



Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department

Program Update

By: Karis Porcincula

Spring is in the air! The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department has been working hard to reach their goals this quarter.

The Earth Day Fair Poster Contest ended on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 5pm.

The Environmental Coordinator attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment during the second week of February.

The Environmental Assistant has been assisting the Pauloff Harbor Tribe Environmental Department at the recycling center on Monday mornings.

The Environmental Department has been planning for the Earth Day Fair and is also holding an Earth Day Fair Raffle. Raffle items are posted around town along with the raffle prices. The Earth Day

Fair will take place on, Saturday, April 23rd, 2016 at the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Community Center.

Environmental Staff are still collecting Electronic Waste. Drop off your electronic waste at the QTT Environmental Department on the first floor of the City Building, third door on the left. If you are an elder or handicapped, you can call the Environmental Department and they will pick up your electronic waste.

Environmental Staff have also added their Indoor Air Quality Survey to their website. If you have a moment, please stop by the website and fill out the survey. It will help with future environmental work.

The Environmental staff will

be starting an Invasive Plants vs Native Plants segment for EYG/ETG. If you have any ideas for projects, please let us know.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning is still being tested for in the local clams from the Sand Point Spit Beach. The Environmental staff dig clams once a month to send out. They just dug clams on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 and sent the sample out on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

The Environmental Department has been working with the LEO Network to identify environmental issues around the community, as a way of reporting and getting some feedback from an environmental professional. If you notice anything out of the ordinary in our community, please contact the Environmental Department by phone or email.



March 2016

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Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Update

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department has been digging clams once a month to send out to the Environmental Health Lab for PSP testing. The January results came back at 244 micrograms, which is well above the limit of 80 micrograms. The February results came back at 218 micrograms which is also well above the

FDA approved limit of 80 micrograms. The Environmental Staff just went clam digging again on March 8th and sent the sample out on March 9th. They are awaiting the results from the Environmental Health Laboratory. They will publish results as soon as they are available.

Clams from the Sand Point

Spit beach haven't been below 80 micrograms since 2014.

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe neither encourages nor discourages the consumption of the local shellfish, but provides this information for the community to make an educated decision regarding shellfish consumption.





Alaska Forum on the Environment



By: Karis Porcincula

The Environmental Coordinator attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment during the second week of February from the 8th through the 12th. During the forum, the Environmental Coordinator attended sessions on invasive species, air quality, marine debris, IGAP grant information, environmental education, mapping and tools, road dust, migratory bird die-off, and recycling efforts. There were also keynote speakers every day, such as: Lieutenant Governor Byron Malot; Humorist Andrew Tarvin; Dennis



McLerran, who has been speaking at the AK Forum for 18 years; the Arctic Youth Ambassadors; Larry Hartig with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC); Bill Werry with Alberta Environmental; and Bill Ross with Ross Strategic.

This conference is an educating, eye opening, learning experience for those who are interested in their environment and those who want to help. I've attended this conference for five years now and there is always something

new to learn. This year, the AK Forum pertained more to the IGAP needs, as the program is changing.

It also presents activities which can be done with the community and how to educate people of all ages about the ever changing environment.

This is a conference I'd like to attend for years to come, due to the ample information received and the chance to voice your opinion on the environment in your community. It's also a nice place to meet others in the same field of work.

Indoor Air Quality

By: Karis Porcincula



The Environmental Department has put their Indoor Air Quality survey on the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe website in hopes for more participants.

Indoor Air Quality has become a concern for people all over Alaska and we are hoping to help with the growing concern by helping the people in our community. Many factors contribute to indoor air quality. Dust, mold, carbon monoxide,

household cleaners, smoking indoors and woodstoves are just some of the things causing indoor air quality issues. If there is dust in your home, it may contribute to allergies, asthma, or upper respiratory problems. Same goes for mold causing you to breathe in those mold spores. Household cleaners have so many chemicals which can lead to respiratory problems. When using household cleaners, open a window or make sure you have some type of ventilation in your home.

If you are concerned about the air quality

in your home or work place, please let us know. When you have a free moment, would you please log on to our website at: <http://www.qttribe.org/Environmental> and scroll down to the Indoor Air Quality Survey link and participate in a quick survey. It would help us tremendously, as we need the information for future work in the Environmental Department.

Thank you in advance for all the help. We greatly appreciate it and we wish happy healthy living to you!

Environmental Youth Group Update

By: Jasmine Maligaya

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Environmental Assistant has been doing Environmental Youth Group (EYG) every Thursday at 3pm at the Boys and Girls Club; due to Boys and Girls club being closed on Fridays.

Environmental Youth Group has now switched back to every Friday at 3pm. EYG has been working on their Earth Day Poster Contest for the 9th Annual Earth Day Fair, this year's theme is Trees for the Earth.

EYG has also discussed the Earth Day Fair coming up and a few spring activities.

The Environmental Assistant has plans to do more outdoor activities, with EYG, such as going on nature walks and examining the different types of plants and weather patterns.

As spring approaches us, the Environmental Assistant plans to have EYG use their creative minds on what environmen-



tal activities they would like to do and start a calendar with different environmental activities each week. Parents of children who attend the Boys and Girls Club, please fill out a permission slip so we can do outdoor activities. Permission slips are on our website at <http://www.qttribe.org/Environmental>, or at the Environmental office. We will also be sending home permission slips with the youth. They can return them to Elizabeth at the Boys and Girls Club and we will get them from her. Thank you.





Is it Spring?

By: Jasmine Maligaya

Spring is here, or so we think! As spring approaches us, the weather has been changing back and forth between beautiful sunshine and cold winter snow.

Spring is not only the season where the weather starts to warm up, it's also the season for allergies to arise and plants to start blooming. Although, in Sand Point the spring weather is still in between, please remember to dress warm for outdoor activities.



As our community is on the Aleutian Chain and surrounded by water, any type of weather can be present. Past weather change in Sand Point has included snow, rain, hail, sunshine, and wind all in one day or nice and warm on day, then

the next day would be rain/snow. Since the weather is so up and down, you

can prevent getting sick by dressing appropriately by wearing a jacket, scarf, gloves, hat, and warm boots. Dressing appropriate is also very important for children who like to play outdoors. Make sure children are bundled up and have layers of clothing.

Hope everyone enjoys the weather!

Electronic Waste Update

By: Jasmine Maligaya

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Environmental Department is still collecting electronic waste. The materials we collect include; ink cartridges, printers, computers, keyboards, TV's, DVD players, telephones, cell phones, iPods/iPads, various power wires, back-up batteries, gaming consoles (PlayStation, XBOX, Nintendo, Sega, Game Cube, etc), handheld gaming technology (Gameboys, Nintendo DS, PSP, etc)



and more. The electronic waste gets sent to a recycling center in Seattle, WA.

In May, we sent out ink cartridges to Office Max by mail and sent out two totes full of e-waste on Coastal Transportation to Total Reclaim in Seattle, WA. We try to send out electronic waste once or twice a year (depending on how much accumulated).



We are actively working on recycling electronics to keep them out of our landfill. Please work with us and lets recycle to make our community a healthier place.

If you have any electronic waste you are no longer using or is broken, please bring it to the QTT Office located at the City Building on the first floor, third door on the left. If you are an elder or handicapped, you can call for us pickup at (907)383-6968.

Environmental Teen Group Update

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Coordinator has been working with the Environmental Teen Group (ETG) at the Teen Center, most Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm. They have been working on their Earth Day Poster Contest entries.

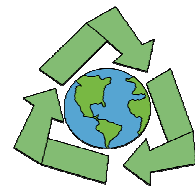
Environmental Teen Group (ETG) has been lacking participants lately due to other afterschool activities. ETG has been doing environmental projects and talking

about changes in our environment, which could be recycling, littering, air quality, animals, invasive plants, etc. Due to our ever changing environment, there will always be something to learn about. The Environmental Coordinator hopes to find some Environmental games (scavenger hunts and other fun games) to actively get teen participation.

If you'd like to help with the Environmental Teen Group and/or if you have

any ideas, you can contact the Environmental Coordinator or come attend ETG on Wednesday nights. Scheduled changes will be made on the QTT website at: <http://www.qttribe.org/Environmental> under Environmental Teen Group.

We hope to do more fun activities in the future. Hope to see you there!





Earth Day Fair 2016

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department is hosting their 9th annual Earth Day Fair on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Community Center. The Earth Day Fair will start with the green walk meeting at the Community Center at 10:45am for trash bags and gloves. The green walk will take place from 11:00am to 12:00pm. The Earth Day Fair will start immediately after.

The fair will have a craft corner, flower/vegetable planting station, the gold fish toss, plastic bottle ring toss, pop bottle bowling, and relay races. The Environ-

mental Department is working to add new games and fun for the community.

There is also the Earth Day Fair Raffle, which will take place at the end of the Earth Day Fair. Raffle items this year are: a fit bit one, Seahawks BBQ Gear, volleyball & badminton outdoor combo set, a double dog towable, a food saver with extra bags, a 6qt crock pot with a crock pot cook book, and a Very Kool rugged cell phone with a \$50 credit



from TelAlaska. Tickets are sold as follows: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00. If you are interested in buying tickets, please contact Karis Porcincula or Jasmine Maligaya at (907)383-6968 or stop by the Qagan Tayagungin Tribal office to see the Environmental Department, or Wendy Gardner in the main office.

We hope to see you at the Earth Day Fair in the coming month.

There are new prizes and fun games to play. More information on the Earth Day Fair will be coming soon.

Litter In Our Community

By: Jasmine Maligaya

Since the End of Summer Clean-up, there has been a lot of noticeable litter throughout our community. Litter is a form of environmental pollution, not only has it hurt the environment but also our community and local wildlife.

Littering in our environment can damage areas where we live, work, and play. With our community, it has made our town look dirty and sending the impression it's ok to litter. Animals can get hurt while stepping on certain objects thrown out and animals can also get trapped and poi-

soned. Marine mammals, along with land animals, can ingest the trash and which will make them feel full, thus making it almost impossible for them to eat their regular foods. This can cause an animal to starve to death. Our wildlife needs to be protected from this harmful cycle. Litter can also cause harm our plants. When there is trash next to a plant, the



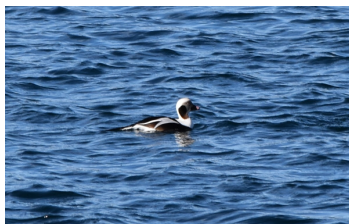
plant will not grow properly, the plant can be poisoned, and cause the plant will not receive the full amount of water needed.

As a community, we need to stop the littering from becoming a common thing. Please pick up any trash you see around town and encourage people not to litter. Let's make our community a happier and healthier place to reside.

Migratory Bird Die Off

By: Jasmine Maligaya

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Environmental Department has been informed of the migratory bird die-off happening along the coastal areas of Alaska.



have been dying other than starvation, but the US Fish & Wildlife Services would like to be notified of any deceased birds we may find along our coastal areas.

The environmental staff are also members of the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network and we report any odd environmental issues we've found, the most common being the bird die-off in Alaska. If you happen to walk along a coastal area, and see a deceased bird (of any kind),

please let us know by calling our office at: (907)383-6968, or taking a picture and sending it to our email

QTTEnvironmental@arctic.net or QTTEnvironmentalAssistant@arctic.net, with a short detailed description of where the bird was found (i.e. Far left corner of the Spit Beach right next to the air strip) and anything unusual you see around it. It would be very helpful for us and other entities dealing with this same issue.

Thank you.





Household Cleaners

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department has been researching household cleaners and how it can affect your health.

We recommend you to use a self made household cleaner which doesn't include chemicals. There are many household cleaners you can make on your own, which won't affect your health, and cleaning will be just as affective. A

household cleaner easy to make is an All Purpose Cleaner.

All Purpose Cleaner recipe includes:

2 tablespoons of Vinegar

1 teaspoon Borax or washing soda

2 cups of hot water

1/4 cup of liquid soap

Mix everything but soap in a spray bottle and shake. Add 1/4 liquid soap last. Mix gently. Apply and wipe clean. Good for counters, wood work, appliances, and any other surfaces.

If you would like more information on liquid cleaners, there is a print out in the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental office, or you can visit:

<http://www.wswmd.org/recipes>

QTT Council & Staff

Council Members

David O. Osterback
President, Seat E

Dennis Gundersen
Vice-President, Seat B

Glen Gardner Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer, Seat D

Peter Devine Jr.
Council Member, Seat A

Alvin Osterback Jr.
Council Member, Seat C

Jason Bjornstad
Council Member Seat F

Dick Jacobsen
Council Member, Seat G



Qagan Tayagungin Tribe

P.O Box 447

Sand Point, AK 99661

Phone: (907)383-5616

Environmental: (907)383-6968

Agate: (907)383-5833

Fax: (907)383-5814

Web: <http://www.qttribe.org>

Staff

Tiffany Jackson
Executive Director

Nikki Gundersen
Finance Director

Carla Chebetnoy
ETR Case Manager/TWTH Project Manager

Wendy Gardner
Administrative Assistant

Karis Porcincula
Environmental Coordinator

Jasmine Maligaya
Environmental Assistant

Dylan Jacobsen
Gaming Manager

Jillian Bjornstad
OJT Student

Dennis McGlashan
Maintenance

Judith Morgan
Janitor



Transportation Safety Planning

By: Tiffany Jackson

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe has received a grant to create a transportation safety plan. This plan will help us identify transportation related issues in the community which will have the greatest impact on improving the transportation system as a whole. We're asking all community members and businesses, who have concerns, to come to an initial planning meeting on Tuesday, March 15th to start identifying issues.

When we talk about transportation safety, many times, people automatically think of cars and other ground transportation.



What we'd like people to do is expand their thinking, and identify any transportation related issue which may impact safety, whether it's related to air transportation, water transportation, or ground transportation.

Are there alders which are over growing in some areas which make it difficult to see oncoming traffic? Are there places in town where potholes prevent you from driving on the right side of the road?

Is there anything this prevents safe water transportation? Are there sufficient sizes of life jackets? What issues might we face in air travel which could impact community safety? Do you wish there was a safe

way for 4-wheelers to get around town?

Right now, we really just want to know what issues the community has regarding transportation safety as a whole so we can start putting together a plan. Once issues have been compiled, we'll start prioritizing what the community would like to see.

At this March 15th meeting we'll also have Austin Roof who's working on the Safe Routes to School grant, and what we can do to make sure students are safe, or what we can do to make them safer, when going to and from school.



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Sand Point, AK 99661
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Environmental: (907)383-6968
Fax: (907)383-5814
Web: <https://www.qttribe.org>



Box Holder

Sand Point, AK 99661

