



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Region 7 - Alaska

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News

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Rachel Carson Centennial Celebration at Kincaid Park

On Tuesday, May 22nd, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and the Alaska Women's Environmental Network will sponsor a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's birth. The event will include live music, food, booths, and presentations on organic gardening techniques and safe alternatives to pesticides, as befitting a tribute to the groundbreaking biologist and author of *Silent Spring*, the book often credited with inspiring the modern environmental movement.

The event will take place in the Kincaid Park Chalet's North Assembly room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Featured speakers will include Kevin Harun from the Municipality of Anchorage; the Fish and Wildlife Service's Mari Reeves; Corlene Rose and Michael Rasy of UAF's Cooperative Extension Service; Frank van Hippel with UAA; and Verna Pratt of the Alaska Native Plant Society. Entertainment will be provided by Sally's Kitchen, Whirled Peas, Sleeping Lady Singers, and EnviroBEAT. There will also be children's activities throughout the evening, a film on Rachel Carson, food, and (of course) fun for the whole family!

For additional event information, please contact Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) at (907) 222-7714, info@akaction.net, or www.akaction.org.

Rachel Carson began working for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries (now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) in 1935. During her 15-year career with the Service, she wrote numerous pamphlets and bulletins on conservation; one of the most well-known is a series called *Conservation in Action* – devoted to exploring wildlife and ecology on national wildlife refuges. In 1969, 5 years after her death, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service named one of its refuges near Carson's summer home on the coast of Maine as the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. It can fairly be said that the seeds of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Environmental Contaminants Program were planted with the publication of Carson's *Silent Spring*. For more information visit <http://www.fws.gov/rachelcarson/#bio>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 Fish and Wildlife Management offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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*For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit our home page at
<http://www.fws.gov>*