

LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the Dishman Hills

December 2012



CONSERVANCY NEWS

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have questions. Our board meets every month on the third Tuesday. Our next meeting will be on December 18th, 7 PM. We meet at the Moran Prairie Spokane County Library, 6004 South Regal St. Visitors are always welcomed.

The following are our November donors: Barbara Baumgarten, Douglas Bradford, Bruno Caprez, Nancy Cashon, Joseph Collins, Janice Cooperstein, Pam Crew, Edwin Holmes, Hal Holte, Stanley & Bernice Fahlgren, Joan Fergin, Inge Henfron, Karol Kaye, Gloria Krebs, Cynthia Langlois, Patrick Lettenmaier, Mary Meagher, Leo Middendorf, George Momany, Michael Ormsby, Jill Pestrin, Robin Redman, Norma Rosenberger, Helen Stowell, Jim VanderMeer, Susan Virnig, Jacqueline Volz, Janet Wingenroth, and one anonymous donor. Thanks for your support.

The Monarch butterfly is one of the smaller creatures of our forest in the Dishman Hills, but one that possesses a big story of what life is all about. Their tale-to-tell is an appropriate message for all our considerations in this season of Holidays, blockbuster movies, family gatherings, and Christmas time off.

This is an insect known for its' amazing lifestyle. Butterflies, in general, are fascinating creations. They employ several body forms in each lifecycle, advancing from egg to caterpillar to pupa to butterfly. At the mention of metamorphoses one thinks immediately of butterflies. They "taste" with their feet, increase body size more than 30,000 times after hatching, and can generate weak sounds by rubbing body parts to frighten unwanted guests. But the Monarch is something special.

Monarchs have been in outer space via the Space Shuttle Atlantis. They are victims of current climate changes, and they are globe trekkers. Most notable is their migrations to take advantage of the winter warmth of Mexico, and the summer food of the USA. This butterfly, with a brain the size of a pinhead, supports a mission of life that includes a 2,500 mile annual journey with accurate navigation, timing of appearing food sources, and the ability to pass critical information to their offspring. Each generation of the Monarch also uses what nature offers to support its' mission. The first generation leaving Mexico to head north is timed to find the ripening milkweed in Texas, the nutrition fuel to sent the next generation north. Each individual is a link in a chain. Four generations are needed to make the migration and this is how something big is done by something small.

What is the message the Monarch gives us this season? We are also links in a chain. Our civilization today rest on the works of thousands of years and billions of people. This is how we reached the moon, conquered disease, and how we have unraveled the mysteries of the world around us. The monarch reminds us that we all are part of a long journey. While we enjoy the efforts of the past, there is a solemn responsibility to work for those to come. We in the Conservancy feel this is the time to save the natural spaces in our community for the future. We wish you all the best of journeys for the Holidays.

YES, I want to help protect our natural areas in the Spokane Region

Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation of :

\$ 15* \$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100 Other _____ * annual dues, due by June 30

Gift is a Memorial for: _____

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Please return this form along with your check payable to DHC

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