



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY 1986

SPRING IS COMING - BUT SLOWLY!

The mild weather of late January brought hopes of an early spring to the Dishman Hills. Much of the snow is gone, revealing buttercup leaves which have waited dormant through the winter. An early Cassin's finch showed up on the winter bird census in late January but for other kinds of life it is still winter there. Cottontail rabbits have been extremely scarce, probably accounting for the very few signs of coyotes. Deer have also been scarce, though the presence of elk was the big surprise.

The most unusual bird find was a pygmy owl, scarce in the Hills. This robin-sized bird nests in the mountains, using an abandoned woodpecker hole. A pair apparently nests each year on Tower Mountain south of Dishman Hills. The cutting of dead snags for firewood does not bode well for this little owl, nor for woodpeckers, bluebirds and other hole nesters.

Red cross-bills, those birds with the odd, twisted beaks, have been very common this winter, both on Christmas bird counts and in Dishman Hills. A good crop of cones on the pines is providing them with ample food. Red squirrels are also plentiful for the same reason. Red-breasted nuthatches are frequent as usual but chickadees have been scarce. Even scarcer are ruffed grouse; one was found on the Spokane Christmas count for the only winter sighting in the Hills.

We presented our slide show on Dishman Hills to an appreciative audience of West Valley Kiwanians at Stockyard Inn January 7.

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 Thiemann, President, Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Helen E. Lininger, Secretary; David E. Lentz, Treasurer and Larry Thiemann, Legal Advisor. Board of Directors (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Bernice Hahn, Margaret Haggin, Ann Kachinsky, Don Kachinsky, Frank Potter, June Potter and Ambrose Priestley.

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

LAND FUND DONATION PACE IMPROVING

Cash donations to our land fund since the January newsletter total \$1362.44. These included several memorial gifts and income from recyclables saved by many people. The pace of donations is encouraging. We will have to sustain this pace in order to make our payments on the 140 acre natural area addition. Our next payment of about \$6340 is due March 15. Please keep the donations coming.

Many thanks to the following who have donated since we published the last list: Daphne Anderson, Frances Anderson, John Barstad, Winifred Becker, Kathryn Bernard, James Bertis, Florence Bouge, Darlene Bower, Mary Briggie, Mrs. D.A. Caro, Leta Chapman, Joan Chesbrough, D.E. Chilberg, Glenn Coleman, Janet Davis, Mr./Mrs. Joseph Dikes, Christina Dysart, Helen Farrar, Gravel Grubbers, Mr./Mrs. Donald Hagan, Mr./Mrs. J.L. Havlick, Mr./Mrs. Robert Henderson, Blanche Holsten, Mary Holz, Dr. Wm. Howard, Lynn John, Cheryl Jones, Thelma Knowles, Rich Landers, Lynn Lang, Myrtle Lang, Meral Loewues, Carl Lundberg, Lynda Mather, Jay McDowell, Sandra McMillan, Mrs. Roy Mills, Ruth Mogan, June Moss, Joy Peterson, Ernest Pike, Mr./Mrs. Oren Randles, Ruby Rector, Tom Rogers, Marjorie Rozell, Albert & Linda Salisbury, Elizabeth Saunders, Goldie Sourcie, Spokane Mountaineers, Belva Staeheli, Marilyn Stedman, V.F. Strange, Florence Sylvester, Jeanne Wilson and Kathryn Wolfe.

At our January meeting we elected Larry Thiemann president for the coming year. Helen Lininger is our new secretary. Tom Rogers and Dave Lentz remain as vice president and Treasurer respectively. Incumbent board members were reelected and Frank and June Potter were added to the board. The committee planning a new descriptive brochure on Dishman Hills made its report. After input from the board, the brochure will be printed and available for distribution.

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

Account No.

\$ _____ 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 David E. Lentz, Treasurer, P.O. Box 141561, Spokane, WA 99214. Many thanks!