

**A VERY, VERY FINE PRESENT**



**Merry** old Spokane County has given the Dishman Hills Association quite a **Christmas** present. Our Stone Estate nomination for the new round of Conservation Futures Program's land acquisition has been rated on their prioritized list as number 2 out of 36 candidates. This rating is important since existing funding for the program suggest that only 3 or 4 of the top candidates can be bought in the next several years. This nomination (SE-02-10) consist of 160 acres of open land just south of the **landal Area**, is a key property in our attempts to connect the conservation lands in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area. Our second nomination, the McCollum property (SE-01-10), did not rate as well, coming in at 12th place.

This success was the culmination of some hard work, not only by volunteers of the Association, but also those of the new Dishman Hills Alliance, **A** consortium of groups and individuals who want to see the natural spaces in the Dishman Hills connected to create a much larger conservation unit that will save the ecological integrity, recreational opportunities, and the scenic view shed of the Dishman Ridge.

While we are very **Happy** with this support from the Spokane County, this all comes with a price. As part of our submission for the Stone Estate property we pledged to cover one half of the purchase price (up to a certain amount). This pledge boosted the nomination by adding numerical scoring points to the rating. This means that we will be searching for **New** financial support when and if the property comes up for County purchase, so please keep us in mind if you are seeking ways to help your community maintain it's quality of life or ways to care for the natural creations that make Spokane a special place to live and grow.

During the next **Year** the Association will face many challenges. You can be part of the solutions. It's time to get involved. In a world where so many things seem to be going the wrong way and are out of our control, we are embarking on task where you can make a difference, you can see and enjoy success, and you can pass on to the future a green legacy that will sing to the many generations yet to come.

**FULL PLATE**

Here are some of the things on our 2011 plate:

- 1) Support our Conservation Futures Stone Estate nomination by helping facilitate County's efforts to acquire the property.
- 2) Continue efforts for land acquisition and improvements to solve the parking problem for the southern trailhead on Stevens Creek road.
- 3) Start a campaign to save the Glenrose DNR nature area (160 acres, 1 mile SW of the Natural Area) that is slated for a surplus land sale by the State.
- 4) Beef up stewardship in the Natural Area to solve continuing and new problems involving improper activities.
- 5) Plan and execute another spring stewardship day to replicate the great success we had this year.
- 6) Run a membership campaign to increase participation, as well as finding new resources of support.
- 7) Maintain the program to explore opportunities for land acquisition in the connection corridors between the nature area in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area.
- 8) Continue our "Talk to the Neighborhood" program to keep those most effected, and those who should be most involved in our task of securing connection corridors.
- 9) Find alternative resources to secure the McCollum property, since its Conservation Futures rating is relatively low.
- 10) Got any ideas out there that you would like to add to the menu?

As you can see the plate is overflowing with an abundance of challenges for the new year. Won't you join in!

**ASSOCIATION NEWS**

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be not be until January 18th. The January meeting will be our annual membership meeting when we elect board members. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our November donors that have consented to be listed: Nancy Cashon, Frances Davis, Lois Hansen, Jean Koch, Michael Ormsby, Stephen Peterson, Norma Rosenberger, Richard Taylor, Barney Wilson, Peter Witherspoon, Hershel Zellman, and one anonymous donor. Thanks to all that supported us during the year.

*We make a living by what we get, but*



*we make a life by what we give, Winston Churchill*

**YES, I want to help protect our**

**natural areas in the Spokane Region**

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

- \$ 15\*    \$ 25    \$ 50    \$ 100    Other \_\_\_\_\_ \* annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Acc. No. (see address) \_\_\_\_\_  Please don't list me as a donor

**Please return this form along with your check payable to DHNAA**

I would like to receive my Lights & Shadows online My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_