

FLSRV Newsletter



Spring
2018

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What's Happening on the Middle of The Little Spokane River?

Daniel Collins

Volunteers We have an upcoming stewardship planting event for all volunteers on Waikiki Springs and its scheduled for May 12th from 9Am-12 noon; meet at the northern end of Fairwood Drive near Mill Road! Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting this event. The event was added, following a poor turnout of volunteers on April 28th. Did rain dampen spirits? if so, pray for sun or community inspiration on the 12th, we need to plant 25 trees and shrubs.

For context, our trails around the Springs have had a hillside of trail cuts! By addressing the worst problems, we hope to reduce the erosion. We, through the Fairwood Farmers Market began addressing needed repair to the switchbacks within Waikiki Springs in October and felt that a consistent volunteer effort in fall and spring months would change the occasional poor behavior on these trails. Planting trees on public lands also contributes to a greater understanding of ecology and helps Fish and Wildlife staff focus on bigger issues. In fact, the synergy with current Wildlife staff have generated a brainstorm list of ideas, and momentum; SOS is part of this. Between three of us on the 28th, we repaired three

lower trail cuts with large wood, mulch, and plants. We have another 3 hours of work on May 12th which will wrap up the lower trail cuts. Come down and assist and learn more about planning efforts here! Please contact Daniel Collins if you can attend: dmcollins1962@gmail.com

Could the Waikiki Springs properties and other private properties become candidates for Washington State Parks management?

In February, Washington State Parks staged community meetings in north Spokane to explain the process of expanding their management interest and long term boundary designation to include more of the Little Spokane River; for planning purposes. Many testimonies were given which reflected current conditions and a love of the area as a public resource.

State Parks is coming back! Excerpts below:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is hosting a meeting on the preliminary recommendations for the Lake Spokane area of Riverside State Park - (we understand this includes the Little Spokane River).

May 15, 6:00 to 8:30 pm
Mead High School library
302 W Hastings Rd, Spokane, WA 99218

Also, The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the Hotel RL Spokane at the Park, 303 W North River Drive, Spokane, Washington.

At the meeting, the Commission will hear a report on the Riverside CAMP, updating on information gathered, issues raised and preliminary staff recommendations. No action will be taken. The discussion is scheduled for approximately 1:45 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and will have an opportunity to provide comment. If you want to provide written comment regarding the item, please send it to Commission@parks.wa.gov before May 11 by 5:00 p.m.

Membership

We have 110 member families for our organization, this is tops for the last few years. Among other things membership dues are used for mailings of newsletters and we are expanding that coverage so more areas of our river valley can be aware of our activities. If you have not renewed your membership for 2018 please consider doing so. Type FLSRV into your search engine and our web site will appear. Click on MEMBERSHIP and you can print the form to mail in with your dues of \$25.00. Your elected board members meet each month giving time and talent for the advancement of our projects. Please give them your support by renewing your membership if you have not all ready done so.



Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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Annual FLRSV Meeting

Our annual meeting, silent auction and dinner was held on February 23rd at Wandermere Golf Course Club House. We had almost 100 enthusiastic attendees! Rob Allen gave us a wonderful update on the plans to preserve and conserve what is being called the Middle of the Little Spokane River, an area below Bozarth Mansion. Board members Lindell Haggin, Kirk Neumann, Tina

Wynecoop and Mark Case were re-elected for another two year term. Following the meeting we enjoyed conversation and a delicious Taco Bar prepared by Herb Brown and his staff. We want to thank all who attended and bid on auction items. We especially want to give a big “thank you” to the following friends and businesses who donated items for the silent auction. The evening netted us over \$2400 toward ongoing trail development and maintenance.

Water Quality

Lindell Haggin

Spokane Conservation District (SCD) has been partnering with the Friends of the Little Spokane for over 10 years. During that time Lindell Haggin has been heading up the volunteer Water Quality sampling in three sections of the Little Spokane Watershed; Dagoon Creek, Little Deep Creek, and the Little Spokane River (see Figure below). SCD is incredibly thankful for the continued efforts by Lindell and her team of volunteers, who in the rain, snow, and shine collect quality data in these three reaches. During the report at the Friends of the Little Spokane Banquet, SCD laid out how each set of data contributes to understanding trends in the river and smaller tributaries. While the data itself cannot define the health of the stream, as plantings and water quality actions are implemented, the changes may begin to shed light onto the potential for what is effective.

SCD was asked how and what landowners can do to support the Little Spokane River? SCD responded that in addition to planting riparian cover along stream edges and supporting healthy upland practices in agriculture, property owners can think about everyday impacts their actions may have to the watershed such as not over fertilizing their lawn, diversifying bank species, and removal of invasive Reed Canary Grass.

The SCD is looking at expanding the Water Quality Monitoring Network to include more locations on the Little Spokane River. Increasing the number of data points will allow us to better compare water quality from reach to reach and help with identifying future water quality improvement opportunities. We are seeking volunteers to help expand this effort of collecting data in the watershed. Please contact Lindell Haggin at lindell4118@comcast.net <<mailto:lindell4118@comcast.net>> if you are interested in learning more and participating in the effort. We are looking forward to working with you and seeing the improvement of the watershed. 🐾



DONORS

Susan Holen	Wandermere Golf Clubhouse and Golf
Kizuri	Course
Tina Wynecoop	Merrilee Lane
Dr. Richard Yarbro, DDS	Skip Magnuson
Yuppy Puppy	Lori and Kirk Neumann
Jack Nisbet	Pattisons Skating Center
Car Wash Plaza	Taste of Thia
UPS Store, Wandermere	Northern Quest Resort and Casino
Annette Singleton	Pine Acres Par 3 Golf Course
Chatteroy Cheese Company	Valvoline Oil
Fred Meyer	Lindell Haggin
Little Spokane Garden Club	Birdys
Subway, Wandermere	Poole's Public House, North
Harla Jean Bieber	Barbara Birch
Pounder's Jewelry	Greg Heline
Wandermere Starbucks	

Valley Cleanup 2018

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 21, 2018. This cleanup happened to be on the day before Earth Day! This year we had one outside group to volunteer for the cleanup, Boy Scout Troop 218 with Richard Parish Scout Master; they did a great job covering from Ace Hardware to Hatch Road along Wandermere Road. Thanks again.

It turned out to be a great cleanup day

with around 30 to 35 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 again was one of the largest hauls we have had in years. Great job and thanks again to the Boy Scouts !!

After the cleanup, an annual chili feed

was held at Bart and Lindell Hagen's home for those who helped out. A big thank you to those responsible for a great meal: Dave Maccini and Lindell Haggin for the chili, 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, 2019. 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!



Proposed Little Spokane Drive Trail from Midway to Colbert Rd.

Mark Case, Trails Chairman

FLSRV trails committee is in the planning process of a new trail connecting the Midway Road trail to the Colbert Road trail. It will be 1 mile long and because it varies in terrain, hills, valleys and tight S-curves, it gives us some challenges. We lost our previous go-to person at the county but recently we were fortunate to get connected with Barry

Greene, P.E. Transportation/Development Services Engineer. Barry will assist by getting us through all the correct checks and balances to get approval and permits.

The next big hurdle is the expense of trail construction. The cost of six-foot-wide gravel surfacing alone will be around \$12k, and construction will be at least 3 times that. A committee is looking into grants. There is a fund raising committee being established and they will be presenting more details on this new section of the trail and introducing a plan to raise the funds for its completion. Their plan will be

presented in the next FLSRV newsletter that comes out in September. Be thinking of how you might want to contribute to this cause or if you have suggestions they might use to help achieve this objective.



Jack Nisbet's and FLSRV's Sixth Annual Walking Tour: Lower Hangman/Latah Creek April 29, 2018

Tina Wynecoop

Near Peaceful Valley, below Spokane Falls, a tributary joins the Spokane River. And thirty-three humans and one very polite dog named 'Dug' joined on this cool spring morning to follow our favorite naturalist/historian guide, Jack Nisbet, on yet another wonderful excursion to explore in depth our region's varied wonders.



Overheard while waiting for the group to assemble, one octogenarian-minus mentioned to another octogenarian-plus that his parents had kept a trailer at this very spot by Sandifur Bridge fifty years ago. The other elder, a Spokane Indian, countered, "Well, 150 years ago, my people lived here." (And they had for uncountable generations.)

After a brisk uphill walk we looked down at the confluence of Hangman Creek and the Spokane River. Coolish weather earlier in the week had slowed the creek's meltwater considerably (from 20,000cfs the previous Monday to 8,000cfs on this day.) At right is a spectacular drone photo (courtesy of Cutboard Studio) of the confluence which was published by The Inlander in



Photo Courtesy Cutboard Studio

mid-April showing a vast stream of mud flowing from Latah Creek and running parallel with and infringing on the green flow of the big river. One could be dismayed at the enormous sediment being dumped by Latah into the Spokane unless given a different perspective by Jack who said that the indigenous people living upstream along this creek which begins in Idaho and washes through the Palouse always called themselves "The muddy creek people." The sediment flow is not a new phenomenon. For sure the creek has been heavily impacted by agricultural and forestry practices in the last century and half but certainly, too, the creek is/ was prone to changing its colors as the seasons changed.

Clouds of serviceberry shrubs and golden current bushes – both in full bloom - made the landscape more beautiful. In late April our region is fashionably dressed in white as the serviceberry bush blooms en masse and then quietly drops its petals. Just look up the slopes of Five Mile Prairie and see the hillsides in astonishing beauty each spring. Wherever there is undisturbed land, perhaps in your own yards or community these shrubs put on a show.

Members of the wild carrot family -perennial herbs named Lomatiums, dotted the ground like yellow umbrellas. Jack explained that plants of this family range from highly edible to deadly toxic. The Interior Salish Indians valued varieties of this plant and relied on certain of its spe-

cies for consumption while avoiding the



toxic ones. We were cautioned that our own plant identification skills were probably insufficient to become gatherers of these subsistence foods.

As our group walked upstream on the west side of the creek we heard the first Yellow warblers of the year singing in the riparian vegetation along the creek. They had just arrived from their long northern migration from Central America to establish nesting territory, mate, and raise their young. (To listen to their melodious calls google "Yellow warbler" and touch the musical note to play recordings of their song(s) and calls. Just upland from the riparian zone tall ponderosa pines anchored the soil. Most enchanting were the skirts of white flowers surrounding the base of some of the trees: Claytonia (also called Indian potato, Spring Beauty) spread their white flowers. These plants were an important source of carbohydrates for the Interior native people. When cooked the corms taste like potatoes.



We saw the White-throated swifts darting underneath the high bridge decks which cross the creek. Again, it

- Walking Tour / Continued on page 5 -

was their calls, a long series of descending notes, that drew our attention (worth listening to by googling their name.)

The creek's character has been altered significantly. Salmon no longer swim upstream to spawn. Most of the beaver are gone. New (invasive) vegetation has planted itself firmly in the soil. Many of the native plants survive. Jack reminds us again not to despair for what has been lost. He compares the changes to the massive repeated impacts of the Ice Age Floods and reminds us that the creek is still here. We must look deeper into the story being told about the landscape.

Crossing a little bridge over the creek we walked back to People's Park on the east side of Latah Creek. Poison ivy, with its odd berried bushes, was pointed out. One man in the group says he just has to breathe and he gets the effect of their poison. Glad to learn about and avoid that plant's presence!

Mounds of Buckwheat plants lined the base of the hillside below the south Hill's High Drive. These plants were sure signs that this creek side is a "butterfly heaven." A sharp-eyed member of the group (not Dug the Dog) found a Sarah's Orange-tip butterfly which had just emerged from its cocoon and was resting in low grasses



On this hike were adventurers, a botanist, a horsewoman, an organic gardener, a trails expert, and many more interesting attendees. The man my husband walked with had his own river story: In June 1971, he and several others swam

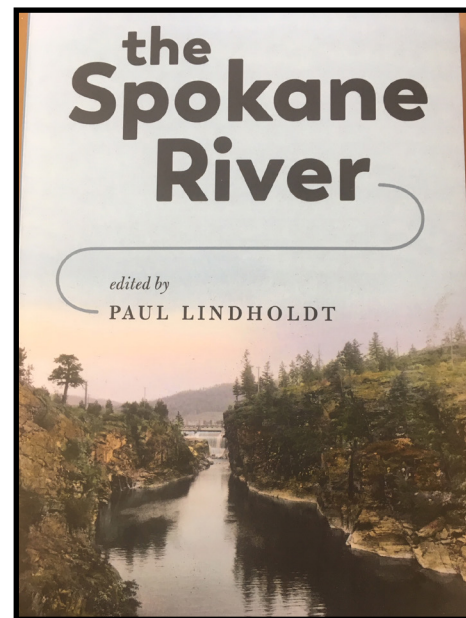
and and/or walked the Spokane River below Post Falls all the way to the Bowl and Pitcher for a fund-raiser on behalf of what is now called the Special Olympics. The small group of adventurers wearing full wetsuits, were able to keep their heads and chests above water as they navigated the river. Below the spillway at Upriver Dam the men were caught in the white water and nearly drowned. Boats or bodies don't float in 50% oxygenated water. Jim recalls there was enough current to help him claw his way down on the river's floor and finally emerge above water. He said it was the longest time he has gone without breathing. He remembers walking downtown around the Spokane Falls dam in his wetsuit (that must have been a sight!) and reentering the Spokane River and floating past the confluence of Latah Creek and on downstream to the Bowl and Pitcher, where he crawled out after eight hours in the river (without lunch). He rested on the south bank for quite a while. Jim Ellis is one of the founders of FLSRV and its trail system. After learning about his long ago adventure I keep thinking, "What would we have done without him?"

And, added to that question, "What other stories could/should be shared of adventure and bravery and danger and discovery by other hikers in our group?" We ALWAYS, all ways, learn so much from our leader on these annual hikes. If you missed this hike remember that Jack has a website which lists upcoming events. His tours are calendared there, as are the titles of the books he has written. His current book will be published in October 2018 about a Swedish immigrant and botanist named John Leiberg (1853-1913) who collected plant specimens in the very area we toured with Jack. Each book Jack writes is a tour de force – which is defined by my dictionary as "an impressive achievement that has been accomplished with great skill" – we all could say, that this Sunday's hike along Latah/Hangman Creek was a tour de force as well.

Thank you, Jack Nisbet, for enriching our world, opening our eyes, and for writing so knowledgably about our region (including his monthly essays in "The North Columbia Monthly" magazine which is available for free at Auntie's, Huckleberry's, the downtown library, and online at NCMonthly.com.

Jack's essay about Spokane House is included in the April 2018 publication of the book edited by EWU's Professor Paul Lindholdt, titled The Spokane River. A re-

viewer says, "Running the gamut from loving impressions to far more sobering treatments by scientists, engineers, archeologists, historians, and notably by members of the Spokane Tribe, this is as complete a treatment of the river as we could hope to find in one highly readable volume," - John Keeble.



The Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley's winter 2018/2019 Newsletter www.flsrv.org will announce next spring's seventh annual hike led by Jack Nisbet. Wonder where we will go? What new things we will learn? Looking forward to it! Aren't we all.

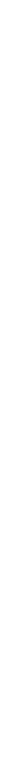
And! special thanks to our FLSRV board of directors 'glue' – Harla Jean Biever - who coordinates these hikes.



Photo by: Dew Tanda



Friends of
 Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.
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**2018
 Fairwood District
 Farmers Market**

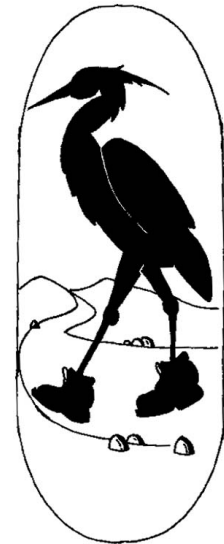
Join the fun on Opening Night of the Fairwood Farmers Market on May 22 from 3-7pm! We are located at 319 W. Hastings Rd Spokane, WA 99218. We have many new and returning vendors selling fresh local produce, delicious sweets and treats, and various handmade crafts. There will be live music provided by Dirk Schwarz.

*Located in the parking lot
 at 319 W Hastings Road*
 Tuesdays
 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Fairwood Farmers Market Mission: To establish a vibrant North Spokane farmers' market where neighbors can regularly connect with local growers, artisan food producers, and crafters in a festive environment.

Fairwood Farmers Market Vision: To revitalize and complete the Fairwood District in North Spokane, with new shops, mixed use development, a sustainable farmers' market, and bicycle friendly trails – making it a connected, pedestrian friendly community. Redevelopment will involve multiple stakeholders and should capitalize on Fairwood's proximity to the Little Spokane River, Mead Schools, the historic Bozarth Mansion, the Kalispel Golf and Country Club, and the new Children of the Sun trail along the North Spokane Corridor.

FLSRV is a strong supporter of this Market because their Vision includes caring for The Little Spokane River that lies in close proximity to the Fairwood Neighborhood.



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.