



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS  
From the  
DISHMAN HILLS

July 1996

DONATIONS LOW IN JUNE

Donations to the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain project fell to only \$195 during June. We believe this is due to the fact that we were able to get out only one bulletin in three months. Most givers need to be informed regularly of the need. Offsetting this slightly was interest income of \$18.48 on our land fund reserve. Our expense for the month was \$203.62 for bulletin printing and mailing and office expense, so we went in the hole last month.

Those who donated during June and have given permission to be listed here are: Lila M. Ackerman, Guadalupe Flores, Helen E. Lininger, Tom Rogers and Tris and Eugene Scheel. Many Thanks!

HEWLETT-PACKARD GIVES COMPUTER

We are grateful to Hewlett-Packard of Liberty Lake for donating us a computer. With it we hope to print bulletin ourselves, provided we can get the software to print it with names and addresses. This would make it easier to get the bulletin out.

WAS IT A SERMON IN STONES?

Recently I picked up a small smoothly rounded stone in my garden which set me wondering what a story it could tell if it could talk. It was a fragment of granite which likely was as old as the granite in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area--over a billion years. Its smooth rounded shape indicated it had been rolled around in a stream for how long nobody knows. Then it was bulldozed into the Spokane Valley by the latest glacier some 10,000 years ago, deposited there with other stones, larger rocks, gravel and loam. This mixture makes for a porous soil that allows water to run through it almost like a sieve, yet the rocks help to warm the soil as they absorb the sun's heat. The larger stones I pick out and pile along my back property line but the soil supports plants very well: vegetables, flowers, grass, bushes and trees, which attract a variety of birds, insects and even a gray squirrel that brings walnuts and hides them in the ground! Unfortunately my yard is also appreciated by the neighbors' cats and dogs.

ORGANIZATION PURPOSE STATEMENT

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 Lentjes; Board members (in addition to officers): Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. All serve without pay and we have no paid employees. We strive to keep expenses at a minimum.

During the summer we will be meeting at Camp Caro South 625 Sargent Rd. on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. You are cordially invited.

During the summer we will be meeting only on call.

DISHMAN HILLS-TOWER MOUNTAIN AND  
MT. SPOKANE COMPARED

A comparison of the plants in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area with those listed thus far on Mount Spokane reveals many similarities but also a number of differences. Both have the same coniferous trees except that Mt. Spokane adds subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce in its old growth forest, as well as lodgepole and western white pine. Most of the shrubs are common to both areas but chokecherry and mock orange appear to be absent from Mt. Spokane.

When it comes to the non-woody plants, it's a very different story. Because Mt. Spokane is almost entirely wooded, grassland species are scarce. Lack of ponds there explains the absence of most water-loving plants. Those that are present are along little creeks and seeps, notably ferns. Conversely, the greater variety of habitats explains the presence of some 350 species of flowering plants in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mt. area--about 200 of them not occurring on Mt. Spokane, while Mt. Spokane apparently has only about 35 species that Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain lacks. Of special interest on Mt. Spokane is beargrass--but has anyone found its big, snowy plumes of flowers there? And Mt. Spokane has mountain lovers, often quite beautiful, among them wintergreen (Pyrola), louseworts (Pedicularis), Arnica, Penstemon and black coneflower (Rudbeckia).

Rather few mushrooms and other fungi have been recorded for Mt. Spokane. This may simply be due to lack of observation there.

Mt. Spokane has several species of birds present in summer and presumable nesting that are merely migrants in Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain. Notable on Mt. Spokane is a colony of tiny pikas, related to rabbits, on the rocky jumble at the summit. They cut grasses and flowers and lay them in the sun to dry before storing them as hay for winter food.

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