



Upcoming Events

- Board meeting,
May 20, 7:00 pm,
Moran Prairie
County Library,
visitors welcomed.
- Kids in the Hills,
class and field trip,
June 3-4, 9:45 am,
Camp Caro
- Board meeting,
June 17, 7:00 pm,
Moran Prairie
County Library,
visitors welcomed.

Lights & Shadows

by Michael Hamilton

Deep Ravine

The far NE side of the Natural Area contains acreages that is not often visited by hikers. With our new trail from Camp Caro east to Deep Ravine, it seems time to pass on some information about the place. To start with, we almost lost some of Deep Ravine when the County built the New Appleway Blvd. Road people wanted to blast a notch out of the Ravine so the roadway would not displace the car lots to the north. Our outcry was sufficient to stop this. This topographic feature can be described as a slot canyon with high walls on both sides. In many spots the walls are vertical and smooth. The SE-NW trend suggests there is a fault beneath the floor of the ravine that has fractured the surface rock and allowed erosion over many years to create the canyon. Glacial flooding during the Great Ice Age accelerated this process.

The lower or northern part of the ravine is owned by the Hutchison Water District which built a water tank on top of the high cliff. In the early 1900's Mr. Hutchison competed with Mr. Dishman for the name of the new town forming in the Spokane

Valley; Dishman won. The latest fatality in our forest was near the water tank where a geocasher followed his GPS device over the cliff. He thought that he was approaching the cash that was at the base of the cliff and failed to notice the dropoff. Rock climbers love the high wall in this section of the ravine, and one can spot metal rings fastened to the rock where climbers fasten ropes.

Our new trail turns south as you enter into the ravine in order to stay within the Natural Area. Hike on and enjoy some lovely scenery all the way to Goldback Springs. Several of our new trail signs will help you find the way. Deep Ravine is just one of a number of parallel valleys in this part of the Natural Area that follow faulted bedrock. The granite mined on the side of the Natural Area raised up from below along these faults. Just to the east of the trail there was an old Hobo camp from the 1930's that included the remnants of a still and several cabin sites. While the new trail is relatively short, it connects with a number of other trail loops to provide a fine hike through a variety of topographies and ecologic situations.



CAMERA! ACTION!

During the next few months, visitors to the Natural Area and conservation lands to the south might run into a film crew. We will be producing a promotional film that we can use to introduce and promote the mission of the Conservancy. This project is part of the Capacity Building project that we started last year. Our goal is to have it all completed by next October when we plan to join the premier airing of Chris Kopczyński's (member of our Board) film **Wisdom Earned** on his climbing adventures in Alaska. This event will run at the Bing Theater as a benefit performance for the Conservancy.

The film is planned to cover our history, current programs, and future goals without boring the viewer with too many facts. We want to produce an attractive film with pleasing and interesting visuals. This is the first time for this type project, so we are learning as we go. We do have some professional help with filming,

editing, sound, etc., so hopes are high for a quality product. We have been shooting footage currently to catch spring flowers, and we plan to show up at planned events to capture activities as they happen. While the final product will be under 15 minutes in length, we are thinking of a longer film for our 50th anniversary coming up in less than two years. We also want to produce short chapters that will fit nicely on our web site for downloading. So, if you encounter us filming, don't be shy, we may want to interview you, a user of the natural Area.

REMEMBER

In 1974, 40 years ago at Expo we pledged to the Country to show the way of how a community can live in harmony with its Natural surroundings. Entitled "This We Believe" the manifesto was read by Danny Kaye with President Nixon listening on:

"We believe that from this city of Spokane there goes forth today to the world the message that the time of great environmental awaking is at hand."

Today this pledge still makes a lot of sense.



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Starting the first of July, till then just \$15

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DISHMAN HILLS FIELD TRIPS

Next month the Dishman Hills Conservancy will join in with Spokane County, The Land Council, and Washington State DNR to run a two day educational event in the Natural Area by hosting classroom field trips for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. On June 3rd and 4th hikes guided by scientist and environmental educators will treat the kids with a real life experience and a fun adventure. Topics will include forest ecology, pond ecosystems, geology, and wildlife biology. This year we will provide a planning and preparation guide to the classes titled: How to Have a Successful Field Trip in the Dishman Hills Natural Area. We plan to have this publication available for those who cannot make the event.

Sign up for this event is through your child's school system which can provide transportation, kid control, and lunches. There is room for 4 groups per day and at newsletter press time there were several slots still open. To register, download a application form & instructions on the DHC website, or contact Bea Lackaff at 509-869-5072, beabeth.lackaff@gmail.com, for information. We are keeping this event free for these school groups since education is an important part of the Conservancy's mission. Any contributions to support the event will be very much appreciated.



3415 South Lincoln Drive
Spokane, Washington 99203
www.dishmanhills.org
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NEWSLETTER

July

