



Boy Scouts Clean up Buskin Beach



Part of the Buskin Beach clean-up crew poses with the pile of trash they collected.



Buskin Beach clean-up team after loading up the collected beach debris (L-R): Tom Mena, Ken Morrison, Gary Kernan, Dylan Morrison, Aaron Ariss, Adrian Mena, Walter Olazabal, Wesley Pyle (sitting on debris/garbage in pickup truck), Aaron Kernan (standing in truck bed), Austin Ariss, Greydon Lincoln, Ethan Storer, Tim Miles, Chris Westling, Jeffrey Westling, Bill Pyle, Mike Lincoln

Buskin Beach clean-up team before they got their hands dirty (L-R): Russell Strang, James Strang, Gary Kernan, Wesley Pyle, Aaron Ariss, Mike Lincoln, Aaron Kernan, Bill Pyle, Greydon Lincoln, Tom Mena, Adrian Mena, Jeffrey Westling, Walter Olazabal, Conner Burnside, Crystal Burnside, Tim Miles, Chris Westling, Steve Paulson, Ethan Storer



In January, the local Kodiak chapter of Boy Scouts of America sponsored a debris-removal project, supported by Island Trails Network, to clean up a portion of Buskin Beach approximately a fourth of a mile long and teach the Boy Scouts about local and global problems associated with marine debris. This community-based project will also help Wesley Pyle fulfill a requirement to become an Eagle Scout.

Ten Scouts, parents, and volunteers spent a Saturday cleaning up the beach area of Buskin River State Recreation Site by removing debris from the entire area. As part of this project, the Boy Scouts designated a 200-yard long swath of beach as a survey site for identifying, counting, and recording the types of trash they found under six categories: plastic, metal, glass, rubber, processed lumber, and fabric. Future

monitoring is also planned for the survey site, including clean-ups every few months during which debris types will continue to be documented, helping to establish possible debris patterns and potential sources.

The debris from the survey site was broken down as follows: Plastic trash was the most common, with 378 items collected, followed by metal (76 items), processed lumber (26 items), glass (6 items), rubber (5 items), and finally fabric (3 items). A fiberglass fishing rod handle, which did not fit neatly into these classifications, was also collected.

The project group bagged approximately 600 pounds of marine debris and took it to an Island Trails Network marine debris holding facility for future disposal.

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Boy Scouts and a load of beach debris hitch a ride on Kodiak Area State Parks' inflatable



(L-R): Walter Olazabal, Wesley Pyle, and Bill Pyle record the trash they collected from a 200-yard swath of beach they designated for surveying types and quantities of marine debris on Buskin Beach.

Northern News

- The State signed a contract with Kim White, owner of Smiling Moose Gifts, to operate a restaurant and gift shop at Big Delta State Historical Park. The café will serve homemade lunch and weekend buffets. Smiling Moose has partnered with the Alaska Flour Company to serve homemade baked goods. The gift shop specializes in Alaskan-made gifts.
- Northern Area is working with the School of Management at UAF to develop a business plan for Big Delta SHP. We are looking for ideas to generate finances and provide an income base.
- Rangers Dane Happ and Ian Thomas are working with the Division of Mining, Land and Water to streamline cross-country travel permits for miners accessing claims through Chena River State Recreation Area. Improved permitting will benefit all trail users and minimize resource damage.



Above and left: Deferred maintenance of the interiors of the recreation and dining halls at Twin Bears Camp in the Chena River State Recreation Area has been completed. The camp is under a concession contract with the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. Last year, 1,070 guests used the facilities.



Alaska State Parks Employee Shuffle



New Kenai Park Maintenance - Randall Bradford

Randall Bradford is a welcome addition to the Kenai\Prince William Sound maintenance department. He has spent the past 23 years working for Spenard Builders Supply in Soldotna Alaska. Randall has been married to Norma for over 39 years; they have two boys, one girl, and three grandchildren. He has lived in Alaska since 1965 and will be a great asset to Parks' maintenance department.



New Kenai Park Specialist - Andy Bacon

Andy Bacon started work as the Seward Park Specialist in March. He transitioned over to the Alaska State Parks team from the Department of Fish and Game where he collected fishery data for the last five years. He also has a diverse background in construction, and was running a small contracting business before joining Alaska State Parks.

Prior to moving to Seward in 2006, Andy earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and another in Economics from the University of California Santa Cruz. While attending school, Andy had the opportunity to do a congressional internship in Washington, D.C. "History is everywhere you look, from the parks and museums throughout the city to the worn marble stairs of the Capitol building," he says of the experience.

In his spare time, Andy enjoys hiking, cross country skiing, sea kayaking, and fishing. He has a deep appreciation of the natural landscapes of Alaska and loves living in Seward. In 2008, Andy completed a term of service with AmeriCorps in Seward and gained a good deal of familiarity with the community through volunteer work. He continues volunteering for the Polar Bear Jump Off Festival, benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Andy is looking forward to meeting more Park staff and getting to work on some of the varied projects around Caines Head SRA. He has already begun working on major renovations to the seasonal staff bunkhouse at Lowell Point SRA. In April, he will complete a week-long marine safety instructor seminar hosted at AVTEC. He is also looking forward to leading the construction of a new public-use cabin in Prince William Sound next summer.



New Northern Area Park Ranger - Brad Garasky

Northern Area is excited to welcome Brad Garasky on board as the new Fairbanks Park Ranger. He brings 17 years of natural resource experience to the job. Brad worked as a crew leader and park ranger for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, as a correctional sergeant for the Idaho Department of Corrections, and as camp manager for Alaska's Hallo Bay Bear Camp. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation Management from Eastern Washington State. Welcome to the Division of Fun, Brad!

