

Let's Celebrate!

Free, Family Fun for Everyone!

With humble beginnings, the Kenai River Festival has grown into a community gem, providing a free, fun family event to celebrate the river that gives so much to our community. At the festival, learn how to give back to the river keeping it healthy and productive for generations to come. Leg endary festival highlights include 20 foot long magical Luq'A the salmon, world famous pioneer salmon dinners, Run for the River 5K/10Mile race, free riverside entertainment and more than 20 free children's activities.

In 2011, more than 10,000 people celebrated the Kenai River at the Ke nai Watershed Forum's annual festival. With its headwaters in the Kenai Mountains, the glacially fed Kenai River flows through spectacular landscapes like Kenai Lake, Kenai Canyon, and Skilak Lake before mixing with the salt waters of Cook Inlet 82 miles from its beginnings. From watching breakup to fishing the glacial blue waters, locals and visitors alike know Kenai River greatness. In 2012, the Kenai Watershed Forum is excited to host the 22nd celebration to honor the splendor that is the Kenai River.

In this program, festival highlights and schedule can be found. As always the Kenai River Festival is a FREE event brought to the community by the generosity of local businesses and organizations. Everyone is invited, except pets. Thank you for celebrating with us!



The Kenai River Festival is brought to you by the **Kenai Watershed Forum**

Festival & Concert Schedule

~ Friday, June 8 ~

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM • Music, Beer, Food and Art Vendor Booths!

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM • Run for the River Late Registration, Bib Pick-

Up, and Runners Feed

6:00 PM • Energy Efficiency LEED Talk

DETAILED ERT SCHEDU W PAGE 7

~ Saturday, June 9 ~

8:00 AM • Run for the River Registration

8:30 AM • Run for the River 10 Mile Start

9:00 AM • Run for the River 5K Start

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM • FREE Kid's Activity Booths Open

11:00 AM - 11:00 PM • Live Music ALL Day!

11:00 AM - 8:00 PM • Art & Food Vendor Booths Open

Noon - 11:00 PM • Beer Garden Open

~ Sunday, June 10 ~

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM • FREE Kid's Activity Booths Open

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Live Music ALL Day!

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM • Art & Food Vendor Booths Open

Noon - 4:00 PM • Beer Garden Open

DID YOU KNOW

Kenai River Quick Facts Headwaters: Kenai Lake

Outlet: Cook Inlet

River length: 82 miles

Land that drains into river: 1.4 million acres Average summer water temperature: 48*F Average winter water temperature: 34*F

Fish: 40 different types

FREE KID'S ZONE ~ LIVE MUSIC ART & FOOD VENDORS ~ BEER GARDEN RUN FOR THE RIVER 5K & IOMILE STORYTELLING ~ FISH DISSECTION CLINICS WATER SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

PUPPET SHOWS ~ RIVER WALKS ~ MUCH MORE!

Kenai River Festival Information is available on the web at: www.kenaiwatershed.org



Welcome to the 22nd Annual Kenai River Festival

Thank you for celebrating the Kenai River at the 22nd Annual Kenai River Festival. A growing festival of this kind is put on not by one person but by an entire community. A dedicated team of people give their time and support to make the festival a huge success.

Festival Mothers

Over 20 years ago, a small group of residents decided to make a difference in their community. Peggy Mullen, Lori Catherine Cassidy and Brenda Dale dreamed up what would become the largest festival on the Kenai Peninsula—the Kenai River Festival. These visionaries or Festival Mothers gathered volunteers and set details in motion to celebrate the Kenai River's contribution to the community and educate people about the ways in which they could keep the river healthy. As we enjoy the festival, we owe a bit of gratitude to the Festival Mothers for their vision. Thank you!

Volunteers

Volunteers make the world go around providing community services that might not otherwise exist. The Kenai River Festival is no exception. Hundreds of volunteers donate their time over the course of the 3-day event. Whether setting up tents, providing sanitation services or assisting your child with paint, volunteers make the festival a success. Please consider donating your time to celebrate the Kenai River community this year. A variety of opportunities exist. Contact Kristy McCullough at kristy.mccullough@gmail.com or (907) 394-0686 to learn more.

In 2012, we are excited to continue the community celebration through free, fun family friendly activities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Beranek
Festival Director, Kenai Watershed Forum

Kenai River Festival Information is available on the web at: www.kenaiwatershed.org



Ług'a

Our beautiful 20 foot salmon (above) by Catherine Cassidy

When the Kenai River Festival was first conceived twenty-some years ago, the small group of volunteers, organized by Peggy Mullen, was motivated to celebrate the river's contribution to our community and educate people about keeping the river healthy. But the group also had a strong artistic bent. They wanted the festival to be filled with music, costumes, children's art and, of course, a giant salmon. After all, Cordova has a giant dancing ice worm at their festival (and if you've never seen it, go straight to a search engine).

Margret Hugi-Lewis, an Alaskan sculptor and mixed media artist, was drafted to mastermind the project. She designed the wood and chicken wire supporting framework and the painted fabric fish 'skin'. Volunteers acquired bed sheets at thrift stores, sewed them together and spent a weekend with Hugi-Lewis in a backyard in Kenai creating the masterpiece. The result was a 30 foot long colorful, fanciful salmon. The framework allowed the sculpture to be picked up and carried by seven people inside the fish.

The fish was named Łuq'a, the Dena'ina word for salmon. A fitting name for the festival's symbol since the Dena'ina harvested salmon here sustainably for over a thousand years.

The original bed sheet skin started getting tired after about ten years. Local artists Helen Brown and Bunny Swan Gease designed the replacement skin and made it out of a more durable synthetic fabric. A new light weight framework was built with PVC so now the fish can be carried by only 5 people.

Łuq'a always attends the Kenai River Festival and has participated in many parades and other events over the past twenty years. The giant salmon is an enduring symbol of natural beauty, creativity and sustainability.

Kenai River Festival Committee Chairs & Board of Directors

The Kenai Watershed Forum appreciates the many individuals, businesses and organizations that have generously given of their time and talents to continue the success of the annual Kenai River Festival. Thank you for making the Kenai River Festival one of the best events on the Kenai Peninsula!

Festival Committee Chairs

Festival Director: Lisa Beranek
Fundraising Chair: Josselyn O'Connor
Beer Garden Chair: Robert Ruffner
Education Chair: Lisa Beranek
Vendor Chair: Josselyn O'Connor
Entertainment Chair: Dan Pascucci
Run for the River Chair: Rhonda McCormick
Security Chair: Branden Bornemann
Volunteer Chair: Kristy McCullough

City of Soldotna: Mayor Peter Micciche, Larry Semmens, Andrew Carmichael,

Carmen Triana

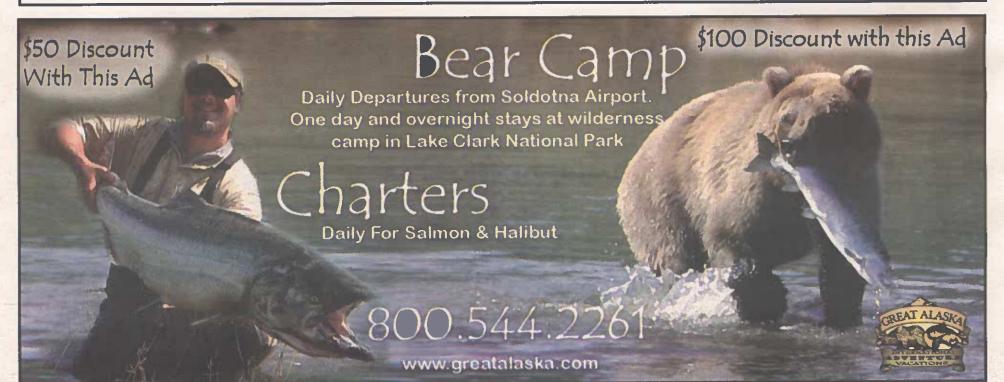
KWF Board of Directors

President: Jim Butler
Vice President: Kyle Fisher
Treasurer: Howard Ferren
Secretary: Leslie Morton
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Dr. David Wartinbee
Ken Marlow
Natasha Ala





ENJOY THE FESTIVAL AND BE SURE TO FIND US ON FACEBOOK!





Festival Presenter: Kenai Watershed Forum

Working Together for Healthy Watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

Founded in 1997 by a group of concerned Alaskans, the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) has grown from a small collective focusing on the Kenai River Watershed (2,200 square miles) to a board directed, regionally re spected 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission includes the entire Kenai Peninsula (16,000 square miles).

KWF focuses on finding solutions to watershed concerns through high quality research, education, and restoration programs to meet the evolving needs of the region. This can be seen on the water and at the conference table. KWF facilitates hard conversations as evidenced by the engaging, hands-on education activities for students to the formation of the nationally recognized Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, which has brought varying entities to the table to increase community awareness and protect local watersheds. KWF is a recognized leader among watershed organizations in Alaska and beyond.



KWF strives to enhance the knowledge about watershed health and our environment for all ages and backgrounds. KWF education programs include school age children to adults and residents to



visitors. Education opportunities include Adopt-A-Stream, Caring for the Kenai, Kenai River Festival, Stream Watch Volunteer Program, Summer Camp, biannual speaker series, and more.

RESEARCH

Over the last 15 years, KWF's research program has grown from a grass roots monitoring effort into a complex and comprehensive program. From

hydrocarbon testing on the Kenai River to fish pas sage barrier assessments, KWF continues to provide high quality data collection while enhancing research efforts to keep the community informed of the health of local watersheds. KWF

provides an invaluable service to the entire Kenai Peninsula.



RESTORATION

KWF's restoration program targets two priority areas: fish passage and non-native, invasive species. Unrestricted access to spawning, rearing, or over-wintering habitat is essential to maintain salmon populations. To date, KWF has replaced 50 road culverts that were blocking fish passage, open ing up over 20 miles of salmon habitat that were previously unreachable. In

2011, KWF completed the Anchor River Res toration Project. The project reconfigured the river channel to its historic route, restoring an additional mile of spawning habitat. Less than a month after it was completed, fish were observed using the restored habitat.



Learn more: www.kenaiwatershed.org



Catch the Excitement on the Kenai

No matter what lures you to the Kenai Peninsula, Era Alaska is a great way to fly to one of Alaska's favorite recreation destinations. Our service gets you there fast, so you have more time for world-class fishing, river rafting, camping or just relaxing. Era Alaska is proud to support the Kenai River Watershed Forum and the 2012 Kenai River Festival.







RENAI RAVER

KWF Kid's Zone

Fun & Inspiration for the whole family

The Kenai Watershed Forum's Kid's Zone is busting with information and free, fun hands-on family friendly activities. Learn how to protect the river through trivia, arts and crafts, storytelling and activities for all ages. Grab your Passport to Fun card and collect enough stamps for your chance to win an iPad!

Kid's Zone Highlights

Passport to Fun: Win an iPad!

Win an iPad at the Kenai Watershed Forum booth! Stop by the Kenai River Festival Welcome Tent and grab your passport for your chance to win. Enjoy the KWF Kid's Zone and collect stamps from completed activities. Once your passport is completed, return your card to the Kenai Watershed Festival booth for your chance to win. Winners will be contacted by June 16.

Living Streams: Stories for Healthy Watersheds Meet Queen Hydrophyte, Rapmaster Daddy Long Legs

and the Walking Steelhead in this participatory performance by storyteller Will Hornyak. Will uses fables, tall tales and participation stories to bring information on healthy rivers to life. The shows are lively, upbeat and interactive. Visit the KWF Welcome Tent for start times.



Fish Painting: Boys & Girls Club

Get creative with the Boys & Girls Club! Personalize and take home a decorative wooden fish. Families have been collecting these beautiful fish for generations. Start or add to your collection!

Archery Shoot: Sportsman's Warehouse Let your inner Robin Hood live through this fun activity! Kids of all ages learn

this fun activity! Kids of all ages learn about archery and get to practice on the shooting field.

Face Painting: Kenai Peninsula Education Assoc.

No festival is complete without face painting. Wear your pride with free face painting and try your chance at winning a prize! A very popular festival activity and is not to be missed.

Salmon Art: The Study

Test your salmon skills with this sculpting activity.
Use your knowledge of fish to mold your very own

salmon out of clay. A fun activity for all ages.

Trivia: Aspen Hotels of Alaska

Do you love trivia? Take your chances on the trivia wheel with Aspen Hotels. Answer your trivia question correctly and win a prize.



Bounce for the River: Jumpin Junction

A Jumpin Junction bounce house will be on site for all of your giggling needs! Jump for joy, skip for stewardship or just have a good time. Everyone enjoys the bounce house.

Fish of a Different Color: Stream Watch

Decorate your very own salmon hat while learning about river protection with Stream Watch volunteers. Stream Watch will also share information on how kid's can help protect fish this summer.

Obstacle Course: Kenaitze Head Start

Put your skills to the test! Toddlers can build their hiking muscles on this fun obstacle course. Arts and crafts activities for the young ones will also be on site.

Peninsula Animals: IDEA Homeschool Program

Put on your thinking cap! Learn about animals that live on the Kenai Peninsula through fun, family games that use logic and math skills. So much fun you won't notice you're learning!



While enjoying the Kenai River Festival, be sure to support local businesses in Soldotna!

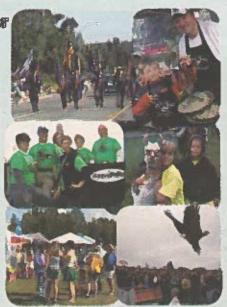
Join the Soldotna Chamber in Celebrating

Progress Days July 28 & 29

Soldstna Greek Park

Enjoy a parade and family fun, including live entertainment sponsored by the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and the City of Soldotna. Plus, the Dutch Oven Competition is back again this year. Don't miss it!

For more information, contact the Soldotna Chamber at (907) 262-9814



oldotna Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center (907) 262-9814 ~ www.soldotnachamber.com





Paint a Safe Day on the Water: Friends of the Joyce K. Carver Memorial Library

Let your inner artist out! A safe day on the water is no accident. Learn about water safety during this fun painting activity with the Friends of the Library.

Personalized Bookmarks: The Imagination Library

Craft your own bookmark with the Imagination Library! The program will also register families for their free book-a-month program for children under 5 years old.



Pathways to Fishing: US Fish & Wildlife Service

A must see booth for new anglers of any age! Develop important angler skills and ethics and learn about river stewardship while casting, making crafts and playing games.

Fishy Fun: Alaska State Parks & the Kenai Brown Bear Committee

Enjoy fishing in bear country? Take your fishy fun to a whole new level. Learn how to properly handle fish and dispose of fish waste while enjoying a lively and interactive game.

Cast Your Vote: League of Women Voters (Central Kenai Peninsula)

Let your voice be heard! Cast your vote for your favorite Bird TLC raptor in a real voting booth. Learn the role and process of voting in our community. Election results will be shared via the Peninsula Clarion Editorial Section.

Winners Circle: Caring for the Kenai

When asked what they could do to better care for the Kenai Peninsula, the top contenders in the Caring for the Kenai competition stepped it up. See their projects, from fish waste seed pots to recycled beach glass jewelry, on display at the festival.

Live Raptors: Bird Treatment and Learning Center (Bird TLC)

Get face-to-face with birds of prey! With over 450 kinds of birds in the state of Alaska, it is especially ex-

WILL HORNYAK WEAVES A WEB ON WATER CONSERVATION

"Storyteller par excellence....endless imagination, boundless wit and an ability to transport children and adults into an amazing imaginary world."—The Oregonian



Saturday: Noon & 4:30pm | Sunday: 11:45am

From Irish folktales and American tall tales to Native American legends and Russian fairytales, Will Hornyak weaves a wide web of well-crafted stories into energetic and highly engaging performances for all ages. A former newspaper reporter in Latin America, Will combines an understanding of world cultures with a love for the rhythm and music of language.

A strong advocate for storytelling as a tool for personal and social empowerment, Will has performed and offered workshops for a variety of audiences including the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Department, the American Cancer Society, the Columbia River Festival, the Oregon Early Childhood Educa-

tion Council and numerous businesses, schools and colleges. He teaches classes in storytelling at Marylhurst University and Lewis and Clark College when he is not performing throughout the country. He was awarded the Sunburst Artist of the Year Award as well as the Brimstone Grant from the National Storytelling Association for his environmental education program: Living Streams: Stories for Healthy Watersheds.

The Kenai Watershed Forum is pleased to bring Will to Alaska to celebrate at the Kenai River Festival. Bring your family and some lawn chairs to enjoy Will's performances on Saturday and Sunday. His shows are not to be missed!

STORYTELLING

citing to get close to the large predators. View raptors through the assistance of trained Bird TLC handlers.

Fish Dissection: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assoc.

Get hands on with fish! Children and adults alike will be fascinated when taking a look inside of local fish. Learn about the different organs and see what makes our fish so unique. Visit the KWF Welcome Tent for start times.

Climbing Wall: Alaska Army National Guard

Put your muscles to the test! Learn how to climb this rock wall under the supervision of trained military personnel. This activity is ideal for children ages 7-16.

Other Organizations with Activities Include...

Apache Hilcorp Alaska Kenai River Center Keen Eye Bird Club Marathon Alaska





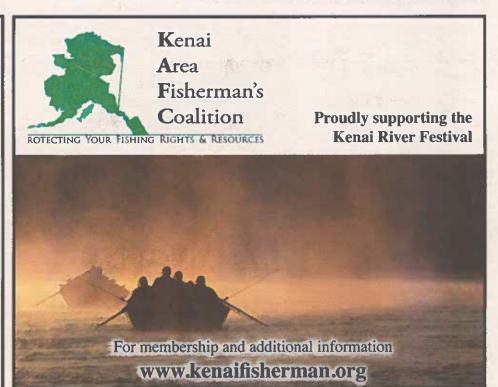
The COLDEST Beer in Town!

Country Liquor features the COLDEST beer in town and a tremedous selection of the finest wines on the Kenai Peninsula! If we don't have it, we can get it!



Located next to Country Foods in Kenai!

(907) 283-7651





Run for the River 5K & 10 Mile Run/Walk

A fun, family fitness event to benefit the Kenai River!

The Run for the River Race is a part of the annual Kenai River Festival. With 5K and 10Mile run/walk options, there's a race for everyone. Runners of all walks will enjoy this multi-turn, looped course that follows the Kenai River. Medals are awarded to the top 3 finishers in the following categories: 5K men, 5K women, 10Mile men, & 10Mile women. Race proceeds support the Kenai Watershed Forum's activities which include the Kenai River Festival, educational programming and river protection activities.

Register to Run for the River today! Registration is available online, in person or via mail. Visit www.KenaiWatershed.org or call (907) 260-5449 for more in-

Registration Early Registration: June 7 deadline, \$20 Late Registration: June 8, \$30 Race Day Registration: June 9, \$35

Race Day Information Race Central is Hutchings Auto. Check-In: 8am 10 Mile Start: 8:30am 5K Start: 9am



Bib Pick-up & Pre-Race Dinner • June 8th

All registered runner's are invited to a free dinner the night before the race! While there you can pick up your bib, enjoy live music and check out the race course maps. Volunteers will be on hand to answer any race related questions you might have. Late registration will be available for runners to register and join the festivi-

Our Race Central Sponsor is...

We are gratful for their continued support of our event & programs!







Many thanks to this year's Run for the River Presenting Sponsor...

Many thanks to all the folks at Central Peninsula Hospital! We appreciate their support and community spirit! Central Peninsula Hospital is dedicated to promoting wellness and providing high quality health care to residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula.







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ROCK OUT FOR THE RIVER! FREE live music all day long!!!

Pack up the kids and leave the dog at home: It's time to Rock Out for the River. The Kenai Watershed Forum presents a variety of free live music and entertainment on June 8, 9, & 10 as a part of the annual Kenai River Festival. Get ready to rock!

The 3-day music filled festival will include local favorites like 907, Big Fat Buddha and Half-Baked Alaskans. New acts include the Kenai Preformers "River Dance" and Just We Too. Learn about sea stars and spruce bark beetles with Kenai Watershed Forum's own Dan Pascucci. Music styles include rock and roll, country, blues, jazz, folk, bluegrass, and more. With entertainment for all ages and interests, a good time will be had by all at this free riverside concert in Soldotna Creek Park.



On stage this year...

Rick Matiya

Friday, June 8

5:00 - 6:00 pm Smith Family Band

6:30 - 7:30 pm PG Band 8:00 - 9:30 pm 907

Saturday, June 9

11-11:45 am

12Noon - 1:00 pm Will Hornyak 1:15 - 1:45 pm Dirty D 2:00 - 2:15 pm **Dancers Toubador North** 2:15 - 3:15 pm 3:30 - 4:15 pm The Good Kind 4:30 - 4:45 pm Will Hornyak 5:00 - 5:45 pm Hot Sauce Matt Hopper 6:00 - 7:00 pm Just We Too 7:15 - 8:15 pm 8:30 - 9:00 pm **Dance Party** 9:00 - 11:00 pm Big Fat Buddah

Sunday, June 10

11-11:45 am Joe Ray Skrha
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Will Hornyak
1:00 - 1:45 pm Caressa
2:00 - 2:45 pm Bunny Swan-Gease
3:00 - 3:45 pm Matt Boyle

4:00 - 5:00 pm Half-Baked Alaskans

Beer Garden

Think globally. Drink locally.

The Kenai River Festival Beer Garden will open on Friday at 5pm and will serve local brews all weekend long. Enjoy a selection of beers from Kassik's Brewery, Kenai River Brewing Company and St. Elias Brewing Company while enjoying the Rock Out for the River entertainment.

Beer Garden Hours Friday, June 8: 5pm-10pm Saturday, June 9: 11am-11pm Sunday, June 10: 11am-4pm BREWING CO.





Thank you Kassik's Brewery, Kenai River Brewing Company and St. Elias Brewing Company for their generosity, all proceeds from beer sales go toward working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula!





THANK YOU!

The Kenai River Festival is a community celebration that is put on through community partnerships. This event would not be possible without the generous support of businesses and individuals that truly support the Kenai River. (List as of May 16 - Sponsors are being added daily. Please check our website at www.kenaiwatershed. org for a complete list.)

Corporate Sponsors





















Major Sponsors



























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Alaskan Pride: Pioneer Salmon Dinners

Help protect the pristine rivers and healthy watersheds by enjoying a pioneer salmon dinner.

When the newly married Mullins' read an article in a 1947 Chicago newspaper about homesteading opportunities in Alaska, they pictured forested lands and pristine rivers —a wonderful place to call home. Ready to seize the opportunity, the young couple loaded up their Stetson 101, 2-seater plane and took to the sky. They could never have imagined how forested nor how pristine their journey would become. Flying over the newly routed Alaska-Canada Highway in their plane, they had a hard time navigating as accurate maps did not exist. They decided to follow the new highway but due to the towering trees they often had to stick their heads out of the airplane window to keep an eye on the road. They arrived in Anchorage 11 days later and set up temporary residence in anticipation of the homestead announcement for the Kenai Peninsula.

Once the announcement was made, they hit the road. However at the time the road did not get them all that far. They took the train to Moose Pass and then hiked through the Ke-

1 tsp. vanilla

1 tsp. baking soda

1 cup nonfat plain yogurt

1 ½ cup chopped rhubarb

2/3 cup chopped walnuts

nai Burn to present day Soldotna. In 1948 they found what would become home. After 5 years of hard work they were able to claim their homestead. It takes an enormous amount of courage, some might say guts of steel, to embark on such a journey.

To fuel this new venture, the Mullen's family prepared their secret family recipes for salmon and rhubarb spice cake. These two pioneer provisions can be enjoyed at the Kenai River Festival. Snug Harbor Seafoods generously donated the salmon so that all proceeds go toward the Kenai Watershed Forum's vision. Taste the world famous dinners, fuel your inner pio-

neer and help protect the pristine rivers and healthy watersheds of the Kenai Peninsula!

NULLEN RHUBARB SPICE CAKE

1 ½ cup whole wheat flour ½ cup white flour

I heaping tsp. cinnamon ½ tsp. nutmeg

Pinch of salt

2 eggs, beaten

½ cup canola oil

1 cup dark brown sugar, firmly

packed

Combine flours, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt in a large bowl. Set aside. In a separate bowl, mix eggs, oil, brown sugar, and vanilla. Combine yogurt and baking soda. Watch the bubbles! Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients. Combine in a few quick strokes. Fold in rhubarb and walnuts. Spread swiftly into an oiled 9"x13" pan (glass dish or parchment paper in metal pan). Bake at 350* for 30 minutes.



2/3 cup soy sauce

1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar 1 tsp. minced fresh garlic

1 tsp. minced fresh ginger

Marinate 2 lbs. salmon for 20-30 minutes. Remove from heat when slightly undercooked. The fish will finish on a warm platter and remain moist and

