

◆ On The Wings Of Eagles ◆

American Bald Eagle Foundation Newsletter

January, 2000

The 5th Annual Bald Eagle Festival: Fun, Education, Friendship and Eagles

They came by car and boat and airplane. They came from Skagway California, Germany, and Japan. For some, it was their first trip to Alaska, others had lived here their entire lives. They came with binoculars and down jackets and telephoto cameras, and they all came to Haines from November 11-14, for the 5th annual Bald Eagle Festival.

The Bald Eagle Festival celebrates one of nature's amazing wildlife spectacles, the world's largest congregation of Bald Eagles. Each fall between 2000 and 4000 bald eagles gather along the Chilkat River to feed on a late run of chum salmon and people who attend the Bald Eagle Festival have many opportunities to visit the world famous Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve to witness this spectacle.

One of the highlights of every Bald Eagle Festival is the release of rehabilitated eagles. This year six Bald Eagles were released by the Bird Treatment and Learning Center. See the story on page 4 of this newsletter.

After spending a morning watching eagles, many people may seek warm indoor place, and the Bald Eagle Festival offers participants a full slate of entertaining and educational



Kerry Seifert, of the Alaska Bird Treatment and Learning Center, entertains and educates the audience at the American Bald Eagle Foundation. Photo Courtesy of Chilkat Valley News.

events. Activities at the American Bald Eagle Foundation include two days of informational presentations by biologists and naturalists from around Alaska and the Yukon. This years festival speakers enthralled standing room only crowds with a live eagle presentation, and talks on

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Director's Corner

by
Dan Hart

Hello from Haines and the American Bald Eagle Foundation. We trust all of you had a wonderful holiday season and now that the new year is here the fears and concerns about "Y2K" have faded. This is the time of year we submit our grant applications, make final plans for a new research project, develop new educational materials, and complete all our graphics projects for such things as calendars, rack cards, information cards, etc.

The year of 1999 was a great year for the ABEF with a 41% increase in membership, a number of new programs instituted, a 7% increase in visitors to the museum, and another great research year. Additionally, revenues were up significantly over 1998. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a complimentary Year 2000 calendar from the ABEF. We had such a wonderful year that we wanted to share the "good times" with all of our members. I am happy to say that calendar sales were so good this year

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