

FLSRV Newsletter



Fall
2017

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Sign Up for Amazon Smile

This past quarter FLSRV was given \$65.00 From this program.

Please consider adding your name to our list.

Go to smile.Amazon.Com and search for:

"Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley"
Then, do your normal shopping on Amazon, but use *smile.amazon.com* instead of *amazon.com* and 0.5% of purchase price on eligible products will be donated to FLSRV!

It costs you nothing!!



Colbert Road Trail

Mark Case

Last spring we discussed putting in a trail along the north side of Colbert Road, from Little Spokane Drive to the Colbert bridge, so I sketched up a plan and sections and called about a dozen contractors. We only received one bid, due to the high volume of construction this past summer.

We are still planning to get the trail built before the snow flies . . . the contractor keeps telling me we are next, just not sure what we are next to!

Annual Meeting

Mark your calender!

2018 Annual Meeting and Dinner/Auction

Friday, february 23, 2018
Wandermere Golf Club

Doors Open - 5:30pm,
Annual Meeting - 6:30pm
Dinner - 7:00pm

Mark Case New Board Member

I was born and raised in Bremer-ton WA and raised 3 boys in Wood-ville, WA. I went to school for architecture but ended up working at an engineering firm in Seattle. I worked my way up to be a designer doing grading and drainage plans, mostly for landfills all over the country. My hobbies include restoring old cars, canoeing, hiking, and work-ing around our property, as this is a beautiful place to live. I designed and built our home with my wife, Laura.

I joined the board (mostly due to pressure from Harla Jean) to help out with the trail system.

- In Memoriam -

Daniel Eugene Forsyth

The Little Spokane River flowed throughout his whole life as he lived along its shore.

The stream's presence, history, its timeless beauty - and his fondness for it - will always be appreciated.

He remains a true friend of the Little Spokane and its valley.

*A true Friend of the
Little Spokane River Valley*

Thank You, Daniel!

Friends of Little Spokane River Valley, Inc.

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For article suggestions or comments,
contact Harla Jean Biever

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Earth Day Clean-Up of Our Valley 2017

Michael Kennedy

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley held their annual cleanup day for the valley on Saturday, April 22, 2017. This cleanup happened to be on Earth Day! This year we had two outside groups to volunteer for the cleanup,



Boy Scout Troop 218 with Richard Parish Scout Master and the Spokane WA. North Stake group from the Mormon LDS Church. It turned out to be a great cleanup day with around 35 to 40 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 one of the largest hauls we have had in years. Great job and thanks again to the Boy Scouts and the North Stake group !!

After the cleanup, an annual chili feed was held at Bart and Lindell Haggin's

home for those who helped out. A big thank you to those responsible for a great meal: Lindell Haggin provided the chili and drinks, Martha Schaefer brought the cornbread, and Harla Jean Biever made 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, 2018. We will set the exact date this winter. We need your time and your continued sup-

port to help to keep our valley roadways clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors!

October Board Meeting

Harla Jean Biever

Dr. Thomas Rockefeller, superintendent of the Mead School District, and his assistant, Jared Hoadley, were guests at our October FLSRV Board Meeting. He shared important information regarding the growth in the number of students attending our schools. Each year several hundred new students are added to the Mead system, consequently, there is an ongoing need for more and more facilities to educate these young people.

One facet he explained is the renovation and development of the site where the old Mead Junior High School is located at Market and Farwell. The building, constructed in 1915, will be removed and a large area around that building that is owned by the district will be turned

into a community activity spot for our children. Athletic fields for many sports will be constructed. One of the special things this offers is space for our Marching Bands to practice. He emphasized how encouraging it is that parents, grandparents and friends are supportive of the many activities of our students.

We discussed the upcoming vote for the school bond and levy that takes place in February 2018. Dr. Rockefeller told us with the new way Washington State is funding education if BOTH the bond and levy are approved the amount people pay in school taxes will actually go down by 9%. We are now taxed \$7.28 per \$1000. of assessed value, with the upcoming vote we will be taxed \$6.64 per \$1000. of assessed value.

Your board urges each of you to be sure you are registered to vote so that we will be able to support our high quality schools.

On another note: Your board is planning the Annual Dinner/Auction get together in February. The auction that takes place is a fund raiser for our trail system that is constantly expanding. We need quality items for this auction so if you have something to donate please contact Harla Jean Biever.

hjbiever@earthlink.net



- "Living Water" / Continued from page 3 -

There were/are many reasons for this stark decline in fish stocks: salmon canneries on the lower Columbia, agriculture, livestock grazing, mining, lumbering, urban development, industrial and sewage (raw) pollution, ignorance, and the construction

village, a major fish-gathering site called *č'łč'múle?x^w* (where a creek skirts the foot of a cliff). [The Indians] stood on this platform to spear Chinook salmon, Steelhead trout and Mountain whitefish that were abundant." By the late 1800 and early 1900's, before Little Falls Dam blocked salmon runs on the Spokane River, settlers in the Little Spokane Valley said that farmers used pitchforks to harvest Chinook salmon that had migrated up the Little Spokane River to their farms. Unlike the Indians who ate these fish, the farmers considered these fish to be inedible...and used them instead as food for their pigs or else used them as fertilizer by scattering the carcasses over agricultural lands." (Scholz)

In 1893, ichthyologists Charles Gilbert and Barton Evermann reported extensive damage to the Little Spokane as a result of [settler] activities: "The character of this stream is being materially changed by the advent of [post-contact] civilization, a fact which is, or has been, true of most streams in this country. The cutting away of the timber and brush on the immediate bank and the cultivation of the land within the drainage area of the stream

said, "Your houses are filled with light, but our stomachs are now empty."

In the Dartford area I interviewed Colville tribal member Jim Tomeo, a long-time resident of the LSR valley. He shared with me conversations he had with John W. Stoneman (1900-1996) who lived and farmed at Dartford. Mr. Stoneman told him, "The salmon were plenty. Whenever they came through the bears and cougars came down to the river's edge and would wait to snatch a salmon for a meal." Tomeo said Stoneman remembered when he was very young that Nez Perce Chief Joseph would camp along the Little Spokane at Dartford while traveling between Nespelem on the Colville Reservation and his family home in Idaho. It is said he never went back to his birthplace but he actually did go back and forth. He and his small group would come and camp during salmon runs. He stayed at Dartford and upstream where the Wandermere Golf Course is situated.

In preparation for their leader's arrival, young men went ahead of Joseph's group to catch, smoke and dry salmon and prepare enough for their own travels and for trade. Tomeo spoke of the different ways the captured salmon were preserved. The stone tools (lithics) in the photo are from the Dartford area and may have been utilized in processing salmon. The tools are sturdy reminders of the history of our Little Spokane. (Of note, there was a "burial" near the golf course - a traditional Nez Perce method of taking care of their deceased: an infant was placed in its baby board and tucked high in a conifer's branches. The tree is gone and with it a poignant reminder of a sad event happening when the Indians were passing through. A similar committal of an infant was found in a tree at a fishing/campsite located at the mouth of Tshimakain Creek, also a favored stopover of the Nez Perce which was located on what is now the Spokane Indian Reservation.)

On its surface our Little Spokane River appears untouched and pristine. Beneath its surface there is a different story. One that tells of incomprehensible destruction and loss for the indigenous peoples who

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Data Sheet			
Volunteers: <u>Lindell, Chris, Tina</u>			
Date: <u>10/4/17</u>			
Weather: <u>Cold, Sunny, Partly Cloudy 37°</u>			
Calibration			
DO	<u>96.5 %L</u>	<u>18.1 °C</u>	<u>724.2 mmHg</u>
pH	<u>7.03</u> <u>7.02</u>	<u>18.2 °C</u>	
pH	<u>10.08</u> <u>10.17</u>	<u>18.2 °C</u>	
Cond.	<u>1400</u>	<u>18.5 °C</u>	
Field Meas.	Haggin LSR	Little Deep Cr	Deadman Cr
Time	<u>9:14</u>	<u>9:30</u>	
temp	<u>8.3</u>	<u>6.8</u>	
%/L O ₂	<u>97.6</u>	<u>99.3</u>	
mg/L O ₂	<u>10.93</u>	<u>11.53</u>	
cond.	<u>271.9</u>	<u>492.8</u>	
pH	<u>8.07</u>	<u>8.32</u>	
River gauge	WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS TAKEN OCTOBER 4, 2017		

of dams of all sizes. All have, blow by incremental blow devastated the prehistoric salmon runs. Restoration, though, is more than a wish – it is a goal. The research being accomplished has depth and breadth and possibilities. A simple query on the Internet brings up floods of scientific data. FLSRV members Lindell Haggin, Chris Dudley and I contribute in a small but significant way to this collection of data. As volunteers we take monthly water quality measurements at three sites in our reach of the LSR: these include Little Deep Creek, Deadman Creek and the Little Spokane as it flows past Haggin's farm. Our reports go to Spokane Conservation District staff for analysis.

We have never seen a salmon as we conduct measurements in an area of such cultural significance to the indigenous people. We are aware we stand in their history: Anthropologist Verne Ray wrote, "Middle/Upper (Central/Eastern) Spokans... maintained a weir and fishing platform station at the junction of the three streams at the base of Shady Slope. Near the mouth of Deadman Creek was a permanent



STONE TOOLS (LITHICS) USED FOR PROCESSING FISH IN THE DARTFORD AREA OF THE LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER.

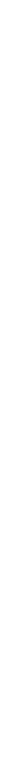
have greatly increased the surface erosion and, in consequence, the impurities of the stream."

The grandson of the fisherman who caught the Chinook salmon pictured in the photograph remembers these "impurities of the stream" in his boyhood attempts at "swimming" in the Spokane River as it sluggishly flowed along the southern boundary of his reservation. He said, "During the 1940's one had to dive through horrible layers of green foamy crud to reach the water." Existence for any living thing downstream was hazardous to health. And, to add insult to injury, because of the damming of the traditional fishery sites, an elder Spokan

- "Living Water" / Continued on page 5 -



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FLSRV Website

The stalwart little pine tree (at left) growing next to the FLSRV sign at the base of Mill Road/Little Spokane Drive gets decorated for Christmas each year.
Thanks be to the Decorator!

Have you visited our web site? We are continually updating information in which you might be interested. Take a look at flsrv.org.