

**Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Annual Report January 1 - December 31, 2003**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The year 2003 proved to be very successful for WISE. This was our first year to begin our programs and accomplish some of our goals. We kicked off the year with an Open House on February 22. In April and September we initiated two student programs - the 5th and 6th grade Earth Discovery Day and the 2nd and 3rd grade Changing Seasons. Our lecture series started with a presentation of the November 3, 2002 earthquake during the Open House. We are also working on the Glennallen Trail Project which includes working with Glennallen school students. This project is to be completed in 2004.

WISE formally sealed a partnership with Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST) and they played a large role in implementing the WISE programs. A formal cooperative agreement still has to be completed. Thanks to Superintendent Gary Candelaria, Devi Sharp, Edmond Roberts and the support from all of the staff. A special thanks goes to Glenn Hart for all his help and leadership on the programs held throughout the year.

We received sponsorships from Alaska Conservation Foundation, Wells Fargo, WRST, Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire the needed supplies for the two student programs.

The student programs were a huge success with many positive comments from students, teachers, administrators, presenters, and volunteers. They eagerly anticipate continuing these programs each year.

We sponsored two lectures at WRST Theater that were well received by the public.

OPEN HOUSE

On February 22 WISE had its first Open House at WRST Theater and Visitor Center. Dan Solie and Suzanne McCarthy gave a fine presentation filled with slides and demonstration visuals of the Denali Fault Earthquake. Forty-five people signed the guest book and we counted over 50 people in attendance. After the lecture there was a question and answer period which culminated into the visitor center for refreshments and music. The Open House was a success and everyone enjoyed learning about the earthquake that happened in their back yard, as well as what WISE is all about.

EARTH DISCOVERY DAY

This 5th and 6th grade program was fashioned after Outdoor Days at BLM Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Eighty-eight students from the Copper Valley attended this full day program at WRST Visitor Center grounds. Thirteen stations were set up outdoors in a loop and groups of 6-7 students rotated around the loop every half hour. Presenters included volunteers and employees from agencies and organizations: WRST, BLM, Bird Treatment and Learning Center, Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Ahtna, US Forest Service, a local trapper, and local owl expert. Stations included Leave No Trace, Fur Bearers of the Copper Basin, Owl pellets, Map and compass, live owls, rocks, estimating timber volume in a forest, bears, wildlife community puzzle, aging a fish, living a subsistence lifestyle, and insects.

Pre-site visits were done at all the schools to prepare students and teachers what to expect for the day. This proved to be very beneficial as far as what clothes to wear and the routine. The Copper River School District bused students from all six schools in the District. Teachers and volunteer parents acted as chaperones for the groups. There were a total of 48 volunteers. Students were given "Passports" in which they answered questions about each station's activity, and then received a rubber stamp that depicted what the station was about. Prizes were given out at the end of the day, donated by Wells Fargo and BLM. Monetary donations were received from Alaska Conservation Foundation, Wells Fargo, and Wrangell Mountains Center. Wells Fargo also donated 100 water bottles and 3 day packs. WRST donated Leave No Trace cards, use of the facilities, along with employee time.

Evaluations were given to teachers, presenters and students. All the comments were very positive and they look forward to next year.

CHANGING SEASONS

Earth Discovery Day was such a success we received requests from some of the teachers to develop a program for 2nd and 3rd graders. Thus, Changing Seasons was fashioned after Earth Discovery Day on a smaller scale. This program was conducted at three different schools on three different days. Students from some of the schools were bused to the host school. A total of 95 students participated and 40 volunteers including presenters, teachers and volunteers. Pre-site visits were also conducted by WISE and WRST.

This half day program had four stations – trees and leaves, animals, fall gathering and observations. Glenn Hart also conducted a predator/prey game which proved to get the students warmed up and release a little energy.

Partners for this program included WRST, BLM, Copper River Resource Conservation and Development, Alaska Coalition, Cooperative Extension Service, and Copper Valley volunteers.

Evaluations from students, teachers, administrators, and presenters were very positive. Suggestions were made on how to make things a little more comfortable, with a break for warming up and using the bathroom. Also, suggestions were given to change the program for next year and stagger the content from year to year.

LECTURE SERIES

The second lecture series WISE sponsored was a live owl presentation the night of Earth Discovery Day. This was conducted for the general public at the WRST Theater. Twenty eight people signed the register. Students that participated in Earth Discovery Day came with their parents to see the birds up close. Not all students were able to visit the owl station during the day.

GLENNALLEN TRAIL PROJECT

WISE is working as a partner with Copper Valley Resource Conservation Development on an interpretive trail in Glennallen on Alaska Bible College land. During the spring, summer and fall months we worked with 5th, 6th, and 11th grade students clearing brush along the trail, re-routing portions of it, and identifying plants and animals that could be interpreted. Winter months are spent with the students in the classroom researching information they collected, and giving instruction on the different aspects of good Interpretation.

This partnership also includes the National Parks Rivers Trails and Conservation, BLM, SEND International, Alaska Bible College, Glennallen Boy Scout Troop 520, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Copper River School District, Copper River Watershed Project, Copper Valley Economic Development Council and Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce.

A Special Thank You to the following Sponsors, Partners, and Volunteers for their time, resources, donations, and use of facilities:

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office
BLM Campbell Creek Science Center
Ahtna
Alaska Coalition Rachel James
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Alaska Dept. Natural Resources
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Alaska Public Lands Information Center
Laurie DeWispelaere
Dave Bruss
Bird Treatment and Learning Center

Devi Sharp Volunteer
US Forest Service
Wells Fargo
Sandy Williams, Volunteer
WISE Volunteer Janelle Eklund
WISE Volunteer Paul Boos
WISE Volunteer Dave Wellman
WISE Volunteer Gay Wellman
WISE Volunteer Carla Schierholt

Wrangell St. Elias National Park
and Preserve

Barbara Cellarius Volunteer
Cooperative Extension Service, Ben Siefert
Copper River School District and 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Grade Teachers
Gateway School District and 2nd and 3rd grade Teacher
Bev Oatman Volunteer
Prince William Sound Community College, Suzanne McCarthy
Resource Conservation & Development, Arlene Rosenkrans
SAPA
Rob Terwilliger – Wrangell Mountains Center
University of Alaska HAARP Education Outreach, Dr. Daniel Solie
And thank you to all the numerous chaperones – parents and volunteers - that helped during Earth Discovery Day and the Changing Seasons Program.

TOTAL ESTIMATED IN-KIND DONATIONS \$38,000

WISE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003

Income

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alaska Conservation Foundation	\$500.00
Janelle Eklund/Paul Boos Dues	70.00
Donations	3.00
Donation Devi and Hunter Sharp	20.00
Donation, Arlene Rosenkrans	20.00
Rob Terwilliger Dues	35.00
Wells Fargo	400.00
Dave and Gay Wellman Dues	70.00
Carla Schierholt Dues	35.00
Wrangell Mountains Center Donation	75.00
Donation, Vicki Snitzler & Marshall Neek	20.00
Suzanne McCarthy (PWSCC) Dues	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,283.00

Expenses

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Service Charges for 10 months	\$ 43.23
Pencils for EDD	47.97
Ad for Open House	60.00
Postage	37.00
Copies:Passports, pencil sharpeners, ink pads for EDD	195.12
Rite in Rain paper for EDD	42.00
Rubber Stamps for EDD	81.65
Bird Treatment and Learning Center for EDD	200.00
Name Tags and tape for EDD	48.95
Colored xorox paper for brochure	15.95
Postage for EDD	5.40
Rob Terwilliger – travel for EDD	75.00
Postage	14.21
State of Alaska Biennial Report	15.00
Postage – Changing Seasons	<u>9.24</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$890.72
Income	\$1,283.00
Minus Expenses	<u>890.72</u>
Balance	392.28
Plus Carryover from 2002	<u>219.30</u>
End of Year Balance	\$ 611.58
<u>Other Assets:</u>	
100 Water Bottles Donated by Wells Fargo	\$ 185.00
10 Day Packs Donated by Wells Fargo	<u>160.00</u>
Total	345.00
Total Assets	\$ 956.58