



HÉEN AGUNATÁANI HÍT

WHITECAPS ON THE WATER HOUSE

Inside this Issue:

- ◆ New Hires!
- ◆ Alaska Native Culture & Art
- ◆ Environmental Department Update
- ◆ Farm Update
- ◆ RCL President Cruise
- ◆ Back to School Backpack Program
- ◆ COVID update
- ◆ SMART Recovery



The Tlingit name for summer
“kutaan”

Tlingit Phrase:

ax kát awdigán

the sun is shining on me

NEW HIRES!

Skagway Traditional Council is growing!

We would like to welcome and introduce our new hires out at the farm!!

Farm Manager ~ Brooke Jasky-Zuber

Hi! I'm Brooke. I moved to Skagway in 2008 from Sterling Alaska where I grew up with my 2 brothers and my parents off grid and tucked away in our own secluded paradise. My Dad grew food in our ever expanding garden ever since I can remember. Often my twin brother and I had the task of rinsing loads of seaweed one wheel barrow at a time. A tedious, but important task I would learn to streamline later in life when I had my own garden.

Since my move to Skagway I've had a garden in every home I've moved into, which like many Skagwegians has been quite a few. I spent 3 years as a gardener at Jewel gardens and on quite a few winter trips found myself on farms tending to goats, filling local produce orders. And falling in love with the plants every new place I went. My love of plants and the lands they grow on has found me adventuring through all kinds of landscapes, practicing wildcrafting, foraging, and absorbing all I can about the uses and magic of edible and medicinal plants. And now to be a part of the journey of this new farm is quite an honor. Not only do I get to help Skagway in an effort for greater food security, but I also feel the potential this farm has to be an avenue for sharing Tlingit culture.



Farmhands~
Deb Boettcher
& Julene Brown
Helpful neighborly faces!



Farmhand ~ Cara Cosgrove
Longtime & friendly local!



Farmhand~Lina Hischer
Hardworking, soon to be
freshman!

Alaska Native Culture & Art in Skagway

- In May, President Jaime Bricker and Tribal Administrator Sara Kinjo-Hischer held a first Culture Heritage Presentation at the Tribal Hall. The event was open to businesses and a successful turn out! We hope to continue more in the future.
- June was a celebration of **PRIDE!**
For this year's event the beautiful design was created by tribal member, Beau Dennis.
- George Bahm of Tlingit ancestry, First Nations from Whitehorse has opened a new store downtown. He continues Indigenous fur line trapping that has been in his family for generations to help create one of a kind pieces.
- STC had the privilege to host Coach Kyle Worl and his Native Youth Olympic Juneau team over the 4th of July weekend. The team demonstrated the Alaska High Kick, Two-Foot High Kick and Inuit Stick Pull and more. NYO Coaches Jaime Bricker & Kyle Worl held Skagway's first NYO Day Camp at the School with 14 participants! Traditional games with their history and technical information were taught to the campers. They also enjoyed lunch, a scavenger hunt and learned to make and use Eskimo Yo-Yo's. Thank you President & Coach Bricker for making this all come together!



Environmental Department Updates by Reuben Cash

Invasive Plants - The Environmental Department (ENVI) began another campaign to remove the most noxious invasive plants from areas around Skagway, this year we have joined forces with the National Park Service! Focusing on reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), white sweetclover (*Melilotus albus*), narrowleaf hawkweed (*Hieracium ubellatum*), and yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), staff has been mapping the locations of new infestations and hand-pulling plants to curb their spread.

Eulachon (Hooligan) - STC is continuing with a eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) population study in partnership with the Chilkoot Indian Association and Takshanuk Watershed Council, collecting water samples to measure eDNA concentrations which can then be used to estimate population size. This year's run seemed promising at first, however wildlife numbers and fish observations suggested a smaller run similar to 2021. ENVI is awaiting lab results to confirm field observations, but is excited to be employing glass field and lab equipment this year instead of single-use plastic.



Air Quality - ENVI is in its third year of measuring fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations in Skagway, this year will be the first full-blown cruise ship season since sampling began. While the goal of the study is to determine whether cruise ship, train, and coach bus emissions are negatively affecting air quality, our monitors are also functioning as an early warning system for wildfire smoke events. The recent inundation of interior Alaska wildfire smoke was detected several days before PM2.5 rose to potentially harmful levels, and our real-time data helped to determine when the smoke had completely cleared.

Educational Outreach - STC partnered with the Rec Center and National Park Service to bring a series of outreach events to the annual Rec Center Summer Camp. K-5 students learned about invasive plant identification, biology and ecology while helping to remove reed canarygrass at Pullen Creek. We also learned about stream bugs, techniques for sampling, and what the community of invertebrates living in a stream can tell us about water quality and salmon habitat.



Seasonal Staff - STC would like to welcome our newest seasonal environmental technicians, Marla Belisle and Wyatt Belisle! Our new techs quickly picked up all the tedious protocols for setting up air quality, sampling for harmful algal blooms, working with invasive plant populations, and myriad other technical tasks. We're happy to have such talented staff to address Tribal environmental priorities. Welcome to the team! Marla and Wyatt!

Farm Update by Brooke Jasky-Zuber

Buying a new farm, what an amazing endeavor. Full of opportunity and surprises.

There's so much I could share about the progression of the Farm this season so I'll do my best to be succinct.

As you may know the Tribe bought it in late winter/ early spring, starting the season a bit late, but still with time to get plenty done. As I started to get to know the Farm and the scope of work ahead I couldn't help but feel a little overwhelmed, yet so grateful to be here. Although there's much to do everyday, it's the kind of work that leaves your body tired and soul full. We had much to do so we hit the ground running, getting paperwork and equipment in order, testing the soil and the water, starting countless trays of seeds, getting the nursery set up to receive starts from Washington, hiring (an amazing crew by the way) and beginning the ongoing task and main goal of the season: reclaiming the land from years of weed growth and preparing for a successful growing season for next year.

If you haven't seen the farm here's a rough idea of our growing space. We have 50, 25' beds that make up the majority of our growing space in the middle of the farm. A roughly 15' x 10' raspberry patch, a roughly 25' x 10' strawberry patch, both to the east. A 50-60' flower bed to the north along the fence and shrubs all along the west fence to help block the road from view and the farm from vehicle emissions.

With the goal of being able to provide food this year along with reclaiming the land we started with planting something we can eat all winter and requires little maintenance. Potatoes. About 5 varieties. And when we used up enough beds on them we made potato towers! Which was a blast. They are a wonderfully efficient use of space and very pretty once they fill in.

While we waited for seeds to arrive we started seeding microgreens to help bring some fresh produce to offer in lieu of crops from the field. Now days we are getting our first harvests of greens, radish and amazing strawberries from the land in addition to those microgreens, and it'll just get better. If all goes well we should have a good variety of produce ready for late season harvesting. There's also been the pleasure of being able to harvest bouquets to offer for sale as the previous owners had planted delphinium, peony, veronica, dianthus, purple aster, snow in summer, and lilies a lot of which have survived the last couple years unattended.

Looking ahead there will be many projects and goals we'll be working towards, just to name a few: Extending our growing season, increasing our perennial foods such as fruit trees and shrubs, incorporating Tlingit food as much as possible, and using the farm as an avenue to host workshops/ talk/ programs on various topics related to food sustainability.

It's been a wonderful journey so far and I'm very grateful to be along for the ride. For me food is at the core of who we are and how we relate to the world around us. Having a farm to help us provide for ourselves feels very important not just for vibrant physical health, but also for our connection to each other and to land we call home. I look forward to the unfolding of our continued work here in this little valley.





RCL Presidents Cruise

On June 27th Skagway held a street style celebration with local businesses and artists for the 2022 Presidential Cruise destination. Council Member & Vice Chair, Andrew Beierly gave a Traditional Tlingit welcome to Royal Caribbean President Michael Bayley. Thank you, Andy for continuing to dedicate time and representation for Skagway Traditional Council.

Back to School Backpack Program

School is almost in session!
Thanks again, to Tlingit & Haida for continuing the Backpack Program. If you missed the opportunity to apply please contact STC. We are looking forward to another great school year with Salmon in the Classroom and more!

-Photo by Julie Chapman

1/4 of the backpacks stuffed for SE communities!



COVID-19 Update

Testing Time: Tuesday & Thursday 4-6PM (no appointment necessary)

Free paid by Skagway Traditional Council for the general public.

If you are planning to come test with us it is helpful if you entered your demographic information prior to testing. You can enter your demographic information for STC testing here:

<https://www.simplereport.gov/app/register/RBR4G>

SMART Recovery Meetings

When: Monday 6:00pm-7:30pm

Where: Skagway Traditional Council

Questions? Call John Hischer, LCSW

Phone: (907) 983-2255

Everyone is welcome and meetings are Free

SMART Recovery encourages a holistic approach to addiction recovery, with the goal being to achieve a healthy & balanced lifestyle.

Get more information about SMART Recovery at www.smartrecovery.org

This is a free newsletter brought to you by the Skagway Traditional Council. For more information about tribal history, elections, activities, and upcoming events visit our website: www.skagwaytraditional.org

“Our mission at the Skagway Traditional Council is to nurture and protect our tribal members by persevering cultural heritage, natural resources, improving partnerships and economic sustainability, while upholding tribal sovereignty.”

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