

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

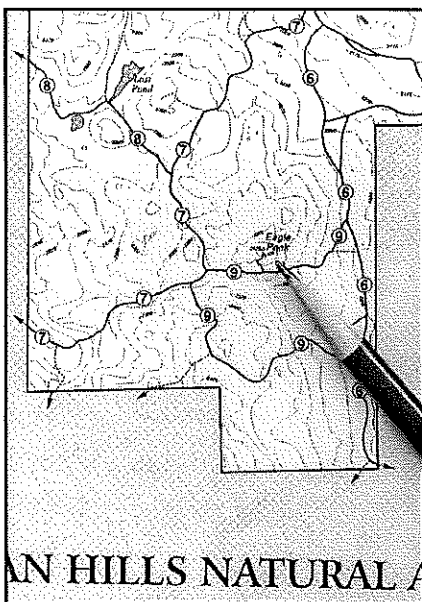
from the
Dishman Hills

September 2005

A TRAIL FOR THE SEASON

As the fall season ascends on us what could be better than a hike in the Dishman Hills. The trek to Eagle Peak may be just the way to enjoy the season. Pick a cool, crisp morning with a sky of deep blue, or a stormy afternoon with change in the air. Start at Camp Caro and head south on the main trail to Caro Cliff, at which one must make a series of trail choices. Here is where things get interesting. You

could go left, then right, then left, then straight, then right, or you could go right, then left, then right, then straight, then right to get you on the trail to Eagle Peak. There are some signs and trail maps available to help you in navigation. The trick is to keep heading south on the east side of Dishman Ridge until you find trail 9 off to the right. As you climb the trail up the east side of the ridge look for another steep trail off to the right near the top of the grade that will take you up the last few hundred feet to the peak top. Careful on the



From the summit, a bare knob of granite, one enjoys a 360 degree panorama of most all the major topographic features of the Spokane area. To the north is the southern end of the Selkirk Mountain range with Mt. Spokane standing out as our local high spot. Is there any fresh snow signaling the return of northwest's early winters at high elevations? To the west one can spot a black rock, flat-topped, plateau that both provides a scenic backdrop to downtown Spokane and marks the eastern side of the extensive Columbia Basin lava flows. To the east, off in the misty distance (grass field smoke) are the magnificent Rocky Mountains of Idaho and Montana. To the south a broad ridge carpeted with pine and fir rises sharply to Tower Mountain. This time of year it is easy to distinguish between deciduous and evergreens trees by the colors of the foliage. Below you in the broad Spokane Valley all the trappings of urban life fill the space with motion, noise, and symmetry, in stark contrast to the peaceful natural setting of the Dishman Ridge. From up on the peak the city below sounds like a distant waterfall with the occasional honking of a train or the passing swishing of a plane.

Eagle peak is the perfect destination for a picnic, a class, or any other function that encourages you to "stop, look, and listen" at the fabulous collection of sights that surround you. Several years ago we lead a tour to Eagle Peak for a sunset picnic and hiked out by flashlight! Leaving the peak, there are other ways to return to Camp Caro to make the journey a wonderful loop trip.

The investigation of nature is an infinite pasture-ground where all may graze, and where the more bite, the longer the grass grows, the sweeter is its flavor, and the more it nourishes.

Thomas Huxley, English Biologist (1925-1895)

DONATION DESIGNATION DATA

The Association board has voted to start some pay down on our Tower Mtn land purchase contract. We decided to do this in response to several donations that were specifically designated for this purchase, and we would also want to accelerate the contract payoff to reduce interest cost. We currently owe about \$80K on two land purchase contracts at 3.1% interest on the outstanding principle.

A reminder that you generous people out there have several choices to designate your donations. We generally credit you with your annual dues for the first \$10, if appropriate. Additional funds are then labeled "undesignated" if nothing is specified by the donor. This account is used for contract payments, bulletin cost, and taxes, conservation projects, or misc. fees and supplies. If donations are marked as "land purchase fund" on the check or on the donation slip clipped from the bulletin, they will be used for contract payments or retained for future land purchases. Donations marked specifically for Tower Mountain or Dream Trail funds will be applied right away to the land purchase contracts in those funds thus saving some money on interest.

We have found over the years that purchase contracts are the only way for us to buy land, allowing us to take advantage of purchase opportunities without the delay of fund accumulation. These contracts require a real faith in future support and do cause a certain amount of anxiety for us. They allow us to be buying valuable conservation land today at yesterdays prices, and in Spokane's booming land market that's important.

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. Since we are on summer break our next meeting will be November 15.

The following are our August donors that have consented to be listed: Margaret Becker, Bill Erler, Helen Gudgel, Kerry Masters, Harry Merrick, Jeanette & Mike Ormsby, Marion Phillips (mem for Robert Phillips), Diane Rogers, Kathi Shissler, Holly Sonneland, Hershell Zellman, and one anonymous donor. Thank you one and 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

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