



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

DECEMBER, 1986

## DECEMBER LAND PAYMENT MADE

Donations to our land fund fell to only \$1136.13 in November. Thus we had to draw down our reserve to make our quarterly payment on December 15 of \$4001.28 on the 140 acre addition. Our thanks to you who are making the expansion of the nature preserve possible. Please keep the gifts coming. A reminder: donations made before January 1 will be more advantageous taxwise than they will next year.

The following persons donated money, recyclables or services during November: Kathryn Bernard, Margaret Bloom, Gretchen Brown, Wallace Cady, Dee Davis, Janet Davis, Doris Donnelly, Frank Freeze, Eris Heggen, Clarissa Henderson, V.H. Holloway, Margaret Hoover, Lynn John, David Lentes, Jay Mackey, Eleanore Mihalic, Helen Nelson, Northside Garden Club, Sylvia Olson, Lucille Pekala, Francis & June Potter, Bonnie Randles, Thomas Rogers, Julie Rosenoff, Dennis Sanders, Elizabeth Saunders, Florence Thayer, Larry Thieman and Jeanne Wilson. Please contact us if you donated during November but are not recognized here. Thanks!

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A memorial donation of \$2000 has just arrived. Our board of directors voted to use it to make an additional payment to hasten the retirement of the mortgage on the addition to the natural area.

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During October and November we had the pleasure of presenting our Dishman Hills slide show to the Women's Club of Spokane, the Southeast Lions Club and St. Mary's Episcopal Church Guild.

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Our association's meeting date has been changed to the third Monday of each month. This will avoid the annual conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Election of board members and officers will take place at the January meeting. We will meet at Riverview Terrace through April.

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We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from. Larry Thieman, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Helen E. Lininger, Secretary; David E. Lentes, Treasurer.

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We offer slide programs on the Dishman Hills and other outdoor subjects, and guide service on hikes in the Hills. No charge for these. Call us at 926-7949 for arrangements. Our monthly meetings during the winter are at Riverview Retirement Center, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend.

## NATURAL AREA USED-AND MISUSED

Recent trips to check on snow-covered Dishman Hills Natural Area revealed tracks of many people hiking the trails. Most of this use has been good. Unlike last year, no Christmas trees have been cut, but we are continuing to patrol the area to protect against this destructive pilfering.

A few human visitors have, alas, been less considerate. A trailside bench and a foot bridge over Goldback spring, both constructed by Boy Scouts, have been destroyed by vandals. In a wooded ravine fir branches have been cut to make a crude "hideout" and a fire built in it. Somebody with a weird mind has been bending shrubs over and braiding their tops together, and also twisting branches of young firs around each other. We will appreciate, if you notice any such destructive acts, your asking the perpetrators to stop, and calling us so we can check on it. It is too bad that a few people spoil things for the many. We hope they will find more constructive outlets for their excess energies.

The principal sign of wildlife in the natural area is, unfortunately, dog tracks. The dog control law is being ignored by some pet owners. Small wonder that no deer tracks have been noted in the hills so far this winter. We will be checking with county authorities to see what can be done to stop this threat to the wildlife.

On the brighter side, red squirrels appear to be fairly common in the hills. No rabbit tracks have appeared, however, and very few mouse tracks. This probably accounts for the scarcity of coyotes. The first wintering bird census found very few birds: only a few red-breasted nuthatches, a solitary raven and a downy woodpecker. A scant cone crop promises few if any red crossbills. Where the chickadees were is a mystery. Maybe out to lunch? At least seven more counts will be made, however, and perhaps will find other species that usually winter there.

A few insects are again evident in the hills but the only ones that appear quite at home are the tiny black "snow bugs", members of the scorpionfly order. With temperatures hovering around freezing, they walk slowly over the snow. If you warn one on your hand, it will leave with one giant leap. They are said to feed on mosses but lichens also appear to be a likely item on their menu.

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Please use this form when sending contributions  
(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. **12450**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Land purchase fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial for \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (\$10) New?  Renewal?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 14141, Spokane, WA 99214-0141. Many thanks!