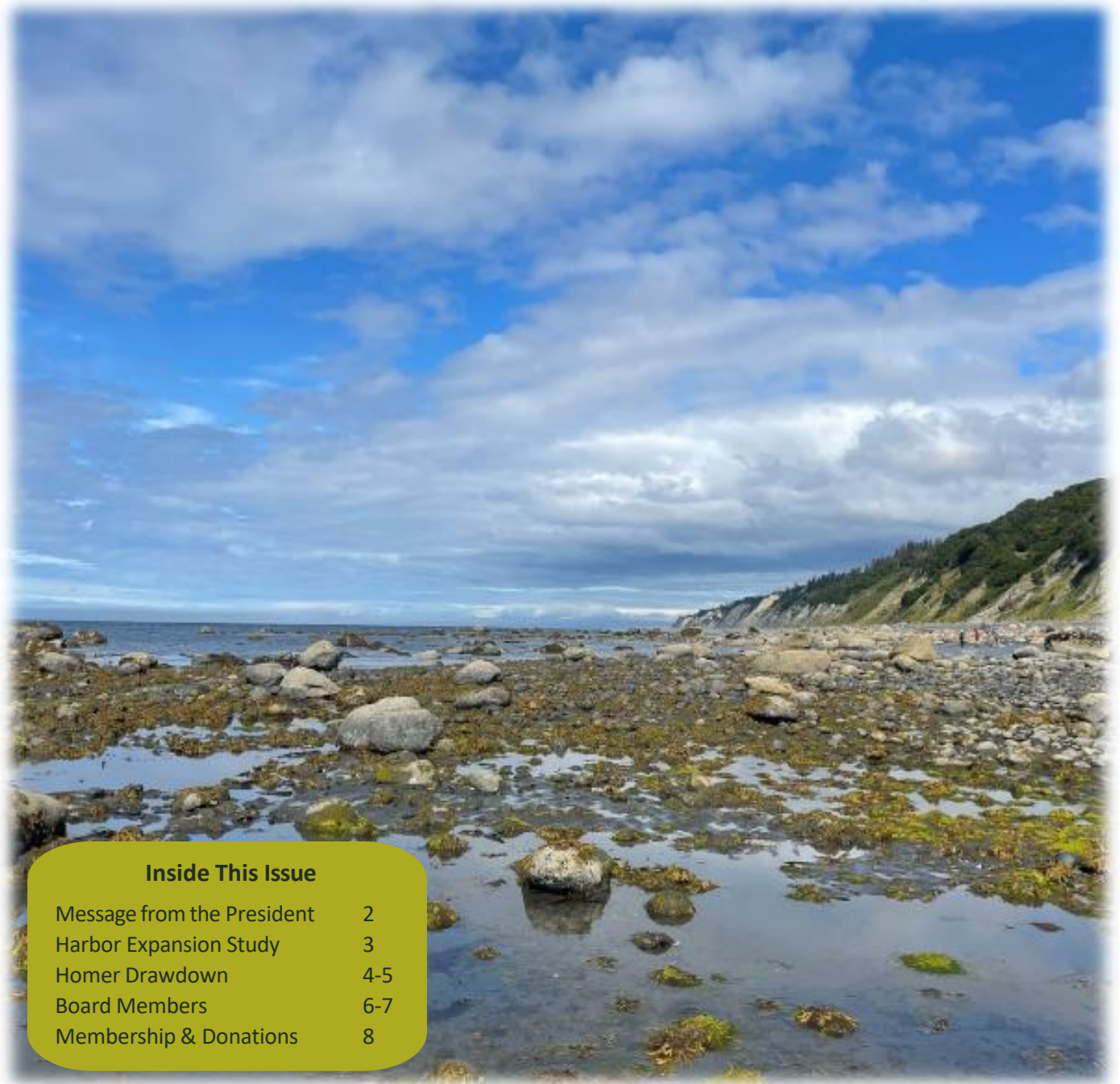




Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

2023 Newsletter



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## Message From The President, Roberta Highland

Spring arrived a little late this year, so **our annual membership meeting will be May 16, Tuesday, at 6:00 pm at the Bishop's Beach pavilion.** We'll have a fire and a grill with salmon patties, hamburgers, and hot dogs. We hope to see you there! We are also inviting the sandhill cranes. Bring your own plate, cup, and drinks. Other potluck foods would be welcome.

We will hold our Board Elections. The Nominating Committee forwarded the following candidates for the 2023 Board election:

- Jim Stearns
- Martie Krohn
- Katie Gavenus

We want to thank Maddie Lee for her time on the KBCS Board. She served as our secretary. She represented KBCS, tackling the research topic "Salmon in a Changing Climate," through partnerships with Woodwell Climate Research Center, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, United States Geological Survey and University of Alaska Fairbanks. We also appreciate the creative ways she has shared her learning with young scientists, from interns to camp participants. On May 23, she will be defending her thesis, "Chinook Salmon Heat Stress and Reproductive Consequences in Southcentral Alaska." We miss her and wish her the very best.



KBCS continues to work on the following issues and projects:

- Supporting the Homer Drawdown project focused non-motorized transportation in Homer
- Working with the City of Homer Green Infrastructure on Kachemak Drive and Beluga Slough and also on watershed and habitat planning
- Commenting on the City of Homer Harbor Expansion to Army Corps of Engineers and leading a comprehensive discussion of this project
- Continuing participation on the Kachemak Bay State Park Management Plan
- Continuing Jet ski lawsuit
- Participating in the "Guiding Growth" discussion in Homer
- Working with the Kachemak Bay Birders on the third annual Sea Duck Survey

We wish to thank Penelope Haas for all her hard work on these issues. KBCS continues the work of protecting Kachemak Bay through stewardship and education.

We would like to take this opportunity to request your help with a donation to assist in covering expenses, including our contract work. We cannot continue these efforts without financial support. Any help will be appreciated.

I want to thank my fellow Board members wholeheartedly for their continued support, work, and enthusiasm. This is a great team!

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

Thank you,  
Roberta Highland, President



# Harbor Expansion Study

*Mark Your Calendar!*

## Homer Harbor Expansion Study

**Three day Charrette**

May 17, 18 and 19, see schedule for times

Island & Oceans Visitor Center

[www.homerharborexansion.com](http://www.homerharborexansion.com)

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

**What's happening?** The Army Corps of Engineers is working with the City of Homer to investigate the costs and benefits of expanding the Homer Harbor to accommodate more large vessels. The analysis will look at 3-5 “alternatives,” one of those being No Action. The investigation will take 3 years, and when the analysis is complete, the Corps and the City will (independently) decide if they want to build an expansion.

**This is far from a done deal, and your voice matters!!** The Corps and City are looking for public input on what kind of expansion (or not) people want to see and what financial, environmental, and social factors should be considered in the cost-benefit analysis on **Thursday, May 18 at Islands and Ocean 12:30 - 5:00**. Be there or be square. You can also email comments any time to [info@homerharborexansion.com](mailto:info@homerharborexansion.com).

**We want to better position Homer's harbor – the good jobs and culture it supports – for a future that is 1) desirable to the residents of Greater Homer and 2) economically viable and 3) environmentally sustainable.** KBCS recognizes that this is a complex issue and that there are a multitude of perspectives on the best path for Homer's harbor. We support a robust cost benefit analysis, including consideration of the “No Action Alternative.” We also encourage the City of Homer to consider creative solutions that include the following:

- Investment into \$72.6 million in needed repairs estimated for our current harbor.
- “Greening” our port by modernizing and decarbonizing its infrastructure and operations.
- Investment in sustainable fishery management and marine sciences.
- Marine trades education and paid apprenticeship opportunities in Homer.
- Affordable housing, transportation, and childcare.
- Improvement of marine industry infrastructure--including roads, racks to store smaller vessels, spit erosion mitigation.



# Homer Drawdown

For the last three years, KBCS has worked with Cook InletKeeper and hundreds of volunteers on a program called Homer Drawdown. The mission of this Homer-based group has been to carefully evaluate community-centric climate change mitigation projects and elect one project a year to implement. The book and online resource *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* has been our guide.

Homer Drawdown met in-person for the first time in December of 2019. Once the pandemic began, we were able to keep our momentum through virtual means. Once a month, our diverse group met online to discuss each chapter within *Drawdown*, one at a time, and deliberate over the myriad climate solutions each chapter presented.

Our first year-long project was Peatland Conservation and Re-wetting. This unique ecosystem stores a tremendous amount of carbon, and the Western Kenai contains a lot of peatlands. We engaged with public and private landowners, land managers, scientists, artists, educators, and many more. Our goal was to “put peatlands on the map.” Through a variety of metrics, it is safe to say that this project was a success.

To ward off volunteer fatigue, the steering committee proposed early on that each solution project last only one year. Although there are many robust relationships, conversations and projects related to peatlands that are ongoing, Homer Drawdown reconvened to elect a new project for 2022/2023.

This amazing assemblage of concerned citizens again looked to our strengths and to where our decentralized, ad hoc group could have the most influence. Although there were several great projects to choose from, the timing of City of Homer’s directive to update its transportation and comprehensive plan was an opportunity to seize upon. We voted for Non-Motorized Transportation to be our year-long project.

Project Drawdown assumes an increase in bicycle infrastructure will drive bicycling from under 3 percent to almost 5–6 percent of urban trips globally by 2050, displacing 2.59–2.98 trillion passenger-kilometers traveled by conventional modes of transportation and avoiding 2.73–4.63 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. By building bike infrastructure or converting lanes rather than constructing roads, municipal governments and taxpayers can realize US\$2.42–3.13 trillion in construction savings and US \$5.91–8.45 trillion in lifetime net operational savings.

The mission of our non-motorized project has been to increase non-motorized transportation, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, address income inequality, and make Homer a safer and more enjoyable place to live and visit by following a three-pillar approach: Improve Policy, Develop Trails and Non-Motorized Infrastructure, and Shift Behavior.



Last fall, Homer Drawdown, in cooperation with the City of Homer, organized a Non-Motorized Transportation Symposium. At this symposium, people shared comments and feedback to the City about ways to improve conditions here in Homer that will be implemented in the upcoming transportation plan. This gathering had a tremendous impact and our collective voices have been heard.



# Homer Drawdown, cont'd

May is national bike month and Homer Drawdown's Non-Motorized Transportation summer of advocacy and volunteer work is now kicking into high gear. For the week of May 15-20, we will be hosting a variety of events including energizer booths, a Filmed By Bike Film Festival, a bicycle commuter course, and much more. Homer Drawdown, in partnership with Homer Cycling Club has revived the Homer Shares the Road campaign. Be on the lookout for new posters, bumper stickers and tune into the newspapers and radio for our PSAs.



## BIKE / WALK TO WORK / SCHOOL WEEK : MAY 15 - 19

### ENERGIZER BOOTH at WKFL PARK

coffee snacks bacon

Mon, May 15th, 7:30 - 9:30 am

smoothy bike

Fri, May 19th, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

### SAFE AND HEALTHY KIDS FAIR

bike rodeo

Sat, May 6th, 11:00 - Noon  
High School Parking Lot

### KBBI COFFEE TABLE

listen and call in

Wed, May 10th, 9:00 - 10:00 am

### FILMED BY BIKE

film festival

Thurs, May 18th, 6:00 pm  
Homer Theater  
\$10

### BY BICYCLE: COMMUTING HOMER

Sat, May 20th, 10:00 - Noon  
KPC campus

free safety class



During the summer months, Homer Drawdown will once again partner with the City of Homer's Parks Department on bi-monthly trail clearing projects and we will also be volunteering with the KPBSD to improve trails to and from school in the Homer area. With all the business and goings-on in May, we will not have our next monthly meeting until June 14. For more information about our regular meetings or ways to get involved, please visit [homerdrawdown.info](http://homerdrawdown.info) or find us on Facebook at Homer Drawdown: Non-Motorized Transportation. Rubber side down.



## A FESTIVAL OF THE WORLD'S BEST BIKE MOVIES

WHEN: THURSDAY MAY 18TH 6:00 PM  
WHERE: HOMER THEATRE  
COST: \$10  
SUPPORT HOMER DRAWDOWN'S  
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT



### PLAY BIKE BINGO!

Fill out a card and turn it in to the Friday energizer booth for a chance to win prizes!

[www.HomerDrawdown.info](http://www.HomerDrawdown.info)



# KBCS Board Members



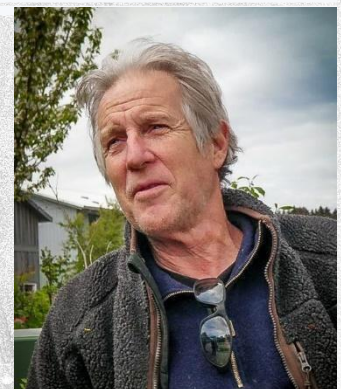
**Roberta Highland, President**, and long time Board Member is now serving on the Issues and Comment Committee with Penelope Haas. Roberta was presented with the prestigious Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions in 2013. She has been a resident of Homer since 1984 and has been involved in conservation since 1986. Roberta has served on many boards since then — the longest being The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society. Roberta has worked on significant issues that have required statewide coordination for success. She believes we can all be a force for the change we want to see in the world. Her indomitable spirit is nourished by the belief that everything is connected and that protecting the earth and the life it sustains is the worthiest of causes.

**Martie Krohn, Treasurer**, is a resident of Homer since 1984. Martie has been involved in many civic and environmental endeavors through teaching and 4-H. She taught at The Learning Place, a parent's cooperative educational venture prior to starting Smoky Bay School which operated from 1986 to 2006. Martie brings an extensive background in accounting to the position of treasurer through self-employment, working as a bookkeeper for Kachemak Port Services and serving as treasurer for the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board between stints as president. Martie is also a founding member and treasurer of Arts, Recreation, Conservation, Humanities, Education and Science Alaska (ARCHES Alaska), the nonprofit behind Salmonfest Alaska



**Penelope Haas, Vice President**, has worked in Alaska's commercial salmon fisheries as a deckhand in the Prince William Sound and Bristol Bay and as a technician for ADF&G in Prince William Sound, Haines, and on the Alaska Peninsula. She has also participated in research with ADF&G and the Prince William Sound Science Center, collecting data on straying of hatchery salmon and genetic impacts of hatchery pink salmon to wild stocks. Her work with KBCS is focused on local conservation issues, including local climate change education and promotion of alternative energy solutions; good planning and management of Kenai Peninsula, Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet to ensure protection of fish, wildlife and their habitat..

**Jim Stearns, Board Member**, is president of the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board, a member of the Homer Little League Board and is the producer of Salmonfest. Prior to moving to Alaska, Jim was involved in producing many fundraisers and brought his restaurant and catering experience to Hurricane Katrina and, with a revolving team, served 75,000 meals to evacuees over 2 months. He was also 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. Jim also serves as a founding member and president of ARCHES Alaska.





# KBCS Board Members

**Katie Aspen Gavenus, Board Member**, grew up in Homer, Alaska. She is an environmental educator and program director for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. Other work over the years has included leading wilderness trips and deckhanding on a salmon tender in Cook Inlet. She recently completed a master's program in science education through IslandWood and the University of Washington and is committed to transforming science education - and education more broadly - to be locally relevant, culturally sustaining, meaningful, and inspiring. She believes education, science, and conservation should all be collaborative efforts.



**Bjørn Olson, Board Member**, is a life-long Alaskan, adventurer, photographer, videographer and storyteller. Bjørn attempts to educate and advocate for leaving Alaska better than when he came into it — a task more formidable than climbing Denali, kayaking to Kodiak or cycling a 1,100-mile snow trail above the Arctic Circle.

## And Please Welcome Our Newest Board Member, Dr. Felix Kristanovich!

**Felix Kristanovich, Board Member**, is Principal water resources engineer with 34 years of professional experience in watershed analysis, streamflow restoration projects, water quality monitoring programs, environmental impact studies, hydrologic field investigations, floodplain analysis, and design and modeling of storm water systems. Felix works for Windward Environmental out of his Homer office. Felix is actively involved in several professional societies, including American Water Resources Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association. Felix enjoys backpacking, hiking, telemark skiing, outdoor photography, and sea kayaking with his wife June. He has explored all corners of Alaska, including Denali National Park (summitted Denali), Aleutian Islands, kayaked Kenai Fjords National Park, Katmai National Park, Sitka Sound, Misty Fjords National Monument, Wood Tikchick State Park, Noatak River (from headwaters to Noatak village), and has recently been skiing in Kenai Mountains. Felix works for protecting the environment, restoring natural habitats and cleaning polluted water, and minimizing devastating impacts of climate change. Felix will bring his passion for protecting environment, cleaning water, and restoring natural habitat to KBCS.





## Membership & Donations

Please renew your annual membership! Do it online at [www.kbayconservation.org](http://www.kbayconservation.org) or send in the form below.

*We are a little organization with a big heart, and we need your support to continue to work on local issues.*

**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

Enclose check or money order. Mail your payment and form to:



Kachemak Bay  
Conservation Society  
3734 Ben Walters Ln  
Homer, AK 99603

If you have any questions or for more information email [kbayconservation@gmail.com](mailto:kbayconservation@gmail.com) or call 907. 235.8214.