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Birch Creek Tribal Council Newsletter

DENDUU GWICHIN TRIBE

JUNE 2016

Tribal News

by Nadine Carroll, Tribal Administrator

Hello, I hope this newsletter finds you well. Here at the council we have been busy moving into our new office location in Fairbanks. Please visit us when you are in town. We have also been planning and working to implement new programs and activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the council office, we are always open to concerns, ideas, and improvement. Recently we hired a new Environmental Coordinator, Brandon Garnett. The Council is glad to have him on our team.

2017 Council Election

The 2017 Birch Creek Tribal Council Annual Meeting and Election will take place in August, with the exact date to be determined and announced at a later date. If you would like to run for a seat, please call Nadine. Tribal members aged eighteen years and older and located in Birch Creek at the time of voting are eligible to vote. For full voting policies and procedures, please refer to the Birch Creek Tribe Constitution located at the tribal building in Birch Creek, the office in Fairbanks, or on the web at www.birchcreektribe.org.

Council Member	Seat	Term
Jacqueline Balaam	Chief	2014-2016
Oskar James	2 nd Chief	2015-2017
Lawrence James	Secretary	2014-2016
Winston Elvis James	Member	2015-2017
Mary Christina James	Member	2014-2016



Council Members and Terms

There are 3 seats up for elections. Each term is 2 years. To be eligible for a seat on the Council, you must be an enrolled tribal member aged 18 years or older, and residing in Birch Creek with a prior residency of at least 30 days.



New Office Location!

Our new office is located at 909 Cushman Street, Suite 207.

New Assistance Program

The Council has approved a new General Assistance Program and policy to help tribal members in times of need. See complete policies inside.

Birch Creek Tribal Council Employees

Nadine Carroll- **Tribal Administrator**
 Brandon Garnett- **Environmental Coordinator**
 Jacqueline Baalam- **Tribal Family Youth Specialist**
 Mary Christina James- **Tribal Workforce Development Specialist**
 Victor James- **Generator Maintenance Technician**
 Vincent Williams- **Water Technician/Airport Operator**

Employment & Training



Employment Opportunities

- ❖ Environmental Technician, Birch Creek

Coming soon...

- ❖ Road maintenance operator
- ❖ Brush cutters
- ❖ Community cleanup

If you are interested in a position, contact the council office # (907)374-9925 or e-mail nadine.carroll@tananachiefs.org

Are you interested in getting your Driver's License?

The Council decided to assist individual in Birch Creek who want to get their driver's license. The Tribe will assist with travel and test costs. Contact the Council if you are interested!

EVENTS

June

- TCC Youth Engagement Training- Fairbanks, AK June 21st

July

- World Indian Eskimo Olympics, Fairbanks, AK July 20-23rd, 2016

August

- Absentee Voting Primary Election- Birch Creek, AK August 1st – 16th
- Tribal Court Development Conference- Fairbanks, AK August 9th-11th

New Environmental Coordinator Brandon Garnett

Hello Birch Creek my name's Brandon Garnett. You may know my parents Lillian and Jerry Garnett. I was raised in Arctic Village, Alaska. We have our own little valley where the weather is cool in the summer and quite cold in the winter. Even though the winters are long and dark, being in the wild to travel from point to another with not seeing a single car or any fast food joints makes living above the arctic circle more than calming it's almost blissful. The summers are like "forget about it" from one point to another; there is so much to see so many things to do like fishing, hunting, or just being in the wild where your mind can expand to near nirvana. At the age of ten, my family moved to Fairbanks where I finished school and studied at UAF for a time studying painting and sculpting. In painting I found a type of peace that's when I was able to let go and sculpting was a bit different were movement and form became like one forever blurring the line of what is real and what's in the mind. The time I've been painting and sculpting was time I really started to understand the self and everything else became the day to day.

After a time, I moved back home and started a job in environmental science by taking a job managing a IGAP grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The time I've spent in the arctic was a learning experience full of new challenges and new responsibilities. But over all I had a great time getting to back to my roots like hunting, fishing and just getting back in to nature.

It's nice to be back in Fairbanks and nicer yet that I can be doing the same thing for another village by managing a IGAP grant. I'm look forward to working with the Birch Creek Council and Community on a more productive IGAP grant that focuses on a healthier community and environment for the present and the future of the Denduu People; all the while not forgetting about where we all come from which is a strong people that live off the land and took care of their families and tribe.

ETEP'S or BC concerns

This year in Birch Creek here at the IGAP we will be working on addressing the concerns of the community which there are a few.

- The first is fixing and maintaining all of BC equipment to good or running order.
- Second, starting a landfill project to close out and deal with hazardous waste that accumulated in the old land fill too starting a waste management plan for a new class2 landfill for Birch Creek.
- Third, the assessment and clean-up of old contaminated sites in and around Birch Creek.
- Fourth starting a back-haul project to rid the community of waste like old barrels, E-waste, and white goods.
- And fifth, educating and addressing climate change in the environment by assessing and planning for future.

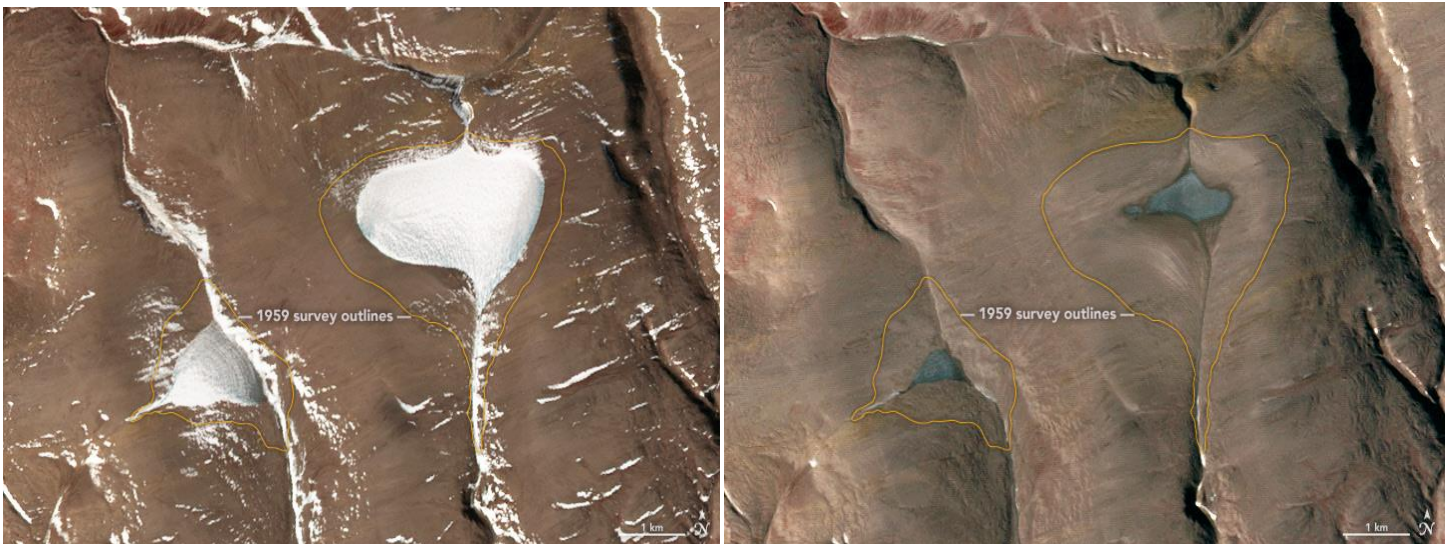
Environmental News

MASTER BURNER FIREWOOD DRYING TIPS

Burning Dry Wood in Birch Creek

1. **Cut the wood to the right length.** The wood you purchased or cut yourself should fit easily in your wood stove or fireplace. A good rule of thumb is to make sure it is about three inches shorter than the firebox width or length.
2. **Split your wood before stacking it.** After you determine the proper length, split the wood so it is the right width. This is usually no more than six inches in diameter. Splitting the wood in advance of stacking it increases exposure to air, which improves the drying process.
3. **Check the moisture content.**
After splitting the firewood, use a moisture meter to check the starting moisture content. The goal is 20 percent moisture content.
4. **Stack your wood in alternate directions.**
This spacing allows for better circulation and further reduces moisture content.
5. **Store your firewood off the ground.**
Build a wood shed or a structure to keep firewood six inches or more off the ground. This will help protect the bottom of the wood pile from moisture.
6. **Cover the top, but leave the sides exposed.**
The best option is to build a structure that has a roof. You can use a tarp to cover the top of the woodpile. When using a tarp be careful not to have the tarp hang over the sides so moisture is trapped. In warm summer months, you might want to remove the tarp to speed up the drying process
7. **Store the wood for at least 12 months.**
It's hard to wait, but the best way to know you are burning dry wood is to not burn it for at least 6-12 months

These Ice Cap Images Show the Arctic's Rapid Change This has been a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad week for ice around the world. First came news that Arctic sea ice set a record low extent this winter. Then came news that the West Antarctic ice sheet is facing the threat of runaway melt. Now, NASA Earth Observatory has decided to remind us that even small, less notable chunks of ice are under siege by rising temperatures, too.



Ice caps are a type of glacier that form as a dome over the top of the land rather than the glaciers most folks are used to seeing grinding down the side of a mountain. The not so fun fact about ice caps is they're melting as the world warms. NASA's Earth Observatory gathered satellite imagery of two well-studied ice caps on Canada's Ellesmere Island located north of the Arctic Circle to illustrate the ice's disappearing act. The imagery captured in 2004 and 2015 shows a major decline in ice cover. When you add an outline of where the ice caps once stretched during a 1959 survey, the decline becomes even more notable. Freakishly warm temperatures in the Arctic this winter — which were up to 20°F above normal in some areas — will likely to hasten their decline and eventual demise. "Disappearing land ice is a major driver of sea level rise. The disappearance of these ice caps, however, will be a footnote in the history of climate change. It's the big ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica that have scientists and those living along the coast concerned. The research published this week shows that the West Antarctic ice sheet is at risk of runaway melt unless carbon emissions are dramatically curtailed. That would reshape coastlines around the globe for generations to come. The West Antarctic contains enough ice to raise ocean levels by up to 13 feet if it were all to melt. That's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad news for millions of people. **Source:** <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/ice-caps-climate-change-20194>

Birch Creek General Assistance Policy

In an effort to assist Tribal members when faced with immediate financial hardships or situations, the Birch Creek Tribal has instituted a General Assistance Policy (GA). This assistance is for when Tribal Members are faced with expenses that cannot be paid for by the Tribal Member directly and not covered by another program, and would otherwise cause a financial hardship.

The criteria are as follows:

1. Must be a Birch Creek Tribal member (or child of a Tribal Member).
2. The request must be for an expense deemed necessary.
3. All other resources must be exhausted first.
4. Can only be utilized once per year by Tribal Member.
5. Financial assistance will be capped at \$500, requests for more will be considered based on situation.
6. Accompanying invoice, receipts, or other pertinent financial information for the request must accompany assistance application.

Tanana Chiefs Conference to Distribute Bed Bug Toolkits

In an effort to help battle bed bugs in Rural Alaska, TCC has partnered with the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation-OEH to distribute bed bug toolkits to residents in rural Alaska who meet the following criteria:

- Have bed bugs in their home
- Live in rural Alaska
- Willing to complete a pre-outreach survey and a post-outreach survey

Contact Racheal Lee, EHS at TCC at 1-800-478-6822 ext. 3431.

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Tribal Member

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