

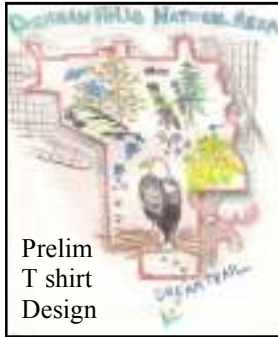
# LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the  
Dishman Hills

March 2011

## SPRING CLEANING

Our second annual spring service day is coming up on April 9<sup>th</sup> and we are hoping that many of you out there will choose to join us. It will start Saturday morning at 9:30 am at Camp Caro on the north side of the Natural Area off Appleway Blvd. This service day is, like last year, sponsored by Recreation Equipment Incorporated or REI, but unlike last year they are backing up most of the cost with a stewardship/volunteer grant to the Association. They are a valuable and appreciated part of the outdoor recreation community here in Spokane. So, show up and bring a friend, neighbor, or relative to keep you company. If you are the organized sort, you can preregister at [www.rei.com/stores/24](http://www.rei.com/stores/24), then scroll down to Classes and Events to find the service day event under the date 4/9/2011. If you one of the first 100 to register, at press time there were about 60 already, you will receive a free T shirt. Walk-ins are also expected and welcomed for those who check the weather and the schedule of pressing matters before making daily decisions. We really would like to include in this day of community involvement the opportunity for finding new members, so bring someone that you think would like to join up and make sure that they have \$15 in their pockets. They will also receive an event-commemorating T shirt!



Prelim  
T shirt  
Design

The emphasis for this year's service day will be the rehabilitation of the northern side of the Natural Area. The open lot just west of Sargent Rd. and south of Appleway Blvd. has been waiting for years for some attention. This land was bought by Spokane County for right-of-way for the Sprague/Appleway couplet construction. The land recently was transferred from general County holdings to Spokane County Parks and Recreation, so now it can be considered part of the Dishman Hills recreational unit. You might have noticed the appearance of a new winter parking lot there in the last several months for hiker that use the Camp Caro trailheads when the gated lot south at Camp Caro is close. Plans are to construct a pole fence line along Appleway, so the flat open space of the lot will no longer appear as a poor cousin to the car lots across the street, and the fence will protect the lot from vehicles veering off Appleway (yes, they have in the past). It's the conservation one-two punch, first protect, then restore! The biological restoration will also be addressed with weed removal,

tree and shrub plantings, and native grass seeding. We also want to construct a new short trail to take people from the new lot to the Camp Caro trailheads. Lurking under this flat lot are several old gravel pits that local businesses used to discard some toxic waste that is now buried and stabilized in a capped dump that we should not disturb with too much surface disturbance. Notice the standing yellow pipe in the middle of the field. This is a water monitoring well for this dump.

Other projects will abound including restoration projects at Goldback Springs, 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. trailhead, trail clearing, Natural Area surveying and trash cleanup, and a small restoration site on the northeast side of the Natural Area. There will be something for everyone, young and old. Current plans for the event include some food, and maybe even some music towards the end of the day. This is a real opportunity to be part of the community's efforts to keep Spokane as a great place to live.

## BUTTERCUP TIME

Yep, it's the annual Buttercup Hike time again. We have been running this hike for over four decades, and it is still popular as an early Spring event to reintroduce ourselves to the great outdoors after a long winter of shoveling snow, over eating, and way-too-much indoor time. The date is Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm. We will meet at the winter parking lot at Camp Caro on Sargent Rd, just off Appleway Blvd. In addition to our usual hike, we will cover current events and upcoming programs for the Natural Area and our Association. See you there.

## 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 month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting is April 19<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our February donors that have consented to be listed: David Beardslee, John Beecher, Robin Bishop, Nancy Cashion, Linda Crowe, Marilyn Decoster, Lillian DeLine, Paul Flannery, Roger, Fruci, Bart & Lindell Haggin, Lois Hansen, Eris Heggem, The Hobnailers, Karol Kaye, Janyce Keeling, Camille Kovarik, Bea Lackaff, Gary Lancaster, Pat Manners, Bettie Maron, Steve Nisco, Michael Ormsby, William Peterson, Ruth Roberts, Norma Rosenberger, Stephanie Schrimshire, Spokane Valley Business Association, Florence Townsend, Irene Vogel, Jeanne Wilson, Sunni Winstein-Mace, David & Pamela Zack, and Arthur Zack. Thanks all.

## *YES, I want to help protect our natural areas in the Spokane Region*

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

\$ 15\*    \$ 25    \$ 50    \$ 100    Other \_\_\_\_\_ \* annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Acc. No. (see address) \_\_\_\_\_  Please don't list me as a donor

**Please return this form along with your check payable to DHNAA**

I would like to receive my Lights & Shadows online   My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

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