



Tanana Valley Watershed Association

2017 Annual Report of Adopt-a-Stream Program Activities for the Fairbanks Storm Water Advisory Committee

Program Description: How it Works

The Fairbanks Storm Water Advisory Committee (FSWAC) and the Tanana Valley Watershed Association (TVWA) continue the Memorandum of Agreement to implement Adopt-a-Stream programs within Fairbanks and North Pole. TVWA administers the Adopt-a-Stream programs with the support of FSWAC. FSWAC provides program support through annual funding and additional in-kind assistance to TVWA, as well as hosting an annual Stream Cleanup Day and other events. TVWA implements and schedules program activities and maintains the participant list of adoptees and their designated stream sections. TVWA also submits an annual Adopt-A-Stream report to FSWAC outlining tasks and community outreach accomplishments during the year.

The Adopt-a-Stream programs are community-based programs with a variety of volunteer activities. The primary activities encompass water-quality monitoring and stream restoration and maintenance that provide residents and other stakeholders with the opportunity to participate as proactive watershed stewards. These watershed stewards also partake in litter pick-up, invasive species identification, and management of flow restrictions. Community stewards and volunteers hold a sense of ownership and role in local water quality issues. As a result, FSWAC and TVWA raise community education and awareness through implementation of these programs while improving local water quality and develop a strong volunteer base.

The annual reporting includes records of program meetings held, number of community members participating in the programs, description of adopted stream sections, and a summary of cleanup efforts performed by adoptees and other volunteers. Measurable goals of the Adopt-a-Stream programs are to increase the number/length of stream sections adopted each year and to continue to expand cleanup efforts within the watershed. Highlights of the year's successes and achievements are included in the report.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (AK DEC) in accordance with Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Permit No requires implementation of the Adopt-a-Stream programs. AKS-053406. The City of Fairbanks, City of North Pole, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and University of Alaska Fairbanks comprise the

major member agencies of FSWAC who collectively hold this permit. AK DEC then submits the Adopt-a-Stream data to the EPA's Storage and Retrieval Data Warehouse (STORET), where the information is joined and preserved with National Water Information. All the data is accessible to agencies and the general public for exploring or for analytical details of each sample taken during the 2017 season.

2017 Community Outreach Accomplishments, Highlights & Resources

- 2017 Community Events: TVWA sought creative, visible solutions to engage community learning and care for local waterbodies in addition to traditional citizen-scientist framework. Several public events and educational sessions took place to address large threats to healthy waterbodies, such as storm water issues, uninformed public, and trends of disconnect between the youth and nature. Partnerships with the Fairbanks Downtown Association, City of Fairbanks and others facilitated a Storm Drain Art Contest. Other partnerships lead us to green infrastructure installations downtown with FSWCD Habitat for youth group. Overall success of these projects enabled stronger community connection with the natural world and greater education publications, as with the Chena River.

Storm Drain Art Contest:

Decorate the Drains! Inspire the Inlets! Graffiti the Grates! The goal of the project was to provide public art downtown while also contributing to public awareness that storm water from Fairbanks drains directly into the Chena River. Local artists were invited to submit designs in the following categories: Storm Water Pollution (litter, vehicle fluids, pet waste, soapy water, etc.) Fish, Wildlife, Habitat (moose, beavers, ducks, salmon, grayling, willows, etc.) or Quality of Life (clean water for recreation, drinking, natural beauty, etc.). For the past 4 years TVWA has invited local artists to submit design proposals for storm drain art in downtown Fairbanks. The purpose of this project is to raise public awareness that ALL storm drains flow directly into the Chena River and to provide an opportunity for artists to create public works of art in the downtown and surrounding Fairbanks area. The past art was displayed for one year prior to the construction on Cushman Street (2014) on Noble Street (2015) Cowles Street (2016) and Gilliam Street (2017). This project has garnered **local, state and national attention.**



This project is posted on our website at: www.tvwatershed.org/storm-drain-art

Storm Drain Art – Continued:

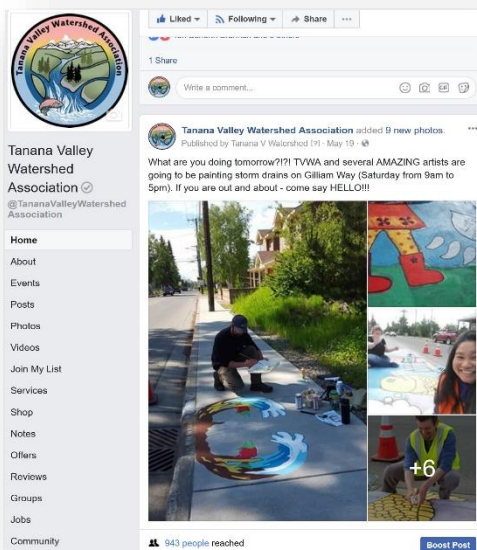
After the art submittal deadline - TVWA partnered with the FSWAC committee to host an Open House at the Noel Wein Library on May 16th from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. During this event – TVWA presented about our Adopt a Stream Program and the public picked the winners for the art contest. We coordinate with the City of Fairbanks on which art / artists paints on what storm drain - to make sure the art fits the best storm drain and sidewalk. We then contact the winning artist with the location and date for them to paint.

TVWA and the City of Fairbanks work with the Division of Transportation to put out signs for traffic revision and cones for artists safety. The artists are allowed all day to paint their storm drain. Staff from TVWA and the City of Fairbanks are on site to help with any questions they might have. The City of Fairbanks then sealed the art on the storm drains and everyone gets to enjoy the colorful pieces for the rest of the summer.

10 local artists submitted **20 of their creative** ideas (many of whom submitted more than one idea) and **13 submissions** were chosen by the attendees at the 2017 Storm Water Advisory Committee Open House. **13 storm drain paintings** were completed on Saturday, May 20th. TVWA is proud to host this event - and it wouldn't be possible without the wonderful local support and partnership with the City of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Stormwater Advisory Committee, the Downtown Association of Fairbanks, Project Fairbanks and Festival Fairbanks.

Storm Drain Art Contest – Social Media

Facebook Post – 943 people reached



2 online Newsminer articles

1. http://www.newsminer.com/features/latitude_65/storm-drain-art-venture-puts-out-call-for-artists/article_109b835a-1ff5-11e7-9c78-b744fe657848.html
2. http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/friday-is-deadline-for-storm-drain-art-contest/article_0d8b7900-2fbc-11e7-9087-c7307f3bd42b.html

Storm Drain Art Posters (for all 3 years) hung up at the Fairbanks City Hall

For the past three years, TVWA has invited local artists to submit design proposals for storm drain art in downtown Fairbanks. The purpose of this project is to raise public awareness that ALL storm drains flow directly into the Chena River and to provide an opportunity for artists to create public works of art in the downtown and surrounding Fairbanks area. **These are examples of the 2017 posters that will be hung in the City Hall building along with the 2014 – 2016 posters.**

Storm Drain Art Contest 2017!

Decorate the Drains! Inspire the Inlet! Graffiti the Grates!



In the spring of 2017, TVWA partnered with the City of Fairbanks, The Downtown Association and our Adopt-A-Stream program to continue our Storm Drain Art Contest. 10 local artists submitted 20 of their creative ideas (many of whom submitted more than one idea) and 13 submissions were chosen by the attendees at the 2017 Storm Water Advisory Committee Open House held at the Noel Wien Library on May 16th. 13 storm drain paintings were completed on Saturday, May 20th.



Faces



People are affected by this also the ones who do harm. Take a good look at ourselves. People can help in so many ways. Water is essential for life. I wish the fish could tell us how much they hate what we put into the water. One person who litters ruins things for so many people. People are almost everywhere on land. We don't live in the water. Maybe that's why it's so easy to flick a cigarette butt or drop a bottle on the ground only to have it washed into and down a drain or somehow working its way into the river. I hope more people try to fix things. Seeing an image like the ones I made. People seeing people saying the blunt statements would help solve this dirty problem. People are the cause – and the solution to water treatment.

Artist: Daniella Lowe

I think art is like life – it can be beautiful if you make it that way.

Everyone Deserves Clean H₂O

The design aims to show that all creatures big or small, who live on land or water deserve clean water. Clean water in any body of water helps promote an environment that will sustain the survival of all man and animals and preserve our natural resources. Each one of us has a responsibility to ensure that we keep the environment clean not just for us to enjoy now but also for the future generation enjoy it as well.



Artist: Johanna Mata-Bauman

The artist grew up in the city filled with buildings and it took her several hours to enjoy the beauty of the country side. So moving to Fairbanks gave her the opportunity to enjoy nature. She enjoys how she can see the changes in the trees, watch the clouds, rabbits hopping around, moose walking around all at the comfort of her backyard. She uses crayons, markers, color pencils, acrylic, watercolor and all to capture the beauty of her surroundings.



Down the Drain



with buildings and it took her of the country side. So moving to enjoy nature. She enjoys the trees, watch the clouds, sitting around all at the comfort markers, color pencils, acrylic, beauty of her surroundings.

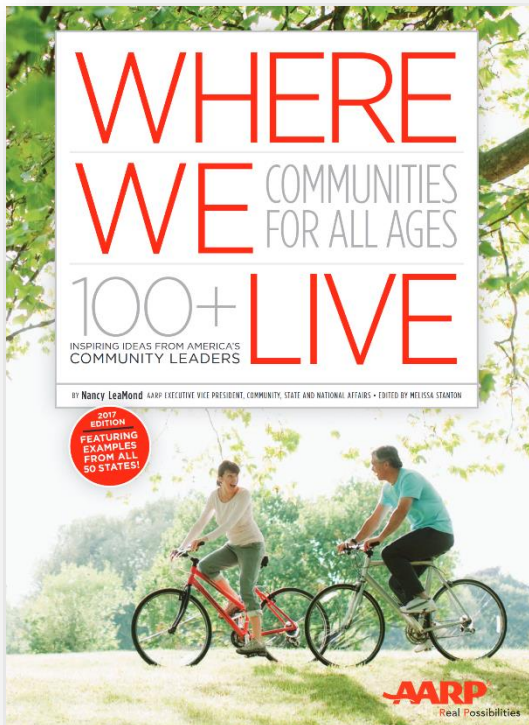
-Bauman

She makes sure that art is part of her students' daily activity. She believes that her students to become well rounded individuals. She enjoys drawing and

2017 was a great year for interest in our Storm Drain Art Contest from all over the US.

- Steve Mencher & Martha Corcoran from Washington, DC work with AARP on a book about Livable Cities. It's the second edition of this well-received book "Where We Live: Communities for All Ages." They contacted TVWA to write a chapter about our groundbreaking public art program - Storm Drain Art, which adds beauty to streets and increases public awareness that storm water pollution directly impacts the quality of local waterways for their publication. Below is a copy of the online edition. We are waiting on a hard copy of the article.

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2017/AARP-WhereWeLive2-Single-Pages-LR-72617.pdf>



AARP | WHERE WE LIVE



A real result of Fairbanks' annual street art competition—cleaner water!

STORM DRAINS THAT SEND A MESSAGE

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
Tanana Valley Watershed Association and the City of Fairbanks

Storm drains from the streets of Fairbanks empty directly into the Chena River, a habitat for moose, beaver, fish and migratory birds. Unfortunately, many people mistakenly believed the drains connect directly to the sewage-treatment plant, and used them to dispose of harmful substances like used motor oil. To change that harmful behavior in an educational and creative way, a local environmental nonprofit teamed up with the Fairbanks city government and local businesses.

Established in 2014, the **Storm Drain Art Contest** seeks proposals for street art based on the themes Storm Water Pollution (to draw attention to litter, vehicle fluids and pet waste), Wildlife (art featuring native birds, fish and

mammals) and Quality of Life (focusing on the life-giving and recreational uses of water).

Proposals are put to a public vote, and the chosen artists—who range widely in age and experience—are commissioned to create their scenes using Fairbanks' street grates, sidewalks and roadways as their canvas, earning \$100 for the work and \$50 for materials. (Additional partners include the Fairbanks Storm Water Advisory Committee and the Downtown Association of Fairbanks.) Improvements in water quality since the contest began have led to national recognition for the city's environmental efforts.

In another beautification project, Cushman Street, one of Fairbanks' main thoroughfares, was upgraded by bringing three chaotic traffic lanes down to two; adding trees, planters and better lighting; and improving the roadway's traffic signals, directional signage and street drains.

Embossed into the iron of the new drains are the words "Dump No Waste" because runoff "Drains to River." ■

- Ashley Whitaker from the City of Morgan Hill (California) water quality sector contacted TVWA because they were thinking of doing storm drain art in order to encourage the residents to keep their water ways cleaner. In order to get approval for this project they reached out to other cities who have done storm drain art. They asked about our major costs in creating contests or areas for the storm drain art to take place. How long the art seem to last before any deterioration is noticeable. How we deal with any vandalism or the storm drains after an art has been placed. As well, how well has it helped in preserving or improving water quality in our watershed.
- Lori Wolfe Director of Marketing & Communications WaterSmart Program Manager North and South Rivers Watershed Association found our storm drain contest online and contacted us asking for pointers to help them organize their own contest. They are a small watershed association in Massachusetts and we serve 10 individual towns. TVWA sent them our P&P as well as best practices for this project.

“Out in the Community” Public Events: TVWA hosted educational booths and/or participated in a few community events during the spring and summer this year. We’ve found these events to be very successful at promoting the Adopt a Stream program and education family and youth about water quality issues and watershed stewardship.



April 22nd – KTVF Kids Day Activity Fair

The KTVF Summer Activities for Kids Fair on April 22nd, was held at the Big Dipper Ice Arena from 11 am to 4 pm. The afternoon was filled with starry-eyed questions coming from at least 500 event attendees.



April 21st – 23rd Outdoor Show

Hosted a booth for the three day event. Spoke with attendees (est 750 people stopped by the booth). Talked about water quality and our AAS program, and green infrastructure uses. Approximately 5900 people attended this event.



May 5th – 6th Moose on the Loose Open House

TVWA participated in the 2nd annual “Fairbanks First” Scavenger Hunt. Around 30 people came to find “Mortimer the moose” located in our office. They watched a short Adopt a Stream presentation and had the option of staying to watch Voices of the Chena as well.

The Adopt-A-Stream program is a volunteer based program coordinated by the TVWA in partnership with the City of Fairbanks' Storm Water Advisory Committee.

The goal is to get residents and local businesses involved in monitoring the water quality of the local rivers, lakes and streams. Elements of the programs include water-quality monitoring, litter pick-up, stream bank restoration and maintenance, and management of flow restrictions.

Training

Trainings are held annually during the spring and summer months. This year's training will be on **Saturday, June 3rd**.

For more information on this training:

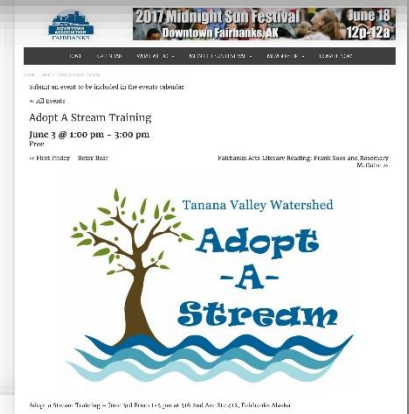
Call: 907-374-8300
Email: tvwatershed@gmail.com

June 3rd – Training

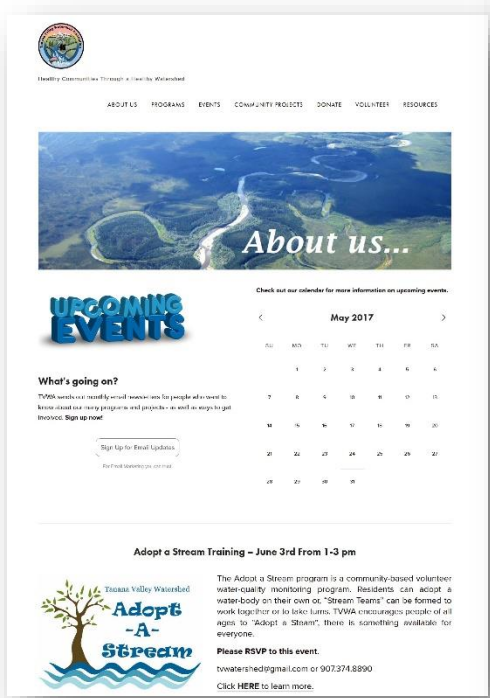
Our Adopt a Stream Training was held on June 3rd from 1-3 pm at our office downtown. We had 9 attendees. TVWA also hosted 2 individual trainings during the months of July and August to train volunteers that signed up later in the season.



During the months of June to September – Adopt a Stream volunteers and a TVWA field tech sampled a total of 121 times at 12 areas along the Chena River and surrounding waterways.



Fairbanksalaska.com



AAS training ad posted@

FairbanksAlaska.org, KUAC, Newsminer online & Print, Facebook, eblast, DTA Calendar

June 10th Annual Stream Clean-Up Day

TVWA assisted with the 13th Annual Stream Clean-Up Day. We posted invites to the event on our Facebook. We assisted with volunteer management and logistics. There were over 25 volunteers that cleaned up 560 lbs of trash.

13th Annual STREAM CLEANUP DAY Event

WHEN Saturday, June 10 9am-noon

WHERE NOYES SLOUGH & CHENA RIVER – Rain or shine!
Safety Briefing at 9:00 am at Lions Club Park picnic shelter off Danby Road.

WHO YOU! Come out and help...on foot or in a canoe! We need volunteers. All cleanup supplies will be provided – trash bags, safety vests, gloves, water, snacks, and t-shirts. Please note that children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For additional information, contact **Andrew Ackerman** at 459-6836 or email aackerman@fairbanks.us.

Logos for sponsors: Lions Club, Green Star of Interior Alaska, PROJECT FAIRBANKS, UAF (University of Alaska Fairbanks), SHANNON & WILSON, INC., FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, and HIG Contractors.



Stream Clean Up Day

TEAM UP to CLEAN UP

TVWA and the Fairbanks Storm Water Advisory Committee (FSWAC) would like to invite you to the 13th Annual Stream Clean Up Day.

When: Saturday, June 10th from 9am - 12pm

Where: Noyes Slough and Chena River
Check in @ Lion's Park Picnic Shelter on Danby Rd

June 18th – The Midnight Sun Festival

The Midnight Sun Festival is held right downtown near the Chena River. It is one of two large street fairs that are hosted in downtown Fairbanks. TVWA continues to choose this event for our outreach because of the numbers of people that attend. The weather was fair and it had over 20,000 attendees this year. TVWA had a booth in the Golden Heart Plaza, right next to the fountain. We showcased the Adopt a Stream program and improving water quality through Green Infrastructure at this booth.



Aug 10 – Floating Film Festival

TVWA partnered with the Tanana Chief Sternwheeler and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to bring the Floating Film Festival. We held it the day after Alaska Salmon Day in celebration of Salmon and educating about clean water and salmon habitat. Over 100 people attended and watched over 20 short films about salmon, salmon habitat and clean water. The main film was our “**Voices of the Chena**” and we passed out educational material including “**Living Stream Side**” both of which include information on our Adopt a Stream program and how to become involved.

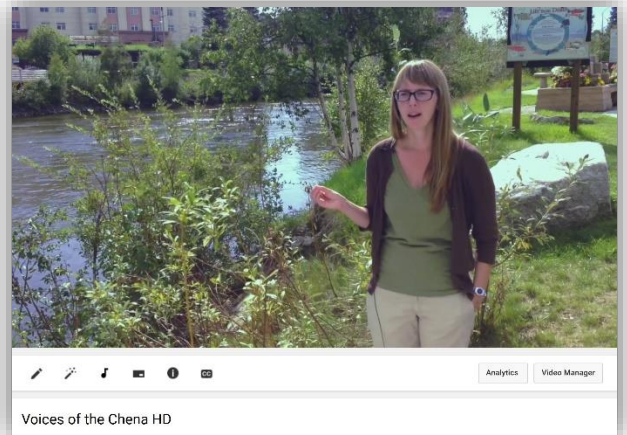
Copy of video shorts and films are on our website at:

www.tvwatershed.org/film-fest



Chena River Video: TVWA created "Voices of the Chena." This short film explores the Chena River and its importance to king salmon. Through interviews with local residents, business owners, and landowners, it highlights ways we can all be watershed stewards. Water quality and ways to improve the water quality of the Chena River was discussed throughout the short film. This film was debuted last year with over 150 attending. In 2016 & 2017 over 1600 views to date. **(Approximately 900 of those views happened in 2017.)**

This film is posted on youtube and also has showings at the Morris Thompson Center – in their rotation or special showings, TVWA website, TVWA Facebook, TVWA Instagram, DTA website, Venue website as well as other places.



YouTube Video

TVWA website:

www.tvwatershed.org/voicesofthechena

USFWS YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-0BoHjY1pGg>

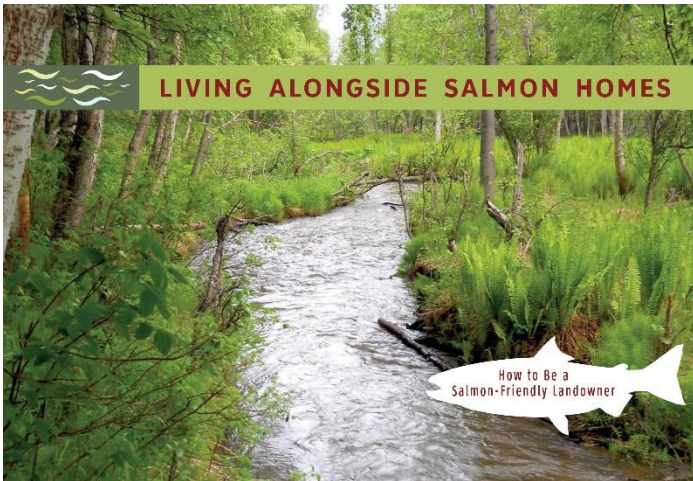
TVWA YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaG_MWBX2BI

Water Quality Video: TVWA is using the video it created last year in conjunction with our Adopt a Stream trainings on how to use hanna meters. This film is posted on our website and YouTube. It's was viewed 11 times in 2016 and 15 times in 2017.

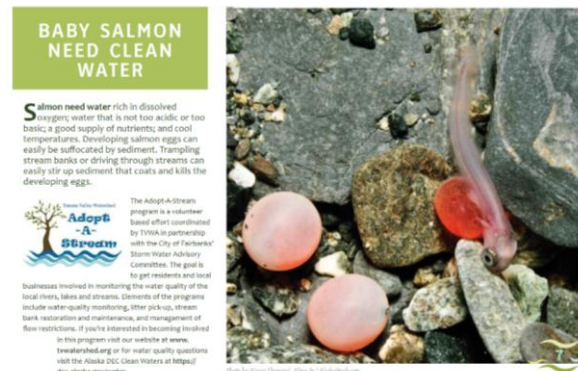
www.tvwatershed.org/aas

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ng7GW-N5ZaY



Living Alongside Salmon Homes Booklet:

Residents of Interior Alaska play a critical role in maintaining our state's salmon populations by protecting local water quality and stream habitats. Good choices also ensure our communities have access to clean drinking water, recreation opportunities, and thriving habitats and ecosystems for future generations. This guide offers information, tips, and resources for community members to help salmon populations and Interior Alaska waterways thrive.



In 2017 TVWA printed and distributed 1000 copies of this book with plans to print and distribute over 1000 more in 2018.

A free copy of this is available on our website.

www.tvwatershed.org/chena-river-awareness-campaign

2017 Resource Highlights and Accomplishments:

Trainings: TVWA provided volunteers with individual water quality monitoring training at TVWA and the Golden Heart Plaza in downtown Fairbanks on June 3rd. Training was approximately two hours in length, handout documents and hands-on learning for how to use the water testing kits. Information at the training covered proper sampling techniques and how to use a Hanna® meter to measure pH, conductivity, temperature, and record useful observations. Volunteers were also given information about invasive weed identification and were asked to report their presence along with the water quality monitoring data. Volunteers turned in their data by October 30th and data was entered into the EPA water quality collection spreadsheet and submitted to AK DEC.

Locations: TVWA and volunteers sampled 12 locations from May through October. The sampling sites include: Chena River (10), Noyes Slough (1), and Moose Creek / Murphy Dome area (1). Water quality (temperature, pH, and conductivity) were tested during each sampling event using a Hanna HI 98129 pH/EC/TDS/Temperature meter. Meter calibration was done prior to and after the water testing each week using solution standards of pH 4, pH 10, and 1413µS.

2018 Plans: TVWA talked to volunteers about their interests in the coming years and they mentioned wanting to know where their data goes, what it means, and how it effects change. I took this information and created a 4 part summer series of “workshops” that talk about PH, what water quality means, how it effects the “users” animals and people alike. We also partnered with the University of Alaska, Natural Resources Management department to attain an intern that will process all of the water quality data we’ve compiled over the last 7 years and create an interactive map with comparative (year/s and locations) graphs to help with education volunteers and stewards alike.