



The Merganser



News and information from the Spokane Riverkeeper

In this issue: Citizen Science - Upcoming Tour of Bunker Hill - EPA Settlement - Toxics Outreach

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A Word from the Spokane Riverkeeper



Paul Lindholdt's newest book, *The Spokane River* pulls together a diverse array of experts and enthusiasts to expound about the River, including past and present Spokane Riverkeepers, Rick Eichstaedt, Bart Mihailovich, and Jerry White, Jr.

The lessons and perspectives about the river set forward in this incredible new book will be highly valued by river old-timers (and newcomers) to the Spokane River. We are pleased that this book offers such a vast amount of river oriented community knowledge to readers of all interests.

The publication of this book, however, is bittersweet for your Riverkeeper Team. We are

greatly saddened by the resignation of Rick Eichstaedt, who founded the Spokane Riverkeeper. Over the years we have depended on his vision and legal guidance. Rick will be sorely missed and we GREATLY appreciate the amazing contribution he's made to our work over the last 13 years.

As we move forward this year at the Spokane Riverkeeper, the Spokane River continues to teach us valuable lessons, many represented in this book. Editor Lindholdt writes "*this book honors the inhabited landscape the river runs through*". Rivers are tied to the land around them. Water at the mouth of a river represents the land use choices our society makes many miles upstream. We are reminded of this as we study the pollution plume entering the Spokane River from Hangman Creek or when we fish for native redband trout in the cool crystal clear pools on a hot summer day. This book pulls all kinds of disciplines and all kinds of information into a central flow that you are sure to enjoy. Not only that, but all royalties from this book are dedicated to support the work of the Spokane Riverkeeper. Outstanding!

[Order your copy here.](#)

Public Tour of Bunker Hill Superfund Site, June 8th - free and open to all

Although downtown Spokane seems to be a long distance away from the Bunker Hill Mine, poor water quality from historic mining continue to have an affect the health of downstream waterways from the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River all the way to the Spokane River. Attend this tour to learn about how pollution from legacy mining in the Silver Valley has impacted the Coeur d'Alene River, Lake Coeur d'Alene, and the Spokane River.



In early years, mining and milling methods were primitive, and huge amounts of mine tailings containing minerals were discarded into streams and across the floodplain of the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries. Metals in the tailings and the chemicals used in the milling process are hazardous to humans, fish, and waterfowl. Attend this tour to find out what cleanup has been done, and what is planned for the future. Registration is required but the program is free. Find out more, and register [here](#).

Citizen Science with Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited

Riverkeeper has partnered with Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited and other interested citizens (Inland Northwest Flyfishers) to monitor water quality in Hangman Creek and the Spokane River. Citizen-anglers collected turbidity data using easy-to-use transparency tubes at the mouth of Hangman Creek, as well as in the Spokane River above and below the Hangman Creek confluence. The ongoing study is producing striking results. This year the mouth of Hangman Creek had an incredible 98% of samples with measurable turbidity, while downstream of the mouth, in the Spokane River, at the Riverside Cemetery, 93% of samples displayed measurable turbidity. Even more important, we had over 25 Citizen-Scientists participate in the study so far, with over 60 samples runs! Great Job Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited! For more information see [SFTU](#).



Spokane Riverkeeper Settles Lawsuit over Hangman Creek...

Spokane Riverkeeper Settles Law Suit with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington Department of Ecology to Protect Water Quality in Hangman Creek. The Spokane Riverkeeper has settled a federal lawsuit challenging the Environmental...

[Read more](#)

www.spokaneriverkeeper.org

Quick Hangman Creek Media Rundown!

- Spokesman Review [Spokane River conservationists, state officials settle lawsuit over polluted Latah Creek](#)
 - Inlander - [Hangman Creek is still a muddy disaster, but a new legal settlement gives the Spokane Riverkeeper hope](#)
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Spoken River 2018 - Tell Your Friends!



Join us on Friday, September 28th, from 6-8 PM, for Spokane Riverkeeper's second annual fundraiser SPOKEN RIVER. Once again you'll be treated to authors giving readings of their works focused on the Spokane River. You'll also learn about our work and hear about how you can get involved and support it. Your individual ticket is \$50 and includes appetizers and 2 drink tickets for beer or wine. Or... take your table-seating-destiny into your own hands: Your table purchase is \$350 and includes 8 seats, appetizers, and 20 drink tickets for beer or wine. Interested in supporting this program but out of town for the event? Consider

purchasing a ticket and donating it back to us. We can help find someone to attend!

Interested in sponsoring or just need more info? Email Latisha at latisha@cforjustice.org. [Buy tickets here!](#)

Toxics Outreach - Help Us Spread the Word!

Riverkeeper outreach is rocking and rolling thanks to our 18-month *Public Participation Grant* from the Department of Ecology. The purpose of this work is to provide public education and outreach on toxic contamination issues, and helpful actions that community members can take at home. We are always looking for new opportunities to talk to citizens and youth, so if you have ideas, let us know! Here are some of the highlights and totals from the last three months:

We've reached over 200 youth with a combination of our non-point pollution model, and we've given presentations and tours in order to teach kids about pollution issues. The highlights included visits to schools, including Holmes Elementary, Summit Elementary, Tekoa Library, Mt. Spokane High School, and Spokane Falls Community College. Our list for future presentations at schools for May and June is getting long!



We've presented information about toxics and pollution to neighborhood groups, Earth Day events, Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, Church groups, and Neighborhood Councils.

We tabled with our outreach materials at large events, including Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Vytal Dance Company's Concerts inspired by the Spokane River, and trash cleanups – spreading the word about toxics in the watershed and what people can do to help us prevent pollution.

4th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Thank you to all who attended our fourth annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Garland Theater. The films were amazing as always and despite the warm weather attendance was excellent. We depend on the support of the community to protect the Spokane River and events like these make all the difference. Also, thank you to our sponsors and supporters: Mountain Gear, Spokane Falls Trout Unlimited, Riverside State Parks Foundation, Spokane



Canoe and Kayak Club, Save Our Wild Salmon, Eco Depot, Voltric Electric and Spokane Solar, OutThere Outdoors, Silverbow Fly Shop, River City Brewing, and Fly Fishers International

Water Conservation!

This February, the Spokane Riverkeeper was instrumental in helping the City of Spokane put together a Forum on water consumption, the aquifer and water conservation. "Healthy River, Healthy Spokane" was convened by Council Member Breean Beggs and Spokane City Staff and featured several water experts who spoke on conservation efforts, the connection between our water and our river, as well as the need to conserve water for our river. Citizens showed up to ask questions and give comments. This forum marks the entry into a longer community conversation about water conservation for our river. Watch the video [here!](#)

Drips and Drops

- We celebrated Earth Day by canoeing down Hangman Creek with our Riverkeeper Advisory Committee members. [Read about it here.](#)
- Our litter program is off and running. Read about our first big clean up [here](#) KXLY News Coverage. If you have a group that would like to schedule cleanup contact us at jschultz@cforjustice.org.
- We're interested in understanding all that farmers do to protect the environment. If you know a farmer who'd like to speak with us, let us know at jerry@cforjustice.org
- We're looking for opportunities to speak with youth and community groups about toxics. If you have an idea, contact lee@cforjustice.org
- Our [redband trout webpage](#) is up! This is the beginning of a program that works to understand and protect this iconic fish.
- Tell your friends that we're looking for Riverkeeper members! It's easy to join - check out the [DONATE](#) button on our website!
- Sign up for our Hangman Creek Action Network by emailing me jerry@cforjustice.org
- Don't forget to taste some delish Riverkeeper Ale! We love it, and so will you! (now in bottles at Rosauers and Yokes and on tap throughout Spokane).
- Random Media: [Spokesman Earth Day Article](#) , [Before the falls: Spokane and the history of river cities](#)





Support your River, Support our Work - Become a Member Today!

A donation at our web page helps:

1. By giving the river a voice in court
2. Giving you a crack at cool raffle prizes
3. Supporting our programs so that we can keep your river clean and healthy!

[Become a Member here!](#)



A huge shout out and thank you to our newest business partner Voltric Electric and Spokane Solar. We could not do our job if green businesses like these folks were not supporting us!

Look them up and they will hook you up... with solar power! Visit them [here](#)



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The Spokane Riverkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance and a program of the Center for Justice.

