

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the Dishman Hills

January 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As with every new year, we started with our annual membership meeting. A review of 2012 reminded us that quite a lot was done last year including, a conservation land deal for 270 acres with ¼ million dollars raised by DHC, start of our name change, best service day ever, Big Rock parking established, and much more. Of note, we had our first recorded rattlesnake bite in 2012. Moving forward, our Trustee election added two new folks, Paula Bauer and Anne McGregor; reelected was Andrew Ashmore, Suzy Dix, Michael Hamilton, Jeff Lambert, and Kristine Wolbach. Remaining on the Board for their second year are Chris Kopczyński, Bea Lackaff, David Lill, Chris Polito, Steve Trefts, and Mary Weathers. Board skills include accounting, real estate, construction, environmental science, cartography, recreation, legal, publication, computer, and communication expertise. We all share an enthusiasm to support the Conservancy's mission *to preserve and defend the natural lands of the Dishman Hills ecosystems while connecting people with nature*. The officer election retained Bea Lackaff as secretary and Kristine Wolbach as treasurer. Our new President is Jeff Lambert replacing Michael Hamilton, after his 20 years of service in the position; he will be sticking around as vice president.

A good time was had by all, and several items mentioned for the 2013 schedule included another service day in the spring, an annual banquet on March 23rd, a Buttercup hike April 6th, and the installation of an improved loop trail system in the Natural Area. The Dream Trail Project is still "full speed ahead", and we want to strengthen the committee structure in the Conservancy to get more done. Possibly one of the most exciting events for the year involves a grant proposal that we submitted this month to support a paid position to increase the capacity of our organization to achieve goals that we have established for the next three years. More on this later as things develop

NAME NEWS

There have been changes lately to the name we are using for the natural lands accumulating in the Tower Mountain/Dishman Ridge area. With the latest addition of the Stone and McCollum properties, the County thought it was about time to take this step. The mutually agreed name is the "Dishman Conservation Area" (DCA), which includes 1,227 acres of County land that were obtained through the Conservation Futures Program and gifts from the Dishman Hills Conservancy. The adjacent conservation lands

owned by us were not figured as part of this newly named area. Also not included in the DCA is the Dishman Hills Natural Area since these acres are part of a Statewide system known as Natural Resource Conservation Areas (NRCA) and is managed as such. We would like to see our lands, eventually, as part of a joint conservation area that enjoys the successful partnership found in the lower hills in the Dishman Hills NRCA.

To commemorate the DNC formation, Spokane County Parks has produced two new maps that are available on the Park's webpage under "Conservation Futures", then click "Dishman Hills". On your new page find "Glenrose Detailed Trail Map", and "Iller Creek Trail Map" to download. The maps show topography, shaded relief, trails, property boundaries, general location, and trailheads.

Lastly, we are continuing our name change to the Dishman Hills Conservancy from the longer version with "Association" at the end. We have tried it on for size and found it very comfortable. The next step will be to file all the paperwork to make it official, but the old name will remain on the books in the background. Please use our full name on your donations so we can keep the IRS happy. We are also in the process changing the internet address from dhnaa.org to dishmanhills.org, but stay tuned for this change since we have not completed this change.

CONSERVANCY 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 will be on February, 19th, 7 pm. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our December donors that have consented to be listed: Chris Bachman, Steve Barrett, Beverly Benka, Nancy Cashion, Vivian Caufield, David Cole, Suzy Dix, Ronald Dunsmore, Dawes Eddy, Elaine Edwards, Amy Eiden, Brent Egesdal, William Erler, Loan Fergin, Bill Fix, Harold Fix, Joseph Giegel, Craig Grossman, James Hapless, Steven Heaps, Tim Henderson, Sandra Hollar, Kathy & Hal Holte, Bruce Howard, Mary Jones, Karen Jurasin, Karol Kaye, Rebecca Knapp, Camille Kovarik, Jeff Lambert, Stephanie Lambert, Cythia Langlois, Rich Leon, Pat Manners, Linda Martin, Shannon Meagher, Thomas Mosher, Maria Ourada, Anne Petersen, Loyd Phillips, Robert Pyle, The Schaub Foundation, Rose Schultz, Linn Smith, Nanette Smith, Jan Strobeck, Norma Thorpe, Tanya Towne, Babetta Velategui, Jacqueline Volz, Sylvia Wilson, Mary Wright, David Zack, and three anonymous donors. Thank you all for all these wonderful gifts in the Holiday season.

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of :

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

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