



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

SEPTEMBER, 1987

LAND PAYMENT ON SCHEDULE

Our quarterly land payment of \$2917.55 on the 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area was made on schedule September 15. Donations during August totalled \$968.89. Our thanks to the many of you who are supporting the expansion of the natural area with your donations of money, recyclables and services. Please continue your support. Listed below are you who have donated and have given permission for your names to be published in our bulletin. If we have missed your name please let us know by calling 926-7949. Thanks! Kathryn Bernard, Lundy Benshoof, Florence Boutwell, Gretchen S. Brown, Vera Carpenter, Doris I. Donnelly, Frieda Foth, John Gardner, Louise Hance, Dorothy Harting, Blanche Holsten, Mary Holz, Miriam Hunter, Dorothy Kirk, Evelyn Knierim, Bernadine McClincy, Margie Middendorf, Doug Peters, Tom Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Jane A. Siegel, Florence Sylvester, Florence Thayer, Larry Thieman, Robert S. Turner, Doreen B. Vance, Lynn G. Whiting, Mary Ann Wilharm and Kathryn E. Wolfe.

You probably know by now that the city and county bond issues for parks failed Tuesday although a large majority of the votes was for them. The required number of voters just didn't turn out to vote. We expect that another try will be made to obtain funding for restoring the park systems in the near future. We hope that citizens who want to preserve the quality of life that parks represent will assume the responsibility of voting to assure that this will happen. The big majority shown is most encouraging for a future attempt.

A highly appreciative audience of residents of Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments saw our Dishman Hills slide program in August. We acted as nature guide for Diana Solle's lively, enjoyable group of boys from Sacred Heart Medical Center Psychiatric Center for Children and Adolescents September 1. The kids were a lot of fun to be with.

The Spokane Group of Sierra Club invites you to a slide show, "Last Stand for the Tongass", Wednesday, September 30 at 7:30 P.M. at REI, N. 1124 Monroe. Tongass National Forest, a magnificent old growth forest in the southeast Alaskan archipelago, the home of bald eagles, black and brown bears and other wildlife, is threatened by clearcutting. The show presents public choices that could save or destroy the Tongass. Refreshments will be served.

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. Lentos, 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 starting in October will be at Riverview Terrace Retirement Center, E. 1801 Upriver Drive at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday.

FIRE DANGER HIGH IN HILLS

A recent hike into the Dishman Hills to get ideas for the rambling about to follow, found extremely dry conditions. A little carelessness could result in a disastrous fire. Except for a few lavender asters, Indian paint brushes and one gentian, grasses and other herbs are parched and the leaves of many a shrub are turning brown and falling without showing the usual autumn colors. The few patches of poison ivy are coloring red and yellow so be careful! All the ponds are dry, though vegetation in their beds is still green. Hopefully the autumn rains, which usually arrive around mid-September, are not far off. The long term trend of weather appears to be toward hotter, drier conditions, which will affect every living thing, including ourselves.

On the cheerier side, bird life is still active, though summer species are slipping away. Red-breasted nuthatches were commonly voicing their little "tin horn" notes and a blackcapped chickadee called. A flicker and a downy woodpecker were heard and, surprisingly, a western tanager was singing--these latter birds apparently nested in the Hills this summer. A single Raven patrolled the area, croaking loudly. The hot weather has apparently shortened the lives of the butterflies. A few buffy ringlets were still about and two albino sulfur butterflies were on the wing. Of the latter only the females ever show this pale form, which is genetically determined. Rather showy is one kind of band-winged locust, which crackles its black and yellow wings as it flies. This species ranges far up into the mountains--a recent trip into the Mallard-Larkins of Northern Idaho found them at 6000 feet elevation. A less colorful relative, frequenting rocky places, crackles distinctively, alternating fast and slow sequences. This grasshopper can be fooled--or maybe it just adapted to human messiness--for a trip into the sagebrush south of Creston last month found the species flying around a dump of old car bodies and tin cans with no rocks at all!

We deeply regret the recent passing of board member Ann Kachinsky. She was also an active member of Spokane Rose Society and garden clubs. We miss her very much.

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)

_____ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.

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!