

EXCERPT FROM RECORDED INTERVIEW OF EMILY WILLIS TALKING ABOUT THE  
USE OF DEVIL'S CLUB

CONDUCTED BY KAREN BREWSTER AND SUSANNAH DOWDS

IN SKAGWAY, ALASKA

OCTOBER 4, 2018

ORAL HISTORY 2018-14-01\_PT.1

EMILY WILLIS: Ok, so Maiden Alaska Herbals, um, primarily -- my bestseller is a devil's club salve, and so I am harvesting devil's club salve -- or devil's club, um, root bark and stem bark for that salve. And then I organically grow much of the wormwood and much of the yarrow that I use. And then usnea (pale grayish-green lichen often called "old man's beard") comes from -- windswept usnea that's fallen off the trees, so I'm not usually harvesting from that -- the live trees. And so Maiden Alaska Herbals like really started because of my love of just plants in general. And I wanted to see how I could make that work as part of being a new mom. And so, how to make my own schedule, how to work from home, um, so I started, you know, kind of experimenting. I had a customer -- or, I had a -- a person come up to me and ask for help. They had this eczema going on and it's like, "I've heard devil's club is really helpful." So I decided -- I had harvested it before, for use internally, just as a tea. And it was really nice, and I did a lot of reading. I've done a lot of reading over the years.