

# HÉEN AGUNATÁANI HÍT

## WHITECAPS ON THE WATER HOUSE



### JÁNWU SÍT'I (MOUNTAIN GOAT GLACIER)

PHOTO BY ELISE GIRODANO

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## SHORELINE PARK CEREMONY

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PHOTOS BY ELISE GIORDANO

Skagway community gathered together on August 26 for the art unveiling done by tribal member, Beau Dennis. The beautiful piece is displayed at the Shoreline Park restrooms and represents an Eagle & Killer Whale both from Beau's family clan. STC staff & members joined in the celebration with drumming and song. Skagway Traditional Council is thankful for the opportunity to work with MOS on this project. The outcome is more than amazing. And thank you Beau, for continuing to share your talent!



PHOTOS BY ELISE GIORDANO

## Old-Growth Forest Network

Skagway Traditional Council was honored to be part of the Old-Growth Forest Network dedication of the Denver Glacier Trail—Tongass National Forest. Please enjoy the links below for further detail in this unique opportunity STC joined in.

STC approved of the name, the dedication and participated in the ceremony.

<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/ak-denver-glacier-trail>

This website is managed by Spruce Root and Sustainable Southeast Tourism to promote visitors to southeast Alaska including Skagway.

[https://visitsoutheastalaska.com/cities\\_villages/skagway-shgagwei/](https://visitsoutheastalaska.com/cities_villages/skagway-shgagwei/)

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# ELECTION RESULTS

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This year, 38% of eligible voters participated in STC's Tribal Council election. Andrew Beierly & Marla Belilse were both unanimously elected. Congratulations, Andrew & Marla!

They were both re-inducted to the Council on October 20, 2022 and will serve a 3-year term. Andrew acting Vice Chair and Marla acting Secretary. Thank you both for continuing to serve the Tribe and community!

All other items of the ballot did not pass as we did not have at least 40% of the votes.

Updating Bylaws and Constitution, Decrease Blood Quantum Requirement for Jurisdictional Members; Formatting update; Updating office term to 3 years; Clarifying Electronic Meeting

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## TRIBAL AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

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Skagway Traditional Council is pleased to announce that we were awarded tribal broadband affordability grant and will be participating in Alaska Power & Telephone (AP&T)'s broadband service voucher program that would provide no-cost broadband access to Tribal households (In Skagway Only), Tribal Business & Tribal Government and its extensions for six or more years, creating access to online programs and services.

Please be aware this program is only through a partnership with AP&T and you will need AP&T services to be eligible for this service.

Internet access level and specifications may change but we expect to be able to provide a minimum of 25Mbps download/3Mbps upload for copper-fed premises and 150 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload for fiber-fed premises (speeds may change based on AP&T's standard of service options change). Most up to date details for services is available at AP&T.

After signing up for TAP program, STC will be emailing quarterly questionnaires required by the grant. Please take the time to submit the questionnaires as it would help us gauge if the program is helpful or not. Use the link below to enroll or feel free to call or email the office to see if your enrollment went through.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBL0BtI8S5Ba72meL6AATROBgOFrBY\\_bDryNMFJZOJA3IINw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBL0BtI8S5Ba72meL6AATROBgOFrBY_bDryNMFJZOJA3IINw/viewform)





## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is Native American Heritage Month! Skagway's local library has some of Marsha Fernandez artwork on display lent by STC.

Marsha Fernandez of Petersburg Alaska.

In 2017 Marsha was traveling in SE Alaska and found Skagway by chance. That year she connected with Sara Kinjo-Hischer at STC. After getting to know Marsha and seeing her work, the tribe set up a community weaving class which saw over 15 students as young as 10 years old. Since then Marsha has stayed in touch and has allowed the tribe to hold onto some of her creations for use in displays. In 2018 Marsha was a recipient of blue ribbon and judges choice award at the 2018 Alaska State Fair.



***Quote from Marsha " I have been an admirer and student of NW art since 1978 and feel compelled to pass on my knowledge to anyone interested in learning."***



PHOTOS BY ELISE GIORDANO

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## FARM

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### LOOKING BACK ON 2022 SEASON

by Brooke Jasky-Zuber

And just like that it's winter. It all went by so fast on the farm as the growing season seems to do. It has been an incredibly satisfying summer on the STC farm, and we've enjoyed every step of the way, from the promise of

freshly sprouted plants to the very last farm stand full of earthly gems.

Just like any growing season we had our highs and lows, and plenty of surprises, both delightful and difficult. For me, part of being a plant caretaker is sharing the process and experience with community. Knowing and understanding where our food and medicine comes from can both unite and empower us. You may or may not have made it to the farm this season, so below you can glean a bit of the journey we got to enjoy this year.

This Spring was a wonderful whirlwind of organizing, seeding, weeding, planting and celebrating a newly acquired farm full of promise and opportunity. The farmhands and myself were grateful everyday to be tending to the foundation of health and vitality. Even I wasn't sure what we'd bring to harvest as we were focusing our efforts on reviving the farm that

had been at rest for a few years, but here's what we had the privilege to see mature: peas, beans, salad mix, lettuce, arugula, mustard, kale, swiss chard, parsley, strawberries ( if you had them you remember the delicious strawberries! ), raspberries, squash, zucchini, sorrel, sage, nasturtiums, bunch onion, broccoli, purple cauliflower, orbit cauliflower, potatoes, and of course microgreens ( 5 varieties) and an assortment of bouquet flowers. Oh! I almost forgot ... Grapes.

Yup we grew grapes. John McDermot gifted us a couple grape vines after a trip out to his homestead this spring. They unexpectedly produced a few small bunches this season in our tiny greenhouse. Round of applause for the earth! What a bounty. And another round of applause for all the hardworking farm hands. It took a lot of muscle, sweat, and soggy boot days.

Even though we got started last minute there were many things we got to provide to the community thanks to the inspired staff. The farm was able to offer nursery plants, bouquets, host some hands on potato learning for the 4th and 5th grade students, donate fresh veggies to the senior lunch at the end of our season, Bring local Apples to market, and best yet, we got to see familiar smiling faces every week taking home starts and fresh produce.

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## FARM CONTINUED

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In the nursery we brought in annuals, perennials and shrubs and had the pleasure of creating and providing potted arrangements and hanging baskets. Some people came back weekly just to buy a little this or that and see what new arrangements had been created. Simply getting to see people come together and enjoy the space and the company of the new plants was heartwarming.

As I became familiar with the new farm this spring the discovery of several perennial flowers inspired me to seed a few annuals to complement what was already there. Before we knew it we had bouquets on the checkout table daily and fairly regular orders until closing day. Even as the first snow began to fall, hardy purple and white asters stood in full bloom.

Our markets began quite humbly. Just some salad greens, microgreens and pea shoots. Our hours were slim and irregular as we sorted out the best timing and balance against continuing to reclaim the farm land. As the summer went on we slowly saw our coolers fill up and the variety expand. Before we knew it we were offering quite the menu of goodies including strawberries, 5 varieties of potatoes and crowd pleasers like sunflower microgreens and farm fresh salad mix every week. Such spectacular transition!

Having educational opportunities is a future focus for the farm. This year Ms. M. and I were able to organize a potato digging frenzy. The kids did get to learn about the life cycle of the potato, but I think they mostly learned how exciting it is to unearth those starchy gems expectantly digging through mounds. Some were reluctant to get dirty at first, or to touch an earthworm, but by the end not one kid seemed to care that their hands were caked in soil and their clothes were all earth colored. I almost went deaf from kids screaming "POTATO!" for 45 minutes.

What a special summer it was on this farm. One that I believe marks the beginning of a more vibrant and healthy home town for us all. Our farm hands share the same sentiment so I thought it would be nice for you to get to hear from them.

Deb Boettcher: Some of what I heard from customers at the farm this summer: "I'm so glad to see the farm resurrected; our community needs it", "Doesn't get better than strawberries picked 2 hours ago", "I LOVE sunflower sprouts and eat them for snacks", "I've never eaten borage. Is it good?", "Wow! You have sorrel? Sorrel soup is one of my favorites", "I'm so glad you have fresh, cut flowers; they are gorgeous!" "The cauliflowers are so pretty. I've never seen pink and green ones before."

Working outdoors with people who believe that what they are doing benefits our community, planting seeds then harvesting the plants, and interacting with grateful customers made for a very rewarding and fun summer. I really appreciate having been given the opportunity to work at Lazy Daisy Farm.

Cara Cosgrove: "WoW, such a nourishing summer at Lazy Daisy Farm! I loved visiting with our regulars and sharing discoveries! Who knew that Sugar Snap Peas could replace my daily dose of Hershey's? Add the physical benefits from daily hard work and the season was transformational. We had a magical team and the farm is off and away."

Julene Fairbanks: I like food. I like to cook food. I like to eat food. I like to grow food. And I think that before we cook food and eat food, we need to know where our food comes from. Working this summer at Lazy Daisy Farm was a joy for me. Seeding and weeding, transplanting and weeding, harvesting and weeding and then cooking food that I helped to grow, joy!

# Environmental Department

by Reuben Cash



AQMesh Pod for the DEC Community-Based Air Monitoring Project



Aerial imagery of the Skagway River engineered fish pools near Seven Pastures

## Air Quality

STC was selected from a national pool of applicants for an EPA Community Air Monitoring grant! Partnering with NPS and Municipality of Skagway (MOS), ENVI will assemble components for an advanced air quality monitoring array and build an online community air quality data dashboard so Skagway residents will be able to make informed decisions about their exposure to air pollutants. Check out the announcement here <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/community-air-pollution-monitoring-projects-alaska-receive-13-million-epa-funding>

The Department of Environmental Conservation also installed a multi-parameter air quality monitor at the Tribal Community Center which transmits data to a publicly available web portal, a preview of the system to be installed in 2023. To access the DEC web portal, follow this link <https://dec.alaska.gov/air/air-monitoring/aqmesh-community-based-monitoring>

## Unmanned Aerial Systems

ENVI staff have been deploying an unmanned aerial system (UAS, AKA drone) for the last several years, capturing aerial imagery of various locations around the Skagway and Dyea valleys. The current dataset allows STC to compare imagery from sequential years and track changes, which is proving particularly useful in assessing salmon rearing habitat and river channel migration.





## TAIYA COUNSELING SERVICES, LLC.

JOHN HISCHER, LCSW

Taiya Counseling Services, LLC is now open and providing mental health services to residents of Skagway Mondays through Wednesday from 8 am to 5pm. Additionally, reminiscent group, SMART recovery group, and other mental health outreach will continue under Taiya Counseling Services made possible by a partnership with the Tribe.

Currently, we accept Blue Cross BlueShield, BCBS FEP, Aetna, AK Medicaid, Medicare. For those without insurance we are able to provide limited sessions at nominal fee price. Please email us at [Info@taiyacounseling.com](mailto:Info@taiyacounseling.com) if you like to learn about it. This offer is provided thanks to funding support from the Skagway Traditional Council through May 2023. We are continuing to work towards being an in-network provider with most of the main insurance providers.

# SMART RECOVERY

Time: Every Monday at 6PM  
Place: Skagway Traditional Council  
at 11th and Broadway

**Discover  
the Power  
of Choice**

- 1  
Enhancing and  
Maintaining  
Motivation  

- 2  
Coping  
With Urges  

- 3  
Manage Thoughts  
and Feelings  

- 4  
Lifestyle  
balance  


For more information please visit [www.smartrecovery.org](http://www.smartrecovery.org).



Brought to you by  
Taiya Counseling Services and  
the Skagway Traditional Council



# Skagway Traditional Council

## Mission

*“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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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](http://www.skagwaytraditional.org)

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