



Pushing a pesky bear out

Polar bear that killed dog keeps visiting Hornsund; officials use helicopter to chase it far away

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

After one successful kill, expecting the polar bear to just wander off probably wasn't realistic.

Residents of the Hornsund research station on the west coast of Spitsbergen discovered the bear had returned three days after killing one of their four dogs and injuring two others in a fight Feb. 16. It was the latest of numerous intrusions by the bear and the researchers – who had tried to drive it off on their own, in accordance with Svalbard regulations – felt there was no choice but to get help from the Svalbard governor's office.

"A police officer and nature manager from the governor's office traveled Friday to Hornsund by helicopter to assist the Polish research station in removing the pesky polar bear," a statement issued by the governor's office Monday notes. "The helicopter was used to push the intruding bear several kilometers away from the station."

A doctor from Longyearbyen Hospital and a veterinarian from the mainland provided food with vaccinations for the dogs, who also had

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MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

H.A. Schult gives a briefing of deployment plans in Adventdalen for 500 of his Trash People, a mere half of the battalion that has conquered the Great Wall of China, Moscow's Red Square and other global landmarks. He plans to launch the Svalbard phrase of his campaign – creating awareness of the world's pollution problem using an art exhibit of people made of litter – March 14.

GEN. GARBAGE INVADES

Leader of Trash People army selects target for March campaign

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

H.A. Schult is one commander who doesn't have to worry about his troops defecting.

Then again, there's little dispute they're the scum of humanity.

Schult arrived in Longyearbyen this week for a recon mission, selecting the battlefield where in March he will deploy 500 of his Trash People in the final chapter of a 15-year

Decomposing situation: Garbage in oceans a significant threat to Svalbard's wildlife, not enough knowledge about most-polluted areas, new report finds

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global campaign. The roadside site in Adventdalen a few kilometers from town will make for picturesque theater, assuming there

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Call of the Arctic lures 5th generation



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Janet Munro Longyear, right, and her daughter, Rachel Haynes, ponder the family's legacy during visit this week to their namesake town.

Longyear descendants share passion for namesake town, but say locals deserve the prestige

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

Janet Munro Longyear is at odds with her grandfather about politics, money and religion. But they share a passion for perhaps the most influential thing – the town bearing his name.

Longyear, a resident of England who is the granddaughter of John Munro Longyear, said one of earliest memories is "the polar bear rug I used to lie on," which was from the animal

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When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

Composing the Creation for children's choirs



COURTESY OF HANS INGE FAGERVIK

Hans Inge Fagervik, a singer and songwriter with a heavy emphasis on charity work for 30 years, will perform his children's musical "Å, Så Cakkert" ("Oh, So Beautiful") with Polargospel and the Hillesøy children's choir at 5 p.m. Saturday at Svalbard Church. The musical is about "creation, how we use and consume it, and the consequences it has." They also will perform during the liturgy at the church at 11 a.m. Sunday. Sound clips from Fagervik's CD of the musical can be heard at www.iko.no/sider/produkt.asp?ID=434&vare=CD532.

Persistent bear chased far away

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blood samples drawn to determine if they were infected with rabies. All of the station's residents received rabies shots following the dogs' fight with the polar bear as a precaution for any people who handled dogs covered with the bear's blood.

A polar bear expert from the Norwegian Polar Institute arrived at the station Friday night with equipment to anesthetize the polar bear, but there was no sign of it during a reconnaissance flight of the vicinity Saturday morning.

"The governor's staff considers it likely that the intruding bear has been pushed away

from the station at this time," the governor's statement notes. "The occupants of the station have received advice on how to handle any new intrusive bears."

The Polish research station was also plagued by an intruding bear last year, with a researcher shooting the animal as it tried to enter a cabin. The bear wandered off, but officials found its dead remains several days later.

The researcher who shot claimed he wanted to scare the bear, but he was fined 5,000 kroner for failing to report the incident as required by law.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

God continues proving he has a sense of humor, dropping Longyearbyen's temperature from an unseasonably warm two degrees Celsius Monday evening to -29.3 degrees Celsius "in a few hours," according to the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. The thaw stranded about 270 travelers in Tromsø and Longyearbyen when Monday's SAS flight couldn't land due to the slippery runway. Then came the freeze, cementing the doors of vehicles shut with ice (and good luck stating your car if you had muscles of Hercules), and sending tourists scurrying for clothes and shelter. It was caused by a sudden and powerful low-pressure system, and forecasters say He may continue toying with us for several days ... famed polar author Sara Wheeler is getting a bunch of free

exposure this week as excerpts from her book "The Magnetic North," detailing her circumnavigation of the Arctic, are being published at Slate.com. Her essay from here is "The Arctic Birds of Spitzbergen" (Slate's spelling), a narrative well above the usual gee-whiz travel writer banality. It begins with breakfast where locals are "washing down their Geitost cheese with spoonfuls of cod-liver oil" (we do that?), prefaces her field expedition by noting "in Holland you are perceived virtually as a criminal if you hunt. But here in Norway you're almost a homosexual if you don't," and concludes by noting the vegetarian-heavy party had rations of sausages and pancake mix they couldn't cook due to an empty propane bottle. The essay and others in the series are at www.slate.com/id/2285394/entry/2285536.



Eve Silverstone, 7, left, and her brother Caleb, 4, play with canine Anton Berg at the Svalbard Husky kennels during a visit to Longyearbyen this week. They are the fifth generation of the town's namesake, John Munro Longyear, to visit. At right, Longyear relaxes during a visit to Spitsbergen. The etching on the negative reads "Arctic Coal Co. J. M. L. June 30th 1907." Photo of the Silverstones by Elin Amundsen. Photo of Longyear courtesy of the Marquette County History Museum.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM
SVALBARDPOSTEN
VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

LNS to lay off 16 workers this spring due to contract loss

LNS Spitsbergen will lay off 16 employees this spring due to Arctic Drilling taking over coal drilling for Store Norske. "Some will be laid off for three months, others for less time," said Ann Pedersen, LNS' administrative director. LNS traditionally performed drilling operations, but last year Store Norske put the contract out for bid. Pedersen said she doesn't believe there is a connection between the contract and corruption charges filed against top executives at the company, since the bidding process started beforehand. The three-year contract has a minimum value of 42 million kroner. Arctic Drilling says it has purchased nearly 6 million kroner of new equipment to perform the drilling.

Council OKs 20-home project at Haugen after three years

A plan allowing Sandmo & Svenkerud to build 20 family homes at Haugen was approved Feb. 15 by the Longyearbyen Community Council. The company plans to submit its application framework for the first buildings this week, according to owner Tollef Svenkerud. The approval process took three years due to concerns expressed by Svalbard's governor that insufficient attention was paid to the impact on the area. Store Norske is seeking to use some of the homes for its employees.

London: No duty-free for you

Travelers taking direct flights between Heathrow and Longyearbyen that are scheduled to start April 1 will not be allowed to make purchases in the London airport's duty-free shop, according to officials. The announcement reverses a previous statement, with customs officials learning that Svalbard has special rules for tax-free goods that will prevent sales at the shop. Håkon Fjeld-Hansen, administrative director for Travel Retail Norway, said travelers can shop in Heathrow's domestic store before entering the international departure area, and the prices for cosmetics and perfume should be the same. "We want to sell as much as possible, but we have to deal with the rules," he said.

Longyears blaze differing trails

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her dad shot in Svalbard at the age of 12.

"I felt we were soulmates, that polar bear rug and I," she said.

Janet Longyear is making her fourth visit to Svalbard this week and next, along with six others including two children who became the fifth generation of the family to set foot on the Arctic landscape. Rachel Haynes, Janet Longyear's daughter, said she waited to visit until her youngest child, Caleb, 4, was old enough to appreciate the area.

"He loved the huskies," she said.

John Longyear, a timber and mining baron in the United States, came to Svalbard in 1901 and co-founded the Arctic Coal Company in 1906. His wife, Mary, was a noted philanthropist and the couple was involved in numerous causes before bequeathing the family fortune to the Christian Science Church.

As a result, Janet Longyear said she grew up in Arizona without the wealth her grandparents knew. She also didn't share their faith, although "every time I go past a Christian Science Book Store I think 'That should be mine.'"

They also proved to be polar opposites about aspects of mining. Part of Janet Longyear's work is as a trade union representative, with four miners living at her house for a year during a strike in 1984-85.

"I didn't know he was anti-trade union," she said of her grandfather. "I just thought it's funny I'm now their representative."

Janet Longyear said she decided to make her first trip to Svalbard in 2004 after being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease at the age of 54. One of the things she wanted to see most was the landscape in a "magical painting" her dad owned.

"I named the main mountain the 'Storm King,'" she said. "I came here and I saw it was Mine No. 1, and that's so dull."

They visited miners at work because her husband at the time was interested in the contrast between the pristine environment and highly acclaimed mining operation, Janet Longyear said.

"One of the miners said to me 'If the queen were coming I wouldn't be excited, but this is special,'" she said. "I feel strange being honored for something I didn't do."

When a miner who lost his arm in accident asked her to be in photo with him "I said 'I should be asking to have my picture taken with you.'"

"I couldn't go into the gift shops because I couldn't buy anything," she added. "Everybody wants to give me something."

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. SE winds at 18 km/h. High -16C (-25C wind chill), low -22C (-32C wind chill).	Fair. SE winds to 25 km/h. High -17C (-26C wind chill), low -21C (-33C wind chill).	Snow. E winds to 28 km/h. High -9C (-17C wind chill), low -21C (-33C wind chill).	Snow. S winds at 18 km/h. High -5C (-11C wind chill), low -6C (-12C wind chill).
Sunrise: 9:30a Sunset 2:54p	Sunrise: 9:19a Sunset 3:05p	Sunrise: 9:09a Sunset 3:15p	Sunrise: 8:58a Sunset 3:25p
Extended forecast: Sunday, snow, -7C (-14C), -10C (-17C), light 6:45h; Monday, snow, -10C (-15C), -16C (-23C), light 7:04h; Tuesday, snow, -14C (-22C), -17C (-24C), light 7:22h; Wednesday, snow ending, -15C (-24C), -22C (-32C), light 7:40h.			

Data provided by yr.no



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

H.A. Schult, far right, presents a slideshow today at Kulturhuset showing locations around the world where his Trash People have been deployed during the past 15 years. His Svalbard exhibit of 500 of the "people" made of litter next month is the final scheduled location.

Trash People army strong and 'clean'

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isn't a whiteout like the one greeting his visit.

Unlike traditional warfare, concealment is not an asset for Schult's army.

His Trash People are the latest exhibit for the longtime artist known for his controversial and sometimes illegal high-profile works. The Svalbard deployment concludes an effort that has taken the regime to Moscow's Red Square, the Great Wall of China, the pyramids of Cairo and other landmarks.

"We are not the owners of this planet and the idea of the Trash People is to travel the world to show people in very different political situations what they are doing" with the impact of their garbage, Schult said during a presentation today at Kulturhuset.

Some areas, such as the Great Wall, were difficult to conquer. Also, the reaction from viewers varies greatly, with children in Egypt understanding the message while it eludes older residents of Russia.

He originally planned to take the troops to Antarctica, but "I think in this time now it's more import to be in the Arctic because the

Arctic is changing faster."

"The idea is the last picture of the whole travel around the world will be the ice," Schult said. "The ice which will not be forever."

The 500 Trash People in Svalbard are only half of the full force. Schult said he and 20 helpers created them using garbage he bought because it was impractical trying to collect that much in the streets. He removed the organic material ("it's clean garbage") and had 35 different molds to form the people with.

They're sturdy and won't break apart in a bit of bad weather, Schult said. There will also be barriers surrounding the Trash People to keep them from deserting if the wind picks up. If the Arctic elements truly prove too threatening, organizing a hasty retreat is possible.

Getting the 500 troops into formation is expected to take a day, with deployment scheduled March 14 and a ceremony to officially open the exhibit March 15. Schult said they are scheduled to remain there a week before declaring mission accomplished.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Lots of garbage, but little knowledge

Not enough done to determine problem areas for pollution in Svalbard's waters, report claims

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

It's well known Svalbard has a problem with trash in its waters – the governor's organized annual beach cleanups for a decade, after all. But the true extent of the problem remains largely unknown, a new study claims.

"We know so little about the extent or where the worst problem areas are," said Erlend Standal, a senior advisor for the Direc-

torate of Nature Management, in an interview this week with ABC News. "But we already know enough to say that there is too much garbage. Therefore we can not wait until we take action."

The study by the directorate and the Climate And Pollution Agency did the first year-long monitoring of garbage on beaches at five locations along the Norwegian coast. The large amounts in Svalbard are a particular threat to seabirds, with land animals such as reindeer also killed when their antlers get stuck in fishing gear that washes ashore, Standal said.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

What's up

Feb. 23

6 p.m.: Movie: "Love and Other Drugs," U.S. romance/comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Winter's Bone," U.S. drama/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 26

5 p.m.: Musical: "Å, Så Vakkert" by Polargospel, Hillesøy children's choir and Hans Inge Fagervik. Svalbard Church.

Feb. 27

11 a.m.: Family liturgy featuring performance by Polargospel, Hillesøy children's choir and Hans Inge Fagervik. Svalbard Church.

6 p.m.: Movie: "Gråtass Får En Ny Venn," Norwegian children's film. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Hereafter," U.S./French drama/thriller, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

March 2

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Green Hornet" (3D), U.S. action/thriller. Kulturhuset.

March 4

6 p.m.: Movie: "Rango," U.S. animated action/adventure, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

March 6-12

Solfestuka, featuring concerts, sledding contest and other events. Full schedule at www.solfest.no and in the March 1 issue of *Icepeople*.

March 6

8 p.m.: Movie: "Black Swan," U.S. drama/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

March 8

7 p.m.: Catholic/Lutheran Mass with Bishop Kjølås and Bishop Grgic. Svalbard Church.

March 9

8 p.m.: Movie: "127 Hours," U.S. drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

What's online

Icepeople.net provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *50m environmental refugees by 2020*
- *Norway: We can cover Libya's oil cut*
- *Japan suspends Antarctic whaling*
- *Fight global warming by eating bugs*