

TTCD Newsletter—Spring 2016

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

April 2016

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

This spring, TTCD welcomes a new board member in the at-large position: Jason Brune. Jason serves as the Senior Lands Manager at CIRI and we are looking forward to the energy and ideas that he will bring to the TTCD Board of Directors. TTCD also welcomes new employee John Hagan, who joined TTCD in March as the Conservation Technician.

We'd like to thank our departing board member, Ron Stanek, for 8+ years of dedicated service. Ron has worked closely with TTCD since our formation, and has served several years as the board chair. Ron's dedication played a major role in making TTCD what it is today.

Tyonek Grown Program

TTCD was recently selected by the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) to receive the Alaska Food Hero Award. The awards were given to one organization and one individual based on work they have conducted over the past 18 months. Awardees demonstrated a substantial impact on Alaska's food system, transformed an aspect of their community's food system, and made a difference for Alaska's prosperity, health, and self-reliance.

TTCD is honored to receive this prestigious award in recognition of our efforts to improve the AK Food System. We share this award with all of our supporters and with community members, and especially with the Tebughna School students who have played a major role in developing this program. The Tyonek Garden now serves as a successful demonstration for many communities across Alaska.

In 2016, TTCD will continue work closely with the Native Village of Tyonek and the Tyonek Native Corporation to manage the Tyonek Garden and to grow local, fresh, healthy vegetables. In April,

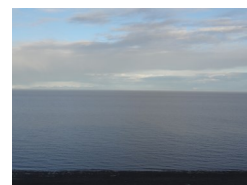
TTCD will begin accepting applications for the 2016 Youth Internship at the Tyonek Garden. Youth Interns will have the opportunity to learn about many aspects of gardening, including caring for plants, composting, nutrient management, irrigation, harvesting, and vegetable sales. Please check our website (www.ttcd.org) in April for more information.



Below: TTCD Board member Gwen Chickalusion holding the AK Food Hero Award with TTCD staff Christy Cincotta, Tonya Kaloa, and Nicole Swenson (left to right).

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Board Members

Sharon Williford
Marian King
Robert Stephan, Sr.
Gwen Chickalusion
Jason Brune

Staff

Christy Cincotta
Tonya Kaloa
Nicole Swenson
John Hagan
Erin Hoffman

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

Last year, TTCD coordinated two successful pike derbies in Tyonek rally community support to begin control efforts on this invasive species. In 2016, we again plan to hold two pike derbies. The next pike derby is planned for May in Tyonek and in Beluga. For more details, contact Tonya Kaloa.

In addition to Northern Pike, TTCD is working to address another invasive species: Orange Hawkweed. This plant is considered a threat to wildlife habitat, as it can form dense mats and crowd out local native plants. TTCD staff have surveyed communities in the District for invasive plants, and have found Orange Hawkweed

(see photo below) in Beluga. We are currently planning ways to remove this plant before it spreads to Tyonek, and expect to begin implementation this summer. If you see this plant, please do not transplant it, but instead report it to TTCD.

Below: This plant is invasive! If you see orange hawkweed in the District, report it to TTCD as soon as possible.



Technical Assistance Program

Through the Technical Assistance Program, TTCD works with landowners and stakeholders in the District to help them achieve their conservation goals. In 2016, TTCD is working with the Tyonek Native Corporation to complete a fuel break on TNC lands surrounding the Native Village of Tyonek. This project will help protect Tyonek residents from wild fires.

As part of this program, TTCD works with other TCDs in AK to provide planning assistance. In January, TTCD staff visited Arctic Village to work with the T'ee Drin Jik TCD to provide training and support planning efforts.

Are you a District resident or stakeholder? TTCD wants to work with you to help you achieve your conservation goals!

Please call Tonya Kaloa at 907-646-3126 or email tkaloa@tyonek.com.



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Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program

Since 2014, TTCD staff have worked with teachers and students in the Tebughna School to provide hands-on science lessons on a monthly basis. In 2016, TTCD staff continue to provide innovative ways for youth to connect to natural resources.

In January, Tebughna School students learned about the salmon life cycle and about salmon habitat. As part of this lesson, students learned about the importance of removing barriers in streams that prevent salmon from reaching their spawning and rearing habitat.

In February, TTCD began working with Tebughna School students to develop

projects for a school Science Fair. Students learned about the scientific method and began developing their own scientific experiments focused on gardening. In March and April, TTCD staff will continue to work with students as they develop their individual projects and learn more about science.

Below: Youth engaged in a relay race learn about the salmon life cycle and the obstacles salmon face on their journey.

