



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

September 1983

SAVE THOSE RECYCLABLES & SELL THEM

Recycling continues to get better. Aluminum cans are bringing around 38 cents a pound. Newspaper is \$40 a ton; corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags, \$30; white ledger (good quality paper printed or written on one side), \$35; colored ledger (printed/ written on both sides), \$30; glass bottles, 1 cent a pound, and aluminum foil and tv dinner and other aluminum dishes, five cents a pound. Most kinds of metals are saleable, as are clean cotton rags. Some places take old phone books. Returnable beverage bottles still pay well. See the Yellow Pages for recycling centers.

In spite of their recyclability, all these materials are still being dumped, illegally along roads and legally in city and county landfills. Old lumber and wood scraps, which could be burned in stoves and fireplaces, are also dumped. An informational campaign to persuade the public to sell recyclables instead of throwing them away would not only cut down on this needless waste and littering, but would also reduce the need for the city and county to buy expensive land for more dumpsites. A largely unsolved problem is plastics, most of which do not decay in the dump and if burned, many give off toxic fumes. One kind, however, the two liter plastic pop bottle, can be sold to Earthworks Recycling, N. 737 Napa for 3 cents a pound.

Decay time for several "throwaways" was given in The Spokesman-Review's September 13 issue. Here are a selected few: painted wooden stakes, 13 years; "tin" cans, 100 years; aluminum cans, 200 - 500 years; plastic 6-pack holder, 450 years, and glass bottles, undetermined. We have been told by a geologist that glass endures for many thousands of years.

NATURAL AREA ADDITION IMMINENT

Acquisition of an additional 140 acres to Dishman Hills Natural area is awaiting the sale by Spokane County of a parcel of surplus land in the Spokane Valley, according to Parks and Recreation Superintendent Sam Angove. Our association may be called upon to supply part of the purchase price. Whether we do or not, we expect to launch a drive to buy another tract that is for sale in the Hills, as soon as the 140 acres are secured. Please keep the donations coming, as we are certain to need them for the next purchase. If you wish to donate your recyclables to our Dishman Hills land fund call us at 926-7949. Please keep different kinds of paper separate.

AUTUMN (CONT. FROM COL 2)

Michaelmas daisies and a few little ochre-yellow ringlets still flit over grassy places. Tiny orange-brown woodland skippers, abundant in August, visit flowers in much decreased numbers. Thistle butterflies (painted ladies) are more common than usual this year and can be expected on daisies to the end of October. The equally colorful, similar-looking West Coast lady will be around as late, also on flowers.

Woolly bear caterpillars are scurrying over the ground or across roads in search of places to spin their cocoons, into the walls of which they will weave their own fuzzy hairs. Come spring they will emerge as colorful tiger moths. Grasshoppers will be around until frost. Conspicuous in gardens are the big Carolina locusts, their black wings edged with yellow. Female grasshoppers of several kinds are now laying their eggs in "pods" in loose soil along roads and elsewhere. Preying mantises are stalking their insect prey in gardens, weed patches and grass places and lady beetles are gathering by thousands in protected spots in the foothills, where they will spend the winter.

AUTUMN IS HERE - WILD THINGS KNOW IT

Shorter days and cooler weather are signaling the beginning of Autumn for wild things as well as for humans. By September's beginning some of our birds have already slipped quietly away, including the colorful yellow warblers, blackheaded grosbeaks, yellow-breasted chats and lazuli buntings. Hummingbirds, flycatchers and most swallows depart in this month as do house wrens, rock wrens, catbirds, thrushes, vireos and most kinds of warblers. Some migrants, principally warblers and sparrows, will show up in yards and gardens, if you have trees, shrubs and even a few non-noxious weeds such as lambsquarter, amaranth and bristle-grass to supply seeds. A pan of water where cats can't ambush the visitors is also welcome. Prominent are the juncoes, their white outer tailfeathers flashing. They will stay all winter if you supply them with birdseed.

The juncoes' larger relatives, the rufous-sided towhees, usually are gone before November but occasionally winter. White-crowned sparrows, the adults with heads boldly striped with black and white (the immature birds' heads are brown and tan) are migrating through now. Their nesting areas are in the scrub zone near Canada's tundra and in the mountain forests of the Pacific Northwest. A few usually winter in our area. Bluebirds and Audubon's warblers linger in the face of cooler weather but usually depart before winter arrives. Flickers--actually big woodpeckers with pink-orange wing linings-- become more common as they drop down into the valleys but American kestrels (sparrowhawks) become scarce as their principal food, grasshoppers, is killed by frost.

Insect numbers decrease markedly in September and October. The hibernator butterflies, mostly mourning cloaks and anglewings, are still about on sunny days when the temperature reaches 60 F. or above. Sulfur butterflies, bright yellow with black borders, are conspicuous visitors to

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)

_____ Your account number above your address.

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