

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the
Dishman Hills

December 2005

Merry Christmas Happy New Year



Trail to Big Rock, L.R. Montgomery, 05
Our new natural area on Tower Mtn.

What Spokane will look like in one hundred years depends on what we do today; just as what our community is today a result of what was going on one hundred years ago. Back then the city and the surrounding area had just been carved out of a western wilderness. Community growth then meant new railroads, city streets, homes, and factories. City builders were also aware that a quality life required parks, boulevards, libraries, and gardens; a heritage that makes our neighborhoods wonderful places a century later. But the natural areas then were resources awaiting harvest, or application and transformation into useful products and space for development.

Today, as urban growth expands in every direction and demands for space accelerates, the challenges involved with community growth have changed drastically. In the last forty years or so, the conservation of our remaining natural resources and spaces has become a very important issue. We began to realize that the natural setting defines our community and should not be eliminated to accommodate a bit more growth. The challenge in this century is to take conservation to the next step. Natural spaces, scenery, recreational areas, and geologic features will require special protection to save them. We still, in many cases, treat our forest, meadows, lakes, and river as "undeveloped open space" awaiting some growth or economic application. The task of identifying and moving to public ownership the important parts of our natural heritage has begun. The Dishman Hills Association has been up and running for 40 years dealing with this task. Spokane, Spokane Valley, and Spokane County have launched their Growth Management programs and have started the purchase of special natural areas. Our community is loaded with people and organizations that want to see "green stuff" a composition of our future communities.

But the toughest conservation tasks are probably yet to come. As the area fills up and the limits of growth bump up against the remaining open spaces, saving and managing our natural features will require new answers involving new thinking and addition public resources and lots of public support. With recreational need increasing, recreational areas disappearing, land values soaring, urbanization expanding, and a growing list of environmental stresses and pollution, where do we start to find answers? How do we support programs that do not immediately add to the tax base, requires that the government tell land owners how to develop, and competes for space for additional roads, houses, and businesses? In there lies the challenge for the 21st century.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We meet the third Tuesday of every other the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm. Questions, call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147. The next meeting will be January 21st. This will be our annual board and officer election meeting, so if you are interest in joining us, be there.

The following are our November donors that have consented to be listed: Eris Heggem, Gloria McCuddin, Leo Middendorf, Trudy Miller, Diane Rogers, Iris Scheel, Harold Skinner, Adin & Cindy Smith, Helen Stowell, Patricia Sweeney, Jim Troske, Jeanne Wilson, and one anonymous donors. ; Thank you one and all!

All Checks dated in Dec. will be credited to 05 donations

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** or **DUES**
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3415 S. Lincoln Dr.
Spokane, WA 99203

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