



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Our annual membership meeting this month got a lot done. The Board of Trustees was, for the first time in recent memory, filled up to the full 15 members allowed by our Corporation Bylaws. Reuping Board members were Andrew Ashmore, Suzy Dix, Paul Flannary, Michael Hamilton, Chris Kopczyński, Bea Lackaff, Jeff Lambert, Dave Lill, Robert Ordner, Chris Pollito, Mary Weathers, and Kris Wolbach. New trustees elected consisted of Bruce Erickson, Bob Hamacher, and Dave Schaub. The officers were reappointed with Michael Hamilton as president, Jeff Lambert vice president, Bea Lackaff secretary, and Kris Wolbach as treasurer.

Our review of last years' activities reminded us how much we got done in 2011. At the beginning of the year we laid out a plan to pull off the transfer of our Big Rock land to County Conservation, and to find and build the trailhead parking facility required by County for the transfer. There may have been some nail-biting about making this happen since it involved finding, funding, and negotiating a new land deal for a parking lot, as well as road improvement work, funding lot cost, design work, and tons of permitting. There was also the challenging task of keeping the County happy with the deal. Big Rock qualified for acquisition by Spokane County since it was high up on their Conservation Futures property list, but we were reminded that it was placed there some time ago and it was now or never for this deal. With the help of many including some of you now reading this article, the deal was closed and now there will be fabulous public access to Big Rock and the surrounding conservation lands when the County finishes the parking lot in the Spring. We also had a number of successful stewardship projects including plantings, trail work, cleanup, and a very successful Service Day last April. Anyone notice that the bridge at Goldback Spring was rebuilt? We continued the modernization of our website and email capabilities.

Not surprising, the course laid out for 2012 is equality challenging for us (maybe more). Top of the list is the land deal set to close this April that involves 300 acres of prime conservation land in that big open space between our two large natural areas in the Dishman Hills. We will continue to modernize the Association with improvements in all the digital attributes of modern times including email list, web pages, and GPS touring of our trail system.

*The true meaning of life is to plant a tree, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*

Nelson Henderson

At the meeting we also organized work groups or committees to get more done this year. Committees were formed for: Fundraising, Stewardship, Real Estate, Outreach, Marketing, and Finance. We would like all of you readers and members who are wondering how to fill up all that extra time you have to join up with a committee to contribute to our mission. To do this you can call Michael Hamilton (747-8147), tap into our website and select Committee Recruitment, or if you are really "gung ho" show up at a monthly meeting. Let's make this a special year together.

**OUTREACH**

As part of our Outreach activities we are continuing to record people's stories of their experiences in the Dishman Hills. Get-A-Grip Video is helping us put them on digital recordings of both sound and picture. The recordings at the Event of last November was a good start but we want to keep going. Some of you have already contacted the Association about good stories to record, and we will try to get to you in the next month. Please let us know if **you** have stories to offer, and we will set up a time to visit. There is nothing so valuable as first hand accounts and treasured memories of the experiences of the people and the Hills.

**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 on February 21st, 7 pm. 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: Joyce Alonso, Martha Breneman, Nancy Cashon, Vivian Caufield, Dave Cole, Joseph Collins, Lee Dominey, John Douglas, Ryan Douglas, Ronald Dunsmore, Earthworks Recycling, Elaine Edwards, Victoria Egesdal, Carol Ellis, William Erler, Joan Fergin, Harold Fix, Traci Hanegan, Joseph Giegal, Craig Grossman, Hobnialers, Sandra Hollar, Karen Jurasin, Camille Kovarik, Cynthia Langlois, Robert Larned, Lawrence Main, Linda Martin, Michael Meagher, Marilyn McCall, Marlene Montgomery, Steve Olson, Michael Ormsby, Elizabeth Parsons, Jill Pestrin, Fred Radebaugh, Robin Redman, Norma Rosenberger, Julie Rosenoff, Jane Schelly, Rose Schultz, Holly Sonneland, Jan Strobeck, Susan Strong, James VanderMeer, Susan Virnig, Robert & Mike Wende, Sylvia Wilson, Art Zack, and one anonymous donor. Thank you all for making the end of the year fabulous!

***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: \_\_\_\_\_