

Yukon Island Center for Research & Education

Please Note: A copy of this letter will be posted on the OLE! website (www.OleAnchorage.org) for your convenient reference

Greetings from your hostess, Gretchen:

We are glad you have chosen to sign up for the OLE! course, *Exploring Geology and Botany on Yukon Island*. It will be held July 23-25 on Yukon Island, across Kachemak Bay from Homer at my family's homestead. For more information about the center, you can go to www.yukonisland.com and for the OLE! link you can go to <http://www.oleanchorage.org/olePDF/YukonIsland.pdf>.

This course promises to be another exciting learning opportunity for us all. On Friday afternoon, we will have the opportunity to get settled. Friday evening we have an introductory opening session by our professors, Anne Pasch, geologist, and Marilyn Barker, botanist. They are both wonderful experts in their respective fields. We will continue through Saturday and Sunday morning, exploring and learning in both realms. In mid July, much vegetation will be in bloom and in season and we'll cross our fingers for great weather.

Transportation: You should allow five hours to drive from Anchorage to Homer or you can fly. If you would like to carpool, either by riding with someone else, or are willing to take a passenger or two, please let either Meg Hayes (meghayes@acsalaska.net) or me know and we will try to facilitate that.

Water Taxi: Tom Hopkins and Tammy of Red Mountain Marine (235-6834 or 399-8230) will provide our transportation from the harbor on the Homer Spit to Yukon Island. The cost is \$55 round trip- paid to them, payable in cash or by check, NO credit cards. Scheduled departure from Homer to Yukon Island is 3 pm on Friday afternoon the 23rd. You can find their boat, the Beowulf, at the bottom of the Salty Dawg/general store ramp (one ramp toward the end of the Spit from the Harbormaster). It only takes about 20 minutes to get to Yukon Island from the Homer Spit. For our return: On Sunday the 24th, the Beowulf will pick everyone up at 2:00 pm putting you back in Homer with plenty of time to get back to Anchorage that evening.

Class Materials: Anne and Marilyn have suggested you bring a pencil and notebook. For field notes they suggested the small Rite 'n Rain book so I will purchase enough of them and have them available on the island for those who would like to purchase one- about \$2.25 each. Bring rubber rain boots for walking on the beach at low tide. Optional items would be a hand lens or magnifying glass, binocs, camera, drawing equipment. We hope to do two field trips on Sat., one in the morning at low tide in front of the center, and one in the afternoon to the chert beds area. If the weather is not good we would plan to do the cherts on Sunday morning.

What Else to Bring: You have already registered for the class and paid the \$195 fee, which includes appetizers and dinner on Friday, Saturday meals, breakfast and lunch on Sunday, and lodging. Lodging includes sheets and bedding, so you don't need to bring a sleeping bag or bedding. Bring your own personal clothing and items. As you know, summer weather can be unpredictable, so clothing that can be layered is the best. There are many birds on and around the island as well as otters and an occasional whale, so you may want to bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. We have good water on the island, so you do not need to bring your own water. I have an alternate energy system that doesn't allow hair dryers but does allow recharging of cameras and computers. I have a telecellular telephone on the island in case of emergency- If someone needs to have a way to reach you, the number is 235-5592.

I look forward to hosting you on the island.
Warm regards, Gretchen

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