

Conservation Course Students and Teachers 2008



Standing, left to right -, Taisia Markitonova #8, Victoria Tutkusheva #9, Oleg Boltokov #13
Front row – Natalya Yurkova #2, Natalia Mamyeva #9

Taisia Markitonova, 27, is a lawyer on the staff of Nature Park Belukha, site of 4500 meter Mt Belukha, highest mountain in Siberia, a major destination for trekkers and technical climbers from all over Russia and, to some extent, Europe. She speaks some English.

Victoria Tutkusheva, 24, is recent graduate of Tomsk University, interpreter, teacher of English and French, guide for western visitors, and full time office person and Project Manager at FSDA, where she handles international and domestic correspondence and organizes various activities. She speaks good English.

Oleg Boltokov, 35, is an entrepreneur. He has a recently built tourist accommodation house in the small southern village of Kurai (on the steppe at 5000 feet), the gateway village to an alpine complex dominated by 14,000 foot Mt. Ak-Tru, and also another lodge where the two wheel drive road into Ak-Tru ends. Ak-Tru is the second most popular high Alpine destination in the Altai, after Belukha.

Oleg's extensive family farms livestock around Kurai.

He has been in the U.S. before, to New York's six million acre Adirondack Park.

Natalya Yurkova, 32, is an interpreter, professional teacher of university level English at Gorno Altaisk University, Project Manager at FSDA and guide for western visitors. She was in the U.S. earlier this year, in North Carolina, where she took the course to become a certified Leave No Trace instructor, the only one in Russia so far as we know. She speaks fluent English.

Natalya Mamyeva, 44, is a teacher and school museum manager in Karakol village. Karakol is the headquarters village of Uch-Enmek Ethno-Cultural Park, a 60,000 acre Altai Republic Nature Park established almost single handedly by her husband's brother, Danil Mamyev, who is well known locally and internationally for his work. It's a valley full of standing stones and ancient tombs, with a sacred mountain at its head.

With one exception, they are all ethnic Altaians from small farm villages, where Oleg and Natalia Mamyeva still reside; Taisia and Victoria live in the capital, Gorno Altaisk.

Natalya Yurkova is Russian, from Gorno Altaisk, but, as the child of a person in the military, has lived in a number of Russian cities.