



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JUNE 1992

THANKS TO MAY CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions of cash and recyclables to the Dishman Hills fund totalled \$347.09 in May. Expenses came to \$154.88 for bulletin printing and mailing and office expense.

Here listed are those who contributed during May and have given permission to be named here. Paula Fisette, Cliff/Madeline Goodwin, Michael Hamilton, Hobnailers, Gail Lambert, Evelyn Lynch, Sharon M. Murphy, Gloria M. Nicol, Tom Rogers, Lonnie/Dick Schmidt, Lawrence Thiemann, Ed Tietjen, Mary Ann Wilharm, Don Williams, Jeanne H. Wilson, Mary Wilson and Paul J. Winkelman. If we missed listing you when you wanted to be, please let us know at 926-7949. Thanks!

We haven't been able to do as much picking up of recyclables as before, hence the smaller number of names of contributors. We do welcome your dropping off of recyclables. If you take them to Spokane Recycling on Main just west of Freya and wish them to be credited to Dishman Hills, please leave your name. They will put them on our account and mail us a check at the end of the month.

We are informed that the city-county recycling program now takes plastic milk jugs and batteries (both flashlight, etc. and car/boat batteries). Earthworks Recycling on Napa takes car/boat batteries and pays for them.

Dishman Hills Natural Area is off limits to motor bikes, bicycles and any other uses except foot traffic. These other uses damage the area, even when they stay on the trails, as they cut them up or groove them. Please pass the word around and help us to protect the area.

The Earth Summit conference in Rio De Janeiro should concern all of us. However it doesn't look as if much would be accomplished, since our government is almost alone among the nations in opposing measures to protect the Earth's life systems. The United Nations itself now wants to exclude input from ecologists. Protecting the Earth's ecological systems is, supposedly, what the conference is all about. Can it be that the U.N. is being influenced by the fact that the United States is one of the biggest contributors to its budget?

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 Thiemann, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lenten

Our monthly meetings during the summer months will be at Camp Caro on S. Sargent Road the third Monday at 7 PM. You are cordially invited to attend.

ABOUT WEEDS AND CATERPILLARS

Let us remind you again of the weed pull in the Dishman Hills scheduled for Saturday, June 20. We will see you at Camp Caro, S. Sargent Road at 9 a.m. Don't forget drinking water and if you plan to stay past noon, a lunch. Better bring your sun screen too!

Our principal aim is to pull as much Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) as possible. This likely will be necessary for a few years annually, as some roots will remain and sprout again. We are concerned about the little caterpillars (*Calophasia lunula*) that have been introduced in an effort to control this weed. More of them have been found again this year. We would like to collect them and transfer them to other toadflax stands where they can survive without danger of destruction.

The easiest way to detect the little larvae is to look at the tips of the toadflax. If they have been stripped of leaves, it is the work of the larvae, so look for their slender, striped, black, green and yellow forms about a inch long. Their favorite position is lengthwise along the little side branches, where they are rather inconspicuous, perhaps a protection from enemies. Just what their complete life cycle is, we don't know. The adults will be emerging from pupas in July. What happens later? It seems unlikely that they would produce another brood then but the adults likely would not survive until spring. Perhaps they lay eggs which over winter or more likely the eggs hatch and the larvae either hibernate or pupate and pass the winter in that state.

The spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) is less of a concern in the Hills but we will pull it when we find it. It seldom is able to invade good stands of native grasses and flowers and has no chance against brush or trees. Rather, it flourishes on disturbed ground along paths, roads, overgrazed land, and heavily used areas such as at Camp Caro. It too requires several years of vigilance, since it produces a prodigious number of seeds. Apparently it has no natural enemies, in our area at least. Nothing likes to eat it, though it does attract butterflies and bees.

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