



ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2020 ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

Alaska Pacific University
Anchorage, Alaska
February 10th – 14th, 2020



BANQUET SPEAKER

February 13th, Alaska Pacific University

The Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society welcomes Caroline Van Hemert as our guest speaker for the banquet. The banquet is included with full registration; additional tickets may be purchased online or at the conference.

Caroline Van Hemert is a biologist, writer, and adventurer whose journeys have taken her from the pack ice of the Arctic Ocean to the swamps of the Okavango Delta. She is the author of *The Sun is a Compass: A 4,000-mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds*, which received the 2019 Banff Mountain Book Competition award for Adventure Travel. Her writing has also been featured in the *New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Birding*, *LA Times*, *Outside*, and more. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and an M.A. in creative writing from Western Washington University, and has worked for various universities, NGOs, and government agencies. She is currently a research wildlife biologist and studies avian and wildlife health in the north. When she's not traveling, she divides her time between a remote off-the-grid cabin in southeast Alaska and a cozy home in downtown Anchorage, where she lives with her husband and two young sons.

The Sun is a Compass: A 4000-mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds

Join us for a lively presentation by our keynote speaker, Caroline Van Hemert, with a book signing to follow. Travel alongside birds, bears, and caribou and discover the wonder of Alaska's wild lands via a 4,000-mile human-powered journey to the Arctic. During graduate school, as she conducted experiments on the peculiarly misshapen beaks of black-capped chickadees, ornithologist Caroline Van Hemert began to feel stifled in the isolated, sterile environment of the lab and increasingly distanced from the natural world. Embracing the concept of *Zugunruhe*—migratory restlessness typically described in birds in springtime—she launched with her husband on a journey from the Pacific rainforest to the Alaskan Arctic. For six months, they traveled by rowboat, ski, foot, raft, and canoe across some of the wildest places left in North America. The pair survived spring storms, predatory bears, and hordes of mosquitoes, while also experiencing incredible moments of joy and grace—a trumpeter swan bathing on an icefield, moose swimming in the Arctic Ocean, and the sun setting over the Chukchi Sea. Van Hemert will present images, film, and readings from her book, *The Sun is a Compass*. Share in the triumphs, near-misses, rare birds, and dynamic boundaries of northern ecosystems encountered during this epic adventure.

