



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1991

JUNE CONTRIBUTORS LISTED

Donations to the Dishman Hills project came to \$379.35 in June. Recyclables brought in \$102.35. Expenses amounted to \$194.86. Our thanks to you who are listed below who contributed money, recyclables and/or services: Jon Barstad, Kathryn Bernard, Gary Blank, Pat Brown, Leta Chapman, Richard H. Dauphin, Frank Doherty, Verna Dolphin, Reese Enmesh, Gil/Myrtle Erickson, Evelyn/Russ Harmon, Dorothy Harting, Isabel Hawkins, Ivy/Ken Hendrix, Hobnailers, Mrs. John E. Hollar, Blanche/Mel Holsten, Helen Lininger, John Lorand, Marlene K. Montgomery, Rick Nelson, Florence W. Orcutt, Bonnie/Oren Randles, Milt Rawlings, Tom Rogers, Mabel R. Sackett, Bernard Schoen, Bill Schuh, Reiko Shimizu, Marcelle Smith, Al/Phyllis Stagman, Robert S. Turner, Jane/George Van Meter, Mary Ann Wilham and Jeanne H. Wilson.

If you have given us permission to list you below but we have omitted you, please let us know at 926-7949. Thanks!

Children from two Nature Discovery classes from Spokane Falls Community College thoroughly enjoyed their adventures in the Dishman Hills in July. Jan Reynolds led the classes and Chris Larkin lent support on the trips. Children are so eager to explore nature, an attitude we adults so often seem to have lost. Maybe it is because we often shield ourselves from nature, by staying indoors and by riding in cars or airplanes or on cycles or horses. In these cases it's difficult or impossible to see nature closely. Or maybe we are in too big a hurry to look around us. We don't need to go to faraway places for new experiences for they await us close by if we will only look.

(cont. from column 2)

How do some animals avoid the heat? Birds tend to seek shade during the heat of the day so birding is best in the early morning. Some kinds of ants go into their underground homes. Some animals (deer, mice, coyotes, owls) are more active at night, though they do this the year round. We might learn from the animals and build our houses partly under ground (they would also be warmer in winter). Planting more shade trees around our homes would help also. And why don't we do more of our work in the cool morning hours and take a siesta during the heat? The Mexicans are smarter than we!

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

Our monthly meetings resuming in September, will be at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Rd., at 7:00 p.m. the third Monday of each month. For additional information call 926-7949.

LIFE GOES ON - MORE SLOWLY

July in the Dishman Hills finds few flowers braving the heat. Lulpines have withered--the little caterpillars that made them look so devastated a year or two ago seem to have been eliminated, presumably by their parasites. The white, flattopped clusters of yarrow flowers are standing the weather very well and the lavender mariposa lilies are appearing finding the heat to their liking. Brown-eyed Susans are holding out quite well and are hosting black blister beetles that are feeding on their flowers. Yellow hawkweed, starting to flower, is also attracting the little beetles.

Bird life is harder to find. Colorful western tanagers still sing, however, and a few robins, red-breasted nuthatches, juncoes and chipping sparrows are about. A pair of red-winged blackbirds apparently nested at West Pond, for a female was seen carrying food. By contrast the bird life on the cooler, more moist Tower Mountain remains nearly as common as in June. Thirty-one species were noted on a recent hike there.

Insects find the hot weather much to their liking. Conspicuous are the butterflies. Although scarce in the lower Hills, hundreds of bright, new painted lady (thistle) butterflies swarmed along Iller Creek on Tower Mountain recently, congregating at moist soil, visiting flowers or just flying around. Where they came from is a mystery for their caterpillars were not found in that area. (So many have not been seen around Spokane since 1973, when large numbers were migrating in a northwesterly direction.) With them this time were a few anglewings, crescentspots, Lorquin's admirals, "blues" and an old brood mourning cloak. Grassy openings there and in the lower Hills are finding the dark brown wood nymphs fairly common.

The little caterpillars that eat the noxious Dalmatian toadflax survived the winter, apparently by pupating underground. A few have been found. The blizzard of pine white butterflies may repeat itself, for they are appearing now and their little green, yellow-striped caterpillars are positioning themselves on pine trunks preparing to pupate. Although somebody sounds an alarm each year about their "invasion", they seem not to be any threat at all to the trees so just enjoy them. Birds and spiders take their toll. The latter, dome-weavers and funnel-weavers, are spreading their silky traps over the ground and on low bushes.

(cont. in column 1)

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