



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, October, 1997



IMPORTANT VOTE !



On this November's ballot there will be an important issue for Spokane County residents. Citizens will be asked to vote whether or not to continue the Conservation Futures Tax, a small property tax of \$6 per 100K assessed value, that is devoted to the purchase of natural areas for public use. The Association strongly recommends that you support this tax. We believe that this is an effective and efficient means to save the area's natural endowment as development threatens to devour the natural setting that makes Spokane such a special place to live.

Money collected through the tax is used solely for land purchases and not for administrative or maintenance cost. We have had this tax in place and working successfully for several years. County Parks and Recreation, with lots of public input, has done an excellent job in identifying a number of properties for the program, of which five have been obtained since the program started in 1994. These include some special natural areas such as a cedar grove in Liberty Lake Park, an addition to the scenic Palisades Park on the west rimrock, and waterfront property along Long Lake. Conservation Futures funds have been pledged to support land purchases on Tower Mountain to help our Association in establishing the new Rocks of Sharon Nature Area. The program generates about \$800K annually, a small but significant amount when wisely applied over a number of years.

The campaign to support this tax has brought together a coalition of conservation, recreation, and outdoor activity groups that all agree that this program will be very important not only to us, but to future generation in preserving Spokane's natural heritage. Please get out to support this program on November 4th, and encourage others to do the same.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving natural areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton at 747-8147 for any questions. We have have our monthly meetings at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur, the third Tuesday at 7 PM, **You are cordially invited.**

July income was \$228.22, August, \$457.77, and September, \$712.71. An additional donation of \$5,000 worth of stock was greatly appreciated. We thank the following September donors who have given permission to be listed here: Jeff Danner, Verna Dolphin, Frieda Foth, Charles Gillingham, Don Griffiths, Eris Heggem, Bernadine Henry, Wayne Hollenbeck, Helen Lininger, Barbara Morkill, Francis/June Potter, Neil Prescott, Tom Rogers, Trudy Rogers, Beth Tietjen, Rita Waldref, Jeanne Wilson, and an anonymous donor for recyclables.

HILLS ARE COLORFUL NOW

Although we have not had a killing frost, The Dishman Hills are starting to look like Autumn. Chokecherry leaves are a rich maroon and the hawthorns are red. Dogbane and Indian hemp provide an abundance of little yellow flags waving in the wind. A few flowers linger such as the lavender asters, though goldenrod heads have aged to gray. The ponds are dried up, with the moist, exposed pond floors supporting much greenery and the tiny flowers of beggarticks.

Summer birds are mostly gone, leaving the woods to chickadees, nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, and robins, a number of the latter gathering for migration, though some may winter, and a raven or two scavenging for food. It's too cold already for most insects though a few flies are on the wing. Two children discovered a snake.

The summer burn area shows signs of recovery, with grasses and a few yarrow plants, pussytoes, prairie smoke, and, unhappily, the noxious weed toadflax, pushing their way up through a ground cover of ashes. Scrubs haven't fared so well so far. One little spiraea is showing life but we will have to wait until Spring to see if the serviceberries sprout up from the roots. Suspicious was a fire ring, which might have caused the fire. It is 100% certain that the fire was human-caused.

MAILING LIST UPDATE

If you are enjoying this bulletin, but have not been contacted by us lately, or have not sent in any dues or donations in the last four years, you may be dropped off the list if you do not contact us immediately; call Helen Lininger at 924-5808, or write to the DHNAA.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** or **DUES**

All contributions are tax deductible

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