



# LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

## FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JUNE 1994

### OUR TOWER MOUNTAIN LAND PURCHASE PLAN PROGRESSING

We expect our association's offer to buy 170 acres on Tower Mountain will soon be accepted by the seller. This land is adjacent to the Big Rock area which the Park Department is seeking, so this is another big step toward accomplishing what we have long dreamed of--adding the mountain to the Dishman Hills project. It makes possible the future connecting of the mountain to the lower hills, where about 515 acres are already established as the Dishman Hills Natural Resource Conservation Area, owned jointly by our Dishman Hills Association, Spokane County Parks and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

We will keep you informed as to the details of the pending purchase agreement, over which we are understandably excited. Meanwhile please keep up the donations so we can make possible this important addition to the Natural Area.

### DONORS AND FINANCES LISTED FOR MAY

Contributions to our land purchase and operating expense funds came to \$1,550.03 in May. Interest on our land fund was \$165.31. Expenses and operating expenses for the month were \$231.92, \$50.00 for administration, \$126.92 for bulletin printing and mailing and \$55.00 to Washington State Department of Revenue (fee for tax exemption on land).

Our thanks to the following who donated cash and/or services during May and have given permission to be listed here: Naomi E. Edge, Paula Fiset, Mrs. Kenneth Gudgel, Mrs. Donald Hagan, Michael Hamilton, Eris A. Heggen, David E. Lenten, John C. Lorang, Marlene K. Montgomery, Sharon M. Murphy, Robert Nelson, Ora Mae Orton, Willene Priestley, Tom Rogers, Sandy Hill Garden Club, Leila W. Swan, Ed Tietjen and Jeanne H. Wilson.

We haven't been able to pick up many recyclables of late, so anything you can do in any way will be a great help, both to help pay for our new land acquisition and to help out the world's environment. Less that goes into the Waste to Energy incinerator, the better! We have an account at Spokane Recycling Products on Main just west of Freya so if you drop off recyclables there, please leave your name so we will know who did it. And our thanks!

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: Michael Hamilton, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lenten, Board of Directors: Omar Carroll, Michael Hamilton, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our meetings are held every third Tuesday at 7 P.M. at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur. This summer we will be meeting at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. In July and August we will be meeting only on special call.

### HELP SAVE BIG ROCK; YOUR LETTERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

A choice natural area including Big Rock and the Rocks of Sharon on Tower Mountain south of the Dishman Hills may be saved! The area commands a 360 degree view which includes the mica Peaks to the east, the Palouse country to the south and Mount Spokane and Ragged Ridge to the north. Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department is applying to Washington State's Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation for Urban Wildlife Habitat for money to buy several hundred acres in the Big Rock area of the mountain. Heretofore such grant funding has all gone to the west side of the state so we are hopeful we will get some here. There is, however, much competition for the funds, so many letters of support are needed from you for the funding. Letters need not be long. Just say that you are strongly in favor of the acquiring of natural area land on Tower Mountain at Spokane. Time is short so please get your letters off as soon as possible to Wyn Birkenthal, Parks and Recreation Manager, Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department, West 1115 Broadway, Spokane, 99260. Many thanks!

Besides the spectacular views provided, the Big Rock Tower Mountain area is the home of a thriving herd of elk, plus the usual white-tailed deer and coyotes and even occasional black bears, cougars and bobcats (altogether fifteen kinds of mammals). Eighty-six species of birds, two kinds of amphibians and many kinds of butterflies and other insects have been found there. Adding to the diversity of plant life of Dishman Hills Natural Area low to the north are many other species, some native to the higher mountain areas of eastern Washington. Western larch, grand fir, western hemlock, Pacific yew and even one western red cedar are a great addition to the diversity. Two kinds of beautiful orchids occur there; pink ladyslipper (Calypso) and mountain ladyslipper. In the crevices of one of the Rocks of Sharon just east of Big Rock is a rare fern, known from only one other locality in eastern Washington, in Pend Oreille County. The mountain is being threatened by increasing development so if we want to save any of it, now is the time. Shortly it will be too late. We want to see people able to enjoy an extensive natural area close to Spokane where we can get away from paved streets, city noise and buildings everywhere. Our community has a great opportunity. We are actively cooperating with Spokane County Parks and Recreation in its efforts to save this fine area.

Please use this form when sending contributions  
(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. 0413

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please put your account number on your check.

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Land purchase fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial for \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (\$10) New?  Renewal?
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To cover bulletin expense (\$2)
- Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.