



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

For Immediate Release

Date: January 8, 2008

Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@NARA.gov

NEWS08-02

SAVING ALASKA FOCUS OF LECTURE SERIES AT CARTER LIBRARY

CONSERVATIONIST/PHOTOGRAPHER. NATURE CONSERVANCY DIRECTOR & BEAR EXPERT TO SPEAK

Atlanta, GA.- Nearly thirty years after President Jimmy Carter signed the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act*, the future of this pristine land is again threatened, according to speakers coming to the Carter Presidential Library.

In connection with the current photography exhibition, **“Southwest Alaska: A World of National Parks and Wildlife Refuges,”** the Carter Library will present three free lectures on the future of Southwest Alaska.

On **Thursday, January 24th**, photographer/activist Robert Glenn Ketchum will discuss his photography exhibit as well as critical national environmental issues.

On **February 21st**, Tim Troll, the Nature Conservancy’s Director for Southwest Alaska, will update the audience on the current threat to Alaska’s landscape.

On **March 20th**, bear scientist Chris Morgan will entertain the audience with a tour of the world’s bears. All the lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Carter Library theater and are preceded (at 6:30 p.m.) by a free tour of the Alaska photography exhibit.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act signed by President Carter in 1980 is a grand legacy of conservation. However, as understanding of conservation has grown, so has the recognition that entire ecosystems must be included for the plants and animals to thrive. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the wild salmon breadbasket of Southwest, Alaska.

World-famous photographer Robert Glenn Ketchum has sought to draw attention to the threat to Southwest Alaska through his photographs and activism. Initially his **“Southwest Alaska”** exhibit was intended to critique fisheries management and support regional land conservancies, but the politics of Alaska’s pro-development legislature have changed the agenda. Oil and mining are now targeting southwest Alaska, and several enormous industrial plans are currently being proposed that would alter the entire landscape. Ketchum will discuss what is happening to Alaska and what needs to be done at this free lecture.

Join Tim Troll as he discusses The Nature Conservancy’s work with indigenous people and partners to meet environmental challenges confronting Southwest Alaska, and efforts by people like Robert Glenn Ketchum to make a difference. And don’t miss Chris Morgan for a fun-filled look at bears.

"While Alaska may seem far away to Georgians, the climate change crisis is reinforcing how differing landscapes across the globe are interconnected and how people must work together to save our natural world," said Shelly Lakly, director of The Nature Conservancy in Georgia. "The experience of viewing Robert Glenn Ketchum's photographs and attending one or more of the lectures associated with the exhibit will help Georgians become more aware of their individual role in this mounting issue."

For more information, call 404-865-7109 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov