



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MARCH 1990

MARCH PAYMENT MADE; DONORS LISTED

Our March payment on the 140 acre addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area was made on time. Now we have only one more payment to make, in June. Thanks to all you loyal supporters, we're making it on our own, without any government money at all!

Contributions of money, recyclables and services to the project during February amounted to \$834.56. Expenses came to \$224.17. Our thanks to the following who contributed and have given permission to be listed here: Lila M. Ackerman, Kathryn Bernard, Verda Coryell, Pamela J. Dixon, Verna Dolphin, R.W. Downing, Carol L. Ellis, Gincy Engle, Reese Ennesh, Gil/Myrt Erickson, Helen Ferguson, June Helen Foote, Mr./Mrs. Don Hagan, Russ/Evelyn Harmon, Dorothy Hartung, Ken/Ivy Hendrix, Blanche Holsten, Mary Holz, Alfreda Krause, Helen Lininger, Ralph P. Lorer, Jack/Alice Malone, Bill Marchand, Bernadine McClincy, Leo J. Middendorf, Marilyn A. Miller, Bonnie Moss, Helen E. Nelson, Florence W. Orcutt, Irene N. Peyton, Frank/June Potter, Bonnie Randles, Avis E. Ray, James C. Roberts, Tom Rogers, Tom Rogers Jr., Dennis L. Sanders, Blanche Sarver, Ruth L. Schermer, Reico Shimizu, Lee M. Smith, Ruth F. Stickney, V.F. Strange, Leila Swan, Ivan M. Talbot, Larry Thieman, Ed Tietgen, Alice Tiffany, Jane Van Meter, Whitworth Belles, Leona Widner, Jeanne H. Wilson and Debra Wood. If your name has been missed, please let us know at 926-7949. Thanks!

BUTTERCUP HIKE IS APRIL 1

Our annual Buttercup Hike into the Dishman Hills will be Sunday, April 1, starting at 1:30 p.m. at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road and continuing as long as anyone wants to hike. Bring the whole family for a pleasant afternoon out in Nature. Enjoy what you have helped to save!

Don't forget to save your recyclables: Newspaper; white, non-slick, not too colorful paper and envelopes (tear out windows); slick magazines; corrugated cardboard (keep each kind of paper separate); aluminum cans; tin cans (rinse, remove labels, cut out bottoms, and flatten); plastic milk and distilled water jugs; two liter plastic pop bottles; old car batteries, and scrap metal. Call us if you want us to pick them up. If you take them to Spokane Recycling, Main & Freya, tell them it's for Dishman Hills and they will credit it to our account. Thanks!

A most appreciative Seedin' & Weedin' Garden Club enjoyed a wildflower slide show we presented recently.

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 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.

Our monthly meetings this winter will be at Riverview Terrace Retirement Apartments, E. 1801 Upriver Drive, the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. You are cordially invited.

SPRING IS BREAKING FORTH!

Buttercups are dotting the Dishman Hills with yellow and the grass widows are opening their pink stars. Robins, juncos and flickers are moving back into the foothills looking for nesting places. At the ponds the tree frogs are croaking in noisy chorus. Warm afternoons soon will be bringing out early butterflies from hibernation, tortoiseshells, anglewings and mourning cloaks.

After the late winter snow and rain the water levels in the ponds are quite good, enough to attract a beautiful pair of mallards. (A pair nested there one year.) Recently a pile of coyote dung on a trail showed that winter wasn't just a bowl of cherries for the animal, for it contained pieces of apple, indigestible for dogs of any kind, but eaten to quiet the hunger pangs of an empty stomach! Incidentally, from the tracks, raccoons appear to be on the increase in the Hills.

A rusting pop can in the Hills a few days ago was half full of dead insects: twenty-four big darkling beetles (burdened with the name "Coelocnemis californicus", longer than they are!), and thirteen of an unidentified species. These slow-moving beetles feed upon decaying plant materials and so hasten their return to the soil. Also in the can were ten big bumblebees, important pollinators of flowers, and nine ground beetles of two kinds, the latter predatory upon insects and other tiny creatures. Presumably these tiny animals were attracted to sugar and other nutrients that remained in the can. On a larger scale ducks and other wildlife are known to become entangled in the plastic rings from sixpacks, and abandoned fishing lines and nets. Dead mice have been found in abandoned beer bottles--the price of a binge? So goes the contribution of litterbugs!

We expect to have our display set up for Earth Day, April 22, at Riverfront Park. See you there!

Please use this form when sending contributions
(Contributions are income tax deductible)
Account No. **09310**

Your Name _____
Please put your account number on your check.

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- \$ _____ Memorial for _____
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- \$ _____ 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!