



FLSRV Newsletter

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Annual Meeting and Dinner / Auction

Friday, February 23, 2024
Wandermere Golf Club

We will enjoy Italian Food for dinner as we did last year. You will have the opportunity to visit with long-time friends and your new neighbors. Enjoy the opportunity to purchase wonderful auction items. Our speaker will be Conor Giorgi, fisheries biologist with the Spokane Tribe of Indians. He will focus on salmon restoration in the Little Spokane River.

Please make your reservations by returning the form at the bottom of the enclosed membership page along with your money for dinner tickets. If you have items you would like to contribute to the auction please call:

Harla Jean 509-993-4775

This year the Board carefully weighed the decision to increase the FLSRV Dinner/Auction ticket price. We concluded that since the event is a fundraiser, it was reasonable to raise money through ticket sales as well as the silent auction. In the past there was only minimal financial gain after paying the caterers. We hope we're making a reasonable bet that members and neighbors will continue to buy tickets, knowing that it raises funds for trails. And a BIG thank you to Herb Brown for welcoming us year after year to the Wandermere clubhouse at no charge. Come along with us to enjoy this event!

Trails Update

Mark Case

Last Fall, a small group of volunteers continued trail work on the portion of Little Spokane Drive from Colbert Road down to View Lane, except for the installation of the catch basin and culvert. A new catch basin and culvert will be installed soon so the volunteers can complete the last 40 feet of that piece of the trail to View Lane.

The newest portion of the ever-expanding FLSRV pedestrian trail system was constructed by Lance Pounder Excavation, Inc., extending from Midway up a small hill, then meandering through trees along the edge of the forest adjacent to Little Spokane Drive. The project required obtaining proper easements, the removal of a few trees, hauling away soil, then grading a ramp into the side slope and covering the trail with gravel. Afterwards, a group of volunteers came out with rakes and smoothed/compacted the 800 feet of new trail. It looks great and the visibility from Midway looking north onto Little Spokane Dr. is much improved, making the T-intersection safer for pedestrians and drivers alike. Hopefully you can get out there to enjoy the new portion of trail before the snow flies!

As always, we are limited by budget constraints but are grateful to those of you who have donated to the Go Fund Me account for Friends of the Little Spokane River Trails' ongoing campaign, as well as to those who give their time and efforts to make these trails a reality.

We appreciate your support and help in keeping our valley clean!



FLSRV Newsletter

is a publication of:

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

P.O. Box 18191

Spokane, WA 99228

Phone: 509-951-2084

For article suggestions or comments
contact Harla Jean Biever

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Valley Clean-up 2023

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual clean-up day for the valley on Saturday, April 22, 2023. We met at Moose Park in Gleneden again. Also, Saturday was Earth Day, so a lot of people came to help Mother Earth. We had a great turn out. Our goal was to clean up most of the major roads in the Valley from Wandermere to Perry; Shady Slope to the top of the hill; Dartford to Hazard Road; Hatch Road to the pool; and Golden Road, Midway, and Colbert Road including some new areas along US 395 which we finally did this year.

Please mark your calendar for this next year's clean-up at 9:30am on April 20, 2024. We need your time and continued support to help to keep our valley clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors. Remember we are meeting at Moose Park for 2024 clean-up. Remember you can always clean up the path around your house and area throughout theyear.

After the clean-up, we are planning a chili feed for those who volunteer. Details will be announced next spring. Thanks to all who give time with both clean-up and the cooking!



Glen Tana

Ty Brown

In the early 1900s, Glen Tana was a sprawling 2,000-acre farm on the banks of the Little Spokane River that was home to a famous dog kennel and dairy farm owned by Thomas and Charlotte Griffith. The name meant "Land of Many Waters," referring to both the river and the abundant natural springs on the property. Much of the land has been sold, but up until this past year, more than 1,000 acres of Glen Tana remained in the hands of Griffith's descendants.

Now, it is the property of the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) with the hope of protecting the land and river from development in perpetuity.

Prior to European American settlement, the Little Spokane River was an important

trout and salmon fishery for Native Americans, most notably the Spokane Tribe. The portion of the Little Spokane River that would later become Glen Tana lay between ethnographic villages, but evidence of use by Native Americans has been documented on the property. During the late 1880s, European Americans began moving into the valley, homesteading or purchasing land that had been granted to the railroad.

Griffith, the first wholesale grocer in Spokane, and his wife began to acquire land along the Little Spokane River in 1894. They made the first purchase after the birth of their only daughter, Tannis, who they named after a Native American word meaning "our daughter." They called the farm Glen Tana after a suggestion by Scottish relatives. In 1904, they started a dog kennel as a hobby, and it became world-famous for its collies. A few years later, they established Glen Tana Dairy Farm, which became

known nationwide for its prized Jersey cows. In the 1920s, the Griffiths began to sell portions of the property. One was purchased by Spokane hotelier Louis Davenport and turned into his summer home, called Flowerfield. It is now Saint George's School. In the 1930s, another portion containing the main springs was sold to the state for a fish hatchery, which is still in operation. Members of the Griffith-Semple-Witherspoon family have lived on the property on and off, and remnants of historical Glen Tana, such as the rock walls, house, and barns are still visible along Rutter Parkway on the north bank of the Little Spokane River. INLC, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians plan to collaborate on ways to protect the acreage for the public enjoyment.

Restoration of the Riparian Area at Haggin Farm

Lindell Haggin

Seventy-five years ago, when Bart was a mere lad, his job was to go down in the meadow to cut out the shrubs and trees so that there was more pasture for the cows in the summer. That was in a time when there were lots of trees and shrubs along the river and we didn't worry about the erosion and pollution that cattle have on the river. As more and more people moved out into the natural world to get away from it all, many ended up "civilizing" their surrounding by putting in a large expanse of lawn and decorative plants that are not native.

We have a better understanding now about the benefits of having shrubs, trees and native species especially along the river edges. All the larger vegetation helps to capture the rain temporarily and thus increases the absorption into the ground and reduces flooding. Greater diversity in vegetation leads to a greater variety of wildlife, including bugs, mammals and birds. If you have trees and shrubs that extend over the river, the shade helps to keep the water temperature cooler in summer allowing more species of fish to thrive in the Little Spokane.

When Bart and I moved back to his boyhood home, I tried planting some small shrubs and bushes in the meadow that is choked with Reeds Canary Grass, but they all withered and died. Between the choking root system, deer and rodents, they didn't have a chance. The

Spokane Conservation District did help us with willow plantings along the riverbank itself and even though the beavers come along to trim the willows back periodically, they keep resprouting.

We have belonged to The Lands Council for years and in their recent publications there have been articles about stream side restoration projects. About a year ago I contacted Kat Hall, Restoration Program Director, about the feasibility of doing something to improve the meadow. This spring things came together. Kat still had funds left from a grant from the Department of Ecology to restore riparian buffers in the LSR watershed. This would cover the restoration of part of the property. In early summer noxious weeds were treated and the canary grass was mowed. In late summer fencing was used to create exclusion pens to keep browsers like deer from eating the new plants. Finally, volunteers dug holes and planted over 100 shrubs and trees. So now when you drive across the bridge near Shady Slope you can look to the south and see large exclusion pens with trees and shrubs planted inside. We are so excited at seeing this land being restored to a much closer version of what it once was.

The bottom line is, it takes an incredible amount of work and organizing to pull off a project like this. We can't thank Kat Hall and Brian Walker, Partners Biologist at the USFWS/Turnbull NWR for all their effort and expertise. Kat is hoping to get another grant so that next year we can complete the project along the river. If you are interested in a project like this, please contact The Lands Council and Kat Hall at khall@landscouncil.org or 509-209-2403

New Water Pipeline to Service the Little Spokane River Valley

Kirk Neumann

This summer many of us were affected by the pipeline construction on Hatch and Midway Roads. This area was plagued with traffic delays, detours, dust, and congestion. The following is the backstory about the project and how it will have a positive effect on the Little Spokane River Valley.

The Whitworth Water District, which serves 30,000 customers in unincorporated Spokane County north of Spokane, sits atop two aquifers. The Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer lies underneath the southern end of the district. "That's one of the most abundant, robust aquifers in the world," Tim Murrell said. (Whitworth Water District General Manager) The Little Spokane River Aquifer isn't. That less abundant aquifer lies beneath most of the Whitworth

Water District's service area, and it's been depleted over time.

How the county manages the Little Spokane River Aquifer changed seven years ago. In 2016, the Washington Supreme Court issued what's commonly referred to as the Hirst decision. The ruling said counties must ensure enough water is available for existing well users before they allow new wells. "That limited development – basically stopped development – in the Little Spokane aquifer because of the impacts those new exempt domestic wells would have had on the stream system," Murrell explained.

Following the Hirst decision, the Whitworth Water District looked at how it could meet the needs of existing well users while allowing for new development and maintaining adequate stream flows in the Little Spokane River. The district came up with a few ideas, including the \$14 million Little Spokane River Water Supply Resiliency Project.

- "Water Supply" / Continued on page 4 -



Students from On Track Academy helping with restoration work.

The concept is fairly simple. The Whitworth Water District will take water out of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer using a well near the intersection of Hastings Road and Division Street. The district will then pump that water north through 5.4 miles of 24-inch pipe to a site near Midway Elementary School. "It will minimize the amount of water that we have to pump out of our existing Little Spokane wells," Murrell said. "It's basically a replacement project. For every gallon we pump out of the SVRP, we have to pump less out of the Little Spokane."

Not only will the project help the county allow more development in the wake of the Hirst decision, it will also have ecological benefits. Murrell said that by reducing withdrawals from the Little Spokane aquifer, the Little Spokane River should have improved stream flows, especially during the dry summer months.

Murrell said the new infrastructure will also have direct financial benefits for property owners. The new system will be more efficient, which will mean cheaper water for customers. Murrell added that the county's \$4 million investment will reduce costs to property owners too, because the water district would otherwise be funding the project on its own. "We're not doing this just to benefit the Little Spokane River," Murrell said. "It also benefits our ratepayers." This project is a "Win-Win" for those living in the Little Spokane River Valley.

Jack Nisbet's Annual FLSRV Hike: The Quarry

Tina Wynecoop

I've lost count - but never my enthusiasm for the annual adventures author/naturalist Jack Nisbet takes us on. (There has been at least a dozen.) Jack leads hikes for other organizations as well, and you can join in by visiting the calendar he posts on his website, www.JackNisbet.com. On the last day of April 2023, eleven hikers met him at the basalt

quarry located on 8th and Havana, east of downtown Spokane. A few years ago, Spokane Conservation District moved from its longtime headquarters near the Spokane Indians baseball stadium to this old resource extraction site with their mission to restore it as much as possible into a haven. The administration has been successful! The site includes wetland habitat, columnar basalt cliffs, astounding geological features formed during basalt flows and Ice Age Floods which left their signatures on the land as well! An abundance of flora and fauna do very well in this macrocosm revealed by heavy equipment when accessing rock material for the construction of I-90. The leftover debris and piles of concrete serve as reminders of the sites former "glory" days. Newly constructed trails throughout the 50-acre quarry provide an open window to see the wonders of the landscape - and the continuing restoration of what may be salvaged.

Conservation officers Garth Davis and Matt Nelson accompanied Jack on the hike and provided information about both the old quarry and their new district administration building which is settled on the floor of the quarry like it always had a home there. The design of the building is so representative and reflective of the conservation ethics of the organization. A visit just to the building any time of year is worthwhile and soon will be made even more inviting by the year-round farmers' market which is in the design stage. The market will utilize an old scale building left behind after the freeway construction was completed: www.Spokanecd.org.

My husband and I remain members of our own wonderful FLSRV organization which has built and continues to extend non-motorized hiking trails imbued with a more suburban/ urban design than the woody trails at SCD. The usage of our valley's trails continues to affirm that the trails and pathways are used and appreciated by pedestrians of all ages. Really, when you stop to think about it, The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley and Spokane Conservation District are sister organizations in their similar missions. We have always been led on hikes planned by Jack which give a new perspective, a sense of history, a sense of timelessness, and a sense of wonder. The varied sites he selects for our explorations are amazing and welcomed. As always, I wonder, "where will we go next year." Of course, I don't want to hurry the year along... but... "I can't wait." Hats off to Jack Nisbet, Spokane Conservation District.

Little Spokane River Valley Welcome Sign

Kirk Neumann

At the top of Colbert Road, we now have a sign that welcomes drivers coming into the Little Spokane River Valley. This sign sits atop a concrete foundation and matches the sign at the south end of Little Spokane Drive. The sign was cut out of a stainless-steel plate and bolted inside of a 4' diameter engraved concrete ring. The ring was drilled and anchored to the foundation. The next step will be to install two masonry pillars, on either side of the ring. The pillars will secure the ring and act as a picture frame for the ring and heron. If anyone knows of a mason that can help finish this project, please contact us through the address on our website.



Either scan the QR code or navigate to the URL address, below, to donate.



https://www.gofundme.com/f/friends-of-little-spokane-river-trails?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp_guide_do&member=29500889

Thank you for your support!

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

2024 Association Membership Form

Goals of the organization:

- ⇒ Preserve and sustain the unique character of the Little Spokane River Valley, including its open space and natural setting, maintaining lower density zoning.
- ⇒ Protect the area's ecosystem including water quality, wetlands, priority habitat and wildlife, and dwindling native vegetation.
- ⇒ Encourage the development of area parks.
- ⇒ Educate public officials of FLSRV concerns, being pro-active when major issues are at the forefront.

Property owners in the area *3/4 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Chattaroy to Dartford, then 1/2 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Dartford to the Fish Hatchery* are invited to become members. Each membership may include two members of one family. Individuals who live outside the designated area, or any organization, may join as an Associate (non-voting) member.

Being in agreement with the goals, I wish to join FLSRV. Signature _____

Name (or Organization): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone : _____ E-Mail : _____

What are your special concerns about the valley?

What issues or topics would you like discussed at meetings?

<p>Check if you are interested in helping with:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trails Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parks Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (writing &/or publishing)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sign Design or construction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Board member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative help</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2024 FLSRV Membership Dues:</p> <p>Otter - Annual Family Membership \$25.00 (2 membership votes within area)</p> <p>Deer - Annual Family "Plus" Support (\$60/year) \$ _____</p> <p>Heron - Annual Family Plus Monthly Donation (\$10/mo) \$ _____</p> <p>Associate Member \$15.00 \$ _____</p> <p>Welcome Sign (Future) \$ _____</p> <p>Trail Fund Contribution \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL PAID \$ _____</p>
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Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc. is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation (a charity). Dues and donations are tax exempt to the full extent of the law. You should check with your tax consultant to be sure this applies to you.

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Little Spokane River Valley**
Mail to: **Harla Jean Bieber, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert, WA 99005**

Please detach form below, indicate how many people are in your party and complete the rest of the registration form. Send it, along with a check made out to FLSRV with your payment of \$40 per person or \$75 per couple, by February 10th, 2024.

MAIL TO: FLSRV. P. O. Box 18191, Spokane WA 99228

FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER ANNUAL DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE _____ @ \$40.00 PER PERSON OR \$75 PER COUPLE **CHECK ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Telling About It

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention. Be astonished.

Tell about it.

Tina Wynecoop

Are you an awe-ist? Awe is called the eleventh emotion. Its earliest meaning was “intense fear.” Presently it is a word that has shed its negative connotation, becoming instead a response to astonishing beauty of all kinds. Awe inspires.

Thinking about this word, awe, has reminded me of those quick brushstrokes of illumination streaking across the sky during the recent Perseid meteor showers; and of the fields of blooming sunflowers along Highway 395; of my August 51st-year wedding anniversary; of the nature photos shared on Facebook (a tip of the hat to Colville nature photographer Joanie Christian!); of the best books I’ve read this summer. “Aah,” I say, over and over ... or is it on and on? (Pronounced “aahn and aahn.”)

Years ago, I read a wonderful article focused on awe and its aaaah sound. I shared my only photocopy of the article with my neighbor, leaving it unsecured on her porch and then awaited her response. It never came. She didn’t receive the article because powerful gusts of wind blew it away. Lost forever. Over the years I’ve kept thinking about awe and its aaaah.

I told my friend Candy about the lost article and of my unrelenting and, so far, unsuccessful search to find it again on the internet. No luck. I did find a different article on awe to share with her within the pages of a parenting book written by Mimi Doe, who wrote: *“Children love to play with sound. They make wild mouth noises and create secret languages. Give them the powerful sound of ‘aah’ to experiment with. Aah is an ancient and revered sound. Most of the words for God have the aah sound: Allah; Buddha; All That*

Is; God, Almighty. The sound aah is also in Alleluia and Amen...” Aah is the sound of true bliss and it is secular as well.

Candy emailed back and closed her fun reply with: *“Tin(ah), Thaahnk you for the message on ‘aah’ – it is aahsome!”* I learned, too, that the aah sound can be heard in the Spokane Salish greeting: *ᑭᑭ sl’áxᑭt.* – “Hello, friend.” (If you are really pleased to see someone, you would draw out the “Aahhhhhhhhhhh.”) The greeting is still spoken; as is the sign language version of the friendly hand-wave lifted off the car’s steering wheel when passing others on the road. (I had never seen this form of greeting until moving from Seattle to Wellpinit. I thought it was so cool/awesome).

I’ve been enjoying some awe this



entire week.

During warm months, I sit on the back porch to watch the sunrise. It is my favorite time to read and listen and to look around. For days I had been hearing nearby rustling sounds from beneath the lilac bushes. Most of the time that sound means the California quail and/or spotted towhees are scratching in last year’s spent leaves looking for seeds and insects. This rustle was much louder.

A pair of “rustlers” came out from the shrubs and walked toward where I was

sitting, hardly 10 feet from one of our low-to-the-ground birdbaths! Fledged turkey vultures had left their secret ground nest and come on over for a drink. They were quiet companions, taking turns dipping their beaks into the shallow concrete water dish. A cool bath was on their mind, but the dish was not big enough to accommodate either one of them, let alone both. They tried.

I had my cell phone with me and photographed and videoed them over and over until my phone started to feel hot to the touch. A sense of awe was filling my whole being. I thought this would be a one-time event, yet the huge babies have stayed for over a week, so far. They enjoy perching on the handles of the wheelbarrow. They fly off for a while and then return. Morning until evening we are graced with their presence. They spend time in the yard, and then on top of the little grass-roofed cabin by the cliff – on the same roof where the Canada geese nest each spring.

Several years ago, a pair of turkey vultures nested at the base of the basalt cliff where we live. When their babies fledged to a nearby Douglas fir snag, we were able to watch them preen cut their white, downy feathers, some of which, when released, would catch the updraft and float over the cliff like dandelion fluff. Their lightly feathered heads were whitish/ gray, unlike the parents’ bald heads, which are red. Even in flight one can determine who is parent and who is child by their head color.

Turkey vultures will begin their fall migration this month to the southern tip of South America, riding thermals generated by mountain ranges, crossing over the skinny part of Central Home Ground America, having used this same flight path for millennia. Last fall we witnessed hundreds of turkey vultures gliding on silent wings

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



“Telling About It” - Continued from page 6 -

through the Little Spokane River Valley. One evening, they all roosted in a few nearby fir trees whose branches could barely withstand the cumulative weight. Again, I was glad I had my phone’s camera with me to record the event. Another ahmazing phenomenon right before me! By early morning they had moved on.

During one of those migration days last year the vultures were right above us, soaring and dipping on thermals of warm air created by updrafts from our basalt cliff. “Like an elevator to the skies, the thermal gently wafts the vultures upward. They move in a slowly ascending spiral around the thermal, rarely flapping and instead coasting on the breeze. When many

vultures ride the same thermal, it is called a kettle.” (From a Birdnote.org podcast.)

Robinson Jeffers’ poem “Vulture” winged its way into my thought. Would the vultures swoop low enough for me to hear their wings? They did. And I did!

The poet had inspired me to lie down on the lawn by the nearby cliff, just as he had rested on a “bare hillside” with a vulture circling closer and closer to see if he were alive or not. He wrote, “I could see the naked red head between the great wings” as it inspected him. He informed the bird that he was “sorry to have disappointed him.” For, “To be eaten by that beak and become part of him, to share those wings and those eyes – what a sublime end of one’s body, what an enskyment; what a life after death.”

One feels privileged to have witnessed something so special. To have participated in the wonder of the everyday. And, to tell you about it! Tina says: Growing up in western Washington, I thought it was the most interesting place in the world until I moved in 1970 to teach school on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The culture, geography, history, and flora and fauna of the eastern part of the state is now my beloved “home ground.”



Hello 
Fall 