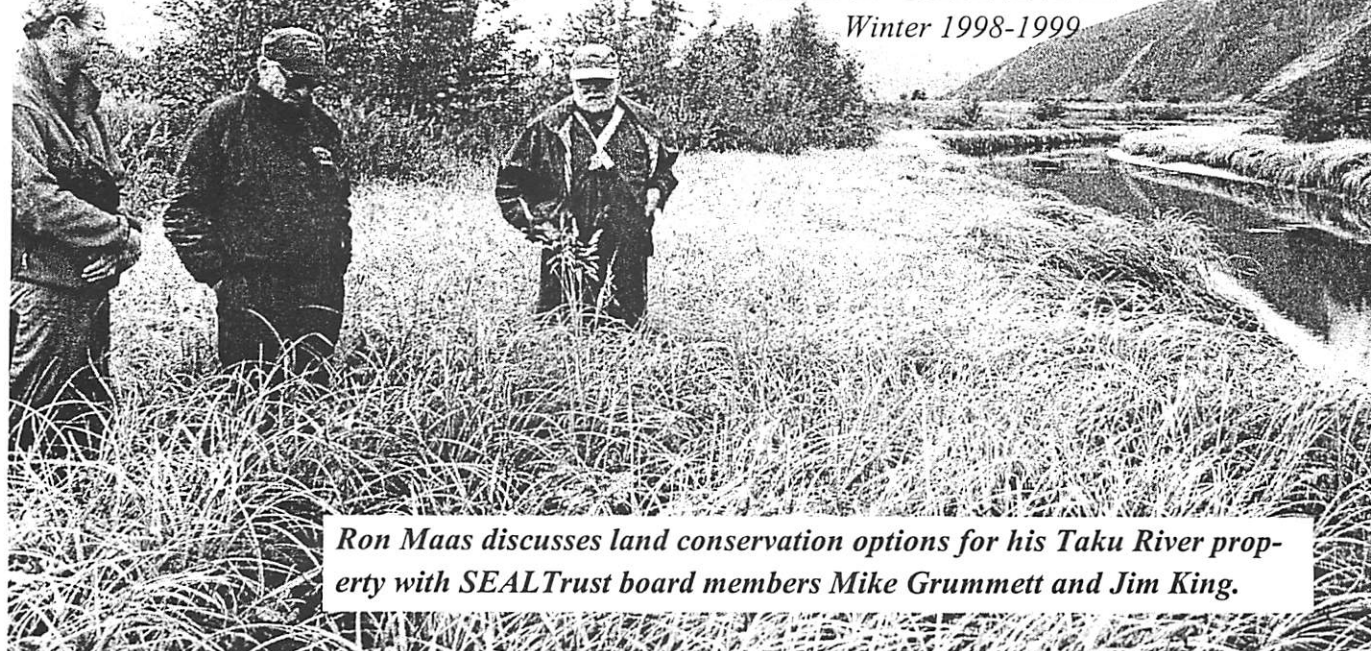


SEALTrust Landlines

Winter 1998-1999



Ron Maas discusses land conservation options for his Taku River property with SEALTrust board members Mike Grummett and Jim King.

Welcome to Landlines,

the newsletter of SEALTrust, Southeast Alaska Land Trust. Landlines are the words we write about our connection to the land, and our efforts to its preserve natural values. In the nautical sense, so appropriate for Southeast, landlines are our physical connections to the land, the lines you make fast when you dock.

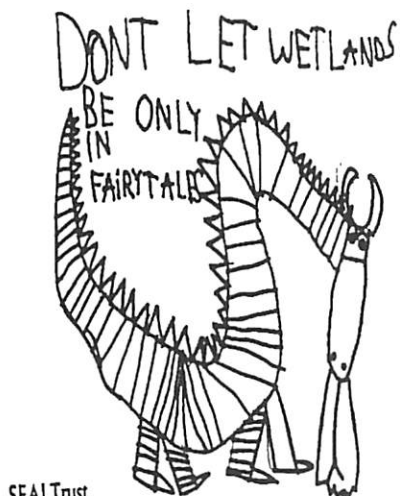
*Every place, like every person,
is elevated by the love and respect
shown it and by the way
in which its bounty is received.*

Richard Nelson

(with permission from the author)

Riverbend Students Support Trust

Mimi Walker's k-grade 1 class at Riverbend School sponsored a T-shirt design contest with a wetland theme last spring. "It was the kids own idea," says Mimi. "They wanted to do something to help wildlife." After a trip to the wetlands with Mimi's class, a SEALTrust member reported, "the kids were fantastic. I was amazed at how much they knew and how enthusiastic they were... another reminder of how valuable the wetlands are to Juneau residents of all ages." see students..... p.2



SEALTrust

winning design by Quentin Trayer

Who is SEALTrust?

SEALTrust is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping landowners conserve the natural, cultural, and recreational values of their lands for future generations. This conservation serves both the landowner and the public. Currently we have a 7 person volunteer board of directors, a part-time administrative assistant, and 120 members and supporters. Stop by our office at 119 Seward St., Suite #9 in Juneau (open 8:30-11:30am Monday, Wednesday, Friday) to learn more about our programs or use our land conservation library. Messages may be left at 586-3100 or setrust@ptialaska.net.

SEALTrust Wetland Project Fund

In October 98, Southeast Alaska Land Trust signed an agreement with the U.S. Corps of Engineers that allows parties applying for Clean Water Act permits for wetland fills to pay a fee to SEALT, in lieu of compensation for the loss of wetlands. These fees will be used for local wetland conservation rather than sent to the U.S. Treasury, as was formerly the case.

One of our first wetland projects will enable a conservation easement on several acres of accreted wetlands adjacent the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. The landowner desires this easement to establish a buffer around the refuge to protect wildlife habitat as the area of the refuge is decreased by glacial rebound and river sedimentation. We envision this easement as a model for others around the refuge.

Projects may also evolve from SEALTrust's participation in the Mendenhall Watershed Partnership, a community effort to identify watershed protection needs and conservation opportunities. see wetlands p.2

.....Wetlands *continued from p.1*

Wetlands are lands where water saturation is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of land and animal communities. Wetlands serve many beneficial functions. Wetlands recharge groundwater, replenish water to streams during dry periods, moderate stream flow during floods, retain sediment and toxicants, protect shorelines and soil from erosion, and provide a wide diversity of plants and wildlife habitats. To fill a wetland under Section 404, applicants are required to mitigate by avoiding wetlands, minimizing the impact, and by compensating for wetland loss by creating or restoring a similar wetland habitat. Often wetland compensation is difficult to achieve for small projects.

This fee-based in-lieu program is a good option for applicants and the environment when on-site mitigation is not feasible. Fees will be pooled and used by SEALTrust to preserve wetlands, chiefly by the establishment of conservation easements on wetlands. Larger conservation projects generally provide greater benefit than small isolated wetland creation projects. In addition, the agreement allows fees for Clean Water Act violations to be directed to SEALTrust.

Trust to Hire Project Manager

A first! SEALTrust is searching for a project manager with experience in facilitating and managing conservation easements. We hope to bring this much needed person on board in late February.

Foundations and Land Trust Alliance Support SEALTrust

SEALTrust gratefully acknowledges support by the Leighty Foundation, the Skaggs Foundation, the Wilburforce Foundation and the Land Trust Alliance, Northwest (regional office of the national organization).

Three Attend National Rally

Board members Jim King, Mike Grummett, and Judy Sherburne attended the national land trust rally in Madison Wisconsin in mid October. Over 1200 trusters from all around the country discussed the fine points of private land conservation and trust organization. The trio returned from the multi-day meeting exhausted but very enthusiastic. Travel to the rally was partially supported by grants from the Leighty Foundation and the Wilburforce Foundation.

SEALTrust Board
wishes you a very happy 1999 !

.....Students *continued from p.1*

T-shirt design winners were: Carlos Ortiz, Quentin Trayer, Amanda Kulm, and Matt Kern. Students hand printed T-shirts with the winning designs and donated the profits to SEALTrust for our Mendenhall Wetlands Conservation Project. The shirts were a big hit; three (on the backs of SEALTrust members) even hiked the Chilkoot trail last summer. A big thank you to Mimi and her class. (*see p.3*)

People

SEALTrust founder **Deborah Marshall** is currently studying nonprofit organization management and accounting at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Deb says she misses Southeast Alaska, likewise.... we're eagerly awaiting her return after completing a Master's degree in Public Administration so she can put her new knowlege to work for SEALTrust. **Bart Watson**, another SEALTrust founder, has returned to Juneau after living in Seattle for the past 18 months and has again jumped into the trust action. Also, we welcome new board of directors members, **Lisa Weissler** and **Mike Grummett** and our new administrative assistant, **Yvonne Muchmore**.

LTA to Mentor

SEALTrust is one of three trusts in the northwest that will be mentored by Land Trust Alliance, Northwest in 1999. The mentoring program is made possible by grants from the Wilburforce foundation and LTA, Northwest. We're very excited about the expertise and experience that will be available to the trust and to southeast Alaska landowners.

3rd Annual Open House, Dec. 3,

was a great success. Over 30 SEALTrust members and the general public gathered at the home of Jim Powell and Beth Kerttula to share good food and good land trust talk. Dale Bonar of the Land Trust Alliance, Northwest office of was on hand with experienced advice for landowners and board members alike. Thanks to Jim & Beth for opening their home to us and to Dale for sharing his expertise.

Coming Soon

Jay Hammond Dinner March 5th

Governor Jay Hammond has agreed to speak at a trust fundraising gathering March 5 in Juneau; save March 5 for a truly enjoyable evening!

State Trusts to Meet

SEALTrust will meet with other Alaskan land trusts, Great Land Trust (Anchorage) Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (Kenai Peninsula) and Interior Land Trust (Fairbanks) March 6 & 7 in Anchorage to discuss common concerns and goals.



The class who wanted to help wildlife. MANY THANKS !

fold 2.....

Thank You, Volunteers and Members

We greatly appreciate the volunteer, financial, and moral support of our members. Please join us or renew your membership. Use the enclosed response form to show your support.

More support: Alaskan & Proud stores will donate 1% of the value of your purchases to SEALTrust. All you have to do is designate us when you apply for a cache card.

Please fold on “fold 1” below, then on “fold 2”. Staple or tape closed to form an envelope and attach stamp. Many Thanks.

fold 1.....

Help!

SEALTrust depends on the financial support and volunteer assistance of Southeast Alaska residents. Let us hear from you.

Yes, I'll.....

1. Volunteer my skills, (we need folks with natural history knowledge, accounting skills, publication and communication skills, real estate knowledge, and fundraising skills) ☐

2. Support the trust with my membership contribution
\$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐
individual friend patron

\$250 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$-----
steward trustee other
contributions are tax deductible

3. Attend meetings, call for information ☐

4. Pass this newsletter on to friends ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

email _____

FAX _____

SEALTrust

119 Seward St., Suite #9

Juneau, AK 99801

MWF 8:30-11:30 am

907-586-3100

setrust@ptialaska.net



SouthEast Alaska Land Trust
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newsletter

SEALTrust Board Members

- Tom Stewart
- Jim King
- Judy Sherburne
- Deborah Marshall
- Mike Grummett
- Lisa Weissler
- Patricia Harris

stamp



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