



## IMPORTANT ELECTION FOR THE CITY OF SPOKANE

### SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENTS

We as the Executive Committee and volunteers with the UCR Group ask you to cast your vote on behalf of those who cannot vote: the Spokane River, children, wildlife and fish, and future life. We encourage those outside of the City of Spokane to encourage their "city friends" to read the following and consider our endorsements:

**MAYOR: BEN STUCKART**

**SPOKANE COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BREEAN BEGGS**

**SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL: LORI KINNEAR**

Real estate interests and developers are heavily supporting candidates opposing Ben Stuckart and Breean Beggs. We need Ben and Breean for the sake of the "Near Nature, Near Perfect" tagline for Spokane we have come to embrace. Their opponents are ready to compromise it for the sake of sprawl and an unhealthy river. Ben and Breean, together with Lori Kinnear, will be solid support for the healthy environment, wise development, and growing Spokane we support.

### **BREEAN BEGGS FOR SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**



Breean Beggs has been a strong advocate of smart and intelligent environmental policy during his city council term. His 27 years as a lawyer and his experience with public service

work on numerous regional boards has proven him effective in working with a vast array of people and issues and in collaborating in the face of difficult issues.

Beggs currently chairs both the Council's Sustainability Action sub-committee and the Public Infrastructure and Environmental Sustainability Committee. He says developing and implementing the city's Sustainability Action Plan, which focuses on climate change, energy, water resources and conservation, land use, and transportation, is his highest environmental priority. And he was instrumental in the inclusion of water

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### **LORI KINNEAR FOR CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 2**



Lori Kinnear has been a strong and intelligent supporter of positive environmental policy during her first council term, and the Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses her return to office.

She supported the establishment of the city's Sustainability Action Plan and the move to 100% clean electrical energy by 2030, and she was effective in her work to pass city policy advancing water conservation.

Kinnear understands the importance of the Spokane River and has worked to promote a clean and adequately flowing waterway. She is a strong advocate of housing density and development in Spokane's centers and corridors, and as a member of the Transit Authority Board favors transportation policy that will put a curb on urban sprawl. She finds her work on an urban forestry program which would move Spokane's tree canopy

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### **BEN STUCKART FOR SPOKANE MAYOR**



Ben Stuckart, vying for mayor of Spokane, has received the endorsement of the Upper Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club. We expect that the Spokane

City Council will continue to be a force for positive environmental policy, but it is vital that we have a mayor who can work with them in working toward an ecologically healthy Spokane. Ben Stuckart will be that kind of mayor.

Stuckart was born, raised, and educated in Spokane, and having served for six years as City Council President, he has broad and deep experience in city government and a track record of supporting environmental sustainability (promising that when elected he will make "Sustainability" a cabinet-level position) and addressing threats to a healthy environment.

Stuckart is an advocate for a clean and adequately flowing (a "fishable and swimmable") Spokane River. Regarding PCB pollution of the river, Stuckart disagrees with the current mayor's effort to have EPA pollution standards weakened; rather, he wants the city to move wisely and steadily toward achieving the federal clean water standards for the Spokane River. In addition, he is a strong supporter of a vigorous city water conservation plan which will support adequate summertime river flows.

For some years Sierra Club has had concerns about the toxic air pollution from the city's Waste to Energy Facility incinerator. While arguing that the incinerator cannot be shut down, citing both budgetary concerns and a lack of environmentally satisfactory alternatives, Stuckart has already during his time as city council president actively

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## COMING ATTRACTION **SPOKANE RIVER 2020: NOW OR NEVER**



*Spokane River sketch by Barbara McCallister Winkle.*

A clean, flowing Spokane River will support the return of salmon, robust river recreation, local businesses, extraordinary river aesthetics, and other beneficial uses. On hot summer days, which are likely to increase due to climate change, thousands of people go down to the river to swim, fish, boat, and seek spiritual renewal. The Spokane River is the people's river.

However, this River is under attack on two fronts. The Trump Administration is working to assist polluters by weakening water quality standards. The State of Washington through the Department of Ecology is seriously delaying river clean-up through its "Variance" process, which includes consideration of outrageous proposals to eliminate fisheries and recreation as protected uses.

Washington State government, acting through the Department of Ecology, is also failing to protect the Spokane River's summertime flows. The State's Court of Appeals ruled in our favor that the State was arbitrary and capricious in failing to protect summertime flows. Now the State is challenging this river victory in the State's Supreme Court.

River advocates want Washington State to uphold its public trust duties, stop decades of delay, and take steps to restore the Spokane as a clean, flowing river.

**Water is life. The Spokane River is not the polluters' river. The Spokane River is the people's river – a river of life.**

2020 will be a pivotal year. The river, osprey and trout, and future life here have no voice. We need you to help give "voice to the voiceless." The River and its future require your engagement in our upcoming campaign: Spokane River 2020.

To provide you additional background and helpful hints on involvement, we will devote an entire issue of Nature's Advocate to Spokane River 2020.

**Stay tuned. And thank you for caring about the Spokane River.**

### UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

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#### Executive Committee

Fred Christ

[fredchrist@msn.com](mailto:fredchrist@msn.com)

Kathy Dixon

[sotiriabellou2014@gmail.com](mailto:sotiriabellou2014@gmail.com)

Paige Kenney

[paigekenney@hotmail.com](mailto:paigekenney@hotmail.com)

Evita Krislock

[evita@krislock.com](mailto:evita@krislock.com)

Carolyn Leon

[lonestar4@aol.com](mailto:lonestar4@aol.com)

John Osborn

[john@waterplanet.ws](mailto:john@waterplanet.ws)  
509.939.1290

Tom Soeldner

[waltsoe@gmail.com](mailto:waltsoe@gmail.com)

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Rachael Paschal Osborn

*Spokane River Project*

Barbara Rasero

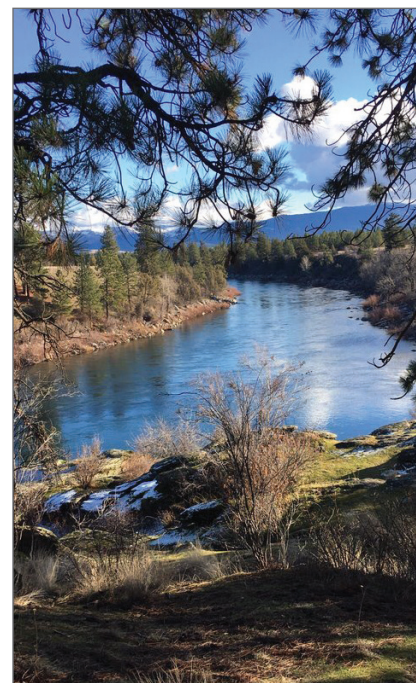
*Newsletter Editor*

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Upper Columbia  
River Group



*Photo by Barbara McCallister Winkle.*



## BEN STUCKART CONTINUED

investigated the retrofitting of cleaner components and solutions which address Sierra Club concerns.

Stuckart is a supporter of smart growth in Spokane, which includes greater housing density in Spokane's centers and corridors where the right zoning and existing transit are already available. He is also seeking to preserve a large property on the edge of the city near Hangman Creek for open space and urban agriculture rather than housing development because of concerns about nearby trails and additional traffic on highway 195. This is in stark contrast to his main opponent, Nadine Woodward, a former television journalist who has no experience in city government, but who has been strongly endorsed by the real estate industry and developers.

## BREEAN BEGGS CONTINUED

conservation provisions in development of the city's "water sharing" ordinance.

Beggs supports urban density to avoid urban sprawl as very important in future housing development—contrary to his opponent who is strongly supported by outside real estate and development interests. In this pivotal time for Spokane and its increasingly strained environment it is vital that Breean Beggs be Spokane's City Council President.

## LORI KINNEAR CONTINUED

from 23% to 30% most satisfying. Kinnear wants the city to develop a more effective recycling program.

Let's return Lori Kinnear to the Spokane City Council.



*Photo from Post Falls Parks and Recreation.*



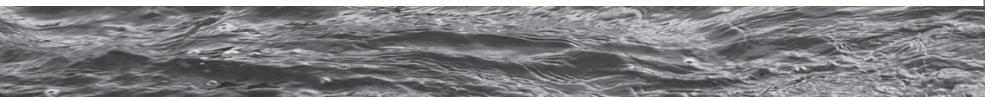
"Biosolids" are what the waste industry euphemistically calls the sludge left over after sewage is processed through wastewater treatment plants. It is increasingly promoted as free fertilizer for farmers as well as compost for gardeners.

As thousands of toxic materials are invented, used, and go down drains into sewers, our State Department of Ecology and the EPA have for decades only required testing for 9 contaminant metals, despite the fact that in 2009, an EPA study concluded that all sewage sludge contains hundreds of toxic pollutants.

In 2018, the EPA's Office of Inspector General concluded that they haven't the data or the means to prove "biosolids" safe. Yet serious health issues are related to PFAS chemicals (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) which have been found in food products from land treated with these biosolids in Maine, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Washington, as well as in milk from cows fed grains from biosolid-treated fields.

In the past 2 years, the Sierra Club has helped small rural communities across Washington State to protect their air, land and water from farmland sludge applications.

**If you want to see updates and join in the discussion about battles against land application of "biosolids, visit [tinyurl.com/join-no-sludge-on-aglands](https://tinyurl.com/join-no-sludge-on-aglands).**



## OUTINGS

The Year in Review (so far): This year we've spent time walking along the Spokane River searching for Spring wildflowers, Huckleberry picking at Mt. Spokane this Summer, and searching for Fall

mushrooms at Riverside State Park. Earlier this year we reached the milestone of having our Meetup site for 5 years and in that time we've run 58 different outings. Everything from outside of the Spokane area camping at Bumping Lake and exploring Juniper Dunes to hiking closer to home at Dishman Hills Natural Area, Liberty Lake Regional Park, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Slavin Conservation area, and many more.

If you are interested in becoming an outings leader or have any suggestions of places we may not have explored yet please contact our Outings Chair Carolyn Leon at [LoneStar4@aol.com](mailto:LoneStar4@aol.com).

**Check out our Meetup site for when outings are scheduled, and to check out our past activities.**

**[www.meetup.com/Exploring-the-Inland-Northwest-with-Sierra-Club](https://www.meetup.com/Exploring-the-Inland-Northwest-with-Sierra-Club)**







## UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

P.O. Box 413  
Spokane, WA 99210

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Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.

# SAVE WATER AND MONEY WITH XERISCAPING

Xeriscape landscaping or, simply, “xeriscaping,” is landscaping designed specifically for areas susceptible to drought, or for properties whose owners want to practice conservation. The word is from the Greek “xeros” meaning “dry, thus “dry landscape.

The City of Spokane recently began offering a program to help residents reduce the amount of water they use for outdoor irrigation. The SpokaneScape rebate program allows for up to a \$500 credit on a resident’s City utility bill for removing lawn and replacing it with water-smart plants and mulch.

Residential outdoor irrigation is the City’s largest category of water use. Lawns require lots of water. Different landscaping options can be much more water efficient.

SpokaneScape encourages residential owners to replace lawn with low-volume irrigation and drought tolerant plants. Your yard can be beautiful, conserve water, require less maintenance, and make a little money for you on the side.

With the challenge of climate change to rivers and plant and wildlife in and around Spokane, this is a contribution citizens can make for future environmental health.


See details and examples of xeriscaping at the City of Spokane website [my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/water/slow-the-flow/spokanescape](http://my.spokanecity.org/publicworks/water/slow-the-flow/spokanescape).

**SPOKANEscape**

YOUR GUIDE TO  
*Water-Wise Landscaping*  
FOR THE  
*Inland Northwest*

**+ CITY OF SPOKANE LAWN REPLACEMENT REBATE!**

VISIT US AT [WATERSTEWARDSHIP.ORG](http://WATERSTEWARDSHIP.ORG) | 2019

 from the City of  
Spokane Water  
Department