

Community Evening Program  
Southeast Alaska Discovery Center  
Friday May 9th, 2008 @7pm

**Vegetation Changes in Southeast Alaska**

During the past decade, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service's Tongass National Forest to reconstruct the history of vegetation in southeast Alaska since deglaciations began 16,300 years ago. Dr. Thomas Ager, from the USGS, will discuss how the vegetation history of southeastern Alaska has been influenced by past climate changes following glaciation and the process of re-colonization of plant communities; some of whom survived locally, as well as by plants arriving from distant populations.

In this research pollen analysis was used to determine vegetation types and then put in context with mammal fossil found in southeast Alaska's caves. Theories suggest Southeast Alaska was once a tundra and boreal forests ecosystem prior to altering into the system we see today. Join Dr. Ager as he displays the changes of Southeast Alaska through the centuries.