

# WILD ALASKA Traveler



## Alaska Wildland Adventures

A Publication of Alaska Wildland Adventures

Winter 2006

### What's New for '06!

To commemorate our 30th Anniversary, we present our "Limited Edition" Trips for 2006.

While past participant status is not a prerequisite for any of these trips, each offers a chance to relive your fond Alaskan memories and rediscover your passion for Alaska while exploring new and amazing destinations and activities. Past participants receive a 10% discount on any AWA trip.

#### ALASKA EXPLORER SAFARI, 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL.

This is a very special version of our original trip. Instead of camping on Skilak Lake, enjoy the comforts of Kenai Backcountry Lodge. Camping and exploring in Denali National Park can't be duplicated, so we have retained this adventurous element.

#### FLYFISHING ADVENTURE WITH PUDGE KLEINKAUF ALASKA'S WOMEN'S FLYFISHING™.

This is a great way for adventurous women to enter the exciting world of fly fishing. Pudge is an Alaskan legend and one of the finest Alaskan fishing guides. We are privileged to have her join our staff for this week.

Please see **What's New** on page 4

### AWA Awarded Top Ecotour Operator by Conde Nast Traveler

September 2005, Alaska Wildland Adventures was awarded the Conde Nast Traveler International Green List Award. AWA was recognized as the world's leading Ecotourism Tour Operator for commitment to sound environmental efforts ranging from sustainability to charitable contributions.

AWA won the most votes from a panel of 12 judges comprised of academia, government agencies, and "green" tour operators in the 11th annual awards.

Since the beginning, AWA has been focused on offering the best possible experiences in Alaska, and to receive international accolades is quite the honor.

AWA's commitment to environmental protection throughout its operations was an important element in consideration for this award, as was the company's financial contributions to environmental protection including its environmentally friendly development of Kenai Backcountry Lodge. AWA contributes 10% of pre-tax profits to local and statewide conser-

vation efforts and is involved in numerous giving programs. Annually, AWA guests collectively contribute over \$10,000.

To be recognized among the many thousands of ecotourism businesses across the globe is indeed a huge honor. However, AWA is most proud of the excellent rating in the area of "guest experiences." Of all lodges and tour operators reviewed, AWA received the highest marks in this category. As a company, AWA strives to provide truly remarkable trips, and this recognition is a tribute to hard working and energetic staff.

Says company President Kirk Hoessle, "Now I'm more fired up than ever to do more to ensure that wild Alaska is here for generations to come. Our goal is to continue and improve upon this award winning style of travel, and we're deeply flattered to have received this award."

Stay tuned for new and innovative Alaska travel experiences with Alaska Wildland Adventures...



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## AWA Staff Winter Wanderings

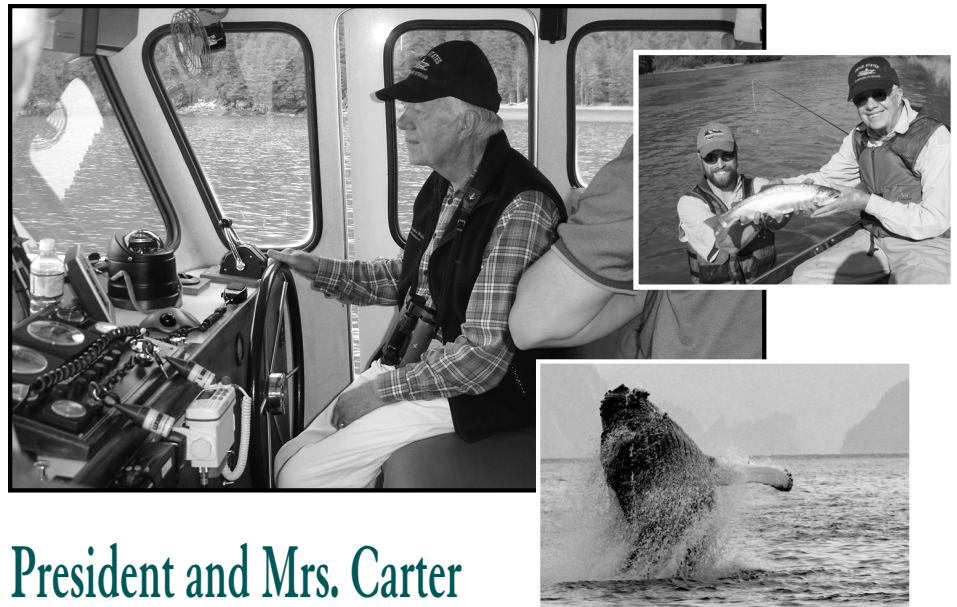
Safari Program Director **Elise Lockton** and friend, **Greg**, set off in November for a two-month tour of South America. They began their journey in Bolivia and will travel to the southern tip of Patagonia. Along the way, they plan on practicing their Spanish speaking skills as well as sampling many tasty South American dishes.

Safari Drivers **Aine Roberts** and **Zach Casper** spent the fall investigating the rain forests and beaches of Costa Rica and Panama. We're hoping they remembered to pack some sunscreen!

Kenai Guide **Kevin Minto** and Hospitality Manager **Robin Foldager** have taken some time off to road trip through Baja, Mexico. The two will peruse Baja in search of interesting desert plants and many a sandy beach.

Winter finds **Dawn** and **Real Lafond**, Kenai Backcountry Lodge (KBL) Managers, in the Tampa Bay, Florida area. They'll spend winter remodeling their new house and, of course, will take time to do some sailing along the Florida coastline and beyond.

KBL Guide **Joel Gordon** and KBL Chef **Jill Thompson** have planted their roots, for the time being, in a small town on the South Island of New Zealand. Settled in for winter, these two are leaving Alaska behind for a new experience in a NZ work exchange program. We're looking forward to hearing tales of their latest adventures!



## President and Mrs. Carter Celebrate Their 59th Wedding Anniversary at Kenai Backcountry Lodge

What a treat to host President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn, this past summer. After coming to Alaska in early July to speak at a conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), President Carter wanted to do something special. After all, he and Rosalynn would be in Alaska for a very special occasion: their 59th wedding anniversary!

Their idea was to combine their passions for fly-fishing and bird watching with a secluded wilderness getaway, and they chose Alaska Wildland Adventures to host and operate the trip. In addition to two days fishing on the upper Kenai River and two nights at the Kenai Backcountry Lodge, the Carters enjoyed a day of bird watching on a private vessel in Kenai Fjords National Park. Remote Kenai Fjords Wilderness Lodge, a favorite overnite destination on many AWA trips, was also included in the itinerary.

The Carters were treated to wild and zesty rainbows on the fly, many new birds for their life list, and exploring in the vast wilderness that President Carter helped create when he signed the Alaska lands bill into law. While in the Kenai Fjords, President Carter, a one-time Navy officer, took the helm for a good part of the trip, and a curious humpback whale breached all the way out of the water to get a good look.

## Kenai Backcountry Lodge Hosts Romantic Getaways

This past season, we catered to many a romantic moment for our guests, from small, quaint weddings along the sunlit shores of Skilak Lake to the perfect honeymoon destination for a number of love-struck couples. We've poured everything we've learned over the past 29 years into this unique lodge and along the way have crafted the perfect destination for hosting romantic getaways such as weddings, honeymoons, anniversaries, birthdays, or for that special weekend getaway.

2006 marks Kenai Backcountry Lodge's 10th anniversary, and we hope that you'll consider joining us to celebrate your special occasion. Choose your activities and the day's pace. Venture through evergreen forests to breathtaking alpine tundra. Discover by small boat what wonders lie beyond the next cove. Paddle a sea kayak together along a brilliantly turquoise glacial lake. Relax in a cozy, wood-fired sauna or along the lakeshore under the rich glow of Alaska's midnight sun. Kenai Backcountry Lodge is a favorite repeat destination of many of our past guests.

# Reeling in the 2005 Fishing Season

The 2005 season has come to an end, as all good things must. Snowy days mean winter has settled here in Alaska, leaving behind many fond memories of fishing with friends and family this past summer.

We had another great King salmon run in 2005; many of our guests went home with 40, 50, even 60lb Kings! Tens of thousands of Sockeyes returned to the Kenai River on a daily basis. Late Season Rainbow Trout and Dolly Varden fishing again was excellent —some guests landed trophy fish nearing 30 inches in length! We were treated to some excellent wildlife sightings as well. Guests had the opportunity to spot brown bears along the river with rod in hand and many bald eagles and moose were seen perusing on the shore side.

And as always, we had an outstanding group of guests and were happy to host our friendly returning groups as well as our favorite loyal guests who just can't get enough of the fishing on Alaska's Kenai River! Andy Reid and Brad Childress, head coach and offensive coordinator of the Philadelphia Eagles, took some time away from coaching to celebrate Father's Day with their sons fishing for hard-fighting Sockeyes.

We're looking forward to another epic season of fishing in 2006 and hope you'll join us as we navigate the Kenai for its hard-fighting salmon and trout. If you haven't secured your first choice dates yet, please call or email me so we can plan your summer fishing fix — 2006 dates are filling fast.

Best fishes & happy holidays!

*Kevin Bossenbrook*

Kevin Bossenbrook

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## 25 Years of Ecotourism in Action:

### THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT

By Kirk Hoessle, President, Alaska Wildland Adventures

This past summer marked the 25th Anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, often referred to as ANILCA. In 1980, after years of congressional debate, President Jimmy Carter signed ANILCA into law. Often called the most significant land conservation measure in the history of our nation, this act protected over 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, doubling the size of the country's national parks and refuge system and tripling the amount of land protected as wilderness. The concept, bold at the time, was to protect lands large enough to encompass entire ecosystems.

For those of us involved in the tourism trade in Alaska, whether we lead small group expeditions or operate the large-scale cruise ships, wild Alaska provides a tremendous business asset. Ironically, it's not a business asset that you find on a company's financial statement prepared by an accountant —

the one that states assets like cash in the bank, receivables, equity in real property, etc. Although these are important, in my opinion wild Alaska is the primary business asset that all Alaska tourism companies share. Alaska's vast wilderness system, largely created and certainly put on the tourism trail by ANILCA, sets Alaska apart from other nature destinations and provides its unique and widespread appeal.

This past year, more than 1.7 million people sought some kind of tourism experience in Alaska and were responsible for spending around \$2 billion dollars in the state. If one considers the number of visitors and billions of dollars spent during the past 25 years, the economic impact is staggering. The protection of these amazing wild lands is certainly the single most important reason that tourism is now Alaska's number two private sector industry behind oil and gas.

ANILCA represents Ecotourism in action: protecting ecosystems while contributing to economic development; sustaining the use of natural resources; residents benefiting economically and in quality of life from visitors coming to experience wilderness through one style of travel or another; and native peoples carrying on with their traditional lifestyles and ways.

## Culinary Corner

### Linguine with Lemon & Smoked Salmon

1/2 pkg linguine or fettuccine (450g)

1 lemon [1/2 tsp finely grated lemon peel & 1 1/2 tsp lemon juice]

1/2 lb asparagus or sugar snap peas

1/4 lb smoked salmon slices

1 tbsp olive oil

1 minced garlic clove

10-oz can chicken broth, undiluted

1 1/2 tsp capers

1/2 cup chopped parsley

1/4 cup whipping cream

Bring pot of water to a boil, stir in pasta. Cook till al dente. Snap off woody ends of asparagus & discard. Slice asparagus (or snap peas) into bite-size pieces. Slice salmon into long strips. Heat oil & garlic in large saucepan on medium heat for 1 minute. Stir in broth & capers. Lower heat & simmer.

When pasta is almost cooked, stir asparagus (or peas) into broth & cook for 3 min. Stir in peel & juice. Toss with drained pasta. Stir in salmon, parsley, & whipping cream. Garnish with a pinch of parsley & fresh ground pepper. Serves 2-3.



The Alaska tourism trade is comprised of more than 2,000 businesses, and thousands of other businesses including restaurants, food stores, Alaskan gift shops, contractors, etc. are greatly influenced by the spending of our visitors. All of these businesses, in one manner or another, can link a very significant part of their success to Alaska's protected lands.

Unfortunately, 25 years later the economic engine created by ANILCA goes underappreciated in Alaska. It's my hope that one day in the not too distant future, all Alaskans, be it resident or business, will recognize and support the protection of Alaska's land and wildlife as a necessity for the well being of our economy and our way of life.

Consider the wisdom of Theodore Roosevelt, one of our country's great conservationists:

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value.

Conservation means development as much as it does protection."

# Alaska Wildland Adventures

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## Comments from Our Guests

*"The wonderful fruition of our work on ANILCA 25 years ago has been exemplified during these days at the Kenai Backcountry Lodge. The beauty of God's unspoiled world, the warm hospitality, superb food, music around the campfire...all melded together to give us an unforgettable 59th wedding anniversary."*

*Thank you,*

*Jimmy Carter, Plains, GA  
Kenai Backcountry Lodge*

*"Thanks you all so much for an amazing holiday, the activities were great fun and all the guides and staff were helpful, fun, friendly and knowledgeable and had a real passion Alaska. The facilities and food were excellent and the terrace overlooking the Kenai River was the perfect place to relax at the end of the day and admire the stunning scenery. This was our first visit to Alaska and AWA made it a very special and memorable experience. We look forward to returning soon and would recommend you to anyone!"*

*Mark B. & Claire L, London, England  
Kenai Explorer Safari*

## Stay in touch with us.

If you haven't already signed up to receive our e-newsletter, visit our website at [www.alaskawildland.com](http://www.alaskawildland.com) & click on the "newsletter signup" tab. Stay up to date with our e-newsletter bulletins featuring new trip announcements, trip specials and other exciting news that you can share with friends and family. We promise never to give, sell, rent or otherwise provide your personal information to anyone else. Ever. Our full privacy policy can be viewed at <http://www.alaskawildland.com/privacy-policy.htm>.

*continued from **What's New** on page 1*

**ALASKA LIFE LIST SAFARI.** You wouldn't believe the "peak" but very doable adventures we have packaged into this action-packed trip: brown bear viewing, sea kayaking among glaciers and icebergs, dog sledding (on a glacier), silver salmon fishing, flightseeing over glacial canyons, hiking on a glacier, the nation's largest national park, and a wilderness raft trip. And, you don't have to be a hard-core explorer to participate!

**WHALES, WALRUS, AND BEARS—OH MY!** Spend quality time with Humpback Whales of the Inside Passage, Walrus of Bristol Bay, and Brown Bears of Katmai. While logistically challenging, we have gathered these premium wildlife-viewing extravaganzas into one seamless adventure.

You can learn about all these trips plus the Alaska Photo Safari, the Stitching Safari for Cross Stitching Enthusiasts, and the Intro to Birding Safari on our website at [www.alaskawildland.com](http://www.alaskawildland.com).

