



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS
From the
DISHMAN HILLS

DECEMBER 1996

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our thanks to you who contributed and have given us permission to be listed here: Francis & June Potter, Helen Linginger/ Doris Allgood, Marilyn & John Miller, Tom Rogers, Ambrose & Anna Priestley, Lois Smith, Stanley/ Bernice Fahlgren, Frank Gropp/ Sharon Ladwig, Jeff Danner, Alfred/ Carla Joyal, Holly Sonneland, Sandra Jean Hollar, Bruce & Julie Rosenoff, Grace Ward, Bertha Booth, Janice Nelson, Brad Blegen, Jeanne Wilson, Celesta Frost, Star Steel (Kermit & Annouchka Anderson), Bruce Falconer, Hershel Zellman & Mary Noble, Mary Anne Sullivan, Florence Thayer, Barbara Lockwood, Rico & Terri Reed, Vern & Gloria Krebs, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Gudgel, and Robert Downing. If you should have been listed here and we missed you, please let us know at (509) 926-7949. Again, many thanks!

All donations are tax deductible. To meet this deduction this year, donations need to be made before January 1st, 1997.

HEARD OF THE ICE STORM ?

The ice storm---trees---power lines---telephone lines, paralyzing the area. It appears that the most vulnerable trees were the broad-leaved ones, the ones not native to the area. They aren't adapted to the climate. Most evergreens (Douglas firs and the non-native spruces) suffered relatively little damage but ponderosa pines, which are native, were affected more, especially in the Dishman Hills, where they are dominant.

A trip into the Hills December 1 found many pines fallen across the trails. It looked like a war zone. Yet probably no more than one or two percent of trees were destroyed. Often those that were seemed to have been stressed, weakened by competition. Perhaps it is another of Nature's way of thinning out the forest. And the species certainly is not threatened, since most individuals survived. (That is the strategy of insects: they survive by sheer numbers, though most of them perish.)

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

Our monthly meetings are at Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Wilbur on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.. You are cordially invited.

HEARD OF THE ICE STORM ? continued

The few cottonwoods in the Hills sustained very little damage--they also are native to the area. Aspens suffered a bit more, but mainly they were dead ones so they weren't "suffering." Shrubs, bushes and sapling pines were often bent down but are expected to spring back up after snow melts, both in the city area and in the Hills. Of course the grasses and flowers won't be affected at all. Birds and mammals likely won't be bothered. But only us humans will find, as I did, difficulty in climbing over, crawling under or scrambling around logs. Besides fallen trees and branches, many lichens littered the ground, swept off the trees by the ice. They will fertilize the soil, since they capture nitrogen, converting it into nitrates. Possibly they may have carried some insects with them, causing a food problem for chickadees and nuthatches, though this is pure guesswork. The only birds noted, however, were a magpie and a raven, and a red squirrel scampering about in the Enchanted Ravine.

The good thing about the Hills was that there are no power lines crossing it. And the cleanup of the trails, though a big job, will avoid the necessity of trucking away the debris, since it will just be spread on the ground to rot and go back into the soil to replenish it.

The three owners of the land--our association and likely Spokane County Parks and the Department of Natural Resources--will greatly appreciate help in clearing the trails, though the work can wait until later.

The ice storm has pointed up our dependence upon electricity. Some thought is being given to placing power wires underground. Some already are there. It would be expensive yet the storm also was expensive--and highly disruptive! The most obvious strategy would be to keep trees away from power lines. --TR.

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

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

DHNAA
E. 10820 MAXWELL
SPOKANE, WA 99206

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.