

## Camp Article Published in Professional Journal: Village Kids on Cover

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge educator Lisa Matlock's enthusiasm for her new digital photography camp program led her to submit an article to "The Interpreter", a national publication for educators and communicators. "A Lesson in Digital Photography for Luddites" was chosen as the lead article and a photo of Brandi Mercurief and another camper from St. George graced the cover of the Nov/Dec issue. What's more, the digital photographs taken by three student photographers from Unalaska, Nikolski, and Anchorage were featured in the magazine.

Matlock's idea was to use photography to grab today's techno-savvy kids and lure them into really looking at and appreciating the landscape. The kids embraced the program featured last summer at Stewardship Camps at St. George, St. Paul and Unalaska islands proving that a little technology can help kids connect with nature. The article is intended to both motivate other educators to try digital photography programs with their students and provide them with practical, "how to do it" information. Matlock also presented a well received lecture on the refuge's education program highlighting digital photography at the National Association of Interpreters annual national conference last November.

None of this would have been possible without Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuge members and professional photographers, Tom Collopy and Mary Frische of Wild North Photography. They volunteered to teach two of the camp sessions and advised Matlock on equipment selection, photo production, and composition techniques. Collopy and Frische also took the cover shot of the St. George girls.

The Stewardship Camps which mix nature and cultural learning are sponsored by partnerships of tribes, village corporations, school districts, the refuge and other government agencies and have been ongoing for more than 15 years. One Unalaska girl wrote in her camp journal that although she had been coming to camp for several years she had never realized "that the nature around camp was so pretty" until she took the class. Now, with the insight provided by Matlock in this article and the wonderful photographs taken by the campers, maybe other educators will be inspired to make this happen for kids elsewhere.



Camp Qungaayux landscape photograph taken during the digital photography camp class by camper Amber Jellison of Unalaska Island. Photo Credit: Amber Jellison