

FLSRV Newsletter



June
2012

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Valley Cleanup

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 28, 2012. Approximately 30 volunteers and members met at the bottom of Shady Slope. The group, the largest turn out we have had in years, cleaned 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 area along US 395. We collected a lot of paper trash, miscellaneous wood, glass bottles, and cans. Estimated total trash was 40 to 50 bags, less than the previous year's total. Maybe we're slowly getting ahead of it as people are becoming more environmentally responsible.

After the cleanup, a chili feed was held at Bart and Lindell Hagen's house for those who helped out. A big thank you to those responsible for a great meal: Tina Wynecoop and Lindell Haggin for the chili, Martha Schafer and Roberta Ellis for the cornbread, and Harla Jean Biever for the cookies. Thanks to all who helped with both cleanup and the cooking!

It has always been interesting to drive the valley roads and see what we find. Some of the more notable discoveries have been a bowling ball, car fender and car doors, rotten fish and deer in plastic bags--thank you. We have found whiskey bottles and wine bottles always dropped in the same place. Ok yes, a black bra with a praying mantis egg cocoon inside; and best of all--a rattle snake. So be careful out there !!

Please mark your calendars for next year's cleanup which is scheduled in April. We will send out a notice to remind you and set up the signs a week in advance. Thank you for your continued support to keep our valley clean.

2012 Annual Meeting

Tina Wynecoop, Auction Chairman

The 2012 Annual Meeting and Dinner/Auction was held Saturday, February 25, at the Wandermere Golf Clubhouse. Tables full of silent auction items were displayed and greeted attendees as they entered the clubhouse. All items were donated by businesses and members in our community. Two thousand dollars was raised for continued trail building and keeping parks open. County project engineer, Neil Carroll, our guest, and guest speaker, gave a briefing on the upcoming replacement of the bridge crossing the Little Spokane River at the junction of Mill Rd., Dartford Dr., and Little Spokane Dr. The buffet dinner, prepared by golf course staff, was delicious as it always is. The big turn-out for the annual meeting was appreciated and we note that it is not just an annual meeting, but has become a friendly and anticipated community 'annual tradition!' Of course, we will do it again, early next spring. If you have something in good condition that would make a good silent auction item, please notify me at: wynecoop@hotmail.com

Thank You!

FLSRV 2012 Auction Donors:

Wandermere Car Wash Plaza
Sara Picicci – Salon Dolce
North Spokane Acupuncture – Kathy West
Oil Can Henry's #78 – Wandermere
Harla Jean Biever
Lisa Pechia

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Susan and John Holen
Great Clips @
Northpointe Plaza – Stephanie Matteson
Yuppy Puppy Spokane
Petite Chat Bakery
Pounder's Jewelry
Wandermere Golf Course
Rick and Sue Kellogg
Lance and Mena Pounder
Judy's Enchanted Garden
Nevada Hair Co. - Krista Gonzalez
Subway – Wandermere
Kirk and Lori Neuman
Starbucks – Wandermere
6th Avenue Pharmacy
The Lands Council
Jewelry Design Center
O'Doherty's Irish Grille
Sun People Dry Goods
Gina Freuen
Fred Meyer – Wandermere
Peggy Ostness
Post Net – Wandermere
Starbucks @ 'Y'
Chick and Lois Wynecoop
Chris and Loren Dudley
Jeanne and Buz Dammarell
Petunia's Marketplace
Lindell Haggin
Merle and Diana Moberly
Diane Conkright
Inland Northwest Land Trust
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Alan McCoy
Victor Lumber
Little Spokane Garden Club
Audubon Washington
Spokane Audubon
Jack Nisbet
Birdnote.Org
Kizuri
Judge and Tina Wynecoop
Wynecoop Chickens

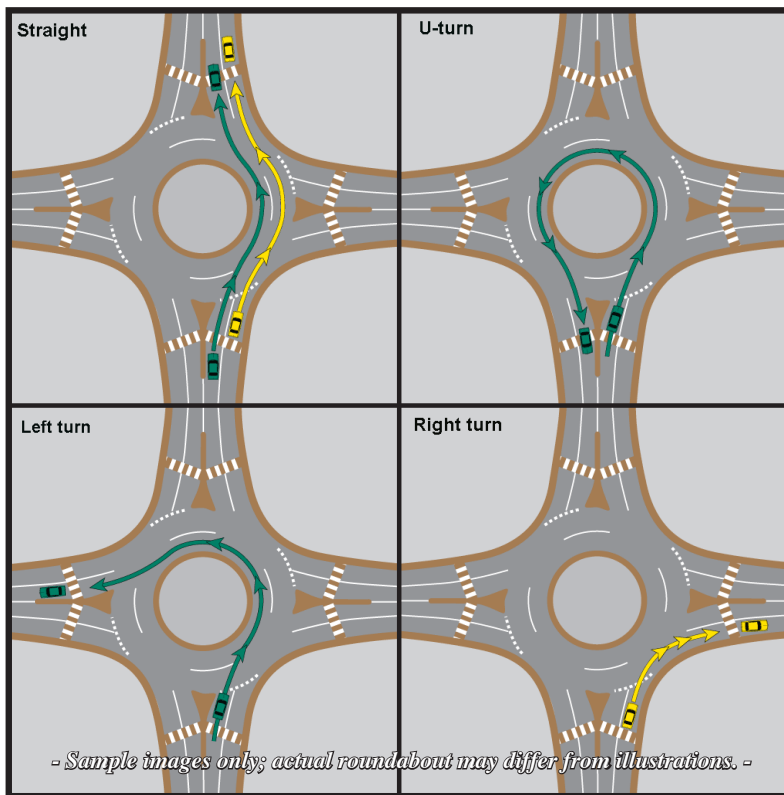
Roundabouts

Jack Bury

A Roundabout is a type of circular intersection (see images below), coming soon to the intersection of Mill Rd. and Waikiki Rd. in which traffic flows counterclockwise (see illustration below) around a central island. What makes our roundabouts different from circles, junctions, New York's and interchanges is that

in a roundabout entering traffic must always yield to all traffic already in the circle regardless of lane position. Roundabouts have 40% fewer vehicle collisions and 80% fewer injuries; they also reduce conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, offering the center "safety" island mid crossing. Bicycles do fare as well when challenged by entering vehicles. Try Wikipedia for some different roundabout signs and animated traffic patterns. ➡

Entering traffic must always yield to all traffic already in the circle, regardless of lane position.

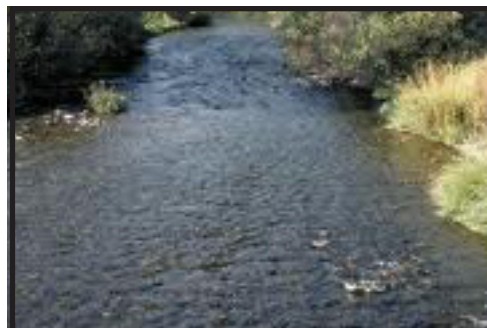


Pine River Park Update

Lance Pounder

This summer Spokane County Parks and Recreation has budgeted funds to take care of mowing, watering, toilets, and garbage pickup. They have asked the Friends of the Little Spokane Valley to help pick up loose garbage in and around the park. So far this year the park has been pretty clean, but we have not had the really warm days that bring out park users. We ask that if you

are in the park and see any loose garbage, to please pick it up and take it to the trash receptacle. If we all do a little bit we can keep our neighborhood park looking good. ➡



Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

FLSRV Newsletter



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contact Harla Jean Biever

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Little Spokane River Artist Studio Tour



The annual Art Show will take place Saturday, September 29, 2012, 10:00am-5:00pm. See and purchase the work of 28 professional artists, while visiting five artists studios located within easy distance of one another in the beautiful Little Spokane River Valley. The 2012 tour will feature an expanded selection of favorite, familiar, and intriguing new artists in unique studio and garden settings. Admission is free. ➡

A Little History

Harla Jean Biever

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley is a non-profit corporation licensed October 14, 1996.

The primary focus that launched this group was concern over high-density development on perimeter areas where run-off could ultimately affect our river valley. I can remember attending a meeting at Covenant United Methodist Church in the summer of 1996. There was a crowd of maybe 30 people and one of the leaders asked if there was anyone in the group that would like to be a board member. I volunteered and have been on the board ever since.

The early meetings centered around limiting the above mentioned problems with housing developments. An attorney was hired and all of a sudden we had bills that no one had anticipated. One of the members loaned the money to pay the attorney and we started looking for ways we could raise money and pay him back. One of the first things we did was have a dinner/auction and through the following years we did raise enough money to re-imburse the donor.

Since I had some experience with keeping books I volunteered to keep track of our money and became treasurer. I've held that position ever since. Each year a qualified accountant checks our books to be sure all is in order.

More and more the emphasis on FLSRV has moved to preservation of our environment and developing our resources. One of the greatest ventures we have undertaken has been the Trails Development; continuing to impact us more each year. Some day we will link with the Centennial Trail along the Spokane River. We have worked with the

County in planning and expanding the walk-ways. Spring Clean-Up of our valley has become a yearly tradition.

We have 80 member families this year and the dinner/auction has expanded into an annual meeting. Nine of your friends constitute a well-functioning Board of Directors, each taking initiative and responsibility for various areas of concern.

In each subsequent newsletter we hope to high-light members of the board and a bit of the history of their association with our group.

Water Quality

Tina Wynecoop

A team of four women, who just happen to be FLSRV members, volunteers to monitor the water quality of Little Spokane River, Deadman Creek and Little Deep Creek. We've been meeting once a month for nearly a decade at our team leader's home to run tests which the Spokane Conservation District (SCD) considers to be credible and useful data in helping guide management decisions about our region's watershed.

With monitoring equipment supplied by SCD, the team measures pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and conductivity. We also note wildlife, including birds, on the data sheets, and report anything unusual, such as the observations of repeated contaminants in Little Deep Creek generated by the combination of heavy rain events and construction of the WSDOT freeway interchange at Shady Slope/Hwy 2 in 2010.

During the April 28th FLSRV litter pickup, two people were assigned to work a segment of Little Spokane Drive – one member, Julie Ross, who resides near Indian Trail/Rutter Parkway, and the other, newly elected Board member, Jack Bury, a long-time resident of this valley. Julie Ross found it intriguing that Jack and his wife, Ro, relied on the Little Spokane River as their sole source

of indoor water (except for drinking) for many years. It caught my attention too, since I am one of the volunteer water quality monitors, and I asked Jack and Ro if I could interview them for this article about water quality, and this is what I learned:

The Burys purchased their home in 1980 from a plumber who had built the house in 1961 (it is situated north of Colbert Road on the west side of the Little Spokane River.) The original owner had used technology called "double plumbing" which involves a series of pipes and valves that allowed each faucet and outlet to draw either from the 125' deep well or from the river. The well produced minimal gallonage and the underground water supply was "oranger than Hi-C punch" due to the iron particles suspended in the well water.

Jack said, "We moved into the house in 1980 and after several failed and frustrating attempts with iron removal systems, turned wholly to using the river's water from shower to sink. Only our drinking and cooking water came out of a 5 gallon bottle atop a commercial dispenser. The river water was fresh, and just during spring runoff, unclear. We installed a small silt and sand filter and were satisfied year 'round. The garden and vegetables seem to thrive on river water - perhaps it contains some broader range of elements, at least benign if not mildly beneficial."

I asked Jack if they still relied on river water and he replied, "When Whitworth Water District later extended service to the intersection of Colbert Road and Little Spokane Drive (between 5 and 10 years ago) they ran a spur up Little Spokane Drive and we connected to it. No more frozen pumps in the winter."

Clearly water quality impacted the Bury family and continues to do so for all the residents who live along the Little Spokane and its tributaries. Continued monitoring is an important volunteer activity for our team leader, Lindell Haggin, and her team: Chris Dudley, Jeanne Dammarell, and me.

Walking Tour

May 12, 2012

Roberta Ellis, FLSRV Member

It was a gorgeous day for a hike - clear blue sky with the perfect spring temperatures. Wildflowers bloomed as 16 folks joined historian, teacher, and author Jack Nisbet on a walking tour over the north end of Riverside State Park/Deep Creek area on May 12. Jack shared his knowledge of the many flowers from the background of Native American use to the inquisitive mind of research from the 1920's trek of naturalist David Douglas. We ventured along dusty trails thru pristine hillsides, fresh with spring greens, birds singing and fragrant with the sweet aroma of renewal. Questions and answers were shared and all departed with new knowledge and renewed excitement over the discovery of what a wonderful area we live in.

Plans are to engage Jack for more walking tours in the future. We will keep you enlightened when plans develop and encourage you to join in and bring a friend. ➤

Second Annual Hike With Jack Nesbit

Tina Wynecoop

"Indians timed their way through the landscape," explained author, naturalist, and historian Jack Nisbet as he led a group of sixteen friends of FLSRV on a four hour hike along the Spokane River at Riverside State Park between Nine Mile Falls and the mouth of Deep Creek. The hike took place in mid-May on a beautiful day. We, too, timed our way through the riverine landscape - not gathering early spring plants for sustenance like the Interior Salish peoples - but learning from Jack the importance of these life-sustaining practices

which carried the aboriginal people past winter hunger into spring. Our hike led us upstream to the one-lane bridge at the mouth of the creek.



We found a shady place to stop and had the opportunity to ply Jack with more questions, including one about a small memorial stone nearby. "Did you know who it was for?" "No." But then one of the women in the group quietly stated that it was placed there in memory of her deceased husband, also named Jack - a man who loved the outdoors.

We took a trail which led up to a lookout with a gorgeous overview of the basalt outcrops, and then hiked down into the dry creek bed where fossils from the Miocene era could be found. Chokecherry bushes were abundant and our guide explained their importance as a food source. We know them to be astringent and tart - the Indians knew to use them combined with other foods and to take tiny tastes rather than eating them like regular cherries. Nisbet shared the Kalispel Indian story which explained why the ubiquitous black, feces-like, stem-covering galls came to be on chokecherry bushes: Grizzly bear is greedy. He eats all the cherries and gets the runs. Lesson: Don't eat so fast.

Certain other vegetation is prone to different galls which are caused either by micro-organisms, or else by insects

depositing their eggs on host plant leaves or stems - creating swellings. Who knew that someone had written a field guide to galls? Jack carried one in his car's trunk "library" along with many other field guides. Who knew that the likes of Thomas Jefferson and Lewis and Clark wrote in their journals with ink derived from galls? Jack explained that it was the tannin in galls which helped make ink flow.

The group learned so much on this outing. Thoughtful questions were asked which sent Jack off on tangents and we were all willing to follow with him. Four hours went by too quickly. Fortunately we can go on multiple "hikes" with Jack by reading his many wonderful books (titles can be found on his website: jacknesbit.com).

Currently he and his wife, Claire, are creating a new MAC museum exhibit about botanist, explorer David Douglas. It opens this September. David Douglas is the subject of Jack's most recent book, *The Collector*. And it was David Douglas' presence accompanying us as we learned to look deeply into what the landscape can tell us.

Jack's next book is about to go to publication. When an author writes about an indomitable man who graced our region in 1825 and impacted horticulture internationally, it serves as a magnet for new material needing a sequel. Interesting reading is ahead; to learn more about the man who explored our region in the 1820's, check out David Douglas' *A Naturalist at Work*, to be published in November 2012.

Wished you had come on this hike? Perhaps there will be a third annual hike. He suggested we might enjoy walking "Knothole trail" which he would be happy to lead in mid-May 2013.

Gratitude goes to FLSRV board member Harla Jean Biever for organizing this tour. And, also to Jack Nisbet, who always makes the natural, historical and cultural features of our region come alive. ➤

Oldest Barn in Spokane County?

W.G. Magnuson, Jr.

Around 1879 two Dart brothers moved to the Spokane area from Minnesota. Later they were joined by two younger brothers. They were Lafayette, Herb, Curt, and George Dart. They settled along the Little Spokane River about one half mile down river from the present Wandermere golf course. The area where they located has since become known as Dartford. The Dart brothers built a sawmill in 1882 in Dartford just upstream from the 2001 bridge crossing the Little Spokane River.

The sawmill was followed by the construction of a gristmill and then later by homes followed even later, in the 1920s, by a service station, a store with a post office, and a flour and feed store. Early on, in 1883, the family house and barn were built one block south of the bridge on Minihdoka Trail. The image below is a picture of the barn. This picture was taken about 1969 when the barn was "only" 86 years old. The picture is from the book Vanished Gristmills (1978) by Florence E. Sherfey and the picture was provided by George T. Dart III.



Original barn that Herb Dart built in 1883. The barn was used for horses, for riding, and for hauling for the gristmill.

In 2002 Merrilee and James Lane purchased the property and the barn. Time and weather had taken its toll on the barn and winds had blown most of the roofing off. A decision needed to be made: Take the barn down or fix the roof. The Lanes felt an urge to preserve history and the decision to repair the roof was made. The repair task under way is shown in the image below.



The barn in Spring 2011 undergoing repair. Because of wind and rain damage, many of the rafters needed replacing.

The barn now has a new roof. Many of the rafters needed replacing and other repairs such as straightening the walls were made during the process. Image below shows the current barn.



April 2011 picture. Windows to be added, siding repaired, and painting remaining.

The Lane (Dart) barn may be the oldest surviving barn in Spokane county - 128 years "young." Next is further restoration including windows, siding repair, and painting - Are there any "barn volunteers" with a paint brush?" magnuson@ieec.org



Spring is for the Birds (and Birders)!

Lindell Haggin

Spring is a wonderful time of year for birders. After watching the same birds for months (November through March), we finally begin to see waves of birds that are starting their move to the north and their nesting territories. In February we see Red-winged Blackbirds moving back in larger numbers. Spring will come!

In March impressive flocks of Robins join the few who managed to make it through the whole winter here. The first of the Turkey Vultures arrive back from Central and South America. If you're lucky enough to be in the right spot in Central America or Mexico at this time of year, you can look up and see thousands of them in migration mixed in with hawks and other raptors. To save energy these birds find thermals along ridge lines. These invisible columns of warm air carry the birds up to higher elevations and then they coast down to another thermal. It is a magic sight to see.

By April we start seeing more of the neotropical birds make their appearance. Neotropical migrants are those birds who spend their winters in Mexico, Central and South America, but breed in the U.S. or Canada. A few Violet-green Swallows who spent the winter in Central America show up to scout their old nesting sites. By the end of the month the male hummingbirds start moving through. The Calliope Hummingbirds have come all the way from Southern Mexico and Central America. The Osprey winters in the same areas, but has long, broad wings to carry it up on thermals so it can coast a good deal of the time on the way back. That fragile looking hummingbird flaps those tiny wings innumerable times to make it back under its own steam.

But May is the bonanza month. A variety of warblers are moving

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through or returning to nesting sites, as are kinglets, flycatchers, swifts, sparrows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, Bullocks's Orioles and Western Tanagers. What is truly remarkable is that despite traveling thousands of miles, many of these birds return to the same cluster of bushes that they left the year before.

By June the neotropical birds are busy nesting and raising young. Besides enjoying these natural wonders during their all too brief stay, there are a few things you can do to increase the chances for success of these interesting creatures.

- Keep cats inside
- Plant shrubs and trees that provide shelter and food

- Plant flowers to attract birds and butterflies
- Put out hummingbird feeders especially for those early arrivals.
- Keep the riverbank as natural as possible
- Have a pair of binoculars and field guide handy so you can enjoy them even more

A couple times in the last week when I've been down by the river, I've seen a female Calliope hummingbird poking at what's left of the pussy willows. She's gathering these fluffy bits that she will use along with spider webs and lichens to create her nest. The original recyclers!



Trails Update

An extension of the trail along Little Spokane River Drive is underway. It starts at Lantern Lane, around the curve, and ends just before the bridge crossing the River. We have deliberated for some time about how to complete the portion of the trail that would cross the river and connect on both sides at that bridge. The board and Trails committee will continue to pursue the possibilities in hopes of finding a solution. 

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.