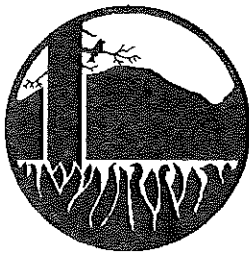


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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MAY 1992

APRIL DONORS LISTED

April's donations of cash and recyclables totalled \$446.00 and expenses \$264.62 which includes property tax of \$71.66. Our thanks to the following who contributed during the last month and have given permission to be listed here: Lorraine Barnes, Cornelia J. Bratten, Ruth Cunningham, Naomi E. Edge, Myrtle A. Erickson, Dan Griffiths, Beverly Hinton, Dorothy M. Knechtel, Karl Krogue, Bernadine McClincy, Bill Marchand, Robert Nelson, Madeline A. Phelps, Willene Priestley, Tom Rogers, Lawrence Thieman, Ed Tietjen, Mary Ann Wilharm and Jeanne Wilson. (If we missed listing you here, please let us know at 926-7949.) Thanks again!

JOIN US TO GET A HAND ON THE WEEDS

We are organizing a weed pull aimed primarily at controlling the Dalmatian toadflax, introduced from Europe. June 20 is the date. We will meet at Camp Caro at 9 AM. Bring drinking water or whatever and if you plan to stay past noon, a lunch. The principal locations of the weed patches have already been ascertained for much of the Hills so the weed pull should be quite effective. We hope to see you there.

ANOTHER FIRESTORM?

Things look ripe for a repeat of last October's fires so let's all be extra careful with fire. Enough said!

CANDIDATES OF CANDIED DATES?

With elections coming up, we need to look very carefully at those we put in office, for they wield a lot of power over us, from the local level on up. Past experience seems to show that we should depend less on promises and more upon the candidates' record of past performance. Promises help one to get elected and then are so easily forgotten. Political decisions have affected our Dishman Hills Project and likely will do so again.

(cont. from col. 2)

We continue to see and hear of other damage: shooting, beer parties, fire rings and littering, and damage to the flowers and bushes. The closeness of the Hills to the Valley and Spokane makes them both a boon and a problem--how to enable people to enjoy them and yet keep them from destroying the preserve.

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

Our monthly meetings during the summer months will be at Camp Caro on S. Sargent Road the third Monday at 7 PM. You are cordially invited to attend.

SUMMER HILLS LOOKING GOOD

Dishman Hills Natural Area has been plunged abruptly into summer by the hot dry weather. Spring flowers are gone but those of early summer are doing well. Wild roses are in flower and the snowy blossoms of the thimbleberry are making a wonderful display at Goldback Spring. The big yellow flowers of mule's ears are flamboyant. Blue lupines have made an excellent comeback from the attacks of tiny caterpillars two years ago. Presumably it was parasites that eliminated them. Nature generally has a way of bringing things under control.

Many summer birds are back. A pair of red-winged blackbirds apparently is nesting again at West Pond, for a handsome male, apparenently defending his territory, is singing and scolding there. Rock wrens are singing again after an apparent absence for the last two years. Red squirrels seem scarce, perhaps because of the lack of pine seeds.

Only a few butterflies are evident, the commonest the little silvery blues, lighting upon lupines, their larval food plant. An occasional painted lady dashes by. An occasional mourning cloak, having hibernated through the winter, is still on the wing. Did you notice that a couple of weeks ago there was a flight of them in the Spokane Valley, perhaps a spillover from the vast numbers migrating in California. They are very strong fliers.

HILLS PROTECTION TO INCREASE

The protection of the Hills is a continuing concern. The various owners, our association, The Nature Conservancy, Spokane County and The Department of Natural Resources, are working to determine the uses to be allowed in the area. We believe that bikes of all kinds are incompatible with protection, cutting into the trails and even starting new ones, and a hazard to hikers. We believe horses should not be allowed in a nature preserve. Temporary signs are in the making to put up around our land to prevent these uses, until the overall use plans are completed. (cont. in column 1)

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