# the COUNCIL NEWS

Spring 2006 vol. 10, no. 2



The Lands Council preserves and revitalizes our Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife through advocacy, education, effective action, and community engagement.

FOREST WATCH • URBAN FOREST WATCH • WATER WATCH • WILDFIRE EDUCATION

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## Phosphate Ban Signed Into Law In Washington State



Executive Director Mike Petersen and Water Watch Committee Chair Jim Hollingsworth Were Among the Many Happy Onlookers as Governor Chris Gregoire Signed the Phosphorus Bill at the Downtown Spokane Public Library

Congratulations everyone! Your efforts have helped secure a cleaner future for the Spokane River!

In March, the Washington State House of Representatives and Senate approved House Bill 2322, which limits the amount of phosphorus to .5% in dishwashing detergent.

Governor Christine Gregoire signed the bill into law on March 27th at a ceremony at the Spokane Public Library. The law phases in the phosphorus ban in Whatcom, Clark, and Spokane counties by 2008 and the rest of Washington State by 2010.

Thanks to everyone who has worked hard to push this bill, especially all TLC members who made phone calls to their senators and representatives during February and March. By reducing the amount of phosphorus in our waterways, we will reduce the growth of algae that uses up oxygen in the water needed by fish and plant life.

Representative Timm Ormsby of Spokane introduced the bill and worked tirelessly to see it pass! Please take a moment to thank him at the following address, phone number, or email address:

827 W. First Ave., Ste 314 Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 458-2122

ormsby.timm@leg.wa.gov hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/ormsby/index.asp



#### Phosphate Free Today!



The Lands Council has reusable shopping bags available with our logo for \$15 with samples of phosphate-free detergents to try at home! If interested, contact Kitty at (509) 838-4912 or kklitzke@landscouncil. org.



Buy phosphate-free dishwashing detergent in area stores such as Huckleberry's, Fred Meyers, and Rosauers.



Looking for non-toxic household products? You may want to check out the non-toxic, phosphate-free products sold by Melaleuca. If you decide to purchase Melaleuca products, a portion of the money you spend goes to The Lands Council. For more information, please contact Dana Lewallen Wall, 509-533-1411 or danawall@iglide.net.

#### **FOREST WATCH**

## Citizens for Eastern Washington Wilderness

This summer, join The Lands Council in our wilderness conservation efforts for the Inland Northwest. As we advocate for proposed wilderness on the Colville National Forest through the forest planning process, we are inviting the public to join us on a series of summer hikes through some of these gorgeous unprotected wild areas. As members of the Citizens for Eastern Washington Wilderness, (CEWW) along with local groups such as Conservation Northwest, the Sierra Club, and the Spokane Mountaineers, we will be leading and co-leading hikes through these ecologically rich areas. Wilderness has not been designated in the state of Washington since the Washington Wilderness bill in 1984. Aside from the Salmo-Priest Wilderness on the Washington-Idaho border, hundreds of thousands of acres of roadless, wild areas have yet to be protected from road building and logging.

We invite the public to join our Executive Director and Forest Watch Director on August 12th for a hike to Thirteen Mile Creek Trail on the Colville National Forest with views of the Sanpoil River Canyon and stops within old growth ponderosa pine forests. Check our website for other dates in this summer series of hikes through the Kettle Crest, Hoodoo Canyon, and Abercrombie-Hooknose. Visit areas that are vital habitat for lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, woodland caribou, black bear, big horn sheep, moose, and elk. Set aside a weekend to join us outdoors and see why we want these areas protected as wilderness. Contact Tania at tellersick@landscouncil.org or (509) 838-4912 for more info or watch our website at www.landscouncil.org.

#### **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

## The Lands Council Lifestyle

The Lands Council is initiating a community Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Campaign. We are creating the Downtown Spokane Recycling Club to encourage recycling among local restaurants, bars, and pubs. With the help of interns and volunteers, we are currently conducting surveys of establishments in the downtown area to find out which businesses recycle. These surveys also inquire as to why these businesses do or do not recycle and what would encourage them to do so. We will assist downtown businesses that would like to recycle and provide them recycling practice. We will then share the results with concerned local consumers. Survey results will be posted at our booth at Riverfest on Saturday, June 10th.

We will provide small cards that you can distribute to encourage your favorite restaurants and/or bars to join The Lands Council's Downtown Recycling Club. We encourage our members to pick up a handful of these cards at our office and leave them with your receipt when you frequent these locations.

Please help us promote The Lands Council's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Campaign by encouraging local businesses to join in this simple and tangible effort.

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

## Building Sustainable Support for The Lands Council

The Lands Council is always looking for new members to join us to help preserve and revitalize Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife. Over the next five months, we need your help to recruit friends and family to learn more about TLC and get involved in our work.

#### How can you help?

- \* Give the envelope enclosed in this newsletter to a friend and encourage them to join The Lands Council.
- Attend a Monthly Member Gathering and bring a friend! Our first Member Gathering will be held at The Lands Council offices on Thursday, May 25th at 6pm. Come learn how TLC is working to protect the most vulnerable in our community from exposure to toxics in the Spokane River. Free organic snacks and drinks!
- Do you have nine friends? If you do (and we know you do!), then you can be a table captain for The Lands Council's Benefit Breakfast on September 27th. Call Amber at The Lands Council at 838-4912, or email awaldref@landscouncil.org to find out how you can participate.

### **SPRING & SUMMER HAPPENINGS**

## Mark Your Calendars!

Please join us at these great events! For more info, call (509) 838-4912 or email Kitty at kklitzke@landscouncil.org or Amber at awaldref@landscouncil.org

#### May

25th - 4th Thursday Gathering @ The Lands Council - 6:00 pm

30th - Environmental Science Fair @ South Pines Elementary 6:30 pm - Contact Kitty to volunteer

#### June

2nd,3rd, and 4th - Art Fest - Contact Kitty to volunteer

7th - Business Breakfast - Contact Amber

10th - Riverfest 10 am to 4 pm - Contact Kitty to volunteer

17th - Kayak the Spokane River - Contact Kitty

22nd - 4th Thursday "Together - Learn - Connect" Gathering

28th - Raffle Drawing Event at Mountain Gear

#### July

1st - River Float with Kitty 1 pm to 5 pm

15th - Green and Blues Fest - Contact Kitty to volunteer

27th - 4th Thursday "Together - Learn - Connect" Gathering

29th - River Float with Kitty 9 am to 1 pm

#### August

12th - Hike Thirteen Mile Creek Trail with Mike and Tania

24th - 4th Thursday "Together - Learn - Connect" Gathering

## Kayaking with Kitty

Saturday, June 17th 9 am to 1 pm Saturday, July 1st 1 pm to 5 pm Saturday, July 29th 9 am to 1 pm

Float the Upper Spokane River and learn about the history of our city's greatest resource. Hear about threats to the river and aquifer, as well as the efforts being made by many in the community to protect them. They are the heart of our community and our sole source of drinking water. You will be provided with your own easy to maneuver sit on top kayak, paddle, life jacket, and a map of proposed cleanup sites along the river while on this guided tour with Kitty Klitzke of The Lands Council and a Parks and Recreation staff instructor. This easy stretch of river is suitable for beginners, featuring fairly calm water punctuated by small rapids, please be prepared to paddle through calm stretches. (Ages 15 and over). \$29 Call Spokane Parks and Recreation at (509) 625-6200 to sign up today!

#### Announcing: 4th Thursday Gatherings

## Together Learn Connect

Thursday, May 25th 6 pm @ The Lands Council 423 W. 1st Ave., Suite 240

This month's topic: Toxics in the Spokane River – How you can protect your health and advocate for cleanup! Join friends and members of The Lands Council for monthly gatherings to learn how you can help protect Inland Northwest forests, water, and wildlife. Enjoy organic treats and meet fun people!

**Questions?** Contact Amber: awaldref@landscouncil.org or (509) 838-4912.

Future dates of 4th Thursday Gatherings are listed to the left. Locations are to be announced.

### Business and Environment Breakfast

Do you own a local business? Are you interested in learning more about the environmental ethic of local businesses? Join us at the next TLC Business and Environment Breakfast for:

"Cost Effective Ways to Clean up our Water"

#### Wednesday, June 7th 7:30 am ● Europa ● 125 S. Wall

Guest Speaker: Tom Daugherty, President of Blue Water Technologies – a local company developing new, innovative technologies to remove contaminants from drinking water and wastewater.

Please RSVP by June 1st to Amber Waldref, awaldref@landscouncil. org or (509) 838-4912.

## Raffle for the River 2006

#### **Grand Prize:**

Two Necky Zoar Sport kayaks with paddles!



#### 2nd prize:

Two Nights Stay at River Dance Lodge on the Clearwater!

#### 3rd prize:

\$500 shopping spree at Mountain Gear!

It is not too late to get your raffle tickets! The drawing will be held on June 28, 2006 at 7pm at Mountain Gear. Tickets are \$5.00 each or discount packet of five for \$20.00! To purchase tickets or help sell tickets, please contact Ingrid Hannon, Raffle Coordinator, at (509) 838-4912 or tlcvol@landscouncil.org.

## Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition Reception



Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition Reception Speakers (left to right) Gary Reeves, Mike Petersen, Russ Vaagen, Tim Coleman, and Dick Dunton

On May 3rd, friends and supporters of The Lands Council gathered at a wine and cheese reception cohosted by Conservation Northwest to introduce the work of the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition to Spokane. The Coalition, a mixed group of conservationists, logging and recreation companies, and rural community leaders, is finding ways to do selective logging to protect homes and businesses from wildfire, along with protecting forest lands by creating wilderness areas.



Board Member Jim Hollingsworth and his wife, Patty Hollingsworth, enjoying the reception at the Community Building

## Say "No" to Initiative 933

Initiative 933 is a costly and deceptive scheme that would establish a pay or waive system. This would force communities to either unfairly waive important neighborhood safeguards or pay special interests potentially hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to comply with the law. It's simple: if I-933 passes, special interests win and taxpayers lose.

Fortunately, Washington taxpayers rejected a similar scheme back in 1995. In 2004 Oregon wasn't so lucky. Backed by timber companies and developers, Oregon's Measure 37 was approved. Washington must say "No" to I-933 to avoid stories like that of Bryan and Renee Ross. The Ross' have owned their rural property in Clackamas County for 13 years, but under Measure 37 the county commission has approved a gravel mine right next to their home. As Bryan and Renee explained in a recent letter to the editor, "this gravel mine could very likely ruin our property value... This measure has given our neighbors special rights and taken away our rights."

I-933 has the same intent as Oregon's Measure 37 – to create a loophole for irresponsible developers who don't want to be slowed down by neighborhood concerns. The effect will be the same: more irresponsible development that causes traffic congestion and the inability for local communities to decide their future.

I-933 even mandates that taxpayers foot the bill for attorney fees of those who file claims. Oregon's Secretary of State estimates that it will cost almost \$344 million just to administer the program – and that's without ever paying anything out to maintain current community standards.

Fortunately, a broad-based and growing coalition is already coming together to fight I-933. Early endorsers of the "NO on I-933" campaign include the Washington Association of Churches and the League of Women Voters of Washington. The coalition also includes several major unions, such as the Washington State Council of the United Food and Commercial Workers and dozens of local and state conservation groups.

LEARN MORE AND GET ENGAGED! Contact Dan Stonington with the "No on I-933" campaign at dan@protectcommunities.org or 206-323-0520 or visit www.NoOn933.org.

## Earth Day 2006 Our Choices Make a World of Difference

On the gorgeous sunny Saturday of April 22nd, a huge enthusiastic group gathered to celebrate National Earth Day at Riverfront Park. This year's Earth Day event was the largest yet, with around one thousand people participating in the "Sustain Our Earth, Our Choices Make a World of Difference" theme. Events included

a World Music and Dance Festival, an Environmental Film Festival, the T2: Clean Transportation & Technology Fair, over fifty information booths, the Earth Day "Not So Trivial" Pursuit Challenge, a Reuse-A-Shoe collection, a used cell phone collection, the Tread Lightly Bike Ride, and the Procession of the Species. This year's wide variety of festivities brought in a very diverse group of participants, and illustrated that the community extends past city boundaries to across the globe.



Crowds gathered to view the performers at Earth Day 2006

We are extremely grateful for the talented musicians and dancers that participated in the first Earth Day World Music and Dance Festival this year. Performances included West African drumming by the KuUmba Drummers, belly dance from the MALIDOMA! World Drum and Dance Studio, an opening prayer, song, and drumming from LOT MEEP of the Spokane Tribe, and Brazilian and West African Music from Prima Noche. The festival also included four siblings from Sabrositos de la Raza, who performed

traditional Mexican Folkdances and lessons in South Indian Folkdance by Sreedhani Nandagopal. Thirty-five Japanese dancers from the Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute performed in beautiful kimonos on their opening day for Japan Week, and teachers from Conexion del Tango brought performers and

lectured on the gorgeous dance of Argentine tango. The grand finale was Vax Lavala, the young, local band who was the 2006 RAWK Final Four Winners.

This year's Procession of the Species and Tread Lightly Bike Ride were fantastic successes. Creative hand made costumes, lively drums, colorful masks, hand-painted faces, and helmet clad bicycle riders streamed through Riverfront Park celebrating the diversity of animal life on this planet and promoting alternative transportation. Response to the event has been incredible,

and we hope that Earth Day can continue to grow and advocate for our natural resources in our City.

We would like to thank all those who supported this event, and express our gratitude to an amazing crew of Earth Day Volunteers this year. Please check our website for more information about this incredible outreach event and view photographs of the Earth Day 2006 Festival.

#### **URBAN FOREST COUNCIL**

The Urban Forest Council has been providing information to elected officials and staff at City Hall in Spokane about the importance of our urban forest. One approach has been to relay information about methods used by other communities to quantify the value of the free life support services (shade, oxygen, clean air, and water) provided by trees.

According to the American Forests organization, the physical framework of a community is called its infrastructure. Green infrastructure are areas covered with trees, shrubs, and grass; gray infrastructure are areas of buildings, roads, utilities, and parking lots. Green infrastructure is porous, allowing water to soak into soil which naturally filters pollutants before entering rivers. Communities that foster green infrastructure wherever possible are more livable, produce fewer pollutants, and are more cost effective to operate.

In a 2003 report about Buffalo, New York, researchers found that the city's green infrastructure removed, 334,619 pounds of air pollution annually; sequestered 1,042 tons of carbon and avoided the need to manage 17,143,263 cubic feet of storm water because of the 2,000+ acres of tree canopy in their urban forest.

Spokane trees also retain stormwater in their branches mitigating the burden placed on combined storm and sanitary systems and consequent overflow into the river.

If you are interested in learning more about 'green infrastructure' visit: http://www.americanforests.org/resources/urbanforests/greeninf.php. Contact Carrie Anderson at treelady@cet.com to get involved with The Urban Forest Council.

## Thanks to the Businesses and Individual 2006 Auction Stem Donors!

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A special thanks to Liberty Park Florist, Saint George's School, Spokane Art School, and Thomas Hammer Coffee! Your donations of flowers, easels and fair trade organic coffee gave our auction the little added touches that made it complete.

#### Welcome Summer Interns!



Ingrid Hannan, a University of Portland s o p h o m o r e in environmental science, who graduated from University High School, will intern this Summer asourraffle coordinator. She is putting together a great raffle event! She will also do some administration while Lisa is on maternity leave. Say "Hi" to Ingrid

at any of our Summer events where she will be doing outreach! She is assisting with river toxics outreach, as well.

Vincent Jansen, a Western Washington University environmental science student, will be assisting with forest watch for the Summer. Watch for more in the next newsletter!

Greg Sullivan joins us as a Summer intern after graduating from Gonzaga University with a Bachelor of Arts, Honors in Political Science and Economics with a minor in Philosophy. Greg has been accepted into the Peace Corps and will be travelling to Eastern Europe in February! This Summer, he will do lowincome outreach about



the toxics in the Spokane River and continue to work on the waste reduction and restaurant recycling program that he began when planning for Earth Day.

Nicole Powell, an Oregon State University environmental economics and policy student, will work with Kitty on Summer events and volunteer coordination, outreach on river toxics, and water watch.

## Auction Highlights

Many thanks to our volunteer professional photographer Dawn Troxel for capturing this great event on film!

Board President, Caroline Woodwell, introducing The Lands Council's new brochure





Auction volunteers Brock and Lee



Master of Ceremonies, Tom Flanagan and Auctioneer, Jeff Owens getting top price for a Govedare piece with the help of a volunteer



Auction volunteers Brittany and Kate

#### THE LANDS COUNCIL

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Thank you, especially, to all of the volunteer members of the 2006 Auction Committee: Debra Willson and Jack McKinlay, and The Lands Council board members Anne Martin, Rein Attemann and Caroline Woodwell for their extra contribution of time and energy to make this event such a success!



Volunteers of the Year, Debra and Jack, working their auction magic

