

Conclusion

The old timers in Alaska were always experimenting with new ways to hunt, trap, travel and preserve food. As modern technology and materials arrived in the villages, people experimented more and more, adapting the new ways to the subsistence lifestyle. Hunting, fishing and food gathering of all kinds are made simpler with technologies like GPS, camo clothing, vacuum sealing etc.

Currently, no one really can keep up with all the changes in science. The playing field is open and there's lots of room for new players. There is no need for anyone to sit on the bench. Alaskans have a unique opportunity, not only to witness, but also to participate in the evaluation of the rapid changes and the effects on our communities.

Climate change sounds like a huge subject, but it is only a part of the evolving dynamic that we face.

If you have done a collection, you have learned basic science skills. If you did an experiment, you have developed abilities that will be with you for the rest of your life. If you took on a project where you had to do a detailed observation, you have developed habits, and thinking patterns that will serve you again and again as you pursue lifetime interests.

Whether you become a career scientist or just as a practical person who wants accurate conclusions, you're a winner.

There is a natural high that comes from a good project. There is no end to questions that can be asked and explored. There are not enough hours in the day to pursue them all. I often tell my grandchildren, "If you're busy doing the do's, you don't have time for the don'ts." Well, a good science project is one of the do's!

If you have caught the spirit of this book, you are in for some great adventures, most of them right in your own town or village.

Your partner in curiosity,

Alan Dick

A scientist is someone who doesn't stop asking silly questions.