



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS
From the
DISHMAN HILLS

OCTOBER
1996

SEPTEMBER DONORS, EXPENSES

Income for the Dishman Hills Natural Area project came to \$346.38 in September. \$300.00 was designated for land purchase, \$30 for dues and \$4 for bulletin expense. Recycling brought \$12.38. Expenses were \$119.63 (about \$35 for bookkeeping and \$84 for bulletin printing) and \$84.53 for postage (bulletin mailing). Our thanks to you who contributed and have given permission to be listed here: Rita M. Cencich, Fern Dahlstrom, Frieda Foth, Don Griffiths, Rebecca B. Knapp, Ruth S. Peterson, Tom Rogers, Iris K. Scheel, Lois Smith, Helen Stowell, Florence Thayer, and Art Zack and Nan Smith. If you should have been listed herebut we missed you, please let us know at 926-7949. Many thanks !

Although September donations were low, we do expect them to pick up during November and December, so that you can get them in on your income tax returns, since they are fully deductible.

NATURE MAPPING PROCEEDS

Some local reports for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife-University of Washington's Nature Mapping project are ready for mailing. These include data for Dishman Hills Natural Area, Tower Mountain (rocks of Sharon) , Liberty Lake County Park, Mt. Spokane State Park, Heritage Lake in northeastern Stevens County, Steamboat Rock in the Grand Coulee, the Holden Village area (lutheran Camp) and a Spokane Valley area (around my own home) . Many other sites in Spokane County and elsewhere should be covered. The Little Spokane River State Park certainly is a "must". How many of these are being reported, we don't know.

The program has to date received over 11,000 records for the state, according to Karen Dvornich, who heads the project. The plan is to involve every state. Oregon, Idaho, and Montana are already moving ahead with the program. Like any business, our state, the nation and the world needs to make an inventory of our possessions, especially since some of them, irreplaceable ones, are fast disappearing. Tom Rogers

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 Lentz; 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.

Our monthly meetings are at Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Wilbur on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m.. You are cordially invited.

AUTUMN-WET AND COLORFUL

A light rain pattered on autumn leaves during a recent hike into the Dishman Hills, which were strangely quiet. Summer birds were gone and even nearly every year-round one was nowhere to be seen. Only a solitary raven patrolled the forest in search of food, croaking as it flew and one red squirrel chattered. Surprising was a tree frog calling in the pine woods far from the ponds, from which they can travel, unfrog like, returning to water only to lay their eggs.

Dogwood and meadow sweet added color to the woods and cottonwoods and aspens brightened the area with their gold. The only flower was a wild aster's blue. Lichens helped to make up the difference with various shades of green, yellow, gray and olive brown. Some had fallen to the ground, where they will add nitrates, fertilizing the soil.

The ponds were only moist but displayed a varied carpet of greenery, sedges and little beggarticks against a backdrop of bulrushes and cattails. The unusually wet October is expected to fill the ponds with water and should put the hills in excellent shape for spring flowers.

At my home in Spokane Valley white-crowned sparrows from Canada and two spotted towhees from the nearby hills enjoyed my fast food outlet-bird seed, though they have now left. Juncoes have arrived from the Dishman Hills and Tower Mountain. A song sparrow or two and a few house finches, year-round residents, mixed in, along with a flock of house sparrows, liven the yard. Waxwings haven't arrived yet. My yard with many trees and bushes acts as a little oasis for birds.--T.R.

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