



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY, 1986

SUMMER SLOWING LAND FUND DONATIONS

Land fund donations were slow during June, totaling only \$910.47. This squares with our past experience that donations drop during the summer. We do hope to change this historic trend, since another \$6340 payment on the 140 acre addition is due Sept. 15. In order not to deplete our reserve fund too rapidly, we need to receive about \$1500 monthly. Please send all you can. If you have not contributed before, we invite you to join in the effort to save the Hills. Many Thanks!

The following have contributed cash, recyclables or in kind since our last bulletin. If your contribution is not acknowledged below, please contact us. Those received late in the month likely will not be listed until our next bulletin.

Kathleen Adkinson, Ansel Barton, Gary Brewster, Campfire (Sue Nurvic & Ginny Smith, leaders), Kathe Cates, W.R. Coble, Vern Colbert, Linda Crabtree, Deanna Davis, Doris Donnelly, Carl Erickson, Karen Gilbert, Margaret Haggin, J.L. Havlick, Blanche Holsten, Gloria Krebs, Patricia Kroetch, Alice Mason, Brian Miller, Pauline Moore, Wm B. Nourse, Lenore Nungester, Joy Peterson, Bruce/Jodi Poland, Francis Potter, Julius Presta, Oren Randles, Laura Robotyn, Thomas Rogers, Doni Sanders, Elizabeth Saunders, Debra Smith, Lee Smith, Goldie Soucy, Shannon Stahmer, Larry Thiemann, Jane Van Meter, Preta Watke, Evelyn White, Jeanne Wilson and Mrs. Robert Wilson.

NATURE PRESERVE BUSY IN MAY, JUNE

May saw many groups visited the Nature Preserve. Spokane Audubon Society sponsored a hike in connection with the Lilac Festival. Field trips were taken by Barbara Tusant's class from Northwest Christian School, Trisha Ohashi's Audubon School class and Bob Bohlen's biology class from West Valley High. Spokane Audubon held a family Discovery Hike into the Hills. Barry Conklin's Progress Elementary and Virginia Elkington's Greenacres Elementary classes visited, as did Ginny Smith's Campfire group. In June Carole Netzel and her sixth graders came all the way from Nespelem to see the Hills and Joanne Miller's Hutton School class hiked in them. Finally a senior citizen group from Moran Methodist Church combined a hike and a picnic lunch at Camp Caro.

In late May we showed our Dishman Hills slide program to the P.E.O., Chapter D.R.; Eleanore Mihalic arranged for the showing.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from. Larry Thiemann, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Helen E. Lininger, Secretary; David E. Lentens, Treasurer.

We offer slide programs on the Dishman Hills and other outdoor subjects, and guide service on hikes in the Hills. No charge for these. Call us at 926-7949 for arrangements. Our monthly meetings during the summer months are at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Rd., Dishman, the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend.

NATURE PRESERVE HAS MUCH TO SEE

An early July hike into Dishman Hills Natural Area revealed bustling if low key activity. Spring flowering plants were no longer evident except for some which displayed fruits or seeds. Serviceberries and hawthorn fruit were ripening but thimble-berries were still green. The hues of summer flowers were taking over: blue of lupine and harebell, yellow of hawkweed and cinquefoil, lavender of mariposa lily and plains thistle. White clusters of dogwood berries contrasted pleasantly with green leaves and maroon stems as they leaned over Goldback Spring. The strange brown stalks of pinedrops supported an abundance of nodding pink flowers.

Many a bee was a busy visitor. A little bee entered its nest burrow in the ground near Caro Cliff. Dark brown wood nymph butterflies flitted softly over grassy places--they really don't care for woods--and a bright, fresh mourning cloak coursed overhead. With luck it will survive until next spring.

A narrow procession of red thatcher ants crossed the trail in both directions. The westbound traffic ended up at a four inch Douglas fir, which they climbed, with no purpose apparent to human eyes. The ants traveling in the opposite direction followed a tiny path, worn down to bare soil by tiny feet, that led them to their home, a mound of bits of twigs and grasses. A few carried insect prey.

Except for a scolding red squirrel, no mammals were evident, but birds were. A little group of mountain chickadees searched the pines for insects. Probably they were reared in a nearby snag in which holes were made last year by nutatches. Red crossbills voiced their presence as flew overhead. The excellent pine cone crop of last year kept them in the area all last winter and up to the present. An uncommon treat was a handsome Audubon's warbler singing high in the pines and a western tanager, resplendent in yellow, black and red did likewise. Neither species is common in the preserve in summer but both presumably nest there.

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

Account No. 12450

\$ _____ Land purchase fund

\$ _____ Memorial for _____

\$ _____ Annual Dues (\$10) New? ___ Renewal? ___

\$ _____ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 141561, Spokane, WA 99214. Many thanks!