

# Friends of Tubbs Hill

Fall 2015 Newsletter

## Ruth Thomas Celebrating 90 Years on Tubbs Hill

On Sunday, January 17, 2016, Ruth Thomas (pictured above) will be walking on Tubbs Hill to celebrate the day of her birth 90 years ago!

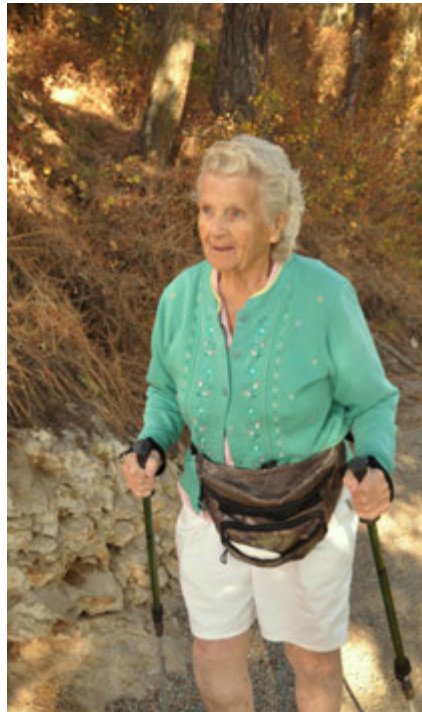
This will be unusual for her only because she doesn't walk on Sundays...after all, that is the day for church and for breakfast out with friends. She doesn't go for a walk on Tubbs on Mondays either because that is the day, as a volunteer for our Area Agency on Aging's Friendship Corps, she visits four residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities in the area.

That leaves Tuesday through Saturday mornings for her to spend some time on Tubbs Hill. Ruth usually parks in the 10th Street parking lot and walks around to the asphalt trail that skirts Tubbs in McEuen Park. She enters our urban wilderness at the Third Street entrance, walking along the Lake and exiting at 10th Street where her car awaits.

Never failing to see something new, she wonders if everyone has seen the sizable Ponderosa growing from the side of a nearly prone living Douglas fir on the west side.

Ruth's walk is also enhanced by "meeting people with the same interests from all over the world." Her trek takes one and a half to three hours "depending on visiting time."

This retired Kellogg Junior High science teacher began walking on Tubbs nine years ago when she



moved to Coeur d'Alene at the close of an eight-year odyssey with her bicycle/trailer combo. In 1998 Ruth set out to visit the smallest incorporated town in every state. Slowed only by trips back to Spokane for medical needs, her goal was accomplished in 2006.

Ruth developed asthma when she was 79 and has had cardiomyopathy (the heart thickens) for years. In her words, "It means you're hard-hearted."

When asked about her joints, she "has original everything! If you don't walk, you won't be able to as you get to be my age."

Ruth does worry when she sees all the runners on sidewalks and paved trails, knowing how hard that



is on their bodies. The asphalt trail on McEuen is the hardest part of her walk.

Concerning Tubbs, "Two things tick me off," she said.

1. People who smoke there. (She once counted 138 cigarette butts left behind and decided there are 138 people in Coeur d'Alene who can't read the signs at the beginnings of the trail.)

2. People who don't pick up after their dogs. ("Kim and others shouldn't have to do that.")

On the other hand, Ruth testifies to the fact that there are three really great times on Tubbs: spring wildflowers, fall's changing colors and fresh snow in winter when she is happy to let others break trail!

Now that you know a little more about this corker, you may find yourself marking January 17 on your calendar. Ruth will be at the 10th Street parking lot at 1 p.m. ready to mark her 90th birthday by hiking on Tubbs Hill "unless there is a blizzard... 'cause you can't see."

She would love for you to join her!

**By Linda Wolovich**

Editor's Note: If you are interested in more articles about Tubbs Hill's Friends, please feel free to submit your person or group to [tubbshillnews@gmail.com](mailto:tubbshillnews@gmail.com). Be sure to tell us a little about your nomination.

# Our Website Gets a Makeover!

FRIENDS OF TUBBS HILL

Home Visit Learn History Photos Newsletters Contribute About Us



Located in downtown Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene, Tubbs Hill is comprised of 120 acres of publicly owned land. It has an abundance of tranquil, breathtaking scenery and hiking trails, and is dedicated to the citizens of Coeur d'Alene. Everyone is encouraged to use and enjoy its magnificent splendor.



Visit us at [www.tubbshill.org](http://www.tubbshill.org)

This summer, the Foundation began rolling out a new website design intended to offer visitors better functionality, increased content and a mobile-friendly format. Quality maps, the Guided Nature Hike brochure and a printable activity book for children are now easy to access while visiting Tubbs Hill. Individuals are able to make donations to the Foundation online and also sign up for electronic delivery of our bi-annual newsletter.

There are still more good things to come, but all good things take time. Watch for future features including a quick guide to local plants and wildlife.

## Honoring Champions of Tubbs Hill

This year we lost a true friend of Tubbs Hill when Scott Reed passed. Scott was very instrumental in obtaining and keeping good portions of Tubbs Hill for the public. His predecessor and friend, Art Manley, was likewise a champion for public ownership of Tubbs and deserves equal credit for making it so.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation, the mayor and the city Parks Department are working to honor those two men by naming the main trail around Tubbs in their honor and erecting memorial stones at the east and west entrances. The design work was done by Del Hatch, and sites for the two large stones have been selected. Once the memorial plaques are finished and placed in the stones, and the sites prepared, the Parks Department will place the stones.

If you wish to contribute to the funding of this project, please make

your donation to the Tubbs Hill Foundation with a notation it is for the memorial stones. Donations should be sent to the Tubbs Hill Foundation, P.O. Box 3061, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816.

## Our Newsletter Goes Green!

Help us save the costs and environmental burden of printing and mailing by reading our newsletters electronically. Current and past newsletters are posted on our website, and now you can also sign up to have them sent to your email!

Visit our website at [www.tubbshill.org](http://www.tubbshill.org) and sign up under Newsletters. This is also where you will find links to read our newsletters online. If you wish to be removed from our printed mailing list, we need you to email a note with your name and address to [newsletter@tubbshill.org](mailto:newsletter@tubbshill.org). We will then remove your address from our mailing list and one less copy will be printed, folded, stamped and taken to the Post Office!



## Pileated Woodpecker

George Sayler has had a woodpecker make visits to his backyard fountain recently. It always flies towards Tubbs Hill when leaving. According to "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds" it is the largest woodpecker in America. Their habitat is mature stands of coniferous and mixed woods, where dead stumps abound. It's his treasure hill, too!

## Tubbs Hill Guidebook

The newly printed Tubbs Hill guidebook is available featuring a guided tour and up-dated map. This beautiful booklet is freely available at the CDA Parks Dept and CDA Chamber.

## Our Thanks to Kappa Kappa Gamma!



After busing to CDA for what has become an annual community service event in Coeur d'Alene, 171 young women of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority from Washington State University enjoyed the autumn sunshine and scenery surrounding Tubbs.

Cleaning the major trails as well as adjacent Jewett House and Sanders Beach public spaces occupied the Gamma Eta Chapter's efforts lead by house President Taylor Lange, CDA Trails Coordinator Monte McCully and THF President George Ives.

Following their return of debris-laden orange bags, the participants enjoyed a taco bar picnic at McEuen's Avista Pavillion.

"We wanted to help give back to the community and clean up a place that so many people enjoy," said Kappa Kappa President Taylor Lange. "Tubbs Hill is such a great place to come and we're thrilled to do our part to keep it nice."

All in all, a great day for KKG and our Treasure by the Lake.

The sorority plans to make the Tubbs Hill clean up an annual event. Thank you so much ladies!

*Above all, let us never forget that an act of goodness is in itself an act of happiness. It is the flower of a long inner life of joy and contentment; it tells of peaceful hours and days on the sunniest heights of our soul.*

*~Count Maurice Maeterlinck*

# Fire Prevention on Tubbs Hill

## City wants to make it easier to fight fires on Tubbs Hill

Forested Tubbs Hill Park in downtown Coeur d'Alene has been a firefighting hotspot this year, with 15 blazes – about twice the annual average. More than half of them were arson.

To help the fire department quickly reach the park's inner reaches, the city plans to build a primitive road on top of the butte to connect a fire road on the west side of Tubbs Hill to a water reservoir service road on the east side. The new road, which is mentioned in the city's open space plan, would be about 1,100 feet long.

With the connector in place by next fire season, Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Lauper said, "We can get to the fire quicker, we can deliver people and water to the fire."

The road also will give firefighters better escape routes, Lauper said.

"Let's say a wind-driven fire requires us to evacuate: We can get our people and equipment off the hill."

Most of this year's fires on Tubbs Hill have burned close to Lake Coeur d'Alene, allowing the city to use its fire boats, or have been near the existing access road, Lauper said.

But much of the park is not so accessible, he said.

The city is looking at a couple of potential alignments for the connector road – routes that will require as little tree and brush removal as possible, Lauper said.

"The idea is to flag it and give people a chance to take a look at it," he said of the alignment. "That will happen very soon."

The road also will be used for work such as fuel reduction, selective vegetative management and exotic plant and weed control, the city said.

There is no cost estimate yet for the road project.

The latest human-caused fire broke out Tuesday afternoon, and firefighters were mopping it up Wednesday morning.

Three people have been charged with setting fires on the hill over the past summer. One 13-year-old boy admitted to setting six of the fires.

The Tubbs Hill Foundation and the city's Natural Open Space Committee support the connector road.

Scott Maben, The Spokesman-Review

## Coeur d'Alene Fire partners with Parks and Recreation and Tubbs Hill Foundation on primitive road access on Tubbs Hill

With the devastatingly dry weather this summer and the possibility of an "El-Nino" weather pattern firmly entrenched through next summer, the focus of Tubbs Hill, is in jeopardy.

After many discussions with various community groups, the 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 would provide access to the interior of the hill, increase the margin of safety for emergency personnel and support 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. Tubbs Hill has experienced more than 80 fire starts in the last 15 years. Fourteen of these fires happened this past summer (2015).

The concept for this project was initiated in the early 1980s and was supported in 2012 and again in 2015 by all user groups including the Tubbs Hill Foundation and the Natural Open Space Committee. The recommendations for this concept were to define a specific route, minimize visual impact and respect hill site disturbance.

Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Lauper and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Bill Greenwood met with the Tubbs Hill Foundation and its supporters. They approved moving forward with the concept of connecting the east and west accesses.

Staff will be working closely with the mayor and City Council to begin work in the late fall to create a connection that all users will benefit from.

# 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.

-----

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.

## Annual Tree Removal

In the interest of public safety and to mitigate possible fire hazards, about 20 dead and diseased trees were removed in mid-November from Tubbs Hill. The routine work, conducted annually, targets ailing trees near public trails and also trees that pose a risk to firefighters while fighting fires on the hill, said Coeur d'Alene Urban Forestry Coordinator Katie Kosanke.

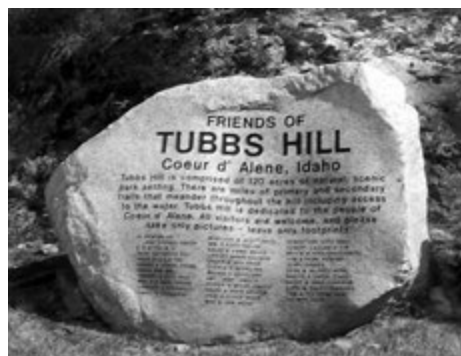
The Coeur d'Alene Fire Department and Parks and Recreation Department manage hazardous trees on Tubbs Hill yearly. This year some of the maintenance was done with the assistance of city firefighters undergoing training from the Idaho Department of Lands.

Kosanke said the city has an obligation to manage the forest fuels and hazardous trees for the preservation of Tubbs Hill and public safety. The fire department has an obligation to train employees to recognize hazards, safely mitigate those hazards and provide skills and certifications that will continue to benefit all who enjoying hiking all the trails around Tubbs Hill.

The trees identified for removal were dropped, limbed if needed and left for wildlife and to break down naturally onsite. Ongoing seedling planting efforts continued to develop a healthy stand of trees that are less susceptible to root disease, Kosanke said.

## 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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Friends of Tubbs Hill

### Our Sincere Thanks To Our Recent Contributors:

George & Juli Ives  
Jay & Mary Beth Broderick  
Linda Saddoris  
Evalyn Adams  
Bea Fisher  
Pat Barber

Jeanne Buell  
David Taylor  
Barbara Dennis  
Dick Wandrocke  
Stormogipson Family  
Doug Fagerness/Ruth Platt

*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.*

### Hats & Visors Available

Tubbs Hill hats and visors are available for purchase. Hats cost \$12, visors \$7. Great Christmas gifts for your Tubbs Hill friends! Call Barbara Fillmore at 666-6050.

### Board of Directors

George Ives, President  
Chuck Hosack, Vice President  
Barbara Fillmore, Treasurer  
Barb Crumpacker, Secretary  
Ron Edinger, City Council Liaison  
Mark Wallace, Legal Counsel  
Evalyn Adams, Director  
Jessica Bryant, Director  
Julie Clark, Director  
Peter Luttrupp, Director  
Nils Rosdahl, Director  
George Saylor, 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, 8 a.m., at the Iron Horse Restaurant, 407 East Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene.

*New Members Wanted! Please join us!*