



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MARCH, 1987

FLOWERS, BIRDS ANNOUNCE SPRING

Spring is surging in the Dishman Hills. Bright buttercups dot the grassy slopes and the warm lavender pink of grass widows glows from atop slender green stems. Buds of serviceberry bushes are chartreuse spearheads pointing to oncoming greenery.

Red-breasted nuthatches, year-round residents, sound their "quank-quank" syllables. Soon they will be excavating nest cavities in dead pines. The low-keyed trills of towhees announce these handsome birds' return. Juncoes are leaving backyard feeders to search for hidden nesting spots in the Hills.

At East Pond tree frogs are vocalizing their very loudest. The water level is extremely low there because of the dry winter, which only a wet spring can remedy. We hope some day to make this pond and nearby West Pond part of the natural area. We are working with The Nature Conservancy people, who are also interested in adding the ponds to the natural area.

On a recent visit to the Hills I met two young boys delighting in the area. It was a real pleasure to explore with them. Such are the joy of the present and the hope of the future. They made my day!--TR.

The time is ripe to increase efforts to recycle instead of throwing everything into the garbage. Recycling (and initial reduction of the amount of garbage) could reduce the size and hence the cost, of the plant.

The pros and cons of the waste to energy plant will be discussed March 26 at 7 p.m. at Hughes Auditorium, Gonzaga U. Dr. Paul Connett, a nationally known expert on the subject, and David Birks, director of the local project, will be the speakers. Come and be informed!

We expect to bring in more than \$500 on recycling this year, thanks to the cooperation of many Dishman Hills boosters.

If you have newspaper; non-slick white paper; aluminum cans, foil and scrap; glass jars, returnable beverage bottles, and/or copper and brass, please let us know and we will make arrangements to pick it up. Thanks!

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. Lentz, 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.

FEBRUARY LAND FUND DONORS LISTED

February donations to the land fund dropped to only about \$950. This means that we will have to draw more heavily upon our reserves to meet our March 15 payment of about \$4000 for the 140 acre addition to the natural area. Our thanks to all of you who are helping with money, recyclables and service. The following contributed during February: Ansel Barton, Kathryn Bernard, Wallace Cady, Vera Carpenter, Omar Carroll, Dick & Harriet Evans, Cirque de Fleurs, Mark Davis, Mary & Ray Domitrovich, Naomi Edge, Eileen Garcia, William Featherstone, Eris Heggen, Blanche Holsten, Lynn John, Florence Keller, Daniel Knierim, Theima Knowles John Kuster, Myrtle Lang, Jay & Minnie Mackey, Florence Miller, Mrs. Roy Mills, Vee Neeley, Linda Peterson, Francis & June Potter, Bonetta Randles, Thomas Rogers, Dennis Sanders, San Souci West residents, Elizabeth Saunders, Connie Smedley, Jan Strobeck, Robert Swanson, J. N. Talbot, Mrs. F. L. Terhaar, Larry Thieman, James Valentine and Dwight Vance. If you contributed in February but you are not listed above, please let us know. We are reducing our monthly bulletin printing and mailing expense by revising our mailing list. However, it appears likely that we will have to take on an additional expense, that of providing some chain link fencing to keep motorcycles out of the natural area. PLEASE KEEP THE DONATIONS COMING. THANKS AGAIN!

Our annual Buttercup Hike is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 22 at 1 p.m. Meet us at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman for a fairly easy walk of about 2.5 miles and enjoy the spring flowers and birds.

In February two groups enjoyed our Dishman Hills slide show: Kappa chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa teachers' group and Joanna chapter of the Women's Fellowship of Westminster Congregational Church.

You may have the impression that very few birds were present in the Dishman Hills this winter. This was true for the 25.5 acre census area but not necessarily for the Hills as a whole. Larry Thieman reported brown creepers and a Clark's nutcracker, both uncommon in the winter Hills and not found on the censuses.

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

Account No. **13080**

\$ _____ 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!