

Field Notes

July 2023

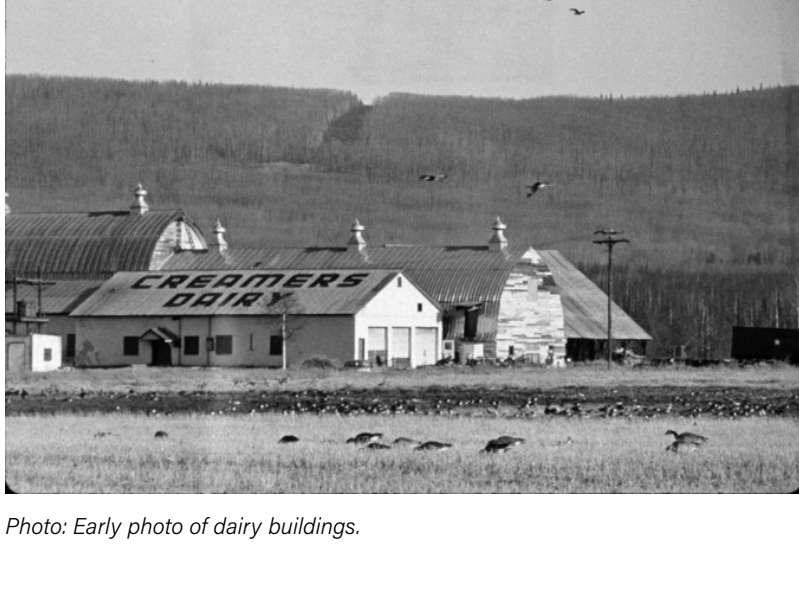


Photo: Early photo of dairy buildings.

Greetings Friends!

It has been an amazing summer on the Refuge so far!

Camp Habitat is in full swing. This year, over 250 kids will have a hands on experience learning about Interior Alaska ecology and conservation.

We also just hosted the 2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk. Which was a huge success! We hosted 31 artists and 2 food vendors. Thank you to all who attended!

Creamer's Dairy Day is just around the corner on Sunday, July 16th from 12:00PM - 4:00 PM. There will be farm games, history tours, crafts, and ICE CREAM! Alaska Range Dairy will also be there with their cow! We hope to see you at this family-friendly event.

See you at the Refuge,

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

THE FRIENDS OF CREAMER'S FIELD PRESENTS...

Creamer's DAIRY DAY



SUNDAY, JULY 16

12:00 - 4:00 PM

CREAMER'S FIELD MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE

Enjoy farm games, **ICE CREAM**, learn about Alaskan agriculture, see a **COW**, and experience the history of Creamer's Dairy!



Schedule

12:30 PM AND **2:30 PM**

History Tour, Experience the history of the former dairy

1:30 PM

Farm Games, meet on the west lawn of the Farmhouse

- **Partner Potato Toss!** Youth and Adult Divisions, winners get a prize!
- **Team Tire Flip!** Team relay with a tractor tire, winners get a prize!

Ongoing events include meeting agriculture and gardening organizations, history displays, lawn games, crafts, ice cream, and visiting the Farmhouse Visitor Center.

2023 DAIRY DAY PARTICIPANTS



Fairbanks Garden Club



2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

Thank you to all of the attendees, artists, volunteers, and sponsors who made the 2023 Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk a success! We cannot wait for 2024!



Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Field Sketches: Golden Days of Creamer's Dairy

50 years ago...

The dairy building complex was like a small community. In the early 1960's the dairy employed 16 people, many of whom lived with their families in the dairy's on-site housing consisting of more than 6 residences.

The front fields (about 300 acres) extended up to College Road and served as summer pasture for the herd of guernsey and holstein milk cows. Today the fields are farmed to grow barley sprouts and mature barley which provide food for migrating waterfowl and cranes.

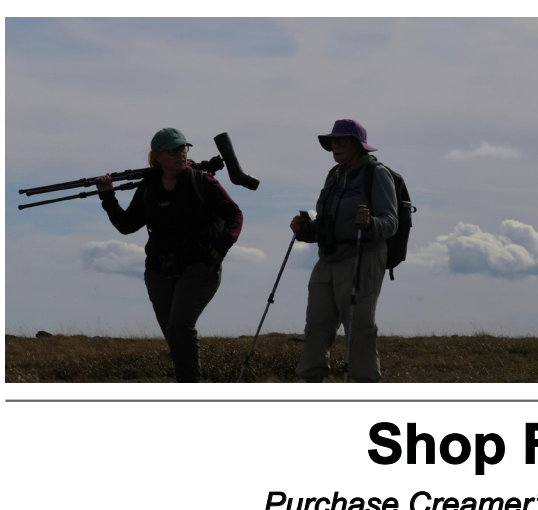
Anna and Charlie Creamer, out standing in their field. Along with their son Don, they built the dairy from a small operation of 60 acres, 20 cows, a small log cabin and log barn in 1928 to the most modern Alaskan dairy of its time: 100+ cows, 800+ acres; The largest independently owned processing dairy ever in the state of Alaska.

Sandhill cranes have visited the fields for countless generations. They are long-lived birds: the grandparents of today's cranes may well have shared the fields with the creamers' cows.

The dairy herd of 100+ guernseys and holsteins produced 300 gallons of milk per day, the raw material for a variety of dairy products including the most popular: 600 gallons of ice cream per day.

Creamer's Dairy Day
Sat, July 16, 12-4 pm at Creamer's Field
See Creamer's Antique Car- 1910 Chalmers
and Vintage Tractor- 1934 Case model L
Visit with the Creamer Family members
View an Indoor picture show and an easy Outdoor history tour 907-978-8457

Other Happenings in Fairbanks



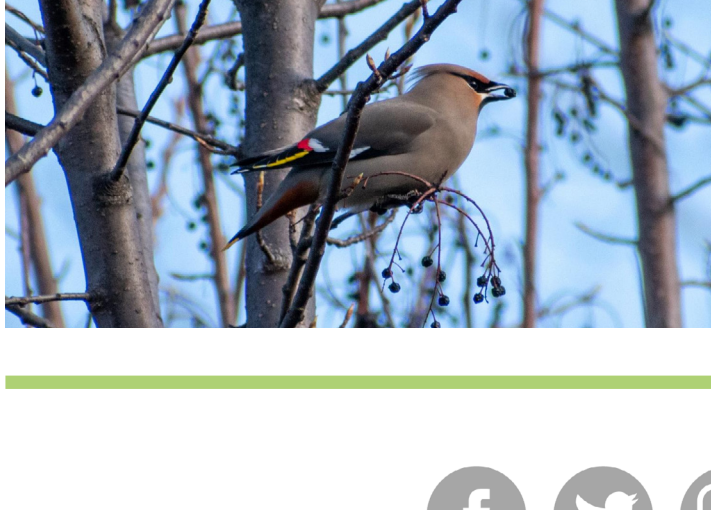
Field Trip: Audubon Riedel Reserve Saturday, August 12 Arctic Audubon

The next Arctic Audubon Field Trip will be on August 12th at Wickersham Dome! Plan on looking for migrating Northern Wheatears and other higher-elevation birds, and maybe some good blueberry patches! Meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse. The group will be leaving promptly at 8am. This trip will include moderate hiking with elevation gain, possibly 5-6 miles. Jerry Lipka and Frank Keim will lead the trip.

Photo by Jerry Lipka

Shop Friends of Creamer's Field

Purchase Creamer's Field merchandise from the comfort of your own home.



Thank you for being a Friend!

As a 100% community funded organization, your support allows us to offer free educational programs to the Fairbanks community and its visitors. This year we intend to expand our educational outreach, resurface the parking lot closest to the barns, improve trail accessibility, and update our interpretive signage throughout the Refuge.

Photo by Grace Nelson

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."

