

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the
Dishman Hills

November 2009

THANKS for GIVING

This' the season that we reflect back to appreciate all the support that has come our way over the past year. 2009 was a great year that was made possible by the donations of time and money that is the fuel that runs our Association. The following are some of the events that made this year one to remember:

☺ Completion of the Big Rock land exchange, by far the biggest event of the year, and a great success for the Association and our community.

☺ Continuing forest restoration of last years big wildfire burn area with several tree plantings.

☺ Our first ever Board retreat was a valuable experience and generated much thinking.

☺ The building of two new trail segments on Tower Mtn.

☺ Establishing new pathways of support to national and regional organizations including the Land Trust Alliance, Washington Trail Association, Home Depot, and the Access Fund of Colorado.

☺ Continuing community donations during a tuff economic recession.

☺ A banner year as far as volunteer support for projects.

☺ Negotiating a conservation easement to protect 11 acres of riparian habitat on Tower Mountain.

☹ A rash of small wildfires and the increase of forest camps by people displaced by hard times.

☹ The steady decline in money donations this fall as the national recession hits home in our community.

Overall, we are doing well through these trying times. Our "slice of the pie" is very small indeed. In 2008 only 2% of all charitable contributions in the USA went to animal and environmental organizations. Local, smaller non-profit groups are being hit harder than the larger, national ones, and government support is not flowing much outside the business sector. There are things we have been doing to carry out our mission with reduced emphasis on cash donations. We have been seeking skill-base volunteers, using pro-bon services, venturing into conservation policy advocacy, and figuring out how to make better, more efficient decisions both in our projects and organizational functions. Grants have come through for us (Lights and Shadows, Oct.09) this year, but grants are very competitive and both applications and reporting procedures are very time consuming. **Your support is critical to our mission**, so thank you very, very, very much!

You may have noticed that our donation coupon has changed several times this year. We are trying to improve the format to better reflect our procedure and simplify where possible. The "Memorial" line is for tributes to special people, and we can send out notes if you gives us an address. The "Land and Stewardship" line are funds that support our main mission which is to acquire and take care of natural areas. The "General fund" line indicates funds that are used for all our purposes including the bulletin, outreach, and education. All your donations are helping your community! Watch for future changes

FALL MISC.

Camp Caro has been closed for the season again by Spokane County Parks and Rec. They figure that some bucks (that's dollars, not deer) can be saved by not having to plow snow out of the parking lot. New this year is a sign on Camp Caro gate instructing Natural Area users to enter either at the 8th Ave trailhead on the west side or the Siesta Court trailhead on the east.

There was a fatality this month in the Hills involving several people on a geocache hunt. The cache site was outside the Natural Area on the northeast side and probably at the base of the cliff in Deep Ravine near the water tank. They approached the site from the top of the cliff, probably following GPS readings and not paying enough attention to the dangerous topography. One of them slid off the cliff edge falling to his death below. Geocaching is not a recreational activity that we support in the Natural Area. The activity has little to do with enjoying the natural setting and takes people off the trails destroying some our limited ecology.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every other month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be January 19th. We will meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. This will be our annual all members meeting where we will elect board members and converse about our goals for 2010.

The following are our October donors that have consented to be listed: Robin Bishop, Velda Carlson, Nancy Cashon, Joseph Collins, Dave DeLine, Doris Distad, Don Griffiths, Kenneth Mondal, Ruth Slichter, Jeanne Wilson, Dave Zack, and two anonymous donors. THANKSforGIVING.



After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on, have found that none of these finally satisfy, or permanently wear, what remains? Nature remains. Walt Whitman



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 (see on address)

\$ _____ Memorial for: _____

\$ _____ Land and Stewardship

\$ _____ General fund

\$ _____ Annual dues, due by June 30 (\$15)

\$ _____ TOTAL

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