



DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION
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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS from the Dishman Hills, February, 2002

ATV

What is an ATV? It's not a television channel or a medical conditions, rather it stands for All Terrain Vehicle, and ATVs are a management problem. Our Rocks of Sharon nature area is used by ATVs and motorcycles for recreation. The vehicles on wet ground or on slopes rip up vegetation, widen trails, and rut out the landscape. There is also pollution by fumes, noise, and a variety of stuff driven in and not packed out. Many areas in the West are experiencing this problem, and some like Yellowstone NP are taking bold steps to limit motorized uses that are destroying the scenery. One only has to fly into any western city to see the webs of ATV and motorcycle tracts that lace the green spaces that surround the urban areas.

From experience, we realize that at the base of any successful natural area management plan is the exclusion of motorized vehicles where there are not suitable roads. It will be quite a challenge to do this. American industry has designed and manufactured a variety of devices to allow motorized transit to areas beyond the end of the road. For years people have been using this open space for their own needs and do not appreciate a change. Two years ago we found someone who had taken their bulldozer up on our property to build new horse trails! We will apply our experience from the lower hills. First signs, notices, and educational efforts will take care of about 1/3 of the problem. Next comes light barriers such as rail fences, berms, and ditches; then heavier barriers such as rocks, chain fence, and barbed wire. This will probably take care of another 1/2. The remainder of the problem requires patrol of the area until users get use to the new rules.

It's a long, difficult process that requires diligence, perseverance, and resources. It's a first step in securing and stabilizing the nature area in preparation of restoration projects. Then ATV can mean Alluring Territory for Visitors.

SPRING AGAIN

Robins are on the move, geese are flying other directions than south, and soon the first buttercup flowers will appear. Spring is just around the corner. Another sign of Spring is the first announcement of the annual buttercup hike at Dishman Hills. This year it will be on March 30, meeting at Camp Caro at 1:30 pm. This is several weeks earlier than last year, but more in tune with the traditional date of an early Spring hike to celebrate the beginning of a new growing season. We will take the loop up to Eagle Peak, returning by way of the ponds so we can see some of the new trail improvements made last Fall. Some of us will be having picnic lunch at Camp Caro before the hike.

*The long fight to save wild beauty represents democracy at its best.
It requires citizens to practice the hardest of virtues - self restraint.*
— Edwin Way Teale

HAVE A QUOTE

For the next several months the newsletter will include some famous, and hopefully appropriate, quotes on the bottom of each column. These come from a collection of quotes displayed at a number of gardens and natural areas across the nation. Besides adding a little culture to the publication, maybe some inspiration will make your day a little brighter. If you have a favorite quote or two, please send them to the DHNAA address and we will include them in the collection.

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 new meeting schedule. Rather than monthly meetings we will meet every other month with the next one the third Tuesday of March at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm.

The following are our January donors that have consented to be listed: Greg Baker, Eric & Beth Calkins, Helen Cook, Signe Currier, Marva Goede, Izzy Hawkins, Addie Haynes, Mary Jo Kester, William Kuhlman, Rich Leon, Trudy Miller, Roy Mills, Marlene Montgomery, Warren & Ruth Peterson, Fred & Dorothy Radebaugh, Marjorie Rozell, John Scheunemann, Kenneth Swedberg, Joan Talbot, Edwin & Betty Weilep, Art Zack. and two anonymous donors. Thanks

*We have not inherited the world from our forefathers,
we have borrowed it from our children* — Kashiri Proverb

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