



Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

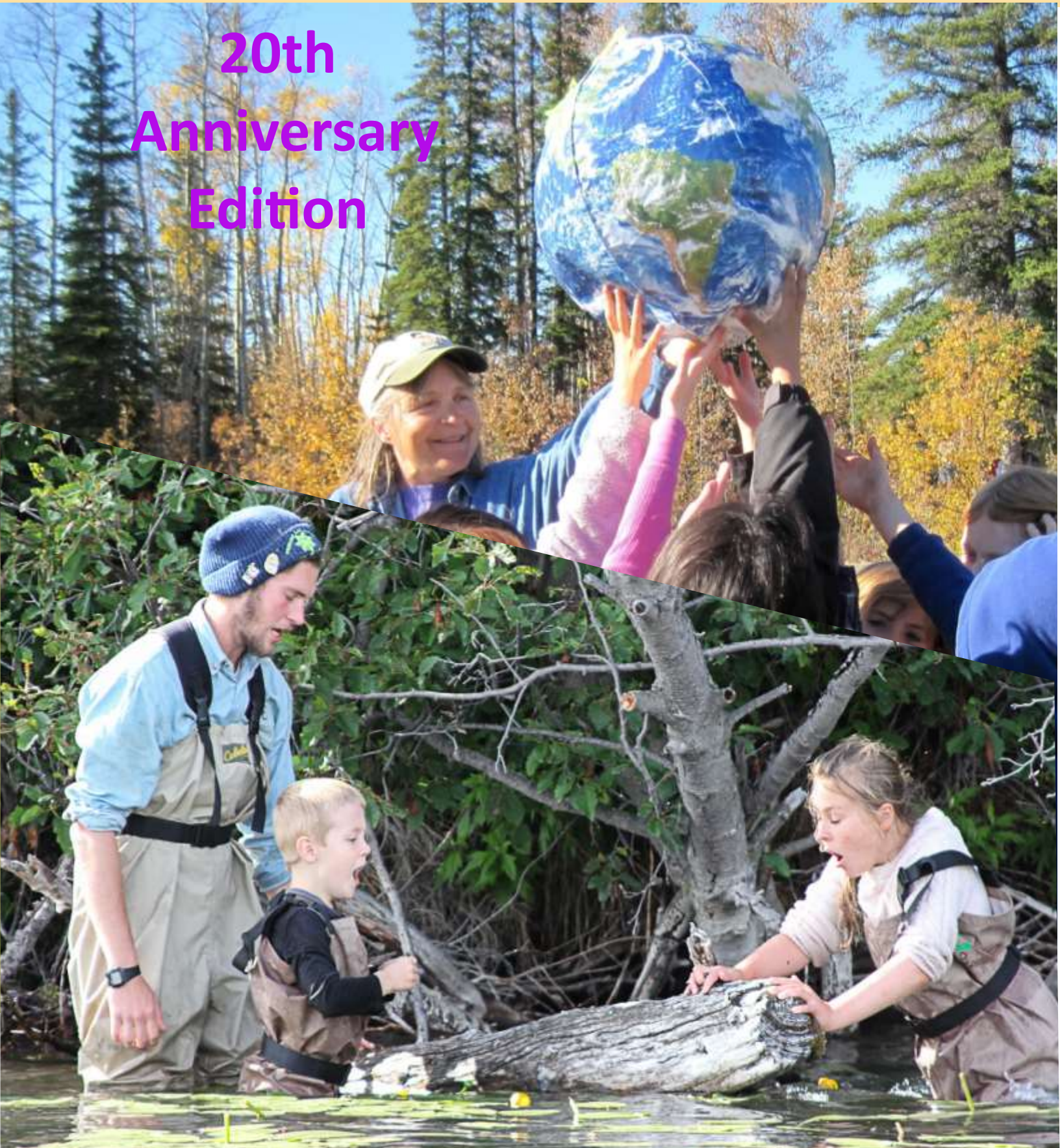
**WISE | LEARN. GROW.  
GET OUTSIDE.**



[www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org)

Volume 19 Winter 2021/2022

**20th  
Anniversary  
Edition**





# Welcome!



*WELCOME to all WISE supporters from your newest WISE Board member!*

*At first blush, as the newest Board member, I seem like an unlikely candidate to write the reflection for this year's annual newsletter celebrating 20 years of WISE. I may be new to WISE but I'm not new to living in the Basin, having spent nine years here working as the first permanent interpreter and educator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve and starting a family here. We moved away in 1997 and I returned exactly 20 years later to serve as the park's Chief of Interpretation & Education. I felt like I had come back home.*

*A lot had changed in 20 years! Upon my return to the Copper Basin in 2017, I noticed changes to both the physical landscape and to the communities of the Basin. I was struck by the receding and flattening of glaciers including the Matanuska, the Kennicott, the Root and the Worthington. I noticed the "shrubification" of the roadside vistas due to a warming climate, and the addition of invasive species like sweet clover to the roadsides. I noticed there were fewer people living in the Glennallen area and many boarded up businesses.*

*On the plus side, the hardy local people still treasured the natural abundance of salmon, moose and caribou and tilled amazing vegetable gardens. In a change that I found most refreshing, the people talked about the importance of the Copper River watershed and were proud of their location at the gateway to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. They had developed a deep appreciation of the natural world around them and their role in conserving it. This change, I believe is partly due to the work of WISE and its partners (NPS, BLM, Copper River Watershed Project, etc.) in providing immersive, educational experiences for a generation of youth in the outdoors. WISE and its partners have fostered positive change in community attitudes towards the environment and an*

*appreciation for the natural world through science and indigenous knowledge.*

*The other big change was the opening of the Wrangell-St.*

*Elias National Park Visitor Center (which I helped to plan!) and Princess Lodge both of which provide trails, scenic vistas, and facilities for interpretive and educational programs. The visitor center grounds provided a perfect location for the first Earth Discovery Day hosted by WISE and its partners in 2003. In May 2022, we hope you can join us to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Earth Discovery Day.*

*I'm so thankful to have this opportunity to share my story as we all, collectively, reflect on 20 years of WISE (2002-2022) in the Copper River Valley. Thank you to our amazing Executive Director, Robin Mayo, for her leadership and resilience navigating these difficult times. Thank you to our founders who have shared the WISE origin story in this newsletter. And*

*thank you to our donors, volunteers and partners who recognize the impact that WISE has had in changing the lives of our youth and preserving the beautiful environment in which we live.*

*Here's to the next 20 years!*

*Margie Steigerwald  
WISE Board Member*

## **Thank You!**

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# 2021 Program Highlights

**Winter Fun Day** went virtual, with families signing up to get a box in the mail packed with goodies and craft supplies. Then we met online to learn how to make ice sculptures, spruce cone gnomes, and bird feeders.

**Alaska Forum on the Environment** was held virtually this year. WISE teamed up with partners for a presentation on how to get through tough times by relying on partnerships.

**WISE Annual Meeting** featured inspiring words from long-time supporter Danny Rosenkrans, and the chance to connect virtually with WISE friends from near and far.

**In-Class Science Lessons** took us to Glennallen School for “Fun Fridays” and the chance to test an innovative new wildfire curriculum.

**Camp Chosen Frozen** this year was three days of Ice Fishing field trips for students from Kenny Lake, Glennallen, and Upstream Learning, plus a hike to the Castner

Glacier Ice Cave with homeschool families.

**Family Ice Fishing Day** turned into a week of activities, including a virtual fishing lesson with local experts, ice fishing kits to borrow, and drilling holes on local lakes.

**Discovery Packs**, 24 of them to be exact, were placed at 3 local libraries, where families can check them out. See the article on Page 6 For more on this new program.

**Earth Discovery Day** in May was held at Glennallen School. 4th, 5th and 6th graders enjoyed a day of sunshine and adventures including

ancient weapons, bear safety, and analyzing the weather like a firefighter.

**Science Lecture Series** grew by leaps and bounds with a new online format. Topics included the Nelchina Caribou Herd, Archaeology, Birding, and Geolinguistics! Learn more on page 7.

**Copper River Stewardship Program** was a full 10 day program with a fantastic cohort of learners. We travelled to the northernmost Rainbow Trout habitat in the world, and also studied Cutthroat Trout on the Copper River Delta.

**WISE/BLM Summer Hikes** were held for families and small groups, and we finished the season with an amazing trek to the top of Willow Mountain.

**Aquatic Ecology Days** were held three times,

with plenty of muddy fun, trapping juvenile fish, and dredging for macroinvertebrates.

**Geology Day** took us to the banks of the Copper River, to geek out about rocks, hydrology, and other miracles of nature. Many geology lessons incorporate food, so we core sampled cupcakes and compared candy bars to the major types of rocks.

**Copper Country Discovery Tour and Field Sketching and Watercolor Tour** were unable to operate again this season due to the continued closure of the Copper River Princess Lodge. We are hopeful that next summer they will be able to resume.

**Nic’anilen na’**, our property at Lower Tonsina, is getting a management plan! We are working with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program on an intensive planning and visioning process. We were excited to host our first program on site, an Aquatic Ecology Day.



*This little guy stopped by the office to help pack boxes for Winter Fun Day!*

**Kids Don’t Float** We teamed up with Copper Nuggets 4-H Club to install a loaner lifejacket stand at Squirrel Creek Campground.

**Outdoor Leadership** WISE worked with the Youth Conservation Corps Team at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park for a series of outdoor skills and leadership experiences, including an overnight backpacking trip.

**Changing Seasons** for second and third graders was postponed because of early snowstorms, but went ahead the next week. A small but dedicated team made it happen!



*Copper Nuggets 4-H Club members mix cement for the Kids Don’t Float kiosk at Squirrel Creek State Campground.*



*Watermelon at the top of Willow Mountain has become a WISE end of summer tradition.*

WISE also assists with partner programs throughout the year. For details see the 2021 Annual Report at [www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org).

## Mission Statement

WISE provides science and environmental education, supports scientific research, and shares the natural wonders of Alaska’s Copper River Valley.

## Core Values

Stewardship - Grassroots Involvement - Partnerships  
Integrity - Sense of Place - Mentorship



## The Beginnings of WISE

By Janelle Eklund, Founding Director

I distinctly remember a day late in 1999 when the phone rang and it was Suzanne McCarthy, Director of Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC) in Glennallen. It turned out to be a very 'wise' call. I don't remember specifically why she called but what I do remember is her saying something like, I've always had a vision of establishing some sort of science center. And my response was, I've always had a vision of establishing an environmental education center. We then put our heads together and came up with a list of others that might be interested in nurturing this dream. And then we got on the phone and started calling and setting up a meeting date. The first meeting was on December 28, 1999. The minutes were titled: Notes from Science Center Discussion Group. The purpose was to discuss the possibility of forming an Environmental Education Center/Science Center in the Copper River Basin. Talk centered on the need, objectives and potential functions of the center. Each person gave their ideas. Establishing partnerships was an important part of this first discussion. Since then and to this day partnerships are the key to providing quality programs.

The second meeting was February 7, 2000. Discussion at this meeting centered on: Who we would serve. What we would provide. How we would provide it. Why we would exist, and What our priorities were for the first year. The third meeting, March 29, 2000, established the name for the organization, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE). Throughout the next two years the group established a Board of Directors, created a Mission Statement, Vision, Goals, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The Board also instated dues for the Board members in order to establish the corporation and give the treasurer something to do! It was announced at the April 10, 2002 meeting that WISE received the 501(c)3 temporary status letter from the IRS as a non-profit. The first program was Earth Discovery Day in May of 2003 which included all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the Copper River School District. This was a huge success and set the stage

for further programs. The Glennallen 'Aspen trail' was also established in 2003.

Changing Seasons for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders followed in the fall of 2003. In 2005 4<sup>th</sup> graders were added to

Earth Discovery Day. Throughout the last twenty years WISE has established or worked with thirty-one partners on countless programs! It takes a village to raise a child and this certainly applies to WISE. Thanks to all our partners and the community for being part of the WISE dream.



WISE Board of Directors members at the completion of the Aspen Interpretive Trail in 2004. Carla Scheirholt, Paul Boos, Janelle Eklund, Devi Sharp, and Glenn Hart.

By Gay Wellman, Founding Director

*The story of the birth of WISE is one of those stories about an idea or dream whose time has come. Ever since I've known my husband David he has been talking about his dream of creating some sort of education center that would focus on ways to help make the world a better place that included spending time in the woods here on the property at Wellwood.*

*Over the years we'd done things that were slowly moving in the direction of making those dreams a reality so when Janelle called to invite us to the first meeting explaining roughly what this dream was, we were intrigued and figured it was close enough to our dream to be something we wanted to be involved in. We were correct. I truly believe that there is something that happens when the right combination of folks get together to share and consult about dreams like these that allows things to actually work out in ways no-one could have predicted.*

*By engaging in open consultation, with each of us bringing to the table our past experiences, our talents and our best thinking, we were first able to develop an outline or plan for how to proceed and then as Janelle has so clearly shown over the years with dedication, the assistance of many different people, a lot of hard work, and keeping our eyes on the goal or mission we've managed to create the incredible organization called WISE.*

## 20th Anniversary Challenges

WISE is looking forward to celebrating our 20th birthday with special events, summer-long challenges, and plenty of cake!

We are excited to announce a couple of special challenges for the summer of 2022 to inspire everyone to learn and explore outdoors on their own time, and in their favorite ways!

The “20 Hikes Challenge” will be a do-it-yourself list of day hikes in the Copper River Basin. We will include easy trails like the Aspen Trail in Downtown Glennallen and the Kenny Lake School Trail, as well as some more adventurous treks like the Skookum Volcano Trail in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Checklists will be available in the spring, and hikes can be completed anytime throughout the summer.

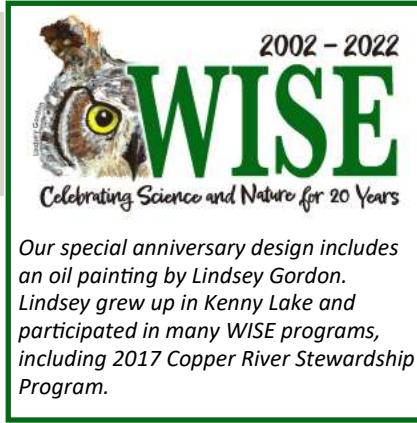
We will also have a “20 Flora & Fauna Challenge” to encourage everyone to learn and observe in the natural world. Participants will be encouraged to identify and observe 20 different plants or critters, and document their observations with drawings, writing, or photography. This will be a chance for aspiring artists and writers to practice, and for nature lovers to identify and learn about new species.

Both these challenges will be self-directed so they can be enjoyed no matter what, but we hope to be hosting events such as hikes and nature journaling classes to help people along with their journeys. Copper Basin residents who check off 5, 10, 15, or 20 items will earn useful prizes as well as fame and glory!

If you would like to join the challenge, please email the WISE office so we can send you materials as soon as they are available. We will also be announcing the launch on our website, social media, and in the Copper River Record.



*Copper River Stewardship Program student Will Hand takes a moment for quiet observation and journaling along the banks of the Gulkana River in 2017.*



*Our special anniversary design includes an oil painting by Lindsey Gordon. Lindsey grew up in Kenny Lake and participated in many WISE programs, including 2017 Copper River Stewardship Program.*

## Where is WISE Headed?

As this newsletter heads to the printer, the WISE Board of Directors is in the midst of working on our Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. This is the document that captures

the “big picture” vision of program priorities and organizational work for the next 5 years.

Strategic Planning is a rare opportunity for the board to slow down, reflect on past directions and successes, and do some dreaming about the future. It is a chance to check in on mission, vision, core purpose, and core values.

The new plan has no big surprises, but some new goals. We plan to work on making the best use of our property, Nic’anilen na’, and expand staff capacity by adding program staff. We hope to continue to serve as a helping hand for communities and organizations outside our regions who wish to start similar programs. We hope to serve more diverse groups of Copper Basin residents by continuing to build our partnerships. And we want to build a stronger financial

## The WISE House

WISE is lucky to have a home thanks to the generosity of Janelle Eklund and Paul Boos. They donate the use of a house on the Old Edgerton Highway as an office, staff housing, and revenue-producing rental property.

The house is home-built, with more than a few quirks, but it suits WISE perfectly. We enjoy a large, wood-beamed office space with cozy woodstove and plenty of storage. The connected house and tiny cabin in the woods serve as staff housing or rental property which generates enough income to pay all the utilities.



*The welcoming porch of the WISE house shelters this handmade sign, a rock collection, and space to gather gear for programs.*



## Discovery Packs

With classroom visits restricted, last year we did some brainstorming on how to continue our In-Class Science program. Kids don't stop learning and growing, and there were a bunch of families stuck at home and looking for projects. We decided to partner with libraries to offer take-home bags for science-based learning. The result was the fun task of designing and filling 25 distinctive aqua-green backpacks with books, materials, and activities for science and nature exploration. The packs are now placed at 3 local public libraries (Kenny Lake Public Library, Copper Valley Community Library in Glennallen, and Valdez Consortium Library) where they can be checked out by any patron.

As soon as we started dreaming up topics and making wish lists of pack contents, it was clear this project was going to need some funding! Copper Valley Electric Association Community Foundation, which has supported In-Class Science right from the



*The Geology Pack includes tools, safety goggles, books, games, and a small collection of rock samples.*



*The brightly colored backpacks can be found in the childrens sections of the Kenny Lake, Glennallen, and Valdez libraries.*

start, designated funds for the packs. Additionally, Kenny Lake Public Library had a grant from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company for their Book Camp which they were unable to use. Alyeska approved the transfer of the funding to the Discovery Pack project. This added up to enough funding to purchase plenty of books and materials to use for each topic. The birdwatching packs have kid-friendly field guides and binoculars, and the geology pack includes a fun set of hammers and chisels to investigate interesting rocks.

This project would not have been possible without great partnership from the libraries. Two of the libraries, Kenny Lake and Copper Valley Community Library in Glennallen, are all-volunteer, but everyone has stepped up to this project. Checking in a Discovery Pack is a lot more complicated than checking in a book—the librarian has to look through the contents and make sure everything is accounted for. This diligence has already paid off when the Simple Machines pack came back without the block and tackle. The patron tracked it down to her husband's truck! He wasn't trying to steal it, but saw a handy tool laying around and decided to stow it somewhere useful!

Hopefully soon the pandemic years will become history, but we are excited to continue this program. This area is home to many homeschool families and independent learners of all ages, and we'd like to continue to build Discovery Packs based on their requests and interests.

*Robin Mayo*

## Lecture Series Grows and Thrives

Among the many challenges of the past year and a half, one WISE program thrived! The Science Lecture Series has been a winter staple in the Copper River since the beginning of WISE, but the pandemic gave it an unexpected boost.

When scheduling live, in person lectures, we've always struggled with finding the right location. The Copper River Valley is a big place, and no matter where an event is scheduled it is going to be inconvenient for someone. An extreme but memorable example was when we scheduled a talk on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in Glennallen. The speaker drove up from Valdez, and all but one of the attendees travelled 40 miles north from Kenny Lake to attend. Clearly, we chose the wrong venue, but who could have known?

Our first virtual lecture was on December 18, 2020. Glennallen Area Biologist Heidi Hatcher of Alaska Department of Fish and Game spoke about the history and current status of the Nelchina Caribou Herd. We were somewhat blindsided when over 100 people tried to log in, exceeding the capacity of our videoconferencing account. There was a lot to learn about managing the virtual event, but it was clear that we were on to something!

Katie Bobowski of Prince William Sound College Copper Basin Campus offered to help host the next lecture using the College's more robust platform and technology know-how. Katie has a real knack for setting up virtual events and keeping them running smoothly.

Our next lecture featured Carol McIntyre and Jeremy Mizel, two bird researchers from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Instead of braving icy roads and winter weather, they were able to join us from their cozy cabins with a program on migratory birds that blended science and storytelling.

Another benefit is the recording capabilities of online platforms. Recordings for all the online lectures are now available at the WISE website at [www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html](http://www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html).

The realization that this form of educational lecture removed geographical boundaries for speakers as well as audiences allowed us to take things to a whole new level. An archaeologist from Texas A&M University who does field work in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park zoomed in from Texas to do a series with the park archaeologist. We presented a lunch-time talk with partner staff from Cordova, saving many miles of travel by ferry and highway. Best of all, WISE supporters, the speaker's families, and other learners from literally around the world joined us for every lecture.

Although it's been amazing, there are certainly lots of compromises with virtual lectures. I miss greeting friends, sharing cookies, and

the conversations that happen before and after the program. As fall approached, we wondered what was next. Could we figure out a way to bring back live lectures without leaving behind our cool new audience?

Katie worked with the University of Alaska Technology department to design a simple system for "hybrid" lectures which could be presented to an in-person audience and also be available live on Zoom. And we got a perfect chance to try it out with the first Science Lecture of the new season on October 1, 2021.

Dr. James Kari has made a life's work of studying the Ahtna language, including fascinating insights on how place names can be connected to geography and used to piece together history. Two experts who have collaborated on this project, Gerad Smith of University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska State Archaeologist Richard VanderHoek, joined Dr. Kari for a talk titled "Geolinguistic Evidence of Ahtna/Dene Presence at High-water Levels of Glacial Lake Atna." It was the first public presentation of this collaboration between geology, archaeology, and linguistics. As well as a small in-person audience at Tazlina Village Hall, over 60 people attended online via videoconference.

There are still details to work out, but we are excited to have this chance to experiment with the lecture format, and continue reaching a much broader audience.



*Dr. James Kari presents to a live and virtual audience at Tazlina Village Hall while Robin helps manage the online event. We were honored to help host this presentation which combined geology, archaeology, and geolinguistics. Photo: Gerad Smith, UAF*

### Partner Focus



*Prince William Sound College has a small Extension Center in Glennallen, in the Copper River School District Admin Building. Campus Coordinator Katie Bobowski is an innovative thinker with a love for outdoor education. We have teamed up on lectures, assisted with their teacher training program, and welcomed their help at Earth Discovery Day, Winter Fun Day and Changing Seasons.*



## YCCers Learn Outdoor Leadership



Last summer we had the privilege of providing outdoor skills and leadership training for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Youth Conservation Corps crew. We adapted a curriculum developed by Americorps Volunteer Mikaela Dalton, which includes everything from map and compass lessons to conflict resolution.

The crew spent 10 weeks working on a wide variety of projects, both at park headquarters and out in remote areas. We joined them for several Fridays for learning adventures including a hike to the top of 3300' Willow Mountain. Then the students took on the task of organizing and packing group gear and food for an overnight backpacking trip down to the Tonsina River.

As with all WISE programs, Leave No Trace was a common theme we discussed often on this program. The students learned hand gestures to help them remember the 7 principles of Leave No Trace and used the principles as a lens to help guide decisions in the planning stages and on the trail.



*We were surprised to find this well camouflaged shorebird nest in the midst of our camp.*

Camping on the banks of the Tonsina River, we had a chance to practice Principle #6, Respect Wildlife. A small shorebird made her displeasure at our presence known, but we didn't see her nest hidden among the rocks until we had already set up camp. It appeared the eggs were in the process of hatching, and soon tiny chicks were peeping underfoot. We moved our tents as quickly as we could, herded the chicks back to the nest, and avoided that area for the rest of our stay.

## Tour Guides Jump in to Youth Programming

For the second summer in a row, WISE was not able to run our Copper Country Discovery and Field Sketching and Watercolor Tours. Although there were many independent travelers in Alaska, the Copper River Princess Lodge remained closed, and it isn't profitable for us to operate the tours without the guests and marketing support provided by Princess Tours.

Instead, we were delighted to have our two tour guides, Jolene Nashlund and Judith Puzzoli, work on youth programs for the summer. Jolene also serves as WISE's Development Director, so it was a perfect chance for her to experience youth events first hand. Both Jolene and Judith are creative homeschooling moms, so they brought lots of energy and new ideas to summer hikes and science camps.



*Jolene shares her extensive rock collection at our Geology Day Camp.*

Judith designed a scavenger hunt that kept everyone busy and happy as we hiked up Willow Mountain, and Jolene put together a Geology Camp curriculum that will be a valued resource for the future.

At the time of this writing we have high hopes that we will be able to run our tours next summer, but in the meantime we are grateful for another "silver lining" of the pandemic, the chance for two valued employees to share their interests with local youth.



# A Mud-Based Leave No Trace Lesson

Ask a group of youth (or adults) what Leave No Trace means, and almost always the first thing someone says is “Don’t Litter.” And there’s nothing wrong with that—trash lying around is one of the most distasteful ways humans impact our environment, and one of the easiest to remedy. But truly embracing a Leave No Trace outdoor ethic also includes learning about the more subtle but equally damaging practices, and finding ways to do better.

The main dome of the Tolsona Mud Volcanoes, also known as Tolsona 1, is a fascinating place to visit, with deep, bubbling pits of mud surrounded by a surreal landscape of mud formations and dead trees. Because animals are attracted to the salty water, it is a good place to observe tracks and make plaster casts. It is also heavily visited by humans. The mud is trampled by boot and barefoot tracks, and the vents are full of sticks that have been used to test the depth.

But there is a little known second dome nearby, which is rarely visited. This summer we decided to use this to teach Leave No Trace. We reviewed the 7 principles, and each student who wanted to visit the second dome had to be able to list them. Before hiking over I gave strict instructions: once we arrived, we would try to make as little impact as possible, and carefully observe the differences between the heavily used Tolsona 1 and rarely visited Tolsona 2.

Quietly approaching Tolsona 2, it was immediately clear that this is a special place. A small dome of mud about 40 feet across ringed with willows rises up from the spruce forest. I reminded the group to stay on the grass, avoid making tracks, and most importantly, don’t disturb the pools.

The ground surface had an interesting variety of textures created by freeze/thaw cycles, drying, and meandering streams of water from the vents, overlaid with a few moose and bird tracks. As we

watched, one of the pools overflowed from a new spot, and a fresh trickle of muddy water headed down the slope in a sinuous path. It was apparent that this is a constantly changing landscape, shaped by conditions on the surface and also forces deep within the earth.

The pools themselves were the most fascinating. The water was clear, the surface disturbed only by random bubbles of methane rising. Under the surface we could see mud formations on the bottom of the pool, and the deep dark holes which are the actual vents. The methane bubbles created little plumes of mud which quickly settled. There was certainly a stark contrast to the thick, opaque mud in the pools at Tolsona 1, with deeply trampled edges.

Afterwards, we talked about what we had observed. Which of the 7 principles of Leave No Trace were being violated at Tolsona 1? “Travel and camp on durable surfaces,” and also “be considerate of other users.” Although the numerous tracks and disturbed pools were probably not having a major negative affect on the wildlife or ecosystem, they certainly changed the experience for visitors. We wondered how long it would take the disturbed pools of Tolsona 1 to clear up after years of disturbance. And when I asked the students which site a scientist would want to study, the answer was unanimous.

Leave No Trace also teaches the concept of cumulative impact. One person’s disturbance may be minimal, but multiplied by every visitor it can become catastrophic. In Alaska we are lucky to have many, many places where human visitation is so infrequent that our impact is barely noticable. But like the Tolsona 1 Mud Volcano, some places are definitely at risk of being loved to death. Four wheelers turn trails into bottomless mud pits, and scores of enthusiastic anglers trample the riparian vegetation that shelters the next generation of fish. Growing an awareness of the problem, and teaching real skills to visit the wilderness without leaving a trace is a never ending project.



*A visit to Tolsona 1 includes barefoot fun, and testing the depth of the mud with sticks.*



*At Tolsona 2, undisturbed pools reveal subtle patterns.*

## The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

1. **Plan Ahead and Prepare**
2. **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
3. **Dispose of Waste Properly**
4. **Leave What You Find**
5. **Minimize Campfire Impacts**
6. **Respect Wildlife**
7. **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

These principles were developed by The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, which also provides more specific best practices for a variety of activities and ecosystems. As well as including a Leave No Trace station at Earth Discovery Day, WISE weaves this ethic into everything we do.



**Education Partners**

Copper River School District  
 Prince William Sound College  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Valdez City Schools  
 Campbell Creek Science Center



*Exploring Castner Glacier Ice Cave with homeschool families.*

**Government and Tribal Partners**

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission  
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 Copper River Native Association  
 Chitina Village Council  
 Gakona Village Council  
 Gulkana Village Council  
 Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium  
 Native Village of Kluti-Kaah  
 Native Village of Tazlina  
 US Bureau of Land Management  
 US Forest Service Cordova Ranger District  
 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

*"I can do things you cannot, you  
 can do things I cannot; together we  
 can do great things."*

Mother Teresa

**Nonprofit Partners**

Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation  
 Copper River Watershed Project  
 Copper Country Alliance  
 Copper Valley Community Library  
 The Foraker Group  
 Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Kenny Lake Community League  
 Kenny Lake Public Library  
 Prince William Sound Science Center  
 Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council  
 Project Healing Waters Alaska  
 Valdez Consortium Library  
 Wrangell Mountains Center  
 Willow Creek Water Consortium  
 Wellwood Conservancy



**Partner Focus:  
 Kenny Lake  
 Public Library**

A bright red building on the grounds of Kenny Lake School houses Kenny Lake Public Library, an all-volunteer library with awesome resilience. For years WISE has enjoyed helping out with their annual summer "Book Camp," and used the library as a friendly venue for lectures and other events. The library and WISE share several board and staff members, which have led to wonderful collaborations. In the fall of 2020 they were instrumental in helping find funding for our Discovery Packs, hosting the first packs, and helping us iron out the details.



## 2021 Funders



Juneau Community Foundation  
 National Park Foundation  
 Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation  
 State of Alaska Community  
 Assistance Program  
 Local 71 Union  
 Copper Valley IGA  
 Copper River Native Association  
 Alaska Children's Trust  
 Fred Meyer Community Rewards  
 Amazon Smile

Copper River Native Association

For more details on WISE revenues and expenses, please request our 2021 Annual Report, or see it at [www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org)

## Thank You to our Generous Donors!

### Spruce

#### \$500 and up

Janelle Eklund & Paul Boos  
 Ruth McHenry & Cliff Eames  
 James Englezos  
 Gail Mayo  
 Carol McIntyre  
 Meg Jensen & Mike McQueen  
 Wilson & Clara Potterville  
 Daniel & Diana Solie

### Aspen

#### \$100 to \$499

Amanda Abraham  
 Charlotte & Charles Bird  
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 Jamie Dawson  
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 Evan Franklin  
 Linda & Bob Flint  
 Sally Gibert  
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 Ellen & Barry Hecht  
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 Jolene Nashlund  
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### Diamond Willow

#### Up to \$100

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