

CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Kenai Watershed Forum



Fall 2010

www.kenaiwatershed.org • 907-260-5449



Working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

4th Avenue Culvert

Creek flows more freely now

By Josselyn O'Connor, Membership & Development

Our restoration focus is entirely dedicated to re-connecting baby salmon nurseries to the ocean. While we don't have many hydroelectric dams on the Kenai Peninsula, we do have a large number of roads with poorly designed or maintained culverts that prevent adults and juvenile salmon from accessing the habitat they need. Other organizations are focusing their efforts on direct bank habitat and providing responsible access, and we believe it is important to provide the most

Continue: 4th Ave, page 8



Above: Equipment and road closure during 4th Avenue construction

In this Issue...

- 4th Avenue Culvert
- Peninsula Watershed Atlas
- Letter from our President
- CFK - Congrats, Freya!
- Reed Canary Grass Attack
- Education Update
- Strategic Plan Revamp
- Soberg House Renovation
- Membership Drive
- Spotlight on Volunteers
- Calendar of Events
- Outreach on the North Slope

Reed Canary Grass Attack

20,000 pounds removed from upper Kenai River

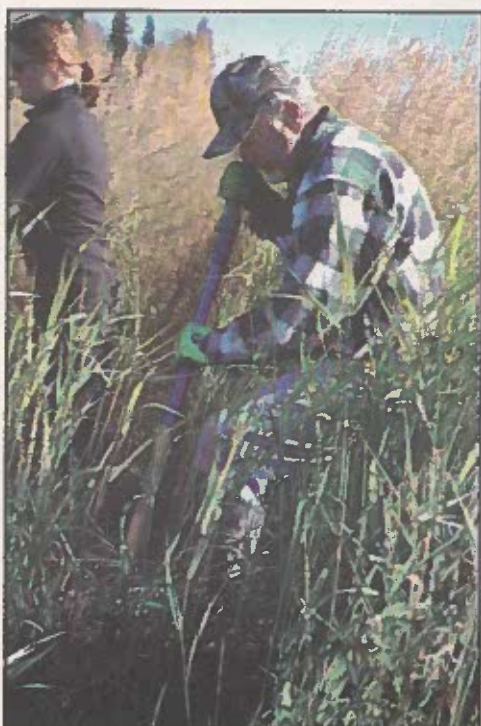
By Michelle Martin, KWF Invasive Species Specialist



In the midst of a gorgeous Indian summer on the Kenai Peninsula, the morning of Monday September 27 dawned cold and crisp. A team of six assembled from Chevron Environmental Management Company gathered at Bing's Landing in Sterling, where they met up with a crew from Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) in order to do battle with an invasive weed known as reed canary grass (RCG). KWF has been actively controlling RCG along Kenai Peninsula waterways since the summer of 2008. It's a non-native grass that threatens salmon habitat by filling in stream channels, slowing down the flow of water that keeps spawning beds silt-free, and discouraging the growth of trees and other native plants that shade streams to keep them cool. This invasive grass has affected salmon habitat from California to British Columbia.

Our task for this particular day was to remove a large amount of RCG from an island in the Kenai River. We loaded the crew and lots of digging tools into boats and headed upriver. Mama and cub bear tracks were visible in the mud once we arrived at the island, but we didn't see any actual bears that day. We unloaded shovels, mattocks, and digging hoes, along with sturdy plastic bags. The

Continue: Grass Attack, page 8



The Way Forward

KWF 5-Year Strategic Plan

The KWF strategic plan was first developed in 1997. This most recent update represents the third revision, drafted during the February 2010 annual board of director's retreat. Our plan is a living document that is revisited and updated as conditions change.

The Kenai Watershed Forum envisions a future where the Kenai Peninsula community works together effectively to protect and improve our watersheds, producing rivers rich with life.

Goal 1: Increase the community's awareness and knowledge about water and our environment.

Goal 2: Establish and maintain comprehensive research programs to provide quality data.

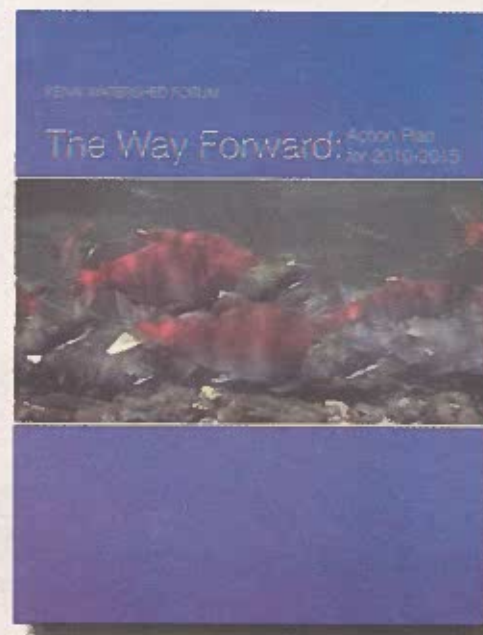
Goal 3: Work to restore and repair conditions that threaten the long-term health of our watersheds.

Goal 4: Lead collaborative efforts with others to address challenges and create opportunities to benefit our watersheds, based on the values of Solid Science, Transfer of Knowledge, Integrity, and Leadership.

Goal 5: Work to ensure long-term viability of the organization and programs.

The full Strategic Plan can be downloaded at the following web address:

http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/images/KWF_StrategicPlan2010.pdf



A Message from our President

Kristy McCullough



Dear KWF Members and Friends,

As we look back on 2010 and think about what we've accomplished, I'm amazed! In our work, there is always more to be done, but I can say this year we've really moved mountains!

This year the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership was approved as a recognized Fish Habitat Partnership by the National Fish Habitat Board and has begun accepting project requests. Robert and the KWF crew were able to complete seven cul-

vert restoration projects this field season. With a work crew from Chevron Environmental Management Company and help from Kenai River Professional Guides Association, we removed 20,000 pounds of Reed Canary grass from the banks of the Kenai River. The wildlife viewing platform at Crooked Creek in Kasilof has been completed. Freya Chay's winning Caring for the Kenai project has propelled her into the national environmental spotlight by being one of six to win the prestigious Brower Youth Award. We continue progress on the Sörberg House renovation and look forward to moving in next summer. We have heard from many that "the Kenai River Festival is one of the best educational festivals in the state!" I and the rest of the board of directors are proud of this year's accomplishments and we appreciate all of the community spirit and support.

As we move forward, KWF hopes to remain a trusted steward of the Kenai Peninsula waterways for generations to come. This year we revamped our strategic plan and the outcome was a 5-year action plan. Please read it and let us know what you think. You are encouraged to stop by the office and pick one up or visit the website.

Great things are happening at KWF and it is an exciting time to be involved. I encourage you to stop in and visit with Robert or Josselyn and learn more about KWF. We will continue to use the philosophy of "working together" to fulfill our mission and look forward to another great year!

Sincerely,
Kristy

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David Wartinbee
Ken Marlow
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Betty Obendorf
Kyle Fisher
Natasha Ala

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Stephanie Kobylarz
Jim Czarnecki
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Rhonda Orth
Michelle Martin



Kenai Watershed Forum

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(907) 260-5449

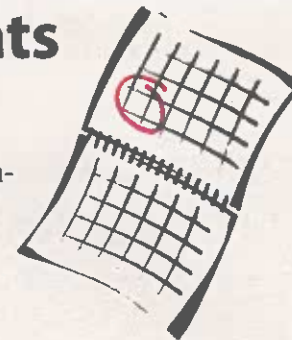
www.kenaiwatershed.org

Connect with us on:

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KWF Calendar of Events



November 27 • Christmas comes to Kenai

Be sure to visit the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center and bid on your favorite tree decorated by local non-profits! This is a great way to support KVCC and KWF.

November 29-December 5 • KWF Membership Drive

Don't forget to send in your membership dues or renew online! Every member makes a difference and we couldn't do it without your support. Thank you in advance for your support this year.

December 9 • Holiday Open House

Join the KWF board and staff for a delightful evening of holiday cheer at the Blazy Mall office from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Door prizes you won't want to miss! Come celebrate with us.

February 4-6, 2011 • Kenai Birding Festival Winter Workshop

Visit www.kenaiwatershed.org for a complete listing of the weekend's activities.

February 11, 2011 • Alaska Ocean Film Festival

A wonderful way to appreciate and celebrate our ocean's bounty and beauty. 44,000 miles of coastline... Over 2000 species of saltwater fish... 52 coastal communities... 29 species of marine mammals... 5 native species of salmon... ONE OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL!!!

May 20-23, 2011 • Kenai Birding Festival

Three days of fantastic birding opportunities! Birding float trips on the Kenai River, spectacular children's program, wonderful workshops, and lots of in-the-field birding experiences. Visit www.kenabirdfest.com.

June 10, 11, & 12 • Kenai River Festival & Run for the River

Mark your calendars! This is a summer must-do!

Spotlight on our Volunteers

Non-profit organizations rely heavily on volunteers in many ways. KWF is no different. From water quality monitoring to school visits to special events, KWF owes much of our success to our wonderful volunteers. Two volunteers that have donated a substantial amount of time to KWF events are Tami Murray and Rosie Reeder.



Tami Murray is the Executive Director of the Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race. In the "off season", she puts her green thumb to work at Trinity Greenhouse. She is the first to volunteer any time she gets wind of a KWF event in the making. She has been a large part of the success of the Kenai River Festival, Run for the River, the 2009 and 2010 Black Tie Balls, groundbreaking ceremony, and the Major Marine Resurrection Bay dinner cruise. Tami doesn't hesitate to step in and help in any way she can!

Rosie has been a notable member of the Soldotna community for many years. She serves on the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee to the Soldotna City Council, and is the Volunteer Coordinator at the Triumvirate Bookstore and Theater. She runs a youth book club at the Soldotna Library, and is often seen at other events around town lending a helping hand. KWF has been a glad recipient of her community spirit. She has contributed to the success of our Building Fund garage sales, the Kenai River Festival's Run for the River, and the 2009 and 2010 Black Tie Balls.



Thanks to all our volunteers who come alongside us in our mission to preserve and restore the waterways on the Kenai Peninsula - we couldn't do it without you!

Photos: Tami Murray (above) Rosie Reeder (left)

KWF Education Update

Teaching our students to be better stewards

By Dan Pascucci, KWF Education Specialist

Another school year is well underway, and the Kenai Watershed Forum continues its partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in running educational programs with Kenai Peninsula classes. This year, we're working with even more students from more classes at more schools! Through stream testing activities and special classroom presentations, KWF is meeting its educational goals for the 2010/11 school year. Here are some comments and reflections from some of the students that have been learning with Dan Pascucci and Emily Smith this year:

"I really liked it when Dan and Emily gave us that really fun lesson. I didn't know it at first, but I was learning a whole bunch! Without even

realizing it! And that's the best learning there is!"

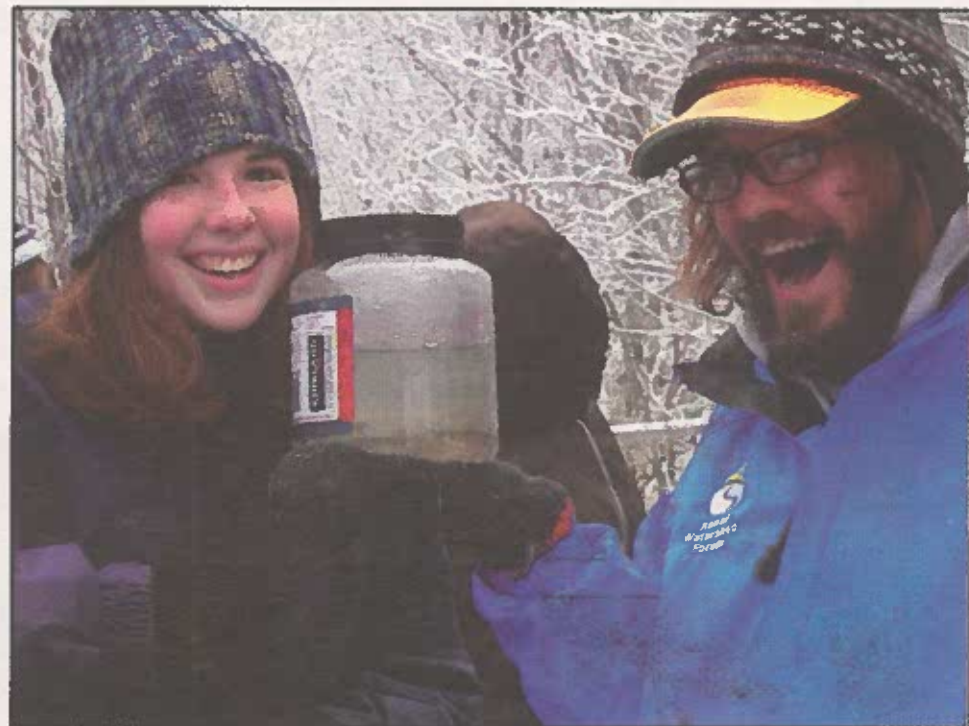
"The Beaver Creek was really fun. Dan and Emily sure made it great...Dan didn't have his orange hat on and it looked like he had put his fingers in an electric socket... It looked like he was a mad scientist!"

"Dan and Emily are really good creek scientists. They also like to take kids with them all the time. They had to come get us and show us how to do all the stuff they knew how to do"

"This was my first time I ever went to the creek and it was very fun at the creek."

"We learned all of the different steps you have to do to make sure the water is healthy. There were lots of steps to take, but after we finished them all we found out that it was healthy."

"Dan has some small mental issues... other than that he is okay."



"I had a great time at Beaver Creek"

"I would totally recommend this trip to someone who loves water, and also good sandwiches!"

So whether you're someone who loves good sandwiches, or just clean water, it's good to know that the Kenai Watershed Forum is creating so many educational opportunities for students on the Kenai. The lessons are fun, the science is sound, and the kids are working towards a better understanding of the incredible place that is the Kenai Peninsula.

Photos: Left: Retrieving a fish trap at Slikok Creek with students.

Above: Emily and Dan and their catch.

Coming soon...

Summer Day Camp for Kids!

We are so excited to announce that KWF is developing a summer day camp for children to begin Summer 2011! Led by our very own Dan Pascucci, this camp will excite and challenge our children and teach them to be good stewards of our natural resources in a fun and inspiring setting. Based in Soldotna at the mouth of Soldotna Creek, our camp will stimulate interest in science and our natural resources through fun-filled activities throughout the Kenai Peninsula. We hope campers will gain a deeper connection to the waters that unite us.

**Hands-on Science • Arts & Crafts • Stories & Music
Wilderness Skills • Field Trips • and Much More!**

Week long sessions will begin in early June and run through the end of the summer. More information about enrollment, camp activities, week sessions, and fee schedule will be available in early 2011. You are encouraged to visit our website www.kenai-watershed.org for more information.

**Fun & Inspiration
at
KWF Summer
Camp!**



Freya Chay Wins National Award

Congratulations to Freya Chay for winning the Earth Island Institute's Brower Youth Award, a prestigious award honoring bold young leaders on the environmental front.

Earth Island Institute established the Brower Youth Awards to honor founder and legendary activist David R. Brower. The Brower Youth Awards recognizes six young people in North America annually for their outstanding activism and achievements in the fields of environmental and environmental justice advocacy. We are pleased to congratulate Freya Chay.



In September 2009 as part of research for her Caring for the Kenai contest project, Freya learned that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly had passed a resolution supporting the idea of exempting renewable energy systems from real property tax assessments. But before homeowners could take advantage of such a program a change in the Alaska state tax code was needed. So Freya created and helped to pass legislation, an amendment to Senate Bill 220, to reform state energy policy. Under SB 220, any municipality in Alaska now has the option to exempt residential renewable energy systems from property taxes. Freya's efforts helped create new incentives for homeowners to install clean energy systems.

Photo above: Freya with Governor Sean Parnell at the Caring for the Kenai Banquet in Spring 2010.



Building Up - Soberg House Restoration & Renovation

Progress continues on the Soberg House renovation

It's happening... the Soberg house restoration is underway! In order to begin the process, the first set of building plans needed to be reviewed, which led to several modifications to the original design. The designer, project leader, LEED AP, and staff met to discuss current staff needs, LEED certification considerations, and project timeline. In order to prepare the building, we removed dozens of boxes of KWF publications and some field equipment that were being stored there. We then began site prep and demolition.

Outbuildings—including an old playhouse, storage shed, and sauna—were removed from the property and the grounds were prepared for demolition. A silt fence was put in place on the river side of the building in order to prepare for foundation excavation.



Inside, we needed to strip the traditional home floor plan to create efficient office space. Interior walls were removed. Insulation was removed from the ceiling and walls, most of which is being saved. We'll reuse it as the building comes together again, which will count toward our LEED certification points. Plumbing and electrical fittings were capped and pipes and wiring were removed. The concrete chimney flue was jackhammered out. Asbestos was found in the floor tiles, so an asbestos removal crew removed the tiles for us.

The foundation was excavated and we installed high quality vapor barrier and R-20 insulation below the ground. Adding this insulation will pay huge dividends over the next 30 years in energy savings. A huge thanks goes out to Gary Knopp of G&H Construction who donated his time and equipment to excavate the foundation!



Most of the utilities have been reconnected and meters replaced, including electric and gas. Infrastructure for new telephone lines has been installed and is ready for hook-up.

As the weather started to turn this fall, we found ourselves rushing to complete the new "green" parking lot. This process required us to prepare the area where the new parking lot material would be laid. We dug down to gravel, filled, smoothed, laid the plastic parking material and then filled with gravel and dirt. Next spring we'll plant grass over this area to make it a truly "green" parking lot.

At this point the project is on hold for a month or so to prepare for the interior LEED processes as well as energy commissioning. We will be installing solar panels, thanks in large part to a generous donation from CEMC. We'll keep you updated as progress continues.

Stay tuned...

Capital Building Campaign

Getting close to our \$628,000 goal

We've had many great successes in our Capital Building Campaign this year and the outpouring of support for our new headquarters has been heartwarming. Folks on the Kenai Peninsula care greatly about healthy watersheds and we are honored to be the recipient of such support. We appreciate all the individuals, local businesses, corporations, and government entities that have stepped up and join us in our mission.

Major Marine Tours hosted a fantastic cruise for us in May aboard their Kenai Star. This event helped raise \$10,000 for the building project. Alaska Railroad Corporation donated a wonderful train trip aboard their exclusive Denali Car. We were able to leverage their donation and raise over \$100,000. ConocoPhillips surprised us with an additional contribution at the ceremonial groundbreaking event in June, bringing their total contribution to \$45,500. Sky Carver issued a match challenge earlier in the year that brought in over \$12,000. The State of Alaska awarded us \$20,400 legislative grant. And we are pleased to announce that Chevron Environmental Management Company has just pledged \$10,000 to be used for solar panels in the new building.

We are well on our way, but we're not there yet. The time is NOW to step up! We need to continue to expand and improve our programs and infrastructure. Embrace our mission and support our renovation project.

<http://office.kenaiwatershed.org/buildingcampaign>



2010 Black Tie Crystal Ball Sponsors

A huge thank you goes out to these folks. With their support the 2nd KWF ball was a huge success raising over \$20,000 for our Capital Building Campaign and KWF efforts on the Kenai Peninsula. We appreciate your continued support!

Crystal Sponsors

Mayor Peter & Erin Micciche, ConocoPhillips, Law Office of Peter Ehrhardt, and Sky Carver

Silver Sponsors

Ryan & Lauri Kapp - Edward Jones
Kenai River Rotary Club

\$100,000 Watershed Visionary

Chevron USA Inc.

\$45,500

ConocoPhillips

\$17,000

Chevron Environmental Management Company

\$10,000 Watershed Champions

Wells Fargo
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Marlow's on the Kenai
Major Marine Tours
Central Peninsula Hospital

\$8,000

Brown Agency - Doug & Dawn Brown

\$7000

Robert & Tara Ruffner

\$5,000 River Heros

Philip & Rosemary Kimball
Carver Family Fund - Sky Carver

\$2,500 River Stewards

Kristy & Everitt McCullough
Tom & Stephanie Kobylarz
Ryan & Lauri Kapp - Edward Jones
Lynden Transport

\$2000

Walmart
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce

\$1000 Friends of our Watersheds

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John Kobylarz
Kenai River Rotary Club
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Kassik's Kenai Brew Stop
Sanne Berrig
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Alan Boraas and Penny McClain
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Grant Aviation
Bill & Jean Tappan
Iva Phillips
Kristin Smith

An updated list can be seen on our campaign website at <http://office.kenaiwatershed.org/buildingcampaign>.

Thank You!

Peninsula Atlas Up and Running

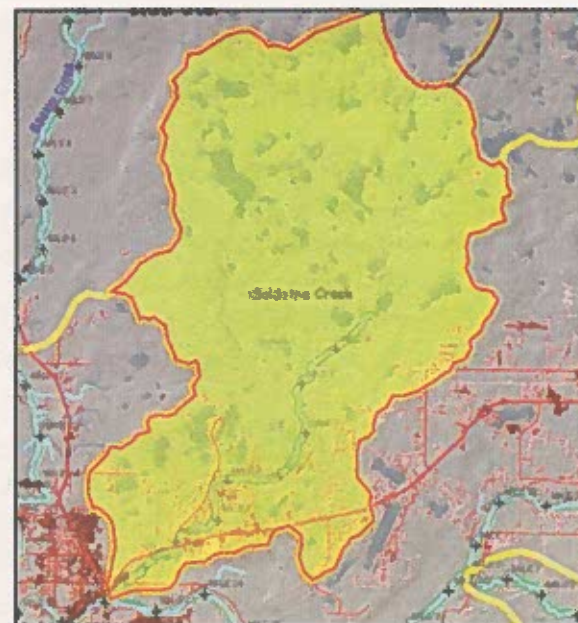
Kenai Peninsula Watershed Atlas Launches

By Stephanie Kobylarz, GIS Specialist

The Kenai Peninsula Watershed Atlas is an interactive online viewer that summarizes information by watershed on different land uses, natural and manmade disturbances, and physical characteristics occurring across the landscape on the Kenai Peninsula. The atlas was built to assist local planners, permit writers, decision makers, and landowners to better understand what's happening in individual watersheds across the peninsula. For example, did you know that over 40% of the forests in Deep Creek watershed have been killed by the Spruce Bark Beetle or that most of that damage occurred in 1993? Or that there are over 667 acres of gravel pits in the Anchor River watershed, mostly near the lower river? Do you know where you live in relation to anadromous streams and wetlands or what kind of land uses are occurring in your neighborhood that may be affecting these waters?

There are a total of 13 maps that include: Wetlands, Land Use, Land Cover, Spruce Bark Beetle Infestation, Wildfires, Logging, Land Ownership, Soil Drainage, Stream Crossings, Invasives, Hydrology, Footprints, and Imperviousness. Metrics were calculated in a GIS to describe these land uses, disturbances, and physical characteristics by watershed. This information is tied to maps depicting the distribution of these features. The maps are viewable with either Internet Explorer 8, or Firefox 3.6 browsers on KWF's website at <http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/Atlas/index.html>.

The Watershed Atlas was funded through an EPA grant. KWF provided the GIS and design components and Resource Data Inc (RDI) built the viewer. The GIS software used by KWF was generously donated through ESRI's Conservation GIS grant program. Staff from the Donald E. Gilman River Center and the USFWS formed the Technical Advisory Committee providing KWF input and direction. The Kenai Peninsula Borough GIS department provided the ArcGIS Server support, storage space, and functionality. For more information, comments, or questions contact Stephanie Kobylarz at stephanie@kenaiwatershed.org or 907-260-5433.



Above: Soldotna Creek Watershed
Below: Snapshot of the Atlas



Spotlight on KWF Board

Kyle Fisher joins KWF Board

Kyle Fisher was born and raised in Alaska. He married his wife Anna in 2007. He has been employed by Lynden Transport since 2006 and working on the Peninsula since 2008. Currently he is the Service Center Manager for Lynden in Soldotna. Kyle has recently been elected to the Soldotna City Council. He is also the Vice President of the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and the Vice President of the Alaska Oilfield Alliance, Kenai Chapter. He volunteers annually for Toys for Tots during the Christmas season.



Kyle was drawn to support the Kenai Watershed Forum because of our science and fact based approach to conservation and protection. He and his wife value education and quickly identified KWF education efforts as a valuable asset to the local community. He walked in the office one day after a chamber of commerce luncheon where KWF presented and asked "how can I be involved?" Ever since Kyle has been an active volunteer and now a board member. Kyle hopes to bring some of his business and industrial experience to the KWF board of directors to help expand the organization and its mission. He spent countless hours on site at the Kenai River Festival lending a hand. His wife served as the Education Chair on the Kenai River Festival committee. They both light up a room and we are so pleased to have them part of the KWF family.

Photos: Above: Kyle and Anna on the Kenai Star
Below: KWF Board, Staff and Volunteers at the Black Tie Crystal Ball



Kenai Birders...

Winter Workshop is coming your way!

Visit our new website for recent sightings and upcoming events including tips on local birding!

Winter Workshop - Feb. 4-6, 2011

www.kenaibirdfest.com

Get inspired, become involved!



Caring for the Kenai 2010/11

March 9, 2011- Contest Deadline
March 16, 2011- Select 12 Finalists
April 2, 2011- Presentation of Semi-Finalists
April 21, 2011- Oral Presentation competition
April 30, 2011- Awards Banquet

www.caringforthekenai.com



Membership Drive Underway - 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. Membership in the 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 through our membership drive; become part of the largest community united by a common mission of "working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula."

From now through the end of the year, KWF is promoting our **2010 Membership Drive**. 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.



For our Future - Support KWF!

Our Goal: 200 New Members • \$10,000

KWF wishes to thank the following for their recent, generous membership support.

Lisa Parker & Steve Horn
Jim and Nedra Evenson
Peggy Mullen - River City Books
Ginny and David Litchfield
Dominique Collet
Mike Navarre
Jack & Betty Dean
David & Kathy Wartinbee
Ron & Karen Martinelli
Tom Knock
Shana & Doug Loshbaugh
Joe Moore
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Freddie Billingslea
Nancy Mitchell
Tom and Sue Seggerman - TDS Construction
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Wild North Photography
Mike Priebe
Janice Rodes
Paul Moses
Catherine Cassidy & Erik Huebsch
Louis DuBois
Ken & Connie Tarbox

Ways to support KWF

By Mail - Fill out the donation form at right and mail it to: KWF, PO Box 2937, Soldotna, AK 99669

By Phone - Call us at 907-260-5449. We'll be happy to take your information over the phone.

Online - Donate to KWF faster and easier through our website and use our secure online donation tool. Visit: www.kenaiwatershed.org and click on "Ways to Give".

Pick. Click. Give. - We are pleased to announce that once again you can donate a portion of your Alaska PFD to KWF. Simply choose "The Gift of Giving" when applying for your dividend online.

Stock or Real Estate - KWF accepts gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to support our work. Donating the full value of your shares is a quick, easy and tax-efficient way to make a lasting contribution to watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula. Please contact Josselyn O'Connor, josselyn@kenaiwatershed.org or 907-260-5449.

Volunteer - There are many ways you can help preserve the health of our watersheds. We have volunteer opportunities year-round and can always use an extra set of hands. Call us at 907-260-5449 for more information about current volunteer opportunities.

Yes! I want to support KWF!

Here is your chance to give something back! Help support our mission through a financial contribution. Everyone who lives and plays on the Kenai Peninsula benefits from remarkable natural resources. Your membership gift gives you a role in shaping the future of the Kenai Peninsula watersheds. You will enjoy our newsletter, Currents, invitations to special events, and many other unique benefits.

Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
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Phone: _____
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Level

___ \$500 Benefactor ___ \$100 River Steward
___ \$50 Chinook ___ \$25 Sockeye
___ \$10 Smolt ___ \$Other _____

Payment

___ Enclosed is my donation
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PO Box 2937 • Soldotna, AK 99669

Federal Tax ID: 91-1829284

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Outreach on the North Slope

KWF attends Healthy, Safety, and Environmental Fair

By Michelle Martin, KWF Invasive Species Specialist

On the morning of October 22, fellow KWF employee Josselyn and I boarded an Era flight at Kenai Airport for the first leg of a 3-day adventure to Alaska's North Slope. We were guests of ConocoPhillips, who had invited us to participate in a Health, Safety, and Environmental Fair they were putting on for employees at their Alpine and Kuparuk camps. Neither of us had been to the Slope before, and we weren't quite sure what to expect. We flew into Kuparuk on a 737 full of folks headed there for work. Everyone was quiet during the flight, many trying to catch one last nap before their work hitch began. We then caught a small Otter flight over to Alpine.



The Alpine folks greeted us warmly and made us feel at home. The first thing we were interested in was dinner, and we

quickly learned that there is no shortage of good food to be found. After eating our fill, we set up for the Fair alongside a solar energy installation company, vendors of safety clothing, and folks from Bird TLC, who'd brought along a re-

habilitated bald eagle and ptarmigan to show off. Our display couldn't compete with the live birds for coolness factor, but we let folks know about some of the exciting things that KWF is doing: adding miles of available habitat for juvenile fish through culvert replacements, controlling invasive weeds along stream banks, and getting kids excited about their local salmon streams through the Adopt-A-Stream program. Although we were far from home, we were amazed at how many of our Kenai Peninsula neighbors we met while we were there, along with lots more that don't live on the Kenai, but frequently play there. It was wonderful to connect with all those folks and let them know that we're working hard to preserve the natural resources that they get so much enjoyment from. After doing a Friday evening and an early Saturday morning stint at the Alpine HSE Fair, we got a tour of the main pad at Alpine. The well houses were smaller than we expected, but pump out a whole lot of oil!

After the tour, we got back on the Otter to head back over to Kuparuk. The Kuparuk camp was much larger. We got our exercise (which we hadn't had much of during our time at Alpine) walking between our rooms and the gymnasium where the HSE Fair took place. Saturday night, after being up since 4am, we feasted on baked halibut, shrimp, and vegetables...one of the best meals I've eaten in a long time. I crashed into



bed with a full belly, ready to do it one more time early Sunday morning. After the fair was done, we got a chance to ride the few miles to the edge of the Beaufort Sea, which was starting to get iced in for the winter, and watch the sky begin to lighten over the Arctic Ocean. Our journey ended with a 737 flight out of Deadhorse, full of talkative, animated folks looking forward to getting home and seeing their families. Many thanks to ConocoPhillips for being such gracious hosts and offering us an unforgettable experience!

Photos: Left: Josselyn and Kristy McCullough at Kuparuk pad.

Above: Aerial view of Alpine.



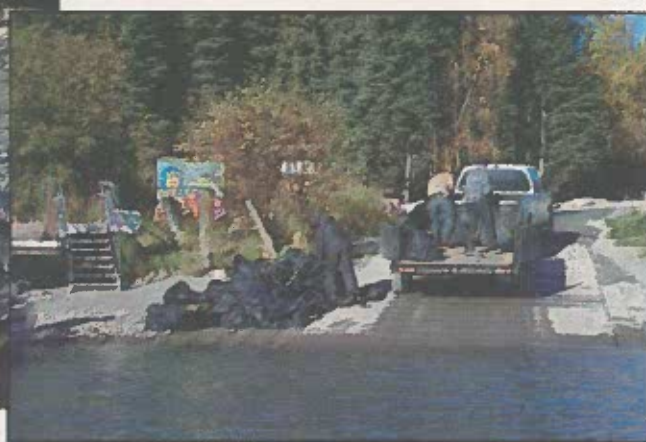
Grass Attack, from page 1

vegetation on the small island consisted of a mixture of RCG and the native bluejoint reedgrass. Our task was to dig out the RCG patches, including all underground parts. That meant removing large amounts of heavy soil, which was bagged up with the grass.

Transporting all that weight off of the island was a task in and of itself. Thanks to Evertt McCullough and Mike Fenton of the Kenai River Professional Guide Association, who volunteered their time and their boats for this task. A total of four motorboats were put to work that day shuttling loads of the grass and soil back to Bing's Landing, where part of the crew had been stationed to receive the stuff. Those guys hauled the

heavy bags out of the boats and into a dump trailer. When the trailer had reached capacity (which it did 4 times over the course of the day), it was driven to Northstar Paving & Construction in Soldotna. The folks there have been supporting KWF's weed eradication efforts by allowing us to dump RCG-infested soil into a retired gravel pit, where it quickly gets buried and won't be able to grow and spread.

Many thanks to Chevron for letting us borrow such great workers for the day! We removed an estimated 20,000 lbs. of material and came one step closer to getting RCG off of our waterways!



Photos: Above: Streambed installed. Right: Hydrolab monitoring of creek.



4th Avenue, from page 1

amount of restored habitat per dollar spent - and that opportunity is found in restoring fish passage.

One such project has been on our radar for some time, an unnamed creek which flows under 4th Avenue in Kenai. It took 6 weeks, but the creek under 4th Avenue is flowing more freely! This project was a \$400k partnership with the City of Kenai using stimulus funds granted to KWF. In addition to fish passage, the project included new sewer and water mains and stormwater settling basin, where there previously was none.

This was one of seven culvert restoration projects we completed this summer. For more information about our restoration efforts and current projects, visit <http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/restoration.html>.