



Interior Alaska Land Trust



MEMORIES OF GOLDSTREAM

In the summers of the mid-1970s, after the mosquitoes had subsided somewhat, I would push through the mile of alder, willow, and stunted black spruce thickets to get to the tall white spruce stands lining Goldstream Creek. By the time I got there, I felt like I had journeyed through the deepest jungle to reach a very different, very distant place. I felt the thrill of discovery and adventure.

I was far from roads, far from homes, and far into the unknown. The massive trees along the creek were taller than anywhere else in the valley, and the open understory was softly carpeted in fragile fronds of horsetail. The creek added a mysterious ambiance with its persistent, quiet whispers. It was a wild, wonderful place to explore and enjoy.

Thanks to you and your generous donations, Goldstream is still an amazing place for curious young people to explore and enjoy. This year, you enabled IALT to purchase Black Bear Bog, an important parcel which connects the Peat Ponds with other conserved properties in the area. Also, Jeanne Pontti and her family generously gifted IALT their forty-acre Goldstream Valley homestead northwest of the Blueberry Preserves. Now, adventurers (of all ages) can wander these two beautiful parcels, as well as the numerous others you helped us to acquire. We are so very grateful for all your support.

- Owen Guthrie, IALT Board President

THE PONTTI HOMESTEAD

Jeanne Pontti and her family generously donated their forty-acre Goldstream homestead to the Interior Alaska Land Trust this fall, expanding the Goldstream Public Use Area and conserving vital wildlife corridors.

Jeanne Pontti
Property Donor



Image: Jeanne with baby Libby at the homestead in 1969, courtesy of the Pontti family.

“The isolation and having no phone were a hardship, but we had the kindest neighbors who we were so grateful for.”

We are very pleased to be donating our parcel to the Interior Alaska Land Trust. We lived on the property from 1967 to 1982 full time, then part time for a number of years.

We rented the cabin on the property from Erland Stephens, who homesteaded the forty-acres, and eventually we purchased it. Our access was from what is now called Willow Run, then down the old Pioneer Access Trail, which originally went across the valley. That trail deteriorated, and we then accessed the property down the edge of a neighbor's field.

It was a beautiful setting with long views to the south and west. A little log cabin and several outbuildings were on the property, as well as a rickety tower called the moose tower. There was a fair amount of wildlife,

including moose, foxes, beavers, otters, land and water birds, and occasional lynx and wolves.

We had power. The electric line was hand strung to the cabin from a power pole up the road. Water was hauled from town until Goldstream Road was extended to Fox. Breakup made Willow Run impassable for several months, which could be grim. In very cold weather, the fuel oil became too thick to flow. Keeping a car running was tough, and the floor of the cabin froze.

The isolation and having no phone were a hardship, but we had the kindest neighbors who we were so grateful for. There are many good stories from those days which we will share another time. ♦

WHERE ART MEETS CONSERVATION

Carolyn Loeffler

Conservation Coordinator

For the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival this year, artist Sara Tabbert held a ten-day show at the UAF Art Gallery with the goal of supporting local land conservation.

The show, titled *VALLEY / Small Details of an Ordinary Landscape*, comprised a series of richly carved wood panels inspired by the artist's daily encounters on her Goldstream Valley property.

Tabbert and her partner Brandon McGrath-Bernhard placed forty acres of their property in a conservation easement with the Interior Alaska Land Trust back in 2013 and are keen to conserve an additional part of their property with a new easement by 2019. Tabbert used the proceeds from her show to raise the needed stewardship funds for their new easement and donated all additional proceeds to the Interior Alaska Land Trust.

"More and more I want my artwork to facilitate concrete things," said Tabbert. "It's not a high concept, but it makes me feel like I am doing something tangible, hard to come by these days."



Tabbert's show was a success. She easily raised the money needed to cover her stewardship funds and handed IALT an additional and generous check to support our ongoing conservation efforts in the Interior.

IALT is very thankful for Tabbert's generosity, and looks forward to working with her and McGrath-Bernhard on their new easement. ♦

Image: detail from Small Sparse Aspen, Sara Tabbert

WE'RE ACCREDITED

After over a year of preparation, IALT earned accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission last spring.

As an accredited land trust, we are recognized for our sound fiscal policies, stewardship of land, and our commitment to land conservation.

Accreditation is an extraordinary feat that required full participation of our board. We were applauded for this accomplishment at the annual Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh, PA this November. The accreditation seal indicates to our partners and potential donors that IALT strives to conserve land for the benefit of our neighbors north of the Alaska range through transparent and ethical means.

LAND CONSERVED

PARCELS OWNED

9 properties
395 acres

EASEMENTS

16 properties
1,267 acres

1,662 TOTAL ACRES

PARCEL SPOTLIGHT: LAWLOR HAY FIELDS

A celebration was held this May in the Lawlor Hay Fields at the end of Hay Way to mark the signing of a Sustainable Agriculture and Conservation Easement on the Gail Mayo property.

Martha Reynolds

Founding Board Member



“Every single time I step out here, I feel like I’m transformed into a magical space of quiet and peace.” – Cyndie, neighbor

In the 1960s, Gail and Larry Mayo found the Miller homestead land and the adjacent Lawlor Hay Fields while skiing from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and exploring the nearby woods. They liked the neighborhood, bought 5 acres, built a house, and filled it with their growing family.

Their friendship with their neighbors, Joe Lawlor and his family flourished, and they enjoyed riding and skiing on the fields that Joe hayed. When the Lawlors left the state, the Mayos offered to buy the hay fields. Although Joe was reluctant to sell his foothold in Fairbanks, he eventually did, knowing the property would be in good hands.

That was the beginning of Gail Mayo’s farming career. Both she and Larry worked on farms when they were young, and Gail thought she’d enjoy spending time with the land. The Mayos have tended the fields since then and harvested many a hay crop that has fed local horses, sheep, goats and even cows. Now the next generation of the

Mayo family - who grew up working those fields - is well-known in Fairbanks for the produce they bring to the Farmer’s Market.

As time passed, Sheep Creek Road was paved, and a neighborhood grew up around the Lawlor Hay Fields. Gail wanted the fields to stay as they were – an agricultural asset to the community and an open space for the neighborhood. She approached the Interior Alaska Land Trust to learn more about conserving her land. Working with two volunteer board members, she designed a conservation easement that ensures those goals are met in perpetuity.

In addition to donating the development rights to the land trust, Gail also made a generous contribution to support the stewardship of the property in the future. We are so grateful to Gail and the whole Mayo family for making this gift to the Fairbanks community of today and to future Fairbanksans. ♦

RESTORATION OF HISTORIC CRIPPLE CREEK

Carolyn Loeffler
Conservation Coordinator

The two large culverts placed under Chena Ridge road this summer are an important part of our plan with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to restore historic Cripple Creek to its original stream bed and protect salmon habitat in the Interior. The old flow was disrupted during mining operations in the Ester area in the 1930s and is being restored in a collaborative effort with IALT, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, and many others. The enhancements of these fish passages will improve juvenile Chinook salmon rearing habitat within the Chena River Watershed. With the culverts in place, only two more steps remain in the restoration project: replace the failing culverts at Chena Spur Road and redirect the water flow from Cripple Creek drain to the historic Cripple Creek channel via Happy Creek through a series of weirs or a dam.

With the generous support of the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program, we have plans underway to develop a public conservation park with trails, bridges, and access to the newly-restored historic Cripple Creek channel. We envision a mix of non-motorized and motorized summer trails, as well as groomed ski and snowmachine trails. Check our website for further project updates. ♦

Students from Watershed School on a field trip to Cripple Creek



PEAT PONDS SHOUT OUT

Thanks for cleaning up



To all the visitors and volunteers who pick up trash at the Peat Ponds - thank you for looking after a beloved public parcel. Your efforts make the Peat Ponds better for all visitors - including the twenty-six individual bird species observed there this year!

Photo by Mark Lindberg

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

Income	
Membership Dues	4,140
Donations	19,859
Grants	324,334
Interest	1,609
Total Income	349,942
Expense	
Conference &	
Meetings	120
Facilities and	
Equipment	1,180
Contract Services	358,265
Land/Easement	
Acquisition	345
Land/Easement	
Stewardship	13,097
Operations	6,226
Accreditation	6,395
Total Expense	385,628
Net Income	-35,686

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our members, donors and volunteers for making the work we do possible.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Dina Abdel-Fattah, Susan Bishop, Sam Dashevsky, Gail Davidson, Christie Everett, Frank Keim, Mark Lockwood, Ben Loeffler, Reba McCracken, Laura Minski, Autumn Strohm, Betsy and Matthew Sturm, Aaron Wilbur, and to all the neighbors who help us steward our conservation properties.

MEMBERS

ABR, S Adams, A Armstrong, T Bachert, A Batten, S Beck, L Biderman, M&D Bishop, D&S Bishop, TrBoms, P&P Bowers, S Bredbenner, L&K Bright, M Buckley, S Budge, P&D Burns, B&LBursiel, M Burtness & J Adams, K&R Cannone, K&S Clautice, D&JE Cowee, T Dahill, G Davidson, L Schandelmeier Davies, J&P Delamere, A Doerpinghaus & B Witte, M&J Durst, C&R Everett, N & L Foster, J&J Fox, J Franz & D Mather, T Gasbarro, H Genet & B Pignon, A Godduhn, L&S Grage, J Groves, O, ML&D Guthrie, Robyne & A Harrington, M Head, S Heidorn, M Helfferich, Hensel family, B&J Henszey, J Hertz & D Jonas, R Hompesch, G, L Hopkins & E Guttenberg, D Huang, A Hussey, T Ignacio, J&K Irving, B Jackson, J James, T&J Jorgenson, S Justice, J Kaufman & L Kamerling, C Kaynor & D Partee, F&J Keim, M Kellner, J Kidd & J Lindstrom, D Kiely, C Klopff, H Koponen, J Koponen, B&N LaBelle-Hamer, C Leonard,

S&B Levey, S Lewis, C Linkswiler, S Liss, M Lockwood, M Macander & K Garrity, J Magdanz, P&J Martin, S Masterman & S Swift, B Matthews, G Mayo, W McAmis, B McGrath-Bernhard, B McIntosh, H Meyers, M Moeller, J&J Morack, P Morrow & C Hensel, D&B Murray, R Murray, G&K Tape, J Naze, C&G Newman, MA Nickles, D Osborne, J Panko, T Paragi, C Parker, C Parr & M Biagi, C Parr III, P&J Peirsol, D&T Pendergrast, J&D Pinnell Stephens, A Plager & C Nye, R&B Post, B Powell, A Prichard & A Larson, P Raybeck, M Reynolds, P&T Reichardt, J&T Reilly, R Ressa, M Richards, K Richardson, B&B Ritchie, S Royston, A Ruggles & D Hampton, M Sales, J&M Schell, T Schlentner, E Schoen, M Shields, J Shook, L Silberling, M Simon, D Sims, S Singler, JR&T Smith, J Smith, M Spindler & P Nelson, M&G Springer, N Stewart, J Stitt, R&L Stoltzberg, M Stredny, A&D Swift, A&C Swingley, B&R Tabbert, S Tabbert, K&D Taber, W Tape, S Taylor, J Taylor, S Taylor, S Todd, D&J Triplehorn, E Troyer & C Leistikow, S Walker, J Walters, W Walters, J Welch, C Wentworth, M Whalen, P Wille, J Williamson & J Fitzgerald, S Winder & M Whitley, C&C Zachel, M Zalar & K Whitten

BOARD MEMBERS

Owen Guthrie, Kayde Kaiser, Seth Adams, Jen Schell, Merritt Hefferlich



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