

SPRING CLEANING

Spring is here and the flowers are blooming in the Dishman Hills. There will be a spring cleaning day in the Hills on April 24th, Saturday, that is sponsored by REI-Recreation Equipment of Spokane partnered up with our Association, Spokane Mountaineers, Washington Trail Association (WTA), and the Sierra Club. Pitching in with more help is Spokane County Parks, Spokane Conservation District, and WA Dept. of Natural Resources. Every year REI has run public service events to maintain the recreational spaces of our community such as the Spokane River corridor or the Fish Lake area. The event will start about 8:45 am with registration at Camp Caro on the north side of the Natural Area on Sargent Rd., off Appleway Blvd. Work will be between 9 am and 12 pm. How do you participate? Easy, first sign up at www.rei.com/event/3271/session/3877, then show up at Camp Caro. Walk ins are also OK. Online liability forms should be submitted or catch one on site.

From Camp Caro we will assign work task that will include trash collection, transient camp cleanup, trail clearing, and graffiti removal. We will also be working with the WTA on trail projects in the Iller Creek Conservation Area to the south. Jobs range from small to big and require a range of physical abilities. Families and kids are welcomed. Trash collection sites will include the Eight St./Park and Siesta Court trailheads as well as Camp Caro.

Other activities will include planting of a new forest in the 2008 burn area on the southern side of the Natural Area. We will be scrambling to cover most of the logistics, but there are things you can bring that will help. Work gloves, water bottles, shovels, and for those planting tree plugs, a gallon jug of water to give the young ponderosa trees a drink. Dress for dirty work, maybe rain, and feel free to bring a picnic; REI will supply coffee, water, and light snacks. You can call the Association number, 747-8147, if you have specific questions, or need additional information.

EVENTS AND MORE

The annual Buttercup hike is scheduled for April 18th, Sunday afternoon. We will start at 1 pm at Camp Caro, but some might show up a little early if the weather is nice for a picnic before the hike. The bathrooms at Camp Caro will not be open until June 1st, so plan accordingly. The buttercups are already in full bloom along with the grass widows. This spring the wildflowers are running about three weeks early. Sections of trail and areas that are usually wet with puddled water are currently dry. An early fire season has been predicted.

The Association along with the Dishman Hills Alliance plans to offer a program of field trips for the public during this hiking season. The Dishman Hills Alliance is a consortium of people and organizations working together on connecting the Natural Area with a trail and ecological corridor to the conservations lands to the south on Tower Mountain. We feel there is no better way to fire up public interest and involvement that to get them out there to experience many of the fascinating aspects of the lands we are trying to save. Topics will range from Birds to Geology, to current events and conservation challenges, to exploring various recreational options, and all will include fun hiking through some wonderful places. Details and schedule will follow in next month's newsletter.

DEAR READER:

We are in the process of updating our mailing list, our webpage, and our communication methods to reflect what is going on in the 21st century. As you are aware, postage is constantly increasing in cost and paper does not grow on trees (joke!). We would like to be able to send out both the monthly newsletter and special messages via email to those who would like to receive them in that format. This way we can use more of our limited resources to pursue the goals of our organization to conserve natural spaces. We have already started the ball rolling for the electronic distribution of the newsletter to members. We have been very careful over the years to keep our mail list private and would apply the same commitment to an email list. If you are interested send us the following info:

Email????? Yes No, continue paper mailing

Name (s) _____ Acc. No _____

Email address: _____

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 April 20th. We will meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Members are always welcome to attend to see what is going on or to talk to the board.

The following are our February donors that have consented to be listed: Gary Casey, Nancy Cashion, Earthworks Recycling, Chris Erickson, Sue Flammia, Lois Hansen, Bob & Carol Hickman, The Hobnailers, Judith Hudson, Janyce Keeling, Mike Kloster, Linda Martin, Leo Middendorf, Ellen Pierce, Jim Schrock, Lee Smith, Mary Weathers, Elnora Wildermuth, Jeanne Wilson, Irene Zimmer, and one anonymous donor. Thanks to both Boosters and Supporters.

*Except during the nine months before he draws his first breath,
no man manages his affairs as well as a tree does.*

George Bernard Shaw—Irish dramatist, 1856 to 1950

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