

The

# Southeast Steward



Newsletter of the Southeast Alaska Land Trust

Fall 2013

## New faces at SEAL Trust

In 2013 we have seen many new faces at Southeast Alaska Land Trust. Angie Hoffard became the new Conservation Assistant and Frank Rue, long time Board member, our new Executive Director. Kim Smith and Jay Nelson become Board member and Jim King, long time board member, retired from the board. For more information on our current Board of Directors, or information on becoming a board member, see our website.

Diane Mayer, Executive Director of 11 years, stepped down to pursue other interests. Much of Southeast Alaska Land Trusts success can be attributed to Diane's hard work and dedication. She has left a wonderful legacy. Diane is helping with the transition by wrapping up a few projects and managing the 2013 field season work of the Coastal Impact Assistant Project (CIAP).



Diane Mayer

*“The most rewarding work of my career!”*

*“My thanks to our dedicated staff, engaged board, generous members and support of regional resource professionals.”*

*“Nothing happens without willing landowners.” - Diane Mayer*

## New Executive Director

Frank Rue, long time Board member and Board President, joins the staff as Executive Director. Frank Rue graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BA and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a Masters in Landscape Architecture. Since 1977 Frank has worked on resource management issues in Alaska. He began his career working with communities on their Coastal Management Plans. Then he was part of the Department of Natural Resources State Land Planning unit. He was appointed as the Director of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Habitat Division before becoming the Commissioner of Fish and Game.



Frank Rue, Executive Director



Nelson Homestead Conservation Easement in Haines, AK

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SEAL Trust Mendenhall Wetlands Conservation Property

## Juneau Conservation Projects

2013 has been a busy year for Southeast Alaska Land Trust. With your help we have protected 6.03 acres of wetlands on the Mendenhall Peninsula as part of an ongoing accretion project. SEAL Trust has also been working hard to complete a few projects throughout the region including the projects highlighted on this page.

### Montana Creek Wetlands

This large 128 acre parcel is located in the heart of the Mendenhall Valley adjacent to the popular Kaxdigoowu Héen Dei (Brotherhood Bridge) trail and Montana Creek. SEAL Trust is in the process of purchasing this property and plans to donate the property to CBJ and hold a conservation easement. This property is the largest privately owned undeveloped wetland in the Mendenhall Valley. Conservation values include wetland habitat, fish and wildlife and open space.

### Auk Nu Cove Conservation Area

SEAL trust has been working with the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) in the preservation of Auk Nu Cove. This project is compensatory mitigation for the adjacent commercial dock facility. This property has both eel grass and mud flats that are ecologically important intertidal habitat.

### Mendenhall Wetland Refuge Properties

Southeast Alaska Land Trust has an on-going accreted lands project that includes acquiring accreted land on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Just over 35 acres have been purchased with In-Lieu-Fee mitigation for the Juneau airport expansion. For more information on the project and conservation values of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge see our website: <http://southeastalaskalandtrust.org/accreted-lands/>

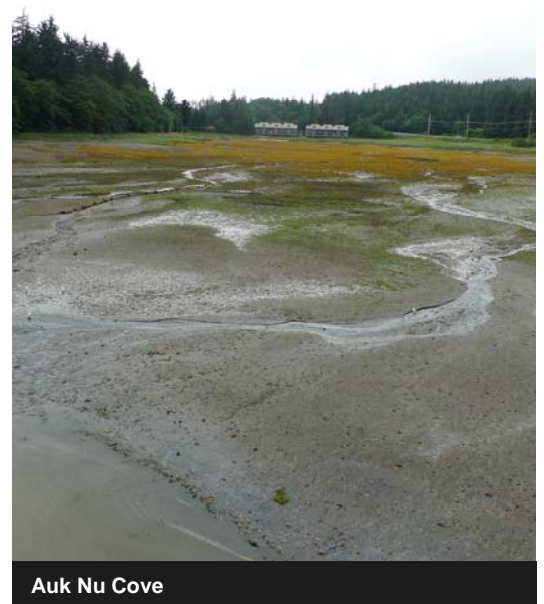
## Haines Project Conserves one of the Last Awarded Homesteads in Southeast Alaska

SEAL Trust is working with a Haines land owner to place a conservation easement on their 129 acre property, The Nelson Homestead, in Mud Bay.

Louis Nelson was awarded his Mud Bay homestead in 1980. The Nelson Family Trust subdivided and sold all but the original home site to conservation buyer in 2012.

The property is historically interesting to the community of Haines and it spans more than half the width of the Chilkat Peninsula. This large undeveloped property provides critical habitat and acts as a wildlife corridor. The property also includes more than 30 acres of productive tide flats.

For more information on the history and ecological importance of this conservation project, read the *Mud Bay Survey* by Richard Carstensen and Koren Boseworth on our website.



Auk Nu Cove

## Assessing Wetland Functions

In 2009 SEAL Trust was awarded a grant by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop a wetland assessment protocol for Southeast Alaska.

Dr. Adamus, and Oregon State University graduate faculty, was selected to create the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol for Southeast Alaska (WESPAK-SE) based on a similar model he developed in Oregon.

WESPAK-SE is a science-based field methodology for rapid assessment of tidal and non-tidal wetland in Southeast Alaska.

During 2013 both CBJ and SEAL Trust worked with Dr. Adamus to refine the current protocol and update the manual for Southeast Alaska. This project will continue through 2016 under the federal Coastal Impact Assistance grants.

A copy of the WESPAK-SE manual and data forms can be found on our website along with a link to the WESPAK-SE geospatial data portal at the University of Alaska Southeast GIS Library.

Dr. Adamus will be publishing a new version of WESPAK-SE this fall, so stay tuned!



Wetland Calibration site for WESPAK-SE in Hoonah, AK

## Near-Shore Assessment Tool for Southeast Alaska

In 2014 SEAL Trust will develop a near-shore rapid assessment tool along with continuing its work on the WESPAK-SE wetland tool. These together will provide an integrated assessment tool box to help characterize the specific wetland and marine functions impacted by development and protected by our mitigation projects.

SEAL Trust will provide demonstrations, training and materials to local and regional natural resource professionals.

These projects are funded by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.



# Land Trust Accreditation

Southeast Alaska Land Trust applied for National Land Trust Accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance in April of 2013. The application was accepted and the accreditation interview was in September.



The Land Trust Accreditation Program recognizes land trusts that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural, agricultural, recreational or cultural lands and resources forever. Becoming an accredited land trust will be an important accomplishment for SEAL Trust. SEAL Trust will receive final word on accreditation by spring 2014.

## A Call for Support

We would like to thank all of our current members and supporters. Southeast Alaska Land Trust has protected over 3,000 acres throughout the Southeast Alaska region since 1996. Without your donations and support we would not have been able to accomplish this.

Please be on the look out for our 2013 SEAL Trust letter and think of us for all of those end of the year donations. You can cut and mail the membership form below or donate online. For more information on how you can help, visit our website:

<http://southeastalaskalandtrust.org/you-can-help/>

## Contact Us

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