

Field Notes

October 2022



Greetings Friends!

Spooky season is upon us!

We hope that you join us for Creepy Critters: Bears of Alaska on October 22, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Creamer's Field.

You will learn about the three bears that live in Alaska and an ancient species, the *Arctodus*! There will be crafts, snacks, and demonstrations. You won't want to miss it!

See you on the Refuge,

Grace & Melanie

Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

Photo: Artist Todd Sherman (left) and ADFG Biologist Mark Ross (right) with 'Arctodus, the short-faced bear' at Creamer's Field. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

2022 Creepy Critters: Bears of Alaska

Saturday, October 22nd from 12:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Can you handle the Bear-anoia?!

Friends of Creamer's Field presents: *Creepy Critters: Bears of Alaska!*

This event is FREE to the public!

There will be displays and activities on the three species of bears found in Alaska.

There will also be information on bear safety.

Come enjoy hot beverages, treats and sweets, prizes, and fun crafts! Costumes encouraged!

Please dress for cold weather. For more information, please call us at (907) 978-8457 or visit the link below.

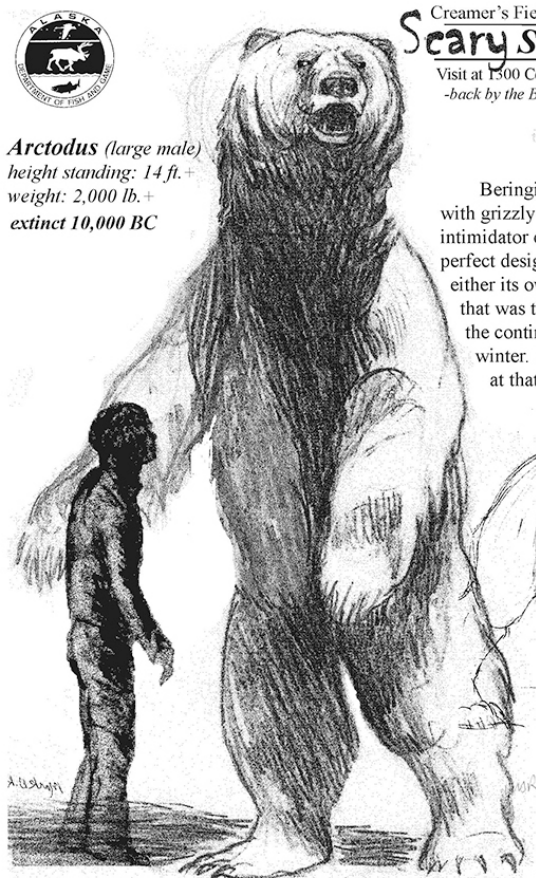


Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross



Arctodus (large male)
height standing: 14 ft. +
weight: 2,000 lb. +
extinct 10,000 BC

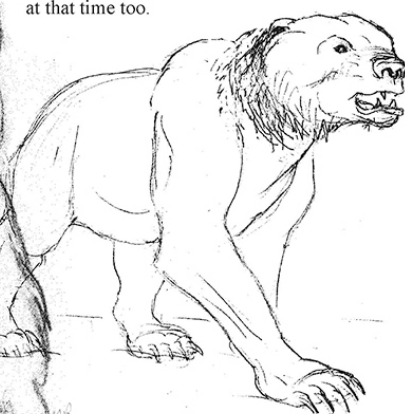


A bear of American origin, *Arctodus* ranged north and west to Alaska; no remains found in Siberia.

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
Scary Sketches:
Visit at 1500 College Road,
-back by the Barns

Arctodus the Terrible

Here in Alaska's interior, encounters with bears play upon our greatest fears. Those fears, those apprehensions are deeply rooted in our psyche, and the seeds were started long, long ago. About 15,000 years ago, around the time when people entered America, there was a great bear, *Arctodus*. Beringia was a place rife with mega-predators: giant lions, saber-tooths, giant wolves along with grizzly bears. But the *Arctodus* bear, standing nearly 14 feet tall, weighing over 2,000lb was the intimidator of them all. Long legged with a rangy build, this largest of mammalian carnivores had the perfect design to roam the vast grassland tundras of Alaska's ice-free interior, searching for prey—either its own or that of others. Some paleo-biologists believe the bears did not hibernate. Perhaps that was the species undoing. As climate warmed and grasslands were replaced by shrubs and trees, the contingent mega-grazers disappeared. The giant *Arctodus* could not sleep away the long hungry winter. But as mentioned earlier, the greatest of predators, the most adaptable, entered Alaska at that time too.



~20 inches
This *Arctodus simus* skull from Ester Alaska is the largest ever discovered; larger than the world record brown bear.

See this *Arctodus* skull at Creamer's Farmhouse



Creamer's Farmhouse
459-7307



Bears, learn more about them
Saturday, October 22nd, 12- 3pm
See the giant *Arctodus* skull
Shoot *Arctodus* with bear spray
Make bear masks and More!
at the Farmhouse back by the barns

Friends of Creamer's Field Online Store

Check out the new items available on our online store!



Thank you for being a Friend!

In addition to allowing us to provide our Refuge programs and events at no charge, your donations have allowed us to do much more! Additional projects include outhouse cleaning to enable four outhouses to remain open year-round, dairy roof painting, and trail repair. With your help, we have so much more planned for 2023!



Our Contact Information

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Mission Statement

"Inspiring environmental stewardship and lifelong learning through experience, awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural and historic resources of Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

