

Alaskan Adventure
By Steven L. Anderson, Ph.D., MBA

Recently, I fulfilled a lifelong dream and took my daughter, Julie, to Alaska. I have included some of the pictures I took on that trip with this article. Words cannot describe the raw beauty of Alaska. It is like no other place I have ever visited. The peacefulness and serenity of that immense, wild place penetrates you and deeply connects you with the world around



you. At different times, I was just a few feet away from Grizzly bears, Dahl's sheep, Bald Eagles, wolves and moose. I still cannot get over the sense of awe I felt at the incredible array of flora and fauna this world has created. I felt very blessed to be a part of such an amazing world.



Edward Abbey, a well known naturalist author, once said that we must preserve wild places. Even if we have no intention of visiting them, we have to know that they exist to protect our sanity. He's right, but I think it goes much deeper than that. When we lose touch with the universe that created us, we lose touch with our Creator and the best part of ourselves; the part that makes us human and the part that makes us believe that we can create a world that is in harmony with the will of the Creator, one that gives every person a chance to fulfill themselves, while preserving the natural world around us. I realize that such dreams may seem unreachable, even naïve, but when we cease to dream, we cease to live.



So, I came back from Alaska with a renewed sense of strength in my mission to make the world a better place to live. And I ask you a question, "What is your Alaska?" What do you do to get in touch with your deepest self? What is your venue for renewing your inner strength? And have you taken the time to visit it recently? It is waiting for you. All you have to do is embrace it.