



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, March, 2000

TNC IS BACK

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) visited the Dishman Hills in March in order to inspect several sites slated for trail restoration. The TNC has pledged ½ million dollars for conservation projects in Washington, provided that the state matches those funds with one million more. The State met the challenge, and both TNC and Dept. of Natural Resources personnel are on the move to implement conservation projects statewide. The Hills are on their priority list and we are scheduled to receive funds for these projects within the next year. Initial efforts will be to improve the trail between Camp Caro and the ponds. We are going to construct a switch-back trail up the steep section at trail head, and restore the old trail where erosion has stripped off soil and vegetation. The goal is to provide a better trail to the ponds while eliminating many of the redundant routes. Another project could be to stop the water erosion along the trail/road that runs from the 8th Ave. trail head up to the ponds. We will have to develop methods and procedures for restoring unwanted trails, and protecting restoration while the ecology heals. This expertise can be applied to many others areas in the Hills where the ecology is suffering from the impact of too many human feet (and a few wheels).

LETTER FROM THE PAST

The following letter was found amongst the records that resided in the office of the late Tom Rogers. The letter was addressed to the Spokane Community Press, probably from the early 70's. So here is the unedited, unabridged version.

Dear Sir: It is to be regretted that certain narrow minded and backward residents of this area are attempting to resist the efforts of some of our more progressive and public spirited "improvers and developers" such as Black, Main, and Rayner to enlighten them and correct their thinking. It has been reported that there are a few plots of grass and even a few trees remaining in the Spokane Valley, and that a rabbit or two and even birds have been sighted in the Dishman Hills. These are deplorable facts, if true. just imagine, if you can, what a terrible and long lasting effect the sight of any of the above would have on our children. Lets all get behind Messrs. Black, Main, Rayner, et al so that they may proceed with their inspired plans to pave the entire county with black top, build shopping centers at every intersection, eliminate any remaining grass and trees, and make it safe and liveable for the human race. Also such laudable action by these improvers could possibly result in some small monetary benefit to them. Such benefit would, of course, be only incidental and secondary considerations to them.

BUTTERCUP HIKE TIME

Spring has sprung, at last, and the buttercups are sprouting in the Hills. We have scheduled the annual buttercup hike for April 15, Saturday. Assemble at Camp Caro at 1:30 pm and we will disappear into the Hills shortly thereafter. If the weather is nice we should be out for 2 to 3 hours. Several people have expressed a desire to hike along the northern side of the Natural Area to inspect what is going on with the new Sprague Couplet, the latest human assault on the Natural Area. However, as part of the road construction there may be an opportunity to acquire some more land, some of which is very scenic. A tour along the northern side will include some nifty geology, cultural history, striking topography, lots of buttercups, and serve as an introduction to these new land acquisition opportunities.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We have a monthly meeting the 3rd Tuesday at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur, at 7 PM.

Last month was a bumper month for our land fund. The following are our February donors that have consented to be listed: Robert Bray, Nancy Cashon, Helen Cook, Bill Green, Mary Goodman, Carlton Gouge, Larry Hatch, Adeline Hayes, Robert Henderson, Tim Henderson, the Hobnailers, Kent Hoffman, Tim Howard, Mark Huggar, Elizabeth Jacobsen, Kim Krull, William Kuhlman, Helen Lininger, Kerry Masters, Frank Ohme, Joy Peterson, Madeline Phelps, Joel Ream, Fran Simonson, Lois Smith, Kieth Sturtz, Dwight Vance, and Robert Wilson. Many, many thanks.

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