



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1988

JUNE CONTRIBUTIONS UP A BIT

June income from donations and recycling improved slightly from last month, totalling \$752.26. Expenses for the month were: \$80 for administrative services, \$84.40 for bulletin printing and \$79.98 for bulletin postage. Our next land payment is due in September and our final payment will be made in June 1990.

Our thanks to the following who contributed in June and have given permission to be listed here: Kathryn Bernard, Ruth/Cecil Cunningham, Jackie Davenport, Emmett Gumm, R.U. Downing, John Gardner, Tollif/Louise Hance, Russell/Evelyn Harmon, Dorothy Kirk, Gloria J. Krebs, Frank M. Mogan, Helen E. Nelson, Frank/June Potter, Tom Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Lee M. Smith, St. Mary's Garden Club, Patricia Sweeney, Florence Sylvester, Larry Thieman and Jane M. Thrasher. If you have donated and you are not listed here, please give us a call at 926-7949.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WEATHER?

This summer's hot, dry weather brings up the question "Why?" Is it something merely cyclical, which will not occur again for many years, or is it part of a long term trend? Weather Bureau statistics seem to confirm the latter, as do observations of birds, some more southerly species showing up and nesting farther north than ever before known. Some scientists have been warning of the "greenhouse effect" caused by increase in the carbon dioxide content of the air due to more burning of fossil fuels, petroleum and coal, faster than green plants can use it up.

We might do well to reduce our consumption of gasoline and diesel fuel, very significant producers of carbon dioxide (and other air polluting substances). As individuals we are very much in love with our autos and our governments seem very anxious to encourage this love affair. Federal requirements for greater gasoline mileage have been relaxed. Our State Department of Transportation is looking for ways to make it easier for us to drive our cars, such as building more highways or adding more lanes. It apparently is not considering mass transit at all--one official is quoted as saying "It's our job to build more highways." Even Spokane Transit Authority (STA) wants to solve the problem by encouraging people to drive their cars to a central point, in this case University City, to take the bus rather than providing shelters along the bus routes! Let's determine our goals and all of us, both individuals and government, work together to reach them instead of riding off in opposite directions.--TR

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from. Our monthly meetings during the summer are at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Rd., Dishman, the third Monday at 7:30 p.m. You are cordially invited.

President: Larry Thieman Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lentes

Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

HILLS ARE STILL GREEN AND LIVELY

Dishman Hills Natural Area is surprisingly green in spite of the hot weather. As is normal, few flowers are in blossom now but they are eye catchers: bright pink Indian paint brushes, blue harebells and pale amethyst mariposa lilies. Less welcome is the lavender of spotted knapweed, invading mostly along paths and in other disturbed places. Officially listed as a noxious weed in Washington, it is widespread in the Northwest. Its one virtue appears to be that it is a good nectar source for honeybees and butterflies. Just now the pine white butterflies, swarming among the pine trees, are the knapweed's chief guests. Although their larvae feed upon pine leaves, they cause no significant harm to the trees. Small birds, particularly chickadees and nuthatches, likely keep their numbers under control. Fairly common butterflies now are the brown wood nymphs, flitting softly over grassy places and in openings in the pine forest. Their larvae feed upon grasses.

A few birds are still singing, including the colorful western tanager. Though usually nesting higher in the mountains, they apparently are doing so in the Hills this year. Also to be heard are solitary and warbling vireos, wood pewees and nuthatches. Of course there is always a red squirrel to scold you.

In June we enjoyed guiding field trips into the Hills for enthusiastic children from Pasadena Elementary, Cheryl Allen in charge, and for Spokane Garden Club, led by Bill Greene.

A reminder: We will not be meeting until the third Monday in September, unless a special meeting is necessary. Enjoy your summer and try to keep cool!

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!