



The Rainier Review

Spring 2015

Volume 14 Issue 1

SERVING THE PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

“Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet”

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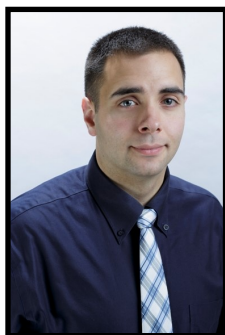
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Endorsements of Electoral Candidates for 2015 Elections Has Begun



Justin Leighton – Tacoma City Council, Position 3

Leighton, a Hilltop resident since 2008 and currently government relations officer for Pierce Transit, has been involved with the Central Neighborhood Council, last year’s Charter Review Committee and several other local government and community groups. He helped lead the (ultimately unsuccessful) fight in 2011 against Walmart’s plans to build the store at the former Elks Lodge property. Born and raised in the area, Leighton is currently a graduate student at Evergreen State College where he is set to graduate in June with a Masters in Public Administration. He has a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture with a Teacher Certification from Washington State University. He has served on Pierce Conservation Voters (branch of Washington Conservation Voters) Public Office Candidate Interview Team, which evaluates candidates’ positions on climate change, clean renewable energy development, energy conservation, environmental sustainability, and smart growth policies, including public transportation development. He has more experience in working in public service than his opponents. Leighton currently has a well-organized campaign plan, and out of the several candidates running, he clearly is the Sierra Club’s first choice for endorsement to Position 3 on the Tacoma City Council.



Anders Ibsen—Tacoma City Council, Position 1

Anders Ibsen was elected to the Position 1 seat of the Tacoma City Council in 2011. Anders is a Tacoma native. He graduated in the first-ever class of the Tacoma School of the Arts with an emphasis in music. He then graduated in 2008 from the Evergreen State College with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Sociology. Ibsen has been a solid vote for the environment on Tacoma’s Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability (IPS) Committee in his first term. He’s voted for more urban density and expansion of Link – Light Rail to the Hilltop area of Tacoma. Recently, he has been promoting his idea to get Tacoma Power (TP) to include residential solar panel installation in TP’s “zero interest loan program” available for other energy saving programs. This idea is being reviewed by TP. Ibsen is currently unopposed for his re-election to the Council and has demonstrated in his first term that he supports most of our environmental policy positions by his votes Council votes.

Sierra Club Endorsements (continued from page 1)



Ryan Mello –Tacoma City Council, Position 8

Born in Kailua, Hawaii, Ryan came to Tacoma in 1997 to attend the University of Puget Sound where he earned a degree in Politics & Government. He has served as a Senior Aide to State Rep. Hans Dunshee. In 2005 he was endorsed by the Sierra Club and elected citywide to the Metropolitan Park Board of Commissioners where he sensitized the Park Board to environmental protection and sustainability issues. In 2008 – 2009 Ryan served as Co-Chair of the City’s Green Ribbon Task Force on Climate Change and was primary author of the City’s Climate Action Plan for addressing global climate change. He was again endorsed by the Sierra Club and first elected to the Tacoma City Council in 2011 to position 8 (At-Large). He has clearly distinguished himself as an environmental champion over the last four years, providing leadership to pass local legislation on “complete streets”, “green streets”, bike-pedestrian transportation, and the transfer of development rights. Furthermore, he has been the city spokesperson on climate change and coal/oil train health and safety issues. Ryan currently works as the Executive Director for the Pierce Conservation District. On the City Council, he chairs the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee and serves on the Economic Development and Government Performance and Finance Committees. Regionally, he serves on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Board as Tacoma’s representative. The re-election of Ryan Mello to the Tacoma City Council is essential to keep Tacoma on the leading edge of implementing environmental sustainability practices.

Invasives Work Party ... AKA Ivy League



April 19 was a perfect day for outdoor fun and an energetic group showed up at Pt Defiance to clear the hillside by the boathouse of invasive species (Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom and ivy). If you want to join future invasives work parties, contact Brett Johnson, bmjohnson75@hotmail.com or Jori Adkins, joriadkins@mac.com. Watch your email and like us on Facebook for information on opportunities coming up this summer and fall.

Sat, May 9 – We will be removing ivy at

McKinley Park, 9:00 AM – noon.

We will be working to remove ivy from the trees at the east end of the park. Email Jori Adkins joriadkins@mac.com to confirm the meeting location. (Either D St at the play equipment or across from 907 Upper Park Rd. depending on the target ivy.) Dress in work clothes and for the weather. We will have gloves, tools and refreshments though you may want to bring your own gloves and water bottle. Participants must sign a liability waiver form and a parent/guardian must sign for a minor.

Teamwork Passes Shoreline Plan Update by Kirk Kirkland

In April, the Pierce County Council concluded a four-year effort to pass the mandated update to the County's Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). It defines how county shorelines will be developed over the next 30 years.

The bar for sharing the shorelines is set high, as the state Shoreline Management Act states no single user group has priority: fish pen farms, industrial aquaculture, parks, restaurants, residents, boaters and birds – all share our beaches.

Complicating matters, the State Legislature and the Department of Ecology (DOE) have given a "preference" to aquaculture. However, the Act's requirement of "no net loss of ecological functions" provides us a path to protect fish, birds and wildlife habitat.

This set the stage for four environmental groups to work together. Leslie Ann Rose formerly of *Citizens for Healthy Bay* provided the science background and an understanding of the Shoreline Management Act. Laura Hendricks with *Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat* had successfully appealed several geoduck permits. Those Shoreline Hearings Board appeals provided important interpretations of the law. *Sierra Club* and *Tahoma Audubon* lobbied together to suggest changes in the county code to require cumulative impact analysis of projects and to limit the spread of aquaculture into estuaries and residential areas.

When the process was delayed into an election year, Sierra Club played a key role in endorsing a County Council candidate who understands the importance of shoreline protection. The election was very close, but the revelation that the incumbent on the council had taken donations from the aquaculture industry brought the needed margin to the polls for a victory. Once in office Derek Young, the new District 7 representative, demonstrated leadership and collaborative skills working with the rest of the County Council to write shoreline protections into our SMP including strengthened regulations for monitoring, restoration and protecting the Nisqually River State Refuge from industrial geoduck operations.

The new SMP was passed under the threat of an appeal by the geoduck industry and with a fear that the DOE would disapprove of the county removing the "preference" given to geoducks. Also in the background is a Bainbridge Island law suit vs. DOE, after the DOE staff required Bainbridge to open up 100% of their shores to geoduck aquaculture.

The geoduck industry began in Puget Sound 20 years ago with the cultivation of 5,000 acres of shorelines. They now farm 80% of Toten Inlet's beaches and over 25,000 acres on the shores of Puget Sound. The impacts on beach home owners, boaters, beachcombers and native marine life is well known.

In the year ahead we'll see if this is the turning point for limiting industrial aquaculture growth. In Pierce County, the legislation limits the industry to a fair share of our shorelines while minimizing the "net loss of ecological functions". For the environmental groups that worked on this effort, it showed what we could accomplish with teamwork.

Department of Ecology Approves Shellfish Industry Spraying of Imidacloprid A Harmful Neurotoxin in Washington Waters by Laura Hendricks

In about a month, crop-dusting helicopters will begin spraying Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor marine waters with the pesticide, Imidacloprid, to eradicate native burrowing shrimp that the shellfish industry claims reduce their oyster and clam production. **Unfortunately, Washington State will be the first to allow this pesticide to be applied on water in the U.S.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Audubon Society and the Xerces Society, which advocates for invertebrates, have all opposed use of the chemical that the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has approved. According to the Ecology Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), “it is possible that over the five-year term of the permit, the total acreage to be treated within Willapa Bay could range from 1,500 to 7,500 acres, and in Grays Harbor could range from 500 to 2,500 acres.” Ecology has ignored the following facts listed in an April 24, 2015 Bloomberg news report:

- In 2013, the European Commission banned the use of three neonicotinoids—clothianidin, methamphetamine, and imidacloprid—on flowering plants. Last month a coalition of beekeepers, farmers, and environmental advocates delivered more than 4 million signatures to the White House calling for laws to protect pollinators.
- In studies published in *Science*, 1. British researchers found: Bees fed sugar water spiked with neonicotinoids were less able than control bees to produce queens in their hives; they didn’t gather enough food. 2. French researchers found that bees fed neonics had difficulty getting back to the hive from a half-mile away.
- Neonic defenders maintained that bees could learn to avoid treated plants, but in a study published this week in *Nature*, a British researcher, Geraldine Wright, found that this was not so. Wright sequestered honeybees in boxes and gave them a choice between plain nectar and nectar laced with neonics. The bees favored the poisoned nectar.
- In Washington, Charles Benbrook, a WSU toxicologist, worries that imidacloprid may wreak havoc on the Pacific Northwest’s salmon fishing industry once the fish begin plying their way through waters tinged with the neurotoxin. “What will the chemical do to their brains?” he says. “Will they still be able to swim 1,000 miles up-river and spawn? We don’t know. That homing ability is something science doesn’t understand.” “Imidacloprid dissolves in water, meaning that fish will swim through trace quantities of the chemical and oysters and clams will grow in an imidacloprid-laced bay.”
- A 2014 Dutch study published in *Nature*, found that the population of insect-eating birds declined rapidly—3.5 percent a year—in areas with high concentrations of neonics on the surface of the water. The birds died, the authors believe, because they were eating poisoned bugs.
- Another 2014 study, published in the *Japanese Journal of Clinical Ecology*, found that when patients in Gunma prefecture consumed imidacloprid-treated food, they were inordinately inclined to record abnormal cardiograms and complain of chest and muscle pains.
- Dr. Ed Steinweg, an Olympia physician stated: “I would hope that national corporate chains like Costco would stop selling Willapa Bay oysters that are raised and harvested out of the chemical soup that Willapa Bay has become.”

Additional media articles about this issue:

Seattle Times: <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/disbelief-over-state-plan-to-spray-neurotoxin-into-oyster-beds/>

Cliff Mass Blogspot: <http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2015/04/oysters-and-pesticides-washington-state.html>

Bloomberg News : <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2015-04-24/washington-state-turns-to-neurotoxins-to-save-its-oysters>

Please call Governor Inslee at (360) 902-4111 and voice your concern. You can also use the email link here: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact-gov-inslee>

Outings – Get up, get out in the great outdoors



At the Fremont Lookout Tower August 2014
Photo Credit: Dorothy Walker

All outings are subject to change depending on conditions so **be sure to sign up** with the hike leader to be in the loop.

Contact dorothyw@centurylink.net or 253.265.6059 for more info and to sign up.

Dress for the weather (Don't skimp; put that jacket in your pack.). Wear boots or sturdy shoes, not sandals; bring lunch, sun protection and water.

Sat, May 16, Greenwater Lakes – Roundtrip 5 miles, elevation gain slight

This is a beautiful hike through old-growth forest along the Greenwater River to two basin lakes.

From the trailhead the hike begins on a very wide, gentle trail. The first two miles to Greenwater Lakes is almost entirely flat with a half dozen bridge crossings. Normally the river would be very full and fast in May. It will be interesting to see how it looks this year. There are a lot of trillium on this trail which normally would not be blooming yet but who knows? We will hike to the end of upper Greenwater Lake at about 2.5 miles where we will have lunch before turning around.

Fri, June 12 ,Upper Dungeness River – Round trip about 7 miles, elevation gain 600'

The drive is long and the road is dusty but this is the prettiest river hike of all. Odds are good that the rhodies will be out. About a mile up the trail we'll enter the Buckhorn Wilderness. At about 2.6 miles we'll cross the Dungeness on a stout bridge. Camp Handy comes into sight along the river's edge at 3.4 miles. Its expansive riverfront meadow and cedar shingle shelter make it a popular destination. From the meadow there are views up the valley toward Constance Pass. We will have our lunch here and head back.

Wed, July 22, Sourdough Gap - Round trip 7 miles, elevation gain 1100'

This is part of the Pacific Crest Trail. Beginning from Chinook Pass, the gentle trail leads to Sheep Lake at about 2 miles. From there the trail becomes steeper for the 1.5 miles to Sourdough Gap. We'll have lunch and turn around there. There should be plenty of wild flowers on the first part of the hike and the views as you climb above Sheep Lake are outstanding.

Fri, Aug 21, Crystal Ridge - Round trip 6 miles, elevation gain 1300'

Off of Highway 410 on Crystal Mt Blvd, this hike starts before the ski resort parking lot and wanders along the MR National Park boundary providing stunning views of Mt Rainier and the White River from the top of the ridge

Sat, Sept 12, To Be Determined – Contact dorothyw@centurylink.net if you have a favorite.

For the latest on outings check our web site. **Tatoosh Group Outings are listed here:** <http://sierraclub.org/washington/tatoosh-outings>

All Washington State Chapter Outings are available to you. Washington State Chapter Outings are listed here: <http://sierraclub.org/washington/club-outings>



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Remember to Vote:

Primary Elections August 4