

REPTILE ATTACK

As a reminder that we live in the Wild West, a person had a snake bite in the Dishman Hills Natural Area last month. A 17 year old girl was struck by a small rattlesnake when she stepped off the trail (reminder to stay on the trails!). It appears that she stepped on the snake, and the reptile with fangs did what reptiles do, it turned and bit. Rattling of the snake followed to confirm its presents, but the girl thought initially the pain was a bee sting. Realizing that she had become a very rare statistic, she did the right thing and headed to her car and rushed to the Valley Hospital for treatment. Even with the administration of antivenin, the swelling continued for the next day all the way up to her knee. Soon, however, things healed up, and the girl was left with just a very tall tale to tell for the rest of her life. No doubt the size of the snake will grow in time. We do not have a report on the condition of the snake, but we assume it is still out there in the Natural Area trying its best not to get stepped on.

Encounters of the snake kind are not rare in the Hills, but rattlesnakes are seldom seen. The picture here is of a rattler that was found and killed in 1971 by a hiker. He stated that the snake took him by surprise and did not rattle. Evidently, our rattlers are rather shy and keep quiet. If you do encounter a snake, do not linger or approach it. They are not aggressive but will strike if seriously threatened.



"Snakes Alive!" In the Dishman Hills, That Is
Headless Rattler

NEW NAME

Thank you all for your input as to our options for a better name for our organization. By far the favorite choice was the Dishman Hills Conservancy. So now you can write checks and address letters to the new name or just use DHC. We still retain our original, very long name, the Dishman Hills Natural Area Association, or DHNAA, since, officially on the State and Federal documents we must retain it. We did not want to abandon the name "Dishman Hills" since it is very historic and defines our area of interest. The "Association" part of the original name did not state our purpose as well as the word "conservancy".

Of all the wonders of nature, a tree in summer is perhaps the most remarkable: with the possible exception of a moose singing "Embraceable You" in spats— Woody Allen

4 YEARS LATER

It has been four years since the Valley View fire of 2008. This disastrous event reminds us that we are entering the heart of the fire season, and it is very important for all to take great care with fire. Around here the deadly combination for wildfire is forest dryness, wind, low humidity, and human carelessness. Some, but not many of our wildfires are started by lightning.

While wildfire is a natural component of the ponderosa pine forest, the urban setting of the Spokane Valley area demands the control of wildfires for the public safety. Our efforts to restore the forest in the Valley View burn area have been very successful. Today, the overview of the burn area tells the story. Our southern property line separates the two ways of restoration used here. To the north in the Natural Area the ground is carpeted by green native bunchgrasses and wildflowers that we planted after the fire. Black snags still standing are loaded with nesting holes, but many of the burned trees have fallen to return their nutrients to the forest floor. Hundreds of little ponderosa pines have started the next generation of growth. To the south, the area has been clear cut, and is an open field of bulldozed salvage-harvest roads and clusters of noxious weeds. But even here Nature is attempting to bring back the original inhabitants, and we have expanded our tree planting into this area to help her out. If allowed to do so Nature is a great healing force.

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. Since we feel we need a summer break our next meeting will not be until September 18th, 7 PM. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our June donors that have consented to be listed: Jon Barstad, Brad Blegen, Claire Carter, Nancy Cashion, Dix Corporation, Virginia Danke, David & Gail Duba, Jean Flechel, Celesta Frost, Kirk Ipson, Gloria Krebs, Jean Koch, Cynthia Langlois, Ruth Manners, Della Meyers, Marilyn Miller, Thomas Mosher, Chris Polito, New Priorities Foundation, Gloria Nicol, Joan Ojerio, William Peterson, Beverly Scheunemann, S. Schrimshire, Rose Schultz, Thomas Tamm, James Troske, Len Urgeleit, Jim VanderMeer, Babetta Velategui, Susan Virnig, Mary Water, Jody Wende, Mary Wright, Hershel Zellman, two anonymous donor. Thank you all for keeping the momentum on rebuilding our funds after the big land deal in April.

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

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