

### 3 Reasons to Celebrate Alaska's Refuges this December

Fifty years ago on December 6, 1960, two historic refuges were established: [Arctic](#) and [Izembek](#) National Wildlife Refuges. In addition, on December 2, 1980 the [Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act](#) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Jimmy Carter.

For Arctic Refuge's 50<sup>th</sup> celebration, a series of events in early December will feature a new film, new photo exhibit and book, and a new original stage production. These will be touring Fairbanks, Homer and Anchorage.

The 50th anniversary celebrations for Izembek Refuge featured an exhibit by photographers Tom Collopy and Mary Frisch. During October and November, 2010, the photo exhibit was displayed in Anchorage, Homer, and Juneau. The exhibit's final stop will be at Cold Bay, headquarters for Izembek Refuge. On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> a community celebration in Cold Bay featured the King Cove Aleut Dancers. The photo exhibit will be permanently installed inside the PenAir terminal, for local residents and visitors to enjoy.

### Upcoming Arctic Refuge 50th Anniversary Events

#### In Fairbanks:

*Dec. 3-24, 2010*

The *Arctic Sanctuary* photo exhibit will be at the Well Street Art Co., 1304 Well St., Fairbanks, Alaska.

First Friday opening, 5 p.m. Dec. 3

*Dec. 4-5, 2010*

*Wild Legacy* is performed by Voices of the South theater company at the Lee H. Salisbury Theater at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m.

*Dec. 6, 2010*

*America's Wildest Refuge* is screened at the Blue Loon, 2999 Parks Highway, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Monday, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

#### In Homer:

*Dec. 7, 2010*

Voices of the South theater company holds a theater workshop in Homer, Alaska.

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

*Dec. 8, 2010*

*Wild Legacy* is performed by Voices of the South theater company at the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer.

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Dec. 10-12, 2010

**In Anchorage:**

December 10, 11, 12, 2010

*Wild Legacy* is performed by Voices of the South theater company at the Wendy Williamson Theater at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m.

Dec. 11, 2010

Voices of the South theater company holds a theater workshop at the Wendy Williamson Theater at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to noon

*America's Wildest Refuge: Discovering the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* -- This hour-long, high-definition video documentary includes sweeping views of the Arctic Refuge, its wildlife, and interviews with those who know it best. *America's Wildest Refuge* is an ecological and historical portrait of a majestic place and those who have worked to protect it.

*Arctic Sanctuary: Images of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge* -- This photo exhibit and the accompanying book include large-scale photos and interpretive text. Photographer Jeff Jones' work conveys a sense of the scope, significance, and stunning beauty of the Arctic Refuge while Laurie Hoyle's words combine to engage the view in a contemplative exploration of the Refuge. The book, published by the University of Alaska Press, features more than 150 of Jeff's Arctic Refuge photographs as well as Laurie's essays.

*Wild Legacy* -- This original stage production is based on the collected writings of Olaus and Margaret Murie, who were instrumental in the establishment of the Arctic Refuge. Commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Wild Legacy* is produced by the Memphis, Tennessee-based theatre company Voices of the South. The play honors those who made the establishment of the Arctic Refuge possible and celebrates the experiences we are still able to enjoy 50 years later because of this "wild legacy."