



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1990

JUNE DISHMAN HILLS BOOSTERS

Contributions to the Dishman Hills project during June amounted to \$769.21 and interest income, \$335.11. Operating expenses came to \$231.80, which included \$50 in legal expense in the process of obtaining title to the original 80 acres we bought in the Dishman Hills. Our thanks to the following who donated money, recyclables or in kind during June and have given permission to be listed here: Kathryn Bernard, Marilyn Bertis, Margaret Bloom, Pat Brown, Earl/Dorothy Coombs, Cecil/Ruth Cunningham, Polli Dixon, Verna Dolphin, Reece Ennesh, Helen Ferguson, John Gardner, Emmett Gumm, Vickie Hager, Evelyn/Russ Harmon, Dorothy Hartung, Millicent Havlick, Addie Haynes, Ivy/Ken Hendrix, Blanche/Mel Holsten, Emma Jacklin, Dr./Mrs. Fred Knechtel, Karl Krogue, Lynn Lang, Florence Miller, James R. Loudermilk, Ruth Mogan, Pauline Moore, Gloria Nicol, Mary Noble, Marion Pillsbury, Milt Rawlings, Ruby Rector, Wanda Richards, Tom Rogers, Blanche Sarver, Ruth Sprow Roberts, Ray/Ernestine Staley, William K. Steele, Leila R. Swan, Larry Thienan, Leona Widner, Mary Anne Wilharm, Jeanne H. Wilson, Paul Winkleman and Dr. Herschel Zellman.

On a recent visit to Montana my son Dan and I stopped at the Ross Creek cedar grove south of Bull Lake in Lincoln County. Named for the Forest Service employee who was instrumental in its preservation, it contains cedars hundreds of years old and four or five feet or more in diameter. Also in this old growth forest are grand fir, Engelmann spruce and western hemlock. In the cool moist shade beneath is a luxuriant growth of lady ferns; oak fern; devil's club--beware its stems well-armed with stout prickles--lace flower with its myriad white blossoms; pathfinder, the white underside of its leaves, when upturned, marking the passage of the intruder, and many another shade-loving plant. Such a forest, truly a delight to the visitor, is becoming increasingly rare. Some old growth, like other pristine habitat, is worthy of preservation in itself, not just for insuring the survival of one or more animals that depend upon it.--TR

Jan Reynolds has been leading eager young people on field trips into the Dishman Hills this summer. A western tanager still sang last week at Camp Caro. Handsome Lorquin's admiral and silverspot (fritillary) butterflies were on the wing. Of special interest were the little conical pits made by antlions to catch bumbling ants. (cont. in column 2)

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 Thienan Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lentes
Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter and Ray Staley.

Our monthly meetings starting in September will be at the new lodge at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman, at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. You are cordially invited. For additional information call 926-7949.

SUMMER BRINGS CHANGE TO HILLS

The heat and drought of midsummer have brought a slowdown of activity for plants and animals in the wild. Most plants have stopped growing, though a few are in flower. Handsome lavender mariposa lilies are appearing, the petals of some providing circular pieces for leaf cutter bees to line their nests. Pink Indian paintbrushes and blue harebells are in flower. Insects are on the increase, thriving in the warmth. For the third year in a row pine white butterflies are abundant, the high number of red-breasted nuthatches last winter apparently having made no dent in this year's population. The relationship, if any between their numbers and that of the butterflies, may be in limbo. Speculation about this question in one of our previous bulletins may lead to nowhere but it is still too early to close the book on the subject. Ecology is a complex subject, needing much more study.

Birds are becoming quiet, most having completed their family duties and busying themselves with building up fat reserves for the fall migration or winter survival. Small birds, particularly warblers and vireos, along Iller Creek on the east side of Tower Mountain to the south continue to be scarce. Whether pesticides and forest destruction in their Central American wintering grounds are the reason remains to be seen. Complicating the question is the apparently normal number of yellow warblers, also wintering in Central America, and a decrease in some species wintering in southwestern United States. Other factors may be involved also.

(cont)... Many pine whites have already been trapped in webs of dome weaver spiders and some have not yet emerged from pupas on the pine trunks. Two boys on the last field trip discovered tiny lace bugs sucking juices from the underside of buckbrush leaves. A few will be sent to the entomology department at Oregon State University for identification.

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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!