

Friends of Tubbs Hill

Spring 2020 Newsletter

Presidents Corner

It's Spring and the time for a new season of stunning wildflowers, returning Ospreys and increased human visitors to the hill. We also saw the arrival of the Covid Pandemic which has postponed the planned control burn on the Hill due to health concerns to a day/year to be determined. The Covid restrictions have resulted in area parks and open spaces having near summerlike crowds. It is no surprise that Tubbs Hill has been one of the most popular of these choices to visit. We are so blessed to have the Hill to roam but the crowds also reinforce the ongoing work of the Tubbs Hill Foundation's keeping this "Crown Jewel's" shine for current and future visitors to the hill whether arriving by foot or wing.

Keeping the shine requires a great partnership between the Tubbs Hill Foundation and the City. The board is currently developing a Five-Year Action Plan to carry out our mission in an effective and efficient way.

Some of the ideas in the draft plan are already being implemented. This newsletter briefly highlights two of those ideas - the trail work that we have been doing this spring and a Tubbs Hill Ambassador Pilot Program.

A huge part of completing our past, present and future projects depends on Friends like you to help us. To the trail workers you see in the photos in this newsletter, to folks like board member Kim Ashbaugh who tirelessly picks up trash on her daily walks and to all of you that contribute in the same or other ways – WE. THANK. YOU! It is very likely that we will be sending out invitations to help us on some trail project or one of the annual clean-ups in the near future.

See you on the Hill!



Enjoying the Tubbs Hill Shoreline while looking for trash and graffiti.



Tubbs Hill Cleanup

Mark your calendar for the July 5th Tubbs Hill Clean Up. This is our 2nd annual post 4th of July clean up in recognition / appreciation/ memory of Scott Reed and Art Manley.

The 4th of July is a gala time for all, and the Hill is just loved to overflowing. In all the excitement of parades, community activities, hiking, and swimming, we sometimes forget to pack out what we pack in when visiting Tubbs.

Scott and Art were instrumental in keeping Tubbs Hill a natural lakeshore forest typical of North Idaho while providing for compatible public use. In keeping with their leadership/spirit/guidance, we are scheduling (conditions permitting) the Second Annual Scott Reed and Art Manley Post 4th of July Friends of Tubbs Hill Clean Up. It will be held on Sunday, July 5th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the 3rd Street entrance. We anticipate having water and coffee available at 8 until it runs out and ice treats beginning around 11 a.m. contributed by John Gatewood Fox and Peter and Delores Luttrupp.

Please join your Friends of Tubbs Hill, all you need are gloves and smiles! The City will provide garbage bags.

Last year some Friends wanted to begin their clean up from East Tubbs Hill park. If this is your desire, garbage bags will be available, but it'll be a dry beginning. You'll need to walk around the Hill to enjoy your lemonade and huckleberry ice cream.

As these are interesting times, this July 5th clean up is "Conditions Permitting."

In Honor of **Ron Edinger** for fifty years of public engagement
on behalf of the people of Coeur d'Alene
as councilman, mayor, and lifelong advocate for Tubbs Hill.

Tubbs Hill Trail Work

Tubbs Hill walkers may have noticed some changes to several of the trails on Tubbs Hill this spring. Friends of Tubbs Hill in cooperation with the Coeur d' Alene Parks Department created reroutes on three trail sections. These new routes also offer some great views and varied landscapes. Limiting the groups size and practicing social distancing allowed volunteer work this spring. Volunteers learned all about trail design and trail tools, proudly utilizing Pulaski's named after North Idaho's most famous USFS Ranger. The old trail sections were covered with trees and debris to discourage use. Sections worked on include a portion of the trail headed uphill at Corbin Point, a trail leaving the fire road towards the summit, and the trails approaching the summit. All the trails are marked with trail signs. The rerouting was designed to avoid steep sections which erode, can be hard to walk, and dangerous in winter's snowy/icy conditions. Friends of Tubbs Hill is working with the Coeur d' Alene Parks on additional future projects particularly some of the access trails from the north end of East Tubbs Hill Park. **-David Taylor**



Teri Porcarelli, Steve McCrea, David Kilmer and Kim Ashbaugh working the Corbin Pt. connector trail.



City Trails Coordinator Monte McCully at



First folks happy to use the almost finished Corbin Pt. connector trail.



David Taylor & James Filmore moving some debris to close the eroding west summit trail.



Corbin Pt. trail crew



Eager Justin Taylor family volunteers who were just passing through and wanted to help with summit work.

Two Moments

It was an early May morning, with an overcast sky and the threat of rain when I learned a good lesson about “being in the moment.” As a birdwatcher I was on a mission to see at least one new and interesting bird for the year, enjoy that experience, and not become caught up with creating the longest list I could of birds seen (ah! Goal oriented or experience oriented). This state of mind was sparked by a book I started reading called Zen Birding, a new concept that I thought might be helpful to a long-time birdwatcher looking for a deeper level of experiencing birds. What I learned anew, was that the concept of being in the moment can enhance all of our contact with the natural world.

As I strolled the path on the east side of the hill, I was awed by how green the hill was. Everywhere I looked it was as if a giant irregularly shaped and textured quilt had been laid over it. It was the profusion of new spring growth stimulated by rain earlier in the week, and yes, temporarily in the moment I was aware of how beautiful it was, and how connected to it I felt. As I continued on, pausing often to

take snapshots of the wildflowers, I also continued to look for birds. Not seeing any, I began to lose focus on being fully present and more preoccupied with finding a bird, any bird (goal oriented again).

As I headed back down the hill past the water tanks, I resigned to myself that the birds just weren't there and I should just deal with it. Just then, a flash of yellow streaked by on my right side into a tree ahead of me. With luck and excitement, I was able to see and identify a beautiful Western Tanager, its orange and yellow head and breast glowing in the subdued light. A moment later I spotted a Western Wood Pee Wee, another interesting bird, and at the bottom of the trail, a glorious Yellow Warbler offered a song and a view while singing in the blossoms of the Chokecherry tree at the entrance to the trail (experience oriented). Renewed in spirit I headed home, trying to puzzle out how this experience related to the idea of Zen birding and being in the moment.

At its heart Zen birding is a journey into greater awareness of the world around us through watching and truly experienc-

ing not only birds, but the world. It asks us to take the focus off ourselves, our unconscious scramble of thoughts and preoccupations, to see beyond ourselves to a broader context. It can help us connect more fully to nature and to other people and restore a sense of calm. In our time of present trouble if we all are able to take such an approach to life perhaps, we could be less stressed and more hopeful. The natural world can be a healing presence if we let it.

I am no Zen master nor a practitioner of Zen, but I encourage you to take a walk on Tubbs Hill with a Zen attitude. A Zen master once said: “If you want to see, open your eyes”. In my wandering on Tubbs I had failed, at times, to see what was there, a beautiful world that I was a part of. When my eyes were opened by the glorious Tanager, it was a transforming moment. There are birds that visit Tubbs Hill, more than 70 species, but there is also an abundance of other life asking for your attention. Try having your own moment by focusing your attention on the beautiful environment Tubbs Hill provides us. It will lift your spirit! ~ **George Saylor**

“Tony Tubbs left a lasting gift in his name given to the little tree-clad and rock hill which protrudes into the lake at the very center of the town, the headland between east and west Coeur d’Alene. Nothing draws together the people of the area more than just a hint that Tubbs Hill might be damaged in any way. No prayer wheel, no painted picture of a saint, no religious relic is more revered than that which has become Coeur d’Alene’s icon-Tubbs Hill.” Louise Shaddock “At The Edge Of The Ice” 1996.

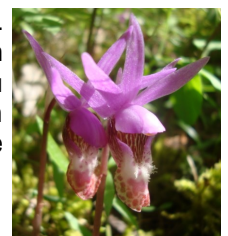
So what does make Tubbs Hill the icon that Louise so elegantly described? I would say on any day at any time of the year whether snow, rain, or sun there are moments in time that you can treasure forever. After an extremely heavy snowfall, I went for a walk with my dog. The sky was blue, the snow was untouched by neither man or beast. It was 20 degrees with no wind. I spent two hours that day breaking trail in a breathtaking environment that most people only experience after a long drive into the mountains. I had stepped out my front door and into this magical world.

I have spent many days walking in the rain throughout the seasons but I think the most special time of year is in the Spring. With the wild flowers blooming and the call of the Osprey overhead. There are many fair weather friends of Tubbs Hill that for some reason scatter at the very idea of a walk in the rain. I guess that leaves more quiet time for those of us that enjoy the peace and quiet we can find right here in our busy city of Coeur d’Alene.

The wildlife of the hill can be seen at almost any time of the year, but of course spring and summer are especially good times to be watching as new families are formed and new life lessons are taught. One day in June several years ago, I just happened upon five fox kits. They had some interest in what I was doing there and their curiosity gave me the opportunity to capture one of those spectacular moments of Tubbs Hill.

When we become immersed in the trees and wildlife we become part of the environment. We step through a portal from modern life into a place where time progresses but at a much slower pace. I know many enjoy Tubbs Hill in the company of friends and family, but if you ever have the chance, take a solo hike without earbuds and other distractions and just listen to nature. You might see and hear things you never have before. Take your time, because nature is not in a hurry. Those special moments happen when you least expect them.

~ **Kim Ashbaugh**



New Board Members

David Yadon, new THF president, is fairly new to the board but has a fairly long history with Tubbs Hill. Although he grew up in Spokane, he remembers youthful walks on the hill and later watching hydroplane races in the 60's from the west shore rocks. David was the City of Coeur d'Alene's Planning Director for just shy of 40 years before retiring in 2013. In 1980 he and his staff prepared the first master plan for the hill. Yadon can often be seen hiking, running the trails or sea kayaking the shoreline, rain or shine, all year round. On big snow years, when the lake would freeze over, skis provided a unique hill experience. A long-time sailor, he says that he has not yet been able to sail an iceboat around the shoreline as Scott Reed and Pat Flammia recount—to do so would complete his Tubbs Hill resume.

Steve Bloedel joined the board in June to complement his ongoing service with Coeur d'Alene's Urban Forestry Committee. No stranger to Tubbs, Steve has been instrumental in tree planting, fuel reduction efforts, and non-native species control projects. He keeps his hand in as a consulting forester having served with Inland Forest Management Inc. for 25 years. Steve's expertise in forestry is a welcome addition to the board following the resignation of longtime board member and former Tubbs Hill Foundation president Mark Weadick. "Tubbs Hill holds a special place in my heart and helping to preserve and promote its beneficial role as a natural area in this ever-growing community is meaningful to me personally," Steve said.

Susan Troppmann brings not only an interest in preserving the pristine environment of the treasure by the lake but also the legal background of how preservation may be retained. An insightful presence during board meetings, Susan has not been reluctant to pick up a Pulaski and invest energy and sweat in recent trail improvement projects. From Bowdoin College in Maine to the Rockies in Colorado to Gonzaga law school, Susan has experienced many beautiful environments, but none more worthy of protection than Tubbs, where she can often be seen walking with canine bud Taco securely on a leash as trail regulations pre-scribe.

And after repeated efforts to enlist her, **Kim Ashbaugh**, a.k.a. Walk About, has relented to become a formal member of the foundation board. Her ongoing efforts to police the debris left by footloose users of the hill has become legendary in the community, and her efforts have been previously cited in this newsletter as well as in regional publications. Even casual Hill walkers will have encountered Kim as she makes her multiple daily patrols with Stickman's finest staff and sagging garbage bags modestly on display. Her accumulated hours on Tubbs may well make her the most knowledgeable voice at board discussions.

Christie Wood retired as a sergeant from the Coeur d'Alene Police Department in 2015 after 26 years of service. She worked in both the Patrol Division and the Detective Division in several different assignments throughout the years. She was a supervisor in the Detective Division, and the PIO for the Police Department for her last 15 years of service.

Prior to being hired by the Coeur d'Alene Police Department Christie was a law enforcement specialist in the US Air Force.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Justice Studies and a minor in media relations.

Christie has been a member of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations since 2007 filling the law enforcement seat. She has served as president of the organization for the past nine years.

Christie served as an elected Board Member for School District 271 from 2000 to 2008.

She has served as an elected Board Member of Trustees at North Idaho College since 2004.

Christie has served as a City of Coeur d'Alene Park and Recreation Commissioner since July of 2016 and has a strong commitment to the preservation of Tubbs Hill and all the public parks enjoyed by our citizens.

Christie was elected to the Coeur d'Alene City Council in November of 2019 and started her four-year term in January of 2020.

She is married to her husband David Wood and has one son Bryan. Her interests are education, public safety and pub-

lic governance. She enjoys walking her dog on the city trails, gardening, and traveling.

Adams Says Adios

Evalyn Adams was invited to be on the Tubbs Hill Board by Dr. Ted Fox when she was serving as a Kootenai County Commissioner. She was one of the Directors in March of 1986 when the By-Laws were originally signed. She served with several other active members including Art Manley, James Towles, Bob MacDonald, John Mueller, Betty Stone, Ken Roberge, Paul Sunderland and Marc Wallace. Nils Rosdahl was also on the board at that time and is the only one who continued to serve when Adams resigned in March of this year.

While serving as a Commissioner, she volunteered to take a lead role in overseeing parks and waterways facilities in the County and worked hard to preserve and expand public access, including helping to blaze the Centennial Trail. Although Tubbs Hill is a CDA City park, she felt it was very important to preserve it as a natural setting for local residents as well as visitors. For years Adams ran down to Tubbs Hill early in the morning and started jumping in the lake in March.

When she was un-elected as a Commissioner after serving two terms or six years, she ended up moving to Spokane in 1991. After retiring and moving back to CDA in 2001, Adams once again became a member of the Tubbs Hill Foundation Board. She served as treasurer and then was elected president in 2008. For several years, she was also editor of the newsletter.

For the last four years Adams has coordinated Turkeys & More, a fundraising effort to provide turkeys and holiday food for vulnerable families at Thanksgiving. Because of the large amount of time required for that job, she decided to withdraw her membership on the Tubbs Hill Board. After serving for so many years she felt it was time to make room for someone new to take up the advocacy role for Tubbs Hill. She said she was proud of the work done in past years to make sure the hill is preserved as a unique and natural lakeshore forest and the crown jewel of Coeur d'Alene.

Tubbs Hill Ambassador Pilot Program

If all goes well, you will see some Friends of Tubbs Hill on the trails this summer wearing distinctive FTH vests and hats. These folks are part of a pilot program that the Foundation is doing in cooperation from the Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Department that we are calling Tubbs Hill Ambassadors. They will be "Eyes on the Hill" volunteers who will be walking on the hill on a regular basis with the purpose of greeting park visitors, offering information and answering questions about the park and helping visitors understand their role in helping to protect the park. They will also provide helpful feedback to the City by observing, recording and reporting on defined issues and by recording their activities.

We will evaluate the program in the fall and if deemed successful will provide for other FTH members to apply to be ambassadors for next year.

White House

The Tubbs Hill Foundation supported the relocation of the historic White House to City property at the base of Tubbs Hill, for the purpose of the Museum of North Idaho leasing the property to serve as the new location of the Museum. THF and the Museum worked cooperatively in planning the project to provide suitable grounds for the Museum, while preserving the property for public use, consistent with Tubbs Hill as a natural area. Museum plans incorporated an interpretative center about Tubbs Hill, and landscaping consistent with a natural area, including a trail across the Museum property. The trail will connect to an existing City bike route, completing a pedestrian link between Eastside Park/McEuen Park.

The Museum invited the Board to an update on their project, now that the White House move is complete. The original design plans had included the construction of two buildings. The plan has been changed to have the buildings underground. For the near future, the Museum is focused on renovating the White House and fund raising. Once those preliminary steps have been completed, the Museum and THF will move forward on plans for an interpretative center, landscaping ideas, and the layout for the trail. THF is extremely appreciative of the concern and interest the Museum has shown for Tubbs Hill as a natural area.



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. Engravings are done semiannually — May and October.

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:

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 2019/2020 as well as those who made anonymous contributions during Art in the Park.

Phillip Althen
Peter & Patricia Anderson
Glen & Moria Balsley
Andrea Bershad
William Boyd
Jim & Kim Chapkis
Carl & Lyndall Cook
Barbara Dennis
Mary Duff
Ronald Eastwood

George & Cathy Evjen
Beatrice Fisher
Art & Nancy Flagan
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Nils Rosdahl, Director
George Saylor, Director
David Taylor, Director
Susan Troppmann, 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 Ives know at 667-7888. We will be sure to print your name in the upcoming newsletter.

New Members Wanted! Please join us!