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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY, 1987

JANUARY DONORS TO HILLS LISTED

Donations to the land fund totalled \$1606.78 in January. These will go toward the March 15 payment on the 140 acre addition to the natural area. Our thanks to you, listed below, who are helping keep the project in good financial shape by donations of cash, recyclables and services. If your name is not listed for January donations, please contact us. Please keep donations coming! Knox Abbott, Ruth Aldridge, James C. Banta, James T. Bertis, Wallace Cady, Vera Carpenter, Janet R. Davis, Doris I. Donnelly, Doris Aligood, Paula A. Fissette, W.M. Frederick, John Gardner, Mrs. Donald Hagan, Mrs. M.C. Haggin, Charles W. Hammond, Wesley Hanson, Dorothy Hartung, Dr. R. Steven Heaps, Eris A. Heggen, Bob & Chris Henderson, Blanche Holsten, Mary Holz, Thelma Knowles, Gloria Krebs, Earl J. Larrison, Marry Lee, Shiran K. Lee, John Lorang, Ralph P. Lorer, James R. Loudermilk, Dr. Angelo G. Lurus, Minnie & Jay Mackey, Lynda Mather, Sandra McMillan, Marilyn A. Miller, Pauline Moore, Wallace Murphy, George & Bretha Olsen, Carroll Oroutt, Bonnie Randles, Milt Rawlings, Doris Rogers, Thomas Rogers, Dennis Sanders, Betty S. Scott, Hazel Secord, Gertrude Sipple, Nona Smith, Marie Stanley, Marilyn H. Stedman, Richard E. Steury, Florence Sylvester, Robert S. Turner, Thomas N. Tremaine, Janet Troski, Dwight J. Vance, Mary B. Watkins, Evelyn White, Jeanne Wilson and Kathryn E. Wolfe.

We are updating our mailing list. If we have not heard from you since January 1, 1984 and you wish to continue to receive our news bulletin, we will greatly appreciate it if you will contact us, either by a contribution or by mail or a phone call to 926-7949. We invite you to continue to be a part of the ongoing project to save the Dishman Hills.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program to bring wolves back into certain wilderness areas will be the subject of a public presentation by Jay Gore of the Service, Wednesday March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Tidyman's, N. 6401 Cedar. Fear, lack of understanding of wolf ecology and habits and intense control programs have contributed to the virtual disappearance of these interesting animals from the lower forty-eight states. Spokane Sierra Club is sponsoring the program. For more information call Rich Leon at 325-0747.

Our apologies for the lateness of the February bulletin. Printer malfunction was the culprit. Better luck this time, we hope!

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. Lentex, 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 during the winter are at Riverview Retirement Center, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the third Monday at 7:30 p.m. You are welcome to attend.

BIRDS SCARCE IN HILLS THIS WINTER

This winter was not a very birdy one, judging from Christmas counts and other reports. The Dishman Hills wintering bird census agrees. Red-breasted nuthatches, though continuing to be the most common species, equalled about half the eleven year average. These little birds depend not only on insects gleaned from cracks in the bark of the ponderosa pines but also eat pine seeds, which were very scarce this winter. The same seed scarcity also resulted in the complete absence of red crossbills. However, a very few white-breasted nuthatches appeared, the first since the winter of 1977-78. Chickadee numbers were average. A downy woodpecker appeared for only the third time in eleven years. An increase in the number of nest snags can be expected to bring about a rise in numbers of nuthatches, woodpeckers and chickadees. The latter nest in abandoned cavities of nuthatches and woodpeckers. Ruffed grouse remained scarce, with only one found. Populations of these birds tend to be cyclical; the last relatively good showing for them in the Hills was during the winter of 1982-83. Ravens were a bit more common as they searched for winter-killed animals but apparently found none. They may have found slim pickings on the main mountain as well, because of the mild winter.

ATTENTION SURVEYORS! We are looking for a volunteer surveyor(s) to survey the boundaries of the 140 acre parcel we are buying. We can provide an assistant, plat maps, knowledge of the approximate boundaries and the location of some onsite and nearby markers. Contact Larry Thieman at 928-4365 afternoons. This service would be income tax deductible.

Washington Native Plant Society is again conducting a class in wildflower identification, through Spokane Falls Community College. Classes will be on six Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9:30, starting April 14, at Ferris High School. Instructors will be Drs. Ken Swedberg and Suzanne Schwab of E.W.U.'s biology department, and Tom Rogers. Registration information is available in the SFCC Extended Learning bulletin mailed to your home. Call Nicolyn Gray at 467-8895 for further information.

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!