



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1994

DONORS, INCOME, EXPENSES FOR JUNE

Contributions to our land fund and operating expense amounted to \$512.92 in June, down from the very good effort in May. June expenses were \$166.49 (administrative expense, bulletin printing and mailing). Interest income on our land reserve was \$176.99. Our thanks to the following who contributed during June and have given permission to be listed here: Mararet V. Bloom, Mary M. Eller, Robert A. Gilchrist, Don Griffiths, Dorothy Hartung, John Lorang, Tom Rogers, Reiko Shimizu and Jeanne H. Wilson. After we make the \$50,000 upfront payment on the 170 acres on Tower Mountain, our land reserve will be nearly exhausted, so we can expect very little interest income from it. However, this initial payment is wise, since our savings deposits are paying only about 3.5% while we will be paying 8.25% interest on the land purchase. Thus we will be saving money.

TOWER MOUNTAIN TRIPS REWARDING

Spring and early summer hikes up the mountain were as enjoyable to eye and ear as ever this year. The fire storm that swept over the lower areas two years ago seems not to have had any appreciable effect upon the wildlife. Elk and deer tracks dented the trails as in the past. Special treats were the sighting of three white-tailed deer snorting as they slipped past, and a doe and young fawn warily moving to forest cover. Bird life seemed as usual, though warblers remained sparse as they have for several years, supposedly because of destruction of rain forest in Central and South America. The silvery songs of thrushes continued to brighten the way. Hummingbirds were frequent. A harrier (marsh hawk) soared over the slopes. Thrilling was a mother ruffed grouse with outstretched wings and puffed up feathers, confronting the hiker while her tiny young flew away into the brush.

Flowers were showy as usual. Paraticularly spectacular were the skunk cabbage with its gigantic leaves, and the handsome trilliums along the creek. Common butterflies were the mourning cloaks and angiewings, having hibernated through the winter. Then there were the swarms of spring blues and the bright little orange-tips, to mention only a few.

Wyn Birkenthal of Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department informs us that he has submitted the application for Interagency Committee funding for the purchase of the Big Rock area on Tower Mountain. He says there is still time for more much needed letters to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. Deadline for these letters is August 1. Your letters--just say you urge providing funding for purchase of choice recreational land (continued in next column)

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

Our meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 P.M. We will be meeting in July, the third Tuesday at Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Dishman, at 7 p.m.

WE ARE BUYING 170 ACRE NATURAL AREA, TOWER MOUNTAIN

Our Board of Directors last Thursday approved the purchase of 170 acres of choice wooded slopes on Tower Mountain adjacent to the land which Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department is seeking in the Big Rock area, also known as the Rocks of Sharon.

We are, understandably, excited about this undertaking, a big step toward saving Tower Mountain with its rich variety of wildlife (a herd of at least sixteen elk, plus white-tailed deer, coyotes and other animals and birds, plus a great diversity of trees and flowers, many characteristic of higher elevations in the mountains).

The owner of the tract has agreed to sell for \$225,000, payment to be completed in ten years. A down payment of \$50,000 will be made from our land purchase reserve, leaving \$175,000 yet to be raised. Quarterly payments of \$6,467.85 are to be made so we must raise \$2,155.67 a month. Our first such payment is due in September.

Our operating expenses are expected to be about \$175 a month, based on the 1993 figures. Adding this to the land payments brings the total to about \$2,330 a month needed. Our officers and board have pledged to dig into our own pockets for \$770 a month, about 33% of the money needed, leaving the rest, about \$1,385 a month, up to you. We feel confident that we can accomplish this acquisition, since we paid for the 140 acre parcel in the lower hills, price \$154,000, in five years. Nevertheless it will take a strong effort to raise the money needed but we are confident that you will contribute strong help. Without this faith in you we wouldn't have dared to complete the agreement. So we are on our way to achieving a dream of many years!

(Remember: all contributions are fully tax deductible.)

(continued from previous column)

on Tower Mountain at Spokane adjacent to land which Dishman Hills Area Association is buying. Send your letters to Spokane County Parks & Recreation, West 1115 Broadway, Spokane, WA 99260, attention Wyn Birkenthal. Many thanks! (Our association has already done this.)

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.

\$ _____ LAND PURCHASE FUND

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\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES (\$10) NEW? ___ RENEWAL? ___

\$ _____ STUDENT OR LIVING LIGHTLY (\$5)

\$ _____ TO COVER BULLEIN EXPENSE (\$2)

_____ CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME LISTED AS A DONOR.