



## No. 280 June 2, 2016

**LEO Network** See new posts about unusual environmental events from the Local Environmental Observer Network. Lots of Spruce pollen, early rhubarb and wasps, and more. [ANTHC](#)

**Clime Map** See news articles about events around the circumpolar north. Forests are on fire in the Sakha Republic, lake waters are warmer than average in Finland, and more. [ANTHC](#)

**Warming, Fires, Warming, Fires: How Tundra Wildfires Could Create an Unstoppable Cycle** May 30, 2016  
Yereth Rosen - The biggest jump in probability of big fires is for areas that don't typically burn – the usually moist tundra of the North Slope and similar areas in western Alaska. If the 13.4-degree threshold is reached there, the probability calculations predict up to a fourfold increase in wildfire. [Alaska Dispatch News](#)

**'Spicy' Ocean Levels Could Spell Trouble for Marine Mammal Hunting** May 26, 2016 Emily Russell - The Arctic Ocean is getting spicier. A new study published in the Journal of Physical Oceanography suggests that rising temperatures in the far north could result in what's known as spicy water, or warmer water in which density is more affected by temperature than salinity. [Alaska Public Media](#)

**Rabbit Fever Reaches Interior Alaska Early** May 27, 2016 Newsminer Staff Report - An Alaska Department of Fish and Game veterinarian confirmed Thursday the presence of Tularemia in a sick hare that a North Pole resident killed May 11. The disease is also suspected of sickening a dog on Chena Hot Springs Road last week. [Newsminer.com](#)

**Air Pollution in North Pole Worse than Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Detroit Combined** May 27, 2016  
Amanda Bohman - The highest counts of episodic PM 2.5 particulate pollution reported in the country are coming from a monitor on Hurst Road in North Pole. The counts are not just high. They are outrageously high—almost twice as high as the next highest in the nation, according to data collected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Newsminer.com](#)

**Wildfire: Misconceptions About Trends and Impacts Revealed in New Research** May 25, 2016 Kevin Sullivan - A new analysis of global data related to wildfire, published by the Royal Society, reveals major misconceptions about wildfire and its social and economic impacts. Prof. Stefan Doerr and Dr Cristina Santin from Swansea University's College of Science carried out a detailed analysis of global and regional data on fire occurrence, severity and its impacts on society. [Swansea University](#)

**Crocodiles and Palm Trees in the Arctic? New Report Suggests Yes** May 23, 2016 Marianne Lavelle - If we keep burning fossil fuels, Earth will be 8 degrees warmer, returning to the climate of 52 million years ago, according to new research. It's the most dire prediction yet. [National Geographic](#)

**Video** - May 24, 2016 Watch Europe's Highest Active Volcano Fill the Sky with Fire. Europe's highest active volcano, Mount Etna, put on a colorful show Saturday when it erupted on the island of Sicily. [National Geographic](#)

For back issues of The Northern Climate Observer please visit our archive at the [Alaska Medical Library](#). For more information, or to subscribe or unsubscribe, click [here](#).