

Tundra & Ice: History in Alaska's Arctic

2018 Alaska Historical Society Program Schedule

Saturday, September 15, 2018

SATURDAY, 9:30-11:00AM

Session A: *Tourism and Representation*, NWC Willow

Baranov Museum or Russian American Magazin: Sleuthing Its Early Histories and Effects on Modern Placard Story Themes

Presumptions about some 18th and 19th century activities at the Baranov Museum or Russian American Magazin have clouded the modern placards' story themes which are desired in current museum exhibits. The presenter has tracked down the origin and progression of these ersatz histories which revolve around the questionable usage of this National Historic Landmark as a fur warehouse under Baranov. This presumed usage could lead to an exhibit placard about forced Alaskan Native labor, particularly in warehouse-stocking. Should the museum wear this placard around its figurative neck?

Dawn L. Black is the co-author/editor/co-translator of *Natalia Shelikhova: Russian Oligarch of Alaska Commerce* and is also co-author and co-translator of an on-line book about the Russian Orthodox priest Tikhon Shalamov and his book *Around the Mission*.

Traces of the Industrial Sublime: Salmon Hatcheries and Tourism in Southeast Alaska

Since the 1890s, the tourism industry has attempted to prove Alaska's scenery more valuable than gold. Paradoxically, natural resource extraction has also been of interest to scenery-seeking tourists. From the Treadwell Mine of the 1890s to salmon hatcheries today, tourists have been interested in gold, timber, and fish. Drawing on Robert Campbell's *In Darkest Alaska*, I suggest a contemporary Juneau hatchery tour's draw is similar to what brought tourists to Treadwell. Arguing that both tours present the technological illusion of producing wealth without labor, I maintain they also mask the ecological and social perils inherent to resource extraction.

Kevin Maier is Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Humanities Department at the University of Alaska Southeast. He is also an Alaska Salmon Fellow through the Alaska Humanities Forum and works as a fishing guide in Juneau during the summer.

When You Think Alaska—Think Alaska Steamship Company

Chances are now, when the public imagines Alaska, they no longer think of the Alaska Steamship Company, but they should. One common agent united the territory of Alaska and packaged its quintessential Alaskan iconography between the early 1900s and the early 1950s.

The Alaska Steamship Company's art and advertising both created and reinforced preexisting symbols of Alaskan culture that it disseminated amongst its passengers and which it solidified into a nationwide image of Alaska and, for locals, an Alaskan identity.

Pierce A. Bateman is a historian for Fort Wainwright and is also a graduate student in the Arctic and Northern Studies Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks where he is writing his thesis on the Alaska Steamship Company.

Session B: *Politics and Nature*, NWC Ptarmigan

Weirs Not Dams: A Historical Examination of Fish Agents and Tlingit Fish Weirs

Waves of people headed north to Alaska for the Klondike and Nome gold rushes but even more steadily made their way to Alaska each summer to work in the commercial fishing industry. By the mid-1890s federal fish agents began inspecting rivers and streams in Southeast Alaska and failed to realize that the Tlingit carefully managed their weirs for millennia. Over the course of the next decade the fish agents tore out Tlingit weirs and/or threatened fines and imprisonment if the traps were not removed.

Daniel Monteith is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Historical Investigations of Indigenous Whale Harvesting in the North Pacific Ocean

Whales represent an important food and materials source for Native communities in Alaska and along the West Coast of United States and Canada. Multiple species of whales have been hunted for centuries by Native peoples with rituals and techniques that vary across regions and are specific for a target species. This presentation examines a wide variety of historical sources documenting not only whaling techniques and practices of Alaska Native groups but also the use, processing, and preservation of whale parts across the region.

Valentina Melica is a fisheries student with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Daniel Monteith is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Session C: *Past Meets Present: Historic Resource Use*, NWC Fireweed

The Seward Peninsula has a long history of dependence on natural resources. The unique economic, social, geographical, and political contexts of the region have contributed to this history. Managers and users from Nome will talk about past and current management strategies.

Historic Resources Use within Northwest Alaska, Jack Omelak, Education and Public Program Coordinator, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum.

Current Federal Management Strategies within the Bering Land Bridge National

Preserve, Nicole Braem, Social Scientist, National Park Service.

Past and Current Reindeer Management within the Seward Peninsula, Claudia Ihl, Researcher and Instructor, University of Alaska Fairbanks Northwest Campus.

Eskimo Walrus Commission, Jacob Martin, Tribal Resources Director, Nome Eskimo Community.

POSTERS (every day):

Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives New Online Portal

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at University of Alaska Fairbanks is now able to provide detailed online access to unique collections from the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives (APRCA). This poster presentation will offer information about accessing the portal, items contained on it, plans for the portal, and will introduce the development team and cover technical development aspects. APRCA houses the world's most extensive collection of materials about Alaska and one of the leading collections on Polar Regions.

Angela Schmidt is film archivist with the Alaska Film Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections & Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Arctic Arts Summit, Harstad Norway, June 21-22, 2017

Eight countries—the United States, Canada, Iceland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia—inhabit the Arctic Circle and share similar concerns about global warming and retaining distinct Native cultures. As the only freelance journalist from Alaska, I had the privilege to report on this momentous event. One of the results of my experience was this poster, which was juried and displayed at College Art Association Conference, February 2018, in Los Angeles.

Jean Bundy is a writer/painter living in Anchorage, presently with *The Anchorage Press*. She serves on the Board of Directors of the International Art Critics (AICA-International) and shows paintings at Pleiades Gallery, New York City.

Celebrating the Success of Alaska's Digital Newspaper Project

Since 2016, the Alaska State Library has been participating in the National Digital Newspaper Program. The program is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress designed to digitize and provide free access to historical newspapers from across the United States in *Chronicling America*, the text-searchable online database. By August 2018, the Alaska State Library will have digitized 100,000 pages of Alaskan historical newspapers from across the state ranging in date from 1898-1922. This poster will describe the hard work and dedication of Alaskans who recognize the power of newspapers as a history research tool.

Anastasia Tarmann is a librarian with the Alaska State Library's Alaska Historical Collections and has been instrumental in selecting and digitizing Alaska's historical newspapers.