



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, April, 1997



APRIL IN THE HILLS



An early April hike into the Hills found many bright buttercups and grass widows heralding the arrival of Spring. Carpets of sprouts proclaimed the promise of a multitude of flowers to come as the soil warms and the days lengthen. Water abounds, with flowing springs, small creeks, and full ponds attesting to above normal precipitation. At East and West ponds tree frogs were croaking up a storm, and a fine crop of leaches were noted as they wiggled their way through the shallows. A shy pair of Mallards slipped away into the shelter of last year's cattails. The juncoes that spent the winter at backyard feeders are returning to the Hills where they will nest. Unusual was a white-breasted nuthatch hunting insects in the bark crevices of ponderosa pines. On the wing was a mourning cloak butterfly and a inch worm moth, active after a winter's hibernation.

The trails are in much better shape now that trail clearing crews have been busy since the first of the month. Over half of the main trails have been cleared; the secondary trails will have to wait their turn till after all the main trails are done. If you find your favourite shortcut still blocked by downfall, this may be part of our trail restoration project and we intended this trail to remain closed. There will be "trail being restored" signs put out later in the season to mark those paths to stay off of. Please be careful around the few downfalls that remain in the way.



ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving natural areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton at 747-8147 with any questions about the Association. Our monthly meetings are at Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Willbur, the third Tuesday at 7 PM, **You are cordially invited.**

We thank the following March donors who have given permission to be listed here: Marge Benander, Boulevard Garden Club, Rita Cencich, Adeline Colbert, Roger Fruci, Connie Gillingham, Frank Howard, Nicolin Gray, Don Griffiths, L. Hatch, B. Jacklin, Elizabeth Jacobsen, Mary Jones, Rebecca Knapp, Helen Lininger, Janice Mahoney, Margaret Millsap, Madeline Phelps, Michele Pope, Tom Rogers, Iris Scheel, Philip Spohn, Helen Stowell, J. Talbot, Florence Thayer, Mrs. W. Vogt, John Warner, Howard Waterman, and Jeanne. If you should have been listed and we missed doing so please call Tom Rogers, 926-7949.

We have finally have obtained the names of last December's donors, here listed: James Banta, James Conaty, Doris Distad, Carol Ellis, Harriet Fix, Rich Gigg, W. Fernan, Margaret Galbraith, Wilbert Fritz, John Gardner, George Girvin, John Harman, Don Griffiths, Steven Heape, Inge Hendron, Le Roy Hook, Glen Kivitt, Patrick Lettermaier, Helen Lininger, Hannah Lovik, John OBrien, Joy Peterson, Stephen Peterson, Marion Pillsburg, Francis Potter, Tom Rogers, Luella Rowberg, Richard Schmidt, S. Schrimshire, Spokane Area Retired Educators Foundation, Kristen Steward, Jan Strobeck, Robert Turner, G. Walvoord, Mary Water, Jody Wende, Jeanne Wilson, and Mrs. H. Wimpy. Many thanks!



A MATTER OF MONEY

The generosity of you donors out there is truly impressive, so we thought that you deserve a good rundown on the Association's budget. To start with, the Association is 100% volunteers, which includes officers, board members, newsletter publishing and mailing, accounting and tax preparation, education events, and various conservation projects. The bulk of operation cost is the newsletter, 850 copies, which cost about \$90 per month to mail, and \$20 to print (printed on donated equipment). Other expenses include County tax (\$120/year) on DHNA owned land, membership in other conservation organizations (under \$50/year), escrow cost (\$50/year), and permits (\$100/year). The remainder goes to land purchases.

Donations and dues total about \$12K to \$15K per year, with special, large donations arriving every so often. Our first quarter of 1997 resulted in about \$3,900 income. Out of every dollar given, 8 cents goes to the newsletter cost, 1.5 cents to tax and permit, and 1/2 cent to misc. The rest, 90 cents, goes to land purchases. Donations above annual dues obligations, go right into land purchases.

We are committed to assure that your continued donations are an efficient and effective means for you to participate in the saving of Spokane's Natural Heritage. We are now paying off 175 acres of land that we bought 2 years ago on Tower Mt. as a start of the new Rocks of Sharon nature area. We are approaching the halfway mark to payoff this land. We hope that you're with us for the long haul in assuring that our Spokane remains a wonderful place to live.

EXTRA

If you get this news letter in time, don't forget the buttercup hike on Sunday, April 20th, starting at 1:30 pm at Camp Caro.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS or DUES**
 All contributions are tax deductible

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNA
 E. 10820 Maxwell
 Spokane, WA 99206

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