

Dear Elenore,

You will be so pleased to know the hopes you had for your homestead have come true. This morning my outdoor-loving friend, Chris Broda, took a group of us ladies on snowshoe trails that she and other neighbors have put years into developing (*right photo by Chris Broda*). The snow was deep. The sun was bright. And the area is just as wild as when you took your own final walk into the woods (*below right photo, Elenore and her horse walking the trail*). There are plenty of rolling ridges, without roads, so the fox has a safe den. The trails are even earning names, mostly bird names. That seems appropriate since you loved bird watching. And others are inspired by what you started. Even more acres have been added to the reserve!



We saw a goshawk's nest. Only a thick pile of snow sits up there now. I will always cherish a goshawk memory from when I was still very young. It was lovely to ride your horses into these woods one summer and you showed me a goshawk's nest that included chicks. That is the best birthday gift anyone has ever given me.

Next, I will make sure to visit the reserve with your own family. That cross in memory of you and Charles is in the perfect spot (*bottom-right photo by Chris Broda*). Not impossible to find, but not that easy to find, either. Like Chris, one must get very acquainted with the area to find out these hidden special places.

Thank you for providing me with my first place to live away from home and the dorms (*upper left photo, Mossy with Charles and Elenore Riedel, and Ben, Elenore's brother, 1980*). Living in your woods in a tent was perfect. (Except when a cub bear enjoyed ripping through my canvas house tent and into my Coleman Cooler!) I am so happy all your neighbors seem to have caught on to the spirit of what you were hoping for when you and Charles donated your much-loved property to Audubon. Your dream has come true!



Mossy Mead
Fairbanks, Alaska