

FLSRV Newsletter



Spring
2017



Inside
This Issue

Annual Meeting.....Page 1
Valley Cleanup.....Page 1
Land Along the River.....Page 1

Honoring Lance Pounder Page 1
Threads of Red..... Page 2
Tours..... Page 3

Membership Form..... Page 4
20 Years of FLSRV Page 5
New Bench Page 6

Annual Meeting

Our 2017 Annual Meeting with auction and dinner was held on February 24th at Wandermere Golf Course and was a resounding success! Members enjoyed good conversation while reconnecting with neighbors and perusing the auction items. The evening raised \$1875 for ongoing trail work! Thank you to all who bid and took home auction items.

Before dinner we were treated to a wonderful presentation of wildlife photos taken by Lindell Haggin.

Also, Lance Pounder, Martha Schaefer, Harla Jean Bieber, Michael Kennedy and Dave Maccini, were re-elected for another 2 year term on the board.

Finally, we recognized Bob Ross and Herb Brown with a plaque for their past and ongoing support of our organization.



We would like to thank Wandermere Golf Course for hosting our event and providing a delicious Taco Bar, as well as all those who donated auction items.

- Dr. Richard Yarbro, DDS
- Judge "Huckleberry" Wynecoop
- A Taste of Thai • Wynecoop Hens
- Kizuri Fair Trade Clothing and Gifts
- Postnet - Wandermere
- Books, Books, Books - LFL #10,297
- Little Spokane Garden Club • Pounder's Jewelry
- The Man Shop - Wandermere
- Oil Can Henry's - Wandermere
- Harla Jean Bieber • Chattaroy Cheese Co
- Kirk and Lori Neumann
- Car Wash Plaza - Wandermere
- Kalispel Tribe and Northern Quest Resort and Casino
- Starbucks - Wandermere • Subway - Wandermere
- Fred Meyer - Wandermere
- Lance Pounder Excavation
- Bart and Lindell Haggin
- Yuppy Puppy • Jack Nisbet
- Wandermere Golf Course

Valley Cleanup 2017

Friends of the Little Spokane River Valley will hold their annual cleanup day for the roads in the Valley on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 9:30 AM. Please meet at Shady Slope Rd. and Little Spokane River Drive. 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 areas along US 395.

Please mark your calendars for this year's cleanup. We need your time and your continued support to help to keep our Valley clean. This is also a good way to get to know your neighbors!

Boy Scouts from troop 218 will clean-up the walking trail along the Little Spokane River and assist in the road cleanup.

After the cleanup, an annual chili feed will be held at Bart and Lindell Hagen's home for those who helped out.

Land Along the Little Spokane River

Report from Fairwood Community Leaders

Fairwood community leaders met recently with Chris Deforest, Conservation Director with the Inland Northwest Lands Conservancy - INLC, to share perspectives on the Little Spokane River.

They are concerned with securing the conservation and recreation values that draw everyone from the surrounding communities down to the river. Deliberate conservation efforts through legal title is one such approach. Chris's organization provides the tools to secure those agreements with property owners; drafting conservation easements, documents listing first right of refusal, and others.

The INLC has worked on half a dozen projects in the Little Spokane River and some of these have been adjacent to State lands. They recognize the high habitat values on the river and have

- Land / Continued on page 6 -

- Honoring -

*The long-time dedication
and generosity of the
outgoing President of FLSRV:*

Lance Pounder

*A true Friend of the
Little Spokane River Valley*

Thank You, Lance!

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 Bieber

Board of Directors

- Dave Maccini President
- Martha Schaefer, Vice President
- Lindell Haggin, Secretary
- Harla Jean Bieber, Treasurer
- Jack Bury, Director
- Michael Kennedy, Director
- Kirk Neumann, Director
- Tina Wynecoop, Director
- Lance Pounder, Director

Threads of Red

Tina Wynecoop

Those red threads - let's follow them:

The squirrel, known both as Red squirrel and Pine squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsoniu*) inhabits the North Columbia region - its boundaries are defined by the wide range of coniferous forests, not a superimposed international boundary. Tamas means "storer" and this smallest of our tree squirrels stores its food supplies, winter nests, and birthing nests in whatever cavity looks promising. Or not.

Four decades ago blood poured down from the tree The Logger was felling. He had read that trees bleed. He didn't believe it - until he unknowingly cut through a red squirrel's nest. Grisly details aside, two of the nestlings had survived. He gently wrapped them in his red sweatshirt and brought them to the new teacher on the reservation to care for them. In the wild the mother nurses her babies for 8-10 weeks before they are able to venture off on their own. These kits were furless, their eyes unopened yet - and they languished - until I learned that goat milk might bring them around. I found a goat lady in Springdale who supplied me with this life-saving fluid. It worked!

Bottle feeding became my job and my joy for several weeks. Soon the squirrels were scampering after each other around the house. My desk was their 'playground' while remaining my workspace as I composed daily lesson plans for my first grade class at Wellpinit. The squirrel siblings went for outdoor walks with me, safely tucked in the hood of the red sweatshirt The Logger had swathed them in on that sorry day in the woods. The last time I

saw the kits was the same day they were asleep in the pouch of that sweatshirt. I had to teach so I hung the jacket by a nail on the trunk of a tall pine tree outside my back door. They ventured off on their own without even a tail wave goodbye. It was spring, 1971.

Spring turned to summer and The Logger invited me to go on a fishing trip at Upper Tshimakain's beaver ponds with his daughters and their cousins. I wore the red sweatshirt. The ponds were rich with native trout. The Logger made each kid a fishing pole out of a slender branch, with a fishing line attached. The flies he had tied dangled at the end of the lines and fooled the fishes to think they had found dinner. We had fish for dinner. The Logger unraveled a red string from the frayed jacket and wrapped

a conifer forest closer to town - to a home surrounded by Ponderosa pines and Douglas fir trees - the perfect habitat for both little boys and squirrels. Red squirrels acknowledged our presence with their chittering scolds and by dropping freshly-severed pine cone grenades on our heads when we were outdoors. Then they gave us a house-warming by moving in with us. They raised their babies in the walls and attic. The house's red cedar siding was so easy to chew holes in. Then our inter-species relationship with them took a downturn. A squirrel household cached within the walls of our home was certainly an attention-getter. In our naivete' we thought the little fur family was entrapped and couldn't return to the outdoors without our help. Ever agile, and



Photo by Tina Wynecoop

it around my ring finger. Who would have guessed there was a "jewelry store" available on a camping trip! The engagement, I now realize, was as dear and unconventional as the man who introduced me to baby red squirrels.

After a lifetime on the reservation, The Logger moved his new family to

inventive, The Logger climbed to the attic and lowered a sturdy rope, weighted with a large rock, down the inside wall. It was meant to be their lifeline. Through many days we heard the family playing "tetherball" with their new toy. The clanks and whomps reverberated

- Threads / Continued on page 4 -

Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility Tour

1004 N. Freya St, Spokane

Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 10:00am-12:00noon

Operating since December 2011, the Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility is a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility that serves customers in the Spokane Valley. Its Zenon membrane bioreactor is a tertiary treatment which achieves Class A reclaimed water.

The facility tour is two-fold. It begins inside the County Water Resource Center with a live-narrated video that shows inside the tanks and gives a very real understanding of the process of turning wastewater into river water.

A pavement walking tour around the facility follows, stopping to highlight additional facts about the facility.

The pavement tour is wheelchair accessible. Google Map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/LcWnzpgMtLP2>

Reservations are needed, but there is no charge. Please fill out and mail the following form.

Mail to: Harla Jean Biever, 2220 E. Colbert Rd. Colbert, WA 99005 by June 10, 2017

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Email address _____

Number of people in your party _____

Deep Creek Preserve Field Trip

with Jack Nisbet

Saturday May 6, 2017 -- 9:00 a.m. - noon

This field trip will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the 52975 Bisson Road (entrance of The Inland Northwest Conservancy's Deep Creek Preserve) just east of Reardan, Washington. We will wander through a maze of pothole lakes and patterned ground mima mounds left behind by the Lake Missoula Floods. It will be a morning of birdsong, scabland basalt, wet aspen seeps, and shrub-steppe plant species at the far eastern edge of their range.

Wear good hiking boots, and bring plenty of sunscreen and snacks.

Directions: Drive west from Spokane on Hwy 2. Turn right on Bisson road just before the Reardan City limits. Follow Bisson as it turns right, left, and right again. You will see wetlands and a large pond on your left. After the road straightens out and heads east, you will soon pass the unmarked entrance to the preserve. Park with other cars beneath the trees on the right side of the road. If you reach farmland, you have gone too far.

Please detach, indicate how many people are in your party and complete the rest of the registration form. Send it along with a check made out to FLSRV with your payment of \$25.00 per person by April 25, 2017.

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____ Email address _____

Number of People @ \$25.00 per person

Check Enclosed \$ _____

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.

Property owners in the area *3/4 mile either side of the Little Spokane River from Chattaroy to Dartford, then 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?

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Check if you are interested in helping with:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trails Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parks Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (writing &/or publishing)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sign Design or construction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Board member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrative help</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> | <p>2017 FLSRV membership dues:</p> <p>(Full member \$25)</p> <p>(Associate member \$15) \$ _____</p> <p>Action Fund Contribution \$ _____</p> <p>General Fund \$ _____</p> <p>Trail Fund Contribution \$ _____</p> <p>Welcome Sign (future) \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>TOTAL PAID:</u> \$ _____</p> |
|---|--|

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**



FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER VALLEY IS CELEBRATING OVER 20 YEARS WITH A LOOK BACK AT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

We came into existence in 1996 when a developer initiated a project that would impact the beauty, housing density, and rural feel of the Valley. Over the years we have:

- Raised county awareness of storm-water run-off into the Little Spokane River resulting in county re-design to mitigate
- Assisted the county in maintenance of Pine River Park during several low budget years
- Assisted Spokane Conservation district in monthly water quality monitoring including equipment purchases
- Supported Conservation Futures applications and played an instrumental part in county purchase of Haynes Conservation District
- Planted native species and installed hard landscape in Haynes Conservation District and along other trail sections
- Developed and installed signage at the entrance to the Valley and along the trail system including our “Walking Heron” logo
- Supported the updating of the Pine River Entrance sign
- Provided significant input for the aesthetic design of three bridges over our river and retaining walls in the Valley
- Gathered and continue to share historical stories about the Valley
- Developed and publish a semi-annual newsletter
- Developed and implemented a website FLSRV.org
- Sponsor an annual cleanup day throughout the valley with collection of several tons of garbage (April 22nd this year, 2017)
- Adopted a section of the new Children of the Sun trail, which is along the new North-South Corridor, for ongoing clean-up four times per year
- Provided input into the County Comprehensive Plan resulting in limiting housing density and a requirement for trails and sidewalks to be included in future development
- Organized a meeting for public input to development of a trail system in the Valley
- Planned, built and maintain over 15 miles of multi-use trails in our Valley
- Sponsored four Eagle Scout projects resulting in benches and kiosks along the trail system which we continue to maintain
- Provide doggie doo dispensers along trails
- Secured generous grants worth several thousand dollars for trail development, construction and signage
- Educated public officials regarding issues related to Little Spokane River Valley
- Organize annual educational walks with renowned naturalist and author Jack Nisbet (May 6th this year)
- Organize an annual meeting and fund raising auction
- This year we are in the process of extending the trails with an addition of 1000 feet along Colbert Rd. from the bridge to Little Spokane Drive
- Improved the safety for school children walking to and from school and to the Northside pool
- Memorial bricks engraved and placed at kiosk to honor residents who have made a positive impact in our community

When you join this organization you help to promote ongoing projects as opportunities arise.
Please consider joining our neighborhood family by becoming a member, see enclosed form.

day and night (red squirrels are diurnal).

With the home's entryways newly sealed, the cars in the garage provided the next nesting opportunities. It is warm under the hood of a car and nesting material is right at hand. The car's insulating sound barrier attached to the underside of the hood is made of heavy cloth which can easily be shredded. The whole piece of insulation would do nicely! A brood was born and removed (by us) ever so carefully. At the Honda repair shop a new piece of insulation was installed and held in place by a sheet of chicken wire. We drove the other car for a while.

Red squirrels have one litter of kits each year. House and Honda were now out of bounds. Tree cavities were already 'rented' by bluebirds, chickadees, woodpeckers and nuthatches. Wait, thought Mama, what about the Toyota? A few weeks later, while she was out foraging, the Toyota's owners made a trip to town - oblivious of the nursery under the hood. The car jerked and sputtered, acting like it was gasping for air. It wasn't an act - the red squirrel mama had changed her address to the Toyota's air filter. She had chewed and fluffed the material into a nice soft nest for her babies. A check under the hood revealed a pine cone. The air filter case held her five baby red squirrelings.

Fortunately, there was a Toyota dealer nearby and the replacement installed. Later that afternoon the babies, sans mamma, made the return trip, still tucked in their nest and resting on my lap. The Logger always wore a red checkered wool vest in the woods and it served another purpose when we arrived home. We gently laid the kits on the vest on the ground where their mother could find them. She lost

no time coming to us and bumping our legs hard with her nose - which, though not hurtful, expressed her frustration and relief. She rightly placed blame on her babies' captors. Then she sniffed each of her babies and carried them off, one by one. She hid them in a nearby woodpile in the garage. Rescue accomplished. She turned to us and scolded: tsik tsik chr-r-r-r-r siew siew siews. Her fluffy tail, raised in an obscene gesture, told us what she thought of the kidnapping. She disappeared.

J. Allen Boone states in Kinship with All Life that "Life to the Ancients was an all-inclusive kinship in which nothing was meaningless, nothing unimportant. They didn't make separating barriers - every living thing was seen as a partner in a universal enterprise." Elder Spokane Indian women recalled the kinship and kindness their mothers had with animals, including the red squirrel (?iscč): While gathering tules for mat-making, the women thoughtfully left neat piles of leaves "for the express purpose of providing construction material for squirrel nests in nearby fir trees. Of interest is the explanation the elders gave for this annual autumn practice, [an explanation] that acknowledged the similarity of technologies between humans...and red squirrels for building winter 'homes'. (The Spokane Indians, by John Ross, p249.) Similarity indeed!

The Logger is one of many descendants of Arrow Lakes/Sinixt Indians who were compelled to search for "home" outside their aboriginal territory extending from Nakusp, B.C. to Kettle Falls, WA. The Spokane Indians adopted his grandmother, Nancy Perkins Wynecoop, into their tribe. Another thread of 'red' is her Indian name / pu?čk"kwil'ú / which in English meant "wife of a redhead." She had married John Curtis Wynecoop, a friend of the Indians.

"Home is the dearest spot of earth," claimed a spiritual woman. And we know from the thread of experiences described, that location, location, location keeps home, - no matter the color, no matter the car, no matter the nest site, an ongoing adventure - and very dear.

Reprint permission granted
courtesy North Columbia Monthly
(magazine (ncmonthly.com) ➤

New Bench

Kirk Neuman

After years of faithful service, the bench overlooking the Little Spokane River along the trail in Hayne's Estate became unusable due to deterioration and vandalism. The FLSRV are happy to announce that the bench has been replaced and is already being used by walkers on the trail.

The location is a quiet area overlooking a bend in the river. The view from the bench allows for wildlife viewing of the river valley below. After material and weather delays, the new bench was installed last summer. The bench, which is made from recycled plastic and steel will hold up to the elements and should be more vandal resistant than the original one.



A special thanks to Lukas Craze who took this on for his Eagle Scout Project and to all those from Troop 218 that helped.



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



- Land / Continued from page 1 -

been active over the past 10 years in advancing these values. Parcels need to be in excess of 40 acres. Fairwood leaders have been exploring a similar situation with the Severn properties (2 parcels) which are adjacent to State Fish and Wildlife lands on the River. The Severn properties ranked high in the 2016 Spokane county Conservation Futures process. In October of 2016 we met with the Region 1 Director for Fish and Wildlife, Steve Pozzanghera, to discuss their goals for those properties adjacent to the Severns' (they provide the conduit to the Little Spokane via the Switchbacks) as well as steps the community can take toward deliberate conservation. We learned that Fish and Wildlife does not have a need for these lands in terms of the work they do and would like to divest themselves of their property. Furthermore, they are in talks with Spokane County to arrange this

transaction.

We are encouraged by the news for INLC and intend to work with INLC as we move forward with our goals. We are Rob Allen, President of Fairwood 1, Chris Zeller, President of Fairwood 11, and Daniel Collins, trail developer - Nicoterra Trails



Sign Up For Amazon Smile

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!!



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.



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.