

IN TOUCH WITH THE



Spokane Parks Foundation

HELPING OUR PARKS GROW

Paddle for Parks

THE FIRST FIVE TEAMS are entered in *Paddle for Parks*, the Dragon Boat Festival sponsored by the Spokane Parks Foundation. The Festival will take place this July 30, with 40 teams from around the community.

Teams name themselves to demonstrate their wit, market their business affiliation, or a combination of both!

For instance, the team from Matrical (last year's second place finisher) goes by the name "Dragon R Butts." Avista's team is "The A Team." Fairchild (last year's first place finisher) uses the nickname of the Civil Engineering squadron, "Charging Bulls." Interestingly, the team from Wheelabrator has a machine in their plant called "Dragon Power", so that is naturally their team name.

Our first new team to the competition represents the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Sports Commission. Capitalizing on Spokane's "Near Nature. Near Perfect" slogan, they have chosen "Near Nature Nuts" as their team name.

Of the 11 teams that competed last year, 10 will return. Margo Buckles, team captain from Matrical notes that for

days afterward, employees in talked about little else in the workplace. Nearly every employee from their small company participated and it turned into a great team-building experience for them. So they were quite eager to be the first team to enter the 2006 competition.

Large companies benefited by bringing together employees from different departments. Although individuals may know each other casually, bringing them together in a fun, friendly, competitive environment created new bonds that have benefited their workplace.

Does your workplace, group or organization want to get together to learn something new, have fun and support Spokane parks? Then Dragon Boating is for you! For information on organizing a team, visit



our website at www.paddleforparks.org

20-25 people are needed for a team, with a minimum of 8 women. Participants must be at least 16 years old. If you register before April 15, the registration fee is \$600 (about \$24 per person!) After April 15 the fee goes up to \$750.

We are limiting the competition to 35 teams, so if you are interested in forming a team, or joining a team, please drop us an email at paddleforparks@spokaneparksfoundation.org ■

Gift Giving

AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION the Spokane Parks Foundation depends on gifts from individuals, businesses and foundations to touch the lives of many individuals each year. There are many ways to make a gift to the Spokane Parks Foundation. Your gift may offer tax benefits to you and at the same time you are helping someone worthy in our community. A gift of any size is appreciated.

Here are a few of the ways you can contribute:

- **By phone or mail** – send a check or call us at 509.625.6774 to make a gift using Visa or Mastercard. Our mailing address is Spokane Parks Foundation, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, City Hall – 7th Floor, Spokane, WA 99201.
- **Pledges** – You can pledge the amount of your gift, to be paid over the year. We're even happy to send you a reminder if you ask us.
- **Securities** – A popular alternative to cash is a gift of publicly traded securities. Call us for more information.
- **Bequest** – Gifts made through a will continue a legacy of giving in the years ahead. We are happy to discuss the options with you. Call the Foundation office at 509.625.6774 for more information on these and other giving options.
- **Internet** – Although we haven't yet added on line giving to our website, you can go online and print out donation forms and information at www.spokaneparksfoundation.org ■

Passing the Torch

FEBRUARY BRINGS our Annual Meeting and the subsequent changes in leadership and composition of the Foundation Board of Trustees. New officers for the Foundation are:

PRESIDENT: **Cajer Neely**, VP at Banner Bank.
VICE-PRESIDENT: **Phyllis Holmes**, Principal Financial Group
SECRETARY: **Jane Bowen**, Retired Community Volunteer
TREASURER: **Rick Betts**, CPA and Partner, Moss Adams, LLP.

And we welcome 3 new board members!



Ritch Fenrich — Retired principal architect from ALSC Architects who has lived in Spokane since 1967. Ritch, his wife Loretta and daughter Jill have lived on the South Hill in the same place for over 35 years. He has been involved in architecture from LID '73 and Expo '74 to mainland China, Wall Street and the Spokane Arena. He is past president of the Civic Theatre and the Spokane Art School, on the Business Improvement District for Downtown Spokane, spent over 6 years on the City's Transportation Committee, and is currently involved with the MAC on various projects. Hobbies include hiking, camping, skiing, biking, sailing and sea kayaking.

"The Parks are an asset to Spokane which the Olmsteds recognized when their study was done. Very important is Riverfront Park with all its elements like the outdoor skate rink, historic carousel, river, donation AIA benches, Red Wagon and recently the Downtown Rotary Fountain. The future of Spokane parks is important, which this Foundation can help ensile in everyone's mind from the Rose Gardens and Duck Pond at Manito, to Riverfront Park to Corbin Park."



Ann Heylman Martin — Ann is the owner and Principal Architect of Heylman Martin Architects, which has maintained a small, diversified practice in downtown Spokane since 1954, under the direction of her father, Warren C. Heylman. She is a past board member of the YMCA, YWCA and the Business Improvement District of the Downtown Spokane Partnership. Ann has 3 teenage/college age sons, one husband, four dogs and no cats.

"I believe Spokane's parks are our beautiful City's greatest treasure. As the City struggles continually with a budget that cannot and does not richly fund the Park Department's efforts, I am anxious to embrace the efforts of the Park Foundation, in its endowment fund. Spokane is on the edge of tremendous change. I am thrilled to be here and be a part of that, and to have the opportunity to help foster our most priceless treasure...our parks."



Charles Willis — Retired from the Property and Casualty insurance business as company marketing manager. For fun, Charlie says, it's "travel & more travel". His family has a Priest Lake cabin that is the love of their lives. Charlie plays golf but notices that "my handicap is rising faster than my age".

"In terms of my vision for the future my preference is for natural parks that are scenic and safe and attract visitors and locals alike. Our Parks are the pride of our city. My grandfather, Aubrey L. White, was the first president of the Park Board and hopefully I can be some help in maintaining and growing our wonderful parks."

From the Executive Director...



Mary C. Butler
Executive Director

I HAVE JUST COMPLETED MY FIRST YEAR with the Spokane Parks Foundation. It has been an inspiring and challenging year. We are working diligently to educate the public about our presence and our mission: *The Parks Foundation is an independent organization leading efforts to preserve and enhance Spokane's parks for today and tomorrow.* The perception for many is that parks will last forever, that the parks are well maintained and the current city budget takes care of them—so they'll be here forever.

I think a more realistic picture is that we must all work to protect this most precious resource in our community and that additional funding to do so will be essential. As we add parks and green space to our city we add the cost to maintain them. In addition, while the parks are indeed for all of us we do have a role and responsibility in both the maintenance of current assets and the resources needed to expand them.

What a great opportunity! To look far into the future of our community and to assure that our beautiful green spaces will continue to sparkle, soothe and impart their beauty to the next generations. That is what our city founders did and it is our time to build and expand on those values. Thanks to all of you who have so consistently supported the Foundation and thanks to our new donors who have joined us in this worthy mission. We look forward to great new adventures in 2006! ■

Thanks to Our Donors...

THE SPOKANE PARKS FOUNDATION would like to thank the following generous supporters. Our sincere appreciation goes to the following individuals, businesses and foundations who demonstrate their friendship and support in so many ways. This list is for all donations made in 2005. If we omitted anyone, please accept our sincere apology. You can help us correct our records by calling 625-6774. Thanks for your generous support!

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