



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

APRIL, 1987

HILLS HOST HAPPY HIKERS

The weather smiled on our annual buttercup hike Sunday afternoon, March 22 as 15 outdoors buffs of all ages, led by Larry Thiemann and Tom Rogers, enjoyed the spring flowers, birds and fresh air in the Hills. Buttercups and grass widows brightened the slopes. Juncoes flashed their white tail feathers as they moved from suburban feeders to nesting spots under grass clumps and bushes and a flicker called loudly for a prospective mate. Those cheerful, busy little chickadees and nuthatches also voiced their presence.

The warming sun brought out a few hibernator butterflies: a mourning cloak, dark brown bordered with bright yellow, and a California tortoiseshell that basked on the rocks atop Eagle Peak. Tree frogs were silent--apparently they "sing" only in the morning, at least on sunny days.

The Audubon Society-Sierra Club hike a week later brought out 19 people, aged 2 months and up, again led by Larry and Tom. Many more flowers were blossoming, including yellowbells and a few glacier lilies and fringe cups. The few birds included a raven flapping and croaking overhead. (May is the month when nearly all the summer birds return.) A Chipmunk scurried among the rocks. Again the tree frogs were silent.

Recycling is picking up--both literally and figuratively. Newspaper is now \$30 a ton, aluminum cans 28 cents a pound and glass 2 cents a pound. White, non-slick paper is \$30 a ton. Call us at 926-7949 if you have recyclables to donate, or drop them off at Spokane Recycling on Main just west of Freya. They will credit them to us. Please leave your name and mail your receipt to us so we can credit you on our books.

Spokane City government is making sounds as if it plans to promote recycling (the Department of Ecology's second priority ahead of the waste-to-energy plant). Hopefully the City will carry through with aggressive action. More recycling could add jobs and reduce the size and cost of the waste-to-energy plant. As for the number one D.O.E. priority, reducing the amount of waste, apparently nothing is being done locally. A few suggestions: refuse unnecessary wrapping and sacking of purchases. Avoid items encased in plastic. Buy bulk food--though we have to put them in plastic bags! Which is worse? What are your ideas?

Dr. Paul Connett, who recently spoke at Gonzaga on solid waste, said that some cities now recycle plastic and "tin" cans. Maybe we can here too, saving resources, creating jobs, saving space in landfills and lessening the danger of burning plastics.

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 Thiemann, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Helen E. Lininger, Secretary; David E. Lentens, Treasurer.

We offer slide programs on the Dishman Hills and other outdoor subjects, and guide service on hikes in the Hills. No charge for these. Call us at 926-7949 for arrangements. Our monthly meetings April into early fall are at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman at 7:30 p.m..

MARCH DONATIONS TAKE CHEERY JUMP

March donations to our land fund were most encouraging, totaling \$2125.34. This brightens the possibility that we may be able to eventually buy the land with the ponds, above the old Edgecliff hospital, and, hopefully, a strip of land around the housing development south of the natural area, to provide a wildlife corridor and hiking trail to Tower Mountain. Many thanks for your great support!

Listed here are March contributors of money, recyclables and/or services: Michael/Maggie Albro, ADK Kappa Chapter, Kermit Anderson, Linda Armacost, Kathryn Bernard, Robin Bishop, Helen Blackwell, Inga Boyd, Betty Brewster, Gretchen Brown, Vera Carpenter, Ed Colbert, Margaret Cowles, Dee Davis, Ronald DeCann, Doris Donnelly, R.W. Downing, Lelia Gano, John Gardner, Rita Gleason, Gravel Grubbers, Tollif Hance, Betty Hansen, Chris Henderson, Alice Hill, Blanche Holsten, Dan Iyall, Ann Kachinsky, Norman Kinney, Dorothy Kirk, Glen Kivett, Bonnie Kreschel, Barbara Kogler, Gregory Kroetch, Karl Krogue, Gail Lambert, Maxine Leszczykowski, Meral Loewus, Kim Martin, Gloria McCuddin, Helen McDonald, Jay McDowell, Sara Mickels, Pauline Moore, Mary Ann Mullerleile, Vee Nealey, Helen Nelson, Bruce Newman, William Nourse, Ruth Ownbey, Medora Parmentier, Violet Phinney, Sue Pollock, Francis/June Potter, Neil Prescott, Ambrose Priestley, Ethel Ramsey, Bonetta Randles, Ruby Rector, Hazel Richard, Thomas Rogers, Tom Rogers Jr., Dennis Sanders, San Souci West residents, Blanche Sarver, Elizabeth Saunders, Frank/ Clara Simons, Connie Smedley, Isabelle Smith, Mrs. F.L. Terharr, Florence/Mike Thayer, Larry Thiemann, Beth Tietgen, Irene Tomlinson, Dwight Vance, Jane Van Meter, Rita Waldref, Dr. R.A. Wetzler, Jeanne Wilson and Mary Wilson. If you contributed in March but are not listed above, please let us know. PLEASE KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING. THANKS!

Growing Pains Garden Club enjoyed our slide program on the Hills in March, as did Joanna Chapter, Westminster Congregational (not in February as we previously said). Oh, well, nobody's perfect, but the ladies' refreshments were!

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

Account No.

\$ _____ Land purchase fund

\$ _____ Memorial for _____

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

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

\$ _____ To cover bulletin expense (\$2)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 14141, Spokane, WA 99214-0141. Many thanks!