



## NTC Newsletter August & September 2013

*The Ninilchik Village Tribe traces its roots back to the first Native communities located around the Cook Inlet and surrounding area. Tribal Boundaries extend from the South side of the Kasilof River to Homer and East from the Caribou Hills across the Cook Inlet to Mount Redoubt.*

Ninilchik  
Traditional  
Council

[ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](http://ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)

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*Gleaming Giant Agate on Granite*

### **Meeting Schedule**

The next Regular Council Meetings are scheduled for:

- ◇ Thursday, August 8th at 10:00 AM
- ◇ Thursday, September 12th at 10:00 AM (Tentative)  
at the NTC Administration Office Conference Room

### **Office Closures**

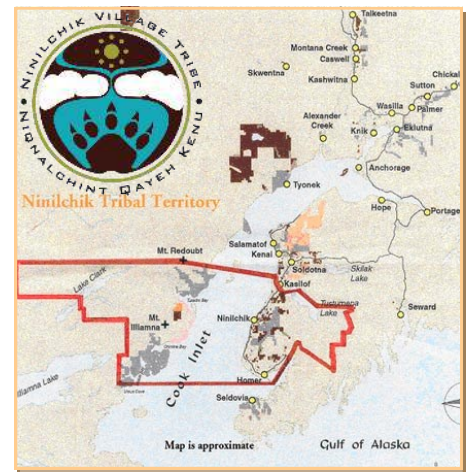
The NTC Offices will be CLOSED on:

- ◇ Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day



## Who We Are

*The Ninilchik Village Tribe is made up of approximately 800 members who trace their roots to the Ninilchik tribal lands as well as other Bureau of Indian Affairs-recognized Alaska Natives and American Indians who have settled in the tribal boundaries and have applied, and been accepted, for membership. The governing body of the Ninilchik Village Tribe, the Ninilchik Traditional Council, is presided over by a board of directors of 5 council members elected by the voting tribal membership to 3 year terms. The council directs executive staff using the Ninilchik Village Tribe's Organic Documents, which are set by the voting tribal membership to exercise tribal operations and tribal sovereignty, as guidelines.*



### NTC Board of Directors

**Richard Greg Encelewski**

President

**William Dean Kvasnikoff**

Vice President

**Lorita Linder**

Secretary & Treasurer

**Kenny Odman**

Director

**Tammy Bear**

Director

**NTC Executive Director  
Ivan Z. Encelewski**

### NTC Staff

#### Department Directors

**Bob Crosby**, Housing Director  
**Maria Goins**, Chief Financial Officer  
**Janet Mullen**, Tribal Health Director  
**Christina Pinnow**, Tribal Services Director  
**Shelley Self**, Deputy CEO  
**Darrel Williams**, Resource & Environmental Director

#### Staff

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**Mike Chihuly**, EMS Assistant  
**Shirley Chihuly**, Education Manager  
**Jennifer Culross**, Clinic Administration and Patient Accounts Specialist  
**James Day**, Head Maintenance Laborer  
**Ashley Eisenman**, Health & Wellness Club Attendant  
**Caroline Finney**, Community Health Practitioner  
**Maricel Folkert**, Community Health Aide & Medical Assistant  
**Sharon Fromong**, Clinic Business Office Assistant  
**Joshua Geibe**, Registered Nurse  
**Scott Goins**, Health & Wellness Club Attendant  
**Donna Henry**, Behavioral Health Services Manager  
**Eric Hanson**, Maintenance Assistant  
**Lynn Kennedy**, Health & Wellness Club Attendant  
**Argent Kvasnikoff**, Administrative Assistant  
**Leslie McCombs**, Clinic Front Desk Receptionist  
**Jennifer Miller**, Clinic Medical Biller

**Perry Miller**, Systems Administrator  
**Emily Oskolkoff**, Health & Wellness Club Attendant  
**Jamie Oskolkoff**, Secretary-Receptionist  
**Pat Oskolkoff**, Clinic Special Projects Coordinator  
**Michael Pinnow**, Assistant Maintenance Laborer  
**Nancy Pulliam**, Assistant Maintenance Laborer  
**Daniel Reynolds**, Resource Technician  
**Tiffany Robuck**, Native Youth Olympics Coach  
**Bettyann Steciw**, Social Services & ICWA Specialist  
**Tiffany Stonecipher**, Elders Outreach Program Coordinator  
**Anna Sutton**, Health Programs Receptionist  
**Brieanna Wallace**, Health & Wellness Club Manager  
**Carrie Warren**, Family Nurse Practitioner  
**Gina Wiste**, Environmental Technician





## Executive Director Address



Ivan Z. Encelewski  
NTC Executive Director

Summer is in full swing and I hope everyone is enjoying the fishing season, as well as the phenomenal weather. I would be remiss, as well as a little disingenuous, if I didn't say that working in the office while the sun beams down and the fish roll by can be tough, however, we are all here to serve your needs and keep the programs going.

This brings me to an issue that I would like to call your attention to. This matter should be seen here in the near future in regards to a constitutional amendment on the November 2013 tribal election ballot. As you may have heard, federal funding is getting tighter. With sequestration we have seen cuts across the board to our fiscal year (FY) 2013 funding. As we look to fill the gaps and maintain and develop new programs, we have to actively seek state funding sources. While this sounds like a good idea, there is a caveat which creates a conundrum for us. This is due to the fact that the current NTC constitution requires the tribe to waive its sovereign immunity in order to apply for or receive funding from the state. While the federal government does not require a waiver of our immunity in order to get monies or operate grants and contracts, the state does.

Tribes enjoy sovereign immunity, which holds that they cannot be held liable, or be sued in court for tort actions. The state views this as troublesome in order to carry out funding accords with tribes, especially if they have no recourse in the execution of a grant or contract. As part of the state funding application process, a limited waiver of our immunity must be completed in order to even submit an application for funding. This creates a laborious and unreasonable demand on our end. This is due to the fact that the tribal constitution requires that any waiver of our immunity must be done by a vote of the membership. All tribal elections are conducted by mail and we would have to implement a special election for every grant, funding agreement, or receipt of monies from the state. You may recall that we had to submit a vote to you in order to get the grant funding for our second housing six plex (Tovarish Manor II). This was a one-time large project and was approved for a waiver of immunity by the membership, although, as we seek continual applications for additional monies in other areas, it simply will not work logistically to put out formal votes every time.

This leads me to a positive resolution through a change in our constitution. The proposed constitutional amendment would add two sentences under Article VI, Section 2. General that would state: "However, the NTC shall be authorized to waive the tribe's sovereign immunity specifically as it pertains to entering into, executing, and carrying out grant, contract, or funding accords with the State of Alaska. This limited waiver shall be duly approved by the NTC through an explicit resolution, which may waive the tribe's sovereign immunity from suit with respect to claims by the state arising out of the activities related to the particular agreement." Please note that the NTC refers to the board of directors.

This implements a nice balance for operation of programs and services, yet retains the waiver of immunity to the membership for all other matters except state funding requests, accords, grants, and contracts. At this time we do not receive state monies, except those passed through another organization where a waiver is not required. In addition, we have recently felt that our potential to expand services has been stymied by the need for a waiver, in which it takes months to conduct an election. I encourage your support on this issue and please contact me if you have any questions or concerns on this matter.

On the council news front, the board held their last regular meeting on June 13, 2013. The council discussed and heard reports from the program directors and adopted amendments to the 401(k) plan. Furthermore, they approved clinic policies, a minor funding request for a video production with Jeanie Greene on our resource and historical issues, and discussed the proposed constitutional amendment in order to apply for state grant funding. The educational fishery, transit facility, and upcoming housing construction projects were addressed as well.

As always, please feel free to stop in for some coffee. I also encourage you to attend the regular council meetings, thereby getting involved with ongoing activities and events here at the Tribe. Thank You.



Ivan Z. Encelewski  
NTC Executive Director

## Announcements

### *NTC Voter Registration Deadline*

**September 20th, 2013**



NTC's Annual Election has been set for November 11, 2013. In order to vote or run for a Council seat in the upcoming election you must be a registered voter at least 50 days prior to the election. The deadline to register to vote in this year's election is September 20, 2013. Applications to register to vote will be sent to all eligible tribal members who have a current address on file at the office. If you are not sure if you are a registered voter or eligible to register to vote, please contact Chris @ 567-3313.

#### *Eligibility Criteria:*

In order to register to vote, you must be a NTC Tribal member, Ninilchik descendant, over the age of 18, and reside within the state of Alaska.

### *New Website Coming Soon*

This fall NTC will be launching its new, upgraded website with expanded information and services. One of the goals of the new website is to substantially increase online access for various services, establish a broader network for tribal affairs, and provide more in-depth historical and cultural information for tribal enrichment and a global audience.

The new design divides departments, services, and news into concise sections and pages that incorporate service module portals and allows tribal members and public clients to access fillable form versions of applications & surveys.

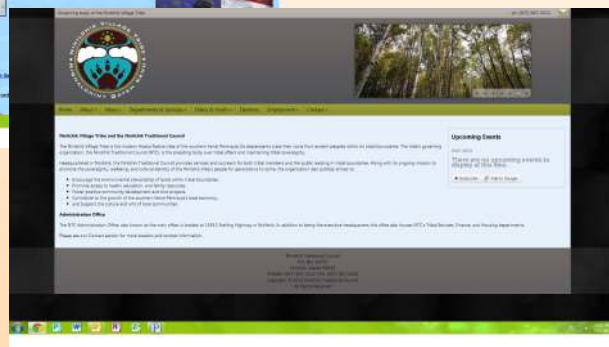
Look for the new website soon at the same address  
**[ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](http://ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)**

*If you have any suggestions for website content please contact us!*



*Current Website*

*New Website*



## Announcements Continued

### *Groundbreaking Dena'ina Exhibit at Anchorage Museum*

On September 15th the Anchorage Museum will be opening "Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living", a 4-month exhibit of antiquities and displays about the Dena'ina culture and its people of past and present. It is the first ever major exhibition specifically about Dena'ina culture and will feature over 100 anthropological objects as well as hands-on learning stations, visual presentations, and artistic works.

Running until January 14th, 2014, the temporary exhibit will be displaying materials from Alaskan institutions such as the Alaska State Museum and the Ninilchik Tribe-supported Pratt Museum in Homer, and it will also feature items on loan from world-renown cultural institutions.

Objects from as far as the Peabody Natural History Museum at Yale University in New Haven, the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, the British Museum in London, the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki, the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen, and the Ethnological Museum of Berlin will be a part of the in-depth presentation. The goal of the exhibit is to encourage learning about the Dena'ina, which is indigenous to the Cook Inlet area from the Mat-Su Valleys to Kachemak Bay and the culture of origin for its tribes. According to the museum's article on the upcoming exhibit, "More than half of Alaskans live in traditional Dena'ina territory, but few of them have a general working knowledge of Dena'ina culture."



**Map of Dena'ina historical territory in Alaska**



**Dentalium necklace c.1902 - Susitna**



**Antler war club c.1853 - Kenai Peninsula**



**Necklace with drinking tube c.1934/3 - Iliamna**

A photography-rich companion book to the exhibit will be published and released by the University of Alaska Press later this fall. This can be purchased from the museum or on the University of Alaska Press website. If you are visiting Ninilchik, NTC will also be providing a limited number of copies through the Niglalchint Tribal Library.

If you are living in or visiting the Anchorage area, you are encouraged to view this once in a lifetime glimpse at what life along the Cook Inlet was like before and during the early colonial era. Current residents of Alaska receive a discount admission price to visit the museum. For more information about the exhibit and other museum features please visit the Anchorage Museum website at [www.anchagemuseum.org](http://www.anchagemuseum.org)



**Beaded woman's belt c.1883 - Kenai Peninsula**

**Image rights are held by the Anchorage Museum.**

## Tribal Services: Education

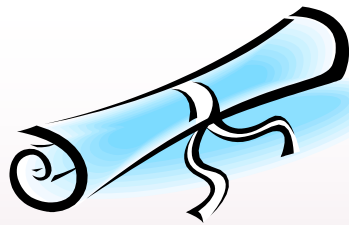
### *Higher Education Graduate*

Kirsten Williamson, daughter of Elaine Halloran and Scott Williamson and granddaughter of the late Nora Cooper, graduated from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major of Studio Art and Film & Media Studies and a minor in Women's Studies. Kirsten graduated magna cum laude based on her overall GPA and summa cum laude based on her majors. She was also inducted into the academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa. A highlight of her graduation was having her mother, Elaine, travel the long distance to attend the ceremony. Kirsten is looking to work in an art department at a university. While she is considering attending graduate school in the future, she is taking some time to work before pursuing her Master's Degree in Fine Arts.



Kirsten was very thankful for financial help received, these are her words, and "I would like to thank Ninilchik Traditional Council, CIRI, NNAI and CITC for all their support. I could not have done it without your help!"

*The Ninilchik Traditional Council would like to officially congratulate Kirsten on her success and achievements. We are extremely proud to have her in our community.*



### *Higher Education Grant Fall Semester Application Deadline: **August 9th, 2013***

This is an important reminder that the Higher Education Grant Application deadline is **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.** Students must have their application turned in on or before the deadline in order to be considered for funding. After the semester of funding has ended, be sure to remember to request that an **official transcript** be mailed to:

Ninilchik Traditional Council  
Tribal Services Department  
PO Box 39444  
Ninilchik, AK 99639

If you have not filled out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) you can file one on the web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Please contact Shirley Chihuly, NTC Education Manager, at 1-907-567-3313 or e-mail [shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov) if you have any questions.

*Hope to hear from you soon!*

*For more information on any of the Ninilchik Traditional Council's education programs and services please contact Education Manager Shirley Chihuly at 567-3313 or e-mail [shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)*



## Tribal Services: Youth Activities

### Hunter Safety & Education Course

The Ninilchik Traditional Council and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game offered a Basic Hunter Education Course for youth in Ninilchik on June 11th, 14th, and 15th. Each participant had to put quite a bit of effort into completing the class, which took reading and completing a workbook (prior to class), attending the instructor's 4 hour course, then passing:

- the written test,
- live fire test, and
- skills course

Common themes taught in each of these courses are hunter responsibility, ethics, wildlife conservation, management and the safe handling of firearms, muzzleloaders and archery equipment. This course prepares students to be safe, responsible hunters. Everyone really enjoyed this event, we had a great group, good weather, and swarms of mosquitos. Thirteen students attended and I'm proud to announce everyone got certified and received their card issued by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

**Way to go!**



### Early Learning Program Family Beach & Fishing Day on June 20th

The NTC Early Learning Program started in 2006 and each summer we host a Family Beach Fishing Day and invite all alumni ELP students to come fish with friends. This is a wonderful way to keep in contact with our families and see how our students have grown. On June 20th, students from each class year from 2006 to 2012 returned to fish with us. Even the younger brothers and sisters (our next up-coming classes!) were able to enjoy a day at the beach. Parents were able to meet and interact and set up play dates. Over forty participants enjoyed a picnic, played on the beach and helped catch fresh salmon. Although we did not catch enough salmon for each family to take a salmon home, everyone still enjoyed the wonderful day with friends. *Everyone is looking forward to our next day at the beach!*



### Youth Fish & Cultural Camp

On July 21st, nine young tribal members ages 8-14 fished with the Tribal Services staff for the youth fish camp. Twenty-six salmon were caught and shared with 9 elders and 5 families. Although we were busy, we were able to take a short break and enjoyed a little beachcombing. This same group went on a clamming adventure on June 26th. Since we were on foot, we decided to walk north of the Ninilchik River in pursuit of the elusive razor clam. Probably not the best idea, only 11 clams were harvested. It was quite unbelievable though, these 11 clams were hiding in the deep mud. Apparently, nobody wanted to dig in the mud. Needless to say...we got a little muddy. After cleaning up and lunch, the group spent the afternoon constructing crafts out of all their goodies collected from the beach. There are definitely some young artists within our Tribe, I was amazed at their level of creativity!



To contact the Tribal Services department please call 567-3313 or e-mail the following addresses:  
 Christina Pinnow, Tribal Services Director: [chris@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:chris@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)  
 Shirley Chihuly, Education Manager: [shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:shirley@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)  
 Bettyann Steciw, Social Services & ICWA Specialist: [bettyann@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:bettyann@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)

## Niqnalchint Library & Arts

### Library Updates & Events

#### Author's Q&A & Book Signing - Saturday, August 24th, 3:00 PM



The Niqnalchint Tribal Library and Ninilchik Community Library are honored to present Alaskan author and 2013 Pulitzer Prize nominee Eowyn Ivey for an author's Q&A and book signing. Ivey's breakout novel, *The Snow Child*, is a rich story full of magic set in Alaska's pioneer era that has captured the imagination of millions of readers worldwide. This event will be held at the **Ninilchik Community Library**. Please join us for an intimate discussion with one of Alaska's news literary stars. A limited number of copies will be available for purchase with proceeds being donated to the Ninilchik Community Library. Copies of the novel are also available at the Homer Bookstore and River City Books in Soldotna. There is no admission cost to attend, just bring yourself and your love of reading. We would love to see you there!



#### Niqnalchint Creative Writing

If you are a beginner interested in writing, whether it's stories, poetry, or even writing for information, join a meeting of our creative writing group to learn about different skills and inspirations to get you started! Topics are guided by local educator and writer Jamie Leman. The group meets semi-monthly and the next meeting will be **Friday, August 30th at 2:00** in the NTC Administration Conference Room. We would love to see you there.

#### Tahyiga Book Club

The Tahyiga Book Club meets monthly to discuss Alaskan, world, and indigenous cultural literature. If you are interested in new, engrossing novels with cultural themes please join us. The club meets on late month Fridays at 2 PM at the Subsistence Building Lounge. The next meetings will be on **August 23rd & September 27th**. Let us know if you would like to join!

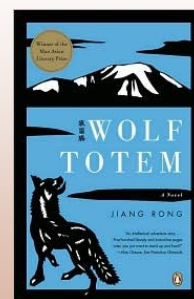
#### Book Club Titles Coming Up:

##### August Selection



*I, Rigoberta Menchú*  
by Rigoberta Menchú

##### September Selection



*Wolf Totem*  
by Jiang Rong

### New Book Spotlight: Just some of the new titles in our collection!

#### Fiction



Montaro Caine  
by Sidney Poitier - 2013

#### Alaskana



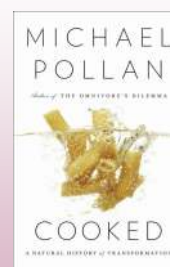
Rock Water Wild  
by Nancy Lord - 2013

#### Poetry & Prose



The Rabbits Could Sing  
by Amber Flora Thomas - 2012

#### Non-Fiction



Cooked  
by Michael Pollan - 2013

For more information about the Niqnalchint Library or other arts and culture activities please contact Tribal Librarian Argent Kvasnikoff at the NTC Administrative Office by phone at 567-3313, or by e-mail to [argent@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov](mailto:argent@ninilchiktribe-nsn.gov)



## NTC Community Clinic

### *Tribal Health Director's Report*

- ◇ We are still actively recruiting for a doctor (we have some upcoming site visits) and an experienced Behavioral Health Aide or clinician.
- ◇ We expect the optometrist to be here in late September early October. We can take your name and number and call you for an appointment, once we get the date.
- ◇ We will have locum coverage end of July through August to cover vacations and to have additional assistance.
- ◇ We are tentatively planning a Children's Wellness Clinic and Fair the week after school starts, stay tuned for more details on this. Last year we had lots of fun and games including Jumpin' Junction. We also had some great door prizes.

*Thank You,  
Janet Mullen, NTC Tribal Health Director*

### NTC Community Clinic



15765 Kingsley Road  
P.O. Box 39368  
Ninilchik, AK 99639

Clinic: (907)-567-3970  
Annex: (907)-567-3370

### Reminder: Health Insurance Marketplace for Alaska Natives & American Indians

Enrollment begins October 1, 2013 to find out more about the Marketplace basics go online to [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov). Alaska will be a Federally Facilitated Marketplace, which means it will be operated by the Federal Government. Members of Federally recognized Tribes will have no out of pocket expenses if they chose IHS as their provider. *Stay tuned for more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace.*

### Recipe from the Complete Diabetic Cookbook Brussels Sprouts & Mushrooms Au Gratin

Ingredients: 1 Tbsp butter, 2 cups Brussels sprouts, 1 cup mushroom pieces, 2 oz. grated Swiss cheese.  
Directions: Melt butter in skillet. Lightly sauté Brussels sprouts and mushrooms. Add salt and pepper. Remove from heat and pour into baking dish. Cover with cheese. Bake at 350 for 20-25 minutes. Makes 4 servings. Nutritional Exchange for 1 serving: 1 high fat meat, ½ vegetable. Calories: 65, Carbohydrates: 5g



### *Ninilchik Community Clinic Serving Our Veterans*

Recent cooperation between the Indian Health Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs extends support for Alaska Veterans at Alaska IHS institutions like the Ninilchik Community Clinic. Elders Outreach Program Coordinator Tiffany Stonecipher is available to help any Alaska Veteran who has applied to the VA navigate services available to them.  
Remember that in order to receive VA benefits you must apply!

### *Some of the benefits and resources available to Alaska Veterans:*

- Disability compensation   -Healthcare   -Counseling
- Mental Health Services   -Pension benefits   -Burial Benefits   -Vision and dental treatment

### *You can apply for VA health benefits three ways:*

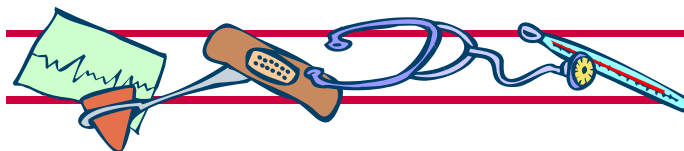
1. Online: [www.1010ez.med.va.gov](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov)
2. Fax 1010ez and DD 214 forms to: 907-257-6784
- Or 3. Mail: Attention: Eligibility Office, Alaska VA Healthcare System  
1201 North Muldoon Rd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

*For information about benefits, call toll free: 1-800-827-1000*

*For more information about the clinic's services please call Tribal Health Director Janet Mullen at the Annex at 567-3370.*

## NTC Community Clinic

### Health Events and Information



### About the A1C blood test

*Submitted by Caroline Finney, Community Health Practitioner*

#### Definition:

The A1C test is a common blood test used to diagnose type 1 and type 2 diabetes and then to gauge how well you're managing your diabetes. The A1C test goes by many other names including glycosylated hemoglobin, glycosylated hemoglobin, hemoglobin A1C and HbA1c.

The A1C test results reflect your average blood sugar level for the past two (2) to three (3) months. Specifically, the A1C test measures what percentage of your hemoglobin – a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen – is coated with sugar (glycated). The higher your A1C level, the poorer your blood sugar control and the higher your risk of diabetes complications.

#### Why It's Done

An international committee of experts from the American Diabetes Association, the European Association for the Study of Diabetes and the International Diabetes Federation recommends that the A1C test be the primary test used to diagnose prediabetes, type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes.

After a diabetes diagnosis, the A1C test is used to monitor your diabetes treatment plan. Since the A1C test measures your average blood sugar level for the past two (2) to three (3) months instead of your blood sugar level at a point in time, it is a better reflection of how well your diabetes treatment plan is working overall. Your doctor will likely use the A1C test when you're first diagnosed with diabetes. This also helps establish a baseline A1C level. The test may then need to be repeated while you're learning to control your blood sugar. Later, how often you need the A1C test depends on the type of diabetes you have, your treatment plan and how well you're managing your blood sugar. For example, the A1C test may be recommended:

- Twice a year if you have type 2 diabetes, you don't use insulin, and your blood sugar level is consistently within your target range.
- Three to four times a year if you have type 1 diabetes.
- Four times a year if you have type 2 diabetes, you use insulin to manage your diabetes, or you have trouble keeping your blood sugar level within your target range.

You may need more frequent A1C tests if your doctor changes your diabetes treatment plan or you begin taking a new diabetes medication.

#### How You Prepare

The A1C test is a simple blood test. You can eat and drink normally before the test.

#### What You Can Expect

During the A1C test, a member of your health care team simply takes a sample of blood by inserting a needle into a vein in your arm or pricking the tip of your finger with a small pointed lancet. The blood sample is sent to a lab for analysis. You can return to your usual activities immediately.

#### Results

For some people who doesn't have diabetes, a normal level can range from 4.5 to 6 percent. Someone who's had uncontrolled diabetes for a long time might have a A1C level above 8 percent. When the A1C test is used to diagnose diabetes, an A1C level of 6.5 percent or higher on two separate tests indicates you have diabetes. A result between 5.7 and 6.4 percent is considered prediabetes, which indicates a higher risk of developing diabetes.

For most people who have previously diagnosed diabetes, an A1C level of 7 percent or less is a common treatment target. Higher targets may be chosen in some individuals. If your A1C level is above your target, your doctor may recommend a change in your diabetes treatment plan. Remember, the higher your A1C level, the higher your risk of diabetes complications.



*References: 1998-2013 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research*

## Resource & Environmental Department

### *Environmental Enquirer – "More than you really wanted to know"* Submitted by Gina Wiste, Environmental Technician

Have you been looking around your yard or your environment and wondering what the heck is up with those Alder trees? They look like they are dying or dead! The widespread defoliation, branch dieback and mortality of the thin-leaf alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*) in Alaska was documented as early as 2003. By 2005, the green alder sawfly (*Monsoma pulveratum*) and alder canker fungi (primarily *Valsa melanodiscus*) were both implicated as possible contributing factors. While the green alder sawfly is an exotic defoliating insect new to Alaska, it has quickly become established on the Kenai Peninsula, the Anchorage bowl, and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. In contrast, the fungus that causes alder canker is presumably a native, usually benign fungus for which conditions have changed to its advantage. Cankers are localized diseased and dead areas that can girdle and kill branches and main stems.



Introductions of exotic invasive insects are a serious threat to biological diversity, especially here in Alaska. Increased commercial activity and tourism in Alaska and climate change trends in northern regions increase the probability that non-native organisms that are introduced into Alaska will establish breeding populations and begin to spread. Once established, invasive pest populations can be extremely difficult and expensive to manage.

The green alder sawfly infestation and defoliation were highest in pure thin-leaf alder stands in south-central Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula. Originally from Europe, this small sawfly overwinters in dead wood and the forest duff. It emerges early in the spring, and is often found feeding earlier than its native counterparts. Alder canker, by contrast has been widespread throughout western North American since the late 1980's. In Alaska, it is present to some degree in virtually every thin-leaf alder stand and is positively correlated with stem density. Cankers can grow rapidly and as the causal fungus kills the phloem, cambium, and outer xylem, it partially or completely girdles the entire branch. Sprouting is common below the dead tissue.

The increase of alder-defoliating sawfly activity, coupled with the canker fungi poses a considerable threat to riparian areas that are dependent on alders for its nitrogen-fixing contribution to soil nutrition. Studies in Alaska have shown that the mere presence of alder in riparian habitats could protect or even improve the productivity of aquatic organism, thus having a positive impact on fisheries and salmon production. Alder stands affected by this widespread mortality show few signs of recruitment or recovery and may experience an accelerated rate of succession. Permanent removal or reduction of thin-leaf alder from riparian ecosystems on a landscape scale would profoundly affect long-term nutrient cycling and forest productivity, aesthetic value, and organic debris inputs to rivers and streams.

Evaluation and Monitoring projects have been done over the years to investigate alder dieback in riparian areas in Southcentral Alaska. This work will help determine whether there is a correlation between alder sawflies and alder pathogens, and help determine the necessity for chemical or biological control of non-native sawflies to protect riparian alder forests and salmon spawning streams.

*For more information please contact the US Forest Service - Alaska Region.*



The NTC Resource & Environmental Department is located at 15995 Sterling Highway, Suite B  
For more information please call the office at 567-3815

#### *Department Staff:*

- ◇ Darrel Williams, Resource & Environmental Director
  - ◇ Gina Wiste, Environmental Technician
  - ◇ Daniel Reynolds, Resource Technician



# August 2013 Dates & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 "Beneath the Surface" art & Kenai Peninsula artifact exhibit opens at the Pratt Museum in Homer	3
4	5 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	6 Hatha Yoga 5:15-6:30	7 Hatha Yoga 12:00-1:00	8 Regular Council Meeting 10:00 Vinyasa Yoga 5:15-6:30	9	10
11	12 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	13	14	15	16 Kenai Peninsula Fair	17 Kenai Peninsula Fair
18 Kenai Peninsula Fair	19 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	20 Hatha Yoga 5:15-6:30	21 Hatha Yoga 12:00-1:00	22 Vinyasa Yoga 5:15-6:30	23 Book Club 2:00 PM	24 Eowyn Ivey Q&A and Book Signing 3:00 at Ninilchik Community Library
25	26 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	27 Hatha Yoga 5:15-6:30	28 Youth Clamming Camp 12:00 - 2:00 Hatha Yoga 5:15-6:30	29 Vinyasa Yoga 5:15-6:30	30 Creative Writing 2:00 PM	31

# September 2013 Dates & Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day NTC Closed 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14
15 "Dena'inaq' Huch'uliyeshi" exhibit opens at Anchorage Museum	16 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	17	18	19	20 Voter Registration Deadline 	21
22	23 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM	24 Hatha Yoga 5:15-6:30	25 Hatha Yoga 12:00-1:00	26 Vinyasa Yoga 5:15-6:30	27 Book Club 2:00 PM	28
29	30 Elders Luncheon 12:00 PM					



Ninilchik  
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TO:

## *NTC Newsletter August & September 2013*



Are you planning to move or change your contact information?

### ***Let us know!***

- Tribal members are encouraged to contact NTC Enrollment Officer Christina Pinnow at the NTC Admin Office to keep their information up to date.
- Those on the general public mailing list may contact Argent Kvasnikoff at the NTC Admin Office front desk.

Please call (907)-567-3313 to speak to either Christina or Argent to make sure we can keep current. Thank you!