

Our Mission

The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center combines the missions of its partners to:

- Celebrate Interior Alaska's people, land and culture
- Promote economic development with an emphasis on rural Alaska
- Be a community gathering place, where diverse cultures come together to appreciate and respect one another

To

People Who Make it Happen Trimble Gilbert, 2nd Traditional Chief of Interior Alaska By Joy Shockley Huntington

It has been especially rewarding having Trimble Gilbert spend the summer with us as our headlining fiddler in our live stage performance of Athabascan fiddle music and dance. Trimble is the 2nd Traditional Chief for our region, and is also an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church. He is a traditional and spiritual leader for all Alaska Native and non-Native people in the Interior region. He brings a wealth of cultural knowledge and pride that cannot be duplicated.

Trimble lives with his wife Mary in Arctic Village, which is 290 miles north of Fairbanks on the Chandalar River. His community is primarily made up of Gwich'in Athabascan people who live a subsistence lifestyle.

During our hour-long live performance, Trimble shares the stage with his sons and several grandchildren that dance to his music and play alongside him on the guitar. He is patient with the young dancers and musicians, and has taught us to be patient as well when things do not go as planned—which is often the case in the first year of a new production. Trimble has taught us how music and dancing can heal our communities by injecting everyone with positive energy. "If people in the community are not getting along, they forget their problems during the community dances. They come together and enjoy the music," said Trimble. He said playing fiddle music has healed him when he was not feeling well. "If I am feeling sick, sometimes with the flu, I don't feel like playing music, but I go



anyways and as soon as I start playing and the community is dancing, I forget about my sickness and feel better."

Cultural Connections, TCC's summer cultural program, ends its summer run on August 21. Monday–Thursday, we celebrate the music, dance, and language of the Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabascan people. On Friday, we present an Upper Tanana Athabascan perspective on the evolution of dog mushing. All shows start at 7 p.m. The shows highlight the very best of the Athabascan people of Interior Alaska. Be sure to catch a live performance with Trimble before the season is over!



Center Receives Rave Reviews from Visitors and Residents

Since we opened our doors last fall, more than 35,000 people have walked through the doors. Responses from residents and visitors alike are overwhelmingly positive. "We've always talked about the synergy of this partnership, and you can see it when you walk through the lobby," says Deb Hickok, FCVB President & CEO. "So much is going on—a pair of hikers mapping out their trail, a family watching a film in the video nook, Elder's getting ready to give a live performance in the theatre, an artist carving masks in the Artisan's Workshop."

The flower and vegetable garden surrounding the historic cabin is one of the biggest crowd-pleasers. Risse Greenhouse planted the heritage garden in mid-June, and the long and hot summer days have

the plants and flowers exploding with color. Cabin restorer Sandy Jamieson is focusing his work on the cabin exterior this summer. "It's

hard to get work done! I spend about 50% of my time fielding questions from guests admiring the cabin and the grounds."



Many thanks to Fairbanks Rotary which donated \$80,000 to help restore the 1910 historic cabin and are also "getting their hands dirty" by taking care of weeding and deadheading of the vegetable and flower garden throughout the summer. The vegetables harvested from the garden are being donated to Stone Soup Café to provide meals to Fairbanksans in need.

BUILDING PARTNERS

Alaska Geographic Store
www.alaskageographic.org
907.459.3710

Alaska Public Lands
Information Center
www.alaskacenters.gov
907.459.3730

Denakkanaaga
907.451.3904

Fairbanks Convention and
Visitors Bureau
www.explorefairbanks.com
907.456.5774

Tanana Chiefs Conference
Cultural Programs
www.tananachiefs.org
907.459.3740

Visitor's Voices

“ Great addition for Fairbanks!
Saul & Riley Williams, Fairbanks
There is no place like this place. Thank you.
Peter Wholecheese, Huslia
Maasi'choo for a beautiful place!
Diana Hayton, Ft. Yukon
Amazing, Fairbanks should be proud!
Larry Kairaiuak, Anchorage
Very helpful. Planned my stay right here.
Bill Grubbs, Decatur AL
Fantastic country, friendly people, great center.
Mark & Frances Williams,
Wellington, New Zealand
You are great ambassadors for Alaska.
Tony van Rosmalen, Winnipeg, Canada
I like this place. It feels like home.
Deeba Derzi, Carmel, IN

Beautiful; Films are fantastic!
Joe & Kathy Thibodeau,
Shaftsbury, VT
Thanks for the tour! I have been
telling everyone I know about
the magic going on in the Center.
Linden Staciokas, Fairbanks
Great visitor services – especially the
phone and Internet!
Jeff & Judie Spiegel, Pittsburgh, PA
Great place to start your Fairbanks tour.
Anusha & Arrind, Santa Clara, CA
We really enjoyed the show.
The children especially so.
Philip Michael Casias
BIG is looking down very proud!
Larry Bredeman, Manley Hot Springs



What We're Watching

Join us for free films 7 days a week in our 100-seat, hi-definition theatre. Call 459.3730 for information.

Week of August 2nd:
 9 am: Deadly Ascent
 10 am: Crown of the Continent
 Noon: Deadliest Catch: High Hopes
 2 pm: Women of the Alaska Territory
 4 pm: Life List

Week of August 9th:
 9 am: Alaska at War
 10 am: Alone in the Wilderness
 Noon: Deadliest Catch: Good Fishing
 2 pm: Land of the Eagle: The First & Last Frontier
 4 pm: Steamer Nenana

Week of August 16th:
 9 am: Spirit of the Eagle
 10 am: Creating the Image of ANWR
 Noon: Deadliest Catch: The Clock's Ticking
 2 pm: Between the Glacier & the Sea
 4 pm: Cranes of the Grey Wind

Week of August 23rd:
 9 am: Aurora Explained
 10 am: Alaska Portrait
 Noon: Deadliest Catch: The Final Run
 2 pm: Loons of Amisk
 4 pm: Land of Ice and Wonder
 6 pm: Alaska Railroad
 7:15 pm: Gates of the Arctic
 8:15 pm: Songs in Minto Life

Week of August 30th:
 9 am: Bowhead Hunting in the Arctic
 10 am: Alaska Hunting Adventure
 Noon: Alaska's Bush Pilots
 2 pm: Alaska: Big America
 4 pm: Journey Back to the Wild
 6 pm: Nanook of the North
 7:15 pm: Gates of the Arctic
 8:15 pm: Songs in Minto Life

Week of September 6th:
 9 am: The Trail of '42
 10 am: From the First People
 Noon: Last Stronghold of the Eagle
 2 pm: Alaskan Gold
 4 pm: Wild Neighbors
 6 pm: A Gathering of Bears
 7:15 pm: Gates of the Arctic
 8:15 pm: Songs in Minto Life

Week of September 13th:
 10 am: Good Time Girls of the Gold Rush
 Noon: Alaska's Grizzlies
 2 pm: At the Time of Whaling
 4 pm: The Reindeer Queen
 6 pm: Angling Alaska: A Fall Silver Salmon Run
 7:15 pm: Gates of the Arctic
 8:15 pm: Songs in Minto Life

Week of September 20th:
 10 am: Age of Alaska
 Noon: The Big Stampede
 2 pm: America's Best Idea-Preview Part 1
 4 pm: America's Best Idea-Preview Part 2
 6 pm: Conviction of the Heart
 7:15 pm: Gates of the Arctic
 8:15 pm: Songs in Minto Life

Week of September 27th:
 10 am: Alaska's Wild Legacy
 Noon: Law of Our Fathers
 2 pm: Alaska Pipeline
 4 pm: The Wolf Pack

Week of October 4th:
 10 am: 6 On-6 Off
 Noon: ANWR: A Quest for Answers
 2 pm: One Man's Alaska
 4 pm: Across Time and Tundra

Week of October 11th:
 10 am: History of America's Last Frontier
 Noon: Light of the North
 2 pm: The Permafrost Frontier
 4 pm: The Drums of Winter, Part 1

Week of October 18th:
 10 am: Anaktuvuk Pass: Land of the Nunamiut
 Noon: The Gold Rush
 2 pm: Spirit of the North
 4 pm: The Drums of Winter, Part 2

Week of October 25th:
 10 am: Journey of Discovery: Landscape History of the Bering Land Bridge
 Noon: Wild AK
 2 pm: Tales of the Tundra
 4 pm: Pioneer Family in Alaska

Film Screenings

Thurs, September 24: The National Parks: America's Best Idea. Join us for an hour-long preview of the six-part documentary film series and an information fair on Alaska's National Parklands and other public land units. 7 p.m.

Sat, October 10: *Spirit of the Wind*. A film about George Atlla, Alaska's legendary sprint dog musher. 2 p.m.

Explore Alaska Lecture Series

Thursdays at 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 24: The Alaska Public Lands Information Center hosts a six-part lecture series on Alaska's National Parklands in conjunction with the premiere of the documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Speakers and dates to be announced.

1st Friday @MTCVC

The first Friday of every month from 5-8 p.m.

August 7: Celebrating Athabascan People, a special live performance of Athabascan fiddling and dance with Trimble Gilbert. Free admission. 7pm

September 4: Christopher Bringham, mask carver, and Pauline Lian, Ice-worm Studio

October 2: Peter Fricilone, Wooden Utensils

Athabascan Cooking Class

The last Friday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

September 25, October 30: Learn to cook traditional Alaska Native foods. \$10/ family donation encouraged. In the Denakanaaga kitchen.



Athabascan Beading Night

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. beginning Sept. 16

Beginning and experienced beaders gather weekly to work on their individual projects. We supply the beads, thread, needles and felt. Contact Ann Fears @ 459.3741 for more information.

Cultural Connections

Sun - Fri, Through Aug 21 7:00 p.m.
 \$5 per person - End of season special!

Monday-Thursday: Celebrating Athabascan People

Trimble Gilbert, a Gwich'in Athabascan musician and the 2nd Traditional Chief of Interior Alaska, shares the stage with youth dancers for a performance of fiddle music and dance. The Nulato Koyukon Singers share 100-year-old songs in their native language. "Athabascan good time hoolaanh!"



James H. Barker

Friday: Evolution of Dog-Mushing

Upper Tanana Athabascan sprint-dog musher Jennifer Probert shares racing stories and demonstrates advanced new techniques with her lead dog, Diamond.



David Woodcock

Sunday: Gates of the Arctic: Alaska's Brooks Range

View a hi-definition film featuring the nation's 2nd largest park and enjoy dramatic readings from the works of pioneer conservationists Mardy Murie and Bob Marshall.



Carl Johnson

Exhibits Open to the Public . . . More to Come!

After years of concept meetings, collecting stories, sounds, film and artifacts, the 9,000 square foot exhibit gallery opens to the public in mid-August. "We've worked hard to make sure we get it right," notes Project Director Cindy Schumaker. "The exhibits aren't 100% complete, but what is ready is simply spectacular and we can't wait to open it up to the community!"

Finishing touches to the exhibits will continue throughout the winter. "It has been fascinating to watch exhibit



Workers install a glass panel on a case that will display Alaska Native artwork donated by each of the 12 ANCSA Corporations.

construction, and I think locals will enjoy watching how the final pieces come together," says Schumaker. The sunset and aurora effects in the winter diorama will be completed in September. Text panels and photos will be installed after Christmas. Exhibit planners delayed the text panels to allow more time for community input. The circular area that extends into the lobby, dubbed "the Gateway," will be installed as funding allows. A grand opening celebration is planned for March 2010 in conjunction with the Tanana Chiefs Conference convention and Doyon's annual meeting.



Top: Diorama artist Jan Vriesen takes a break from painting the background of the autumn diorama. The grizzly bear, on loan from Fairbanksan Sam McConkey, is digging for a ground squirrel in the autumn diorama.

Bottom: FCVB's Karen Lundquist greets a moose that will be peeking into the BLM cabin in the Winter diorama. The half moose was mounted by Richard Harter of Harter's Taxidermy.

Thanks Interior Delegation!

We couldn't have done it without you! The Interior Delegation secured an additional \$1 million state grant from the cruise ship passenger tax to help complete the exhibits. In presenting the grant, Senator Joe Thomas said, "The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center is a community asset. We now have a top-notch facility where we can learn more about our history, our town and our way of life."



Morris Thompson Center Board members, staff and members of the Interior Delegation gathered for a behind-the-scenes tour of the exhibit area. Left to right: Cindy Schumaker, Charlene Marth, Senator Joe Paskvan, Deb Hickok, Senator Joe Thomas, Representative Scott Kawasaki, Senator Albert Kookesh, Joy Shockley Huntington, Tim Stallard, Charlisa Atlla and Board President Steve Kakaruk.

Alaska Public Lands Information Center: College Interns Chart Their Course to a Career

If you are planning a trip into the wilderness, you are going to need a map. The peaks and valleys of the Alaska wilderness present challenges for finding your way. College-aged students are no different, and they have been using the Center to chart their course in a Natural Resource Management career.

Working in conjunction with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Southern Illinois, and the Youth Earthwork Quest program, the Alaska Public Lands Information Center was lucky to have six student intern volunteers for the spring and summer semesters. Students provided trip planning assistance and interpretive services to the visiting public. In return, they gained relevant knowledge about applied natural resource related fields from resource management professionals and the importance of a personal connection to Alaska's natural and cultural history. To learn more about this unique opportunity please contact Adia Cotter at 459-3730.

An internship at the Alaska Public Lands Information Center provides opportunities to learn from resource management professionals, gain tangible skills and experience, and make a contribution to Alaska's natural and cultural treasures.

WANTED Moose and Caribou Antlers

The concrete pedestal for the antler arch is in place . . . now we need more than 100 moose or caribou antlers to create the arch! We would like to get antlers from every village in Interior Alaska, and we'd love to get antlers from our arctic neighbors too! A sign on the arch will recognize all participating communities. If you can help, please call 907.459.3701, or email cindy.schumaker@tananachiefs.org. We will pay \$2 per pound and will make shipping arrangements. Or you can just drop your antlers off at the Morris Thompson Center.



A local crew installs Maudrey and Henry Sommer's smokehouse which was transported from the Yukon River just upriver from Tanana last fall.

