



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY, 1988

### FAIR WEATHER-AND WATER SHORTAGE?

Although at this writing we are enjoying the disappearance of the winter's snow, the real possibility of another summer drought looms big. The National Weather Service has forecast a 50 percent chance of above normal precipitation for February. So far moisture for the month is far below normal, only .31 inch. Normal is about 1.6 inches for the entire month. If this trend continues, we humans will have to think of ways to use less water, and less electricity, which is mostly generated from water in our area. Can we keep on maintaining green lawns all summer when the natural situation here is for grasses to dry up? How else can we conserve water? Let's be thinking ahead on this.

In the Dishman Hills the ponds, which should be full, are much below their usual level. Little water creatures, which in all probability have survived such occurrences many a time before, will likely do it again. Tree frogs likely can have their tadpoles to the hopping stage before the ponds are dry and can do very well on land. Water insects probably will have reached their adult flying stages also. Snails presumably go dormant in moist mud. Land animals probably will get along alright, though some, such as robins and quail, may have to depend upon water supplied by people living on the edges of the natural area.

Birds in the area in the Dishman Hills censused each winter were decidedly scarce compared to previous years. Lack of rainfall in early summer last year may have reduced the food supply or perhaps more food was available elsewhere. Ruffed grouse continue at extremely low levels as do nuthatches and chickadees. White-breasted nuthatches appear to be on the increase, however.

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A wildflower identification class will again be conducted this spring by Washington Native Plant Society. Offered through Spokane Falls Community Colleges' Institute for Extended Learning, it will run from April 13 through May 18 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Ferris High School. Lead teachers will be Drs. Ken Swedberg and Suzanne Schwab of the E.W.U. Biology Department. Registration forms will be in S.F.C.C.'s Extended Learning Bulletin which will be mailed to your home in March. Books needed will cost about \$10 and will be on sale at the class's first session. Enrollment is limited to 25. For further information call Nicolín Gray at 467-8895.

Classes for beginners on sight recognition of the best common edible mushrooms will be conducted by Spokane Mushroom Club the last Mondays of March, April and May. San Souci Clubhouse, W. 3231 Boone is the location, the time 7-7:30. Classes and the club programs following them are free and open to any interested persons. Field trips in April, May and June are open to club members. For more information call Nicolín Gray, 467-8895.

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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!

### HILLS PROJECT DOES WELL IN 1987

The Dishman Hills Natural Area Project had a good year in 1987, thanks to you loyal supporters. Gross income was \$18,096.14, operating expenses came to \$3,424.67 (mostly for printing and mailing Lights and Shadows), and payments on the 140 acre addition totalled \$12,753.93. Of the latter amount, \$3,268.03 was for interest on the unpaid balance of the land contract. Net gain for the year was \$1917.54, bringing our cash reserve to \$23,264.11. To reduce interest expense our board of directors voted February 15 to add \$10,000 to the quarterly payment of \$2,917.55 for the land addition. We did not want to pay more than this because we want to keep a reserve, in this case about \$13,000, to help meet a down payment on possible purchase of additional land to preserve a wildlife corridor to Tower Mountain to the south. With the price of land what it is now, this is a very small reserve so please keep the donations coming for this and to meet quarterly payments on the present land addition, the last of which will be made June 15, 1990. Thanks again!

Donations for January came to a very good \$1,943.14. Many thanks to you who are listed below! (We suspect we have missed listing a number of people who contributed recyclables. If so, our apologies.)

Knox Abbott, Stuart Blackwell, Vera Carpenter, Jeanne Berger, James Bertis, Peggy Burt, Omar Carroll, Joe Collins, Richard Dauphin, Myrtle Erickson, June Helen Foote, John Gorman, Gravel Grubbers Garden Club, Mrs. Donald Hagan, Mr./Mrs. M.C. Haggin, Blanche Holsten, Le Roy Hook, Patricia Houff, Lynn John, Dorothy Kirk, Roger Korus, John Kuster Jr., Maxine Leszczykowski, Meral Loewus, John Lorang, Jay McDowell, Sandra McMillan, Eleanore Mihalic, Florence Miller, Mary Meagher, Annette Milonis, Mrs. Roy Mills, Zella Mingo, Northside Garden Club, Joy Peterson, Mary Porter, Francis/June Potter, Bonnie Randles, Thomas Rogers, Julie Rosenoff, Dennis Sanders, Ruth Scherner, Mr./Mrs. Elvin Shaver, Marcia Spohn, Spokane Retired Teachers' Assoc., Marie Stanley, Dr. Roy Stewart, St. Mary's Garden Club, Kenneth Swedberg, Florence Sylvester, Mrs. F.L. Terhaar, Beth Tietgen, Thomas Tremaine, James Valentine, Doreen Vance, Jeanne Wilson and Eugene Zanck.

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Account No. **01729**

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

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

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