

USDA FOREST SERVICE  
ALASKA REGION  
P. O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802

# SourDough Notes



USDA Forest Service  
Employee Newsletter  
Alaska Region  
Issue 491 Fall 2004

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*Please send your suggestions and comments to Teresa Haugh, Editor (see page 2).*

## Where in the World Are They?

*Edited by Adam Morgan, Regional Public Affairs Office*

As you know, in the spirit of our New Century of Service, this column has been set up to recognize the contributions of many of our Alaska Region retirees over the years. This issue features former Alaska Region forester Henry (Hank) Hays, who moved to Alaska in 1955, and Carl W. Sawnson (now deceased) who moved to Alaska in 1965.

Hank Hayes was a 1950 graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Hays started his Forest Service career in the Alaska Region in 1955. Hays held a number of positions in the Alaska Region before retiring in 1983, from forester to planning officer. Hays followed his childhood passion of art and spends his days oil painting. Hays now lives in Bainbridge Island, Wash., with his wife Ellen Hope, a Tlingit from the Killer Whale clan (Eagle) in Klukwan. Hays has three children from his first marriage.

Hays reminisced about the changes over the years in the ways we do

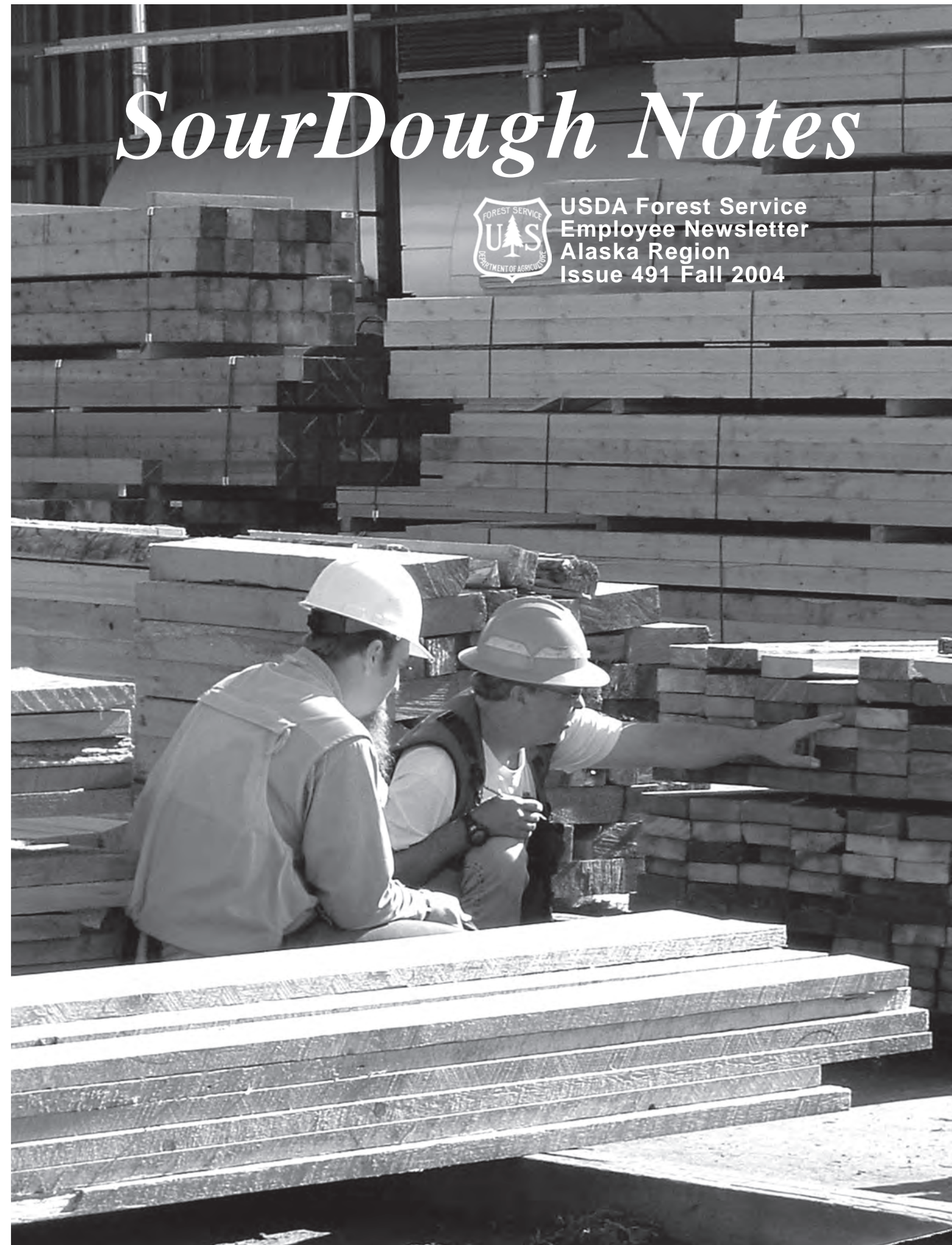
business. New ideas and new technology often made our jobs a lot easier. For example, Hays talked about the process of timber cruising—surveying plots of forestlands to determine how many board feet of timber the plots will yield—which often took three or four men to complete. The process was revolutionized in the late 1950s, however. Hays at the time was working as a timber assistant on the Tongass National Forest in Ketchikan when the new innovative ideas began to surface.

How did timber cruising radically change in Alaska? It all started when the concept of “plotless” cruising began to make its way through the Forest Service. At that time, Washington Office forester Bob Reinhart was given the task of bringing new ideas to the field. Bob visited the Alaska Region, bringing with him an array of new tools for fieldwork. One of the tools Bob brought to the region was a set of small

*cont'd inside back cover*



*Retiree Hank Hays  
in Berlin, 2004*





ON THE COVER:

A finished product tally from a sawmill log test, otherwise known as “lumber out.” Photo courtesy of Regional Office Forest Management.

SourDough Notes

Quarterly newsletter for the employees and retirees of the  
**USDA Forest Service**  
Alaska Region  
P. O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802-1628  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10>

FALL 2004

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SourDough Notes is written for the employees and retirees of the Alaska Region. Your suggestions, articles, and photographs are welcome. Please contact:

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Articles should be no more than 800 words and may be edited. Submitted articles may not all be printed. Photos should be submitted as gray-scale TIF graphics, 5”x7” and 300 dpi.

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Length of Service Awards

30 Years

Kermit Budinger Peter Griffin, Jr.	Dennis Neill William Shuster	Walt Ullmayer Steven Zemke
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25 Years

Carol Goularte Elbert Hardin John Liston	Peggy Sears Sandra Skrien James Steward	Joyce Voight Winifred Weber
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20 Years

Paul Hennon Lawrence Jenson Irene Lindquist	Susan Marthaller Sally Merfeld Patricia Nannauck	Andrew Schmidt Marcia Staten Laurie Thorpe
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15 Years

Lynette Carlson Debra J. Clark Elizabeth A. Dougan Mary Emerick	Ada M. Feak Michael E. Fitzpatrick James K. Hodges Rich Jacobson	James A. Llanos Thomas D. Parker John K. Pickens Merlyn Schelske
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10 Years

Michael Cook Erin Cooper	Winona Dick Todd Johnson	Mary Morris Dustin Wittwer
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5 Years

Christian Barajas Tiffany Benna Delilah Brigham	Patricia Droz Laurie Lamm	Adam McClory Christal Rose
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Where in the World Are They? (cont'd from back page)



by the concept.

Hays played with the idea a little bit. Then one day, he heard about a European invention called the “Spiegel Relaskop.” This afforded Hays the opportunity to follow up on the new concepts. Contacts were made, and soon

glass prisms used to cruise timber by measuring basal area. In rain-drenched Tongass, however, they were not very practical. Hays said he was very intrigued

foresters on the Tongass National Forest were the owners of a new “Spiegel Relaskop.”

After numerous field tests, Hays took his new tool and ideas to the regional office to explain what he had learned. He came to the conclusion that this new concept of plotless cruising, coupled with the newly invented Spiegel Relaskop, just might work in the temperate rainforests of the Tongass.

Since the new method could be done by one or two men, and was a lot faster

than the old method, it was a winner in the region. Pretty soon, everybody on the Tongass was using the new cruising tools.

“Ketchikan was always looking for innovative ideas in those days,” recalled Hays. “We were always trying new ideas, seeing if they held any real promise.”

Hank Hayes, former Alaska Region employee, is just one of the reasons we are commemorating our history and heritage in 2005.

Editor's Note: Karen Swanson-Woolf recently told me that her father, Carl W. Swanson, died suddenly at his home on October 5, 2004. He was 81 years old and had been in the U.S. Forest Service for over 33 years, ten of these years in Alaska. Swanson began to write an article about his life for the “Where In the World Are They?” column, but unfortunately, left the document incomplete on his desk, where his daughter Karen found it later. I would like to share what he started, and with Karen's help, fill in the blanks.

The words of Carl Swanson:

I expect to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Service in Portland, Ore., next year. I recall the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Forest Service in 1955 when I was on the Boise National Forest in Idaho.

I began my career with the Forest Services as a Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) enrollee at North Bend, Wash., in 1941. In 1942, I started my forestry education at the University of Washington. The following year, I joined the Army, the highlight of which was a year I spent overseas in combat against the German Army. I returned to my forestry studies in 1946, and received my degree in forestry in 1949.

I spent nearly 15 years on the Boise National Forest as District Ranger, followed by 4 years on the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City, Utah, as Assistant Forest Supervisor. In January 1965, in the middle of my career, I moved to Alaska—to follow an adventure....



Karen Swanson-Woolf adds:

My father was employed by the U.S. Forest Service for over 30 years in various positions, among them District

Ranger and Assistant Forest Supervisor stationed in Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Alaska. He also was stationed in South Vietnam from 1971-1974, assigned to the U.S. State Department working on reforestation projects with the South Vietnam Forest Service.

Dad retired to Port Townsend, Wash., in 1978. After he “retired” to Jefferson County, he was appointed to fill a vacant Jefferson County Hospital Commissioner position in 1979. He subsequently was elected to 3 six-year terms. He organized and chaired the citizens’ advisory committee for budget and finance. He chaired a series of community and county long-range planning citizen advisory committees. This planning process resulted in the construction of the new hospital addition followed in 1996. For this service and numerous others, Carl was honored by receiving the Citizen of the Year award from the Marrowstone Island Community Association in 1997.

Teresa Haugh  
Editor



# Awards

## Spot

### Chugach

Robert Behrends  
Bridget B. Brown  
Corriene Brown  
Susan Brown  
Ruth D’Amico  
Staci Deschamps  
Michelle Dragoo  
Susan Paige Drobny

William S. Dyke  
TJ Friend  
Elsa H. Gaule  
Alice B. Hall  
Shannon E. Huber  
Jacob K. Johnson  
Andre Kaeppele  
Linda Kelly

Kathleen M. Larson  
Irene Lindquist  
Brooke McFarland  
Brian Meyers  
Zachary Mildon  
Joshua O. Milligan  
Kathy K. Mitchell

Sherry D. Nelson  
Karen A. O’Leary  
Pat O’Leary  
Alissa Pempek  
Lisa M. Portune  
Buku Saliz  
Denise F. Smith

Paula J. Smith  
Bonnie L. Thiel  
Teresa Villalobos  
Dona Walker  
Bette Welch  
Stephanie Williams  
Larry Winter

### Tongass

Gregory T. Albrecht  
Keith Appleman  
Ashley Atkinson  
Nelli Atkinson  
Misty Attwood  
Gwen S. Baluss  
Brian Barr  
Marty Becker  
David Beatley  
Tiffany T. Benna  
Valerie Blajeski  
Kenneth D. Blackman  
Constancio Bolima  
Erik Boraas  
Allan Braun  
Jessica Brogden  
Ryan Brown  
Kyle Brownlee  
Fred H. Bryan  
Kathy Carter  
Jim Case  
Nathaniel Catterson

Michael Clark  
Tyler Cole  
Joseph Costa  
Laurie Craig  
Chelsea J. Crowl  
Diane Daniels  
Tom Dayton  
Winona Dick  
Kimberley Dean  
Riley Dopler  
Zack Freiwald  
Karisa L. Garner  
Marika Geertz  
Jennifer Gessert  
John Gier  
Elizabeth Gifford  
Robert Gubernick  
Tyler Gun  
Jennifer Hagen  
Barth Hamberg  
Kelley J. Hankins  
Carey L. Haralson

Vivian G. Hjort  
Jacob Hofman  
Chad C. Hood  
John Horn  
Jeff Hosman  
Ben Houdek  
Barry Huber  
Sally C. Hunter  
Zachary Hunter  
Frank L. Jimmy  
Linda L. Jones  
Matt Jones  
Casey Josephson  
Dan Kelliher  
Johanna L. Kovarik  
Laurie A. Lamm  
Casey Lavoie  
Leah Lentz  
Jonathan Livermore  
Stephen W. Lombard  
Vicki L. McIntosh  
Mechele MacDonald

Donald W. MacDougall  
Victoria Maurer  
Susan Marthaller  
Matthew Martin  
Mark Medeiros  
Stephanie Mehalick  
Bill Messmer  
Keith Moniz  
Rob Morgenthaler  
Rachel Myron  
Austin O’Brien  
Susan A. Oehlers  
Elizabeth Patterson  
Timothy R. Paul  
Robbie Piehl  
Katherine Prussian  
April M. Rand  
Erik M. Rass  
Josh A. Rass  
Jeffrey A. Reeves  
Katie E. Rooks  
Ted Sanhofer

Kevin Schaberg  
Marc Scholten  
John Selby  
Jeffery Sheakley  
Linda Slaght  
Kristin Stelk  
Nathaniel Stephens  
Mark Stoker  
Claire Tenenbaum  
Julianne E. Thompson  
Emil Tucker  
Dustin Walters  
Lance M. Watkins  
Burl Weller  
Edward K. White  
Danelle M. Wiersma  
Austin Williams  
Troy A. Wineland  
Howard C. Wiseman  
Sarah B. Yamamoto  
Chris Yamasaki

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Peggy Cossaboom

Sharon Deja  
Dean Graham  
Randy Jaenicke  
Linda L. Jones  
Della Koelling

Lake Koelling  
Angie Lammers  
Mechele MacDonald  
Mari Meiners  
Gilbert Mendoza

Loretta Pittman  
Whitney Rickards  
Dawn Schoppert  
Debbie Strickland  
Walt Ullmayer

Caroline Wallace  
Casey Walsh  
Karen Weidenbaugh

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Melinda S. Brenton  
Tom Heutte

Ed Holsten

Erica Osterman

Christina M Sanchez

Dustin T. Wittwer



## Logs In and Lumber Out Sawmill Study Provides Critical Data

The following is the first in a series of articles about the work of Forest Management staff  
By: Jan Lerum, Regional Office

Determining the value of a tree is not easy. In fact, it takes a lot of time, energy, and technology. The regional office Forest Management staff has been willing to accept the challenge, however. This year, they are leading an intensive effort to update our timber appraisal system to make sure that timber sale appraisals reflect the most current fair market value of timber from the Tongass National Forest.

Regional Office employees Bob Housley and Inga Petaisto lead the timber valuation team, and the project has taken up much of their time in 2004. They work closely with Craig and Ketchikan District employees, consultants, computer programmers, accountants, and local saw mill owners and their employees.

To update the information fed into the appraisal system, the team is collecting operating costs and product selling values from timber sale purchasers. They conduct log tests using innovative technology to determine the quality and quantity of lumber that Southeast Alaska sawmills produce from national forest timber. Though log tests have actually been carried out in the Alaska Region since the 1960s, the technology has changed! This year, multiple log tests were conducted at two sawmills over fifteen weeks.

The objective of a log test is to place a value on the timber by measuring and grading lumber recovered from log sorts. Simply said, logs go in, lumber comes out. The logs are sorted by species, size and grade. The log sorts are



Mill Manager Bill Green and Forest Service employee Inga Petaisto

then color coded and batch processed through each step of the sawmill operation: scaling, sorting, debarking, bucking, primary sawing, secondary sawing, trimming and edging, and lumber tally. Pieces are counted. Processes are timed at major machine centers. The results of “lumber out” from “logs in” are then combined with the end product selling price to value Alaskan timber by species, diameter, and cruise grade. With that information, agency appraisers can accurately predict that a particular species, grade, and size log will produce a certain quantity and quality of products, and the value of those products will be reflected in the appraisal.

Tracking the sorts through all the steps of sawmill operations requires careful monitoring to ensure the accuracy of the study. During the first test in February, many people had to manually count logs going through the

mill—a mind-numbing job subject to human error. Looking for a better way to do business, Petaisto contracted with a software engineer in May to develop and install a log tally computer system to electronically count the logs as they moved through the sawmill. The computer system translated those log counts to a data recorder, which then entered the information into a usable spreadsheet. Not only did that eliminate the human error factor, but also allowed the team to immediately review the results of each day’s work, instead of waiting perhaps weeks for data to be entered by hand. Petaisto was pleased with the success of the system, and enjoyed the ability to customize the system and

troubleshoot it on site. Not every innovation was high tech, however. At the second sawmill, an experiment was conducted using portable paint sprayers (developed by the Forest Service’s San Dimas Technology and Development Center) to paint both ends of every log segment to identify which sort they came from. The painting was critical in tracking each piece through the sorting process. Aerosol paint is typically used for log marking, but it would have been very expensive for the large amount of painting involved in this study. The Technology Center provided two test backpack paint sprayers that use compressed gas to propel the paint (which is faster than the aerosol cans), and paint in gallon containers (which is much cheaper than aerosol cans). As

cont’d on page 4



Logs In and Lumber Out *cont'd from page 3*

it turned out, the seals and gaskets in the test sprayers ultimately deteriorated from heavy use. The basic idea was not lost, however. To everyone’s relief, some \$29 weed sprayers from the local hardware store worked well, and proved to be the most cost-efficient solution.

While 2004 was a challenging year for the timber evaluation team, with tight timeframes and complex data

management issues, the team is on track to complete the new and improved timber sale appraisal system before next summer. The new system will be used in all Forest Service timber sale appraisals in the Alaska Region for the next five years. ⌘



Right: Forest Service employees Anne Bergstrom and Inga Petaisto look at cedar logs in a sort yard, otherwise known as “logs in.”

Wilderness Kayak Rangers  
*Admiralty Island National Monument & Juneau Ranger District*



Left to right: Kayak rangers Kevin Hood and Ethan Kelly. Photo by Linda Cериello.

This photo of wilderness kayak rangers Kevin Hood and Ethan Kelly was taken by Linda Cериello. Cериello was dropped off by a charter boat in the back of Tracy Arm where the kayak rangers were working so she could shadow them for a couple of days.

In the photo, Kelly is handing a paddle to Hood, who is holding a bowline to the kayak on the left. Hood will tie his line to the paddle, which will be used to drag the kayak close to the one resting on the right.

This place is called Seal Camp, and is located in the back of Tracy Arm.

Hood and Kelly spend time there contacting other kayak campers, monitoring cruise ship emissions (in partnership with the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation), assisting with harbor seal surveys (with the University of Alaska Southeast and Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game) and measuring glacial retreat (with University of Alaska Fairbanks professor Roman Motyka). With the calving icebergs from the glacier, this is a dynamic location.

Hood and Kelly use this photo to demonstrate the expertise required for doing their job. Returning permanent seasonal employees are most able to do their job safely and professionally.

The rangers were grateful to have Cериello with them to take pictures. They are unable to take their own photos when landing/launching at Seal Camp since they have to be focused on safely carrying out the operation.

Hood will be giving a presentation in Juneau this spring called *Exploring the Boundaries*. He covers the duties of the wilderness kayak crew and the challenge of managing wilderness in Tracy Arm. He shows how cruise ships, kayakers, and seals vie for space in the stunningly beautiful fiord, and teaches his audience what kayak rangers do. ⌘

Awards  
Extra Effort & Travel Gainsharing

Chugach

John Baeten	Debra Hallek	Mark Kromrey	Denise M. Murphy	Dawn Schoppert
Katherine Bagley	Jamie Halperin	Leah Largaespada	Pat O’Leary	Dixon Sherman
Elizabeth Bella	Steve Hennig	Mildred A. Lindall	Susan Rutherford	Brian Sines
Beth A. Berrien	Gale W. Jolliff	Tom Lowell	Raymond St. Amand	Paula Smith
Patricia Borgesen	Paul E. Kain	Joe Meade	Leslie Schick	Mona Spargo
Corriene A. Brown	Leo Keeler	Kathy K. Mitchell	Trey Schillie	Jennifer Trudeau
Jeff Bryden	Kent Kohlhas	Dom Monaco	Jaime T. Schmidt	Joseph F. Williams
Lauro M. Garcia				

Tongass

Eric Abele	Libby Dougan	Sheila A. Jacobson	Russell Paulina	JT Stangl
Donald Andreasen	Patricia Droz	Eric S. Johnson	Shirley Paulsen	William B. Steele
Sumi Angerman	Erik Duerkop	Benjamin Jongenelen	Alec J. Pempek	Jan E. Stevens
Keith Appleman	Robert J. Emley	Jennifer Kevil	Tim Piazza	Jim Steward
James M. Beard	Bob Ernst	Esther S. Kim-	Glenn Pierce	Eric Sutera
Amber Beardslee	Art Etter	Ambuehl	Sandy M. Powers	Leslie Swada
Dennis Benson	Terry Fifield	Kyle Kinports	Chris Prew	Joe Teter
Rozie Berry	Duane H. Fisher Jr.	Pete Klein	Eric Raitanen	JoAnn Thynes
Esther A. Bingham	David Fletcher	Daniel H. Kraemer	Kim A. Redmond	Patrick J. Tierney
Jeannie Blackmore	Sandra Frost	Nicole Lantz	Robert M. Reed	Jeff Tilley
Valerie Blajeski	J. Chris Ford	Robert Larson	Michael R. Regan	Todd M. Tisler
Douglas Blanc	Ryan Gerstenberge	Thomas H. Laurent	Jim Rhodes	Steven T. Trimble
Travis Bower	Marcia Gilles	James A. Llanos	Jamie Roberts	Rick L. Turner
Rita Byrer	Jenny Gomez	Larry L. Lunde	Diane L. Rock	Regina Tusken
Denis Callagher	Peter Greeno	Jason G. McCormick	Linda Rollins	Shane Ulery
Sherri Cessnum	Rose Greenup	Harvey E. McDonald	Julie Rowe	Paul C. Valcarce
Tim Chittenden	Peter M. Griffin	Scott E. McDonald	James M. Russell	Cindy Vreeland
David M. Cox	Jackie Groce	Kyle McNish	Becki Saari	Erik L. Van Walden
Judy Crome	Robert Gubernick	Karen Maher	David Buck P Seals	Lance M. Watkins
Paul M. Crawl	Tyler Gunn	Jamie C. Martin	Kenneth J. Seymore II	Greg Whaley
Diane Daniels	Judy Hatch	Larry Mastie	Gina Siroy	Jeffrey Wickett
Alroy E. DeAngelis	Allie M. High	Shirley A. Matson	Kerry M. Shakarjian	James A. Wilds
Teresa D. Dickey	Kevin E. Hood	Steven Murphy	Nancy Soriano	Arthur V. Williams
Callie Domek	Trina Ives	Benjamin Nowakowski	Martin V. Stanford	

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Kay Fermann	Wayne E Johnson	Gary Lehnhausen	Erica A. Osterman	Dave Strehle



# The Weeds Are in the Bag

By: Betty Charnon, Ecologist, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest



Left: Volunteers pull weeds along a bike path in Girdwood. Right: Kelley McGurik of the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and Carol Sanner of Alaska State Department of Transportation stack up the bags of weeds. Photos by Betty Charnon.

Anyone driving through Girdwood, Alaska, on July 23 may have observed a group of people clad in orange safety vests working along the bike path with plastic garbage bags. No, these people were not collecting garbage along the road; instead, they were pulling weeds. Non-native invasive plants (referred to here as weeds) are recognized as one of four major threats to national forests. Although the Glacier Ranger District does not have large infestations of weeds yet, the weeds are well established nearby, especially along roadways. These weeds can potentially spread to surrounding areas. To tackle the problem, I worked with Carol Sanner, Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, to begin a program of public education and awareness, prevention, and eradication.

As part of this plan, we organized the Girdwood Community Weed Pull, which is a first for the Glacier Ranger District. About 20 people joined forces to pull weeds along the bike path in Girdwood. The event was truly a cooperative effort from the community with representatives from the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, local citizens, SAGA (a statewide youth conservation group), the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, and the Girdwood Municipal Parks and Recreation Department. The group focused on three invasive species: white sweet clover, tufted vetch, and yellow toadflax. These species were starting to show up in Girdwood and would be difficult to eradicate if they became well established. After three hours of work, the weed pullers not only boasted of hav-

ing 70 garbage bags of weeds, but also shared information with the public who stopped to ask questions and praise the workers. Even the local radio station broadcast their appreciation over the air. There was a sense of accomplishment expressed by the volunteers as they met afterwards at a local park for some refreshments and prizes. Extension Service pest management specialist Michael Rasy was pleased with the outcome of the event and said, "This weed pull was very successful. The weeds in Girdwood are still confined to small areas and we really made a difference towards controlling these species." Carol and I hope to make the weed pull an annual event as we continue to work on and expand the weed plan. ☘

## Retirements

Tongass

John L Weisz      Richard L Reynolds

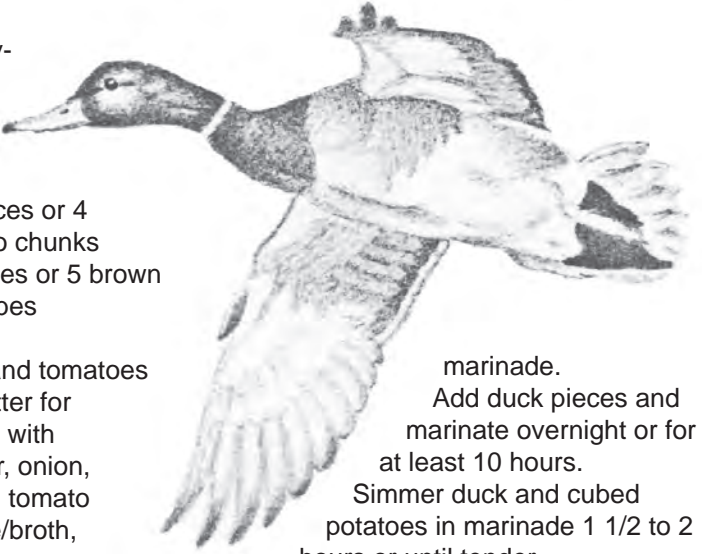
# Alaskan Wild Duck Stew

Courtesy of Liz Trythall, Tongass National Forest, Sitka, Alaska

- 1/3 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 2 large tomatoes, peeled, seeded and quartered or 1 can stewed
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 large carrot, diced
- 1/2 medium green bell pepper, diced
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped celery and leaves
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and quartered
- 3 Tablespoons catsup
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cup dry red wine or chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/8 teaspoon allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon thyme
- 1 bay leaf, crushed
- 1/8 teaspoon mace

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly-ground pepper
- 2 wild ducks, plucked, drawn and cut into serving pieces or 4 duck breasts cut into chunks
- 10 small new potatoes or 5 brown potatoes cut into cubes

Sauté mushrooms and tomatoes in 3 tablespoons butter for 3 minutes. Combine with carrot, green pepper, onion, celery, garlic, olives, tomato paste, olive oil, wine/broth, Worcestershire, cinnamon, cloves, allspice, mace, thyme, bay leaf, salt and pepper to make a



marinade. Add duck pieces and marinate overnight or for at least 10 hours. Simmer duck and cubed potatoes in marinade 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until tender. Serve with fresh garlic bread and green salad.

## Acting Ranger Selected for Wrangell District

By: Kent Cummins, Tongass National Forest

A new ranger has taken the reins of the Tongass National Forest's Wrangell District. Michael Davis, who's currently the environmental coordinator for the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Utah, has been selected to detail as the acting ranger for the Wrangell District. Davis said he appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to the challenge of leading a ranger district.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and the support that I have received concerning my endeavors to become a full-time ranger," said Davis. "I'm looking forward to the challenges and opportunities to learn from the staff."

"We are happy Michael has decided to accept this detail," said Tongass Dep-

uty Forest Supervisor Olleke Rappe-Daniels. "He not only brings a lot of skills to the position but also a good-natured personality that will bode well for him in this position. I think he'll do a great job leading the district."

Although relatively new to the Forest Service, Davis brings a lot of experience with him to Southeast Alaska. "I have not been with the Forest Service very long, about two years, but I have been working in management positions within the private and government sectors for the past 25 years," said Davis.

Davis, who earned his bachelor's in geology from the University of Texas, served 13 years with the Air Force, active Air Force Reserve and Army National Guard. He attended Officer Can-

didate School while serving in the Guard. While in the military, he held positions with aeromedical evacuation units and a combat engineering company. His military service included assignments throughout the United States and Europe.

Aside from his environmental coordinator position, Davis serves as the Manti-La Sal National Forest representative on the Region 4 Civil Rights Action Team and manages the forest's appeals and litigation and Freedom of Information Act programs. He also served as an acting ranger on the Manti-La Sal's Ferron and Prince Ranger District. ☘



# Knotweed in Southeast Alaska: Reasons to Monitor

By: Melinda Brenton, Forest Health Protection, Juneau, Alaska

In mid-September a collaborative assembly of scientists from Juneau, Alaska, and La Grande, Ore., began an effort to find out more about the populations of Japanese Knotweed in the Southeast communities of Sitka and Juneau. The assembly of knotweed researchers was lead by La Grande Forestry Science Lab scientists Jim McIver, entomologist, and Catherine Parks, plant pathologist. Mark Schultz, an entomologist from Forest Health Protection in Juneau, assisted the group. McIver and the entomology team of six assistants and volunteers researched the insects feeding and living on knotweed. Steve Radosovich and Keli Kuykendall from Oregon State University College of Forestry assisted Parks. Park's group collected knotweed samples in order to analyze the genetics of the local populations. The preliminary findings from these studies are showing that knotweed is a threat that needs more attention in Southeast Alaska.

Knotweed is known to reduce the diversity of insects in an area by creating a monoculture in which few insects can feed and survive, therefore the insects that visit these stands are sparse. There was little sign of foliar feeding on the knotweed plants surveyed. Also there were a few feeding and burrowing in the stems and roots.

Let's give an A+ to the crew for finding the root feeders. This was a difficult job. It involved digging a one-meter square pit in which every root was extracted and examined after paring or

whittling into the pith of the root. The pits were dug to one meter deep and two pits were excavated in the Kimsham Landfill of Sitka, one of the largest knotweed patches surveyed.

The genetics group of Parks, Radosovich, and Kuykendall sampled many sites throughout Sitka and Juneau. Samples of the knotweed collected from these locations will be used to determine genetic variation. In Sitka,

the knotweed patches were all identified as Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and developing flow-ers led to the discovery of seeds at the Mt. Verstovia Trailhead site. The viability of these seeds will be tested at Oregon State University. In Juneau this group noted that the populations were a hybridized knotweed that could be Giant/Japanese Hybrid knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum x sachalinensis*) or Japanese/Russian Vine Hybrid (*Polygonum cuspidatum x baldschuanica*). No seeds were found at the Juneau sites.

The initial results from these studies are troubling for invasive research in Southeast Alaska. Parks' team raised doubts that knotweed in south-east reproduces by rhizomes alone. Scientific literature indicates that in North America Japanese knotweed reproduces clonally through rhizomes. It is believed that the plant found throughout North America is sterile and will not reproduce by seed. However Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinensis*) also found in North America has the ability to hybridize with Japanese knotweed to produce Giant/Japanese Hybrid knotweed, which may produce viable seeds. Therefore, the hybrid plants found in Juneau may spread more rapidly than anticipated.

Some sources have observed viable seeds on knotweed in North America but these seeds rarely germinate in the wild. This could be the same case with the seeds found in Sitka, although Sitka does not plan



Top: Invasive knotweed in Southeast Alaska.  
Bottom: Team studies the invasive species.  
Photos by Tom Heutte.

# Wood Trash to Treasure

By Alison Rein, Rec Planner/Landscape Architect, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

You may have heard of the 3 “Rs” of conserving resources and materials: **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

Many times we seem to get hung up on Number 3 while ignoring numbers 1 and 2. Recycling is certainly im-

portant, but often, we can actually gain more benefits from reducing the initial amount of material we use, or reusing a product without any processing.

The Glacier Ranger District saw the second “R” put into practice this summer. Our trail crew worked hard

to build a beautiful boardwalk trail in Girdwood made from long pieces of 4 x 6 ft. decking. The process left a lot of waste wood, in 1-to-2-foot pieces. The waste pieces were piled at the trailhead, and one creative local inquired as to its availability. Since it was headed for the refuse pile, we let him know it was his for the taking. A week later I saw the results of his ingenuity, a mud-free driveway that looks too nice to drive on!

Not only was a lovely driveway created from the reuse of waste wood, the Glacier Ranger District avoided having to add a considerable amount of treated wood to our landfill stream. This effort also saved district personnel considerable logistical and work time, and of course the fees charged at our refuse transfer station.

If you need inspiration on how you might turn trash to treasure, you just have to look at these pictures of the final result. ☘



From a pile of woods scraps (left) to a beautiful mud-free driveway (right).

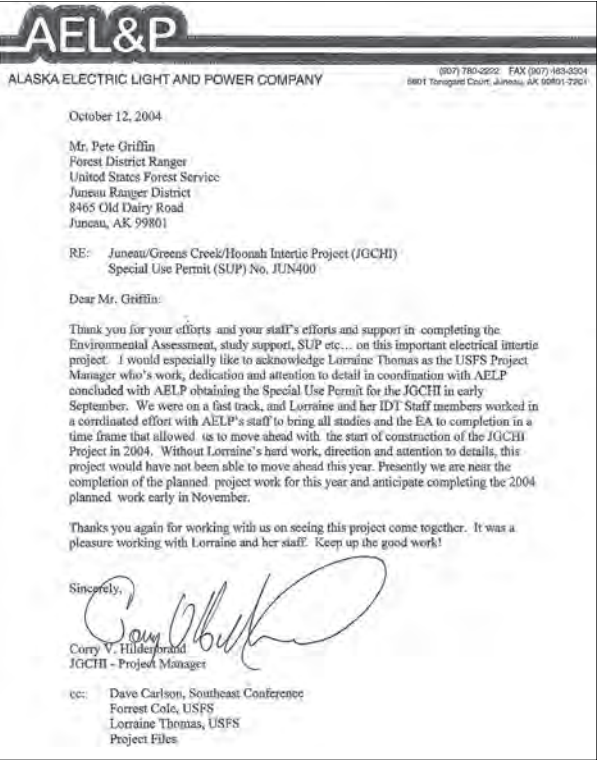
# Thomas Recognized

Lorraine Thomas, forester, left the Juneau Ranger District recently for the Warm Springs RD in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Before she left, however

she received a “thank you” from the project manager at AEL&P for her efforts to move the Southeast Electrical Intertie project ahead.

Juneau District Ranger Pete Griffin recognized Thomas' good work. He summed up her legacy. by saying, “Goodbye, Lorraine, and keep up the good work! Yours is an example of service we would like to see in other employees.”

Her colleagues at the ranger district held a farewell celebration in her honor.





# On the Occasion of the 100-Year Commemoration of the US Forest Service: A Family Experience

By: Bob Wheeler, son of Ralph Wheeler, Dale Ranger District 1962-1969

Do the words Rager, Lookout Mountain, Steamboat, Thorne Bay, Stubb Creek, Pomeroy, Crescent, Ukiah, and Dale mean anything special to you? For many employees of the USFS and their families these are or were places of residence. These are just a few of the many rural ranger districts and guard stations found throughout the Western States that include not just an office complex but residence housing for the employees. These are locations where families lived and children grew up within, close proximity of the office and those green trucks.

During the 1960s, living on a ranger station was a unique way of life that involved not just working for the government but also engaged the families in a somewhat communal living experience. Community parties, and picnics, dances and ice-cream socials all were coordinated, sometimes planned, sometimes spontaneous, depending upon office activities and the wildfire season. For kids, the seasons were passed with the images of Smokey Bear posters (only you can prevent forest fires) and woodsy the owl (give a hoot, don't pollute) as our mascots. Ties to the community schools were enhanced by the participation of our parents on PTA's and school boards.

There was a sense that our group of families was slightly different than that of other local non-forest service communities, partly because the orientation of the compound was about forests and forestry and many of the employees were college graduates with degrees specifically oriented towards forestry.

At community gatherings, stories and good times would be shared by both parents and children. Sometimes employees that could play music would entertain everyone, and others

would tell some tall stories of hunting or getting stuck in the woods, or splitting wood with a really dull axe. It was a way of life and it seemed that it was a special, maybe even a magical place where work and play were mixed in a working, living environment.

My father worked for the USFS and my family lived on a remote ranger station in Eastern Oregon during the 1960s. It was at Dale Ranger Station that my brother and I were introduced to fly fishing at an early age by my father and for our early elementary and high school years, we spent many hours during the spring and summer drowning flies on Desolation Creek and the North Fork of the John Day River. On occasion we would get to go out with our father and visit remote guard stations and fire lookouts and get to experience what the work was like.

Guard stations were typically older structures and sometimes were made from huge logs painted with light green paint and had distinctive darker accented green shutters along side the windows. The floors would creak as you walked on them and they typically had a wood stove and a slight smell of wood smoke in the air. There were pack horses and back packs and fire rations and equipment. We found that the fire rations would sometimes have a green can of crackers that were about 4 inches across and hard as a rock. It was exhilarating going up the steep steps up into the lookout and learning about how to triangulate a fire and use the radios. You weren't sure how it all fitted together into forestry but it was exciting. These experiences gave a feeling of structure and longevity to the work and the culture of the forest service.

During the fall, the forest supervisor and some of his staff would accompany our local group on a deer hunt and wild

stories were told around the campfire each evening after the days hunt. Some secrets were never revealed to us kids, such as what were the real ingredients for deer gravy.

As a kid, you felt that the work along with these structures were all part of a science dedicated to conservation – as we were told, the wise use of natural resources. The logo had the five resources that were the backbone of the focus – Timber, Water, Recreation, Wildlife, and Range. These were the themes upon which a career could be based. These were the reasons to be that were unviable tenants. Life was good, the work was being done, and living in these remote locations was justified based on contemporary beliefs in the pursuit of forest resource management and society believed in and respected these virtues. There was pride in the work and pride in the lifestyle it brought.

Then things changed. The pride is still there but the service and society have both changed, we changed, and to some extent the dreams of two small boys died with the change when it became apparent that things were not going to be same again.

Now we have come to a point in our lives and that of the organization where a dedication to the past 100 years of the USFS is being commemorated. What images do we bring to this commemoration? For many employees it must seem as a collection of thousands of images collected over the span of their career. And for those fortunate few, the children of these employees, it is my hope that this commemoration may include their wide-eyed vision of an organization founded in the woods and dedicated to those woods. A vision and respect that years have not diminished.

To the USFS I offer my heartfelt thanks. ☿

on taking that risk. The community of Sitka has demonstrated forward thinking on this issue and has management practices already in place for the populations of knotweed.

Juneau and the rest of Southeast Alaska may need to get a jump-start on managing the knotweed populations, especially if the hybrid found in Juneau is positively identified as the Giant/Japanese Hybrid knotweed, known to

spread by seeds. The stands are already evident along most roads in Juneau and Southeast Alaska. These patches are extremely dense and exclude all native vegetation including edible and medicinal plants such as salmon berries, thimbleberries, wild celery, and devil's club.

Japanese knotweed is costing the United Kingdom tens of millions of dollars per year. It has been observed

growing through a two-inch layer of asphalt and it is said to have penetrated foundations on homes. Rhizomes are known to grow after being buried up to a meter deep. The hybrid also reproduces by seed and will spread rapidly. And although we do not see knotweed as an untamable beast yet, we need to become proactive on management techniques with this plant. ☿

## Remembering Ricardo Sainz

By Kent Cummins, Public Affairs, Tongass National Forest

Ricardo Sainz, a fisheries biologist with the Tongass National Forest's Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, lost his life Nov. 4 while working near Bakewell Lake about 35 miles east of Ketchikan. Sainz was working along the outfall creek of Bakewell Lake when he was swept away by the current. An extensive search operation began Nov. 4 involving Alaska State Troopers, Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Service, Coast Guard, Forest Service and local divers. After six days of exhaustive searching, it was apparent he did not survive.

"It saddens me to have to announce that we have lost a member of the Tongass National Forest," said Tongass National Forest Supervisor Forrest Cole. "Our condolences go out to Ricardo's wife and his other family members."

"Ricardo was doing the work he loved to do as a fisheries biologist," said Todd Tisler, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District's Fish and Wildlife staff officer and Sainz's supervisor. "Ricardo once mentioned to me that he knew as a child that he wanted to be a fish biologist. That was his dream and he achieved it. He leaves a legacy as a fisheries biologist on the Tongass National Forest. Ricardo will be fondly remembered by everyone who was

fortunate enough to have known and worked with him."

Sainz was born and raised in Nogales, Ariz. He graduated from Nogales High School in 1980 and joined the Army where he served for four years including an assignment in Germany. After an honorable discharge from the Army, Sainz enrolled in Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and joined the college's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's in fisheries biology and was commissioned as an officer in the Army Reserve. After graduation, Sainz moved to Alaska, joined the Army National Guard, and got a job as a fisheries biologist with the Tongass National Forest in 1991.

Sainz and his wife, Yolanda, were deeply involved in the local church and community. Sainz was active in Holy Name Catholic Church in Ketchikan where he served as a Eucharist minister for the local hospital, was a lector and member of the choir. In the community, he served as a volunteer paramedic, was a member of Toastmasters and served as the Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. Sainz also served on the Tongass National Forest's Civil Rights Advisory Group. ☿





# Glacier Ranger District Partners with Boy Scouts at Spencer Lake

By: Walter Heins, Anchorage, Alaska

The Glacier District of Chugach National Forest was recently the site of one of scouting's annual "main events." Scout Camp-O-Rees are multi-troop campouts where scouts share games, service projects, and learning opportunities. Holding a Camp-O-Ree at a remote iceberg-strewn lake with no services was a unique challenge that the Glacier District Ranger Station supported with staff and special-use permitting.

At 6:30 a.m. Saturday, September 18. Over 350 Anchorage area Boy Scouts and Scouters boarded the Alaska Railroad bound for Spencer Lake and Glacier for their 2004 Fall Camporee. Spencer Lake is a whistlestop on the rail line about 10 miles past the last road crossing. From the train stop, it is a mile hike by an old mining road to the lake.

Eight Forest Service staff also made the weekend trip. They supervised a trail-building project, delivered *Leave No Trace* training, and participated in scout games and contests.

Kelly Frick, Lead Interpretive Assistant at the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center, organized six *Leave No Trace* activity stations for the scouts. Frick, with USFS Staff Jocelyn Gretz, Farah Renno, Dave Sanders, and Chris Stinson delivered the interactive training. Over a dozen groups of up to 25 scouts each cycled through the stations. The



Trail Crew. Photo by Walter Heins.



Sunrise over Spencer Glacier. Photo by Walter Heins.

"training opportunities" were so fun the scouts hardly knew they were learning the wilderness use ethic for the new millennium. For the USFS staff it meant a long day on their feet hauling supplies and delivering training to the scouts aged 11 to 17, as well as to about one hundred adult scout leaders. Other *Leave No Trace* volunteers included staff from Recreational Equipment, Inc., and Jodi McClory, wife of Glacier

District Recreation Specialist Adam McClory.

The Boy Scouts of America take conservation and stewardship of the land very seriously, as may be seen in their pledge to promote *Leave No Trace* and to adhere to the *Outdoor Code*. As with anything new, the difficulty is in "spreading the word." Thanks to Frick and her staff's outstanding program, sixteen troops from the Western Alaska Council now have professional training in *Leave No Trace*.

The Forest Service and Alaska Railroad's long range plan for Spencer Lake includes increased access and recreation facility improvements. These improvements will allow greater access to this beautiful area and enhance the public's experience. One such improvement is a walking trail to the foot of the glacier.

Before the Camp-O-Ree, this 1.25 mile lake-side route was nearly im-

passable through alder thickets. Adam McClory and his trail crew spent two days in advance flagging and roughing-in the route. In a great example of public/private cooperation, McClory and USFS staff Ben Drier and Larry Cosby supervised as scouts and adult scout leaders cleared it into a ten-foot wide well-defined path.

Older scouts were introduced to glacier climbing by staff from the Boy Scout Alaska High Adventure Base.

Roberta Wilfong, Manager, Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Mitigation Program, Soldotna, Alaska, was recognized for her support to the interagency "All Lands/All Hands" program. Under Wilfong's leadership, the Kenai Peninsula Borough worked cooperatively to complete the "All Lands/All Hands" five-year action plan, which was recently approved by Borough Mayor Dale Bagley.

The forum also celebrated the rich past of the Forest Service. Deputy Chief Tom Thompson from the Washington Office combined photographs, stories, and lessons from history to show how we got where we are today as an agency.

In addition to our own regional forum, I also attended the combined Pacific Northwest, Pacific Northwest Research Station and Alaska Regional forum at Skamania Lodge in Steven-son, Wash. This was an exciting forum focused around recreation, access, healthy forests and watersheds. The forum was a great opportunity for community, conservation, agency, political, user, scientific, and business leaders from across the nation to celebrate the rich past of the Forest Service and to gather and continue dialogue on a vision for recreation and ecosystem conditions in National Forest lands that will carry us into the next century.

These forums were just the beginning for other centennial events to

come in 2005. We will be showing the Forest Service documentary, *The Greatest Good* after January. On May 3, 2005, there will be a national day of honor to commemorate employees, especially those who have died in the line of duty. This will be a day for open houses to invite the community to be a part of our centennial. In September 2005, hundreds of Forest Service retirees will be gathering in Portland, Ore., for the Retiree's Reunion.

This is a year to commemorate our history, and begin to look forward to the next 100 years.

*Denny*

## Centennial Forum Award Winners



Bruce McCurtain receives award from Joe Meade.



Denny Bschor and Jeff Jahnke.



Andy Mason congratulates Tom Paragi and Dr. Bob Ott.



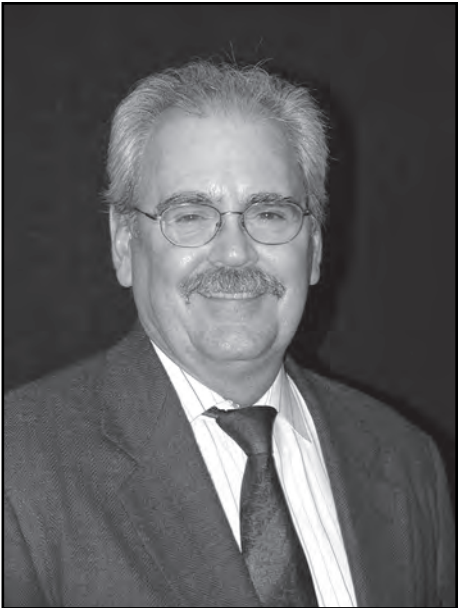
Olleke Rappe-Daniels and Art King

Editor's note: Photos were not available for award winners Roberta Wilfong and Claire King.



Thoughts from the RF

By: Denny Bschor, Regional Forester



The year is winding down, Thanksgiving is past, and we are looking forward to the rest of the holidays. I hope you enjoy the celebrations and reflect on this season that seems to make us want to slow down and appreciate our friends and family.

Of course, there are some families whose holidays will be bittersweet. Our thoughts are with them, especially the families of Ricardo Sainz and Susie Payne who experienced tragic losses this year.

In the first issue of *SourDough Notes* in the New Year, we will be talking about safety policies in an effort to raise awareness in all of us about how we should go about our daily activities and work. Please stay tuned...it's essential to all of us.

In this column, I want to tell you about a defining event that took place in Anchorage November 11-12. We partnered with the Society of American Foresters and the Alaska Municipal League to bring together a variety of community, conservation, agency, political, scientific, and business leaders from across the region to participate in the Alaska Region Centennial

Forum. Our forum, with an emphasis on *Healthy Forests and Healthy Communities*, was one of twelve regional centennial forums around the country. The purpose of the regional forums was to gather information and chose delegates to attend the National Centennial Congress in Washington, D.C., in January 2005.

The forum participants worked non-stop on Saturday, except for a brief lunch. The participants addressed the same three questions as the other forums around the country:

- What are the Forest Service's greatest conservation accomplishments of the last century?
- What are the three most vital issues that confront the agency in this new century?
- How can the Forest Service do better to serve the public, while caring for the land in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

As you can imagine, when you start asking a diverse group of passionate people about how the astounding natural resources in Alaska should be managed, you are going to spark some lively conversations. We had a lot of facilitators and note-takers to capture the ideas and opinions that were expressed, and they will be compiled into a report that will be used at the National Congress. We will have collected valuable information and insight that will help us as we begin our New Century of Service.

One of the benefits of the forum was the opportunity to give some public recognition to individuals who have been great partners with us in developing healthy forests and health communities.

Art and Claire King were recognized for being champions of the community of Naukati, Alaska. Naukati, located on the western shore of Prince of Wales Island in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, is a small, resource-de-

pendent community of 160 people. The community experienced extraordinary economic hardships with the downturn in the Southeast Alaska timber industry. The Kings, however, have proactively led the community in an effort to diversify their economy, provide critical services, and develop needed infrastructure.

Anchorage resident Bruce McCurtain, General Manager of Alaska Recreation Management, Inc., was recognized for outstanding performance as a Chugach National Forest business partner providing exemplary recreation services to the public. ARM has the concession permit to manage all of the forest's developed recreation facilities. The company has been a long-standing business partner of the Chugach National Forest and provides quality service to customers, often exceeding planned requirements.

Alaska State Forester Jeff Jahnke was recognized for his sustained performance in partnership with the Forest Service that contributed to the health of Alaska's forests and communities. Under Jahnke's leadership, the Alaska Division of Forestry has been an outstanding cooperator with the Forest Service, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and other organizations in addressing the impacts of spruce bark beetle on over one million acres on the Kenai Peninsula. Jahnke approved the "All Lands/All Hands" five-year action plan, which identifies and prioritizes the full range of work needed to address the impacts of the bark beetle.

Dr. Bob Ott and Tom Paragi were recognized as the first co-chairs of the Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative. The cooperative brings together forest managers, scientists, and forest landowners in northern Alaska to exchange information about managing the boreal forest for economic development, subsistence products, and other values.

These scouts really had a busy day, taking in the *Leave No Trace* stations, hiking to the Glacier for the High Adventure, and performing their hour of service to the trail project upon return. They really "did it all." Lights-out came early and camp was blissfully quiet all night.

Saturday evening was highlighted by a campfire. In Boy Scout tradition, there were skits, songs, and other entertainment. The Forest Service staff performed a hilarious *Leave No Trace* skit around the campfire, further testament to their creative energy and dedication.

The campfire was the only fire on the entire Camp-O-Ree. Consistent with *Leave No Trace*, the blaze was made on a fire blanket. Throughout the rest of the Camp-O-Ree, scouts cooked on stoves, strained wash water, and packed out all solid waste. It was the first time many of them had ever used (or even heard of) a WAG Bag™. When the Camporee left late Sunday afternoon, there really was barely a trace of the scouts being there, mostly just some footprints on the gravelly shore of the lake.

In the spirit of scout competition, the scout troops' camp sites were judged for conformance with *Leave No Trace* principles. The winner went to a troop of over twenty scouts who, after packing up, left so little trace that the judges had a difficult time finding the campsite. A "Be Prepared" relay race capped off the Camp-O-Ree by posing *Leave No Trace* questions to each scout as he ran his leg of the race.

In May, 2004, Glacier District Ranger Jim Fincher was approached by scout volunteer Cathy Sage requesting assistance with permitting the event. Jim embraced the idea of bringing the USFS and the Boy Scouts together. After consulting other USFS specialists on potential impacts to their programs, a special use permit was granted. Not one to be left out of the action, Fincher also joined the scouts for the weekend;



"Leave No Trace" principles apply to many facets of daily life Photo by Walter Heins.

pitching in on the trail project and assisting other scout volunteers conduct the events.

This was a pinnacle event for the Boy Scouts. Thanks to Fincher and all his staff, the use permit, trail project, and *Leave No Trace* activities made it all possible.

*Editor's Note: Heins is a volunteer Boy Scout leader, an engineer for Coffman Engineers in Anchorage, and chairman for the Camp-O-Ree.*

Personnel Actions

Promotions

Chugach

Samantha Greenwood

Tongass

David M. Cox

Gina Esposito

Jeffrey McArthur

Shirley Matson

Regional Office

Della Koelling

Warren Pellett

Christal R Rose

Deb Strickland

Time-Limited Promotions

Chugach

David Henry Strehle

Willie R. Thompson,

Regional Office

James Thomas

Reassignments

Tongass

Russell Stewart

Regional Office

Karlene K. Hale

Sharon L. Cordell



# Happy Birthday, Smokey!

By: Janet Seals, Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest

The Sitka Ranger District had a big surprise in store for its favorite bear this year—a party honoring Smokey’s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Festivities were held in the Starrigavan outdoor amphitheater on August 7.

I joined Lyle Hodges, Sitka Ranger District volunteer campground host, in escorting Smokey on an evening walk through the Starrigavan campgrounds, where more than 50 partygoers and a Sitka *Daily Sentinel* news-

paper reporter were waiting with cake, campfire, and birthday cards. Everyone enjoyed the campfire stories. People told of their experiences growing up with Smokey Bear, and some people brought Smokey Bear mementos from their childhood to share with the group.

After several robust rounds of “Happy Birthday” were sung, Smokey allowed the children to help him blow out

the candles on the cake. Smokey also distributed party favors to young and old alike, before strolling off to finish his evening walk in the woods. Partygoers stayed to enjoy toasting marshmallows and listening to campfire stories by Jim Case as part of the Tongass Campfire Program that the Sitka Ranger District hosted last summer on Saturday evenings. Everyone agreed the party was a wonderful idea. ☿



Left: Lyle Hodges and Janet Seal walk Smokey to his birthday surprise party. Top right: Children crowd around Smokey at the campfire. Photos by Jacqueline Hodges. Bottom right: Maggie Flood gives Smokey a big birthday hug. Photo by Janet Seals.



kan waters. It was a most pleasurable trip. Thank you for having us and in particular thanks to Cassandra Butz for all her efforts.”

“How gratifying for me to have had this (retirement reception) at the ONLY

region I had not been to during my 34+ year career. Indeed my ‘last frontier!’ A million thanks!” said Richard Padilla, Special Agent in Charge, Southwest Region

“You live and work in an awesome place, thanks for sharing it with me,” said Laurie A. Thorpe, Independent Resources Enterprise Team Leader. ☿

## Partnership Benefits All

By: Adam McClory, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

Under rare sunny skies and warm temperatures, employees from the Chugach National Forest provided high school seniors from Rowland Hall-St. Mark’s School in Salt Lake City, Utah, a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience on Forest Service management practices. For one week in May, Forest Service archaeologists, wildlife and fisheries biologists, interpreters, and recreation specialists explained their roles in natural resource management. Students had hands-on practice in “getting the job done.”

Throughout the week, students boated to a variety of locations within western Prince William Sound. Along the way, they were treated to numerous lessons on the rich history of this amazing part of Alaska. Interpreters explained about the nature glaciers and their accelerated recession. Archaeologists detailed the history of Native peoples and how they lived in a harsh marine environment. Fisheries biologists explained the important role of fish in a diverse ecosystem.

At the end of the week, students joined district recreation personnel to work in Blackstone Bay on a campsite-hardening project to develop a dispersed campsite for kayakers and boaters. Forest Service employees provided a framework for the project by discussing recreation management issues in Prince William Sound, such as carrying capacity and resource degradation.

The fourteen students, three teachers, and Forest service staff exceeded their own expectations by completing the hardening work at one site *and* setting the stage for completion at another. The work was challenging and physically demanding. Hundreds of buckets of beach gravel were moved over 100 feet to the campsite using an assembly



Students complete the campsite hardening project in Blackstone Bay. Photo by Adam McClory.

line system, which proved to be incredibly efficient.

“The ability to accomplish this amount of work in such a short time is a testament to the hard work put forth by these volunteers,” said District Ranger Jim Fincher. “We now have a first-class backcountry camp site that helps protect area resources and simultaneously provides enhanced recreation opportunities for Chugach National Forest visitors.”

Nancy Robinson, trip leader for the students, was impressed with the amount of work her students accomplished, as well as the experience they gained. “I’ve known these kids for a long time,” Robinson said. “I knew they were hard workers, but the effort they put forth today was impressive.” Robinson said the students were motivated because Forest Service employees explained the reasons behind the work.

The success of this partnership may lead to a multi-year agreement between the two groups. Public Services Staff Officer Tim Charnon said, “The goal of our volunteer agreement with Rowland Hall-St. Mark’s was not only to accomplish some necessary work, but also to provide the students with an understanding of what it is we do as Forest Service employees, so they will become excited about careers in natural resource management and someday become stewards of our public lands.”

Fincher said these types of partnerships create a win-win situation for everybody. “We have the opportunity to help kids become interested in natural resources,” he said, “while accomplishing projects that could not be completed without volunteer help.” ☿



# Law Enforcement Comes to Alaska

By Jonathan Herrick, Special Agent in Charge, Alaska Region

When the National Law Enforcement and Investigations Leadership Team decided to come to Alaska, they were met with resistance. Like many other national teams who want to meet in the region, they were confronted with the increased costs in time and money it would take to travel such a distance. Since reorganization in 1994, the leadership team had never met in Alaska; in fact, many on the team had never even been here.

National Director Ronald Sprinkle had strong feelings about the matter, however. For one reason, their meeting was heavily centered on the theme of performance accountability.

The Alaska Region is developing the *Credibility Through Accountability* model that will be used in the rest of the nation, and the law enforcement officers were going to use their meeting time to work on their business plan elements that are a necessary component of the model. When the leadership team met last April at Grey Towers, the home of Gifford Pinchot, they refined their involvement in the national *Credibility through Accountability* planning effort, and developed specific goals and strategies to support the model. It seemed like a good fit to continue their work in the region where the model is being developed.

Also, Alaska Regional Forester Denny Bschor spent two days with the leadership team in September. He educated the team on the complex issues faced in Alaska by law enforcement officers, and candidly answered questions on how best to support the law enforcement effort in Alaska and nationwide. Sprinkle wanted law enforcement officers to see it for themselves. To Sprinkle, it was worth the effort to bring the team this far. He said, "We originally met some resistance, on grounds of distance and cost, to our plan to hold



Top Row, left to right: Rich Padilla, R3, Roger Seewald, R1, Jonathan Herrick, R10, Bill Fox, R2, Kim Christiansen, R4, Ann Melle, WO, Richard Glodowski, R9, David Ferrell, WO

Bottom Row, left to right: Barbara Durant, FLETC, Gordon Gregg, FLETC, Greg Nichols, WO, Jim Fincher, Chugach NF, Ron Sprinkle, WO, Rhonda Thomas, WO, Les Burrill, WO, Lupe Renteria, WO, Denny Bschor, Alaska Region, Jack Gregory, R8, Tom Lyons, R6, Gil Quintana, R5, Laurie Thorpe, Oregon. Photo by Cassandra Butz, taken at Trail Lake, Seward Highway

the Fall LEI Leadership Team meeting in Alaska. As Director of LEI, I strongly felt the need to show fair treatment for the R-10 program and express appreciation in person for the exceptional support provided by Regional Forester Bschor and his staff and line officers. Alaska should serve as the agency model not only for the performance accountability system, but also for the spirit of cooperation between Line and LEI. If all regions operated this effectively as partnership models, the entire Forest Service would benefit immeasurably."

The conference began in Anchorage on Sept. 21, then moved to Seward. Although the weather was marginal, the team was treated to the beauty and expanse of Alaska during the drive down the Seward Highway. Many left with an

entirely new appreciation of the challenges and opportunities Alaska offers.

Others from the Alaska Region spent time with the team, including Beth Pendleton from the regional office, Jim Fincher and Becky Nourse from the Chugach National Forest, and Marty Myers, Assistant Special Agent in Charge.

This trip helped broaden the perspective and appreciation for the job all Forest Service employees are doing in the eyes of this national management team. Sprinkle said, "Now, after the visit, we are even more indebted to Region 10 for their gracious hospitality. Denny spent more time with us than any regional forester ever has (and he is excellent company). The Chugach is astoundingly beautiful and no seafood anywhere compares to that from Alas-

# The Forest Service Uniform

By: Gary Helmer, Regional Safety and Occupational Health Manager

We don't often think about it, but we grow up in uniform—from the moment we are born, boys in blue and girls in pink—we wear some semblance of a uniform. Uniforms are all around us: cloth objects, complete with adornments chosen by many to show some level of authority and professionalism.

Uniforms are representative of the persons who wear them. Paul Fussell writes, "Uniforms ask to be taken seriously, with suggestions of probity and virtue (clergy and nuns, judges when robed), expertise (naval officers, senior chefs, airline pilots), trustworthiness (Boy and Girl Scouts, letter carriers, delivery men and women), courage (U.S. Marines, police officers, fire fighters), obedience (high school and university marching bands), extraordinary cleanliness and sanitation (vendors of ice cream on the streets, operating-room personnel, beauty salon employees, food workers visible to the public, and, in hospitals, all wearers of the white lab coats, where a single blood stain might cause shame and even dismissal)."

The original Forest Service uniform was patterned after the Marine Corps uniform of the day following a suggestion by Bud Moore, a former Marine and Northern Region fire boss. Apparently, Moore's idea was to emulate the *esprit de corps* so prevalent in the Marine Corps; to provide "a sense of union and of common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group of persons associated together." Since that time, the uniform and its many alternatives have changed dramatically.

The basic premise of our uniform is to bring credit upon the Forest Service, but it can also serve as a morale booster for those who wear it. Hav-

ing come from a military background, the uniform is a natural item to me. I like wearing it, feel comfortable with it on, and believe that it promotes a team attitude among the employees who wear it as well.

The objectives of the Forest Service's Uniform Program, in part, are to promote clear identification of Forest Service personnel, promote a positive image of the Forest Service, and to enhance and clearly identify the authority of Forest Service personnel in various contacts with the public and other agencies.

"Wearing the Forest Service uniform is a privilege, an honor and a great tool for promoting good public service and communication." Personnel who have regular and frequent contact with the public are encouraged to wear their uniforms when on duty. However, strict compliance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) 6159.1 is required. Failure to wear the complete and required uniform in the condition specified in FSM 6159.1 can result in disciplinary action. Mixing civilian clothing items with official uniform items is not permitted except under special circumstances such as wearing safety apparel.

Our uniform is a significant part of the Forest Service's history and reputation. From the early 1900s, the uniform has been part of the Forest Service's image and continues to play a major role in our daily activities. And it appears to be working. The Forest Service has been one of the most admired organiza-



tions in America and has a remarkable reputation among government agencies as a great place to work. As we celebrate the Forest Service Centennial in 2005, wear your uniform whenever you can, and wear it proudly!

"There came a day when I stood in line in the drill hall to be issued olive-drab pants and jacket, brown shirt, brown tie, brown shoes, a belt with a brass buckle, and an overseas cap. As soon as I got home, I put the uniform on and looked in the mirror, I liked what I saw." These are the remarks of General Colin Powell (U.S.A., Ret.) remembering his first uniform as a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadet at City College of New York. ☞



# Three Receive Awards

By Lezlie Murray, Chugach National Forest, and Kristi Kantola, Regional Office



*Kathy Bagley*  
D. Robert Hakala Excellence In Interpretation and Conservation Education Award



*Kristin Fischer*  
Seasonal Interpreter/Conservation Educator of the Year Award



*Mary Bloom*  
2004 Interpretive Volunteer Award from National Association of Interpretation

Each summer as the visitor season winds down, the Alaska Region honors two Interpreters/Conservation Educators for their work in representing the Forest Service to visitors and members of local communities. This year, Glacier Ranger District employees Kathy Bagley and Kristen Fischer received regional awards for their work at Begich, Boggs Visitor Center on the Chugach National Forest.

When the long winter blues have set in and summer is nearing, Bagley is gearing up for an intensive 14 days of training with the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center staff. Each year Kathy develops and presents training for 15 seasonal staff members. The 156-page staff training manual she created is recognized for its excellence, and was distributed at the 2002 national conference of Forest Service visitor center directors.

Bagley serves as a Lead Information Assistant at the center. Last year, she gave weekly puppet shows for preschoolers during the winter, created agreements and financial plans for

partnerships with Holland America and Major Marine Tours, presented education programs in the Anchorage and Whittier schools, and helped organize the District's Halloween "Nature Spooktacular."

Bagley received the *D. Robert Hakala Excellence In Interpretation and Conservation Education Award* and is the region's nominee for the national *Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award*. She attended the National Interpreters Workshop in Grand Rapids, Mich., in November.

For the past three seasons, Begich, Boggs Visitor Center has also been fortunate to have interpreter Kristin Fischer, who has captivated audiences with program titles such as:

- *A Bog in a Bag*
- *Fire: the Good the Bad and the Ugly*; and
- *Mosquitos, Wanted Dead or Alive.*

Fischer received the regional *Seasonal Interpreter/Conservation Educator of the Year Award*, which is co-sponsored by the Alaska Region of the Forest Service and the Alaska Natural History Association.

Fischer also presents programs on the Alaska Railroad, on the *M/V Ptarmigan* on Portage Lake, on the ferries in Prince William Sound, and on the trails in Portage Valley. Her accomplishments include creating a *Leave No Trace* educational trunk for the region; being a primary contributor to the district's *Leave No Trace* float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; creating booths which featured ice worms and earthworms for the annual Halloween "Nature Spooktacular;" and creating the *Prince William Sound Children's Activity Guide*.

Bagley and Fischer were not the only award winners at Begich, Boggs this year. Mary Bloom, who has served as a Forest Service volunteer interpreter for 11 seasons, received the national *2004 Interpretive Volunteer Award* from the National Association for Interpretation.

Bloom has volunteered on both the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. She spent one summer on the Wrangell Ranger District and four summers and one winter on the Glacier Ranger District. Mary began her volunteer ventures in the western U.S. while she was employed as a high school art teacher

in New York. Now retired, she continues to volunteer.

Mary's contributions include creating and donating over 140 pieces of artwork, including paintings of local national forest scenes; conducting interpretive programs; and helping design exhibits and brochures. In Colorado and Washington her artwork was used to assist with fire rehab and education.

In Alaska she did some of the artwork for the exhibits in the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center. Additionally, her artwork is currently on display in the temporary exhibits portion of the visitor center. Bloom recently completed a

beautiful interpretive map of the Alaska Railroad route of the Glacier Discovery Train, under the partnership agreement between the Forest Service and the railroad. Bloom Mary also presents engaging interpretive programs for the public with titles such as:

- *Servin' Up Salmon*
- *Glacier Sleuths: Hot on the Cold Trail*, and
- *Enter Net—Information Through Bird Banding.*

The National Association for Interpretation is the leading professional organization for interpreters in the world. Each year the association selects one person to receive the *Interpretive Vol-*

*unteer* award. -The Alaska Region is indeed fortunate to have benefited from the services provided by Mary Bloom. She traveled to Grand Rapids, Mich., in November to receive her award at the NAI workshop.

Kathy Bagley, Kristin Fischer and Mary Bloom are three of the many Forest Service interpreters and conservation educators in Alaska. They and their peers contact over one million visitors annually, sometimes as the only "Forest Service faces" visitors and community members ever see. The Alaska Region is proud to recognize their professional accomplishments and to congratulate them for receiving these awards. ☘

## Hoonah's First Season of Tourism

By Tina Dinzi-Pederson, Hoonah Ranger District



This summer, large numbers of U.S. and international visitors were treated to a glimpse of Hoonah, Alaska when the Icy Strait Point historic cannery was added as a cruise ship port of call. Newspapers around the globe printed stories about this previously untouched destination. Meanwhile, Hoonah residents and business owners anticipated the impact that 60,000 visitors would have on their community and economy.

During this first season, 32 ships anchored off Icy Strait Point and lightered many of their guests ashore. Visitors could choose from ten different shore excursions. A *Journey Through Time* took strollers down an outdoor path to learn about the history and folklore of

the Hoonah Tlingit. Other choices allowed visitors to view and photograph bears, eagles, whales, and other marine mammals. The appreciative audiences made comments such as, "The folks here are very friendly and welcoming," and, "It couldn't be better."

The types of businesses open to the public ranged from a young girl's lemonade stand to the Artist's Market held at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall. By the end of the first season, community opinion concerning the development of tourism was mixed, but many local merchants and entrepreneurs were pleased to have an influx of visitor dollars.

The Forest Service was on hand all summer to provide special use permits for fishing, wildlife, and scenic tour guides. In addition, district employees helped provide portable restrooms in the community, worked with local businesses to distribute visitor information, and updated a display at the Ferry Terminal to edu-

cate visitors about forest resources and community history. Next year, the district will open a Forest Service visitor information station at the cannery site.

The season ended on Sunday, Sept. 19, when Gov. Frank Murkowski arrived. He commended the Icy Strait Point development project, and said it could serve as a model for other communities. Gov. Murkowski was joined by tourism industry representatives, legislators, Native leaders, members of Southeast Chambers of Commerce and visitor's bureaus, cruise ship officials, and a contingent from Taiwan. District Ranger John Baldwin and Neil Hagadorn from the regional office represented the Forest Service. ☘

