

River Rally 2017

A Production of River Network
www.riverrally.org



May 8–11, 2017

Grand Rapids,
Michigan



river
 **RALLY**
education • inspiration • celebration

RIVER RALLY 2017

January 2017

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are very excited to bring River Rally 2017 to Grand Rapids, Michigan!

Every year, we take River Rally to a new location. By moving Rally annually, we make new connections and grow our community, bring attention to nationally-relevant issues that have particular prominence in that locale or region, and help elevate new and promising solutions. Grand Rapids will be an ideal location for River Rally 2017.

River Rally 2017 also falls at a time when the social and political context of water is changing. From the water that flows through our faucets, to the water needed to grow food and generate electricity, and the water embedded in every product we buy, water is essential.

We assert that a crisis is brewing related to climate risk, drinking water contamination, and access to water. Not only are the benefits of water not shared equitably, but the harm caused by floods, droughts, water contamination, and climate change are disproportionately experienced by low income communities, people of color, and indigenous and tribal communities. The questions now are how do we respond, how do we grow our community, and how do we inspire the next generation. River Rally 2017 will help us define what is possible, individually and collectively.

As with all River Rally programs, we begin with an opening reception the evening of the first day (Monday, May 8) and close with the River Heroes Banquet and live music on the evening of the last day (Thursday, May 11). In between, you'll be kept busy with plenary and keynote panels designed to anchor our exploration of the changing context of water through stories and insights from change agents, workshops that deliver complementary practical knowledge structured around six themes, field trips to get to know the Grand River, the Grand Valley, and Grand Rapids, plus movie screenings, music, a talent/variety show, and time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones too. We also have a program within our program for teen participants.

Every year we think we have the best agenda imaginable, and then the next year delivers an even better program. Our program for River Rally 2017 is supercharged for impact—it will educate, inspire each of us, and celebrate achievements from across our community.

For those of you who have been to River Rally before, you don't want to miss this one. For those of you who have never attended a River Rally, welcome aboard. This is the place to connect with people from across the country (and around the world) who care about rivers—conservationists, advocates, scientists, lawyers, philanthropists and fundraisers, business leaders, volunteers, and concerned community members.

Cheers!



Nicole Silk, President
River Network

River Rally 2017

May 8-11, 2017

Grand Rapids, Michigan



Register online: www.riverrally.org

2017 AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 8TH

6:00pm–8:00pm	River Rally 2017 Welcome & Opening Reception

TUESDAY, MAY 9TH

7:30am–9:00am	Breakfast & Plenary Speaker
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–12:45pm	Lunch & Plenary Panel
1:00pm–2:30pm	Workshops
3:00pm–4:30pm	Workshops
6:30pm–8:00pm	Dinner On-Your-Own
8:00pm–10:30pm	Talent Show & Open Mic

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH

7:30am–9:15am	Breakfast & Table Top Discussions
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–6:00pm	Field Trips & Teen River Rally Service Learning
6:30pm–8:00pm	Dinner On-Your-Own
8:00pm–10:30pm	Wild & Scenic Film Festival Movie Night

THURSDAY, MAY 11TH

7:30am–9:15am	Breakfast & Plenary Speaker
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–1:00pm	Workshops
1:00pm–3:00pm	Lunch & Plenary Panel
3:00pm–4:30pm	Workshops
5:30pm–6:15pm	Cocktail Reception
6:30pm–8:30pm	River Heroes Banquet
8:30pm–...	Live Music & Celebration

*Agenda items and scheduling subject to change

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2017 HIGHLIGHTS

WORKSHOPS

River Rally brings you nearly 60 concurrent workshops presented by watershed and conservation professionals from across the U.S. This year's workshops cover a variety of issues across the following six themes:

1. Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability
2. Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency
3. Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation
4. Protecting and Restoring Flows
5. Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact
6. Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water



TEEN RIVER RALLY

In 2017, we will introduce the first ever Teen River Rally, bringing more than 50 public high school students and their teachers from the local Grand Rapids area to River Rally for a day of workshops and service learning programs designed to expose students to career pathways in conservation. Students will attend a workshop, have an opportunity to visit conference exhibitors, network with other Rally attendees, and participate alongside watershed and conservation professionals in a service learning field trip. This local engagement is important to River Network as a valuable opportunity to reach the next generation of environmentalists and conservation professionals.

RIVER HERO AWARDS AND BANQUET

Each year, on the final evening of River Rally, we recognize the hard work and many successes won across our dynamic conservation community at the River Heroes Banquet. River Network created the River Heroes Award in 2001 to recognize and celebrate people whose efforts to protect and restore their local waters have been extraordinary in scope, scale, impact and heart. These individuals are nominated by peers, selected by peers and celebrated by peers at the annual River Rally!

Nominate your River Hero by the January 20, 2017 deadline. More information available on our website: www.rivernetwork.org/events-learning/awards/river-heroes.

KEYNOTE AND PLENARY PANELS

How Did We Get Here? The Rise of the American Conservation Movement and Water: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection

The conservation movement in the U.S., including efforts to protect and restore our rivers, is deeply defined by race, class, and gender. Dr. Dorceta Taylor's presentation will provide a vivid and engaging explanation of the competing motivations, conflicts, problematic practices, and achievements that bring us to where we stand today. By better understanding our history, we can build a movement for the future that is more inclusive, breaks through the barriers that separate us, and defines where we want to go together.

Speaker: Dr. Dorceta Taylor

Affordability, Equity, and Drinking Water

During the last few years, we have learned—and re-learned—that the gifts of healthy rivers and the costs of water-related harm are not experienced equally. The reality is that low-income and often diverse communities and neighborhoods of color both in urban and rural areas disproportionately experience water-related harm, including the lack of affordable clean water to drink. Building from experiences in Michigan, California, and West Virginia, we'll explore the reality in play across our country. The issues here are complex, often the result of a mix of challenges like failing infrastructure, contaminated rivers, and insufficient oversight. What do you do if you think a problem exists? What questions do you ask, and how do you engage or help your community engage?

Moderator: Simone Lightfoot, National Wildlife Federation

Speakers: Monica Lewis Patrick, We the People of Detroit; Michael Harris, The Flint Development Group; Angie Rosser, West Virginia Rivers Alliance; and Laurel Firestone, Community Water Coalition (pending)

Rethinking Our Relationship to Urban Rivers

A river is at the heart of nearly every great city and small town in the world. These rivers often influenced the settlement and growth of urban areas, fueled economic expansion, and helped transport goods and services. Yet somehow along our journey, we have become disconnected from the rivers that defined us, often literally turning our backs on them, channeling them away from our daily lives, or making them our industrial wastelands. Another path is possible that not only brings rivers back into our urban landscape, but also results in economic growth, recreational opportunities, and urban revitalization. From coast to coast—including in Grand Rapids—rivers are coming back to life and so too are cities, in partnership with neighborhoods, the business community, government agencies, and local nonprofits.

Moderator/Speakers: TBD

Lessons from Standing Rock

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and its opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) sparked a remarkable and unprecedented uprising in defense of tribal sovereignty and sacred lands as well as the waters of our country. Outrage unified the tribal community as well as veterans, activists, entertainers, water protectors, and the general public from across the country and beyond. Over a million people have now engaged in some manner through their physical presence at the camp, financial donations, letter writing, virtual solidarity, and other direct actions. What can we learn from Standing Rock that can help us stand up together in defense of our waters and what we consider sacred?

Moderator: Gary Collins, Northern Arapaho and River Network Board of Directors

Speakers: Chairman Dave Archambault II, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Bob Gough, Intertribal Council on Utilities; John Wathen, Hurricane Creekeeper; and Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan (pending)

Please note that River Rally programming is under development and subject to change.

River Access Spawns River Conservation Advocates

This workshop will profile successful case studies from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in connecting communities to rivers through new and improved river access areas, landowner partnerships, conservation demonstration, citizen science, river cleanups, native fish conservation, and habitat restoration. *Timothy Birdsong, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Shelly Plante, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Megan Bean, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Stephan Magnelia, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Next Generation Recreation: Closing the Gap*

Through case studies in three river cities (Denver, New Orleans, and Richmond), we will look at urban youth engagement through citizen science projects, natural resource work, and watershed restoration as a means of increasing accessibility to recreation opportunities and improving representation and equity in the recreation and tourism industry. *Maria Brodine, Groundwork New Orleans/Groundwork USA; Shane Christopher Wright, Groundwork Denver*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Volunteers Mean Business on the Coal River

The Coal River Group's unique approach to river restoration and economic development offers an excellent example for other groups. Attend the workshop to learn marketing and creative approaches to foster river restoration, citizen involvement and economic growth in the rural region! *Bill Currey, Coal River Group; Tomi Bergstrom, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Connecting Youth of Color with Community Waters*

To build a more diverse and equitable movement for water, we need to connect more youth of color, especially urban youth, with rivers. Learn from programs that are successfully engaging youth for education, restoration, and conservation careers. Dig into your program goals and how to address barriers, misperceptions, and opportunities. *La'Tanya Scott, Cahaba River Society; Yohance Owens, Village Creek Human and Environmental Justice Society; Dennis Chestnut, Groundwork Anacostia River DC; Beth Stewart, Cahaba River Society and River Network Board*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Connecting Ourselves, Connecting Communities*

Differences and gaps that privilege creates among a group of people can affect your organizational impact. To best connect to communities, let's connect first to ourselves for a better understanding of how factors such as education, financial status, gender, and race, may affect the opportunities that individual have to engage and participate in issues pertaining to their rivers, watersheds and communities. *Baljit Wadhwa, Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office; Lora McCray, Office of Diversity and Inclusion Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; Lisa Hari, Lisa Hari & Associates Consulting*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Water Trails for Connecting Communities to Rivers

Are you starting a water trail or looking for new perspectives for an existing trail? This session will provide practical, tested information no matter where you are on the trail development spectrum. Managers from four National Water Trails will engage attendees on the range of topics associated with water trails. *Elizabeth Riggs, Huron River Watershed Council; Greg Farnham, Rock River National Water Trail; Dan Plath, Kankakee River National Water Trail; Risa Shimoda, River Management Society*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

*In addition to workshops under the theme **Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability**, a number of other workshops further explore topics related to diversifying the river conservation community, addressing water equity and climate justice, and building a more inclusive movement for our waters. These workshops are indicated by * throughout the program

Moving the Needle: Practical EJ Steps*

Workshop provides a safe space to focus on how your organization begins to transform from a predominantly white one with programs involving mostly white participants—to one that looks like and serves your multi-color community. Topics: recruitment, safe office practices, program participation. Fourth workshop by Urban Waters Learning Network members. *Ann-Marie Mitroff, Groundwork USA; Dennis Chestnut, Groundwork Anacostia; Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Sara Peel, Wabash River Development Corp*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Real Life Mistakes: Legal Pitfalls for Nonprofits

What's the deadly UBIT (unrelated business income tax) and how can I avoid it? What fundraising strategies keep the IRS from questioning my motives? And am I allowed to lobby? This workshop will discuss these legal issues and more, to keep your nonprofit running legally and in the black. *S. Elizabeth (Liz) Birnbaum, SEB Strategies, LLC; Carolyn Klamp, Klamp & Associates, PC*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

New Labor Law Rules

New FLSA rules will require big changes in many nonprofits. We will discuss making these changes and maintaining morale while balancing your budget and avoiding overtime pay is necessary. *Judith Petersen, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Inc.; Cyn Sarthou, Gulf Restoration Network*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Civic Engagement in the Great Lakes*

We will share results of our Organizational Assessment Tool and map analysis of advocacy capacity and anthropogenic threats in the Great Lakes watersheds. We will invite participants' input about strengths and challenges for civic engagement. Participants will discuss what River Network can do to help foster more effective grassroots engagement around water issues. *Paco Ollervides, River Network*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Water for Nature Through Market-based Mechanisms

This session will introduce the concept of water markets and other market-based mechanisms while exploring how they can be powerful tools for conservation. Through several case studies, this session will discuss key enabling conditions and consider how environmental actors have creatively used market tools for environmental flows. *Emily Powell, The Nature Conservancy; Jacob Davis, The Nature Conservancy; Season Martin, The Nature Conservancy*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Please note that the workshop schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Where the River meets the Road

This workshop will cover how road stream crossings can affect our streams by contributing to erosion, altering stream processes, and acting as barriers for fish and other organisms. Participants will learn about projects going on throughout the state that are addressing these issues through volunteer-based programs, inventories, and restoration projects. *Matt Einheuser, Clinton River Watershed Council; Patrick Ertel, Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Kelly Goward, Macatawa Watershed Project; Tom Tisue, White River Watershed Partnership*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Net Blue: Achieving Water-Neutral Community Growth

This workshop will provide participants an overview of the Net Blue concept, an approach to achieve water neutral development by linking land use and water supply, examples of where it has been applied and hands-on time to work through the model tool of local policy options.

Katherine Baer, River Network; Mary Ann Dickinson, Alliance for Water Efficiency and River Network Board

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Groundwater Pumping and Streamflow Depletion

Groundwater and surface-water systems are connected and in many streams groundwater discharge is the largest component of streamflow. Groundwater pumping can reduce streamflow and affect aquatic ecosystems. This workshop will cover important concepts and misconceptions related to groundwater/surface-water interactions and the effects of pumping on streamflow. *Paul Barlow, U.S. Geological Survey*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Competing Visions for LA River “Revitalization”*

This workshop will explore how a maligned Los Angeles River became the focus of a \$1.6 billion urban restoration project, consider current competing visions of LA River “revitalization” and discuss the inherent opportunities and challenges of urban river restoration. We will then propose models of collaboration between advocacy groups that can bring holistic success for our communities and our rivers.

Melissa von Mayrhauser, Los Angeles Waterkeeper; Stephen Mejia-Carranza, Friends of the Los Angeles River

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Clean Water Act 101

A basic overview of the Clean Water Act, including water quality standards, NPDES permit, and enforcement. This workshop will focus on a basic understanding of the Clean Water Act's legal requirements and how to use the Clean Water Act to achieve clean water goals. *Gayle Killam, River Network*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

Green Infrastructure Community Jobs = Resiliency*

These workforce development programs employ post-high school youth of color in green infrastructure techniques. Modest-to-substantial, these “Fee-for-Service” operations install rain gardens and bioswales for institutional and private owners. Groundwork New Orleans, Groundwork Providence, and Verde Landscaping (Portland) provide sustainable jobs and improve climate resiliency in their communities. *Amelia Rose, Groundwork Providence; Alicia Neal, Groundwork New Orleans; Tony Defalco, Verde Landscaping*

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

West MI Rallies Around The Grand River*

A panel discussion illustrating the historical uses of the Grand River, showcasing the complexities of restoring an urban river, discussing the importance of partnerships in building community support, and exploring the environmental, economic, and social benefits associated with a revitalized Grand River system. Includes a walking tour with workshop presenters. *Matt Chapman, Grand Rapids Whitewater; Mark Van Putten, Wege Foundation; Jason Carey, River Restoration; Jay Steffen, City of Grand Rapids*

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Can a Drinking Water Crisis Awaken Transformation?*

“Never let a good crisis go to waste,” said Winston Churchill. Stories from Toledo, Ohio and Charleston, West Virginia will shed light on how massive drinking water crises can change the conversation with decision-makers, within organizations and affected communities. *Angie Rosser, West Virginia Rivers Coalition; Katie Rousseau, American Rivers; E. Michelle Mickens, Live 4 Change, LLC*

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Drinking Water 101*

Drinking water experts will walk you through the basics of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)—from discussing types of contaminants water systems must limit to source water assessments to what information must be shared with drinking water customers. Participants will leave this workshop with a better understanding of drinking water regulations and the role they can play in ensuring these regulations work in the real world. *Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action; Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action*

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Making Water Rates Affordable as Well as Efficient*

Is your community suffering from water rate shock? Are water rates no longer affordable? This workshop will showcase a tool to help local water suppliers recover needed revenue, promote water efficiency, and achieve affordability—all at the same time. *Mary Ann Dickinson, Alliance for Water Efficiency and River Network Board; Janice Beecher, Institute of Public Utilities; Bill Christiansen, Alliance for Water Efficiency*

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Safe and Reliable Drinking Water? Consider the Source!*

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore how to be pro-active about protecting drinking water sources in their own communities to help prevent challenges from becoming crises. Learn about existing and emerging threats to drinking water, tools and resources available to prioritize potential threats, and how to develop an action plan to ensure drinking water sources in your watershed are adequately protected.

Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action; Karen Wirth, Environmental Protection Agency; Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Collaborative Approaches in Stormwater Management

Municipalities in West Michigan have developed collaborative approaches to comply with NPDES Stormwater regulations. Participants in this workshop will learn how to apply some of these innovative educational, operational, and evaluative techniques into their own programs and effectively communicate opportunities for involvement and measures of success. *Bonnie Broadwater, Grand Valley Metro Council; Aaron Vis, City of Wyoming*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

The Path to a Water-Friendly 2018 Farm Bill

This workshop will give an overview of opportunities for groups to engage in the next Farm Bill debate to protect funding for conservation programs and to advocate for water quality provisions within the 2018 Farm Bill. *Aviva Glaser, National Wildlife Federation; Carol Hays, Prairie Rivers Network*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

Freeing Your River: Planning for Dam Removal

Dam removal has proven to be one of the fastest, most effective methods for restoring river function. This immersive learning experience employs discussion, inquiry, and real-life problem solving activities to ensure participants understand the components of appropriately designing and scoping a successful, constructible dam removal project. *Serena McClain, American Rivers; Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, American Rivers*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

WORKSHOPS WEDNESDAY May 10, 2017

River Cleanups: Connect Communities to Waterways

River cleanups are a proven tool for educating and engaging communities about the importance of waterways. During this session, nonprofit and private sector leaders will share practical advice about how organizations can maximize volunteer river cleanups to address trash and build a powerful constituency to support river conservation and recreation. *Lowell George, American Rivers; George Gehrig, Red River Cleanup; Lisa Cochran, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Grand River Rainscaping and Experiential Learning

The Grand River Rainscaping Program is focused on identifying and eliminating barriers that individuals face in installing green infrastructure. Attendees will learn how to establish successful regional partnerships, conduct public outreach in developing regional programming, and engage schools, churches, neighborhood associations, business, and communities in experiential learning using green infrastructure. *Wendy Ogilvie, Grand Valley Metro Council; Michael Staal, City of Grand Rapids*
Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Growing Your River Organization 101

You want to grow your organization ... but what are reasonable expectations, and which things should you do first? For 13 years, River Network has surveyed organizations on their growth and the best practices that lead to it. The survey data provides guidelines and corroborates the best practices behind it. You'll choose guidelines for your own organization, and also try out River Network's assessment of organizational health. *Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Mary Ellen Olcese, River Network*
Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Neighbor to Neighbor: Building a Movement for GI and Ecological Restoration*

Learn about two approaches in Pittsburgh, PA and Milwaukee, WI that are exploring tactics to engage, educate, and empower residents and community leaders to serve as advocates for green stormwater infrastructure. Hear from a governmental agency and small non-profit that both formed strong partnerships and networks to achieve related outcomes. *Michael Hiller, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association; Kate Morgan, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Sara Madden, StormWorks; Pam Ritger, Clean Wisconsin*
Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Growing Sustainable Water Solutions

The workshop will highlight the work of the "Growing Sustainable Water Solutions" project in Detroit, MI. Join project partners from Keep Growing Detroit, Friends of the Rouge, and Sierra Club to learn how a creative combination of interventions ranging from the 'Rain Gardens to the Rescue' program and construction of water collection and irrigation systems to green infrastructure tours and excursions has helped reach new and broader grass roots audiences, incorporate economic development, and strengthen connections between the related issues of food, water and the environment. *Ashley Atkinson, Keep Growing Detroit*
Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Water (Un)Affordability*

Participants will gain an understanding of how water systems, economic equity, and racial justice interrelate. The We the People of Detroit youth interns will facilitate an interactive dialogue around water affordability and power while sharing what they've learned about Detroit's mass water shutoff policy. *Julia Cuneo, We the People of Detroit; Jada Patrick; Jamir Asberry; Teasha Jones*
Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability



Conserving & Protecting Water with a Rain Barrel Program

Rainwater harvesting is an easy, low-cost way for residents to conserve and improve water quality in your watershed. Learn about the creation, management, and evolution of the Galveston Bay Foundation's successful Rain Barrel Program and how you can implement a similar program in your community with supplies and support from River Network's National Rain Barrel Program. *Kaitlin Grable, Galveston Bay Foundation; Alice Srinivasan, River Network*
Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

Nutrient Pollution=Toxic Water and Dead Zones

Nutrient pollution has already severely affected waters across the country including Midwest rivers and lakes, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Climate change is expected to make algal blooms much worse. Learn about what is happening in the Great Lakes region and other places and what you can do about it. *Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates; Molly Flanagan, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Matt Rota, Gulf Restoration Network*
Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

FIELD TRIPS

On Wednesday afternoon, we'll put away our pens and papers, laptops and phones, and head out to explore Grand Rapids and beyond. Don't forget to sign up for one of these field trips when you register—spaces are limited and book up quickly.

- Gillette Sand Dune Visitor Center
- Muskegon Lake Restoration Projects
- Water Conservation & Sustainability in Brewing Tour
- From Fairways & Farms to Floodplains
- Native Plant Propagation for Plaster Creek
- Trout, Bugs & Brews
- Green Infrastructure Tour of Grand Rapids
- Paddle Trips on the Grand River
- Explore & Help Clean Lake Michigan
- Garlic Mustard Pull in Eastmanville Bayou



Photo credit: Jorie Emory, Paddler River Rally 2016;
 Alice Srinivasan, Drainage pipe in Africatown



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Healthy Watersheds, Wetland Restoration Successes

This session will be an update on Office Water Oceans Watersheds (OWOW) restoration tools and also be an opportunity for input from attendees on OWOW's various programs and tools that OWOW currently supports for protection and restoration of aquatic resources. We will have state and local representatives sharing success stories and effective approaches to watershed restoration. The panelist will discuss intergovernmental relationships and community involvement as well as tools that work to restore watershed functions. The focus will be more on voluntary programs and state grant programs that contain a community involvement element and less of an emphasize on regulatory programs. *Rebecca Dils, US EPA Office of Wetland Oceans and Watersheds*

Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Wild and Scenic Rivers 50th Anniversary Outreach

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 50th Anniversary provides a milestone to leverage awareness about protected rivers and provide tools to support the system inaugurated by this landmark legislation. Eight national river organizations and agencies will host an opportunity for you to help you bring support for your river!

Lisa Ronald, Wild and Scenic Rivers; Joan Harn, National Park Service; Stephen M. Chesterton, US Forest Service; Cathi Bailey, Bureau of Land Management; Jennifer Reed, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Tools that Engage Communities to Protect Wild and Scenic Rivers

We will discuss tools that organizations can use to engage diverse groups of stakeholders to achieve administrative and/or legislative protections for their rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including toolkits, grassroots campaigns, recreation planning, and new initiatives being rolled out for the 50th Anniversary of the Act. *Michael Fiebig, American Rivers; Wendy McDermott, American Rivers; David Moryc, American Rivers; Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service, RTCA*

Theme: Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation

Fundraising That Matters: Getting Started with Major Gift Development

Sustainable organizations should be continually engaged in individual giving strategies; yet grants, events, and membership often seem more urgent. As a result, major gift fundraising is often left undone. Fundraising expert David Allen will present a workshop on major gifts, covering motivations behind giving decisions, how to find prospects and plan cultivation activities, and the differing roles of staff and Board. For staff and Board at all levels of fundraising experience. *David Allen, Development for Conservation*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Transitions: Building Your Leadership Bench

How are you building your leadership "bench"? What is your plan for inevitable leadership changes? Join this interactive session to assess your organization's readiness for leadership transitions, engage in applied discussions about how to build internal leadership and systems to support leadership transitions. You will leave with next steps to advance your organization's approach to leadership transitions and support your organization's long-term effectiveness.

Cheryl Glaeser, Institute for Conservation Leadership; Carol Hamilton, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Growing Your Organization through Civic Engagement

The Compact Implementation Coalition helped garner more than 11,200 public comments to the governing body, of which 98.5% were explicitly opposed to Waukesha, Wisconsin's request to diversion Great Lakes water. So how did we do it and what did all of our individual organizations gain from the work? *Abby Kuranz, Milwaukee Riverkeeper; Amanda Wegner, Amanda Wegner Communications*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

A Changing Landscape: Engaging New Constituencies*

Organizations can achieve greater impact and relevancy by engaging a diversity of constituencies. Join this interactive session to clarify the "why" behind our need for engagement and the "how" of engaging new constituencies. Explore how diversity, equity, and inclusion frameworks inform our efforts and leave with next steps for increasing your engagement strategies. *Cheryl Glaeser, Institute for Conservation Leadership; Carol Hamilton, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Extreme Social Media Makeover: Nonprofit Edition!

We'll show you 25+ killer tools to get tons of online traffic and revenue for your nonprofit. Learn to create compelling content, eye-catching headlines, post your content to blogs, social media, and websites, tweet about it, Facebook, develop irresistible free offers, create landing pages for people to sign up for those offers, use search engines to boost traffic, and more! *Allan Pressel, PowerSite123*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Riverkeeping as Equitable Development*

Are you an urban waters riverkeeper whose constituency wants to reclaim waterfront land for community benefit? Join us to learn the basics of: land use law and property ownership; policies that contribute to land vacancy/abandonment; and tools/approaches required for kick-starting and sustaining equitable riverfront brownfield/vacant land transformation projects. *Kate O'Brien, Groundwork USA*

Theme: Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact

Identifying Hydrologically Altered Waters

Hydrologic alteration can have significant impacts on aquatic life, recreation, cultural resources and drinking water. In 2015, EPA issued Clean Water Act Integrated Reporting Guidance to states and tribes for reporting hydrologically impaired waters. This workshop will explain the guidance and provide approaches for identifying, documenting and improving hydrologically altered waters. *Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers; Katherine Baer, River Network*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Protecting Freshwater Inflows Through Cooperation

This workshop will focus on techniques participants can use to build statewide partnerships to address issues of freshwater conservation. Using the Texas Living Waters project as a case study, presenters will highlight how collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts can successfully advocate for freshwater conservation in highly urbanized communities. *Paula Paciorek, The Galveston Bay Foundation*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Model My Watershed Data Analysis & Modeling

Model My Watershed (MMW) is a modeling Web app for citizens, conservation practitioners, municipal decision-makers, educators, and students. MMW includes real land use and soil data, models of stormwater runoff and water-quality impacts, and compares impact of conservation and development scenarios. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops, some are provided. *Steve Kerlin, Stroud Water Research Center; Dave Arscott, Stroud Water Research Center*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Wetland Jewels: Promoting Climate Resiliency

The Wetland Jewels Campaign utilizes wetland mapping, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy to identify and protect priority wetland resources. Learn how to use GIS wetland data, story maps, and advocacy in planning processes such as National Forest Plan Revisions to protect the crown jewels of your watershed. *Rachel Conn, Amigos Bravos; Andy Robertson, Geospatial Services—St. Marys University of Minnesota; Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, Western Environmental Law Center*

Theme: Protecting and Restoring Flows

Equitable Urban Planning for Resilient Communities*

Everyone desires a safe and healthy environment, but low-income communities often lack the tools and resources to achieve this vision. This workshop explores how 'outsiders' can synergize with community-based efforts to strengthen neighborhood climate resiliency, restore local streams, and improve quality of life for disadvantaged communities.

Jeremy Diner, American Rivers; Dr. Yomi Noibi, Environmental Community Action (ECO Action); Jason Dozier, Turner Field Community Benefits Coalition

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

One Way Out

CRWA has developed an approach to and engineering for the complete transformation of municipal water infrastructure that is both financially desirable and environmentally restorative. Learn how to transform your city or town. *Bob Zimmerman, Charles River Watershed Association*

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Science and Advocacy in Physical River Restoration

Learn how to participate effectively in physical stream "restoration" planning and design discussions. Background information on fluvial geomorphology will be presented and participants will walk away with specific tools for ensuring that projects are properly designed and account for impacts of changing hydrology due to urbanization and climate change. *Beth Wentzel, Inter-Fluve, Inc; Elliot Brinkman, Prairie Rivers Network*

Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Leveraging Local Knowledge for Community Change*

This session will describe a successful community-university partnership in Northwest Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed in which watershed residents and academic researchers leveraged local, community knowledge, citizen science methods, and digital mapping tools to document watershed and quality of life stressors, improve environmental problem-solving, and address health disparities in the watershed.

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc.; Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc.; Juanita Wallace, WAWA/Proctor Creek Stewardship Council; Donna Stephens, WAWA/Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Theme: Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency

Local Applications of Integrated Water Management*

This workshop is an introduction to Integrated Water Management that describes how stormwater, wastewater and drinking water management can be combined. It also looks at the necessary role utilities, cities and community-based groups play in achieving this goal through the lens of efforts in Milwaukee, WI. *Gary Belan, American Rivers; Lynn Broaduss, Broadview Collaborative, Inc. and River Network Board; Ann Brummitt, Milwaukee Water Commons*

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Technology to Advance Your Water Strategy & Goals*

"Exciting technology to advance your water policy, advocacy, monitoring goals." Led by The Pisces Foundation, the session will feature EPA online reports of waters most at risk for HAB; Chesapeake Conservancy targeting tools for implementation effect/ efficiency; EWG explosive CAFO mapping tool/other drinking water activity. *Nancy Stoner, The Pisces Foundation; Craig Cox, Environmental Working Group; Cassandra Pallai, Chesapeake Conservancy; Dr. Blake Schaeffer, Office of Research and Development, EPA*

Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

The Flint River and the Drinking Water Crisis*

When Flint chose to switch its drinking water source to the Flint River, inadequate treatment coupled with terrible government oversight and an aged drinking water infrastructure led to the catastrophe that made national and international headlines. The river took on much of the blame, but we know that #itsnottheriver.

Rebecca Fedewa, Flint River Watershed Coalition
Theme: Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability

Reclaiming our Water Resources*

An interactive session about how organizing citizen groups can successfully combat the use—and misuse—of water resources by stakeholders across the food system with a concentrated focus on the "Citizen Suit" and the pitfalls to avoid so that your voice will be heard.

Stephanie Kupferman, Private Practise; Esther S. Trakinski
Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

Reducing Barriers to Effective Pollution Reporting*

Citizen pollution reporting is essential to maintaining healthy waterways. This workshop highlights GBAN, a pollution reporting tool that unites residents who witness pollution and authorities who can respond. Learn about the creation, maintenance, and promotion of GBAN and how to adopt similar tools for improved pollution reporting in your community. *Sarah Gossett, Galveston Bay Foundation*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

When the \$h!+ Hits the Water

Everybody poops. It has to go somewhere, and regretfully that is often a river. We will use the Gulf Restoration Network's Citizen's Guide to Sewage Pollution as a guide to explore types of treatment, how to analyze a sewage permit, and how to advocate for better treatment. *Matt Rota, Gulf Restoration Network*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

Dedelegation Petitions & Improving NPDES Programs

Two law firms will share lessons learned during the process of filing Dedelegation Petitions with the Environmental Protection Agency in an effort to catalyze positive change in broken state water pollution permitting programs. Presenters will also share related media, legal and strategic tools to make such Petitions more successful. *Jimmy Parra, Midwest Environmental Advocates; Paula Maccabee, Esq., Counsel for WaterLegacy, Just Change Law Offices*

Theme: Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water

REGISTRATION AND IMPORTANT DATES

Early January

River Rally Registration Opens

January 20, 2017

River Heroes Nominations Due

February 17, 2017

Scholarship Applications Due

April 7, 2017

*Early Bird Registration Ends
(Prices go up!)*

May 8–11, 2017

River Rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan!



Register online at
www.riverrally.org

A NOTE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

River Network offers a limited number of scholarships for those who need financial assistance to attend River Rally. On average, the scholarship awards are \$250 and are applied to help reduce registration fees, though we will do our best to ensure that every interested individual can join us in Grand Rapids. Generally, scholarships may not be used to cover field trips, transportation, lodging, extra meals or any other expenses. More information is available on our website. Be sure to apply for yours by the deadline: February 17, 2017 at 5:00pm PST.

STAY FOR THE FUN!

River Rally is more than just a conference.
We promise you three days of learning, inspiration, and fun!



WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

A River Rally favorite! Sponsored by South Yuba River Citizens League, join us for a selection of short films that combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore our rivers.

YOGA DOWNTOWN

Namaste! Early risers are invited to join us on Wednesday morning for some relaxation and rejuvenation.

OPEN MIC AND TALENT SHOW

Come one, come all—and bring your talents with you! Pack your instruments, best singing voice, or whatever else you need and get ready to show off!



...AND MORE!

BECOME A SPONSOR OR EXHIBITOR!

Sponsors and exhibitors play key roles in River Rally each year. Your commitment to work with us in support of strong river champions, clean water, and ample water is a smart investment in our shared future.

To learn more about these opportunities, please visit our [website](http://www.riverrally.org).



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