

THE SOUTHEAST STEWARD

Newsletter for the Southeast Alaska Land Trust



"First and foremost, I am interested in seeing SEAL Trust continue to thrive as an intelligent and nimble organization doing important work." - Gretchen Keiser

Southeast Alaska Land Trust



Stewarding Lands You Cherish

Autumn 2014

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fall is here and change is in the air. For SEAL Trust this means some old friends -- Gretchen Keiser and Jon Tillinghast, who have both spent years supporting SEAL Trust as Staff and as Board Members respectively, have left to put their energies into other endeavors. We will miss them but know they will continue to remain supporters of SEAL Trust.

With every departure there comes an arrival. For SEAL Trust we are pleased to have Allison Gillum as our new Conservation Specialist. Allison brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and energy to her position. SEAL Trust is lucky to have her on staff. Amanda Pilley also brings new energy and a fresh perspective as our Administrative Assistant. Every organization benefits from the infusion of new ideas and enthusiasm, and SEAL Trust is no exception.

- Frank Rue, Executive Director

SEAL Trust is 1 of only 3 land trusts in the State of Alaska which have been awarded with accreditation, and 1 of 254 in the entire nation.



A FOND FAREWELL!

After 5 years helping SEAL Trust move from a fledgling organization to being one of 254 land trusts in the entire nation accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, Gretchen Keiser called it quits this year and retired to gardening, kayaking, and doing a million volunteer jobs around Juneau.



All of you who know Gretchen know how lucky SEAL Trust was to have her working here. Whether it was developing the budget, getting the Corps of Engineers to accept SEAL Trust as an In Lieu Fee sponsor under the clean water act, or working with a landowner to protect their property, Gretchen did a great job.

Her parting words were that she was willing to take time from her travels and gardening to come in and help SEAL Trust however she could, because: *"First and foremost, I am interested in seeing SEAL Trust continue to thrive as an intelligent and nimble organization doing important work."* Gretchen has been true to her word and has continued to support SEAL Trust in many ways. Thank you Gretchen!

A Sincere thank you to Jon Tillinghast for his tireless effort as a SEAL Trust Board member. Jon stepped down from the Board in early October. Since 2005, he has contributed countless hours to fulfilling the mission of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust. We will miss his presence on the board!



A message from Jon:

"For those of you that I've worked with for many years, I am deeply grateful for the experience. For those newer Board members whom I've not gotten a chance to know very well, you are both blessed and burdened. Blessed by your ability to serve one of Juneau's most valuable nonprofit organizations, and burdened by the fact that a material part of Juneau's ecological heritage now lies in your hands.

Southeast Alaska Land Trust Welcomes Two New Staff

Allison Gillum took over the role of Conservation Specialist this past April, and hit the ground running! She is responsible for land acquisition activities, managing SEAL Trust's In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program, as well as coordinating SEAL Trust's multi-year Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant project to develop a wetland assessment protocol for Southeast Alaska.



Allison comes to us with a wealth of land protection experience. This New Jersey native has worked at land trusts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and she credits a summer internship spent at the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in Homer, Alaska as when she "not only fell in love with land trust work, but also the beautiful State of Alaska. I knew I'd be back one day!"

The Trust is pleased to welcome Amanda Pilley as a new member to its staff. She will be filling a part-time Administrative Assistant position supporting the Board and full-time staff, as well as assisting with marketing, fundraising, and development.

Amanda is well suited to the position, having lived and worked all over Southeast Alaska for the past 14 years. She brings with her a love and breadth of knowledge of the natural history of Southeast Alaska, stemming from her work on boats from Glacier Bay to Misty Fiords. She has worked for the US Forest Service, a ski resort, a sea kayaking outfit, and a Real Estate agency.

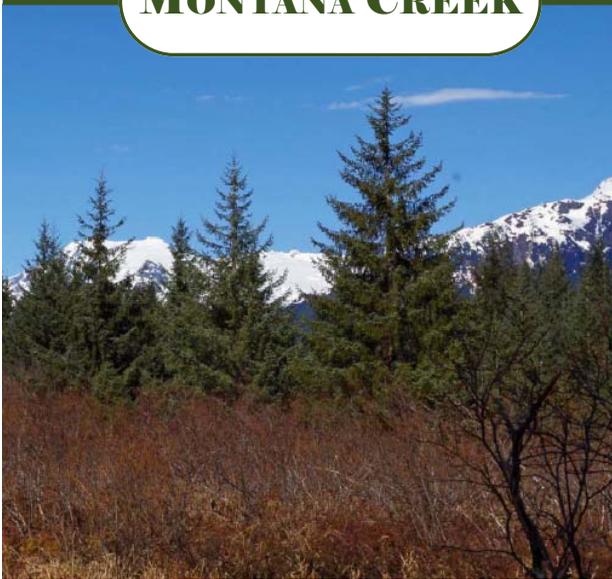


Welcome to the team!

NEW PROPERTIES ACQUIRED IN 2014

This year we conserved 164 acres of land in Juneau!

MONTANA CREEK



Those of us who remember Montana Bill's garden next to Montana Creek on the Back Loop Road will know the 128 acre **MONTANA CREEK WETLANDS** property SEAL Trust recently purchased. About 118 acres of the property are wetlands and floodplain adjacent to Montana Creek.

Given the high wetland and stream values of the property we were not surprised to see ducks, deer and salmon on a recent site visit.

SEAL Trust intends to manage this property to protect its high value wetland and floodplain functions and the riparian area of Montana Creek.

SEAL Trust is pleased to add an important property to the City and Borough of Juneau Mendenhall River and Montana Creek Natural Area Park and Stream Protection Corridor.

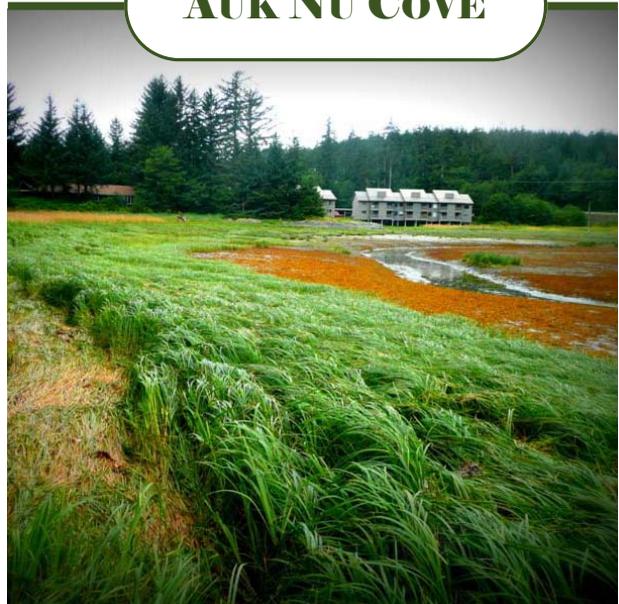
Everyone who drives out the road past the Auke Bay ferry terminal will see Auk Nu Cove. At low tide you will notice the mud flats, the fucus and eel grass beds and the freshwater creek running through the center of the cove. There is always some wildlife on the cove. Either ducks, herons, geese, shorebirds, or even the occasional black bear.

In March of this year the City and Borough of Juneau and the Southeast Alaska Land Trust permanently protected the 30-acre **AUK NU COVE**.

Protection of Auk Nu Cove compliments the adjacent culturally important site and CBJ Natural Park Area: Auke Cape/Indian Cove.

SEAL Trust is pleased to partner with CBJ in protecting this valuable natural, cultural, and scenic gem.

AUK NU COVE



"There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other and the relation of people to the land." Aldo Leopold

Things are happening at

JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM

Caroline Jensen donated the Jensen-Olson Arboretum to the City and Borough of Juneau, with a Conservation Easement to SEAL Trust in 1998, so that, in Caroline's words, Juneau's residents have "a place that both teaches and inspires learning in horticulture, natural sciences and landscaping – to preserve the beauty of the landscape for pure aesthetic enjoyment - to maintain the historical and cultural context of the place and its people. "



If you haven't visited the Jensen-Olson Arboretum, put it on your "visit ASAP" list. Anytime of year is beautiful at the Arboretum, but spring is a special time when the Arboretum's world-class collection of primroses starts blooming. Anyone who grows Himalayan blue poppies has to admire the collection at the Arboretum and wonder how they do it. If you ask the manager Merrill Jensen (no relation) he is happy to tell you how they do everything at the Arboretum. What a wonderful resource we have in our backyard!

Exciting things are happening at the Arboretum! Merrill and the rest of the staff continue to maintain and expand the beautiful plantings. Friends of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum is now in the early stages of planning

an education center that will provide community space for garden group meetings, classes, and visiting school groups. In addition, the center will house a garden reference library and interpretive information featuring history of this early homestead and present day arboretum plantings. Friends of the Arboretum will be a "Pick, Click, Give" option next year, furthering the realization of Caroline's dream when she gave the community this wonderful gift.

Save the Date!

SEAL Trust Upcoming Events:

OPEN HOUSE

on **DECEMBER 5th**, 4-6 pm at our office in the Valentine Building (above the Rookery). Stop by, say hi, and find out what SEAL Trust has been up to!

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Please join us on **JANUARY 14th** at **7:00 pm**, at the UAS Egan Lecture Hall, where **MARK KELLEY** will present "**THE BEST OF ALASKA**"

This is a benefit for SEAL Trust.
Building Friendship & Funds by Donation.

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THANK YOU

for your continued vision and support which allow SEAL Trust to protect invaluable properties for generations. We could not do it without you!

DONATE ONLINE, TODAY!

www.SoutheastAlaskaLandTrust.org

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