



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MARCH 1986

## DISHMAN HILLS ARE RARE TREASURE

After traveling around the Pacific Northwest quite a bit over the years, I have come to realize how fortunate we are here in Spokane to have such a fine, protected natural area as Dishman Hills right in our midst. Very few cities or towns have anything close to them that can match the Hills' quality or their potential for expansion of the preserve area. Much of our enviable position is due to what we might call geologic luck. Over a billion years ago a great upwelling of molten rock produced the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area. All the millenia of attacks by the elements have not been able to wear away the core of this mountain, whose rugged nature has for the most part defied development. Add to this the efforts of many dedicated people and we see what we have today: nearly three fourths of a square mile of unspoiled nature permanently protected. We believe that much more of this steep, rocky, snowy mountain should be preserved to maintain the quality of life for which Spokane is famous.

Speaking of snow, two of us hiked to the top of Tower Mountain March 1 and struggled through knee deep snow in places, though the ground was bare in the valleys below. Nevertheless it was a great experience.--THR

Sandy Hill Garden Club enjoyed our slide presentation on plant succession February 11. This is the botanists' name for the process by which plants invade a plantless area until it reaches its full potential of vegetative cover. Included were pictures taken three years after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens showing the gradual recovery of plant growth and even the return of a few animals.

A wildflower identification class is again being offered by the Spokane chapter of Washington Native Plant Society, through Spokane Falls Community College Institute of Extended Learning. The class will be at Shadle Park High School Thursday evenings, 7-9:30 p.m. April 10 - May 15. The cost is \$25. Instructors are Nicolin Gray of Whitworth College, Ken Swedberg of E.U.U. and Tom Rogers. For further information and application blanks call Nicolin at 467-8895.

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

Larry Thieman, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Helen E. Lininger, Secretary; David E. Lentjes, Treasurer, and Larry Thieman, Legal Advisor. Board of Directors (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Bernice Hahn, Margaret Haggin, Ann Kachinsky, Don Kachinsky, Frank Potter, June Potter and Ambrose Priestley.

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 during the winter months are at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend.

## LAND PAYMENT DUE MARCH 15

The next payment of \$6340 on the 140 acre natural area addition will be made March 15. Our treasurer Dave Lentjes' estimates of quarterly expenses and available cash are: Expenses, \$6340 for land payment and \$900 for bulletin printing and postage for a total of \$7240. Interest income on past donations, \$1500; from cash reserve, \$1240, and new donations, \$4500 (\$1500 per month), total \$7240.

December donations were very good, January's were below the \$1500 target and February's were only \$800. We need to bring that up or we will have to use up our interest-earning reserve faster than is desirable. Please keep sending all you can to keep the Dishman Hills project in good financial shape. Many thanks!

Our sincere thanks to the following who have contributed money and/ or recyclables since our February bulletin: Knox Abbott, Frances Anderson, Mrs. James Banta, Mary Briggie, Gerald Brooks, Gretchen Brown, Ross Burdge, Vera Carpenter, Frances Davis, Myrna Decker, Ee Dah Haw Garden Club, Myrtle Erickson, Carl Erickson, June Foote, Mr./Mrs. Frank Freeze, Rita & Louie Gleason, Bernice Hohn, Adeline Haynes, Hobnailers, Blanche Holsten, Martha Horn, Dorothy Kurahara, Lady Bugs Garden Club, Wm. Marchand, Minnie & Jay Mackey, Sarah Mickels, Victoria Mir, Sylvia Olson, Charles Parsons, Ambrose Priestley, Hazel Richard, Rockwood Garden Club, Tom Rogers, Sandy Hill Garden Club, Dr./Mrs. George Schneider, Mrs. Silsby, Goldie Soucie, Esther Stewart, St. Mary's Garden Club, Jan Strobeck, Joan Talbot, James Troske, Jane Van Meter, Susan Virnig, Nan & John Waters, Steven Wheatley, Whitworth Belles Garden Club.

The annual Buttercup Hike into Dishman Hills Natural Area will start at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road at 1 p.m. Sunday March 16. The buttercups and grass widows should be in full flower. It is a fairly easy hike of about two and a half miles. From Eagle Peak you'll get a 360 degree view of the entire Spokane area. Come out and enjoy what your donations are buying!

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. Lentjes, Treasurer, P.O. Box 141561, Spokane, WA 99214. Many thanks!