



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

May 1983

MANY MEMORIALS FOR DOM PRESTA

We have just received the following letter from Janet Troske, telling it better than we possibly could: "Inclosed is our donation to the Dishman Hills Natural Area in memory of Dominic Presta. We also live in the Dishman Hills and wish to be a part of your mailing list.

I would like to suggest that if you receive many gifts in the memory of Mr. Presta that a part of the natural area could be named after him and maybe a plaque put up in his name and memory. I would be glad to help write letters or whatever to help this project. Mr. Presta loved these hills, the land, trees and animals. He did a lot to promote care of the land and helped to keep fires down in this area. I think it would really please his family and be a fitting tribute to a great person."

We might add that Dom had a great many friends--the funeral service was packed to the front door. The Presta family requested that instead of flowers, donations be made to Dishman Hills Association to save more land in the Hills. Thus far 35 separate donations have come in, for which we are most grateful.

Our thanks again to all of you who are making Dishman Hills Natural Area possible!

LAND ACQUISITION PROGRESSING

Encouraging progress is being made toward buying the proposed 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area according to Sam Angove, Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department superintendent. He hopes to have an announcement in about two weeks.

WILDFLOWER SHOW AT MANITO

"Wildflowers of California -- from the Arid to the Alpine" is the subject of a slide show at Manito Environmental Center, Manito Park, Spokane Thursday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. John and Susan Whittlesley and Washington Native Plant Society are making the presentation.

A field trip to south central Washington, including the sand dunes of the Juniper Forest, is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 by Spokane Audubon Society. Maurice Vial is the leader. Meet at Coeur d' Alene Park, Spokane at 6:30 a.m.

Spokane Audubon is also sponsoring a half day visit to the Bluebird Trail west of Spokane, Sunday, June 5. Dave Plemons, the leader, has managed the project for several years. Meet at Spokane Falls Lodge, across from S.F. Community College at 1 p.m.

ECOLOGY DAY CAMPS READY TO GO

Spokane Audubon Society is conducting a day camp, "Getting Acquainted with Your Natural Area," for children in grades K through three; each child must be accompanied by a parent. Three sessions are being offered, July 12-14, 19-21, and 26-28 on the Little Spokane River. Leaders are all certified primary grade teachers. The fee is \$10 a session. For further information call 466-6626 or 466-7633.

As previously announced, the Audubon Ecology Day Camp for teachers, leaders, resource specialists and other interested persons (serious high school and junior high students accepted also), will be July and August 1-5 at St. George's School on the Little Spokane River. For further information call 466-6668 or 487-8921. Deadline for registration is June 15.

SUMMER COMES ON IN HILLS

Summer brings increasing swarms of insects--ask any picnicker-- which provide food for the nestlings of the many kinds of small birds. All about are butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, true bugs, aphids, leaf hoppers, spittle insects, beetles, flies, bees and ants, most of which feed upon plants. Butterfly variety reaches its peak in July; over fifty kinds have been noted in the Spokane area in this month. The strikingly patterned Lorquin's admiral first appears in June in the foothills and may continue into the autumn. Its larval food plant is probably chokecherry; the adults do not visit flowers buy may be found sipping moisture from animal droppings! Our largest moth, the polyphemus, emerges in late June and lives for only a few days, since its mouthparts cannot function. The swift-flying hummingbird (sphinx) moths, on the other hand, probe flowers with their very long probosces; they occur from May into August.

The insect world has many predators also; dragonflies, assassin bugs, ground beetles, lady beetles, robberflies, ants, wasps, to mention the more familiar ones, and deadly parasites, principally ichneumon and tachina flies. Add to these the birds, spiders, centipedes, lizards, toads, frogs, shrews, bats and even coyotes and it is obvious why insects must produce thousands of offspring in order to perpetuate their kind. The small predators may eventually become the prey of other animals higher on the "food chain." It is more realistic, however, to speak of these "eater-eaten" relationships as a "food web", since many plants and animals are eaten by more than one eater and the eaters often eat more than one kind of food. Some eaters, however, particularly among insects, have very restricted food preferences, feeding on only one or a very few kinds of plants. The big orange-brown monarch butterfly is such an insect, its caterpillars feeding only upon milkweed. Since this plant is scarce in the Spokane area, so is the butterfly. Conversely, coyotes will eat almost anything, including fruit and leaves. This adaptability is no doubt an important reason for the coyote's continuing success.

In Nature, nothing goes to waste. Dead plants and animals are consumed by animal scavengers or decomposed by fungi and bacteria. What is left returns to the soil, enriching it for new plant growth and improving its water-holding ability. Thus the cycle is completed. Without this recycling process, life on earth would have died out long ago.

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from. Our monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend. For further information and for slide programs and guide service into the Dishman Hills call us at 926-7949.

Please use this form when sending contributions to save the Dishman Hills and the Tower Mountain corridor. Your dues and/or gifts are income tax deductible.

\$ ___ Annual dues (\$5) New? ___ Renewal? ___

\$ ___ Land purchase fund

\$ ___ In remembrance of _____

\$ ___ Bulletin expense fund (\$1 or more)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to David E. Lentz, Treasurer, E. 10922 23rd Spokane, WA. 99206. Many Thanks! To reduce expense, no receipt or acknowledgement will be sent unless requested.