



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

March, 1983

FLOWERS AND BIRDS WELCOME SPRING

Late March and April bring welcome bits of color to the nearby hills as the flowers of glacier lilies ("dogtooth violets"), spring beauties, fringecups, bluebells and biscuitroot appear. Grassy slopes are bright with balsamroot ("wild sunflower"), phlox, shooting stars ("love darts") and yellowbells. Shrubby hillsides are white-splashed with blossoming serviceberries. Along foothills creeks trilliums and skunk cabbage appear.

On brushy slopes towhees are trilling and the vigorous music of fox sparrows bursts upon the ear. Residential areas in the valley are seeing the last of the Bohemian waxwing flocks, which are headed for nesting sites in Canadian forests. Robins are singing and establishing territories, which they will defend aggressively. Song sparrows and house finches are in full song.

Great blue herons are returning to their heronry along the Little Spokane River, where they will raise their broods on massive nests of sticks high in the cottonwoods. The birds are very sensitive to disturbance at this time so the Audubon Society in cooperation with the county park department will again patrol the area below the Painted Rocks to warn canoers, floaters and hikers to avoid coming too close. Please spread the word around so the heronry, unique to Spokane County, can be protected.

HOW GROWS YOUR WILDFLOWER GARDEN?

Here is the latest on your bulletin editor's attempts to grow native plants in his yard. Right now the grass widows and buttercups are doing well, especially since the quail, which last spring ate the grass widow flowers, haven't found them yet! The old man's whiskers (*Geum triflorum*) are making good vegetative growth for flowering later and the beardtongue leaves (*Penstemon confertus*) are looking healthy. The biggest problem is that the Idaho fescue is threatening to take over the place; some of the plants will have to be removed and planted elsewhere. The *Geum* appears to be able to hold its own against the grass. The stonecrop (*Sedum*) looks good but could also be overwhelmed. This is a good time now to start new plants in your wildflower patch.

WANT TO LEARN THAT PLANT'S NAME?

Washington Native Plant Society will conduct Saturday plant identification classes April 9 and 23, May 7 and 21 and June 4 and 18. Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to noon with some afternoon field trips. The Bureau of Land Management office, E. 4217 Main, is the place. Nicolin Gray, retired botanist from Whitworth College, will be the lead lecturer, with Ken Suedberg and Pat Harrison of Eastern Washington University and Pam Camp of WNPS and BLM also giving presentations. The course is geared toward the beginner as well as those with field knowledge. If interested send your name, address and phone number to Pam Camp, P.O. Box 4212, Spokane, WA 99202. A \$5 registration fee is needed by March 31. Information on suggested books and supplies will be sent to those interested.

RICH LANDERS SHOWING "AH WILDERNESS"

Rich Landers, Spokesman-Review outdoor editor, will present one of his tremendously entertaining slide shows, "Ah, Wilderness", at Fort George Wright Common building March 25 at 7 p.m. after a fund raiser dinner for Spokane Audubon Society. Tickets are \$8.50; purchase deadline is March 20. For further information call 926-7762 or 466-7223 or send check payable to Spokane Audubon Society, marked "Dinner" to Dave Plemons, 1817 S. Regal, Spokane, WA 99203.

MORE FUNDS SOUGHT FOR DISHMAN HILLS

Although the outlook is moderately favorable for the availability of county and federal funds for acquiring 140 additional acres for Dishman Hills Natural Area, this is by no means certain. Because of this we decided at our February meeting to go ahead aggressively with efforts to build up our land fund. If we do not get outside help, we have only enough money for about one third of the parcel. Even in the event that our money is not used, other choice parcels in the Hills are in our plans for eventual addition. We thank you for your past help and urge you to continue to contribute whatever you can. And remember, your donations are federal income tax deductible. Please use the coupon at the bottom of the page.

ECOLOGY DAYCAMP PLANS MOVE AHEAD

The ecology daycamp is tentatively set to start July 30 at St. George's School on the Little Spokane River and will continue August 1 through 5. Sponsored by Spokane County Conservation District in cooperation with Spokane County Department of Parks and Recreation and Spokane Audubon Society, it will provide instruction and outdoor experiences for teachers, leaders, resource specialists and nature enthusiasts. It is open to anyone from high school age on up. Registration will be \$20 and the deadline for registering will be June 14. Fliers giving full details will be available in early April from our association, the Bureau of Land Management office on Havana, the County Parks Department and Audubon Society. College credit will be available for an additional fee.

BUTTERCUP HIKE IS MARCH 27

Our annual buttercup hike into the Dishman Hills will be Sunday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m. starting at Camp Caro. Coffee, cocoa and cookies will be served at the lodge. We'll see you there!

Larry Thiemann's name was by mistake omitted from the board of directors listed in our February issue. My apologies! TR.

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.