

Non-profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
  
PAID  
  
Spokane, Wash.  
Permit no. 546



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MARCH 1994

## FEBRUARY DONATIONS, EXPENSES LISTED

Donations totalled \$478.28 for February. Expenses were: \$40.00 for administrative services, \$59.04 for bulletin printing, \$62.83 for bulletin mailing (rates have increased) and \$2.90 for miscellaneous expense.

Our thanks to the following who contributed cash and/or services during the month and have given permission to be listed here: Robin M. Bishop, HJoan Blackwell, Joan G. Chesbrough, Celesta M. Frost, Michael Hamilton, Ruth G. Hammack, L.K. Hatch, Hobnailers, Patricia M. Houff, Maxine F. Leszczykowski, Joy Peterson, Avis E. Ray, Marjorie Rosell, St. Mary's Garden Club, Ed Tietjen.

## SOUTH VALLEY ARTERIAL OPPOSED

A public hearing held by Spokane County Commissioners March 9 found nobody in favor of the proposed South Valley Arterial. Opposing it were the Spokane Valley Business Association and several Spokane area environmental organizations, including, of course, our own. Time ran out for the county engineers to boost the arterial so they will get their chance March 30 at 3 p.m. at the County Public Works Building just east of the courthouse. That gives them three weeks to prepare their pitch. We think they will need every bit of that time to come up with their arguments, considering the opposition they face. We have been granted a "short rebuttal time" afterwards. Written comments were to be accepted no later than March 15. Why the rush?

## BUTTERCUP HIKE DATE SET

Our annual Buttercup Hike is scheduled for Sunday, April 17, starting at Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Dishman, at 1:30 p.m. We expect plenty of buttercups, grass widows and other spring flowers. We'll see you there!

## TOWER MOUNTAIN PRUCHASE OFFER MADE

We have made an offer to purchase land in the Big Rock area of Tower Mountain south of Dishman Hills Natural Area. As of now our offer has neither been accepted nor rejected. We are requesting a reply in the immediate future. We'll keep you informed.

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: Michael Hamilton, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lentes, Board of Directors: Omar Carroll, Michael Hamilton, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 P.M. at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur. You are cordially invited to attend.

Please send donations to our box number, shown at top of this bulletin.

## FLOWERS THAT BLOOM IN THE SPRING!

Spring is coming to the Dishman Hills! A recent trip found a few buttercups and the slender spears of grass widow leaves. Buds are starting to open on the serviceberry shrubs and on the one patch of squaw currant, the latter unfortunately on land not ours, land that is starting to be developed. Chipmunks are out and flickers and juncoes are moving back into the woods. A hen mallard was heard at East Pond but not seen--she apparently was hiding in the cattails. (Water levels in all the ponds are low; they likely will be dry by midsummer unless we get more rain.)

The usual yearround birds were there: a raven or two, red-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees. Of special interest was a white-breasted nuthatch, uncommon in the Hills and in the Spokane area in general. No towhees were noted, though one was singing on lower Iller Creek just south of the Ponderosa housing development.

A few tiny creatures were about: little gray moths and one with bright orange hind wings that disappeared behind dark gray front wings when it alighted, making it virtually invisible. A few little flies, one tiny bee and a wolf spider completed the list of spring adventurers. Butterflies generally do not appear unless the temperature reaches 60 degrees F. and the sun is shining.

We met two hikers, one a longtime Dishman Hills booster and the other who enthusiastically gave us permission to put him on our mailing list--he said he was one of the kids who took part in the nature hikes which I led for the county recreation program many years ago.

On the negative side the litter bugs are out and mountain bike tracks were abundant on the trails throughout the area, even on our land where they are prohibited, along with a motorcycle track. They keep on grooving the trails, widening them and laying them open to erosion on steeper trails. For a change no horse tracks nor manure were evident. Another one of our signs hung between two trees has been stolen--that's \$30.00+ down the drain and more work to replace it. And a Department of Natural Resources sign at one entrance has been damaged.--TR

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

Account No. **06513**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please put your account number on your check.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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.