

Dishman Hills Natural Area Associatic  
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# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

OCTOBER 1994

## ROCKS OF SHARON NEWS

A hike up Tower Mountain after the recent rain found things green and in good condition. Fifteen species of birds were still present including a few migrants yet: white-crowned sparrows, a ruby-crowned kinglet and a hermit thrush, all down from the mountains or from Canada. Several kinds of flowers still persisted, notably two kinds of asters, goldenrod and Indian paintbrush. Especially interesting was a bright yellow arnica, like a little sunflower, discovered on the land we are buying on the mountain. It has been found nowhere else in Spokane County, though it is known to occur in Okanogan County and in the Cascades south of California. We will monitor it closely to see that it is not threatened.

A recent hike into the Dishman Hills found trees and bushes blazing with autumn colors, hawthorns with flaming red and orange, serviceberries a Joseph's coat of yellow, orange, green and cinnamon brown, dogwood with leaves and stems of dull red and cottonwoods and quaking aspens bright yellow. Most small plants were dry yellow and brown but a few wild asters still showed their lavender rays. The best display of autumn leaves is to be found in Cottonwood Hollow up from Camp Caro.

Birds were, expectedly, scarce, summer residents and migrants gone. Most common were the ever-present red-breasted nuthatches. A confiding little black-capped chickadee hopped among the bushes and a flicker called near East Pond. Three ravens flew over, croaking and voicing their deep melodious bell-like notes and a magpie called raucously. A curious young red squirrel watched from a nearby rock before scamping away.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spokane Valley Business Association has agreed to take care of legal expenses involved in the lawsuit against the South Valley Arterial but welcomes donations to help in this vital action. Their address: P.O. Box 13583, Dishman, WA 99213.

The Inland Northwest Land Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of land in the natural state for human and ecological use, is inviting interested people to a meeting featuring Jennifer Belcher, State Commissioner of Public Lands, who will speak about land preservation and protection at 7 p.m. November 17 at Lewis & Clark High School auditorium. We'll be there.

## ORGANIZATION PURPOSES

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

## OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

President: Michael Hamilton; Vice-President: Tom Rogers; Secretary: Helen Lininger; Treasurer: David Lenten; Board Members (in addition to officers): Omar Carroll, Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. Officers and board members serve without pay and we have no paid employees.

## MEETING DATE / PLACE

Our meetings will be held at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur each third Tuesday at 7 p.m. during the school year. You are cordially invited.

## SEPTEMBER DONATIONS SURGE

Contributions to our effort to pay for the 170 acres on Tower Mountain (Rocks of Sharon area) came to a very good \$4061.41 in September. Many thanks to you dedicated supporters! If donations keep on like this we will be able to pay for the land earlier and save interest. Expenses for the month came to \$437.57 (\$317.57 for bulletin expense--two bulletins) and \$120 for office expense (including \$87.64 for letterhead printing.) Listed below are those of you who donated money and/or services and have given permission to be listed here: Eric W. Calkins, Boulevard Garden Club, Omar Carroll, Rita Cencich, Joan G. Chesbrough, Jeff A. Danner, Doris Distad, Stanley A. Fahgren, Harriet J. Fix, Marva Goede, Michael Hamilton, Gertrude J.G. Hanson, L.K. Hatch, Frances M. Haywood, Judith L. Hill, Patricia M. Houff, Janet Hufeisen, Frank Howard, Marion E. Krauss, Rich Landers, David Lenten, Helen E. Lininger, Janice G. Mahoney, Carol Jean Miller, Rich Nelson, Gloria M. Nicol, Marion R. Phillips (memorial for Robert M. Phillips), Marion L. Pillsbury, Michelle I. Pope, Francis H. & June Potter, Willene Priestley, Janet D. Reynolds, Tom Rogers, Richard Schmidt, Shirley F. Skinner, Spokane Mushroom Club, Ray Staley, Patricia Sweeney, Florence Sylvester, Teppan Foods Inc., Florence Thayer, Mary L. Water, Jody Wende, Mary Ann Wilham, Jeanne H. Wilson and Mary L. Wright. If you contributed but we should have listed you, please let us know at 926-7949. Again, many thanks.

## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

With the November election close by it is important that we all ask the candidates their position on environmental matters: the county commissioner candidates regarding the South Valley Arterial which would impact Dishman Hills and the neighboring residential and business areas, and the allowing of mountain bikes and horses there in the Natural Area; also their position on the County Park Department's program for Nature Space Acquisition. For candidates for the State Legislature: do they favor the funding of the County's application for buying additional land on Tower Mountain (the Rocks of Sharon area) adjacent to the land we are buying. A Candidates' Forum providing opportunity to ask these questions is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 26 at the Valley Library, E. 12004 Main, Opportunity. We'll see you there!