



Dishman Hills Conservancy  
PO Box 8536  
Spokane, WA 99203  
501(c)(3) non-profit

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 546



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## Annual Fundraiser

**Buy your ticket now! Last Chance!**

Dishman Hills' annual fundraiser will be on **October 16th, 2023** from 5:30pm-8:30pm at Centerplace, Spokane. This year we are "Protecting the Wild Heart of Spokane".

The \$125 regular sale ends **October 9th**. Go to [www.dishmanhills.org/events](http://www.dishmanhills.org/events) Don't miss out!



## Become a Certified WA Naturalist

Are you interested in Watershed Management and Ecology? You can now register for a free WSU online course that takes place this Fall. We received an environmental education EPA Grant through WSU with the requirement to recruit new participants. The certification includes four online modules and a 40-hour commitment to volunteer for a Dishman Hills youth education program. The registration deadline is October 10th.

Email [kellee.byard@wsu.edu](mailto:kellee.byard@wsu.edu) for more information on how to register.

## Other ways to support DHC:

- Consign for a Cause with Rambleraven
- Connect your Fred Meyers Rewards with Dishman using this QR code



### We are requesting donations of:

- free-standing wood-burning shop stoves (similar to pictured)
- gently used 30" wide slide-in electric range kitchen stove
- gently used 30"w 15"h 12"d above-stove microwave with exhaust fan
- gently used 45"-55" screen (TV or computer) that accepts HDMI cable



## Pool table for sale!



The Wilson Conservation Area property was purchased with a pool table in the basement. We would like to rehome it so we are accepting the best offer. For more information, please contact Marie Fenske at [volunteers@dishmanhills.org](mailto:volunteers@dishmanhills.org).

## Announcement:

DHC is seeking new board members with financial planning and/or governance experience. Please send a resume and bio to Ruth Gifford at [ed@dishmanhills.org](mailto:ed@dishmanhills.org).

The Dishman Hills Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Gifts to DHC are tax-deductible. We are also able to receive stocks and real estate donations, with tax advantages. Tax ID No. 91-6087260

## STAFF:

**Ruth Gifford - Executive Director**

**Sue Legel - Financial Officer**

**Dan Wilson - Properties Manager**

**Marie Fenske - Volunteer and Outreach Specialist**

## Executive Director's Corner

Greetings, All.

As I set up our booth for the ValleyFest at Mirabeau Meadows this past weekend, a youth approached me and the lady setting up the neighboring booth. He asked me what I was selling. I responded, "DHC provides land for people to 'Take a Hike' on as I pointed to the sign stating, 'Take A Hike.'" He paused a minute and asked the neighbor what she was selling. She responded and he nodded and said "OK, that's good." He then turned back to me and said he wanted to wish me good luck because he didn't think many people would take us up on that hike.

I sure hope all of you can enjoy the hikes, support the mission, connect with nature, or some of the other offerings provided by DHC and our many volunteers. You are so important to us. Thank you for your participation in hikes, volunteering at events, coming to our upcoming fundraiser dinner, and donating to our cause. Our goal is to help you connect with Dishman Hills as we continue our mission to connect and protect land in the beautiful "Wild Heart of Spokane."

- Ruth Gifford

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **The Forest and the Trees, Glenrose, October 5th, 9:30am**
- **Annual Fundraiser, Centerplace, October 16th, 5:30pm**
- **Walk and Wine, Glenrose, TBD**
- **Two for Tuesday hikes, locations vary, 2pm**

## Donation Coupon

Fill out this section and mail it back with your donation to the address listed below.

Please contact me about a sustaining member subscription  Please add me to your volunteer list

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about:  Employer Match  Securities Gift  Including the DHC in my will / estate plan

Please make checks payable to the Dishman Hills Conservancy and mail to P.O. Box 8536, Spokane, WA 99203

Or donate online at [www.dishmanhills.org/donate-now](http://www.dishmanhills.org/donate-now)



# Connecting People to Nature Since 1966

## Ponderosa Pine and Oregon Grape

*Written by: Kris Moberg-Hendron, Washington Certified Naturalist*

Wandering through Dishman Hills, you will find two of my favorite plants: Ponderosa Pine trees and Oregon Grape shrubs. Both are part of the Ponderosa Pine Forest Ecosystem.

The Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is an emblem of the America west. They are found on lower-elevation mountains from the Canadian Rockies to Mexico's Sierra Madre. These trees are very adaptable, tolerating harsh conditions, including drought, heat, and surface fire. They are one of the most fire resistant conifers due to thick bark layers.

Most eastern Washington forests contain Ponderosa pine trees, some at fairly high elevations. They have low shade tolerance, requiring full sun to thrive. Interestingly, the age of Ponderosa pines is not closely correlated to size. Ponderosa trees with a 31" diameter could be 60 years old or 600 years old.

The yellow-orange bark of Ponderosa pines is puzzle-piece shaped plates that flake off from older trees. Curiously, bark plate-width is correlated to tree age. Measuring plate size helps to determine tree age.

When sun-warmed, terpenes in Ponderosa bark give the trunk a delightful smell of vanilla, butterscotch, pineapples, or cream soda. Resins found in Ponderosa pines help defend against western pine beetles (mountain pine beetles).

Tall Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) lives in Dishman Hills. In spring, the shrub has copper-colored new growth, followed by shiny green leaves in summer. Fall finds Oregon Grape sporting bronze-purple leaves that persist through winter. Some leaves will turn bright red to add bold contrast to winter dreariness.

Oregon Grape provide pollinators with one of the earliest food sources: bright golden yellow flowers with a heavenly scent. Those flowers become dusty-blue berries by fall that provide food for many animals through spring.

Tall Oregon Grape often grow 6' high x 3' wide (some even larger). Open woods is the natural setting for this shrub that grows well in sun or shade, is drought tolerant, likes poor soil, and drops little leaf litter. It can be cut to the ground to start a whole new plant (spreads by rhizomes). Oregon Grape attract robins, waxwings, juncos, towhees, and other berry-loving critters. It is possible to create a hedge from a stand of Oregon Grape that provides a natural barrier/screen in home landscapes.



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## Bird-strike Prevention at the Wilson Conservation Area

This August, volunteers from Spokane's Audubon Society came to the Wilson Conservation Area to install window systems that prevent bird collisions. Alan, Margo, and Terri installed two different systems - both are extremely effective in protecting the birds and relatively inexpensive. A window's reflection creates an optical illusion for birds, making them think there is potential habitat on the other side. Any system that disrupts or prevents a reflection will help birds avoid flying into windows.

If you are interested in bird-proofing your own windows and would like more information, please reach out to Marie Fenske at [volunteers@dishmanhills.org](mailto:volunteers@dishmanhills.org).

Thank you, Spokane Audubon Society!



## Volunteer Highlight!

### **Patti Ziegler**

This month, we are highlighting one of our many valuable volunteers. Patti Ziegler is well known in the Dishman Hills organization for her welcoming and passionate personality. She is an active Trail Steward, as well as a regular volunteer at tabling events. We can always count on Patti to share information about the Dishman Hills with people she meets wherever she goes.

She can always be found hiking the Hills and inviting others to go with her. Patti enjoys plants, critters, and conservation! She also volunteers with a land conservancy in Arizona and loves sharing their great ideas with us.

Thank you, Patti, for all of your support!



## Beautifying Our Land

August was full of work days to make hiking in the Dishman Hills even more enjoyable. Volunteers spent multiple days in the Natural Area removing garbage and graffiti. Over 560 lbs of trash was removed and taken to the dump with the help of the Spokane County Parks, Recreation, and Golf. Additionally, 9 abandoned camps and 10 graffiti markings were removed.

Volunteers also joined us at the Wilson Conservation Area to weed, clear new trails, rake, and move cinder blocks for a fire-mitigation wall. Thank you, volunteers!



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