

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the
Dishman Hills

December, 2003

CARING FOR CREATION

This Christmas season there's a connection between the Dishman Hills and the religious community that you might want to consider. This connection goes far deeper than the obvious support we have received such as Redeemer Lutheran Church's helping to obtain land at Camp Caro on the northern side of the Natural Area.

This issue was the topic at Gonzaga University this Fall in a forum on Religion and the Environment. The overall message at the forum was that God's creation around us, the natural world, is worthy of our respect and our support. Those of us involved in saving natural lands in our community are well aware that "ownership" is not near as important as "stewardship". While humans definitely have dominion over most of the planet, we still have a long way to go in properly caring for this creation which we have inherited. Every year it becomes more obvious that the world's natural environments are suffering at an accelerating rate from the effects of human occupation, and most of the battles to support the environment are being lost. Forum speakers served a full plate of issues for us to consider including: saving the soil, toxic waste, deforestation and lost of natural habitat, clean water, energy efficiency, population growth, and pesticides. It was emphasized that we should be thinking globally, but acting personally and locally to solve these problems.

A growing number of religious organizations are awakening to the fact that one of the most important task of the 21st century will be to reform the human civilization into proper stewards of what we own. At the forum speakers from Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and Episcopal churches emphasized that God's creator and our natural heritage should not be that target for exploitation, over consumption, and destruction, but rather for responsible use, sustainability, and preservation. These ministries, along with organizations such as Earth Ministry in Seattle, are beginning to preach to they congregations the values of conservation of our natural resources and natural spaces. They believe this is the moral, just, and ethical course of action.

So, sometime during the Holiday season you might want to wander down a trail in the Dishman Hills and surround yourself with God's creation, filling yourself with wonderment, appreciation, and commitment that this shall remain as a testament of our respect for God's work. The best of Holidays and a wonderful New year.

New Year

2004 is about here and this is a good time for all of us to consider what we want to be doing in the year to come. The Association would be a good place to put in some volunteer time on nature conservation if that is part of your plans. Our annual meeting in January would be a start. We need more board members, and people to tackle various projects.

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 meet every other month on the third Tuesday at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur, in the teacher's lounge, 7pm. Our next meeting will be January 20.

The following are our November donors that have consented to be listed: Laurie Byrd, Elizabeth DeNiro, Michael & Claudia Hamilton, Inge & Harry Hendron, Glen Kivett, Kathryn Mann, Helen Stowell, Beth & Ed Tiejn, Jeanne Wilson and one anonymous donor. Thank you all for your generous support.

Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees - Revelations 7:3



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 address) 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