



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

APRIL 1995

## CONTRIBUTIONS LOOKING GOOD

March contributions to our land purchase and operating expense funds came to a very good \$1275.14. Contributions for bulletin expense were \$7; from recycling, \$58.14; membership dues, \$50; memorials, \$25, and to the land purchase fund, \$1135. Interest income was \$20.27. Expenses were \$48 for administrative costs and \$139.28 for bulletin printing and mailing.

Our thanks to you loyal supporters who have given permission to be listed here: Joan G. Chesbrough, Fern E. Dahlstrom, June Helen Foote, Inga S. Hendron, Inland Northwest Land Trust, Shannon M. Jayne, Carla F. Joyal, Maxine F. Leszykowski, Helen E. Lininger, Carl Milton, Aroa A. Ohme, Charles C. Parsons, M.A. Pospisil, Frances H. Potter, Tom Rogers, Trowel Queens Garden Club, Iris K. Scheel, Lois Smith, Janice A. Thorson, Shirley Wihlborg and Jeanne H. Wilson. If we failed to list you, please let us know at 926-7949. Thanks again!

### ON THE ELK PROBLEM

Jerry Hickman of Washington Department of Wildlife called to tell us that the department is working with the farmers south of Tower Mountain and with the County Sheriffs' Department to solve the problem of elk damaging their crops. We'll keep you informed of progress in that direction. Ernie Sprow at the north base of Tower Mountain tells us that the deer are raiding his garden.

Walkin' Jim Stoltz, one of America's foremost folksingers and backcountry travelers, is scheduled to present a "Journey in Story, Song, Slides and Poetry Across the Wide Open Spaces and Through the Windows of Time with a Man Who Has Walked the Length and Breadth of the Continent". It's Thursday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. at Spokane Falls Community College Music Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 and are available at all G & B ticket outlets, at Mountain Gear and REI, or to charge call 325-SEAT. Sponsored by Sierra Club-Upper Columbia River Chapter.

We hope you have been reading the excellent articles in the Spokesman-Review on Earth Day. It's for EVERY DAY.

### ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

### OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

President: Michael Hamilton; Vice-President: Tom Rogers; Secretary: Helen Lininger; Treasurer: David Lenten; Board Members (in addition to officers): Omar Carroll, Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. Officers and board members serve without pay and we have no paid employees.

### MEETING DATE / PLACE

Our meetings will be held at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur each third Tuesday at 7 p.m. during the school year. You are cordially invited.

## BUTTERCUPS AND THE EARTH

Our annual Buttercup Hike--Earth Day Celebration to the land we are buying in the Rocks of Sharon area of Tower Mountain was a great success with about fifteen people, aged about ten to eighty, turning up for the five mile walk. Wildflowers were abundant along the way and especially on our land at the east end of the Rocks of Sharon ridge, where we ate our lunch and enjoyed broad views of the lands to the south.

Abundant were the bright yellow glacier lilies, white and pink spring beauties, yellowbells and diminutive bluebells. Also appearing were a few fringe-cups and biscuitroots. The Arnica nevadensis, with little sunflower-like flowers on our land, had not yet appeared. This is the only place east of Okanogan County where they have been found.

We heard flickers, a red-breasted nuthatch, a winter wren singing its long-drawn-out tinkling tunes and, best of all, a pygmy owl, all wintering species. The only spring arrival was a big turkey vulture soaring and tilting above the ridge. Deer tracks were common.

On the down side, the heavy March rains have increased the erosion on the old logging roads, not on our 170 acres however. The logging largely diverted the streams from their channels to the roads, causing not only gullies up to five feet deep but also producing sedimentation of the streams. Logging slash is still unsightly. Happily, vegetation in the area logged in 1977 has made a good comeback, somewhat offsetting the effects of the erosion. In the event that the Park Department acquires the land, it will be possible to direct the streams back into their channels and logging debris removed. Our contract requires the loggers or the seller to clean up the slash on our land.

Spokane County Parks Department is endeavoring to secure choice wild lands in the area. According to Wyn Birkenthal of the department, money is available but allocation of it is dependent upon the county commissioners. They can either continue for the third year to raise money by the Conservation Futures Tax to buy natural areas for the public to enjoy or they can put it up to a vote in September. Letters supporting this minimal tax of six dollars a year on a \$100,000 home, are important. (I hadn't even noticed the tax on my tax statement!)

### CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Please use this form when sending contributions (Contributions are income tax deductible)  
Account No. **09310**

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 A DONOR.