



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS
From the
DISHMAN HILLS

DECEMBER 1995

NOVEMBER DONORS LISTED

Our thanks to the following Dishman Hills boosters who donated in November and have given permission to be listed here: James W. Berry, Leonard N. Butters, Patti A. Ensor, Virginia R. Featherman, Bart Haggin, R. Steven Heaps, Helen E. Lininger, Leo J. Middendorf, Northside Garden Club, Mary Jean Porter, Francis/June Potter, Tom Rogers, Iris K. Scheel, Holly Frost Sonneland, Spokane Floral Association, Kristin Stewart, Florence Thayer and Grace A. Ward. Please let us know if you should have been listed but we missed - - call (509) 926-7949.

Donations for November came to \$587 and interest income on our land reserve was \$16.36. Expenses were heavy, \$543.86, mostly due to changeover in bulletin printing. Most of this will be covered by a special donation from our treasurer.

TIME FOR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS!

If you want your income tax exempt donation to be credited to 1995, there is still time to send it in before the end of the year. We'll greatly appreciate it.

FLOODS AND EROSION ARE A CONCERN

Floods in the Northwest have been much in the news recently. Although floods are nothing new on the earth, we humans do have an influence upon them and the damage they cause. We build upon flood plains and blame Nature. We pave over the earth with roads and cover it with buildings, making it nearly impossible for water to soak in. We fill wetlands which are natural reservoirs for holding water.

Our activities encourage erosion by replacing natural ground cover, grassland and forest with our roads and buildings. Some sources blame logging operations which often result in road building on steep, unstable slopes, or clearcuts which accelerate runoff. Some loggers say that the erosion is natural. Occasionally it is, but erosion in undisturbed forest is rare. On Tower Mountain the only significant erosion is down old logging roads and cycle trails.

ARCTIC WILDLIFE REFUGE THREATENED

There is some sentiment in Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Should we damage an irreplaceable national heritage to recover what is expected to be at most only a one year's supply of oil?

ORGANIZATION PURPOSE STATEMENT

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 Lenten; Board members (in addition to officers): Omar Carroll, Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. All serve without pay and we have no paid employees. We strive to keep expenses at a minimum.

Monthly meetings are held Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Wilbur on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. **You are cordially invited.**

DECEMBER HIKE IS ENJOYABLE!

A mid-December hike up Tower Mountain found little Iller Creek in a talkative mood though breezes were silent. A few juncoes flashed their white outer tail feathers, a raven and a magpie called and a flicker clung high to the tip of a tamarack. The rich greens of firs, pines and hemlocks made up for the lack of leaves on birches, alders and bushes. Bright red rose hips, red osier dogwood and mountain maple branches added color. Of the smaller plants mountain lover and Oregon grape added their green as well as leaves of the little trailing twinflower. Perennially green stalks of the winter horsetail stood thick along the creek. Mosses were emerald green and lichens of many kinds added their gray-greens and greens to the trees. Most kinds of lichens have no common names but they display a variety of forms, from tightly clinging crusts on rocks to leaflike and some finely scrambled ones on tree trunks and branches.

On the ground were a few brown puffballs, empty of their myriad spores. On dead, mostly fire-killed birches and alders were little white "conks", brown bracket fungi and colonies of bright orange fungi, busy returning the wood to the soil to become fertilizer. In nature, nothing goes to waste but plays its part in the scheme of things, in this case as food for new life.

The thirty-eight degree weather with fog touching the tree tops found no insects active but at the end of the hike many tiny midges found my little yellow car most attractive! I've noticed that some other kinds of flies and also yellow jackets are attracted to yellow, the reason unknown. Flies seem also able to be active in cooler weather than other insects. It seemed strange that the midges had emerged at this time of year from the pools where their larvae live. Or do these fragile little creatures survive the winter as adults? - TR

PARKS DEPT. LAND DEAL STILL IN PROGRESS

Spokane County Parks Department has not yet been able to complete a deal to buy this attractive bit of wild area, which borders the land our association is buying just to the east. It's an area well worth preserving in its natural state.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** (Contributions are income tax deductible) Account No. **06514**

Your Name: _____
Please put your account number on your check.

\$ _____ LAND PURCHASE FUND

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_____ CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME LISTED AS A DONOR.