



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

November 1984

GARDEN CLUBS SEE DISHMAN HILLS SHOW

We were happy to give our Dishman Hills slide show to four garden clubs in October and November. The Lilies of the Valley, Iris Society, Lady Bugs and Rockwood Garden Club enjoyed closeups of flowers, butterflies, mammals and other animals, scenic views and children's groups having fun and learning about the life of the Hills. There is no charge for these programs but, naturally--no pun intended--we welcome donations to help us add land to the Natural Area.

EFFORTS TO BUY MORE LAND CONTINUE

We are still awaiting a reply to our latest offer to purchase 140 acres in the Dishman Hills next to The Nature Conservancy 80-acre nature preserve. Meanwhile we are also taking a look at other parcels of land in the Hills. Please continue to contribute to our land fund--invest in the quality of life of our community. (We have no paid employees--it's all volunteer. Our operating expenses no doubt are among the lowest percentage-wise of any nonprofit organization.)

RECYCLING PROFITABLE, PREVENTS WASTE

Recycling continues good in the Spokane area, with the exception of aluminum, the price of which has dropped, but is still well worth it. Newspaper, corrugated cardboard, non-slick paper, returnable bottles, glass bottles and jars and scrap metals are all saleable. My own personal goal of \$400 from recyclables this year has already been passed, thanks to the many of you who have saved these valuable materials instead of sending them to our overflowing dumps. Let's expand the good work and maybe we will someday be as smart as Nature at recycling and keeping a liveable world!

Insects (Cont. from column 2)

The delicate green lacewing flies, which are hibernators, show up at our windows at night. Their larvae ravenously eat aphids, as do lady beetles ("lady bugs"). The latter gather in immense numbers in the foothills and mountains in the autumn and spend the winter under dead leaves and vegetation. In the spring they fly down to the valleys and disperse. How do they know how to get together again in the fall? They probably are not the same ones that overwintered.

Most grasshoppers lay their eggs in autumn in "pods" in loose soil by roadsides and elsewhere. However, a few of the colorful band-winged locusts and the diminutive grouse locusts survive the winter as adults, appearing quite early in the spring. Those that go through the winter as eggs do not mature and get their wings until midsummer.

Cicadas have no winter problems. They live cozily underground for many years, sucking juices from roots and emerging some summer to noisily sing away their adult lives.

We will be meeting at the Agricultural Building, N. 222 Havana, November through March, at 7:30 p.m. each fourth Wednesday. After that we will be back at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road. For further information and for slide programs and guide service into the Dishman Hills call us at 926-7949.

INSECTS ARE TUCKED AWAY FOR WINTER

"Where do bugs go in winter?" the lady supposedly asked the tramp, who replied, "Search me." But seriously, where do all those myriads of insects go when the weather turns cold and snowy? Most kinds of adult insects are killed by sub-freezing temperatures, yet somehow their kind appears again in the spring. Perhaps the most common strategy is overwintering pupas, which complete their transformation to adults when the weather warms up. This is true of most species of butterflies and moths, though one group of butterflies, which includes the mourning cloak, tortoiseshells and anglewings, emerges from its pupas in late summer and passes the winter in some protected cranny, taking wing again in late February and March.

The moths that flutter at lighted windows in late autumn presumably do likewise. Hibernating in the larval stage is unusual for these scaly-winged insects but the handsome Lorquin's admiral does so, the partly grown caterpillar rolling up a leaf for a sleeping bag. The woolly bear caterpillar, black with a red band around its middle, also hibernates, but may crawl about on a warm day.

Some beetles presumably pass the winter as pupae but others survive as adults or larvae. Some flies are active at rather low temperatures late in the fall and early in spring and presumably hibernate, though others likely pupate for winter. Some kinds of mosquitoes hibernate as adults while others pass the winter in the egg stage, in depressions that will fill with water in the spring.

Those pesky yellowjackets and hornets die in the fall, except for the queens, which after mating, find shelter and hibernate, starting a new nest in the spring. Honey bee workers and their queen--the drones are kicked out in the autumn to save food--are relatively inactive in cold weather hive-bound except on warm days, and rear no broods. Most ants beat the cold by staying in their underground homes.

Among the true bugs, some hibernate as adults. These include stinkbugs and leaf-footed bugs. One kind of damsel bug, a tiny predator, has been found alive on the snow in the Dishman Hills in December. The masked budbug hunter takes advantage of our warm houses year round, where it preys upon any small insects, including earwings, that find their way in. Their young are called "dust bugs" because they camouflage themselves with dust and lint which clings to their slightly sticky bodies. They are harmless to humans.

(Continued in Column 1)

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 (\$10) New? ___ Renewal? ___

\$ ___ Land purchase fund

\$ ___ In remembrance of _____

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

\$ ___ Student (\$5) and/or Living Lightly

___ Your account number above your address.

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to David E. Lentz, Treasurer, P.O. BOX 141561, Spokane, Wa. 99214. Many Thanks! To reduce expense, no receipt or acknowledgement will be sent unless requested.