

# Friends of Tubbs Hill

Spring 2013 Newsletter

## History of Tubbs Hill Foundation



Art Manley on the left in this picture taken on Tubbs, was a key member of the Foundation from the inception until his death. In 2004, his widow Margaret Manley gave to the Foundation a deed to a valuable lot on Cherry Hill as a gift from the Manley family. Pictured on the right is Bob Swan, Art's father-in-law. Photo by Bob Thomas.

"Most prominent on the Tubbs Hill committee at its inception were Art Manley, who spent a lifetime walking the hill in between helping state, federal and local entities acquire lands for the public all over the Panhandle, and Dr. Ted Fox, volunteer gardener for the city, local physician, columnist for everyone and promoter of the community good." Page 40 from Scott Reed's book "The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill" published in 2008.

Before the Tubbs Hill Foundation existed, many dedicated and hard working individuals, groups and the City of Coeur d'Alene had secured most of the undeveloped property on Tubbs Hill and a dedication ceremony was held in 1975. According to local attorney Scott Reed in his book, there should have been a concrete monument saying, "Land Acquired for the Benefit of the People Forever" and naming Mayor Ron Edinger, Red Halpern (Coeur d'Alene Recreation Director), Trust for Public Lands and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as major contributors to this successful endeavor. Reed had done considerable legal work to assist with the acquisition.

Originally a citizens committee had been appointed by the City to help to provide planning guidance for the Hill. Recognizing that private funds would be needed to assist in preserving the Hill, the committee members dissolved themselves and created a non-profit tax-exempt corporation. The Tubbs Hill Foundation officially began December 10, 1985, with the filing of "Articles of Incorporation" as Tubbs Hill, Inc.

In doing so the group would be recognized for charitable, religious, educational, scientific and/or literary purposes. With this, any funds generated should be used for the "aesthetic quality of Tubbs Hill." The City Park department had requested funds to do improvements on Tubbs Hill and it was anticipated the Foundation could assist.

Initial "directors" of Tubbs Hill, Inc., were Ken Roberge, John Mueller, Bob MacDonald, John Hill, Art Manley (vice president), Dr. Ted Fox, James Towles (treasurer) and Dickson Pratt (president). Although not an official member, Doug Eastwood of the Coeur d'Alene Parks Department served as secretary and he



was later replaced by his assistant Bill Greenwood. The Parks Department worked closely with the Tubbs Hill group for many years.

In 1986 the group was joined by Marc Wallace, Paul Sunderland, Collin Cowles, Nils Rosdahl, Betty Stone and Evalyn Adams. The group published the booklet "Scenic Trails of Tubbs Hill."

According to the minutes, the 1987 board was comprised of Adams, Eastwood, Fox, Hill, Manley, Mueller, Pratt, Roberge, Rosdahl, Towles and Wallace. A few members withdrew and/or joined during the next few years. The 1990 list comprised Adams, Eastwood, Fox, Manley, Pratt, Roberge, Rosdahl, Wallace, Bob Egan and George Kirm.

In 1991 nearly-the-same group requested establishment of the East Side Park adjoining south 11th street, which would allow for an improved entrance to the Hill and parking. The city council, acting in response to the request, passed a motion "...to reserve the east end of Tubbs Hill...as a future park site." Other "big news" was the sale of two lots on the hill by Realtor Ozzie Walch to a buyer named "Clark." Walch advertised a third lot for \$90,000, but offered it to Tubbs Hill, Inc., for \$30,000.

In May 1991, Tubbs Hill, Inc., purchased the lot for a reduced price of \$10,000. Money was raised through the Jaycees (\$4,230), the sale of a painting donated by Patrick Flammia and booths at Art on the Green and the Kootenai Country Fair. With all the fund-raising, the lot was paid for and \$1,111 remained.

In December, 1991, the Foundation developed a slide show for public presentations and fund-raising. About 50 people attended the first showing in January 1992.

The Parks Department constructed switchbacks for the Third Street entry in 1992 and Nancy Sue Wallace joined the group. In 1993 Duane Hagadone attended the June meeting and requested user-friendly trail improvements.

## Unplug and Be Outside Tour

### History Continued...

Coeur d'Alene Mines sponsored a "cleanup" of Tubbs Hill in 1994, and another cleanup was done by the sheriff's "prisoners." District Judge Charles Hosack also joined the group that year.

1995 was a busy year. Slide presentations were given to service clubs to raise money. Central Pre-Mix donated a four-ton granite stone for memorial names for \$100 donations at the Third Street entry. The Kiwanis Club sponsored a trail cleanup.

The Foundation wrote a letter to the City Council that the Hill shouldn't be used as a viewing location for events such as hydroplane races. Hosack wrote a letter citing the potential damage of 5,000 people on the hill. The race organization withdrew its request.

The Foundation roster then included Hosack (chairman), Eagan, Manley, Rosdahl, Eastwood, Fox, Roberge, Marc Wallace, Sue Servick, Mitch Driller, Brian Stevens and Anne Andersen.

In 1996, Manley suggested the memorial rock be named "Friend of Tubbs Hill." Mark Weadick joined the group in 1997. The Third Street entry switchbacks were complete in 1998 with the help of the Coeur d'Alene Garden Club. Manley reported that chainsaw work needed to be done on the fire road to make it pedestrian friendly. Leadership Coeur d'Alene had a walk on the Hill and Dr. Fox's name was put on the entry wall at Memorial Field.

The continuing history of the Tubbs Hill Foundation will be in a future installment.

*By Nils Rosdahl*



During the City of Coeur d'Alene's "Unplug and Be Outside Week," people participated in a tour of Tubbs Hill led by Mark Weadick, Tubbs Hill Foundation board member.

Thirteen children and parents, including tour guide leader Weadick's two grandsons, Barrett and Benjamin, joined the rainy day tour. It was an enthusiastic group in spite of the weather. At Corbin Point some of the parents with younger kids turned around and went back. The remainder of the group continued the loop around the hill.

During the tour, the geology and violent glacial history that modified the original form of the hill was reviewed by Weadick. The group was reminded that the first people in this area were the ancestors of the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

Grass widows, glacier lilies and spring

beauties were the wildflowers blooming just off the trail. The group learned how to tell Douglas-fir from Ponderosa pine, and some of the 200-year-old trees were viewed. It was pointed out that the dead and dying Douglas-fir were victims of root rot. Mistletoe infections were shown to the group on Ponderosa pine as well.

A child's question of how Tubbs Hill got its name, lead into a brief history of the hill. This was followed by pointing out the cement piers that remained from the Austin Corbin cabin, and other cement piers from the grandstand on the southeast side of the hill. While walking along the north side trail the project to eliminate the non-native Norway maples, and 2010 replacement planting of white pine, ponderosa pine and larch was discussed.

*By Mark Weadick*

*Photo by George Saylor*



THF Board Members tour the Hill on a regular basis. These pictures were taken last year when they were analyzing the fire road. *Photos by George Saylor*