

Friends of Tubbs Hill

Fall 2011 Newsletter



Can you spot the deer in this photo?

Seedling Status

As you may recall, over two weekends in April and with lots of volunteers we made the largest tree planting ever on Tubbs Hill: 780 ponderosa pine, 923 larch, and 687 blister rust resistant white pine. We also planted native shrubs: 40 syringa and 20 chokecherry. The north and east side plantings totaled 2450 trees and shrubs.

Wow, that's a cute seedling! Being a Forester, I tend to view trees with a wide range of descriptors. It was August 31st, and I was doing a walk-through survey of seedlings planted by volunteers back in April of this year. The "cute" seedling was a white pine planted on the north side of the hill (Seedling photo top right).

A walk-through survey is simply recording live and dead seedlings that come into view while walking through a planted area. Although not as precise as taking plots, a walk-through can give a reasonable indication of seedling survival.

Earlier this summer, I did the same walk-through survey and found really 'happy' growing seedlings throughout the planted areas on the east and north sides of the hill. Checking planted seedlings after the summer dry period can give a more realistic picture of first season seedling survival. The seedlings have all completed their

2011 growth and set buds for next year.

The results of the August 31st survey, viewing 116 seedlings, were mortality rates as follows: ponderosa pine 6%, larch 21% and white pine 6%. The ponderosa and white pine rates are normal for first season survival. The larch mortality is a little higher than average. The overall mortality is 12%, or stated in a more positive way a first season survival is 88%. In forest plantations, 85% survival after two growing seasons is considered very acceptable.

So, what's going on with the planted seedlings? Several of the white pine and larch seedlings throughout the planting areas have had the new growth nipped off by resident deer on the hill (Deer photo above). Seedlings coming from nurseries are loaded with nutrients and deer know this. Deer browsing should not be a problem next year. Some of the dead larch appear to have been planted on very dry microsites. Overall, seedling planting quality was good and not a significant factor in observed seedling mortality.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation thanks all the volunteer planters for a job well done. We will continue to check the plantings in 2012 and keep you posted. *Photos and story by Mark Weadick, Board Member*



White Pine planted spring 2011.

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. We act as advocates for the park; advise the city administration on issues pertaining to the park; and support volunteer efforts, fund raising, community relations, and other tasks as needed to achieve this goal.

Goal

Our goal is to serve as a champion for Tubbs Hill as a natural area, so that it stands as a beacon, both now and into the future, for everyone who wishes to enjoy the presence of the same natural forest experience in an urban setting that has been here for generations past. We speak on behalf of the Hill to preserve for future generations this visual jewel of a forest sanctuary set in the heart of downtown Coeur d'Alene.

Visit us at www.tubbshill.org

Changes Are Coming

The trail system on Tubbs Hill is available to our community because of quiet, behind the scenes, work that most of the community members never see. Forty-plus years ago a small band of dedicated people worked diligently to acquire Tubbs Hill as a permanent public park so that it would always be available to both citizens and visitors to our city. That fascinating history is captured in a small book, "This Treasure Called Tubbs" written by Scott Reed, that you can buy at the CdA Parks Dept. or Visitor's Center.

Ten years ago a committee made up of local citizens spent two years examining and evaluating the main trail and then implemented improvements and repairs. Most trail users barely noticed the changes...that was by design. Those changes improved accessibility and safety but did not diminish the experience of hiking a wilderness trail. Again, quiet behind the scenes work to benefit our community and preserve a city treasure that has captured the hearts of so many.

We now have another committee of citizens who are examining further enhancements to the main trail on Tubbs

while maintaining the exquisite feeling of being far out in the wilderness. This group, made up of members from the Park and Recreation Commission, the Tubbs Hill Foundation, the Disability Action Center, the Open Space Committee, the Ped-Bike Committee, KEA, and the Parks Department have been asked by the City Council to formulate recommendations and a plan to further enhance the accessibility to Tubbs Hill.

The group has met three times and taken two field trips onto the hill. One of those field trips included three gentlemen in wheel chairs. We needed to understand, experientially, what represented an obstacle to someone with mobility issues. We also needed to experience, with them, the impact of a sloping trail and grade.

The challenge before us is multifaceted. How do we improve the trail to give more members of our community access to Tubbs while maintaining the rock outcroppings and natural ruggedness of the trail system? We have athletes who love running on the trails with the twists and turns and ups and downs. We have families with small children and strollers. We have hik-

ers that simply stroll and we have people with health and physical challenges. We are wrestling with how best to meet the needs and offer accessibility to a kaleidoscope of abilities and desires.

At this point much of the committee has agreed that we should make some minor alterations from the 10th Street entrance to marker 14 with the goal to provide someone in a wheel chair access to the views and vistas of the lake while experiencing the wilderness close to downtown. This would include making the entrance a longer, gentler grade. We will also look at making sure that section of the trail is either flat or slopes to the upside. Tree roots that provide barriers will be covered over, parts might be widened slightly and it will be hard packed (NOT PAVED!) Much of that section of the trail already meets those criteria.

Be assured that whatever decisions are made regarding Tubbs Hill, they will benefit the community, serve the needs of the many varied users, preserve the experience of hiking in the wilderness, and keep the hill in its natural state. *Submitted by Jennifer Johnson, Board Member.*

President's Message

The front page article highlights the major planting of native trees on the Hill. This planting assists in meeting the Friends Of Tubbs Hill goal: To serve as a champion for Tubbs Hill as a natural area

so that it stands as a beacon, both now and into the future, for everyone who wishes to enjoy the presence of the same natural forest experience in an urban setting that has been here for generations past. We speak on behalf of the Hill to preserve for future generations this visual

jewel, a forest sanctuary set in the heart of downtown Coeur d'Alene.

During the weekend of The Taste of Coeur d'Alene and Art on the Green, The Tubbs Hill Foundation had a display table in City Park where we provided Tubbs Hill maps, bumper-stickers and Scott Reed's book "A Treasure Called Tubbs Hill." We had many enthusiastic visitors. Many provided inspiring and interesting comments on their memories of Tubbs Hill. Two specific ones come to mind---the Dad who, with his young son, began exploring and running the hill years ago. He commented to me that morning, he had taken his son to the airport as the son is now in the Navy and being stationed overseas. For another, it was her wedding location and the joy, fun and love that the Hill provides her and her family. Others commented that the Hill was a major part of life and shared enjoyable memories of they and their families walking, swimming, wildflower viewing and the sheer enjoyment of our natural lake forest park that Tubbs Hill is for all.

Continued next page.



Cassandra Whitton and her niece MaKaylah Whitton help with Fall Cleanup.

Have Your Name or Company Logo 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 become a member or have a name engraved on one of the monuments, fill out the form below, attach a check or money order for your choice of membership or \$150 for each line of engraving and mail to Tubbs Hill, Inc., PO 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.

Tubbs Hill Foundation Annual Membership & Engraving Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Membership

(Both include upcoming newsletters)

_____ Individual Membership, \$15 _____ Family Membership, \$25

Engraving

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 _____ Corporate Rock

Please print the name as you would like it to appear below. 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.

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

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

President's Message Continued

Many commented on their feeling of responsibility to keep the Hill clean. These are the "quiet heroes" of our Hill. The quietest hero is Walkabout. Walkabout, who enjoys her privacy, daily walks the Hill with her four-legged friend, Charley (on a leash, of course) and picks up litter. A friend, Stickman, updates me occasionally on the amount of litter and trash Walkabout collects. Some days the litter collection may reach 4-6 large plastic bagfuls. An additional collection is also made by Walkabout — dog residue — approximately 8,000 dog dropping bags are provided to Walkabout by "Don," another quiet hero. Thank you, Walkabout, for keeping Tubbs Hill cleaner and "Don," to you for supplies. You are examples for all. Hopefully the readers of this will remind all to pick up after their leashed dogs when they visit the hill. And thanks to all the Friends of Tubbs Hill who participated in the annual Tubbs Clean-up on Sept. 17th and Java on Sherman for providing coffee. Hopefully each of us will be remember to be on "litter patrol" each time we use the Hill. Many hands make for light work and Tubbs Hill is all the more beautiful for your efforts.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation meets from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at The Iron Horse on Sherman Avenue

We also have a web site www.tubbshill.org. If you have not signed up for an occasional e-mail from us, such as a notice for our Clean-up, please do. By Peter Luttrupp, Board President



Thank You!

Tom's Diving organized a group of eight scuba divers doing both shore dives and boat dives to support the Tubbs Hill cleanup effort. They filled 7 large garbage bags of debris plus some large metal items. The divers were: Tim McCall, owner, Randy Polito, Josh Polito, Kinsey Kohls, Brian Eifler, Kent Bendel and James Fillmore.

Five members of the Striders exercise group participated in the cleanup of the Hill and provided shore support to some of the divers.



L-R Randy Polito, Josh Polito and James Fillmore

Friends of Tubbs Hill

Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

Ronald & Pamela Gomes	Linda Wright	Stickman & Walkabout
Roger & Barbara Hudson	Roger & Irene Smith	Peter & Delores Luttrupp
Kay Lacy	George & Juli Ives	Jon & Dawn McCutcheon
Dale & Barbara Dennis	Brooke Dell Clifford	John Gatewood & Marcia Fox
Betty Hanson	Scott & Susan Fischer	Justin & Maj Stormogipson
Deborah Stone	A.G. Sausser	James & Mary Ann Landers
Bob & Yvonne Hallock	Larry & Sharon Strobel	Mark & Donna Stambaugh
Barbara Crumpacker	Timothy & Kathryn Hunt	
Barbara Zimmer	Bruce & Marjorie Colwell	

Notes from the Editor:

Our thanks to the family and friends of Jeanne Bemis, who made memorial donations to the Foundation.

We also wish to thank Teresa Runge, who recently resigned from the Tubbs Hill Foundation board. She served as president for several years and was involved in many of the strategic planning projects and efforts to improve Tubbs Hill. We will miss her helping hands and her warm and smiling personality. If anyone would like to serve on the board, please contact us or attend one of our meetings.

Don't forget to recycle your plastic grocery and newspaper bags by turning them into the Park & Recreation Department at Coeur d'Alene City Hall. They are used for those who want to pick up dog or people litter on Tubbs!

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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 East Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene.

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