



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JUNE, 1987

## BIRDS AND PEOPLE ACTIVE IN HILLS

Hot early summer days have caused the disappearance of spring flowers in the Hills and are bringing on bright displays of brown-eyed susans, clusters of pink dogbane flowers and galaxies of yellow stars of stonecrop. Clouds of creamy mountain spray flowers are gracing the tops of these handsome shrubs. The stonecrop, well named for it often grows from rock crevices, attests to the shallow soil of much of the natural area, which rests on a solid core of ancient granite just under the surface or jutting above it. We can be thankful for this, both for the picturesque quality of the area and for keeping the Hills from becoming a housing development. (How would one get water pipes through solid rock or install drain fields or sewers?) The continuing summer bird study on the census has revealed two pairs of nesting robins, a bit surprising for an area with very little mud for nest plastering and no lawns to provide earthworms. One or two pairs of juncoes plus single pairs of Townsend's solitaires, chipping sparrows, towhees and western tanagers show evidence of occupying nesting territories. The study will continue into August or September. The showy western swallowtail and the white-striped tiger are on the wing as are Lorquin's admirals, strikingly banded with white across their jet black wings. A few silverspots (fritillaries) and summer species of the little "blues" are about. The northern cloudywing, a rather scarce kind of skipper, has been seen recently. The leaflets of may lupines have been bound together by the silk of tiny caterpillars believed to be leafrollers. They are not expected to do permanent damage to these plants. The outcome will be watched closely.

The natural area was enjoyed in May by Maggie Stevens' class from McDonald Elementary. Here is one of the letters of appreciation from the class: "Thank you for taking us on the trails. It was fun when we went to the pond. I saw some pollywogs. I liked when we saw the owl's cave. I saw in the cave. In the cave I saw some pine cones and a piece of wood. I really liked when we ate lunch on the rocks. Thank you again. Picture on back. Your friend Jason."

Trisha Ohashi's third grade class from Audubon Elementary also visited the Hills. Washington Native Plant Society hiked there and George Baetger, a photographer working for The Nature Conservancy, took pictures there.

At the invitation of Ellen Miller we showed our Dishman Hills slide program at the North Argonne Library, Millwood to a small but appreciative group.

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.

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 April into early fall are at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday.

## LAND PAYMENT MADE; DONORS LISTED

The \$2917.55 quarterly land payment was made on schedule June 15, leaving a balance of \$29,388.06 in payments yet to be met during the next two and a half years. May donations came to \$773.32 and interest on the money market account was \$97.35. Office and bulletin expense was \$238.91. Our thanks to all of you who are so loyally supporting the acquisition of the 140 acres. The following donated money, recyclables and/or services during May and have given permission for their names to be listed here: Lila M. Ackerman, Linda Armacost., Kathryn Bernard, Cornelia J. Bratten, Gretchen S. Brown, Harriet R. Cameron, Helen R. Delaney, Polli H. Dixon, Doris I. Donnelly, Wilbert Fritz, John Gardner, Nicolin J. Gray, Emmett Gumm, Eris A. Heggem, Lynn M. John, Dorothy Kirk, Lady Bugs Garden Club, Aroa A. Olme, Joy Peterson, Irene N. Peyton, Oren/Bonnie Randles, Thomas H. Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Ernestine M. Staley, Mrs. F.L. Terhaar, Larry Thieman, Elizabeth M. Welty, Jeanne H. Wilson and Joy E. Zimmerman.

Our thanks to Spokane Valley Fire Department and Department of Natural Resources crews who promptly put out the recent fire on our land in the Natural Area. Undoubtedly human-caused, the fire points up the urgency of increased protection. A meeting is scheduled for later this month, when our president Larry Thieman and vice-president Tom Rogers will be meeting with County Parks Superintendent Sam Angove and Fayette Krause of The Nature Conservancy's Seattle office to draw up a comprehensive plan for managing the area, which really amounts to managing people so it will not be damaged or destroyed. We have a community treasure and are determined to preserve it. It's going to cost money to protect it, so please continue with your generous donations.

At our June meeting we prioritized our choices for land purchases which might be made in the Hills with money recently appropriated by the state legislature, in case a contract cannot be made for the 70 acres which include the East and West Ponds. We have been interested in this parcel since the beginning of the Dishman Hills project. The Nature Conservancy will soon be negotiating for this land.

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)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ To cover bulletin expense (\$2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as donor.

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!