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Up for vote:

Stuart Grossman

Jeff Roberts

Executive Director's Corner

Greetings, all.

I hope you are safe, well, and warm as we slowly progress through the gray and dreary days of winter. Something you may already know, especially if you're a regular outdoor enthusiast, are the benefits of being outdoors. Researchers are now learning how beneficial being in nature is, including benefits to our cognitive function as we age. So, unlike all the ads that pop up on my phone claiming to prevent memory loss, this activity is shown to be good for you. Making my own outrageous and unsubstantiated claim - Go for a hike. It will prevent Alzheimer's! Trust me (stated with humor)!

To provide more opportunities for connecting, we have offered several speakers series presentations by local experts. The attendance has been phenomenal. The third presentation is by WSU Master Gardener/WA Certified Naturalist, Kris Moberg-Hendron. She will be following this presentation with a hike later in the year. Renew your membership for early notification.

We do continue to have difficulties with our registration system, particularly for those using Apple and Mac products. Using Safari as your browser does help but is not yet a fix. Please know we are working with our software providers to work through this issue. It continues to be a frustration for us all.

Look at our upcoming events. I hope you'll join us on a hike, at one of the speaker's presentations, and at our Annual Meeting. See you soon.

Best, Ruth Gifford

DHC 2024 Annual Meeting!

Tuesday, February 20th, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Doors open at 5:30pm

Please register online under the 'Events' tab.

Moran Prairie Library - 6004 S Regal St, Spokane, WA 99223

Please join us at this year's annual meeting to hear about what is in store for DHC in 2024. Members will be voting on the incoming slate of Board Members. Non-members cannot vote, but are still welcome to attend. Thank you for supporting our organization. We hope to see you there!

STAFF:

Ruth Gifford - Executive Director

Sue Legel - Financial Officer

Dan Wilson - Properties Manager

Marie Fenske - Volunteer and Outreach Specialist

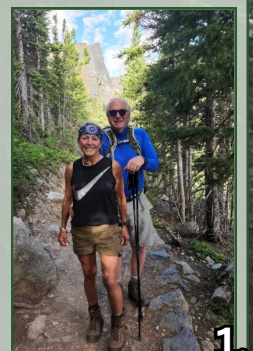
Thank you, sponsors!

Suzu Dix
*Realtor, Conservationist, Farmer
Dix Farm Inc. and Windermere*

A.T. Miller
*Land Use and Environmental Attorney, Conservationist
Paine Hamblen, LLP*

**Wild Heart
of Spokane:**
\$5,000

Are you interested in becoming an event sponsor? Contact Ruth Gifford, ed@dishmanhills.org for more information.



Connecting People to Nature Since 1966

Geology of the Dishman Hills Area

ITS NOT ALL OUR FAULT:

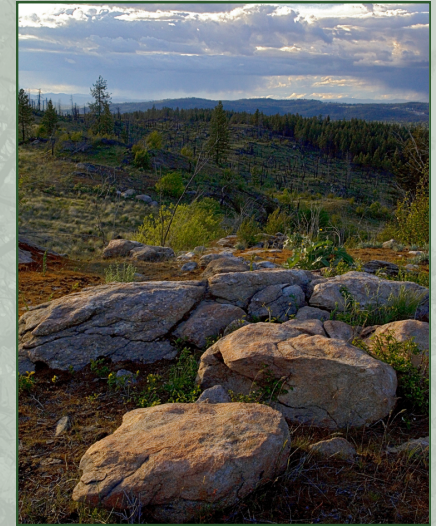
(From the March 2006 issue of Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills monthly newsletter by Michael Hamilton)

Several topographic features in the northern and eastern parts of the Natural Area have a very interesting geologic story to tell. A series of parallel ravines starting with the main trail south of Camp Caro to Caro Cliff and through Enchanted Ravine, and Deep Ravine along with several more ravines further to the east, all represent faults where the Earth's crust has been fractured and moved.

These ravines run from southeast to northwest and are part of a larger set of faults in the Spokane area. Recent work by Washington State geologists has shed some light on the nature and origin of these faults. The fracture plane of these structures is thought to be near vertical and the motion is the western side to the north. Movement on one of these faults, just north of Gonzaga Univ., was the source of the earthquakes that visited Spokane about [22] years ago. Where the earth is faulted the fractured rock is more susceptible to erosion; thus faults are often hidden under the bottom of valleys. The 80-mile-long Hangman Creek/Spokane River valley on the west side of the city is our best local example of fault liniment topography. On the eastern side of the Natural Area a younger granite has "oozed" up through these fractures resulting in a fine building stone which was mined from a quarry off Dishman Road.

Besides providing beautiful, steep-walled ravines and handy locations for trails, what are these faults all about? They have the same orientation as California's famous San Andreas Fault, and also have the same connections to plate tectonics. Spokane with the rest of North America is drifting west at the break-neck speed of about 1 inch per year. As we cruise west, we are colliding and overriding the Pacific floor causing all types of geologic havoc (Rocky Mtns., Cascade Mtns. and volcanoes, western earthquakes, etc.). This collision is not straight on but at an angle so that there is not only the expected east-west compression but also a sliding to the north of rocks on the western edge (California is coming our way!).

Back to the Natural Area. This model explains the orientation and motion of our faults, but why here? For that answer we have to look way back into earth history. The bedrock in the Natural Area is old, very old, maybe up to 1.5 billion years old! Back then we were on the western edge of an ancient North American continent, and to the west was the newly formed Pacific Ocean. Recent geologic mapping by the State revealed an occurrence of ancient (0.5 billion years old) Marine fossils preserved just to the west of Spokane. While the continental edge now is hundred of miles west of us, the deep roots of the older continent are beneath us and are even thicker to the east. As tensions in the Earth's crust transmit to the east from the plate collision off the coast of Washington, they run up against the old continental edge and release their energy by fracturing the local rocks. Maybe like waves crashing on a breakwater. So the next time you hike along one of these fault-caused ravines visualize if you can the changes in time that has affected this topography.



DHC Events

Stay involved this year by attending our different events that cater to all levels of intensity and interests. Get notified of upcoming events through email, newsletters, and by regularly checking our event calendar under the 'Events' tab at www.dishmanhills.org.

Two For Tuesday hikes



On most 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month, Executive Director, Ruth Gifford, leads a hike through one of the Dishman Hills' trails. Learn about native plants, natural phenomena, and the changing seasons. These hikes fill up quickly, so be sure to check your email!

Volunteers needed



Great Outdoors Bike Expo event, *Spokane Convention Center, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd*

- Need volunteers to help run a tabling booth and pass out DHC information
- Sat. February 17th 3pm-5pm
- Sun. February 18th 12pm-2:30pm
- Sun. February 18th 2:30pm-4:30pm

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please email Marie Fenske at volunteers@dishmanhills.org.

Winter Speaker Series



Past presentations have included 'Wildfire in the Hills' with Jack Nisbet, and 'Attracting Birds to Your Yard' with Alan McCoy. Register for Kris Moberg-Hendron's talk on Feb. 27th, 6pm, 'Landscaping with Nature's Beauty' at the Spokane Valley Library. Check out our Events calendar for more events.

Hot Dog Roast



Join us on Saturday, February 24th, for a Hot Dog Roast at the Wilson Property, 6712 E Willow Springs Rd, Spokane 99223. We need volunteers at 10am to help move brush piles around. Anyone is welcome to join at 12pm for a FREE lunch! Please register online.

What It Means to be a DHC Member and the New Criteria for Membership

We want to let everyone know that after many years with annual dues of \$35.00, we are changing membership to \$50, effective Jan 1, 2024. A one-time \$50 due will cover you and your household's DHC membership for the calendar year from Jan. 1st - Dec. 31st. Even as a nonprofit, our expenses have increased due to various governmental reporting requirements, increased expenses for tool replacements, graffiti removal supplies, trail sign replacements, trail building and maintenance, postage, and various basic online subscriptions necessary for business operations.

Members support DHC through dues and donations. Your financial support helps protect land, wildlife and plant life, provides talks by field experts, guided hikes, and educational programs for all ages.

Member benefits include advance notice of events, hikes, talks and other activities, providing an early opportunity to register for events and activities that quickly fill up and become closed. Members also are invited to some activities that are for members only, including certain guided hikes. Everyone is welcome at our Annual Meeting and only members vote to approve the slate of incoming Board Members.

Thank you again for all your support – financial, volunteer, and in promoting Dishman Hills Conservancy throughout our community.

By: Sue Legel

Firewood for sale!



Split, dry, pine wood available. Accepting donations. Text Dan: **360-402-1227** to arrange Tues/Thurs pickup. One truckload per person.

Announcement:

DHC is seeking new committee members that are interested in stewardship, education, or conservation. Contact Ruth Gifford at 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.

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