Volume XXVIII May 2006

# Rock Creek Sublease Signed!

On Thursday, April 13, 2006 Golden Glacier, Inc. a BSNC subsidiary, and Alaska Gold Company (AGC) signed the Mining Sublease for the Rock Creek project area. Present at the signing were Tim Towarak (BSNC President), Homer Hoogendorn (GGI President), Doug Nicholson (VP Alaska Gold Company), Warren Woods (Rock Creek Mine Manager), and BSNC staff members Jerald Brown, Irene Anderson, Rose Koezuna-Clark, Josie Reader, Carmill Goldsberry, Peggy Hoogendorn, and Jeannie Yuman. The lease is the culmination of many years of exploration and planning for the Rock Creek Mine and provides AGC the right to mine BSNC's mineral estate. The mine is expected to have a 5-year life and will employ approximately 140 people. According to the Lease, BSNC receives a royalty to all gold mined from BSNC's subsurface estate, and a percentage of the net profits for the operation. As a major employer in the region, the mine will be an economic boon, not only for the employment it offers, but also for the income it will generate for other businesses. AGC plans to hire as many people as possible from within the region, and has begun traveling to villages to provide information about the mine and



VP Alaska Gold Co.-Doug Nicholson and GGI President/BSNC Subsidiary, Homer E. Hoogendorn signing the Rock Creek sublease.



Land Manager-Irene Anderson looks on as BSNC President/CEO signs the Rock Creek sublease.

the positions available there. The Rock Creek Mine will be the first lode gold mine located on ANCSA land. BSNC and GGI look forward to continued cooperation with AGC in other projects in the region.





## Other Land and Resource Department Activities

BSNC holds Village Corporation Land meetings every six months. These meetings bring people in land management involved at the village level into Nome to discuss issues related to land and resource management. The village corporations pay for travel and related expense for their representatives to participate. The meetings have been a great success with a "thank you" to the villages. On April 18th and 19th the meetings were held and quest speakers included Doug Nicholson of Alaska Gold Company, Michael Gunning of Triex Minerals, Chuck Akins of Crazy Mountains Joint Ventures, Charles Parker of Alaska Village Initiatives, Al Breitzman and Tom Sparks of Bureau of Land Management, Ronna Engstrom of Kawerak. Topics covered at this meeting included the 14© process, Tribal Conservation Districts, gold mining and exploration as well as uranium exploration, game management on private lands, surveys on ANCSA land and energy project potential. The next Village Planners meeting will be scheduled to coincide with BSNC's annual shareholder meeting, usually held the first Saturday of October. BSNC would like to thank the village corporations for supporting these meetings.

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# **BSNC GREETINGS**

By Tim Towarak, President/CEO

Since the last newsletter, we have started a New Year, the Iditarod Race is over with and spring time is upon us with 12 hour day light hours. With the coldest part of our winter behind us, many are looking forward to spring time activities that will lead to summer activities. Everyone knows this is the best time of the year to be in Alaska.

The same could also be said about Bering Straits Native Corporation. After a number of years going through some "cold" periods where it seems business conditions were pulling against BSNC being successful and profitable, we are finally seeing a "warming" of those business conditions. Our revenues have been increasing gradually every year and all indicators point towards this growth continuing. We look forward to sending out your annual financial statements towards the latter part of the summer to prepare for our annual meeting in October 2006.

While business has been good for BSNC for the last two years, I think we should take time to recognize a couple of important people who have had a big part of our success.

The first I would like to recognize is an employee who was our East Coast Operations Manager, Bill Bunch. Bill recently passed away due to cancer and left us in March. We pass on our family condolences to Dori Bunch, Bill's supportive wife of many years, and their family. She was also employed as Bill's assistant and together the two made for a very successful partnership for BSNC. BSNC was very fortunate to get the services of both Bill and Dori Bunch and are happy for the continued employment of Dori. Both spent over 10 years working for the North Slope Borough School District in Pt. Hope maintaining school facilities and grew to love the people from that community. Their background in Pt. Hope proved very valuable to BSNC because we had someone who got to know our Inupiat brothers and sisters. To Bill's memory, we congratulate his family for the success he had in North Carolina, and his whole life.

Another "good and faithful" servant for us comes from closer to home. At our last annual meeting, Henry Ivanoff Sr. was elected for his 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive election, with each election containing 3 years, so by the time his current term expires, he will have served on the BSNC Board for 30 consecutive years. He has served on the Board longer then anyone has in history and served from pre-bankruptcy days to his current term. It takes a lot of dedication for an individual like Henry to sit through the lowest part of BSNC's history, and still serve with his famous smile and hearty laugh! Although he hasn't qualified yet as a former Board member, whom we all recognized and appreciated at our last meeting, he deserves as much praise and honor for his services as anyone in BSNC's history. Henry, you deserve the biggest pat on the back for your good work.

As we enter into the long summer days, we hope everyone has a safe, happy and productive summer season. May the whale, fish, seals, birds, eggs, greens and all of our other subsistence foods serve each and every one of you well throughout the year.

#### **BSNC Mission Statement**

To improve the quality of life of our people through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage.

# **BSNC New Employees**



## CARMILL GOLDSBERRY, ACCOUNTING CLERK

Carmill Goldsberry, a shareholder of Bristol Bay Native Corporation and married to LieuDell Goldsberry, a Bering Straits Native Corporation shareholder was hired in December 2005 to join the accounting department. Carmill came to us from Well's Fargo and is eager to be starting a new job and hopefully a long career at BSNC. Carmill said "I'm fortunate to have found a great job and to be working next to people I know have a lot to offer and teach me. BSNC is truly a great environment to learn and excel in, I feel very thankful to be working here and know that my career switch was the perfect choice!"



## JEANNIE YUMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jeannie Yuman was hired on February 1, 2006, as the Administrative Assistant. She is the daughter of the late John Kost Jr., and Lorraine Kost of Anchorage. Jeannie has recently moved back to Nome, from living in Anchorage for the past 15 years. She has worked at the Alaska Native Medical Center, as a "Customer Service Representative", and also worked for a short time at the Norton Sound Health Corporation, as the Outpatient Secretary. Jeannie said "working here, is a privilege and humbling, knowing I am working for the Bering Straits Region". Jeannie will be responsible for Board functions, BSF Scholarship Program and the Agluktuk Newsletter.

#### MYRNA OUTWATER-SHAREHOLDER DEPARTMENT

Welcome back to Myrna Outwater, she has been hired as the Assistant Stockholder Registrar. She will be working closely with Peggy Hoogendorn VP of Administration, keeping our shareholder records up to date. If there are any name or address changes please call the main office at 907-443-5252 or 1-800-478-5079 and ask for Myrna.

#### KAWERAK REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2006 Kawerak Regional Conference held April 3, 4 & 5 was well represented by attendees from the communities of the Bering Straits. This year's theme was "Traditional Knowledge Empowering Today & Tomorrow". The workshops were centered on Cultural Development, Education/Employment and Community Development.







Left - BSNC Shareholders Beatrice Davis, Stella Davis from Shishmaref and Alma Mullins of Anchorage, originally from Shishmaref, enjoying time and refreshments together. Middle - BSNC Shareholder Mabel Takak shows her beadwork. There were several tables made available for Alaska native artist to sell their beautiful art work. Right - Faye Ongloasruk and Alice Soolook are happy to share fellowship with each other at the Kawerak Regional Conference.

# Info prepared May 2006

# Answering questions about **bird flu** for **subsistence hunters in Alaska**

## What is bird flu?

Birds carry many kinds of flu viruses, but recently a more serious type of bird flu has developed. The technical name of this specific bird flu is Asian H5N1, but it is commonly just called bird flu. You may also hear it called avian flu, avian influenza, or highly pathogenic H5N1. This bird flu began in Southeast Asia where wild birds and people caught it from infected chickens. It is now spreading to birds in other countries, but has not yet been found in Alaska or North America.

## How serious is bird flu?

Most types of bird flu don't cause serious harm. However, the Asian H5N1 type of bird flu is deadly to poultry and some wild birds—but it rarely infects people. Currently less than 220 people worldwide have caught this flu, and half of them survived. The reason health officials are worried is because flu viruses frequently change. Right now birds and people can only get bird flu from infected birds. If this bird flu or some other flu virus changes so that people could easily pass it to other people, it would be possible for it to spread to millions of people around the world. This would be called a pandemic. This has not happened - and we don't know that it will happen - but government officials want us to be prepared just in case.

### Do we have bird flu in Alaska?

Not yet—but it's possible that it could arrive here with birds that return to Alaska from Asia this spring and summer. Infected wild birds have died in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Even if bird flu shows up here, it doesn't mean it will spread to people.

## Can we get bird flu from the birds we hunt?

The risk is *very low*—but we don't know for sure. So far, this bird flu has rarely infected humans. Also, people have *only* caught this bird flu from *domestically* raised birds, such as chickens. There are no confirmed reports that people have caught this bird flu from *wild* birds. Wild birds carry viruses that are spread mainly through their droppings (anaq), so avoid contact with fresh bird droppings, handle birds cleanly, and thoroughly cook your birds.

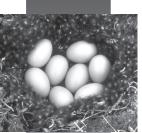
## Can we get bird flu from berries or bird eggs?

Bird viruses are found in bird droppings, so they could be on the *outside* of eggs. Even if a mother bird was infected, the virus would not be *inside* her eggs. Washing eggs is always a good idea, and cooking eggs will kill any virus that might be on the outside of the egg. There is very little chance that bird droppings are on berries, but it is a good practice to wash berries, too.

# Can we get bird flu from store-bought chicken?

No. Chicken and turkey sold in the U.S. is regularly inspected and tested, and comes from North American farms free of Asian H5N1 bird flu. Also, no birds, poultry or eggs are allowed into the U.S. from infected parts of the world.







# Info prepared May 2006

# The basics on **bird flu** (H5N1, avian influenza)

# for subsistence hunters in Alaska

# Be pı

## Be prepared—but don't be scared to hunt!

The nutritional value of wild foods is *very high* and the risk of getting bird flu is *very low*. Continue hunting birds and collecting eggs, but do so safely.

## Follow these safety guidelines:

- Don't handle birds that appear sick or you find dead. Do report them.
- Use rubber gloves when cleaning birds and collecting eggs.
- Don't eat, drink or smoke while cleaning birds; keep your hands away from your face and mouth.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a hand sanitizer gel after cleaning birds.
- Clean all tools and surfaces immediately; use hot soapy water first, then disinfect with a mix of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water.
- Keep dead birds cool, clean and dry. Wash eggs.
- Cook birds thoroughly until there's no pink meat and juices run clear.

## Alaska is on the lookout for bird flu.

Wildlife agencies are prepared to sample thousands of birds for bird flu this summer. They are coordinating with wildlife agencies across the U.S. and Canada, and are working closely with Alaska public health agencies.

## Stay up-to-date with the latest information.

You need to keep up with current news and information. The situation with bird flu is constantly changing and advice may change. **Stay informed!** 

To report sick or dead birds call: 1-866-5 BRD-FLU (1-866-527-3358) For info on bird flu visit: www.avianflu.alaska.gov

For more bird health info contact:

- Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
   Nome 443-2271 or toll-free 1-800-560-2271
   Anchorage 267-2257, Fairbanks 459-7206, Juneau 465-4148
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website: alaska.fws.gov/media/avian\_influenza

For human health info contact the Alaska Dept. of Health & Social Services:

Call: 1-888-9 PAN-FLU (1-888-972-6358) Visit: www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov

• Or contact your local health aide, clinic or hospital.





Prepared by ADF&G



# **BSNC Shareholder Highlights**

Panu Lucier BSNC Shareholder-Awarded for her achievement and Leadership.



BSNC Shareholder, Panu Lucier is of Inupiaq and French Canadian heritage. She is the daughter of the late Grace Lucier and Charles Lucier. She is the granddaughter of the late Arthur and Lucy Nagozruk, Sr. of Wales. Panu was presented one of 10 awards to honor her achievement in her leadership and excellence, personally and professionally at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Women of Achievement awards ceremony, held by BP-YWCA, at the Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage on December 14, 2005.

Among her many achievements Panu is the founder and director of the Alaska Humanities Forum's Rose Urban Rural Exchange Program. This program was designed to expose rural and urban youth to each other's communities and cultures, thus building better understanding and empathy throughout Alaska.

Since the founding of the program five years ago, Panu has coordinated the coming together of over 1,500 Alaskans from 68 villages and 6 urban communities. She has developed the program so that it not only includes urban and rural teenagers "trading places," but, provides urban teachers with the opportunity to participate in summer programs and facilitates semester-long, sister-school connections between urban and rural schools.

Past professional positions have included managing an Alternative Home School program and working as a special education teacher's aide at SAVE High school; coordinating the Alaska Native Leadership Program for Cook Inlet Tribal Council and She earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from UAA after raising three children.

Panu's interest in unifying and supporting the state's people is not limited to her employed position. She also is a teacher of cross cultural communication and she volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) on behalf of children in crisis. In 2004, she was

the recipient of the "Outstanding Service as a CASA Volunteer" award.

Through her contributions to the community, Panu is a role model to ALL Alaskan youth.

One of the participants in the exchange said, "I remember Panu Lucier in front of the group. She had that long black hair, and she was so nice and so smart, and it made me proud to be Native."

### BSNC Shareholder Roy Agloinga First Ever Rural Affairs Coordinator

Roy Agloinga, BSNC shareholder from White Mountain Alaska, was hired on March 24, 2006 to serve as the Anchorage's first ever Rural Affairs Coordinator in Mayor Mark Begich's Office of Equal Opportunity. Roy was born in Nome to the late Fred Pushruk from King Island and Marie Osanna Pushruk from Teller and was adopted by the late Steven Agloinga from White Mountain and Martha Boone Agloinga from Golovin. Roy was raised in White Mountain where he graduated from high school before attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Roy graduated from UAF in 1989 with a Bachelors degree in English with an emphasis in teaching. Roy is to help build a closer relationship with rural Alaska to improve city services that affect rural and Native Alaskans, including public health and safety, economic development and diversity. His duties include representing the mayor Begich at meetings on rural and Native issues, including the Alaska Federation of Natives, looking for funding to collaborate with rural and Native organizations and helping the city of Anchorage to prepare its affirmative action plan. Roy can be reached at the City of Anchorage at 907-343-4895 or at agloingar@muni.org.



**DEADLINES...** 

**DEADLINES...** 

**DEADLINES...** 

## **Scholarship Deadlines**

General scholarship deadlines for new and continuing students are December 30 for the spring 2005 and June 30 for fall 2006. The Martin Olson Memorial Scholarship deadline is June 30 for fall 2005.

You may obtain applications from our website: www.beringstraits.com, or call (907) 443-5252 or toll-free at 1-800-478-5079.



#### **BSNC Mission Statement**

To improve the quality of life of our people through economic development while protecting our land and preserving our culture and heritage.

#### **Bering Straits Native Corporation**

P.O. Box 1008, Nome, AK 99762 110 Front Street, Suite 300 (907)-443-5252 www.beringstraits.com

# Other Land and Resource Updates

BSNC's Land and Resource Department has had a busy year and the outlook for the remainder of 2006 and the beginning of 2007 is promising. Irene Anderson is now the Land Manager after serving two years as Assistant Land Manager. Matt Ganley continues as the VP of Land and Resources.

### Lands Update

In October of 2005, Solomon Native Corporation and BSNC received final patents for the surface and subsurface estates in the Solomon area. Teller has received their final patents. The cadastral survey that precedes conveyance of final patents will occur for Stebbins, St. Michael, and Koyuk this season (2006). The final village to have the survey competed will be Council in 2007. Once these surveys are complete, final patents for all of the village corporations will be forthcoming from the Bureau of Land Management. BSNC will still have surveys to complete for our 14(h)(1) and 14(h)(8) selections. BSNC is subcontracting the cadastral survey work to Crazy Mountain Joint Ventures (CMJV) through a contract arrangement with BLM.

BSNC has, so far, received title to ten 14(h)(1) cemetery and historic sites. Matt Ganley will be conducting fieldwork again this summer with the BIA ANCSA Office in the vicinity of Norton Sound to locate, investigate, and certify eligible sites in that area.

BSNC and the regions' village corporations are well on their way to receiving final patents to their ANCSA lands. It is anticipated that villages will be completed and receive their final patents by 2009. BSNC and the villages will be the first region to receive its total land entitlement under ANCSA.

## Resources Update

The Land and Resource Department has had a busy year and exploration and mining companies will be active on BSNC lands this summer. A company conducting exploration for uranium will be working on BSNC selected 14(h)(8) land north of Elim this summer, they are in partnership with a company that is interested in exploring at Bluff. Other companies have expressed interest in BSNC's mineral estate and we will continue work with interested parties to explore, analyze and develop the mineral potential in the region.

Village Land Planners Visit Rock Creek on September 30, 2005 (L-R) Lisa Ellanna-Brandt, Colleen Odden, Fred Sagoonick, Barb Vial, Marilyn Koezuna-Ireland, Teresa Sockpealuk-Perry, Maggie Moses, Irene Anderson, Frank Kavairlook, Linda Kimoktoak, Roy Ashenfelter, John Odden, Doug Nicholson, George Sookiayak, Sr., and Rick Van Nieuwenhuyser.



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BSNC Anchorage Office 4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G 40 Anchorage, AK 99503 (907) 563-3788 Fax (907) 563-2742

Aurora Inn Hotel Nome.....(907) 443-3838 Toll-free 1-800-354-4606

Bering Straits Aerospace Services, LLC Anchorage.....(907) 334-8309

Bering Straits Aki, LLC Anchorage.....(907) 334-8313

Bering Straits
Development Company
Nome
Construction......(907) 443-5254
Apt/Office Rental...(907) 443-3838

Bering Straits Information Technology, LLC Anchorage.....(907) 334-8307

Eagle Electric, LLC
Anchorage.....(907) 344-7121
Nome....(907) 443-8062
North Carolina....(910) 454-4266
South Carolina....(843) 818-2488

Eagle Eye Electric, LLC Nevada.....(702) 641-9799

Golden Glacier, Inc. Nome....(907) 443-5252

Inuit Services, Inc. Anchorage.....(907) 563-2732 North Carolina.....(910) 457-0378

Sound Quarry, Inc.
Nome....(907) 443-5252

Stampede Ventures, Inc.

Car Rental

Nome.....(907) 443-3838

Toll-free 1-800-354-4606

Valdez Mobile Home & RV Park Valdez.....(907) 835-2463

#### Inside:

Annual Board Meeting Date Shareholder Highlights Land and Resource Dept. Update PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANCHORAGE, AK PERMIT NO. 226

# Bering Straits Native Corporation

## Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders

Saturday, October 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

TO BE HELD IN NOME, ALASKA

At the Mini-Convention Center

Shareholders who are at least 18 years of age and wish to run for one of the five Board of Director's seats open for election are requested to send a letter of intent, including current address, telephone number and a resume listing qualifications to:

Nominating Committee
Bering Straits Native Corporation
P.O. Box 1008
Nome, Alaska 99762

IMPORTANT- all letters of intent must be received by the BSNC office by 5:00 p.m., June 6, 2006.