Magical Whales & Marbled Murrelets
by Julie Koehler

I stop in mid-stroke, unsure. Am I really seeing something or is it just my imagination? I strain to see into the water and, for a fleeting moment, I think I see something black move downward from the surface. I watch the spot a minute longer. Nothing. Hmmm, must have been my imagination.

I resume paddling my kayak, keeping about 20 feet off the steep-sided shore. Five strokes and I’m back into my former easy cadence, scanning the inlet for the two sea lions that I’d been watching prior to my imagination tricking me.

Suddenly a blast explodes from the water so close that I feel a warm rush of air up my left arm. Jumping in surprise, I jettison myself right out of the kayak, but luckily the shoulder straps of my cockpit skirt stop me from continuing on overboard. Glancing frantically backwards, I see the humpback whale’s giant nostrils peeking from the water only a few feet aft of the cockpit. Oh yikes! This means the whale’s head is underneath my kayak! I must have paddled right over his back as he was sleeping just beneath the water’s surface!

...continued on page 4
Friends of Admiralty Island is a non-profit, public interest, volunteer organization formed in 1987. We depend on member donations and grants to carry out a program of advocating for the island’s protection through education, promoting research and supporting management that reflects the recognition of the island’s values: ecological diversity (including its abundant fish and wildlife), wilderness setting, Tlingit Indian culture, prehistoric and historic record and geological makeup. We believe that as people and agencies understand and appreciate these values they will become stronger champions for the island’s protection.

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**From My Side Of The Island**

*by K.J. Metcalf, President*

Wow, what a way to end the year! I’m stunned that as a country we are on a path of deregulating resource extraction, massively increasing our carbon admissions, and denying science. This is at a time when our planet needs healing, if we are to survive.

This is a total reversal of over 65 years of environmental protection gains and struggles to achieve sustainability. Southeast Alaska wears its own bull’s eye. Federal legislation will be introduced to substantially increase logging in old-growth stands by reversing old growth protective policies and transferring Tongass National Forest land to Native corporations and Veterans and creating new state forest. This means reduced wildlife and fish habitat protection and increased timber high-grading and unsustainable cutting.

There is every reason to believe that existing legislated Wilderness areas and National Monuments, including Admiralty could become part of a new open-for-business real estate policy. Even if Admiralty is kept intact, oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and Corp of Engineers will be pressured by policy and reduced staff and budget to do less.

The years of dedicated effort to achieve permanent protection for Admiralty and the effort to make the protection more complete by the purchase of the logged Cube Cove lands are touched on in this newsletter. To allow development of protected lands, wherever they are, for short-term economic gains is not only shortsighted but a violent act.

Today Admiralty is unique - with its intact ecosystems, world-class populations of brown bears and nesting bald eagles, and the largest stand of temperate old-growth forest left in the world. One of Admiralty’s rarest gems is the hundreds of generations of continuous occupancy and traditional cultural use by the First Nation - the Tlingit Indians.

We face an uncertain and dangerous future for our planet and resources. We cannot idly sit by and allow it to happen unchallenged. The voices to protect Admiralty and all wild places will need to be strong and many. Non-violent civil disobedience may be needed.

Add your voice – join us, support us, work to add additional voices, write letters, testify, demonstrate, and always demand that land and waters be treated with the respect and care due to any precious gift that is given to future generations.

Aldo Leopold is one of my heroes. His son, Professor Starker Leopold was instrumental in proving that clearcutting Admiralty Island would devastate wildlife. This effectively stopped the building of Juneau’s proposed pulp mill and led to the designation of Admiralty as a National Monument. “We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” — Aldo Leopold
FRIENDS OF ADMIRALTY ISLAND ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, February 18, 2017 • Juneau Yacht Club • “All Are Welcome”

1:30 - 2:30 pm  Business Meeting

3:00 - 5:00 pm  Join in a two-hour, not to be missed, discussion that will be invaluable for teachers, students, tour guides, and anyone interested in the natural forces that brought rapid change and resulted in the first footprints of humans in Southeast Alaska. Some 9,000 years ago, people arrived to a southeast landscape very different from what we know today. Jim Baichtal (Geologist - Forest Service) and Dan Monteith (Anthropologist - UAS) explore the dynamic geological and weather forces that welcomed the first people to these shores. Understanding these forces is the key to the settlement patterns that we are just beginning to decipher.

5:00 - 6:30 pm  Dessert and Bread silent auction

5:30 - 6:00 pm  Community Potluck - Share a hot dish or salad.

7:00 pm - 20,000 Years of Dynamic Change to Southeast Alaska
A continuation and summary of the afternoon discussion.

Save the Date
Funter Bay Cruise • May 20, 2017

This promises to be an historic and powerful event. We will depart Statter Boat Harbor in Auke Bay around 9 am and motor to Funter Bay, likely encountering whales, porpoises, and bird life along the way. We will dock in Funter Bay and spend several hours ashore where we will honor the displaced Aleut people who were interned at a camp there during World War II. This will be a cross-cultural Aleut and Tlingit event at which descendents of the internees will describe their family stories. As part of this healing return of descendents to the camp, Bishop David will bless a beautiful new Russian Orthodox Cross at the internment cemetery. The cross was built by members of the Lemon Creek Inmate Council who were moved by the story of the internment camps and wanted to honor the courage and acknowledge the suffering of the displaced Aleut people. We will return to Auke Bay by 5:30 pm.

Tickets will go on sale March 15 at $100. Purchase early as they will sell out.

One of two 12-foot high Russian Orthodox crosses built by the Lemon Creek Inmate Council.
Whales & Murrelets ...continued from page 1

I take a deep breath, readying myself for when the whale’s head dumps me over into the frigid seawater. Instead, ever so gently, the whale goes down. Not even a ripple. A few seconds later, he slowly surfaces about 30 feet away port side, blows, and goes down. Two more blows and he’s gone. I silently send my thanks to the whale for his kind and gracious response to my unintended intrusion on his nap.

After my hands stop shaking, I paddle the four miles back to camp, pausing frequently to watch the Pacific loons, pigeon guillemots, common mergansers, and, my all-time favorite, marbled murrelets. The summer/breeding plumage of murrelets is a drab brown and black with some white, which blends into the water and results in most people overlooking the presence of this remarkable little 8-ounce seabird. In winter, though, they are a striking black and white when most people are not out on the water to see them.

I notice how nearly all the marbled murrelets are swimming in pairs. Given it is June and the breeding season, this arrangement of pairs begs a question. When nesting, the male and female of a mated pair take turns incubating their single egg, laid in a mossy depression on an upper branch of a tree within the coastal old-growth rainforest. (Occasionally, a murrelet pair will instead nest on a protected mossy cliff within the forest.) Each bird serves a 24-hour incubating shift while its mate remains at sea. Then, under the cover of dawn, they swap incubating duty. So, my as-of-yet-unanswered question is: If one of each mated pair is on the nest, how is it that the birds on the water are swimming in pairs instead of as singles?

After hatching, the parents brood the lone chick for 2-3 days, at which point the nestling is able to thermo-regulate on its own. From then onward the chick is left alone in the nest and both parents share in the duty of its feeding. Parents carry a single herring, capelin, or sand lance in their bills, delivering a fresh serving to the nestling 1-8 times per 24 hours. Somehow, the nestling swallows each fish whole! After 27-28 days the chick fledges, but it only gets one chance to do it right. The chick must leap out of the nest and fly directly to the sea or land on a river and float out to the sea. If the fledgling lands on the forest floor instead of water, it is permanently grounded and quickly starves to death. Incredibly, the fledgling is left entirely to its own devices for that first flight and learning to feed and protect itself at sea.

Next time you are camping on Admiralty Island (or anywhere in Southeast), sleep lightly so at dawn and dusk you will be sure to hear the “keer, keer, keer” of the marbled murrelets as they fly overhead between the sea and the forest at speeds of 40-100 miles per hour. And listen, too, for the gentle blows of sleeping humpback whales. And then there is the sweet flutelike melody of the hermit thrush that starts as dusk arrives. Oh, and sometimes there is the special treat of a red-throated loon wailing in the distance. Or the chitter-chattering between a mother river otter and her babies…. Yep, it’s kinda hard to get a good night’s sleep on this amazing island.

Exhausted fledgling. This 27- or 28-day-old marbled murrelet landed on the water in Port Snettisham just moments before photo was taken, meaning the chick successfully flew nonstop from its nest in the forest all the way to the sea on its very first flight attempt. An amazing feat! To have landed on the ground would have meant certain death. Black and white plumage is similar to the winter plumage of adults. (photographer: Meg)
Hawk Inlet Study Update

Greens Creek mine is damaging the Hawk Inlet marine and upland ecosystems. To determine the extent of harm is best done by comparing current toxic metal measurements of sediment, water, and tissue with those taken in the 1981 pre-mining baseline study.

We have completed our 2015/2016 testing of the inlet. Our citizen-funded scientific reconnaissance was designed to determine the feasibility of replicating the 1981 baseline. We also collected enough samples throughout the inlet to get a sense of the reliability of the current agency and mine compliance monitoring - really a second opinion.

Our fundamental difference with the two primary permitting agencies (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and US Forest Service) is that they are assuming, based on their testing and observations, that the mine has had little or no effect on the natural environment. They attribute toxin increases to natural seepage of background metals into the environment and they don’t find the increase of any real consequence. They base their conclusion on comparing 5 metals (we tested 11) with a baseline created after mining commenced (rather than the actual 1981 pre-mining baseline).

They acknowledge that there are two “hot spots” of toxic metals in the inlet – one is at the site of a 1989 industrial accident where an unknown amount of lead concentrate spilled into the inlet at the loading dock. It is unknown how that spilled lead has since migrated or how it has entered the food chain. The state’s solution is to let it naturally heal rather than clean it up. The second hotspot of toxins is in the upper part of the inlet, which the state attributes to natural, non-mine related background levels.

We believe that the increases are alarming, when compared to the original baseline. We conclude that the mine development and operation are causing the majority of the increased toxins.

Our study tested 130 samples of water, sediment, and tissue - each for the same 11 metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver and zinc) tested in the 1981 baseline.

Our results showed that concentrations of all 11 metals increased substantially from the 1981 baseline. The range of increases was from 1.2 times for manganese to 646 times for lead. The highest reported mercury concentration documented since the mine was developed was 77 times the maximum original baseline level and 287 times the mean inlet-wide baseline level. The average increase for 11 metals was 73 times original baseline maximum levels and 183 times the inlet-wide mean original baseline levels.

Heavy metals persist in the environment once released. The animal and plant life, water between sediment grains (pore water), and other habitats are affected by the cumulative effects of metals, added over time and often compounded by multiple metals interacting with each other (cocktail effect).

Our results demonstrated:

1. The feasibility and necessity to replicate the 1981 baseline study. This was the intent of requiring the original baseline survey, yet it has never been used.
2. A high probability that the mine has caused irreparable harm to the uplands and marine ecosystems. If unmitigated, harm will be multiplied over the life of the mine and forever.
3. The harbor seal that was taken by subsistence hunters at the outlet of Hawk Inlet, and whose liver contained the highest level of mercury ever tested in an Alaska seal must be assumed contaminated by the mine operation until proven otherwise. There is every reason to believe that the seal has bioaccumulated toxins since they are found throughout the inlet food chain.
4. Assessing the consequences of the future tailings expansion (planning anticipated to...continued on page 9
Shee Atika Land Purchase

Twenty-two thousand acres of private land on Admiralty Island located between Cube Cove and Lake Florence will be returned to public ownership. The US Forest Service has already paid Shee-Atika Inc., an urban Native Corporation based in Sitka, for the surface rights to the first parcel of 4,463 acres on the south shore of Lake Florence. Funding will continue to come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund in phases over several years, according to the Forest Service.

Title to these public lands was transferred to Shee Atika with passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1978, and the corporation cut timber on most of the property. This will create challenges according to District Ranger Chad VanOrmer who oversees the National Monument. The land will become congressionally designated Wilderness, though it contains roads, bridges, and culverts and has been almost completely logged, requiring restoration and time to heal. “We have to re-grow wilderness” he says, which is similar to what is occurring on other parts of Admiralty Island that were logged even earlier than the 1984-2002 time period when Shee Atika cut trees. VanOrmer says, “This is an interesting professional challenge and is exciting... land is resilient and doesn’t need a lot of active management, but we may need to take actions such as removing culverts for fish passage.” The first step is planning with Shee Atika, state agencies, and the public. Legal determinations will be needed as to permissible motorized uses. Another consideration is that dense stands of even-aged forest regrowth do not provide the quality of wildlife habitat that will eventually be provided as it begins to evolve into an uneven-aged, old-growth forest. Habitat recovery assessments are already taking place and according to VanOrmer, “there may be a role for the Angoon YCC crew in future rehabilitation efforts.”

This land has always been highly valued by deer and brown bear hunters, and two recreational cabins at Lake Florence and Kathleen Lake are actively used. Wilderness manager Kevin Hood says, “Someday future generations will appreciate the old-growth forests blanketing the Lake Kathleen, Ward Creek, and Lake Florence drainages and will tell stories of how the place was once logged.” This is still 100 years off according to K.J. Metcalf, president of Friends of Admiralty Island, but at least we’ve taken the first step toward healing.

Shee Atika land around Lake Florence. 1994. (James Makovjak photo). The 21,000-acre clearcut logging was regulated by the Alaska Forest Resources & Practices Act, much less stringent than standards on National Forest land. This logging targeted high-volume, old-growth spruce with minimal stream buffers, lake buffers one tree deep, and few, if any, provisions for wildlife. The dense regrowth of spruce will soon create an impenetrable thicket blocking wildlife travel, as well as the growth of understory plants essential to wildlife. It will be over 100 years before it will transition to productive old-growth fish and wildlife habitat.
Friends of Admiralty Island

Angoon’s New Airport Site Selected Near Ferry Terminal

When Angoon’s land-based airport will be built is unknown, but the location, Alternative 12a, near the ferry terminal has been finalized by FAA. This is the best alternative for the environment, access by the community, proximity to existing infrastructure, and construction cost. This all bodes well for the project to be built sooner, rather than later.

Friends has written a letter to Governor Walker supporting this project and advocating that it be built as soon as possible. We urge others to do likewise.

Advocates for Admiralty: Karl Lane and Ralph Young

by Joel Bennett

Admiralty Island is what it is now because of people who stepped up at a critical time to fight for its protection. As professional big game hunting guides, Karl Lane and Ralph Young used their influence in the 1960’s and 70’s to convince others that old-growth forests, wildlife, and wilderness needed recognition and lasting preservation. Both assisted in a landmark lawsuit that resulted in the cancelation of a timber sale on Admiralty that was the largest ever planned by the US Forest Service. And both fought to persuade the State Board of Game to expand the Pack Creek bear viewing area. At a time when opposing interests were powerful and entrenched, these efforts inspired many others to get involved and work to the same end.

I was privileged to have met Karl Lane soon after I moved to Juneau and joined the new local chapter of the Sierra Club. As members, we shared a love of the outdoors and hunting, but it was the fight for Admiralty that would solidify a friendship that would last for decades. Large timber sales were the order of the day, and US Plywood-Champion Paper, Inc. had been awarded a contract by the Forest Service to log most of the west side of million-acre Admiralty Island. A lawsuit was filed, but it was not clear that the Sierra Club had standing to sue (sufficient injury or economic loss), so Karl Lane was enlisted to be a lead plaintiff in the case. The case dragged on through the courts until the company finally backed out of the contract, setting the stage for later National Monument and Wilderness designation by Congress. “Without Karl Lane, there wouldn’t be a Monument today,” according to K.J. Metcalf, its manager from 1978-82, and another key player in the effort to save Admiralty. Ralph Young of Petersburg assisted the case by becoming a witness for the plaintiffs.

Ralph was especially effective in the fight for Admiralty since he was a prolific contributor to Field & Stream, one of the most influential outdoor magazines of its day. He pulled no punches when he wrote Last Chance for Admiralty in a 1964 issue. He described the aftermath of clearcut logging in south Admiralty’s Whitewater Bay as the total destruction of “one of the finest grizzly bear habitats on the face of the earth.” His connection to bears evolved from that of a hunter to more of a spiritual connection. He grew disenchanted with guiding hunters who killed a bear for their own ego rather than appreciating the bear for the amazing creature that it is. One must read his book, My Lost Wilderness, to understand Ralph’s quest to get inside the mind of Admiralty’s bears. He would live to see Admiralty protected and the tragedy of Whitewater not become the fate of the entire island.

Allen Hasselborg and Stan Price, two reclusive denizens of Admiralty in the early days, inspired...continued on page 9
Aleut Internment - A Dark Chapter in Alaskan’s History

by Father Michael J. Oleksa

Following their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawai‘i in December 1941, Japanese military forces also seized two islands in the Aleutian Archipelago, Attu and Kiska. In retrospect, this was a diversionary effort, since the Japanese army had no further plans to occupy any more US territory. They were rather hoping to draw some of America’s fleet away from the central Pacific. Warplanes circled Kodiak and bombed Dutch Harbor, giving the impression that a full invasion might follow. The US naval victory at Midway, however, made any further Japanese incursions impossible.

Nevertheless, the Territory of Alaska was placed on high alert for the duration of the war. If there had been any serious threat of invasion, the entire civilian population of the Aleutian Chain would have been evacuated. This was never considered. However, with often less than 48 hours notice, the Unangan Aleut people were ordered to abandon their homes, take two blanket rolls or suitcases with them, and depart for unspecified destinations. While some insist to this day that the forced evacuation and relocation was necessary for their own protection, the Aleut People were subject to abuse and neglect that led to preventable deaths of the most vulnerable members of their communities - elders and infants.

Funter Bay offered substandard housing to hundreds of Unangan refugees in an abandoned mine bunk house and several smaller Civil Conservation Corps facilities, so decrepit that occupants fell through the floors. Sheltered in ten foot by ten foot cubicles, separated sometimes only by blankets, entire families huddled in unheated buildings for weeks. Deprived of healthy food and little of it, and without medical facilities, babies and grandparents were among the first victims. Removed from their homes ostensibly for their own protection, the Unangan people faced near extinction at the hands of the government that claimed to be protecting them.

While abandoned without adequate sanitation, food or medicine at Funter Bay, their Aleutian houses were occupied by US military personnel and later looted and vandalized, their churches desecrated and even destroyed.

Meanwhile, at Excursion Inlet, not 40 miles to the northeast of Funter Bay, German Afrika Korps officers were detained in a prisoner of war camp replete with every comfort and convenience. Their imprisonment conditions were guaranteed by International Law. The Aleuts’ rights, as American Citizens were tragically violated and ignored.

No doubt cultural ignorance and racial bias played a role in the treatment of the Unangan people. If these conditions had been alleviated in the first weeks or months of the Internment, the inefficiency of the federal government could be forgiven, especially in the hectic and harrowing times of worldwide warfare. But the situation lasted for years. This was not an “episode” or an “incident” as some have termed it. This was a policy. The non-Native residents of the region were allowed to remain. Only the Aleuts were required to relocate to the camps.

Deadly Conditions

A camp supervisor's 1943 logbook chronicled a flu epidemic associated with cold, wet and unsanitary conditions.

“On Christmas Eve, three men at the St. George camp were sick. By the 27th, ten at St. George and ‘most of the workmen’ in the St. Paul camp were sick. By December 31st, it seemed that only one man from each camp was well enough to work, at the sad task of building caskets.”

...continued on page 10
Meet our Board Members . . . Butch Laughlin

Board member, Butch Laughlin, first navigated Admiralty Island’s length in 1982 aboard a 40-foot sailboat. His life has become inextricably linked with the island ever since.

Over the years Butch traded his sailboat for a pilot’s license, and at that point his involvement with Admiralty Island literally took off. In 1991, Butch and his wife Sarah started Alaska Fly ’n’ Fish Charters, a small tour business offering guided, wilderness, day excursions by floatplane. For the next 22 summers Butch’s experiences as a wilderness guide and floatplane pilot took him to locations throughout Admiralty’s length and breadth.

The business anticipated fly fishing as its main activity, and indeed Butch has fished in virtually every lake and bay on Admiralty. However, it was brown bear viewing at Pack Creek that quickly became its heart and soul. For over two decades, Butch enjoyed the privilege of sharing once in a lifetime wilderness adventures with hundreds of visitors each year. “This trip was the highlight of our Alaskan vacation.” became a constant refrain, and although 2013 was his last year of commercial operation, grateful former clients continue to reach out with warm remembrances of their time on Admiralty with Butch as their enthusiastic guide.

Although retired as a commercial pilot and guide, Butch intends to enjoy many more Admiralty adventures in the years to come and will remain a passionate advocate for the island, helping ensure future generations can continue to have their own lives immeasurably enriched by the opportunity to explore this vast wild island.

Hawk Inlet . . . continued from page 5

begin this year) cannot be adequately assessed without replicating the 1981 baseline survey.

We believe that our study has changed the debate on Hawk Inlet. Our science is sound and complete enough to ethically and legally challenge the permitting agencies’ belief that the mine is not substantially contributing to the environmental degradation of the inlet. We believe Greens Creek mine can be the model mine it is touted to be. However, it will require changes in monitoring water and tailings and their management and treatment.

“Cease being intimidated by the argument that a right action is impossible because it does not yield maximum profits, or that a wrong action is to be condoned because it pays.” - Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

Our citizen-funded science study was possible by the generous support of many of our members and a grant from the Great Blue Heron Fund, within the Juneau Community Foundation, and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC). Hawk Inlet detailed reports can be found on our website www.friendsofadmiralty.org
There is not much that can be done to assuage outrage and injustice the Aleut People suffered during the World War II. But there is something we must certainly do to honor their sacrifice and that is never to forget it. To ignore or deny their humiliation, their tragic losses, their silent suffering, would only perpetuate and add to the tragedy. We bless the graves of those who perished and dedicate memorial crosses as a visible sign of our commitment never to forget what happened at Funter Bay and to affirm that we will never let such an injustice occur again in our country.

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Oleksa was born in Pennsylvania and educated at Georgetown University, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, and the Orthodox Theological Faculty in Presov, Slovakia. He first visited Alaska in 1970, and then spent over a year working for the Orthodox Diocese in Sitka, Juneau, Angoon and Hoonah. He met his future wife, Xenia Angellan in Kwethluk, and after completing seminary in 1973. He has served in a dozen rural Alaska communities, from Dillingham and Koliganek in the west to Fairbanks in the center, and Kodiak, Old Harbor in the south, and Juneau and Sitka in the east. Father Michael has taught Alaska History and Cross-Cultural Communications at Alaska Pacific University and on all three main campuses of the University of Alaska. The recipient of numerous awards, he is probably better known for his five-part PBS television series “Communicating Across Cultures.” He currently is serving once more in Sitka, while maintaining permanent residence in Anchorage.

Interior of Funter Bay cannery barracks. Conditions at the camps were shocking. The water supply was inadequate and unavailable in the winter. There was no sewer system, no laundry or bathing facilities. Most buildings had no electricity, heat, windows, or doors. There were holes in the roofs and floors.

Courtesy Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association and the National Archives

Aleuts unloading two boats they brought with them to Funter Bay in 1942. They were expected to hunt and fish for most of their food.

Photo Courtesy of the Alaska State Library Historical Collection.
Alaskan Artist Makes Generous Donation

David Cimino has a passion for wild places, wildlife, and fly fishing. He joined Friends of Admiralty two years ago and was impressed with our Hawk Inlet study. “How can I help” was his question. Donating original art and expressing his love for Admiralty was his offer, which we gratefully accepted.

David wrote: “Admiralty Island is a spiritual place that blesses all those who love nature. It fills me with a great appreciation beyond words to see an ecosystem that functions as it should without man’s interference.

There is a personal need in my life to find a purpose for my being on this earth. Admiralty fills that need by showing me my creator’s presence in his creatures and creations. My purpose in life, at least in part is to leave this earth in as good or better condition than I found it.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of those who took the time to read this. I am fairly confident that there are more people who feel similar values and together we can make a difference by being a voice for wildlife and the wild.”

Admiralty Advocates...from page 7

and influenced both Young and Lane. They and their clients would stop by at Hasselborg’s and Price’s remote homesteads to hear colorful bear stories and rants about government bureaucrats. Price of Pack Creek had deer that came into his floathouse and bears that lived underneath it. Hasselborg, down the coast in Mole Harbor, hiked up mountains like a cat, lived on $40 a year, and quoted from his collection of the complete works of Shakespeare. A focus and love for this part of Admiralty would later result in the passage of a state game regulation in 1984 which added 75 square miles to the existing Pack Creek bear hunting closure in Seymour Canal. Without both Karl and Ralph’s names on the proposal, it would have been doomed to failure.

In spite of criticism and peer pressure, these were highly principled men willing to stand up for what they believed in. Tough old-school hunters, they felt a deep obligation to pay back for what they had gained from Admiralty. This was a legacy that can be traced back to President Theodore Roosevelt, the life-long hunter who would establish 230 million acres of National Parks, National Forests, and wildlife preserves. Those who persevere can make a great difference in conservation. We owe Karl Lane and Ralph Young a debt as two people who did.
Friends of Admiralty is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. This newsletter is provided free to those who care about Admiralty Island-Kootznoowoo, “Fortress of the Bears.” To become a member of Friends of Admiralty, just e-mail your contact information and we’ll sign you up free of charge.

Donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. To support our work, please go to www.friendsofadmiralty.org and click on “donate.”

Paperless Newsletters
We encourage all who receive our newsletters to consider switching from a mailed paper to an electronic version. The cost in paper, printing, postage, and the resulting carbon footprint could be reduced. If this appeals to you, drop us an e-mail at: admiralty_friends@yahoo.com

Yes! I want to join Friends of Admiralty Island. Membership is free.

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