

FLSRV Newsletter

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Trails

Martha Schaefer

Have you noticed how many people are now using the latest developed section of trail in the valley down Midway road and Little Spokane River Drive? It is great to use and see this resource being used by so many neighbors!

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley is planning this fall to complete a graveled walking section of trail on County right-of-way from about Midway and Hatch, south along the ridge above Hatch, where there already is a dirt path used by many who enjoy the views; then down the Wandermere Connector Road toward upper Gleneden.

This new section will complement the separated sidewalk section to be built at the street level by the developer who has received his conditions and approved plans for the apartments to be built on the corner of Hatch and Wandermere Frontage Road.

Call Martha Schaefer with questions or if you would like to help our efforts. 468-9721



2009 Annual Meeting and Dinner/Auction

Tina Wynecoop

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley had a great success with their most recent fundraising dinner/silent auction and annual meeting, held March 6, 2009 at Wandermere Golf Club. As Procurement Chairman I have the pleasure of acknowledging the following businesses and individuals for their generous support. Please show your appreciation for their support by patronizing their businesses. This event, alone, netted our organization \$1,230.00!

- Donors -

Waverly Coffee	Fat Daddy's Restaurant
Wheel Sport	UPS Store - Wandermere
Oil Can Henry's - Wandermere	Subway - Wandermere
Lindell Haggin	Fred Meyer - Wandermere
Robert and Lois Wynecoop	Starbucks - Wandermere
Sue and Rick Kellogg	Fantastic Sams
Kirk and Lori Neuman	Camino Real Mexican Grill
Carol and Dale Walker	Grease Monkey - Wandermere
Tae's Teriyaki	Peggy Ostness
Trina McCollough - Home Style	Susan Holen
Island Glow Tanning	Lance and Mena Pounder
Village Centre Cinemas	Rocket Bakery - Fairwood
Wandermere Car Wash Plaza	Pounder's Jewelry
Tina & Judge Wynecoop	FLSRV
Northern Quest Casino - Kalispeil Tribe	Gay Waldman

Finishing Touches on the Bridge

Lindell Haggin

All the many people walking the section of trail from Golden Road along Little Spokane Dr. to Midway Rd. now have something new to admire as they cross the bridge over Little Spokane River. Stainless steel heron sculptures have been placed in the open circles at the ends of the bridge. The heron sculpture, designed by Kay O'Rourke and Tom Hargreaves, was originally created for the piece you find at the bottom of Mill Road welcoming everyone to Little Spokane River Valley. The sculptures were crafted and donated by Gordon Cudney of Apex Industries.



The board of FLSRV would like to express our deep appreciation to Mr. Cudney for all the work and effort he has contributed to this project and to the original project. How fortunate we are for the many people who help to make this a more beautiful and livable community.

Trees and Trails

Jim Ellis

In order to allow reasonable travel by trails or roads, it is necessary to clear the "right of way." In so doing, much brush and trees are removed. The number of trees removed is up to the discretion of the planners. When we work as a volunteer group, we have some control over which and how many trees are removed and where possible we have worked with adjacent property owners to get their input.

When we accept "government money" to build trails we lose virtually all control, not only on the trail width but also on which trees will be removed. When the trees were marked for the trail built under a government contract in 08 with your tax dollars, many of the board members protested the potential removal. We lost!

As a result of the tree removal along Little Spokane River Drive near Midway Road many of us were not pleased and now we are looking to plant trees or shrubs to attempt to regain some of the rural feeling that was lost. In planning the planting process some things become apparent to those of us who have had experience in that area locally. First, animals like us humans, notice when things change. We miss trees and they notice new trees. Their curiosity has been the death to some trees new to them. Although the spring is the time that most planting is done, our summers can be very dry and survival difficult. See the survival in the planted area on Haynes Conservation Futures property.

As we move toward planting, it appears the best time to plant, in this area, would be Fall. The ground should be preferably damp or well watered. After planting, the trees should be protected against mechanical damage by deer and snow with open screening material

that is self supporting. Where trees are to be transplanted it has been noted that they survive best when kept in the same orientation. Mark the North side and plant in the same orientation. Even plants sometimes do not like change. Keeping the area damp during the root adaptation time seems to help the successful adaptation to the new home.

Little Spokane Garden Club will be coordinating plantings with FLSRV this fall and we will be looking for volunteers to help.

If you are available for this project, please call:

Martha Schaefer - 468-9721

2nd Annual Little Spokane River Artist Studio Tour

Hulda Bridgeman

Picture this: A beautiful autumn day in the Little Spokane River valley, with a leisurely visit to gardens, art and artists to enhance the enjoyment. Then mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 26** for the second annual Little Spokane River Artist Studio Tour.

And in recognition of our common



Bridgeman, silk garments

interest in preserving the special qualities of the Little Spokane valley, the Artist Studio Tour is making a donation to the Trails Fund of the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley. Some of the Tour's host studios are connected by the FLSRV trail system, and all are located within a 2.5- mile area - an easy distance to

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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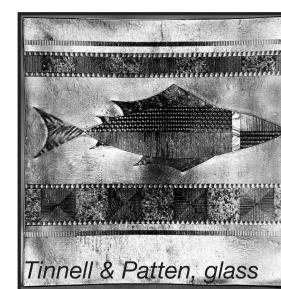
DeGroot, jewelry

drive, walk, bike or ride-share. Admission is free and studios will be open 10am - 4pm.

F u l l i n f o r m a - t i o n on each artist and a

tour map can be found at www.LittleSpokaneStudios.com.

The Tour was inaugurated last fall by Spokane artists and valley residents Gina Freuen and Hulda Bridgeman, who were joined by Jill Smith and Victoria Brace in opening their studios for one day to show and sell their work and that of nine guest artists. The enthusiastic public



Tinnell & Patten, glass

response led to this year's addition of Patti Osebold's studio, and the inclusion of

16 additional guest artists.

- Studio Tour / Continued on page 3 -

They include Little Spokane area residents Harold Balazs and Collista

Freuen, clay



Bejani, and others from Washington, Idaho, Montana and

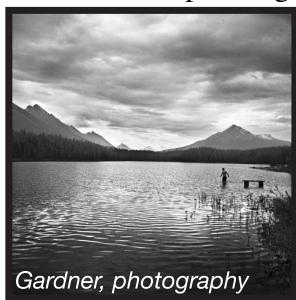
even North Carolina. A number of the artists show nationally and internationally, and some are new to this region.

In these five unique studio settings,



Evans, pastels

some of them surrounded by personal gardens, you will see where and how artists work. Media offered for sale will include ceramics, painting, pastels, drawing, limited edition silk garments and scarves, and glass,



Gardner, photography

photography, jewelry, Japanese sculpted paper dolls, papier mache sculpture, handmade books, prints, designer handbags, and found

object and mixed media sculpture.

Come join us on September 26 to celebrate beautiful



Balazs, metal

objects and life in our beautiful



Trail

Tina Wynecoop

To many of us in the Little Spokane River Valley the word "trail" has a special significance. There are those who had the vision to see the need for a non-motorized trail system in our community; there are those who had the leadership skills to initiate the plan; there are those who had the expertise to design the trails; those who constructed the trails, and those who worked in government positions facilitating the implementation of the designs; and there were those who found ways to fund the trail, through donations, and fundraisers; there were those who got the message out by writing for and publishing a newsletter and creating a website (flsrv.org); there were those who successfully applied for local, state and federal grants.

Always, there have been many volunteers, and now, many many grateful users of the trails that are in place. There are miles to go, but look what has been accomplished over the last decade-plus! How nice to move about our *home ground* with the freedom and ease that the automobile just can't supplant. There is a wonderful book, a dictionary of geography of sorts, which gives perspective on the concept of 'trails': *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, edited by Barry Lopez, published by Trinity University Press, Texas, 2006, and from its pages I want to share two relevant definitions:

First definition -

DESIRE PATH

A close look at any city park or green will typically reveal footpaths that break away from paved walks, - trails that countless pedestrians have worn into the grass. Such a trail is a 'desire path': the route people have chosen to take across an open place, marking a human pattern upon a landscape. "A 'desire path' is what hikers or walkers have worn thin through finding a better way, or a shortcut, to a desired place," writes Mary Morris.

Today, many planning agencies make use of such patterns when designing a public space. They first clear the land and then, after a few weeks or months, examine the ground for evidence of a human trail before choosing where to lay the path. (page 104). An example of a 'desire path' can be found in our area where Hatch Rd. and Wandermere Frontage Rd. intersect. A visible footpath follows the crest of land for at least a quarter of a mile, if not more.

Second definition -

TRAIL

A trail is a simple path worn by animals or people passing repeatedly through a remote or rugged territory. The many kinds of trails include cattle, deer, and mountain trails; historic trails of Native American origin; trails for skiing and hiking, and for walking through parks and nature sanctuaries.

As a word for such routes, trail comes into use around 1800; the earlier word, still used in southern states, is trace. In American English, trail has taken on iconic status, suggesting a journey into wilderness or unknown territory. But not into the entirely unknown, of course, for the trail is itself a guide, embodying collective intelligence about the best way through a region. Indeed, many full-fledged roads now follow the route of former trails...In recent decades the new occupation of trail-builder has arisen, reflecting a contemporary American desire to spend more time [without reliance on motorized transport]...(page 366).

So there we have the definitions, and we have the reality: a well-established, though not completed, trail system throughout the Little Spokane River Valley...a linear park of sorts upon which there are hikers, joggers, dog walkers, school children, and many others who are blessed by its presence.

An Amazing CBC (Christmas Bird Count) Adventure Story

Jeanne Dammarell

On first sight, it looked like a brown plastic bag snagged on a low branch hanging over the Little Spokane River. The branch was encrusted in icicles and the river repeatedly grabbed and released the branch, causing a severe bobbing motion. Our CBC team strained to look through the gloomy light to see more clearly. "I think it's a bird caught on the branch," said Gary Kuiper. Rachel Brabeck and I turned to examine his find. It was such an improbable site for a bird to choose for a perch. Binoculars confirmed that we were looking at a Western Screech Owl perched inches above the river on a branch that bobbed up and down incessantly. We strained to see well enough to determine why it might choose to sit there and could see nothing.

We went back for my camera and shot off a few photos, hoping that the big lens would pick up details we were missing, and then resumed the Count work. As we worked through the day, the conversation would return to the owl and possible explanations for the bizarre perch. That night I downloaded the photos into the computer and felt sick. Even in the poor light, the camera picked up the fishing line running across the branches and over to the bird. The flight feathers on the wing located on the backside of the bird hung down and appeared encased in ice. I drove back down to the river and used a flashlight to confirm the continued presence of the Owl. I phoned Gary and we agreed that it was too dark and the area too wild and snow-covered to deal with at night but that we would go back in the morning when Gary was freed up about 10:00 a.m. and see if we could get close to it.

I sent the photos in an e-mail to Ron Dexter and he phoned around 10:00 p.m. "This is an emergency, so I think you should call Pam Wolff now." We had all spent the day birding the CBC and I felt reluctant to phone so

late, but Ron persisted. He was right. After quick introductions and explanations, Pam listed the equipment we should have with us in the morning and agreed to meet at the river at first light. Pam's ten year background in bird rescue and rehabilitation in Alaska would prove to be invaluable.

I phoned Tina Wynecoop in the morning and explained the situation. She knew someone who was a friend of the property owner and would make the call. The land on both sides of the Little Spokane River is private property, so there would be no access to the owl without crossing into someone's property. Tina also said she could bring some waders and join us in the rescue.

I had spent an entire night with my mind running over rescue scenarios and worried about the suffering of the poor owl. Planning the rescue while we spoke by telephone, it seemed that wading into the river and cutting the branch off would be the safest for the owl. When we drove up to the site, however, I could feel my heart sink. The bird was located just past a waterfall and the water underneath the perch as roiling. My husband, Buz Dammarell, grabbed the long handled pruner and walked across a foot bridge to the owl's side of the river. He disappeared behind a thicket of tall bushes. The riparian area was deep, the bird was sitting several feet out from the shore on a branch loaded down with ice and snow, and footing from that side would be treacherous because of the deep snow cover on tall grasses.

An hour and a half of cutting trail into the target bush brought Buz up to the base of the branch. The owl's eyes would barely open and there was no telling what kind of condition it was in. It was agreed that Pam would saw the branch while Buz held it and reeled it to shore. As he pulled the branch in, he watched the owl and noticed the fishing line slacken. Suddenly, the owl hopped into the river. Everyone scrambled! Fortunately, the water carried it to shore, where it pulled itself up and collapsed. Sliding down the steep bank with a towel, Tina quickly wrapped it up.

Back at the car, the initial examination was encouraging. Finger examinations of the breast revealed some good body fat. The owl was very passive and radiated body heat, so Pam said keeping it cool was important. Wild birds overheat when they are in stress and keeping them cool is the first step. Neither wing appeared to be broken and the little feet looked really good. We were about a mile from a wildlife rehabilitation veterinarian (Mt. Spokane Veterinary) but it was Sunday on New Year's weekend.

Pam took the bird home and we would try for a veterinarian's exam on Monday. That day Pam purchased a mouse and liquid containing electrolytes. The owl was fed small bits of mouse internal organs mixed with the liquid. Soon he was barking at her when she came into the room. Good, it is getting grumpy! She left the box open in the closed room overnight, to see what it would do. It was running around the room the next morning and barking at her again. Pam phoned the vet's office and connected with staff, but they were there only to check on the animals...no doctor would be in until after the holiday. They did agree to let Pam use their flight cage to check the owl. Tina and I met her at the clinic just after a successful flight test.

Pam handed us the box and suggested that the best thing for this owl would be to return it to the location of the rescue and release it. Tina and I drove back to the site and carried the box across the foot bridge to stand between two thickets. As I lifted the tiny owl from the box we were delighted to be scolded with two sharp 'barks'. I laid it down on the snow and stepped back. It paused there for about one second and then shot rapidly and surely through the thicket and disappeared.

Christmas bird counts are always fun, but this opportunity to save a bird that was in deep trouble has added another dimension to the event. From now on, we will think fun and adventure when we think of the CBC and when I think of Buz, Tina and Pam I will always think 'Heroes'.

Vandervert Trail

Tina Wyencoop

Great things are 'afoot' along the north side of Wandermere Village. In a recent phone interview with Justin Gray, project manager for the development, FLSRV has learned that WSDOT asked Vandervert Construction to include a separated-from-the-highway pedestrian trail on the west property line of its nearly completed Ace Hardware store complex. This new trail, with access to the already established Vandervert pedestrian pathway beginning at Farwell Road and extending to Hastings Road, on the west side

of Highway 395, will connect at the traffic light. On the east side of 395 where it heads north past the Village at Wah Hings restaurant, the trail will be a 10' wide gently curving asphalt trail, dressed up with grass to its edge, and plantings along the nearby slope. It will connect (almost) to the WSDOT's northern access road/trail which turns east off of Wandermere frontage road, paralleling the N/S freeway alongside and underneath the overpass at Perry Road.

Our organization's surveys in the community have indicated strong desires by local residents for our trails to extend to the shopping areas, as well as to churches and parks and

schools. With the completion of this part of the trail system we are now on the way to reaching the goals established over a decade ago.

FLSRV is deeply appreciative of the way Vandervert Construction has included FLSRV in its design work.





Cleanup Day Report

Lance Pounder

Well, once again we had a successful clean-up day, with about 50 people showing up. We cleaned up most of the major roads in the Little Spokane Valley from:

Wandermere to Woolard Road
Shady Slope to the top of the hill
Dartford to Hazard
Golden, Midway, and Colbert
Hatch Road to the pool

We accumulated a sizeable pile of garbage including tires and car parts, for a total estimated at 1500 to 2000 pounds of garbage.

After the clean-up a chili feed was held for everyone who helped. It was great. Thanks to Bart & Lindell

for opening up their home and yard for us.

Those who cooked included:

Chili - Mena Pounder, Lindell Haggan
Cornbread - Martha Schaefer
Cookies - Harla Jean Biever

So thank you everyone who was there to help clean-up and cook.



North Spokane Corridor

Michael Kennedy

Colleen and I went to the June 25, 2009, meeting held by WSDOT regarding the North Spokane Corridor. At that meeting we hoped to learn more about the artwork that WSDOT plans to inscribe into the concrete retaining walls that will be

built into the Wandermere overpass bridge. There we met engineer, Ryan Vincent, from WSDOT and discussed the proposed artwork.

Ryan has forward the proposed design to us, and we have posted the drawing on the *Friends* web site for all to review.

To view designs, please go to:

www.FLSRV.org

