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# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY 1990

### JANUARY DONORS LISTED

January donations to Dishman Hills Natural Area came to \$1384.26 and interest on our reserve added \$98.44. Expenses were \$214.30. Our thanks to the following donors of money, recyclables and/or services, listed below who have given permission to be listed here:

Doris J. Allgood, Linda M. Aumeier, Winifred Becker, L. A. Boutwell, Phyllis A. Camp, Almeda Campbell, Omar E. Carroll, Cheryl Craig, Ruth G. Cunningham, Fern E. Dahlstrom, Jeff A. Danner, Jackie Davenport, Harriet F. Davies, Frances Davis, Jincy Engle, Reese Emmesh, Myrtle A. Erickson, Dick/Harriet Evans, Velma C. Evans, Mary L. Flick, Margaret F. Galbraith, Sue Godfrey, Nicolin J. Gray, K. Gudgel, Gertrude J.G. Hanson, Moody/Patti Harmon, L.K. Hatch, Ken/Ivy Hendrix, Mrs. John E. Hollar, Blanche Holsten, Margaret I. Hoover, Margaret W. Klewent, Alfreda Krause, Gloria J. Krebs, Karl K. Krogue, Mary Jane Larson, Maxine E. Leszczykowski, Helen E. Lininger, Bettie Maron, Jay C. McDowell, Kathleen M. Moore, Charles C. Parsons, Ernest F. Pike, Ambrose/Willene Priestley, Milt Rawlings, Tom Rogers, Julie L. Rosenoff, Marjorie Rozell, Ray L. Staley, Florence Sylvester, Larry Thienan, Robert S. Turner, Dwight J. Vance, Jane Van Meter, John L. Warner, Leona Widner, Lola K. Wilkinson, Jeanne H. Wilson and George E. Wood. Many thanks!

A payment in March and one in June and the 140 acre addition to the nature preserve will be paid for, thanks to you many loyal supporters. We are looking at some small adjacent parcels of land that we would like to add to what has already been secured. We will keep you informed.

Washington Native Plant Society, Northeast Chapter, is again sponsoring a class in wildflower identification through SFCC's Institute for Extended Learning, Monday evenings 7:00-9:30 April 9 - May 14 at North Central High School. The class will teach how to use keys to identify native plants, using live plants. Characteristics of common plant families will be taught for aid in sight identification. Teachers will be Drs. Ken Swedberg and Suzanne Schwab, EUU Botany Dept., and Dr. Nicolin Gray, retired botanist from Whitworth.

Please register through SFCC Extended Learning (registration forms will be in the March SFCC Extended Learning Bulletin.) Cost of the class is \$29, to be paid to SFCC. Needed: the booklet "Keys to Plants of the Spokane Area" (\$3.00), available at the first session. Enrollment is limited to 25. For additional information call Nicolin Gray, 467-8895.

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: Larry Thienan Secretary: Helen Lininger  
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lentes  
Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our monthly meetings this winter will be at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. You are cordially invited.

### MORE ABOUT BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES

Probably you saw the good article by Dan Hansen in the Spokansman Review-Spokane Chronicle about the nuthatches and the pine white butterflies. As he and I agree, the relationship between the numbers of these creatures is still very much a theory. Madonna King of the Department of Wildlife is certainly correct in saying that such a "one on one" relationship is rare in nature, for predators generally can turn to other prey when one source of food is scarce. The nuthatches no doubt feed on other insects and also upon pine seeds so a lack of the butterfly larvae likely would not bother the birds very much. An apparently simpler situation is the classic relationship between snowshoe rabbit and lynx numbers in Canada. Figures based upon trappers' records there showed that a rise in rabbit numbers there was followed (with a time lag, for rabbits "multiply like rabbits" but lynx do so more slowly) by an increase in lynx numbers. Conversely, after the rabbit population collapsed, for reasons not clearly understood, the lynx population also declined, since rabbits are apparently their principal source of food there. As for the birds and butterflies we will have to wait and see.

Dan Hansen and photographer Steve Thompson accompanied me on one of the weekly wintering bird censuses in the Hills recently. We found about the same number of birds, Mostly nuthatches, as on previous trips this winter. Spring arrivals are not yet appearing there but are expected soon.

Robins won't be a sign of spring this year, as they have been quite common all winter. Right now will be a rather difficult time for them and other wintering birds, since their food supply is mostly gone by now. Robins will welcome old apples tossed out to them, and juncoes and house finches will appreciate bird seed. The juncoes will gradually move into the foothills and mountains for nesting but the house finches will remain in the valley. Supposedly the wintering robins will move north to nest and be replaced by others from more southerly areas.--TR

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\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 14141, Spokane, WA 99214-0141. Many thanks!