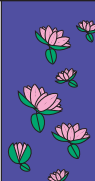


FLSRV Newsletter



April
2013

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In Memoriam KAY RINGO

*A true Friend of the
Little Spokane River Valley
1917 ~ 2013*



Annual Meeting

Martha Schaefer, Vice President

Many of us enjoyed our Annual Meeting on February 23rd at Wandermere Golf Course Club House. We had a presentation and slide show by Lindell Haggin demonstrating the use of our new water quality meter. FLSRV volunteers have been doing this testing for the past several years but needed new equipment. This purchase will allow them to continue to gather baseline data about the health of the Little Spokane River and Deadman Creek. The meter was bought jointly with the Conservation District; our part being \$1474.15. If there are any changes, we will be alerted early allowing us to determine the cause and a greater opportunity to remedy the problem. Walt Edelen and Dan Ross from the Conservation District were on hand to answer questions.

Board members Martha Schaefer, Michael Kennedy, Harla Jean Biever and Lance Pounder were re-elected for another 2 year term. Also, the treasurer's report was available for whomever asked.

After the meeting we enjoyed a buffet dinner, silent auction, and conversation with friends and neighbors.

Annual Spring Cleanup

**Join your friends
and neighbors for the
Annual Spring Clean-up
of our Valley**

**Saturday, April 27th
9:30am**

**Meet the group at
Shady Slope and Little
Spokane Drive for
instructions.
Be sure to bring
along gloves.**

**This is another
opportunity to help keep
our valley beautiful.**

**Following the clean-up, a
chili lunch will be
held at the Haggins'
N. 15418 Little Spokane Dr.**

- All are invited -

Jack Nisbet Tours

You will find a form in this newsletter detailing tours Jack Nisbet is conducting in conjunction with an exhibition he and his wife assembled for the MAC. It features David Douglas and the search for fauna and flora of the Northwest. If you are interested in any of these tours please complete the registration form and send it in.

On another note, Jack is conducting a Walking Tour for FLSRV on May 11, 2013. There are a few spaces still available so if you are interested call Harla Jean 466-2823.

Thank You

2013 Donors

For Auction Items!

We Did Great!

Spokane Turbine Center
Little Spokane Garden Club
Roberta Ellis
Lindell Haggin
Museum Of Arts And Culture
North Columbia Monthly
Wynecoop Chickens
Chris And Loren Dudley
Merle And Diana Moberly
Petunia's Market Place
Alan Mccoy
Yuppy Puppy
Petite Chat Village Bakery
Bonnie And Dick Vandervert
Judy's Enchanted Garden
John And Susan Holen
Harla Jean Bieve
Carol Walker
Gina Freuen
Hulda Bridgeman
Jack Nisbet
Starbucks @ 'Y'
Wandermere Ups Store
Car Wash Plaza, Wandermere
Jack And Ro Bury
Subway, Wandermere
Postnet, Wandermere
Rocket Bakery
Kizuri
Rick And Sue Kellogg
"Now And Zen"
Spokane Audubon Society
Jeanne And Buz Dammarell
Pounder's Jewelry
Lance And Mena Pounder
Bob Ross, Wandermere Golf Course
Oil Can Henry's, Wandermere
Kirk And Lori Neumann
Fred Meyer, Wandermere
O'doherty's Irish Grill
Chick And Lois Wynecoop
Richard Yarbro, DDS

PET Project Spreads Mobility

Cindy Hval

Article Courtesy of Spokesman-Review

Thanks to a small Spokane nonprofit, 1,220 people in 95 countries have received the gift of mobility.

Since 2005, Inland Northwest PET Project has been creating and distributing Personal Energy Transporters from a hillside shop in Colbert.

A PET is a hand-pedaled vehicle made of lumber and steel. The sturdy parts and solid-core rubber wheels provide transportation in terrain that would prove difficult for traditional wheelchairs to navigate.

Dick Carpenter, 72, founded Inland Northwest PET Project after reading a blurb about the international organization in the newspaper.

"I had cancer and lost my law practice," the retired attorney said. He glanced around the bustling shop. "God gave me this."

The motto of the organization, "Lifting people out of the dirt into a life of dignity and hope," appealed to Carpenter. And when he discovered that many of the PETs go to victims of land mines, he found he'd come full circle. Carpenter is a Vietnam veteran who used to train soldiers in the use of land mines.

Pictures and testimonials from PET recipients dot the walls of the shop. "Every one of these people has a story," Carpenter said. "And we want to hear them."

He pointed to a photo of Ernesto, a Guatemalan man who contracted polio at age 7. Forced to crawl for 37 years, Ernesto found new life when he received a PET. He built a traveling snack shop on his sturdy vehicle and is now a proud entrepreneur. It's those stories that keep the 40-plus volunteers Carpenter has dubbed PET-kin coming back.

The bright colors of the PETs in various stages of construction catch the eye. The Spokane shop is the only place in the world where Rainbow PETs are built. No two boards are painted alike, and an eagle stencil adorns the backrest of each device.

Carpenter proudly pointed to PET No. 1,000—a red, white and blue star-spangled beauty that's ready for shipping. "Bright

and cheerful is our theme," he said.

While the sub-assembly and packing take place at the shop, many of the volunteers work on their contributions at home.

Harvey Lochhead upholsters the seats at home but enjoys catching up with his fellow volunteers when he delivers them.

"This meets needs I have and meets the needs of a lot other people," he said, referring to his desire to stay active during retirement years.

Volunteers' contributions are varied. "We have a 90-year-old lady who paints for us," Carpenter said.

She's also donated dozens of stuffed animals that are packed with many PET

and are then sent overseas. Recently, Inland Northwest PET sent 17 vehicles to the U.S. Navy humanitarian effort Project Handclasp. The Navy distributed those PETs in Nigeria.

Retired engineer Maurice Feryn oversees the sub-assembly operations and helped perfect the PET's unique chain system. He tears up when he thinks about the outcome of their efforts.

"When I think about how easy it is for me to get in my car and drive up here," he said, then paused. "And then I think about the people who get these – how one PET can change a person's life."

While committed volunteers like Feryn



In Colbert, Dick Carpenter, left, and Maurice Feryn assemble a PET (Personal Energy Transporter), a three-wheel, hand-cranked vehicle that will be shipped to Third World countries.

- Photo by Colin Mulvany

shipments. Depending on destination, products are packed heavy or light. Boxes packed heavy are filled with clothing, magazines, stuffed animals and things citizens of Third World countries find useful, like wire hangers and pill bottles.

When Carpenter ran into a former girlfriend at a high school reunion, she wanted to help, too. "She knits," he said. He held up a soft wool cap. "She's probably sent a couple thousand of these at least."

Every PET is shipped with the tools and instructions needed for assembly, operator instructions and a small New Testament donated by Gideon's International.

"We ship out every two or three months," Carpenter said. The PETs go to several triage points, like MedShare in California,

donate their time, the materials needed to craft these vehicles are not cheap.

Local fabrication shops that used to donate steel have backed off. With the steel, wood and other materials, each vehicle costs \$250 to build and ship.

Carpenter is blunt. "People can donate lumber or steel, but cash keeps the wheels turning."

For more information on PET, visit:

petspokane.org
or call (509) 466-3425

Checks can be mailed to:

The Inland Northwest PET Project
15123 N. Little Spokane River Drive,
Spokane, WA 99208

Mac Presents
David Douglas Historic Tours
With Jack Nisbet

Spokane-based teacher and naturalist, Jack Nisbet, is author of several books detailing history, fauna and flora of our region. The exhibition on David Douglas that is at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture currently was assembled by Jack and his wife, Claire, in collaboration with MAC staff and incorporates documentation from his two most recent books, *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, and *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work*. These tours will depart on Saturdays from the MAC at 9:00 am and return by 3:00 pm. Admission to the Museum is included for viewing the exhibition following the tours.

Please complete the form below and mail by 15 days prior to each of the tour day departures.

Feel free to invite your friends to come along with us.

APRIL 20 Swanson Lakes, Twin, & Coffeepot Lake

Matching the time of the Hudson's Bay Company's spring express that Douglas took **up the Columbia** in 1826 and 27, we will look at early wildflowers and spring birds in the shrub-steppe

MAY 4 Little Falls/Mouth of the Spokane River

Douglas made some of his favorite plant collections at the confluence of the Spokane and Columbia Rivers in early May 1826. He also traveled from Little Falls downstream and crossed the Spokane at its mouth later that same summer. If time permits, we will stop at Reardan's spectacular Audubon Lake on the way back to Spokane.

MAY 18 Colville Valley/Little Pend Oreille NWR

In May 1826, David Douglas journeyed through the Colville Valley twice on his way between Kettle Falls and Spokane House. Timed to match Douglas's trek to the day, this trip will follow an ancient tribal route across a divide that affords the same spectacular views of the Spokane River that thrilled the naturalist. We will stay on the old trail to work north through Colville Valley, stopping at the Chewelah City Park for a picnic lunch. Since this tour corresponds with the very peak of wildflower bloom and migrant bird activity, our progress will be determined both by the weather and by what we encounter along the way.

If you need more information call Harla Jean at 466-2823 or email her at: hjbiever@earthlink.net

- More Upcoming Tours On Back Side - Be Sure To Cut Form On Dotted Line Below To Keep Tour Schedule -

WALKING TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Please detach, indicate which tours you would like to take and how many people are in your party, complete the rest of the information and mail this registration form with your payment of \$55.00 per person by 15 days prior to each of the tour day departures.

Make check payable to Group Coordinators:

Group Coordinators, P. O. Box 28418, Spokane WA 99228

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Email address _____

Deposit enclosed \$ _____

Number of people	Date	Tour
_____	APRIL 20	Swanson Lakes, Twin, & Coffeepot Lake
_____	MAY 4	Little Falls/Mouth of the Spokane River
_____	MAY 18	Colville Valley/Little Pend Oreille NWR

Come See The Butterflies!

The following three events are being led by John Baumann.

If you want to go with him please contact him at 327-4827 or email bauman.jp56@gmail.com. Reservations must be made in advance.

Little Spokane Butterfly Walk

Date: Saturday, May 25th, 2013 • Time: 10:30am • Limit: 16 participants

Among the richest and most conveniently located of butterfly habitats in Spokane County is the area where the Little Spokane River approaches the Spokane River proper. The south facing canyon encompassed by the Van Horn-Edburg-Bass Conservancy yielded three new county butterfly species occurrence records in May 2012, and could have even more surprises for careful observers this coming spring! Our mid-day walk will proceed a mile or so up this canyon to find all three locally occurring swallowtail species, plus spring hairstreaks and blues, including both the Eastern and Western Tailed Blues. Mourning Cloaks, Commas, Crescents and perhaps even the uncommon little Arctic Skipper will appear. Bring a sack lunch, cameras, nets and close focusing binoculars to enjoy this 4-6 hour outing.

McKenzie Conservation Area Butterfly Walk, with Inland Northwest Land Trust

Date: June 15, 2013 • Time: 10:30am • Limit: 16 participants

Join us at this beautiful little protected habitat on the northwest shores of Newman Lake for a good introduction to bog loving and boreal butterfly species of the Inland Northwest. See Swallowtails, the Greenish Blue, Northern Crescents, Tortoiseshells and maybe the uncommon Long Dash skipper. If lucky, we may catch a glimpse of the Silver Bordered Fritillary, a Washington State species of concern, and the lovely day flying Elegant Sheep Moth also finds a haven here. The hike is relatively short and flat, and will take us to the lake shore where we can share brown bag lunches at Turtle Rock. Total distance perhaps a bit over 2 miles round trip. Parking at the Trailhead is limited so we will need to work together to arrange some carpools for a group of 16 to be there.

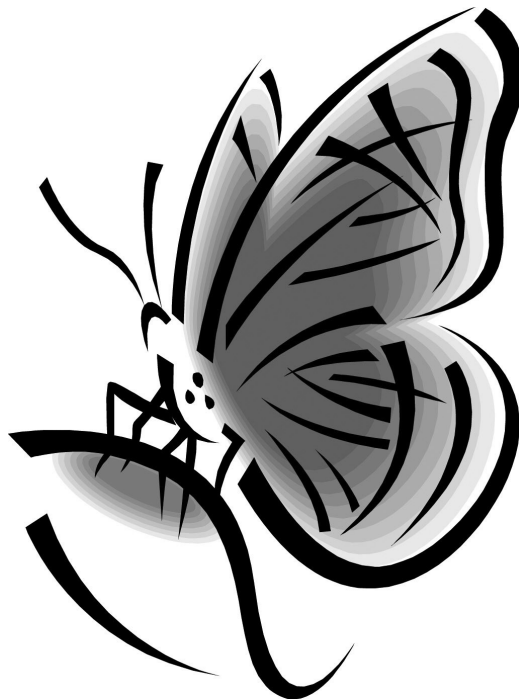
Audubon Butterfly Observation Field Trip to Mt Kit Carson

Date: Saturday, July 13, 2013 • Time: 10:30am • Limit: 20 participants

Join our 1st Audubon butterfly walk! Regional higher elevation species reach their peak numbers in our area on the lush, flowered meadows of Mt. Kit Carson, a two mile hike (one way) in from the Upper Loop Rd parking lot. Look for abundant Clodius Parnassians, Pale and Tiger Swallowtails, Edith's and Blue Coppers, several species of Blues and all three of our local Anglewings. Greater and Lesser Fritillaries are common. Best of all, the trails leading in to the alpine meadows themselves are flowered with spreading dogbane that draws numbers of the now uncommon and pretty little West Coast Lady, where she appears in numbers from mid to late summer. We'll meet at the Kit Carson Upper Loop trailhead and slowly meander up the trail to spend time for a sack lunch (you provide) at the CCC Cabin picnic area where hikers will be able to decide how much of the remaining 1.5 mile trek they want to make: only the last .5 mile climbs very steeply, but those who make the effort will be well rewarded by beautiful vistas and opportunities to sight more than 20 butterfly species in one day. We should return by 4:30pm at the latest.

A note for those new to "butterflying": These creatures may be observed with close focusing, compact binoculars (e.g., Pentax Papilio), or by netting them and showing them to others in observation jars before releasing them again unharmed. John will also share tips on butterfly photography for the shutterbugs in our midst, and be assured that even pocket cameras with a "macro" mode can produce nice results.

Lindell Haggin, 509-466-4118



Postmarks

Tina Wynecoop

River valleys are composed of biologic, geologic, and cultural wonders. Our own Little Spokane River Valley is no exception. Kay Ringo, who lived on a farm called "Buckeye" near this meandering river, wrote several books about the area she came to love. Thanks to her passion to record its history the reader can go back in time and gain a clearer sense of "the way it was." She focused her published writings on the local milltown, Buckeye, the Little Spokane Garden Club, post offices in the area, and her pioneer family. In 2012, just four years shy of a century, she published her last history book, based on letters written by her aunt and uncle, about pioneer days in Washington Territory, 1879-1886.

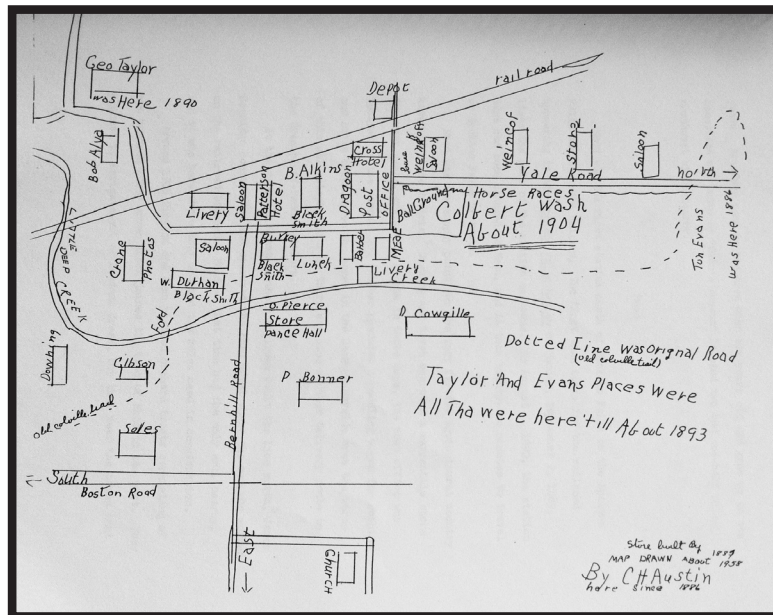
Postmarked letters are a researcher's valuable resource and postmarks led Kay to many historical discoveries, including first person accounts of our Colbert area recorded during the last fifteen decades. The post office story is twined with Kay's - for in her life the post office was a center of community and communication. This was also true for our family when we made our home here in 1976 and our address was Route 1, Box 319, Colbert, Washington. There weren't many homes in the area at the time. We enjoyed, and still do look forward to the daily one half mile walk to get our mail. For many years our rural mail carrier traveled on two lane dirt or macadam roads lined with wild rose bushes and vast fields of farmland to make deliveries. Whitetail deer were rarely seen, and wild turkeys were non-existent. Occasionally we would receive a notice in our mailbox telling us there was a package too big to deliver and we would drive the six miles to pick it up in Colbert, at the old wood frame building that had served as store and post office since 1890. Talk about stepping back in time!

In 1890 a fellow named William Guyer moved his store and post office to this new little town being built along Little Deep Creek. It was not called Colbert, yet, but Dagoon. Then Henry Colbert bought Guyer's store and property and was appointed postmaster in 1902. The name of the P.O. was changed to Colbert. Then the name changed to 'Dean' because mail dispatchers would confuse Colbert with other rural towns with names beginning with "Col". Harry Dean was an engineer for the Great Northern Railway and owned land next to the tracks that ran through Colbert. Thus the name was changed, temporarily.



This 1940 photo of the Colbert Post Office from Kay Ringo's collection, looks just the same as it did when we picked up our packages there in the 1970-80's.

Dagoon, Colbert, Dean, and then Colbert once again, was a sawmill town, having hotels, shops, five sawmills, three livery stables, two saloons, two blacksmith shops and a general store. In 1886 only the store was still standing - and still operating as the post office.



This map, drawn by Clarence H. Austin, is from Kay's book, The Milltown, Buckeye, Washington and Surrounding Area, 1889-1912. (This winter, when researching this article I drove by the old store. It is still standing, but cosmetic changes to its siding and porch and windows make it unrecognizable.)

Kay and her husband, Howard Ringo, moved to the Buckeye area in the 1960's. Her daughter, Kayanne Wendel, in her eulogy given at the recent memorial service honoring her mother, wrote, "Soon after moving to Buckeye Farm they began the remodeling project of the old house and this sparked her curiosity and interest in the history of the area. This led to researching and writing a book about the history of Buckeye. Writing about history was a special interest and passion of

hers, connecting the present with the past."

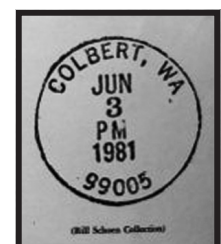
Whenever I was doing my own research about something to do with our Little Spokane River Valley, usually for an article for the newsletter, I knew I could ask Kay Ringo questions. She was a wonderful resource and it gave me special pleasure to visit her. She found something interesting to appreciate in everything, including her visitors. She was what I call 'a gentle beam of living Love.' She loved the outdoors, loved to travel, loved her extensive family, her humor permeated her relationships, and she could carry on a joke for a lon-n-n-n-g time:

Let me take you back to Christmas Eve, 1970, where all the family was gathered at Buckeye Farm. A meal was served and there was one toasted cheese sandwich left on the platter. As Kay cleared the table she remarked, "If someone doesn't eat that sandwich I am going to wrap it up and put

someone's name on it and put it under the tree." The sandwich disappeared and Kay didn't give it another thought. The sandwich was wrapped in blue foil paper (by someone else) and placed under the Christmas tree with Kay's name on it. Imagine the laughter on Christmas morning when the be-ribboned package was

opened!

The saga of that toasted cheese sandwich is history-making in itself, and of course Kay wrote a story about it, imaginatively having the sandwich tell the story of its 16 years of travels to Montana, Idaho, Oregon, disguised as a Christmas present - always coming back every other year as a Christmas gift to the beloved owner of Buckeye Farm - sometimes by mail delivery postmarked "Colbert"





Friends of
Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.
P.O. Box 18191
Spokane, WA 99228



Memorial Bricks

Harla J. Biever

The FLSRV board members recently voted to initiate a project to inscribe memorial bricks in honor of members who have passed away. The bricks will have the members name and year of passing and will be placed in the sidewalk at the kiosk on the corner of Little Spokane River Drive and Cincinnati Street. Bricks will be laid in memory of Rick Stewart, Kay Ringo, and John Ellis.

FLSRV Website

Have you visited our web site? We are continually updating information in which you might be interested. Take a look at flsrv.org.

Work Day At Camp Dart-Lo

Inland Northwest Land Trust is working with Camp Fire on an Arbor Day event at Camp Dart-Lo. The date is Sunday, April 28 from 2:00-5:00 PM. INLT is leading a tree planting, but there will also be other activities for children to get them to appreciate the outdoors.

FLSRV are invited to participate, either as volunteers or by running an educational event (or bringing their own kids and grandkids to participate).

Call Vicki, Director of Development, INLT at 328-2939 or
Maggie or Peggy at Camp Fire 747-6191



Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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P.O. Box 18191

Spokane, WA 99228

Phone: 509-466-2823

For article suggestions or comments,
contact Harla Jean Biever

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