The Changing Arctic Landscape

Ken D. Tape was raised in Fairbanks and has been studying and photographing the Arctic for the last decade. He has participated in or led a dozen boating, skiing, mushing, and snowmachining expeditions across the North American Arctic from Alaska to Greenland. He has an undergraduate (Carleton College) and masters (University of Alaska Fairbanks) degree and is completing a PhD in biology (UAF). His scientific work has appeared in a variety of scientific journals, and his nature photography has been featured in scientific and popular magazines. He is the owner and operator of Arctic Circle Photography (www.arcticcirclephoto.com), an outlet for his nature photography.

“Climate change is a reflection of all the time, and it usually is presented in the form of some change over some time. Scientists understand the concept of change, but usually, it is too abstract. Many compelling in a real change are on well out the real neighborhood that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape. The shift that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape. The shift that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape. The shift that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape. The shift that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape. The shift that has been used to study the Indigenous landscape.

—Matthew Brown, photographer, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

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The Changing Arctic Landscape is a striking documentation of terrestrial change in the Arctic. Pairing old and new photographs of the same northern landscapes in Alaska, the book lets readers draw their own conclusions about landscape change from the visual evidence. In the accompanying text, author Ken Tape combines scientific commentary with personal recollections to breathe life into the photographs. The objective discussion of the impact of climate change on these arctic landscapes is enhanced by Tape’s own story, from his first encounter with the seeming “timelessness” of the Arctic to the adventure of compiling the repeat photographs. Supplementing the narrative are Tape’s interviews with Alaska’s pioneering scientists and explorers, whose long-standing relationships to the land enrich the photographs.

Through his book, Tape presents a picture of a landscape in flux, a place where the changing patterns of the past are reflected in the present. His photographs and text invite readers to engage with the changing Arctic landscape and to reflect on our own responsibility to protect and preserve its natural beauty.

“The terrestrial Arctic is a complex system that is yet to be fully understood . . . . The changes in these repeated photos, however, are unequivocal. A visitor to the Arctic may be struck by the seeming timelessness and constancy of the place, but that impression is misleading. The arctic landscape is changing. ”