

FLSRV Newsletter



Winter
2014

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Inside
This Issue

Rehab Cleanup Signs.....Page 1
In Memoriam.....Page 1
Saltese Flats Fields.....Page 1

Annual Meeting.....Page 1
Wildlife Highway.....Page 2
Pioneer of Our Valley.....Page 2

Pineriver Park.....Page 3
Trail Signs.....Page 4
Bird Watching.....Page 5

Where a Wind Blew.....Page 5
Membership Renewal.....Page 6
Trail Update.....Page 6

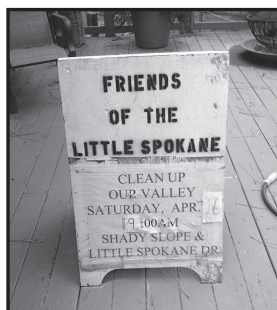
Rehab Cleanup Signs Volunteers Needed

Michael Kennedy

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley Board of Directors are looking for a volunteer group or individual to refurbish the annual clean up signs. The group could be a Girl Scout or Boy Scout group or a community service group looking for a project. The signs are in need of repainting and lettering. They have been out in the weather for a number of years and need some TLC. The Board of Directors will pay for the supplies to rehab the five double-sided, wooden, sign--you volunteer the time. See the attached photo of the existing typical sign.

The project will have to be completed by April 1, 2015, ready to go back on the street in April. We will allow you to show your creative side, so it could be a fun time for a group. If you are interested in taking on this project for the community, please call Board Director Michael Kennedy at 995-2537 to review project.

Also please mark your calendars for next year's cleanup scheduled in April 18, 2015. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. at Shady Slope. We need your time and your continued support to help keep our valley clean!



In Memoriam NICETTE A. DAVIS

"She loved the outdoors."

*A true friend of the
Little Spokane River Valley*

Jack Nisbet Saltese Uplands Field Trip Coming May 2, 2015 Mark Your Calendar!

This moderate walk will take us into the hills above Saltese Lake, where we can identify shrub-steppe wildflowers, peek at Liberty Lake, and ponder some of the last open space and operating farmland in the Spokane Valley. Until 1877, this was the home of Chief Saltese, whose story reveals surprising aspects of the relationship between early settlers and the Coeur d'Alene tribe.

We will meet at the parking area (south of the Barker Road exit off I-90) at 9:00 a.m. and walk until about lunchtime. Bring a picnic, good hiking shoes, water, and sunscreen—there's not much shade.

For more information and a map to the Spokane County Conservation Futures parking area, go to:

[www.spokanecounty.org/parks/
content.aspx?c=2832](http://www.spokanecounty.org/parks/content.aspx?c=2832)

Registration forms will be mailed to FLSRV members in March or contact:

Harla Jean Bieber
hjbieber@earthlink.net

Annual Meeting

2015 Annual Meeting
and Dinner/Auction
Friday, February 27, 2015
Wandermere Golf Club

Doors open 5:30pm, annual meeting: 6:30pm, dinner 7:00pm

Enjoy the meal, catch up on the latest happenings, and experience a time of fellowship with others who live in our Valley. Election of board members will be held; only those with paid membership are allowed to vote. There will be a brief program. Great items are coming in for the auction; don't miss out!

To order your tickets, fill out the information at the bottom of the 2015 membership form.



Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

FLSRV Newsletter

is a publication of:

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

P.O. Box 18191

Spokane, WA 99228

Phone: 509-466-2823

For article suggestions or comments,
contact Harla Jean Bieber

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Wildlife Highway

Jack and Ro Bury

Moose migrating from Mount Spokane aren't the only wildlife safely and secretly passing through the new tunnel under the Newport Highway. The new passage helping animals move from one side of the highway to the other is part of a growing momentum for large-scale preservation of wildlife habitat and the corridors that connect them.

The local work is significant because northeast Washington and North Idaho are on the western edge of what eco-biologists consider possibly the most important interconnected habitat in North America. The so-called "western wildway" along the spine of the Rockies, Alaska and Northern Mexico is the focus of large and small efforts to preserve places where native plants and animals can thrive.

Our highways bisect wildlife highways, and vehicle impacts cause road kill; eighty elk in five years on Snoqualmie Pass. But those are not the only literal impacts. Each year more than 200 motorists are killed by animal-vehicle collisions, according to the Wildlife Society. Nationally the average cost of auto-deer collisions is \$2,000.00.

If North America is going to sustain life, humans have to learn how to literally cross paths with wild animals.

Critter crossings got legitimate funding and strategic planning under President Clinton's Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century ("TEA-21"). The momentum carried through to WSDOT's Elk Crossing on Snoqualmie Pass and landed locally when Conservation Futures purchased a migratory corridor from Mica Peak to the Turnbull Reserve.

WSDOT has constructed a number of underpasses following creek beds. When the North-South Corridor Project was reconstructing Hwy 2, the Peone Creek critter underpass was installed at the base of the steep draw under Hwy 2, a half mile north of Farwell Rd. You can't see the underpass culvert from Highway 2, but to the south side of the highway is Peone Park which shoulders Peone Creek.

For satellite and road map GO TO <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Peone+Creek+Park/@47.7786116>

Note the creek that flows through the wildlife underpass under the Hwy and note the highway flowing over the creek for human travelers. You can follow the creek to the Little Spokane River. All of the Little Spokane River Valley inhabitants can travel without crossing paths.

Also see website at wsdotwa.gov "Reducing the Risk of Wildlife Collisions" and Federal Highway Administration "Critter Crossings."

Pioneer of Our Valley

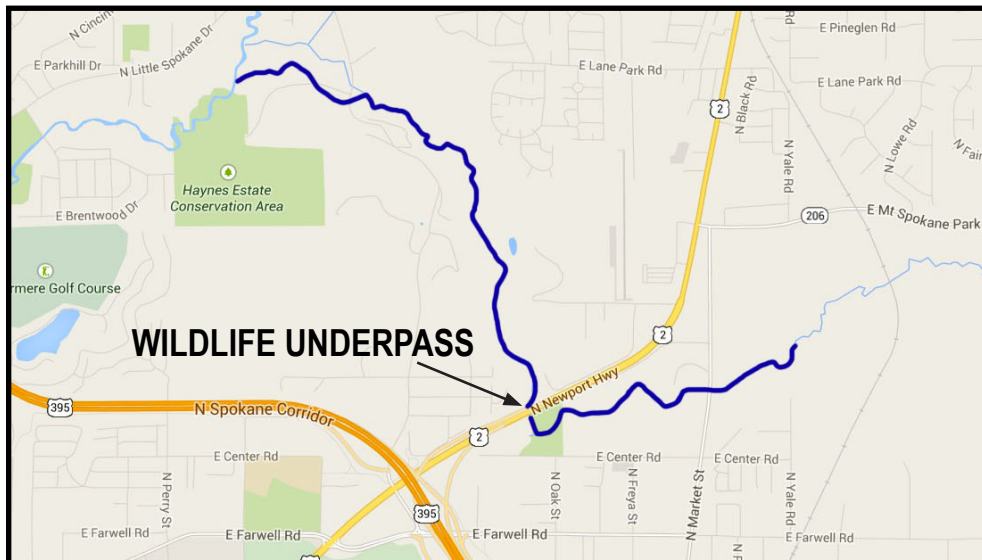
Dana Davis Kelly

Nicette Davis, our mother and one of the oldest residents of the Little Spokane Valley, quietly passed away August 29, 2014. Her last moments and the majority of her long life were spent in the peace and beauty of the farm she had so dearly loved. She was just two months shy of her 100th birthday.

Mother's parents, Irving Hildenbrandt (Hildy, as he was known) and her mother, Carrie, purchased the farm from Charles L. Downer in the early spring of 1907, just a few years after arriving in Spokane from Ohio. Located north of Colbert Road and east of the Little Spokane River, the 160 acre farm (used at that time as a dairy) contained a stately 100 x 40 ft. barn built around 1890. The timber was mostly likely milled at the "Chattaroy Lumber Company" located about a mile and a half north in the area known as Buckeye (where Little Spokane Drive meets Wollard Rd.). Our grandparents were also impressed by an orchard just north of Colbert Road along the hillside, lush grazing land, ample timber and two residents with outbuildings. But most enchanting to these newlyweds from the east was the beauty of nearly a mile of pristine Little Spokane River that meandered from the north passing under a private bridge as it continues a southward journey. A faded photograph of our grandparents taken about that time, he with white shirt and suspenders, she with a long dress and sun hat, shows them in a boat coming down the river. On the back he had written: "This spot on the river is a 'dream'. The water is clear as crystal and the bank is lined with roses and willows." They were so proud and taken with the charm of their new farm; our grandparents appropriately named it "Tawasentha".

In the epic poem "Song of Hiawatha: by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 'Tawasentha' refers to the valley where Nawadaha sings the story of the legendary Iroquois leader, Hiawatha. In the vale of Tawasentha, in the green and silent valley, by the pleasant watercourses, dwelt the singer Nawadaha." The poem speaks of beaver lodges, melancholy marshes, blue heron and grouse meadows, and cornfields with singing pine and pleasant watercourses you could trace through the valley, by the alders in the summer, by the white fog in the autumn, by the black line in the winter". Fortunately, the loveliness of this location holds much

- Pioneer/ Continued on page 3 -



of the same images today as seen by our grandparents over one-hundred years ago. The name "Tawasentha" is still beautifully appropriate.

Born in Iowa, our grandfather spent much of his youth in Kentucky. He was related to the widely known Col. Wynn Applegate, breeder of Kentucky Derby winner "Old Rosebud", who coincidentally, took the cup in the year of Mother's birth, 1914. Perhaps this was the foreshadowing of her lifelong love of horses. Coming to Spokane as an agent of Applegate, he promoted horse racing throughout the west. In 1935, with other investors including Louis Davenport, he helped develop Playfair Racetrack and Fairgrounds in Spokane and at that time became the first general manager of Playfair. Mother would tell stories of the fun she had riding the exercise ponies on the track with her friend, then going to "Bob's Chili Parlor" in Spokane for lunch afterward.

Our grandparents came to Spokane in 1902. By the time they purchased the farm their recollection of the area north of the city was as follows: "North Division did not exist; there was a wagon trail that meandered over the hill and northeast toward Peone Creek. It used to take us an hour and forty five minutes to go from town to the ranch by way of Shady Slope road along the southwest side of Peone creek. At the mouth of Peone was a favorite camping spot of the Indians. There was no road along the Little Spokane in those days." The Native Americans, according to our grandparents, would be fascinated with the beauty of the horses pulling their buggy and often ran up to get a closer look as they traveled by. Our grandmother drove a beautiful, gaited horse "Almota" and another "Babe" who won first place in the 1906 Spokane Interstate Fair.

"Eleven families got together and set up the first power line in the district 'our grandfather recounted,' The Washington Water Power Company agreed to supervise the work and provide the power. It worked out very well, but we soon found out, it wasn't the initial cost, but the upkeep that hurts so we gave it all to the power company and let them worry about it."

Our grandfather hired men to run the dairy as his work often led him out of town to various race tracks. By this time our grandparents had a family of two children; our mother, Nicette born in 1914 and her brother Leslie, born in 1911. Mother often told us how, as a very young child, she

would thrill at the opportunity to be placed upon the back of the large draft horse that helped work the dairy farm. As children they would enjoy the river banks to swim and fish for perch and trout. They played morning to dusk. During the school year, the two would be driven to the schoolhouse on Bernhill, located about two miles away, by her mother, via horse drawn wagon. As a 1932 graduate of Mead High School (then known as Mead Union High), Mother's senior class had only 24 students and 5 buses to gather students from surrounding areas.

Sometime around Mother's senior year a fire destroyed the main house on the west side of the river. Luckily, the family was able to relocate and renovate the farmhouse that now exists on the east side of the river. Not long after their move the great depression hit the country and many people could not afford to keep their horses. As industrious Germans, the family of four gathered forces, purchased many of these horses and formed a riding stable that would help them through the tough times of this dark period. My mother was definitely pleased to assist with the saddle horses. Doctors and nurses would come out to ride horseback, and fish and enjoy the beauty of "Tawasentha", now no longer a dairy I believe it was at this time Mother acquired her favorite horse, a dappled grey gelding she named "Sunny Boy"; who possessed an unusual ability to be trained to do most anything. The uncommonly bright horse would swim the river with her on his back and rear on command. Our Mother, and her horse were quite the loveable show offs. Many horses would follow, but this horse was quite special.

Eventually; the two children that enjoyed the magical memories on the beautiful little farm grew up to have families of their own. Mother who married our father, George Davis in 1942 had four children together; Annette, Mark, Kim, and Dana. Our uncle Leslie and his wife Anne had one child, Patricia. Luckily as kids, we lived close to our grandparents and created our own priceless memories. Mother never got over her love of horses and the ability to marvel at the sight of the wildlife that lived in the marshes and came to drink in the tranquility of the stream. One day last summer, while in her wheelchair on the private bridge leading to her home, nearly 100 years after she first laid eyes on the sparkling river, she surprised me with the unusual reference to the water's surface below. "Look at the wrinkles!" she exclaimed upon noting the little swirls and ripples. In that comment, I could see that Mother's relationship to the river was almost as one would have to an old

familiar friend. It was her fountain of youth and nourishment for her soul..they journeyed their lives together.

Our mother and "Tawasentha" have always seemed like one. There have been horses and ponies grazing cool wetlands and pasture as long as we can remember. Mother's love of the wildlife, the river and her horses..the old barn and silo, and the cherished memories of a bygone day, only increased over the years. As her four children, we were fortunate to create our own memories on Tawasentha as she had. We were lucky to have her as our mother and the history she passed on to us. To this day, one very old, white horse remains. When he is not grazing by the water's edge, he can be found dosing in the shade of the big old barn that has stood tall and strong through many years of change. This old Arab gelding was our Mother's last horse. She named him "SunnyBoyII".



Pineriver Park Neighborhood Entrance Will Be Getting A New Look

Forty years ago Pineriver Park garden club and Spokane County Parks Department worked together to landscape our present entrance. Those plantings are now greatly overgrown and we are hoping to remove and improve. Pineriver Park neighbors are working with Friends of Little Spokane River Valley and Don Secor, Spokane County Parks, to remove the existing shrubs. The county has applied for a grant. But because of county low staff work will probably not begin until August, 2015.

We would like your input and thoughts on landscaping the site. There is no water source to that area.

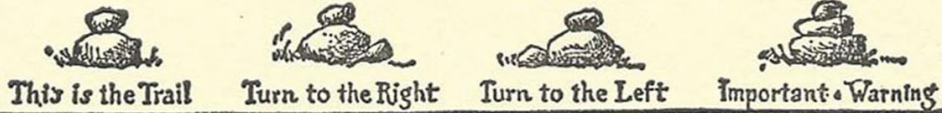
If you are interested in plan-ning "Our New Look" contact:

Deanna Sommers
466-9704
deannasomm@msn.com

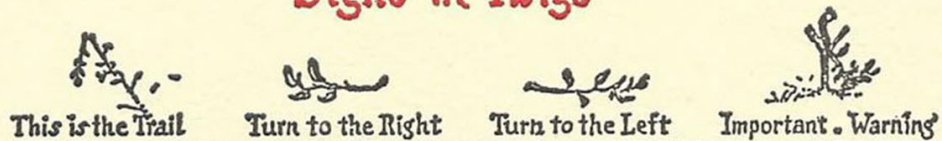


TRAIL SIGNS

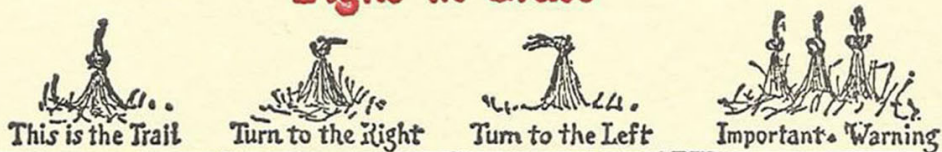
Signs in Stones



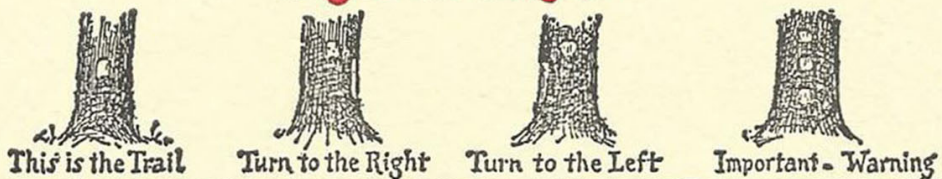
Signs in Twigs



Signs in Grass



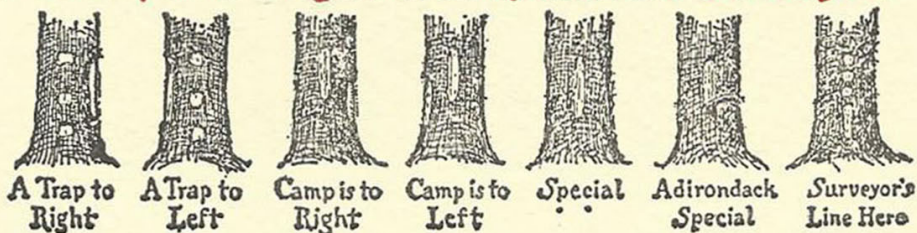
Signs in Blazes



Code for Smoke Signals



Some Special Blazes used by Hunters & Surveyors



Courtesy of Saturn Press, P. O. Box 368, Swan's Island, Maine 04685

Bird Watching

**Washington Department of
Fish And Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
<http://wdfw.wa.gov>**

Help us all learn more about local birds with "eBird"

Backyard (and other) birdwatchers in the Pacific Northwest can now enter their bird observations into eBird Northwest (www.ebird.org/nw), a newly launched regional system of information sharing about birds.

Your entries help Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and other wildlife biologists better understand bird species locations, population densities, seasonal movement patterns, and conservation needs.

Your entries and those of fellow local birdwatchers also help each other learn where birds are, and are not, in real time.

This regional portal of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's international eBird program is sponsored by WDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1 (Pacific), the Klamath Bird Observatory, and other local conservation partners. eBird Northwest contributes to nationwide bird conservation priorities outlined by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (<http://www.nabci-us.org/>).

An eBird Northwest Content Committee is generating articles, notes, and other tools of interest to birders and conservation practitioners in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, northern California, British Columbia).

Regularly check the website <http://ebird.org/content/nw/> through the holidays to find updated birding hot spots to plan your outings with family and friends, and of course where you can participate in the Dec. 14 – Jan. 5 Christmas Bird Counts (or see how those counts went after the fact!)

A Citizen Science Committee is working with partners to develop relevant, local projects that are also linked or hosted through eBird Northwest. These projects address specific data needs and encourage participants to contribute data that will inform conservation.

WDFW's citizen science coordinator,

Wendy Connally, (Wendy.Connally@dfw.wa.gov , 360-902-2695), notes two such projects underway now in Washington:

The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a citizen-science survey managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Teams create a snapshot of seabird density on more than 2,400 acres of nearshore saltwater habitat. It is the only land-based, multi-month survey in the Puget Sound region. Learn more at:

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/WhatWeDo/Science/CitizenScience/PugetSoundSeabirdSurvey.aspx>

The Sagebrush Songbird Survey is a community science project focused on sagebrush songbird conservation in the arid landscape and expansive beauty of the Columbia Plateau of eastern Washington.



Three point count target species - Sagebrush Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow - function as "umbrella" species for other birds with similar sagebrush and shrub steppe habitat associations. This project is managed by Washington Audubon and its Lower Columbia Basin and Yakima chapters. Learn more at:

<http://wa.audubon.org/songbird-survey-eastern-washington-underway>

WDFW is using Watchable Wildlife funds from personalized license plates and working with our partners at USFWS and the Klamath Observatory to provide more opportunities for citizen participation in birding and conservation data collection.

Where a Wind Blew . . .

Harla Jean Biever

New Hope Resource Center Board Member

When a strong windstorm hit the community of Riverside on July 23rd, it blew down or topped over 300 trees and severely damaged or destroyed 44 mobile homes in the Riverside Village Mobile Home Park (RVMHP). Instantly, scores of people were left without electricity, running water, or even places to sleep.

New Hope Resource Center Director, Jeaneen Leachman, who already knew many of these people, went to RVMHP to assess their needs, both immediate and long-range. Volunteers from churches in the surrounding area joined together to provide meals each evening for two weeks for 60-80 people. Scores of local relief agencies joined the effort to assist the residents. A Presbyterian Disaster Aid Grant was immediately approved that provided \$5000. that launched the Riverside Task Force. Water and electrical services were restored.

The Task Force came under the umbrella of New Hope Resource Center. Well over \$20,000 dollars has been donated and the Methodist Disaster Relief Fund has agreed to provide another grant for Director, Jeaneen Leachman, to continue as a case worker. Hopefully, the debris from this disaster will be cleaned up, folks that were affected will find places to live, and lives will return to normal.

A sense of an enlarged community with new bonds with our neighbors is a testimony of a group of people rising to an occasion of need for so many folks.





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



Membership Renewal

Over the past few years our membership has averaged 75 families. We invite you to join us in working toward the goals listed on the enclosed renewal form. Since our inception in 1995 there are many projects that we have undertaken or worked in cooperation with the county and state to enhance our valley. Be a part of the ongoing vision, fill out the form and send your check along for the 2015 year.



Trail Update

Lance Pounder

Spokane County recently completed a divided trail along Wandermere Rd. from N. Dartford Drive to the tie in with the Children of the Sun Trail. Tim Schwab with Spokane county engineers was in charge of designing the project. The county applied for a grant back in 2011 and it was approved; this started the design. Part of the trail goes through a DOT right of way so they had to also approve. R.R.A.C.O. was the contractor for the project.

We want to thank all of you involved in the project for a great job in designing and building the trail to help create a safe walking and biking trail through

our valley. We are still going to try to work with Spokane County on a flashing cross walk signal across Wandermere Road in the future. ➡



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.

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

2015 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Chattaroy to Dartford, then $\frac{1}{2}$ 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: _____

Home telephone: _____ E-Mail/FAX: _____

What are your special concerns about the valley?

What issues or topics would you like discussed at meetings?

Check if you are interested in helping with:

- ☐ Trails Committee
- ☐ Parks Committee
- ☐ Newsletter (writing &/or publishing)
- ☐ Sign Design or construction
- ☐ Board member
- ☐ Administrative help
- ☐ Other _____

2015 FLSRV membership dues:

(Full member \$25)

(Associate member \$15) \$ _____

Action Fund Contribution \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____

Trail Fund Contribution \$ _____

Welcome Sign (future) \$ _____

TOTAL PAID: \$ _____

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 Biever, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert, WA 99005**

FLSRV Dinner Reservation

Saturday, February 27, 2015, Doors Open 5:30pm, Meeting 6:30pm, Dinner 7:00pm
Wandermere Golf Course Clubhouse

Tickets requested
(\$20.00 Each)

Name(s):

Amount
enclosed: \$

Street:

City:

Zip:

Make checks payable to **FLSRV**. Donations may be tax deductible.

Phone:

Send to: **Harla Jean Biever**
2220 E. Colbert Rd. Colbert, WA 99005

Pick up your tickets at the door.