



# Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department

## Program Update

By: Karis Porcincula

Summer 2013 is over and it is time to get back into the groove of things. School is starting, weather is getting colder, and holidays galore are ahead of us.

Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department has a new Environmental Assistant, **Shivonne Johnson**. There is also a new Environmental Coordinator, **Karis Porcincula**, whom was the previous Environmental Assistant.

The Environmental Youth Group is back to meeting at the Boys and Girls Club. They have been working on ways to recycle paper. The Environmental Teen Group is working on getting back into the curriculum after picking



up trash and planting this summer. Every Thursday ETG is held at 7:00pm at the Teen Center and EYG is held at 2:30pm at the Boys and Girls Club every Friday.

The Environmental office continues to dig clams every month.

The last clam sample was dug on September 18, 2013 and we are waiting for clam results.

The Environmental Department is continuing to collect electronic waste and research funding to send out the electronic waste.

Culture Camp was a success this year yet again. There were over eighty students and about twenty-four staff members. This year was our 13th

year of Culture Camp.

The End of Summer Clean up was also a great hit this year. Participation doubled from last year and there were quite a few bags of trash picked up. The clean up ended with a barbecue and prize drawing raffle in which everyone won a prize. The Environmental Department hopes for another great clean up next year with more people and more trash. Thank you to those of you who participated to make our community a cleaner place.

The QT Tribe is putting together a list of children for our annual Christmas potluck, if you know of any children new to the community or visiting over Christmas break, please contact us at: (907) 383-5616

## September 2013

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## Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP)

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department is still digging and collecting clam samples to send to the Environmental Health Laboratory for paralytic shellfish poisoning.

The last clam sample was dug on September 18, 2013, and

we are waiting for sample results from the Lab.

The paralytic shellfish poisoning results from August were unusually low for this time of year. The results turned out to be 19.2 micrograms, which is the lowest results Sand Point has ever experienced since

testing started.

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.



# Too Young for Cell Phones

By: Shivonne Johnson

Scientists are focusing on studies which link cell phone usage and kids under the age of 20 to malignant brain tumors. The scientist found youth under the age of 20 are at greater risk of getting a malignant brain tumors. The team of scientists examined the results from fifteen studies from six different countries conducted by health researchers. The results caused them to call on nations worldwide to make tougher safety standards for cell phone use especially for children. Those who start using a cell phone for one year or more before the age of 20 are 5.2 times

greater risk of getting a brain tumor, this fact was noticed by Dr. Lennart Hardell (an oncologist from the University Hospital in Sweden).

Dr. Hardell also found people who started using cell phones later in life put themselves at a great risk of 1.4 times. "The official position of most government agencies charged with monitoring the public health risks of cell phone radiation – and certainly the stance of the wireless phone industry– found there is not sufficient scientific evidence to determine cell

phones pose a risk to human health. Yet, scientists continue to study the issue and their findings continue to raise questions."

This information is by Larry West, Former About.com Guide, and the publisher of About.com.

For more information, go to:

<http://environment.about.com/b/2009/03/17/study-finds-cell-phones-increase-brain-cancer-risks-in-children.htm>

# Environmental Youth Groups Update

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Coordinator continues to work with the Environmental Teen Group most Thursday night at 7:00pm at the Teen Center. Right now, the Environmental Coordinator is working with the teens to get back into the environmental curriculum, after planting plants and picking up trash for most of the summer months. They will be working with natural materials by learning what natural resources are and how they can be used. Environmental Teen Group will continue to take place at the Teen Center every Thursday night, for

an hour, unless posted otherwise.

The Environmental Assistant has been working with the Environmental Youth Group every Friday at 2:30pm at the Boys and Girls Club. Since the new Environmental Assistant has been hired on, she has started off with working on recycling projects. The Environmental Youth Group just finished up making recycled note books, since school has just started. She will be starting another project in the first week of October. Environmental Youth Group will continue to take place

at the Boys and Girls Club every Friday afternoon, for an hour, unless otherwise posted.

The Environmental Youth Group Schedules are posted on the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe website weekly. When the youth groups are cancelled, it is posted on the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Website, Facebook, and Twitter. To keep an eye out for the schedule, go to:

<http://www.qtribe.org/Environmental>

# Air Quality Complaints & Surveys

By: Karis Porcincula

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department is still collecting air quality complaints through the tribes website. We have received many complaints already, and are hoping to collect more. We are using the collected complaints as information to identify ways to improve our air quality. So please continue to track air quality complaints online at our website:

<http://www.qtribe.org/Environmental>

The Environmental Department has also send out air quality surveys during this summer, and although we have received some back, we would like to receive more. The Environmental Assistant, Shivonne Johnson, has been going around town to try to have people fill out surveys, but if you have not filled out a survey yet and would like to, it would be a great help to our Environmental Department. You can give us a call at: (907)383-6968 or email us at:

[QTTEnvironmental@arctic.net](mailto:QTTEnvironmental@arctic.net).

We will be here to help you. We are also looking into putting the survey on our website.

We would also like to let you know, these surveys are anonymous and we are only using the information as a whole to find ways to improve our Air Quality in Sand Point. So, please take the time to complete these surveys, as it will be a big help for us. Thank you.





# End of Summer Clean-Up

By: Karis Porcincula

On Saturday, September 14, 2013 the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Environmental Department held their 3rd annual End of Summer Clean-up. The clean up is used to collect and address the litter collected on the sides of the roads and in the environment from the Summer months.

This year, a total of 44 community members showed up to clean up our community. The clean up started at 1:00pm, lasting three hours, until 4:00pm. Locals started meeting around 12:30pm at the City Gym to grab trash bags and gloves and head out into different places in our community to pick up trash.

After the three hour mark of cleaning up trash, all participants came back to the City Gym to participate in a barbecue and prize raffle. Every participant won a prize.

Two volunteers who helped out throughout the whole clean up were; **Carla Chebetnoy**, who passed out garbage bags and gloves, and wrote tickets for everyone who participated, and **Joseph Johnson**, who barbecued all the hamburgers and hotdogs for the festivities.

When everything was finished, the Environmental Coordinator, and volunteer

Carla Chebetnoy, drove around and picked up all the yellow trash bags left on the side of the road. There were a total of 30 bags of trash picked up.

The 3rd annual End of Summer Clean Up has grown, and will hopefully continue to grow, in years to come. This year was the best turn out since this event started.

During the summer there are many people in our fishing community of Sand Point, and some are careless as to where they place their trash. It is disappointing to those who did trash pick up around town.

# Culture Camp 2013

By: Karis Porcincula

From July 15th - 25th, 2013, the 13th annual Culture Camp was held in Sand Point at the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Community Center.

Set up for camp started on July 13, 2013, when the Culture Camp Coordinator, instructors, apprentices, and laborers met at the community center to start pulling supplies out of storage and setting up tables. On Monday, July 15, 2013, camp started bright and early at 9:00am.

There were over 20 staff members this year. Starting with the Culture Camp Coordinator/glass ball beading instructor, **Carla Chebetnoy**; Regalia instructor, **Sally Swetzof**; basket weaving instructor, **Sharon Kay**; stained glass instructor, **James Kaiser**; language instructor, **Josephine Shangin**; drum making instructor,

**Lydia Vincler**; traditional foods gatherer/hat instructor, **Peter Devine**; traditional foods gatherer/drying rack instructor, **Teresa Smith**; Bering Sea headdress instructor, **Shalene Chebetnoy**; full crown headdress/dance instructor, **Karis Porcincula**; dance instructor, **Elizabeth Chebetnoy**; hat making instructor, **Patty Gregory**; K-4th Grade teachers, **Eileen Dushkin** and **Kim Johansen**, traditional foods instructor/cook, **Anne Morris**; Cook, **Jamal Bernsten**. There were three apprentices who helped various instructors at camp; **Keomi Chrim**, **Alania Kuchenchoff**, and **Bobbi Dushkin**.

There were two adults from Fish & Wildlife; **Ingrid Harrold** and **Bona Robinson**. There were also four Youth Conservation Corps Students who helped Fish & Wildlife.

There were over 80 youth in attendance at Culture Camp this year. The youth did a wide variety of activities this year, including dancing, beading, hat making, language, learning how to prepare traditional foods, working with Fish & Wildlife on environmental activities, how to make stained glass fixtures, basket weaving, making drying racks, and making regalia. The youth completed many of these tasks this year and what wasn't finished will be worked on to be completed next year.

Culture camp ended with a potluck with all four dance groups performing their list of dances and the auction. Culture camp is another event which has grown tremendously throughout the years, and helps support camp efforts through community participation in the auction.

# Die Fish, Die

By: Shivonne Johnson

Drought, algae bloom, over population or a sustained increase in water temperature are the most common causes of low oxygen levels fish need to survive, but infectious diseases and parasites can also lead to fish die-off. A far less common cause of fish die-off is toxicity. When die-off

occurs, it is a red flag the surrounding environment is being stressed and should be investigated immediately by environmental agencies to find the cause of the kill.

Fish die-off is one of the first visible

signs of environmental stress and is a strong indicator, where a problem is present in their environment. Fish species have a somewhat low tolerance of variations in environmental conditions, which can also affect plants and other animals.





# Butts Impact

By: Shivonne Johnson

Cigarette butts are the most common toxic waste found in cleanups, they do not decompose completely. Cigarette butts may look like cotton but they are in fact made from a form of plastic called cellulose acetate. Cigarette butts leach toxic wastes such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and polycyclic aromatic.

It's estimated for every 300 cigarettes made, one tree is consumed. 5.6 trillion cigarettes are produced annually worldwide taking up about 18.6 billion trees every year. The estimate, worldwide, is

1.69 billion pounds of cigarette butts end up as waste each year.

Here is a thought to think about, the estimate to cleanup cigarette butts cost approximately \$7.4 million annually for San Francisco. San Francisco has more of a population



than Sand Point. Sand Point has, between the ages of 15-86, 269 tobacco users, of those 249 are smokers according to the clinic. For a population of nearly 1,000 people, that is almost a third of the community.

If you would like to learn more about the affects of cigarette butts, visit:

<http://www.tobaccofreeca.com/smoking-problem/impact/environment/>

# What is Acid Rain?

By: Karis Porcincula

Have you ever wondered what acid rain is? Acid rain is a mixture of wet and dry deposition (deposited materials) from the atmosphere containing higher than normal amounts of nitric and sulfuric acids.

Acid rain results from both natural sources, such as volcanoes and decaying vegetation, and man-made sources. Man-made sources such as sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) resulting from fossil fuel combustion. In the United States, it is estimated roughly 2/3

of all SO2 and 1/4 of all NOx come from electric power generation that relies on burning fossil fuels, such as coal.

Acid rain occurs when these gases react with water, oxygen, and other chemicals and form various acidic compounds.

The result is a mild solution of sulfuric acid and nitric acid. Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides get released from power plants and other sources, and these chemicals are blown by the wind across state and national borders, and are usually

blown hundreds of miles around the world. Wet deposition refers to acid rain, fog, and snow and dry depositing refers to areas where the weather is dry.

If you would like to know more, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/acidrain/what/index.html>

# Electronic Recycling Update

By: Karis Porcincula

The Environmental Department is still collecting electronic waste. We sent out four pallets on Coastal Transportation to Seattle, WA to Total Reclaim, in June. We collect everything from copying/fax machines to telephones and radios.

We have collected more products to send to Total Reclaim but we have found we no longer have funding to send electronic waste to Total Reclaim. The Environmen-

tal department is looking for other funding to send electronic waste out to be disposed of properly. This may be a process and it may take a while, but when we find funding we will continue to send out electronic waste. As of right now, we are still collecting electronic waste, and if there is a change we will inform the community. Thank you for recycling your electronics for us to send out.

We are also still collecting ink cartridges to recycle. If you have any electronic waste or ink cartridges, and are an elder or disabled, give us a call at: (907)383-6968 and we can pick up your electronics. If you would like to drop off your electronics at our office, it is located on the first floor of the City Building, third door on the left.





# Food, A Climate Problem

By: Shivonne Johnson

The majority of food waste comes from people tossing out leftovers and unused ingredients. The impacts of food waste are not just financial. Based on the Environment, food waste leads to unnecessary use of chemicals as fertilizer and pesticides.

According to the Food and



Agriculture Organization (FAO), one-third of all food produced for human consumption is lost and wasted.

The United Nations Environment Program says, in the United States 30% of

all food, worth at least \$48.3 billion, is thrown away each year. Also, half of the water used to produce this food goes to waste. In the United States, organic waste is the second highest component of landfills, which are the largest sources of methane emissions. Methane is 23 more time potent than CO2 as a greenhouse gas. For more information, visit:

<http://www.unep.org/wed/quickfacts/>

## Qagan Tayagungin Tribe Council Members & Staff

### Council Members

**David O. Osterback**  
*President (Seat E)*

**Dennis Gundersen**  
*Vice-President (Seat C)*

**Glen Gardner Jr.**  
*Secretary/Treasurer (Seat D)*

**Peter Devine Jr.**  
*Council Member (Seat A)*

**Dick Jacobsen**  
*Council Member (Seat G)*

**Rayette McGlashan**  
*Council Member (Seat F)*

**Alvin Osterback Jr.**  
*Council Member (Seat B)*



### Qagan Tayagungin Tribe

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### Staff

**Tiffany Jackson**  
*Executive Director*

**Laresa Moses**  
*Finance Director*

**Joyce Gould**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Karis Porcincula**  
*Environmental Coordinator*

**Shivonne Johnson**  
*Environmental Assistant*

**Tabitha Holmberg**  
*Agate Coordinator*

**Christine Burlaza**  
*Agate Assistant*

**Max Chebetnoy**  
*Janitor*

**Dennis McGlashan Sr.**  
*Maintenance*



# Nutrition Assistance Program Introduced in Sand Point

By: Tiffany Jackson

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe in a partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium has just introduced the Nutrition Assistance Program in Sand Point. This program is funded through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations by the USDA and is open to all residents of Sand Point who meet the income guidelines.

The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Nutrition Assistance Program is an alternative to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program SNAP, previously known as the Food Stamps program. Unlike SNAP where recipients are given funds to purchase food, this program provides recipients with a shopping list to pick inventory from, and recipients are then provided with their choice of healthy and nutritious



food. There are a couple of benefits to this program. Firstly, recipients will receive only healthy nutritious foods whereas the SNAP program allows the purchase of items like soda pop, chips, and cookies. The income limits are also higher under this new program so individuals who don't qualify for SNAP may still qualify for our Nutrition Assistance Program.

This is an alternative to the SNAP

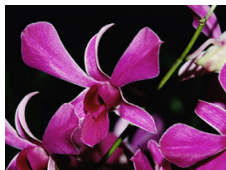
program, so individuals cannot participate in both programs in the same month. However, if someone is currently participating in SNAP, we can pre-qualify them for the Nutrition Assistance Program, and assist them in withdrawing from SNAP to participate in this program. SNAP beneficiaries who receive less than \$80 per month may find it beneficiary to switch as they'll receive a higher volume of food each month through our Nutrition Assistance Program.

For questions and more information on how to apply and participate in the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Nutrition Assistance Program, please contact the tribe at 907-383-5616, or stop by the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's office, first floor of the municipal building in Sand Point.



## Qagan Tayagungin Tribe

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