

HARDWARE STORE HERALD

Volume 17

News from the Wrangell Mountains Center

Winter 2016/17

Connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains.



Contents

New Staff/Board Members...	2
Landscape Painting.....	2
Artist Residency.....	3
MSY Geology Camp.....	4
Swallow Research.....	5
Lumber Donation.....	6
Thank You.....	7
Ways to Support.....	9



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Howard Mozen
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Jared Steyaert
Lila Vogt
Leif Mjos
Sophie Gilbert
Julie Keniry



Paul Scannell Photography

▲ Instructors and participants of the 2016 Family Music Camp on the front porch of Porphyry Place

Letter from the President

In McCarthy, the sun is low and lends a gray and gold warmth to the landscape that's unique to the season. Ice clings to McCarthy Creek's cobbled banks, and snow (finally!) covers last summer's yellow-brown fireweed stalks. It's a quiet time. The Hardware Store is buttoned up for the winter. Not many people are showering under a bucket amongst the cottonwoods.

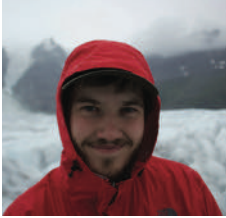
But in Anchorage, and a few other towns dotted across the U.S., there's a bustling energy as lovers of the Wrangell Mountains Center are hard at work. We're preparing a diverse set of programs and planning for facilities improvements to help us meet our mission in 2017 and beyond. I'm thrilled to introduce our new Executive Director, Nate Anderson, who has worked as an intern and volunteer at the WMC during the last two years. On the Board, we have new members donating their organizational, programming, and development skills (see p. 2), and I've taken over leadership from Howard Mozen, who remains on the board.

Our 2016 season was a success due to the tremendous efforts of our hard working staff and the engagement of members and supporters like you. Whether you attended a Summer Arts and Lectures event for the first time last summer or have been a member for decades, your enthusiasm for science, art, and education in the wild Wrangells make you a part of our community. I hope you'll consider a year-ending donation today to ward us fulfilling our mission in the coming seasons. And, if you can, after the snow melts off our doorstep in spring, we'd love to have you stop in and say hello. We're always keen to hear why the WMC is important to you.

Yours in the Wrangells,
Tim Bartholomaus
President of the Board of Directors

New Staff/Board Members

Meet the new WMC Executive Director, Nate Anderson, and new board members, Julie Keniry and Sophie Gilbert.



Nate Anderson moved to Alaska in 2012 to pursue a B.S. in Environmental Science and Mathematics at Alaska Pacific University (APU). It was through APU that Nate first came to McCarthy in 2013 for a packrafting trip to Cordova and again in 2015 for a research project on the Root Glacier. In between trips up the Root Glacier, Nate worked as an intern at the Old Hardware Store. In October 2016, Nate was hired as the new Executive Director. “This is an incredible opportunity to return to the Wrangells and work among an extraordinary community,” said Nate after accepting the position. 🐾



Julie Keniry has a lifelong passion for community and education. She first came to the Wrangells as a participant in the life-changing Alaska Wildlands Studies program in 1991 and spent a summer there with her children in 2006. Even through long absences, McCarthy and Kennicott, it’s people and it’s wild lands, have a hold on her heart. She is currently working to support integrated project-based learning and real-world experiences for students through Oregon’s statewide STEM hub network, Julie brings to the board years of experience in collective impact partnership, math and science education, and fisheries research. 🐾



Sophie Gilbert is a wildlife ecologist and a professor at the University of Idaho, where she studies the effects of environmental change on animal behavior, populations, and communities, as well as the socioeconomic linkages between wildlife and society. She first came to the Wrangells as a student in the WMC college program in 2006, where she fell in love with the fascinating landscape and people, and has been returning ever since. She moved to AK in 2009 to pursue her PhD at the University of Fairbanks, and now lives in Moscow, ID. She is excited to be joining the WMC board this year, and looks forward to spending more time in the Wrangells again! 🐾



▲ Participants of the Landscape Painting Workshop focus intently on creating their pieces

Landscape Painting with Color and Light

By Rita Pfenninger

The rain stopped just in time for the Landscape Painting with Color and Light workshop presented by artist Rita Pfenninger of Homer, Alaska, also a long-time, part-time resident of McCarthy/Kennicott. The workshop began in late August with a public slide show of Pfenninger’s work, demonstrating the layering technique of acrylic and/or oil painting. This technique engages the viewer in optical mixing of color by intentionally placing contrasting spots of bright color in close proximity.

Pfenninger considers herself a colorist of the Impressionist tradition and traces her influences to the Cape Cod School of Art, founded in 1899 by Charles Hawthorne. Hawthorne is credited with introducing the painting style of the French Impressionists to America. In contrast to the more popular “tonal” painting of the time, colorists conveyed value differences in light and dark with vibrant color instead of blacks, whites and browns.

Although most of the three days were spent in studio painting, the group activated their ability to perceive pure color in the local, early-autumn landscape, specifically by isolating colors from their contexts and recognizing the McCarthy light key by identifying the color of cast shadows. “Shadows are an easy way to deduce the light-source color,” Pfenninger explained, “because their color is the complementary or opposite color on the color wheel.” She demonstrated this phenomenon by shining a red light on a large palette knife, which cast a green shadow. Participants explored color relationships by making color choices that vibrated together while also depicting depth.

Each participant completed at least two paintings, and chose one to make gallery-ready in a metal, copper-colored frame. To conclude, participants exhibited their work in a group show. 🐾



▲ Living Room Concert at Porphyry Place with Michelle McAfee, Robin Child, Bryan Campbell, Spencer Williamson, and Jason Esler



Artist Residency: Return to McCarthy

by Julia Rosen

People warned me that McCarthy had changed. But this August, when I walked back across the footbridge — over the roiling waters of the Kennicott River — I was struck most by the things that have remained the same. The smell of the dirt road, wet from the rain, thrust me back to the summer of 2002, when I came to McCarthy as a college student in the Wildlands Studies program. I saw the familiar silhouette of Sourdough Peak rising into the clouds, and the tenacious willows marching across the glacial mudflats. A few days into my stay, inside the dilapidated red shack on the road to Kennecott, I spied a bearskin hanging in the shadows, just as I recalled.

But if McCarthy has stayed more or less the same, I have changed tremendously — in many ways because of my first visit. This is where I discovered my interest in geology (I went on to get a PhD) and where I first felt the allure of the wilderness (I have spent the years since exploring it). In retrospect, McCarthy is also where I first began to use science and nature as subjects for nonfiction writing, now my profession and what brought me back as an artist-in-residence to the Wrangell Mountains Center. I hoped, in returning, to understand what it was about this place that so profoundly affected me.

So I wandered the trails looking for answers, calling out for bears, admiring tall blazes of fireweed, watching the aspens smolder gold along the ridgelines. I walked through the soft dryas flats to the toe of the Kennicott Glacier, where I stood on the crumbling moraine and shivered in the sharp breeze. I spent a rare bluebird day alone on the ice, negotiating crevasses and skirting gaping moulins, making my way to the base of Donoho Peak, where I basked on a flat rock eating vegetables from the Hardware Store gardens.

And of course, I wrote about the powerful memories and emotions these small adventures conjured.

When I couldn't get past a barrier in my words or thoughts, I sought the company of my fellow resident artist, the inspiring and fearless Nina Elder, on her own journey to understand McCarthy's place in the world. I sat on the porches of locals and gazed into the flames of welcoming campfires; I danced to music at the saloon and loitered around the mail shack, watching the ritual sorting. I learned that I was not the only one to have McCarthy in my bones. So many people have come to this valley and gotten caught in its thrall, building shrines in the form of simple cabins or enduring institutions. I have done neither, and can offer only humble words, starting with a note of deep gratitude to the people and places that welcomed me back. ♪

2016 Artists in Residence

Keren Lowell - Fiber Artist

Nina Elder - Landscape Painting and Drawing

Julia Rosen - Science and Nature Non-Fiction Writer

Peter Bell - Director and Independent Filmmaker

Shawn Skabelund - Place-Based Installations



▲ Volunteers from Anchorage based non profit, Off the Chain, put on a bicycle maintenance workshop and tune up the entire fleet of WMC bikes.



Mountain Arts and Sciences for Youth

Kristin Link



▲ Collaborative geology camp with Wrangell Institute for Science & Environment (WISE)

Glacial Geology Program Inspires Youth and Adults

by Janelle Eklund

Twenty excited participants in the first Geology Backpacking partnership program (WISE, WMC, BLM, and National Park Service) got to know each other through questions, stories, jokes and metaphors. Evening brought us the short distance to the banks of McCarthy Creek where we got a lesson on rocks from Barry Hecht and Mary Gianotti. We were split into pairs, instructed to each pick up two rocks that piqued our curiosity and share with our partner: something we noticed about it, what it reminded us of, and what it made us wonder about it. After sharing these thoughts we learned about the different kinds of rock – sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic – how they were formed, and identified those we wondered about.

The next morning gave promise to a beautiful day to commune with the glacial landscape and its icy core. We were joined by Park Service geologist, Mike Loso and WMC Board member and owner of Kennicott Wilderness Guides, Jared Steyaert, our guides and instructors for the glacier trek. Our expert guides gave us safety rules and then led us on an ice enchanted adventure. Melting ice carved waterfalls, creeks and riv-

Kristin Link



▲ Earth Scientist, Mary Gianotti, shares her knowledge about the geology of the Kennecott area

ers, cutting and gathering the ice into more water droplets. Day by day, swirling, dancing around and around, the ice water sculpted deep blue holes, called moulins, plumbing the bowels of the glacier. Drop after drop meeting to make a hidden massive under-glacier water slide in perpetual motion.

The end of the journey took us back to Wrangell Mountains Center in McCarthy where we shared a last delicious meal, our thoughts of the experience, and how it might affect our future lives. WMC instructors and McCarthy participants graciously helped carry some of our gear back across the footbridge to our vehicles. In a new light the terminal moraine cast its forces upon us as we said our goodbyes to new friends and reflected on the camaraderie of shared exciting moments, solid as the rocks that formed over time. ❧

Youth View - Geology Camp

by Natasha Gardner

It was a long and definitely hard hike to the root of the glacier but thanks to my friends and counselors the hike seemed short because we were always given something to chat about. The long hike was worth it. We set up our tents, then put on crampons and explored the beautiful glacier. I especially enjoyed being on the glacier itself and learning about moulins, crevasses, jökulhlaup (an Icelandic word for glacial outburst flood), how the water flowing on the glacier is ready to drink, and much more. ❧

Lara Applebaum



Scenes from Mountain Arts for Youth during the 2016 season



Lara Applebaum

Tree Swallows - Windows into Changing Environments

by Maren Vitousek and Cedric Zimmer

This summer a team of researchers from four universities flocked to McCarthy to study what makes local tree swallows – like other birds that breed in these relatively extreme environments – so good at coping with environmental challenges. With the support of the many landowners throughout McCarthy who allowed us to place and study nest boxes on their property, and the WMC who supported our research efforts, the team monitored over 50 boxes from May through July. We banded parents who settled in these boxes with uniquely numbered tags, and used recording equipment to study how often each parent returned to the nest to care for their young under different conditions. We also collected data on the physiological health and stress hormone levels of parents and nestlings by collecting small blood samples at different times during the breeding season. As it turned out, 2016 was a banner year for McCarthy birds. Typically 50-80% of tree swallow nests contain young that survive to independence, yet over 90% of the swallow nests in McCarthy successfully fledged young!

Next year we plan to continue investigating how these remarkable birds cope with the challenges faced during the breeding season. This work is part of a large, Cornell-led research project that is comparing how swallows cope with stress across



Maren Vitousek



Paul Scannell Photography

▲ One of the many swallow boxes located around McCarthy their broad geographic range – with the same types of data collected in swallow populations from Alaska to Tennessee, and from sea level to high mountain slopes – to provide a window into how animals cope with stressful and changing environments. We are grateful to the many McCarthy residents who helped our efforts this summer, and look forward to another wonderful year in 2017! ↻



Maren Vitousek

▲ Swallow researchers from universities around the country



◀ Maria Shell and Kristin Link working on a project at Sew Fun

Paul Scannell Photography

▶ Mark Vail working on his project during Sew Fun



Paul Scannell Photography

▼ Family Music Camp participants practice at Porphyry Place



Paul Scannell Photography

A Story of Generosity and the Noble Art of Nail Pulling

By Sally Gibert

Everyone knows that McCarthy folks are masters at repurposing local materials from the past. Grant Crosby and Petra Wilm, owners of 11 Silk Stocking Row (1918), took this concept to heart.

This summer, Grant and Petra systematically dismantled a circa 1947 Anchorage home with the intent to build a new house on the lot, and generously offered the salvaged lumber to the Wrangell Mountains Center! Though it would have been easier to bulldoze the house, Grant and Petra knew the WMC could use that beautifully-straight, tight-grained building material, rather than letting it go to waste.

The vintage lumber also needed to be de-nailed for transport to McCarthy, thus attracting more volunteer effort including Grant, Howard Mozen, Tim Riedell, Zan Frederick, and myself. Kudos also to the next generation of inspiring volunteers! They include Hollis Crosby (age 7), Dylan Austin-Merlino (age 12) and Owen Mozen (age 13). I've always enjoyed the strategic art of nail pulling – seeking to salvage the most lumber with the least damage and using the least amount of brut force. It's time-consuming but noble work!



Sally Gibert

▲ Hollis Crosby pulling nails

Most of the lumber will be used to build a new



Grant Crosby

▲ Salvaged lumber stacked in McCarthy and ready for re-use

utility outbuilding behind the Old Hardware Store, replacing the current outhouse. That outhouse was built in 1979 from the precariously collapsed remnants of two historic houses on lots that are now out in the middle of McCarthy Creek. It only makes sense that it's successor structure would incorporate similarly reclaimed materials.

Thanks to Grant and Petra for their very thoughtful and generous donation! 🍷

McCarthy Half Marathon



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Thank You Donors and Members!

\$1-49: Weston Bennett, Melissa Blair, Erica Byerley, Jenny Carroll & Paul Dungan, Ruthann Carrao, Bess Crandall, Elizabeth Crandall, Martin Dodge, Joe & Rebekah Donohue, Frenchie, Leslie Gustave-Vigil, Carol Harding, Genevieve Holubik, Rosalind Kessler, Carolyn Kremers, Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen, Marie Lundstrom, Pat & Marilyn Maloney, Cindy & Bill Mann, Robin Mayo, Mary McKinley, Melissa & Kenny Miller, Turk Montepare & Deb Crook, Kate Morse, Kevin & Tamera Muenta, Monica O'Keefe, Nick Olmsted & Molly Kemp, Patricia Owens, Jen Palmisano, Kirin Riddell & Chris Smith, Stephen & Madison Rosser, Jessica Speed, Greg Streveler, Dennis Swanson, Dave Syren, Susan Tague, Derek Teare, Mark Vail, Adam & Emily Wells, Erika Wolter

\$50-99: Christin Anderson, Cheryl Antenucci, Kristin Carpenter, Chris Chopyak & John Herge, Copper River Watershed Project, Jennifer Edwards, Richard & Katherine Fournier, Suzanne Hanlan, Blake Harrison, Charles Hawley, Garin Hecht, Duane Hippe & Shelly Laws, Victoria Lord, Mike & Karen Loso, Carolyn & Larry Mastin, Craig Matkin & Eva Saulitis, Robert McGimsey, Beth Nordland, James Nordlund, Meg O'Mullane & Brendan Bonnett, Tony Perelli & Becky King, Brad & Chrisy Richie, Timothy Ross & Joan Fryxell, Natalie Schuldt, Sara Yates



◀ *Harvesting Bok Choy*
▼ *Summer intern, Julia Fischer, working in the WMC gardens*



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\$100-249: Agnew::Beck Consulting, Gary & Katherine Bartholomaeus, Chris & Mimi Beck, Joe & Sue Bemben, Mae Bemben, Bryan & Erin Campbell, Dirk & Tineke Carroll, Kirsten & Jeremy Cohen, Sunny & Bob Cook, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Grant Crosby & Petra Wilm, William & Cherry Davis, Megan Gahl & Darrin Kelly, Jack and Joy Geck, Jason Geck & Joey Williams, Susan Georgette & James Magdanz, James Handley, Tamara & Stephens Harper, Brian & Theresa Heckart, Cindy Hendel, Matt Hevner, Dave Hollis, Jack Holt, The Horn Doctor Music Store, Inc., Meg Jensen, Tom Kizzia, Kristin Link & Greg Runyan, Harlan Loso, Ruby Loso, Tom Luster, Marjorie & Bob Magee, McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum, Ruth McHenry & Cliff Eames, Carol McIntyre & Ray Hander, David Mitchell, Peggy Morsch & Kathy Herson, Milt Mozen, Bonnie Neugebauer, PG&E Corporation Foundation, Laurie Prax, Resolution Brewing Company, Barbara & John Rice, Daniel Robins, Danny & Arlene Rosenkrans, Jan Rubin, Karen Ruud & Peter Mjos, Ivan Samuels, Benjamin Shaby, William & Jennifer Sherlock, Frank Soos & Margo Klass, Reid Tippets, Michael, Julie, & Conner Truskowski, Lila Vogt, Dave & Gay Wellman, Robert Wesson & Gayle Gordon, Marc Wilhelm, Olaf Zerbock

\$250-499: Bob & Suzanne Anderson, Thea Agnew & Will Bemben, Judy Cook, Imogen Daly, Merck Foundation, Leif Mjos, Eddie, Barbara, & Isaac Mozen, Howard Mozen & Elizabeth Schafer, Jared & Tanya Steyaert, Candice Tong, Barbara Williams

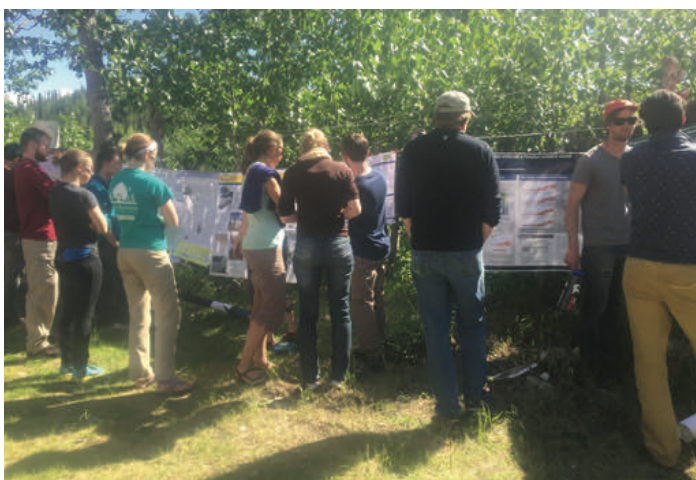
Tall Tales \$500 Prize: McCarthy Lodge

\$500-999: Tim Bartholomaeus & Sophie Gilbert, Edward Bueler, Gary Link & Linda Magnussen, Jason Reitmeyer, Maria Shell & Walt Tague

\$1000+: Sally Gibert & Dick Mylius, Barry & Ellen Hecht, Neil O'Donnell & Margaret Stock

\$2500+: Alaska State Council on the Arts, Blackburn Heritage Foundation

\$10,000+: John & Tana Bosshard, Ruth Schmidt ADM Trust



Kristin Link

▲ *2016 Glaciology Summer School poster session*
▼ *Glaciologists working on projects at the Hardware Store*



Kristin Link

Special Thanks to our In-Kind Donors and Volunteers

Agnew::Beck Consulting, Alaska Railroad Corporation, Alaska SeaLife Center, Michael Allwright & Lilly Goodman-Allwright, Anchorage Museum, Nate Anderson, Lara Applebaum, Zack Barrett, Tim Bartholomaeus & Sophie Gilbert, Bear Creek Winery, Bear Tooth Theatre Pub & Grill, Pete Bell, Bryan & Erin Campbell, Robin Child, Scott Clendaniel & Maria Benner, Mike Conti, Mary Convey, Nancy Cook, John Cooperman, Dan Coslic, Grant Crosby & Petra Wilm, Crowley Marine Services, Neil Darish, Joe & Rebekah Donohue, Nina Elder, Jason Esler, Fat Ptarmigan, Rachel Franklin, Julia Fisher, Patt Garrett, Mary Gianotti, Sally Gibert & Dick Mylius, Kris & Sam Gregory, David Grimes, Catherine Hansen-Stamp, Tamara & Stephens Harper, Barry Hecht, Larry & Rita Hoare, Dave Hollis, Meg Hunt, Christine Johnson, Kennicott-McCarthy Volunteer Fire Department, Kennicott Wilderness Guides, Alecia Koach, Keren Lowell, Rich Krikwood, Kristin Link, Mike & Karen Loso, Joe Macchina, Robin Mayo, Michelle McAfee, McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum, McCarthy River Tours & Outfitters, Kayla & John McGrath, Gina Merlino, Dave Mitchell, Leif Mjos, Barbara Morford, Howard Mozen & Elizabeth Schafer, Mavis Muller, Zac Nason, Tenley Nelson, Off the Chain Bicycle Collective, Julia Paige, Jeremy Pataky, Tony Perelli & Becky King, Lyn Plomaritis & Charles O'Neill, The Potato, Havilah Rand, REI, John & Barbara Rice, Kirin Riddell & Chris Smith, Julia Rosen, Brittany & Kaleb Rowland, Paul Scannell, Maura Schumacher, Stephanie Sever, Ben Shaine, Maria Shell & Walt Tague, Andy & Cynthia Shidner, Stacey Shriner, Shawn Skabelund, Skinny Raven Sports, Matt Smith & Meghan Seifert, Athena Swinford & Jeremy Jette, Maxwell Taylor, Stefanie Tschappat, Mark Vail, Amber & Matt Vial, Lila Vogt, Lindsay Wallin, Dave Wellman, Marlene Wenger, Wrangell Mountain Air, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve



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Scenes from the 2016 Medicinal Plant Workshop



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ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



A huge thank you to Paul Scannell Photography for taking numerous amazing photos this summer. Check out more of Paul's work at www.paulscannellphotography.co.uk or on his Facebook page. 📷

YES! I want to be part of connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains today...

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Membership Support Level:

___\$15 Student/Basic ___\$25 Standard ___\$150 McCarthy Creek ___\$250 Kennicott River
___\$500 Fireweed Mountain ___\$1000 Donoho Peak ___\$5000 Mount Blackburn ___10,000 Mount Wrangell
___\$ _____ other



Thank you for being a part of the Wrangell Mountains Center!

Please hand-deliver this form to the Old Hardware Store in McCarthy or mail this form along with a check or money order to PO Box 142972, Anchorage AK, 99514-2972

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. Tax ID # 92 0117864

Hardware Store Watermark - Candice Tong

Alternative Ways to Support

Did you know there are multiple ways you can direct donations to the WMC? You can help support the WMC by shopping at Amazon Smile. Simply add us as your organization at smile.amazon.com when you shop online and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase. Also, if you are an Alaska resident, you can make a donation directly from your 2017 PFD check using Pick.Click.Give. when you submit your dividend application in early 2017. ☺

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Do you have a functional and safe wood stove lying around that you would consider donating to the Wrangell Mountains Center? If so, please email us at info@wrangells.org or call (907) 554-4464. We would love to take it off of your hands and put it to use at the Old Hardware Store! ☺



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▲ Basket burning on McCarthy Creek with artist Mavis Muller