

Dishman Hills Natural Area Association  
E. 10820 Maxwell  
Spokane, WA 99206

Non-Profit Org.  
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Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 546



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Spokane, WA 99212

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

### HERE COMES THE NEW CENTURY

So what is ahead for the Dishman Hills in the next century? What will happen in the Association, the natural area, the new Rocks of Sharon nature area on Tower Mt., and in the Dishman Hills "ecology zone"? While the future is always unknown, here are some predictions based on changes over the last few years.

The Association is in the process of switching over from the "old guard", the original founders, to a new generation of members that have some different concepts and expectations for the future. People are still very generous and involved with saving our Natural Heritage. But it's a changing world, and one can expect a continuing increase of emphasis of time over money, recreation over preservation, economics over ideology, and private over public. Volunteers will become rarer as people's schedules continue to fill up, recreation needs will climb much faster than land set aside for use, and development will still take first seat over saving nature areas. On the plus side, better communications will allow us to reach more people, and preservation issues will be much more visible to the average citizen as our natural resources disappear. The Association will have to modernize its communication skills, join the crowd on the Internet, and network with the area's conservation organizations. Can we survive with fewer active members doing better by reaching out to more people and tapping new resources? Are you ready to receive your bulletin over e mail, and to sign electronic petitions to the local government (We are not!)?

The Natural Area will continue to be surrounded by development, and active land management will have to counter the effects. More emphasis on land restoration, rule enforcement, and conservation will probably be necessary. We feel part of the answer is a seasonal ranger to patrol the Natural Area to effectively run the NRCA. Some new thinking will be necessary to develop better methods of land stewardship and conservation. We will have to be more involved with the workings of county government to protect the ecology from urban and rural sprawl.

The prospects for the new nature area on Tower Mt as we enter the new century are excellent. Spokane County has just purchased 350 acres of land on Tower Mt. for the new nature area. The land cost \$380,000, half from a competitive state grant for urban forest, and half from the Conservation Futures funds. The land is adjacent to our parcel with a public access off Holman Rd. in the Ponderosa addition. There will be lots of work to restore the land from logging damage, and to form the area into a new, publicly accessible nature area, complete with a trail system, set of usage rules, and programs for education, conservation, and interpretation. Hopefully, by the end of the next century the Rocks of Sharon will be another "jewel" in Spokane's natural area inventory.

The new millennium will be a very busy, rewarding, and challenging time for those involved in the conservation of nature areas in our community. Many feel that by the end of the next century the job of saving native and natural environments in our community will be over, with expanding urban development engulfing most all the natural settings that are in the way. Some foresee a gloomy future for natural areas and feel they cannot compete with the strong forces of urban expansion. But, the conservation of our beautiful natural setting can succeed if we want it to happen and become involved. There are lots of fine examples of success that surround the city, Dishman Hills, Liberty Lake County Park, Turbull, Little Spokane River, and Riverside and Mt. Spokane State Parks.

So, lets get busy and enter 2000 with a commitment to do the job of our time, to protect, save, and restore our Natural Heritage for the many centuries to come.

### ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We have a monthly meeting the 3rd Tuesday at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur, at 7 PM.

Thank you for the generous support during the last year, The following are our November donors that have consented to be listed: David & Rebecca Anderson, Robert Downing, Carlton & Claire Goudge, Garry & Alice Herman, Betty Hughes, Dorthy Knechtel, Vernon Krebs, Helen Lininger, W.S. Peterson, Jane Rogers, Norma Rosenberger, Shirley Skinner, Ray Staley, Barney & Jeanne Wilson, and Hershel Zellman. Thank you one and all!

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# DISHMAN HILLS

NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION



Merry Christmas  
and a happy new millennium

*Spokane Valley Herald, Oct 26, 1988*

## Dishman Hills acreage designated first state conservation area

Seventy acres of land in the Dishman Hills of Spokane Valley have been purchased to be designated as the first Natural Conservation Area. The purchase was made by the Spokane Valley Conservation Society, a group of volunteers led by...

**SPokane Valley Herald**  
Meadow EAST 9615

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