

What do you know about amphibians?

By **KAITLYN MCAVOY**
Sentinel writer

Residents of Wrangell can expect to receive a questionnaire in their post office box this month asking what they know about amphibians, specifically frogs and salamanders.

The mail survey is part of University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) student Joshua Ream's research. Ream, 27, is pursuing an interdisciplinary PhD from UAF in ecological anthropology, which focuses on the relationship between humans and their environment, or as Ream puts it, a way to combine his "interests in both the natural and social sciences."

Ream said people in Alaska seem to have knowledge about subsistence species and game species, but not about other animals, especially amphibians. There are six native species of amphibians in Alaska – three native frogs, and three native salamanders – all of which have been "severely understudied," Ream said.

These six species, however, are all located along the Stikine

River, making Wrangell a perfect place for Ream's research. The mail survey, expected to reach Wrangell P.O. Boxes by mid to late February, will ask residents such questions as what they know about amphibians, where they see them and if they have noticed any changes in these native species over the years.

"It's really an attempt to look at community knowledge as a whole about what people know about amphibians," Ream said.

His overall goal is to identify economic ways in which baseline data on species diversity, distribution and abundance for non-game organisms can be obtained, he said.

"I propose that local knowledge and its subsets (community knowledge, indigenous knowledge, citizen science) may be valuable tools that have been under-utilized in the past," said Ream.

Near the end of February, Ream plans to travel to Wrangell to help promote the survey.

Many in Wrangell may recognize Ream, as he has been to

the island town researching amphibians on and off for the past couple of years. He hopes this presence in Wrangell will encourage residents to fill out and return the survey.

Ream will also be returning to Wrangell for research in May, and plans to spend much of his time here along the Stikine.

Ream is originally from southwest Pennsylvania. As an undergrad, Ream majored in animal sciences and minored in wildlife and fisheries science at Penn State. He went on to receive a master in biology from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. Ream spent time studying in Alaska during college and said he "always knew I would return."

Throughout his college life, Ream found summer jobs in Kodiak, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

"I just fell in love with it," Ream said of Alaska. "Sometimes, I just feel more at home than I even do back East."

And, through his pursuit of higher education in the state he has come to love, Ream said he has found that feeling of home here in Wrangell, as well.


"Everyone in Wrangell has been incredibly helpful to me," he said. "I really feel at home there."



SUBMITTED BY JOSH REAM

University of Alaska Fairbanks PhD student, Josh Ream, pictured with a wood frog. Ream will soon be asking Wrangell residents to tell him what they know about wood frogs and other native amphibians.

WRANGELLITE OF THE WEEK




ANNE PRYSUNKA:
Anne is a senior this year. She is the daughter of Lynn and Steve Prysunka.

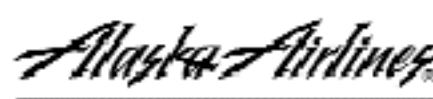
Anne plays the trombone in the Wrangell High School concert and jazz band and is also a member of Tri-M. She has also been a member of the Drama & Debate team for four years.

In her spare time, Anne loves to hike, kayak, fish and do paintings in acrylic. She is involved in the Youth Environmental Showcase.

After graduation, Anne plans to attend University of Alaska Southeast and obtain a bachelor's degree.

Proudly brought to you by





alaskaair.com

STOUGH'S MINI STORAGE, Small storage units for \$26 + tax, medium units for \$36 + tax and large units for \$41.50 + tax.

STOUGH'S TRAILER COURT, trailer spaces available for \$215 + tax.

Contact Shirley at 874-3129

Call

Ottesen's True Value Hardware for all your building & special order needs.

Featuring:
Milgard Windows,
Snap-Loc Roofing,
Treated & Untreated Wood

Phone 874-3377
Fax 874-3549

**Ottesen's
True Value**

START RIGHT. START HERE.™

N K ELECTRIC

Here to serve all
your electrical needs

**COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL**

874-2770, 821633

B.R.O. ELKS #1595

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wed.

www.wrangel-elks-lodge-1595.com

Exalted Ruler: Connie Wallace
Visiting Elks always welcome

Sentinel E-mail

wrgsent@oci.net

JOHNSON CONSTRUCTION

Wrangell, Alaska • www.jcsialaska.com
907-874-2375



Quality Building for
Over 50 Years

Residential • Commercial • New Construction • Remodels • Decks •
Window Replacements • Custom Kitchens • Fire & Water Damage
Free Estimates • Insurance Assistance
Licensed, Bonded and Insured Residential Endorsement

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <p><i>The Wrangell Sentinel We're Easy to Reach!</i></p> | <p>Phone: (907) 772-9393</p> | <p>Fax: (907) 772-4871</p> | <p>Office: 205 Front Street</p> | <p>email: wrgsent@gmail.com Web: www.wrangellsentinel.com</p> |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|