



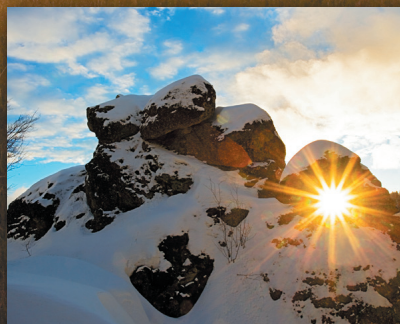
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NEWSLETTER

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LIGHTS & SHADOWS

In November I was honored to accept the 2013 Heritage Preservation Award from the Spokane Valley Heritage Museum at their annual banquet on behalf of the DHC in recognition of our 48 years of conservation efforts in the Spokane Valley.

The award was a reminder of the service that the Conservancy has offered to the surrounding communities. Through the years, our urban forest lands have provided space for outdoor recreation and environmental education that is close to where people live. Maybe most importantly, we have supported community health with opportunities for exercise and mental refreshment in what can be characterized as a “greed-free” zone. Here citizens can recharge spirits that have been dampened by the urban setting, with its commercialization, ramped-up development, and traffic.

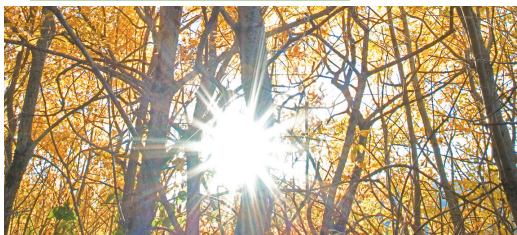
Our quiet forests offer a refreshing counterpoint to the hectic and busy lives most of us lead. We have worked hard to keep it that way. Our trail system and use-rules have been

designed to encourage use, while discouraging overuse. When Spokane County offered \$100,000 for a road right-of-way in the Natural Area, the answer was no. To requests for limited logging, plant harvesting, or commercial war games, the answer was no.

In fact, several conversations with Spokane County and Water district engineers seemed to portray our Dishman Hills as an “undeveloped area” that is just waiting for someone to figure out how to put it to use. We reminded them that the Natural Area is much more valuable than another road, water tank or subdivision.

So, the next time you are in the woods, take a deep breath, feel your anxieties abate, and be thankful for our Natural Area, a welcome, nearby and natural escape from the urban environment.

Michael Hamilton, former DHC President and editor of the DHC's original newsletter Lights and Shadows



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After 48 years, the mission of the Dishman Hills Conservancy remains the same: protecting land. While 2400 acres have already been preserved, there is a great opportunity before us to connect four large tracts, creating a Dream Trail—a nature and recreation corridor from Camp Caro on Appleway Boulevard stretching south for six miles, to the rolling Palouse Hills and Big Rock/Rocks of Sharon.

In 2013, the Conservancy received a \$150,000 grant to hire an executive director for three years with the specific goal of growing stronger. Eric Robison is now working full-time toward the goal of the Dream Trail.

But preserving and maintaining the abundant recreation, education and conservation opportunities of the Dream Trail will require support from you.

First, I invite you to consider joining the Conservancy. You can do this either at DishmanHills.org, or by returning the form in this newsletter. Help us reach our goal of 100 new members.

Second, we need volunteers. To make our shared vision a reality, we need your passion and knowledge. We have opportunities on our Stewardship Committee, which works to assure our land will be nurtured in perpetuity. The Outreach Committee works to gather more support for our mission through planning activities like social events and nature walks. The Conservation Committee researches and develops land acquisition projects, while the Friends of Dishman Hills works on fundraising and planned giving programs. We invite you to attend our Membership Meeting at 6 pm on January 21, 2014 at the Moran Prairie Library to learn more.

And third, we need your donations. Land acquisitions are underway, but only if you and others invest in the DHC will we be able to continue to purchase lands for trails and conservation.

Join to be informed, Volunteer to be involved, and Donate to be invested.

Jeff Lambert, President

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