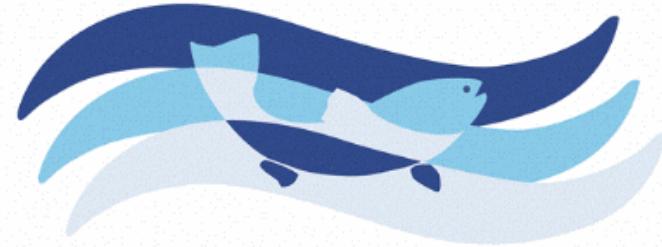


Fall, 2016



**Spokane
RIVERKEEPER®**

Click the video below for a important word from the Spokane Riverkeeper.



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A message from the Spokane Riverkeeper:

This season the Spokane River Watershed was a very busy place! Three of five major dischargers into our river had (draft) discharge permits open for public comment. Kaiser Aluminium, the City of Spokane and Liberty Lake. We went to school on these permits and provided comments that push for continued reductions of pollutants out of the end of those pipes. We will be looking at two more draft permits this fall. We have been working hard with the City of Tekoa, WA on ensuring that their Waste Water Treatment Plant is in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Additionally, we continued the focus on our tributaries, and are developing our upcoming *Clean Streams, Healthy Shores Campaign*. This campaign focuses on the need for protecting and restoring streamside (riparian) forests (Click [here](#) for an article on Hangman Creek pollution). We

If you ever have any questions for your Spokane Riverkeeper, please contact us!

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Upcoming Riverkeeper Events

Annual Winter Party!

Join us on December 16th from 5-7 PM in the Community Building lobby (35 W. Main) for a festive evening of food, drink, and celebration.

More events...

For more events taking place with the Spokane Riverkeeper visit [The Spokane River Forum](#) website.

Upcoming Projects!

Stay tuned for the launch of our new anti-pollution campaign, *Clean Streams, Healthy Shores* highlighting the need to protect shoreline vegetation as an essential tool in fighting pollution.

Also, stay tuned for our website redesign as it is in the works and will be ready to roll out in April.



continued our work monitoring water quality and temperature, removing litter from the river, and eliminating toxic PCB's in our water. The Spokane River Watershed is a great place to work and play. We work everyday to ensure it stays that way.

Check out the video we helped produce that discusses Hangman Creek issues and solutions! [Here](#)

Dirty Martinis for Clean Water

A huge thank you to the over 160 people who came to Dirty Martinis for Clean Water! The funds raised go directly towards keeping the Spokane River watershed fishable and swimmable. We had 20 great volunteers and 12 sponsors and community partners make this event possible.

2016 Mike Chappell River Hero Award



The Spokane Riverkeeper is thrilled to announce that the 2015 Mike Chappell River Hero Award goes to Sean Visintainer and Mike Visintainer of Silver Bow Fly Shop. Always supportive of conservation efforts, they understood the link between a healthy river and a healthy economy. In 2009, the shop began to focus guiding efforts on the Spokane River. At the same time they ramped up support of native trout conservation efforts, habitat improvement projects, and public access

projects that continue to open the river to the public. Sean, Michael and their staff probably know the river better than any one group in Spokane, logging many hours fishing and being “eyes” for issues and problems that occur out on the water.

Garbage Clean-up in the Spokane River



In partnership with the City of Spokane and Spokane County, the Spokane Riverkeeper removed **4740 pounds** of garbage from the River corridor. **137 volunteers** from **10 different organizations and businesses** contributed a total of **483 hours** towards river clean up. Because of their work, our River is much cleaner and safer for all who use it!

Legal Work

Victory! Two huge lawsuits the Spokane Riverkeeper is involved in were resolved last week, which will lead to cleaner water in Spokane and Washington State.

Coal Trains:

Spokane Riverkeeper has joined forces with Washington Waterkeepers and other environmental groups in a suit against Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railways. Coal BNSF transports by from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming is polluting our waterways by discharging coal from open cars. We just been victorious in forcing BNSF to committing to

1. \$1000000 dollars in environmental restoration projects
2. A clear pathway to covering coal cars
3. A court supervised clean up program for those areas that have seen coal pollution [here](#).

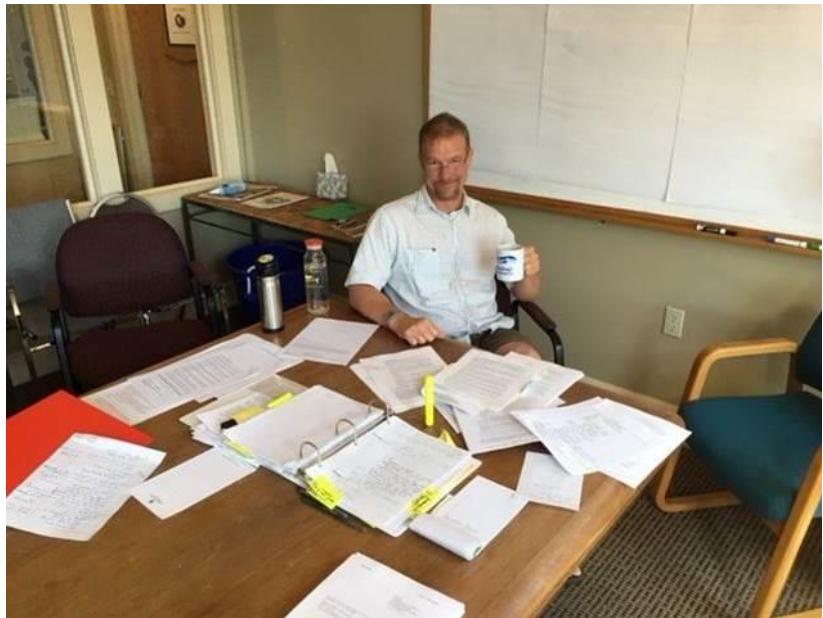
Challenge of EPA over promulgating Washington Water Quality Standards:

We have won this challenge in court, forcing the EPA to quit delaying and issue a ruling on the faulty Washington Water Quality Standards (WQS). They have done so and improved WQS by tightening up PCB, mercury and arsenic standards.

Challenge of the Hangman Creek Clean up Plan:

We are currently challenging the EPA over their weak clean up plans for the Hangman creek Basin. There are very few assurances that the plan as written, will be effective. We will continue to push for actionable steps that will directly improve water quality in this important tributary. [Article here](#)

PCBs - Polychlorinated biphenyls



Toxic PCBs in the Spokane River originate from past industrial uses that end up in ground water and inadvertent contamination of wastewater discharge pipes and storm water pipes. We spent countless hours poring over discharge permits and demanding that the standards stay tight. The permits as drafted do have numerical based limits and that is essential in making progress. Unfortunately, other sources can be tough to control. For example, PCBs even end up in road paint and hydroseed that finds its way to the river. PCBs are a persistent and tough problem to solve. One of the nasty aspects of this pollutant is that it ends up in the food chain and the fish that live in the river. Our tireless work on the Spokane River Toxics Task Force is constructing a comprehensive plan to be out in December that will prevent PCBs from entering the Spokane River. The plan, in tandem with discharge permits that retain a high bar with numerical limits for PCBs and tight limits on Phosphorus will be essential to get us to a cleaner river. If the community, waste water dischargers, and agencies regulators stay committed, our river should meet Washington Water Quality Standards by 2024 to 2016.

Water Quality Monitoring Work

All summer we have been taking samples and finding out interesting things about the Spokane River - HERE is our data base that you can look through. But stay tuned for the 2016 water quality and water temperature report at the end of this year.

River Partners

Our work would not be possible without the continuing support of our River Partners. These local businesses connect the customers they serve with the health and beauty of our River and conduct business in a manner that demonstrates respect for the Spokane River. They are committed to keeping our river clean and safe by adopting water-friendly business practices. A HUGE thank you goes out to:

- [FLOW Adventures](#)
- [Kizuri](#)
- [Silver Bow Fly Shop](#)
- [Ammonite Ink](#)
- [River City Brewing](#)
- [Numerica Credit Union](#)
- [Revival Lighting](#)
- [Boots Bakery](#)
- [DOMA Coffee Roasters](#)

Youth and Outreach



The Spokane Riverkeeper taught, lectured, or mentored over **240 students** from the St. Georges School, Spokane Parks and Recreation, Spokane Montessori, and Eastern Washington University. We educated youth about river issues, how to have fun and healthy ways to connect with the river. We organized the Wild and Scenic Film Festival and spoke at the Spokane River Forum and Future of our Salmon conferences, among others.

Riverkeeper Candles



Be sure to pick up one of our candles from our River Partner, Kizuri! These Fair Trade, soy candles have been poured and produced by Prosperity Candles by refugee women from camps in Burma and Cambodia who strive to make a better life for themselves and their families in the US. Your purchase gives them a welcome hand in the process, and 10% of the profits are donated to Spokane Riverkeeper. Candles come in Vanilla & Oakwood, Chamomile & Sage, Fir & Spice, and Chai Tea scents.