



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS
From the
DISHMAN HILLS

JANUARY 1998⁶

DONATIONS UP IN JANUARY

Contributions to our Land purchase and expense funds came to a tremendous \$4221, thanks to you loyal people who believe wholeheartedly in preserving wild natural areas. Interest income on the land fund was \$18.26 and recyclables brought in \$24.87. We are ahead of schedule on paying for the natural area on Tower Mountain (Rocks of Sharon area), which we contracted for in July of 1994 for \$225,000. This is saving us money on interest. We now owe \$141,429 on this beautiful forested area. Operating expenses were \$238 for office and bulletin expense (printing & mailing).

Again our thanks to you who contributed in December and have given permission to be listed here: Lilly E./Tom Ager (memorial), Maralyn/James T. Bertis, Helen Blackwell (memorial), Eric/Beth Calkins, Cub Scouts Den 6 Pack 424, Harriet F. Davies, Wilford Dolphin, Bernice/Stanley Fahlgren (memorial), Joan G. Fergin, Harriet J. Fix, Margaret F. Galbraith, George W. Girvin, Don Griffiths, Mrs. K. Gudgel, Frances M. Haywood (memorial), Hobnailers (memorial), Le Roy E. Hook, Gloria J. Krebs, Patrick S. Lettenmaier, Hannah K. Lovik, Stephen H. Peterson (memorial), Gary Plowman, Connie Porter, Frank/June Potter, Sally S. Reynolds, Tom Rogers, Luella Rowberg, Richard Schmidt, S. Schrimshire, Reiko Shimizu, Anne E./Terry Smith, Spokane Area Retired Educators Foundation, Spokane Audubon Society (memorial), Spokane County Parks Advisory Committee and Parks Staff (memorial), Kristin/Michael Stewart (memorial), Ruth F. Stickney (memorial), Patricia/James Sweeney, Larry/Janice Thorson (memorial), Beth/Ed Tietjen, Doreen Vance, Louise Vander Wilde, Edwin O. Weilep, Bartlett D. Whelton, Mrs. Harold B. Wimpy and Dr. Hershel Zellman. If we should have listed you here but missed, please let us know at 926-7949. Thanks!

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL

Centennial School, North 915 Ella, will be hosting our February meeting at 7 p.m. Students and their parents are invited, as well as the general public. Barb Sanders, other teachers and the Principal are actively supporting the many students there who are showing much interest in the Dishman Hills project.

OMAR CARROLL

Omar Carroll, our Board Member for many years, died January 3rd. Active in many activities in this Spokane area, he had a host of friends. We will miss him as a personal friend as well as a co-worker.

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 Linger; 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.

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

HILLS QUIET IN WINTER

On a recent hike into Dishman Hills a steady snowfall added to the five inches already on the ground. The snow muffled most sounds but Halfway Springs tinkled softly and Goldback Spring was also flowing. East Pond was still unfrozen along the edges. Branches of the Douglas firs drooped gracefully under their burden of snow but those of the pines bore starry plumes at their tips. While leafless bushes waited for Spring, the conifers, helped by Oregon grapes, supplied their reassuring green, Polypody ferns, always green, clung to crevices in Caro Cliff, its face hung with icicles.

The neat, narrow footprints of a coyote, evenly spaced in a nearly straight line, contrasted with the wider ones of dogs (which shouldn't be running loose anywhere, much less in the nature preserve.) Tracks of a squirrel crossed the Enchanted Ravine for the only other tracks except for those of people out for a walk in the winter wonderland.

Only a few birds were about. The best sighting was of a Townsend's solitaire, a shy member of the thrush family. It was perching near a mountain ash, presumably to dine on its red berries. A ruffed grouse betrayed its presence by the sound of its wings and a flicker was startled from a pine. A raven croaked as it flew over looking for something to eat and a red crossbill searched for pine seeds.

Occasional snow bugs, tiny members of the scorpionfly family, squatted motionless on the snow and several little caterpillars were likewise marooned. Perhaps they fell off the trees.

ATTEND CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE HEARING

A hearing important to those of us who want to protect local natural areas which add to the quality of life in the Spokane area, has been scheduled by the County Commissioners for Tuesday, February 27 at 5 p.m. in the Spokane County Public Works Building, West 1026 Broadway (just east of the Courthouse). Let's have a good turnout to urge protection for these gems, which include the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area, which are in danger of development.

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