



DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION
3415 S. LINCOLN DRIVE, SPOKANE, WA 99203. 509 747-8147

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 546

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.
--- William Shakespeare

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS from the Dishman Hills, March, 2002

DISHMAN STORY

The Dishman Hills are chuck full of interesting history, much of which is preserved in the geographic names attached to the landscape. For instance, the story behind the name "Dishman" is as interesting as any you will see at a local cineplex. Addison Dishman was a Virginian, raised along with four brothers and four sisters on a farm by the Potomac. He arrived in the little frontier town of Spokane in 1888 via the new Northern Pacific railroad, planning on making a life in a land of opportunity. He bought a livery stable "downtown" and business was good. But in 1889 on a hot August afternoon, things were to change fast. The Great Spokane Fire was to level the old wooden town leaving Addison with what he could evacuate from the livery, and one very good idea. He realized the town would be rebuilt, and this time out of stone. Dishman knew of granite ledges in the hills out in the Spokane Valley and there he started a quarry producing building blocks for the new city. The old quarry exist today on the east side of the Natural Area. The community that sprang up around the quarry that bears the Dishman name came into existence. What started as a few houses surrounded by miles of bunch grass prairie grew into a small town. Dishman started a trading post, then a merchandise store, then buildings, gravel pits, and a lumber yard. Addison changed with the times, and expanded his business to include cement, bricks, and building supplies. When the railroad reached Dishman in 1912, a State Senator R. A Hutchinson made a deal with them to rename the town after himself in exchange for some right of way. The railroad complied and put "Hutchinson" on their station. Dishman would have none of this and put a \$5 bounty on the station sign. After awhile, and many \$5 bills later, the name Dishman was back to stay. The story continues. The latest addition to the Natural Area in 1996 was a bequest from the Dishman family in honor of the deceased Jack Dishman, Addison's nephew. Jack had done well early in life as a star in Hollywood's Little Rascal series during the 1930's, and had then resettled back in the Dishman homeland investing in real estate.

FIELD NOTES

A St. Patrick's Day hike found the Hills still mostly mantled by snow. Winter seems reluctant to surrender. South facing slopes receiving the warm Spring sun were melted clear exposing emerald green layers of mosses and lichens punctuated by an occasional yellow dot of the years floral vanguard, the buttercup. In many places one had only to rotate 180 degrees to switch from a winter view to a Spring view. The ponds are full up contradicting our power company's cries of severe drought (good reason to raise power rates again). A thin scum of ice still covered half of the east pond and the critters still slumbered beneath the muddy bottom. With the water table up, the Hills were leaking in all the usual places (springs and

seeps). Trails are muddy forcing hikers to maneuver around various sized puddles of water and mud. At times like this we all have to be careful to stay on trails to avoid tearing up the scenery. Birds were active and juncos, nuthatches, and towhees were heard if not seen; a red tailed hawk cruised the forest looking for snacks. This winter scene will change soon. The forest is full of potential just waiting for Spring's winning combination of warmth and water to release nature's growth spurt. Coming up soon is another sign of Spring's arrival, the Associations annual **buttercup hike**. We will start at Camp Caro on Saturday, March 30th, at 1:30 pm for a hike into the Hills to enjoy, hopefully, some warmer weather. Some of us will be having a picnic lunch at the Camp before the hike so join us.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. Rather than monthly meetings we will meet every other month with the next one the third Tuesday of May at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm.

The following are our February donors: Dick Behm, Jim Berry, Carolyn Boatsman, Phyllis Burwell, Diane Casey, John Cobb, Claude Currier, Robert Downing, Claire & Carlton Goudge, Kenneth Gudgel, Gary & Andrea Gunning, L.K. Hatch, Eris Heggem, Tim & Susan Henderson, Merry & Bill Herron, Jayce Keeling, Don & Patty Kram, Maxine Leszczykowski, Aria Lewis, Helen Lininger, Gerald Manfred, Kerry Masters, Inland Garden Club, Marilyn & John Miller, Barbara Morkill, Gale Mueller, Sharon Murphy, Jack & Claire Nisbet, C.R. Orcult, Gary Plowman, Norma Rosenberger, Linda Siverts, Lois Smith, Anne & Terry Smith, Edward Tiejen, Thomas White, Robert & Sylvia Wilson, Barney & Jeanne Wilson, and Donald Woodke.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** or **DUES**

All contributions are tax deductible

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNAA

3415 S. Lincoln Dr.

Spokane, WA 99203

Your Name: _____

Please put your account no. _____ on your check

\$ _____ MEMORIAL FOR _____

\$ _____ LAND PURCHASE FUND

\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES due in January (\$10 regular, \$5 student or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

New ? Renewal ? Don't list me as donor

Please tell us if this newsletter is unwanted or if there is an address mistake