National Extension conference comes to UAF

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Fairbanks, Alaska—Nearly 200 Cooperative Extension employees from more than 35 states will attend the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals national conference June 27–30 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The association includes active and retired Extension professionals working in environmental education, fisheries, forestry, range, recreation, water and related disciplines.

The conference theme is “Opportunities for Extension in a Changing Environment: Lessons from the Last Frontier.” Sessions will cover climate change education, consumer choices for sustainability, engaging stakeholders, working with diverse cultures, targeting watersheds and more.

Oscar Kawagley, a retired associate professor of education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, will give the keynote address on June 28 titled “Always Getting Ready.” Kawagley, who is Yupiaq and was raised in Bethel, is considered an expert on indigenous knowledge systems. Fred Schlutt, director of UAF Cooperative Extension, and Frank Boteler, a deputy director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will welcome participants, and Boteler will talk about climate change in relation to extension education.

In addition to a variety of workshops, registrants may participate in tours to the Arctic Region Supercomputing Center’s Discovery Lab, the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, Georgeson Botanical Garden and Chena Hot Springs’ geothermal operation. Study tours are also planned before and after the conference.

The conference will recognize UAF Extension forester Bob Wheeler, who worked energetically to bring the conference to Fairbanks. The Bob Wheeler 5K Memorial Race is scheduled for 8:30-10 a.m. June 27 and will begin in the Lola Tilly Commons parking lot. Wheeler, who died last June, was a dedicated runner. Participants may register from 5-7 p.m. June 24 at Patty Center or from 7:30-8 a.m. race day. An entry fee of $15 includes a continental breakfast. Proceeds will be donated to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation in Wheeler’s name.

For more conference information and an agenda, see the association’s website at www.anrep.org.

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ON THE WEB: www.uaf.edu/ces