



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MARCH 1993

HIKE WITH US TO SEE BUTTERCUPS

Our annual Buttercup Hike into the Dishman Hills Natural Area is scheduled for Sunday, March 28. We'll meet you at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman at 1:30 p.m. for an easy hike to look for spring flowers and birds. We've requested the buttercups and grass widows to show up and hope they have heard us! If they haven't, it will be an enjoyable hike anyway so SEE YOU THERE.

Contributions to the Dishman Hills project came to a good \$774.53, thanks to you loyal supporters. Interest income on our land purchase fund was \$39.88. Expenses were \$40 for administrative services and \$116.75 for bulletin expense (printing and postage). Again, many thanks to the following who contributed during February and have given permission to be listed here: Joan G. Chesbrough, Verna O. Dolphin, Robert W. Downing, Naomi E. Edge, Nicolin J. Gray, Mrs. Kenneth Gudgel, Bart Haggin, Michael Hamilton, Elaine W. Harris, The Hobnailers, Shiran Lee, Maxine F. Leszykowski, Mrs. Roy R. Mills, Rich Nelson, Ora Mae Orton, Trowel Queens Garden Club, Janet D. Reynolds, Marjorie Rozell, Leila R. Swan, Dale C. Swanson, Lawrence Thiemann, Jane M. Thrasher, Ed Tietjen and Jeanne H. Wilson. If we missed listing you, please let us know at 926-7949.

WILDLIFE ON THE DEFENSE

We sometimes wonder if the plight of wildlife isn't like what was once said about the communists: "We (the communists) have what we have. What is yours we'll bargain for." It seems that the "balance of nature" which has produced relative stability on the earth for even billions of years, is being replaced by a new "balance" meaning "What we humans have is ours. What wildlife has we will divide between it and us."

One result of this came to our attention recently. In the vicinity of a large California city (was it Los Angeles or San Francisco?) the coyotes are coming into the suburbs looking for food, since their habitat is being taken up by development. The food they are finding? People's poodles and cats! Perhaps we should give wildlife some living room, even if just to protect our pets. And remember what happened to the U.S.S.R. Perhaps we are destroying ourselves by destroying the balance.

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: Lawrence Thiemann, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lenten
Board of Directors: Omar Carroll, Michael Hamilton, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley

Our meetings are held every third Monday at 7 P.M. at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur. You are cordially invited to attend.

Please send donations to our box number, shown at top of this bulletin.

SPRING IS LATE BUT SURE

A hike into the Hills in mid-March found a few signs of Spring, even though the patchy snow was still a foot deep in sheltered spots. The streamlets are surging merrily. They will have plenty of water this spring! The ponds are still frozen, except for a fringe along the north shore of East Pond, in which a salamander swam.

A few hopeful spears of grass widows were poking through. The spring surge of birds hasn't happened yet, though a beautiful Varied Thrush, resplendent with its burnt orange eyebrow streak and equally bright breast with contrasting black necklace had arrived. Red-breasted Nuthatches were common as usual and a few Red Crossbills and Black-capped Chickadees were carrying on conversations. A few ravens coursed overhead. No juncos yet. Too much snow for these ground-feeders.

Deer sign was evident and a few squirrel tracks led from tree to tree. Raccoon tracks are becoming common. A few coyote tracks criss-crossed the snow but they were outnumbered by those of meandering dogs, apparently not accompanied by their masters. The dog ordinance? What happened to it? Apparently ignored.

The question of allowing horses in the Hills is still around. We don't want this non-native species on our land, which comprises about half of what is now designated as a Natural Resource Conservation Area. The purpose of the conservation area is to give it as much protection as possible, allowing only careful human use. By the time this reaches you the management advisory committee will have met again and the County Commissioners will have held a meeting about it also. A public hearing, required by law, will be held later in the Spring. We initiated the Dishman Hills Project to create a nature preserve for low impact use, but some think it ought to be a recreation area. In fact, a few people don't even admit that our association owns land in the Hills! If horses are allowed on the county land and DNR land, it would make it difficult for us to protect our land, for it is surrounded by the land of the other two owners. We would appreciate very much to hear from you about horse use in the Hills. Drop us a card or give us a ring at 926-7949 (not too late in the evening!) We'll keep you informed.

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

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