

THE SPIRIT OF '74

It was 1974 and the Association, while only 8 years old, had already formed much of the Natural Area with the help of Spokane County and The Nature Conservancy. The March *Lights and Shadows* newsletter proclaimed that it made very good sense to have "wilderness-type recreation so close to home"



in the Dishman Hills with the gasoline shortages and high prices that the community was experiencing. The people of Spokane were excited about Expo '74 for the world was coming to town. The theme was something new that involved environmentalism, ecology, and planet stewardship. Spokane was burdened to living up to the theme. Our conservative community however was rooted in growth tied to the extraction not the preservation of natural resources. Apprehensions ran deep with real fears about change and "American style" growth. The ecological heart of the city was encrusted with railroad yards, warehouses, hobs, and old laundries. The river, the riverfront, and the falls emerged slowly under controversy of high cost and embedded commercialism, but the job was done, and the results had a staggering effect. The Spirit of '74 was born. The natural beauty of downtown Spokane was showcased, catching the attention and admiration of a country that was awakening to its environmental challenges. Spokane realized that it had something special, and could serve as a shining example of community planning that embraces its natural heritage.

Thirty seven years later the Spirit of '74 is still alive and well in our community. It shows all over the place with foot and bike trails, spacious parks, accessible waterfronts, and recreations areas of all types. It's being carried on by many who never saw Expo '74, but have seen the benefits of green urban planning, and want to see it continue. Our Association knows that the task is far from complete. Our Tower Mtn./ Dishman Hills projects would have made a great display at Expo '74 as an exemplary example of citizens working to save their natural heritage in the face of urban growth and community expansion. What they did 37 years ago is looking pretty good; hopefully, what we are doing today will be looking as good in 37 years. Keep the Spirit of '74 alive!

*...man is the custodian of his environment as the environment
Is the custodian of man—Danny Kaye, Expo '74 Credo*

NEW YEAR

Our annual membership meeting this month was lively and we now have a full compliment of 14 board members. The role call includes continuing term trustees of David Cole, Paul Flanary, Karen Jurasin, Chris Kopczynski, Beatrice Lackaff, David Lill, Bob Ordner, Mary Weathers, and Peter Wolbach. Returning trustees for another term were Andrew Ashmore, Michael Hamilton, Jeff Lambert, and Kris Wolbach. One brand new trustee is Suzy Dix. Officers were also elected and are Michael Hamilton as President, David Cole as Vice President, Kris Wolbach as Treasurer, and Bea Lackaff as Secretary. The board is now a powerhouse of talent, energy, and ideas. 2011 should be quite a remarkable year!

The board review of 2010 helped start a conversation of our expectations for the New Year, and ideas and opinions flowed freely. What did we hope to be talking about in 12 months as a job well done? Right at the top of the list is parking for Big Rock trailhead. Southern access to this newly, and already popular, recreation area requires public parking **now**. At the meeting we also set some dates for the upcoming outdoor season. The annual Buttercup Hike was set for Saturday, April 2nd, and our second annual REI-sponsored service day for the Natural Area is set for April 9th, also a Saturday. The service day was a smashing success last year. We hope to repeat the success with a variety conservation, cleanup, and facility improvement projects that will engage all interested. More than ever we need your support in donations, volunteer time, and professional services, so please join us for 2011.

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 February 15th. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our December donors that have consented to be listed: Steve Barrett, Jell Beth, Brad Blegen, Patricia Burkhardt, Nancy Cashion, Vivian Caufield, Joseph Collins, James Conaty, Carol Ellis, Joan Fergin, Harold Fix, Mary Frankhauser, Craig Grossman, Claudia & Michael Hamilton, Traci Hanegan, Lois Hansen, James Harless, Karen Heaps, Eris Heggem, Karol Kaye, Chris Kopczynski, Mary Lentz, Mary Meagher, Leo Middendorf, Elizabeth Parsons, The Spokane Mountaineers, Donald Walter, Mary Wright, and one anonymous donor. Thanks for ending out the years with a flurry of donations.

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: _____