



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

MAY 1995

YOU BOOSTERS ARE DOING GREAT!

April contributions to the Dishman Hills-Rocks of Sharon project came to a very good \$1353.95. Of this \$85 was for memorials, \$40 for membership dues, \$18.95 from recycling and \$12 for bulletin expense. Interest on our land fund was \$24.47. Expenses were \$48 for administrative expense and \$140.78 for bulletin printing and mailing.

We are still ahead on our land payments so are saving money on interest. If we can keep this up we should be able to pay off the 170 acres in less than the ten years!

Our thanks to the following who contributed and have given permission to be listed here: Robin M. Bishop, Brad W. Blegen, Earl & Kathryn Coombs, Earthworks Recycling, Janet Geiger, Geraldine Rae Ferrell, Wilbert Fritz, Don Griffiths, Mrs. Kenneth Gudgel, Donald J. Kachinsky, Sandra G. McMillan, Marilyn A. Miller, Stephen H. Peterson, Mary Jean Porter, Francis H. Potter, Tom Rogers, Marjorie Rozell, Dennis L. Sanders, Iris K. Scheel, Ed & Shirley Schmidt, Lois Smith, Spokane Floral Association, Spokane Mountaineers, Michael J. Sullivan, Beth Lloyd Tietjen, and Jeanne H. Wilson. If you should have been acknowledged here but we missed you, please let us know at 926-7949. Again THANKS!

Washington Ornithological Society is holding its annual meeting at Holiday Inn-West, W. 4212 Sunset Blvd., Spokane, June 16-18. An impressive panel of speakers from Washington state and north Idaho is scheduled for the 17th. People interested in birds are encouraged to attend. I've been honored by being invited to tell about my observations up Iller Creek, Tower Mountain. Birds seem to have been decreasing there. Is it due to the fire storm, logging, human disturbance, logging of tropical rain forest where some birds winter, or my decreasing ability to hear the tweety-birds? What do you think?--TR

Recycling prices are up again, according to Jim Schrock of Earthworks Recycling. He informs us that newspaper is now 2.5 cents a pound for less than 150 pounds and 3.5 cents a pound if you bring in more. Let's take advantage of this! They are located off Napa between Trent and Mission.

ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

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

OFFICERS / DIRECTORS

President: Michael Hamilton; Vice-President: Tom Rogers; Secretary: Helen Lininger; Treasurer: David Lenten; Board Members (in addition to officers): Omar Carroll, Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. Officers and board members serve without pay and we have no paid employees.

MEETING DATE / PLACE

During the summer our meetings will be held at Camp Caro, South Sargent Road, each third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. You are cordially invited.

THE MOUNTAIN BEAUTIFUL NOW

A mid-May hike up into our new 170-acre tract on Tower Mountain found a marvelous display of wildflowers dominated by bright yellows. Little sunflower-like Arnicas highlighted the scene, biscuitroots spread their umbrella-like rays and tall ragworts added to the splendor. For variety many of the latter were of the white-flowered form, not all that common in the Spokane area. Mixed in were bouquets of pink phlox. A close look revealed myriads of tiny bluelips and pink microsteris, both of which, if their flowers were ten times bigger, would be cultivated in our gardens. Scarcer but handsome were the leoparded lilies, relatives of yellowbells, along the creek below.

Bird life seemed sparse, particularly the warblers, though it's a bit early for some species--only a few yellow warblers appeared. A few vireos, house wrens and towhees, the latter seeming scarcer than usual, sang but the loud, melodious tunes of fox sparrows were nowhere heard. A veery called from the shrubbery along the creek but catbirds, oddly, had not yet arrived. A lazuli bunting flashed its blue plumage as it sped by and a mourning dove cooed in the distance.

Mourning cloak butterflies, having overwintered as adults, were common, though a bit worse for wear. Conspicuous was an anise swallowtail and what probably was a big two-tailed swallowtail, uncommon there. Little brown elfins and dark duskywing skippers often basked on sunlit trails. The little spring blues were not nearly as common as in some years. Two California tortoiseshells, also hibernators, were on the wing, as was a satyr anglewing. Two checkered skippers paused along the trails but the prize was an arctic skipper, its dark brown wings liberally sprinkled with orange spots. It is scarce in the lowlands and the first recorded in the Tower Mountain area.

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