



23rd Retiree Reunion
Anchorage, Alaska
September 21 - 25, 2026



AGENDA

List of All FWS Retirees Association Reunions

Visit our website FWSRetirees.org and click on “Reunions” to see details from each Reunion, group photos, and personal stories as told by the attendees!

- 1999** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2000** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2001** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2002** – Spearfish, SD
- 2003** – Pelican Island NWR, FL
- 2004** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2005** – Portland, OR
- 2006** – Albuquerque, NM
- 2007** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2008** – Twin Cities, MN
- 2009** – Kennebunkport, ME
- 2011** – San Diego, CA
- 2012** – Charleston, SC
- 2013** – Kalispell, MT
- 2015** – Corpus Christi, TX
- 2016** – Memphis, TN
- 2017** – NCTC’s 20th Anniversary, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2018** – Lincoln City (Oregon Coast), OR
- 2019** – Annapolis, MD
- 2022** – Spearfish/Deadwood, SD
- 2023** – National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV
- 2025** – Madison, WI
- 2026** – Anchorage, AK
- Spring of 2028** – Where?

Monday, September 21 – Arrival Day

Check in to the Hotel Captain Cook,
939 West 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK

1:00 to 8:00 PM – Reunion Registration

3:00 to 5:00 PM – Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife – Meet in hotel lobby at 2:55 pm. Prior registration required. \$20 donation (to Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges). Walk will be along the Coastal Trail to Westchester Lagoon. Prepare for changing weather.

5:00 pm to 8:00 PM – Opening Reception – Quarter Deck, Hotel Captain Cook. Prior registration required. \$40 includes hors d'oeuvres (enough for dinner for lighter eaters). Cash bar.

Tuesday, September 22 – Meeting Day

Meeting in Aft Deck

7:30 to 8:00 AM – Registration

8:00 to 8:10 AM – Welcome and Logistics – Helen Clough and Robin West, Reunion Co-Chairs

8:10 to 9:00 AM – Board presentations and updates – Cindy Uptegraft Barry, Board Chair

9:00 to 10:00 AM – Welcome to Region 7 – Sara Boario, Regional Director

10:00 to 10:15 AM – Break

10:15 to 10:45 AM – New Solutions. Employing experienced, retired employees to support FWS and other federal agencies – Holly Pardue, FWS ESP Program Manager

10:45 to 11:00 AM – Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges – Poppy Benson

11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon – History of Alaska's Conservation Lands – Dick Mylius, (Retired) Director, Alaska DNR, Division of Mining, Lands, and Water

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM – Lunch on your own

1:30 to 2:00 PM – Alaska Refuges – Karlin Itchoak, Chief, NWRS, Alaska

2:00 to 2:30 PM – Ducks Unlimited Alaska Initiative – Brandt Meixell and Dr. Mark Petrie

2:30 to 3:00 PM – Alaska Marine Mammals Program – Alice Garrett, Dan Bjornlie, and Paul Schuette

3:00 to 3:30 PM – Alaska Subsistence Program – Crystal Leonetti, DOI, Office of Substance Management

3:30 to 4:00 PM – Group Photo followed by break

4:00 to 5:00 PM – Alaska's Changing Climate – Dr. Jeremy Littell, USGS – Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center

5:00 to 7:00 PM – Dinner on your own

7:00 to 8:30 PM – Evening Program – Iditarod Trail and Sled Dog Race – Betsi Oliver and Aliy Zirkle

Wednesday, September 23 – Field Trips

Three Field Trip Options – All require advance reservations. The trip to Seward is an all-day trip; the other two trips are half day and since one is in the morning and one in the afternoon, you can choose to do either or both.

Seward

7:30 AM to 6:30 PM – Motorcoach (with restroom) departs to Seward. Bring your own lunch or order a box lunch in advance. Expect a scenic drive and wildlife viewing opportunities along the way to Seward and then a behind the scenes tour of the Alaska Sea Life Center. On the return there will be a stop at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center near Girdwood. Consider bringing comfortable walking shoes, water bottle, light jacket, a rain coat, camera, and binoculars. Donna Dewhurst and Scott Lawrence, trip leaders.

Alaska Native Heritage Center

8:45 AM to Noon – A van will shuttle participants approximately six miles to the Center where everyone can explore at their own pace a premier museum and cultural center that represents all of Alaska's Native peoples. There are displays, films, cultural demonstrations and performances, and a place to shop for authentic Alaska Native arts and crafts. Return to the hotel before lunch.

Anchorage Museum

1:30 to 4:30 PM – A van will shuttle participants a short distance to the museum with return transportation at 4:30 pm. You will be able

to enjoy a variety of exhibits including The Alaska Exhibition which tells the story of Alaska through multiple voices and perspectives; a recreated section of a University of Alaska research vessel, Sikuliaq, highlighting the role of science and the people behind it in helping to understand the Arctic marine ecosystem; and the longest and largest exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian Institution that includes more than 600 Alaska Native heritage pieces.

Thursday, September 24 – Field Trips and Evening Banquet

Three field trip options - all require advance reservations. The Alaska Native Heritage Center and Anchorage Museum options are the same as above. In addition, an approximately 6 – 7 hour trip is offered to Hatcher Pass/Independence Mine.

For those not interested in formal field trips, there is plenty to explore near the hotel on your own. Additionally, for more adventurous souls, you may organize a trip with others to hike in the nearby Chugach State Park. It is a great time of year for berry picking and a chance to see a love-sick bull moose.

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM – Bus will leave hotel and drive north to Hatcher Pass. Expect beautiful scenery and a variety of wildlife habitats. Visit Independence Mine State Park. Rosa Meehan and Pat Heglund, trip leaders.

8:45 AM to Noon – Van will shuttle participants to the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Return before lunch.

1:30 to 4:30 PM – Van will shuttle participants to the Anchorage Museum. Return transportation at 4:30 pm.

Reunion Banquet – (Previous Reservation Required)
Aft Deck, Hotel Captain Cook

5:30 to 6:30 PM – Cash bar and silent auction. Tribute to Alaska Conservation Heroes.

6:30 PM – Dinner service begins. Guest speaker, Jim Kurth, (retired) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager; Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System; Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9:00 PM – Close Silent Auction (cash or check only)

Friday, September 25 – Departure Day

Lifetime Members of the Association of Retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Employees 1999 - Present

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Denny Holland | 20. Robin Fields |
| 2. Jerry French | 21. Hannibal Bolton |
| 3. Tom Smith | 22. Stephen Parry |
| 4. Jim King | 23. Debra Corbett |
| 5. June McIlwain | 24. Dick Gritman |
| 6. John Weisser | 25. Bruce Blanchard |
| 7. Jay Banta | 26. Rowan Gould |
| 8. Barbara Ritter | 27. Bob Streeter |
| 9. Frank Cockrell | 28. Robert Adamcik |
| 10. Dale Hall | 29. Steve Thompson |
| 11. Robyn Thorson | 30. Judy Jacobs |
| 12. Marvin Moriarty | 31. Bill Wilen |
| 13. Tom Taylor | 32. Jim Tisdale |
| 14. Jim Pulliam | 33. Bruce Halstead |
| 15. Judy Pulliam | 34. Helen Clough |
| 16. Donna Stanek | 35. Deborah Holle |
| 17. Mike McMinn | 36. Robin West |
| 18. Dr. Gail S. Baker | 37. Dwight Cooley |
| 19. Ray D. Brunson | 38. Toni Stevens |

39. Cindy Uptegraft Barry

40. Marc Epstein

41. John Cornely

42. Nancy Morrissey

43. Karen S. Bollinger

44. Walt Quist

45. Karla Kramer

46. Lewis E. Gorman III

47. Larisa Ford

48. Rick Lemon

49. Sean Furniss

50. Jim Smith

51. Michael Horton

52. Jim Kurth

53. Kevin Foerster

54. Paul Schmidt

55. Bob Stevens

56. Patrick McDermott

57. Gail Carmody

58. Paul Tritaik

59. Nancy Coon

60. Megan Durham

61. Jerry Grover

62. Judy Grover

63. Jerry Smith

64. John F. Turner

65. Peggy Hobbs

66. Roberta Hylton

67. Jeff Underwood

68. Geoffrey Haskett

69. Douglas Frugé

70. Steven Chase

**Who's next? Click "Join Us" on our website for
more information! FWSRetirees.org**

2026 Board of Directors

Cindy Uptegraft Barry, Chair

Paul Tritaik, Vice Chair

Patrick Martin, Treasurer

Jessy Jacobs, Secretary

Helen Clough, Communications

Conrad Fjetland

**Lewis E Gorman III, Grants and
Outreach**

**Deborah Holle, Heritage and
Membership**

**Peggy Hobbs, Facebook
Administrator**



Thank you to Ducks Unlimited for their contribution to sponsor this Reunion!

