

FLSRV Newsletter



January
2009

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Inside
This Issue

Haynes Estate PlantingPage 1
Annual Meeting Report.....Page 1
Board Member ElectionsPage 1

Nesting OspreysPage 2
Divers, Dabblers, Murderers.....Page 3
Hwy 2 to Wandermere Wall.....Page 3

Inland Northwest GeologyPage 4
New Pedestrian/Bike TrailPage 5
2008 Trail UpdatePage 5

No Bailout.....Page 6
New WebsitePage 6
Membership.....Page 6

Haynes Estate Conservation Area Planting

John Bottelli

Special Projects Manager

Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Gold

In June of 2008 the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley got together with neighbors and staff from Spokane County Parks for a volunteer tree planting and restoration project at the Haynes Estate Conservation Area. Over 30 volunteers rolled up their sleeves for a long hot day in the sun to plant native trees and shrubs along a winding gravel path that had been prepared for the event by contractors hired by County Parks. The design for the restoration project was completed by Sherry Pratt Van Voorhis Landscape Architects and was culled from input from the Friends and other



neighbors of the popular conservation area. Trees, shrubs and ground cover plants obtained from Greenacres Nursery included (common names) Serviceberry, Chokecherry, Wolly Yarrow, Ocean Spray, Creeping Oregon Grape, Lewis Mock Orange, Mallow Ninebark, Staghorn Sumac, Common Snowberry, Bearberry. In the spring of 2009 Sheep

Fescue, Hard Fescue and Prairie Junegrass will also be planted from seed. In all more than 1,000 plants were put



in the ground at the volunteer event and Parks staff followed up with the

installation of temporary irrigation that will be utilized for 2-3 years until the plants are well-established. It is estimated that the hard work of the volunteers on this project saved the County Conservation Futures program over \$50,000 at this single event! Ultimately what had been a wide road-cut through the conservation area was transformed into a meandering path that is part of the larger FLSRV trail system."

More information on the Inland Northwest Land Trust web site:

<http://www.inlandnwlandtrust.org>

2009 Annual Meeting and Dinner/Auction

Reserve This Date

Friday, March 6

Wandermere Golf Club

Doors Open - 5:30pm

Annual Meeting - 6:30pm

Dinner - 7:00pm

Could you contribute items for the auction? Tina Wynecoop is Procurement Chairman. Please call her 466-6085 or email her wynecoop@hotmail.com and make arrangements to get your items to her. Augy Augustine is on board again as our very own Chef; he says : THE FOOD WILL BE GREAT. Enjoy the meal, catch up on the latest happenings, and experience a time of fellowship with others who live in our Valley. At the bottom of the enclosed membership form is a tear-off portion for ordering your tickets. The cost is \$18.00 per person. Fill it out and send it in today. Call Harla Jean 466-2823 if you have questions.

Election Of Board Members

The following board members are running for re-election. Voting will take place at the annual meeting.

John Bury

Michael Kennedy

Lance Pounder

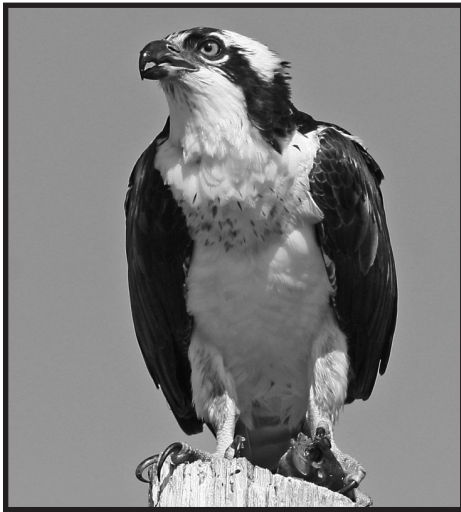


Nesting Ospreys

By Lindell Haggin

One of the special privileges of living in the Little Spokane River Valley is having the opportunity of watching Ospreys. The Osprey is a bird of prey whose main source of food is fish. At one time they were heading toward extinction due to the heavy use of DDT. The pesticide caused the eggshells to become so thin they would break under the weight of the adult as it tried to incubate it. Now we are fortunate enough to see them nesting successfully along the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers. As their numbers increase and as Bald Eagles are also expanding their nesting range, trying to find a satisfactory nesting site can be more of a challenge.

The preferred nesting site has a top that is flat enough to build a large nest on and is taller than any other nearby trees. They don't want possible nest scavengers to have a perch from which to observe the nest. Over the



years, Osprey have discovered that utility poles frequently fill both of these criteria. The one major drawback is that either the nesting material or the outstretched wings can on occasion reach across the span of wires resulting in either a fire in the nest and/or death of a bird. Since Osprey are protected under the Migratory Bird Act it is illegal to destroy an ac-

tive nest. Avista works with Fish and Wildlife to try to replace nests built on utility poles with an alternative nesting pole placed in the same area.

There was a very persistent Osprey pair that started nesting on a utility pole near the old Wandermere Bridge several years ago. After several successful nestings Avista tried putting up structures to deter the Osprey from nesting the following year. The Osprey succeeded in building another nest, in spite of the offending structures. Since this pole provided power to the waste water pump station Avista was quite concerned that power not be interrupted by a pole fire. After talking with both Wandermere Golf Course and Christian Life Church, it was decided to build a nesting platform on the north side of the river on the church



property. They also put additional obstructions on the preferred utility pole. To humans the platform looks lovely. To Osprey there were too many trees towering over the platform and they rejected it outright. Instead the Osprey found another utility pole across the river from the platform. There is another Osprey nest on a utility pole near the Dartford Bridge which has caught fire at least once. We will hope that they are able to nest safely. It is truly a joy to watch Osprey dive in to the water to catch a fish. We even find fish heads on our lawn on occasion from the Osprey that dine in our Ponderosa Pine. Not many people can say that!

- Photos courtesy of Jeanne Dammarell -

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

FLSRV Newsletter



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For article suggestions or comments,
contact Harla Jean Bieber


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Dabblers, Divers, Murderers and Travelers: Birds of the INW Through March 15, 2009 Museum of Arts and Culture

Whether nesting or traveling through our wetlands, prairies, and open woods, Inland Northwest birds have stories to tell. Gathered by



hunters and bird club members, and carefully mounted and preserved, dozens of bird specimens have emerged from museum storage for an exhibit that connects early explorers' descriptions, Native American stories, and ornithologists' methods of identifying birds and their songs. FLSRV member Jeanne Dammarell, whose Osprey photos appear in this issue of the newsletter, provided her exquisite photographs to the museum for this fascinating exhibit. 



US Highway 2 to the Wandermere Vicinity North Spokane Corridor: Wall Architectural Treatment

By Tina Wynecoop

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has graciously included our valley citizens in the designing of architectural features associated with the North Spokane Corridor portion of the North/South Freeway. Two years ago our "walking heron" logo was imprinted in the concrete abutments supporting the new Perry Street Bridge associated with the freeway.

Upon completion of the freeway connection to Highway 395 pedestrians will be able to see the hiking-boot-clad herons for themselves. In addition, the artwork in the safety railings on the Perry Street Bridge directly above the walking herons incorporates the lovely design of great blue herons (our valley's logo) in flight.

Once again, this fall, local residents were encouraged to attend meetings at Northwood Middle School in order to help design treatments for the planned retaining walls facing Wandermere Golf Course and Wandermere Road. The desire of WSDOT to enhance corridor continuity and provide visual interest unique to the Little Spokane River Valley is to be lauded.

Two retaining walls, separated by native plantings from each other and from the new configuration of the bridge's deck, will be built beginning in June 2009. The walls themselves will have tree, mountain, and bird designs, as well as a split-face concrete stone finish which is compatible with the granite lobe comprising adjacent Dart Hill. The proposed architectural features will ensure that pedestrians using the pathway next to the walls won't be

faced with views of sterile concrete on their way to and from the nearby Wandermere shopping centers or NSC bike and pathway.

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley have worked for many years to make this into a walkable community. WSDOT has listened. We are well aware of the impact of the North South Freeway on our lovely and unique valley. We can be glad that much effort has been made to minimize that impact by considerate engineers and an active citizenry.



Inland Northwest Geology

By Harla Jean Biever

Geologists tell us that millions of years ago our area underwent a scouring by fire. All along the border of North Idaho and Eastern Washington time after time the earth's surface opened in giant crevices and out of its core flowed molten lava that traveled in a southwesterly pattern across the state of Washington. Evidence of this lava flow exists all around us with huge outcroppings of basalt, the channeled scabland to the west of us, distinct layers along the Spokane River, columnar basalt and uses of basalt in landscaping and building foundations.

The next big geologic event was the Cataclysmic Ice Age Floods some 12,000 to 17,000 years ago. J. Harlen Bretz was the first to put forth the theory of this flood; for more than four decades he defended his theories on the flood before they were generally accepted by the scientific community. In 1922 he began his field research in the Channeled Scablands of central Washington and through his research Bretz was confident that a flood had occurred. In 1930 Joseph Pardee viewed giant ripple marks left on the lake bottom sediments of Glacial Lake Missoula and deduced that they could only have formed by powerful currents that flowed over the bottom of the lake. Looking back over the decades following the Bretz and Pardee theories scientist have put together the events of this monster flooding.

Glacial Lake Missoula lay in a bowl where Missoula, Montana sits today. The ice was over 2000 feet thick and extended west and north along what we know as the Clark Fork River to the spot where that river empties into Lake Pend Oreille. As the earth warmed the ice plug burst open and massive amounts of water came

shooting out at the rate of 10 times the combined flow of all the rivers in the world. It traveled south and turned west at Coeur d'Alene and came raging down the Spokane River Valley, then spread over the land to the south and west of Spokane repeating this pattern over and over again. Giant ice bergs traveling on the flood waters carried rocks from western Montana to central Washington and even as far as the Willamette Valley in Oregon. Along this course glacial moraine formed deposits of sand, gravel, river rock and giant boulders. Twenty-five lakes in Spokane County were gouged out.

Two important results of this flood impact our area every day. One is the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer traveling through sand and gravel laid down during the flood. The aquifer lies 50-300 feet beneath the soil, covering an area of more than 325 square miles, extending from the southern part of Lake Pend Oreille to the Little Spokane River. It is the designated a "sole source aquifer", with a never ending supply of clean water to Spokane, Post Falls and Coeur d'Alene. The second benefit is the rich volcanic-laced soil that was carried along with the flood waters, deposited south and west of Spokane and blown about by the winds into gentle rolling hills. This soil called loess provides the base for one of the richest soft white wheat producing areas in the world..our Palouse Country.

This is additional information provided by:

*Reanette Boese
Spokane County Utilities
Water Resources*

Most of the flood water from these glacier generated floods, or jökulhlaups, flowed down the Rathdrum Prairie, through the Spokane Valley east of Spokane, and north through

the Hillyard trough to the southern portion of the Little Spokane River valley. Some of the water from the catastrophic floods was deflected through the Blanchard channel to the north part of the Deer Park basin. Terraces near the Spokane-Little Spokane River confluence suggest that the last major late Wisconsin floods may have used the Little Spokane as their main course (Kiver and Stradling, 1985).

Sedimentation in the Little Spokane River basin was also affected by the floods, but it further depended on whether the valley was covered by a glacial lake or not and by the amount of water in the flood. If no lake occupied the valley, the great velocity of the water picked up and carried large amounts of sediment along with it, depositing poorly sorted gravels and boulders as the flood waned. If the catastrophic flood waters encountered a deep glacial lake, boulders and other coarse debris would immediately be deposited as the flood wave encountered the low energy environment. A large flood wave passing through the glacial lake would rework coarse sediment on the bottom and form rip-up clasts. The sediments left behind by the flood would be mostly sand sized (Kiver and others, 1991).

This little peek at our amazing geologic history is intended to spark your interest in learning more about an aspect of our Inland Northwest that you possibly haven't thought about. There are publications at local book stores and the libraries. Two DVDs give excellent accounts: NOVA, call 800-949-8670 and ask for the Mystery of the Megaflood. Another: The Great Ice Age Floods.. available from MWIA c/o National Parks Section, 1008 Crest Dr., Coulee Dam WA 99116, phone: 509-633-9441 ext. 110. A group, The

- INW Geology / Continued on page 5 -

Ice Age Floods Institute, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization and is centered around EWU and its geology department. They offer tours to various areas affected by the flood. They are diligently working on a trail system that features historic markers where folks can learn more about this dramatic event. Check out their web site. ➡

New Pedestrian-Bike Trail Needs Your Help To Find A Name

By Tina Wyencoop

Public input is being sought by the Washington State Department of Transportation for naming the new pedestrian-bike path being built in conjunction with the new North Spokane Corridor (NSC).

The 10.5 mile NSC will include a parallel pedestrian-bike path along the entire route. The first section of the trail will open in 2009 from Lincoln Road to Farwell Road. The second section, continuing north to Wandermere will be opening in 2011. Future sections will connect neighborhoods to neighborhoods as well as provide connections to the Centennial and Ben Burr trails and scenic viewpoints of the Spokane area.

After the names are submitted, a committee of local citizens and leaders will review the entries and choose the trail name.

The NSC facility already captures some of the local flavor in some of the design features along the route. For example, the Morgan Acres bridges have a "wagon wheel" motif, the bridges to the north have

the "Children of the Sun" motif, the Perry bridge has the "flying and hiking herons" (requested by Friends of the Little Spokane River) and they all have the basalt finish molded into the concrete. The Department hopes to have a similar community connection captured with the name of the new trail.

To submit a suggestion for the trail name, go to the North Spokane Corridor website at: <http://www.nsc-freeway.com> and click on the "Help Name the Trail" link. Please have your suggestion submitted before January 31, 2009 [note: recent contact with WSDOT official lists February 15th as the cut off date - TW].

Contact information for the North Spokane Corridor can be reached at 509-324-6511.

*Brittany Pfeifer--SDOT
Eastern Region..509-324-6511
pfeifeb@wsdot.wa.gov. ➡*

08 Trails Update

By Jim Ellis

Those of you who have traveled along Hatch Road, Little Spokane Drive, or Midway Road this summer may have noted some activity along the "right of way". As a result of the FLSRV trails committee work that was planned in 2004 involving the trail from bridge 3701, Pounders and Haggins, to bridge 3702, Golden Road, was completed on a time and material basis and funded without trail's fund "donations".

The paved trail from Bridge 3702 along the Little Spokane Drive to and up Midway to the existing sidewalk plus the rework and paving of the previously constructed portion from Little Spokane Lane to Lantern Lane was done under contract with your

tax dollars in the form of a "Federal Grant." The federal grants do not come without restrictions and as such our planned trail was widened from 5 feet to 8 feet. This required the removal of a number of trees which was not our original intention. We were not pleased by this action however if we accept the money to do the work we are also required to follow the guidelines.

The construction of sidewalks along Hatch Road was also done this summer to extend and connect the non-motorized pedestrian trail to the Northside Aquatic center.

The intent of the trail system design is to serve the most densely populated areas first and then expand radially outward as population growth, demand and funds become available.

The planning for the trails project started in 1999 and saw the first section completed totally by local fund raising and volunteer labor along the Little Spokane Drive, from Greenleaf to Lantern Lane, in 2002.

There will always be more work to do as and "if" the area continues to expand. In the meantime there will be much all can do to help the overall effort. In the spring there will be the general cleanup and some trail raking to be done as well as pruning vegetation along and above the trails. In winter we would ask that those plowing snow to make every effort not to block the trail during snow removal. Our trails are used "year round" and any obstruction is detrimental to their use.

Please join in the Spring Cleanup and if you would like to assist on the trails contact Martha Schaeffer at 468 9721 ➡



Friends of
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New Web Site

We are planning a new web site and will keep you posted as it develops. Please be sure we have a current, exact, email address for you. We hope to have the ability to email notices and possibly the newsletter to those who are on our list. Print clearly your email address on your renewal form. ➤



No Bailout

Jack Bury

FLSRV will not be receiving any federal bailout funds for 2009; so please remember that contributions are tax deductible. The current cuts in State and County spending impact non profits particularly. The extension and improvement of the trails system relies on community contributions. So please consider FLSRV when you are preparing that 1040 in April. ➤



Membership

Harla Jean Biever

We have 90 family memberships this year. To renew your membership or become a new member please fill out completely the 2009 Association Membership Form that you will find in this newsletter. If you have an email address please be sure to include it. The email address needs to be clearly written so we can add it to our list of those who will receive notices of important events and happenings in the valley. ➤