



2008 brings late blooming blossoms

Wildlands Update for late June



**Alaska
Public
Lands**

Information Center

**Your
Adventure
Starts
Here**

Nature in June

Watch for harbor seal pups in bays and fjords and Dall sheep lambs on alpine slopes. Prepare for ducklings and goslings soon, too. Please respect animal parents, and be a distant and silent observer. Bears have been spotted in many areas. Check out bear sightings at

<http://www.adn.com/bear>.

Be prepared and know how to respond. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/anch> and click on bear safety.

A great opportunity for seeing Alaska's wildlife lies along the Kenai Peninsula Wildlife Viewing Trail, a 65-stop driving journey along the Seward Highway corridor. For a free guide, visit <http://www.kenaipeninsula.org>

Campground Information

Alaska State campgrounds are open and busy. A few notable exceptions include Liberty Falls State Recreation site, which is closed for the season. Also expect the Bird Creek campground to be closed a few times this month for brush clearing. All Forest Service campgrounds are now open. For more information go to

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/>

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge campgrounds are also up and running; visit

<http://kenai.fws.gov/>

National Park Service campgrounds in Southcentral (Denali, Kenai Fjords, and Katmai) are also open.

Road Closures /Openings

It's construction season in Alaska! Expect delays along the Richardson Highway for most of the summer. Denali Highway is open. For updated road conditions throughout the state, visit <http://511.alaska.gov/> or dial 511 in Alaska, (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska. For road conditions and webcams, visit

<http://roadweather.alaska.gov>

Alaska State Parks

Get ready for the summer by purchasing a 2008 Alaska State Park day-use pass at \$40 each or \$60 for two. Boat Launch passes cost \$75 each or \$100 for two. Passes are available on-line and at

DNR Public Information Center, Potter Section House, REI, AMH, and Sportsman's Warehouse. AAPLIC carries day-use passes only. Consider making cabin reservations at Nancy Lake or Denali State Park for the summer by calling (907) 269-8400.

Chugach State Park:

Glen Alps parking lot will be closed Monday June 16 through noon on June 20 while the road is paved. During this period day-use fee will be waived for the Upper Huffman parking lot. For more information, call (907) 345-5014 or go to <http://www.alaskastateparks.org>

Matsu Area State Parks:

Independence Mine / Hatcher Pass:

Experience a piece of Alaskan history at Independence Mine! The visitor center is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Guided tours of the mine take place at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. daily with a geologic walk at 2:00 p.m. on weekends. Tours are \$5.00/person and parking requires \$5.00 or a State day-use pass. For more information, call (907) 745-2827.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area: Only a few hours from Anchorage, this area affords many opportunities for camping, canoeing, and kayaking. Check out the Lynx Lake Loop, an 8-mile chain of lakes with well-marked portages. For camping and visitor information, call (907) 495-6273. For canoe rentals, call (907) 495-6688. South Rolly Campground will be closing on or about August 1, 2008 for improvements on the road and camp sites.

Denali State Park:

The other Denali Park boasts 5 campgrounds and over 100 campsites. Check out the cabins at Byers Lake as well (some accessible). For more information, go to

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/denaliz.htm>

Kenai Peninsula Parks:

Kachemak Bay:

Kachemak Bay is home to a variety of marine and land-dwelling wildlife alike. KBSP has 80 miles of trails and six public use cabins and yurts. Visit <http://www.alaskastateparks.org> for current

trail conditions and cabin information. For more information, call (907) 262-5581.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

All sport licenses are now available to be printed on your home computer. Search for Alaska Fish and Game Online to access the state website. There is also a weekly online fishing report and an online statewide trip planner for fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing. Visit <http://www.adfg.stat.ak.us>. Check out the monthly publication "Alaska Fish and Wildlife News" at <http://www.wildlifeneeds.alaska.gov/>

Bureau of Land Management

The Denali Highway is open until October or serious snowfall. Campers may stay 14 days in this and most other BLM campgrounds. All are operated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call 1-800-478-1263. or visit <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo/05.html>

National Park Service

Kenai Fjords National Park

Exit Glacier Nature Center and the park visitor center in Seward are now open from 9a.m. to 8p.m. and 8:30a.m.-7:00p.m. respectively. Exit Glacier walks are at 10a.m., 2p.m. and 4p.m. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>

The Seward Sea Life Center will also be hosting a variety of events this summer. There is free admission for state residents on the 10th of each month in celebration of ASLC's tenth anniversary. Check it out at <http://www.alaskasealife.org/>

Denali National Park and Preserve

The Denali Park Road is now open to mile 13. The new Eielson Visitor Center opens this month. The Denali Visitor Center and the Wilderness Access Center is open from 8a.m.-6p.m. and 5a.m.-8p.m., respectively. Dog sled demonstrations are at 2:00p.m. daily. The Teklanika River Campground is closed indefinitely due to a massive overflow of ice in the camping area. The Talkeetna Ranger Station is open from 8:00a.m.-6:00p.m. daily.

Call Denali Headquarters at (907) 683-2294 or go to

<http://www.nps.gov/dena>

Fish and Wildlife Service

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

The visitor center is open 8a.m. to 4:30p.m. on weekdays and 9a.m. to 5p.m. on the

weekends. Friday, June 20, is Wild Flower Fun Day; activities & crafts will be offered from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Wildflower and plant walks will be at 1:00p.m. and 3:00p.m. There are 13 public use cabins for rent on the refuge and the Swanson River canoe trail is great fun! For more information, call 262-7021 or check the web at <http://kenai.fws.gov/>

National Forest Service

Chugach National Forest

Check out the new Whistle Stop service to Spencer Glacier on the Alaska Railroad. It's a new and great backcountry adventure. See details at <http://www.akrr.com>.

Tenderfoot Campground at Summit Lake will undergo construction this year; it will be open on first-come, first-served basis later in June. Check out availability on cabins in Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula. Visit

<http://www.recreation.gov>

For information, call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374 or go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/>

Urban Public Lands

Municipality of Anchorage and the MatSu Borough

So much is going on in the city! Check out the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Activity Guide and calendar on-line. Go to their website at

<http://www.muni.org/parks/>

Join like-minded outdoors folks for Alaska Outdoors weekly hikes. Cost is free.

Contact (907) 770-0440 or

<http://www.alaska-outdoors.org>

Southcentral Visitor Centers

Eagle River Nature Center

Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, ERNC is open 10:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10-7 Friday and Saturday. Just a short drive from Anchorage, the ERNC offers a variety of nature walks and special events. ERNC also rents its facility, a cabin, and two yurts. Many programs are free; parking is \$5 for non-members. Call for updates on trails and bear sightings at (907) 694-2108 or go to

<http://www.ernc.org>

Campbell Creek Science Center

The visitor center is open Monday through Friday 7:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. Join the Midsummer Night Series every Wednesday at 7:00p.m. June through August. The topic for June 18 is "Forests for the Future" and includes a short forest walk. On June 25,

learn about "Invasive Weeds." For more information, call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html>

Begich-Boggs Visitor Center

The visitor center is now open daily from 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. The visitor center has a wealth of interactive displays. Choose from a menu of ranger-led hikes, including the Ice Worm Safari. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit the website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

Located just off the beach in Homer, the visitor center is open from 9a.m. to 6p.m. daily. Check out the beach walks and bird sightings. Call (907) 235-6961 or visit <http://www.islandsandoocean.org>

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

The *Downtown Anchorage* location is open 9a.m.-5p.m. daily. Admission, movies, and information are all free. Programs include Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Mondays), gold-panning demonstrations (Tuesdays), Marine Mammals (Wednesdays), a live animal (Thursdays), Dog-sledding 101 (Fridays), and live birds (Saturdays). More to come in July! Join us for cake and a rest during the festivities of the Statehood Celebration on June 28 from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. A golden eagle will visit the center at 2:00p.m. Call (907) 644-3661 or 1-866-869-6887 or check out the website at

<http://www.nps.gov/anch>

The *Fairbanks location* is open 9a.m.-6p.m. daily. Films are offered at 10a.m., noon, and 2:00p.m. The Explore Alaska Series is every Thursday at 7:00p.m. June 19 boasts "Weather for Your Summer Activities." June 26 is "The Aurora." FAPLIC is partnering with Alaska Fish & Game in offering Creamer's Field. The visitor center will show "Spirit of the Wind" about musher George Attila at 11:00a.m. on summer solstice (June 21). Call (907) 456-0527 for details.

The *Tok Center* location is open daily from 8a.m. to 7p.m. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information or to make Alaska Marine Highway reservations.

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