



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY 1991

JANUARY DONORS, INCOME LISTED

Income for our organization amounted to \$872.82 in January. Of this \$ 71.82 was for recyclables and \$ 43.67 interest on our land fund reserve. Expenses came to \$276.25 (\$ 40.00 for administrative expenses, \$ 75.36 for bulletin printing, \$160.00 for bulletin postage, bulk mailing fee and P.O. Box rental.

The following donated money, recyclables and/or services and have given permission to be listed here: Linda M. Aumeier, James C. Banta, Winifred Becker, Kathryn Bernard, Pat Brown, Jackie Davenport, Verna Dolphin, Reece Ennesh, Gil/Mert Erickson, Dr. W.A. Fernau Jr., G.S. Fergin, John Gardner, George W. Girvin, Connie M. Goodman, Evelyn/Russ Harmon, Patty/Moody Harmon, Dorothy Harting, Chris Henderson, Ivy/Ken Hindrix, Blanche/Mel Holsten, LeRoy Hook, Emma Jacklin, Dorothy Kirk, Thelma Knoles, Karl Krogue, Maxine Leszczykowski, Alice/Jack Malone, Mrs. William F. Marchand, Marilyn A. Miller, Mrs. Roy R. Mills, John B. O'Brian III, A. Willene Priestley, Milt Rawlings, Thomas H. Rogers Sr., Marjorie Rozell, Dennis L. Sanders, Ruth L. Schermer, Bill Schuh, Lee M. Smith, Al/Phyllis Stagman, Marilyn H. Stedman, Mary/Stanley Sweeting, Laurence Thieman, Robert S. Turner, Jane Van Meter and Jeanne H. Wilson.

If you contributed and should be listed here, please let us know at 926-7949. Many thanks!

It seems that our December 1990 bulletin was inadvertently labelled "January 1990" and our January bulletin, "February 1990". In case you keep a file of the bulletins, you may want to make these corrections.

The lateness of the January bulletin, which contained the change in date of the January meeting, was due to a mistake involving our bulk mailing permit. Blame me for that and please accept my apology-- TR.

At our January meeting our Board of Directors and officers were reelected. Because of Presidents' Day, our February meeting will be Tuesday, February 26 at University Elementary, 16th and University Road at 7:00 p.m. We expect to show slides of the Tower Mountain area. You are cordially invited to attend.

A wildflower identification class is again being offered by Washington Native Plant Society. It is set for six Wednesday evenings, April 10 - May 15, 7 - 9:30 p.m., at Ferris High School. Use the registration form in the Community Colleges Spring schedule bulletin and send it in early to assure a place in the class. For more information call Nicolin Gray, 467-8995.

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: Lawrence Thieman Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lentes
Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter and Ray Staley.

SPRING IS COMING - SLOWLY

Spring in the Dishman Hills Natural Area has not brought any flowers as yet, though buttercup leaves, flattened by snow, are beginning to stand up and the leaves of saxifrage are growing. Mosses are rich green and the multicolored lichens are brightening rocks and soil. Birds are scarce, as they have been during this winter. Red-breasted Nuthatches, usually common, have been hard to find. This may be due to a very sparse ponderosa pine seed crop, which these little birds are known to eat. Quite surely this accounts for the absence of Red Crossbills and the scarcity of Pygmy Nuthatches. On the other hand more White-breasted Nuthatches than usual were noted, though they can't be called common there. Interestingly, all nuthatch species were drastically down in numbers on Spokane's Christmas Bird Count. Red Squirrel numbers appear to have dropped during the winter, probably because of the lack of pine seeds.

Some things have increased in the Hills. Motorcycles, mountain bikes and horses are cutting up the trails. Crudely constructed camps ("hideouts") seem to be on the increase. All these things inevitably damage the Preserve.

At a recent meeting of the Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area Advisory Committee--a pause for breath--Jim Sweeney of the Department of Natural Resources promised that the surveying of boundaries in the Hills would soon begin. Then the construction of barriers at entrances will help to prevent harmful uses. Signs will tell what is and is not allowed. The sooner the better for these things to be done, for damaging activities appear to be on the increase. The very accessibility of this fine natural area that increases its value to the community also makes it highly vulnerable to misuse.

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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!