



Natural Currents

Fall 2021

The Newsletter for Homer Soil & Water Conservation District

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As always, a lot is happening down at Homer Soil and Water. One of the biggest changes we have experienced is how we work in a world dominated by Covid-19. We have always encouraged staff to work at home and off-site due to the size of our tiny office, but thanks to Covid-19, many things have shifted and much more of our communication is online. Instead of meeting partners at their office, we Zoom. Instead of having conferences and classes, we have webinars. Not all of our staff have the ability to do all this conveniently, effectively or professionally at home.

So we have finally admitted to ourselves that we have outgrown our little office in the Frontier Building on Pioneer. We are adding space for staff down at the Wildberry



building between Cosmic Thai and Homer Jeans. What used to be the Alaska Wildberry Chocolates warehouse in back will now be the think tank for Homer Soil and Water, a place for meetings, phone calls, conferences and the general behind-the-scenes work and planning that our projects require.

More than anything, the Homer Soil and Water team recognizes that we couldn't do what we do without tons of support. Our Gratitude List is long, but here is a start:

- ◇ **THANK YOU** to the **100 Women Who Care** in Homer who voted to support Homer SWCD in our office transition. So many individual women creating a huge impact for our little organization!
- ◇ **THANK YOU** to the **Rasmuson Foundation** for its generous support in helping Homer SWCD renovate the Wildberry space and purchase needed office furniture. Their grant was crucial in allowing us to build our capacity!

Homer Soil & Water Board of Supervisors

- Chris Rainwater
-Chair
- Otto Kilcher
-Vice Chair
- Jason Ritter
-Treasurer
- Tim Alzheimer
-Secretary
- Jim Engebretsen



Stay tuned with what all that Homer Soil and Water staff manage to accomplish and take a moment to read over all our wonderful projects mentioned in this newsletter.

Kyra Wagner
District Manager

Our Mission: To provide education and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of soil and water-related resources through cooperative programs that protect, restore and improve our environment.



- * THANK YOU to Darryl and Rieta Walker for allowing Homer Soil and Water to use their hayfield for our cover crop trials.
- * THANK YOU to Ionia for lending Homer Soil and Water the mericrusher to till our cover crops trial field.
- * THANK YOU to all the citizen scientists and volunteers out there reporting invasive plant sightings.
- * THANK YOU to the students at KBC who helped cut willows at the Homer Demonstration Forest.
- * THANK YOU to Tania Spurkland and the kids she works with who planted trees and monitor their growth in the Demo Forest.
- * THANK YOU to Dave Brann for being the lead coach and mentor to Mia, the Homer Soil and Water intern this spring. As well as for all the trail work he does in the Demo Forest. As well as all the volunteer wrangling he does to take care of trails and trees .
- * THANK YOU to Brian Reid, the great skipper on the skookum Coldwater boat who helped with the placement of the gateway for the cattle tracking collars up Sheep River.
- * THANK YOU to Jason Sodergren for his technical advice and support on the gateway system set up for the cattle GPS collars.
- * THANK YOU to the folks at the Wildberry building for being so patient and easy to work with.
- * THANK YOU to all our funders for your faith in us.
- * THANK YOU to all our partners for helping us create a stronger network and stronger community.
- * And THANK YOU to all the others who support us in large and small ways. We appreciate it!



Meet Monica Kopp!

Our new Ag Program Coordinator

I'd like to formally introduce myself as I settle into my new role as the Agriculture Program Coordinator for Homer Soil & Water. I moved here from Fairbanks in 2019 and am in the process of starting a small farm in Nikolaevsk with my partner Ben. For almost 10 years I worked as an ecologist delineating wetlands, mapping vegetation and soils, and conducting forest inventories all over Alaska. I studied Conservation Ecology at Sterling College in Vermont, where I became enveloped in a thriving agricultural community that was deeply connected to the land and their food. I was so inspired by that supportive network and vowed to deepen and continue that connection in my life. I am so excited to find myself in the midst of the Homer community which clearly values its farmers, backyard gardens, and fisheries.



Right now, I am working on wrapping up the cover crop variety trial, training up to become a conservation planner, and sending your soil samples to the lab to be analyzed and interpreted by Jessica. I'm also a node leader in the Regional Food Systems Partnership, a project you will likely hear more about soon as we organize food system asset mapping sessions with community members this winter. I am here to support all of you in your growing adventures with technical advice, conservation opportunities, research, and outreach. My goal in this role is to do all I can to bolster our agriculture community so that we can become more resilient, self-sustaining, and continue to thrive while providing nourishing food to our families and friends.

Soil Testing Season is NOW!

Grow more productive crops and build healthier soil through Homer SWCD's Soil Testing Program. A soil test will tell you which nutrients are lacking in your soil, if the pH needs amended, and other recommendations to help your farm or garden grow to its best health.



RIGHT NOW is the ideal time to take a soil sample! You will get your personalized recommendation and analysis this winter and have time to buy needed amendments before spring planting.

Price: \$32 for the first sample and \$20 for each additional sample

More information can be found on our website at www.homerswcd.org detailing how to take a soil sample. You can fill out an information sheet and pay online and then drop off your sample at our handy drop off box located at 432 E. Pioneer Ave.

We encourage you to reach out with any soil testing related questions to Monica at monica@homerswcd.org or Jessica at jessicasharp@homerswcd.org.

Cover Crop Variety Trials

This summer, Alaska conservation districts participated in a cover crop variety field trial in collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Cover crops can offer soil enhancing qualities for farmers and gardeners, but we know very little about how they grow here in Alaska.

This project is meant to provide baseline data for seeding rates, variety choice, planting dates, and biomass production in Alaska. Twenty-three varieties of several cover crop species including oats, barley, triticale, flax, sunflower, clovers, peas, and brassicas were planted at sites in Fairbanks, Delta, Kenny Lake, Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, and Homer. Five of those sites were planted in early June, while Palmer and Homer had a late planting date of July 20 to provide data on fall cover crops.

Homer's site was located in Darrell and Rieta Walker's hayfield on East End Road - a south-facing full-sun site at an elevation of 230 ft. In early July, Otto Kilcher made his first cutting of hay at the site, and shortly after rototilled the entire area that was to be cover cropped. Kyra and I laid out 92 10x25 ft. plots, and with help from Casey and Katherine, we planted the nearly one acre field, hand-broadcasting the seed, raking it in, and using a landscape roller to pack the seedbed. Within one week, all of the plots had germinated, and we collected weekly data on emergence, foliar cover, plant height, and flowering time.

All of the varieties showed good growth except the sunflower, which had the slowest rate and also frost-terminated first (at the same time as the buckwheat, on September 29). As for competition with weeds, the brassicas did a great job with their allelopathic qualities. The field peas competed better than the clovers, and the oats and barley got taller and shaded weeds better than the triticale and rye. The oats, radishes, peas, and barley produced the most biomass. We are still collecting data on cold hardiness, and so far all of the brassicas and grasses are doing very well in the cold. Surprisingly, the flax is also still thriving, and actually beginning its stem elongation phase and forming flower buds.

We are excited to compare our data with the other locations and come out with finalized data for growers throughout the state. The trial will be underway again



next year to provide another growing season of data.

Nicole, Kyra and I had a discussion about cover crops and their role in soil health for a Homer Grown episode to bring awareness to the subject and outreach for our Cover Crops Field Day in early September to show off the trial. 40 people attended the Field Day and brought great questions and enthusiastic interest in the project. It was great to hold an in-person event after the past year of not getting to see many of your faces, and it was an opportunity for me, the new Ag Program Coordinator, to meet many of you for the first time. We are excited to compile the results of the trial and have more information for our local growers in the next year or two. Feel free to contact me with any questions about the trial.

-by Monica Kopp



Meet Lisa Maserjian!

Our New Hydrogeologist

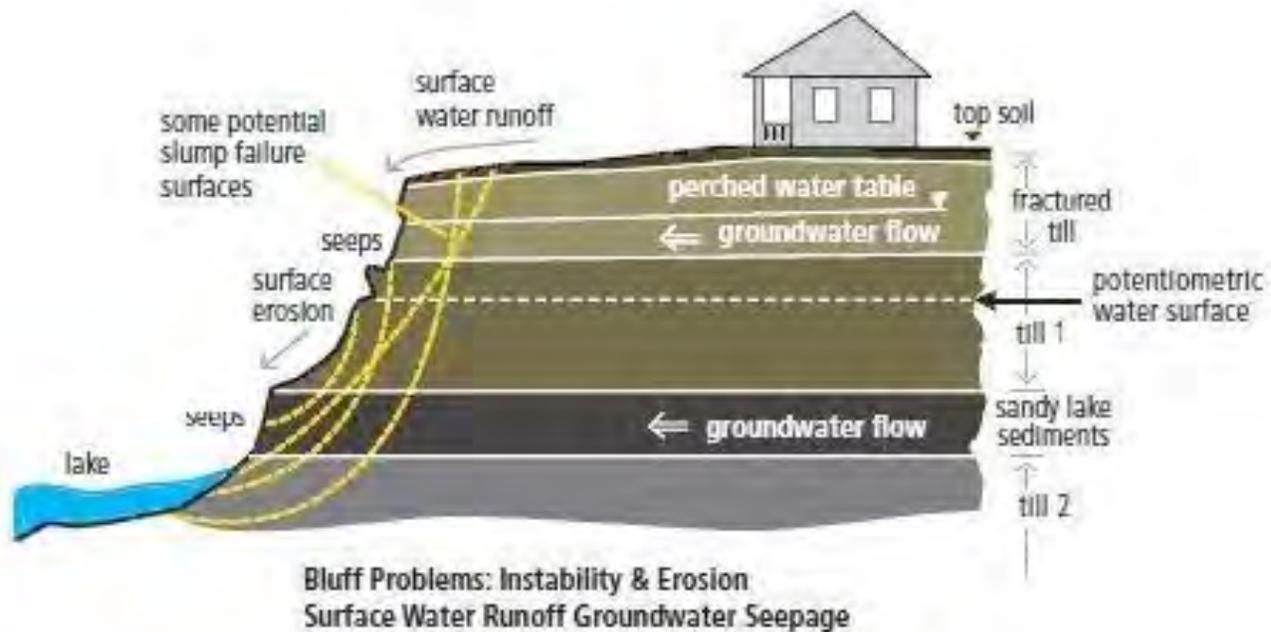
Homer SWCD now has hired a groundwater geologist, also known as a hydrogeologist or a geohydrologist. Lisa Maserjian started in August and comes from a consulting background with 26 years of professional experience in Alaska, mainly working on groundwater investigations involving contaminated water and soil.

For Homer SWCD, she will be working on two types of problems the Homer area has involving shallow groundwater. The first is illustrated in the figure below. Our coastal bluffs are composed of layered geologic units that transport shallow groundwater to the bluff. When the groundwater daylight at the bluff, it causes erosion by water seeping into the face. We add to this our winter conditions where the surface will freeze and prevent the water from seeping out. In the spring, this water releases under pressure and produces more erosion in a very short period than occurs during the summer seepage.

Working with the City of Homer, Lisa also is beginning to



study individual properties and what measures can be taken to reduce erosion. There is also a lot of information already available from similar studies in other parts of the country. Lisa can be contacted to help the public understand the processes taking place in Homer. Her email is Lisa@HomerSWCD.org.



What is groundwater doing to affect your property?

Partnering on Fuel Breaks & Moose Habitat

The Kenai Peninsula is no stranger to the effectiveness of shaded fuel breaks. In the last decade alone, pre-established fuel breaks have come into play on more than one occasion during the Peninsula's large wildfires. Many miles of continuous fuel breaks have been completed by multiple agencies thus far, aiding firefighters in the protection of local infrastructure and private property from Alaska's vast expanse of flammable forests.

Homer SWCD, in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cook Inlet Regional Inc. and the Salamatof Native Association, plan to oversee construction of a 6-mile-long shaded fuel break in the Ridgeway area, close to Soldotna. This project will be a continuation of the original fuel break in Sterling and will tie into the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary where the refuge will continue the break along its borders to the west.



A shaded fuel break is constructed by removing all dead trees, spacing out and removing ladder fuels from the more volatile live spruce trees and leaving the less flammable hardwood species for cover and browse for animals. The process will also stimulate the growth of browse species that are important to the area's moose population. A large majority of the break will follow a preexisting power line corridor and use several large lakes and muskegs as natural barriers along the route to reduce the amount of newly pioneered trails and roads on our partner's land.

Shaded fuel breaks, like the one shown above, assist Fire Managers with the planning of fire suppression tactics and give the firefighter an interruption of continuous fuels and an area to safely conduct suppression operations by changing the behavior of the fire.

-by Matt James

Moose Browse at the Homer Demo Forest

On October 16th HSWCD staff (Matt, Lisa, and Devony) joined with KPC Professor Debbie Tobin and five Semester By The Bay students to trim willows in the Homer Demonstration Forest to enhance moose browse. It may seem counter-intuitive to cut down moose food to get better moose food, but old overgrazed willows are often ignored by moose because they have more tannins and are more bitter. The new growth from willows that have been trimmed back will be tender and delicious to moose again.

It was interesting to see how little these willows had been browsed by moose--which is why we're exploring ways to reinvigorate new, more desirable growth. As we trimmed, we could see that hares have hedged some of these willows

--their marks are lower to the ground and cleaner cut than moose. If anyone wants dormant willow cuttings, there are cut stems with many different diameters to choose from still on-site. For more info:

[Homer Demonstration Forest Facebook page.](#)



Anchor River Streambank Restoration

A lot has happened in Silverking Campground this summer. This summer DOT has been working to replace the bridge on the Old Sterling Highway. Trucks and equipment of all kinds have been using the Silverking Campground as a staging place during construction. To see the progress on this project, check out the latest DOT webcam view by clicking [here](#). Or visit [Anchor River Updates](#) for some recent videos of driving across the construction site.

But that's not all that's been going on in Silverking. Partners coordinated by Homer Soil and Water are working on a multi-year process to restore and protect Silverking streambanks from trampling so that these banks can provide habitat for tiny salmon. Juvenile salmon rely on vegetated streambanks to survive, but foot traffic—particularly during the summer growing season—destroys plants needed by salmon and increases sediment runoff and bank erosion.

In June 2019, Homer Soil and Water, in partnership with State Parks and USFWS and with funding from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), revegetated two sections of damaged streambank in Silverking with willow cuttings sandwiched between soil wraps. The goal was to see if “soil bionengineering”—now common on the Kenai River—would work on the Anchor despite Anchor River’s notorious fall flooding and winter ice jams. The 2019 project showed that streambank plantings CAN survive what the Anchor River throws at them—in fact, plantings survive flooding and ice jams BETTER than they survive foot trampling. The goal this year was to install two platforms and a set of stairs to start protecting streambanks from foot traffic. State Parks installed these structures on June 3. And afterwards, Homer Soil and Water installed a simple rope barrier and some educational signage to let visitors know about the importance of streambank vegetation. The following photos tell the story.

-by Devony Lehner

Installing an “elevated light penetrating” (ELP) viewing platform in Silverking Campground to protect a section of streambank.



Carrying the platform to the riverbank



Platform with legs added



Adjusting legs to level the platform



Installing light penetrating surface grid to let plants grow beneath

Anchor River Streambank Restoration (cont...)

Photos below were taken August 26, 2021



Plants growing through the elevated light penetrating grid



Access platform and stairs installed downstream of viewing platform



Viewing platform, fire ring, and picnic table



Visitors enjoying the viewing platform

Photos below show signage along ropeline that Homer Soil and Water installed to educate visitors



In the photo at right, note the notch in the streambank behind the ropeline. That's a spot where visitors slide down the bank to access the river. Sliding down the bank destroys streamside vegetation needed by juvenile salmon and increases bank erosion.



Next summer, we'll revegetate more sections of streambank; and State Parks and ADF&G are looking at creating more access sites into the river. Also, Homer Soil and Water will develop a plan for an ADA fishing platform below the bridge.

Tracking the GPS Collar Project on the Fox River Flats Grazing Lease.

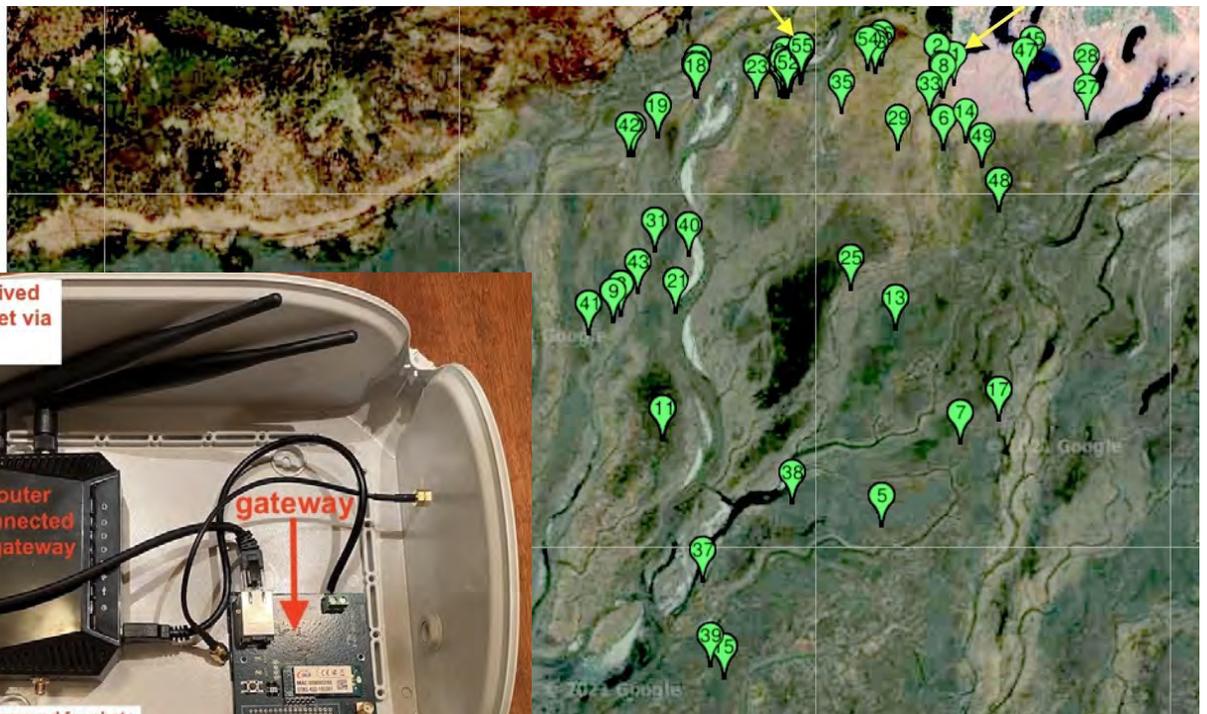
In Homer Soil and Water’s spring newsletter, we mentioned that the Fox River Cattlemen’s Association and Homer Soil and Water were partnering to explore the use of GPS tracking systems on cattle grazing in the Fox River Flats grazing lease at the head of Kachemak Bay. Two systems from [Smarter Technologies](#) in the UK were tried this year; a third from [Ceres](#) will be tried next season.

One of the systems tried this year used an electronic “gateway” and router system. This was set up in a cabin on the lease to collect data from battery operated collar units placed on selected cows. The photo below shows key components of this system. Both the gateway and router were powered by two batteries charged by a solar panel set up on the cabin’s southfacing wall. Despite repeated efforts, we couldn’t get this system operational, largely because of challenges involved in reaching the remote cabin and lack of knowledge related to troubleshooting the system when it failed to work as expected.

The second system involved a battery-powered GPS unit that talked directly to satellites. This unit was attached to the same collar as gateway GPS units. Four of these direct-to-satellite units were distributed among the four cattlemen, and two of these functioned well, sending location data from two collared cows. The photo below shows GPS locations from July 26 to August 23 received every 12 hours from a single cow.

Despite challenges encountered, it was exciting to see that data COULD be collected from cattle at the head of the bay. It will be really interesting to try the third system next grazing season. That system—which became commercially available only this summer and after the cows were out on the lease—also communicates directly with satellites. Stay tuned!

-by Devony Lehner



Thank You for Pulling Together!

Staff, partners and volunteers were busy this summer out on the peninsula physically removing unwanted invaders. This is the best way to get rid of these plants while not using herbicides. We are super grateful for all the help to bring in bags and bags of bird cherry, orange hawkweed, white sweetclover and more!



Above and right: Volunteers at the Pratt Museum diligently removing invasive weeds from the native plants garden. Shawn Jackinsky shows of a complete mat of orange hawkweed as Chase Warren digs up individual plants



At left: HSWCD staff and volunteers went back to remove birdcherry after the main trees were cut down and the branches shredded .Saplings were everywhere! Patrick Houlihan shows off the new tree puller while Casey Greenstein gets left holding the bag.



At right: Partners from various agencies and organizations dropped everything to go pull white sweetclover on the Sterling Highway. See full story on the next page. Note the white blossoms are almost as tall as the people!



Partners rally to help stop the spread of white sweetclover onto the Kenai Peninsula!

A group of dedicated weed warriors (and entomologists) from Anchorage and across the Kenai Peninsula got together the first week of August to help stop the spread of white sweetclover onto the Kenai Peninsula. A few weeks ago, a thick population of invasive white sweetclover spreading over eight miles along the Seward Highway from milepost 71 to 79 was discovered by the Kenai Watershed Forum. The Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (KP-CISMA) and concerned citizens have worked diligently for over a decade to keep this invasive plant off of the peninsula, and to date have succeeded in managing all known infestations. This new infestation was in full flower, and we didn't have much time before it turned to seed.

White sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*) is a biennial invasive plant that can grow over 6 feet tall, is easily spread through gravel/soil material, and produces up to 350,000 seeds per plant that remain viable in the soil for up to 81 years (Klemow and Raynal 1981, Rutledge and McLendon 1996, Royer and Dickinson 1999). It can have severe ecological impacts to Alaska's native grasslands, river bars, wildlife and pollinators. Something needed to be done immediately to stop this infestation from going to seed along the only highway that leads onto the Kenai Peninsula!

This was a bigger project than four people could hand pull in one day. The Kenai Watershed Forum kick-started removal on August 4th, with help from KP-CISMA partners including Homer Soil & Water Conservation District. Emails and texts went out and a group of 10 people committed to showing up the next day (August 5th) to hand pull as many plants as possible. When the group arrived, it looked like an overwhelming task, but by the end of the day 6 dumpsters were filled with bags of white sweetclover and the flowering plants were nowhere in sight between the Placer River and the 'Welcome to the Kenai Peninsula' sign. What a great team effort with over 6 different agencies and organizations represented!

If you spot white sweetclover in Homer, or anywhere on the Kenai Peninsula, we want to know about it! Contact Katherine Schake, HSWCD's Invasive Species Program Manager by emailing: katherine@homerswcd.org to report it.

Interested in helping us keep the Kenai Peninsula wild and free from invasive species? Learn more by emailing us at kenaipeninsula.invasives@gmail.com

-By Christina Kriedeman (Kenai Fjords National Park) and Katherine Schake (HSWCD)



Photo by Christina Kriedeman: KP-CISMA partners pulled white sweetclover over the course of two days along the Seward Highway, removing over 6 truckloads of this invasive plant from mileposts 71 – 79.



Photo of invasive white sweetclover by: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Homer Grown Radio, Season 2



We're wrapping up Season 2 of the *Homer Grown* program on Homer public radio KBBI AM 890. The staff at Homer Soil & Water have been thrilled to collaborate for a second year with KBBI to co-produce such a fantastic show. The warm and engaged community feedback we've received has only strengthened our drive to share the grassroots level know-how of local growers and agricultural scientists in our area.

Click links for 2021 season episodes:

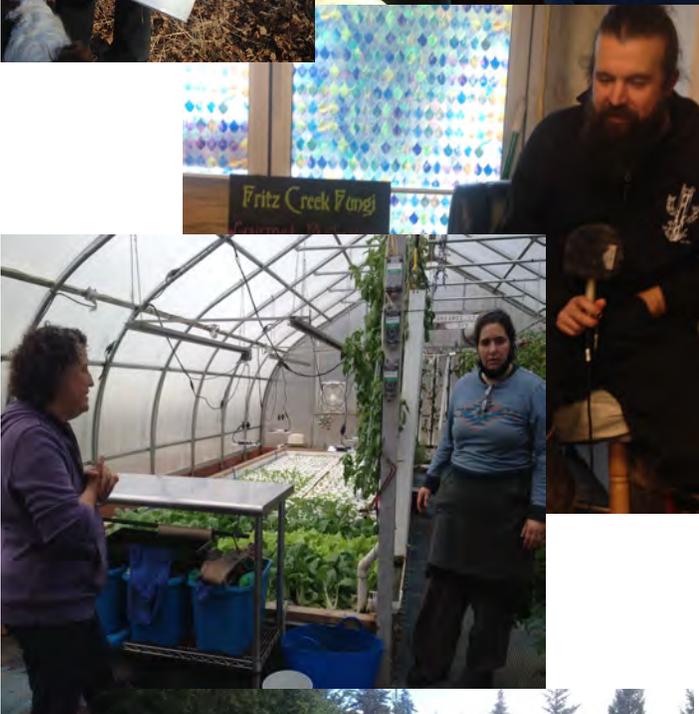
- [Kelp](#)
- [Alaska Native Plant Medicine](#)
- [Propagations From Clippings, Seed Starting](#)
- [Aquaponics, Hydroponics and Homeless Youth Outreach](#)
- [Birch Syrup and Moose Habitat Restoration](#)
- [It's Alive! A show on Soil Health](#)
- [Compost, Vermiculture and Worms](#)
- [Seldovia's emerging Farmers Market](#)
- [Invasive/Common Weeds, Dandelion Mead](#)
- [Berry Wines and Meads](#)
- [Mushroom Cultivation with Fritz Creek Fungi](#)
- [Fermented and Traditional Foods with Willow Jones](#)

Upcoming episodes– Local Beef Ranching with the Fox River Cattlemen's Association!

Special thanks to host Desiree Hagen!

Catch *Homer Grown* on Saturdays at 11:00 AM several ways:

1. on the radio dial at KBBI AM 890
2. stream it on www.kbbi.org
3. stream it via the free KBBI AM 890 app for smart phones
4. or catch all the past episodes on-demand at <https://www.kbbi.org/programs/homer-grown>.



*The 2021 season of Homer Grown was a great success.
Thanks for the memories!*

Inspiring Tidbits at Homer Soil and Water

HSWCD Board Chair teaches CACS youth groups on local soils, peat depths

Chair of the HSWCD Board of Supervisors, Chris Rainwater, was invited by the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies to help teach kids on two outings this summer/fall about local soils and agriculture at the head of the Bay, and to measure depth of peatlands near the pond on his cattle ranch. The kids got a hands-on experience with learning how to use probes to measure peat and soil probes to take soil cores and what we can tell about the soils underfoot by looking at the different layers.



HSWCD now has three more certified pesticide applicators

Casey Greenstein, Patrick Houlihan and Nicole Arevalo at field training in May preparing for the field season.



HSWCD provides boot brushes to the Homer Drawdown Peatland Citizen Science Survey Kits

The Homer Drawdown Peatlands Project is a community-driven project initiated in 2021 to protect and restore peatlands. Peatlands occur in local wetlands and have more carbon-storing capacity than hardwood forests do. They play critical roles in our local ecosystems, and also mitigate the threats of climate change by recharging our aquifers and reducing wildfires.

This summer the Drawdown team organized a series of citizen science surveys, measuring the depth of peatlands around the Homer area to help determine their carbon-carrying capacity. This fall Homer Soil provided hand-held boot brushes for each of the 9 survey kits to help prevent the spread of seeds from invasive plants into wild habitat. These surveys are expected to continue in 2022 and volunteers can check out a kit to do peat surveys on their own.

Learn more about peatland project activities , including “Art for Peat” and ways to get involved at <https://www.homerdrawdown.info/>



Meet The Staff



Kyra Wagner, District Manager kyra@homerswcd.org

Kyra has moved from years of experience as a general community volunteer extraordinaire to the lead juggling acrobat in the office. In charge of accounting, grant writing and other general management, she loves seeing who the next person will be who walks through the door and what the latest issue may be.



Devony Lehner, Natural Resources Specialist devony@homerswcd.org

Devony is the queen of Web Soil Survey, NRCS programs, and all the resources needed to make wise decisions on your land. With nothing more than the purest intent to inform each and every landowner on the Peninsula of these resources, Devony is OUR greatest resource and institutional memory bank.



Nicole Arevalo, Outreach Coordinator & Food Systems Analyst nicole@homerswcd.org

Nicole was hired in 2018 to conduct the Food Systems Study for the southern peninsula, bringing 18 years work experience in food service and a BA in Anthropology. Since then, she's been our Ag outreach person, Ag in the Classroom coordinator and does other projects to help our local food system thrive.



Katherine Schake, Invasive Species Program Manager katherine@homerswcd.org

Katherine is our Invasive Species Manager. She has guided hikes in Denali NP, managed remote-sensing mapping projects, a statewide salmon data synthesis, and coordinated the Mat-Su Salmon Science Symposium. In her spare time, Katherine guides in Iceland, maintaining a passion for botany and birding.



Jessica Sharp, Natural Resources Specialist jessicasharp@homerswcd.org

Jessica is our soils guru now, though she was at Fairbanks Soil & Water for years before we got her here. She does all our soil and fertilizer recommendations and is leading our cover crop trial. Give her a call with your soil questions! She works from home so she can stay with her two kids, Gryphon and Lulu.



Matthew James, Forester mattjames@homerswcd.org

Matt was hired in June of 2020 as a Forester. He'll be working closely with the ADF&G to complete moose habitat restoration projects on the Kenai Peninsula. Matt is a long time Homer resident and has recently finished up a 25-year career of wildland firefighting with the Division of Forestry.



Monica Kopp, Agriculture Program Coordinator monica@homerswcd.org

Monica was originally hired for our NRCS Soil Survey field work because of her excellent background in botany and soils. But then we discovered her passion for agriculture and her dedication to the soil of her own new farm and a desire to connect others. She is a perfect hub in our local wheel of agriculture!



Lisa Maserjian, Hydrogeologist lisa@homerswcd.org

Lisa has a long history around the state working on ground water issues, which is exactly why she was hired to help Homer Soil and Water on the City of Homer's ground water studies. Working with City staff and other scientists, Lisa is getting to know Homer from the ground up.



Casey Greenstein, Invasive Species Specialist casey@homerswcd.org

Casey has her own private business addressing invasive weeds but this year joins the ranks at Homer Soil and Water to bring her expertise to the invasives program.



Patrick Houlihan, Invasives Program Field Coordinator patrick@homerswcd.org

Patrick is a summer field technician for Fish and Game but we nabbed him to put his field experience and his dedication to natural habitats to work on local invasive species.

NRCS Updates and Resources

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service unveiled a new video series, [Conservation at Work](#), which consists of short, 90-second videos that highlight common conservation practices.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who tell us their own conservation stories, and how practices are helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money.

Some of the videos you might find helpful in Alaska cover:

- High Tunnels
- Brush Management
- Nutrient Management
- No-Till
- Rotational Grazing
- Cover Crops
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Wetland restoration

The *Conservation at Work* video series can be found at www.farmers.gov/conservationatwork 

For questions or comments about these videos, contact Tracy Robillard, NRCS Alaska Public Affairs Specialist, at tracy.robillard@usda.gov.



Private landowners, conservation groups, government agencies, Alaska Native Tribes and Tribal entities, and other stakeholders are invited to provide input and recommendations to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the next State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting, Thursday Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit the [Alaska STAC webpage](#).

Success Stories!

NRCS highlighted a couple of our local producers in story maps. Check them out if you want to get inspired.



This off-road Alaskan community depends on planes & boats to haul in most of their food, but local farmers are sowing seeds of change...

Click [here for the Story](#)



Success Story: Conservation Helps Alaska's Niche Peony Market Bloom

Click [here for the Story](#)

And a fond farewell to Dorian Perez and Pam Voeller as they move onto new stages in life. Thanks for all you have done for our community!

Call for Nominations and Notice of Election Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to cooperators that nominations by petition will be accepted to fill two eligible seats on the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Seat D and Seat E have a three-year term that expires on December 31, 2024.

Candidates wishing to fill any board seat must be a cooperator of the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District. The nomination period runs until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021. **Petitions for nomination must be:**

- Signed by the nominee certifying the nominee's willingness to serve, if elected.
- Signed by at least three (3) cooperators in the District who appear on the certified cooperators list.
- **Received** by the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 18, 2021.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that an election will be held in December 2021, unless no new nominations are submitted.

Homer Soil and Water is and Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

For more information, contact Kyra Wagner, District Manager, at kyra@homerswcd.org or (907) 299-4920.

NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned cooperators of the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, hereby nominate _____ as a candidate for Supervisor in the December 2021 election. *(Must have at least three (3) signatures other than the nominee.)*

<u>PRINTED NAME</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

CERTIFICATE OF NOMINEE

I hereby certify that I am a Cooperator as defined in AS 41.10, and that if elected, I will serve as Supervisor on the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

Signature of Nominee

Mail or deliver nomination form(s) to:

*Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
Attn.: Trish Sims
1508 #1 E Bogard Road
Wasilla, AK 99654 or FAX to: 907-373-7928
E-Mail: trish.aacd@mtaonline.net*