrick

KWF Support • Help shape our Future

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

It is more important than ever to become engaged and help shape the future of our watersheds. Everyone that lives and plays on the Kenai Peninsula is responsible for its future. Support for Kenai Watershed Forum gives you an opportunity to help shape the future of our watersheds and celebrate KWF's ongoing commitment to healthy natural resources. Please participate and support KWF; become part of the largest community united by a common mission of "working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula."

We encourage you do your part and make a financial contribution to KWF. We continue to provide quality education, restoration, and research to the residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula and need your help to continue serving our communities.

Generous support from 11/1/12 to 12/19/12 listed below.

$5000
Rosemary Kimball

$1000
Ron & Karen Martinelli
Bill & Melinda Nelson
Dr. John Miley
Kenneth H. Hepner

Benefactor $500
Tom & Stephanie Kobylarz

$200-$250
Sara Riley
Lynnda Kahn
Peninsula Internal Medicine, P.C.
Ed and Sara Berg
The Pfeifer Family

River Steward $100
Jean and Clayton Brockel
Mike Navarre
Barbara Jewell
Jane Fair
Joe Ray Skrha
Freddie Billingslea
Jack and Diana Sinclair
Cami and Mark Dalton
Dale and Rhoda Dolifka
Kristin Mitchell and David Thomas
Howard and Dyan Ferren
Bob McCard and Pam Hays
Satorene and Larry Jackson
Earl and Theresa Sires
Susan and Bill Larned
William and Barbara Burke
Carol Freas
Bill and Patti Berkhahn
Marion Nelson

Chinook $50
Nedra and Jim Evenson
Glenda and John Landua
Gary and Colleen Sonnevil
George and Katie McDowell
Les and Susan Palmer
Barbara Valerious and Eric Flam
Chet Vincent
Dan and Claudia Furlong
Wayne and Twyla Mundy
Bud & Sammy Crawford
Gail Moore
Michael & Leann Burke
Olivia Pfeifer
Carol Griswold

Sockeye $25
Tom Knock
Peter Klauder
Andy and Kate Veh
Bill and Jean Tappan
In Memory of Deborah Coghill
Ron Gravenhorst
Gerald Brookman
Michelle & Jack Blackwell
Ouida Parker
James P. Bennett
Joe Lachowski
Jim Stogsdill
Merrill Sikorski
Thomas R. Daly
Marion Nelson
Melissa Duffy
Peter A. Micciche
Michael McCormick
Ryan Kapp
Ken Tarbox
Rosie and Bill Reeder
Michelle Glaves
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