



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MAY 1994

## APRIL DONATIONS DROP

Donations during April failed to cover our expenses for the month, only \$258.29 coming in. (Memorials provided \$65 and recycling, \$15.68.) Expenses were \$290.23 (\$40 for administrative services, \$17.05 for bank charges, \$125.88 for bulletin printing and mailing, and \$107.30 for taxes. Interest income of \$22.57 put us a few dollars into the black however.

Our thanks to the following who donated cash and/or services and have given permission to be listed here: Bertha B. Booth, Joan G. Chesbrough, Fairwood Joint Venture, Donald Griffiths, Charline A. Hagen, Michael Hamilton, David Lentes, John C. Lorang, Helen B. Miller, Carl W. Milton, Tom Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Linda J. Siverts, Spokane Floral Association and Spokane Teachers Credit Union.

We are continuing to be in contact with the real estate agencies that are offering land for sale on Tower Mountain. We are very hopeful that we can come up with a purchase in that fine area. We'll keep you informed.

We are disturbed by a recent KXLY broadcast saying that the Dishman Hills are a fine place for mountain bikers. They are banned from our land and the Department of Natural Resources is against them but headquarters in Olympia has not made this official as yet. Spokane County Commissioners haven't yet made up their minds on this issue. Our president will protest to KXLY about this, asking it to inform the public of the true situation.

In the news are concerns about the Waste-to-Energy Plant, what should and should not be burned. And one wonders what happened to the the mandate of the Legislature: first priority was to reduce the amount of waste produced. It seems that none of that is happening. We do have a few chances to work in that direction: avoid throwaways such as paper plates and plastic spoons, plastic food containers, etc. and disposable diapers. Glass containers are accepted for recycling, though recyclers are paying for only the colorless. Likewise the only plastic containers recyclable in this area are the colorless (clear or white) that have a 1 or 2 in the triangle on the bottom. The PET (soft drink) plastic bottles are being accepted though just now recyclers (Continued in next column)

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 of Directors: Omar Carroll, Michael Hamilton, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 P.M. at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur. This summer we will be meeting at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. In July and August we will be meeting only on special call.

## HILLS DELIGHTFUL IN MAY

An enthusiastic group of teenage girls and boys from Mary Porter's Rogers High School class hiked into the Dishman Hills recently, plus two more teens, a completely absorbed four-and-a-half year old boy and their mothers. We got only as far as the East and West Ponds, where Jan Reynolds of Spokane Audubon Society helped them explore the marvels of the little water life: nymphs of dragonflies, mayflies, midges and water tigers (larvae of a predacious beetle). Above flashed blue dragonflies and damselflies and on the surface whirligig beetles spun silvery circles. A few tadpoles of tree frogs swam about, an encouraging sighting after a report last year that their eggs were not hatching. A lone mallard drake flew over; perhaps his mate was incubating nearby. Water levels were only moderate after the dry winter but were enough to encourage the submerged bladderwort, a carnivorous plant that captures tiny water creatures in little bulblike traps.

Butterflies were scarce, the most notable: two black-and-white swallowtails. The Spring flowers were gone from the Hills but things were very green after a wet April, usually the driest month of Spring here. The snowy flowers of buckbrush and death camas were fading but wild onions put up quite a show with their pale lavender blossoms, as did the blue lupines. Summer flowers were edging into bloom: wild roses (a bit early), sticky geraniums, cinquefoil and the viburnum bush at West Pond.

Many summer birds were back in the Hills: warblers, vireos, chipping sparrows, red-winged blackbirds (they may again nest at West Pond), violet-green swallows, cowbirds, a brilliant western tanager, an early gray catbird and of course the year-round resident chickadees and nuthatches. The suprise of the recent trip was a sora, a shy little marsh bird, for the first record in the Natural Area.

(continued from column 1)

do not pay for them. We still see aluminum cans thrown down, in spite of their bringing 1 1/2 cents each at recyclers. Corrugated cardboard is not picked up in the blue boxes, presumably because it is so bulky, though it brings more per pound than newspaper.

We appreciate your turning in recyclables for our land fund. (We have an account at Spokane Recycling Products, just west of Freya on Main. Just tell them it's for us and please leave your name.)

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

Account No. **06513**

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  
"donor."