

# Friends of Tubbs Hill

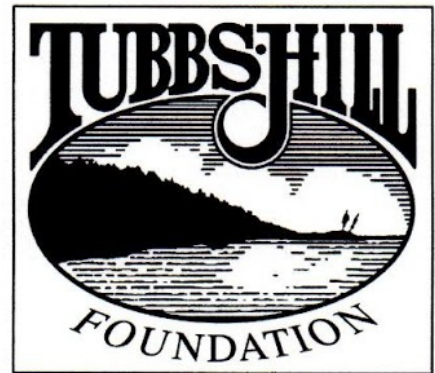
Spring 2016 Newsletter



## Spring 2016 Cleanup

A chilly wind off the lake and the threat of thunder showers kept the attendance at this year's cleanup well below expectations. Despite the inclement weather however, the cleanup yielded its usual collection of debris: crushed beer containers, broken whiskey bottles, and other items not to be mentioned in a family newsletter were transported to the Kootenai County landfill where they rightly belonged. Winner of the day's prize for most bizarre item went to board member Linda Wolovick who was able to retrieve a complete hobo village including a recliner chair.

The day's highlight occurred when Post Falls Girl Scout troop 3064 joined our band of Earth Day celebrants. This PF Girl Scout troop shares an additional tie-in with a third local group the Theodores (theTheodores.org). This group strives to emulate the strenuous lifestyle advocated by President Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." How very fitting that multiple groups could join forces to honor Tubbs on a day set for recognition of the giant blue marble we uniquely share.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Tribute  
to Art Manley &  
Scott Reed**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Tubbs Hill Foundation and the Kootenai Environmental Alliance will co-host a community tribute to commemorate the work done by Art Manley and Scott Reed to keep Tubbs Hill in public ownership and make it available for all in our area to enjoy. New memorial stones, with plaques honoring the two men, will be unveiled at the event, which will be part of Art Manley - Scott Reed Day as proclaimed by Mayor Widmyer.

The event, which begins at 5 p.m., will feature live music, free huckleberry ice cream and huckleberry lemonade, short speeches honoring Reed and Manley, and a brief presentation about the new memorial stones, which will be placed at the east and west entrances to the main trail around Tubbs Hill. Members of both men's families will also be present.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will pay tribute to the two individuals most responsible for keeping Tubbs Hill in public hands, as well as for their many other contributions to protecting our natural resources and public recreational opportunities, including access to Coeur d'Alene Lake.

## What's up with the trees dying on Tubbs Hill?

Mark Weadick is a member of the Tubbs Hill Foundation which is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization whose purpose is to raise money for capital improvements on Tubbs Hill under the direction of the CDA Parks Department.

Most of the people who regularly walk around Tubbs Hill have noticed there are dead and dying Douglas-fir on the north and west sides of the hill. These trees are being killed by Armillaria root rot. You may have also noted these trees are dying in groups.

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 understory 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 understory 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.

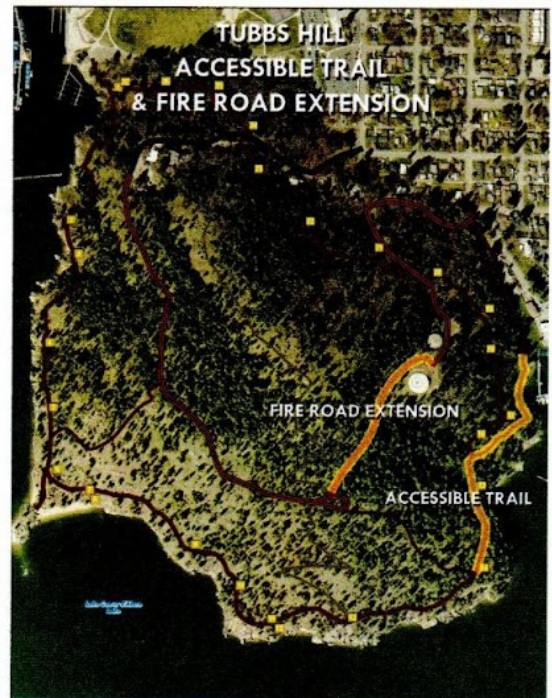
What's this Armillaria? This is a naturally occurring fungus in the soil that primarily attacks and kills Douglas-fir roots, leading to tree mortality. It grows in pockets feeding on dead root tissue, and spreads from tree to tree via root contacts. This spread causes ever increasing areas of Douglas-fir 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. Within the plan are recommended Management Actions for 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 are being planted in openings as opportunities arise. These species are very resistant to Armillaria root rot.

By Mark Weadick



### Fire Road Extension & Accessible Trail

Coeur d'Alene Fire Department has developed a management action plan to connect the fire road on the west side of Tubbs Hill to the water service road on the east side of the hill. The approximately 1,100-foot connection provides access to the interior of the hill, increases the margin of safety for emergency personnel and supports management activities related to improving and protecting the natural resources on Tubbs Hill such as fuel reduction, selective vegetative management and exotic plant and weed control.



### Tree Planting

Student and adult volunteers rolled up their sleeves in April to plant 400 tree seedlings on Tubbs Hill. Urban forestry coordinator Katie Kosanke said the project was a great success thanks to the city's Urban Forestry Committee, Community Canopy volunteers, the Tubbs Hill Foundation as well as students from Coeur d'Alene High School's biology class. A combination of larch and ponderosa pine tree seedlings were planted in areas where brush has been removed for fuel reduction purposes. The new trees will provide canopy and shade which will help reduce the density of the shrubs (ladder fuels) naturally, making Tubbs Hill a safer place for recreation.

Photo Left: Students Bryan Riddle and Bella Klein from CDA High School plant a larch tree on Tubbs Hill.

# 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.

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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.



## KEA's 2016 Volunteer of the Year

Kootena Environmental Alliance's 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award goes to Kim Ashbaugh, also known as *stickman's wife*, or the woman always cleaning up Tubbs Hill. Kim works very hard every single day to make sure Tubbs Hill remains as pristine as possible, including the two parks around it. Hauling garbage off the hill and picking up after dog owners is a thankless job but one we are so appreciative to her for. "Keeping this little piece of paradise as clean as she can is very personal to her. One person can most definitely make a difference in this world," says her husband.

Photos above and below were taken by Kim while on her walks.



Another Tubbs Hill resident.

## 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.



## **Tubbs Hill, Inc.**

P.O. Box 3061

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816-3061

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Tom & Sue Walters  
William & Joan Boyd  
Cathy Thompson

*Our sincere apologies if we have failed to include your name. Please let Evalyn Adams know at 765-5535. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.*

*New Members Wanted! Please join us!*

**Hats & Visors Available Hats \$12, Visors \$7 — Call Barbara 666-6050**

### **Board of Directors**

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Mark Weadick, Director  
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### **Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings**

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month, 8 a.m., at the Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 East Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene.