

Dear ACB friends and board members,

I wish I could come in person to your meeting tonight though instead I hope this email might convey our deep thanks for being our nonprofit sponsor for Poems in Place the last 3 years. We've come full circle and placed our last and 3rd year of poems in Fort Abercrombie SHP (Kodiak) and Caines Head SRA (Seward) this September.

On behalf of Poems in Place I'd especially like to thank Lila Vogt and Mark Weber who put in many, many volunteer hours and were the practical backbone of the project. Lila was our amazing behind the scenes accountant, grant collaborator, true blue supporter and Mark was our web master and helped me pilot through the submissions-on-line process over the years.

I hope each of you will be able to visit a poem or two of the ten poems that ACB has helped locate in all regions of our state parks. In the moment when poem, reader, mood, place, and weather converge something bigger than either poem or place occurs. Each reader will find their own meaning. Many people that have never cracked a book of poems, are reading poetry when they come upon a poem in an unexpected place under the open sky .

We have heard many anecdotes over the years of what the reading of a poem has meant to an Alaskan or outside visitor that happened on a poem in place. Creative writing workshops connected people to poetry and to each other as well as to place. Park rangers became poetry converts, writers met writers... magic happened in so many unique and unexpected ways. In this project ACB's goal of promoting literacy state wide flourished.

It has been a fulfilling, wonderful project to work on. Thank you for believing in the idea from the beginning, for welcoming this project into your fold, and for helping to bring it to fruition.

With warmest wishes and deep gratitude
Wendy

ps.. A list of poems and parks. I hope you can visit them one day.

Poems in Place poems and poets:

2013 Totem Bight State Historical Park: *This Forest, This Beach, You* by Emily Wall, *The Spoken Forest*, by Ernestine Hayes. Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park: *The Blue Fish* by Frank Soos, *Poem of The Forgotten* by John Haines.

2014 Lake Aleknagik State Recreational Area/Wood Tikchik State Park: *The Wisdom of the Old Ones* by Tim Troll. Independence Mine State Historical Park: *August, Independence Mine* by Tom Sexton

2015 Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park: *The Compass Rose* by Fred Stager, *Tidelines* by Leslie Leyland Fields Caines Head State Historical Park: *Pilgrims* by Justine Pechuzal, *The Soldier's Station* by Aleria Jensen.