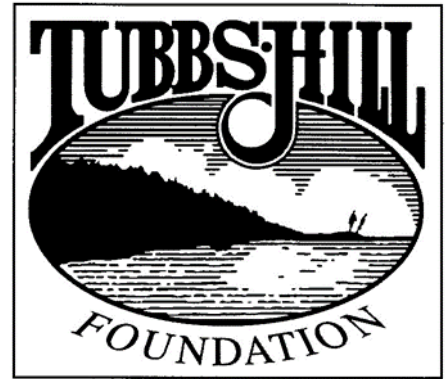


Friends of Tubbs Hill

Spring 2017 Newsletter



The President's Corner, By George Saylor

Our transition from summer to fall, from dry to wet, from hot to cold, was abrupt and dramatic. Walking the main trail on the first day after our first rain in months was radically different from my last sweltering walk in late August. However, regardless of the weather, it's always good to walk the trails of Tubbs Hill – unless you're walking on the unauthorized trails that now are threatening its beauty and habitat.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation has become increasingly concerned about the many informal trails that have been created in the past several years. The trails, which destroy the vegetation, also create channels for water to run downhill to the lake, carrying sediment with it which then impacts water quality in Lake Coeur d'Alene. The photo shows one such trail on the east side of Tubbs. It leads down to the east side park, so not directly into the lake, but it has created an eyesore as well as a loss of vegetation.

In response, the THF is planning a major effort to remediate affected areas on the hill and educate the public about the importance of staying on the main trails, those that have been created by the city to enable use of the hill by the public. This will be a major undertaking involving several entities, and we hope to begin in the spring of 2018. Meanwhile, please remember to use only the main trails and not the unauthorized ones that are creating the problem. We don't want to love our hill to death. An interpretive brochure with a trail map is available on our website, tubbshill.org, or at the Parks Department in city hall.

On another note, the city and ignitecda have reached an agreement to swap the ignitecda property on the south end of the city hall parking lot in exchange for city land along the Centennial Trail in Riverstone. The ignitecda parcel would go to the city and the city parcel along the trail to

ignitecda. The trade allows the lots on the edge of Tubbs Hill next to the parking lot to remain public. The Tubbs Hill Foundation met with ignitecda and the mayor early this year to urge them not to sell the lots to a private party who would then develop them. We are grateful to the mayor and to ignitecda for working together to preserve those lots as part of Tubbs Hill.

With fall here, we have the opportunity to enjoy another season and the beauty it brings to Tubbs Hill, our natural treasure. As you walk the trails of Tubbs, enjoy the colors and smells of fall; a part of its beauty that accompanies every season.

Visit us at www.tubbshill.org

Health of the Hill

As George noted in his column, there is an increasing concern on the health of the hill from its increasing popularity.

The City estimates Tubbs Hill has 150,000 visitors a year. All Friends of Tubbs Hill work to conserve this wonderful natural lakeside forest typical to North Idaho for all to visit and enjoy. But with its increased popularity Tubbs Hill is being loved to bare rocks.

SOIL: The soil on the hill is a rather thin layer of topsoil and very fragile. In most other places there is up to two feet of nutrient-rich top soil underneath that is a coarser, moist material and under that is rock. Here on Tubbs have just 5 inches or less of weathered soil on top of cracked rock surfaces. These cracks drain away the water instead of holding it close to nourish the soil and plants. For the HEALTH OF THE HILL we need to protect this thin layer of soil to enable our flowers and native plants to thrive and survive.

TRAILS: The main trails on Tubbs are well used and have packed down firm so the soil is held in place. When we go off the main trails we kick the

soil loose disturbing it. Rain then easily washes the soil down the hill and ultimately into the lake. Displacing the soil also displaces the plants and their roots which will lead to more erosion. The best thing Friends of Tubbs Hill can do for the HEALTH OF THE HILL is to stay on the main trails and avoid picking or trampling the plants.

UNHEALTHY TREES: When hiking the hill (on the main trails remember), you will spot trees that are not healthy, in fact some are dead. Our trees are dealing with some tough diseases and pests. The Ponderosa Pines face two different beetles. Young trees, trunks less than 8" in diameter, can be attacked by Ips Pini, a small beetle that bores under the bark. Older Ponderosa face the western pine beetle. The female bores a wavy line laying eggs under the bark. The larvae eat the cambium layer, circling the tree, causing it to be unable to get nutrients causing death. These bugs, however, do provide food for woodpeckers. It is interesting to see all the trees' bark on the ground, the result of the woodpeckers picking for the bugs.

The Douglas Fir, on the other hand, are struggling with a root rot fungus sometimes referred to as shoestring or root rot. The other trees on the hill are resistant to this root rot.

TREE PLANTING: The City and Tubbs Hill Foundation with the aid of volunteers are annually planting tree species that are resistant to root rot. This will be the next Tubbs Hill forest for our future generations of Friends of Tubbs Hill to enjoy.

REMEMBER: Tubbs Hill is a very special place. It is fun to explore while hiking the main trails or swimming at a Beach or off the rocks. But it is very important each Friend of Tubbs Hill remembers we are responsible for the HEALTH OF THE HILL as natural lakeside forest for generations to come. Bring your family, friends and visitors to the hill for a truly unique experience within an urban environment. Just remember, stay on the main trails, take care not to disturb the plants, take only pictures, leave no trash, only foot prints.

By Peter Luttrupp

KEA Water Festival

By Linda Wolovich

On June 1st and 2nd of this year, the Kootenai Environmental Alliance hosted its First Annual environmental educational event for 5th graders from Borah, Bryan, Fernan STEM Academy, Skyway, and Winton at McEuen.

This festival focused on water and the Lake Coeur d'Alene Watershed. Groups of students rotated through each of 5 stations: Fisheries, Watershed, Water Quality, Animal Tracks, and a Nature walk on Tubbs Hill.

Tubbs Hill Foundation Board members volunteered to lead these groups onto Tubbs. Did you know that Lake Coeur d'Alene was formed because of a dam that was "built" by the ancient Lake Missoula Flood? The City of

Coeur d'Alene sits upon that dam. And did you know a very big threat to Tubbs Hill today is unauthorized trails, caused by people who leave the established main trails? The vegetation is easily worn away, giving water an easy course for erosion.

The students witnessed the damage being caused in steep locations where just a few plants were left clinging to their home, trying to do their secondary job of holding the soil in place.

As you take walks on the hill, please notice the damage being done. If you have any suggestions to help Tubbs from being loved/trampled to death by the ever-increasing numbers of visitors, please contact us.

Comments from Thank You Letters to KEA:

...My favorite station was the tubs hill hike. That was my favorite because on tubbs hill I learned a lot about tubs hill and Coeur D'Alene.

-Kaleb

...Thank you so much for letting us participate in the water festival. I had so much fun and I learned a lot. My favorite part was when we hiked Tubbs hill. I love nature and think I learned most there.

-Cody

...I think you should do this again, it was so much fun. I liked the hike mainly because I learned a lot on the hike.

-Bree

...I also liked...going on Tubs Hill with I think Goerge talking about Tubs Hill and Stuff.

-Hannah

Another Friending Option

Looking for the perfect gift for that friend who just moved to El Paso, Texas? Maybe a reminder of the wonders of Coeur d'Alene they left behind can be theirs with a Christmas gift of Scott Reed's book *The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill*. In fact for anyone who grew up jumping from Acapulco Rock or chasing deer through the brush across the top of Tubbs, Scott's narrative will provide a wonderful reminder of those experiences so important in growing up with the lake in the background.

Funded by a grant from the Margaret Reed Foundation, this reprint serves as an ongoing tribute to Scott as well as a significant funding source for Tubbs Hill Foundation activities.

Pete Frost, a friend and fellow environmentalist observed, "Scott was special. He understood our roots and approach, because they were his too. Living and practicing conservation law in northern Idaho, he knew well that trying to resolve environmental issues at the local level was the best place to start, but that if what you are fighting for is worth it, that going to court is crucial." *The Treasure* is lasting testimony of that understanding and the fights waged to secure Tubbs as a public legacy.

Treasure is available at the Well Read Moose, the CDA Parks Department office, the CDA Chamber of Commerce, the CDA library, and the Museum of North Idaho as well as by mail with a \$12.50 donation to Tubbs Hill, PO Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816. And, as always, all sales proceeds come as a 100% donation to keeping our shared treasure in its natural state. **By George Ives**



Tubbs on Facebook

So you've hiked the Lakeside Trail, checked out the tubbshill.org website and had your post exercise coffee at your favorite bistro. If you still haven't had your fill of outdoor adventuring, there still may be an option you haven't yet enjoyed: Tubbs Hill on Facebook.

After you've finished today's episode of Words with Friends, upgraded your personal profile and exhausted the links to friend's postings, it may be time to swing on by — by clicking the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/200223360036567>

You will be able to get a fix of excellent photographs, videos and other links to articles of interest without leaving the comfort of your handheld device. There will also be information relevant to Foundation plans to add QR codes to the signage on the Lakeside trail, news of upcoming member work parties like our frequent tree planting forays and other developments as they unfold. And please feel encouraged to invite friends, distant or local, from your contacts page to add this FB option as a reminder of sunny days to be enjoyed over the dark winter days ahead.

After all, Tubbs Hill can never have too many friends 🌲🌲🌲 **By George Ives**

Friends of Tubbs Hill Annual Membership or Engraving Application

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
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CDA, ID
Permit #31

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Friends of Tubbs Hill

Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

The mission of the THF, to keep Tubbs Hill natural and still allow for compatible public use, is made possible in large part by the support of the many friends of Tubbs Hill. Your support comes in several ways, one of which is financial contributions. We want to thank the following for their generous financial support in 2017 as well as those who made anonymous contributions during Art in the Park.

Pat Barber
Bill & Sally Gundlach
Shirley Thagard
Gary & Mary Reber
Ron & Pamela Gomes
Mary Lou Reed
Roger & Irene Smith
Veronica Semko
Bea Fisher
Peter & Patricia Anderson

Anne Solomon
Arthur & Nancy Flagan
Kevin Carr
Justin Stormogipson
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John & Mary Beth Broderick
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Steve & Karen Ruppel
Fortus Realty, Inc.
Timothy & Wanda Quinn
J. & Dawn McCutcheon
J. & K. Abate
Jim Brannon
Stephanie Couchigian
Gary Michel

Our sincere apologies if we have failed to include your name. Please let George Saylor know at 664-2787. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.

Board of Directors

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Mark Weadick, Director
Linda Wolovich, Director
Barb Zimmer, Director

Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m., For more details, visit tubbshill.org or email gsaylorcda@aol.com.

New Members Wanted! Please join us!