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Winter 2017 Issue

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Takshanuk Watershed Council

The Current, Winter 2017

www.takshanuk.org 907-766-3542 HC 60 Box 2008, Haines, Alaska 99827



Starvin' Marvin Garden

The K-7 grade classes had fun harvesting Marvin' and putting the garden to bed in the last few months. The classes really enjoyed taking veggies home, making class snacks and bringing veggies to the cafeteria to be prepared for lunch.





We had another great harvest!



Composting

The 6th graders and I are continuing to compost all of the lunch food scraps and feed them to Starvin' Marvin. The students always love finding Starvin' Marvin





TWC partnered with Rich Chapell in taking the 4th graders to Sawmill Creek to learn about what biologists do. Rich was able to trap salmon and other fish which the kids loved learning about. Derek and Jolanta taught the kids about stream measurements, and creating wetlands and bioswales.

Fish Trivia

Fish Trivia has been a big hit again this year. Our local crabbers, tenders and Montessori students have been generous enough to keep some of their by-catch for Fish Trivia. We have had crabs, starfish, sea cucumbers, jellyfish, starfish, and more! Like last year the program takes place on Wednesdays during lunch time in the school cafeteria. We learn about marine and fresh water creatures, sample sea food, answer trivia questions and win prizes. If you come by a marine or fresh water creature you think the kids would like to learn about please send it our way.





TWC collaborated with Fish and Game and we took the 2nd grade class to Chilkoot River to learn all about the spawning salmon.

GLOBE





As part of the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) team, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders record daily precipitation, soil and air temperature, cloud cover, and frost depth. The 6th graders then input the data in a global database for researchers to use worldwide.





Chilkat Valley Mining Forum - October 14 and 15, 2017
Videos of the event available on YouTube, and via TWC's Facebook page.

Watershed Research and Restoration

Klehini River Water Quality Monitoring

In partnership with Klukwan, TWC is leading efforts to establish a baseline water quality data set for Glacier Creek and the Klehini River in response to ongoing mineral exploration at the Palmer Project. This information will be used to determine whether or not current exploration activities, and future developments, are having adverse impacts on water quality. This monitoring project is expected to be ongoing for as long as mining development on the Klehini River continues.



Derek Poinsette (TWC), Rebecca Bellmore (SAWC), Johnnie Gamble and Daniel Klanott (Klukwan) inspect stream temperature monitoring probes in Herman Creek. (Photo by Jessica Kayser-Forster)

Stream Temperature Monitoring

In September, TWC assisted with the deployment of stream temperature monitoring equipment in the Chilkat and Klehini River valleys. This project is part of a nationwide effort to monitor surface water temperatures as they respond to a changing climate. Increased water temperatures can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life. TWC is working with Klukwan and the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC).

Porcupine Pond (26-Mile)

TWC has been monitoring water levels and conducting elevation and bathymetry surveys at Porcupine Pond and the near-by Klehini River for a potential habitat restoration project in partnership with SAWC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Derek drills holes through the ice of Porcupine Pond and measures water depth.

Sarah Creek

Since 2010, TWC has been collecting stream flow measurements on Sarah Creek, in the upper Klehini Valley. Sarah Creek is a unique ground-water fed system that supports coho, Dolly Varden, and cutthroat trout spawning and rearing. Sarah Creek enters the Klehini just upstream of Glacier Creek, very near to Constantine Metal Resources' Palmer Project. The stream flow data will be used by ADF&G to acquire an in-stream water reservation. The reservation provides a legal framework for preventing too much water from being drawn for mineral development, ensuring that enough will remain in the stream to support all life stages of fish that are present in the system. This project is supported by USFWS, ADF&G, and Patagonia.

[CFI Dinner and Wild And Scenic Film Festival](#)

We recently had two fun and successful fundraisers.
Thank you all for showing your support!



Upcoming Events

Telluride Mountain Film Festival: Friday, February 23rd at Harriett Hall.

This will be the kick-off for the Winter Games to follow that weekend.

Become a Friend of the Watershed

Check out our new t-shirts and hoodies!

Without membership: \$50 for hoodies, \$25 for t-shirt
With membership: \$75 for hoodies, \$50 for t-shirt



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