

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Report

2010



Summer of
Construction



Visitor Center
Exhibit Additions

Training
new staff



pre-season
hustle @ VC



Table of Contents:

1. 2010 Interpretive Program Dedication Page	page 1
2. Interpretive Staff for Season	page 2
3. Visitor Center Greets Visitors From All Over the World	page 3
4. Visitor Center Visitation & Ak. Geographic Sales for Season	pp. 4,5
5. Work on VC Exhibits	pp. 6-8
6. Completion of VC Exhibits	pp. 9-13
7. Special Thanks to Friends of Alaska Refuges	page 14
8. Northway Bunkhouse & Commons Get Furniture	page 15
9. Construction Along the Highway & at the Visitor Center	page 16
10. Interpretive Programs for 2010	page 17
11. Looking Back at Statistics for 2008—2010	page 18
12. Statistics for TNWR Facilities	page 19
13. Kids Don't Float Program & Interp. Pullouts	page 20
14. Hidden Lake Trail Data	page 21
15. Lakeview Campground Data	page 22
16. Deadman Lake Campground Data	page 23
17. Deadman Lake Improvements	pp. 24-26
18. Tetlin NWR Facilities	page 27
19. Seaton Road House Recreation Area	page 28
20. Our Wonderful Volunteers	pp. 29-30
21. Lea & Craig Crawford	pp. 30-31
22. Roger and Kathy Herrnsteen	page 32
23. Karen & Byron Kelly	pp. 33-34

Evening Party @
Deadman Lake
Campground
2010



2010 Interpretive Program

The following people helped make this season successful:

- **Ted Agre** joined our refuge staff and began immediately to help improve our facilities and assist with jobs that had been on the “back burner” for some time. All of us appreciate his cheerful willingness to help.
- **Adriana Amaya** rejoined our staff for the beginning of the season when we desperately needed her help! She helped clean out the V.C. theatre area so we could begin the season.
- **Dave Bergstrom** was willing to crawl down in the crawl space to string telephone line for our new charge card machine @ the VC. He also helped add needed electrical wiring as well as cementing our dumpsters in place.
- **Tony Booth** helped us warmly welcome our volunteer couples—and then he helped “fire” one couple! :-) Tony’s sense of humor was very appreciated as he supported our efforts/ programs throughout the summer.
- **Peter Butteri**, Mr. Mapmaker himself, helped us develop a better map for our visitors as we revised our Tetlin brochure.
- **Cora Demit** continued to “charm” visitors as they entered the Visitor Center in addition to helping train new staff. She also made a positive impact on our Volunteers throughout the summer. Who couldn’t love Cora? ;-)
- **Jim Ellis** provided a fly-over for volunteers, Leah and Craig Crawford. Even though they “had” to provide him with a gourmet luncheon, they thoroughly enjoyed their flight.
- **John Grafft** was willing to help certify employees with the chainsaw and to help us heft some heavy loads as we brought them back from the Visitor Center.
- **Buddy Johnson** continued to help us by sharing his biological expertise as he consulted with us regarding the best wording for interpretive signage.
- **Heather Johnson** helped train the new staff at the VC in addition to juggling numerous Visitor Services projects: Installation of exhibits, Seaton Roadhouse development, Talking Circle video production, & facility improvements.
- **Aleta Lavender** helped fill in @ the Visitor Center as we prepared for the season in addition to helping all of the new staff members with paperwork, ordering of uniforms, and any other question that any of us might have.
- **Peter Keller** added his biological expertise to questions that we had regarding our new exhibits and also how best to rehabilitate our bat boxes @ the VC
- **Sonny Mobray** helped with Visitor Services projects such as our Volunteer Welcome Barbeque, clearing some of the brush @ the VC, and putting up road signs for facilities.
- **Cheryl Northway** joined our VC staff and aided with her organizational ideas as well as contributing great ideas for improving our operations next season.
- **Teddy Northway, Jr.** joined our staff as an RIT, assisted with VC operations and maintenance (such as rehabilitation of the sod roof) as well as with trail work for a 17b easement.
- **Sylvia Pitka** joined our staff as an RIT, helped with VC operations, and wowed visitors with her interpretive talks @ Deadman Lake Campground.
- **Barb Pine** cheerfully helped us staff the Visitor Center early in the season before our new staff members joined us.
- **Melinda Rallo** continued to patiently and willingly help all of us with computer questions, technological issues, and other general questions about operations.
- **Greg Risdahl** helped welcome and train our new RITs and Ranger in addition to supporting our volunteers and Visitor Services programs/ events.
- **Hank Timm** helped provide some much needed help with our web site, contributing his revision of the biological sections as well as his phenomenal photos.
- **Mary Timm** helped with her amazing problem solving skills as well as her continual willingness to jump in and help no matter what she’s asked to do.
- Volunteers Extraordinaire: **Craig and Leah Crawford** (California), **Kathy & Roger Hernsteen** (Florida and central Alaska), and **Byron and Karen Kelly** (Texas).

Thanks!

Thanks so much!

Thanks!

Interpretive Staff for the season included:



Cora Demit
Cheryl Silas



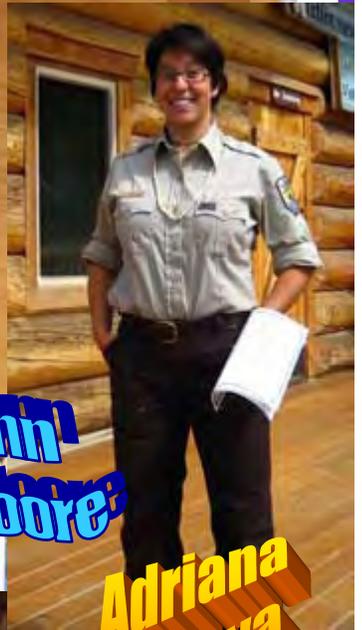
Sylvia Pitka



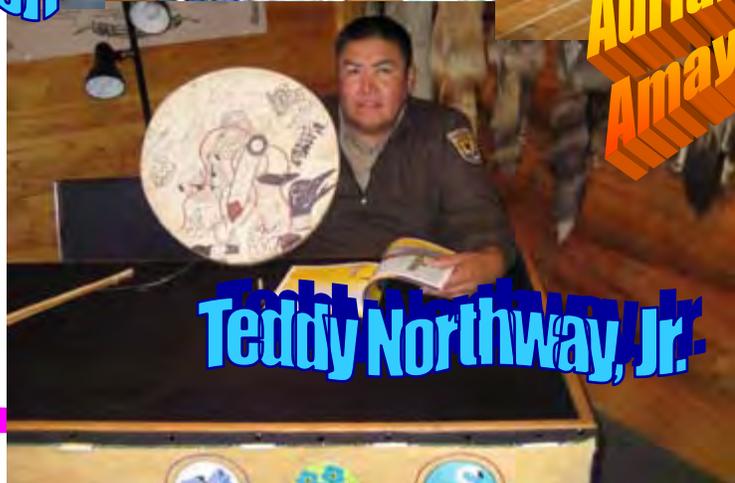
Heather Johnson



Kay Lynn Odle-Moore



Adriana Amaya



Teddy Northway, Jr.



Soaking wet and chilled from bicycling in cool torrential rains, these bicyclists were delighted with the Rangers' welcome. They dried their outer garments and sipped hot tea before peddling on toward their destination of Tiera del Fuego, Argentina!



We greet visitors from all over the world!



A lovely sunny day brought visitors to the deck for a little interpretation from one of our volunteers.

Our VC staff welcomes many road weary visitors from around the world.





Alaska Geographic Sales 2010



Alaska Geographic Sales by Month	2008	2009	2010	% increase or difference from 2009 - 2010
May	\$982.13	\$1,055.19	\$1,856.22	75.91%
June	\$2,876.36	\$4,542.98	\$4,991.25	9.87%
July	\$3,277.30	\$5,592.66	\$5,848.34	4.57%
August	\$2,493.17	\$4,269.00	\$5,117.33	19.87%
September	\$1,452.39	\$1,821.99	\$1521.91	-16.47%
Totals	\$11,081.35	\$17,281.82	\$19,335.05	11.88%

2010 Visitor Center Statistics

Visitors by Month	2008	2009	2010	% differences or % increase 2009 - 2010
May registered	772	627	537	-14.35%
June Registered	3936	3994	2511	-37.13%
July registered	3070	4688	4649	-.83%
August registered	3903	4260	4363	+2.42%
September registered	725	1107	731	-33.97%
Totals	12,406	14,676	12,791	-12.84%

Alaska Geographic Memberships

Alaska Geographic Memberships Sold	2008	2009	2010	% decrease 2009-2010
	9	15	8	-46.67%

VISITOR CENTER VISITATION AND ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC SALES:

Years	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
May	689	1259	682	789	924	899	772	627	537
June	5064	4726	5634	5172	4787	4602	3936	3994	2511
July	5977	5173	5924	6316	5275	4951	3070	4688	4649
August	5768	4275	4248	4742	4631	4840	3903	4260	4363
Sept.	1366	951	1055	1297	992	1112	725	1107	731
Totals	18864	16384	17543	18316	16609	16404	12406	14676	12791
May	\$773.82	\$846.58	\$649.91	\$507.75	\$1,045.32	\$580.18	\$982.13	\$816.08	\$1,192.68
Hdqtrs.								\$239.11	\$663.54
June	\$5,241.55	\$4,095.76	\$4,369.37	\$3,667.61	\$3,933.86	\$3,985.02	\$2,876.36	\$4,026.57	\$4,017.43
Hdqtrs.					c.o.	\$364.30		\$516.41	\$973.82
July	\$4,200.05	\$4,477.18	\$5,645.68	\$5,089.55	\$4,228.11	\$3,891.87	\$3,277.30	\$5,173.83	\$5,457.59
Hdqtrs.								\$418.83	\$390.75
August	\$3,622.19	\$4,744.12	\$3,692.15	\$4,232.68	\$3,187.99	\$3,708.76	\$2,493.17	\$4,119.07	\$4,909.83
Hdqtrs.					c.o.	\$239.91		\$149.93	\$207.50
Sep- tember	\$1,602.30	\$1,597.35	\$953.80	\$1,227.95	\$510.67	\$776.25	\$1,452.39	\$1,551.44	\$1,201.75
Hdqtrs.								\$270.55	\$320.16
Totals	\$15,439.91	\$15,760.99	\$15,310.91	\$14,725.54	\$12,905.95	\$13,546.29	\$11,081.35	\$17,281.82	\$19,335.05

Is our art director, John Ivie, praying that all will be complete by the opening date?



Hank Timm admires his photo of Jatah-mund Lake behind the welcome counter

Getting the VC ready for Spring Opening 2010



Heather Johnson & Ak. Refuge Friend, Karen Clark, replace light bulbs.



John Ivie and Heather replace the birch tree branches near tracks box.



Mike Goode (of Goode Construction) & Hank Timm admire cache as it is set back on its legs



After a 2009 summer without legs, the cache is placed on new, stable legs.

Volunteer, Roger Herrnsteen, installed this sign designating a dog walk area @ VC



Above: Volunteer, Craig Crawford, begins the rehabilitation of the sod roof on the Visitor Center.

Below: Gary Johnson, Talking Circle Videographer, Hank Timm, & Heather Johnson admire improvements in the VC



John Ivie and his pal, a plush sandhill crane, from our Alaska Geographic Store.



Visitors love placing map pins on the world map to show where they live

Marilyn Paul Birch Bark Basket added to world map so visitors may place map pins on the map to show where they live



Ruffed Grouse was added to our Athabaskan Culture tree @ the Visitor Center



Heather marks a spot for future solar Panel installation on the hillside behind the Visitor Center RRs



A new water system was put in place at the VC. Goode Construction also put the Cache back up on its legs early in the season.

2010 Additions to VC



Signs for Swan Display



Dorothy Hook (original watercolor of VC) matted and framed for VC

Lena Sanford added edging to beaded smoke-tanned moose skin



We attached black velvet to the top of the Beading table

New wide screen HD TV added to the theatre area of the back room along with a new DVD player for visitors to use

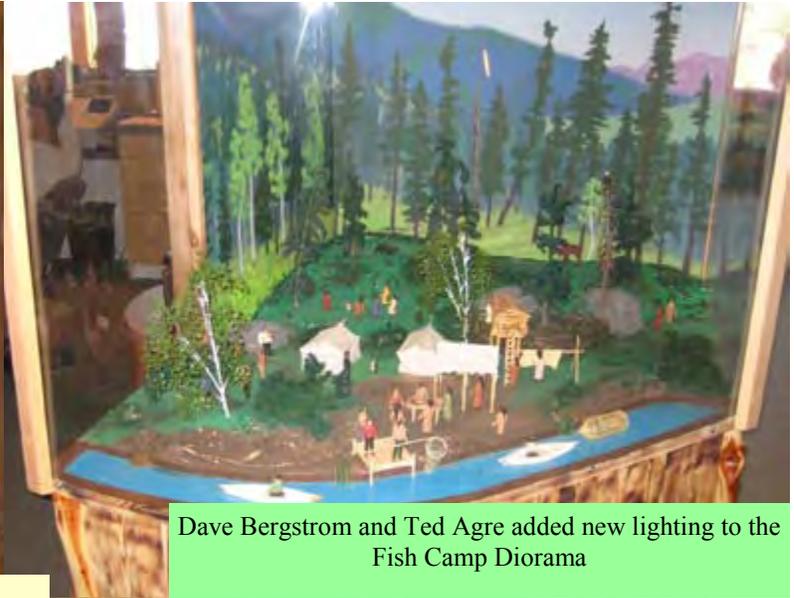


Post Card Rack added for Ak. Geo as well as basket for candy bars





Cracks repaired on the Swan Welcome Sign



Dave Bergstrom and Ted Agre added new lighting to the Fish Camp Diorama

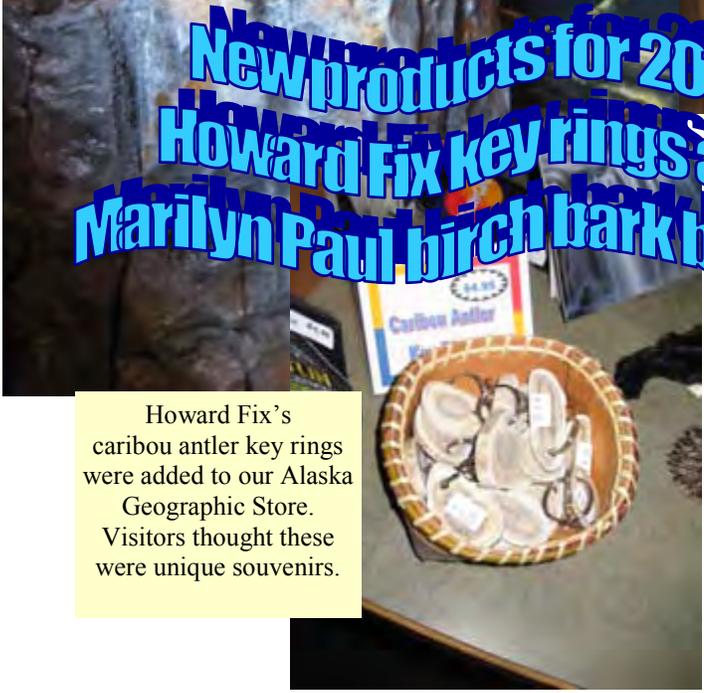


Peregrine Falcon carving added to the cliff next to the Spring Migration Mural

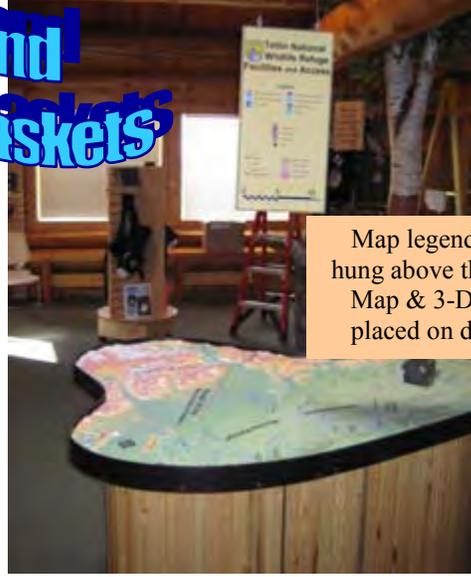


Marilyn Paul works on some Birch bark baskets

**New products for 2010:
Howard Fix key rings and
Marilyn Paul birch bark baskets**



Howard Fix's caribou antler key rings were added to our Alaska Geographic Store. Visitors thought these were unique souvenirs.

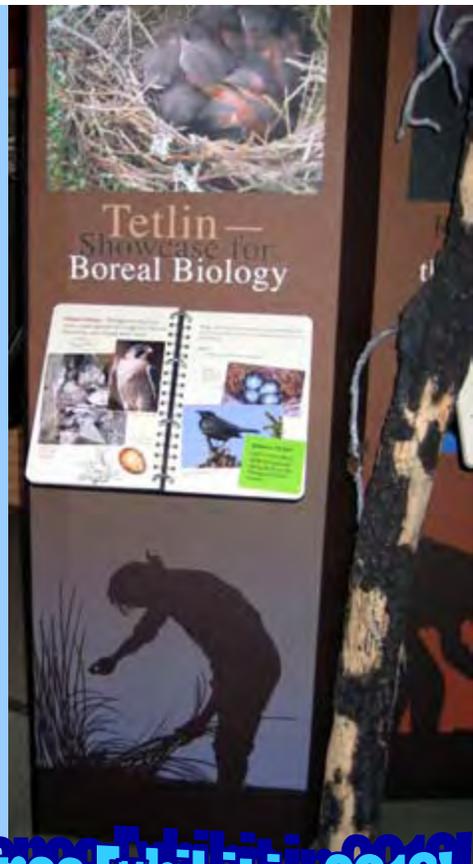


Map legend / key hung above the Topo Map & 3-D icons placed on display

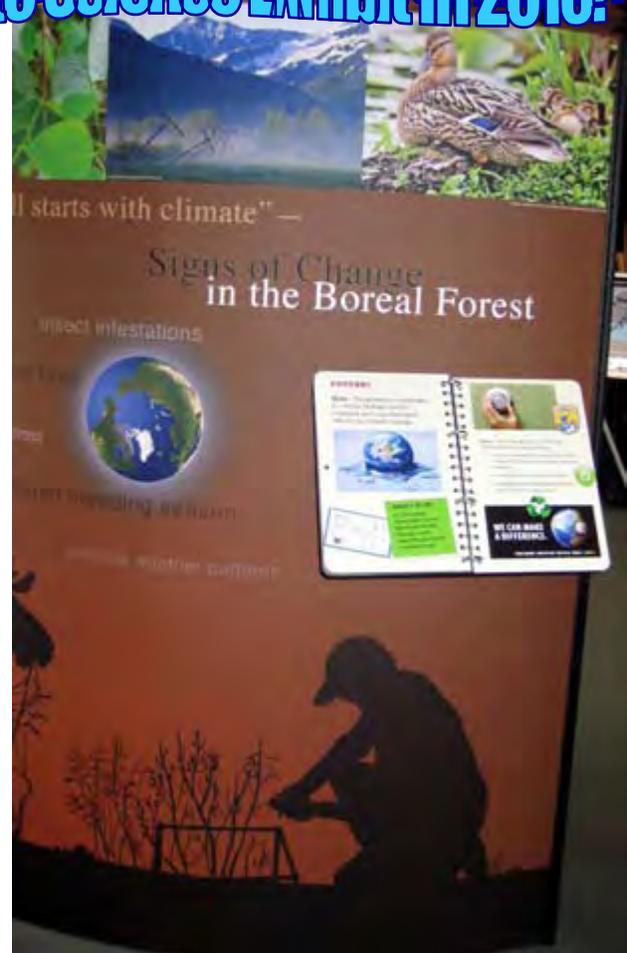


Our Touch Screen Monitors (for our Dineh, Information, and Science monitors) were updated.

Dave Bergstrom and Ted Agre attached the science field notebooks for Boreal Biology, Fire, Climate Change, and Science Introduction to the Tetlin Science Exhibits. Then, Volunteer, Roger Herrnsteen, Painted the sides black so the trim would match.



Field Notebooks added to Science Exhibit in 2010!





Deck stripped after power washing

Once again, visitors LOVED the moose and caribou planters on the VC deck



Exterior 2010



Volunteer, Roger Herrnsteen, sprays the deck with Power washer in preparation for re-staining.



Volunteers & Sonny help to Clear brush behind the VC Restrooms in preparation for Solar Panel Installation



Ted Agre stains deck after VC closes for season

Volunteer, Kathy Herrnsteen, sanitized and rehabilitated the bat boxes at the Visitor Center



Volunteers, Kathy & Roger Herrnsteen, rehung the bat boxes after they'd been stenciled



Volunteer, Roger Herrnsteen, works on cleaning out the grating near the VC parking lot



Volunteer, Kathy Herrnsteen, transplanting some wildflowers for an interpretive wildflower garden @ VC



New wildflower Interpretive Garden @ VC



Friend, Karen Clark, helps staff the Visitor Center



Friend, Michelle Stout, helped staff the Visitor Center before our permanent staff was hired.



**Thanks to FRIENDS
of Alaska Refuges!**

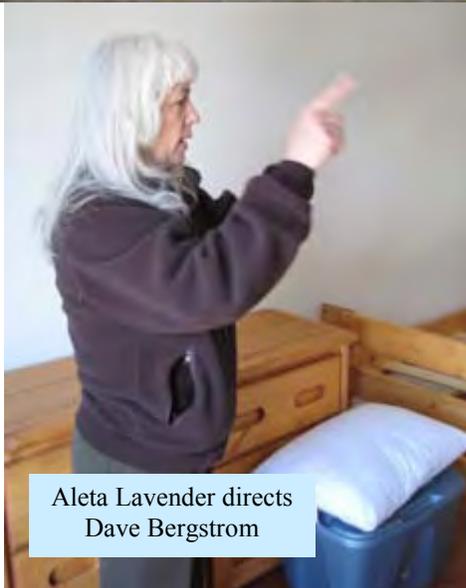
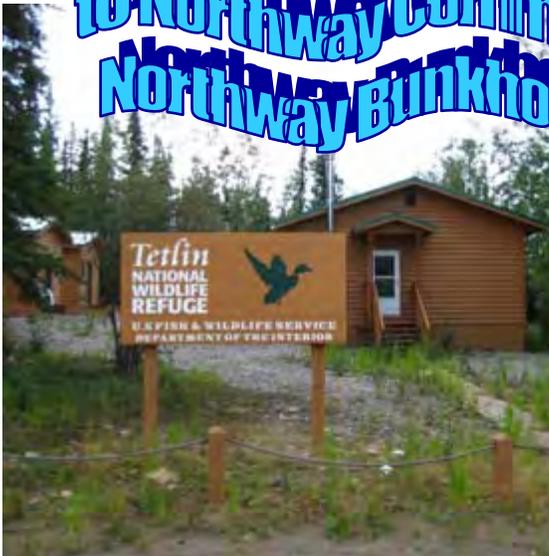


Friend, Karen Clark, helped us during a critical two week period at the beginning of the season.





**New furniture moved
to Northway Commons &
Northway Bunkhouses**



Aleta Lavender directs Dave Bergstrom



Dave Bergstrom shows how light fixtures will need to be adjusted to accommodate bunk beds

Visitors encountered
CONSTRUCTION for
the first 14 miles of the
Alaska Canada Highway



This couple brought the Travelocity Gnome to Alaska!



At times, the pilot car brought the detoured travelers through our parking lot @ the Visitor Center



The rock face across from the Visitor Center was stabilized with wire netting.



Rangers, Volunteers, Maintenance Crew, and RITs often encountered delays as they waited for pilot cars.



Interpretive Programs for 2010

Interpretive programs didn't begin until June 21, 2010 due to lack of staff early in the season; however, once they began, they were outstanding. Thanks to help from our Volunteers @ Deadman Lake Campground, many visitors were treated to free interpretive programs each Monday through Friday until September 3, 2010.

Bead work demonstrations @ the Visitor Center were a huge hit as usual!

We were able to offer programs to over 300 visitors @ Deadman Lake Campground. Additionally, 100's of interpretive programs were given at the Visitor Center—sometimes to small groups and at other times to groups of 40 or more traveling together on coaches. Altogether, over a 1000 visitors were treated to interpretation of resources @ Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge facilities.

Visitors really appreciate the “personal touch” given by our Park Rangers and RITs. Many times, they expressed their gratitude after presentations, on guest registers, and in follow-up notes or letters.

Presentation topics included: fire in the boreal forest, mosquitoes and dragonflies, Athabaskan cultural traditions and potlatches, beading, caribou— nomads of the North, Walter Northway biography and artifacts, and local botany including traditional plant use.

Visitors also enjoyed being able to take self directed walks along the newly signed Taiga Trail. Often the guest registers reflected positive comments about how much the visitors enjoyed the signs along the trail.



Data from Tetlin National Wildlife Facilities Summer of 2010

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge	May Register	May Sensor	June Register	June Sensor	July Register	July Sensor	August Register	August Sensor	September Register	September Sensor
Lakeview Campground	72* *This also has April data	N/A	236 June	350 Vehicles (June 8 – July 7, 2010)	366	428 vehicles (July 8 – August 3, 2010)	230	394 vehicles (Aug. 3 Sept. 1)	208	Invalid – Battery Problems with Trail Counter
Deadman Lake Campground	219* *This also has April data	N/A	342 June	1139 vehicles (June 8 – July 7, 2010)	432	3661 vehicles July 8 – Aug. 3, 2010)	370	4260 vehicles (Aug. 3 Sept. 1)	112	284 vehicles
Hidden Lake Trail	47* *This also has April data	N/A	88 June	217 Individuals (June 8 – July 7, 2010)	144	249 Individuals (July 8 – Aug. 3, 2010)	93	221 individ. (Aug.3 Sept.1)	75	584 individuals
Visitor Center	537	N/A	2511	1077 vehicles (at one end) (June 8 – July 7, 2010)	4649	3869 Vehicles (July 8 – Aug. 3, 2010)	4363	11,676 vehicles *detour included	731	299 vehicles (part of the time entrance was blocked)
Totals	875 (April & May @ some facilities)	N/A	On Register for June 3177	Totals 2,783	On Register For July 5591	Totals: 8207	On Register For Aug. 5056	Totals: 16,551 * VC data Includes Detour	On Register For Sept. 1126	Totals: 1077 – Lakeview unavailable



TNWR Facilities



Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Facilities	2008	2009	2010	% difference or % increase from 2009 - 2010
Lakeview	791	1021	1112	+8.91%
Deadman	11701	1232	1475	+19.72%
Hidden Lake	430	524	447	-15%
Visitor Center	12,406	14,676	12,791	-13%
Totals	14, 797	17,453	15,825	-9%

Lakeview Campground

2008 figures: 791 registered visitors
 2009 figures: 1021 registered visitors
 2010 figures: 1112 registered visitors
We were up 8.91 % from last year.



Deadman Lake Campground

2008 figures: 1170 registered visitors
 2009 figures: 1232 registered visitors
 2010 figures: 1475 registered visitors
We were up 19.72% from last year.



Hidden Lake Trail

2008 figures: 430 registered hikers
 2009 figures: 524 registered hikers
 2010 figures: 447 registered hikers
We were down 15% from last year.



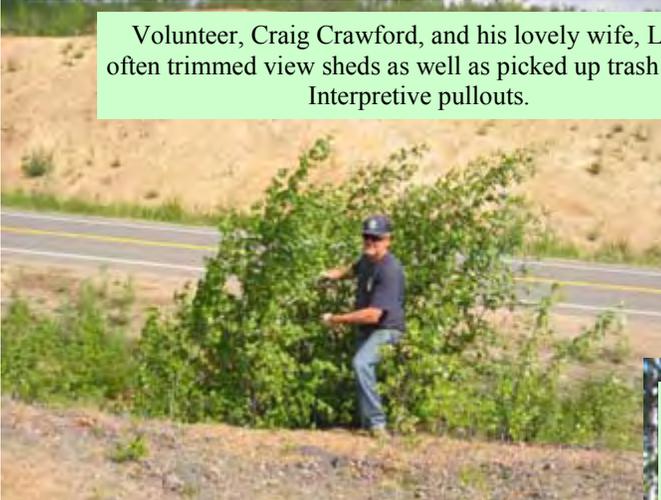
Kids Don't Float & Interpretive Pullouts



Our wonderful Volunteers @ Deadman Lake (both sets) moved our Kids Don't Float Sign @ Lakeview. It had previously blocked the view of Yarger Lake.



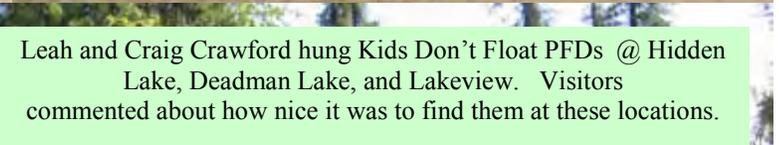
Volunteer, Craig Crawford, at the Welcome to Alaska pullout—after he'd weed whacked and picked up trash.



Volunteer, Craig Crawford, and his lovely wife, Leah, often trimmed view sheds as well as picked up trash @ our Interpretive pullouts.



Trash from just one of our Interpretive Pullouts picked up at the beginning of the season.



Leah and Craig Crawford hung Kids Don't Float PFDs @ Hidden Lake, Deadman Lake, and Lakeview. Visitors commented about how nice it was to find them at these locations.



Our Interpretive Pullouts were neat and tidy this summer thanks to the efforts of our wonderful Volunteers, the Crawfords and the Kellys!



Craig Crawford walking down the Hidden Lake Trail and picking up trash as he and Leah hiked.



Hidden Lake Trail

- 56% of our hikers were from outside of the United States
- Hikers came from: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, & the United Kingdom
 - 35% of our hikers had stopped at the Visitor Center
 - 8% of our hikers fished in the lake
 - 19% of our hikers were birding along the route
 - 25% of our hikers learned about the trail from the road sign
 - 16% learned about the trail in the Milepost
 - 15% learned about the trail from VC staff
 - 8% learned about the trail in books or other printed literature
 - 2% learned about the trail from a map

Comments/ Suggestions for Hidden Lake Trail

- A gem along the highway
 - Great Trail! Thanks for all the work!
 - Boats are such a great idea :-) Thanks heaps!
- Bathroom/ trash barrels Litter bin (numerous requests)
 - Beautiful country; lovely trail
 - Fun Fabulous 10,000 mosquitoes
- Picked cranberries and mushrooms—saw birds, ducks, and moose
 - Loved the free boat!
 - Wonderful to have the rowboats! Great fun
 - Thank you for the boat, dinner tonight, and nice trail!
 - Blueberries were great!
 - Gorgeous! Dog and * thank you
 - A bench along the way and one at the end would be nice!
 - Excellent!
 - Excellent beaver watching!
 - Saw a moose with 2 calves @ the lake
 - Top!
- Taking boat out was a nice distraction on bicycle ride from Valdez to Skagway!
 - Butterflies and hike—too much mosquitoes
 - Beautiful trail—well done!
- Thanks! Great short hike pretty easy, but beaver interp sign oldies
 - Too many bears
 - Used free boat Thanks Paddles no good
 - Kudos to trail crew!
 -]Gunalcheesh
 - Many mosquitoes, beautiful water, many mushrooms
 - Alaska Fishing License too expensive
 - Eliminar plaga de mosquitos

Lakeview Campground

- 40% of our registered visitors were from outside of the USA
 - Visitors came from Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom
 - 57% of our visitors were in RVs & 38% of our visitors were tent camping
 - 96% of our visitors were camping overnight and only 4% were day use visitors
 - 8% of our visitors were fishing
 - 6% of our visitors were boating
 - 16% of our visitors were birding
 - 26% of our visitors were hiking
 - 44% of our visitors visited/ used the photo blind @ Lakeview
- 49% of our visitors were not stopping at the Visitor Center (many of whom indicated it was due to construction)
 - 43% of our visitors indicated that they'd learned of Lakeview in the Milepost
 - 21% of our visitors learned of Lakeview because of the road sign
 - 9% of our visitors learned of Lakeview through books, brochures, or other print material
 - 3% learned from a map, 3% learned from VC staff, & 3% had previously visited Lakeview

Comments/ Suggestions for Lakeview Campground

- Donuts and coffee in the morning! :-)
- Almost stuck– check roads in April
- Trumpeter Swans—very interesting ; I'll be back!
 - Love it! Thank you! Terrific Facility!
- Saw a beaver and a swan! Clean outhouses—Thanks!
 - Sites need leveling
 - Wonderful hidden gem-will recommend to others!
- We enjoyed our visit to mosquito nation! Buggy, but nice (numerous comments about bugs)
 - Free camping! Viewing blind nicely maintained and great!
 - This is what it's all about! Thank you!
 - Thank you for the free camp (numerous + comments about this)
 - For cyclists—great spot! Thanks!
- So peaceful—great duck viewing! Witnessed wonderful widgeons (+a little sketch)
 - Gorgeous view of lakes and mountains—beautiful and clean
 - Great price and location Thank you!
 - Clean and beautiful....something is still free??? Thanks!
 - A truly wonderful place—Great memories
 - Always great!
 - Water pump won't work????
 - Thank you for giving us a wonderful place free!
 - Terrific! Many thanks! Gorgeous! Way to go!
- Stopped here on way up and loved it—great bird sounds and sights!
 - Compliments!
 - One of the best places to stay!
 - Beautiful, but rainy!
 - Quiet, peaceful, great views!

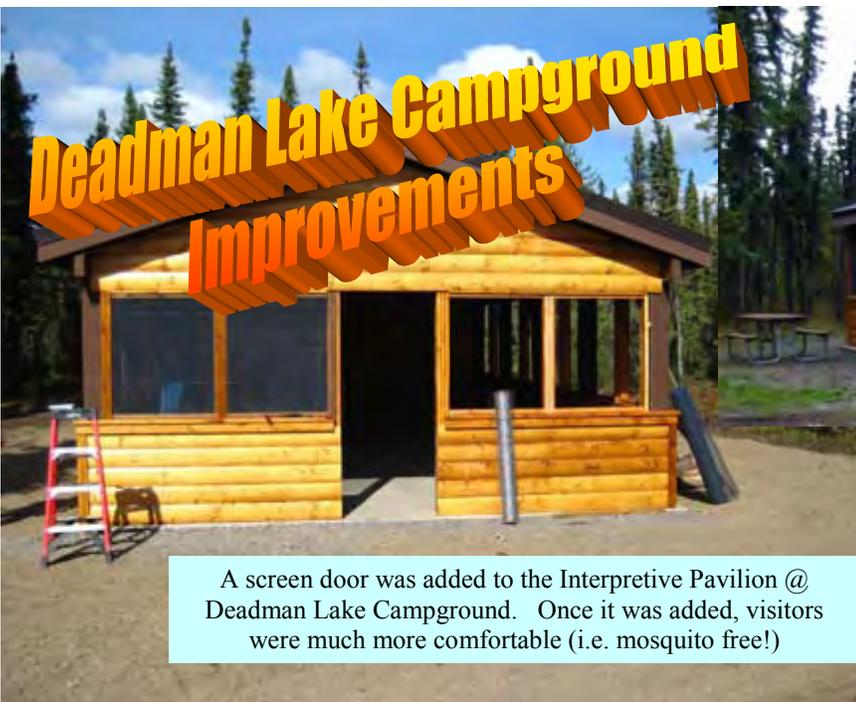
Deadman Lake Campground

- 35% of our registered visitors were from outside the USA
- Visitors came from: Australia, Bavaria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, & the United Kingdom
- 84% of our visitors indicated that they were camping and 13% indicated day use only (3% didn't indicate)
- 68% of our visitors indicated that they were in an RV & about 21% indicated that they were tent camping
 - 14% of our registered visitors were fishing
 - 5 % of our registered visitors were boating
 - 20% of our registered visitors were birding
 - 31% of our registered visitors were hiking
- 36% of our registered visitors indicated that they learned of this campground in the Milepost
 - 14% of our visitors stopped because they saw the road sign
- 7% found our campground on a map & 7% found it in books, brochures or it was recommended by friends
 - 7% came to the campground because of a previous visit
- 5% of our visitors stopped because they had learned of it at our Visitor Center
- 53% of our visitors indicated that they weren't going to stop at the VC this year or hadn't been able to due to construction along the highway

Suggestions/ Comments from our Visitors

- Ranger Talk a plus! Thanks! (numerous + comments about interpretive talks)
 - Camp Host is very nice!
 - Very clean and very welcoming
 - Not a lot to improve
 - It was quiet and friendly—would suggest it to others!
- Thanks for being open and free! (numerous comments about this)
 - Wish we could have stayed—Free! A++
 - Cut down more trees! Can't see mountains or lake
- Milepost made me think “no” but rangerette at Tetlin VC made us think “yes” GREAT!
 - Very well maintained, quite, great spot, nice camp—quiet, beautiful]
 - Used for years (some mentioned being here as many as 12 X before)
 - 1st stop in Alaska—wonderful, quiet spot nice birds I'll rest here for 2 days!
 - Stay every time through now. Thanks!!
 - A very beautiful campsite—well laid out and well maintained
 - Water and dump stations needed—enlarge
 - It's wonderful that the campsites are far apart!]
 - Beautiful-Love the swim jackets for kids
- Love the boardwalk—nice sites (numerous +comments about signage along Taiga Trail
 - Thanks for nice sites for tents; clean RR's/ bear-proof garbage containers
 - Don't change! Danke!
 - Recycle bins??

Deadman Lake Campground Improvements



A screen door was added to the Interpretive Pavilion @ Deadman Lake Campground. Once it was added, visitors were much more comfortable (i.e. mosquito free!)



Popular height chart (comparing people's heights to animal's) was added to pavilion



The kiosk @ Deadman was in bad shape until the Kellys scraped and re-stained it

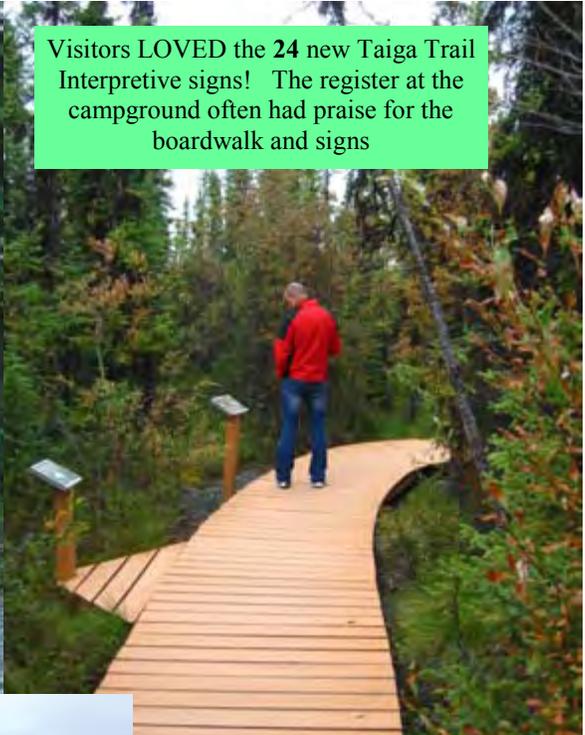


Volunteers, Byron and Karen Kelly, take a much needed lunch break after scraping and sanding the Deadman Lake Campground Kiosk

New Taiga Trail Signs



Visitors LOVED the 24 new Taiga Trail Interpretive signs! The register at the campground often had praise for the boardwalk and signs



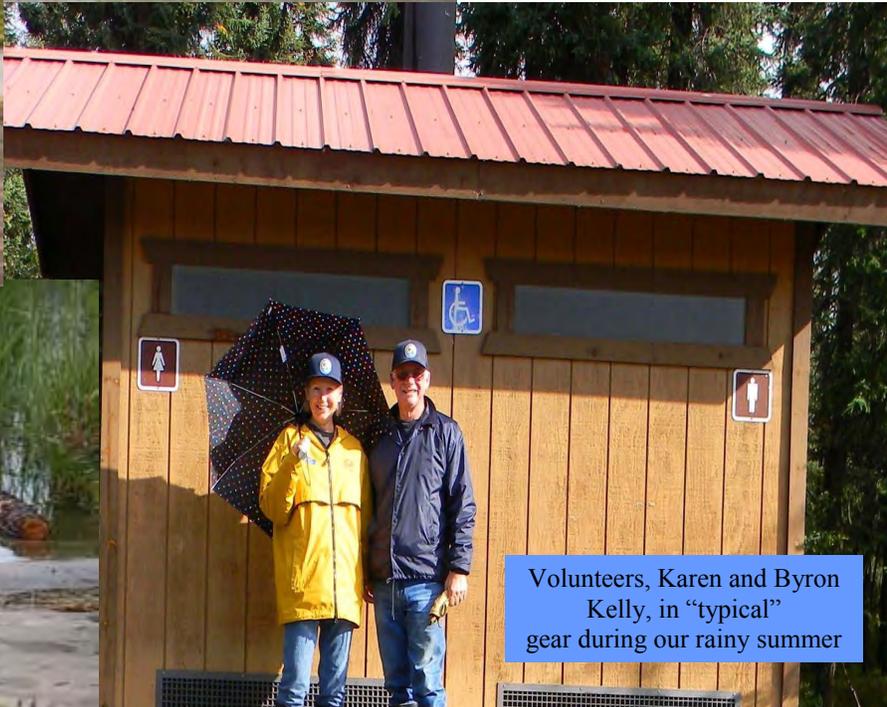


No, this isn't Deadman Lake! Instead it's a camp site during one of our rainier periods.

Below: Deadman Lake dock was jacked up by our volunteers so visitors could get across without having to leap!



Above rock graffiti Was completed as a "joke" by our Volunteers, Byron & Karen Kelly. They did this when they learned that our Carpenter, Dave Bergstrom, doesn't like Rock graffiti



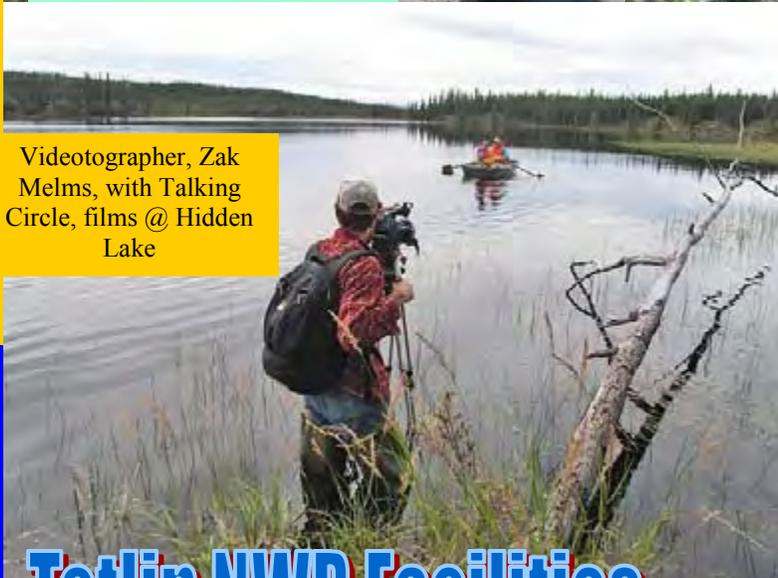
Volunteers, Karen and Byron Kelly, in "typical" gear during our rainy summer



Parking sometimes is crowded at Hidden Lake



This happy biker from the United Kingdom, Sam Gambier, had been on the road for 14 months when he stopped at Lakeview on his journey around the world!



Videographer, Zak Melms, with Talking Circle, films @ Hidden Lake



Campgrounds were utilized from April through October. Here are tents @ Lakeview belonging to a late fall

Tetlin NWR Facilities



Trumpeter Swans in April—in a “disappearing lake” near the Alaska / Canada Highway. Staging swans appeared here again in late autumn.



A BIG thanks goes out to Dave Bergstrom and Ted Agre for anchoring our dumpsters @ the VC and campgrounds. Now bears can't tip them easily.

Seaton Road House Recreation Area

In spite of a VERY wet summer and other delays, Goode Construction made amazing progress on the roads and trails for Seaton Road House.



September 30, 2010—Heather Johnson, Teddy Northway, Jr., Kay Lynn Odle-Moore, & Cheryl Silas hiked trails and checked out Progress @ site.



Future site of one of the viewing platforms for Seaton Pond



Teddy & Cheryl checking out former dump site.



Flock after flock of Trumpeter Swans were heading south on the flyway Sept. 30, 2010.

Our WONDERFUL Volunteers



made TNWR's world go around!

Our marvelous volunteer couples helped make 2010 another successful summer season for Visitor Services. They helped us in so many ways: maintenance, clean-up projects, interpretation, staffing the visitor center, and cheerfully doing anything else that was asked.

Thanks so much to our exemplary Volunteers for 2010:

Lea & Craig Crawford (from Sunnyvale, California)

Byron & Karen Kelly (from Crystal Beach, Texas)

Kathy & Roger Herrnsteen (from Lutz, Florida & formerly from Alaska)

2010 Volunteer Accomplishments:

- Interpretive pullouts weed whacked, trimmed with loppers, and trash picked up/hailed away throughout the summer season (*Lea & Craig, Byron & Karen*)
- Keeping the RR (or "loos" as Byron called them) sparkling clean @ the campgrounds and the trash emptied from dumpsters @ Deadman L. and Lakeview Campgrounds (*Lea & Craig, Byron & Karen*)
- Installation of the Taiga Trail signs in permafrost area along boardwalk @ Deadman Lake Campground (*Lea & Craig*)
- Installation of the Taiga Trail signs on the observation deck (Byron & Karen)
- Dock jacked up so that visitors could get out on the deck without getting their feet wet (*Karen & Byron*)
- Fire pits cleaned at both campgrounds (*Lea & Craig Crawford*)
- Pot holes filled in by hand @ campgrounds until the big equipment could arrive (Karen & Byron)
- Brush cleared @ entrances to facilities so visitors could easily see entrances (and signs) (*Craig and Lea Crawford*)
- Kids Don't Float Sign relocated @ Lakeview so it didn't block the view shed (as it had done earlier) (*Lea & Craig and Byron & Karen*)
- Interpretive talks given @ Deadman at least once a week: Mosquitoes & Dragonflies talk given by Craig and Lea; Fire Ecology talk given by Karen & Byron
- French brochure translation for VC (Karen)
- Lawn care @ the Visitor Center (Craig and Lea, Kathy & Roger)
- Rehabilitation of the sod roof @ V.C. (Lea & Craig)
- V.C. staffed & hours extended till 6:30 p.m. (Roger and Kathy)
- Cleaning, re-painting, stenciling & rehabbing of bat boxes @ VC (Kathy & Roger)
- Wildflower garden created and planted (Kathy & Roger)
- VC deck power washed in preparation for staining (Roger)

Bio-tech, Sonny Mobray,
Helps barbeque for our
July Thank You/ Welcome
Volunteer Barbeque at
Deadman Lake Campground



Biology Volunteer,
Denise Turley, and her
daughters enjoy the
Barbeque.



Our Volunteers are BEST!

Volunteers @ the VC and Deadman, often got
together @ Northway for a "gourmet" meal



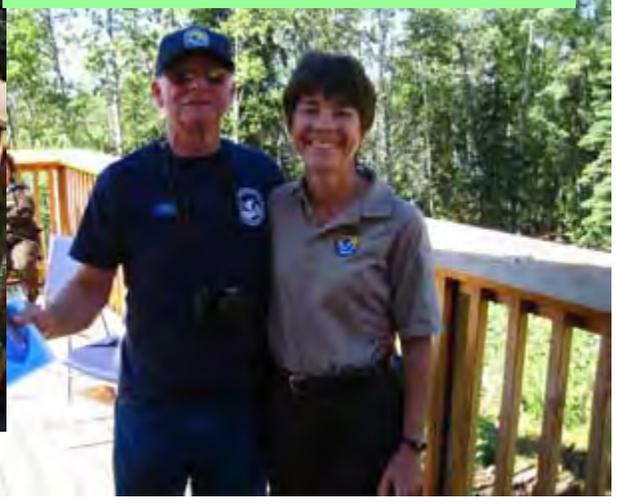
Volunteers pitch in to help
clear brush @ the Visitor Center



Volunteer, Byron Kelly, and Heather Johnson
enjoy the warm August sun @ Luncheon



Volunteers for Session II join VC Staff for a
Thank You Luncheon



Valuable Volunteers @ Tetlin



Our Volunteers @ Tetlin help us in many different ways. Thanks to them and their efforts in our behalf, we are able to offer more services to our summer visitors. To help illustrate just how much one couple has done for our Refuge, I'll share a bit about Lea and Craig Crawford's experience with us earlier this summer.

First of all, Craig retired in April of this year, and he and his wife, Lea, decided they'd like to try to volunteer at Tetlin. They applied to be our campground hosts at Deadman Lake Campground (located approximately 60 miles from our headquarters in Tok). Lea wasn't too sure she wanted to be located in such a remote location, but went along with the idea to support Craig. Initially, Lea found our numerous black spruce trees to be quite ugly; however, over the eight weeks that she worked with us, she totally changed her mind about this species. When she tearfully said goodbye to our staff, she said she'd begun to see those trees in a whole different light. She grew to appreciate them once she understood how slowly black spruce trees grow in a permafrost area. She started looking at the tops of those trees and had fun imagining what shapes she found there (sort of like the cloud game many of us played as children). Both Craig and Lea grew to love Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and the staff members with whom they'd worked. The fond feelings were certainly reciprocated by our staff.

During their time with Tetlin, they performed many jobs for us each week. Routine weekly or bi-weekly jobs included: emptying dumpsters @ our two campgrounds and cleaning/ restocking the restrooms there, picking up litter at each of our interpretive pull-offs along the highway, mowing the lawn for our Visitor Center, and checking our mile long trail @ Hidden Lake. They also gave an interpretive talk to visitors at least once a week during their stay with us. Craig and Lea teamed up on the interpretive talk to give a lively presentation (complete with puppets) about dragonflies and mosquitoes. Even during their "unofficial" time in the evenings, they sometimes hosted a marshmallow roasting party with other visitors to Deadman Lake Campground. In addition to the routine jobs, Craig and Lea completed some bigger jobs too. They helped to install interpretive signs along the Taiga Trail at Deadman Lake Campground. In order to do this, they became proficient in using a large two person gas auger. As they dug through the surface along the Taiga Trail, they were surprised to see the differing depths of permafrost. Once the auger hit permafrost, the digging for that sign was finished. Craig and Lea often related that experience to visitors, helping those visitors to understand a bit more about permafrost. Another large job they took on was helping to rehab our sod roof at Tetlin's Visitor Center. It had not had major work on it for many years, so Craig and Lea helped to get off the old moss, haul up new soil, re-seed, and fertilize the sod roof there. No matter where this couple went, it seemed that the weed whacker and a pair of loppers were with them. They "spruced up" many of our facilities, giving visitors a better view along interpretive pullouts as well as just tidying up some of our facilities. Eight weeks may not sound like a lot of time for so many tasks, but Craig and Lea accomplished much during their time with us. They also had some time for recreation while they volunteered for us. Both enjoyed a flight seeing trip with our refuge pilot, Jim Ellis. They also spent many evenings kayaking and canoeing on Deadman Lake where they were able to observe beavers working near their lodge, Trumpeter Swans, many waterfowl, and a moose. Craig and Lea expressed a desire to return to Tetlin sometime; and, of course, they'll always be welcome here.



Lea & Craig Crawford's Story

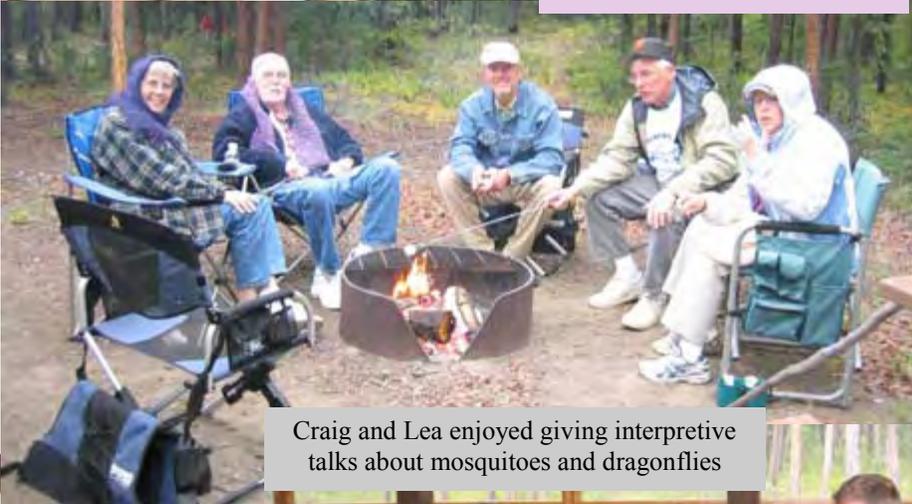
Lea & Craig Crawford



Kay Lynn, Lea, and Craig celebrating after the successful installation of the Taiga Trail Signs



Visitors enjoying a marshmallow roast with our lovely volunteers



Craig and Lea enjoyed giving interpretive talks about mosquitoes and dragonflies



Craig helping to rehab the sod roof on the Visitor Center



Roger cleaning grates @ VC

Right: Kathy & Roger with some of the rehabilitated bat boxes



Kathy & Roger Herrnsteen with all they did to enhance our Visitor Center and the experiences of our visitors!



Roger giving a deck talk to visitors @ the VC

Diamond-shaped wildflower garden created by Kathy & Roger



Kathy planting wildflowers

Kathy & Roger Herrnsteen



Roger and Kathy enjoying the Welcome Barbeque @ Deadman Lake Campground—talking to other volunteers and staff



Karen & Byron jacked up the flooded dock @ Deadman



Who is this masked woman?

Byron & Karen taking a well-deserved break after scraping and sanding the kiosk @ Deadman Lake Campground



Karen in her mosquito netting



Taiga Trail Sign Byron installed on deck

Karen & Byron Kelly



Height Chart that Byron installed in pavilion



Byron, Karen, & Cher talking To Tony Booth and Cora Demit @ Welcome Barbeque

Letter from the Kellys

September 02, 2010

Dear Kay Lynn and Heather,
and Staff

Just a note to say "Thank-you for the Great Summer"! We had a terrific time (except for the hour a day cleaning the loos) taking care of everything between Border Town and Tok River bridge. Our projects - elevating the walkway so guests could actually use the dock, installing the screen door, scraping and staining the kiosk, installing the interpretive signs at the overlook, filling the potholes till real help could arrive, rock graffiti - one of those projects, I think, may have actually been approved.

Volunteers! How can you control them?

Our time at Deadman Lake went too fast but that happens when you are having a very enjoyable time.

In particular:

Canoeing at night under the midnight sun,
Fishing for Northern pike,
Perpetual rainbows
Fishing for Rainbow trout at Hidden Lake,
Up close and personal with our Trumpeter swans,
Our many animal sightings - bear, lynx, brown bat, moose, caribou,
Ms. Cora's beading and more importantly her life story,
Teddy's story of his grandfather Walter and what he meant to him,
and what his story ultimately meant to us as we read it,
All the native Athabaskan people we have had the pleasure to talk to; to learn about,
Sonny's cooking - especially his "well formed" cookies,
The staff; I do not believe that we had anyone not take the time to welcome us and talk;
I know they all had work to do (or at least I think some of them did) but took the time for us.
That was truly special!

I know the stories behind our backs - The *Volunteers* Who Would not Leave (from Tony of all people);
(sometimes right to our face) They are *Tourists* not Alaskans!
They are *Texans* of all Things!
The *Volunteers* Need What !!!!!
Just *Makes More Work* for Dave and Dave Jr (Ted)
They're Giving an Interp Talk!! *Texans!!* What do They Know??

But, we can hardly wait for our **Return** tickets that Kay Lynn **Promised** for the spring of 2011 to train the new volunteers!
Return of the Volunteers!!!!

Thank you for allowing us to be a small part of your family for the summer. It kinda reminds me of an old song - some of you may have heard it on an *oldies* station!

Hello Mother, Hello Father
Here I am at Camp Granada

chorus:

Take me home Oh Mother, Father,
Take me home, I hate Granada
Don't leave me out in the Forest
where I might get eaten by a
Bear.

Camp is very entertaining, and
they say we'll have some fun if it stops

Successful Summer Season 2010 Closes

In spite of the non-stop Construction (along the Alaska/ Canada Highway, the Visitor Center, and Seaton Road House Recreation Area) and the very rainy summer, we have had many successes to celebrate.

Hopefully, you've enjoyed reading about some of these successful ventures—as well as seeing some photographs that help to tell our stories.

It has been my pleasure to compile them to share.

*Sincerely,
Kay Lynn Odle-Moore*



Hopefully we'll see these two return to Tetlin N.W.R. again next season!