

TTCD Newsletter—Fall 2015

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

October 2015

Vol. 3, Issue 3



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 2015 summer season has been very full and we have a lot to celebrate, including our largest garden harvest, the completion of our largest salmon restoration project, and several new projects at TTCD.

This fall, TTCD has three new board members that we'd like to welcome: Sharon Williford, Marian King, and Gwen Chickalusion. We'd like to thank our departing members, Charlene Stephan, Harriet Kaufman, and Emil J. McCord, for their years of service.

Tyonek Grown Program

2015 marked the most productive year for the Tyonek Garden, with over 1,800 lbs of vegetables harvested. Some of the highlights of the 2015 growing season include:

Summer Youth Interns: In 2015, TTCD hired five youth interns to work and learn at the garden. Many thanks to Janie Standifer, Tshanna Constantine, Leanne Smoke, Raquel Bartels-Salas, Desmond Moon for all your hard work this summer!

Volunteer Program: This year TTCD introduced the Tyonek Garden Volunteer Program, which allowed individuals to earn garden produce through volunteering. TTCD recognizes Gwen Chickalusion as our Volunteer of the Year, for her many hours of service at the Garden.

Below: TTCD's Nicole Swenson and Tonya Kaloa showcasing the Tyonek Grown sales fridge in the Tyonek Tribal Center, filled with veggies.



Above: Tebughna School students display carrots that they harvested from the Tyonek Garden.

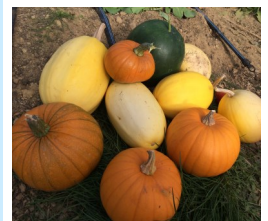
lowed individuals to earn garden produce through volunteering. TTCD recognizes Gwen Chickalusion as our Volunteer of the Year, for her many hours of service at the Garden.

Distribution: In 2015, Tyonek Grown vegetables were distributed to elders, to the Tebughna School lunch program, and were sold at farmers markets at the garden, at the Tyonek Tribal Center, and at the TTCD office in Anchorage.

Harvest party: The Tebughna School and Tyonek community celebrated the 2015 harvest in September, and shared meals prepared with local veggies and subsistence foods.

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Board Members

Sharon Williford
Marian King
Robert Stephan, Sr.
Ron T. Stanek
Gwen Chickalusion

Staff

Christy Cincotta
Tonya Kaloa
Nicole Swenson

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

Old Tyonek (Robert's) Creek Culvert Replacement

In 2015, TTCD worked with Tyonek Native Corporation and multiple partners to hire Dowl and Chumley's to design and replace two 5' diameter culverts with a 28' wide culvert. This project has opened up over 10 miles of important upstream salmon habitat, and will prevent road washouts for years to come. The completion of this project represents TTCD's third removal of a fish passage barrier in the Tyonek area, and a total of over 20 miles of habitat opened to salmon since 2012.

TTCD would like to thank all supporters for making this possible, including: US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, Native Village of Tyonek, Cook Inlet Region Inc, PacRim Coal LP, Aurora Gas, and Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

TTCD hopes to continue to complete projects such as this that benefit the land, the resources, and the people of our District.



Above: Site before restoration project.

Below: Site in September, with a 28' wide culvert that allows for fish passage.



Are you a District resident or stakeholder? TTCD wants to work with you to help you achieve your conservation goals!

Please call Tonya Kaloa at 907-646-3126 or email tkaloa@tyonek.com.



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Watershed Plan Updates

As part of the Tyonek Area Watershed Action Plan, a project that began in late 2014, TTCD is working to address watershed-level issues in the area from Nikolai Creek to Beluga River. In 2015, TTCD achieved the following accomplishments:

Pike Derbies: TTCD held a summer pike derby for Tyonek and Beluga residents that resulted in 79 invasive pike caught and removed from the watershed. Great job, derby participants!

Invasive Plant Removal: TTCD staff surveyed for invasive plants in and around Tyonek and Beluga, and worked with youth to remove an infestation of Common Tansy from Tyonek.

Monitoring Efforts: In 2015, TTCD in-



Above: Pike derby participants Rich Volk and Terry Jorgenson in Beluga, AK.

creased our watershed monitoring efforts to not only include invasive species monitoring, but to also include long term stream temperature monitoring on five streams, and salmon monitoring on two streams. TTCD staff will continue to monitor the health of the Tyonek Area Watershed in future years.