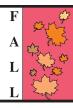
FLSRV Newsletter







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Annual Meeting

Many of us enjoyed our Annual Meeting on February 26th at Wandermere Golf Course Club House. Board members Lindell Hagen, Kirk Neuman, Tina Wynecoop, and Jack Bury were re-elected for another 2 year term. After the meeting we enjoyed a taco buffet dinner and conversation with friends and neighbors. A huge "thank you" to the following folks and businesses who donated items for the auction. The items were outstanding and we made nearly \$1800.

O'Doherty's Irish Pub Susan Holen Kizuri Aveda River Park Square Wynecoop Chickens Dr. Richard Yarbro, DDS Natural Farm Feed Yuppy Puppy Fit Body Boot Camp Jack Nisbet Car Wash Plaza UPS Store, Wandermere Annette Singleton Jack Bury Oil Can Henry Chatteroy Cheese Company Davenport Hotel LaZboy North Division Fred Mever Lance Pounder Home Depot Little Spokane Garden Club Subway, Wandermere North Division Bike Shop Village Centre Theaters Harla Jean Biever Pounder's Jewelry Wandermere Starbucks Gwen Augustine Computer Services, Inc. Hastings Rd. Spokane Audubon Society Wandermere Golf Clubhouse and Golf Course

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2017 Annual Meeting Friday, February 24 th Wandermere Golf Course Club House

Valley Cleanup

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 16, 2016. This year we had a good turnout of around 26 people, and we had enough volunteers to cover all the routes. Thanks to everyone who did show up! Our goal each year is 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 area along US 395.

We collected a lot of paper trash, miscellaneous wood, carpet, bottles, etc. Estimated total trash was 25 to 30 bags. Good job!!

After the cleanup, an annual 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!

Please mark your calendars for next year's cleanup scheduled in April, 2017. We will set the exact date this winter. We need your time and your continued support to help to keep our valley roadways clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors!

All land, no matter what has happened to it, has over it a grace, an absolutely persistent beauty.

-Robert Adams-

Membership

A 2017 membership form is enclosed for your convenience.

In 2016 we had 75 member families. Membership money goes into a general fund and provides the resource for printing and mailing newsletters, maintaining our web site, auditing of each years financial records and other miscellaneous expenses.

Please complete the form, make check to FLSRV and send it to:

Harla Jean Biever 2220 E. Colbert Rd. Colbert, WA 99005



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: 509-951-2084

For article suggestions or comments, contact Harla Jean Biever

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"Don't tell my wife about this!"

Tina Wynecoop

This summer I read with interest a report by Jim Camden in The Spokesman Review about a jet plane crash in the Colville National Forest in 1955. His article reminded me of a similar 1955 jet plane crash in the Little Spokane River Valley. I had interviewed life-long local residents Dan Forsyth and Jim Pounder about the event. Here is the account I wrote for our January 2011 FLSRV newsletter under the heading "Plane Crash": "I didn't find a written record of the 1950's Navy jet trainer plane that crashed into a rocky hillside upslope from the Little Spokane River between Midway and Riverview Roads, The vivid memories of young boys and a twisted piece of metal suffice as proof that it happened. Early one morning c.1954 Jim was awakened from where he slept outside in the family's sleeping porch, by the sound of a plane coming in low from the east over the little town of Colbert. It crashed near the Hotchkiss place. "The jolt felt just like an earthquake."

The plane's hydraulics had failed and the pilot bailed out somewhere near Hilltop Road not far from Highway 2. All that was left of the plane was a smoking hole and a few fragments. The military brass rolled in and had the crash site fenced off. Dan recalls hearing sirens and seeing all the airplanes buzzing around after the crash. He and Jim remember that the pilot suffered a leg injury and was found limping along the road. Dan stated, "I have a piece of the plane which I collected from the crash site - all

we were told was to show what we found to the person in charge and ask if it was something we could keep. I have that metal in a drawer somewhere."

I forwarded my article to reporter Camden. In return he sent me a 1955 newspaper copy about this Little Spokane crash. Details about both crashes are strikingly similar. In the span of a few months, two jets malfunction, both pilots eject, parachutes meet conifers in remote terrain, and bravery, grit and survival trump the disaster of two flights gone awry.

First, a synopsis of Camden's article, "Forest Service, Fairchild Solve Mystery of Plane Crash Discovered in the Colville National Forest," (July 25, 2016): "Retired Major Charles Seeley was in a controlled dive in his F-86A Sabre jet (48-292N) at about 21,000 feet altitude. His plane began rolling out of control and he ejected from it on one of the coldest March 23 days on record (1955). The pilot walked away from the wreckage and made it to a logging road he had noticed as his parachute floated down into the forest and caught in a tree. The ground was covered in three feet of snow and he wasn't wearing winter gear. A logger picked him up and drove him to a branch road where a dozer operator transported Seeley to Newport.

Many years later and quite by happenstance the plane was relocated in a remote area south of lone, WA in 2014. The wreckage had been there long enough for trees to grow around and through it. Forest Service records had no mention of a military plane crash. Following the accident the Air Force convened an investigation and concluded that pilot Seeley had done everything possible to recover from the out-of-control

spin and stayed with his aircraft as long as possible.

The investigation showed there were short-circuits some of the aileron switches in the cockpit." Following is the newspaper account of the memorable jet crash in the Little Spokane River Valley, published in The Spokane Daily Chronicle (August 24, 1955) with its front page headline: "Plane Burns." The caption accompanying the event's photographs stated: "A Spokane rug cleaner who flies jet fighter planes as a Marine Corps reserve captain was injured today when he bailed out of his disabled plane near Colbert." Here is the abbreviated version from the article:

"Captain N. C. Christensen, N5627 Forest Blvd., flying in formation in his F9F-6 Cougar jet...when the ship's hydraulic control system failed. Christensen ejected upside down in the plane's catapult seat at about 12,000 feet altitude about 34 of a mile east of the town of Colbert." With a possible broken leg and bruises on the face, and partially coherent, he told the ambulance crew, "Don't tell my wife about this" as he was transported to the Air Force base hospital at Fairchild.

According to the article his parachute had caught in pine trees and farmers got him down. Someone kept the chute as a prize. The pilotless plane continued west and crashed and burned on the Roy [and Charmaine] Hotchkiss farm [near Riverview Road between Midway and Colbert Roads].

There were eyewitnesses: Mrs. Jerry Sherred said she saw the parachute float over her chicken

- "Don't tell" / Continued on page 3 -

coop and called the Washington State Patrol. One of the other pilots in the formation radioed for help." That same morning Ed Molander was walking out his driveway to Little Spokane Drive to get his newspaper when the disabled jet flew right over his head. Literally. He dropped to the ground. He thought he was going to be hit - it came in so low. It crashed about 500 yards beyond him. The plane hit a tall pine tree and broke its trunk off. The jet plummeted straight into the ground, creating a deep crater and setting the grasses on fire.

Mr. Molander's upstream neighbor, and Dan Forthyth's aunt, Echo Fuson, witnessed the aftermath from her front yard. (She was the one who acquired the two small pieces of the jet and wrote the note shown in the photographs.)

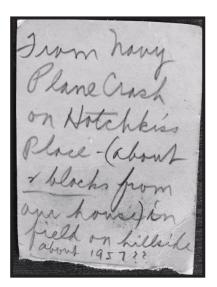
After the investigations were completed they were followed by truck-loads of dirt which were dumped into the crater. "The investigators cleaned up what they wanted. I don't know if they buried much of the plane in the hole or just filled the hole," says Dan Forsyth, and he added, "The plane crash was a big deal in our neighborhood." Dan and I walked to Molander's old driveway and I got goose bumps standing near the spot where the plane that nearly swiped the hat off Ed Molander's head had passed over. Dan held his arms out to show me the trajectory of the pilotless plane. He made it a reality. He said, "It was a pretty big event. There were a lot of people in the valley who were wandering around in that field the first day. My brother says the military had

control of the area the second day and "by then you couldn't just walk in and inspect the disaster for yourself.""

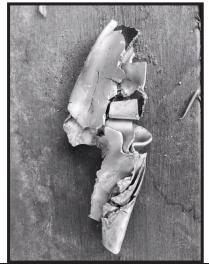
My family moved to the LSR valley in 1976. Several years later we heard vague stories about this plane crash and knew it was not far from the edge of the basalt cliff on the east side of our property. Our house and yard are situated directly above and west of the Hotchkiss place where there was a small airstrip carved in the field. Occasionally a small plane would come and go – and on its takeoff it would become airborne and

emerge seemingly and magically out of nowhere above our cliff Perhaps these flights impressed our two little boys to become pilots I don't know for sure but there is a possible connection, since both are pilots and one of them would transport skydivers above our home and the Little Spokane River Valley. Up and up he would take them until the plane became a mere speck and then a dozer more 'mere specks' hanging from parachutes would float gently down in plain view. Goose bumps again!

Below is a note written by Little Spokane resident Echo Fuson accompanying the two pieces of the jet. Her nephew, Dan Forsyth, is the keeper of these mementos and shares them with our readers.







Antoine Peak Hike

Tina Wynecoop

"There is so much to explore right here," Jack Nisbet says of his policy of keeping his subject matter all within a day's drive from his south hill home." The Inlander, May 14, 2015

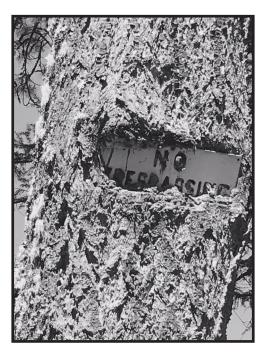
In spring 2015 FLSRV sponsored a hike, led by Jack Nisbet, to the Uplands Conservation Land. It overlooks Liberty Lake to the east and Saltese Flats to the west and is surrounded by mountains bordering the Washington/Idaho state line (including Mica Peak in Idaho) and spectacular southerly views of the second Mica Peak (in Washington). Looking westward we could see all the way to the Reardan area. Mt. Spokane's bald top loomed to the north. With a simple twirl of the feet in one spot all views were visible from this recent conservation land purchase. These vistas, though, competed with the equally wonderful minutia of the upland landscape we were exploring with Jack that sunny day in May.

Midway through the hike we gathered for lunch at the top of the uplands and our gaze shifted north across the Spokane valley. The destination for the next spring hike with Jack unfolded before our eyes: the recent Conservation Futures acquisition of Antoine Peak land comprising 1,076 acres of foothills rising from the valleyfloor and part of the Columbia Range within the Selkirks (which are older than the Rocky Mountains.)

These annual hikes aren't strenuous. Children are welcomed. They delight Jack with their inquisitive exuberance. Although the terrain varies with each yearly hike the pace is really determined

and defined by questions, "What's that flower?" Or, "How did that outcrop form?" Close observation leads us from one feature to the next. Insects, shrubs, old growth trees, spring blooming wildflowers, aboriginal presence, wetlands, history, birds, and mammals, Ice Age floods – all take on new importance thanks to his knowing explanations.

The Antoine Peak parking lot has ample room for cars. Do place all your valuables in the trunk or out of sight. Do notice the old Douglas fir tree with its "No Trespassing" sign nailed to the trunk years ago. It is still visible but partially obscured by thick bark. Our CF taxes took the ooomph out of the warning it sends when Antoine Peak became public land. It is a reminder that speaks of logging days and old homesteads



Do be aware of your surroundings since Antoine Peak is part of a vast wildlife corridor, and caution is in order: the week prior to our hike last May a cougar was seen stalking hikers.

One of the highlights for me was finding a towering non-native old rosebush along the trail. I took a

cutting and have successfully started new rose plants from it. I look forward to seeing their blooms next year. Jack suggested the Spokane Rose Society be notified in case it is an uncommon species. Other than that, I've misplaced the field notes I took while on the hike and am bummed because there were many things I wanted to remember and research when the hike was over – and most importantly share in our newsletter.

Hike 2017 hasn't been announced yet but in the meantime here is an announcement worth sharing: Four Spokane authors have been nominated for the prestigious 2016 Washington State Book Awards. In the history/general nonfiction category, our author/naturalist/ teacher/hike leader is nominated for his recent book. Ancient Places: People and Landscape in the Emerging Northwest. The award is given annually based on a book's literary merit, lasting importance, and overall quality, to an author born in Washington State or a current resident. Jack has lived in Washington State since 1971. Ever since he has opened our eyes to its natural wonders thanks to that special lens with which he views our region and then generously shares - whether we follow him on the trails, or, are armchair hikers accompanying him in the many books he and his wife, Claire, have authored.

The award ceremony will be held at Seattle Public Library in early October. Our FLSRV organization recognizes, appreciates and honors Jack year-round – year after year!

In anticipation of the Spring 2017 hike, and his next book.



Little Spokane River Watershed Part 4

Rob Lindsay, Water Resources Manager & Spokane County Utilities & INLC Board Member

Rob Lindsay, Water Resources Manager, Spokane County Utilities & INLC Board Member

The Little Spokane River Watershed – Resource Conservation Planning

This is the fourth in a series of four articles about watershed planning efforts in greater Spokane River watershed. This article highlights the history of water resource management efforts in the Little Spokane River watershed.

Two things I've definitely learned in the past few years as a water resource professional: there are many people in this community who are very passionate about water resources, and, a lot of them live in the Little Spokane River basin. I'm continually impressed with those engaged individuals who give their time and effort so generously to preserve and protect the environment they love. Their deep emotional attachment to the watershed is inspiring.

The watershed planning process is both challenging and invigorating. People from all walks of life, and who are passionate about water, agree to cooperate and make plans for a better future. They listen and learn and share ideas. Their mission is difficult: to agree on how to sustainable manage the most precious of natural resources to meet the competing needs of a growing population, all while protecting and maintaining the natural attributes of the watershed. It's a heavy lift.

In fact, water resource management has been an ongoing process in the Little Spokane River watershed for nearly 50 years, far longer than any other watershed in the county.

There's a humorous saying that's well-founded in history: "whiskey's for drinking and water's for fighting". Indeed, conflicts over water use in Little Spokane River basin date back to the late 1960's. As a result, in 1974 the Washington Department of Ecology stepped in and initiated the Little Spokane River Water Resource Management Program, one of the first of its kind in the state.

The effort included a thoughtful analysis of the physical characteristics of the watershed and forecast the needs for human uses, fisheries, and recreation. A robust public participation component was

included. The result was the "Water Resources Management Program – Little Spokane River Basin, August 1975". The program developed 'minimum instream flow' values to protect the river, sustain fisheries, and preserve other beneficial uses such as agriculture, recreation and aesthetics.

These minimum flow values were eventually adopted into a rule and now guide water resource decision making in the watershed. The rule also established a priority date for the Little Spokane River, essentially giving the river a water right with seniority over subsequent water rights. That is, any water rights established after the rule date will have to shut off if/when the river flow falls below the minimum flow.

In 2005 a new watershed plan was adopted which included numerous recommendations to promote water conservation and reuse, and to support policies that augment river flows, protect native fisheries and promote recharge of aquifers. It also sought to better quantify the impacts of the proliferation of permitexempt wells in the watershed.

The Little Spokane River watershed has a lengthy history of water resource planning, and the local stewards have been involved since the very beginning. To all you watershed planners out there, I salute you! Watershed planning activities provide an opportunity for citizens to weigh in, and public participation is crucial in the development of the management policies. After all, it is the peoples' water.

I encourage you to visit our web page, www.spokanecounty.org and follow the links to Water Resources to learn more about water resource planning activities in Spokane County.

It's been a pleasure to report on the status of watershed planning in the greater Spokane River watershed. I hope you have enjoyed these articles. As always, don't hesitate to contact me at rlindsay@spokanecounty.org if you have any questions or comments. See you in the watershed!

Note: This article was shortened for print – you can view the entire article on our website at www.inlandnwland.org.



Conservation Futures Nomination

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

This summer Chris Zeller and Rob Allen came to our board meeting to ask for our endorsement of the application being made to Conservation Futures for a beautiful spot along the Little Spokane River. Out of 38 applications submitted to the committee this placed number 8 in the initial selection. The final selections will be announced at a later date.

The following is the letter approved by our board and submitted to the Conservation Futures committee for their consideration.

September 15, 2016

To

Spokane County Conservation Futures c/o Paul Knowles,

Park Planner, Spokane Co.Parks Dept. (Pknowles@SpokaneCounty.org) 404 N Havana St, Spokane, WA 99202

From:

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley

The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley (FLSRV.org) whole-heartedly and unreservedly supports the nomination of the 95 acre parcel known as: Little Spokane 23-16.

Over the years our organization has added miles of non-motorized pathways and trails for our community to safely walk from "here to there."

Mostly these pathways exist alongside busy roadways with little actual connection to this free-flowing wonder called the Little Spokane River - a river of great importance to the Snexwemene Indians who lived along, traveled, and were nourished by it for millennia. Even today, we need this experience to enrich The interior Salish people, the us. Kalispel, are preserving the habitat in the adjoining property downstream from the nominated parcel. What a wildlife corridor can be preserved as the river continues down through the golf course and private land and on to the Little Spokane Natural

- Futures Nomination / Continued on page 6 -

- Futures Nomination / Continued from page 5 -

Area which was established in 1974!

Now, the best way to interact with and appreciate the river in its natural setting in our community only can happen when walking the area below the Bozarth mansion where the aquifer plunges to meet the river as it moves and meanders downstream to flow into the Spokane River.

To permanently preserve the additional acreage for public use and for the flora and fauna that depend on its intactness is so very needed. As mentioned, our own trails are valued and appreciated yet the connectivity to the river is minimal because of the miles of private residences that are located between the shoreline and the roadways. The new parcel remedies that separation beautifully.

One of our members, who owns one of these private parcels along our upstream trails "get her real walk" on the nominated property. Here is how she describes her experience:

"I love walking in that area, and I do so 3-4 times a week. I enjoy the switch backs, the wild life, the river, and visiting with others that realize how lucky we are to have such a beautiful place. There are many regulars that walk the area, plus we see cross country runners (sometimes 15-20 from Mead HS) several times a month."

The nomination of this parcel, as worthy of preservation, and complements and enhances our own organization's vision for the Little Spokane River Valley which is:

- To preserve and sustain the unique character of the Little Spokane River Valley, including it's open space and natural setting.
- To maintain lower density zoning.
- To protect the area's ecosystem including water quality, wetlands, priority habitat and wildlife, and dwindling native vegetation.

- To encourage the development of area parks and natural areas.
- To educate public officials of the concerns of the Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, and be pro-active when major issues are at the forefront.

For our organization, this is one of those "major issues" and we consider it worthy of our support!

With utmost respect for the difficult considerations ahead for your committee in the selection process, we are:

The Board Members of Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley. Lance Pounder, President P. O. Box 18191 Spokane, WA 99228



Crossing Paths with Washington's Wildlife

Washington Dpt. Of Fish And Wildlife 600 Capitol Way Northt Olympia, Wa 98501-1091 Http://Wdfw.wa.gov

Get nest boxes ready and in place for next spring.

If you don't already have nest boxes up, this is the time to either build or buy and place them, following our specs at http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/index.html

Many backyard birding enthusiasts who use nest boxes leave them up year-round and leave nesting materials in them through the winter, when some birds will use them as nightime roost sites.

But migrating birds that use cavities for nesting, like bluebirds, swallows and wrens, will be returning next month and they prefer clean quarters to follow their instincts to build their own nests.

All nest boxes attract insects – mites, lice, fleas, flies, hornets, spiders and more. In small numbers they are relatively harmless to birds, but in larger numbers they can cause injuries and even fatalities to young birds.

Inspect all nest boxes to clean out insects and also to remove the old nesting material.

Although some diligent and industrious birds will remove old nesting material before building their own particular nest many more will just build on top of an old nest. That kind of layering can raise the nest dangerously close to the entrance hole where predators might reach eggs or young.

Your inspection may turn up dead nestlings or infertile eggs, which of course should also be removed. Be sure to use protective gloves, maybe even a dust mask and dispose of everything you find in nest boxes away from the site to avoid smells that can attract predators.

Nest box maintenance includes tightening screws, loosening lag bolts, unblocking drainage holes, and generally making sure everything is secure and working right.

If you find a nest box in your collection that year after year goes unused, consider relocating it. It might not be in the appropriate habitat or suitable height location for the species it's built for, or perhaps it's in the right place but is not built correctly. Check the entrance hole size, overall size dimensions and other factors that are important to, and different for, various species of nest-box-using birds. Details are available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/index.html

If the same nest box turns up dead nestlings or infertile eggs more than once, consider relocation to avoid competitors or predators or remodeling to protect the species using the box. A predator block – just a one-inch thick piece of wood drilled with the appropriate size hole – mounted over the entrance hole to create a short tunnel into the nest, car deter starlings, raccoons, or squirrels that have chewed the original hole bigger.

Another improvement is to remove any perch post projecting out from the front of a nest box. Our native cavity-nesting birds don't need these perches but they are used by more aggressive non-native birds to harass nesting birds.

If you often have earlier-arriving starlings or English house sparrows dominating your nest box site, you may want to plug the entrance hole until later this spring wher martins or swallows or other native species arrive. Small paper cups and other such plugs work well. Remember to remove the plug as soon as you see your "target" species return to the area, or when you otherwise learn of its return to your area. (Online birding chat groups can be a good source of news about migratory bird movements.)

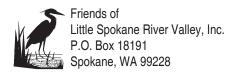


Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley, Inc. 2017 Association Membership Form

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 areas 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.

Being in agreement with t	he goals, I wish to j	join FLSRV. Signature		
Name (or Organization):				
City:		State:	Zip Co	de:
Home telephone:		E-Mail/FAX:_		
What are your special conc				
What issues or topics would	d you like discussed	at meetings?		
Check if you are interested	ed in helping with:	2017 FLS	RV membership d	ues:
☐ Trails Committee		(Full mem)	ber \$25)	
☐ Parks Committee		(Associate	(Associate member \$15)	
☐ Newsletter (writing &/or publishing)		Action Fur	Action Fund Contribution	
☐ Sign Design or construction		General Fi	General Fund	
☐ Board member		Trail Fund	l Contribution	\$ \$
☐ Administrative help		Welcome S	Sign (future)	\$
Other			ГОТАL PAID:	\$
tions are tax exempt to the full	extent of the law. You	Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non should check with your tax consults to: Friends of Little Spokan	ltant to be sure this appli-	
		ever, 2220 E. Colbert Rd., Co		
	. Friday	y, February 24, 2017, Doors Op	pen 5:30pm, Meeting 6	:30pm, Dinner 7:00
FLSRV Dinner Res	servation		ere Golf Course Clubbo	
# Tickets requested (\$20.00 Each)	Name(s):			
Amount	Street:		City:	Zip:
anciacad. S	1		1	
enclosed: \$ Make checks payable to FLS	RV. Donations may be	e tax deductible.	Phone:	











Brain Teaser

Erin Kennedy, DVM

What does 'Red Buck' refer to in our valley?

If you know the answer send an email to wynecoop@hotmail.com
And put "Red Buck" in the subject line.

There is a prize for the first correct response.





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.