

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the
Dishman Hills

February 2007

ART OF GIVING

There are a lot of options when it comes to the generous act of donating to charitable organizations and, specifically, to the Dishman Hills Association. Smart donating can leverage your dollars while providing us with funds to accomplish our mission. Since we are an qualified 501 (c) (3), non profit, tax-exempt organization, all of your donations qualify for charitable donations on your tax return. We have already sent out receipts for your 2006 donations and if you haven't heard from us lets us know right away. Here are some tips on giving:

- \$ The most popular form of donation for the Association is cash. A check or money order are the best tools here since they act as a connection to the donor for our records. Donations are dated as to the date on the check. Specific request can be attached to the donation such as "memorial", "land fund" or "general". For memorial donations please stipulate if we should sent a note to anyone. We credit the donor with membership dues with the first \$10 of their annual donation.
- \$ Other than money, one can donate investment items such as stocks. The big advantage of doing this is that any capital gains can be passed to us. We are not required to pay tax, so funds that would go to the IRS are put to work conserving land in our neighborhood..
- \$ One can donate a tax-free amount from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This amount is excluded from your gross income thus bypassing any taxes on profits in the IRA. This provision is only in effect for 2007.
- \$ Donations of land can provide extra conservation opportunities for us or extra funds through a sale while the donor is credited with a donation of fair market value without the burden of capital gains on greatly appreciated property. We have offered to cover closing and appraisal cost in past donations of this kind.
- \$ Sale of property to us at discount prices can work very well in certain circumstances. The seller can avoid taxes on appreciated property while gaining a donation credit on a "bargain sale" equal to the difference between fair market value and sales price.
- \$ There are a number of irrevocable trusts that can be used very effectively to avoid income, estate and inheritance, and capital gain taxes while providing life-long income for the donor and donor's spouse. A Charitable Remainder Trust, or a Charitable Lead Trust are of this sort. A set amount of assets are placed in a trust in the name of the charity, you get credit for a charitable donation with the IRS, and one can turn highly appreciated assets, such as low-yielding stocks, free of capital gains, into higher-yielding bonds for a life-long income stream. Subsequent to death the trust goes to the charity without estate tax.

All of the donation instruments mentioned can be very complicated and we encourage you to seek professional help to make sure the donation strategy is right with you and right with the IRS. If there is any way we can help please contact us and we will see what

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

Elwyn White, American writer—1899-1985

we can do to make sure funds are doing what you want them to do in the best way possible. Most all of these donation methods have been employed to support our organization, so we have some experience and some contacts established for professional help. Have a great donation year!



Every so often we comb through the mailing list to see who we have not heard from for some time. While computers help, it is a arduous process since some of you have moved, others drifted away, or married, or simply forgot to reup. Letters were sent, calls made and corrections noted. If you get this newsletter under a different name, a new address, or just found one blowing in the wind, and did not hear from us, please send us corrections and, hopefully, some dues. We hate to loose any of you valuable subscribers!

BUTTERCUP HIKE

This year's Buttercup Hike date will be slightly earlier than in the last few years but, actually, later than the "old days"; April 1, Sunday, 1 pm, at Camp Caro. We will take a 3 hour (approx.) hike to greet the Spring in the Hills. Maybe we can Hike up to the Lost Ponds and loop past Birch Hollow. Some of us will be at Camp Caro for a picnic lunch at noon.

ASSOCIATION 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 questions. We meet every other month on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur. Our next meeting will be March 20.

The following are our January donors that have consented to be listed: Andrew Ashmore, Gardner Bailey, Bertha Booth, Gregory Baker, Joseph Collins, Judy Heggem-Davis, Robert Downing, Myrtle Erickson, Joan Fergin, June Foote, Larry Grossman, Michael Hamilton, Janet Hannink, Isabel Hawkins, Marilyn McCall, Marilyn Miller, Rex & Connie Porter, Linda Siverts, Lee Smith, Victoria Sola, Mary Sweeting, Joan Talbot, Elnore Thompson, and one anonymous donor. Thank you for a great start of the new year.

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 (see on address)

\$ _____ Memorial for: _____
\$ _____ Land Purchase Fund
\$ _____ Annual dues, due by June 30 (\$10)
\$ _____ TOTAL

New ? Renewal ? Don't list me as donor

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