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## Unitarian church hosts talk on Upper Verde



Courtesy photo

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Post



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Gary Beverly will be the guest speaker at the Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's 10 a.m. service. Beverly will illustrate his talk on "The Upper Verde: A Wild and Scenic River," with slides. This program celebrates the seventh UU principal: respect for the web of life.

The Verde River is one of the most significant ecological features in the Southwestern region. The upper Verde River contains wildlife and cultural, historical and recreational features important to all citizens, and requires management to protect and preserve these remarkable resources, Beverly said.

In his talk, Beverly will point out that the upper river is deeply threatened by loss of water. More than 80 percent of the base flow emerging from Upper Verde Springs is actually groundwater in the Big Chino Valley. Projected population growth and development, plus cities' plans to mine groundwater (Prescott's pipeline plan), will diminish the spring flow, he said.

The first 25 miles of the upper Verde River could become a dry wash, he said, and destroy much of the last remaining riparian habitat in Arizona.

Beverly has used writing and photography to support conservation organizations in the southwest United States, especially focusing on efforts to protect the upper Verde River. He is an active member of the Sierra Club and the Citizens Water Advocacy Group.

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