



# Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, April, 1999

## ECOLOGY CONVENTION

In August of this years the Ecological Society of America (ESA) will hold their national convention in Spokane, at which time two to three thousand ecologists from across the country will descend on our fair city! Their Public Affairs Committee has already visited to start the organization required to pull off such a big event. The Society picked Spokane because our community is teaming with ecological issues related to saving the environment in the face of growth and urban expansion. The State's Growth Management Act, mixed with urban expansion, increased recreation needs, and a rich Natural Heritage, have made our corner of the country a very interesting place to them. The ESA wants to do more than the usual talks, banquets, and conventional convention things. They want to "put to work" all that assembled expertise to address some of the community's ecological problems. ESA sees these outreach opportunities as both a payback for the communities that host their convention, and a chance for members to obtain first hand experience in the field.

The Dishman Hills Natural Area was selected by ESA for a "pilot" project that will define and document the ecology in detail so that the effects of urban encroachment can be better understood. A "rapid assessment" team will take to the Hills before the convention, using new technologies such as video mapping, GPS, and GIS. The information assembled will be presented at a community workshop open to the public. The survey will also include vegetation sampling plots both in the various habitats in the interior of the Natural Area and the periphery (near development). Detailed plant data, both native and exotic will be collected, and trained taxonomist will assist in identification. Repeat photography and remotely sensed data will be used to assess changes in land use over time. All this data will be compared to previous ecological assessments of the Hills to define the changes taking place as the city grows around the Natural Area and the recreation use increases.

This project is also intended to provide training on this, somewhat new, rapid assessment procedure for ecologist, regional planners, and the community. We at the Association are excited about all this attention and greatly appreciate being included in ESA's program. We plan to work with them in providing any assistance we can, and have already joined a local team of volunteers to handle ESA's logistics for the convention.

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Please flip over this newsletter and read the announcement for the Dishman Hills benefit concert in April. If nobody shows up it won't be much of a benefit, so take a chance and show up. Post this announcement at a popular place, such as a school, store, or your refrigerator door, or give it someone you know, *Thanks*

## BUTTERCUPS AND LIONS

Hikers on this years' **DH Buttercup Hike, April 17**, might noticed a new sign posted at the Camp Caro trailhead proclaiming the presence of a mountain lion in the Natural Area. The sign was put up by Fish and Wildlife last Fall after a lion was sighted behind Camp Caro on the trail.. This comes as no surprise since there are deer and elk (futher to the south) around, and lions are their natural predators. Over the years we have seen their tracts but sighing of these elusive animals are few and far between. As with most wild animals, they are usually more scared of you than visa-versa, so if you encounter one please take care not to harm it. So, let's all meet at **Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent, at 1:30pm** for a pleasant hike to take in a new season of natural beauty

## ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving natural areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton at 747-8147 with any questions. We will have our May meeting at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur, the third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

We heartily thank the following boosters who have permitted us to list them here: Earl Bentz (memorial), Boulevard Garden Club, Anita Colvin (memorial), Jack/Cornelia Bratten, Vickie Bushee, Diane Casey, Martha Hayward (memorial), Eris Heggem, Sandra Hollar, Patricia Houff, Diane Huggar, Robert Jonas, Jerry/Richard LaCom (memorial), Gail Lambert, Maxine Leszykowski, Lee&Michaud&Immerlis Co., Helen Lininger, John Lorang, Mary Meagher, Leo Middendorf, Carl Milton, Rubin Oland (memorial), Marion Pillsbury, Francis/June Potter, Robert Pyle, Tom Rogers, Hazel and Pauline Strange (memorial), Florence Thayer, and Jeanne Wilson

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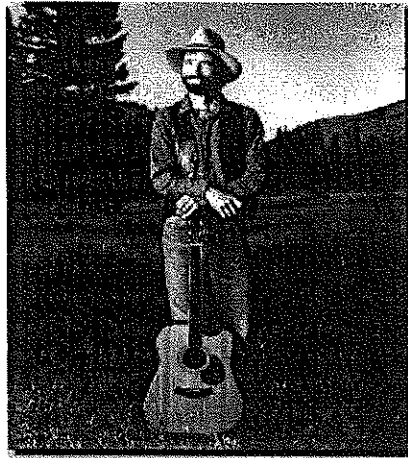
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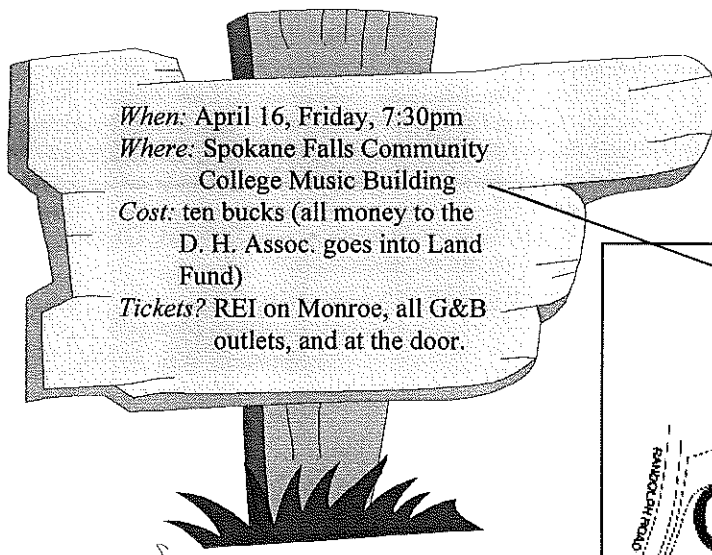
Celebrate Earth Day  with music and song

# WALKIN' JIM STOLTZ



presents a benefit multimedia show  
**Forever Wild**  
for the Dishman Hills Association

The Dishman Hills Association is a non profit group, staffed by volunteers, that has been working for over 33 years to save special natural areas around Spokane.



Thank



you

