



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

OCTOBER 1988

HILLS PLEASANT FOR AUTUMN WALK

October's bright blue weather is providing opportunity for invigorating walks in the Hills. In spite of drought, a few lavender asters and blue gentians are in flower and some other small plants are showing new green, thanks to the September showers. Summer birds are gone but red-breasted nuthatches are quanking and juncos are about. A white-breasted nuthatch, rather rare in the Hills, was heard Tuesday. These birds are becoming a bit more common, apparently because they prefer to hunt their insect food on the now older pines. In the construction area at Camp Caro a raven flapped over, a flicker cried "Keer" and a song sparrow's shrill chirp came from atop the hawthorne hedge. Deer tracks through the soft dirt told of night wanderings of the Hills' largest mammal. White-tailed deer are the usual kind but Sam Angove reported a surprising sighting of four mule deer for a new species in the Hills. The Tuesday morning visit was too cool for many insects to be about but tiny antlion pits were still active along the trail above Camp Caro. Presumably they contain young larvae that will overwinter in the loose mixture of soil and decaying pine needles. Here is something to check out next spring.

September income from donations and recyclables totalled \$628.65. Many thanks to you boosters who have contributed money, recyclables and/or services toward saving the Hills and have given permission to be listed here. (If your name should be here, but isn't, please call us at 926-7949.)

Vera Carpenter, Omar Carroll, Joan G. Chesbrough, Dandy Diggers Garden Club, Dick/Harriet Evans, Frieda Foth, Wilbert Fritz, John Gardner, Russ/Evelyn Harmon, Tollif/Louise Hance, Adeline E. Haynes, Bob/Chris Henderson, Blanche Holsten, Mary E.S. Lee, Shiran K. Lee, Mrs. William F. Marchand, Margie Middendorf, Pauline Moore, Dr. Clinton A. Piper, Willene Priestley, Linda R. Reger, Doris R. Rogers, Tom Rogers Sr., Dennis L. Sanders, Isabelle Smith, Holly Sonneland and Larry Thiemann.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

President: Larry Thiemann Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lentz

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

Our October meeting will be held at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend.

CAMP CARO CONSTRUCTION MOVES AHEAD

Things are really happening at Camp Caro in Dishman Hills Natural Area. The County Parks and Recreation Department is constructing a handsome new log lodge near the entrance. It is expected to be ready for use by late autumn. One room will be for children's overnight camping and the other will be a meeting room. Space will be available for displays telling about the natural history and ecology of the area. A nature trail will invite visitors, including wheel chair users and will even have signs in Braille. The caretaker's dwelling and a small parking lot will be at the entrance to the area. Fencing to keep motor vehicles out of the remainder of the natural area will be put in place this fall, according to Parks Superintendent Sam Angove.

Outdoor camping for children's groups will be among the pines at the south end of the old playground, which is being improved for a family playfield and picnic area. Buildings at the old lodge site will be removed and that area and the old camping space above allowed to revert to its natural state. A hiking trail will start at the new lodge.

In keeping with the purpose of the natural area, only native species of trees, shrubs and flowers will be used for landscaping. Attractive and well adapted to conditions there, these plants will require little or no watering or other care and will provide an educational experience to visitors. As future water supplies become more limited, we would do well to use more of these hardy plants around our homes and elsewhere.

Camp Caro will be closed to camping until construction is completed but the remainder of the natural area will be open to hiking as usual.

Fayette Krause of The Nature Conservancy has informed us that this organization has completed the purchase of the 70 acres above Edgecliff and is in the process of transferring it to the Department of Natural Resources for addition to the natural area.

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

Account No. **09310**

\$ _____ 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!