



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JANUARY, 1987

IN WINTER YOU OUGHT TO SEE

(With Apologies to Dallas Lore Sharp)

Oregon grape leaves, green and red in the snow.

Stiff brown stalks of pinedrops, laden with beadlike, drooping seed capsules.

The neat, straight line of a coyote's tracks.

Lichens, green, chartreuse, gray, brown, black, on trees, boulders, earth or fallen on the snow.

Holes fringed with frost from the frozen breath of deer mice in their homes.

Tiny brown stars of stonecrop radiating from dry stems in the snow.

The sharp hoofprints of a passing white-tail deer.

Crystal stilts of ice, formed by freezing and thawing of woodland earth, holding up mosses, lichens and pine needles.

Busy nuthatches tapping on pine trees to dislodge insects.

Chickadees searching the branches above for breakfast.

A pine of cone scales where a squirrel dines atop a rock, and overhead on a limb, the diner himself, motionless, watching you.

Tiny kinglets with bright orange or yellow crowns.

The hind-feet-first tracks of a hurrying cottontail rabbit.

Papery pods of glacier lilies, marking the spots where April flowers will appear.

A jet black raven flapping overhead.

Bald eagles at Coeur d' Alene Lake, picking up spawned out salmon or perching high in the conifers.

Who said winter is boring?

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.

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.

GIFTS TO NATURAL AREA INCREASE

December donations to Dishman Hills land fund totalled \$2128.17 plus the special \$2000 memorial gift reported in the December bulletin. This is a most heartening increase. Many thanks to all you people who donated money, recyclables and in kind, and are listed below. (If your name is not on the list as a December giver, please contact us.) Please keep the donations coming. Our next payment on the land is due March 15. Thanks again!

Harriet Allen, Kathryn Bernard, Lawrence Bernbaum, Helen Blackwell, Gretchen Brown, Lumonde Burtness, Wallace Cady, Jane Carney, Vera Carpenter, Marlene Charneski, Ruth Cunningham, Verna Dolphin, Bernice Fahlgren, Joan Fergin, Frank Freeze, Margaret Galbraith, Rita Gleason, Dr. Kenneth Gudgel, Charline Hagen, Mrs. M. C. Haggin, J. L. Havlick, Le Roy Hook, Dorothy Kirk, Jane Kirk, Mrs. F. L. Knechtel, Evelyn Knierim, Hans Krauss, Angie Krumbach, Lynn Lang, Patrick Lettermaier, Helen Lininger, Florence Lowell, Minnie & Jay Mackey, Mrs. Wm. Marchand, Bettie Maron, Dorothy McLarren, Margie Middendorf, Rita Moran, Vee Nealey, Evalyn & Larry Nelson, William Nourse, Aroa Orme, Sylvia Olsen, Neal Pattison, Ernie Pike, Francis & June Potter, Ambrose Priestley, Lorna Ream, Hazel Richard, Thomas Rogers, Dennis Sanders, San Souci West Residents, Elizabeth Saunders, Helen Stowell, Florence Thayer, Larry Thieman, Dwight Vance, Elizabeth Welty, Evelyn White, Jeanne Wilson, Mary Wilson, Eugene Zanck.

Don't put away your winter coat yet but buttercups have been found in the Dishman Hills Natural Area. Pat Karle found one brave flower while on Spokane Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count January 4 and Ray Staley found one a few days later. Of course it's the warm weather and lack of snow that made this possible, but it is apt to be a long, hot, dry summer, with not enough water to turn the generators, if we don't get more snow before spring. So don't complain if it snows.

Board members and officers for 1987 will be elected at our January meeting.

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)

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!