

HÉEN AGUNATÁANI HÍT

WHITECAPS ON THE WATER HOUSE



HŌKŪLE'A STOPS IN HAINES

PHOTOS BY REBECCA HYLTON



Inside this Issue:

Alaska Native Culture & Art	pg. 3
Farm Update	pg. 4-5
Environmental Department Update	pg. 6-7
Taiya Counseling Services, LLC	pg. 8
Reminiscent Group	pg. 9
SMART Recovery	pg. 10

Mark Your Calendars:

July Events

14: Tlingit & Haida Backpack Application Deadline - Extended

August Events

15: First Day of School! Please slow down & lookout for one another.

September Events

30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day ~ Every Child Matters



STC Vice President, Andrew Beierly presents a Tlingit literature gift to the Koningsdam Captain on May 9th for their 150th anniversary celebration.

ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE & ART



Still Here. Still Queer : A Legacy of Resilience was the theme for Skagway Pride this year and tribal member Beau Dennis created a beautiful piece to help encompass just that. Beau’s interview with Skagway Pride below.

“I really wanted to encapsulate this year’s theme within the design, while holding true to traditional formline design and color schemes.”

“I went with a circular design as I feel the overall shape represents legacy and resilience. The dividers are in an hourglass shape, which I felt also represents those ideas. The figure is a take on designs usually found on bentwood boxes. They’re usually described as more supernatural than human, which I thought was a cool way to show us as the entire LGBTQ2+ community. And the hands are the same ones that were used in last years design, thought that was a cool way to connect the designs”

Thank you Beau for continuing to create, teach & share your talent.

Crystal Worl from Juneau submits Whale’s Tail for the next Alaska state license plate.

Voting is open until July 31
www.akarts.org/vote



Keeping Alaska Native Languages Alive: Interview with Dr. X’unei Lance Twitchell

Harvard International Review interviewed tribal member Lance Twitchell. Please follow the link for further reading. A wonderful perspective on keeping Alaska Native language & culture alive.

<https://hir.harvard.edu/keeping-alaska-native-languages-alive/>



FARM UPDATE

BY BROOKE JASKY-ZUBER, FARM MANAGER

When you work on a Farm there is never a dull moment. Something new, fun, challenging or exciting is always happening. Lot of things fall into these categories at once so let's explore a little bit of everything: from SEAK Farmers Summit, growing starts in the STC garage, Skagit nursery order, in house flower arrangement baskets, new shmansy tools, compost update, Tlingit potatoes, fruit trees, honey berries, and lastly signing a contract for a new Greenhouse!

This February I had the pleasure of traveling to Petersburg for the bi-annual SEAK Farmers Summit. This summit is truly a labor of love. Farmers, growers, producers and AK food security enthusiasts of all kind come from all over Alaska and the lower 48 to share ideas, tricks of the trade & network, all in the name of helping each other grow food and support commercial agriculture in Southeast Alaska. For 3 (very full) days we learned from the successes and mistakes of currently operating farms and those who strive to make the industry better. From this I gleaned a lot of information that is and will be put to use on our very own Farm. More in a paragraph coming soon.

This spring I set up our start grow in the STC garage. In keeping with our venture it was a little grow with big dreams so I kept out planting the lighting space I had, growing everything from our cauliflower and kale starts to bedding plants for the nursery, annual and perennial bouquet flowers and kiwi berry cuttings I was gifted at the SEAK summit. As the weather slowly warmed up the starts made their way out to the farm, just in time to be joined by our annual Skagit nursery order. With a slightly larger order this year and in house starts we assembled all our planters and hanging baskets, something I plan to make routine in our nursery. Earlier start came earlier planting. We planted cauliflowers and kale early enough to be harvested in June! Next year I'm hoping to have spinach, onions and radishes on the early harvest list as well.

As far as shmansy tools we have a few in use and more for the future. The four main ones we have been able to implement this year are the kwik klik seeding system with paper pot trays. And the paper pot transplanter and the quick cut greens harvester. The kwik klik allows us to seed into our trays in seconds. The paper pots allow us to seed up to 264 seeds at a time and the transplanter does the work of actually pulling the paper pots apart and planting them. And last but definitely not least is the greens harvester. It is drill operated and allows us to harvest greens in just a few minutes, granted the bed is weeded well. Keep an eye out on FB for videos of all this in action.

Compost! This update is short and sweet. We were able to make enough compost to get us through our planting season. This is huge, as shipping in compost and amendments of any kind is expensive and also not sustainable ecologically. To truly have food sovereignty we must have soil sovereignty. This has been a community effort. We received generous donations from community members bringing us: leaves- Janalyn Heger, grass- Abby Meyers and spent grains- Doc/ Brew Co. and Cara Cosgrove continuing to help us shovel manure from her horse Pattock. A huge thank you, to all who help make our compost happen!

I would also like to speak on two goals the STC has for the farm. One is to have a supply of Tlingit potatoes for seed and harvest, to preserve and continue this aspect of Tlingit culture. The other is to create greater food security for Skagway. Seven, 30' rows in the field have been dedicated to Tlingit potatoes this year and they are looking beautiful! We still have extra seed, so if you haven't had the chance to plant them please come pick some up. This spring we planted two cherry trees, two plum trees and two honey berries in a corner of the farm, I plan to have this as a perennial fruit patch. This corner already has 10 honey berry bushes planted from clones I started last year. They survived the winter like champs and have vigorous new growth this year. Although it will be a few years before any of these baby's produce substantial fruit it is an important start on what I believe is a crucial part of food security- food that produces, even when no one is there to tend to it. It just comes back, but not to say it won't take special care the first few years.

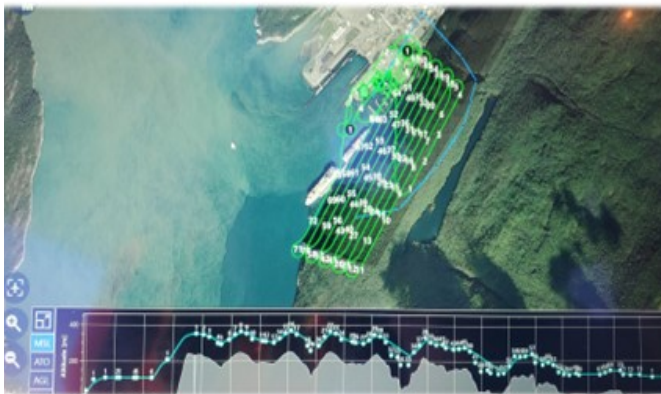
The Greenhouse. Any grower will tell you what a gamechanger a greenhouse can be. STC recently signed a funding agreement for a greenhouse coming later this year or earlier next year! I am beyond excited for this to unfold as an enclosure for growing will allow us to grow warm weather produce and seamlessly grow and move bedding plants to the nursery for sale. It could also serve as a place to extend the production of cold weather crops.

There is so much more I could tell you, but I'll keep it at that. Long story long, there is always stuff happening at the farm. Come out and see! Fresh vegetables in the fridge every weekend and flowers blooming in the nursery!

ALSO! I am planning to do a few community farm walks in the near future. If you're interested in seeing what is growing on the farm please reach out and email me to get on a notification list. brooke@skagwaytraditional.org



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT by Colton Belisle



KUTÍ Project Drone-Based LiDAR

The ENVI team had the opportunity to play a role on the ground team for a series of drone-based Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) missions along the east ridge of Skagway proper, collecting high-resolution elevation and imagery data to help characterize the geological structure of areas adjacent to the main slide area around the harbor. These missions were funded by the KUTÍ Project, a partnership between STC, the Sitka Sound Science Center, and several scientific organizations including the University of Washington RAPID facility who led the Skagway acquisition. LiDAR allows us to penetrate the tree canopy and create elevation models with an accuracy of less than one centimeter over large areas, data that will be critical for understanding hazards not only at the active slide area, but also the entire ridge along Skagway's eastern flank.



BEACH Program

STC began weekly bacteria sampling at five Skagway recreational beaches in May, a program funded by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Beach Monitoring Program. Staff wades out into recreational beach waters to collect water samples, environmental data, and beach usage observations to help inform the community about the safety of our marine waters. If you are interested in receiving weekly updates on sampling results, please contact Reuben to get on the list reuben@skagwaytraditional.org. You can also view results at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/beach-program/skagway/>



Eulachon!



Air Quality!

This Spring, our eulachon sampling season came and went. While we saw very few migrating fish, we sure saw the wildlife reacting to something in the water. Pictured above are seagulls flocking over something in the Taiya estuary.

In April, we started 2023’s season of air testing! You may see these stations around town; we set them up every other day to perform a 24 hour test get various (minimum, maximum, and average) readings of pollutants in the air. Keep an eye out at the end of the season for our announcement when we host a meeting to go over our readings and what they mean!



Invasives Co-Op



New Staff Member!

We recently had a collaboration with the National Park Service where we headed out to the Dyea Flats with the summer camp kids to learn about invasive species. We enjoyed dandelion shortbread, cleared a field of dandelions, and played matches of scavenger hunts and capture the flag using invasive species as objectives. Make sure you keep an eye out so you can help our native species thrive!

STC would like to welcome our newest employee in the Environmental Department, Eric Dye! Eric grew up in a town called Hamilton in central New Jersey and recently graduated from Millersville University with a bachelor's degree in Meteorology and a minor in Environmental Hazards and Emergency Management. Some of his hobbies include soccer, traveling, and music. Eric is very excited to be able to help the environment and to have the opportunity to further his knowledge in the scientific field. If you see Eric around town please say hello!



TAIYA COUNSELING SERVICES, LLC.

JOHN HISCHER, LCSW

Taiya Counseling Services, LLC is providing mental health services to Skagway residents 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 if you would 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. You can reach John Hischer at his office phone (907) 983-2459 for more information.

Reminiscent Group

Time: Every Mondays at 3pm

Place: Skagway Traditional Council (11th & Broadway)

To get on the email list for reminders email us at
info@taiyacounseling.com



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



SMART RECOVERY

Time: Every Monday at 6PM

Place: Skagway Traditional
Council at 11th and Broadway

**Discover
the Power
of Choice**



For more information please visit 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

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