

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the
Dishman Hills

July 2013

INTRODUCTION

There is not only a new guy, Erick Robison, sitting at the Board table (actually there are two, welcome also Brian McGinn), there's a new concept for making our conservancy run better. We have hired on an Executive Director using the generous three year grant given to us by the New Priorities Foundation. Eric is tasked with expanding our capacity to conserve and manage the natural lands that make up our mission. He is ready and eager to hear from you (509-202-0767 or ed@dishmanhills.org) about any Dishman Hills issues you may have. The following is a small introduction written by Eric to introduce himself to all you wonderful supporters out there.

When I was little my parents would take my siblings and me for Sunday afternoon walks in the Dishman Hills Conservation Area. I have fond memories of visiting the ponds, looking for wildlife and climbing on the rocks. Following the Big Rock acquisition, I began exploring the southern end of the Dishman Hills, enjoying the more secluded trails and views of the Palouse which the Rocks of Sharon and Iller Creek provide. For me, like for many of you, the Dishman Hills area is a unique and important part of the greater Spokane community.

I came to the DHC after more than a decade of work in the not-for-profit sector, both at home and abroad. In high school I became involved with the Spokane Peace and Justice Action League, which gave me my first taste of community organizing and activism. After high school I moved to Bellingham to attend Fairhaven College, eventually earning a degree in *Political Economy, Human Rights and US/Latin American Relations*. While in Bellingham I also worked with the Social Issues Resource Center and Community 2 Community Development, two community-based non-profits. In between summers working for the Forest Service in Wilderness areas in Washington and Utah, my wife Lissa and I spent time in Latin America working with community organizations across the region. In the fall of 2011 I began a Masters program in *Sustainable Development* at the School of International Training in Washington, D.C. While many of my cohorts pursued careers with organizations like USAID and the World Bank, I made community-based non-profit work the focus of my graduate studies. After graduating last September, Lissa and I moved back to Spokane to be near family, and to enjoy the many natural beauties that the Northwest has to offer.

Between every two pines is a doorway to a new World, John Muir

While I have worked with not-for-profits for a number of years, taking on the role of Executive Director will be new for me. I know that it will challenge me, and I know that I will make missteps along the way. I am glad to also know, however, that I will be supported by a knowledgeable, professional and committed board of directors. What's more, I also know that the DHC has many friends and partners in this community who also value the Dishman Hills corridor as a valuable resource that should be preserved and protected. While there remains much to be done, I begin my work from a solid foundation built over decades by the DHC's incredible support network.

In late March Lissa and I took Holden, our then two week-old son, on his first hike. We chose Big Rock. I am now more keenly aware than ever before that the work DHC is doing is about more than just having yet another nice place to go hiking. It is about passing on a more vibrant, livable and healthy future to Holden, and all the others who will be inheriting our community. I look forward to working with all of you to make the protection of the Dishman Hills a reality. I know we can do it, if we choose to make it a priority. Get out on the trail. Bring a friend. In, I'm sure you'll preserved Dishman indeed something work for.



After you take it all agree that a Hills ecosystem is worth continuing to

LISSA →
HOLDEN →
BIG ROCK →
ERIC →

CONSERVANCY 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 Eric Robison, 202-0767, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will not be until September 18th, 7 pm. Check next month's newsletter for other details. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our June donors that have consented to be listed: Rae Baker, Jon Barstad, Brad Blegen, Claire Carter, Diane Casey, Nancy Cashon, Connie Dormaier, Peggy Endres, Kim Ewing, Jean Flechel, Kathryn Henderson, Lynda Key, Kohl's Department Store, Cynthia Langlois, Mary Meagher, Michael Meagher, Della Meyer, Michael McKay, Chris Mikkelson, T. Mosher, Rose Schultz, Rozalyn Sippel, Holly Sonneland, James Troske, Mike Wende, and one anonymous donor. Thank you for your generous support.

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: Dishman Hills Conservancy

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

Dishman Hills Conservancy - 3415 S. Lincoln Dr. - Spokane, WA 99203 - www.dishmanhills.org