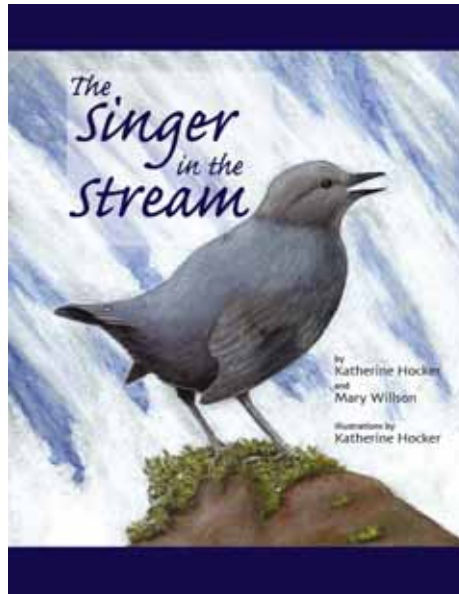




Closeup view of the terminus of Mendenhall Glacier
taken February 28, 2009

American Dippers are the Singers in the Stream



Our only aquatic songbird, the American Dipper nests on streamside cliffs and forages for stream insects and small fish.

On Friday night at 6:30pm and 8pm during the Fireside presentation get a look at the lives of local dippers through photos and stories with Mary Willson and Kathy Hocker.

Learn the results of a five-year study of Juneau's dippers including details about their nesting biology and survival and the factors that limit the local population.

Visitors also may review the new book these two authors have created for young people. The Singer in the Stream paperback book will be available at the Alaska Geographic bookstore.

Kathy and Mary also have collaborated on a brochure about these remarkable stream birds. The brochure is free and available at the visitor center.

March 19, 2009

Upcoming ... Fireside lectures

Friday, March 20 * 6:30pm & 8pm
**Singer in the Stream:
American Dippers in Juneau**
See story above.

Booksigning Friday, March 20 at
5:30pm for SINGER IN THE STREAM

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

**** Thursday, March 26 at 7pm ****
**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill:
20 Years Later**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Auke Bay Lab scientist Dr. Jeep Rice presents an update on the effects of Alaska's worst oil spill. In 1989, the tanker *Exxon Valdez* went aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound. See page 2 for details.

Friday, March 27 * 6:30pm and 8pm
**The Glacier Wolf: Tales
from Southeast Alaska**

Listen to writer/photographer Nick Jans read from his soon-to-be-released collection of Southeast Alaska essays. Enjoy a slide show of the wildlife and landscapes that inspired this latest book, his ninth.

More at www.mendenhallglacier.org

Sea otters are a species seriously harmed by the oil spill. They have not fully recovered today. Like killer whales, their populations still remain affected twenty years later.

Photo courtesy of NOAA.



Twenty Years of Research in the wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

Special visitor center presentation on March 26 at 7pm

In 2004, crude oil could still be found on beaches inundated by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. This lingering oil links with continuing effects to sea otters and other species. The consistency in many places is the same as it was two weeks after the oil spill -- liquid and still toxic.

Photo courtesy of NOAA.



Shortly after midnight on March 24, 1989 the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* "fetched up hard aground," in the words of her skipper Joe Hazelwood, who added, "and, uh, we're evidently leaking some oil."

The day was Good Friday, the same special day when the 1964 earthquake destroyed much of Southcentral Alaska 25 years earlier than the oil spill.

Eleven million gallons of crude oil began their massive movement across Prince William Sound that spring day in 1989. The tanker had just departed Port Valdez when it struck Bligh Reef in the dark. The spill was a defining moment in Alaska history and in the lives of many Alaskans.

What is the status today — 20 years later? Oil still lingers, but how much? Is it still toxic? Several species have struggling populations, such as killer whales and sea otters, but are these struggles still linked to the oil spill?

Many state and federal agencies have been studying the area and its habitats since the spill.

Auke Bay Lab (NOAA) scientist Jeep Rice will explain that work on Thursday, March 26 at 7pm at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

Observations from Mendenhall Glacier and Naturalist's Notebook are written by US Forest Service naturalist Laurie Craig in Juneau, Alaska.

Contact lcraig@fs.fed.us

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center
US Forest Service
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801 907.789.0097

Winter Hours Thursday-Sunday
10am to 4pm Free in winter



***Mendenhall Glacier's west Terminus October 30, 2008.
This series of photos was taken from the visitor center
entrance by staff.***



***Mendenhall Glacier's west terminus
February 1, 2009***



***Mendenhall Glacier's west terminus
March 15, 2009***

Changes in the world's glaciers revealed on public television program NOVA on Tuesday, March 24

Mendenhall Glacier's time-lapse images are taken by three cameras erected for a two-year project called the Extreme Ice Survey. This global filming effort has 26 cameras in sites such as Greenland, Iceland, Alaska's Columbia Glacier, the Alps, Rocky Mountains and one glacier in Bolivia.

The project's results can be seen Tuesday, March 24 on public television program NOVA under the title EXTREME ICE.

Nature photographer James Balog teamed up with National Geographic to document melting glaciers. Some of the project's time-lapse footage of Mendenhall is available at the visitor center.

James Balog was interviewed on national public radio's Fresh Air broadcast this week. Below is a link to listen.

National Geographic has a web link to see video, read text and learn more about the Extreme Ice television program.

PBS.org can also provide a link to the NOVA program for more details.

Check local television listings to be certain of the time and date. In Juneau, the program should air at 8pm on Tuesday, March 24 on KTOO/AlaskaOne television.

Listen to radio program on Extreme Ice and James Balog interview:
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=102041024&sc=emaf>