

Friends of Tubbs Hill

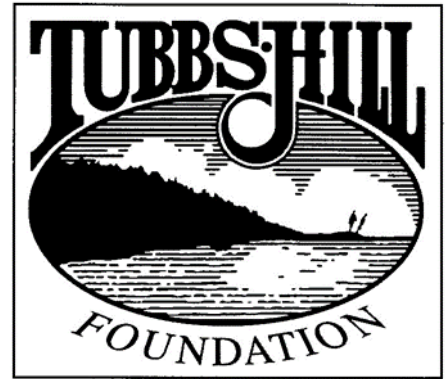
Spring 2017 Newsletter



Tubbs Hill City Park Tree Planting History 1998 — 2016

The fire had grown to about a quarter acre when doused by a helicopter water bucket drop. It was the summer of 1997, and the spot fire was on the east hill side just south of the bridge and above the main trail. The following spring this area was planted with 50 ponderosa pine seedlings by volunteers. This was the first seedling planting on Tubbs Hill, managed by the Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Department. The Douglas-fir trees on the hill are slowly being killed by *Armillaria (ostoyae)* root rot. This ground borne fungus is native and Douglas-fir is a primary host. There is no chemical cure at this time; however, western larch, ponderosa pine and western white pine have a good natural resistance to this root disease. These species also grow on some of the same sites as Douglas-fir. Taking advantage of this species association, a total 570 ponderosa pine seedlings were planted in these root rot openings, located on the north side of the hill, each spring from 2005 through 2009. The seedlings were provided by the city and planting was by volunteers with coordination from the Tubbs Hill Foundation. Tubbs Hill has a Management Plan with the goal of maintaining this city park in a natural healthy condition. Norway maples, as the name

implies, are not native but over the last hundred years had developed a hardwood cover in the most moist sites on the north side of the hill, thanks to the wind and birds. Western white pine, western larch and ponderosa pine are native to these more moist sites. In 2010 the city contracted to have the Norway maples removed in conjunction with the thick understory brush cut to reduce fuel loading on the north and east sides. The treated areas were to be planted with native tree species. The stage was set for the biggest Tubbs Hill planting project in the spring of 2011. During two weekends in April 2011, with lots of volunteers, 780 ponderosa pine, 923 larch and 687 blister rust resistant white pine were planted. Additionally, 40 syringa and 20 chokecherry native shrubs were planted. These plantings on the north and east sides of Tubbs Hill totaled 2450 trees and shrubs. In the fall of 2012, 35 ponderosa pine were planted on the east side of the hill by the Lands Council to replace seedling mortality from earlier planting. In 2013, 75 ponderosa pine seedlings were planted. In lieu of controlled burns to reduce fuels, brush was mechanically cut in 2014 on the west side of the hill in both spring and sum-



mer operations. Goats were also used to browse the brush in a portion of the area in the spring. The effects of goat browsing were more short term than mechanically cutting the brush at the ground line. There were 400 larch and 400 ponderosa pine planted by volunteers in the fall of 2014 in the west side fuel reduction areas. In November 2015 city parks staff planted 200 ponderosa pine and 100 larch as fill-in for seedling mortality on the east side. These were larger super cell container grown seedlings. It will be interesting to see how well these seedlings do compared to the smaller size container grown seedlings previously planted. Seedling survival on the 2014 west side planting, and in portions of the 2011 white pine and larch planting were very poor due to the 2015 summer drought, coupled with shallow soil on the hill. In April 2016, 200 ponderosa pine and 200 larch were planted on the west side. Over summer survival was again very poor, likely due to the soil still being dry from the 2015 summer drought. Again, in October 300 ponderosa pine were planted in the high mortality west side areas. Ground moisture had recovered, and the prospects for seedling survival are good. The north side white pine mortality following the summer of 2015 was concentrated right in the draw bottoms where the soil proved to be most shallow. The city has plans to replant blister rust resistant white pine in some of the adjacent microsites. Planting native conifer species, resistant to *Armillaria* root rot, will be an ongoing management priority to replace the chronic Douglas-fir mortality. The Tubbs Hill Foundation will continue to work with the City Parks and Recreation Department keep this Treasure Called Tubbs Hill in the best condition. My thanks to Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator, for providing the planting and fuel reduction information for this article.

Mark Weadick, Board Member

Visit us at www.tubbshill.org

Message from the President

Looking back, going forward.

Most of us don't really like growing old; nonetheless we generally mark the passing of each year with some sort of birthday celebration. Organizations like the Tubbs Hill Foundation don't usually do that. Such was the case in December of last year when our 31st birthday passed unnoticed. The certificate of incorporation from the state of Idaho is officially dated December 16, 1985, and in Article 3 it stated that funds were to be used in whole or in part: "...exclusively for the maintenance of the aesthetic quality of Tubbs Hill and the surrounding area."

Over the years the THF has been quietly at work carrying out this directive. As our current mission statement expresses it we are: "a non-profit association dedicated

to the preservation of Tubbs Hill City Park as a unique and natural lakeside forest typical of North Idaho, while providing for compatible public use of this special place." Year after year this organization has continued to honor the hopes and vision of its founders to be a guardian of Tubbs Hill, keeping it natural for current and future generations to enjoy.

The original board of directors had eight members, and their names are worthy of being remembered, for they created a mechanism for citizens to serve as a watchdog to protect the hill and advise the city on issues affecting it. The original directors were: Ken Roberge, John Mueller, Bob McDonald, John Hill, Art Manley, Dr. Ted Fox, James Towles and Dickson G. Pratt. As current president I am indebted to their foresight and dedication to the idea of Tubbs Hill as a protected natural area adjacent to downtown

Coeur d'Alene.

The board currently has 15 members, but our bylaws allow for up to 20. If you have a passion for Tubbs Hill and are willing to commit a few hours each month to preserving it, I invite you to join us for one or more of our regular meetings. Maybe you will decide it's a good fit for you, and we can begin the process of you becoming a board member. We meet the second Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. Our meeting place for April is Michael D's restaurant at the end of Sherman. We are scheduled to meet at Calypso for the four months following that meeting. It would be good to send me an email beforehand, in case that meeting place changes, and so I can give you a proper introduction. My email is gsaylercda@aol.com.

Maybe growing old isn't so bad after all.

George Saylor, President

An Idea: Compatible Education/ Interpretive Center

Some months ago, Mayor Widmyer came to the THF board to discuss property held by ignite cda, our urban renewal agency, at the south end of the city parking lot. It is the site of two recently demolished older homes, plus approximately a one-half block behind it. He asked the THF to provide input as to how we think the property should be used. In February, George Saylor and Jessica Bryant met with him to present our idea that it would be a great location for an educational/interpretive center, designed to be compatible with the natural features of the area. The mayor liked the concept and suggested a partnership with the Museum of North Idaho might work there. He offered to set up a meeting with ignite cda, which he did. He also stressed he would like to keep the area as natural as possible.

When THF met with ignite cda, we presented our concept, which they thought interesting, but we were informed the property had recently been appraised with the intent to sell it to a private party for the purpose of raising revenue to meet other obligations. We were told there were nine or ten building lots there and the property was being appraised with the idea of

homes being built there.

Shortly thereafter our board met, and decided to speak at the next ignite cda board meeting to urge them to reconsider. We passed a resolution, unanimously, asking ignite cda and any other interested parties to seek an option that would keep the area in a natural state; the Ignite board was informed of the resolution. At that meeting it was clarified the Ignite cda board had asked for a formal appraisal but had not approved selling the property. During our presentation, we made a case for an alternate use of the area as a link between McEuen Park and Tubbs Hill enhancing both the use and value of the two areas.

After our presentation, Mayor Widmyer suggested there was no need to proceed hastily with this issue and offered to meet with the THF and explore other uses of the property. The ignite cda board agreed to postpone action and refer the issue of raising money back to their finance committee.

We are grateful to the mayor and the ignite cda board for their responsiveness to our presentation, and for their willingness to look for other alternatives to meet their financial obligations. We look forward to working together to develop a proposal that would allow the property to remain public and be preserved in a natural state

while allowing for compatible public use.

There has been concern expressed by members of the community about the possibility of houses being built on the lots abutting Tubbs Hill. To date, no final decision allowing that has been made. The THF will be involved in whatever decision is made concerning the property, and will do its best to ensure whatever is done, will be done for the benefit of the public and preserve the area as a natural part of Tubbs Hill. If you have concerns or comments, please contact our board members, the mayor's office, or the ignite cda board. Our desire is to be willing partners in this endeavor with the city and ignite cda. **George Saylor, President**



Tubbs Hill Clean Up, & Earth Day Celebration!

**Saturday, April 22, 2017
9 a.m. — 12 p.m.**

See details on insert

The Tubbs Hill Newsletter Goes Green!

Did this newsletter come to your mailbox? Would you prefer that it come to your email inbox?

Technology offers us myriad options for staying connected with you, our valued friends. One step we've taken is to provide our newsletter electronically, allowing us to save some postage expense and reduce our environmental impact. We recognize that our friends are a diverse group with diverse preferences. Some of you may continue to prefer to receive our printed newsletter in your mail box and we are very happy to oblige. If you are interested in receiving our newsletter electronically, sign up on our website under the 'Newsletters' tab and please also send us an email so we know to remove your name from our physical mailing list (links below). By signing up for our email list, you will receive two emails each year containing a link to our current newsletter, which can also be found on our website along with previous issues. We occasionally send additional emails containing pertinent information about current issues impacting the hill and special events such as clean up days.

Subscribing to our email list is the best way to keep up with the foundation. In the future, we look to expand into offering a wider variety of content and outreach to remain relevant to this community in our endeavor to fulfill the mission of the Tubbs Hill Foundation.

www.tubbshill.org, newsletter@tubbshill.org

Jessica Bryant, Board Member

Our special thanks to Kim Ashbaugh, George Saylor and the Art Manley Collection for the wonderful pictures in this issue.

Open Space

The Tubbs Hill Foundation has a liaison position on the City's Natural Open Space Committee. The NOSC is currently updating the City's Natural Open Space Management Plan. THF and the NOSC worked closely together in 2012 to create clear language in the Plan separating Tubbs Hill as a natural open space from the original McEuen Park Conceptual Plan. THF has been asked to comment on the proposed revisions to the Management Plan in the section that addresses Tubbs Hill. The proposed revisions update the Plan with the completion of management actions recommended for Tubbs Hill in the original Plan, such as the connection of the fire road to the water tank service road and the accessible trail improvement from the East Tubbs Park trailhead to a viewpoint overlooking Lake Coeur d' Alene. **Chuck Hosack, Vice President**

Membership

Thank you for your generous donations and membership dues. These monies pay for THF website, newsletters, special maintenance projects on the hill (approx. \$1400 for dangerous tree removal and new seedlings this past year), helps defray costs of some area school programs which teach the younger generation about the history and value of Tubbs Hill. **Your membership in both body count and dollars helps the THF in fulfilling its mission as advocates to preserve Tubbs Hill as a unique and natural park.**

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

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Friends of Tubbs Hill

Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

Mary Duff
Barbara Zimmer
Evalyn Adams
George Sayler
Todd & Maryann Richard
The Sweeney's
Linda Wolovich
George Ives
Paul Lima

Midge Thysell
Betty Cheeley
Barbara Dennis
Ed & Kris Buchler
Rod & Cindy Loe Schobert
Buck & Joy Fitzpatrick
Catherine Tinder
James Lea & Judi Davis

Our sincere apologies if we have failed to include your name. Please let Peter Luttrupp know at 667-9833. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.

Visors Available \$7 — Call Barbara 666-6050

New Members Wanted! Please join us!

Board of Directors

George Sayler, President
Barbara Fillmore, Vice President, Treasurer
Barb Crumpacker, Secretary
Ron Edinger, City Council Liaison
Mark Wallace, Legal Counsel
Evalyn Adams, Director
Jessica Bryant, Director
Julie Clark, Director
Chuck Hosack, Director
George Ives, Director
Peter Luttrupp, Director
Nils Rosdahl, Director
Don Waddell, Director
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 gsaylercda@aol.com.