



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JUNE 1988

HILLS ARE FLOURISHING BUT WEEDS ARE THREATENING

Dishman Hills Natural Area is green and lush in spite of the erratic weather of recent weeks. Water in the ponds is low or absent, however, with scant likelihood that this will change until autumn.

The usual summer birds are about: robins, solitary vireos, rufous-sided towhees, juncoes, dusky flycatchers, western wood pewees, flickers and rock wrens. A few evening grosbeaks and red crossbills, winter visitors, still linger and western tanager may nest here this summer. An occasional raven croaks overhead.

Wildflowers are flourishing. Particularly noticeable are the yellow of cinquefoil and blue of lupines. Wild roses and mock orange are fragrant. Wild geraniums, brown-eyed Susans, stonecrop, beardtongue and meadow sweet add their color. The flowers and warmer weather bring on more butterflies: swallowtails, ringlets, Lorquin's admiral, and "blues" and elfins. Bees and tiny beetles visit flowers. Damsel flies are emerging from the ponds.

The apparent devastation wrought last summer on the lupines by tiny moth larvae appears to have had little effect for these plants are flowering well. Many lupines still have larvae on them but in decreased numbers. Probably parasites are controlling them. Nature has its own way of dealing with such outbreaks.

The rocky promontory damaged by last summer's fire continues to recover, though no seedling trees have appeared. Grasses and flowers are looking good. Of concern is the increasing amount of the noxious weeds Dalmatian toadflax and spotted knapweed, both in the burned area and elsewhere. We do not plan to use herbicide since we believe that hand pulling can be effective and much less damaging to the natural area. If you can help us on this, please let us know so we can organize work crews to control these threats.

We had the pleasure of acting as guide for Spokane Garden Club's field trip into the natural area in mid-June. Bill Greene organized the hike in which some twenty members participated. The group was most enthusiastic about the beauty of the area and vowed to come back again.

In late May we showed our Dishman Hills slide program to a most appreciative gathering of members of the local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees at the Town and Country Restaurant. June 1 we assisted on a trek into the Dishman Hills by a group of lively youngsters from Pasadena Park Elementary, Cheryl Allen in charge.

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: Doris Allgood, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

MAY CONTRIBUTIONS DROP DONORS TO HILLS LISTED

The quarterly payment of \$1670.37 on the 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area was made on June 20. May income from cash contributions totalled \$457 and recycling brought in \$194.40. Expenditures came to \$159.46 for bulletin printing and mailing plus \$100 for administrative expense.

The following contributed cash and/or recyclables or services and have given permission to be listed here: Lila M. Ackerman, Kathryn Bernard, Helen/Stu Blackwell, Margaret Bloom, Jackie Davenport, John Gardner, Emmett Gumm, Lindell M. Haggin, Russ Harmon, Mr./Mrs. Y.M. Harmon, Blanche Holsten, Glen W. Kivett, Frank/Ellen Menzel, Margie F. Middendorf, Helen Nelson, Ambrose Priestley, Bonnie Randles, Recreational Equipment Inc., Thomas H. Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Florence Thayer, Larry Thieman, Alice Tiffany, Dr. Robert G. Weigand, Jeanne H. Wilson and Vera Women's Fellowship. If you have contributed during May and are not listed above, please call us at 926-7949.

PLANS PROGRESSING FOR HILLS

The May meetings for public input on plans for the Dishman Hills were well attended. A landscape architect has drawn up what looks like a very good plan for the heavy use area at Camp Caro. The management committee for Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area is using information gained from the meetings to determine boundaries of the conservation area and the appropriate uses for the county-owned part and the area expected to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources. The committee consists of representatives of DNR, Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department, The Nature Conservancy and our own association (Larry Thieman and Tom Rogers).

We will not be meeting during July and August except by special notice. The September meeting will be on the nineteenth at 7:30 p.m. at Camp Caro. You are invited to attend.

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)

_____ 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!