



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

SEPTEMBER 1991

AUGUST DONORS LISTED

Income for the Dishman Hills Natural Area Project came to \$279.31 for August. Of this \$77.31 was from recyclables. Interest on our land purchase reserve amounted to \$58.39. Expenses for the month were: bulletin printing and mailing, \$155.47 and office expense, \$40.00.

Our thanks to the following who contributed cash, recyclables and/or services. (If you have given permission to be listed here but we have missed your name, please let us know at 926-7949.) Kathryn Bernard, James W. Berry, Pat Brown, Helen Bucknell, Sue Buchanan, Joe Cooley, Phyllis Duvall, Reece Enmesh, Frieda Foth, Gil/Myrt Erickson, Evelyn/Russ Harmon, Millicent Havlick, Ivy/Ken Hendrix, Blanche/Mel Holsten, Cal Lipps, Barbara W. Lockwood, John C. Lorang, Leo J. Middendorf, Florence Miller, Pauline Moore, Bonnie Moss, Bonnie/Oren Randles, Ruby Rector, Tom Rogers, Blanche Sarver, Bill Schuh, Marcella Smith, Al/Phyllis Stagman, Lawrence Thieman, Alice Tiffany, Jane/George Van Meter and Jeanne H. Wilson.

DISHMAN HILLS SURVEY

The surveying of the "Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area" has been completed. We have a problem with the survey, however, for only the corners and not the actual boundaries have been marked, so we don't know just where entrances are, so that signs and perhaps barriers to keep out unwanted uses can't be placed. We are checking to see what can be done about this. We need more for our \$5700 than this. (The cost of the entire survey was four times this amount, to be shared by Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Natural Resources.)

PLEASE NOTE: So that we don't keep sending bulletins to anyone who no longer is interested, in October we are dropping from our mailing anyone from whom we have not heard in the last two years. We try to make the most efficient use possible of the donations we receive.

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.

Our monthly meetings starting in October and continuing until Spring will be at Opportunity Elementary School, 1109 South Wilbur the third Monday at 7 P.M. You are cordially invited.

DAYS ARE SHORTER THAN NIGHTS

Venus, the mourning star, shines brilliantly in the East, brighter than Sirius, the Dog Star, and outdone only by the waning moon. Don't sleep too late or you'll miss it. The equinox is past; nighttime is exceeding daytime and wild things know it. Most of the summer birds have left and a few migrants from the mountains and the North are moving through: white-crowned sparrows (adults with black and white head stripes, young birds with brown) and diminutive ruby-crowned kinglets. Robins are gathering in the Dishman Hills. A recent bird count in the Hills found a late western tanager in bright yellow fall plumage, an insect in its beak. The unusually warm weather apparently delayed its departure.

September has had only a hundredth of an inch of rain so far so fire danger is very high. In the Hills goldenrod is drying up, though asters are doing better. Snowberry leaves are brown and crisp. Balsamroot and mule's ear leaves crackle under foot, though they normally do this now. Pines are showing the effect of a dry summer as their older needles turn brown prematurely. The fall rains, usually arriving by mid-September, seem to have gone to the north of us.

For most insects the days are numbered. Heavy frost will do in most of them. Crickets are still chirping, grasshoppers and other insects are still active. Bright yellow sulfur butterflies are visiting flowers, as are the painted ladies, so partial to zinnias, and so plentiful this summer. Western yellowjackets (*Vespula pennsylvanica*) have been much in the news. Chances are they won't sting you unless you step on the entrances to their underground nests or get too close. When they want a bit of your picnic food, don't fight them. They just want a bite of food, not a chance to sting you.

Please use this form when sending contributions

(Contributions are income tax deductible)

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Please put your account number on your check.

\$ _____ Land purchase fund

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_____ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.