



# QAGAN TAYAGUNGIN TRIBE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

March 2015

## Program Update

By: Karis Porcincula

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Spring time is here! The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Office has been busy!

Environmental staff held the Earth Day Fair poster contest. The contest ended on March 6, 2015.

The Environmental Staff recently returned from the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage, AK where they attended trainings pertinent to their program and had a chance to meet other Environmental Staff from around our region.

The Environmental Department sampled clams for

February, and the results came back high, again! They will test again during the first low tide in March.

April is sneaking up on us, which means the Earth Day Fair is coming soon. If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer for the 8th annual Earth Day Fair, please call the Environmental Department.

The air monitoring grant is almost finished. The Environmental Coordinator and Environmental Assistant collected dust samples from the harbor and sent the samples out the Analytica lab to determine what is

in our dust.

The Environmental staff have been working with the youth groups to educate them on the environment most weeks. The students have been participating in many activities.

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department is working on a traditional ecological knowledge survey to survey elders of the community on the environmental changes they have seen in the past 30 years. If you have any information on this, please let us know.

## Air Quality Monitoring

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department is still working on air quality monitoring. The Environmental staff just recently collected dust samples to send to the Analytica lab in Anchorage for testing to see what types of chemicals and toxins are in

our dust causing health issues and going into our water way.

The mini grant used to for air quality monitoring is almost finished and the dust collecting was the last leg of the grant.

With collecting these dust samples, we are hoping to

help show the community what types of chemicals and other toxins they are breathing in when the dust is kicked up in the harbor and to encourage the community to be careful for their health. Also to be careful of what is used when working.



# Alaska Forum on the Environment



By: Karis Porcincula



The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Staff attended the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage Alaska from February 9-13. The week long conference was held at the De'naina Center in downtown Anchorage expressing the many environmental issues. The QTT Environmental staff focused more on subjects they will be working with for the next few years, such as: air quality, invasive species, solid/hazardous waste, and pollution prevention. Each morn-

ing had a keynote speaker and on Monday and Thursday there were also keynote speakers. On Wednesday at lunch time, the Environmental Departments from our region, got together with the project officer from EPA for a luncheon, On Thursday morning, the keynote speaker was Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, who gave a great speech. The Environmental Staff got to meet him and take a picture. On the last day of the conferences, there was a meet and

greet with the regions project officer to talk about how we can work together and what types of things we can get from other tribes. The last session was a close out session, which went pretty well. People from everywhere around the region spoke about the conference and how their experiences were. The AK Forum was yet another great experience and gave the Environmental Department some new ideas for their work in the future.

## Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Update

By: Karis Porcincula



The Environmental Department has been digging clams each month and sending them out to the Environmental Health Laboratory for testing. The last sample was dug on February 2, 2015 and sent out to the lab for testing. The results came back high for this time of year, at 121 mi-

crograms which is above the FDA limit of 80 micrograms. These samples are unsafe. February was the 10th consecutive month where the clam results came back unsafe. The Environmental Department is planning on going clam digging on March 18, 2015 for the March sample. We will let the com-

munity know the results as soon as we receive them. The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe neither encourages nor discourages the consumption of the local shellfish, but provides this information for the community members to make an educated decision regarding shellfish consumption.

## Pollution

By: Jasmine Maligaya



Pollution can be described as contamination of air, water, and land. They are introduction of a contaminant into a natural environment by humans. Pollution is one of the biggest global killers; it affects over 100 million people. Thousands of marine creatures die by mistakenly swallowing plastic bags that look like jellyfish. 14 billion pounds of garbage are

dumped into the ocean every year. People throw away over 2.5 million plastic bottles per hour and each one take 500 years to decompose. Fish in polluted lakes lose their sense of smell. Every 1 million tons of oil being shipped is 1 ton being spilled. Over a million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals are killed by pollution. More than 100 pesticides in

any medium-air, water or soil can cause birth defects, gene mutation and cancer. With this information, we are hoping to encourage people to change their behavior towards the environment, to stop littering and recycle more.

For more information, visit: <http://www.conserve-energy-future.com/various-pollution-facts.php>

# Animals and Factory Farms

By: Jasmine Maligaya

Ever wondered about what they do to animals in factory farms? A factory farm is a large-scale industrial operation that houses thousands of animals raised for foods. Chickens, turkeys, cows, and pigs are treated with hormones and antibiotics to prevent diseases and maximize their growth and food output. Animals are sprayed with huge amounts of pesticides and antibiotics; it can remain in their bodies and pass onto the people who eat them. It can create serious health hazards in humans. Beaks of chickens, turkeys, and ducks are removed in factory farms to reduce the extreme feather

pecking and flesh-eating among stressed overcrowded birds. A supermarket chicken today contains more than twice the fat and about a third less protein than 40 years ago. 2/3rds of farm animals in the world are now factory farmed. Keeping numerous animals in one place produces a lot more waste than surrounding land can handle. This leads to factory farms to associate with various environmental hazards like water, land, and air pollution. The pollution from animal waste causes respiratory problems such as skin infections, nausea, depression, and even death for people who live near factory farms. Dairy

cows live to their third lactation before being discarded; they naturally can live for 20 years. Hog, chicken, and cattle waste has polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated ground water in 17 states. Egg-laying hens are starved up to 14 days and 5-10% of the hens die during sloughing process. 70 billion farm animals are now nurtured for food each year worldwide.

With this information, we encourage the people to eat healthy organic food, but this information is for you to make a more informed decision on how to choose your food.

For more information on this article, visit:

<https://www.dosomethin.org/facts/11-facts-about-animals-and-factory-farms>

## Earth Day Fair 2015

By: Karis Porcincula

The 8th annual Earth Day Fair will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Community Center.

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department held the annual Earth Day

poster drawing contest, which ended on March 6, 2015. The Qagan Tayagungin Tribal Council will decide a winning poster during the next meeting.

The Earth Day Fair will start the same as last year with a

green walk with the fair following immediately after. If you have any questions, please call the QTT Environmental Department or email us at: [QTTEnvironmental@arctic.net](mailto:QTTEnvironmental@arctic.net).



## Spring !

By: Jasmine Maligaya

Spring has almost arrived and flowers have already started blooming along with the green grass seen around Sand Point. The days are getting longer and warmer.

The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox.

“Vernal” is Latin for spring and “Equinox” is Latin for equal night. This year, the first day of spring will be March 20<sup>th</sup>. It is known that the first day of spring, we will receive twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of

night. The Earth’s axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the amount of daylight hours.

Get ready for the spring to arrive and remember, “April showers bring May flowers!”



## Environmental Youth Group Update

By: Jasmine Maligaya

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Assistant has been doing EYG most Friday's at 3:00 PM up at the QTT Rec Center during Boys and Girls Club. EYG provides the youth of Sand Point with an opportunity to participate in educational and environmentally friendly activities. Some of the activities the EYG will participate in will take them off Boys and Girls Club/QTT Community Center property. In order to participate in these activities,



a release form must be signed by a parent or guardian. Release forms can be picked up at the tribe or downloaded on our website. The Environmental Youth Group has participated in an art contest for the Federal Subsistence Management Plan. They have created drawings involving fish and shell fish. We will hear about the results later next month. EYG is currently working on the Earth Day poster contest hosted by the QTT Environmental Depart-

ment. Kids were being creative coming up with all sorts of drawings using the theme "It's Our Turn To Lead." For upcoming activities. The EYG coordinator has plans to do a nature walk, trash pick-up, environmental learning games, planting plants, and much more this upcoming spring.

The Environmental Youth Group have been learning from the recycling, pollution, and natural resources portion of the curriculum.

## Environmental Teen Group Update

By: Karis Porcincula

The Environmental Coordinator has been going over to the Teen Center almost every Wednesday evening from 7-8 pm, to work with the teens and get them interested in Environmental Issues and awareness of their environment.

The Environmental Coordi-

nator had teens take part in the Art Contest for the Federal Subsistence Management Plan. One teen submitted a drawing. We are waiting to hear for results. Since then, the Environmental Coordinator has been trying to coordinate a trash pick-up outside the teen center, but weather

has not been on her side. She will try again during the upcoming weeks. We are hoping for more teen participation.

The Environmental Teen Group has been working with the recycling, environment, and natural resources portion of the curriculum.



## Scholarship and Job Search Assistance

By: Tiffany Jackson

Tis the season for high school seniors to be applying for scholarships (some deadlines have already passed!), and getting their funding together to attend college or trade school in the fall. So are you a QTT member looking for a scholarship or needing help completing the FAFSA? Look no further, Car-

la Chebetnoy is here at QTT to help you out!

As the Employment, Training, and Related Services (ETR) Case Manager, Carla maintains a job bank, and list of scholarships QTT members may be eligible to apply for. Carla works from 8-12, Monday through Friday, and she can be reached at the

tribe's main number, or via email at [QTTEmployment@arctic.net](mailto:QTTEmployment@arctic.net).

Carla is also available for QTT members who need assistance looking for a job, interested in training to get job skills, or overcoming other secondary education and employment hurdles.



# Electronic Waste Update

By: Jasmine Maligaya

E-Waste is a popular name for electronic garbage. Many products can be reused, refurbished, or recycled. The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department has been collecting e-waste throughout the community. We have been sending out ink cartridges and have been waiting to send out an e-waste load to Total Reclaim, but before we can send them we have to make sure we have enough. If you

have any e-waste materials no longer in use please bring them to the QTT Office located at the City Building, third door to your left. These materials we collect include; ink cartridges, printers, computers, keyboards, etc. 85% of electronic products discarded in landfills can release certain toxics into the air. E-waste represents 2% of America's trash in landfills, but it equals up to 70% of toxic waste. On-



ly 12.5 % of e-waste is currently being recycled. According to EPA, e-waste is still the fastest growing community waste stream in America.

Please bring your e-waste to us, so we can get rid of them the proper way.

## Qagan Tayagungin Tribal Council & Staff

### Council

**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 Members, Seat F*

**Dick Jacobsen**

*Council Members, Seat G*



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*Administrative Assistant*

**Carla Chebetnoy**

*ETR Case Manager*

**Karis Porcincula**

*Environmental Coordinator*

**Jasmine Maligaya**

*Environmental Assistant*

**Tabitha Holmberg**

*Gaming Manager*

**Robin Kenezuroff**

*Gaming Assistant*

**Judith Morgan**

*Janitor*

**Dennis McGlashan Sr.**

*Maintenance*

## Reclaim Alaska Visits SWAMC

On Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>, Reclaim Alaska Chairman Tiffany Jackson did a brief presentation, and moderated the Addressing Social Behavior session at the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference's Seas the Day conference in early March.

Jackson took a few minutes to tell conference attendees about Reclaim Alaska and their efforts, including progress made by Eastern Aleutian Tribes in pursuing the Oxford House style home in Sand Point. So far this concept has been well received, a potential house has been

identified, and some funding has been earmarked for the project. Next steps include working with Tribal Councils on finalizing house selection, a visit by the State Director of Behavioral Health Albert Wall to Sand Point, and recruitment for the house.

Another message communicated by Jackson was the need to have more than one champion. "Throughout this conference we've talked about having a champion to further a cause, whatever it may be, but we need more than one champion! We can't just have 20% of peo-

ple doing 80% of the work, we need everyone to pitch in and be a part of our work if we're going to be successful!"

Also presenting during this panel was Kate Burkhart on municipalities and marijuana, Dr. Gary Ferguson on wellness, Susan Magestro on our youth and challenges they face, and Cara Fairbanks on the importance of soft skills in the work place. With legalization of marijuana so fresh in everyone's mind, the crowd was eager to pick Ms. Burkhart's brain with ques-

tions on resources and options communities have moving forward. This conversation carried over to the third day when Senator Gary Stevens talked about challenges the legislature was facing, and his own opinion on marijuana being a gateway drug. "I think our message was well received" Jackson said. "Following our panel I had a number of great conversations with people who sincerely want us to be successful, and who want to be a part of bringing our communities back to wellness".

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**We are on the web!**  
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