

# **Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership**

## **Annual Report**

### **2014**

## **Introduction**

The Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership was established in 1998 to promote the selection, planting and care of trees on public and private lands within the Juneau Community. The partnership is working towards the establishment of a community forestry program for the Juneau Borough. The partnership was incorporated in Alaska in 2003 as a 501 c (3) nonprofit corporation. It is governed by an uncompensated Board of Directors and is funded through individual, corporate, state and local government donations and grants.

## **What We Do**

- Promote the planting and care of trees in the Capital City.
- Sponsor programs and events to help people learn about trees and their care.
- Work with local schools and youth groups to promote the understanding and love of trees.
- Provide tree and forestry-related services and expertise to the community.
- Facilitate partnerships among businesses, local government, nonprofit groups, and homeowners with the goal of establishing a community forestry program.

## **Board of Directors and Officers**

Jeff Barnard, Chair, has been active in the partnership since 1998 and is a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

Gene Miller, Vice-Chair, has been active in the partnership since 2007, is a forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Juneau and is a former member of the Alaska Community Forestry Council. He now serves as a liaison with the ACFC and the Boy Scouts.

Terry Laskey, Treasurer, active in the partnership since 2004, operates a garden business in Juneau.

Carol Scafturon, Secretary, has been active in the partnership since 2004. Carol became interested in JUFP while serving as Director of Visitor Information Services for the Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau. Her primary interest is in the development of "tree walk pamphlets."

Chris Mertl was a co-founder of the Juneau Tree Committee in 1998 (which later became JUFP). He is a licensed landscape architect and a certified arborist. He is a former member of the Alaska Community Forestry Council and currently serves on the Juneau Parks and Recreation Advisory board.

Sondra Stanway, active in the partnership since 1999, has an interest in trees and conservation issues. She is a former member of the Alaska Community Forestry Council.

### **Ex- Officio board members**

Merrill Jensen, active in the partnership since 2008, manages the CBJ's Jensen-Olson Arboretum.

Darren Snyder, active in the partnership since 2008, is the Cooperative Extension agent for southeast Alaska and directs Juneau's Master Gardener program.

## **Membership**

Annual Dues are the following:

- ☐ \$20.00 Standard Membership
- ☐ \$350.00 Lifetime Membership
- ☐ \$5.00 Student
- ☐ Or any donation including volunteer hours

There are 15 active volunteers from the community. In addition, JUFP provides information to over 110 local e-mail addresses.

Volunteers donated a total of 324 hours throughout the year on Partnership projects. This is an increase from 272 in 2013.

## **Treasurer's Report**

January 1, 2014 bank balance: \$ 4286.07

December 31, 2014: 4690.99

## **Monthly meetings**

We met for approximately 1-1/2 hours on the following dates:

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup>

Sept 9<sup>th</sup>

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

## **Earth Day**

Earth Day events were hosted by the Forest Service at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitors' Center on Saturday, April 19 from 11:00 - 3:00 pm. Many community groups participated. The theme was celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Five JUFP volunteers worked two-hour shifts. Fifty-five kids participated. Using mat board as a base, kids pasted on heavy stock paper choosing a color, stamped it with one of seven native tree stamps, then added their choice of ribbon (threaded through 2 pre-made holes) to make a hanging. The final step was to write their names and the type of tree they chose on the back of the hanging. Some adults were also interested in making the decoration. We displayed our large tree cookies and had pamphlets available.

## **Arbor Day Activities and Tree City USA Ceremony**

Arbor Day activities were held at Evergreen Cemetery on Friday, May 9th beginning at 8:30 am. We did the annual tree treasure hunt and educational activities for 125+ school children from five classes of Juneau elementary grades. Linda Torgerson, JUFP's education coordinator, led the Arbor Day song, and developed a treasure hunt for the groups. Each child received a small Alaska yellow cedar tree plus a tree cookie to wear around their necks.

The tree planting began at noon and was facilitated by Gene Miller. Mayor Sanford read the Arbor Day Proclamation and talked about Tree City U.S.A. This was followed by remarks by Beth Pendleton, USFS Regional Forester. CBJ Parks & Recreation crew assisted kids in planting a Japanese larch. Michael Penn from the Juneau Empire took photographs. Robert Barr, Director of the Juneau Public Libraries, Assemblywoman Karen Crane, and several members of the Juneau chapter of the Society of American Foresters also attended.

### **Partners for the event included:**

- Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership
- City and Borough of Juneau: Parks and Recreation
- City and Borough of Juneau: Office of the Mayor
- The general public
- The Juneau Garden Club

## **Youth Activities**

### **Leaf Jump**

Linda Torgerson held a "Leaf Jump" in November at the Evergreen Cemetery. Participating were approximately 345 children from the school district.

### **Winter Trees**

Linda, Sondra and Mary Anne Slemmons worked with two classes in November making winter trees using wire and rocks. Linda introduced the class to the event by talking about deciduous trees in winter and their various shapes. Five lengths of wire are wound around the rocks using 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the wire to form the roots. A trunk is made by twisting the next 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the wires

together, and finally the upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup> is spread out to form the branches. Kids added beads to the branches to represent either rain drops or snow. The end result was a ‘forest’ of mixed tree types.

### **Civilian Cottonwood Corps**

JUPF member John Hudson together with Linda Torgerson started cottonwood trees from cuttings obtained on the school grounds. There were a total of 185 cottonwood starts. The kids kept the cuttings in soil-filled cups at their tables and watched the leaf buds open up and the leaves expand over time. The tree cuttings were used on local restoration projects John was involved in.

### **Community Outreach:**

- Hosted a booth at the **Juneau Homebuilder’s Association Annual Home Show** on March 7-9. Volunteers distributed tree-related information and made contacts with the public. Volunteers reported that the turnout was great, and many good questions about trees, gardening and landscaping were answered. An AEL&P representative approached a volunteer, explaining that as part of the upcoming “Go Paperless” campaign, a donation will be given to JUPF.
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- Obtained **Tree City USA** status for the tenth straight year.
- **Native Tree Sample Kits.** Eight kits are almost ready to donate to Juneau Elementary schools. These include sets of native tree cookies and tree education materials for the use of the schools.
- JUPF volunteers took part in the ongoing **Juneau Pioneer’s Home** grounds/landscape improvement project.



**Earth Day**



**Earth Day**



**Home Show**



**Arbor Day**





**Arbor Day**



**Arbor Day**



**Arbor Day**