

ALASKANS for PALMER HAY FLATS

is dedicated to conserving the natural and cultural resources through public awareness, education, recreation and enhancement projects.

BOARD MEMBERS

Kris Abshire	President
Bob Neubauer	Vice President
Nathaniel Emery	Secretary
Linda Brenner	Member
Michelle Davis	Member
Laurie Green	Member
Herman Griese	Member
Mike Robinson	Member
Zach Neubauer	Youth Member

STAFF

Monica Gilpin	Executive Director
Lindsey Shelley	Education Coordinator

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

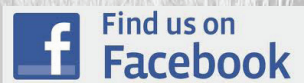
- **Board Member Openings** - APH is seeking dedicated people who are willing to engage in our mission by serving on our Board of Directors. We welcome anyone willing to share their unique perspective and expertise toward achieving our strategic mission.
- **Building Donation** - APH is currently considering the need for a portable building or yurt to stage our outdoor education programs and training. If you have a building or know of a donor source, please call our office with details.
- **Program Assistance** - Volunteers are always needed for programs and events, as well as periodic office assistance. Please call our office at 357-8711 to find out how your special talents can serve a greater good. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Waterfowl hunting season began on September 1st, so be alert to extra activity at trailhead access points. **Also, remember that the Cottonwood Creek bridge is closed at this time.** Access to the Wetlands Trail is by foot crossing 1/4 mile upstream from the bridge.

Dawn Bragg 2011

Pick.
Click.
Give.



Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats

2901 E. Bogard Rd., Suite 102
Wasilla, AK 99654



ALASKANS for PALMER HAY FLATS

FALL 2012

SEM Photography

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's time to renew your love and support of the Palmer Hay Flats! **Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats (APH)** needs your continued membership to help us improve access and engagement on the refuge. Your contributions help fund capital improvement projects, special events, education programs, and the staff that makes it all happen. Benefits of being a member include a quarterly newsletter and e-mail updates that keep you informed about the exciting things happening at the refuge. In addition, your membership shows community support to grant organizations and opens doors for future funding.

Please take the time to renew your support - or show your support for the first time - by mail or at www.PalmerHayFlats.org. We are grateful for your thoughtful commitment to the conservation and enhancement of this special public land. We look forward to continuing to do great things for the refuge with your help.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



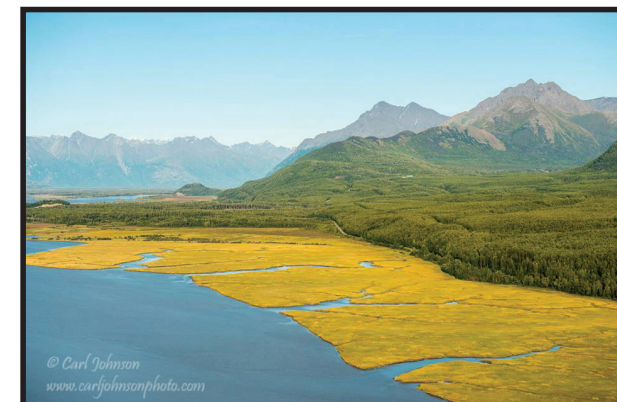
Search for "ALASKANS FOR PALMER HAY FLATS" and click the Like button. We hope you will also continue to visit and enjoy the refuge and as well! Please support its stewardship by becoming a member.



2012 MEMBER CELEBRATION

The 2012 Annual Gathering of refuge friends was another great day celebrating seven years of accomplishments. Good food and company was enjoyed by all. Alaska Wildbird Rehab presented a great live bird program on Owls of the North, giving a fascinating look into the world of these mysterious creatures.

Special awards were given to outstanding volunteers: Cindy Bettine, an ever-faithful supporting partner during her term on the Mat-Su Borough Assembly; and, Warren Templin, with Mat-Su Borough Parks & Recreation who is always there to lend critical logistics assistance for our events. At the close of the celebration, former founding board member, Marian Elliott, won the final drawing for two Alaska Railroad tickets. It was a well-deserved luck of the draw!



*© Carl Johnson
www.carljohnsonphoto.com*
Knik River Islands Conservation Easement granted in 2011.

HAY FLATS LINKED TO THE CHUGACH

The following is part of a press release from Great Land Trust announcing a new conservation easement that links the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge to the Chugach National Forest, part of an ongoing effort to protect critical wildlife habitat in the Mat-Su Valley:

The Knik Islands Conservation Project was completed in the fall of 2011 as a partnership between Great Land Trust and Eklutna, Inc. The project permanently conserves nearly 4800 acres at the mouth of the Knik and Matanuska Rivers with a conservation easement. The land will remain under the ownership of Eklutna Inc. and traditional uses such as hunting and fishing by Shareholders and public access through permits will continue.

The property contains excellent habitat for all five species of salmon in Cook Inlet as well as many other wildlife species. In addition, the property is adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and Chugach State Park, two of Alaska's most popular recreational areas. Scenic views of the property are well known by travelers crossing the Knik River Bridge on the Glenn Highway.

-courtesy www.greatlandtrust.org

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- Knik River Islands Conservation Easement
- Summer Festival and Fish Release at Reflections Lake
- Aqua Kids TV Show!
- Board Member Update



ALASKANS for PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE

ADF&G FISH RELEASE AT REFLECTIONS LAKE



On Friday, July 6, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) released 600 yearling Rainbow Trout into Reflections Lake. It is the first of a series of releases in the Fish and Game release plan.



Rainbow Trout being released by ADF&G into Reflections Lake.

Catch limits will be five trout per day and five in possession, with only one per day greater than 20 inches in length. The annual limit for rainbow trout greater than 20 inches in stocked lakes is 10. Reflections Lake is located at Mile 30.6 of the Glenn Hwy. and was created during the construction of the highway. Over the last few years **Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats** has helped improve the refuge access area with a groomed mile-long trail, wooden boardwalks, bridges, restrooms, and interpretive panels.

BOARD MEMBER COMINGS AND GOINGS

APH extends a warm welcome to three new board members! Nathaniel Emery brings natural resources education and professional experience to our board. Herman Griese adds extensive expertise as a wildlife biologist in Alaska. And Laurie Green contributes a professional background in education and a passion for birds and photography. We look forward discovering how each of these people will put their talents to good use for the benefit of the Palmer Hay Flats refuge.

On another note, APH must also bid farewell to two board members who have been dedicated stewards of the refuge for many years. Dave and Becky Hopper were given an award in recognition of the hundreds of hours of service they have put in over the past several years. They are beginning a new chapter of life, nearer to family in the lower 48, and will be tremendously missed. We wish them all the best!
(Dave and Becky Hopper pictured at right)

AQUA KIDS TV SHOW FEATURES TEELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



Teeland Middle School Students star as river conservationists.

Local student Zach Neubauer, who is also APH's Youth Board Member, will be featured in an upcoming Aqua Kids TV show episode. The award winning educational show is exploring Alaskan ecology and conservation projects with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this summer. Zach is a former student of Teeland Middle School and was part of the River Ranger Team headed up by teachers Rhett Buchanan and Mike Shea. The River Rangers participate in local water restoration projects in conjunction with Wasilla Water and Soil District, ADF&G, and APH. Catherine Inman of Mat-Su Conservation, also an APH member and supporter, will be featured on the show for her conservation efforts and involvement in the River Ranger program.

The Mat-Su Valley episode will air sometime in October, November or December on Channel 11, KTVA, Saturday at 7:30 am.



ALASKANS for PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2012

What a great day it was for the Palmer Hay Flats 2012 Summer Festival at Reflections Lake!

Volunteers were abuzz setting up and taking down; vendors and musicians provided a great variety of entertainment and education for attendees; no rain, and the sun even emerged for awhile. Lots of laughter, reports from the trail of wild flowers birds and critters, along with compliments to APH for our job well done.

Hats off and huge thanks to all who selflessly volunteered. All in all, it was a solid success on which we can build over time.

A very special thanks to Monica and Linda, our wonderful office staff, for their creative thinking and exceptional logistics in staging this great day! We are most fortunate to have them working so hard for APH's mission! Please express your thanks and appreciation when next you see them or have occasion to call the office.

All this, in addition to our wonderful new Reflections Lake highway signs are cause to celebrate the fruits of our dedication and hard work.

ONWARD!

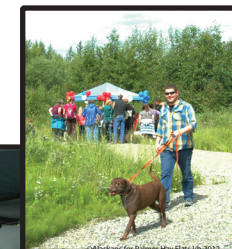
Kris Abshire, APH President



Randi Perlman from *Alaska Wild Bird Rehabilitation* presenting a Great Horned Owl



Lesser Sandhill Crane



Carmen Summerfield with Valley Arts Alliance



Performance art by Wayne Gabaylo, *Art in Motion*



Acrobat from Sahara Storm Studio

