

Field Notes

April 2025



WE HAVE TOUCHDOWN!

The first migratory birds of the season arrived just after 4PM yesterday (April 10)—a pair of Trumpeter Swans became the first official arrivals at Creamer's Field. Even with today's light snowfall, it's really starting to feel like spring on the Refuge. The fields were cleared by the Fairbanks Airport on Wednesday, and the Kiwanis will be spreading grain tomorrow morning. Thousands of birds will be here before we know it!

With that, a quick reminder: the fields are now CLOSED to the public. Please be mindful of our arriving feathered friends by staying out of the plowed areas.

Spring also means our programs are just around the corner. We are only 15 days away from Spring Migration Celebration! Join us on Saturday, April 26 from 12 PM to 4 PM for a day of fun featuring crafts, guided nature walks, and more.

Shortly after that, on May 17th, we'll debut a new event: Outdoor Day! This event is designed to connect people to the incredible outdoor recreation opportunities available in Interior Alaska. Local organizations and businesses will be on hand, providing resources, workshops, and demos to help individuals explore the outdoors safely and confidently. If your group is interested in participating, we'd love to hear from you—there's an interest form linked below.

Sharing Nature volunteer naturalist training is underway, and it's not too late to join! This is a great opportunity to deepen your knowledge of Creamer's Field and learn how to share its unique resources with others.

If you're looking for a simple way to help out, we're currently collecting cardboard tubes (from toilet paper, paper towels, wrapping paper, etc.) for a hands-on activity at Spring Migration Celebration. We're also seeking volunteers to help assemble bird box kits!

Finally, be sure to read through the rest of the newsletter for updates on the Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk, Camp Habitat, and Earth Day festivities. There's so much to look forward to!

See you on the Refuge,

Grace
Executive Director

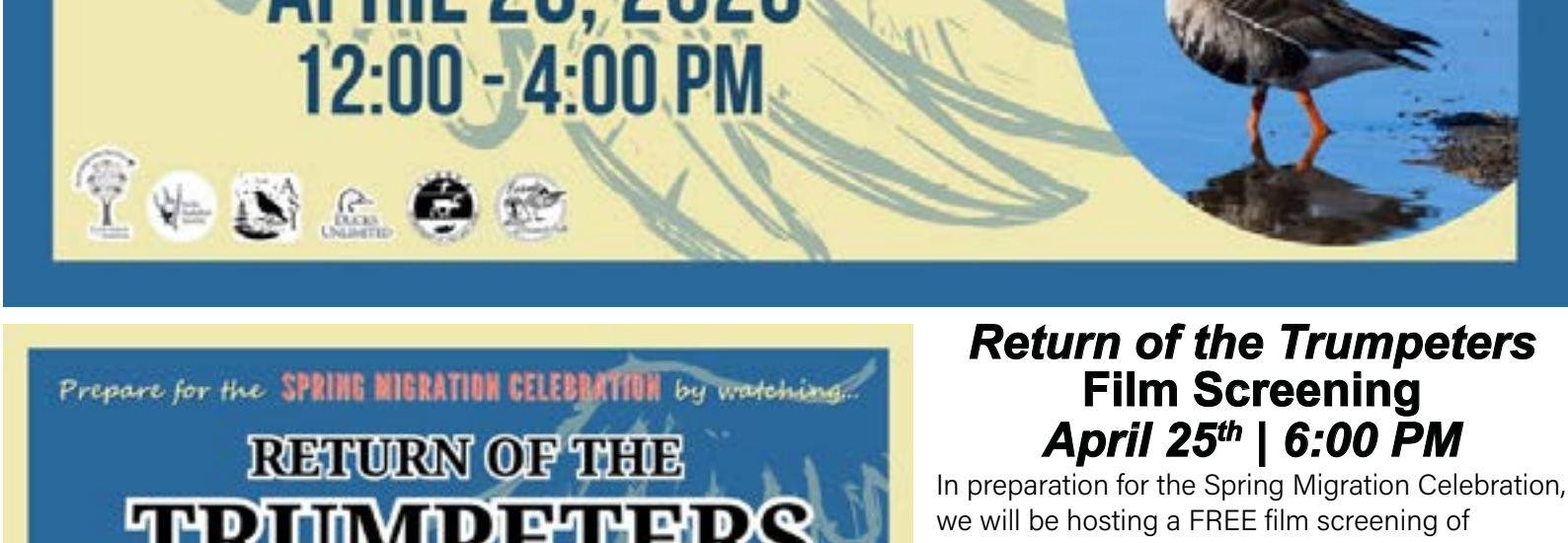
Photo: The first arrivals of 2025. Photo by Melanie Graeff.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Spring Migration Celebration

April 26th | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Let's all celebrate 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 26 from 12-4 pm at Creamer's Field! This event is FREE for the public and will bring fun for all ages! Activities include meeting local outdoor organizations, a nature walk, treats, wildlife viewing, and crafts for kids and families. Please dress for the weather and wear boots!



Return of the Trumpeters Film Screening

April 25th | 6:00 PM

In preparation for the Spring Migration Celebration, we will be hosting a FREE film screening of Return of the Trumpeters on April 25 at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitor Center! Doors open at 5:30 pm and the film will start at 6:00 pm. Talk with us about spring migration and the upcoming Saturday event!

In Return of the Trumpeters, experience the majestic Trumpeter Swan, North America's largest waterfowl, who was once hunted to the brink of extinction. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of a new generation, this iconic species is making a comeback. Experience one of the greatest conservation success stories of our time!

Certified teachers can get credit for the class through the University of Alaska!

Sharing Nature Training

April 2 - May 14 | Wednesday | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

We are looking for new 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 2 - May 14 at the Farmhouse Visitor Center.



Help Send a Child to Camp Habitat!

We have received an amazing response to Camp Habitat registration this year! With that excitement comes a growing number of families requesting financial assistance.

At Camp Habitat, we believe every child should have the opportunity to explore the outdoors, learn about the natural world, and experience the joy of camp—regardless of their financial situation.

We're just \$1,450 away from funding the remainder of our 2025 scholarship requests. Help us meet this goal by April 25th and ensure no camper misses out.



Plowed Areas in Field are Closed to People

Migratory Birds are in and More soon to Arrive

Please, Stay Out of Plowed Areas.

Thank You

Fields are CLOSED!

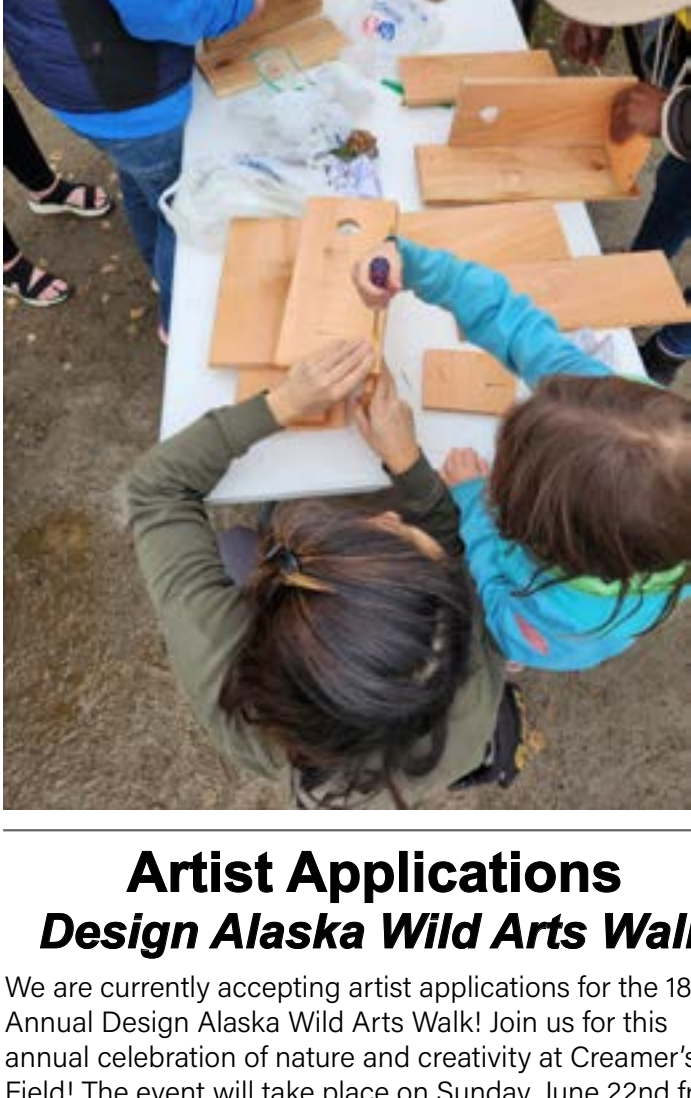
Field prep for spring migration has begun here at the refuge! We ask that people please stay out of the plowed areas in the front viewing field to give the migratory birds the ability to rest and feed safely!

There are many trails still open here at Creamer's Field! Trail maps are available at the Farmhouse Visitor Center.



ISO: Cardboard Rolls

We're collecting empty cardboard rolls for exciting bird crafts at our upcoming community events! Instead of tossing them in the recycling, please drop them off and help us turn everyday items into artistic masterpieces! Please donate clean, empty cardboard rolls that are free from residue. Drop off any cardboard toilet rolls, paper towel rolls, and wrapping paper rolls at the Farmhouse Visitor Center by April 25!



Call for Woodworkers: Help Us Create Bird Box Kits!

Do you have woodworking skills and a desire to assist in our local community? We're looking for volunteers to support in making bird box kits for our upcoming community events!

These kits will help participants build bird boxes to encourage wildlife in their areas and foster a love for nature. Whether you're an experienced woodworker or just a handy with tools, we'd love your help!

How You Can Contribute:

- Cutting wood pieces: Using provided templates to create pre-measured components.
- Pre-drilling holes: Ensuring the kits are easy to assemble for all skill levels.
- Assembling kits: Packaging pieces together

This is a wonderful opportunity to use your skills for a meaningful cause and contribute to a bird-friendly community! Please contact us at 907-978-8457 or by email programs@friendsofcreamersfield.org if you are interested!

Artist Applications Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk

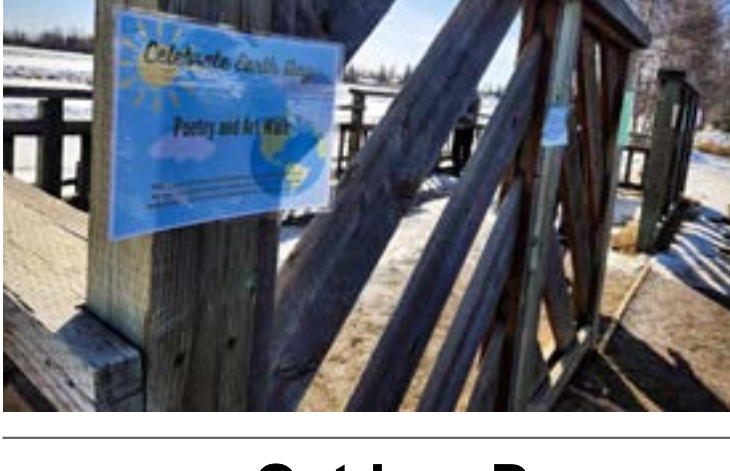
We are currently accepting local organizations and businesses for the 18th Annual Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk! Join us for this annual celebration of nature and creativity at Creamer's Field! The event will take place on Sunday, June 22nd from 11AM - 4PM.

We will have food, music, and of course lots of art. Check out the application below for more information about the event.

DESIGN ALASKA WILD ARTS WALK Artist Applications are OPEN!

Share your talents with the Fairbanks Community at Creamer's Field!

June 22nd 11AM - 5PM CREAMER'S FIELD Applications Due May 30th



Earth Day Poetry & Art Walk

Celebrate Earth Day in Fairbanks this spring! If you wish to feature your poetry or art at Creamer's Field in the week leading up to Earth Day, email your poems or art to programs@friendsofcreamersfield.org or drop them off at the Farmhouse Visitor Center before April 18th!

Outdoor Day

Call for Outdoor Organizations

We're currently seeking local organizations and businesses to join us in sharing outdoor resources, knowledge, and inspiration with the community at our new program Outdoor Day!

Outdoor Day will take place on Saturday, May 17th from 12PM - 4PM at Creamer's Field.

The goal of this event is to introduce new audiences to the wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities available throughout Interior Alaska. Through hands-on experiences, expert guidance, and connections with local organizations and businesses, we aim to reduce the common barriers to getting outside - whether it's lack of equipment, uncertainty about where to start, or simply unfamiliarity with the area.

If your group is interested in participating, please complete the interest form below. Any questions? Call 907-978-8457 or email director@friendsofcreamersfield.org.



Creamer's Field Online Store

Support our mission with a purchase from our online store! Explore a collection of gifts, books, apparel, and souvenirs, perfect for every Creamer's Field enthusiast. Every purchase supports our mission and allows us to continue providing free community programs!

Visit online store here:

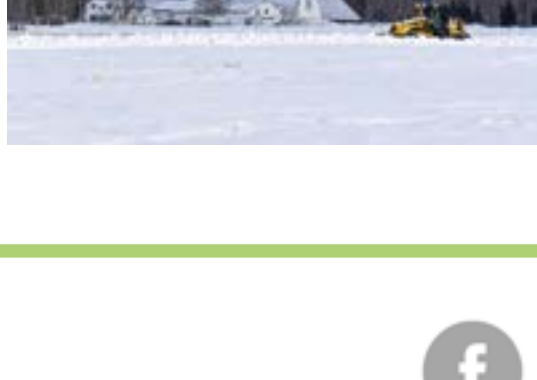


Other Happenings



Arctic Audubon Field Trips

Join Arctic Audubon Society in exploring Interior Alaska birding hotspots on their volunteer-led field trips! Birders of all levels are welcome, especially beginners. All walks are free and led by local experts. Please pre-register for field trips using the link below. This assists group leaders in planning. Email the Arctic Audubon Society at arcticaudubon@gmail.com if you have questions.



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
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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."

