

# ARCTIC TRUTH

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

~ August 6, 2010 ~

Each week leading up to the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on December 6, 2010, we will be sending you an Arctic Truth newsletter highlighting an **Arctic Hero**, an **Arctic bird** that migrates from the Refuge to other states in the US, and other news about why the Arctic Refuge deserves the strongest possible protections.

Photo Credit: Ben Baker



PHOTO: BEN BAKER

## Arctic Hero

**Yvon Chouinard** is the founder of Patagonia, Inc. and has been described as the most successful outdoor businessman alive today. He's also a committed conservationist. An accomplished rock climber himself, Chouinard designed and made a series of hard-steel pitons that revolutionized rock climbing in Yosemite Valley. After becoming aware of the damage that these pitons were doing to rock faces, Chouinard abandoned their use in favor of "clean climbing" - even though the pitons comprised 70 percent of his income at the time. Patagonia has donated more than \$25 million to environmental causes over the past 25 years, and is focused on raising awareness about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge during this important 50th anniversary year.

## Arctic Bird

The **Canvasback** is a large diving duck that migrates from the Arctic Refuge to New Jersey during the winter. The bird gets its name from the off-white coloring on its back, although adult males of the species appears to be 'painted' with blotches of red, blue, gray, black and brown. The Canvasback has bright red eyes during spring that dull during the rest of the year. The population of Canvasbacks has shifted dramatically over the years, with a dangerous plunge in the 1980s followed by a population boom in the 1990s, due in large part to increased conservation.



Photo Credit: Ron Charest

## Arctic Action

This week, at an annual gathering of outdoor retailers in Salt Lake City, Utah that drew thousands including Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, well-known historian Douglas Brinkley riveted the crowd with his impassioned plea for the Arctic Refuge. Brinkley, author of "Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America," is working on a new book about the Arctic Refuge, due out this fall, just before the official 50th anniversary of the Arctic Refuge on Dec. 6. In his talk, Brinkley noted how the current struggle to protect the Arctic Refuge can be traced back to President Roosevelt, who insisted that big corporations and mines be kept out of Alaska's wild places. Brinkley also implored the Obama administration to work to protect the Arctic Refuge. You too can help this effort to protect the Arctic Refuge once and for all by **cosponsoring H.R. 39/S. 231**, which would designate the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge as wilderness.

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