

Friends of Tubbs Hill

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Photo by Michelle Conn

The President's Corner, By George Saylor

Gratitude

Sometimes a change in one's environment, with a consequent change in routine, can lead to new appreciation for one's daily life in their customary place. Such was the case for my wife and I this month. We were fortunate to travel to Panama and spend ten days there with good friends, enjoying the beauty, especially of the birds, so very different from our own. The Flame-colored Tanager really was flame colored. We traveled from the lush high mountain tropical rainforests to the gleaming skyline of Panama City. It is an extraordinary place of great biological diversity.

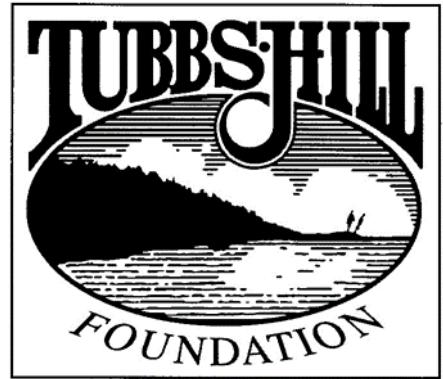
As memorable as the trip was, it was still delightful to return to our own "place" and all of its wonders. We may not hear the high shrill whistle of giant Cicadas, but we hear the tatatatatat of Flickers, the melodious song of Wrens, and enjoy the beauty of spring wildflowers on Tubbs Hill. It made me realize again how privileged we are to live here and reminded me of our responsibility to care for it. We are fortunate that there are many groups and individuals who are committed to doing just that, each in their own way.

One such group is the Tubbs Hill Foundation, and as the current president, I wish to express our thanks to the many individuals who have become "Friends of Tubbs Hill" through their volunteering for clean ups, memberships, financial contributions, concern about developments on or near the hill, and general interest in seeing it remain natural. Our mission is to do just that – keep it natural while allowing appropriate use. I also want to thank Linda Woolovich and Barb Zimmer, two long-term board members who resigned in the past several months. We appreciate their service and love for Tubbs Hill.

There is exciting work being planned to make your enjoyment of Tubbs Hill even better. I encourage you to check out our website, tubbshill.org, to stay informed about these developments. You are also invited to attend our regular monthly meeting, the second Thursday of every month, at 8:30 a.m. at Calypos, 116 E. Lakeside.

George Saylor

Visit us at www.tubbshill.org



QR Code Coming Soon!

Soon at the trailheads of Tubbs Hill we will have signage with a QR code. Scan this with your smart phone and you access the mobile brochure developed by Monte McCully, trails coordinator with the City of Coeur d' Alene.

While walking along the main trail, you will see numbers posted on trees. With the mobile brochure, you can read the descriptions of these designated points of interest. Website: <https://maps.cdaid.org/Tubbs>. There are also printed trail maps that describe these numbered points of interest. These are available at the Parks Department and the Visitors Center.

Barbara Fillmore

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in."

~ Wallace Stegner, *The Sound of Mountain Water*

Spring Clean Up
April 22, 2018
9 a.m. — 12 p.m.
3rd Street Entrance

Trails Erosion Mitigation Project

Tubbs Hill Foundation board has long held concerns regarding the growing foot traffic on user trails, routes created by visitors cutting across the terrain between established trails. Established trails are designed, created, and maintained by the city's parks department to hold up to traffic and be resistant to erosion. User trails, not intentionally designed or created, are often damaging to the local ecosystem. Many of the user trails on Tubbs Hill pose significant risk to the health of our beloved hill.

The overall soil depth on the hill is shallow and lacking significant subsoil due to the repeated scouring of the hill during the Glacial Lake Missoula flood episodes. The major risk for soil damage here is soil displacement due to a lack of subsoil. In other areas, where the bed rock has had hundreds of thousands of years to decompose, or weather, this subsoil layer, together with the upper layers, binds the soil to the bed rock. This deep soil profile of 30 to 40 inches, or more, has a good moisture holding capacity. Here on Tubbs, however, the shallow layer of weathered volcanic ash and decomposed plant material are sitting directly on bedrock, lacking stability.

The most significant cause of soil erosion by people on the user trails is soil displacement from foot traffic. Foot traffic also damages plants, whose root structures help hold fragile soils in place. Damaged root systems expose soil to erosion. As soil erodes and bare rock is exposed, rain and snow melt can run unimpeded down hill. Because this soil is thin and has little moisture holding capacity, this water force easily washes soil below further down hill, ending up in the lake, where it poses a hazard to lake health.

Working with the city and other local partners, we are embarking on a long term project to assess, prioritize, and take action to mitigate the erosion on the many trails. This will likely mean closing off a few user trails for restoration as well as construction projects to reinforce certain popular trails. As we move forward through the stages of this project, we will be launching a public education campaign. Limiting foot traffic on this fragile soil and the rehabilitation of certain trails is a real challenge. Your assistance is crucial. We will need significant public support and cooperation to keep feet on established trails to protect and preserve our unique and natural lakeshore forest.

Jessica Bryant and Mark Weadick



Coeur d'Alene Water Festival

Kootenai Environmental Alliance is pleased to announce the second annual Coeur d'Alene Water Festival will be held on Thursday May 31st and Friday June 1st at McEuen park in downtown Coeur d'Alene. Over 400 Coeur d'Alene School District fifth-graders participated in Coeur d'Alene's first Water Festival in June of 2017. This all day event empowers students with the knowledge to appreciate, respect and protect our water resources. It is the only comprehensive water education program for fifth-grade students in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Students from Borah, Skyway, Bryan, Winton and Fernan Elementary schools will have the opportunity to touch, see, hear, and creatively think about the dynamic world around them as they rotate through five different instructional themed stations. Students will be educated on pollutants to their watershed with the Enviro-scape model, which is a hands-on demonstration showing how the pollutants can accumulate in their lake. At the Water Quality station, students look for bugs in the water and learn how different bugs indicate the health of the water body by the life they support. Fish and Game professionals who teach about native and

endangered fish, as well as engage students in a spawning game with pool noodles lead the Fisheries station. From there kids head over to the Tubbs Hill trailhead where they are led on a short hike with members of the Tubbs Hill Foundation, where they learn about native plants and the history of Tubbs Hill. The last station allows students to learn about animal tracks and have an opportunity to stamp the animal tracks of their choice onto their souvenir bandana. After lunch, students listen to tribal storytelling from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and a Birds of Prey demonstration. Over 50 natural resource professionals participate in this two-day event.

Beginning in late spring, natural resource educators visit each classroom where students discuss their watershed and the water cycle to help them understand why clean water is so important. They engage the children with activities that will prepare them for the upcoming Water Festival. This is also an opportunity to explain to the students what to expect the day of the event and to be prepared to be outside all day. This gets the students excited for their upcoming field trip.

The outcomes for this event are to build awareness, knowledge and under-

standing of the area's natural resources. Activities promote water conservation and stewardship, as well as provide a geographical and historical perspective of the Coeur d'Alene Watershed. This event is a community collaboration involving a cross-section of natural resource professionals, schools, children, teens and adults in a shared environmental educational event.

The feedback from the first year's Water Festival was extremely positive. A new teacher at Borah Elementary said she was thrilled to be a part of the event and that; the learning opportunity had far exceeded her expectations. Additionally, another teacher of 17 years indicated that the Coeur d'Alene Water Festival was the best field trip she had ever experienced. A review of the pre and post tests given to the students showed a dramatic increase in comprehension.

Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Tubbs Hill Foundation, U of I Extension Water Resources, University of Idaho, The Coeur d'Alene tribe, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Water Festival Steering Committee organize this event. The LUSH Foundation, Cadeau Foundation and Kootenai Electric sponsor this event.

Cool Mapping Stuff

As the Trail Erosion Mitigation Project article discusses, the Friends of Tubbs Hill volunteers and City of Coeur d'Alene staff are in the process of identifying trails that present erosion issues.

Here is an example of what we are doing:

The colored trails shown on this map to the right are just a fraction of what are referred to as "User Trails" – trails being used by the public but are not designated as officially maintained. Some of the trails shown have some serious erosion and/or safety issues.

At the same time, the same folks are exploring ways to help all that use the hill with more opportunities to learn about what a special place Tubbs Hill is and how to enhance their visit.

One of the most exciting ways of doing this is to enhance the website map <https://maps.cdaid.org/Tubbs/> to show trails and locations where you can find information that explains the history, flora, fauna, geology or just where the heck you are!

The screenshot of the present map below shows some of these enhancements that have already been added. When you open the map, click on one of the dots or lines and see what you find.

Dave Yaden



"To those devoid of imagination a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part."

~ **Aldo Leopold**



Thank You!

A special thanks to the City of CDA for these map photos and to George Ives for supplying the quotes and photos throughout this newsletter and in past issues.

If you have stories or photos you'd like to share, please send them to us!

THF
PO Box 3061
CDA, ID 83816-3061

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
PAID
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 2017/2018 as well as those who made anonymous contributions during Art in the Park.

David Taylor
George & Juli Ives
Michael Schwegel
Jessica Bryant
Wayne & Fay Sweney
Andrea Bershad
Paul Lima
Ron & Nancy Edinger
Robert & Yvonne Hallock
Sarah Walker

Dale & Barbara Dennis
Dave & Laura Umthun
Dawn McCutcheon
Buck & Joy Fitzpatrick
Fortus Realty
STCU
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John Gatewood Fox
Evalyn Adams
Randal Sorbel

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Dave Yadon, Director
Mark Weadick, Director

Tubbs Hill Monthly Meetings

Please join us for our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of every month, at 8:30 a.m. at Calypsos, 116 E. Lakeside. For more details, visit tubbshill.org or email gsaylercda@aol.com.

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.

New Members Wanted! Please join us!