

TTCD Newsletter—Fall 2016

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

Autumn has arrived, and here at TTCD we're enjoying this beautiful time of year. The 2016 summer season has featured many successful projects and we have a lot to celebrate, including our largest garden harvest, the completion of an invasive plant control project in Beluga, two successful pike derbies, a new fire break surrounding Tyonek, and several new projects at TTCD.

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Board Members

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

Staff

Christy Cincotta
Nicole Swenson
Tonya Kaloa
John Hagan
Erin Hoffman

Summer Staff

Gwen Chickalusion
Justin Trenton
Leeanne Smoke
Reka Smoke

Tyonek Grown Program

The Tyonek Garden flourished this year with warm weather and diligent caretakers. TTCD Garden Supervisor Gwen Chickalusion and Summer Youth Interns Leeanne and Reka Smoke worked with other TTCD staff to grow a bounty of vegetables. Produce was distributed to elders through the elders lunch program, and sold at many markets, including the tribal center, Beluga, and Anchorage.

In mid-September, Tebughna School students and staff assisted in potato and carrot harvest activities at the garden. Students also had the opportunity to tour the garden and see the growth of the many seedlings that they had helped to plant earlier in the year.

On September 23rd, TTCD held a Harvest Potluck at the Tebughna School to celebrate the end of the 5th successful growing season at the Tyonek Garden. The event was attended by students, Tebughna School staff, and community members.

TTCD works closely with many partners to manage the Tyonek Garden and to grow local, fresh, healthy vegetables. To learn about future garden activities visit us on Facebook.



Top: Tebughna School potato harvest.

Middle: TTCD board members Marian King and Jason Brune harvest carrots at the Tyonek Garden.

Bottom: 2016 Tyonek Grown Harvest Potluck.

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

Through the Fish Passage & Habitat Program, TTCD monitors watershed health in the District and works to address issues that impact watershed health. In 2016, TTCD staff monitored invasive species, fish passage, stream temperature, salmon populations, and water quality in order to support informed land management decisions within the District.

Together with our partners the US Fish & Wildlife Service, AK Dept. of Fish & Game, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Tyonek Native Corporation, and Native Village of Tyonek, TTCD has developed a prioritization to address all fish passage barriers within the Dis-

trict by 2021. TTCD has begun coordinating logistics for the replacement of three culverts with fish friendly culverts within the Indian Creek drainage. These projects are expected to begin in spring 2017 and will open 9.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.

TTCD would like to thank those who participated in the September pike derby. Congratulations to Crystal Jones (right), who caught the largest pike at 91 cm long, and to Clarke Smith, who caught 19 pike, the most caught during the derby.



Technical Assistance Program

Last year, TTCD worked with TNC to plan a fuel break on Tyonek Native Corporation lands surrounding the Native Village of Tyonek. This project is now complete. Not only has this project provided local jobs, but it will also help to protect Tyonek from forest fires.



Leo Barlow and Tony McCord view the site of the completed project.

**Do you like what we do?
Would you like to help?**

**Visit our website to
donate today!**

www.ttcd.org

*Your donation will support local,
meaningful projects in the
District.*



1689 C Street, Ste. 219
Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel: 907-646-3126
www.ttcd.org

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Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program

In September, Tebughna School students had the opportunity to learn about salmon science from US Fish & Wildlife Service hydrologist Franklin Dekker and from Arctic Youth Ambassador Reth Duir. Students visited Indian Creek, the site of TTCD's next culvert replacement project, and learned about the importance of fish passage for healthy salmon.

This fall, TTCD is working with the Tebughna School, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and Vertical Harvest to develop a hydroponics system for education and vegetable production in the school. Check TTCD's Facebook page for updates this winter.



Above: Students review the salmon life cycle.

Below: Tebughna school students release a baby salmon into Indian Creek.

