



Of Special Interest:

Upcoming Event:

Palmer Hay Flats Invasive Weed Pull ~ June 24, 2017 9am-3pm @ Reflections Lake

Lovalaska
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Volume 17, Issue 2

Winter Family Fun Day...What a Blast! - by APH Project Coordinator Krista Weydahl

It was uncertain if this year's Winter Family Fun Day was going to be a success, being the morning of the event it was -10°F outside. However, APH had no reason to fear just a momentary lapse of judgement, how could we forget that inclement weather conditions never stop Alaskans. Rather, our tough Alaskan breed trudged right along and made the best out of Alaska's winter cold! Actually, Winter Family Fun Day was a grand success, even shockingly one of your



biggest turn outs to date given the extra cold conditions! We had approximately 250 participates that came from all over to come have some winter family fun. Thanks to the Mat-Su Borough Parks and Recreation we were able to get the snow cleared from Reflections



Lake which allowed Alaska Department of Fish and Game to demonstrate and offer ice fishing. Additionally, this allowed for the use of free ice skate rental-courtesy of Anchorage Skate Club for those brave enough to give it a go. Along with lake activities we had free cross-country ski rentals thanks to REI available for those daring folks who wanted to hit the powdery trails. Lets not exclude beginners now

the Mat-Su Ski Club was out giving lessons to those who were a little weary on their feet.

Continued page 7

APH turns out for Spring Clean-up by Herman Griese

After another winter of Matanuska winds blowing down the valley and across the Glenn Highway, the view of our beautiful refuge was severely cluttered with all manner of trash. Unsecured loads in the back of trucks are often unintentionally deposited on the refuge, some came from unfortunate accidents, but there were also items that were clearly thrown from vehicles. Volunteers from APH, Alaska Waterfowler Association and ADFG staff removed over a ton of trash from refuge access sites and associated roads and trails, and much of the Glenn Highway roadside from the Parks/Glenn interchange to the Knik River bridge.

APH's annual clean-up day started off the effort on Saturday April 22nd. With bags in hand and a dumpster to fill, 14 volunteers and 3 ADFG staff began as early as 6:30 AM to remove trash from the refuge public access sites. Those areas covered by the effort included the Cottonwood Creek Access, Rabbit Slough boat launch and access, and the Reflections Lake and Knik River boat launch. By the end of the day almost 600 pounds of trash were hauled away in the dumpster provided by Mat-Su Borough Landfill.

Following that day two volunteers from APH, two from the Alaska Waterfowl Association, and two ADF&G employees picked up another 1600 pounds of garbage from the west side of the Glenn Highway in the Hay Flats wetlands (about a one mile stretch). There was some water soaked cardboard, shredded truck tires and a damaged truck canopy that added substantially to the weight, but about 95 percent of the garbage was plastic.

Then in the following weeks, because there was much more trash left behind, Larry Turner of Big Lake personally took on a heroic effort to try to finish the job. Another several hundred pounds of roadside trash made it to the landfill thanks to Larry. Every spring it's the same. Wouldn't it be nice if loads were secured and plastic bags weren't allowed to escape and tarnish their convenience?

Herman Griese
APH Board Member



APH Project Coordinator Krista Weydahl doing her part.



Larry Turner of Big Lake, at right, with help from Univ. of MO students load trash he collected along the Glenn

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The Wildlife Wednesday Winter/Spring 2016-2017 series has come to an end for the season, but a what fun line up it was this year. Every first Wednesday of each month fun

topics were presented to those who attended. In the winter time the topics were on Elk in Alaska, Raising Reindeer and Dall Sheep in the Chugach. While the spring presentations were on Tracking the Wolverine and the Little Brown Bat in Alaska. Each of these topics addressed the different animals unique behaviors, the description of the environments they live in and different ways to hunt.

Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats, Alaska Department of Fish & Game as well as The Mat-Su Salmon Partnership work together to organize these educational presentations. Which involves each organization the chance to host one of the delightful events. Therefore, APH had the pleasure of sharing the hosting position for two of these presentations with the most recent presentation being on the "Little Brown Bat". Wildlife Biologist, Marian Snively from Alaska



Tracking the Wolverine
with Mike Harrington

A look at how wolverine tracks help management biologists with population estimates. Follow along the trails of collared wolverines to better understand their movements, home range and relationship with other wolverines.

7:00 to 8 p.m. Wed. March 1
Matanuska Experiment Farm in Palmer



Little Brown Bats in Alaska
with Marian Snively


Did you know that the Little Brown Bat is the most common bat species in Alaska? Although we have seen more research on bats, there is still little known about some of their most important behaviors. Do they migrate? Do they over-winter here? How many bats live in Alaska? White-Nose Syndrome is a fungus that is killing bats by the millions in the Lower 48 and Canada. Find out more about the little brown bat, possible implications of White-Nose Syndrome in Alaska, and what you can do to help.

7:00 to 8 p.m. Wed. April 5
Matanuska Experiment Farm in Palmer

Visit ADF&G's online calendar for more information or email sierra.doherty@alaska.gov. Brought to you by:



Spring 2017 Wildlife Wednesday Flyer




Wildlife Wednesdays
2016 Fall Lecture Series

NEW LOCATION!

October 5

Elk in Alaska & Beyond *With Tony Kavalok of ADF&G*


This iconic big game species with its unique and stirring mating call is typically associated with the front-country and mountainous portions of Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming. In Alaska, we are fortunate to have a couple of small populations of this large deer species in Southeast Alaska and portions of the Kodiak Archipelago. This presentation will touch on the three elk species found in North America, their history and current status in our state, and a bit about hunting and viewing opportunities.



November 2

Raising Reindeer *With Eric Waite of The Reindeer Farm*


Reindeer were brought to Alaska's Seward Peninsula from Siberia in the late 1800's as a source of food and to carry supplies. Today, there are a few dozen reindeer herders and approximately 30,000 reindeer in the state. Join Eric Waite as he highlights the history and educational opportunities of Palmer's Reindeer Farm. He will demonstrate how to distinguish reindeer from caribou, discuss their unique adaptations to surviving in cold climates, and cover the details of what is involved in raising reindeer.







December 7

Dall Sheep in the Chugach *With Tom Lohuis of ADF&G*

Dall sheep inhabit some of the most extreme and rugged terrain in Alaska, including alpine ridges and steep slopes. The remoteness of sheep habitat protects them from threats, and yet Dall sheep populations in the Chugach have declined over the last 20-25 years. Tom Lohuis, sheep research biologist, will share his research investigating the potential causes for this decline, discuss what the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has planned for the future, and consider what this might mean for sheep populations in Southeast Alaska.



Brought to you by Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats, The Nature Conservancy & Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership

Lectures are free and held each month at Matanuska Experiment Farm in Palmer, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Visit ADF&G.org's online calendar for more information, or email sierra.doherty@alaska.gov.

Winter 2016 Wildlife Wednesday Flyer

Department of Fish & Game. Marian works with the Non-Game Program where she focuses her attention on Bats! Marian graced us with her wealth of bat knowledge and educated us on the uniqueness of bats and the many misconceptions we have about bats.

Overall, the evening was a great turn out and gave us a large amount of knowledge about bats!

These presentations were a blast to attend! The Wildlife Wednesday Series should return towards the beginning of the winter season of 2017 but the dates are still TBD. Please remember to check back in with us in the fall for updates about the series return!

Krista Weydahl
APH Project Coordinator



Laura Colvin and Amos Stephens enjoy the lunch break on Rabbit Slough on PHF during a birding trip they won at the APH Winter banquet

Over 100 sandhill cranes were observed.



The morning of May 8 was chilly, but calm and clear. Laura and Amos were joining me for an early spring birding excursion down Rabbit Slough to Duck Lake on Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. They had the winning bid for this birding trip during APH's 2016 Winter Banquet held last December at Settlers Bay.

I had made an abbreviated but similar trip by canoe before while fishing for silvers with my young family. While the area wildlife biologist with ADF&G I made this trip by motorized scanoes to capture and band ducks. But this canoe trip would be my offering to Laura and Amos for their generous donation to APH.

The cool temperatures seemed to slow this year's migration of small passerines. We saw and heard the usual black capped chickadees, black-billed magpies and slate-colored juncos as we offloaded and launched our canoe. Within a mile of the launch we had flushed mallard, green winged teal, American wigeon and spotted a couple muskrats nibbling on sedge stalks. We quietly paddled under a bald eagle nest in a spruce tree that I commented to my guests was unusual for this part of the state, since most eagle nests in upper Cook Inlet are situated in large cottonwood trees.

By the end of the second mile the top of the muddy stream banks had risen, and we had to land the canoe and climb out to see what was beyond the banks. Moose had been common in that last two mile stretch and I fully expected to more here but as we climbed the bank we found ourselves smack in the middle of a large flock of sandhill cranes with a few Canada geese mixed in. The cranes were as surprised as we were since they had been silent as we paddled into the feeding flock. Yet they didn't seem too alarmed when our heads popped above the banks. They did however, realize that we were out of place and soon began to depart to a safer location.

The number of waterfowl species had peaked on the refuge, as they usually do, between April 20 and 27. By the time we were able to initiate our trip numbers had declined, yet diversity remained high. We

spotted most common dabblers in Duck Lake and an adjacent pond. Shorebirds were few and not in any amount of abundance, though Wilson's snipe and their aerial display were apparent in the first mile of the trip. A small flock of whimbrel flew west at a distance as they called.

When we made it just short of the first duck shack we stopped to search the lake for any birds. A pair of Pacific loons was seen on Duck Lake, no doubt looking to establish a nesting territory.

Continued page 6



Don't forget to **sign up annually** for Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program. Link your Rewards card to Community Rewards program and each quarter, Kroger will send us a check. See p 9 for details.

APH Annual Membership Meeting 2017 by Herman Griese

The annual meeting of the APH membership happened on a beautifully sunny Saturday morning, the 6th of May. This annual meeting provides the opportunity for the general membership to hear how the organization is fairing and an opportunity to voice opinion about direction the organization should take.



President Michelle Davis opened the meeting, welcomed guests and members and offered introductions. In attendance were Board of Director members John Harris and Herman Griese, APH Project Coordinator Krista Weydahl, and ADFG Refuge Manager, Doug Hill. Patti Fischer and Carol Montgomery from MAT-SU Recycling Coalition were present

to present the "Bag it Campaign". Treasurer Herman Griese reported a 1 May account balance of \$25,184.06 and 59 current memberships.

Michelle presented the Annual Report for 2016 (see page 7 for that report) and then

opened the floor for nominations of new Board Members. None came forward.

Patti and Carol then presented a very good presentation on why the Mat-Su should eliminate the use of plastic bags and their mission: To increase the awareness by residents of the Mat-Su Valley to the dangers of single-use plastic bags on the environment, and encourage the reduction of their use.

Doug Hill summarized refuge issues and accomplishments. He also offered tentative list of improvements and activities on the refuge, noting that a group of University of Missouri students would be available to help with some projects. Specifically he was planning on using them to help construct the cribbing at the base of the Wildlife Viewing Tower.

After healthy discussions the group broke for additional snacking on food provided by attendees.

It was noted that conflict with other events in the Valley and Anchorage, and the nice weather may have discouraged additional attendance. The poor turnout is discouraging especially when the organization is planning an aggressive event schedule in 2017.

Submitted by Herman Griese, Treasurer





Lesser yellowlegs were among the shorebirds seen and heard

Still the eight-hour hay flats trip was one of my most enjoyable in years. It must have been Laura and Amos's enthusiasm and their interest in learning about the local birds, or maybe the perfect weather for a leisurely canoe trip. And even with another passing of the motorboat, it seemed like we were far from civilization and its stresses on a beautiful Alaskan spring day.

Herman Griese, Owner
Griese Wildlife Consult-
ing
and
APH Board Member

We are seeking interested community members to join the APH Board of Directors. Without new membership, ideas and energy, it is uncertain how much longer the current Board will be able to keep offering the events and refuge improvements so many have enjoyed. And, who knows, perhaps it's time to do things differently, to develop a new vision and embrace new ideas. You may be the person the organization needs. If you have enjoyed the refuge, if you have ideas and are looking for ways to give back, the APH Board might be a good opportunity for you.

The requirements are a willingness to give back, to provide some time and energy to the mission of the organization "conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge through public awareness, education, recreation and enhancement projects."

We welcome applications from people at every stage of their careers, including youth. If you are interested, please send an email to palmerhayflats@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. You can also call the office (357-8711) and arrange to attend a board meeting by leaving a message. The refuge welcomes everyone, and so does APH.

Several trumpeter swans seemed to be skirmishing over ideal nesting areas, and the less dominant took to the air and settled out of sight. Mew and herring gulls seemed to have already staked their claims to wetland territories. As we walked along the shore we flushed a sandhill crane from a nest of two eggs. So we quietly retreated to allow her to return to incubating.

The noise of traffic on the Glenn was now far enough away that it had become a distant mummer, but even that was interrupted by an outboard motor that zipped by and stopped at the nearby duck shack. With the quiet gone, we chose to take that disruption to break out the lunch put together by my wife, Linda. We consumed the salad, salmon loaf, fruit, chips and cookies there on the sunny bank of the slough. After lunch we loaded up and began the 3-mile paddle upstream to our launch site.

In all we heard or observed 41 species of birds, although my effort to allow them to be seen by my guests fell far short of that number. Our observations included arctic terns returning from their global migration and the vole-like scurrying of Lapland longspurs as they tried to avoid our detection. But missing were large numbers of swallows and sparrows, no doubt held up by cold weather along their migration route. We observed only 4 rusty blackbirds, a sure sign their numbers continue to decline.

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Then select Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats as your charitable organization after signing in and begin purchasing your items as usual!



It was a good year for APH. Less projects, more educational outreach. It was an exciting year on the refuge, the tower stood strong but a section of the reflection's lake trail collapsed. Someone said they saw lots of muskrats swimming away afterwards. Darn that wildlife, keeping it wild out there! We received a grant from Mat-Su Trails Foundation. Written and implemented by Herman Griese. Refuge users owe a lot of thanks to Herman, with his oversight, the fisherman's trail was extended and hardened. The original plan was to extend the trail out into the refuge, but with the erosion and other impacts, we rethought that project. In total, APH received \$10,000 from Mat-Su Trails Foundation. Thank you, they are great partners to work with.

The vision of an educational center is not forgotten, but given state finances, it may be dormant for a while.

APH members and supporters participated in educational outreach through our family fun days. One of the highlights of the summer family fun day was the participation of the garden clubs. Krista Weydahl, the APH Program Coordinator did a great job of outreach and people enjoyed the canoeing, nature walks and good food. For the winter ffd, the morning started out at -10, and yet we saw over 200 people come through and enjoy the activities that John Harris and Krista organized.

A significant accomplishment was the winter banquet. We started out thinking we'd sell a few tickets and have some fun while learning how to do this. Well, thanks to a very interesting speaker (Tom Rothe), great door prizes, and the hard work of our Board members, the event sold out! We raised over \$6,000 for APH. Once again, Herman led us through this, with strong support from Bud Bass and amazing Krista.

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Winter Family Fun Day...What a Blast!- *(continued from Page 1)*



When time came to warm up and get a bite to eat APH provided some fire pits for staying warm and found some great local food vendors (Bare Naked BBQ and Oh My Sammies Pies) to indulge our taste buds in. Overall, despite the frigid cold, the skies were blue, the sun was out and Reflections Lake was getting a whirl wind of winter family fun. It was a great day to be in the great Alaskans outdoors enjoying the beauty of the Palmer Hay Flats!

Krista Weydahl
APH Project Coordinator

APH would like to thank all those who helped make Winter Family Fun Day 2017 possible!

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Alaska Department of Transportation
Alaska Mushing School
Anchorage Skate Club

Bare Naked BBQ
Mat-Su Parks & Recreation
Mat-Su Ski Club
OMG Sammies Pies
REI

Join or Renew Your APH Membership

Like any working organization, Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats depends on support from its membership to keep its doors open and functioning. Our effectiveness is directly proportional to our income and member involvement. Come get to know us, stop by our office in the Hatcher View Business Building, offer your unique insights, and then “meet up” with us at one of our seasonal outdoor family oriented gathering, or an enjoyable fundraising social event. We welcome you to help these events run just a bit more smoothly.

Explore us on the web or on Facebook, and consider supporting and bonding with APH! Bring a friend, make a new friend, and deepen your roots by reaching for a conservation oriented community connection. At APH, we value and appreciate your support and personal input in any form that matches your style. We invite you to come help us make a difference in the quality of this inspiring space we share in our Mat-Su Valley.

Support Us Through Donations

If you like what we do and have accomplished and you just cannot devote the time nor do you like to join, you can still support us through donations. APH is a federally approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible. There are a number of options for donating.

You can donate by sending us a check or making a donation through our website using PayPal. Corporate programs like the Fred Meyer Community Rewards, outlined on the next page, and Amazon Smiles provide donations at no cost to you. Alaskans can designate APH as a recipient of a portion of your permanent dividend through **Pick.Click.Give**. And of course, you can donate or join by visiting our website and paying through PayPal. Any method you choose helps our organization continue its efforts.

THANK YOU!

A PLEA FOR HELP!

As you can see from our event schedule for this summer and the upcoming winter, APH has much to do. With our Board of Directors diminishing in number over the next couple months and Krista's greatly reduced availability, our manpower resources to accomplish all we want and are expected will become an ever increasing struggle without **your** help. Even if you have only a little spare time we would gratefully work with you to help you feel that you've not wasted your time and that it makes a difference for the Hay Flats.

Coming up first is the Invasive Weed Pull on Saturday 24 June (9:00-3:00) at Reflections Lake (we will be sending teams to Rabbit Slough and Cottonwood Creek access sites after the briefing. This is simple on-the-ground weed pulling—good exercise that produces a real sense of accomplishing something good. Call Herman at 841-1979 if you can help.

Next is the Summer Family Fun Day. We are looking for help setting up and closing down, manning our membership booth, and helping Krista secure vendors. Contact Krista by email at: palmerhayflats@gmail.com and she will get back to you within a week depending on her work schedule.

Both the Rubber Ducky Race and the Winter Banquet are fund raisers and securing donations of items is always a major task. If you have connections or want to make some this could be your thing. We'll need to sell lots of tickets. Contact us at palmerhayflats@gmail.com or call and leave a message on our office phone 357-8711.

All the above and more, if you have time, can be yours if you wish to take the bigger step and offer to sit on the Board of Directors... always an option. Let us know and we'll send you an application.

Thank you.



What is Fred Meyer Community Rewards?

It is the latest addition to the Fred Meyer Rewards Program where Customers can earn donations for their favorite nonprofits by shopping with their Rewards Card. Fred Meyer will donate \$2.5 million to nonprofits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington in 2016 through this program. Here's how it works:

Customers can now enroll online at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link their Rewards Card to the organization of their choice.

- Customers continue to receive all Rewards Points, Rebates and Fuel Points, a completely separate pool. !!
- At the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to participating nonprofits based on the accumulated spending of the Rewards customers linked to each nonprofit. Sign up for APH: our ID is **NPO #82240**

In 2016 a total of \$570.76 was donated by the Community Rewards Program to "Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats". We recently received this message: "Your supporters (14 households) who shopped at Fred Meyer between 1-1-2017 and 3-31-2017 have contributed to your \$116.82 total donation."

*We want to thank Fred Meyer, and most of all, you for participating .
~ Michelle Davis, President, Board of Directors*

SIGN ME UP FOR MEMBERSHIP TO SUPPORT PALMER HAY FLATS

Fledgling (12 & under)	FREE	_____
Student	\$15	_____
Individual Adult	\$20	_____
Family	\$30	_____
Sustaining Member	\$100	_____
Sponsor	\$250	_____
Patron (Life)	\$500	_____
Steward (Life)	\$1,000	_____
Benefactor (Life)	\$2,000	_____
Other		_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

_____ Please contact me about becoming a Board member

*"Cherish the Land No
One Owns"
~ Li Po, 650 B.C.*

Mail and make checks payable to: **Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats**
4900 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Ste. 106
Wasilla, AK 99654-7752

Join on-line at: www.palmerhayflats.org

Some of those funds will be used for our next project, “A young naturalist’s guide to Palmer Hayflats Refuge.” It will be published online and made available to the schools, it will be a fantastic introduction to the refuge ecosystem and answer the questions, “what kind of flower was that” or “darn it, I can’t remember what kind of bird that was.” It will partner beautifully with the tower for classroom educational activities. Herman and Panthea Redwood have already started work on this project.

Our next fund raising event looks like it’s going to be an exciting event. We are planning a rubber ducky race down Cottonwood Creek! Our skilled crew will be going out soon making a few test runs to figure out the best time and tides for this event. It will be a late summer party, and great fun for the whole family. Volunteers welcome. We will need a net crew, a launch crew, tabulators, and just general supervision.

APH social media is going well, I’m very happy to introduce our new webpage, designed by Krista. This was her first effort, and it’s working well. It’s beautiful and well organized and will help members keep up with our activities. Who knew that web design was one of her skills? Our Facebook page is active and another great way to reach us. The APH Facebook page has over 750 likes...The APH newsletters are available on the updated website. We had to change our email address due to technical issues, please watch for emails from palmerhayflats@gmail.com Check your spam filters.

The routine things that show a fiscally responsible organization were taken care of, thanks to our treasurer, Herman Griese. APH remains a fiscally responsible organization, using a professional book keeper to work with our treasurer to ensure that grants and donations are well managed,

Our partnership with ADF&G is strong. We have the greatest respect for Doug Hill, Joe Meehan and the others at ADF&G. We demonstrated that by strongly advocating for inclusion of adjoining lands into the refuge and providing letters of support to ADF&G. Thank you again to Herman for leading that effort.

The tower is still standing, skinny legs and all. Every so often we get calls from people worried it will tip over. There will be a project this summer to put cribbing around the legs. That will be both protective and cosmetic.

Upcoming events: Invasive weed pull: June 24th; Summer family fun day: August 5th; and the first annual Rubber Ducky

Race: August 25th

Other accomplishments: Participated in ADF&G Wildlife weds.at UAA’s Mat-Su College; Strengthened participation in Fred Meyers rewards program; and Appreciate support for “Pick, Click Give.”

I’d like to close with a few recognitions.

Herman Griese is the APH Treasurer, and he takes his role as fiscal steward of the organization very seriously. We have no mismanaged funds, no roaming account balances. Under Herman’s careful attention, we know right were everything is. That an important thing for a small nonprofit. People trust us with their hard-earned funds, and Herman makes sure that we are completely accountable. He’s careful, thoughtful and funny too. And, he knows the refuge like his own backyard, because it is. Herman can be occasionally found leading nature walks on the refuge, putting down new geoblock on the trails, pulling invasive weeds or timing rubber duckies as they float Cottonwood Creek.

Krista Weydahl has been working with APH for over a year now, and has been so helpful to our organization. She has helped Herman with the day to day operations of the office, presented APH to the public, organized events, wrote her first grant proposal, did her first radio interview, wrote press releases and was just generally smart, helpful, organized and smart. Her position evolved from Administrative to Program Coordinator. She has taken a position with DNR, they are lucky to have her, and I am happy to say she will be staying on with us, helping with our many projects.

Bud Bass has been our link to the waterfowl hunters, and a kinder, more thoughtful person is hard to imagine. He has brought APH into better relationship with the Alaska Waterfowl Association and given us some great ideas for fund raising events. I expect you can find him with Herman, out figuring out the best float rout for those rubber ducks. Bud is a reliable, conscientious Vice President who is quick to turn out with equipment, a truck, a quiet joke and steady hand.

We have a couple other Board members, Nate Emery and John Harris, who can be introduced in a later article. There are many ways to serve, as a volunteer, a member of the organization and as a Board member. And, our board would be delighted to welcome new members. I hope that you will consider serving as a Board member, because the refuge is a beautiful, special place that needs thoughtful care and attention.

Finally, I’d like to express our appreciation to Doug Hill. Doug is the ADF&G Wildlife Biologist for this refuge, he knows it so well, and takes an active role in protecting it. His job is not always easy, he sees vandalism, picks up trash, deals with people who are engaged in unlawful activities, these are hard tasks, but Doug also educates people, helps them safely access the refuge and enjoy the many different activities that are possible here. He’s a steady partner for APH and we appreciate him, his depth of knowledge. Thank you, Doug, or as us Tlingits say “Gunal Cheesh.”

Respectfully submitted:

Michelle Davis, APH Board Member

APH Calendar of events:

Mark these on your calendars!

June 24- Palmer Hay Flats Invasive Weed Pull. Please join us in helping rid the Palmer Hay Flats of unwanted invasive weeds at public access sites and along established trails. Meeting place is Reflections Lake mile 30 Glenn Highway and we'll hear a briefing at 9:00 AM before splitting up to reduce the invasive weeds plaguing our refuge and its wildlife. We plan to offer snacks and water and be finished by 3:00 PM

August 5 - Summer Family Fun Day. Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats is once again planning their annual Summer Family Fun Day out at Reflections Lake from 10:00– 3:00. Activities may include: wild bird demonstrations, canoe and kayak rentals, wildlife walk with a guide, fishing demonstrations as well as local vendors and resource organizations. If interested in volunteering at the event or wanting to be participate as a vendor please contact APH for more details!

August 24 (Friday 6:00 - 9:00 PM) First Annual Rubber Ducky Dash. This event has been long in development and slow to occur but now it is here. If you would like to volunteer to help with this fundraiser please contact us or one of our Board members. The event will take place on Cottonwood Creek at the Palmer Hay Flats Refuge Access off Mile 1.3 Hayfield Road in Wasilla. Raffle tickets will go on sale by July 1. Watch for the opportunity to participate and sell tickets.

December 2 – 2nd Annual Winter Banquet. Due to the great success of the first winter banquet we are excited to announce that we plan on having a second one! The location will be the Elks Lodge off Bogard Rd on the north shore of Finger Lake. So, please mark this in your calendars as a winter event you'll want to attend. The event will include a guest speaker, door prizes, auction items and raffle tables. Join us for an evening of fun.

Board of Directors
Bud Bass
Michelle Davis
Nathaniel Emery
Herman Griese
John Harris

Project Coordinator
Krista Weydahl

*You can make a
difference - renew
your membership and
come join us on the
refuge!*



Its that time a year again to apply for the PFD!
When applying this year, please think of Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats when you are deciding on what Alaska Nonprofit to Pick.Click.Give! Donating helps continue APH and its goals towards preserving and bettering the Palmer Hay Flats for you and your family!

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Pick.Click.Give.

ALASKANS FOR PALMER
HAY FLATS
4900 E. Palmer-Wasilla
Highway Suite 106
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907)357-8711
Fax: (907)357-8713
NEW e-mail:
palmerhayflats@gmail.com
Office hours: Temporarily
unscheduled. Email to
coordinate a meeting