

****Marks new items in this issue**

September 6, 2017

Compiled with information from:

- Peg Tileston, On behalf of The Alaska Center and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network (AWEN)
- BBEDC newsletter

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, SPECIAL EVENTS

September 20 – 21

ANCHORAGE - PLANNING AND FACILITATING COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

will be held from 9am to 5pm at the Gorsuch Commons, UAA. Imagine a world where meetings are effective, collaborative, and productive. In this class you will learn to design meetings that enhance problem solving and minimize conflict. Collaboration can be complicated, requiring a systematic approach. This course provides the skills and tools to design and implement collaborative approaches. The skills will be useful even for attending meetings when you are not the leader. Objectives: • Learn and practice facilitation skills; • Use appropriate process tools and techniques to address the meeting objectives; • Manage conflict in meetings by understanding group dynamics; • Identify disruptive behaviors in group processes and practice strategies to deal with them. Anyone interested in learning techniques for facilitating meetings is welcome to register. Those who facilitate workshops mainly in Alaska coastal communities are especially encouraged to participate. The trainers will be from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management. The class is limited to 35 participants, with preregistration required using the online registration at <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/events/ssl/register.php?id=259>. For more information, contact Davin Holen at 907-274-9697 or email dlholen@alaska.edu.

October 6 -8 (START of a 5-WEEKEND COURSE)

ALASKAN COLD CLIMATE PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSE will be held in Anchorage proper 5 weekends this winter at a local bed and breakfast. Students will earn a coveted Permaculture Design Certificate, which enables them to design sustainable systems for themselves and others. Topics of study will include: state of the world issues, practicing organic pest management, water collection, using indigenous plants, holistic economics, natural building, gardening, community building, as well as natural systems. Students will be able to design a resilient lifestyle here in Alaska for themselves and others. An All - Alaskan teaching team will layout this course for 16-18 students: Life-long Alaskan, **CINDEE KARNS**, from the Alaskan Bioshelter; **JENNIFER SHARROCK**, owner of Seeds and Soil Organics in Palmer; as well as **JERAMI MARSH**, assistant teacher, and **BEN GRAY**, cook extraordinaire. Register at <http://alaskapermaculture.com/to-register> (early registration ends September 1). Your tuition includes organic/local food, optional floor space for sleeping, field trips and great instruction. For more information, contact Cindee at the Bioshelter: alaskanbioshelter@gmail.com or call 907 622-3969. Some scholarship money may be available. Register ends October 1.

October 10 – 13

NOME - AIR QUALITY & INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN ALASKA NATIVE VILLAGES

(a Level 1 course) is an entry-level course for environmental staff from Alaska Native Villages who are interested in air quality issues. The content is basic and assumes the participant has no background in science or air quality management. The course provides an understanding of the importance of clean air (outdoors and indoors) for the protection of human health and the total environment. Approximately half of the course will deal with ambient (outdoor) air and half of the course will deal with indoor air. We encourage attendance from environmental, housing, and health departments. Instructors and participants will explore ways in which Alaska Native Villages can take action to solve air quality problems, protect human health, and preserve cultural values. This course consists of lectures, demonstrations, small-group activities, and a building walk-through. There will be hands-on practice with a comprehensive assessment checklist used to identify IAQ problems. Pre-Requisites: None. Travel Arrangements: Participants are responsible for arranging their own lodging and transportation. Please do not make your travel arrangements until you receive a letter, via email, from Sharlene Brown (at ITEP) stating that you have been selected to attend the course. Lodging Costs: ITEP will reimburse participant lodging costs (room and tax only) up to the amount of \$165 per night. All incidentals will be paid by the participant. Meals (per diem): ITEP will reimburse participant per diem (meals) at the State of Arizona rate for Nome (\$55.00 per day). Transportation Costs: ITEP will provide a limited number of scholarships up to the amount of \$650.00 to help tribes pay airfare for tribal employees. Applications for a transportation scholarship are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are awarded based on availability of funds. ITEP will issue the Transportation Scholarships, and reimbursements for lodging and per diem, AFTER successful completion of the course. RECEIPTS are required for lodging and airfare. Additional Responsibilities: It is essential that you complete the course in full in order to receive the Certificate of Completion. Please read the enclosed “Attendee Responsibilities” & “Cancellation Policy” for more information. Families are not encouraged to travel as full participation by the attendee is required. Excessive cancellations or poor attendance may jeopardize your eligibility for future courses. For more information and application form, go to <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/docs/training/air/PreReg-AQinAK-Nome.pdf>. Deadline for registration is September 11. As a cooperative effort between Northern Arizona University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the American Indian Air Quality Training Program seeks to fulfill the mandate of the 1990 Clean Air Act to offer Native American tribes full partnership in the management of air quality on tribal lands.

November 3 & 4

FAIRBANKS - The ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (AFPC) CONFERENCE and FESTIVAL to be held at the Pike's Waterfront Lodge is an opportunity for presenters and attendees to learn more about -- and engage in -- the various issues affecting Alaska's food system. Ms. MARY SMITH, founder and Managing Editor of Edible Alaska magazine will be the keynote speaker. The goals of the conference and festival are to: (1) increase awareness of Alaska food issues among the general population; (2) provide training, resources, and networking opportunities to increase involvement in local food issues by community members and decision makers; and (3) increase connections and build community between the public, Alaska food businesses, NGOs, governmental entities, Tribal entities, and others to support local economic development and innovative solutions. The presentation, workshop, and poster [abstract](#)

[submission portal](#) is open for the 2017 Alaska Food Policy Council Food Conference and Festival. The abstract submission deadline has been extended to August 18. Questions regarding abstract submission can be directed to Liz H. Snyder, AFPC Co-Chair at ehodges4@alaska.edu. Questions pertaining to all other conference/festival details can be directed to Lorinda Lhotka, AFPC Co-Chair at lorinda.lhotka@alaska.gov. For more information, go to <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/2017-conference>.

February 28

Join **AUDUBON ALASKA** on a **BIRDING ADVENTURE in the GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS!** The Galápagos Islands are characterized by curious and unafraid wildlife, unique geological features, specially adapted endemic flora, and a fascinating history of human habitation. On this trip, we'll cruise comfortably aboard the M/C Tip Top II for an up-close experience of this renowned archipelago. As you hike, swim, snorkel, and explore by panga boat, you'll encounter amazing natural landscapes and learn about conservation efforts, history, and evolution. Plus, enjoy visits to Quito and Guayaquil on Ecuador's mainland. Register now to plan ahead for a tropical escape during Alaska's long winter. See trip details and register at <http://bit.ly/2p5DVBB>. Please email Michelle LeBeau [at mlebeau@audubon.org](mailto:mlebeau@audubon.org) or call 907-276-7034 with any questions.

GRANTS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS/ CONTESTS/RFPs

****September 28**

Deadline for **LETTER of INTENT** for the **MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION GRANT** that provides funding to support eligible organizations for activities to prevent the introduction of marine debris into the marine and coastal environment. Applicants requesting funding for projects to address a specific marine debris issue, and that will actively engage these groups in hands-on personal participation, are welcome to apply. Projects focused on efforts to prevent marine debris from entering the environment through targeted behavior change will be given priority. As with removal, the opportunity is somewhat similar year to year, but there are also differences so we encourage anybody considering applying to read the FFO. **PLEASE NOTE** - The structure for this opportunity is a little different and is a two part proposal process. Applicants must first submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI) that is reviewed by NOAA to confirm that projects are a good match for the opportunity. If the LOI is successful, then the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal. LOI's are due September 28 notifications by NOAA of invitations for full proposals should go out by November 1, and **full proposals** are expected to be due **December 15**. For questions on the opportunity, please contact Peter Murphy at peter.murphy@noaa.gov. For more information, go to <https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/now-open-fy18-marine-debris-prevention-grant-opportunity> and <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=296756>.

September 30

Deadline for applications for the sixth **ALASKA SEAFOOD PROCESSING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE** to be held in Kodiak on November 13-17. The Institute gives mid-career seafood processor employees a boost in moving up the leadership ladder, to keep the seafood industry strong and support the Alaska workforce. For more information, go to <https://seagrant.uaf.edu/map/aspli/2017/>.

September 30

Deadline for applications for the **DENALI NATIONAL PARK and PRESERVE'S ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM** to share the park's unique story through art and with an eye to the future. We are asking applicants to focus on the subjects of sustainability, recycling, re-purposing or climate change. Alaska Native artists and artists between the ages of 16 and 25 are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted through an online process hosted by CaFÉ (CallForEntry.org) for residencies during the winter and summer of 2018. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. An alternative application may be submitted to the program coordinator if lack of computer access or bandwidth prevents use of the CaFÉ system. For more information about the Artist-in-Residence Program or how to apply, visit us online at <https://www.nps.gov/dena/getinvolved/arts-program.htm>. Applicants ages 16-18 are required to submit an additional parental consent form. For questions or requests for additional information, Contact Cinnamon Dockham, program coordinator, at cinnamon_dockham@nps.gov or 907-683-9581.

September 30

Deadline for applications for the [**Cedar Tree Foundation: Environmental Education Teacher Professional Development Program**](#) that support nonprofit organizations that offer summer professional development opportunities for current K-12 teachers in public, private, or alternative schools. The Foundation's Environmental Education Teacher Professional Development Program provides grants for programs that allow teachers to have an engaging hands-on environmental education experience with a cohort of other teachers, and include networking and follow-up activities that support teachers in building their skills and bringing innovative environmental stewardship education back to their classrooms in the fall. Compelling opportunities for school administrators that translate into impact in the classroom or school community will also be considered. Grants will range from \$20,000 to \$100,000. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website (above).

October 1

Deadlines for **GRANTS to PROMOTE GRASSROOTS WILDERNESS PROTECTION EFFORTS from the [FUND for WILD NATURE](#)** that provides grants to grassroots nonprofit organizations in the United States and Canada for campaigns to save native species and wild ecosystems, with particular emphasis on actions to defend threatened wilderness and biological diversity. Priority is given to ecological issues that are not receiving sufficient public attention or funding. Grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000, are provided for advocacy, litigation, public policy work, development of citizen science, and similar endeavors. The Fund does not support proposals from organizations with budgets of over \$250,000 annually... Application guidelines and forms are available on the Fund's website above.

October 10

Deadline for applications for the [**Sustainable Forestry Initiative: Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program**](#) that provides grants for projects that support partnerships between organizations interested in improving forest management in the U.S. and Canada and responsible procurement globally. Grants are provided in the following two categories: Community Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 support projects that connect

communities to forests and educate the next generation of future forest leaders. Conservation Grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 support projects that establish methodologies to demonstrate the conservation-related values of SFI-certified forestlands. The application deadline for both grant categories is October 10. Visit the SFI website (above) to review the request for proposals.

October 15

Deadline for applications for the **RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT (RTP)**. RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The timeline is as follows: All application and informational documents will be available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm> on or before July 15; Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15; Grant applications must be submitted by October 15. For more information, contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

****November 1**

Deadline for full proposals for the **COMMUNITY BASED REMOVAL GRANT** that provides funding to support projects that will create long-term, quantifiable ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources through on-the-ground marine debris removal activities, with priority for those targeting derelict fishing gear and other medium- and large-scale debris. Priority will be given to projects that also foster awareness of the effects of marine debris to further the conservation of living marine resource habitats, and contribute to the understanding of marine debris composition, distribution, and impacts. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply. The grant is generally similar year to year, but there are also differences so we encourage anybody considering applying to read the FFO fully. For questions on the opportunity, please contact Peter Murphy at peter.murphy@noaa.gov. For more information, go to <https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/now-open-fy18-community-based-marine-debris-removal-grant-opportunity> and <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=296757>.

DEADLINES

September 14

STATE-WIDE - Deadline for comments on the notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the **ESTABLISHMENT of ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS for the SUBSISTENCE HARVEST of BOWHEAD WHALES by ALASKA NATIVES**. Alaska Natives have hunted bowhead whales for over 2,000 years as the whales migrate in the spring and fall along the coast of Alaska. Their traditional subsistence hunts for these whales have been regulated by catch limits and other limitations under the authority of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) since 1977. Alaska Native subsistence hunters from 11 northern Alaskan communities take less than 1 percent of the stock of bowhead whales per year. Since 1977, the number of whales struck by harpoons has ranged between 14 and 72 animals per year, depending in part on changes in IWC management strategy due to higher estimates of both bowhead whale abundance and increased hunter efficiency in recent years. The IWC sets an overall aboriginal

subsistence catch limit for this stock, based on the request of IWC member countries on behalf of the aboriginal hunters. The IWC's catch limit for bowhead whales includes a limit on the number of landed whales and a limit on the number of whales that may be struck. In the case of Alaska and Russian Native subsistence hunts, the United States and the Russian Federation make a joint request to the IWC for subsistence catch limits for bowhead whales. NMFS must annually publish a notice of aboriginal subsistence whale hunting catch limits and any other limitations on such hunting in the **Federal Register**. The subsistence hunt is directly managed by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and the catch limits are issued through annual amendments to a cooperative agreement between the AEWC and NOAA, consistent with the mandates codified in the Whaling Convention. In order to comprehensively assess the effects of these annual removals, this proposed action would extend from 2019 onward, subject to IWC-set catch limits. IWC-set catch limits are, in turn, based on IWC Scientific Committee advice on the sustainability of proposed catch limits using a population model, referred to as a Strike Limit Algorithm. The Strike Limit Algorithm used by the IWC is specific to this population of bowhead whales and is the IWC's formula for calculating sustainable aboriginal subsistence whaling removal levels, based on the size and productivity of a whale population, in order to satisfy subsistence need. Submit comments on this scoping notice, by including NOAA-NMFS-2017-0098 at the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2017-0098>. Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. For more information, contact Carolyn Doherty at 301-427-8385 or email Carolyn.Doherty@noaa.gov. To see the full federal register information that includes alternatives, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/08/15/2017-17173/notice-of-intent-to-prepare-an-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-establishment-of-annual-catch>.

September 15

STATE-WIDE - Deadline for applications for the ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM OFFERS FREE CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, a unique, experiential program that has been promoting understanding among Alaska’s urban and rural communities through cross-cultural exchanges in middle and high schools for the past 15 years. SSE operates throughout the school year, matching a teacher and five students from an off-the-road-system community with a teacher and five students from urban Alaska. The Sister School teams work through a 6-8 week standards-aligned curriculum on cross-cultural understanding and then complete a two way exchange, during which each team gets a chance to host their Sister School community. SSE is free for the schools involved and the participants traveling in the exchange. We are currently looking for schools and teachers interested in applying for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications can be found on the Alaska Humanities Forum website (www.akhf.org) and are due by September 15. To learn more about the program, please contact Kari Lovett at (907)272-5346 or klovett@akhf.org

September 19

BRISTOL BAY – Deadline for comments on the proposal by EPA to WITHDRAW CLEAN WATER ACT RESTRICTIONS for PEBBLE MINE in BRISTOL BAY WATERSHED that will withdraw its July 2014 Clean Water Act Proposed Determination that would, if finalized, have imposed restrictions on the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the potential Pebble Mine. In 2014, EPA’s Region 10 completed a multi-year effort to assess the

Bristol Bay watershed, and then issued a Clean Water Act Section 404(c) Proposed Determination to restrict discharges of dredge or fill material into the watershed from mining the Pebble deposit. Section 404 is the part of the Clean Water Act that governs the permit evaluation process for actions that discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. EPA agreed to initiate a process to propose to withdraw the Proposed Determination as part of a May 11, 2017 settlement agreement with the Pebble Limited Partnership, whose subsidiaries own the mineral claims to the Pebble deposit. The agreement provides Pebble additional time to apply for a Clean Water Act 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before EPA moves any further with its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) review. EPA is seeking public comment on whether to withdraw the Proposed Determination. After the close of the public comment and tribal consultation process, the EPA will decide whether to issue a final withdrawal of the 2014 Proposed Determination. EPA is also requesting public comment on whether the EPA Administrator should review and reconsider a final withdrawal decision, if such a decision is made. For more information, go to <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay> or contact Suzanne Skadowski at 206-553-2160 or email skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov.