Friends Of Creamer’s Field

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Melanie Graeff

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Bennett Wong, Camp Director
Hannah Johnson, Assistant Camp Director

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Ryan Klimstra, Refuge Management Biologist
Kerry Savereide, Fairbanks Administrative Lead
Darren Bruning, Regional Supervisor
**We are the Friends of Creamer's Field**

Friends of Creamer’s Field is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to promote awareness, understanding, appreciation and conservation of the natural and human history of Creamer’s Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. We provide a venue for community involvement through educational programs, annual events, and interpretive nature walks. Friends of Creamer’s Field operates a visitor center out of the original Creamer family farmhouse (circa 1908), which features interpretive exhibits on migratory birds and the historic Creamer’s Dairy complex. In addition to a full schedule of year-round programs, we serve as the fiscal sponsor for Camp Habitat, a summer day camp that operates during the months of June and July. The majority of our programs (with the exception of Camp Habitat) are free or donation-based and available to the general public.

(Above) Locals enjoy winter recreation opportunities at Creamer’s Field. The use of “fat bikes” has increased exponentially in recent years and is one of the largest user groups on winter trails. (Below) A Black-capped Chickadee perches on a bird feeder made from recycled materials by Programs & Events Coordinator Melanie Graeff.

**2020 Programs & Events**

For the past 29 years, Friends of Creamer’s Field has offered education programs that focus on the ecology of the refuge and the history of Creamer’s Dairy.

In 2020, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) closed the Farmhouse Visitor Center and cancelled all in-person programs at Creamer’s Field due to COVID-19. We anticipate the closure to remain in effect until local COVID-19 cases have been reduced to acceptable levels. The trails at Creamer’s Field are OPEN and usage by locals is higher than ever. This has required our staff to transition from offering interpretive education programs in-person to an online format. We are working to make sure those who visit Creamer’s Field continue to have access to educational resources that add value to their self-guided experience. Our new online interpretive resources include a virtual walking tour of the Boreal Forest Trail and virtual program that shares the story of the Creamer family and the historic dairy complex.
Financial Position

In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions resulted in ADFG canceling all in-person programs and closing the Farmhouse Visitor Center. We reported a significant reduction in both income and expenses from the cancellation of all in-person programs and closure of the Farmhouse Visitor Center. We received PPP funding to assist with payroll, which has allowed us to remain fully staffed during this time of uncertainty. In spite of the closures and cancellations we have maintained a balanced budget and the financial position of Friends of Creamer’s Field remains strong.

Lissa Hughes, Executive Director

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![Financial Position Chart]

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Congratulations Raffle Prize Winners!

Lynn Goepfert– 2 Alaska Airlines tickets
Lindsie Leffel– Alaska Dream Adventures Kayak
Nellie Ballou– Arctic Circle Trip for 2
Janet Daley– 300 Gallons of Heating Fuel

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Executive Director Lissa Hughes accepts a donation from the staff at Co-op Market Grocery & Deli for the 2020 Lend-a-Hand program.
Thank You Friends for Your Support!

Sandhill Crane ($1,000 or more)

George Happ & Christy Yuncker Happ
Marvin & Becky Hassebroek
Gail Mayo
Sonia Mazurek & John Hagey
Jerry Lipka & Janet Schichnes
Richard Seifert
Stacey Studebaker
Ellen Weiser & David Weissman
Marion G. Weeks Foundation

Barbara & David Murray
Michael Salzman
Ruth & Dan Thomson
Teresa Tomczak
Anne & Dave Vick

Peregrine Falcon ($250-499)

Alaska Fuel Distributors
Alaska Petroleum Distributors
Arctic Audubon Society
Carl & Ruth Benson
Peter Bowers
Charlotte & Charlie Bird
Charles & Geraldine Collins
Melissa Chapin
Arva Chiu
Crowley Fuels
Lenore Farmsworth
Fenicks & Company, LLC.
Patricia Degen
Mark Hodge & Anne Demuth
Frances & Mark Jurek
Ruth Kramer
Sherry Lewis
Don & Carol Lokken
Bud & Jamie Marschner
Jan & Stan Mishner
Dave & Carol Norton
Millie Peek
Ron & Dorothy Rasmussen
Anne Ruggles & Don Hampton
Frances Schulz
Lynn Slusher
Stephen Smith
Gerda Sylvie
Ron & Mary Teel
Mary Zalar & Ken Whitten
Jack & Carol Wilbur
William & Carolyn Wuttke

Swan ($500-999)

Karen C. Baker
Lori Davis
Cori Anthony
Peter & René Flint
Littie Ballard
Kathryn Meneghini
Clyde & Carol Jones
Kathy Dudek
Mary Fenno
Robert Sheehan
Claire T. Campbell
Joyce & John Lunn
Bud & Jackie Marschner
Jan & Stan Mishner
Dave & Carol Norton
Millie Peek
Ron & Dorothy Rasmussen
Anne Ruggles & Don Hampton
Frances Schulz
Lynn Slusher
Stephen Smith
Gerda Sylvie
Ron & Mary Teel
Mary Zalar & Ken Whitten
Jack & Carol Wilbur
William & Carolyn Wuttke

Wigeon ($100-249)

Kroger-Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Ken Alt
Cori Anthony
Christopher Arp
James & Cassie Atwell
Christopher Baird
Karen C. Baker
Littie Ballard
Nellie Ballou
Alden & Liam Barry
Maria Berger
Marilyn Biagi
Richard & Mary Bishop
James Brader
Karen & Achim Brauser
Randall Compton
Elizabeth Cook
Anthea Mary Craven
Ann Cunningham
Jittinee Cysewski
Sandra Dauenhauer
John Davies & Linda Schandelmeier
Lori Davis
Barbara Day & James Dixon
Pat Degan
Kathy Dudek
Ruth McHenry & Cliff Eames
Nicole Eisenman
Kay Evans
Melody Feniks
Mary Fenno
Kristine Fister
Peter & René Flint
Samuel Friedman
Amy Fueling
Canada Goose ($50-99)

Jeff Adams
Charlotte Basham
Cynthia Beale
Sandra Benson
Maggie Billington
Barbara Braley
Alex Buetow
Sharon Bullock
Kari Burrrell
Eileen Cahill
Richard & Marilyn Campbell
Betty Carlson
Jennifer Chamberlen
Micaela Christopher
Ann Cunningham
Eveline d'Angremond
Sandra Dauenhauer
Jennifer Delamere
Pat DeRuyter
Laurel Devaney & Ken Russell
Nancy & Jim Dewitt
Erik & Emily Drygas
Kristen Dubois
Larry Flodin
Nancy Frei
Faye-Lynn Gallant
David Gerrish
Michael & Nancy Gigliotti
Rhonda Gilbertson
Terry Glendinning
Jerry Gottbe
Jodi Gouwens
Don & Carolyn Gray
Sue Guers
Nan Hampton
Daniel Hancock
Patricia Harris
Lois Heine
Alaina Helt
Jimmy Holder
Tanya Ignacio
Wayne Jex
Lawrence Johnson
Stan Justice
Kathleen Kennedy
Stephen Kibbee
Kay Kitchen-Maran
Heather Koponen
Sandy Lachman
Michelle Lake
Mary Leith
Richard Leonard
Harriet Lewis
Don & Carol Lokken
Thomas Marsh
Philip & Jackie Martin
Erica Matthews
Mary Matthews
Sheila McCleary
Joan McGlinchy
Susan McHenry
Hilda Melchior
Barbara & Doug Mercer
Marin Kuizenga & Jeff Merkel
Lori Moyer
Network for Good
Brenda Norcross
Patricia Nordmark
Mary Anne Nutter
Denise Omstead
Ellis, Dorothea, Isadora & Rhys Ott
Marilyn Biagi & Charlie Parr
Scott Peterson & Barbara Fairhurst
Shaque Phillips
Mike Powers & Teri Spires
Stephanie Rasley
Marilyn Richardson
Terry Roberts
Brian Rogers & Sherry Modrow
Carl Roland & Jacqueline D'Auria
Carol Linkswiler & John Rose
Ronnie Rosenberg
Kathy Ross
Brittany Rozier

Swallow ($35-49)

Amazon Smile Foundation
Jim Barr
Dan Bates
Mary Burtness
Kathi Cameron
Edmund Clausen
Susan Delisa
Jan Dawe & Larry Kaplan
Kathleen Greenberg
Phyllis Haggland
Mia Kohloff-Reynolds
Debra Koons & Clint Meyer
Brian & Marilyn Marsh
Jessica Morse
Mary Ann Nickles
Caitlin Perry
John Pfeifer
Kimberly Rogers
Francis Schulz
Quincy Schurr
James Warren
Camp Habitat Director and local Falconer, Bennett Wong, prepares for training session with a juvenile Gyrfalcon.
Thank you Volunteers & Community Partners!

**Creamer’s Field Refuge Hosts:**
Ken Hooker & Mary Perkins

**Farmhouse Visitor Center Hosts:**
Brenda Sadler, Betsy Sturm, Janet Taylor, Susanne Billings, Gail Mayo, Maureen Dey, Anne DeMuth, Susie Crevensten and Caroline Wolf.

**Nature Walk Leaders:**
Bud Marschner

Friends of Creamer’s Field is proud to partner with the Fairbanks Garden Club. (Below-left) Volunteers from the Club plant and maintain Anna Creamer’s Historic Garden and the landscaping around the Farmhouse Visitor Center. (Below-right) Susie Crevensten & Liz Masi accept a donated load of manure from Seekins Ford.

(Below) Somer Hahm, Artist in Residence & Creative Director of the Far North Quilt Trail Project, prepares panels for the “Flying Geese” barn quilt. (Far right) Staff from Johnson River Enterprises, LLC donated time and expertise for the installation.