



# Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, July, 1998

## HISTORY LESSON

Our Association has some history; more than 3 score years as a matter of fact. In the Spring of 1966 things got rolling with a group of people getting together for a hike in the Hills. So the journey began. Shortly thereafter, the Association was born for the purpose of preserving these natural wonders of the Hills for generations of hikers to come. By 1967 we had our act together, and the first land purchase was made from John Goldback (Goldback Springs) with the help of a lot of generous people and a loan from the Nature Conservancy. In 1969 Spokane County joined in with additional lands purchases using state, federal, and a large private donation. The ball was rolling and the hikes continued. Old Camp Caro was acquired from the Lutheran Church in 1970 along with addition land purchases by Spokane County between 1970 and 1974. The Natural Area was on the map. By 1985 the Association ventured into another land purchase of 140 acres, and in 1987 Washington state joined in with a land purchase on the northwest side of the Natural Area. Spokane County opened the new Camp Caro facility in 1989. A joint management plan between the three land owners started in 1991, culminating in 1995 with a plan that spelled out a set of management guidelines and goals. In 1994 the Association committed to a land purchase on Tower Mountain to save some of the spectacular natural areas on the southern end of the Dishman Ridge.

The long journey to save the natural heritage of the Dishman Hills is not over. The hike continues. Today over 520 acres of natural area stands as a monument of the generosity, foresight, and vision of a lot of wonderful people who like to hike in the Hills. Some of those that took that first step in 1966 are still with us, others follow in their footsteps, together we will finish writing the history of the Dishman Hills.

## 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 with any questions. We will not have a August meeting since it's summer time.

Donations to our Dishman Hills Land Fund amounted to \$577.09 in June. Operating expenses were \$64.73, all for bulletin postage.

Our thanks to you who who donated and have given permission to be listed here: Alan V. Carlson, Heather Cassidy, Claudia Ebel, Scott Grimmett, L.K. Hatch, Inland Council of Teachers of English, Dorothy Knechtel, John Landt, Helen Lininger, John Lorang, Kathryn Mann, Gloria Nicol, Edith Rasmusson, Ernest Richlie, Tom Rogers, Lois Smith, Sokane Recycling products (anonymous donation), Karen Williams, and Jeanne Wilson. Many thanks.

## GENEROSITY NEEDED

We are putting out a special call for donations so that so we can make our payment on time for the Tower Mountain land by September 1st. We have paid over half of the contract in only four years, greatly reducing the total interest paid for the purchase. But late payments are penalised a certain percentage as per the purchase contract, so we like to stick with the payment time table. Summer time is the slow time for donations, leaving us behind and a little short. So please send some of those dollars in July or August if possible.

## RESEARCH STARTED

The Department of Natural Resources is starting several research projects in the Dishman Hills. One project will document the fire history of the forest by "wafering" several tress that display burn scars to determine the relationship of the growth layers and burn layers. The agency is exploring the use of controlled burning to replace natural burns in improving forest health. Another study involves documenting the ecology of the East and West pond area to provide some good scientific data for any environmental restoration projects in the future for this area. The State, the landowner of the pond area, wants to protect the delicate and diverse environment of the ponds from the heavy use experienced by this popular hiker's destination. They are especially concerned with public use of the pond basins during dry periods when hikers trample vegetation. There will probably some new information signs here as part of their efforts.

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E. 10820 Maxwell

Spokane, WA 99206

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ANNUAL DUES due in January (\$10 regular, \$5 student or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

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