



Academy for  
**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
FELLOWSHIP • KNOWLEDGE • ADVENTURE

# The Spiral

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February, 2009

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## **President's Message**

Denali National Park and Preserve –August 27, 2008  
– 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM: Eight hours to travel sixty-two miles each way on a ninety-one mile roadway into and out of a six million acre wilderness. It is the only roadway in the park, which covers an area the size of Eastern Pennsylvania from the Susquehanna to the Delaware Rivers. All other travel is by foot during the three month summer and snowshoe or dog sled the remainder of the year.

Our sixty passenger tour bus is being driven by published naturalist and photographer Bob Tourtelet. Within a minute of our entrance to the Park we are stopped and viewing a cow moose from about three-hundred yards. Want a closer look? Bob has a TV camera with zoom lens projecting on six screens located throughout the bus. The optical resolution is so precise that one could see the glimmer of the Moose's eyes when it looked in our direction. As for animal life, throughout the day we will see brown and grizzly bears with and without cubs, moose, caribou, fox and an active fox den, golden eagles, owls, Dall sheep, ptarmigan, snowshoe rabbit, and the ground squirrel. The latter, along with the vole is on the lowest rung of the food chain and, therefore, most in demand.

The paved road ends at the nine mile marker where entrance to drive the remaining unpaved road is by permit only. The permits are few and available only by lottery drawing. Back packers and climbers are more plentiful but time limited.

Now traveling on narrow natural roadbed the windows of the bus are washed by saffron, cinnamon, russet, lavender and sage colored vegetation, which fills the valleys and rises to create borders along this portion of the Alaskan Mountain Range. We rise from 1800 feet to 6200 feet and sometimes back down on the smooth earthen road, which, guarded only by road hazard cones, often overlooks drops of two or more hundred feet to the rock and vegetation covered glacial beds below.

Raptors and migratory birds in the air or on low brush limbs, large and small animals on the ground, fish in streams and lakes – each in restless pursuit of food. Wildlife here in Denali is recognized as belonging to the food chain interacting with the natural cycles of plenty and paltry amounts of vegetation to nourish the herbivores. These creatures, in turn, reproduce and replenish nourishment for the carnivores. Lives and deaths in the this wilderness play out their natural cyclical course unencumbered by intervention from 'higher' life forms.

Leaving the park one takes note of the brave stand alone Black Spruce, surviving sixty cycles of short summer and long winter to stand no more than eight feet high. These small sentinels on the tundra stand to endure winters buffeted by arctic winds and billowing snows, which will form drifts covering their windward face and provide shelter on their lee side.

The Denali National Park and Preserve is truly wilderness in which man sees far fewer dwellers than he is seen by. Its pristine beauty is continuous beyond what the eye can see from the narrow ninety-one mile ribbon of roadway the three-hundred-thousand visitors' travel each May through August. The hikers and climbers find daytime venues different from the bus tour riders. They experience the night skies lighted by the Borealis, and listen to the frightful howls of wolf packs echoing through the glacial valleys. For some it is a place to return and explore over and over. For others viewing it a mere eight hours forms a memory so intense that it will remain permanently etched and available from the recesses of their visual memory. They can continue to enjoy their minds' view and photographs for a lifetime.

Calling on visual memory and photographs without returning to Denali is a personal initiative which will permit continued limited access for others during this and future generations to experience. Access limitation of man into this large but limited wilderness is an ethical imperative, which will enable nature's continuance in this small segment of its once boundless untamed beauty.

*Larry Peyser, Academy President*

### Laurie Ott scheduled to speak at the Academy February General Meeting.

Ms. Laurie Ott, Executive Director, will discuss the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project located in Augusta.

Ms. Ott was formerly with WRDW, CBS in Augusta, where from 1994 to 2007 she was an award-winning anchor and reporter. Her work with WRDW took her everywhere from Bosnia to the Superbowl, where she followed James Brown to his halftime performance. Ms. Ott has also served on several boards, including the First Tee of Augusta, the Welfare Reform Advisory Council, and Executive Women's Golf - Augusta Chapter. Ms. Ott has a BA from George Washington University.

The February General Meeting will be held Friday, February at 2:00 pm in Penland 106 on the USCA campus. Following the meeting will be a reception with refreshments.

The general public is welcome at Academy General Meetings, so bring a friend along to learn about the Academy and all it offers.

### Would You Like to Help Out with the Paradise Farm Winter Horse Trials?

Lellie Ward, owner of Paradise Farm horse farm and a presenter at two sessions of last fall's Horse Sense class, is looking for volunteers to help out with the Paradise Farm Winter Horse Trials. No experience is needed and all assignments will be explained in advance. There will be a required instructional meeting at Paradise Farm on Friday February 19 at 5pm, with refreshments. Volunteers needed are:

- **Friday, February 20:** Stewards for dressage.
- **Saturday, Feb 21:** Jump judges for cross country (Lellie says this is the most fun and you can stay in your car if its cold outside). Time is from 7:30 am to around 5 pm. People can do half days 7.30 to 12, or 12 to 5.
- **Sunday, February 22:** Stewards for show jumping, 8 am to 3 pm.

Paradise Farm is located at 4069 Wagener Rd (SC Rte 302), east of Aiken. Spectators are welcome, and there is no charge to come and watch.

Many of last fall's class participants expressed an interest in volunteering to help with this event. To volunteer, or to pose questions about the event and duties, please call Lellie at (803) 640 4918.

### Courses Beginning in February

Please see the published course catalog for more complete descriptions (available on the web at <http://web.usca.edu/dotAsset/5157.pdf>). To enroll, return the form in the published catalog or contact Laura Anderson at USCA (641-3563 / [lauraa@usca.edu](mailto:lauraa@usca.edu)).

- **Interior Decorating** – Come and learn secrets for making your home a lovely place to visit and an extraordinary place in which to live.  
Dates: 3 Tuesdays, starting Feb 3  
Time: 2 pm
- **Spring Flings – One Gas Tank Car Trips** – Nearby fun and interesting places to go. Whitney Ellis, group tour manager for the National Heritage Corridor, will tell us all about the Discovery Corridor: Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, and Orangeburg Counties. The next session, Aiken County Historical Museum will feature an exhibit on one tank car trips from Aiken. The third session will be an all day whirlwind bus tour. **Limited to 50 participants.**  
Dates: 3 Wednesdays, starting Feb 4  
Times: Feb 4 & 11: 10 am at Aiken County Historical Museum  
Feb 18: All day bus trip, boarding 7:45 am at USCA parking lot C.  
Cost: \$50.  
**Your reservation is not secure until payment is received. Prepaid trip events fill quickly and cannot be refunded. If you are unable to attend you are asked to find your own replacement.**
- **Special Event: A Night in Havana** - A Valentine Celebration of Cuban Cuisine, music, poetry, sangria, and fun at *Café Rio Blanco*, Aiken's Cuban restaurant (148 Laurens Street). Appetizer, choice of two entrees (Chicken Fricassee or Pork Loin) and choice of two desserts (Spanish Flan or Key Lime Pie) included. It will also feature entertainment with a Spanish flair – Larry Peyser on guitar and poetry readings by Mike and Louise Lythgoe. **Limited to 16 couples or 32 individuals.**  
Date: Tuesday, Feb 10  
Time: 7 pm  
Cost: \$23 (Cash Bar – wine, beer, and sangria)  
**Your reservation is not secure until payment is received. Prepaid trip events fill quickly and cannot be refunded. If you are unable to attend you are asked to find your own replacement.**
- **What's the Pointe?** - An introduction to the appreciation of ballet, presented by lifelong dan-

cer Cathy Sabol. The discussion will include viewing featurettes from *The Firebird* and *Swan Lake*, both of which will be performed this season at the USCA Etherredge Center.

Dates: 3 Thursdays, starting Feb 12

Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm

- **Change in India: Some Questions and Answers** - Dr. Subhadra Channa, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Delhi, India, will focus on the impact of a market economy on traditional Indian values.  
Dates: 4 Mondays, starting Feb 16  
Time: 10 am
- **Lost Sites of Aiken! Where Was What? -** Owen Clary, chair of the Aiken County Historical Commission, returns with another of his popular classes, presenting an intriguing look at some former notable local landmarks. The second session will be a two hour walking tour of Old Aiken.  
Dates: 2 Tuesdays, starting Feb 24  
Time: 12 noon – 1:50 pm
- **Indian Cooking** – Meeting in the large kitchen of First Presbyterian Church (224 Barnwell Ave.), Priti Godhwani, a native of India, will share some of the basics and secrets of Indian cuisine. Recipes and “take home” bags of ingredients (spices, vegetables, etc.) will be provided at all four sessions. A \$40 fee covers the cost of food, paper products, and utensils. **Limited to 25 enrollees.**  
Dates: 4 Wednesdays, starting Feb 25  
Time: 2 pm  
**Your reservation is not secure until payment is received. If you are unable to attend you are asked to find your own replacement.**

## January Board Meeting Summary

JANUARY 9, 2009, 12:30 P.M.

President Peyser called the meeting to order. Present were Erna Arkin, Judy Perkins, Doug Wilson, Wesley Sloan, Kathy Schulz, Deidre Martin, Vince Coughlin and Glenn Knowles.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the last meeting.

Larry read Edie Mayer's letter of resignation as Treasurer, and announced Roy Wright, former Treasurer, will fill in Edie's unexpired term. We will await firmer numbers to decide scholarship amounts.

### Committee Reports

- **Curriculum:** Erna reported that the spring session is ready to go, and that the committee is working on at least 28 subjects with broad appeal for next fall.
  - **Publicity:** Judy pointed out the *Mature Times* is very helpful and very accepting of written articles. Future stories about upcoming General Meeting speakers was suggested.
  - **Membership:** Kathy was able to point out our organization has grown. The latest membership count is 277, up from about 240. However, Laura Anderson is still busy with registrations, so the total for '08-'09 may well be even higher.
- The Christmas luncheon was discussed. Primarily due to parking problems at Woodside, Kathy has explored other venues (Houndslake, other restaurants, etc.), and she will continue that effort. Moving the event up a week was also thought a good idea. The pros and cons of having entertainment were discussed.
- **Communications:** Doug reported *The Spiral* is sent to all who have provided an e-mail address, or mailed to those requesting a paper copy. Having an article in *Mature Times* suggesting people contact Laura Anderson if they wish to be on the mailing list for *The Spiral* was thought a good idea.
- Wesley amazingly continues to get the Catalog prepared on time. Erna expressed concern over the front cover design. While the pages of the different organizations inside are color coded, the cover fails to follow through.

### Old business

- Open officer positions: A nominating committee has been formed to present nominations at the March General Meeting. Chair – Dick Baxter, Members – Geraldine Bankoff, Darcy Funkhouser and Susie Sadowski.
- Mt. Vintage: Larry and Erna traveled there to give a presentation about the Academy. All that had signed up (22) were there, and it is expected the effort will gather new members.

### New business

- Vince asked that we begin thinking about the Kauffman Award to be presented at the April 17th General Meeting. The menu for the luncheon was also discussed as last year's was thought to be too heavy.
- Larry read letters of appreciation from Tom Hallman and Deidre Martin regarding the Academy's '08 scholarship contributions. He also read a thank you note from Mary Anne Cavanaugh for the Academy's get well gift. We all enjoyed that it was written on a card bearing a Jim Harrison painting.

- On a final positive note, Erna advised she had given many copies of our catalog to T. Ella Strother, a contributor to the course "What Were They Thinking?"..

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**Academy Officers:** Larry Peyser, President; Vince Coughlin, Immediate Past President; (Vacancy), President Elect; Glenn Knowles, Secretary, and (Vacancy), Treasurer.

**Chairpersons and Other Members of the Academy:**

**Board of Directors:** Erna Arkin, Curriculum Chair; (Vacancy), Curriculum Chair-Elect; Judy Perkins and Elizabeth Majors, Publicity Co-Chairs; Kathy Shulz, Membership Chair.

**Non-Members:** Mary Anne Cavanaugh, Director of Conferences & Continuing Education; Dr. Elaine Lacey, Faculty Liaison; Dr. Deidre Martin, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement.

**Academy on the Web:**

<http://web.usca.edu/conted/academy/>

**ACADEMY CALENDAR – February 2009**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <i>Opera</i> 11a – 12:30p	3 <i>Staying in Home</i> 10a  <i>Int. Decorating</i> 2 p	4 <i>Spring Flings</i> 10 am [Aiken Historical Museum]  <i>Dulcimers</i> 12 noon  <i>Amer. Conflict</i> 3:30 p [CC]	5 <i>Curriculum Committee</i> 9am [B Conf]  <i>Sign Language</i> 1 p	6	7
8	9	10 <i>Int. Decorating</i> 2 p  <i>Night in Havana</i> 7 p [Café Rio Blanco]	11 <i>Spring Flings</i> 10 am [Aiken Historical Museum]  <i>Dulcimers</i> 12 noon  <i>Amer. Conflict</i> 3:30 p [CC]	12 <i>What's the Pointe?</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [CC]	13 <i>Board Meeting</i> 12:30pm [P110]  <i>General Meeting</i> 2pm [P106]	14
15	16 <i>India</i> 10 a	17 <i>Int. Decorating</i> 2 p	18 <i>Spring Flings Bus Trip</i> 7:45 am [USCA Parking Lot C]	19 <i>What's the Pointe?</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [CC]	20	21
22	23 <i>India</i> 10 a	24 <i>Lost Sites of Aiken</i> 12 noon – 1:50 p	25 <i>Indian Cooking</i> 2 p	26 <i>What's the Pointe?</i> 2 p – 3:30 p [CC]	27	28

[Location Codes] B = Business & Education Bldg @ USCA H = Humanities & Social Sciences Bldg @ USCA  
 N = Nursing Bldg @ USCA P = Penland Bldg @ USCA CC = Cedar Creek Community Building