



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

SEPTEMBER 1985

WHAT CHANGES HAVE FIRES MADE?

The numerous fires this summer have brought disruption to the activities of both human and natural communities, destroying homes and barns and snags, trees, brush and small plants that provided shelter and food for animals, both domestic and wild. Examination a few days after this summer's burn at Tower Mountain revealed that some pine trees had survived. Evidence of animals was sparse. Fresh pocket gopher mounds and ants emerging from holes showed that life beneath the surface was spared. A few insects and birds wandered into the burn and, surprisingly, fresh deer tracks traversed the ash and bare soil.

Destructive as fire is to some kinds of life, it favors other kinds. While trees are often killed, brush and perennial herbs usually are not. Destruction of the forest lets in more sunlight, favoring brush and smaller plants. Deer thrive on the added food supply. Brush and shrub nesting birds such as towhees, chats, chipping sparrows, warblers and vireos increase as do many kinds of insects, including the sun-loving butterflies. Snags provide opportunity for woodpeckers and nuthatches to excavate nest holes, which may later be used by wrens, bluebirds, chickadees, kestrels, small owls, flying squirrels and even honey bees. Snags and logs may be invaded by wood-boring beetles and carpenter ants. (To be continued in October issue)

We greatly miss the cheery smile and contagious enthusiasm of Bernice Ammons, who was fatally injured in an auto accident recently. A great lover of people and of the out-of-doors, she has even hiked down into the Grand Canyon. A member of our Board of Directors, she took care of our memorial donations, writing "thank you" notes to the donors and informing the families of those memorialized. She also gathered impressive stacks of newspaper for recycling and sale, organizing neighbors for the effort, and thus substantially helping the Dishman Hills project. She remains a bright inspiration to us all. (Continued in column 2)

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane Area for people to enjoy and learn from.

We offer slide programs on the Dishman Hills and other outdoor subjects, and guide service on hikes in the Hills. No charge for these. Our monthly meetings are at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman, the fourth wednesday at 7:30 pm. You are cordially invited to attend.

LAND PAYMENT DUE SEPT. 15

Our first payment of \$6340 for the 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area is due September 15. We greatly appreciate the good response you have shown. If you have not already donated it will be greatly appreciated if you will do so before the 15th. We have a five year contract so we must make a continued strong effort. We will let you know each quarter of the year just how the fund raising is going.

This land purchase depends entirely upon you and us. No county, state or federal money is available. The natural area addition is in the name of our association, in other words, owned and controlled by you and me. It's a great feeling!

(Continued from column 1)

Bernice wrote the following and placed it on the memorial notes which she sent out:

"To save some woodland and let it be free,
To all who seek adventure,
Solitude,
Knowledge,
That is a true memorial--it will last forever
And future generations will be blessed."

Bernice requested that any memorials to her be sent to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association.

Please use this form when sending contributions
(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. 12450

\$ _____ Land purchase fund

\$ _____ Memorial for _____

\$ _____ Annual Dues (\$10) New? Renewal?

\$ _____ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)

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!

Don't forget to save recyclables. Every bit helps! Call us at 926-7949 if you can't haul them yourself.