

2010 Dishman Hills Alliance Field Trips

The following list shows field trips planned by the Dishman Hills Alliance. All field trips are free and open to the general public. Trips also may be cancelled at any time due to bad weather, too few participants, or the lack of a leader. Contact the leader for more information and to reserve a spot. Leaders are Alliance volunteers and are not compensated. Starting times are when we leave so arrive early. Participants need to provide their own binoculars, food and drink, adequate clothing, and transportation, unless you find somebody to carpool with.

2010 Field Trip Schedule

Sunday April 18 – Buttercup Hike – Camp Caro Dishman Hills

Sponsor: Dishman Hills Natural Area Association

Leader: Mike Hamilton

Meet: Camp Caro

Time: 1 PM

We will hike for about two hours looking for early spring flowers and discussing plants, geology and wildlife. Contact Mike Hamilton, basalt3415@yahoo.com or 747-8147 for more information. Hike proceeds regardless of weather.

Saturday May 15 – Lower Dishman Hills Hike

Sponsor: Spokane Mountaineers

Leader: Jeff Lambert

Meet: Camp Caro

Time: 9:00 AM

Meet at Camp Caro off of Appleway in Spokane Valley at 9:00 AM for a tour of the outstanding lower Dishman Hills trails. Learn more about the efforts underway to improve the Dishman Hills for hiking, wildlife, and non-motorized recreation. Contact Jeff Lambert, jlambert@envirosciencegroup.com or 999-5100, by May 8 if you plan to attend.

Saturday May 29 – Natural History of the Dishman Hills

Sponsor: Dishman Hills Natural Area Association

Leader: Mike Hamilton

Meet: Camp Caro

Time: 10:30 AM

We will hike for about four hours with a picnic lunch stop in the middle. Topics will include the geologic history of the Natural Area, geomorphology of the various landforms, and miscellaneous historic details. Contact Mike Hamilton, basalt3415@yahoo.com or 747-8147, by May 22 if you plan to attend.

Sunday June 13 – Hobnailers Hike

Sponsor: Hobnailers Hiking Club

Leader: Gardner Bailey

Meet: Camp Caro

Time: 9:00 AM

Proceed from Camp Caro setting out South and then up the hill to see the changes that have taken place in the Dishman Hills since the big fire of 2008. Contact Gardner Bailey, perfesser3@comcast.net, by June 5 if you plan to attend.

Saturday June 26 – Native Plants of Iller Creek Conservation Area

Sponsor: Northeast Chapter, Washington Native Plant Society

Leader: Sylvia Eberspecher

Meet: 4813 S. Gillis Way Court

Time: 10:00 AM

Iller Creek has an amazingly diverse assemblage of native plants as it encompasses semiarid ponderosa pine forest, a riparian corridor, and wetter forests that include hemlock, grand fir and Pacific yew. Parking area is limited, so meet at Sylvia's house (4813 S. Gillis Way Court) to carpool at 10:00. Hike will be mostly on trails with some steep stretches and will last about 3-4 hours. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or

boots and bring water and a lunch. Contact Grant Cummings, 466-8886, cgeotech@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sunday July 11 – Birds of Iller Creek Natural Area

Sponsor: Spokane Audubon Society
Leader: Jon Isacoff
Meet: Iller Creek Trailhead-End of Holman Road
Time: 6:00 AM

This is a half-day hiking trip geared toward birders or people with an interest in birds. Beginners are welcome but this is not an "workout hike;" the focus is on birds. We will hike approximately 2.5 miles including about a 600 foot climb. Anyone who can comfortably fast-walk or jog 3 miles should have no problem (we will hike slowly!). Iller Creek has a variety of habitats that we will be birding, including riparian, dry brushy slopes, and mixed wet-belt coniferous forest. Meet at the Iller Creek entrance in the cul-de-sac at the end of Holman Road at 6:00 A.M. Contact Jon Isacoff, 448-2629 or isacoff@gonzaga.edu by July 3 if you plan to attend.

Saturday July 24 – Iller Creek NA Mountain Bike Ride

Sponsor: Fat Tire Trailriders
Leader: Peter Jantz
Meet: Iller Creek Trailhead-End of Holman Road
Time: 9:00 AM

Join the Fat Tire Trailriders for an introduction to mountain biking in the Iller Creek Area. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Iller Creek entrance in the cul-de-sac at the end of Holman Road. Contact Peter Jantz, pjantz@gmail.com, by July 17 if you plan to attend.

Sunday August 15 – Value of Open Space Hike

Sponsor: Inland NW Land Trust
Leader: Brooke Nicholson
Meet: Camp Caro
Time: 1:00 PM

Learn more about how organizations like the Inland Northwest Land Trust work to make open spaces like the Dishman Hills and Iller Creek Natural areas protected from development so that hikers, wildlife and plant enthusiasts, and other outdoor recreationalists may enjoy them for generations to come. Hike will be from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Meet at Camp Caro off of Appleway Avenue in Spokane Valley. Contact Brooke Nicholson, 509-328-2939 or outreach@inlandnwlandtrust.org, by August 8 if you plan to attend.

Saturday August 28 – Riding Potential of the Dishman Hills

Sponsor: Backcountry Horseman
Leader: Barbee Scheibner
Meet: Iller Creek Trailhead-End of Holman Road
Time: 9:00 AM

Come hike around Iller Creek and learn about possible future opportunities for horseback riding in the area. Even if you aren't interested in riding, come for the introduction to the area and its scenic beauty; all people are welcome. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Iller Creek entrance in the cul-de-sac at the end of Holman Road. Contact Barbee Scheibner, setauketb@cet.com, or 624-6292, by August 21 if you plan to attend.

Saturday September – Gonzaga Outdoors/Gonzaga Environmental Organization Hike

Sponsor: Gonzaga Outdoors Club and Gonzaga Environmental Organization
Leaders: Jace Bylenga/David Dunphy
Meet: TBD
Time: TBD

Open to all Gonzaga Students as well as the general public. If you're a GU student, come see the best closest place to Gonzaga to hike and see wildlife. Dishman Hills Natural Area is approximately 10-15 minutes and Iller Creek Natural Area approximately 20 minutes from the Gonzaga Campus. Non-students are welcome; come feel young again! Learn what YOU can do to make sure places like this are around for Gonzaga students and all area residents to enjoy forever. Meet at Camp Caro off of Appleway Avenue in Spokane Valley at 9:00 AM. Contact Jace Bylenga, bylenga@gonzaga.edu, by September 4 if you plan to attend.