

◇ On The Wings Of Eagles ◇

American Bald Eagle Foundation Newsletter

October, 1999

Natural History Presentations Provide Information and Understanding

In the summer of 1994, the first group of visitors entered the American Bald Eagle Foundation's (ABEF) Natural History Museum.

ABEF Founder, Dave Olerud recalls, "They came through the front door and said 'Who is doing the presentation?'"

After spending years designing the Foundation building and displays, and securing the exhibits, Olerud and the volunteers of the American Bald Eagle Foundation, had not yet had time to plan formal programs for visitors. Always ready to meet a challenge, however, Olerud immediately began talking with the group about the natural history of Southeast Alaska wildlife, and the importance of maintaining a respect for "Mother Nature" and the bounty that she provides. This marked the first natural history presentation of the American Bald Eagle Foundation.

Now, 5 years and over 2000 presentations later, the popular natural history talks are one of the important educational services provided daily by the American Bald Eagle Foundation. Visitors learn about the hunting adaptations of Bald Eagles, the amazing life

cycle of Pacific Salmon, the foraging habits of Brown Bears and the winter survival tactics of Mountain Goats, among other interesting natural history information. They are also provided with insight into the interconnected food webs of nature and the harsh natural world in which wildlife must survive each day. With our natural history talks, the American Bald



Founder Dave Olerud talking to visitors in the American Bald Eagle Foundation

Eagle Foundation attempts to provide visitors with a new sense of appreciation for wildlife and the natural world.

During the past 5 years, Olerud continued to give most of the natural history presentations, often working seven days a week through the summer months. This year, however, he has been assisted by four resident research assistants,

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Director's Corner

**by
Dan Hart**

Hello America...I would like to share with you just what a wonderful summer we have had at the American Bald Eagle Foundation. As I watch the thermometer drop a little lower each night it is clear that Fall is on its way in the north country.

Over these last four months we have hosted and shared the story of nature's wonder with over 30,000 visitors. Our research department is gearing down from an exhaustive summer project and the number crunching has begun in earnest. The Haines Bald Eagle Festival committee has completed this year's schedule of events for our November 12-14 celebration. I truly hope you can come, it is a wonderful time of year to be in Haines. Our taxidermists,

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