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# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

AUGUST 1995

<b>DONATIONS LOW IN JULY</b>	<b>TOWER MOUNTAIN HIKE PLEASURES</b>
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Donations to our organization came to \$424.27 in July, and our land purchase fund reserve yielded \$13.88 interest. Recycling brought in \$49.27. We received one memorial gift. Expenses for the month were \$139.28 for bulletin printing and postage and \$48 for administrative expense. We will need greater monthly contributions if we are to continue making our quarterly payments of over \$6000 on our Rocks of Sharon-Tower Mountain natural area purchase. We do expect contributions to pick up in the fall. Our thanks to you who sent donations during July and have given permission to be listed here: Bertha B. Booth, Eris A. Heggem, Glen W. Kivett, Janice G. Mahoney, Frank Potter, Tom Rogers, Iris K. Scheel, Mrs. F.L. Terhaar, Florence Thayer and Jeanne H. Wilson. Again, THANKS!.

Prices for recyclables remain high. Newspaper brings 2 1/4 cents a pound; corrugated cardboard, 2 1/2 cents; aluminum cans, 45 cents; and PET plastic bottles, 4 cents at Spokane Recycling Products on Main just west of Freya. Glass and tin cans are accepted but they are not able to pay for them so don't throw them into the garbage!

We have information that the Spokane County Engineers have it on their agenda to build a road across Dishman Hills just south of our land. This does not appear desirable as it would cut through a natural area and likely be a hazard to both the wildlife and to motorists who would have to avoid striking them.

We are informed that the South Valley arterial is still in their plans, despite much opposition by Sprague Avenue businesses and Spokane environmental organizations.

The struggle of the Russian people to protect world art masterpieces as depicted recently by Channel 7 gives us hope that our own masterpieces of Nature can survive though they are constantly being threatened--and destroyed--by powerful, relentless forces. Development and exploitation are occurring in many a place. Proposals are afloat to sell off our public lands--national forests and national and state parks. Do we want to be shut out from our lands?

We are again reminded by the quote on our association's letterhead "All that will ever be saved will be saved in the next few years." Right in our own back yard are masterpieces to be saved, including the beautiful forests of Dishman Hills and Tower Mountain-Rocks of Sharon.

**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 / BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**MEETING DATE / TIME**

We will be resuming our monthly meetings in September, at Opportunity Elementary, S. 1109 Wilbur each third Tuesday at 7 p.m. You are encouraged to attend.

A recent hike up Tower Mountain in the area Spokane County is trying to add to the natural area yielded a modest number of wild flowers--not to mention tansy mustard along the lower creek--blues of harebell, gentian and brooklime, and eighteen kinds of birds. Only one warbler appeared--this group of birds has been scarce here in recent years, probably because of the destruction of Central and South American rain forest where they winter. The fall migration has barely begun, birds from the mountains and Canada not having yet arrived.

On the hike down some butterflies were common: big orange-brown fritillaries, new brood mourning cloaks and an anglewing, both of which will winter as adults. Little woodland skippers, which usually visit the tansy, congregated instead on moist soil--maybe the hot weather was making them thirsty! Yellowjackets and hornets of at least three species were common. They won't bother you if you don't bother them (squeeze them or go near their nests). They just want to be left alone.

Surprising was widespread skeletonizing of the leaves of willow by little beetles, not previously noted in the area. Likely this will not kill these bushes. It will be interesting to see whether these little insects will decrease or disappear as their natural enemies discover them. (The caterpillars that wrought similar havoc on lupines in the Dishman Hills a few years ago had virtually disappeared a year later.)

Iller Creek was waterless nearly everywhere, the hot weather apparently negating the heavy summer rainfall which caused the old logging road to erode further, up to three feet deep in one place.

This month we acted as guide to a group from St. Mark's Lutheran Church hiking in Dishman Hills. Led by Jackie Sachse, the hikers included also two little preschool girls and a baby in a backpack. All enjoyed the trip, apparently even the baby!

**CONTRIBUTION COUPON**

Please use this form when sending contributions

(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. **06514**

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Please put your account number on your check.

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\_\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME LISTED AS A DONOR.