

# Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

## Interpretive Report 2011



Solar Panel @ VC



Seaton Recreation Area



Facility Improvements



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# 2011 Interpretive Program

## The following helped make this season a success:

- ◆ **Ted Agre** was always there to lend a helping hand—no matter what the task. Invaluable with our volunteers as well as with maintenance at our facilities. We certainly appreciate Ted’s unfailing cheerfulness and willingness to assist.
- ◆ **Dave Bergstrom**—a.k.a. “Mr. Perfect” - Dave spent a great deal of his summer working on facilities and at the Visitor Center. Whether he was getting the RV pad finished or helping our volunteers, Dave was “perfect in every way”! :-)
- ◆ **Biology Staff Members**—**Hank Timm**, **Nate Berg**, **Peter Keller**, **Denise Turley**, **Nicole Torre\***, and **Jeff Wells** helped to give presentations for our Visitor Center Celebration in early July (\*in addition to helping set up Phenology Projects with our Volunteers).
- ◆ **Cora Demit** continued to amaze visitors and volunteers alike with her incredible life stories. Once again (20+ years) Cora handled the Alaska Geographic deposits for the Visitor Center in addition to keeping the VC sparkling clean.
- ◆ **Jim Ellis** provided fly-overs for volunteers, Karen and Tom Mitchell, and Gary Holloway and Evelyn Ray. In addition to entertaining us with his sense of humor, Jim helped with several “electrical” issues at the Visitor Center.
- ◆ **John Grafft** helped share his expertise as a forestry technician with Visitor Center Celebration guests.
- ◆ **Buddy Johnson** continued to help us by sharing his biological expertise in addition to helping to train our volunteers for the Phenology Project. Thanks for always being there to consult with us re: text and biological accuracy.
- ◆ **Heather Johnson** helped facilitate Seaton Roadhouse development / planning in addition to helping train staff, oversee the installation of the solar panels at the VC, lending a helping hand with volunteers, and staffing the visitor center.
- ◆ **Valerie Johnson** joined our interpretive staff as a STEP student for the summer. Val was able to contribute her youthful enthusiasm to her interpretive programs.
- ◆ **Aleta Lavender** helped us in numerous ways—helping to order supplies for the VC/ facilities, supporting the volunteer program, selling/ promoting Ak. Geo. Items @ the Headquarters, etc.—always with her customary cheerfulness!
- ◆ **Ryan Mollnow** jumped right in, helping us with tasks little and large from “jerry-rigging” our volunteer’s trailer lights to helping unload supplies @ the VC. Ryan has also eagerly supported our efforts in all of our Visitor Services endeavors.
- ◆ **Teddy Northway, Jr.** once again assisted with staffing the Visitor Center and providing many cultural perspectives to visitors from around the world, talking to diverse groups— Boy Scouts to retired sportsmen.
- ◆ **Sylvia Pitka** once again assisted with staffing the Visitor Center and helped to share her Athabaskan culture with visitors @ the VC as well as with those who joined her @ Deadman for her interpretive talks.
- ◆ **Melinda Rallo** continued to help process our Volunteers’ “living allowances” in addition to cheerfully helping us with technical computer questions. How we appreciate Melinda when she gets our computers up and running again! :-)
- ◆ **Greg Risdahl** supported and guided our Visitor Services Programs throughout the year—as we completed our Tetlin video , hosted our VC Celebration, and as we continued to work on the development of the Seaton Recreation Area.
- ◆ **Mary Timm** helped no matter what she was asked to do—from helping to provide our Volunteers with interpretive props to jumping in and helping to problem solve. Thanks for always being willing to lend a hand Mary.
- ◆ **Juanita Wilson** helped Mary Timm provide a program for our Visitor Center Celebration in mid summer.
- ◆ Volunteers Extraordinaire: **Karen and Tom Mitchell** (United Kingdom and Calif.) & **Gary Holloway and Evelyn Ray** (Alabama).

**Thank you!**

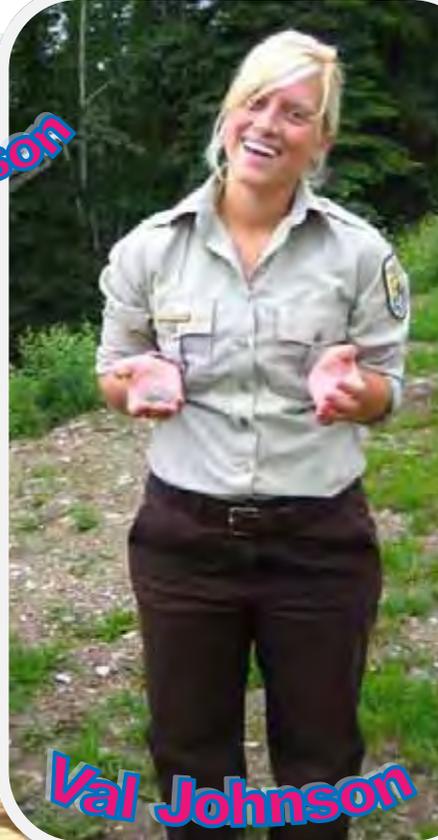
**Thanks so much!**

**Thank you!**

# Interpretive Staff for the season included:



Heather Johnson



Val Johnson



Cora Demit

Teddy Northway



Kay Lynn Odle-Moore

Sylvia Pitka



# Highlights from Interpretive Staff!

## Teddy Northway's Highlight:

One highlight would be when the Boy Scouts of Eagle River showed up at my interpretive talk on their way to Haines/ Skagway. Just saying that right off the bat I was obligated to talk about the four season survival. While that was being talked about the leaders of the Boy Scouts were really interested in what the topic was about. As the talk went on, I open a discussion about using my shoe lace for a snare, discussed about how to set it. Later while I was finishing one of the older Boy Scouts turned his head to one of his leaders and said, "That's not in the manual." HA, I thought as the leader nodded his head.



## Cora Demit's Highlight:

The one memorable experience I remember is one particular visitor from Germany who remembered me seven years ago. He came in the Visitor Center and came up to me and said, "You are still here." I remembered your smile. Those words made me feel good.

The highlight or experience I had at Deadman Lake during one of my evening talks was this: I had one lady who was entering Alaska and I talked about cranberry sauce, and how as a child we would sometimes mix rosehips and cranberries to make a sauce. Lo and behold on her way out of Alaska, she stopped at Deadman Lake to camp and she brought me cleaned rosehips on my evening talk. What a thoughtful lady.



## Kay Lynn Odle-Moore's Highlight:

One evening in late June, the weather was rainy and cool, so I wasn't sure how many visitors were going to want to leave the comfort of their RVs or campsites to come to the pavilion @ Deadman for an interpretive talk. Consequently, I was pleasantly surprised to see a large group of 16 filter into the pavilion. This group was quite diverse: a couple from Switzerland, 1 person from the Czech Republic, 1 from Australia, 3 from Anchorage, as well as several visitors from the United States—4 from Oregon, 2 from Illinois, and 2 from Tennessee. Whenever there's a very diverse crowd, I worry about how to connect with so many from widely varying backgrounds. To complicate this group even more, there were two young children from different families in attendance. I asked the two little boys, Tristan and Cody, to be my "helpers" for the evening. Not only were they just adorable little boys; they were thrilled to be up and moving around the group. They helped me to pass my props among the group, and the adults in the group seemed to find these little "helpers" as delightful as I did. Not only was this group one of my favorites of the season; the Swiss couple stayed afterwards to ask more questions and to see if I'd share a couple items with their children (who hadn't come to the pavilion because they didn't speak a lot of English). I was thrilled to meet the children as their parents translated for us. So, what started out to be a questionable evening weather-wise turned into one of the most enjoyable evenings of my summer interpretive programs.

# More Highlights from the Interpretive Season:

Bicyclists, Jiri Divis (Czech Republic—left) & Donald Stevens (Oregon—right) stopped at the Visitor Center to have a picnic lunch.

Another Highlight from Kay Lynn:

When I'd finished with an interpretive talk at Deadman Lake, I went to Lakeview to check on the campers there. Since there were folks sitting out enjoying a campfire, I stopped and chatted with them. That's when I met Jiri and Donald.



Jiri and Donald were absolutely thrilled with our Refuge. They were pleasantly surprised to find comfortable, free tent campsites at Lakeview, and they were delighted to tell me that they'd just blogged about the Refuge before I had arrived. I was able to answer some questions they had, and I invited them to stop by our Visitor Center when they bicycled by it on their way into Canada. So, it was great fun to see them again the next afternoon when they stopped to enjoy a picnic lunch there.

Roving interpretation is often rewarding, and meeting these adventurers certainly was a highlight for the season.

## Sylvia Pitka's Highlights:

On my interpretive talk at Deadman Lake, my experience was an encounter with a black bear. This was the first time in my life I had seen a bear so close. I was scared and I think the bear was also afraid. The bear hang around for awhile. After that I didn't see the bear for the rest of the summer, just that one time. The campers talked about how clean and well kept the area was thanks to the staff and the hosts that stayed at the campground. They loved the interpretive program and they said this was very educational for them. Some of them knew nothing about Alaska.

By working at the Visitor Center, I meet a lot of people from all over the world. We meet a lot of people that are very nice and happy. They have a lot of questions like are you from this area, what kind of native are you, do you work here at the VC very long, and is the Refuge under state or federal. They talked about themselves, what they retired from, where they're from, how happy they are to come to Alaska (some of them on their very first time and others which are returning 5 or 6 times). I also met a few that came to Alaska to stay. The most memorable was a young lady who was about 9 years old who wanted to learn about beading. I just showed her one time how to do it, and later she came back to me with finished flowers she did. She remembered me showing her how to do the beading, and was very happy to learn.

*STEP student,  
Val  
Johnson,  
helped  
complete  
our VC staff*



# Interpretive Programs for 2011

Interpretive programs began in early June this season, and they were offered to our visitors to Deadman Lake Campground through the end of August. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, this year was the first time that we were able to offer our Interpretive programs seven nights a week.

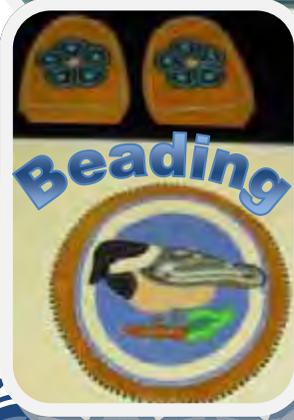
**Bead work demonstrations at the Visitor Center were a huge hit as usual!**

**We were able to offer programs to over 500 visitors at Deadman Lake Campground. Additionally, hundreds of interpretive programs were given at the Visitor Center—sometimes to small groups and at other times to groups of 40 or more who were traveling together on coaches.**

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

**Presentations topics included: fire in the boreal forest, mosquitoes and dragonflies, Trumpeter Swans, Athabaskan cultural traditions and potlatches, medicinal plants, boreal botany, mushrooms, caribou—nomads of the North, Walter Northway biography and artifacts, phenology, and adaptations to the cold.**

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



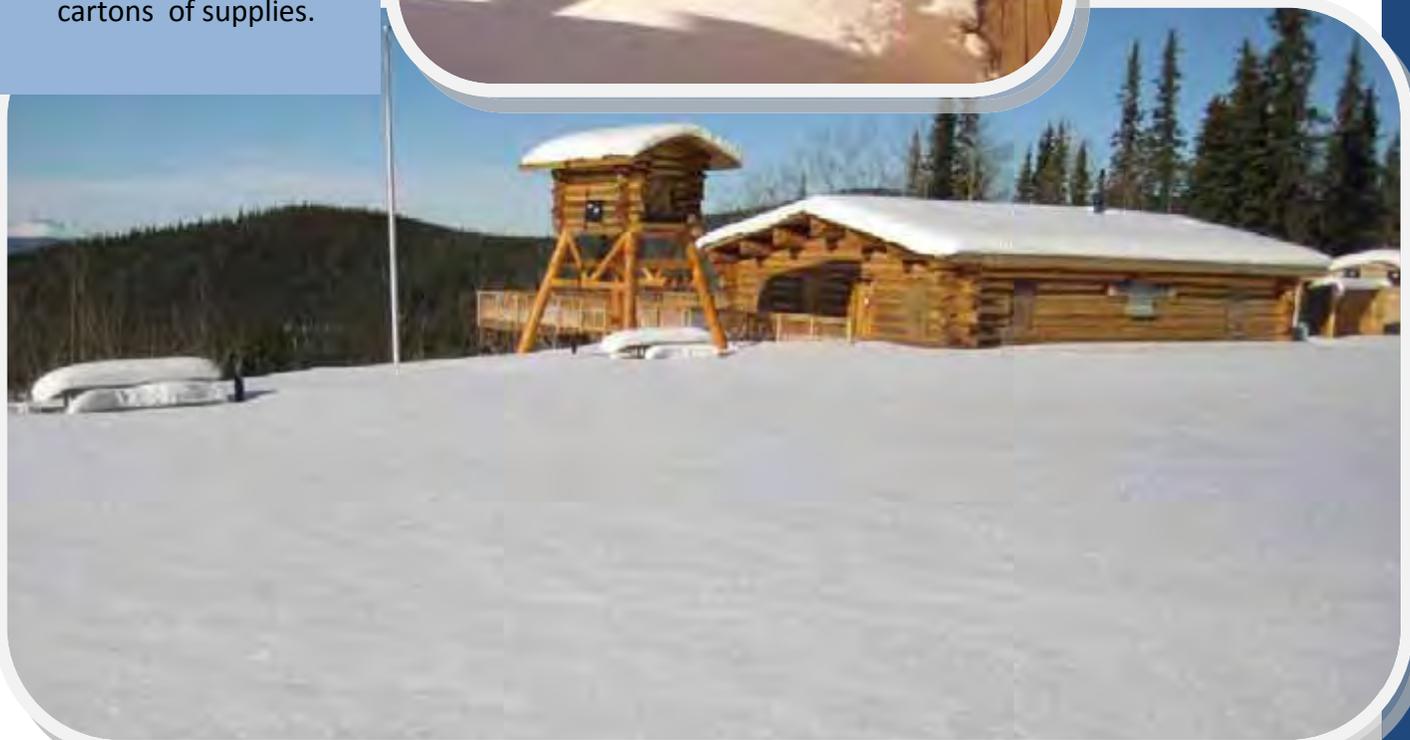


Our first visit to the VC for the season was on March 29, 2011.

We had to wait until a bit later for the snow to melt before we could start carrying in cartons of supplies.



Heather checking placement for Guest Register



# Solar Panel Installation



**New gates**



**Moving the wooden sign**



**Visitor Center Enhancements**



New Dog Walking Area



Tom Teasdale & YCC Crew



Duck Stamp Art on display



Improvements to the Visitor Center included:

- Moving the dog walking area
- Creating a picnic area for volunteers
- Adding a sign for the brochure rack
- Adding knife for hunter
- Reorienting the Common Raven



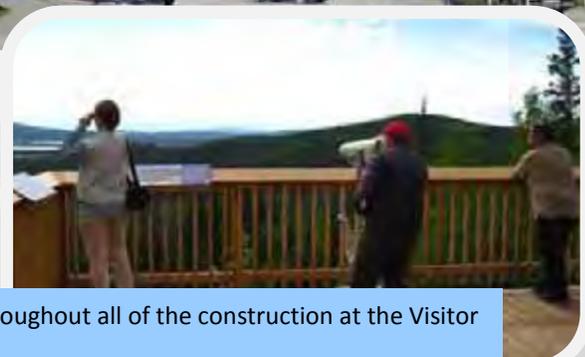
**Exterior VC signs  
were installed**



**Volunteer RV Pad  
completed**

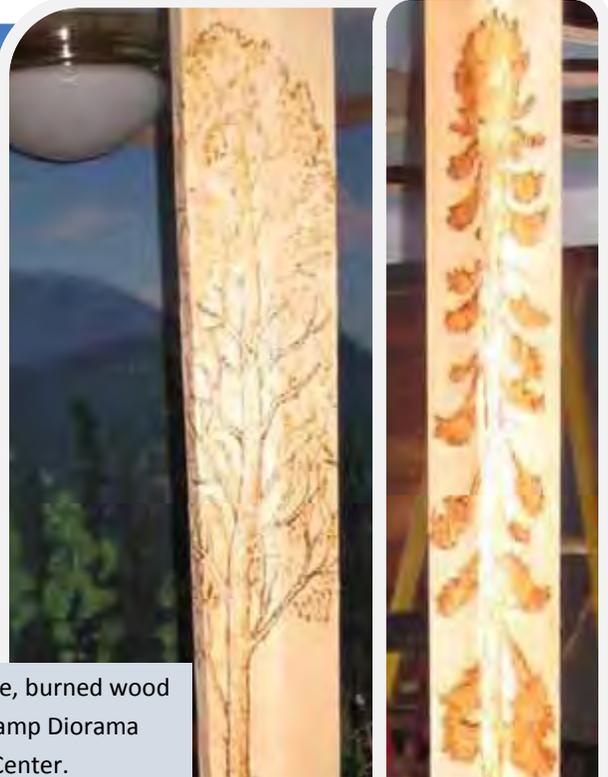


**Phenology Garden  
planted**



Throughout all of the construction at the Visitor Center, guests were welcomed warmly.





**Right:** Art Director, John Ivie, burned wood tree details to the Fish Camp Diorama inside the Visitor Center.



**Above:** Bicyclists, Jiri Divis (Czech Republic) & Donald Stevens (Oregon) enroute to Tierra del Fuego from Prudhoe  
**Left:** Visitors once again were thrilled with views from our deck at the Visitor Center





## Invitations sent

You are cordially invited to attend a celebration of  
Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and the new exhibits at our  
Visitor Center

Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Place: Tetlin Visitor Center, Mile 1229 AK Highway.

There will be a brief program followed by  
demonstrations and activities.

Light refreshments will be served.

## Preparation for the VC Celebration



Tarps erected

## Val and Cora watering flowers



## Val planting flowers





Cora and Howard Fix work on adhering beaded frames to burl wood award plaques



Volunteer, Karen Mitchell, at one of the deck stations



Heather addressed the audience and presented awards to persons who'd helped make the new exhibits more authentic.



Most of the afternoon was sunny, but our staff got a little "damp" as they packed up outdoor displays.





**Teddy - Fish Trap & "Pickles"**



**Nicole - Phenology**



**Cora - Traditional Plants**

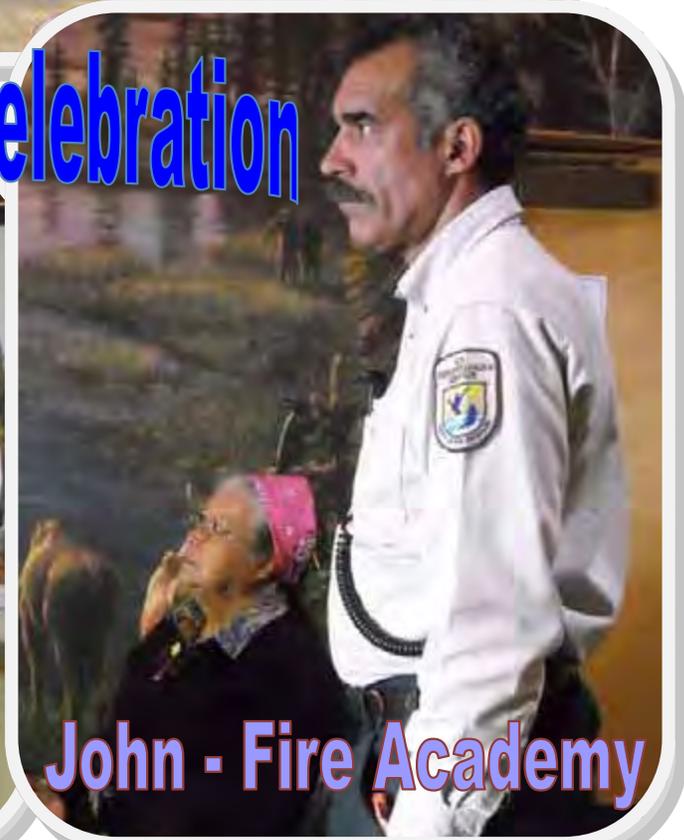


**Kay Lynn - Nomads of the North**

# **Activities @ the Celebration**



**Heather speaking with Cindy Miller**



**John - Fire Academy**



# Alaska Geographic Sales 2011



Alaska Geographic Sales by Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase or difference from 2010 and 2011
May	\$982.13	\$1,055.19	\$1,856.22	\$2321.99	+25%
June	\$2,876.36	\$4,542.98	\$4,991.25	\$6478.97	+30%
July	\$3,277.30	\$5,592.66	\$5,848.34	\$7290.98	+25%
August	\$2,493.17	\$4,269.00 a	\$5,117.33	\$7990.09	+56%
September	\$1,452.39	\$1,821.99	\$1521.91	\$3007.71	+98%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$11,081.35</b>	<b>\$17,281.82</b>	<b>\$19,335.05</b>	<b>\$27,089.74</b>	<b>+40%</b>

## 2011 Visitor Center Statistics

Visitors by Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	% increase or decrease from 2010 to 2011
May registered	772	627	537	625	+16%
June registered	3936	3994	2511	3418	+36%
July registered	3070	4688	4649	4500	-3%
August registered	3903	4260	4363	4181	-4%
September Registered	725	1107	731	956	+31%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,406</b>	<b>14,676</b>	<b>12,791</b>	<b>13,680</b>	<b>+7%</b>

## Alaska Geographic Memberships

Alaska Geographic Memberships	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Increase From 2010 to 2011
	9	15	8	13	+63%

# VC Celebration



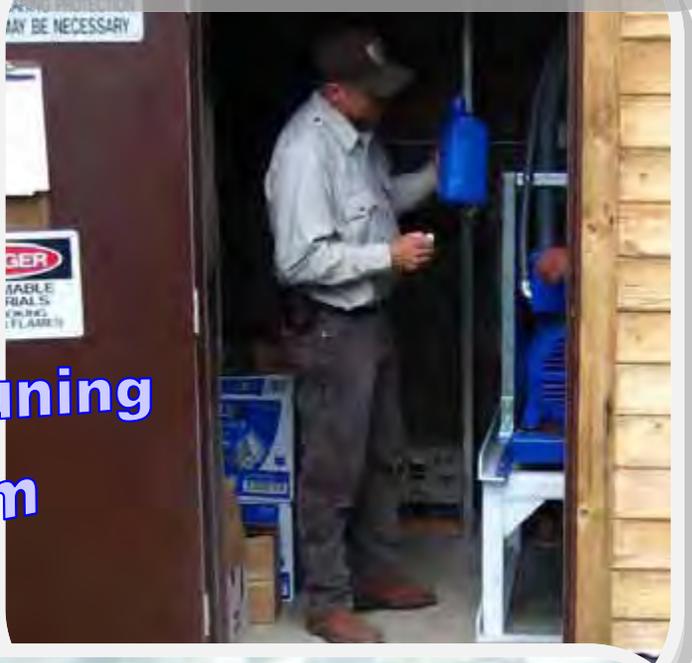
Dave chatting with Darlene



Geoff, Bud, & Hank



Dave and Ted fine tuning generator system



Sylvia and Ryan



Geoff, Cora, & Mike



working on beaded dragonflies



Mary & Juanita Dragonflies



Tom T. in his PPE



Cora & Ryan



Heather & Marett



Greg addresses questions from visitors



Avis Sam receiving award

VC Celebration July 6, 2011



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## Alaska Geographic Memberships

Alaska Geographic Memberships	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Increase From 2010 to 2011
	9	15	8	13	+63%

<b>Visitor Center Statistics and AK Geo Sales</b>										
<b>Number of People:</b>										
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>May</b>	689	1259	682	789	924	899	772	627	537	625
<b>June</b>	5064	4726	5634	5172	4787	4602	3936	3994	2511	3418
<b>July</b>	5977	5173	5924	6316	5275	4951	3070	4688	4649	4500
<b>August</b>	5768	4275	4248	4742	4631	4840	3903	4260	4363	4181
<b>September</b>	1366	951	1055	1297	992	1112	725	1107	731	956
	<b>18864</b>	<b>16384</b>	<b>17543</b>	<b>18316</b>	<b>16609</b>	<b>16404</b>	<b>12406</b>	<b>14676</b>	<b>12791</b>	<b>13680</b>
<b>Total AK Geo Sales</b>								<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Jan. Feb. Hdqtrs.</b>										<b>\$76.80</b>
<b>March April Hdqtrs.</b>										<b>\$324.93</b>
<b>May</b>	\$773.82	\$846.58	\$649.91	\$507.75	\$1,045.32	\$580.18	\$982.13	\$816.08	<b>\$1,192.68</b>	<b>\$1,208.20</b>
<b>Headquarters Sales</b>								\$239.11	<b>\$663.54</b>	<b>\$712.06</b>
<b>June</b>	\$5,241.55	\$4,095.76	\$4,369.37	\$3,667.61	\$3,933.86	\$3,985.02	\$2,876.36	\$4,026.57	<b>\$4,017.43</b>	<b>\$5,935.60</b>
<b>Headquarters Sales</b>					c.o.	\$364.30		\$516.41	<b>\$973.82</b>	<b>\$543.37</b>
<b>July</b>	\$4,200.05	\$4,477.18	\$5,645.68	\$5,089.55	\$4,228.11	\$3,891.87	\$3,277.30	\$5,173.83	<b>\$5,457.59</b>	<b>\$6,996.77</b>
<b>Headquarters Sales</b>								\$418.83	<b>\$390.75</b>	<b>\$294.21</b>
<b>August</b>	\$3,622.19	\$4,744.12	\$3,692.15	\$4,232.68	\$3,187.99	\$3,708.76	\$2,493.17	\$4,119.07	<b>\$4,909.83</b>	<b>\$7,604.91</b>
<b>Headquarters Sales</b>					c.o.	\$239.91		\$149.93	<b>\$207.50</b>	<b>\$385.18</b>
<b>September</b>	\$1,602.30	\$1,597.35	\$953.80	\$1,227.95	\$510.67	\$776.25	\$1,452.39	\$1,551.44	<b>\$1,201.75</b>	<b>\$2,180.14</b>
<b>Headquarters Sales</b>								\$270.55	<b>\$320.16</b>	<b>\$501.20</b>
<b>Oct. Headquarters</b>									<b>\$227.03</b>	
<b>Nov. Headquarters</b>										
<b>Dec. Headquarters</b>									<b>\$183.37</b>	
<b>Donations</b>										<b>\$326.37</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$15,439.91</b>	<b>\$15,760.99</b>	<b>\$15,310.91</b>	<b>\$14,725.54</b>	<b>\$12,905.95</b>	<b>\$13,546.29</b>	<b>\$11,081.35</b>	<b>\$17,281.82</b>	<b>\$19,745.45</b>	<b>\$27,089.74</b>



*YCC @ work  
& play 2011*



# Northway Bunkhouse



Turn off  
the lights!

Swans canvas "salvaged" from  
an old VC Exhibit

RESTROOM

Office

Small text on a sign, likely a notice or schedule, with a header that appears to say "NOTICE".

New signs posted





# Tetlin NWR Facilities



Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Facilities	2008	2009	2010	2011	% decrease or % increase From 2010 - 2011
Lakeview	791	1021	1112	938	-16%
Deadman	11701	1232	1475	1320	-11%
Hidden Lake	430	524	447	491	+ 10%
Visitor Center	12,406	14,676	12,791	13,680	+ 7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,797</b>	<b>17,453</b>	<b>15,825</b>	<b>16,429</b>	<b>+ 4%</b>

## Lakeview Campground

A late start (opening in late May rather than in April due to snow depth), a poor economy, and a rainy summer took its toll on our numbers; however, we still exceeded our figures from 2008.

*Our registered visitation was down 16% from last season.*



## Deadman Lake Campground

A late start (opening in late May rather than in April due to snow depth), a poor economy, and a rainy summer took its toll on our numbers; however, we still exceeded our figures from

2008 and 2009.

*Our registered visitation was down 11% from last season.*



## Hidden Lake Trail

In spite of a rainy summer, our registered visitation increased at Hidden Lake! Evidently the hikers were undaunted.

*Our registered visitation increased by 10%!*



**Data from Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Facilities 2010 and 2011**

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Facilities	May 2010	May 2011	June 2010	June 2011	July 2010	July 2011	August 2010	August 2011	September 2010	September 2011
Lakeview Campground	72*	22	236	211	366	324	230	244	208	137
Deadman Lake Campground	219*	60	342	285	432	537	370	305	112	133
Hidden Lake Trail	47*	41	88	53	144	209	93	131	75	57**
Visitor Center	537	625	2511	3418	4649	4500	4363	4181	731	956

\* included April of 2010 too

\*\* includes October of 2011 too

*Notes: Due to snow depth on campground roads this past March, the campgrounds were not open in April (as they normally are). Our summer was wetter than normal too, but September was relatively dry throughout; these weather factors often affect visitation.*

# Kids Don't Float PFD Stations and Tetlin's Facility Signage

Once again, we had Kids Don't Float Stations for our facilities: Lakeview, Deadman Lake, Hidden Lake, and Chisana Boat Ramp.

Temporary laminated signs were replaced with more permanent brown and white signs.



Our Interpretive Pullouts were neat and tidy this summer thanks to the efforts of our marvelous Volunteers: Tom & Karen Mitchell & Evelyn Ray and Gary Holloway

**Easement Trail**

# Hidden Lake Trail

- **54% of our hikers were from outside of the United States** (4% from the Netherlands, 9% from Switzerland, 11% from Canada, & 17% were from Germany)
- **Hikers came from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the USA**
- **10% of our hikers also reported fishing in Hidden Lake**
- **18% of our hikers were birding**
- **58% of our hikers had stopped at the Visitor Center**
- **29% of our hikers learned of Hidden Lake Trail from the Milepost, 22% from our road sign, 12% from the Visitor Center staff, and 2 % from the Internet\* (\*Even though this is a small percentage, it's increasing)**

## Comments/ Suggestions for Hidden Lake Trail:

- **Need toilet (numerous comments): add outhouse!**
- Thanks for the boat! (repeated several times)
- Great welcome to Ak after 5000 miles
- Beautiful trail! What a lot of work!
- Great beaver environment
- Fantastic! Love the boat and oars!
- Fun trail
- Lovely place—Thanks so much
- Thank you for the extensive boardwalk to protect the plants! Great trail - wildflower photography
- Great! More moose, less mosquitoes
- Great trail! - wildflower photography
- Very quiet—nice
- **Picked up trash at lake but you must put toilet here or the mess will continue - also trash can**
- Saw 3 moose @ lake!
- Perfect place
- Saw 4 moose @ lake! Beautiful!
- 2 moose great place no complaints
- 3 moose—two males and female at other side of road
- 2 moose and young berries
- No animals/ only mushrooms
- Nice! Thanks for work of volunteers!
- **Rest benches**
- 2 belted kingfishers, 3 Trumpeter Swans
- Great walk—love the ground cover
- Very nice work on trail Colorful ground cover!
- Saw a moose by the lake—ate lots of berries—good!
- Great cranberries
- Northern Hawk Owl at lake
- No beaver

# Lakeview Campground

- **50% of our registered visitors were from outside of the USA, 20% from Germany, 12% from Canada, and 10% from Switzerland**
  - **Visitors came from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA**
    - ◆ **98% of our registered visitors were camping, and only 2% were stopping for day use**
    - ◆ **56% of our registered visitors were in RVs and 40% reported that they were tent camping**
    - ◆ **6% of our visitors were fishing and 5% reported that they were boating on Yarger Lake**
      - ◆ **21% of our registered visitors were birding**
      - ◆ **16% of our registered visitors were hiking**
    - ◆ **40% of our registered visitors to Lakeview visited the Photo Blind there**
    - ◆ **28% of the registered visitors reported that they had already stopped at the Visitor Center**
- ⇒ **33% of our registered visitors learned of Lakeview from the Milepost, 23% from our road sign, 5% learned from a friend, 4% from our VC staff, 3% came because of a previous visit, 1% were referred by friends, and 1% learned of Lakeview from the Internet**

## Comments/ Suggestions for Lakeview Campground

- Awesome site— we will be back
- This place is a perfect secret gem! Loved it!
- Thank you! Very nice—thanks (repeated over and over and in different languages!) Merci!
- On a long distance bike tour Fairbanks to Texas Thanks for the free camp!
- Very clean restrooms (repeated comment)
- Just great! Thank you!
- Lovely site; Peaceful!
- Just in the right place
- Incredible!!
- Returned for second stay
- Nice stay in a lovely country
- Romantic place
- First night in USA Great!
- Great way to spend the last night in AK
- First night in Alaska—(nice) Thanks for free camp
- Nice upkeep! Priced right!
- Excellent as ever!
- Very beautiful/ quiet
- Our 5th stay here Fantastic!
- Loons are on the lake—fantastic!
- Beautiful view of the swans!
- Great spot; clean bathrooms
- Cool place in good condition—great view
- Beautiful—quiet place—good for relaxing
- Nice except the mossies
- Beautiful! Thanks for photo blind
- Excellent view from blind Wonderful!
- Bathrooms nice and clean
- Very nice to find such a nice camp for free!
- Great ground please keep forever
- Beautiful spot—picnic table on lake great
- Very pretty—great photo blind
- Enjoyed the quiet
- People with generators could kindly not use them in the morning and at night
- Stopped to eat lunch
- Swans, GH owl, sandhill cranes, lovely day & grebes
- Wonderful free camping rare and appreciated

# Deadman Lake Campground

- **40% of our registered visitors were from outside the USA: 13% from Germany, 9% from Canada, 8% from Switzerland, and 2% from France**
- **Visitors came from: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Switzerland, United, Kingdom, and all over the USA**
  - **94% of our registered visitors were camping, and only 6% reported day use**
    - **64% of our visitors were in RVs and 29% reported tent camping**
    - **12% of our registered visitors were fishing and 6% were boating**
      - **12% of our registered visitors were birding**
      - **25% of our registered visitors were hiking**
    - **32% of our registered visitors had stopped at the Visitor Center**
  - **28% of our registered visitors had learned about Deadman Lake through the Milepost, 17% from the road sign, 9% were previous visitors, 9% learned through VC staff, 6% found Deadman on a public lands map, 5% read about Deadman in a guide book, 3% learned through friends, & 2% learned on the Internet.**

## Suggestions/ Comments from our Visitors:

- ◆ Merci from Canadians
- ◆ Nice place— Thanks! (repeated comment)
- ◆ Keep up the good work!
- ◆ Beautiful, exquisite! Neat campgrounds wonderful taiga trail! Thank you
- ◆ Stayed several times in the last 40 years—always great
- ◆ Many mosquitoes
- ◆ Beautiful—kept clean—nice camp site Thank you
- ◆ Very nice hosts—water? Recycle?
- ◆ Beautiful, clean, great lake
- ◆ Perfect Great job! Thank you Dept. of Int. Fish and W.
- ◆ Super clean! :-) Thanks to the American taxpayer
- ◆ Great place—nice hosts—hope it keeps so lovely
- ◆ Helpful hosts (repeated numerous times)
- ◆ Great nature trail
- ◆ Wow! Thanks Ranger Northway
- ◆ Really enjoyed Sylvia's Int. talk and enjoyed meeting her
- ◆ Nice—like the quiet Great price
- ◆ Great place! Love that it's free!
- ◆ Great talk! Enjoyed Cora. Loved loons and swan song
- ◆ Wish we could stay longer!
- ◆ Great place! Please forbid generators!
- ◆ No smoking on the toilets!
- ◆ Very well maintained—thanks
- ◆ Very nice (repeat visitor)
- ◆ Good space between sites—needs water
- ◆ Limited sites for larger RVs
- ◆ Glad to find a spot at midnight
- ◆ Very nice walking path!
- ◆ It was great and free! :-)
- ◆ Informative trail, very nice!
- ◆ Tre bien!
- ◆ Enjoyed the talk! Great improvements
- ◆ Loved wheelchair trail
- ◆ Staff—Teddy, Heather, Val have been wonderful
- ◆ Like the lake very much ;-) was there before
- ◆ Registration should have site # so you can check if open
- ◆ I love the trail!
- ◆ It's great here, stop here every year (count 10 X)
- ◆ Great viewing deck on lake
- ◆ Amazing! Informative, scenic, and great locations USFWS
- ◆ Too bad there are no boats to rent Great campground
- ◆ Wonderful campsite and interpretive disability access
- ◆ Could not ask for better host!!! :-)

# Kiosk Enhancements/ Upgrades at Deadman and Lakeview

**Lakeview Kiosk  
Left - Before  
Below - After!**



## Invasive Species Panels



Thanks to our wonderful volunteers at Deadman, this walkway was restained and rotting plywood underneath the kiosk was replaced. Thanks to Dave Bergstrom and Ted Agre, our new panels were framed and installed.



# Improvements

Right: Dave Bergstrom and Ted Agre replaced the old Plexiglas in our kiosks so visitors could read the information more easily!

Below: Volunteers helped Dave and Ted to remove the old dock @ Deadman and transfer it to Yarger Lake. Then they helped to put the new floating dock together @ Deadman. The dock was happily used almost immediately.



New floating dock

Wildflowers, as usual, were in abundance. Visitors and staff welcomed their arrival.



Natural beauty

# Seaton Recreation Area



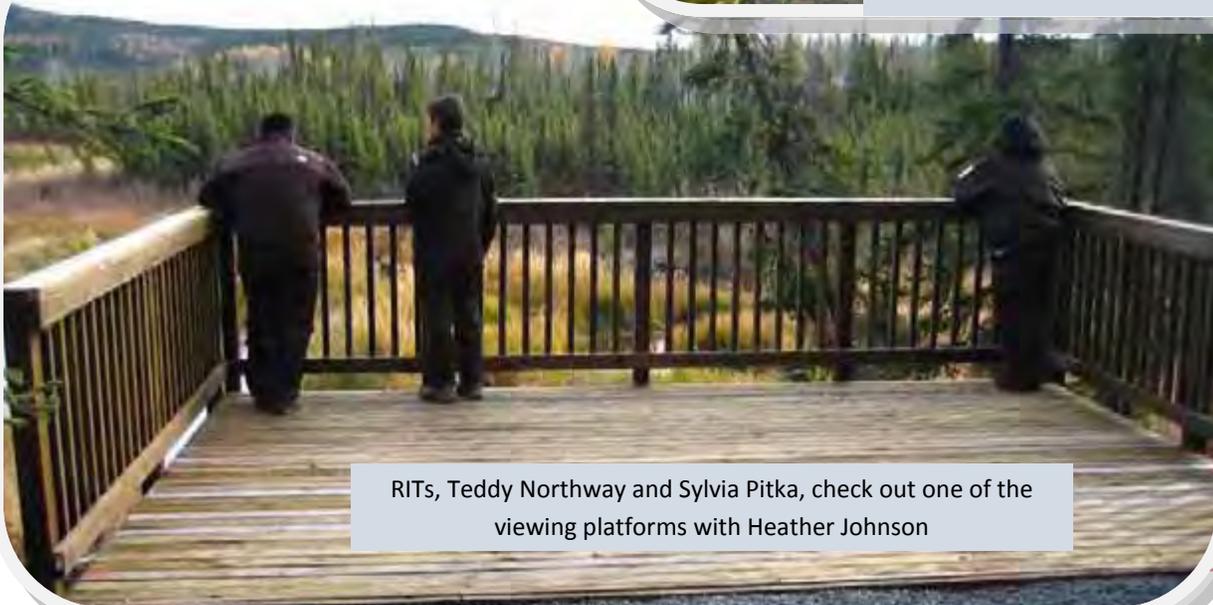
Construction continued throughout the season as preparations were made for the "official" opening of the Seaton Recreation Area for 2012!



Trumpeter Swans on Seaton Pond



Pavilion with accessible picnic tables and bear-proof dumpster



RITs, Teddy Northway and Sylvia Pitka, check out one of the viewing platforms with Heather Johnson

# Seaton Recreation Area Trails

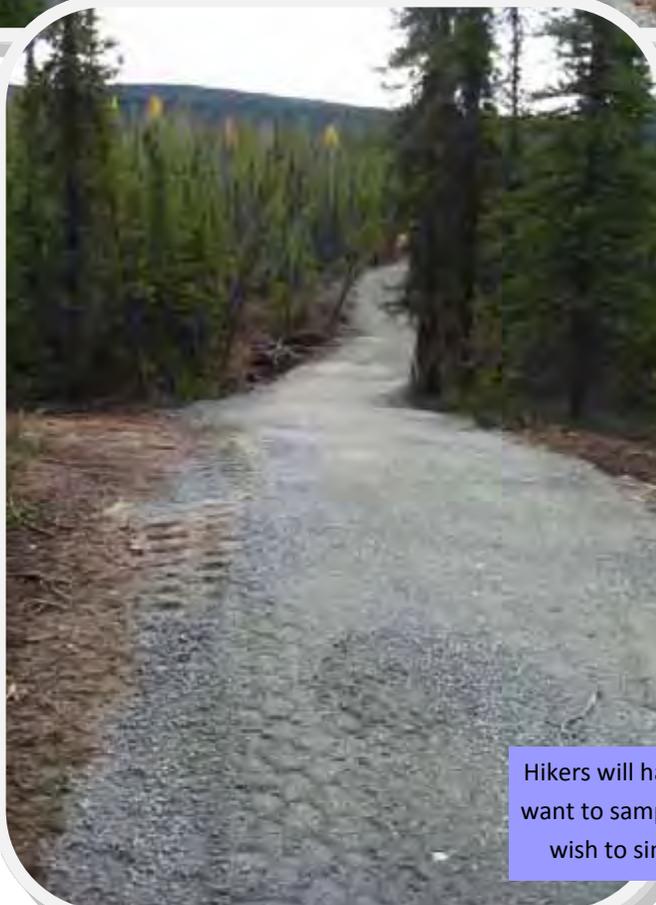


The primary trail loops around Seaton Pond.

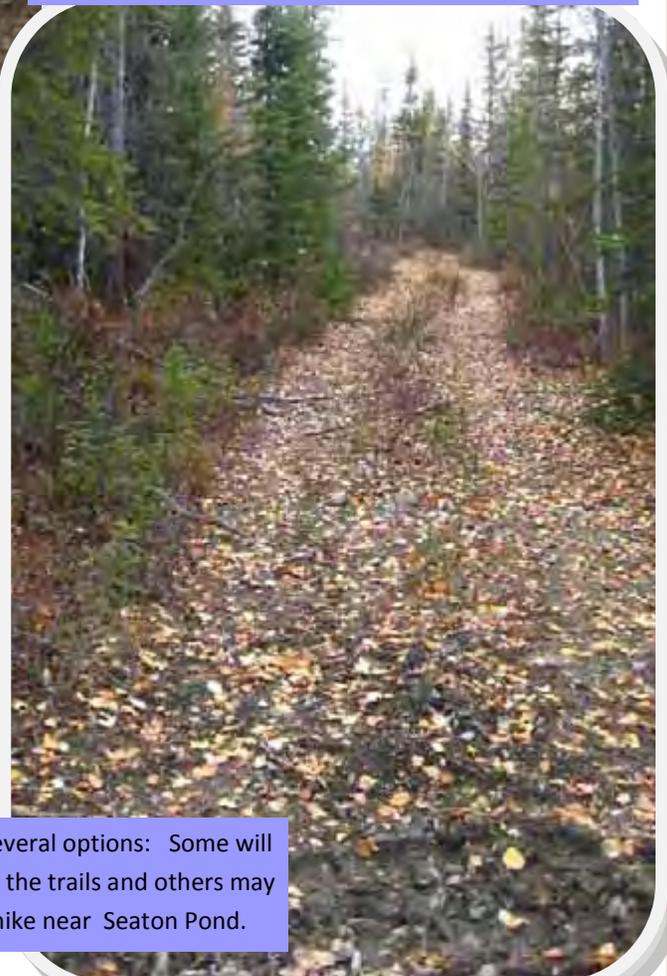
This foot bridge over a creek will help hikers keep their feet dry



Left: Spur Trail (off Seaton Pond Primary Trail) will provide hikers or bicyclists with a nice private camp spot.



Hikers will have several options: Some will want to sample all the trails and others may wish to simply hike near Seaton Pond.



# Our Volunteers are wonderful!

## Thanks Marett!

Though she's younger than many of our other volunteers have been, this valuable Volunteer, Marett Mollnow, willingly gave up some of her summer vacation time so she could answer phones and field questions at the front desk of our Headquarters. She also assisted us @ our VC Celebration by taking photographs.



Marett ready to receive calls



Marett, the photographer, at work



# Hurray for Helpful Hosts!

Our **valuable volunteers** helped to make 2011 another successful summer season for Visitor Services. Their **valiant** efforts in our behalf helped us in so many ways: maintenance, clean-up projects, interpretation, and many other tasks.

**Thanks so much to our stellar volunteer couples for 2011:**

**Karen and Tom Mitchell (full-time RVrs, but originally from the United Kingdom and California)**

**Evelyn Ray and Gary Holloway (Foley, Alabama)**



## 2011 Volunteer Accomplishments Include:

- ◆ Cleaning 7 interpretive pullouts along the Alaska/Canada Highway in addition to cleaning Hidden Lake Trailhead
- ◆ Putting out PFDs at our "Kids Don't Float Stations"
- ◆ Cleaning RRs at both of our campgrounds & keeping bear-proof dumpsters emptied
- ◆ Re-staining the kiosk @ Lakeview & walkway @ Deadman near Kiosk
- ◆ Replacing the plywood floor under the Deadman Lake Kiosk and then staining it
- ◆ Painting a rusting bear-proof dumpster
- ◆ Helping to move the old Deadman Lake dock to Yarger Lake & helping to assemble/ put the new dock together
- ◆ Cleaning fire pits at campgrounds
- ◆ Providing interpretive talks for visitors at least twice a week
- ◆ Helping visitors in many different ways: providing translations, aiding stranded motorists, etc., etc.
- ◆ Clearing brush along the Taiga Trail and helping to clear some from campsites
- ◆ Helping with our Visitor Center Celebration in early July
- ◆ Beading for our Celebration Award Plaques
- ◆ Helping collect data for the Phenology project
- ◆ Filling pot holes in campground roads
- ◆ Installing shelves in the Deadman Lake Pavilion closet
- ◆ Hanging brown and white signs (to replace laminated temporary signs @ facilities)
- ◆ Happily greeting visitors and sharing information with them
- ◆ Cheerfully helping with many other tasks WHENEVER they were asked!

**We couldn't have met our visitors' needs nearly as well without the many hours that our volunteers contributed to Tetlin**

**Thank you!**

**Thank you!**

**Thank you!**



**Tom & Karen**





Gary and Evelyn





patching road



New shelves  
in pavilion closet

Pictured are just a few of the jobs our Volunteers completed



Evelyn working on phenology



re-stained kiosk



Tom translating  
for visitors

# Volunteer Barbeque & Recognition Luncheon

We sure appreciated our wonderful volunteer couples. Deadman Lake Campground visitors couldn't have been happier with these hosts.



Ted Agre & Gary Holloway



Evelyn Ray & Ted Agre



Karen Mitchell, Cora Demit,  
and Tom Mitchell



Yummy luncheon

# Successful Summer Season 2011 Closes

In spite of a struggling world economy and another rainy summer, we managed to accomplish much in our summer season; consequently, we have plenty to celebrate. Hopefully you've enjoyed reading about some of our accomplishments-as well as seeing photographs which help to tell our stories.

It has been my pleasure to compile them to share with you.

Sincerely,

*Kay Lynn Odle-Moore*



*We 'll hope to see these Trumpeters return again next season!*