



NEWSLETTER

June
2019

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS STARTS SEASON WITH TWO TRAIL PARTIES

Alaska Trails and Chugach State Park are teaming up to celebrate National Trails Day, June 1, by hosting their first volunteer event of the season. Volunteers will be working to construct a new one-mile section of the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail. This new section will replace and realign an old, unsustainable stretch. The Park has been working for over a decade to complete the Middle Fork Trail and this is the last section to be completed. This is an extremely rewarding and engaging way for volunteers to leave a lasting positive impact on this beloved trail in Chugach State Park.



Another Trail Stewards party will be also be held on June 1 in Whittier. Volunteers will help the Whittier Parks and Recreation Committee continue to improve the Whittier Creek Trail and connect it to the Horsetail Falls Trail. Meet at the Whittier Public Safety Building at 9am. Picnic afterwards at 3 pm.

To register for these work parties and find out more see: <http://tinyurl.com/y28v6u2q>

The fun doesn't end this weekend! There are several other trail work projects this summer. Alaska Trail Stewards is an Alaska Trails program designed to help give volunteers opportunities to maintain and improve the trails that they and many others love. Below are the volunteer days we have scheduled so far. For more information on the program and to register for one or more of the work parties see:

<http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

- June 8: Rocky Creek - Iditarod National Historic Trail Work Day (near Kenai Lake)
- June 8: Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail Work Day
- June 15: Winner Creek Trail Work Day (near Girdwood)
- June 22: Lazy Moose Trail Work Day (near Palmer)

(Mike Downs photo of volunteers working on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park.)

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Seasonal Staff Brings Summer Energy

Alaska Trails is excited for the summer season – both to get out on the great trails all around Alaska, and to organize 30 volunteer trail maintenance events through our Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) program. Bookmark this link (<http://tinyurl.com/y22jnd2c>) to see all of our volunteer events through the summer!

We are happy to be welcoming back Kristen Mrozowski, our Trails Technician, for her second season leading the Alaska Trail Stewards program. Kristen will spend 10 weeks leading the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program in addition to leading the ATS events. Welcome back Kristen.

We are also very excited to welcome Claire Pywell to the Alaska Trails' team. As the Volunteer Program Manager, Claire will work with volunteers who are excited to help build and maintain the trails of Alaska. Her deep appreciation for trails began on a summer crew in the Delaware Water Gap, where she discovered that there were few things more rewarding than grabbing a Pulaski and working alongside folks who don't mind getting dirty to give back.



After graduating from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy in 2012, Claire came to Alaska for an internship with the National Parks Conservation Association and Denali Citizens Council, and immediately fell for the recreation opportunities and community that this great state has to offer. She has since worked in youth advocacy, politics, and communications. Off duty, Claire teaches yoga, hikes, bikes, and runs on the trails of Southcentral Alaska.



Veteran trail specialist Blaine Smith, who retired from Chugach State Park a few years back, will round out our seasonal staff. Kristen and Blaine recently conducted the second annual Crew Leader Training for volunteers who are ready to take the next step and try their hand at leading other volunteers. The training was a great success and gave the participants a chance to work on a Government Hill trail in Anchorage, which will also be a site for YEP and ATS events this summer.

The Statewide Trails Conference was a great success again this year. We are especially grateful to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) for hosting us. More than 100 trail enthusiasts from around the state gathered for training and networking with trail professionals. Author of *Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska*, Lisa Maloney, was the keynote speaker to kick off the conference that featured breakouts on all aspects of trails, including advocacy, organization and funding. We are already looking forward to next year.

We are always on the lookout for great trail ideas! Please let know if you have any and especially if you know of need for volunteer trail maintenance. We are excited to keep showing the strength of trained, safe volunteers who do good work and have fun maintaining the trail the love.

See you on the trails,

Steve Cleary

TRAILS PROGRAMS STILL INVOLVED IN STATE BUDGET WRANGLING

At last report, three state trail programs were still in the thick of the budget battle between the State Legislature and Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

Both House and Senate versions of the budget passed with provisions that would direct about half of the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding to community organizations. Earlier, Gov. Dunleavy's administration had announced earlier RTP grants would go only to state park units. That would mean that any trail projects outside of the units would no longer be available for the program. Funded by federal gas taxes paid on motor fuel used in motorized non-highway recreational activities, the RTP is the biggest funder of trail work in the state bringing in more \$1 million each year.

The House and Senate are currently negotiating to come up with a single budget. Unless something drastic happens, the final budget will split the funding between state parks and community organizations. Gov. Dunleavy still has the power to line-item veto the funding, but that doesn't seem likely. A veto would mean only that the state doesn't get that funding. It would be a lose-lose situation for the state.

However, the program will still lose one of its two full-time administrators. Both the House and Senate agreed with this cut proposed by the governor despite attempts by some legislators, including Sen. Scott Kawasaki, to reinstate the funding.

According to Jake Gerrish, an assistant to Sen. Kawasaki, "Sen. (Click) Bishop said on the Senate Floor that the administration assured him it would not affect the operation of the program and that he would be holding the administration accountable for that statement."

(Photo of Anchorage's Hillside singletrack trails, which have benefited from RTP funding, from Happy Trails, Inc. website.)



SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM

Both House and Senate versions of the budget passed with funding for the Snowmobile Trails Program (STP), sometimes referred to as SnowTRAC, which is the council that advises to the state on how to spend the funds. This should also survive the budget negotiations, since both branches of the state Legislature have included the funding.

However, Gov. Dunleavy can still line-item veto the program, which funds snowmachine trail grooming in the Southeast, Southcentral and Interior regions of the state. Funding for the program comes from snowmobile registration fees, which are not legally tied to the program and actually go into the state's general fund. (The Alaska Constitution does not allow for dedicated funds, but the Alaska Legislature has appropriated funds to the snowmobile program based on the registration fees collected.) If the governor vetoes the STP, then the registration fees would stay in the general



fund. If the STP survives and ends up in the state budget, then program advocates will need to urge Gov.

Dunleavy to not use his veto power on the program. (Gov. Dunleavy's contact info: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>) If he chooses to do so, then the Legislature can still override the veto, though it requires a two-thirds vote from the combined legislative chambers.

In early May, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner did a story on the program's tenuous situation: <http://tinyurl.com/y3fff5h3>

Last year, nearly \$160,000 was distributed for grooming trails, which benefits everyone using those trails. (For a list of groomed trails, including maps, see: <http://tinyurl.com/yys47ro6>.)

Whether the program survives, it has been suffering from reduced funding for a while.

"Most people don't realize the registrations for sleds has decreased by almost 20% over the last ten years," Steve Neel, a state administrator of the program, wrote in an email. "When I ask sled riders why they think this is happening I get one of three responses: sleds are too expensive to buy a new one every 2-3 years, the weather has been warmer and there has been less snow, and the older age group that used to sled a lot has retired and moved out of state."

(Dan Mayfield photo: Snowmobile grooming funded by the Snowmobile Trail Program.)

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is still alive in Alaska. Earlier, it appeared that the administration was opting out of this federal program because funding for it appeared to have been cut. What has happened is that the state has decided not to have "receipt authority for the upcoming year for new LWCF money," according to State Parks Director Ricky Gease. However, the state will continue to grant LWCF projects by using past receipt authority that hasn't yet been used.



"Thereafter in subsequent years we will once again have full receipt authority for LWCF funds," Gease wrote in an email. "It is a one-time process this year to clear out all past receipt authorities."

The House and Senate both decided to agree with the administration, but not everyone is comfortable with the action, including Sen. Scott Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks.

"While, as the administration argues, this may not cause a large problem this year, Sen. Kawasaki remains deeply concerned that it may cause problems down the road, maybe even as soon as FY2021," Jake Gerrish, Sen. Kawasaki's assistant, wrote in an email.

Why the administration has decided to not accept receipt authority for the coming year is a bit of a mystery, though it may make the state budget appear smaller for at least one year.

This program is not solely for trails, but trails are considered a "high priority project." The program has brought in almost \$40 million in federal funds since it was started in 1965.

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day. Most will be held on Saturday, June 1. For information on specific events see the Southcentral, Interior, and Southeast regional news sections.

National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits,

trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

PARK SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Could the National Park Service help in your community to create close-to-home recreation opportunities and protect nearby nature?

Apply by June 30 to be considered for technical assistance with your locally led conservation and outdoor recreation project.

The community assistance specialists in our Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program can help you to:

- Increase access to outdoor recreation and the natural world;
- Improve community health with new opportunities for more active living;
- Promote conservation and encourage stewardship of local resources;
- Benefit the local economy by improving quality of life;
- Connect youth to the outdoors and engage the next generation of conservation stewards; and
- Build partnerships that support your project's success!



To find out if we can help your community, review the application process. Then get in touch with Paul Clark, Alaska Region Program Manager (akr_rtca@nps.gov), to discuss your idea. We want to talk with you informally before you apply, to explore and develop your project idea and help you make the best of your application. Please let us know by the end of May if you intend to submit an application.

Still need help deciding to do something great in your community with our help? Watch this short video: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/multimedia.htm>

Step right up! Applications are due by June 30: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

(Photo of two hikers looking out at Crow Pass Trail from RTCA Alaska website.)

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE IN JULY

Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget directed all Recreational Trail Program funding to state parks, but the Legislature has so far directed about half the funding to community organizations. (See Special State Budget Report, page 3.) If the Legislature's mandate survives the budget process, then community organizations will be able to apply for RTP funds. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is below. Questions? Contact the State Trails Coordinator at (907) 269-8699.

- All application and informational documents will be available or before July 15 at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>;
- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

WATCH FOR MOOSE WITH CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose again and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. To learn how to avoid surprising moose and how to deal with aggressive moose, check out these resources:

- <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/MooseontheLoose.aspx>
- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose>

UNFORTUNATE RECENT EXAMPLES

- 'They hit hard and they hit fast.' Local musician on the mend after Friday moose attack: <http://tinyurl.com/y27dvauc>
- Family stomped by mother moose in Kincaid Park: <http://tinyurl.com/yxq6y9q5>

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICES DEADLINE IN JUNE

The Snowmobile Trails Program was not included in Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget (See Special State Budget Report, page 3.), but the state legislature has not had its say yet. The program has been cut and restored in the past. So, even though the program's future is uncertain, administrators are moving ahead as normal. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.



Public notices for Snowmobile Trails Program applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1. This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety programs. Matching funds are not required for safety programs.

Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the state by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269-8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

- Snowmachine trail maintenance funding cut from Dunleavy budget: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbjx5b3>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Surviving the final weeks of trail snowmelt: <http://tinyurl.com/y53r3l3b>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- This father and son just traveled 3,750 miles around Alaska with a sled dog team: <http://tinyurl.com/yyukutcn>
- Get out there and enjoy summer, Alaskans. Just prepare your adventures wisely: <http://tinyurl.com/y62vzpv0>
- National park tourism contributes \$2 billion to Alaska's economy: <http://tinyurl.com/y4myanzr>
- Sometimes the best campsite is the one right outside your door: <http://tinyurl.com/yyddcaz6>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS SOUTHCENTRAL



The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around southcentral Alaska. RSVP is needed where indicated. The events will be held on Saturday, June 1, unless otherwise noted. More information can be found at:

<https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

ANCHORAGE AREA

- A work party from 10am to 5pm to help construct a new one-mile section of the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail. RSVP required. For more info (<http://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-events.html>) or email (steve@alaska-trails.org)
- Help pull invasive European Bird Cherry trees and limb vegetation, improving visibility and safety. Meet at Woodside Park, 900 E. 20th Ave, at 9am for coffee and a brief intro. Tools and lunch are provided, and all are welcome to attend. If you are attending with a group, please RSVP. Hosted by the Rogers Park Community Council and Take Back Our Community group. For more info contact: Community Engagement Coordinator Michelle Fehribach at michelle.fehribach@anchorageak.gov or 907-343-4587 or see the Facebook Event at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/566244743779314/>

KENAI PENINSULA

- Join the Whittier Parks and Recreation Committee from 9am to 3pm to help improve the Whittier Creek Trail and connect it to Horsetail Falls Trail. Volunteers will meet at City of Whittier Public Safety Building. Picnic to follow. For more information: councilseata@whittieralaska.gov
- Come join the Hike It Baby! group (parents and young children) in the evening (start at 6pm) for a beach hike and play. We will hike from the Kenai Beach up to the playground, play for 20 minutes or so, and hike back down. RSVP required (<https://hikeitbaby.com/find-a-hike/>). More info: info@hikeitbaby.com
- Join the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for a hike on Marsh Lake Trail, the refuge's newest trail. Guides will provide a look into the Card Street Fire of 2015 while walking along the restored fire line trail. Don't miss the unique view of the Kenai Mountains from the wildlife clearing before choosing to return to the parking lot for a 1-mile total hike or continuing on to Marsh Lake for a 6-mile roundtrip hike. Hike starts at 2pm. More info: (907) 260-2820

MAT-SU VALLEY

- Join the Willow Trail Committee in hiking the Two Bridges Loop, a well marked and maintained trail through birch/spruce forest. Hike is about 4 miles. On the way you will cross two streams with salmon and wildlife habitat. The hike will also go through burned area of the 2015 Sockeye Fire. Let's see how the forest is rejuvenating. Hike starts at 10am. For more info: trails@waco-ak.org
- The Government Peak Climb, an approximately 6-mile run/hike starting at 11am at the Government Peak Recreation Area--park in the large parking lot (\$5.00 fee) follow signage from the ski stadium. Entry fees apply. Bring plenty of water and snacks. For more info: Mark Strabel 907-746-7547 or 907-354-7949, strabel@mtaonline.net

VALDEZ

- Join Valdez Adventure Alliance at Shoup Trailhead. Come by any time between 10am to 5pm. Help us clear the trail, paint, clean, install new signage, donation box, tool rack, and dog bag box. Drinks and snacks and some tools provided. If you can bring your own tools that is great! At 5pm we will have hotdogs. Info: events@valdezadventure.com

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Some hikers are pursuing their own solutions to trailhead break-ins: <http://tinyurl.com/y5xzx6yj>
- Anchorage Assembly passes amended trapping ordinance: <http://tinyurl.com/y27bxj64>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation's Interactive Trails Map: <https://matsutrails.org/trail-maps/>
- \$3.9 million in improvements coming to Anchorage parks and trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y3xxtotk>
- Campbell Creek Trail Phase 3: Construction Start: Mon. May 13 – July 1: <http://tinyurl.com/yybfwnj4>
- MatSu to Anchorage Trailhead Crime Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/yyvhtgdu>
- Soldotna receives funds for park, airport upgrades: <http://tinyurl.com/yyebgxwv>
- 10 Great Places To Ride A Mountain Bike On National Forests (includes Lost Lake on Kenai Peninsula): <http://tinyurl.com/y5tbfe4r>
- Eroding cliff creeps closer to popular trail at Point Woronzof: <http://tinyurl.com/y5ekphqu>
- City Of Kenai Awarded Grant For Bridge Access Bike Path: <http://tinyurl.com/yxoxtklb>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- One of Alaska's most scenic drives skirts Rainbow Mountain near Paxson: <http://tinyurl.com/y3hqppyg>
- Secret on Kashevaroff (Kodiak Film Festival winning film, about 3 min): <http://tinyurl.com/yxnb8e4d>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/y5mv8hk2>
- State gets right of way in agreement with corporation over Klutina Lake Road: <http://tinyurl.com/yxfu6zlf>
- Anchorage Parks and Recreation Activity Guide Summer 2019: <http://tinyurl.com/y2oypg7u>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS INTERIOR



The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around interior Alaska. RSVP is needed where indicated. The events will be held on Saturday, June 1, unless otherwise noted. More information can be found at:

<https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

FAIRBANKS

- Join the Interior Alaska Land Trust from 9:50am to 5pm in helping to build a new pedestrian trail in the (also new!) Chinook Conservation Park alongside Chena Pump Road. Meet at Justa Store at 9:50am, and begin walking together to the work site at 10. RSVP required. More information: guthrie.eleanor@gmail.com.

- Come join the Hike It Baby! group (parents and young children) and explore the simple Skarland Trail on the University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus. Parking is at the Large Animal Research Station. Stick around and join us for the LARS Birthday Bash and see their new calves. Meet at the LARS parking lot just before 11am. RSVP required (<https://hikeitbaby.com/find-a-hike/>). More info: info@hikeitbaby.com
- Alaska Endurance Trail Run, a 6,12, and 24 hour trail run/race held on the UAF West Ridge Trails, starting at 8pm on Friday, May 31. The registration deadline has passed, but more volunteers are needed. More information: <https://www.alaskaendurancetrailrun.org/>
- On June 2 join a trail work party starting at 1pm to help improve the Ester Dome/Happy Valley Singletrack trails. Be sure to dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes. Bring drink, gloves and eye protection. Try to get there a little before 1pm, so you can get a tool before the truck is locked up. No slave labor... couple hours! Meet at 1.6 Mile Ester Dome Road. Sponsored by Alaska Trails, Fairbanks Cycle Club, Goldstream Sports, and Recreational Equipment Inc. More info: call Geoff Orth (479-0049).

DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

- Help a National Park Service trail crew do trail maintenance on the park's trail system; 9am to 12:30pm; RSVP required. For more info: (907) 683-9504.

DELTA JUNCTION

- Hike up Donnelly Dome with the Delta Junction Trails Association starting at 10am. Bring along water, a snack, an extra layer in case it is windy up top, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and don't forget your RAP. This hike requires everyone over the age of 16 to have a RAP (recreation access permit) from the Army. RAPs are available at: <https://usartrak.isportsman.net/>. Check in to the Donnelly East area 531 via the website or phone (907-873-3181). By accessing the system you will know if the area is open for recreation or if it has temporarily been closed for military training. If closed for training, our backup location is to meet at the pull out to Coal Mine Road and hike there. For more information: deltajunctiontrailsassociation@gmail.com

GROUP TRIES TO SAVE TRAILS ON BORO LAND NOMINATED FOR SALE

A group is organizing to save some borough land north of Peede Road in the North Pole area from being sold. The lots nominated for sale are part of a larger area that is laced with trails and is used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users. There are several actions you can take, so if you use trails in that area, please check out the website: <http://peedetrails4all.org/>

NEW INTERIOR TRAILS, PARKS GROUP GETS GENEROUS DONATIONS

The Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation has recently received a total of \$39,000 from three donors.

Kinross Fort Knox gold mine donated \$20,000, local resident Ingrid Taylor donated \$12,000, and REI donated \$7,000. The donations will help the foundation's mission of helping interior Alaska have the best trails and parks in the world.

According to the group's mission statement, it "advocates to develop, maintain and promote a year-round trails and parks system for the greater Fairbanks area and beyond." It also promotes "cooperation between all users of trails and parks in our community."

Kinross Fort Knox has been in local trail news recently when it rerouted a couple of trails to

accommodate expansion of the mine last year. The trails comprise a route that connects trails in the Cleary Summit area and trails north of Gilmore Trail road. Kinross Fort Knox has said it plans to monitor the reroute for a couple of years and is willing to correct any problems regarding design and construction. The donation by Kinross Fort Knox to the IATPF does not specify that the money must be used on the reroute or anywhere else, just that it is for trails maintenance in the Fairbanks area.



"The Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation thanks our friends at Kinross Fort Knox for their generous gift to help sustain places we all love to recreate," said IATPF President John Junke. "This gift represents the largest donation to the

Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation to date and we are grateful that local businesses recognize the importance of trails to our community and are willing to step up to help."

Ingrid Taylor has asked that her donation be used for trail access and wayfinding, such as more signage, Junke said, adding that she also asked that a portion of her donation be used to help improve access for senior citizens.

"The foundation is grateful for members of the community like Ingrid who understand the benefit of a well-maintained trail system and are willing to help sustain them for years to come," Junke said.

The donation from REI is for improving trails at Skyline Ridge Park, a borough park. It came from REI's "Loving Our Local Outdoors" campaign (see story below).

More information on the IATPF can be found at <https://www.iatpfoundation.org/>. Anyone wishing to donate to the group can contact the foundation at IATPFfoundation@gmail.com.

Photo by Geoffrey Orth: Presentation of Kinross Fort Knox check. From left to right: Ben Barton (IATPF secretary), Helyn Lefgren (IATPF vice-president), Barty Kleven (Fort Knox environmental manager), Anna Atchison (Fort Knox external affairs manager), Brian Accola (IATPF treasurer), and John Junke (IATPF president).

REI DISTRIBUTES \$20,000 TO LOCAL TRAIL-RELATED GROUPS

REI has distributed \$20,000 to four local groups through its "Loving Our Local Outdoors" campaign.

Two groups, the Interior Alaska Land Trust (IALT) and the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation (IATPF), each received \$7,000. Two groups, Inspiring Girls Expeditions and the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF), each received \$3,000.

The campaign started with a guarantee of funding to each of the groups, but the total amount each group received was based on a voting system. REI members got to vote each time they purchased something at the local store between March 7 and April 8. A display at the store described the groups and their projects.

The IALT (interioraklandtrust.org/) will use its donation to improve trails in its new Chinook Conservation Park off Chena Pump Road. The IATPF (www.iatpfoundation.org/) will use its donation to improve trails at Skyline Ridge Park. The NSCF (www.nscfairbanks.org/) will use its donation to improve trails at Birch Hill Recreation Area. Inspiring Girls Expeditions (www.inspiringgirls.org/) will use its donation for its Girls on Ice expedition, which is hosted locally in Alaska.

REI has donated more than \$130,000 to local groups since it opened 5 years ago, according to Teal Rogers, Fairbanks Outdoor Programs and Outreach Market Coordinator.

"We have a community board in the front of our store with all of the non-profits listed," Rogers wrote in an email.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Hiker survives on berries and moss while lost on ridge beyond Chena Hot Springs Resort: <http://tinyurl.com/y446ubf3>
- Annual Fairbanks-area Stream Clean Up Day (June 8): <http://tinyurl.com/y5qstsvm>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- BLM Issues Fire Restrictions For Federal Lands Near Steese Highway NOAA Facility (until Oct 31): <http://tinyurl.com/yydaabjh>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Rec Summer Activity Guide: <http://tinyurl.com/y4fztna6>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT TO BE HELD IN JUNEAU

The following event is being held as part of National Trails Day in the Juneau area on Saturday, June 1. More information can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/607098813127853/>



Join Trail Mix, Inc. and Juneau Parks & Recreation from 9am to 1 pm to help improve the Montana Creek Trail by rerouting the trail from the steep, eroded bank and hardening the trail with gravel. Come prepared with suitable outdoor clothing, sturdy boots, gloves, water, and snacks. We will bring the tools. All ages welcome, but please leave dogs at home. Meet at the Dimond Park Field House parking lot at 8:30am.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Major grant funds end-to-end work on Treadwell Ditch Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y3cl23t3>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Top Ten Cabins On The Tongass National Forest: <http://tinyurl.com/y6p8fcc3>
- Bureau of Land Management seeks public comment on management plan for land around Haines and Skagway: <http://tinyurl.com/y5gac5qv>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED FOR OUTDOOR PROFESSIONALS

The application period for the Christopher K. Jarvi Scholarship to Advance Partnerships will open May 1 and close on July 31.

This scholarship was created to help dedicated professionals explore ways to enrich existing and integrate more partnerships into their work to benefit and bring value to parks, public lands and the communities that host them.

Learning about partnerships and developing skills is an iterative process. The more one learns and practices, the greater the innovation and partner engagement in all aspects of recreation and parks.

The concept and practice of partnering will change as the needs of parks and recreation professionals evolve. This scholarship encourages applications to take the practice of partnerships to the next level.

To learn more about the scholarship, including eligibility and expectations of the applicants, see: <https://www.recpro.org/christopher-k-jarvi-scholarship>

(From the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals website)

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Travel tip: Website invites hikers to share trail information: <http://tinyurl.com/yy7ga7pf>
- 10 trails with kid-appeal in and around Pittsburgh: <http://tinyurl.com/yxf2apbz>
- The best running trails in all 21 New Jersey counties: <http://tinyurl.com/y3ssqhtml>
- Where to hike in Yosemite? These are the best easy and moderate trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y2za3r9c>
- The 50 Most Incredible Hiking Trails in Every State: <http://tinyurl.com/yxulvbko>
- 10 Great Places To Ride A Mountain Bike On National Forests: <http://tinyurl.com/y5tbf4r>

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation awards (deadlines Jan 17, June 26): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Horseback riding trails grant (application due August 1): <https://www.aqha.com/step>

VOLUNTEERING

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Conservation Volunteers International (May newsletter): <http://tinyurl.com/y4seaa87>
- American Trails
 - *Trail Ambassadors* program for National Recreation Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5sgnukn>
 - Volunteer Portal: www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer

ADVOCACY

- American Hiking Society sign-on letter: <http://tinyurl.com/y5lc3wq6>

STUDIES

- Mountain Biking: A Non-Medicated Approach to Helping Kids with ADHD: <http://tinyurl.com/y2avoytg>
- Want a happy commute? Researchers point to travel by bicycle: <http://tinyurl.com/y3k2es2c>
- Facts and Myths about Snowmobiling and Winter Trails (American Council of Snowmobile Associations – 5.2MB): <http://tinyurl.com/y4yxkfyx>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- The longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the US opens in Tennessee: <http://tinyurl.com/y3kopjpt>
- Join Backpacker for National Summit Day on August 3rd: <http://tinyurl.com/y4f5hfaf>
- National Scenic Trails: The Best 50 Miles: <http://tinyurl.com/y42kwqbz>
- OHV Trails Author Dick Dufourd Explains What Makes A Great Trail "Great": <http://tinyurl.com/y4knrkro>
- Documenting the history of the National Trails System (book): <http://tinyurl.com/yyzkrf6q>
- How to protect yourself on hiking trails: www.cnn.com/2019/05/13/us/hiking-safety/index.html
- How Do the Toledo Trail Riders (Ohio/Michigan motorcycle group) Maintain Trails? (video, 8 min): <http://tinyurl.com/yy3oa6xt>
- Great American Rail-Trail website (includes interactive map): <http://tinyurl.com/y3cpwn28>
- 5 ways multi-use trail systems transform communities: <http://tinyurl.com/yy9vrvjj>
- National Forest Foundation REI Partnership: <http://tinyurl.com/yyoktqen>
- How to survive if you get lost in the woods, according to people who've done it: <http://tinyurl.com/y5rsb74n>
- Checking for ticks: <http://tinyurl.com/yy46lkg5>
- New office created within Michigan DNR to oversee outdoor recreation economy: <http://tinyurl.com/y6dgrspm>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Slovenia Just Opened a 186-Mile Hiking Trail With Stunning Views of the Alps: <http://tinyurl.com/y3xs4x59>
- 5 hiking trails — for all levels — in Alberta: <http://tinyurl.com/y5w4utev>
- The world's most extreme odysseys (couple of trails in this list): <http://tinyurl.com/yycygg9z>
- European trails to try this summer: <http://tinyurl.com/y6ojck6z>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Liz "Snorkel" Thomas Wants You to Thru-Hike Your City: <http://tinyurl.com/y2zwwfqtn>
- (Book) Black Faces, White Spaces: Rethinking Assumptions About Race and Environment: <http://tinyurl.com/y5d8s8rg>
- OHVs Provide Opportunities For Those With Physical (Or Other) Limitations To Get Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/y3eh66wr>
- Riding fat-tire bikes while hunting a 1,500-pound bison in the Yukon is just another field trip for these Canadian students: <http://tinyurl.com/yyv8pcm6>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com