



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, September 2000

VISITORS

With all the things going on at the Dishman Hills lately we have attracted a different variety of people to experience the "issues" first hand. Amongst the plethora (better look that word up!) of visitors this summer which included engineers, commissioners, politicians, reporters, and conservationist, one group was pretty unique, the Write to Life class from Spokane Community College. This class is an interdisciplinary pairing of Environmental Biology and English Composition and had a series of field trips in order to write about environmental issues. The topic was the competition between the natural environment and development, and what better place to tour than the new roadway on the northern side of the Natural Area. The Association lead the group through a number of interesting situations including a toxic waste dump cleanup area, a roadway construction zone, and a proposed water tank site. The students were bursting with questions, took lots of notes, and wrote an article for their school newspaper that summed up the problems and challenges involved with interfacing nature with urban growth.

MEMORIALS HELP

Memorial donations have become a very important part of our fund raising efforts in the last several years. In 1998 there were 22 memorial funds, in 1999 there were 11, and there have been 9 so far in 2000. Memorial funds were, unless otherwise requested, placed 100 percent into the land purchase fund. The Association is very proud to be the recipient of so much generosity in memory of those who worked with, and appreciated places like the Dishman Hills in their lifetime. There are some good reasons why our Association is a popular place for memorial donations.

First of all, we have a impressive track record of over 30 years conservation efforts, saving hundreds of acres of natural lands, building the Dishman Hills NRCA, and starting the new Rocks of Sharon Nature Area on Tower Mt. We are very efficient being 100 percent volunteers, and have shown a commitment to the community that suggest we are going to be around for the next millennium. Secondly, we are one of few non-profit, private organizations around here that is activity saving land through land purchases and it makes sense that memorial funds are used to save some of our Natural Heritage for future generations, a lasting gift to the community. Lastly, there seems to be a sense of duty to finish the job of saving natural lands in respect of those deceased that started the task, filling an obligation to balance growth with preservation, and to do what we can while there is still the opportunity. Whatever the reasons, the community's generosity through memorial fund donations is a great morale boost to those who volunteer to fight the good fight of natural area preservation.

SITE STEWARDS NEEDED

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has asked the Association to participate in a State-wide site steward program that will use volunteers to patrol certain priority natural areas such as the Dishman Hills NRCA, and file reports every so often. TNC has been involved with the Hills for sometime. Early on TNC supported some of our land purchases with loans, and they consider our Natural Area an Eastern Washington success story. The TNC contact for those interested in the site steward program is Janet O'Connell (206) 923-1987. She plans to have some training for volunteers sometime next Spring. There will be more information forthcoming, but this would be a good time to express some interest. Maybe this program could be a start of a TNC presence here in Spokane, while now one has to phone over to Seattle for a contact.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We have a monthly meeting the third Tuesday of the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm.

The following are our July and August donors that have consented to be listed: Boulevard Garden Club, David Cole, Sign Currier, Nicolin Gray, Randall Greyerbiehl, Ken Gudgel, Adeline Haynes, Eris Heggem, Patricia Houff, Mark Huggar, Camille Kovarik, Gail Lambert Memorial (22 donors), Mary Lentz, Helen Lininger, Marilyn Miller, Mary Meagher, Trudy Miller, Gale Mueller, Bruce Rosenoff, Marjorie Rozell, Mary Rudd, Nanette Smith, Helen Stowell, Patricia Sweeney, Beth Tietjen, Barney Wilson, Art Zack, and Hershel Zellman. **Thank you one and all!**

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