

Field Notes

March 2024



Photo: Mushing team races in the 2024 North American Open at Creamer's Field. Photo by Grace Nelson.

Greetings Friends!

We have some exciting things to share with you.

If you're interested in learning about the ecology and history of the Refuge, we have Sharing Nature training happening every Wednesday evening from April 3rd to May 15th. You will also learn how to share your knowledge with visitors. For more information or to register, contact Mark Ross at mark.ross@alaska.gov.

Our Spring Migration Celebration is also coming up on April 27th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This is a family-friendly event with fun activities, walks, and opportunities to interact with local outdoor organizations.

If you have a young nature lover in your life, you can now register them for Camp Habitat. However, please note that space is limited, so make sure to register soon. Scholarships are also available, please visit www.friendsofcreamersfield.org for more information.

Thank you for being a Friend of Creamer's Field! We hope to see you at the Refuge.

Grace & Melanie
Friends of Creamer's Field Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

SHARING NATURE and History at Creamer's Field

April 3 - May 15
Wednesday Evenings
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Volunteers learn how to share nature and local history with summer visitors on the refuge trails and in the visitor center

Sharing Nature Training

We are looking for volunteers at Creamer's Field! Come attend our Sharing Nature and History Training this spring with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Friends of Creamer's Field! Volunteers will learn how to share nature and local history with summer visitors in the visitor center and on the refuge trails. The course is designed to follow the changing of seasons from winter to spring here at the refuge. The sessions will be on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 pm running from April 3 - May 15 at the Farmhouse Visitor Center.

Certified teachers can get credit for the class through the University of Alaska!
For more information, contact Mark Ross at mark.ross@alaska.gov or call (907) 459-7301.

Celebrate the change in seasons...

SPRING MIGRATION CELEBRATION

AT CREAMER'S FIELD MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE

APRIL 27, 2024
12:00 - 4:00 PM

Spring Migration Celebration

The migrating birds and awakening wildlife will be celebrating the coming of spring at our Spring Migration Celebration! Come celebrate with the Friends of Creamer's Field, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and more local outdoor organizations on April 27 from 12-4 pm at Creamer's Field! This event is FREE to the public and will bring fun for all ages! Activities include meeting local outdoor organizations, nature walk, treats, wildlife viewing, and crafts for kids and families.

Please dress for the weather and wear boots!

For more information, visit the link below.

Earth Day Poetry Walk

It is time to celebrate Earth Day!

We invite you to share art and poetry with the Fairbanks community on why you care about the earth! The Fairbanks Community Earth Day Committee is hosting an art and poetry walk at the Chena River Walk and at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge to commemorate Earth Day.

Please submit all poems and artwork by April 12! Send submissions to programs@friendsofcreamersfield.org or drop them off at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse Visitors Center entryway.

Open to kids and adults! Submissions must be at 8.5" x 11" for lamination and include your Name (grade and school if applicable). We implore you to come celebrate spring, the return of birds, and enjoy an art-filled walk!



Field Sketch

Presented by ADFG Biologist, Mark D. Ross

Creamer's Field, your local wildlife refuge
Field Sketches:
Visit the refuge, College Rd. back by the big barns.
Mark D. Ross, 459-7301

After a quick bit of book research and examination of a few of the willow twig tips, I determined they were searching not for plant material, they were after tiny animals, the larval stage of a gnat:
Look to the pencil -

What were those Birds pecking Upon?
March 7th, in the shining sun, on the very tips of willow twigs, two Downy Woodpeckers were gently tapping and picking on the very ends of willow twigs. I initially thought buds or seeds were their wish, or maybe the sparkling frost for a bit of moisture. When they winged away, I collected a couple twig tips.

Here's what I found upon taking a closer look:
I opened the end of a twig and found a larva within:
Beaked willow gall with larvae within.
The gall, a bulbous swelling of the twig, is induced by the midge larvae.
The gnat commonly known as a beaked-gall midge, the adult form is a tiny two winged insect.
actual size is just a few millimeters --

REGISTRATION OPEN: Camp Habitat 2024

Camp Habitat

NATURE ECOLOGY CAMP FOR KIDS

Registration Opens March 18th

Nature Sprouts (ages 4-5)	June 17-21, 2024	9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Nature Detectives (ages 6-7)	June 24-28, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 8-12, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 15-19, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 22-26, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Water Striders (ages 8-9)	June 24-28, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 8-12, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 15-19, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 22-26, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
Refuge Adventurers (ages 10-11)	June 24-28, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 8-12, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 15-19, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
	July 22-26, 2024	9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Register at
www.friendsofcreamersfield.org

WE'RE HIRING!
CAMP HABITAT DIRECTOR
SUMMER 2024

Visit our website for more details:
www.friendsofcreamersfield.org

WE ARE HIRING!

Position: 2024 Camp Habitat Director

Location: Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, Fairbanks, AK

Status: Seasonal position, part-time April-May, full-time June through mid-August.

Closing Date: Open until filled.

Date Available: April 1, 2024 - flexible start date

Employment Details: \$20-\$23/hour, DOE.

Job Description: Camp Habitat is a nature education and ecology day camp for youth ages 4-11. There are five (5) camp sessions that run in June and July. The Camp Habitat's primary responsibility is to oversee the day-to-day camp operations and supervise camp staff. This position reports directly to the Executive Director of Friends of Creamer's Field (FOCF).

Visit the link below for the full job description, duties, and how to apply.

Pick.Click.Give.

Support Friends of Creamer's Field through your PFD!

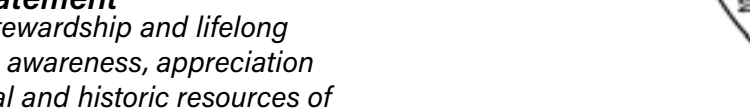
You can support Friends of Creamer's Field through your 2024 Permanent Fund Dividend by choosing to Pick, Click, and Give!

PFD applications are available from January 1 to March 31.

For more information about the Pick.Click.Give program, visit the link below.

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.



Our Contact Information

Friends of Creamer's Field
P.O. Box 81065
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907) 978-8457
director@friendsofcreamersfield.org
www.friendsofcreamersfield.org



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."