



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

Winter 2015

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

presents **Libby Roderick**



MARCH 26

6:30pm

Islands & Ocean
Visitor Center

— Annual Membership Meeting —

“If Your House is On Fire” *Taking Action on Climate Change*

Join singer/songwriter and activist **Libby Roderick** to explore some of the ways we talk and think (or don't think!) about climate change and how we can regain a sense of hope and possibility by taking constructive action.

Climate change is the key issue of our times. As James Gustave Speth, former dean of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, has said, “The only thing we have to do to be sure we will leave a ruined world for our children and our grandchildren is to do exactly what we are doing now.”

Libby is an internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter, poet, activist, teacher and lifelong Alaskan. She is well-known as an exhilarating and witty artist who offers a remarkable blend of passionate music, wry humor and incisive commentary on social and personal issues.



*Presented by the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
with the support of Alaska Maritime NWR/USFWS.*

Message from The President...

Hello All,

KBCS has experienced some board changes in this past year. As you will notice, our newsletter is abbreviated this year. Nina Lisowski was our newsletter queen, she also helped with emails, action alerts, and fliers; and because of schedule overload, had to resign last March. Any newsletter writers out there? We could use your help. Then, Cindy Birkhimer resigned and moved to the Florida Keys. Cindy was one of those people who said "I'll help with anything" and then she showed you how it was done. Fortunately for us, she had the time, energy, and motivation. She took over the email account, developed our action alert system and wrote them, helped me in writing the majority of the KBCS issue comments, was our secretary, and was my right-hand "go to gal." She did all of this with a cheerful attitude and a smile. She also volunteered for the Homer Foundation and Pratt Museum and excelled there too. Needless to say, things haven't been quite the same since her departure. Last but not least, Laurie Daniel has taken a break from being a long-time board member and VP. Laurie brought us her biologist background and excellent writing skills. She helped at all levels as her schedule allowed, and represented us at the Environmental Summit in Anchorage. Luckily for us, she will continue to lead the popular Overlook Park hike during the Shorebird Festival and will remain an active KBCS member. KBCS SENDS NINA, CINDY AND LAURIE A HUGE "THANK YOU" AND WE WISH THEM ALL THE VERY BEST!!!

I do want to share my everlasting gratitude to our treasurer, Linda Gorman, who has done a wonderful job keeping our books for many years. She got KBCS on PayPal, not an easy task; with the help of Hannah Stearns got our Facebook page reactivated; and she and Bjorn Olson have been upgrading our web site. Linda also keeps our membership updated. She is a bear lover and a passionate beekeeper.

John Lancaster and Alisa Mooy are the most recent additions to our board—read about them in "Slate of Board Nominees". Jim Stearns is our interim secretary and is up for reelection, as well as myself. Bjorn Olson, our most adventurous board member, brings new ideas and rounds out the current team. Thanks so much to all of you!

Now for "Breaking News"—if you haven't already heard—KBCS is taking a bold step in our journey and we are sponsoring **SALMONFEST** (formerly Salmonstock). Board member Jim Stearns has been the producer for the past four years (see Salmonfest article). We see this as an opportunity to spread a broader environmental message in a different venue. Some funds that are generated will be used towards increasing our savings to prepare us for any future environmental issues that may require hiring a contract person, which we have done in the past. Other ideas could include funding environmental projects as they come along. We will not be using any KBCS membership funds for Salmonfest; it will be funded under a special project account.

This year finds us with a miraculous political change—Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallot at the helm. My philosophy is "hope for the best and prepare for the worst". It is too early to tell, but so far former Governor Parnell's Order 266—an act attempting to gut 17 critical habitat areas, 12 game refuges, and 3 wildlife sanctuaries—has been put on hold. Randy Bates, director of the ADF&G Habitat Division, and Doug Vincent Laing, director of ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, have stepped down. Sam Cotton, a longtime fish advocate, is our new ADF&G commissioner; and many of the mega projects, which would have had negative environmental consequences, have been stalled for now.

As much of the leadership in Juneau and D.C. continue to play Russian roulette with Mother Earth, there are millions of people who understand that all life is connected. This Great Land we are lucky enough to call home deserves our continued efforts to make sure it remains the Great Land.

As always, we hope you continue to assist us in our ongoing efforts to protect the beautiful environment on and around Kachemak Bay. Together we can and do make a difference.

Thank you,

Roberta Highland, President

SLATE OF BOARD NOMINEES:

Roberta Highland has been a board member for over 25 years and has been president for the last few years. She is active in many KBCS projects, writing comments, and representing KBCS at various public hearings. She also currently serves on the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board, and president of the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association. Roberta is a dedicated environmentalist and cares deeply about the future and conservation of this Great Land.

John Lancaster was appointed in March 2014. John is a lifelong Alaskan and was raised in Juneau. He has lived in Homer for 10 years. He is a 30-year veteran and retiree. He also retired from the State of Alaska Marine Highway System as Chief Steward on the MV Tustumena. He volunteered last year for the Earth Day event. He has been willing to take on the email account, help with action alerts, work on membership and be an all-round helpful guy. He is also currently a volunteer for Hospice of Homer and Salmonfest. He is our present VP. John cares about the environmental issues in the state where he was born and raised.

Alisa Mooy was appointed in October 2014. She is married to Jim Stearns and has lived in Homer for 6 years since moving from California. In California, she was involved with the Avery Ranch collective that utilized the Nature Conservancy model to purchase private lands within the Stanislaus National Forest boundaries and provide stewardship and habitat preservation for the flora and fauna of the region. In 2005 she went to Houston, Texas and set up a Katrina relief kitchen to serve meals to thousands of New Orleans residents who had evacuated to Houston. She remained in Houston for nearly 3 months and raised funds and co-managed the kitchen that

ended up serving nearly 75,000 meals. In 2007 Alisa started a soup kitchen for the homeless and underprivileged residents of Calaveras County, California. She has very good computer skills and will be working on Salmonfest. This will be a 1-year term to get her on the regular 2-year election cycle.

Jim Stearns is serving as our interim secretary. Jim is presently the VP of the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board and is the producer of Salmonfest. Prior to moving to Alaska 6 years ago, Jim was a founding member and leader of Friends of the River in California, founding member and board president of the Central Sierra Watershed Coalition, and past board president of the Mother Lode Women's Center. He has been active in many worthy organizations, although his true claim to fame is his past employment with the Grateful Dead! He has also authored 3 books, including "Feeding the Dead".



Our Mission

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's (KBCS') mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and encourage sustainable use and stewardship of local natural resources through advocacy, education/information, and collaboration.

KBCS is concerned with environmental protection of the Kachemak Bay region. The organization focuses on habitat and wildlife issues, wetlands protection, water quality, logging, oil and gas leases, energy conservation, sustainability issues, and land use planning. The Society monitors environmental issues locally and statewide. KBCS continues to be the sponsoring organization for Homer Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (HAYEA).



KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Presents

SALMONFEST 2015

Featuring

Emmylou Harris

July 31st – August 2nd

Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds in Ninilchik, Alaska

Over the past four years, the name Salmonstock has been intimately linked to the Renewable Resources Foundation (RRF) and the struggle to protect the Bristol Bay watershed from the potential ravages of the proposed Pebble Mine. Both the festival and the organization have been extraordinarily effective at achieving interlinking success to both endeavors. Salmonstock galvanized the people of Alaska in a manner rarely seen, which helped the cause by creating a foundation for a grassroots effort that allowed the dissemination of information.

The new festival incarnation, **SALMONFEST**, will now emerge to carry on the vision of protecting Alaskan salmon and its habitat throughout the state. In one way or another, salmon is one of the most unifying elements that bind Alaskans.

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS), a Kenai Peninsula based non-profit, will take on the administration of **SALMONFEST**, and will maintain the same continuity of the last four years, while continuing to grow the festival. Most of the festival's staff, including the Festival Producer Jim Stearns and Assistant Producer Jeffrey Abel (along with the hard-working and talented production team) will remain in place. Artist Ray Troll, whose art and talent has played a key role in the festival since inception, will remain an integral part of the festival imagery as we go forward. The festival team will return to the same venue (Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds in Ninilchik, AK), on the same first weekend of August (July 31st – Aug 2nd), to keep much of the foundational components of the festival in place.

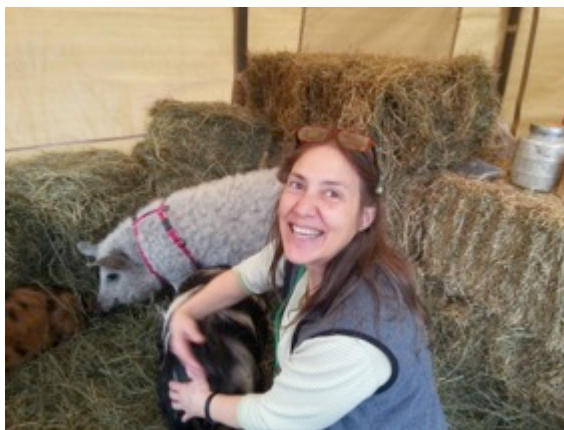
As **SALMONFEST** becomes the new incarnation of Salmonstock, we wish to emphasize and celebrate the connection of all Alaskans to the fish and the waters that provide this magnificent resource. We urge everyone from all over the state, and even the country, to come together for this **SALMONFEST** weekend, and find camaraderie in the issues that unite us and put aside the things that divide us. Together let's continue to move forward and celebrate wild Alaska in a weekend of Fish, Fun and Music!

Tickets available now. You can buy tickets, stay up to date with the happenings and music lineup for the festival at <http://SalmonfestAlaska.org/>

Like us on Facebook or call: 907-435-0670

Earth DaY 2014

KBCS and USFWS sponsored the Earth Day Extravaganza last year. A big thank you to the following people for making this event so special: Jim Stearns, Alisa Mooy, Linda Gorman, Laurie Daniel, John Lancaster, Marianne Aplin, and Jessica Ryan. Mavis Muller shared six banners that she created after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Dave Aplin was our MC extraordinaire. Shannyn Moore entertained us with a funny, poignant, witty, talk. A perfect ending to a perfect day. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 30 different talks, demonstrations, activities and information booths that were brimming with examples of environmental advocacy and sustainable living in Homer. And of course a big "Thank you" to everyone who attended



Top left to right: Tracey Brown and helpers, enthusiastic Earth Day flag waver, Mavis Muller's incredible banners at Bishop's Beach, Laurie Daniel, board member and Earth Day organizer, Dean Harrison Meadowmere farm animals, Shannyn Moore at a presentation booth.

A Beautiful Quote from the Book “ENDLESS ALASKA JOURNEY,” by John Schwieder

“Wild Alaska’s continued existence is at the discretion, grace and humility of humans. I pray Alaska remains a beacon, geography of hope, not only for wide-eyed wilderness seekers but for all future generations, as proof that humans truly believe that all living creatures are connected.”

Yes! I’ll support the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society!

1. Membership

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewal
☐ Gift Contribution

2. Support Level:

- ☐ \$20 Individual
☐ \$35 Couple/Family
☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$100 Business
☐ Other

3. Tell Us About Yourself

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(check which items you would like to receive)

- ☐ Email newsletter
☐ Snail mail newsletter
☐ Email Announcements and Action Alerts

Send this form with your check or go online to the membership tab and renew through PayPal at kbayconservation.org



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**Kachemak Bay
Conservation Society is
now on Facebook**

**Like us and get the latest on:
Projects**

Volunteer

activities events

Membership benefits

and how you can help



10th Annual Homer Electronics Recycling Event!

**10 am – 3pm
Saturday, April 25,
Spenard Builder’s Supply**

This is a great opportunity to ensure that your broken or used electronics are properly dismantled and recycled. Just as importantly, this ensures that they do NOT end up in a landfill where the potentially valuable resources remain unclaimed and where they have the potential to leach toxins into our air and water.

**Volunteers needed! Contact Dorothy at
www.inletkeeper.org**