



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

April 1983

ASSOCIATION HOLDS HIKES, SHOWS

The small group of enthusiasts who braved the sprinkles March 27 on our Buttercup Hike found plenty to see. Buttercups and grass widows were everywhere and a few spring beauties and "pepper and salt" biscutroots were in flower. Glacier lilies were opening their yellow curls. Three mallards moved stealthily in the pond in Caro Ravine and a red-winged blackbird called at West Pond. The usual chorus of tree toads was strangely silent. A raven, a chickadee and a towhee did greet us, however.

"Birds of yard and field" was the topic of a slide show presented by our association to Boulevard Garden Club in early March, followed the next week by slides of Dishman Hills and their flowers, to Sandy Hill Garden Club. We enjoyed making the presentations and thank the clubs for their donations to our land acquisition fund.

St. Mary's School's sixth grade class and their teacher, Greg Foxley, enjoyed a nature study hike into Dishman Hills March 29, our association assisting. Light rain dampened heads but not the children's enthusiasm, and turned into a downpour just as we got back to Camp Caro. March showers bring April flowers!

HILLS LAND OPTION LOOMS

Spokane County Park Department is negotiating an option for the 140 acres adjacent to The Nature Conservancy's preserve in the Dishman Hills, according to Supt. Sam Angove. Please keep on contributing to our land fund. Hopefully the land will be acquired by the end of 1983.

AUDUBON HIKE INTO HILLS MAY 14

Spokane Audubon Society invites you to a field trip into Dishman Hills and to the Spokane Valley habitat of the upland sandpiper, declared endangered in the state. The trip starts at 7:30 a.m. May 14, at Sprague Ave. and Sargent road. Bring a sack lunch.

LOOKING FOR PLANT, ANIMAL BOOKS?

For information on plants and animals of Eastern Washington we suggest the following:

Washington Wildflowers by Earl Larrison. \$7.95 (paper)
Trees of Washington. 50 cents. (paper) Agricultural Extension Service, N. 222 Havana, Spokane
Field Guide to Western Birds by Roger T. Peterson. \$16.95, \$10.95 (paper)
Birds of North America by Robbins et al. \$9.95, \$6.95 (paper)
Birds of the Pacific Northwest by Larrison \$14.95 (paper)
Field Guide to the Mammals by Burt and Grossenheider. \$8.95 (paper)
Mammals of the Pacific Northwest by Larrison. \$17.95 (paper)
Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians by Stebbins. \$13.95
Amphibians and Reptiles of the Pacific Northwest by Nussbaum et al. \$19.95.
Field Guide to Butterflies of Pacific Northwest by Christensen \$16.95
Watching Washington Butterflies by Robert M. Pyle. (paper)
Fishes of Idaho by Simpson & Wallace. \$10.95
Plans are virtually complete for the ecology daycamp on the Little Spokane River July 30 and August 1-5. For details call Spokane Audubon Society at 466-6626.

SPRING REACHING HIGH TIDE IN HILLS

Wild flowers are at their greatest abundance and variety in May and June with such beauties as bitterroot, Indian paint brush, larkspur, blue clematis, wild geranium, yellow violets and canas. These are the months for most of the flowering shrubs also: hawthorn, ninebark, chokecherry, wild rose, thimbleberry, deer brush and dogwood, followed by elderberry, mock orange (syringa) and mountain spray. Also come the showy flowers of herbaceous plants, scarlet gilia, dogbane, brown-eyed Susan, stonecrop and lupine and the orange trumpets of honeysuckle vine. Higher in the foothills appear pink ladyslippers (Calypso), mountain ladyslippers (Cypripedium), Jacob's ladder, pink pyrola and queneucup.

Butterfly numbers increase rapidly in May. Our four kinds of swallowtails, sometimes incorrectly called "monarchs", are the most conspicuous. The most common, the western tiger swallowtail, prefers chokecherry leaves for its larvae. The mountain swallowtail lays its eggs on plants of the carrot family; biscuit root is probably its food plant in the foothills.

May is also the month in which most of the birds return. By June nearly all of them will be nesting. More kinds of warblers arrive and house wrens sing incessantly as they stuff twigs into holes in snags, crannies of buildings or bird houses. Solitary vireos sing most of the day in the conifers and warbling vireos do likewise from streamside foliage. Several kinds of small flycatchers dart out from their perches, snapping up insects. Last to arrive are the thrushes, red-eyed vireos, chats, redstarts, catbirds, nighthawks and poor-wills. The latter two feed entirely on the wing but nest upon the ground, where they are well camouflaged by their mottled gray-brown plumage.

PLANT SOCIETY HOLDS TRIPS, SESSIONS

If you are interested in identifying native flowers and other wild plants, Washington Native Plant Society invites you to a field trip into the Dishman Hills May 28 starting at Camp Caro at 9 a.m. The society is also holding a session on plants of the sagebrush country at Ellensburg May 14-15. For details contact Pam Camp, Spokane chapter president, at 456-2570 daytimes or 534-4663 evenings.

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from. Our monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend. For further information and for slide programs and guide service into the Dishman Hills call us at 926-7949.

Please use this form when sending contributions to save the Dishman Hills and the Tower Mountain corridor. Your dues and/or gifts are income tax deductible.

\$ ___ Annual dues (\$5) New? ___ Renewal? ___

\$ ___ Land purchase fund

\$ ___ In remembrance of _____

\$ ___ Bulletin expense fund (\$1 or more)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to David E. Lentes, Treasurer, E. 10922 23rd Spokane, WA. 99206. Many Thanks! To reduce expense, no receipt or acknowledgement will be sent unless requested.