



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

NOVEMBER, 1987

### OCTOBER GIVERS AND INCOME

Total income of our association for October was a good \$1604.56 to be applied toward our December 15 payment on the 140 acre addition to the natural area and to cover office and bulletin expense, which came to \$207.74. It is some cause for apprehension, however, that only about \$600 came from small donations, the other \$1300 from two large contributions. We can't expect donations of this size to come in very often so please don't forget that the bulk of our fund-raising depends upon many small gifts. Please send in whatever you can. Many thanks!

The following friends of Dishman Hills supported the project with gifts of money, recyclables and/or services during October and have given their permission to be listed here. Lorraine Barnes, Amsel B. Barton, Bertha B. Booth, Vera Carpenter, W.J. & Harriet Davies, Doris Donnelly, Harriet Evans, Stan Fahlgren, Margaret F. Galbraith, John Gardner, Blanche Holsten, Lynn M. John, Katherine M. Laupp, Helen Lininger, Florence Miller, Marilyn A. Miller, William B. Nourse, Aroa Ohme, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle A. Omsted, Ambrose Priestley, Ida Fio Rito, Tom Rogers, Hazel Secord, Etta Mae Silsbee, Larry Thieman, James Troske, Doreen B. Vance, Shirley Wihlborg, and Jeanne H. Wilson. Please let us know if you wish to be listed as a contributor but we have missed including your name above. Again, our thanks for your continued support!

Since voters approved the bond issue for county parks, work will begin in the spring to install fences at key points around the the Dishman Hills to keep motor vehicles out of unauthorized areas and to make improvements to the heavy use at Camp Caro. Expected also is the hiring of a full time ranger to help protect the area and assist visitors during the spring, summer and fall. In the making are also plans for managing the natural area for use by visitors while still protecting it.

Don't forget to save your recyclables. So far this year over \$1600 have been raised for the Hills by the many people who have saved newspaper, cardboard, nonslick paper, aluminum cans and foil, glass jars, scrap metal and "tin" cans. Call us at 926-7949 if you need more information.

(continued from column 2)

It likely would have been better off if left alone. Parts of it that were not dozed are already showing good growth of native grasses and other small plants. Often we need to place greater faith in Nature's ability to heal herself.

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, but we welcome contributions. Call us at 926-7949 for arrangements. Our monthly meetings starting in October will be at Riverview Terrace Retirement Center, E. 1801 Upriver Drive at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday.

### DOES NATURE NEED HUMAN HELP?

Do natural ecosystems (plant and animal communities and their supporting soil, water and air), need our help to survive? Dishman Hills Natural Area is for the most part, in good condition. Weeds can be a threat. Most weeds are unable to compete successfully with the better adapted native species. One exception is Dalmatian toadflax or snapdragon, an attractive weed, native to the eastern Mediterranean region and brought here by humans. It is very aggressive and has gained a foothold, or should we say roothold, in the Dishman Hills. It appears that we should be taking steps to eliminate it, as is being done at Magnison Butte, a preserve of The Nature Conservancy south of Reardan. Fortunately this weed is a short-lived perennial, so if it is prevented from producing seed, it will disappear in a few years. The means being used to do this is hand pulling, rather than herbicides, which would kill desired plants also.

Another exotic weed, spotted knapweed, is abundant in the inland northwest and continues to spread. It is appearing in the Dishman Hills along paths and other places disturbed by heavy human use, but fortunately does not seem to compete well with native plants. The recently reported problems with this weed in the Okanogan Valley are probably related to overgrazing of the grassland by livestock, a very common practice in the Columbia Basin-Great Basin of eastern Oregon and Washington. Ironically, the knapweed is very good "bee pasture" for honey bees, so even the noxious weeds can have their virtues.

Fire is usually considered very destructive unless it occurs in our stoves, fireplaces or campfires. In the West lightning caused fires have long been part of the natural scheme, yet natural systems have restored themselves repeatedly in their aftermath without help from humans. The rocky knoll in the Dishman Hills is an example of this, for the area burned this spring by a man-caused fire is already showing an encouraging recovery on its own. On the other hand an extensive area burned this summer along Hangman Creek has been bulldozed and grass seed scattered on it at considerable expense.

(continued in column 1)

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 a 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!