



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

APRIL 1989

### MARCH DONORS LISTED

Our thanks to those listed below who have contributed money and/or recyclables and services during March and have consented to be mentioned here. Donations last month totalled \$855.73. Total expense was \$202.34 (printing & mailing bulletin, \$152.34; administrative, \$50).

Knok Abbott, Lila Ackerman, Kathryn Bernard, Stuart Blackwell, Verda Coryell, Ruth Cunningham, Robert W. Damon, Dee Davis, Steven Davenport, Verna Dolphin, Myrtle A. Erickson, Richard D. Everett, E.C. Ferguson, John Gardner, Elton Grant, Gravel Grubbers Garden Club, Russ/Evelyn Harmon, Y. Harmon, Dorothy Harting, Adeline E. Hayes, Clarissa Henderson, Tim R. Henderson, Ken/Ivy Hendrix, Hobnailers, Blanche Holsten, Mary Alice Jones, Jane Kirk, Glen W. Kivett, Margaret W. Klement, Thelma Knowles, Jean Koch, Alfreda Krause, John P. Kuster Jr., Rich Landers, Shiran K. Lee, Jack/Alice Malone, Dr. Robert Mathias, Leo J. Middendorf, Margie Middendorf, WM. B. Nourse Robert M. Phillips, Bonnie Randles, Milt Rawlings, Hazel Richard, Thomas H. Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Leila Swan, Patricia Sweeney, Florence Thayer, Larry Thiemann, Leona Widner and Jeanne H. Wilson. Please let us know if your name has been omitted here.

We recently showed our Dishman Hills slide program to a most appreciative group of Briarcliff Garden Club members. The home of host Marian Flahaven in the Ponderosa area of Spokane Valley overlooks the spot that was burned over two years ago. Some of the dead trees have been removed but where the ground was not disturbed the native bushes and flowers are recovering. This is in contrast to the situation along Hangman Creek where, after that fire, one owner was advised to plow the area and plant it, at considerable expense. The undisturbed soil there was being repopulated by native grasses and flowers, whereas the plowed soil likely was opened up to weeds and erosion. Nature has much power to heal itself, a fact that is not very widely appreciated.

We hope you don't resent that we include a coupon for donations each month. We don't mean to imply that if you don't give something each month that the whole Dishman Hills project will fall flat on its face! The coupon is there for your and our convenience when you do donate. Incidentally, we don't give or sell our mailing list to anyone. The unwanted "junk" mail you receive is someone else's doing!

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

President: Larry Thiemann Secretary: Helen Lininger  
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lenten

Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our May meeting will be at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the third Monday, 7:30 p.m. We expect our meetings after that will be back at Camp Caro in the new lodge. You are cordially invited.

### HAPPENINGS IN THE HILLS

Spring is here in the Dishman Hills, with bright buttercups and the warm pink of myriads of grass widows. Towhees are back and juncos have returned from feeders in the valley. Orange-crowned warblers are back from more southerly wintering grounds and diminutive tree frogs are croaking.

Arbor day saw about 200 middle grade pupils and their teachers from Spokane valley planting seedling ponderosa pines and Douglas firs, at the new Camp Caro lodge. The Bureau of Land Management, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Ecology, Spokane County Parks & Recreation Dept., students from John Rogers high school's forestry class, and our association supervised the planting. It was great to see the children's enthusiasm. They wished they could have planted more.

It becomes more and more apparent how fortunate we are to have such a beautiful natural area in the midst of us. In my home town in northwestern Montana what used to be a big field of wild flowers is now solid housing with paving and monotonous bluegrass lawns. Its "mistake" was in being easily developable and nobody thought of saving even a little bit of it, even beside the elementary school which displaced part of it.

In our own state, at least in Spokane County, land use policy seems largely based on the concept of "highest and best use" which, translated, means the use that will bring in the most dollars, regardless of other values. Taxation of land apparently is still largely based on that same idea, thus forcing that development, making it difficult or impossible to save land for anything less profitable. The Dishman Hills natural area has been possible because the land there is so rugged that it is not adapted for housing or other development, not because of any substantial shift in government policy. - T.R.

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

Account No. **09310**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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!