

PATHS & PADDLEWAYS

the quarterly newsletter of Island Trails Network



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Volunteers Needed for Shuyak Water Trails

As part of the stewardship of our water trails, ITN has begun removing marine debris from our coastlines. Our next marine debris clean-up is a 9-day volunteer trip to Shuyak this July 19-27. We are currently looking for volunteers for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to the northernmost island in the Kodiak archipelago.

Marine debris carries toxins through the marine environment, impacts wildlife, and detracts from the natural beauty of the coastline of every ocean in the world. Shuyak island is host to tons of marine debris, including plastics, bottles, cans, and derelict fishing gear from all over the Pacific. Sources of debris range from all over the Pacific rim, from Mexico to China.

Volunteers will spend one week gathering marine debris, learning about its causes and effects on the food chain, and observing humankind's impact on the ocean world from the perspective of one of Alaska's most remote and beautiful shores.

The week's activities combine volunteerism with education and adventure, for an experience you can feel good about and will never forget. Volunteers should be able-bodied and capable of sustained manual labor in harsh weather conditions. Each volunteer will also be asked to make a meaningful financial contribution to ITN. You can read a play-by-play of the week at the project website, www.shuyak.org.

Update: Island Lake Trail

The Island Lake Trail bridge and boardwalk installation has been rescheduled for the weekend of 28-29 June, 2008 after delays forced postponement of the event in early June.

Eagle Scout candidate Matthew Lloyd will be leading troop 626 in the construction of a new 24-foot bridge where one collapsed last year, rendering the trail impassible for many over the winter months.

A little further up the trail, ITN volunteers will construct 260 feet of running plank boardwalk along low-lying portions of the trail, as well as brushing out the trail corridor and other improvements.

All ITN members and volunteers, are encouraged to attend. You may bring a screw gun, Pulaski, rake or shovel, or borrow from ITN's tool cache. Trail work begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 28th. For more information call Andy at 539-1979.

Wrap-up: Trails Summit

Our fundraiser held May 2nd was a huge success, drawing over 120 people and raising over \$4000 for Kodiak Trails! Our panel of guest presenters kept the standing-room only crowd on the edge of their seats, and inspired Kodiak's trail enthusiasts to start off the summer season dreaming big. For the rest of the weekend, Alaska Trails instructors Jillian Morrissey and Mike Shields delivered top notch training to our trail crews. Thanks to all those who attended, volunteered and participated in the weekend's events.

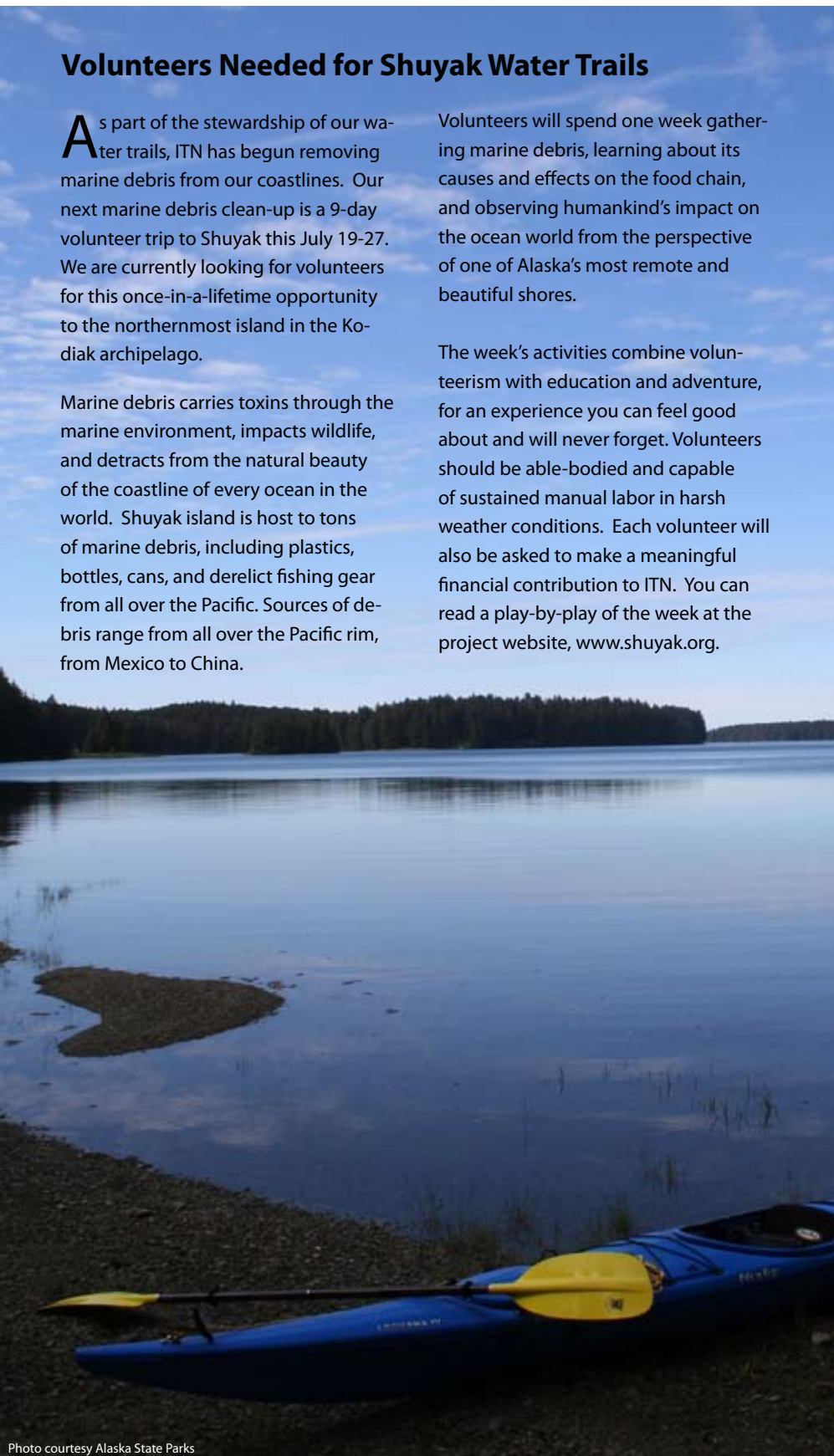


Photo courtesy Alaska State Parks

Summit Lake Reroute Nears

The 2008 re-route of the Summit Lake Miam trail involves 1.5 miles of new trail crossing 5 bridges built last year, the installation of 970 feet of hardened trail surface, and one new stream crossing. We will be employing SAGA crews for a week-long period in the field August 4-9. SAGA crews perform trail work and recreation site enhancements all over Alaska while teaching leadership, conservation, and hands-on outdoor education (www.servealaska.org). Though a statewide organization, SAGA will be recruiting young people locally who are between 18-25 years old for hired positions on this project. Volunteers with ATVs are needed for advance equipment staging. Call Andy at 539-1979 for more information.



ITN's vision

To be an acknowledged expert resource on trails and open spaces advocacy, action and education on Kodiak

Urban Trails Keep Kodiak Walkable

Our urban trails initiative is moving forward. We have condensed the feedback we got from our membership and our March 13th urban trails meeting into a letter to the City Council. Upon receiving it city staff showed interest in our proposals, requesting amplifying information on project costs.

The next big step comes this month when the City Council will consider our letter at their June 24th work session. ITN will be there to answer the council's questions and elaborate on any specific trail proposals. Our letter to the city is available online at www.islandtrails.org/urban-trailsletter.pdf

Sprucing up Long Island

Boy Scout Troop 626 spent a week-end campout cleaning up beaches on Long Island April 11-13. Battling near-freezing temperatures and high winds, the scouts filled over ten supersacks of beach plastics, derelict fishing gear and other beach garbage. Total debris weighed in at just over 2200 pounds and 16 cubic yards in volume. This was the first of a series of marine debris cleanups we will coordinate in 2008 through a grant from the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation, who administers beach clean-ups statewide. Learn more about our efforts at islandtrails.org/marinedebris.htm.



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