

Georgetown Tribal Council

E-newsletter



Many thanks to this issue's photographer's: Will Hartman, Debby Hartman, Jonathan Samuelson. Contact our office if you'd like your photos to be featured in our next issue!

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The Year In Review; A letter From our Environmental Coordinator

The fireweed blossoms have come and gone, the leaves are turning and that cold dreary weather is beginning to creep in. But with this transition, comes some of the clearest, crisp days of the year.

Fall also means the fiscal year for our IGAP grant is coming to an end, which marks the close of a 4-year grant cycle. What a busy four years it has been.

Work identified as being important by Georgetown Tribal members has been accomplished by GTC staff, Council members and environmental committee members. Some of the big projects we have completed over the last four years include our climate change vulnerability assessment, environmental education website (image above), and Traditional Ecological Knowledge collection.

I have had the privilege of working with several Georgetown Tribal members over these past four years, and would like to recognize their accomplishments and contributions to the success of these projects here.

Jonathan Samuelson & Rebecca Wilmarth have been the heart and

soul of our Traditional Ecological Knowledge project, and thanks to their efforts in planning, interviewing and documenting this process, we have hours of recorded interviews, which will be used to pass on some of the traditional knowledge of elders in the Middle Kuskokwim to younger generations.. We will be preparing a booklet to hand out to Georgetown members and project participants this fall, and hope to continue to expand this program in the future.

Debby Hartman, Renee Fredericks & Jonathan Samuelson have been working hard over the past few years as members of the Environmental Committee. They take what has been expressed as important by their fellow Tribal members, and help guide our environmental department work to meet those needs/visions. This past year, they spent a lot of time working to develop our Tribal Environmental Plan, which will be approved this coming year.

Val Dudley, newly elected Tribal Council member, is now serving as our Environmental Committee Liaison, and is already showing great interest and offering new insight into our projects. We look forward to all she will have to offer our group.

GEORGETOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Ph: 907-274-2195

Kate Schaberg

IGAP Coordinator

kate.schaberg@georgetowntc.com

Will Hartman

Tribal Administrator

will.hartman@georgetowntc.com

Eric Dietrich

IT Technician

eric.dietrich@georgetowntc.com

www.georgetowntc.com

Finally, Will Hartman, the GTC Tribal Administrator, has been nothing but supportive in moving our Environmental department and projects forward. He jumps in when needed, even if it means being weathered out of Anchorage for a few days, attends trainings for the benefit of this department, and recognizes the importance of working to protect the natural resources in this region.

I look forward to another successful IGAP year, and hope to continue to build relationships with Tribal members, as well as staff and members from nearby communities on the Kuskokwim.

If you have interest in learning more about our program and projects, please don't hesitate to reach out and contact me at (907) 717-5292 or kate.schaberg@georgetowntc.com

-Kate Schaberg, GTC Environmental

Food For Thought:

Assaliaq Fry Bread!



Take your favorite bread recipe and let it rise for a couple of hours. If you're lazy to make the whole thing for fry bread, you can bake some in bread pans (in my oven 50 minutes)

I don't like to take pieces of dough and manually make them circular, put in air holes, so I use a rolling pin. Take a piece of dough, roll it, pinch a hole or two, then fry in very hot oil, soon as I see the browning on the side, I turn them right over, fry for a minute or less, and take them out with a pitch fork looking cooking utensil. Let the excess oil drip into the frying pan and place them on baking sheet pan with layered paper towels, with frybread standing up, so the oil will drain into the towels.

I like honey on mine. Father Michael eats them as is, or puts jam, butter, peanut butter, or honey too, and has coffee or tea with them.

- Annie Fredericks, Chuathbaluk

Recipe & Helpful hint provided by Matushka Anna Fredericks, IGAP Coordinator for the Native village of Chuathbaluk

Image taken from Jana's Journey to Alakanuk

Helpful Hint

The bread (fried or baked) turns out wonderful when you are in good spirits, happy, and singing. never bake in a bad mood, your bread usually does not turn out!



YOUTH CENTER

NOW LIVE: GTC'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM FOR TEACHERS:

edu.georgetowntc.com

Announced to teachers this fall at Kuspuk's in-service day, the GTC Environmental education curriculum aims to educate teachers about environmental issues prevalent to the middle Kuskokwim, introduce them to places and people where they can get more information, and get them started with some awesome curriculum resources created for our area, our state and also at a national level.

Please feel free to visit and utilize this website, as it can be a resource for not only teachers, but students, parents and community members as well. This site will be continually updated and added to, so if you feel there is something missing or that needs changed, please contact the Georgetown office at (907) 274-2195.

Many thanks to the EPA for funding this project, and also to local residents, teachers & environmental professionals for your help in producing this resource.



Find the answers to the puzzle below, and more fun moose activities at: <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-moose/>

1. Moose usually live in areas with _____, snowy winters, including North America, _____ & _____.
2. Moose are _____. During the summer, they eat tall _____ & shrubs.
3. Moose have a hard time _____ all the way to the ground to eat shorter grasses.
4. Moose like to _____.
5. They can swim many miles without _____ and can stay underwater for up to 30 seconds.
6. In the spring, moose look for food in _____ and lakes.
7. Male moose are called _____. They _____, or make loud noises, in the fall to attract a mate.
8. Moose usually have just one or two babies, known as _____.

A	E	G	K	S	Q	M	R	N	Q	N	O	H	R	Y	E
A	X	C	N	J	T	S	S	M	I	W	S	W	G	K	P
H	E	R	B	I	V	O	R	E	S	A	E	Q	G	N	A
N	P	B	P	E	D	C	P	E	V	O	S	A	W	Q	D
K	O	D	L	O	C	N	R	P	V	L	S	G	M	B	S
I	R	G	U	T	C	G	E	H	I	I	A	W	J	U	W
B	U	L	L	S	P	X	I	B	A	N	R	C	T	O	L
B	E	K	T	F	T	E	N	U	R	R	G	L	E	M	U

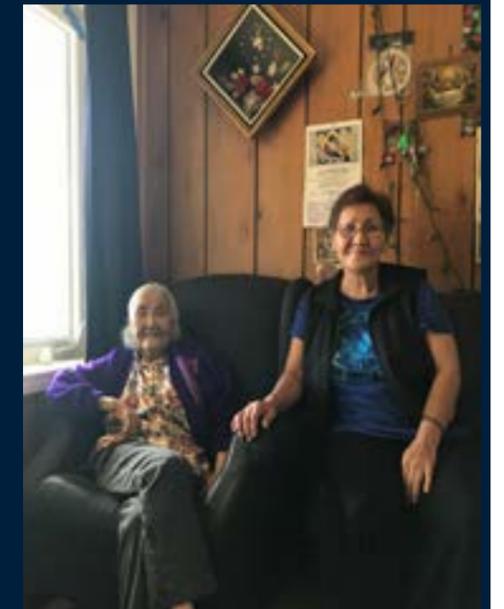
"Learn What You Can Today", A TEK Internship Experience

By: Rebecca Wilmarth

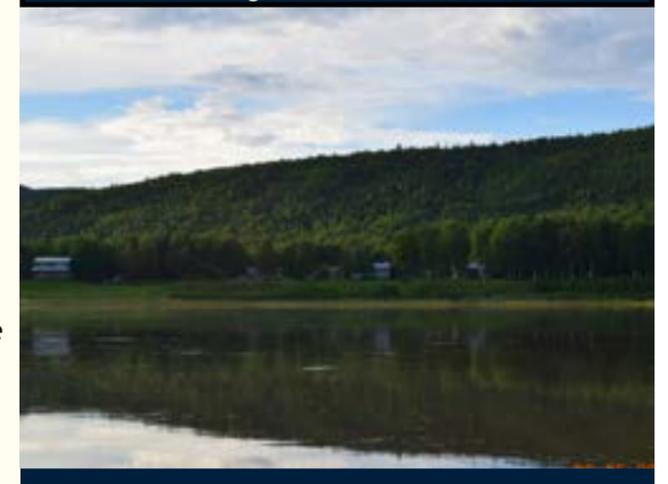
This summer I had the opportunity to intern with Georgetown Tribal Council (GTC) to assist with a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project. The project was organized and developed by GTC's Environmental Department. Employees and committee members determined the need and importance of the project due to the lack of documentation of TEK from Georgetown and surrounding villages on the Kuskokwim River. The goal of the project was to gather TEK via face-to-face interviews with residents from the region to document and preserve traditional information and stories for future generations.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge, or TEK, includes everything about the way people lived long ago. It embraces everything about the weather, plants and animals, hunting and fishing, and traveling. Unlike today when we can go to the grocery store to pick up something for dinner, people long ago lived in accordance with the seasons. Summer time meant fishing, gathering, and preserving food for the winter. Winters were spent trapping and hunting what game was available. Each time of year signified when a certain plant could be harvested, when a fish trap could be set, and when it was time to return from spring camp. Something that stood out in each interview was the sense of respect people had for the land. After all, they depended on it to sustain themselves since the beginning of time. A goal of the TEK project was to instill that sense of respect, pride, and belonging for the Kuskokwim River region in not only GTC members but all people who call our beautiful land home.

The internship was a rewarding experience in that it allowed with me to reconnect with my roots. I had recently spent some time away from home, and reestablishing relationships with my neighbors along the river while traveling to conduct interviews was heart-warming. Another fulfilling aspect of the project was the amount of positive feedback we received from the TEK participants. Everyone that was interviewed was overjoyed to share stories from the past and said that talking about "old-times" reminded them of treasured memories from their childhood. I would say the project so far has been a huge success as it has brought awareness to the historical richness of our area. Because that knowledge lives within our people, especially our Elders, one TEK participant stated perfectly in pointing out that we all need to "learn what you can today" and that is what the TEK project is all about.



Pictured from top and bottom, Intern Becka Wilmarth working on the river; TEK Participants Olinka Sakar of Aniak with daughter Annie Sakar-Morgan; A view of Georgetown from the river



CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE KUSKOKWIM

Over the last year, we have been working in partnership with the GEOS Institute's Climate Wise team to conduct a climate change Vulnerability Assessment for the Native Village of Georgetown, and surrounding communities. Georgetown has a unique opportunity to be proactive in their planning for the village, in a way that mitigates the impacts of climate change as best they can. The purpose of this project was to identify which populations and resources, relevant to the Native Village of Georgetown, are most vulnerable to impacts associated with climate change, which will be imperative in this planning process.

The Native Village of Georgetown recognizes the benefit of working in collaboration with neighboring communities on climate change issues, and plans to use the information from this report to inform future work. In early September, GTC hosted a Vulnerability Assessment workshop, which brought together GEOS staff, Georgetown Tribal members and representatives from Lower Kalskag, Napaimute & AVCP. Participants had an opportunity to learn about climate model projections, hear some of the trends identified from Traditional Knowledge collection in our region, and share collective knowledge about what they've observed and how the identified vulnerabilities would impact their communities. A final report will be published this fall, but for now, we wanted to share some of these projections:

Historical Trends (1949–2016)

- Temp. ↑ 4° F on average
- Temp. ↑ 2° F in summer
- Temp. ↑ 8° F in winter

By mid-century (2050s)*

- Average temp. ↑ 9° F
- Summer temp. ↑ 6° F
- Winter temp. ↑ 12° F
- Precipitation ↑ 20%
- Snowfall ↓ 5%
- Moisture deficit ↑ 16%
- Frost-free days ↑ 34 days/yr.
- Change in dominant vegetation potentially with an increase in forest cover
- Increase in wildfire
- Thawing permafrost throughout much of the region

By late-century (2080s)*

- Average temp. ↑ 13° F
- Summer temp. ↑ 9° F
- Winter temp. ↑ 19° F
- Precipitation ↑ 32%
- Snowfall ↓ 19%
- Moisture deficit ↑ 17%
- Frost-free days ↑ 57 days/yr.
- Change in dominant vegetation potentially with an increase in grasslands and prairie
- Increase in wildfire
- Little permafrost left in the region

* Compared to the historical period 1961–1990

FROM AROUND THE KUSKOKWIM

Chuathbaluk Environmental Program shares about their experience working with students at Crow Village Sam School (CVSS) with Cultural Friday and One Day Fall Clean Up.

Chuathbaluk held One Day Fall Clean Up this year. Annie Fredericks, IGAP Coordinator for Chuathbaluk, describes the event here:

The fall clean up is with leftover funding from the spring time (donations usually) to have a one day clean up before the snow falls. Before and after, we give a presentation on good Environmental Stewardship and ask them why they would like to participate in the clean up. Some are honest, they want to do it for money, now they are saying to take care of mother earth, because mother earth takes care of us. And we ask them how does mother earth take care of us, they give you many reasons. Youth are great to work with, they are my favorite group in our Environmental program.



Photos by Anna Michael, Assistant



Students of CVSS lined up and got ready to go pick red berries. Before we head out to where to pick, Mrs. Jasmine mentioned to students about how the Mother Earth is very important and what Mother Earth provides. Keep in mind to keep clean of our area in our yards and village.

Went to the Loop Road, at right side of the Loop Road. Picked about 3 gallons and Mrs. Jasmine mentioned when the CVSS have pot luck for the community she will make an announcement that the students did a remarkable job for picking Red Berries.

"It sure has been a learning experience working for CTC IGAP and awesome to work with students at Crow Village Sam School"

- Anna Michael, CTC Environmental Assistant

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

10-13

Nome, AK

Air Quality & Indoor Air Quality
In Alaska Native Villages (Level 1
Course)

Contact: sharlene.brown@nau.edu

11th

9-10 AM

Working Toward a Toxic-Free
Future for Children

info@akaction.org

13th

Deadline for Nominations to EPA Region 10 Tribal
Operations Commitment (RTOC)

Herbst.John@epa.gov

16-18

Anchorage, AK

First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference

19-21

Anchorage, AK

AFN Annual Convention

NOVEMBER

1st

Deadline for application to full
scholarship NAPLP program at
George Washington University

naplp.gwu.edu

naplp@gwu.edu

14-17

Anchorage, AK

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environ-
mental Management

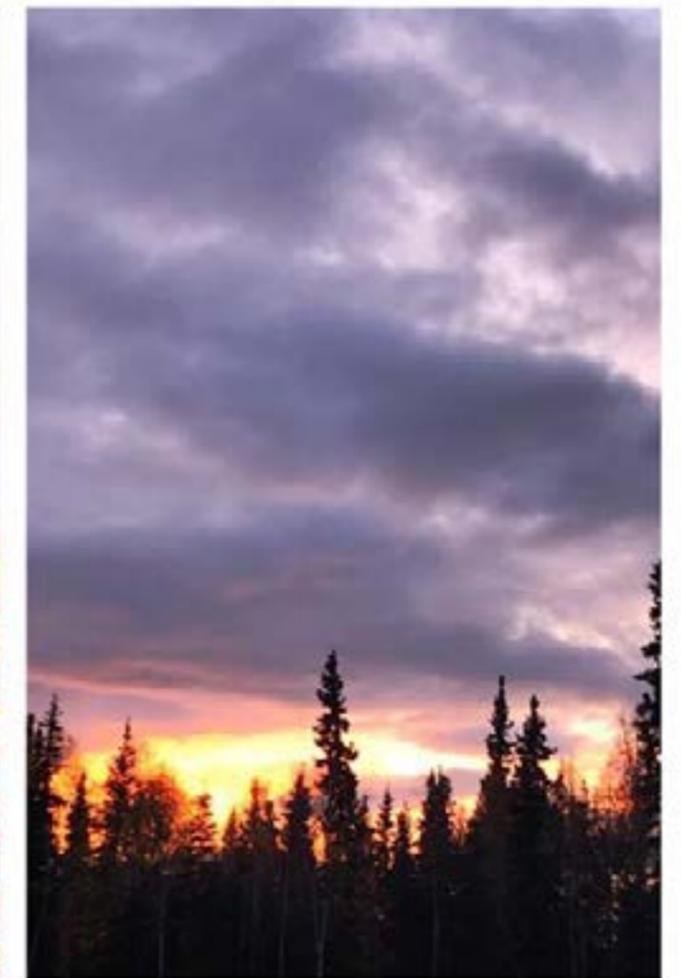
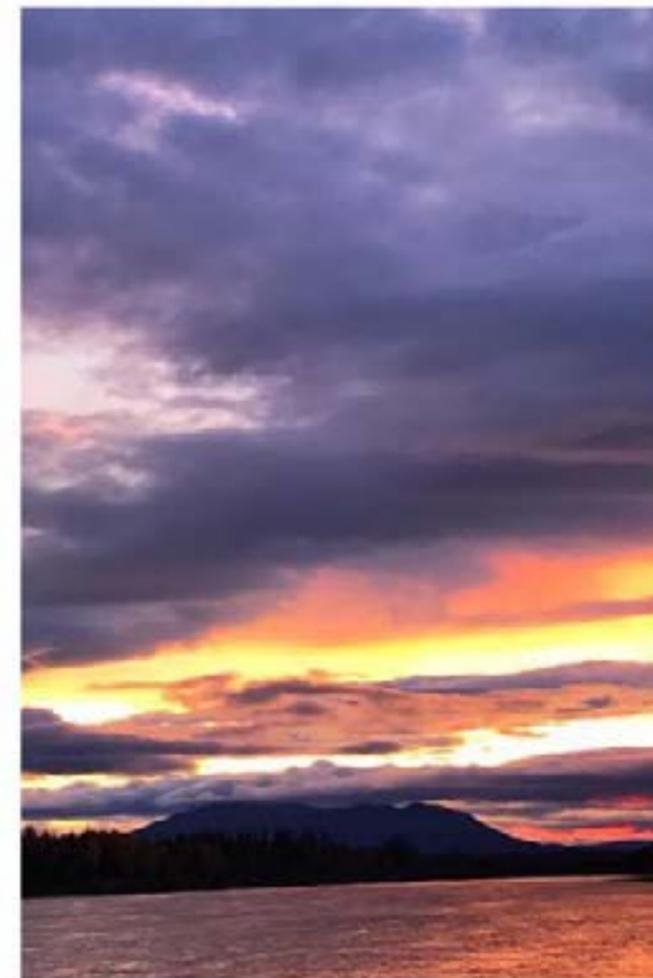
atcemak.com

DECEMBER



www.georgetowntc.com/Environmental.html

<https://georgetowntc.wordpress.com/>



5313 Arctic Blvd, Suite 104 Anchorage, AK 99507

Tel: 907-274-2195 Fax: 907-274-2196

