

CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Kenai Watershed Forum



Spring 2011

www.kenaiwatershed.org • 907-260-5449

Working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

Anchor River to run clear again

KWF will restore a section of the Anchor River currently flowing through an abandoned gravel pit

By Tony Lewis

An abandoned gravel pit that has altered the course of the Anchor River, creating potential problems for the river's salmon, dolly varden and trout, will be restored to a more natural state this summer by the Kenai Watershed Forum.

The restoration site is located about halfway between Anchor Point and Homer. It has been recognized by the state for its exceptional habitat value.

The gravel pit causing the problems was excavated within 100 feet of the river and a series of berms as high as 15 feet cover four acres of the nearby floodplain. When a major flood struck in 2002, the Anchor River flowed into the gravel pit and has not been able to meander back to its pre-flood channel.

The main goals of the project include:

- Leveling the berms that are preventing the river from returning to its historically natural course,
- Lowering the gradient of the river to pre-flood levels, and
- Stabilizing the channel by reinforcing banks with rock, vegetation, root wads and log jams.

The project is an example of KWF's growing role

in river restoration on the Kenai Peninsula. Successful completion of smaller restoration projects at Silver Salmon Creek, Dave's Creek and other sites has prepared KWF for this much larger undertaking. KWF will receive \$509,649 in grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to complete the project, which is expected to create 10 jobs and involve moving more than 22,000 yards of material.

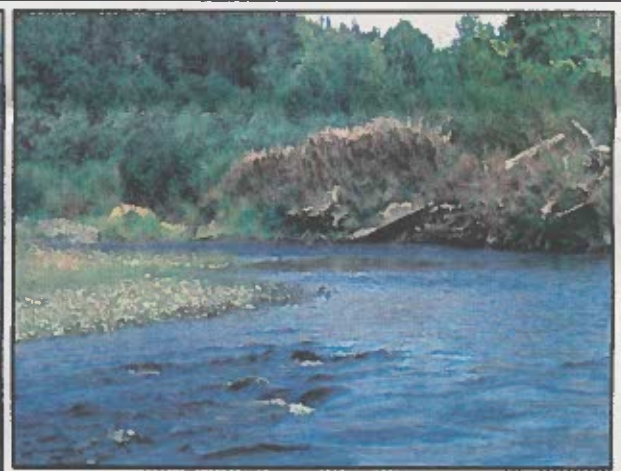
(Continue on Page 4)

In this Issue...

- Anchor River Restoration
- Drug Disposal Program
- Letter from our President
- KWF Summer Day Camp!
- Soberg House Renovation
- Membership Drive
- Spotlight on Board
- Calendar of Events
- Interns Return



Section of braided stream flowing through the abandoned gravel pit



Northern berm breached, river now occupies the gravel pit. Prior to the capture, river was to the right of the berm, out of the field of view

Medication and Fish don't Mix

Local drug disposal program a great option

By Michelle Martin, Invasive Species Specialist

Have you ever looked in the medicine cabinet and realized that half the things in there are years past their prime? Ever decide to get rid of some of those old meds by throwing them in the garbage or flushing them down the toilet? I know I have. It turns out, though, that neither of these is a very good disposal option. Meds thrown in the garbage can be found and ingested by curious kids and pets. Meds flushed down the toilet follow one of two routes. They may travel through your septic system, killing helpful bacteria there along the way, and then enter your groundwater. For city dwellers, your meds will end up in the municipal wastewater stream, where the chemicals are not easily filtered out. In either case, the chemicals in those meds can end up in our rivers and streams, where they can disrupt normal functioning for fish and other aquatic life.

Many of the potentially problematic chemicals found in wastewater effluent are endocrine disruptors. That means that they can affect the hormonal workings of animals, including fish. Hormones regulate a whole host of things, from feeding to growth to immune functioning to reproduction. The most well documented effects on fish relate to changes in sex characteristics. In one study, scientists found significant differences between fish populations upstream and downstream of the wastewater treatment plant outflow for Boulder, Colorado. Downstream populations showed only half the frequency of males as compared with upstream populations. In addition, about 1/5 of the downstream population had both male and female characteristics, a condition that none of the upstream fish exhibited. Similar findings have been reported in other parts of North America as well as in Europe.

(Continue on Page 6)

Alaskans pledge \$1,570,900!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! The Kenai Watershed Forum has benefitted greatly from the Pick.Click.Give. program and this year is no exception. Although specific numbers for each participating organization will not be announced for some time, we do know that 18,726 Alaskans made 27,829 charitable gifts to Alaska nonprofits during the 90 day campaign. The total pledged amount as of midnight March 31 was \$1,570,900. These data show that 3.4 percent of Alaskans who filed online for their PFDs took advantage of the opportunity to support the causes they care about in their communities. Thank you for making Kenai Watershed Forum's mission of working together for healthy watersheds a priority in your life.

Pick.
Click.
Give.

A Message from our President

Jim Butler

Dear KWF Members and Friends,

Although it is hard to believe we are well into 2011, I am pleased to report that the Kenai Watershed Forum is off to another very good year.

After three years as President, Kristy McCullough decided to step down at our annual directors' retreat. During her tenure, Kristy guided the board through many projects including development of the new KWF strategic plan and building our relationship with the City of Soldotna on the Soberg House restoration project. Along the way, she also guided the board's committees as they worked to meet their respective objectives while moving KWF toward its mission. Her influence has been positive and lasting. We look forward to her remaining on the board and sharing her many talents in new areas.

Looking ahead, 2011 looks like another exciting year at KWF. We will continue our focus on completing our new offices at the Soberg House. In addition we hope to expand opportunities in the area of education, research and restoration. Of particular note on the education front, we are excited to introduce a recreational day camp at Soldotna Creek Park this summer. Anything else to mention ???

I look forward to working with the Board and great KWF staff as we work together to provide educational opportunities, implement restoration programs and conduct solid scientific research on watershed issues in our community. Please be sure to monitor our website <http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/> for the latest updates on developments and events.

Sincerely,

Jim Butler



Above: Jim and his daughter, Eli (15), on the Kenai beach.

KWF Board of Directors

Kristy McCullough
Jim Butler
Benjamin Jackinsky
David Wartinbee
Ken Marlow
Leslie Morton
Howard Ferren
Betty Obendorf
Kyle Fisher
Natasha Ala

KWF Staff

Robert Ruffner
Josselyn O'Connor
Stephanie Kobylarz
Jim Czarnetzki
Dan Pascucci
Rhonda Orth
Michelle Martin
Mike Gracz

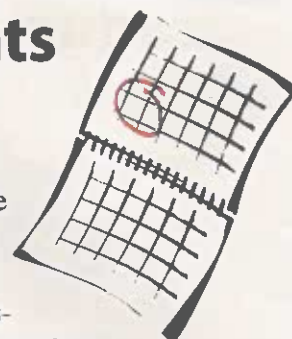


Kenai Watershed Forum
PO Box 2937
Soldotna, AK 99669
(907) 260-5449
www.kenaiwatershed.org
Connect with us on:

facebook

YouTube

KWF Calendar of Events



April 28, 2011 • KWF Membership Meeting
Kenai River Center • 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Join us for our annual membership meeting. We'll be discussing current projects, hot topics, and future plans. There will be a presentation and report from KWF's Executive Director followed by a Q&A session. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the projects where we're investing our time and energy and how they relate to you. KWF staff and board of directors will be on hand to visit with as well. For those who are not members but interested in our projects, this is for you too! This meeting is OPEN to the public!

April 30, 2011 • Drug Disposal Day
Soldotna Professional Pharmacy • 10am to 2pm

Time to clean out your medicine cabinets! Dispose of any prescription or over the counter medications that are expired or unused at Soldotna Professional Pharmacy. There are many reasons why we all should dispose of our medications properly - our families, our community, and our environment. Learn more in the feature article in this newsletter.

May 19-22, 2011 • Kenai Birding Festival

Four 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 & Rockin the River Concert
Soldotna Creek Park in Soldotna, AK

Let's Celebrate... this year bring us the 21st Kenai River Festival! Three days of fun and inspiration on the banks of the world famous Kenai River. The Kenai River Festival is FREE and open to all... hands-on educational activities for children, live music, local art and food vendors, and delicious salmon dinners!

June 11, 2011 • Run for the River 5K & 10 Miler

Registration is open! Proceeds from the race help support the Kenai River Festival and environmental education programs. Many thanks to our presenting sponsor, Central Peninsula Hospital! www.kenaiwatershed.org/runfortheriver.html

Spotlight on KWF Board

Betty Obendorf joins KWF Board

Betty's roots go back to Boise Valley, Idaho where she spent her growing up years. Betty graduated from the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA. After graduation, Betty married Chuck Obendorf and moved to Alaska. She had a short teaching career before starting a family. Together Betty and Chuck raised five children. The Obendorfs moved to Soldotna in 1979.

Betty has always loved the Kenai River. She says, "My interest in preserving it (Kenai River) really began when I worked at the Soldotna Visitors Center where I observed the destruction of the river bank by uncaring fishermen daily. One of my best times was when they put in the fish walk (the first one) below the visitor center. I have had an interest in the Kenai Watershed Forum since its beginning, but felt I was too busy with other commitments to give much time to KWF. When Benjamin asked if I was interested in serving on the board, I told him I was definitely interested but I needed to finish my term on Soldotna City Council.

"I feel very honored to have the opportunity to work with such a wonderful organization with a mission and goals I wholeheartedly agree with. I am excited about all KWF is doing and my chance to be involved with it all."

Right: Betty Obendorf at the KWF Holiday Party.



Introducing Fur, Fins, Feathers, Flowers, and FUN!

How I'm going to spend my summer vacation

By Dan Pascucci, KWF Education Specialist

When I was a kid, I used to dread returning to school after a long summer. It's not that I didn't like school, I actually loved it. The thing that I dreaded upon my return to school was the inevitable "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" essay. Well, you couldn't really call it an essay since I hadn't really learned about paragraphs and sentence structure, but it was a group of sentences designed to explain what I had just spent the past 12 weeks doing while I wasn't at school. Some kids would write about their vacations to Disneyland, others wrote about getting a new family pet, I would usually write about playing in the woods.

The problem with writing about playing in the woods is that I wasn't always in the woods. Sometimes I'd be in a jungle hunting tigers (my cat), other times I'd be on a quest to fight a dragon (my cat). Oftentimes my friends would join me as we fought against enemy troops (squirrels) and we'd only be in the woods physically. In our minds, we were halfway across the planet in distant and strange lands. One day, we

found a stream that we decided was a raging river that needed a bridge across it. We ended up piling enough sticks to flood some guy's backyard a little bit. He was not as excited about our "bridge" as we were.

To say that I spent my summer vacation "playing in the woods" was a disservice to my adventures, but I probably would have gotten in trouble if I had written about my many "quests". Today, however, with technology providing children with so many virtual worlds and quests online or through gaming systems, the woods are no longer the venue for adventure that they used to be.

With summer vacation fast-approaching, the Kenai Watershed Forum is aiming to bring the fun and adventure back outside and into the woods and streams. At a time when technology takes up so much of our time, Kenai Watershed Forum camps offer kids an opportunity to get out from in front of the computer or TV and out in front of rivers, stream, trees, and dirt. Alaska is full of great adventures, and the Kenai Watershed Forum is excited to be embarking on the adventure of camp this summer.

The Kenai Watershed Forum is pleased to announce, for summer 2011, its very first FUR, FINS, FEATHERS, FLOWERS, and FUN summer camps. KWF will be offering week-long day camps at Soldotna Creek Park. Participants will be exploring areas in and around the park, participating in Environmental Education activities, making arts and crafts, singing songs, telling stories, and having lots and lots of fun.



Camps will be available for different groups of children ages 6-8 and 9-12 during different weeks of the summer. For more information, visit our website www.kenaiwatershed.org and follow the links to camp.

Thank you! The scholarships available this year are made possible by generous contributions from the following businesses.

First National Bank AK - \$500

Froso's Restaurant - \$275

Girl Scout Troup 545 - \$430

Dr. & Mrs. Araoz-Fraser - \$1000

Koey Dixon - \$750 through benefit concert
Walmart - \$1000

Kenai Watershed Forum **KENAI RIVER** **FESTIVAL**

& KPLL Rockin the River Concert

June 10-12, 2011
Soldotna Creek Park

Kenai River Festival on Larry Csonka's Show

The Kenai River Festival was recently highlighted on "Napa's North to Alaska" with Larry Csonka, an outdoor television program based in Alaska. Larry Csonka is a member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame and spent most of his career with the Miami Dolphins. Larry and his long time partner, Audrey Bradshaw, host the show.

ZONK! currently produces 26 episodes a year of "Napa's North to Alaska" airing on the VERSUS HD Network every Sunday morning. These programs showcase all that the Last Frontier has to offer - adventure, wildlife, culture, history, some of the world's best fishing and hunting and Larry's great enthusiasm for outdoor sports and conservation.



Check local listings and look out for the highlight clip of KWF's Kenai River Festival! Many thanks to Larry and the folks at Zonk! Productions for all of their continued support!



*Where the
RIVER ends
and the
BIRDING begins*
May 19-22, 2011

The central Kenai Peninsula area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, a fantastic wildlife refuge and, best of all, thousands of birds. This four-day event is designed to showcase and celebrate our area birds. Suitable for the beginner as well as the advanced birder, the event includes a series of discussions and birding field expeditions. Our field excursions offer fantastic birding opportunities without going too far. We have a host of experts ready to help enhance your birding skills.

Children's Program • Field Trips
Backyard Birding & BBQ
Float Trip • Van Tour • Workshops
Peeps Art and Photo Exhibit & Reception

Presented by: Kenai Watershed Forum, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai CVB, and Keen Eye Bird Club

www.kenaibirdfest.com

The project also is an example of the problems created by development in the floodplain.

KWF Executive Director Robert Ruffner says the delayed effect of this gravel pit on the Anchor River showcases how rivers will eventually "feel" impacts of irresponsible development.

"You do one little thing to change the floodplain and it can have big consequences," he says.

HISTORY OF THE GRAVEL PIT

The gravel pit started operating in 1984, before the Kenai Peninsula Borough established rules preventing such development. Prior to the opening of the gravel pit, the river was in a healthy state. Aerial photographs show the river's meander pattern, riparian vegetation and nearby floodplain were stable and intact.

Between 1984 and 1996, the gravel pit grew to 6 acres, its eastern edge extending to less than 100 feet from the Anchor River. The overburden, vegetation and fine sediments that were worthless to the pit operators were stripped off the land and piled into berms. The largest berm was built along the river's western edge, acting as a levee. The pit stopped being actively mined sometime in the late 1990s or 2000s.

The habitat value of this area of the Anchor River was recognized by the state. Not wanting additional mining and development that could further damage the area, the state purchased the property with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill money in 2002. It didn't take long for the state to discover the seriousness of the mistakes made by the previous landowners.

THE FLOOD

In late 2002, a set of rain-laden storms deluged the Kenai Peninsula. In October and again in November, the Anchor River swelled to levels hydrologists expect to see only once in 100 years, pushing water over the banks and deep into the floodplain.

Until those floods, the Anchor had remained in its established channel near the gravel pit. The power of the floods, however, punched a hole into the levee built along the Anchor's banks and the water flowed into the pit. When the floodwaters receded, a new channel had been created. The gravel pit and berm had essentially "captured" the Anchor River.

In 2007 the problem worsened. An upstream logjam created during another flood redirected most of the river's flow into what had previously been a small side-channel. This new channel funnels water broadside into the large gravel-pit berm, leading to erosion.

IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT

Salmon migration does not ap-



pear to be affected by the river's new course, but there is reason for concern.

- Erosion of the berm is dumping sediment into the river, which could harm salmon and other aquatic life.
- Chinook salmon no longer use the area for spawning grounds.
- Faster flows and less streamside vegetation diminish the area's value for rearing salmon.
- Juvenile fish could potentially be stranded by the braided streams that now flow through the gravel pit.
- The river is disconnected from its natural channel and floodplain, decreasing its ability to absorb floods and provide quality salmon habitat.

Rivers naturally change course, especially after large floods. In this case, however, the large mining berm is prohibiting the river from returning to its historic channel. It's possible that the river will eventually break through the berm and right itself, but after

nearly a decade it has not been able to do so. That's where KWF comes in.

THE ROLE OF KWF

In 2005 and 2006, KWF was hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assess human impacts on the Anchor River. KWF analyzed aerial photographs dating back to the 1950s and



Satellite image from 2000 off KPB web



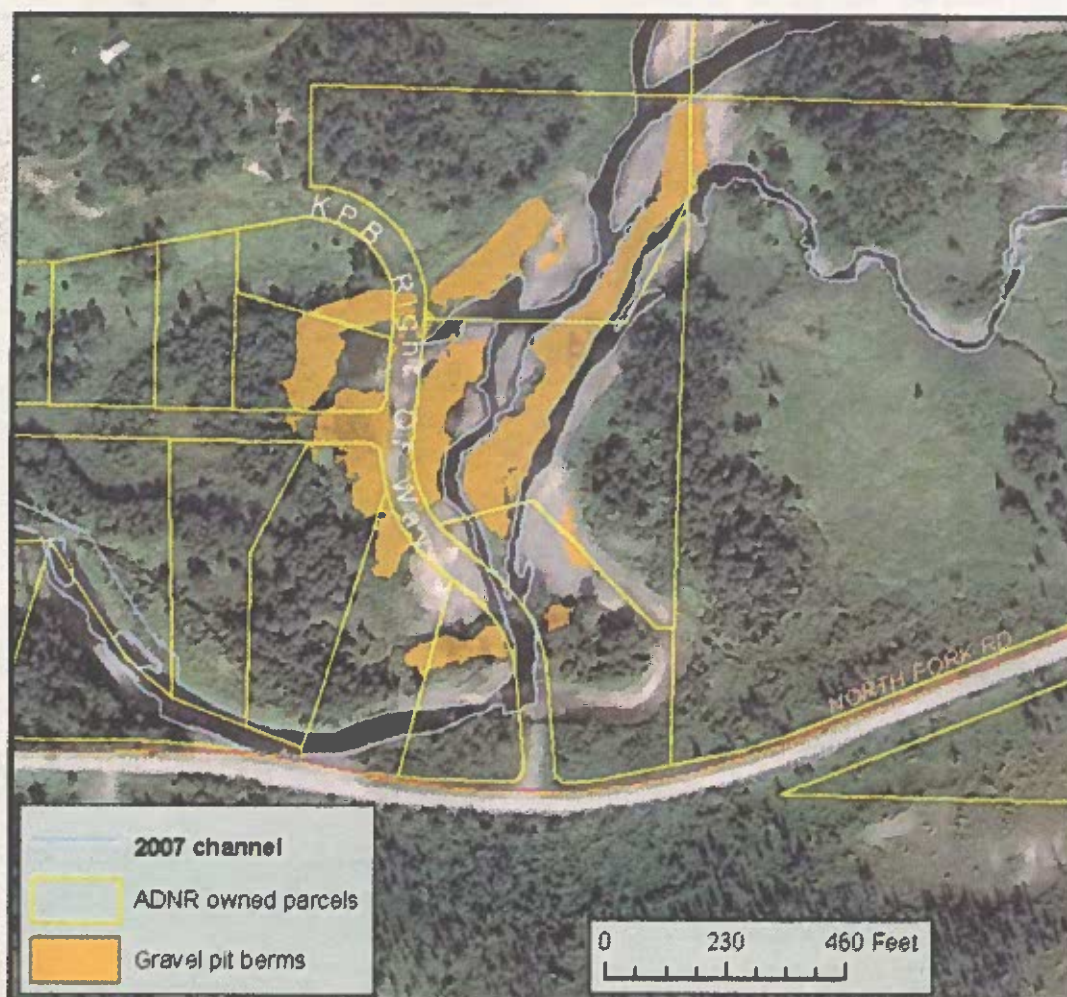
Satellite image from 2003 quickbird

identified a handful of areas that had been negatively affected by human activity. The gravel pit stood out as a place where KWF felt it could make a big difference.

KWF was awarded a federal grant last year to fix the problems at the gravel pit. High water and other factors prohibited the project from getting underway last summer, but this year looks promising. A small winter snowpack should mean less water in the Anchor River. If everything goes well, KWF hopes to start the project in mid-June and be finished by mid-July, when spawning salmon return to this section of the Anchor.

Most of KWF's previous experience in habitat restoration has centered on roads and culverts. The Anchor River project is significantly larger and more complicated.

"At first, we thought this was out of our league," said Robert Ruffner. After careful consideration, though, KWF decided that its growing expertise in river restoration and dedication to do the project well made it the ideal candidate to do the job. To ensure success, KWF has hired an engineer who is a specialist in this kind of work. KWF also plans to use its expertise in water quality monitoring to check the river's turbidity levels during and after construction in an effort to minimize impacts on aquatic life downstream.



Detailed location and ownership of gravel pit.

Parcels outlined in yellow are owned by ADNR and managed by ADF&G.

Peeps Art & Photo Exhibit

The Peeps Art & Photo Exhibit is an opportunity for local children under the age of 18 to display their artwork and photography featuring BIRDS of the Kenai Peninsula. This has become a local favorite and this year the exhibit will be held at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

The Peeps Art & Photo Exhibit will be on display through the Kenai Birding Festival weekend and folks are encouraged to visit the Refuge headquarters and take a peak.

Opening Reception & Awards

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters

Thursday, May 19 • 4:30pm to 6:00pm

You are invited to join us for a reception celebrating the opening of the Kenai Birding Festival as well as honoring the children participating in this year's Peeps Art & Photo Exhibit.

Entry Forms and Additional Information

Submission deadline is Saturday, May 14. Please visit www.kenabirdfest.com for entry forms, contest rules, and all the details about submitting art.



These are a few of our favorite entries in the Peeps Art & Photo Exhibit from last year.

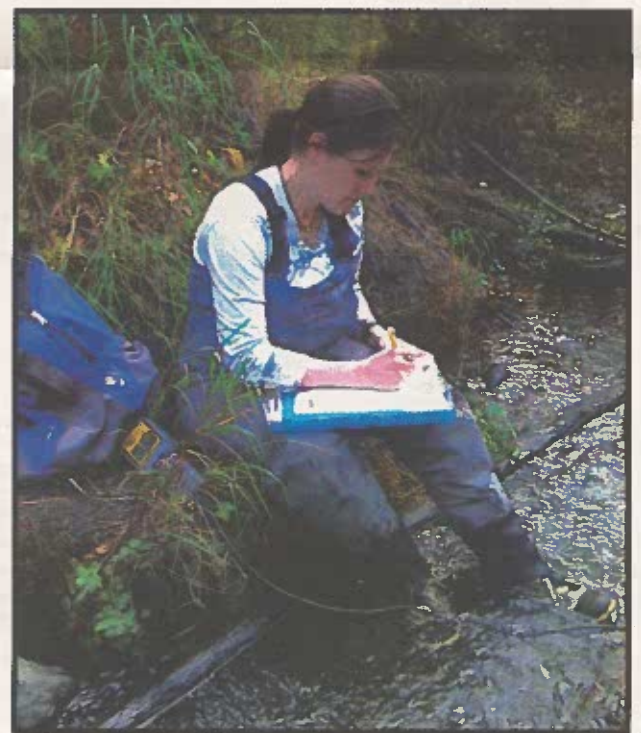
Stephanie maps a new direction

Many thanks to Stephanie Kobylarz for her many years of service

The Kenai Watershed Forum staff had a predicament in January. A long time staff member was leaving to embark on a new adventure in life. Stephanie Kobylarz joined KWF in January of 2004 as the GIS Analyst. Her work touched almost every project KWF accomplished in the past seven years. She was pivotal in providing not only detailed maps for culvert and weed eradication projects, but also in joining forces with the rest of the staff for big projects like the Kenai River Festival and Kenai River baseline and hydrocarbon sampling. She loved fieldwork and treasured being in the great outdoors of Alaska. Stephanie and her husband, Tom welcomed baby girl Teagen almost two years ago, and after getting a taste of motherhood... there was no looking back. And, thus, the predicament! When Stephanie shared with the staff her exciting news of another baby on the way, she also

announced she would be leaving KWF not just for maternity leave, but for good. She has a new area to map out now – full time motherhood with two young girls. Olivia Marie Kobylarz made the plan complete upon her arrival on January 25. The staff is sad to see Stephanie go, but thrilled to welcome a new baby to the KWF family! We know it's not "goodbye" but a "see ya later", as the Kobylarz family continues to be active in supporting KWF and our mission. (We suspect Stephanie can be found, once again, welcoming runners during the Kenai River Festival's Run for the River.) A HUGE THANKS to Stephanie for her years of hard work that have contributed to the health of the local watersheds we all love and enjoy.

Right: Stephanie in the field... one of her favorite places to be!



Intersecting Journeys

"Intersecting Journeys", the 2011 summer exhibit at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, is on display. This interdisciplinary exhibit features a blend of natural and cultural history objects, images and archival material combined with statewide contemporary art, both narrative and conceptual. Kenai is a place where history, cultures, and the natural world intersect. Join us to celebrate the season, and your community.

The exhibit will open at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center, 11471 Kenai Spur Highway in Kenai, on Friday, April 22nd from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. with an opening reception. The exhibit will be on display throughout the summer months.

For more information contact the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center at (907) 283-1991.



Right: "Snow Snake" by Deland Anderson is part of the summer exhibit.



The Return of the Interns

Joe Charbonnet and Elizabeth Jones return for another summer at KWF

KWF is thrilled to welcome back two interns from the summer of 2010. Returning interns are a huge asset to the KWF staff in many respects. Not only is familiarity with the local area, streams, culverts and rivers a plus, but also the continuity in fieldwork and documentation in ongoing projects is tremendously helpful. We are proud to welcome back Elizabeth Jones and Joe Charbonnet to the KWF team for the 2011 summer fieldwork season, and we'd like to reintroduce you to them and share what they have been up to since we last saw them.

Elizabeth Jones is currently a junior at MIT studying Environmental Engineering and pursuing a minor in Public Policy. She is originally from Massachusetts but has traveled to many different places in her short twenty years of life. In her free time, she takes pleasure in spending time outdoors and producing radio pieces. She is also really interested in managing water systems while lessening humans' impact. She really enjoyed working for The Kenai Watershed Forum last summer and thinks both the work and people are fantastic.

This past year, Elizabeth has been keeping busy as the president of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Student Association at MIT. Through that, she organizes events for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department such as Habitat for Humanity builds, faculty dinners, orientation events for freshmen, and workshops for students. She also spends time pursuing her interest in water scarcity through a new MIT class focused on researching the global water crisis. When not working, she volunteers at the Cambridge Community Center mentoring a first grader, playing games, sports, and occasionally teaching a few lessons of reading and writing. During the month of January,

Elizabeth traveled to Hawaii as part of a class doing fieldwork. She was looking at the presence of silt deposits in a watershed and determining if their presence would be detrimental to the coral reefs at the watershed's outlet. The month culminated in a presentation to the local watershed management organization. She is excited to return to Alaska this summer and continue her work for the Kenai Watershed Forum.

Joe Charbonnet is entering his fourth year as an Environmental Engineering student at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. He grew up in Gainesville, FL with one older sister who is now studying Spanish in Argentina and with his parents who are both educators. He first came to Alaska last year to work for the Kenai Watershed Forum as a summer intern. He was especially drawn in by the application that stated "applicants should have a healthy respect for working in bear country." Joe has been active in the outdoors throughout his life and continues to enjoy camping, backpacking, rock climbing, and of course fishing, making working in Alaska ideal for him. Since entering college he has become very active in volunteer public service, especially tutoring, scientific research, and sustainability efforts. These interests made KWF's mission of education, research, and restoration while engaging the community particularly attractive.



Since completing his internship last summer he has had a very eventful year. In addition to his usual classes, Joe took on research on antibiotic resistance to help determine ways to fight "superbugs" like MRSA. He also accepted a spring internship with NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL where he worked on Environmental Control and Life Support Systems. There Joe helped develop technology that will help sustain astronauts in the hostile environment of space on long-term space flight such as the International Space Station, and future trips to the Moon and Mars. He was specifically studying low-energy ways to recycle and purify drinking water for use in space, technology that could eventually be used here on earth, too. He is very excited about the upcoming summer and returning to KWF to pick up where he left off. This outstanding organization and the work it does makes the flight from one corner of the country to the other well worth it.

(Continued from Page 1 - Drug Disposal)

Researchers in Ontario wondered what this might mean for fish population dynamics. They added estrogen (found in things like birth control pills and medications for treating menopause symptoms and osteoporosis) to a sealed-off lake containing multiple fish species. Males exhibited the expected "feminization" effects. The fathead minnow, a very common and short-lived species in North America, had stopped reproducing by the second summer, triggering a population crash. Longer-lived species generally showed more gradual population declines. Those that relied heavily on fathead minnows as a food source, though, showed rapid declines in the third year of the study.

And it's not just obvious things like estrogen that can act as endocrine disrupters. Medicines used to treat things from high cholesterol to cancer to asthma work by mimicking hormones. While endocrine disrupters are the most well-studied in terms of effects on fish, other medications, such as antibiotics, found in wastewater are also being studied to determine what effects they might have.

To address the problem of water contamination from medication disposal, and also in an effort to keep commonly-abused prescription drugs out of the reach of potential abusers, local police have partnered with Soldotna Professional Pharmacy to offer a safe, no questions asked drop-off location for out-of-date or unwanted meds. Non-controlled substances can be dropped off at the pharmacy anytime during working hours by giving them to a staff member for disposal. On Saturday April 30 from 10am to 2pm, there will be a police officer on site, which will allow the pharmacy to also be a drop off site for controlled meds during those hours. If you miss this event, you can still drop off any medications, including controlled substances, anytime, with no questions asked at a drop box facility in the lobby of Soldotna Police Department.

If you ever have any questions about medications, the pharmacists at Soldotna Professional Pharmacy are always happy to help. Stop by or call 262-3800.



Time to clean out your medicine cabinets

DISPOSE OF ANY PRESCRIPTION OR OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS THAT ARE EXPIRED OR UNUSED!!



**WHEN: Saturday, April 30th
10am - 2pm**

WHERE: Soldotna Professional Pharmacy

Event brought to you by:

Soldotna Professional Pharmacy, Alaska State Troopers, DEA, your Kenai & Soldotna Police Departments, and Kenai Watershed Forum

WHY DISPOSE???

- **our families** - returning unwanted medications makes our homes safer
- **our community** - proper & safe disposal prevents theft & other misuse of medications
- **our environment** - flushing or throwing away medications puts our waterways & aquatic life at risk

Capital Building Campaign

Getting close to our \$632,500 goal

We are about two years in to our Capital Building Campaign and as we enter the construction phase of our building project, the Board of Directors, Capital Campaign Committee, and construction team wanted to bring you an update on the progress.

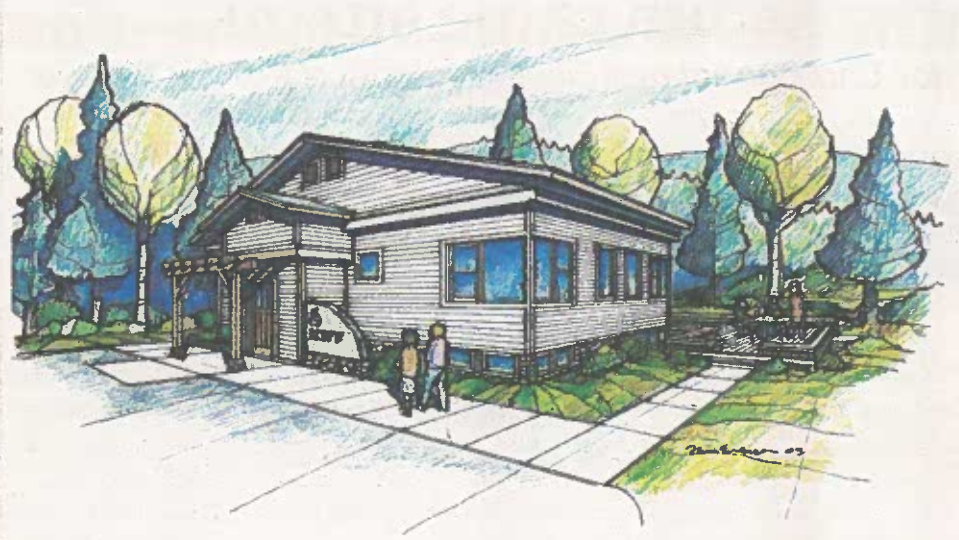
We are happy to announce we have reached over 75% of our \$632,000 goal for our new building! We have successfully secured \$474,533 from various corporations, foundations, local businesses, government entities, fundraising events, and local individuals. Through their generosity and investment in KWF, our new building is becoming a reality!

Our supporters have shown tremendous generosity not only to the Kenai Watershed Forum, but to this community. There have been several successful capital campaigns occurring simultaneously in the local area in the past few years. The success of these campaigns speaks loudly to the positive energy in this community. We are honored to be present in such a caring and dedicated community.

In addition to cash and in-kind contributions, KWF has been the recipient of a very unique gift, the proceeds from the sale of a Fur Rondy pin collection! Clayton and Jean Brockel approached us about nine months ago with the idea of donating the collection to KWF. The collection was assembled and became a hobby of the Brockels' late son, John C. Brockel.



After discussions with the Fur Rondy office in Anchorage, it was very apparent this was a very special collection. Not only in terms of the value, which is estimated to be approximately \$20,000, but the fact that in the collection there is a rare 1941 pin, one of the only remaining pins from that year. The complete story with all the unique twists and



turns has been highlighted in a two-part series written by Clark Fair in the Redoubt Reporter. In addition, KTUU Channel 2 News picked up the story during Fur Rondy and it was featured in their Assignment Alaska report. Both the Redoubt Reporter and the KTUU stories can be linked to from our website.

There have been several significant offers for the 1941 pin, but it is our hope to keep the collection in tact. We are working with the Fur Rondy office and will keep you updated on the outcome. The collection is being made "in memory of John C. Brockel, and Harold and Inez Loftis." Many thanks to Clayton and Jean Brockel for their support and belief in our mission and approach towards conservation.

A special thanks the following who have all contributed recently to the Capital Building Campaign.

\$10,000 - River Champion

Ryan & Sharon Smith
Philip & Rosemary Kimball

\$8,000

Brown Agency

\$5,000 - River Hero

Tom & Stephanie Kobylarz

Bill & Melinda Nelson - \$2,500

David & Julie Derry - \$1,000

In-Kind Contributions

Aware Consulting
Alaska Railroad Corporation

Building Up - Soberg House Restoration & Renovation

Progress continues on the Soberg House renovation

By Jim Czarnecki - KWF Water Quality Specialist

Work has continued on the renovation of the Soberg House. Hands on activities included adding structural supports to the roof trusses. A quirk in the original building design resulted in the trusses requiring some additional support. This was accomplished with the help of our contract engineer and a couple of carpenters who were eager to pitch in.

The concrete slab in the basement has been cut into 1' X 1' slabs and is ready for removal. A few members of the Skyview football team have agreed to help with the removal of the slabs. The slabs can be reused as pavers. This reduces the amount of material our project puts in the landfill and helps us with LEED Certification.

We have a good start on uploading the required documentation to the US Green Building Council web site for LEED Certification. The goal of the LEED Program is to promote the construction of sustainable and energy efficient buildings. KWF's goal for our new office space is to provide a healthy work environment and a model of sustainability and energy efficiency for the community.

The activity level will increase dramatically as summer approaches. We will continue to address stormwater runoff at the building site. We will complete the installation of a pervious surface on the parking lot. We will also construct rain gardens and swales that collect runoff and allow it to slowly seep into the ground rather than enter the storm drains.

As this article is being written, a Request for Qualifications/Proposals has been put out. We hope to hire a General Contractor by May 1 and would like to see construction start around June 1. There is still a lot of work to be done on our new home, but we have a very dedicated team and we should be able to move in to our new office this fall.

Stay tuned...



KWF Membership - 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."

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.

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

\$1000

Ron & Karen Martinelli

\$500 Benefactor

Ken & Sara Hepner
John Pfeifer & Anna Moran
Great Alaska Adventure Lodge

\$250

Catherine Cassidy & Erik Huebsch

\$200

Ken & Carolyn Schaefer
Betty & Jim Harris
Jane Fuerstenau & Mitch Michaud
John Demske
UCIDA
Marge Mullen
Bob McCard & Pam Hays
Laura Sievert

\$150

Larry & Carol Marsh
Betsy & Elmer Kanago

\$100 River Steward

Zonk! Productions
Cynthia & Dennis Balser
Lance Trasky
Janice Rodas

Dave & Ginny Litchfield
Lori DeVito
KPFA
Peninsula Construction
Debbie & Sheldon Ruffner
Willie & Lorraine Davis
Andy Loranger
Dell Smith & Elyse Taylor
Kassik's Kenai Brew Stop
John & Janet Brewer
Larry & Carol Ford
Lisa Parker & Steve Horn
Dana & Darlene Nichols
Kathy & Bill Holt
Mike Navarre
Heather Floyd & Ben Hanson
Curt & Debbie Shuey
Shana & Doug Loshbaugh
Martha Jane Fair
Barbara Jewell
Bill & Lois Nelson
Dana & Jeff McDonald
Ann Ghicadus & Mark Luttrell
Joe & Billie Hardy
Bill & Patti Berkahn
Howard & Dyan Ferren
Tom & Lyn Hodel
Paula Martin
Scott & Lela Rosin
Ed and Sara Berg
Peter & Bernadien Raiskums
Sandra & Tony Lewis
Freddie Billingslea
Theodore Lexmond and Janette Cadieux-Lexmond
Joe Ray Skrha
Ed Schmitt

David & Patricia Peach
Kurt & Barbara Olson
William & Barbara Burke
\$50 Chinook
Sharon and Richard Waisanen
Sue Mauger
Laura & Toby Burke
Wayne Mundy
Tustemena Elementary
Roger & Sandy Harkins
Michele Stenger & Michael Gracz
Jim Fisher
Jim & Cas Czarneski
Bill Wilhelm
Kim Howard
Mary & Thomas Rhyner
Paul Knight
Gary & Colleen Sonnevill
Jim & Nedra Evenson
Ted & Mary Bailey
Katherine Parker
John Czarenzki
William Kenyon
Mark & Cindy Glassmaker
Nathan Bailly
Dorothy Gray
Hugh & Margorie Hays
Alice Hall O'Connor
Mark & Camilla Dalton
Rick Dukowitz
Barb Maynard
Bud & Sammy Crawford
Terry Thompson
Barbara Dilley
George & Katie McDowell

Eve Witten & Randy Hagenstein
Olivia Pfeifer
Gus Andress
Jim Clark & Kathy Brown
\$35
Robin Veluce-Tanguy
Ann Rappoport
\$25 Sockeye
Paul Seaton
Soldotna Jewish Congregation
Mary Price
Kate & Andy Veh
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
David Athons
Karyn Noyes
Joe Moore
Kelly Electric
James Richardson
Linda Swarner
Gretchen Graeff
Louise Dubois
Michael Gravier
Tommy & Arlene Knock
Pete Sprague
Gail Moore
Sandra Holsten
Ken & Connie Tarbox
Paul Gauthier
Johna Beech
Lauren & Rob Fraser
Harold Smalley

Kyle & Anna Fisher
Elizabeth Leduc
Richard Smeriglio
Ron Gravenhorst
Michael Bell
Chet Vincent
Paul Moses
Gary Walklin & Jacqueline Colson
Cameron McCormick
Cheri Edwards

\$10 Smolt
UPS Store - Connie Gatling
Froso's Restaurant
Jersey Subs
Catherine Olsen
Davie & Carrie Henson
Heidi & Dan Chay
Vickie Tinker
Philip St. John
Michael Trepanier

Additional Contributions to KWF
Kristine Schmidt and Bob Molloy
Alaska Wildland Adventures



For our Future - Support KWF!

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: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Level

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

Payment

____ Enclosed is my donation
____ Please charge my credit Card

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

Mail to: Kenai Watershed Forum
PO Box 2937 • Soldotna, AK 99669

Federal Tax ID: 91-1829284
____ Please keep my contribution anonymous.

Ways to support KWF

By Mail - Fill out the donation form at left 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".

Planned Giving - Think of the Kenai Watershed Forum when preparing your long-term financial plans. A bequest is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and ensure our watersheds are healthy for generations. Please call us for more information about estate planning options, 907-260-5449.

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.