



False Solomon's Seal Berries

Wildlands Update for August

**Alaska
Public
Lands
Information Center**



**Your
Adventure
Starts
Here**

It's berry season, Alaska!

There are many tasty berries growing on Alaska's mountains and roadsides that are just waiting to be picked. Wild Alaskan berries are now ripening and are delicious in jellies, jams, and syrups. Salmonberries ripen in early August and make amazing jellies and syrups. Lingonberries can be found from Fairbanks to the Kenai Peninsula. If you do decide to go berry picking it is recommended that you bring a plant and berry identification book as some edible berries can be confused for poisonous ones.

Something yummy to do with August berries:

Simple Berry Cobbler

¼ cup butter or margarine

1 cup flour

1 cup sugar

¾ cup milk

2 cups raspberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in 1-1/2-quart casserole dish. Mix together flour, sugar, and milk; pour over the melted butter. Do not stir. Sprinkle the berries over the batter. Bake for 30 minutes. Can be served warm or cold, plain or with whipped cream or ice cream.

-*Alaska Magazine*, (1982): "Alaska Wildberry Guide and Cookbook". Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, Anchorage, AK

Road Closures /Openings

Matsu Valley:

Parks Highway Milepost 42 to 44:

Road Construction through mid-August.

Parks Highway Milepost 44 to 53:

Road construction through September.

Glenn Highway:

Expect delays from Milepost 92 to Milepost 96.

The road closed from 12:00a.m. to 06:00a.m. on weekdays until September 29.

Kenai Peninsula:

Kalifornsky Beach Road:

Road construction through mid-September.

Greater Alaska:

Alaska Highway: Milepost 1265 to Tok Milepost 1314; expect delays, roadway reduced to one lane work on the shoulder; look out for flaggers, pilot car in operation, detour in operation.

Alaska State Parks

Kenai Peninsula

Slikok Creek Day Use Area:

The Kenai Peninsula College side of the park will be closed until August 15 to public access to protect the park resources from heavy foot traffic associated with sockeye salmon sport fishing. For more information, please call the Kenai Area State Park Office at (907) 262-5581.

Matanuska – Susitna Valley

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area:

South Rolly Campground will be closing August 15 for improvements on the road and campsites. Visitors will still be able to stay in the public use cabins in the area.

Kodiak

Shuyak Island State Park:

The island is located just 54 miles north of Kodiak and the park makes up most of the island's 47,000 acres. Visitors can see sea otters, whales, Kodiak brown bears and other wildlife. Visitors to the island can either camp or rent one of the four public use cabins. Groceries and other supplies must be purchased before you arrive on Shuyak. For more information, call (907) 486-6339 or visit: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/kodiak/shuyak.htm>

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Fishing season is upon us! For daily fish counts for major salmon rivers within Alaska, visit:

[http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region2/ Escapement/HTML/query.cfm](http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/Region2/Escapement/HTML/query.cfm).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Kodiak Wildlife Refuge:

The visitor center is open daily from 9a.m to 5p.m. throughout the summer. The center offers the F.U.N. (Families Understanding Nature) program throughout the summer. This program is designed for children and their parents to foster appreciation for the natural world. The program August 6th will be Lava/Volcanic Rock and on August 20th it will be Jellyfish. From August

11-15, the center will be offering Salmon Adventure Camp for 7th and 8th graders. This science-based camp is recognized by the Fish & Wildlife Service as one of their top five educational programs in the country. For more information, call (907) 487-2626 or visit <http://www.kodiakwildliferefuge.org>.

National Park Service Klondike Gold Rush National Park – Chilkoot Trail

The Chilkoot Trail was originally established by the Tlingit people as a trading route and was later used by stamperers during the gold rush as access to the Klondike. The 33-mile trail beginning at the Dyea townsite is accessible only by foot. It is a difficult hike that takes roughly three to five days that travels over the Chilkoot Pass to Lake Bennett in Canada. From June 1 to September 5 permits are required and it is recommended that they are purchased in advance of your departure date. For more information, call toll free from the US and Canada: 1-800-661-0486 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/chilkoottrail.htm>.

National Forest Service Chugach National Forest:

From late July until late August berries ripen throughout the park. Visitors can find currants and highbrush cranberries in woodlands. Bogs and tundra areas hold blueberries, crowberries, and lingonberries or lowbrush cranberries. Be cautious for bears feeding on berries when out berry-picking.

Urban Public Lands

Municipality of Anchorage and Beyond: The Anchorage Museum will be hosting artist John McIntyre August 6th through the 10th as he demonstrates Yup'ik carving techniques from 10a.m. to 4p.m. at the entrance to the exhibit hall. The museum will also be hosting *Pioneers' Perspective*. This combined lecture (August 8th, 6 – 8p.m.) and day hike (August 10th, noon – 7p.m.) will inspire you to draw or paint what the pioneers themselves may have seen. This course is for adults and youth age 16 and over and costs \$22. Register by calling (907) 343-4260.

Southcentral Visitor Centers

Eagle River Nature Center

The center will offer an Icicle Creek Hike from 11a.m. to 5p.m. August 9th. The 12-mile round-trip hike is limited to the first 12 people, 18 years of age or older; registration is required. August 16th the

center will be hosting a Family-Friendly Hike, a 3-mile leisurely hike on the Dew Mount-Mountain Meadows Trails system; limited to the first 16 participants, registration required. For more events and information, call (907) 694-2108 or visit <http://www.ernc.org>

Campbell Creek Science Center

The Science Center will be hosting three Midsummer Night's Science Series events: August 6th will be *Stories in the Soil* led by Mark Clark who will help folks dig some soils pits to learn more about the ground beneath their feet. The 13th will be *Volcanoes* led by Jennifer Adleman from the U.S. Geological Survey - Alaska Volcano Observatory. Wrapping up the summer series will be the *Mushroom Fair* on August 20th - attendees can have some fun learning all about these amazing fungi. For more information, call (907) 267-1247 or visit <http://www.blm.gov.ak.st/en/prog/sciencecenter.html>

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

The Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer will be hosting the *Edge of the Sea – Low Tide Walks* August 1st - 3rd. Take a walk under the sea on a ranger-guided tide-pooling tour. The center is open daily from 9a.m. to 6p.m.; admission is free. For more events and information, call (907) 235-6961 or visit: <http://www.islandsandoocean.org>

Alaska Sea Life Center

The Sea Life Center in Seward offers many daily programs for families and large groups. In celebration of the Sea Life Center's ten-year anniversary, Alaska residents receive free admission on the 10th of each month. The center is open daily during the summer from 9a.m. to 7p.m. For more information, call (907) 224-7908 or visit: <http://www.alaskasealife.org>

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

The **Downtown Anchorage** location is open 9a.m. to 5p.m. daily. Programs and movies are free. Programs include Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Mondays), gold-panning demonstrations (Tuesdays), Marine Mammals (Wednesdays), a live Alaskan animal (Thursdays), Dog-sledding 101 (Fridays), and live birds (Saturdays). There is a special presentation on Tuesday, August 19th, at 2:00p.m. on the recent Okmok and Cleveland volcanic eruptions. Stop by on August 25th to celebrate the anniversary of the National Park Service. For more information, call (907) 644-3661 or toll-free 1-866-869-6887... or check out the website at <http://www.nps.gov/anch>

The **Fairbanks** location is open from 9am to 6pm daily and offers free movies and information. The Explore Alaska Series will present Glenn Juday on *Climate Change Impacts on Alaskan Forests* on August 7th at 7:00p.m. Movies are shown daily at 10a.m., noon, and 4:00p.m. For more information, call (907) 456-0527.

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

Alaska Book of the Month:

Klondike Fever by Pierre Benton
In 1897, a grimy steamer docked in Seattle and set into motion the incredible succession of events of Pierre Berton's exhilarating *Klondike Fever*. It is a story of cold skies and avalanches, con men, gamblers, and dance hall girls, sunken ships, suicides, dead horses and desperate men, grizzly old miners and millionaires, and the land — its exploitation and revenge. It's a story of the human capacity to dream and to endure. Berton's story belongs less to the few who would make their fortunes than to the many swept up in gold mania, often with unfortunate effects and tragic ends. The book is on sale at the Anchorage Alaska Center.



Photograph of Okmok's eruption plume, taken on July 30, 2008, from about 14 nautical miles northeast of Okmok, by Shawn Dahle of NOAA