

Alaska in Late Summer

August 2016
Fran Guard

Denali National Park





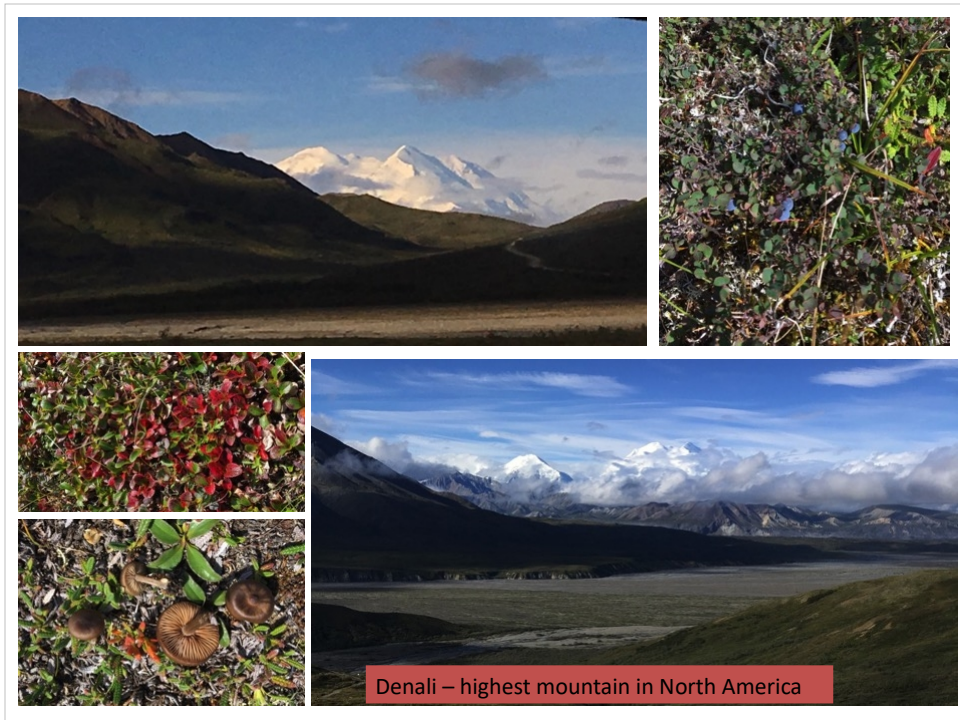
We visited Fairbanks, Denali NP, Anchorage and cruised down the panhandle (Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan) to Vancouver.



Deciduous trees: Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Alders (fix Nitrogen), and 33 species Willows (*Salix*) – along streams.
Pines: White spruce (*Picea glauca*), Black spruce (*Picea mariana*)



Polychrome Mts in Denali National Park.



Mt Denali (Mt Mc Kinley) >20,000 ft high



Savage River in Denali NP, with Tundra species



Of the 37 spp of *Russula* in Alaska, 1/3 are red-reddish and the rest are orange, green, yellow, white and even black.

Deciduous forests of central Alaska contain small-leaved deciduous trees like birch, alder, willow, and poplar.

Understory has horsetails, highbush cranberry.



Russulas & Lactarius galore!





Laccaria sp.



Pholiota squarrosa



Agaricus sp.





Lycoperdon sp.



Sarcodon imbricatus



Amanita vaginata

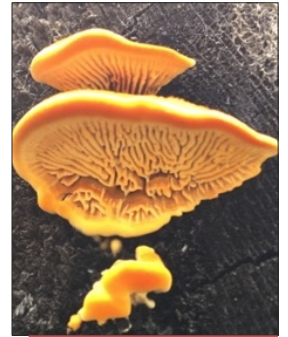
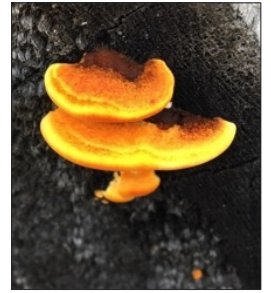




Three different coral species



Clubs - *Clavariadelphus ligula*



A polypore with distinctive pores



The ubiquitous *Amanita muscaria*



Our dinner – Boletus and Leccinums



Lactarius deliciosus- orange gills turn green



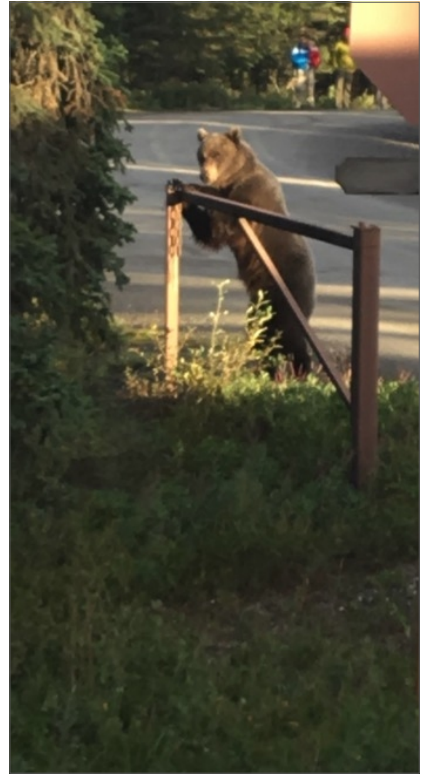
Fungi in a bed of lichens and mosses



Caribou, Moose, Willow Ptarmigan in summer plumage and Arctic ground squirrels (hibernate up to 9mths of the year)



2-3 year old Grizzly bear cubs





Lichenomphalia sp.





Mendenhall Glacier has retreated over 2.8km in the last 100 years. 95% of the world's 100,000 glaciers are retreating. A few in Glacier Bay are still actively advancing, but this could easily change.

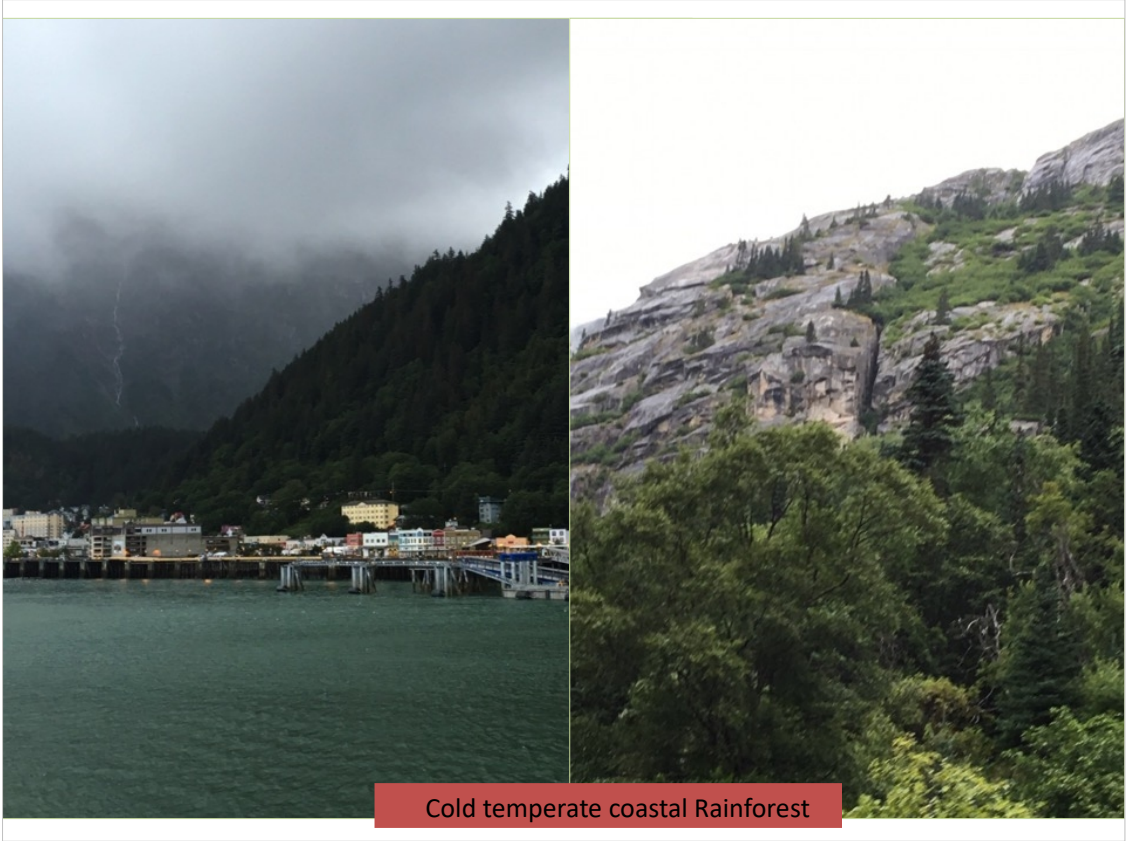
Mendenhall Glacier 1894



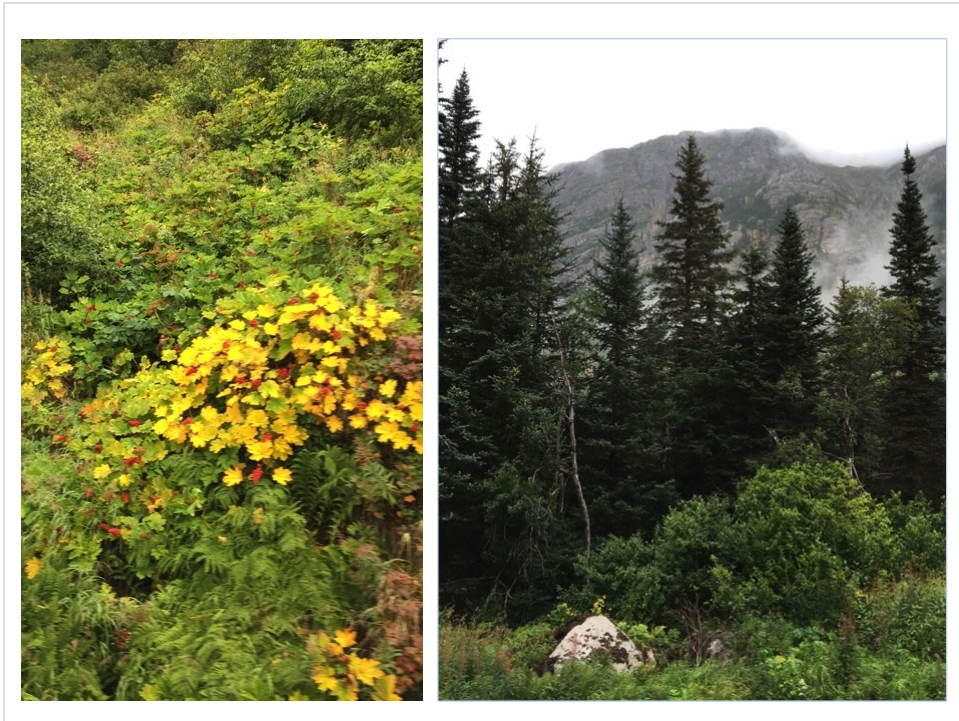


In Glacier Bay, one of the few advancing glaciers

In 1794 Glacier Bay was first discovered by Captain George Vancouver in HMS Discovery, as a mere indent in coastline. The glacier was 4000ft thick, 20 miles wide and 100miles long back to Elias Range. By 1879 it had melted back 30 miles, and by 1916, melted 60 miles back to the opening of Tarr inlet.



Cold temperate coastal Rainforest



Sitka Spruce trees, Douglas fir, Red Cedar and Western Hemlock. The forest floor is covered with ferns, mosses, lichens and small plants.



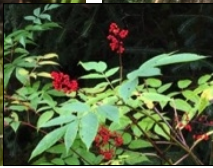




Ketchikan Totem Bight Park and Clan House: The Story of Totem Bight

With the growth of non-Native settlements in Southeast Alaska in the early 1900's, and the decline of a barter economy, Natives moved to communities where work was available. The villages and totem poles they left behind were soon overgrown by forests and eroded by weather. In 1938 the U.S. Forest Services began a program aimed at salvaging and reconstructing these large cedar monuments. By using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) funds to hire skilled carvers from among the older Natives, two things took place: young artisans learned the art of carving totem poles, and totems which had been left to rot in the woods were either repaired or duplicated.

The fragments of old poles were laid beside freshly cut cedar logs, and every attempt was made to copy them traditionally. Tools for carving were hand-made, modeled on the older tools used before coming of Europeans. Samples of Native paints were created from natural substances such as clam shells, **lichen**, graphite, copper pebbles, and salmon eggs; natural colors were then duplicated with modern paints.



Totem Bight Park



Denali NP

Fran & Bob with friend Sherry