



DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION
3415 S. LINCOLN DRIVE, SPOKANE, WA 99203, 509 747-8147

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 546

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS from the Dishman Hills, December, 2001

TO E OR NOT TO E

Modern times suggest that we should transform this newsletter to an electronic (E) format so that we can transmit it fast, far and wide, and cheap to a larger audience. The Association spends almost \$1,000 every year in printing and mailing the newsletter, and we are well aware that a percentage of them get lost to dead end addresses, and more are discarded without being read.

There are several great examples of local conservation newsletters that have gone electronic which work very well, Earthworkers Unite newsletter (jschrock@cet.com), and the Sierra club newsletter (scnw@icehouse.net). The newsletters disseminate lots of current information fast and efficiently, and allow people to find them from around the world. These electronic formats need not stick to monthly time frames, but can fire out timely news whenever it happens. The Washington Environmental Council web site (wecprotects.org) bills itself as a grassroots environmental action center where messages alert members around the state of important events and legislation then allows the same members to e-mail with "a few quick clicks" appropriate messages to legislators or local newspapers.

Other local newsletters have stuck to postal (snail mail) distribution such as the Inland NW Land Trust Quarterly Newsletter and Land Lines. The Land Trust is also going electronic and has developed a web page. Here, at the Association we use the newsletter for more than an information vehicle, we use it as a "thank you" letter for donors, a subscription and fund-raising letter, and a means to distribute personal information such as our annual donation summary in January. While there is no doubt that the Association should develop a web page and post the newsletter for electronic access, we want to keep the Lights and Shadows as an traditional monthly sheet that is accessible to all, whether you are online or not. Keeping it simple will do for now. There is already a fine web page on the Dishman Hills by the school children of Regal elementary (sd81.k12.wa.us/Regal/Dishman Hills/56DHill.htm) which is written by kids for kids; it's a fun site.

DECISION MADE

The County Commissioners have ruled to allow commercial development to lap up on the northwest side of the Natural Area. The decision did not allow the regional business B-3 zoning that was approved before the appeal by the Association, but for B-1, neighborhood business, and any development plans would have to be again reviewed by the County to comply with the natural setting of the area. We will not fight this decision. The Association is a little older and wiser now; we realize that Comprehensive and Growth Management Plans, Environmental Impact Statements, Memos of Understanding, and spoken agreements are mostly illusionary, sort

of public relation items that can fall against the legal details. These plans and papers were not designed for serious community planning, but rather just outline goals and possibilities. This failure to convince the County to stand behind its community planning reaffirms the importance of the Associations long term strategy for conservation, to save it you must own it.

ANNUAL MEETING

Next month is January when we have our annual election of Board members. As always, there is a need for people who want to be involved with the Association. There is no shortage of volunteer opportunities, so if you been looking for some way to join the quest to save natural Spokane maybe this is the time.

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 third Tuesday of the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm. No meeting in Decembers due to vacation time.

The following are our November donors that have consented to be listed: Jim & Patty Conaty, Davis & Lillian Deline, David Donally, Douglas Donally, Gregory & Sue Evans, George & Lila Girvin, Donald & Pauline Hagen, Gloria Halier, Steven & Karen Heaps, Dianne Huggar, Daniel Iyall, Carmel Johnstone, Stephanie Lambert, Helen Lininger, Hannah Lovik, Chas. & Patricia MacNeill, Lucille Marchand, Marilyn & John Miller, Roy Mills, Mary Ruud, George & Shirley Schneider, Holly Sonneland, Barney & Jeanne Wilson, and Harold & Elaine Wimpy. A merry Christmas to all !

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** or **DUES**

All contributions are tax deductible

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNAA

3415 S. Lincoln Dr.
Spokane, WA 99203

Your Name: _____

Please put your account no. _____ on your check

\$ _____ MEMORIAL FOR _____

\$ _____ LAND PURCHASE FUND

\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES due in January (\$10 regular, \$5 student or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

New ? Renewal ? Don't list me as donor

Please tell us if this newsletter is unwanted or if there is an address mistake