

# LANDMARKS 2018

Newsletter for Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

## HIGHLIGHTS

Changing Tides

All in the Family

Bridge Creek and Stariski

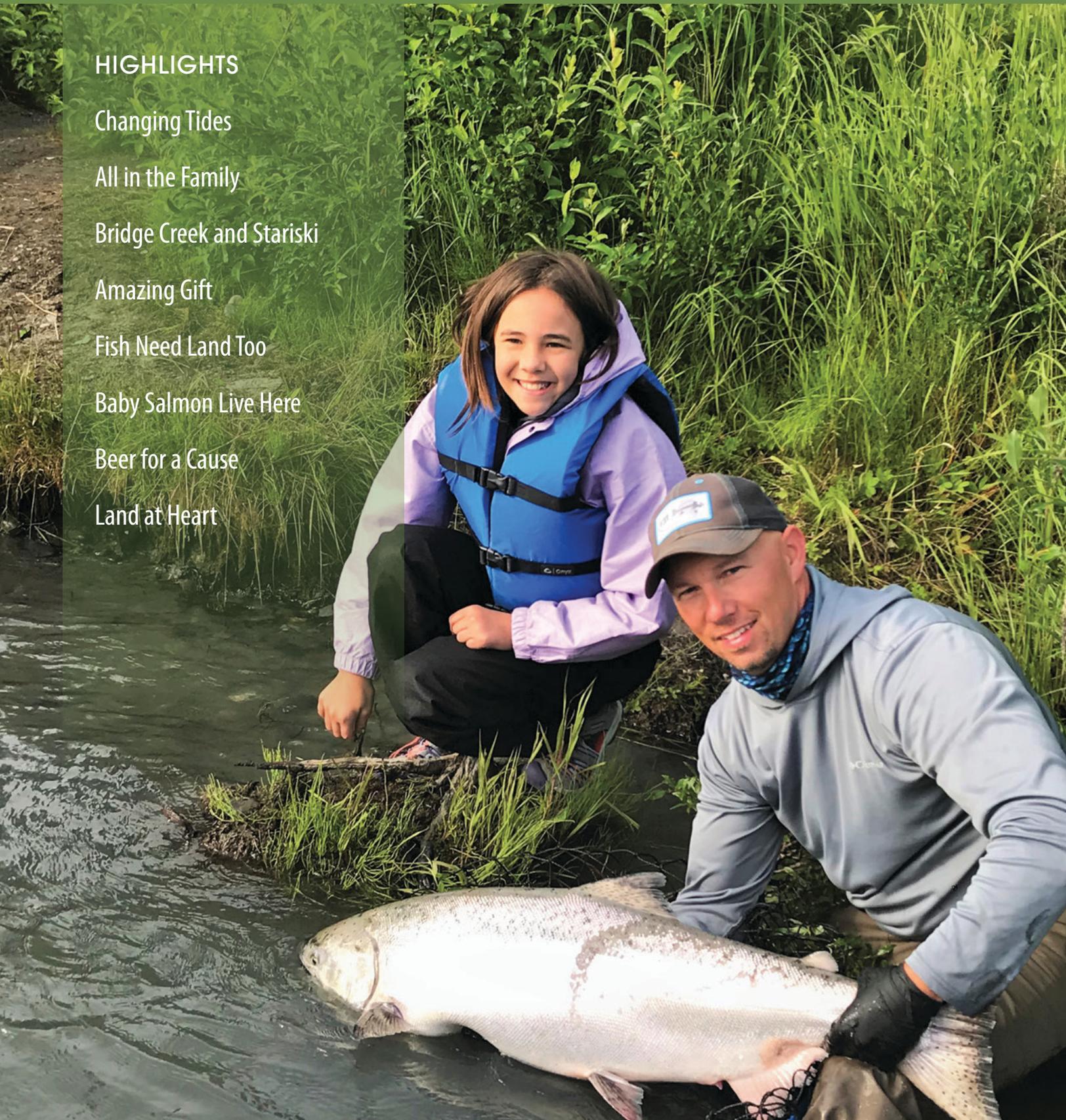
Amazing Gift

Fish Need Land Too

Baby Salmon Live Here

Beer for a Cause

Land at Heart



# Director's Column

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## KHLT Board Members

Sam Means, *President*  
Donna Aderhold, *Vice President*  
Larsen Klingel, *Treasurer*  
Hannah Heimbuch, *Secretary*  
Joey Allred  
Read Dunn  
John Mouw  
Karen Wuestenfeld

## KHLT Staff

Marie McCarty, *Executive Director*  
Jeanette Cormier, *Accounting and Grants Manager*  
Joel Cooper, *Stewardship Director*  
Courtney Dodge, *Stewardship Coordinator*  
Denise Jantz, *Communications & Development Manager*  
Lauren Rusin, *Conservation Projects Manager*  
Cathi Purington, *Volunteer Staff Member*

## KHLT Contact Information

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust  
315 Klondike Avenue  
Homer, AK 99603  
(907) 235-5263  
[www.KachemakLandTrust.org](http://www.KachemakLandTrust.org)

## Non-Board Committee Members

Trish Boyer, *Development Committee*  
Rick Cline, *Budget & Investment*  
Katie Jo Gamble, *Land & Easement*  
Bernie Griffard, *Land & Easement*  
Dave Schneider, *Budget & Investment*  
Karen Marquardt, *Land & Easement*  
Mallory Okuly, *Development Committee*  
Claire Waxman, *Development Committee*

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Marie McCarty  
Executive Director

Salmon.

If I close my eyes when thinking of Alaska's wild salmon, I imagine silver fish scales glistening on my waders after dipnetting, meaty red flesh, smoking oily skin stuck to the grill, vacuum packages stacked in my freezer, cans on the shelf, potluck dishes; each one evidence of salmon previously running wild in our Kenai Peninsula streams. After a summer with weak returns across much of Alaska, the importance of salmon is on the mind of many.

The complexity of the salmon life cycle is incredible, and it all begins with and depends

upon longevity of healthy headwaters of our back yards, along our trails, up our hillsides, and across our landscape. Egg to smolt, to adult salmon spawning – adults decompose and help feed productive salmon streams and the wildlife that depends on them.

One of our main functions as a land trust on the Kenai Peninsula is to help ensure there is a place for salmon to thrive in our wild rivers and streams far into the future. We help salmon by protecting land. Our work is one component of a network of conservation efforts across the Peninsula and all of Alaska designed to help bring back strong returns of salmon.

Honestly, it's actually quite simple in concept. In return for our desire to harvest wild foods, it is our job to ensure lasting and healthy habitat for the future. With your support, KHLT is providing lasting conservation.

Marie McCarty  
Executive Director



## Thank you, Trish!

The Board of Directors and KHLT staff thanks Trish Boyer for her amazing work as KHLT's Accounting and Grants Manager this past year. Trish will be joining her husband in the Lower 48 with their son Ben, where they are relocating for his work. Lucky for us, Trish will continue as part of the KHLT team by participating remotely as a member of our important Development Committee. Trish has proven herself as a creative thinker and her ideas and insights will continue to be very valuable in her new volunteer role. Thank you for all you have done for KHLT, Trish! ✨



Trish Boyer  
Accounting and Grants  
Manager

## Credits

Photos © KHLT (unless noted) / Layout Design © Debi Bodett / Cover Photo © Fish for the Future  
Lucky anglers on the Kenai River release a king salmon, helping to ensure that more kings will make it to their spawning grounds upstream and will inhabit our rivers far into the future.

# Changing Tides

## KHLT Welcomes New Staff, Board and Committee Members

**KHLT's** staff, Board and Committees play a central role in helping move us forward in our conservation goals. We value the time and energy each member invests in our organization. In 2018, the baton has been passed from one amazing person to the next — we honor each of you!

Since 1996, Jeanette Cormier and her family have traveled to Homer from the Lower 48 to visit. This summer, she moved here and joined the KHLT team as our new Accounting and Grants Manager. "I always knew that I would end up here one day," she explained. "I love the Kenai Peninsula and so thought KHLT would be a good fit – working to preserve a place I've loved coming to since I was just a girl, and now I'm happy to call home."



Jeanette Cormier  
Accounting and Grants  
Manager

Jeanette has worked in accounting for eight years and has a Business Administration degree and is in the process of getting her accounting degree, taking courses online. Welcome aboard, Jeanette!

KHLT would like to welcome Karen Marquardt to our Land and Easement Committee. Karen has lived in Homer since 2004 after 14 years overseas living and working in Europe. She is a real estate professional with Kachemak Group and has worked in the Homer area real estate market for over 12 years. She is a past board member for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies and is involved with many other local nonprofits including Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Pratt Museum, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club and Bunnell Street Arts Center. When not hard at work, you will probably find her out biking, hiking, or skiing. Welcome aboard, Karen!



Karen Marquardt  
Land and Easement  
Committee

Read Dunn, member of our Budget and Investment Committee and Karen Wuestenfeld, Chair of our Land and Easement Committee have both joined KHLT's Board of Directors and are participating in our Long-Term Capital Growth Task Force. We want to thank each of you for your service in these very important Land Trust roles.



Read Dunn  
Board of Directors



Karen Wuestenfeld  
Board of Directors

A big shout out to Kevin Mertzweiller for his time volunteering for KHLT. Kevin started in 2014, volunteering as a member of our Land and Easement Committee in which he was the Chair. In 2017, he joined our Board of Directors. Kevin resigned from his volunteer land trust roles to pursue other interests. Thank you for your service, Kevin.



Kevin Mertzweiller  
Board of Directors

Our longest Development Committee member, Anne Nixon, has started a new adventure. This summer, after 46 years in the Homer area including 25 years across the Bay near Halibut Cove Lagoon, Anne moved to a small town near Nelson, British Columbia, Canada. Here, she continues to pursue her passion for living in the mountains and playing the violin. Wishing you all the best in your new life, Anne!



Anne Nixon  
Development Committee



Mallory Okuly, Temporary Communication and Development Assistant, Cathi Purington, Volunteer Staff, show off the kayak Cathi's father, Richard Purington built to help raise funds for KHLT. The kayak, made out of airplane fabric, was auctioned off at our annual Gala on October 13th.

## Thank you, Mallory!

**M**allory Okuly has been with KHLT since May as our temporary Communications and Development Assistant. As her position came to a close in late October, she has shifted to continue working with us as a volunteer member of our Development Committee. Fantastic! Mallory moved to Alaska in the fall of 2011 and headed to Homer three years later. She was born and raised in New Hampshire and has a B.S. in Animal Behavior and Environmental Studies from Bucknell University

in Pennsylvania. Prior to arriving in Homer, Mallory explored parts of the east coast as well as Oregon, California, and Alaska while working as a wildlife technician studying bats, frogs, birds, and other critters. She enjoys hiking, skiing, running, camping and all-around outdoor exploration and adventuring with her dog Scout (and her husband!) along with traveling abroad whenever possible. ✧

## All in the Family

**KHLT** is completely humbled by the generosity of our amazing volunteers. Cathi Purington is one who has dedicated endless time and effort helping the Land Trust over the past year – and plans to continue into the future. She has literally become a volunteer staff person, sharing her administrative skills by working tirelessly on important record-keeping and administrative tasks that have saved the Land Trust staff both time and money. For this edition of Landmarks, we asked Cathi for insight into her family's Homer and KHLT history, and why dedicating her valuable time to our organization is so important to her.

"My first visit to Alaska was in 1951 when my dad came up to work on the Seward Highway. His uncle, Reuben Call, drove up with him and hiked down to Seward where he spent a year before traveling to Homer. Once in Homer, he applied for a

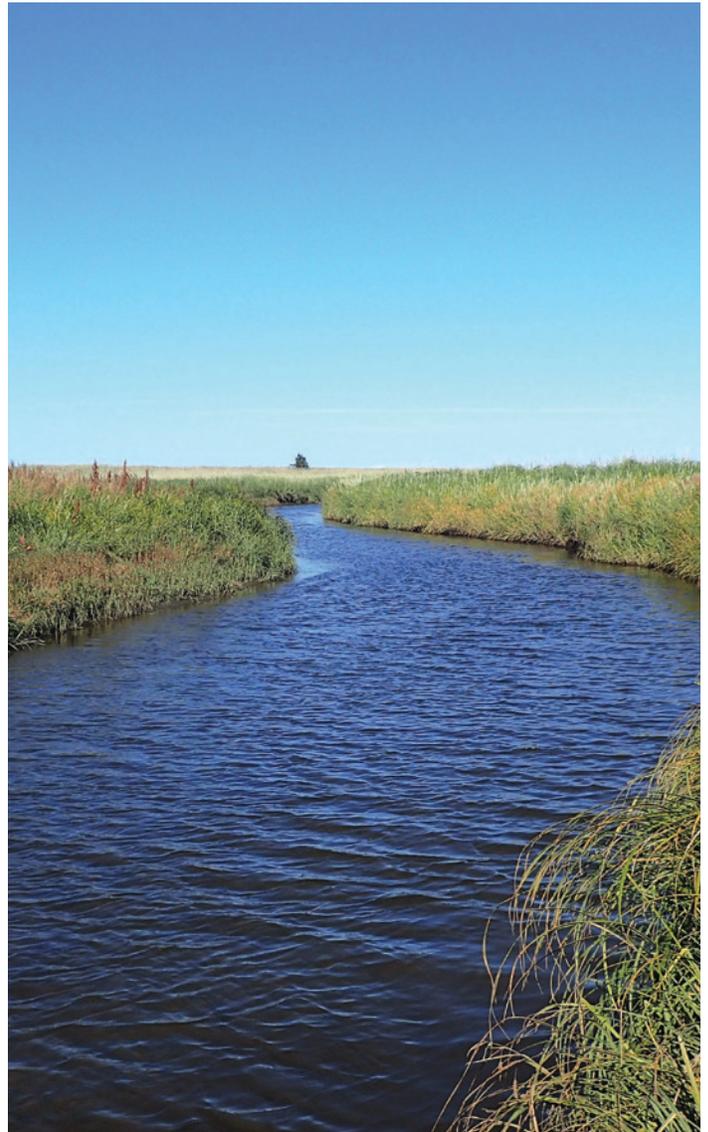
homestead. Reuben stayed in Alaska while the rest of us went back to the states. In 1985, my dad, Richard Purington, moved up to Reuben's homestead and has lived on that land ever since. He was one of the early Land Trust Board members, traveling around the Kenai Peninsula monitoring land protected by KHLT. In 2001, I moved up to Homer to be with my family, most of whom had already moved back to Homer. By that time, Reuben's homestead had become the Reuben Call Subdivision, with a few acres already protected by the Land Trust. I came and went several times, but finally moved permanently to Homer in 2015, the year I retired. Volunteering for KHLT just seems the right way to give my life purpose after retiring. I love the people I am working with and feel like I am helping to improve the quality of life in the future." – Cathi Purington ✧



Homer resident, Nancy Hillstrand with Lauren Rusin, KHLT's Conservation Projects Manager

## Stariski Estuary

Stariski Creek is home to pink salmon, silver salmon, steelhead, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout as well as 326 acres of land protected by KHLT in 2005. KHLT has been working with The Conservation Fund to transfer a parcel near the mouth of Stariski Creek into KHLT ownership for permanent protection. The parcel contains high value estuarine and wetland ecosystems, as well as uplands providing valuable habitat to bear, moose, lynx, and migratory birds, among other species. Anglers utilize the property for creek access, which KHLT will monitor closely to mitigate potential threats to the conservation values we are working diligently to protect. During site visits, staff has noted frequent signs of moose and bear, river otter latrine sites, evidence of migrating geese, along with plentiful silver salmon in the fall. The acquisition of this property will increase KHLT-protected property on Stariski Creek to over 400 acres. ✧



Stariski Creek runs through the Stariski Estuary property.

## Protecting Habitat, Open Space, and Homer's Water Source in the Bridge Creek Watershed

**KHLT** is working with Homer resident Nancy Hillstrand to protect her 302 acres near Bridge Creek in perpetuity for valuable wildlife habitat, open space, and water quality close to the City of Homer. The Bridge Creek Reservoir is important moose and bear habitat, as well as being highly valuable to the City as the sole water supply for the surrounding area. Bridge Creek is also a tributary of the Anchor River, meaning that it contributes directly to healthy salmon, Dolly Varden, and steelhead habitat. Protection of this land in the Bridge Creek Watershed ensures that groundwater and streams have a clean and healthy environment through which to filter before entering the Reservoir. Keeping this piece of land in a virtually pristine condition directly benefits the entire ecosystem, from Homer residents to baby salmon in the Anchor River. KHLT successfully collaborated with the Homer City Council to acquire stewardship funds from the City's Water Reserves to maintain the valuable characteristics of this property forever. ✧



Marilyn Johnson and  
Ralph Van Dusseldorp

## An Amazing Gift

This year, Ralph Van Dusseldorp and Marilyn Johnson donated their beautiful property and home on Beaver Creek in Kenai to KHLT. Their property is classified as non-conservation land (we call Tradeland) due to its small size and the surrounding neighborhood development. Ralph and Marilyn gifted KHLT the property to sell with the goal of generating funds to protect valuable habitat on the Kenai Peninsula, which they so dearly love. They share thoughts on their incredible gift below.

“This was our second experience at philanthropy this year. In April we were in Patagonia, Arizona to dedicate a birding Ramada at Tucson Audubon’s Paton Center for Hummingbirds. At that time, I talked about what we planned to do with our Alaska property; then a long summer away! I describe philanthropy as an attempt to repay and help guarantee the ongoing protection of the environment that is so important to us.

We have had a long and interesting 50+ years in Alaska. I first lived on Admiralty Island in SE Alaska among the many brown bears. We met in Alaska, worked together and traveled extensively all over the state when money was plentiful during “pipeline days”. And finally, we paddled all the wild rivers north of the Arctic Circle and many more to really experience the grandeur of this state.

Alaska has been good to us and philanthropy is a way of being good back! We hope that the proceeds from the sale of our beautiful home on Beaver Creek will help keep the seals visiting at high tide and the cranes nesting on the far bank.

Thank you for helping us do this. With love for Alaska, Marilyn and Ralph” ✧



KHLT supporter, Kyle Brackett fishes along the Anchor River.

## KHLT's Anchor River Work Continues

Through years of conservation effort, KHLT now owns and stewards 131 acres along the river, preserving a total of two miles on the riverbank, and has helped other conservation organizations acquire an additional 68 acres. KHLT is currently in the midst of completing a 5-year plan for protection, stewardship, landowner engagement, and collaboration between organizations working within the watershed. KHLT has facilitated multiple planning meetings this year with partners including Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Kenai Peninsula Borough, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kachemak Moose Habitat, Inc. (KMHI), Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cook Inletkeeper, Kenai Watershed Forum, and Alaska Department of Transportation. KMHI and KHLT are also collaborating to pursue federal funds in 2019 to acquire parcels near the Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area. ✧

## Notes from the Field

### KHLT Stewardship

## Youth Join Smithsonian Botanist to Look for Native Orchids

This summer, KHLT staff and a group of Homer youth went on an adventure to discover native orchids on KHLT protected land. The group, led by Dennis Whigham, Senior Botanist with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the North America Orchid Conservation Center, searched for native orchids with the goal of collecting the seeds to store in a seed bank for the future. The Orchid Project includes research on growing orchid fungus to better understand the interaction between orchids and fungus and includes creating protocols to propagate and restore native orchids.

KHLT's Stewardship Director, Joel Cooper and Stewardship Coordinator, Courtney Dodge helped Whigham facilitate the excursion for Homer Outdoor Wilderness Leadership (HoWL) students. The scouting trip took place on the Land Trust's Effler property, an area made up of sensitive headwater fen wetlands. The headwater fen is part of the Bridge Creek Watershed Conservation District, the source of Homer's drinking water. This wonderful field trip was partially funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. ✧



Orchid field trip participants gather on our Effler trail viewing platform located on Skyline Drive in Homer.



HoWL youth pose for a group photo after helping move and build new garden beds on our Poopdeck property.

## Stewardship Partners Highlights

**HoWL** (Homer Outdoor Wilderness Leaders) helped give our garden at our office property some much needed TLC. This summer we moved planter boxes, created two additional boxes, and expanded the moose fence. HoWL also had a few days of trail work helping improve our Calvin and Coyle Trail in Homer.

### What is HoWL?

HoWL is a non-profit based in Homer dedicated to empowering youth leaders through outdoor education experiences in the Kachemak Bay area. Within the program, the kids and teens who participate learn skills like survival, conservation, and leadership through fun activities all year long like hiking, camping, foraging, paddle boarding, and lots of smores by the fireside. The HoWL youth also participate in local community service projects helping other conservation and education-based non-profits, plus they lead an annual citywide trash clean up. Go HoWL!

HoWL and KHLT have quite a few things in common, both organizations exist because of the inspiration and enjoyment of the lands of Alaska afford and specifically the Kenai Peninsula. Our organizations hope to foster community conservation and appreciation of land through experience.

A HUGE thank you to the HoWL organization for their help this season and if you'd like to know more about them or have a youth interested in participating, visit their website [www.howlalaska.org](http://www.howlalaska.org). ✧



In October, members of North Pacific Fisheries Association participated in a Fish Need Land Too field trip.

## Fish Need Land Too!

**F**ish Need Land Too is a collaborative program with KHLT and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), bringing small groups into the field to discover how land feeds salmon. NERR Biologists Coowe Walker and Steve Baird help participants discover the terrestrial lives of salmon and examine how healthy land habitats, and the conservation efforts that protect them, help provide room and board for juvenile fish. If you're interested in joining a future Fish Need Land Too field trip, please email Denise at [denise@kachemaklandtrust.org](mailto:denise@kachemaklandtrust.org) or call (907) 235-LAND. Goooo salmon!

**NEW!** Join us for a Headwater to Estuary Field Trip with Kachemak Bay NERR as part of our Fish Need Land Too initiative – 2019 Date TBD.



Juvenile coho salmon in a Phototarium



Fishermen Katie Pitzman and Shelly Laukitis and Kachemak Bay NERR Biologist, Steve Baird

This summer, a small group of local fishermen including Claire Neaton and Emma Teal Laukitis of Salmon Sisters joined Fish Need Land Too field trips. They shared what they learned by writing the story *Salmon and People in the Kenai Lowlands*, published in their Salmon Sisters blog on August 28, 2018. They also created a Be a Salmon Steward infographic shown on the right. Fantastic! ✧

# Be a Salmon Steward

SALMON ARE EVERYWHERE

① GET ORGANIC  
with gardens  
and landscaping



② NURTURE  
Streamside  
alders that  
provide nutrients  
to the water



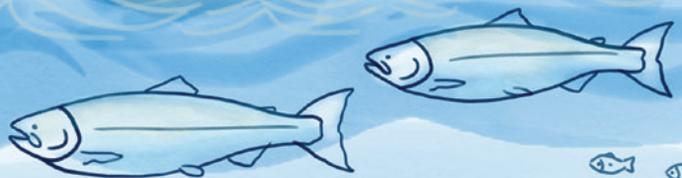
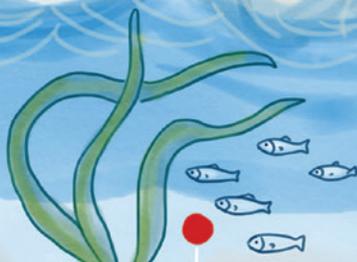
③ PREVENT EROSION  
leave shade  
and pool-  
making trees  
intact



④ CLEAN UP  
litter on the Shore



Nutrients  
toxins  
Sediments



Infographic created by Salmon Sisters and available to purchase at [salmonsisters.com](http://salmonsisters.com).



View from Inspiration Ridge Preserve

## Additional Protected Acreage Honors Edgar P. Bailey

The Edgar P. Bailey Estate recently added 17.28-acres to an existing conservation easement held by KHLT. Nina Faust, as Trustee of the Edgar Bailey Estate, conserved this additional land to honor Ed as her 45-year partner. The addition to their Inspiration Ridge Preserve land both increases the protected land in the area and connects five existing 457.15 acres of conservation easements previously donated to KHLT.

“Recently reacquired, these unprotected 5 lots were a big hole in the donut of the Preserve’s conservation lands. We had decided to add them to one of the existing easements, and I felt compelled to follow through,” explained Nina.

Ed and Nina’s joint dream was to create a preserve, and the addition of the new acres adds to their conservation legacy and their mutual and inspiring vision. ✧



Ed and Nina Faust photo © Wild North Photography

**BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND**

**EXPERIENCES**

During the summer, KHLT offers Boots-on-the-Ground Experiences on land trust protected properties.

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**2019 BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCES**

We will be offering three fantastic opportunities in 2019. We hope you'll join us!

- ▶ **Birding by Ear with Betsy - June 8**
- ▶ **Inspiration Ridge Hike with Nina Faust - July 27**
- ▶ **NEW! Millennial Bike Ride to the Head of the Bay**

**Date and Details TBD**



Hikers Kathy Hill, Doug O'Brien, Mallory Okuly, and Bernie Griffard enjoy the views on Inspiration Ridge Preserve.

## Birding by Ear with Betsy

In early June, Betsy Webb led a Birding by Ear walk on our Calvin and Coyle Nature Trail as part of our Boots-on-the-Ground program. After the walk Betsy exclaimed, "We had a terrific walk, and everyone was so enthusiastic that we are getting together again later this week to review the bird songs that we heard. Several in the group even downloaded the iBird app so they could explore new sounds on their own!" ✧



Looking for birds on KHLT's Calvin and Coyle Trail

## Inspiration Ridge Preserve Hike with Nina Faust

In late July, Nina Faust led a small group hike to learn about wildlife corridors, sandhill cranes, and land stewardship on her Inspiration Ridge Preserve (IRP) property. The approximately 3-mile, round-trip hike leads to the Preserve's cottonwood riparian area.

"This hike explores a large portion of Inspiration Ridge's various habitats with stunning views of the drainages that link IRP to the Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area," Nina said. "When we finished this hike, everyone had a much better idea of the connections this Preserve makes between winter and summer habitats for wildlife traversing the area and how vital it is to save a corridor like this."

Explore this Preserve and its diverse habitats and connecting wildlife corridors on next summer's IRP Boots-on-the-Ground Hike. ✧



The King Maker program is both an educational and outreach campaign supporting our state's greatest asset — salmon. King Maker recognizes individual Alaskans, from landowners to schoolchildren, and this year, an organization, for making a difference for salmon. Do you know a potential King Maker? Let us know! We want to hear from you.



Soldotna residents and avid fishermen Mark Wackler and Greg Brush accept the King Maker award on behalf of the Fish for the Future Program.

## Fish for the Future Crowned King Maker

In late September we were super excited to crown the amazing Fish for the Future program King Maker! This award recognizes the amazing and positive benefits this important catch and release initiative has for salmon on the Kenai Peninsula.

Fish for the Future features a photo contest, inviting anglers to submit one hook and release king salmon photo or video per king released for a chance to win a prize. Only photos and videos that display ethical and responsible hook and release techniques that put the welfare of the fish first will be displayed and considered for the Fish for the Future awards program.

The initiative helps ensure that more king salmon will make it to their spawning grounds upstream and will be in our rivers far into the future. It also allows anglers opportunity while minimizing impact. Great!

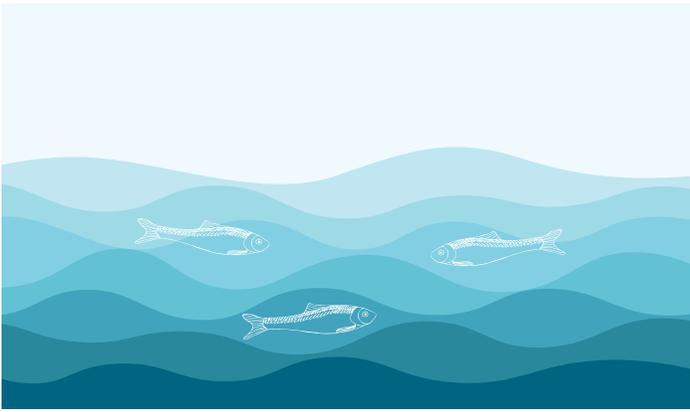
We want to thank Soldotna residents and avid fishermen Mark Wackler and Greg Brush, who accepted the award on Fish for the Future's behalf. And thank you Fish for the Future for making a difference for salmon on the Peninsula. As Greg expressed "It's all about the fish". We love that! For more information and to submit YOUR catch and release king photo visit [www.fishforthefuture.net](http://www.fishforthefuture.net).



photo left to right — Matt Steffy, Parks Maintenance Coordinator, City of Homer / Joel Cooper, Stewardship Director, KHLT / Dave Lewis, Homer Independent Living Center / Zak Parkin, Trail Designer with Ptarmigan Trails / Tella Bacher, Trails Advocate, Homer Independent Living Center / Tess Dally, ADA Compliance Committee, City of Homer

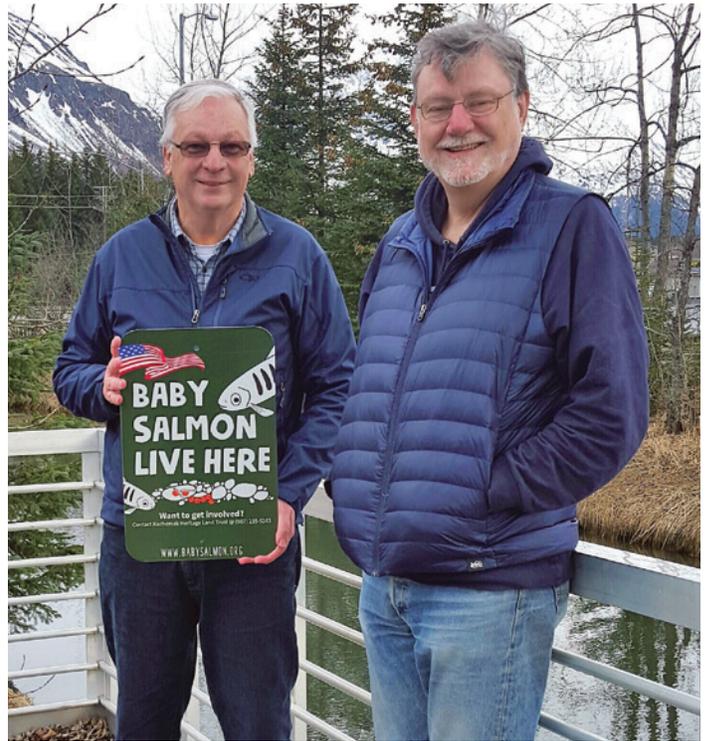
## Universal Poopdeck Trail in the Works

**KHLT** is planning to build an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible trail across our Poopdeck property and adjacent land owned by the City of Homer. The construction of the trail is scheduled to take place next summer, pending funding approval. KHLT has been working with the City of Homer, the Homer Independent Living Center, and Alaska State Parks, and worked with the National Park Service's Recreational Trails Program and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program. Stay tuned as this wonderful community project develops.



## Baby Salmon Live Here!

In April, KHLT's Communications and Development Manager Denise Jantz continued our Baby Salmon Live Here (BSLH) work in Seward. With permission from the City of Seward and the help and support of Seward residents Mark Luttrell and Tom Tougas, multiple Baby Salmon Live Here signs were installed on City properties. KHLT looks forward to continuing to work on the positive BSLH outreach initiative in Seward in 2019. Stay tuned for updates!



Tom Tougas (left) and Mark Luttrell (right) of Seward help with the KHLT Baby Salmon Live Here initiative. Tom purchased signs supporting the Seward project and Mark has been assisting as a project volunteer.

In late September, KHLT staff and Kathy Heindl, volunteer and our 2017 King Maker, installed Baby Salmon Live Here signs in Soldotna's Centennial Park along the Kenai River. We look forward to having more signs installed across the Peninsula to help highlight how literally, salmon live all around us! ✨



Lauren Rusin, BooBoo, Kathy Heindl, Denise Jantz, Courtney Dodge, Joel Cooper, Mallory Okuly, Marie McCarty, and Mouse at Centennial Park.



KRBC Owner, Doug Hogue, and contest winner, Cheryl Newell



KRBC Owner, Doug Hogue, with design by Tamsyn "Tammy" Tyler

## Beer for a Cause!

Our Soldotna neighbor, Kenai River Brewing Co (KRBC), generously brewed a beer supporting KHLT – donating a portion of the sales to our important conservation organization. *How fantastic is that?!* KRBC held a First Tap event on September 28, 2018. The Double Spruce Tip IPA is currently available on tap at KRBC and Alice's Champagne Palace. The spruce tips were harvested from Land Trust properties and our Stewardship Director, Joel Cooper, was excited to help with the brewing.

As part of this great opportunity, KHLT held a Battle of the Beer Label contest. There was a tie for first place and six-packs will be available for purchase by the beginning of 2019 which will include three cans of each design. Congratulations to Cheryl Newell of Sterling and Tammy Tyler of Seward for their winning entries! Monies raised will help fund KHLT's annual stewardship responsibilities; stewarding irreplaceable lands under our care from the head of Kachemak Bay to the Kenai River. ✧



Daisy Lee Andersen Bitter accepts her Land at Heart Award during KHLT's 17th Annual Gala. photo © Nina Faust

*Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting Open Spaces and Wild Places, our 17th Annual Gala.*

**Ulmer's**  
Drug & Hardware



## KHLT's Land at Heart Award and Annual Gala

For several years now, we have been honoring people in our community with our Land at Heart Award. This award recognizes individuals "For distinguished contributions to land conservation on the Kenai Peninsula." We were incredibly honored to present this year's award to Daisy Lee Andersen Bitter. Daisy Lee received her award at our 17th Annual Gala, Open Spaces and Wild Places, that was held Saturday, October 13 at Wasabis.

This fun, annual event features awesome music by the Spit City Slickers, an incredible pig roast, auctions and raffles with Gary Thomas as our amazing auctioneer, and of course, time with fabulous friends and neighbors. We want to thank all participating individuals, businesses and Gala sponsors for helping to make this such an incredible event. ✧



Kenai Peninsula peat wetlands / photo © Kachemak Bay NERR

# Possible Wetland Or “Blue Carbon” Market Incentives on the Kenai

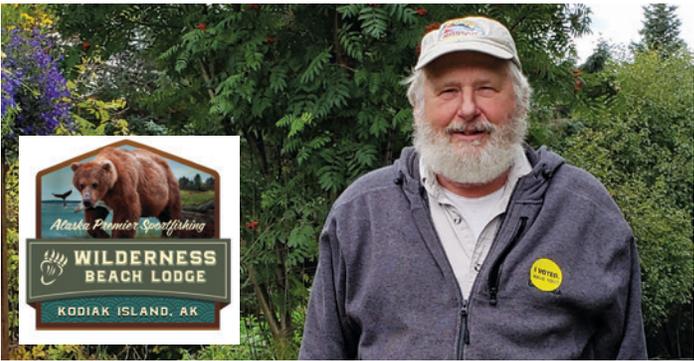
By Syverine Abrahamson  
KBNERR Coastal Training Program Coordinator

The carbon stored in coastal, marine, and wetland ecosystems is "blue carbon". On the Kenai Peninsula this means the thick peat in our wetlands. This summer, landowners and resource managers explored carbon market incentives for conserving wetlands during field trips to KHLT properties. Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) staff led these brainstorming field trips with visiting experts from Waquoit Bay NERR, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and Silvestrum Climate Associates. This partnership builds on the Kachemak Bay NERR's expertise in wetland ecosystem functions, and explores opportunities to engage local landowners in valuing the natural and financial benefits of wetlands. Stay tuned for updates on the exciting Blue Carbon Project collaboration! ✧



## Pick.Click.Give.

Pick.Click.Give. is a fantastic way for Alaskans to support their favorite non-profit organizations by donating part of their permanent fund dividend (PFD). Please consider KHLT when applying for your 2019 PFD! ✧



Dave Weber, the winner of our 2018 Kodiak Raffle

## Trip to Kodiak Raffle

Home resident David Weber was the lucky winner of our 2018 Raffle. Dave won a six-night all-inclusive stay for two at Wilderness Beach Lodge (WBL) in Port Lions, on Kodiak Island. The prize also included 50,000 air miles to help get them there. Wow! Thank you, Susan and Travis Larson of WBL, our Alaska Airlines Mileage donors, and congratulations Dave! ✧



KHLT volunteer Amanda Kelley

## Volunteers Rock!

Volunteers are incredibly important to our conservation work. Above, volunteer Amanda Kelley helps monitor one of KHLT's protected properties during our 2018 field season. If you're interested in volunteering in our office or out in the field, give us a call at (907) 235-LAND. ✧

## 30th Anniversary

2019 is KHLT's 30th Anniversary! We will be celebrating throughout the year – stay tuned for details! ✧



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[www.KachemakLandTrust.org](http://www.KachemakLandTrust.org)

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## KHLT and YOU

We invite you to join us in preserving treasured lands on the Kenai Peninsula for the future.

By working together, we make a difference!

– The KHLT Board and Staff



KHLT staff Courtney Dodge and Lando  
at the head of Kachemak Bay.

Consider giving ahead  
to future generations by  
including the Land Trust  
in your estate plans.