Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us to explore the wonderful wildflowers, wildlife and spectacular landscapes of Alaska in 2015!

Alaska possesses a profusion of native plants from streamside to mountainside. There are more than 1,500 plant species in the 49th state, from sea level to just below the snow line. Summer is the bountiful time for flowering plants, their pollinators, and large mammals who feed on the nutritious flowers or bulbs. On this expedition, we will traverse Alaska from Anchorage to Seward, traveling along the scenic Cook Inlet and spectacular Chugach Mountains, and then up the Denali Highway to Denali National Park. We will hike on Hatcher Pass, and see stately forests, botanic gardens, scenic streamside walks teeming with flowers, and dwarf tundra plants on the mountain tops. We’ll stay two nights in the heart of Denali National Park, the finest park and wildlife preserve in Alaska, home to grizzlies, caribou, Dall sheep and abundant wildflowers, and then visit Fairbanks in the interior of Alaska.

Leading this expedition will be John Burns, the Administrative Coordinator for the Plant Conservation Volunteer Program for the Society. John lived in Alaska for several years and led the Society’s Ecuador and Madagascar trips. Co-leading will be Justin Gibson, an Alaskan naturalist with a focus on mammals.

We hope you will join our exploration of this vast and beautiful land!

Sincerely yours,

John Burns

For the New England Wild Flower Society
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Sincerely yours,

John Burns
For the New England Wild Flower Society
Day 1 – Boston to Anchorage, Alaska
Fly from Boston to Seattle and Anchorage, situated on the Cook Inlet, between the the major cities Alaska and Chugach Ranges. Welcome dinner and top orientation. 

Day 2 – Alaska Botanic Garden & Glen Alps Trail
Our introduction to the Alaska natural world will begin at the Alaska Botanic Garden in Anchorage. We’ll explore the Garden with a local botanist and discover a mix of native Alaskan and ornamental plants, including some endangered species. After a picnic lunch, we will take a hike on the Glen Alps Trail in the Chugach Mountains for an introduction to the native forests of coastal Alaska. The trail offers wonderful views of distant mountains, the Cook Inlet, and the Alaska Range. 

Day 3 – Potter's Marsh, Seward & the Kenai Peninsula
We will depart this morning for Potter's Marsh where there is a wonderful marshland, nestled between the sea and the Alaska Range. Here, we will walk the board walk to discover birds that nest in Alaska. We may also see flocks of ducks and geese dotting the marsh. In the afternoon, we will walk to Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. The glacier is receding, exposing new habitat for colonizing plants. When you get close to the glacier sometimes you can hear it groan and crack as gravity pulls it downward.

Day 4 – Caines Head & Resurrection Bay
Today we will explore the Caines Head area overlooking Resurrection Bay. The trail follows the coast for most of the way, but turns inland at the river crossing. Here you may discover the Sitka spruce forest along the wet coastal strand. This area is one of the wettest in the state and provided the timber industry with much of its lumber. The picturesque trail will offer many wildlife species along with bald eagles, and beautiful ocean vistas. Panm in the field. Afternoon to linger along the trail. 

Day 5 – Seward to Eagle River & Wasilla
This morning, we will drive north from Seward and stop at Portage Glacier. This glacier is one of the most popular and the visitor center is one of the finest in Alaska. Enjoy a short walk before continuing to Eagle River where we will join a local naturalist for a wildlife walk in the park. We will explore slowly to best see the mammals, alpine plants, raptors, etc. Free-nosed toads, violets, gentian, and many other wildflowers will all be at their peak. We’ll continue north along the Denali Highway to visit the Iditarod Museum and Trail Headquarters. The museum often has puppies that may be future members of a dog team. 

Day 6 – Hatcher Pass and Alpine Wildflowers
We will drive north from Palmer to Hatcher Pass at 5,985 feet and experience the world of ice, snow, and alpine plants, all above tree line. These hearty plants will surprise you with their success in a land of little soil, short growing season, and extremes in temperatures. The area offers an easy hike and a few more challenging ones. We will start with the easy one and enjoy the plants along the way. Later visit Gold Cord lake to discover the plants found in muskies and boggy areas.

Day 7 – Talkeetna to Denali
This morning, we will depart for the charming town of Talkeetna where we will visit the Talkeetna Museum and then drive along the Susitna River to Denali National Park. The Denali road is open for 12 miles and then we will botanize along it in the late afternoon. Overnight at Denali Cabins. The Denali road continues for 12 miles and beyond that is the most comprehensive collection of native artifacts and artwork including a group of Eskimos who will be among our leaders.

Day 8 – Denali National Park
Today we will explore Denali, the best national park for the large mammals of Alaska. We will board the Kenai Sutra bus and head into the park. From the bus we will look for Dall’s sheep, moose, bears, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. If we are fortunate, the 20-20 foot snowshoe of Dall’s (McKelvey) will be cloud free. If it is not, we will enjoy the wildlife and hope the mountains show itself later. See and learn about tundra and tundra ecology and enjoy the wealth of flora from lichens, mosses, and wildflowers to the abundance of berry bushes. Overnight at Kantishna Lodge (2 nights). 

Day 9 – Denali National Park
Situated in the heart of the park, our lodge offers many opportunities for walks, hikes, canoeing, and exploration.
grizzlies, moose, bison, and elk—a great opportunity for migrating salmon making their way inland to breed. We will walk to discover birds that nest in Alaska. We may also see the Alaska Railroad. Here, we will walk the board-

there is a wonderful marshland, nestled between the sea you get close to the glacier sometimes you can hear it groan the Alaska Range. (B,L)

wonderful views of distant mountains, the Cook Inlet, and spring

Ranges. Welcome dinner and trip orientation.

Day 1 – Boston to Anchorage, Alaska

This expedition is planned for the traveler who would enjoy exploring spectacular Alaskan national parks and scenic areas, plus cities, historic, and cultural areas,

Cancellations & Refunds:

June 24 and to depart any time on July 5. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:

The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire

The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person. There will be no refund for any

This morning, we will return along the Denali road to the park entrance and then drive north to Fairbanks. Fairbanks started as a trading center along the Chena River. Then gold was discovered a few miles away and the boom began. Now it is the commercial center of Alaska. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is the oldest in the state. Later today, we will explore Creamer’s Field Wildlife Refuge for wildlife and flowers adjacent to the Windigonia Manor (2 nights). (B,D)

Day 11 – Fairbanks Botanic Garden & Museum of the North

The garden is home to native and ornamental plants. The garden prides itself on assisting local gardeners with plans for the garden, especially vegetables. We will then visit the Large Animal Research Station to see musk and caribou and learn about research on these animals of the far north. At the Museum of the North, we will see the most comprehensive collection of native artifacts and artwork in Alaska. Farewell dinner at the Fairbanks Salmon Bake and Theatre. (B,D)

Day 12 – Fairbanks to Seattle & Boston

Transfer to the airport for flights home.

JOIN YOUR LEADERS FOR WALKS OF DIFFERENT LENGTHS THAT GIVE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTANIZING, WILDLIFE OBSERVATION, OR PHOTOGRAPHY, SURROUNDED BY THE MAGNIFICENCE OF DENALI NATIONAL PARK. LOOK FOR LUPINS, ONOPORDUM, FIREWORT, WINTERGREEN, SNOWY-SHOOTS, HOG ROSEMARY, LUPIN LADISHEDERSON, LOUSETOWNS, AND COTTON GRASS. A DELIGHTFUL DAY IN ONE OF THE FINEST NATIONAL PARKS IN AMERICA! (B,L,D)

Day 10 – Denali to Historic Fairbanks

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: $4,595 per person (plus air fare of $1,395 from Boston, or $1,995 from Seattle to Anchorage with return from Fairbanks)

When you book the excursion at Betchart Expeditions or through a preferred travel agent, you are purchasing your trip on a space-available basis and your name will be placed on a waitlist. Your name can be moved up to space available (SVA) and in the SVA column. The expedition is a somewhat rigorous experience requiring great physical fitness and stamina. If you are not certain if you are physically fit enough for the trip, please contact one of our staff members (207) 861-9520 ext 203 or 800-252-4910 ext 203 to talk about your potential participation. (AC-walking sticks; changing leasing or woods; phone)

Expedition Fee Deposit: Non-refundable, but may be applied towards the entire fee for the expedition for any future tour. Single accommodations; meals; group and independent travel; entrance fees; round-trip airfare; international and domestic air transportation; Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations in picturesque hotels and lodges; round-trip transportation; meals as indicated; entrance fees; and car expenses. (AC-walking sticks; changing leasing or woods; phone)

Reservations, Deposits, Payments: Please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person with this completed registration form. A confirmation packet will be forwarded to you via mail and include your official reservations confirmation and final information.

Confirmation & Receipts: The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellations after that date. This trip may not be rescheduled or cancelled for any reason.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS) act only as agents for transportation, accommodations, and other services which are in no way under our direct control.

Questions?

Call Debbie Templeton at Betchart Expeditions Inc. (800) 252-4910 or email Debbie@betchartexpeditions.com

RESERVATIONS

YES! I want to join the NEWFS Alaska Expedition, June 24–July 5, 2016. Please reserve space(s) As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for $____________ ($100 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

City ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

State ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

Zip ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

Phone Home (_____)_______________ Work (_____)____________

Signature ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

I/WI want to join the expedition and will be sharing the hotel rooms with a friend or roommate.

Signature ___________________________ ___________________________ ________

RESERVATION FORM

Membership (circle): NEWFS AAAS SigmaXi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: Twin Share Single Twin Share with a friend or roommate

Signature ___________________________ Signature ___________________________ ________

Mail To: NEWFS Alaska 2015 Betchart Expeditions Inc. 17055 Montlake Road Cupertino, California 95014-5433

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