

# Friends of Tubbs Hill

## Spring 2008 Newsletter

### What's Up With the Trees Dying on Tubbs Hill?

By Mark Weadick

Most of the people who regularly walk around Tubbs Hill have noticed the dead and dying Douglas-fir on the north and west sides of the hill. These trees are being killed by *Armillaria* root rot.

**So, why is this happening on our natural area?** In the early 1900's most of the old growth ponderosa pine were logged off the hill leaving a limited seed source for natural ponderosa pine regeneration. If the tree species were in a natural condition, there would be something over 50% ponderosa pine in the stands on the north and west sides of the hill today, and the brush under story would be much less developed. Currently, ponderosa pines are probably not more than 20% of the species composition on these aspects.

The exclusion of fire for the last 100 years has allowed a tall dense brush under story to develop under the Douglas-fir. Ponderosa pine is a sun loving tree and needs mineral soil and sunlight for natural reproduction to become established. This tall brush has created shade and ground cover conditions that prohibit the reseeding of ponderosa pine.

**What's this *Armillaria*?** This is a naturally occurring fungus in the soil that primarily attacks and kills Douglas-fir roots, leading to tree mortality. It grows in pockets feeding on dead root tissue, and spreads from tree to tree via root contacts.

This spread causes ever increasing areas of Douglas-fir mortality. This is what you are seeing on the hill today.

**What's going to happen?** If nothing is done, including the exclusion of fire, then the Douglas-fir will continue to die and the brush cover will continue to spread into the openings in the canopy left by the dead trees.

**What's being done?** The management of Tubbs Hill as a natural area is being guided by the Tubbs Hill Management Plan, which was updated in 2002. Within the plan are recommended Management Actions for ten-year periods in the areas of Vegetation, Roads and Trails, Fire Prevention and Public Services.

In the area of Vegetation Management, the chronic Douglas-fir tree mortality is the highest priority. As recommended in the plan, ponderosa pine, western larch and white pine are or will be planted in openings as opportunities arise. These species are very resistant to *Armillaria* root rot. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department schedules prescribed spring fires for the west side of the hill. By burning back the dense brush under story, sunlight will be able to reach the ground and mineral soil will be exposed. Planting ponderosa pine seedlings in the openings will immediately follow the burn.



### Tree Planting 2008

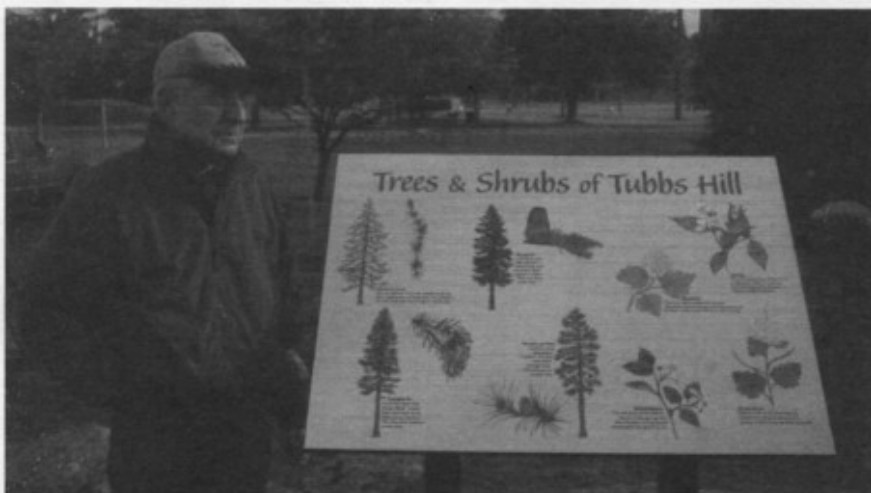
By Mark Weadick

Saturday May 3rd. was a bright spring day when Karen Haskew, Urban Forestry Coordinator, greeted 17 enthusiastic volunteers armed with shovels and notebooks who planted 101 ponderosa pine seedlings. This was the third time in three years that trees were being planted on the north side of the hill.

In the spring of 2006, volunteers planted 150 ponderosa pine seedlings in cleared spots where the Douglas fir was dying from root rot. Unfortunately, few seedlings survived the dry summer. In spring of 2007, seedlings were planted again in the same cleared spots. Few survived.

This spring the City of Coeur d'Alene, working with the Tubbs Hill Foundation, was able to contract the brush clearing of planting spots and follow-up ground vegetation control with Northwest Management, Inc. (NMI). The brush clearing of 174 spots, ten feet in diameter, was again completed on the north hillside. Approximately 30 of these spots had ponderosa pine seedling that had survived from the previous plantings. NMI also numbered the planting spots, noting which spots had surviving trees and mapped each spot with a GPS unit. NMI will return to the planting spots by early June and spray around the planted trees with Roundup herbicide to kill the competing vegetation. We are hopeful this will give the planted ponderosa pine the "edge" needed to survive the dry summer.

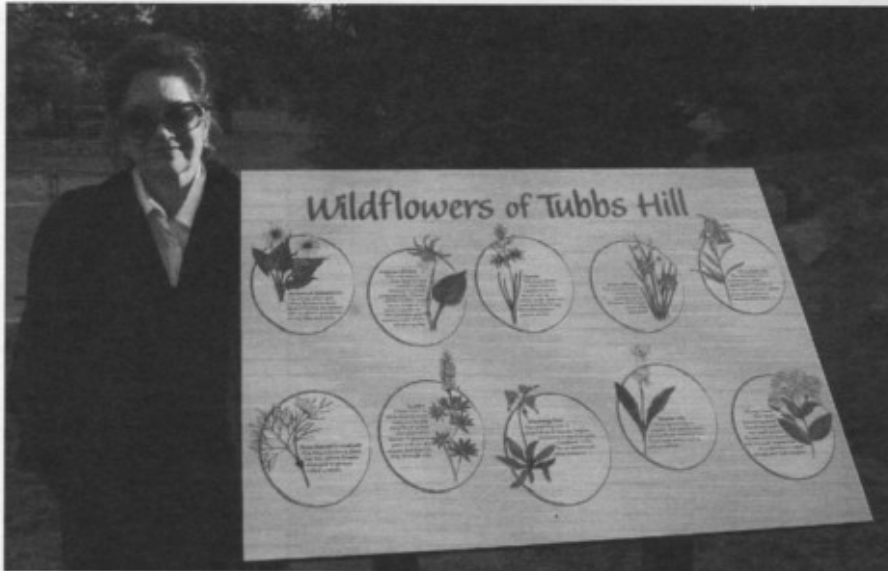
Our thanks to volunteers Robert Romanski J-Pat Ducar, Maribel Martinez, Brian Wright, Chuck Weisel, Bill and Carol Delyea, Frank and Leta Jessick, Tom and Carolyn Legee, Anne, Tom, and Joy Weadick, Peter Luttrupp, George Ives, and Vickie Roberge.



Mark Weadick stands next to one of five new information signs on Tubbs Hill.

**Please Join Us For The Unveiling Of "The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill" by Scott Reed. Details inside!**

## Tubbs Hill Foundation Reaches Their Goal! Five Informational Signs Installed at Base of Hill



Artist Maria Ryan stands by one of the new Tubbs Hill signs.



Catherine and Elisa James enjoying the park.

After two years of planning and many years of wishing, the Tubbs Hill Foundation recently accomplished a major goal; Five colorful information signs at the base of the hill.

"Visitors have always wanted more information about Tubbs Hill," said Dave Zimmer, chairman of the committee that created the signs. "The foundation and the Parks Department published booklets, but these were only available at the department office or at the Visitors' Center. We needed an on-site and up-to-date map and attractive visuals to help people understand what they were seeing on the hill."

With the financial help of the Tubbs Hill Foundation, Coeur d'Alene Kiwanis, the Audubon Society, the WREN Foundation and donated time from artist Maria Ryan and Savvy Marketing's Linda Clovis, the foundation was able to design and produce five signs that now sit in a modified semi-circle at the west entrance to Tubbs Hill.

"Questions that were asked over the years – names of trees, types of birds, trail distance, identification of spring-blooming flowers and shrubs, history of the hill – have been addressed in these signs," Zimmer said. "We spent months planning the wording and consulting with area experts so that we were accurate in our explanations. We must have proofread a hundred times."

Last spring the Parks Department submitted the drafts to the manufacturer and this past week had them installed.

"At last," said a Coeur d'Alene mother who was shepherding her children at the installation ceremony. "Now I can show the signs to the kids and help them understand our favorite walk." *Reprinted with the permission of the Coeur d'Alene Press, article written by Barbara Zimmer.*

### Tubbs Hill Foundation Annual Membership Application

Individual Membership, \$15 — Includes Upcoming Newsletters

Individual Membership, \$25 — Includes Upcoming Newsletters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail all applications to: Tubbs Hill, Inc., P.O. Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061.**

THANK YOU for your generous support. Your annual membership contribution to the Tubbs Hill Foundation is tax-deductible as permitted by federal law for nonprofit foundations.

# Have Your Name Engraved On One of the Tubbs Hill Monuments

Tubbs Hill is comprised of 120 acres of publicly owned land, and has an abundance of tranquil, breathtaking scenery and hiking trails. Tubbs Hill is dedicated to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene and everyone is encouraged to use and enjoy its magnificent splendor.

To have a name engraved on one of the monuments, fill out the form below, attach a check or money order in the amount of \$150 for each line of engraving and mail to Tubbs Hill, Inc., P.O. Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061.

If you would like to engrave your company's logo on a separate corporate monument, the cost is \$500, plus the engraving charge. The maximum logo size is 4" x 4".

For more information please contact the City Parks Department, 208-769-2252.



Photography by Cody Nuttall

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Evening \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

The monuments are located at the Third Street Entrance to Tubbs Hill and at the East Tubbs Hill Park. Please designate which location you prefer: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Street Entrance  
 \_\_\_\_\_ East Tubbs Hill Park.

Please print the name as you would like it to appear. Spaces count as one letter. Total cannot exceed 22 spaces. Please note IN MEMORY OF inscriptions may require two lines for a total cost of \$300.

The Tubbs Hill, Inc., is a non-profit organization for the preservation of the aesthetic qualities of Tubbs Hill. Contributions are gratefully accepted and can be made by contacting City Parks Department or mailing to the address below.



**Tubbs Hill, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 3061  
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

Your donation is tax-deductible as permitted by federal law for non-profit foundations.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

### "The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill" Book Signing By Scott Reed

Friends Of Tubbs Hill are invited to a public celebration unveiling Scott Reed's book, *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill*. Reed will sign books at the Coeur d'Alene Library's Community Room Thursday, June 19th from 5 - 8 p.m.

In *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill*, Coeur d'Alene's resident environmental gadfly recalls how "the past came forward to rescue the present." That Reed would undertake this labor is not at all surprising to any who have known his involvement in so many civic activities from helping secure the Centennial Trail to building North Idaho College.

Nor has he labored only in our backyard; Reed served on The Audubon Society's board of directors for 18 years. He chaired its national Public Policy Committee and served as vice-chairman of the board. Audubon Chairman Donald O'Brien said, "Scott is one of the most respected members of the board... [he's] Audubon's Will Rogers." That appellation is apt since the reader of *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill* cannot help but enjoy Reed's wit, wisdom and sheer humanity, traits one certainly associates with that previous champion of the common folk.

Recalling geologic forces, political intrigues, complicated economic convolutions and the unlikeliest turns of good luck, Reed lays a track through the machinations that have led to the preservation of this green blessing that now belongs to all. It's a trail every reader will follow with fascination. *Article written by George Ives.*

## PLEASE JOIN US!

# Friends of Tubbs Hill



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Dave Zimmer, Director  
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Bill Greenwood, CDA Parks Supt.

## Our Sincere Thanks To:

### Recent Contributors

Carl & Lyndall Cook  
Pamela Kay Gomes  
Glenn & Norma Lewis  
Marianne Lyle  
Wally Pharness  
Cleo & Shirley Pulis  
Wayne & Fay Sweney

### Volunteers

We wish to thank the incredibly dedicated volunteers and Starbuck's employees who enthusiastically gave of their time and energy to clean Tubbs Hill on October 6, 2007. Because of their efforts, the Starbucks' "Make Your Mark" program donated \$1,000 to the Tubbs Hill Foundation.

If we have failed to include your name, please let Teresa know at 765-1739. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter. Our sincere apologies!

### Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month, 7:30 a.m., at the Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 E. Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene.

### Brochures & Maps

Tubbs Hill brochures and maps are available at the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department, 710 E. Mullan Avenue and at the Visitor's Center located next to the Museum of North Idaho, downtown Coeur d'Alene.

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