

American Bald Eagle Foundation

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

President's Message

It has been a very educational summer for us at the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines. We have expanded and we have grown. All of this expansion and growth has been due in part to you, the people who have visited this foundation and the people who support this foundation.

It is with great pleasure that I thank all of you for your help, your donations, and the comments you have given us so that we can grow and improve to best serve you in the future.

Thank you very much,

Rich Kaloostian, President,
American Bald Eagle Foundation

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Daniel Bertsch is the ABEF's newest board member. He brings a wealth of experience to the Foundation. Dan came to Haines in 1979 to teach Biology and Earth Science at the Covenant Life Center at 26 Mile Haines Highway. He did independent field work on the bird life, plant life and geology of the Chilkat Valley. These studies led to the creation of two field biology courses for the University of Alaska Southeast Community Education. He also developed the Bird Checklist of the Chilkat Valley, and an identification and edible plant guide titled The Flora of the Chilkat Valley. He worked with Ron Brandes to write the first brochure for the ABEF and the full-color brochure titled *Eagles* which describes the largest gathering of bald eagles in the world here in the Chilkat Valley. He also wrote the natural history sections for the Haines Visitor Guide in 1987 which has been used through the years with some modifications. Dan's knowledge as a naturalist, coupled with sales experience led him to develop Alaska Nature Tours with forester Dan Egolf in 1985 which has continued to grow and expand through the '96 season. Dan left Haines for Anchorage to pursue his Master's degree in biology. He was accepted for an internship at the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area where he assisted in writing the curriculum for their newest environmental education center. He received his Master's degree from the University of Akron in Environmental Education in December 1994 and continued to work for National Parks until returning to Haines in April where he is presently working as Operations Manager for Alaska Nature Tours. Dan's background and talents will greatly add to the ABEF. Welcome on board, Dan!

ON THE WINGS OF EAGLES

In May, the ABEF held its first annual fund-raising event, "On the Wings of Eagles". During this time at the Foundation, we had a photography exhibit by Rich Reid, a University of Alaska class on birding, and a children's wildlife art exhibit. William's, Inc. A&P Market, Charlotte's Web, and Alaska Sport Shop all generously donated 2% of their sales at this time to the ABEF. These activities culminated in our dinner and auction on May 24. We dined on a fabulous prime rib dinner at the Fort Seward Lodge in Haines. Afterwards, we had our auction which included beautiful eagle art-porcelain sculptures, collector's plates and framed prints from the Franklin Mint as well as other items such as wildlife prints, scrimshaw and even snowshoes from the movie "White Fang"! Our auctioneer was a wonderful lady, Barbara Toombs, from Whitehorse, Yukon. She lent a professional air to our first-time effort. May through September is a busy time for our community because of the tourist industry. Consequently, we are hoping to move this much needed annual fund-raiser to November during the "Alaska Bald Eagle Festival". Watch our next newsletter (Oct. '96) for a confirmed date. A BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped make this a successful "first-time" event! All proceeds help to fund the Foundation and interpretive display.

EAGLE NEWS NOTES

- The ABEF was sad to see one of its board members and also its office manager leave for school. Dan and Dede Hyde were a great help in getting the Foundation off to a good start over the past two years. They will be missed, but we wish them luck in their new home in Selah, Washington.
- The ABEF has a new volunteer for the summer. Since early June, Brad Josephs from Charlotte, NC has been staying with the Olerud family and helping out at the Foundation. He brings a great respect for, and knowledge of, wildlife as he visits and answers questions with the visitors who come to see our interpretive display. Brad enjoys the outdoors and already has seen much of what our area has to offer including a solo camping trip in Canada. Brad is studying biology in college and will transfer to Fairbanks this fall for school.
- The ABEF is going global! One of our good friends and supporters, Dan Hart of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, has generously offered to develop a Web site for us on the Internet. Watch our next newsletter for an update.

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