



FRIENDS OF TUBBS HILL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009 | COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO



A Black-Caped Chickadee. Photo/Bill Linn

BE A TUBBS HILL BIRDER

BY GEORGE SAYLER

Early in the morning of the first Coeur d'Alene Ironman, my wife and I hiked to the top of Tubbs Hill to watch the beginning of the race. From there the swimmers looked like an army of ants thrashing its way through the water. It was quite a memorable sight.

The most memorable thing about that morning, though, was the wonderful chorus of bird song that greeted us. A variety of species were evident as we enjoyed our breakfast and their singing.

One of the joys of Tubbs Hill is the opportunity to be in touch with the natural world, including the world of

birds. According to records from the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, more than 70 species can be seen from or on the hill. These range from bald eagles and osprey soaring over the water to the diminutive species like Pygmy Nuthatches and Chickadees of various types which are found in various places on the hill.

Many common species such as Northern Flickers and Ravens will be seen, but the keen observer may also spot a Townsend Solitaire or a Ruby Crowned Kinglet. What one will see depends on the season of the year, the particular location on the hill and one's own abilities,

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“Without the ongoing support of people who care, Tubbs Hill would long ago have been streeeted, paved and gated.”

Does my donation matter?

BY GEORGE IVES

As treasurer for the Foundation, I've experienced an interesting last couple of years. Our long-standing investments through A.G. Edwards were subsumed by Wachovia Securities, which has now merged to become Wells Fargo Advisors. Like many reading this article, I'm a bit shell-shocked with the rapidity of these changes. Luckily, or perhaps because of previous Foundation cautious decisions, the Friends and Endowment Funds have retained most of their values.

In this uncertain fiscal climate it is only reasonable for Friends of Tubbs to wonder, “Does my donation make a difference?”

In a word: Yes!

Without the ongoing support of people who care, Tubbs Hill would long ago have been streeeted, paved and gated. For one possible scenario, one need only look at Tony Tubb's vision reproduced on Page 8 of Scott Reed's Treasure book to envision what might have been. Realistically that plat could never have

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**DOG DAYS
OF SUMMER**

A group of dog-walkers gather around the base of Tubbs Hill before hiking.



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been brought to fruition, but there can be little doubt that other visions would have worked their "magic" had untrammelled development been left to proceed. Today, one need only pause at the summit flagpole site or muse on the grandstand piers that remain below the lakeside trail on the southeastern point to gain a glimpse of concrete's impact in the Tubbs environment.

Your contributions have helped provide new bike racks for the East Tubbs Park entrance and new signage to orient visitors entering the trail at the Third Street docks. New trails overlooking McEuen Field and repairs to the North Trail's suspension bridge are evidence of money well spent. Efforts to stem the spread of non-native cherry stands and Norway maples on the far northern edge of the park as well as replacement of root-rot devastated Douglas firs with native white pine and syringa may not be evident to a casual observer; however, unless regeneration is actively encouraged, exotic species invasion would be inevitable. These efforts take volunteer time and professional expertise that must be supported with cash as well as considerable inter-agency coordination.

In short, it has been rewarding to work with other board members and the excellent CdA Parks Department staff over the years. I hope that you'll agree that even though as the folksingers tell us "The times they are a changing," quality public use must continue as an actuality rather than merely a phrase in the Foundation's mission statement. Your investment in the past has made this future possibility a present reality. Thank you.

Membership update

Membership in the Friends of Tubbs Hill is renewable on an annual basis. Individual memberships have remained at the long-standing \$15 dollar amount; those wishing a Family subscription for support contribute \$25 yearly. Because Tubbs Hill, Inc. is a federally registered 503C(3) organization, membership fees are fully deductible on both federal and Idaho income tax filings. You can use the form below to apply.

Special thanks for recent annual renewals by Ed & Kris Buchler, Dick and Shirlee Wandrocke, B.J. & Pat Barber, Edith M. Campbell, Fern Anderson Nell, Paul E. Torgerson, Laura Bayless. Midge Thysell, Peter Grubb, Deborah Stone, George & Juli Ives, Randy & Kim Haddock, Peter & Delores Luttropp,

Barbara Mitchell, Arthur Scarcello, Ken & Ginger Wright, Dianne R. Borjessan Family, Paul & Ellen [no last name provided] of Cataldo, Shirley Thagard, Donald Sausser, Lawrence Running, Harvey Richman, Jena Hayenga, Kim Gilbert, Fred & Judy McMurray, Catherine Tinder, Bob Drummond, Betty A. Hanson, Jill Cooper, Carl & Lyndall Cook, Pamela Kay Gomes, R. Wayne Sweny, and Wally Pharness.

If you have received this newsletter but not yet sent in your renewal, please look for the application found elsewhere in this mailing—the rocks on the shoreline can get by without our active support, but the green and growing things that make Tubbs such an enjoyable place to be do require us all to step forward, with care, of course.



TUBBS HILL FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

\$15: Individual Membership (Includes Upcoming Newsletters)

\$25: Family Membership (Includes Upcoming Newsletters)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR EVENTS ON TUBBS HILL

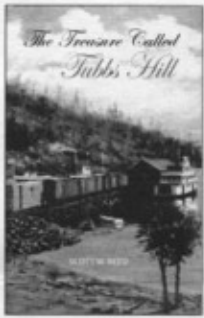
Please mail all applications to: Tubbs Hill, Inc., P.O. Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

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

Sales soar for Reed's 'Treasure'

BY GEORGE IVES

Now in its second printing of 1,000 copies of "The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill" by Scott Reed, sales remain brisk as the summer sun returns the flocks of visitors to our area. With all proceeds from the book's sales coming directly to the Foundation, more than \$11,000 has been made available for future projects related to the upkeep of CdA's lakeside



jewel. As the funds grow, the possibility of activities such as matching funds for grants, capital improvements, etc., are multiplied.

Scott has been wonderfully responsive to requests from a wide range of interest groups

that share an interest in maintaining the pristine integrity of Tubbs. Special events have also been productive including presentations to groups such as Rotary Club, Kootenai Environmental Alliance and Kootenai County Democratic luncheons. Following his presentation at its authors reading series, Auntie Notes [sent out to all patrons of Aunties Bookstore] featured the book in their spring issue.

"Part nature guide to plants, animals and birds that abound on Tubbs Hill, part history of ownership, this is a source of information that would make a wonderful keepsake for those who know and love this unique recreational attraction in Coeur d'Alene," said the reviewer.

Outlets for local sales of \$10 a book currently include the Logo Shop at the CdA Resort, Friends of the CdA Library bookstore, the North Idaho Museum, Hastings Bookstore, Borders Books, or the CdA Parks Department Office in City Hall. Requests for prepaid mailed copies are available at P.O. Box 3061, CdA, 83814 for \$13.60. The Museum of Arts and Culture and the Aunties noted above have agreed to stock the book among their Spokane area displays.



TUBBS HILL MANAGEMENT PLAN First action period concludes in 2010

BY MARK WEADICK

"Tubbs Hill, a city park, shall be managed to provide for people's use and enjoyment while maintaining the natural setting that provides this outdoor experience."

This is the goal of the updated management plan prepared by an ad hoc citizens committee completed in the year 2000, and approved by the Coeur d'Alene City Council. The plan is divided into four sections--Vegetation, Roads and Trails, Fire Prevention & Protection and Public Services & Amenities.

The plan reviews the present conditions in the above management areas and describes desired future conditions. Each management area has 10-year period of recommended management actions that will lead to achieving the desired future conditions for these resources. The first action period is 2000 to 2010.

As Tubbs Hill is a city park, implementing the management actions and updating the actions for each 10-year period are the responsibility of the Coeur d'Alene Parks Director.

Douglas-fir mortality due to armillaria root rot has accelerated since the 1996 ice storm that killed and damaged trees on the hill. The root rot will continue to kill the Douglas-fir and promote the increase of a dense tall shrub understory. Since 2006 ponderosa pine seedlings have been planted yearly by volunteers in mechanically site-prepared spots on the north hillside in the root rot areas.

Ponderosa pine is very resistant to armillaria. Planting ponderosa pine also supports the desired future condition of a stand with at least 25 percent ponderosa pine on this aspect.

To reduce the fire hazard and promote a more historically natural condition, the south side of Tubbs Hill was first burned in 2000. Prescribed burns to reduce the fire hazard and site prepare the east and west sides for planting ponderosa pine have been proposed for the last three years but were not completed for weather and administrative reasons.

The city has obtained a grant to mechanically reduce the fire hazard on the east and west side of the hill. While this will temporarily reduce the fire hazard, it does not support the long-term goal of establishing a more fire resistant open park ponderosa pine stand. To achieve this condition, ponderosa pine seedlings must be planted on burned site prepared areas.

To achieve the goal of vegetation native on Tubbs Hill the management plan calls for the elimination of non-native species. This means controlling the spread of noxious weeds and the elimination of Norway maples and other non-native trees. Following elimination of the non-native maples, this area could be planted to a mix of white pine and larch.

The Tubbs Hill Management Plan is a working document that has provisions for review and updating tasks every 10 years to achieve the future desired conditions for the resources on the crown jewel of our city parks.



FRIENDS OF TUBBS HILL

MISSION STATEMENT

Tubbs Hill Inc. is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of Tubbs Hill City Park as a unique and natural lakeshore forest typical of North Idaho, while providing for compatible public use of this special place. We act as advocates for the park, advise the city administration on issues pertaining to the park and support volunteer efforts, fundraising, community relations and other tasks as needed to achieve this goal.

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 next to the Museum of North Idaho, downtown Coeur d'Alene.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Volunteers are needed for The Tubbs Hill Clean-Up Day 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 10.

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CDA PARKS

Doug Eastwood, Parks Director

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but at any time of year our wonderful birds are there to enjoy.

All that is required is the ability to see and to note what you see. Having a good bird guide and pair of binoculars makes the experience more rewarding. In the spring, the many brilliant wildflowers add to the mix, making for a truly wonderful "hike in the woods." Furthermore, you can enjoy this marvel of nature alone or with a group. If you would like to have the guidance of expert birders, the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society sponsors regular birding hikes around the hill.

A complete list of the birds to be found on Tubbs Hill may be found in Scott Reed's book "A Treasure Called Tubbs Hill." If you purchase the book, proceeds from its sale go to the Tubbs Hill Foundation to be used to preserve and protect the hill.

Mornings and evenings are usually the best times to spot the most species, but anytime is a good time to go birding on Tubbs--just one of the many reasons why the hill is one of our most valued community assets and worthy of preserving.

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