



river RALLY

education • inspiration • celebration

JUNE 4-7

2022

A PRODUCTION OF RIVER NETWORK

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connecting people • saving rivers

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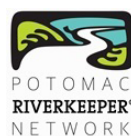
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AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 — Welcome to Rally

4:30 – 5:15pm	Welcome Reception <i>Appetizers Provided</i>
5:15 – 6:00pm	Opening Remarks
6:00 – 8:00pm	Dinner on Your Own
8:00 – 9:30pm	Trivia

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 — Dig Into Workshops

7:30-9:30am	Breakfast & Table Topics
9:30-11:00am	Workshop Block A
11:30am-12:15pm	Workshop Block B
12:30-2:00pm	Lunch & Plenary — Getting Unstuck: Stepping Into Power with Philanthropy
2:15-3:45pm	Workshop Block C
4:15-5:00pm	Workshop Block D
5:00-7:00pm	Dinner on Your Own
7:00-8:00pm	Wild & Scenic Film Program
8:00-9:30pm	Open Mic

MONDAY, JUNE 6 — Field Trips & Awards Celebration

7:00-9:00am	Breakfast Available
8:30-9:00am	Keynote — “We Choose Now” with Colette Pichon Battle
9:15-10:45am	Workshop Block E
11:00-11:45am	Workshop Block F
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch & Plenary — Doing Better: Climate, Water, and Equity at the Local Level
1:30-2:00pm	Meet Field Trip Groups
2:00-5:00pm	Field Trips
6:00-9:00pm	Awards Reception & Celebration <i>Dinner Provided</i>

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 — Workshops & Action Day Training

7:30-9:30am	Breakfast & Table Topics
9:30-11:00am	Workshop Block G
11:30am-12:15pm	Workshop Block H
12:30-2:00pm	Lunch & Closing Remarks
2:15-4:00pm	Action Day Training

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 — Action Day for Clean Water & Rivers 9:00am - 5:00pm

STAY UPDATED
#RiverRally2022

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rivernetwork.org/stay-informed



REGISTRATION INFO & IMPORTANT DATES

April 15

Deadline to book your hotel room at our discounted rate.

April 19

Emerging Leader announced.

May 3

Last day to register with mentoring and roommate opportunities

June 4-7

River Rally 2022, see you in DC!

LODGING

River Rally participants are responsible for booking their own lodging. A block of rooms is available at the Hilton for Rally attendees at a discounted conference rate of \$259 per night (plus tax). Registrants may make a reservation in ***the conference block online*** or call **(202) 393-1000** and tell the agent that you are with River Network's River Rally conference.

This block always sells out, so register early!

COVID-19 SAFETY

River Network will require that all attendees be fully vaccinated by June 4, 2022. Attendees should plan to show proof of vaccination and photo identification in exchange for a registration badge. We also require that all attendees wear well-fitting masks in indoor conference spaces. Compliance will be monitored by our team and all River Rally attendees to keep our community safe.

For our full COVID-19 safety policy, please visit our [website](#).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Awards Reception & Celebration

On the last night of River Rally, gather with attendees and guests to celebrate the achievements of the River Heroes, our fourth Emerging Leader, and, new this year, our first Legacy Award winner. Don't miss this special celebration of network leaders who inspire us all. Stick around after dinner for live music.

Trivia & Open Mic

Connect with fellow attendees at Trivia and Open Mic nights. Test your river and water trivia knowledge in a fun and friendly environment on Saturday night, and join us on Sunday night to share your passions at Open Mic, always a memorable night of music, poetry, stories, and humor.

Table Topics

On Sunday and Tuesday mornings, connect with peers over breakfast through dedicated table topics. We'll provide spaces for young professionals, environmental educators, folks who want to decolonize philanthropy, discuss the Clean Water Act and more. Do you have a topic in mind? Email media@rivernetwork.org

Rally First: A Vegetarian Menu

This year for the first time, all meals at River Rally will be vegetarian by default. This change to our typical River Rally menu comes in recognition of the carbon intensity of sourcing meat dishes. If you would like to request a meat option for any meals, you may do so through registration.

Mentoring

Mentoring is a treasured aspect of in-person River Rally, connecting people who have expertise in a specific area (fundraising, finance, litigation, strategic planning, community science, Wild & Scenic River designation, hydrology, etc.) with others who are looking for help and guidance related to that topic. Mentoring appointments are 1:1 meetings and typically 45-60 minutes. Sign up to be a mentor or mentee through registration.

An Intentional Schedule

We heard you: River Rally 2019, our last in-person Rally, was a whirlwind event with a packed schedule. This year, we've built in more and longer breaks in order to create more room to recharge, reconnect independently with old friends, and make new ones.

Quiet Room

We will have a dedicated quiet room within the hotel conference area. Use this space to recharge, answer a few emails, meditate, or otherwise have a quiet moment to yourself, away from the hubbub of the conference environment.

Pronouns

During registration we ask for your pronouns, and they will be printed on attendees' badges, unless you choose not to. Why do we do this? River Network is committed to fostering inclusion and promoting a sense of belonging through our internal structures and processes. We recognize that using an individual's correct personal pronouns is a way to show respect and foster an inclusive environment. Help us create and maintain a welcoming and respectful space for all at Rally by acknowledging the personal pronouns of all attendees. To learn more, please visit mypronouns.org.

River Rally is an interactive space for anyone interested in river and water issues to engage in a variety of topics. We recognize and honor the value of diverse perspectives and strive to create a safe place for all participants to connect, converse, and share their knowledge with each other. We do not, however, tolerate behavior that threatens, harasses, or otherwise jeopardizes this community and any individuals in it. Please share in our collective responsibility to create and hold a space for the benefit of all who attend River Rally.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

10TH ANNUAL URBAN WATERS LEARNING FORUM

SATURDAY JUNE 4, 8:30AM-12:00PM During the morning session, Darryl Haddock (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance) and Jennifer Arnold (Reciprocity Consulting, LLC) will facilitate an interactive, half-day workshop, **Disrupting Structural Racism: The Power and Possibilities of Intergenerational Work**. In this interactive session, we will build awareness about institutional and structural racism and develop skills and confidence to engage in dialogue about racism. We will focus on strategies and actions to disrupt structural racism, including an emphasis on intergenerational work and the new possibilities that are opened up when we invest in youth leadership. If all goes well with logistics during the COVID era, we hope to put words into practice and engage youth leaders in the session! *Pre-registration for this session is now full.*

SATURDAY JUNE 4, 1:30-4:30PM After a two-year hiatus, we are excited to welcome Urban Waters practitioners to the networking portion of the in-person Learning Forum. This afternoon session will offer facilitated networking opportunities to give attendees a chance to share their work, learn from one another, and engage in deeper discussions around a variety of topics related to urban waters, community revitalization, and water equity. We will also recognize stellar members of the network at the 6th Annual Urban Waters Learning Network Awards. Come celebrate with your colleagues!



SUPPORTING LEADERS OF COLOR AT RIVER RALLY

River Network is committed to building on its history in working with others by **embracing diversity, equity and inclusion** in all areas to achieve our mission. Through our programs, including River Rally, we seek to connect with all communities and increase the impact of their efforts to secure clean and ample water. The leaders of color network across the water community continues to grow each year, and with it so does River Network's commitment to supporting this community of water champions by fostering a safe space for connection and community-building through targeted workshops and social events. If you have questions regarding these opportunities, please send an email to riverrally@rivernetwork.org or find a River Network staff or board member onsite.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 6:00 - 8:00PM

Join us for **Collective Visioning for Leaders of Color**, a workshop focused on supporting leaders of color in their professional journey. This event is a dedicated space for those who identify as people of color and will include open-ended opportunities to reflect and connect with fellow leaders on their path within the water sector and beyond while building community with their peers.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 5:00 - 7:00PM

Join us for our annual **Leaders of Color Social Hour**! This event is a dedicated space for those who identify as people of color and is an opportunity to connect with our growing network of leaders of color in a fun and casual environment.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ACTION DAY FOR CLEAN WATER & RIVERS

JUNE 7, 2:15-4:00PM, TRAINING; JUNE 8, 9:00AM-5:00PM, MEETINGS

We're partnering with American Rivers and Waterkeeper Alliance to organize Action Day for Clean Water and Rivers on June 8, 2022, following River Rally. Action Day for Clean Water and Rivers is your opportunity to join with fellow advocates to meet with members of Congress and ask them to support policies that will ensure clean water and healthy rivers for all communities. The time is now to make our voices heard. With the administration and congressional leadership pledging to make progress on equity, justice, climate change, and economic recovery, we must continue to call on them to accelerate their investments and ensure access to clean, safe water and healthy rivers for all. Anyone who is passionate about clean water and healthy rivers is encouraged and welcome to participate. No experience necessary! Whether you have never spoken to a member of Congress, or you are a seasoned advocate, all are welcome.

The team from American Rivers, River Network, and Waterkeeper will work with you, and others from your state and congressional district, to schedule virtual or in-person meetings with your members of Congress and key committee staff on June 8. We will also provide a training session the afternoon of June 7 with materials, talking points, and current information on relevant legislation to help you prepare and confidently ask your members of Congress to do all they can to ensure clean water and healthy rivers for your community.

Participants may sign up to attend Action Day as part of the River Rally registration process.



**AMERICAN RIVERS | RIVER NETWORK
WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE**

Reservoir
CENTER FOR WATER SOLUTIONS

WELCOME RECEPTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 4:30-6:00PM Join us for beverages and appetizers, social time with old and new friends, and a dose of inspiration to launch your River Rally experience! Remarks by Representative Debbie Dingell (MI) and EPA's Radhika Fox, along with River Network leadership, will set the stage for a remarkable event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, where we stand today, and a future that is more equitable, resilient, and sustainable for our nation's waters, rivers, and communities. *Opening remarks from speakers begin at 5:15pm.*



REP. DEBBIE
DINGELL (MI)

REP. DEBBIE DINGELL (MI) represents Michigan's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and serves in House Leadership as a Co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, where she leads on critical issues including affordable and accessible health care, clean energy and water, domestic manufacturing and supply chain resilience, and protecting our wildlife and natural resources. Growing up in beautiful Michigan, Dingell, who chairs the Great Lakes Task Force, has always been an advocate for the outdoors and commits her work in Congress to protecting the environment for generations. She plays a major role in leading the fight against PFAS contamination, spearheading the PFAS Action Act with Republican colleague Rep. Fred Upton. Dingell is focused on bringing people together – in Congress and in her communities.



RADHIKA FOX

RADHIKA FOX is the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. The Office of Water works to ensure that drinking water is safe, wastewater is safely returned to the environment, and surface waters are properly managed and protected. Prior to joining EPA, Radhika served as Chief Executive Officer for the U.S. Water Alliance, Director for policy and government affairs for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Federal Policy Director at PolicyLink. Radhika has used her 20+ years of experience to address the most salient water issues facing the nation—including climate change, affordability, equity, governance, innovative finance, and the evolution of the One Water movement. Radhika holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.



NICOLE SILK

NICOLE SILK is President of River Network. Understanding how people relate to water and what water needs to remain healthy has been a central tenet of Nicole's professional career for more than 25 years. She believes strongly in the role of local champions and river enthusiasts in creating a future of clean and ample water for people and nature. As President of River Network, she is responsible for guiding River Network toward its mission in collaboration with staff and board members, engaging supporters and partners, expanding River Network's reputation and public image, motivating staff, and other duties.

Prior to joining the staff at River Network, Nicole worked at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for 19 years. While at TNC, she served as Managing Director of The Nature Conservancy's Global Freshwater Team, guiding a team of technical experts, helping projects articulate new strategies and solutions, providing budgetary oversight, and expanding organizational capacity and influence across the US and around the world. She also held roles related to knowledge development, conservation planning, stewardship, and public policy. Before TNC, Nicole worked on law and policy aspects of conservation in the US and Costa Rica and as a professional river guide leading adventures around the world. She has convened more than 30 conferences and international summits, delivered 40 virtual learning events on freshwater topics, and pioneered new websites, social networks, national campaigns, and online communities to advance faster progress toward healthy rivers. She holds a J.D. from the University of California, Davis and a B.A. in economics and ecology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



JUMANA VASI

JUMANA VASI is River Network board chair and the principal at Jvasi Consulting, where she advises nonprofit clients on environmental advocacy strategies, building organizational capacity, and implementing equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. She is also currently advising two environmental justice networks working to increase resources for the grassroots and solve environmental problems in ways that also reduce racial and economic injustices.

Jumana previously worked for eight years as a program officer in the C. S. Mott Foundation's Environment Program. In response to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Jumana developed a new grantmaking area to help communities deliver safe, affordable, and efficient water services to all residents. Jumana's professional experience also includes working at two community-based organizations in Chicago and assisting on environmental justice projects at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration. Jumana currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Grantmakers Association and is a trustee of the Americana Foundation.



MONDAY, JUNE 6, 8:30-9:00AM KEYNOTE: “WE CHOOSE NOW”

KEYNOTE SPEAKER COLETTE PICHON BATTLE is a generational native of Bayou Liberty, Louisiana. As founder and Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy (GCCLP), she develops programming focused on equitable disaster recovery, global migration, community economic development, climate justice, and energy democracy.

Colette worked with local communities, national funders, and elected officials in the post-Katrina and post-Deepwater Horizon disaster recovery. She was a lead coordinator for Gulf South Rising 2015, a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South. In 2015 Colette was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow, in 2016 she was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity, and in 2018 Kenyon College awarded her an Honorary Doctorate. In 2019, Colette was named an Obama Fellow for her work with Black and Native communities on the frontline of climate change and she gave a TED Talk, “Climate change will displace millions. Here’s how we prepare.” In 2021, Colette was appointed a Margaret Burroughs Community Fellow. In addition to developing advocacy initiatives that intersect with race, systems of power, and ecology, Colette directs GCCLP’s legal services in immigration and disaster law.

Under Colette’s leadership, the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy serves on the governance council of the Southern Movement Assembly, co-chairs the national Water Equity and Climate Resilient Caucus with PolicyLink, serves on the steering committee of the Ocean Justice Forum, and anchors the 5-state, multi-issue initiative Gulf South for a Green New Deal. Colette was the lead architect of the 13-state Southern Communities for Green New Deal with the Southeast Climate & Energy Network and the Red, Black & Green New Deal, the national climate initiative for the Movement for Black Lives.

Colette chairs the Equity Advisory Group of the Louisiana Governor’s Climate Initiative Task Force, advises the Kataly Foundation’s Environmental Justice Resourcing Collective, serves on the boards of the US Climate Action Network, Center for Constitutional Rights, Highlander Research Education Center, and Healthy Gulf, is a member of the Movement for Black Lives policy table leadership team and the Resilience Roadmap project steering committee.



**COLETTE PICHON
BATTLE**

PLENARY PANELS

SUNDAY PLENARY: GETTING UNSTUCK - STEPPING INTO POWER WITH PHILANTHROPY **JUNE 5, 12:30-2:00PM**

Most of us struggle to adequately resource our dreams, including those that connect equity to water, people to rivers, and safety to our communities. One approach to getting unstuck is to rethink our relationship to wealth and community. Panelists will share inspiring stories about novel approaches that both democratize philanthropy from the ground up and use trust as a vehicle for shifting power. You don't want to miss this panel!



RONDA CHAPMAN

(MODERATOR) RONDA CHAPMAN is Equity Director at The Trust for Public Land where she works to bring parks and nature to the places, people, and communities that can most benefit as a matter of health, equity, and justice. She has spent two decades leading efforts on climate resilience, water infrastructure and equity, renewable energy, and waste management for municipal, higher education, and nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining The Trust for Public Land, Ronda served as a senior associate for PolicyLink, where she was responsible for building out and integrating the organization's national water equity and climate resilience portfolios in close concert with frontline organizers, community-based organizations, and conservation organizations. She also served as commissioner for the Commission on Climate Change and Resilience for the District of Columbia and as the executive director for Groundwork DC. As a skilled facilitator, Ronda derives great joy convening leaders who are committed to the possibilities of equitable communities rooted in healing. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Ronda enjoys recreating outside whenever possible.



TYESHIA WILSON

TYESHIA "TY" WILSON is Director of Engagement at Philanthropy Together and a spirited entrepreneur, philanthropist, and social good advocate with 15+ years of experience as a relationship manager. In 2018, she founded the Social Giving Experience, a social impact consulting agency that specializes in strategic engagement, philanthropy and events to drive social change. Always focused on innovative ways to engage communities, Tyeshia adds her expertise in community engagement, nonprofit management, fund development, event/strategic planning, and training/development to the Philanthropy Together team. Previously, she served the City of Dallas as the Manager of Community Engagement for the Department of Aviation where she established a new community engagement division for the City's airports, and also served as the Assistant to the City Manager and Chief of Staff where she led initiatives to advance the City's strategic priorities. Tyeshia is passionate about people and service. She serves as a member of several civic organizations including the HERitage Giving Fund, one of the first African-American giving circles in Texas that serves Black-led nonprofits serving Black women and girls. She holds a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington and a M.S. in Public Leadership with a concentration in Nonprofit and Community Leadership from the University of North Texas at Dallas. When she is not serving others or attending social events, you can find her taking quick staycations with her husband, Jarred of 10 years or crafting with her five beautiful children.



ARTHUR JOHNSON

ARTHUR JOHNSON is Chief Executive Director at Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED). Arthur was born in the Nation's Capital, but his roots are in New Orleans and date back to visits with his grandmother who lived in the Lower Ninth Ward on Forstall Street. He relocated to New Orleans in 1999 where he has established himself as an accomplished fundraising professional and non-profit leader with a number of educational institutions and organizations. Founded in 2006, he is now Chief Executive Director of the Lower 9th Ward CSED which focuses on coastal rehabilitation, greening the built environment and increasing food security by lifting up and strategically reinforcing community-driven goals to create an economically, culturally and environmentally sustainable Lower 9th Ward. The organization's work includes, but is not limited to, aiding homeowners with energy-saving improvements, providing access to low-cost materials, helping residents clean, restore and paint their houses, reducing blight in the neighborhood, building rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff and providing information on creating a safe, independent and more resilient community for the future.



TERESA DAVIS

TERESA DAVIS is Director of Government Affairs and Community Engagement at Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience (CEER), and an altruistic and creative individual who for many years, has demonstrated her passion for ameliorating the lives of others, by way of her professional work experience in the legal field and her on-going volunteerism. Her graduate studies at Eastern Michigan University, in Educational Psychology, opened the door to research that would later prove efficacious, for creating change among the at-risk and under-served populations. In 2018, Teresa successfully led a crisis counseling team, throughout Southeast Texas, overseeing nine counties, working closely with both state and federal stakeholders, in response to Harvey hurricane, focused on advocacy, community engagement, resiliency, and restoration. Teresa is also a visionary and has been honored and privileged to help build over five start-up organizations & programs. Teresa has spiritual insight and practices living everyday with purpose. Teresa enjoys composing music, producing & directing short film narratives, travelling, and cooking. Teresa is also known for being adventurous and willing to explore new ideas and opportunities.

PLENARY PANELS

MONDAY PLENARY: DOING BETTER - CLIMATE, WATER, AND EQUITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL *JUNE 6, 12:00-2:00PM*

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix pipes and plumbing and build better infrastructure that delivers clean water, protection from flooding, and climate resiliency in an equitable and just manner. Panelists will explore how we avoid the mistakes of the past, how to ensure equitable and sustainable water outcomes, and how you can engage to influence investment near you.



**ALLISON HARVEY
TURNER**

(MODERATOR) **ALLISON HARVEY TURNER** serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Water Foundation. She oversees the foundation's strategy, operations, and grantmaking and leads the staff in pursuing our mission to secure clean, reliable water for people and nature. As CEO, Allison supports philanthropy's ability to convene, experiment with new ideas, and scale investment in transformative water solutions. Since 2011, the Water Foundation has granted more than \$50 million to organizations and coalitions to support safe, clean water for people, restored freshwater ecosystems, and climate resilience. To complement its grantmaking and build a broader constituency for water solutions, the Water Foundation also serves as a convener, field builder, and campaign strategist. Previously, Allison was the Environment Program Director at the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation.



**JONATHAN
NELSON**

JONATHAN NELSON is a Senior Advisor for Technical Assistance and Community Engagement to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Assistant Administrator Radhika Fox. The Office of Water works to ensure that drinking water is safe, wastewater is safely returned to the environment, and surface waters are properly managed and protected. Prior to joining EPA, Jonathan served as the Policy Director for the Community Water Center. He is a nationally recognized expert on strategies to secure access to safe and affordable drinking water for underserved communities, building resilient drinking water institutions, and growing trust and partnership with frontline community water leaders.



**REP. MELANIE
STANSBURY (NM)**

REP. MELANIE STANSBURY (NM) Born and raised in New Mexico, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury leads with determination and compassion. She has dedicated her career to finding solutions to water issues, poverty, and climate change — representing New Mexico in the Legislature and now in Congress. She is a champion of efforts to address hunger, food, and water insecurity, conservation and climate change, and economic development and recovery. Stansbury worked in communities across the state as a STEM educator, researcher on land and water issues, and served as a former staffer in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the White House Office of Management and Budget. As the Congresswoman from New Mexico's 1st Congressional District, she is working hard to lift up the voices of our communities and tackle our biggest challenges—from economic development, to food and water security, to climate change.

WORKSHOP TRACKS & THEMES

Climate-Resilient Communities

Explore how waterways can be drivers of the social vitality and economic future of cities and communities and how communities can become less vulnerable to the impacts of floods, droughts, and extreme heat. Share lessons for ensuring more equitable restoration and recovery and bridging urban and rural landscapes and perspectives.

Drinking Water

Expand your understanding of the challenges facing our drinking water from source to tap. Learn more about the issues face by water utilities seeking to upgrade their infrastructure and ensure affordable access, how to use law and policy to address harmful contaminants in drinking water, and what it means to chart an equitable path toward clean, safe, affordable and sustainable drinking water for all.

Policy & Advocacy

Grow your familiarity with the water laws and policies that protect your local drinking water, rivers and streams; get up to speed on new and emerging local, state, and federal laws and policies that could strengthen protections for your waterways; learn how engagement in water policy can help you advocate for your community; and discover ways to encourage and empower activism and demand accountability.

Science & Climate

Learn how community members are collecting and analyzing data to understand the overall health of our rivers and streams, how climate change impacts like flooding and drought are impacting our rivers and communities, how the latest tools and technologies can help us plan for a more resilient future; and discover opportunities to leverage what we're learning for bigger impact locally, regionally, and nationally.

Strong Organizations & Leaders

Access new ideas to transform your organization; define and reach your professional goals; inspire your staff, colleagues, volunteers, and board members; center equity, diversity, and inclusion in your work and life; expand your storytelling and fundraising skills; and step into leadership in the ways that feel right for you.

Water & Agriculture

Learn strategies that allow agriculture and healthy rivers to exist side by side, what's possible in collaboration with farmers and ranchers for clean water and healthy rivers, the connection to soil health and crop diversification, challenges of equity and justice in rural America, and examples of communities that have stood up against bad actors.

WORKSHOP THEMES

This year's themes identify workshops that address universal topics that may be present in any of the River Rally tracks listed above and to the right.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

River Network seeks to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and in the work of organizations across the network. Workshops that intersect water and equity, diversity, inclusion, or climate justice are noted with a ● next to their titles.

The Clean Water Act

River Rally 2022 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which became law in 1972. Workshops that touch on the landmark policy that aims to make all US waters fishable, swimmable, and drinkable; or showcase successful use and implementation of the Act are noted with a 📖 next to their titles.

Mid-Atlantic Region

Workshops that address the waterways and unique economic, social, and environmental characteristics of the Mid-Atlantic region from the Delaware to the James are noted with a 🦀 next to their titles.

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 WORKSHOP BLOCK A, 9:30–11:00AM

How Green Infrastructure Parks Promote Climate-Resilient Communities ●

In 2010 Park Pride engaged community members to complete the PNA study. It provided a comprehensive assessment of the Proctor Creek Watershed Basin on Atlanta's Westside and proposed a series of greenspace improvements and new parks. Now many of the parks in the study have been completed. Members of the partnership will share stories on the engagement, planning, and implementation of these parks.
Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Association; Susan Rutherford, City of Atlanta Dept. of Watershed Management; Shannon Lee, The Conservation Fund
Climate-Resilient Communities

Using the Funding Integration Tool for Source Water to Protect Metropolis' Source Water 📄

EPA Office of Water's Source Water Protection (SWP) team demonstrates how the Funding Integration Tool for Source Water (FITS) identifies federal funds available to protect source water. Bring a laptop so that you can use FITS to address funding and SWP planning needs of a fictional city: Metropolis.
Kara Goodwin, US Environmental Protection Agency
Drinking Water

Supercharging a New Generation of CWA Advocates to Address 21st Century Challenges ● 📄 🦀

Floods, drought, emerging contaminants, and decades of legacy pollutants are impacting already-vulnerable communities the most. We need to tap into the coalitions that are daylighting injustice, addressing climate change, and reducing public health threats to invoke the power of the Clean Water Act.
Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways; Ellen Kohler, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; Colleen Walters, River Network
Policy & Advocacy

EPA Data & Tools for Characterizing Your Watershed ● 📄 🦀

Let's apply EPA's EJSCREEN environmental justice screening tool and the tools How's My Waterway, the Water Quality Exchange, and ATTAINS. We will run reports, look at data, and find environmental and demographic information to characterize your watershed and expand community engagement.
Adrienne Donaghue, Kim Balassiano, and Cyd Curtis, US Environmental Protection Agency
Science & Climate

Lights! Camera! Action! Let's Make a Video ●

In this highly interactive, hands-on workshop, we will brainstorm, shoot, and edit a brief video—from start to finish—that focuses on connecting diverse audiences to water conservation. Content includes tips on staging, directing, recording, lighting, and being comfortable in front of the camera.
Brandon Hayes and Patrick Williams, Bold Bison Communications and Consulting
Strong Organizations & Leaders

How the Farm Bill Can Support Healthy Rivers, Clean Water, and Equity in Agricultural Landscapes ● 🦀

This session will give attendees a better understanding of the funding and programs in the Farm Bill that can be used to support healthy rivers, clean water, and equity. Attendees will also learn how this funding can be leveraged to build capacity and partnerships and implement multi-benefit projects.
Erin Kanzig, River Network; Harry Huntley, EPIC; Craig Ficenec, Sand County Foundation; Craig Highfield, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; Lisa Garfield, Future Harvest: Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture
Water & Agriculture

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

WORKSHOP BLOCK B

11:30AM–12:15PM

Building Equitable & Resilient Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities ● 🦀

Equitable, resilient water infrastructure builds sustainable communities. Participants will learn to influence such investments through WaterNow's Water Equity and Climate Resilience for Frontline Communities Toolkit, River Network's Equitable Water Infrastructure Toolkit, and the joint Building Trust Between Community Organizations & Water Utilities report and case studies.

Katherine Baer, River Network; Caroline Koch & Amy Weinfurter, WaterNow Alliance

Climate-Resilient Communities

Collaborating to Use Clean Water Act Programs to Protect Drinking Water Sources ● 📄

We need to energize Clean Water Act programs to meet its visionary water pollution goals. Learn how Source Water Collaborative members have worked together to keep pollution out of drinking water sources and about tools that can help you challenge pollution at the local, state and federal levels.

Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

Drinking Water

Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed from PFAS "Forever Chemicals" ● 📄

In this interactive workshop participants will learn about the Clean Water Act tools that states can—and should—be using to protect water from per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Leave this workshop with a game plan for how to engage with your state to take action on PFAS.

Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund

Policy & Advocacy



Evaluating Which Native Species Are Best to Include in Green Infrastructure Plantings ●

We have been evaluating native perennials and trees for their relative contributions to green infrastructure projects. By quantifying survivorship, performance, and transpiration rates we are developing an all-star list of species that provide ecosystem services in novel, highly-modified habitats.

Ana Singh and David Warners, Plaster Creek Stewards

Science & Climate

Board Practices for the 21st Century

In this facilitated workshop, organizations can share some of the toughest Board issues you've faced, success stories others can emulate, and brainstorm opportunities to make your Boards effective partners in issues like fundraising, issue advisors and more.

River Network Strong Organizations & Leaders Staff

Strong Organizations & Leaders

All Change Is Local ● 📄

Advocacy before policy makers, and elected officials is often accomplished in under 3 minutes. Learn how to edit your advocacy on the fly, convey your message, and open the door to communication.

Michele Colopy, LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.

Water & Agriculture

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 WORKSHOP BLOCK C 2:15–3:45PM

Defining Green Gentrification Through Displacement and Equity ●

The Urban Waters Learning Network Equitable Development Collaborative will draw the connection between gentrification, displacement and environmental revitalization. The workshop will provide examples of strategies and intersectional partnerships that combat displacement.

Arthur Johnson (Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development), Elizabeth Balladares (Hudson River Foundation), Gloria McNair (Groundwork Jacksonville), Maria de Jesus (Ironbound Community Corporation), and Renée Mazurek (River Network)

Climate-Resilient Communities

Upgrades to the Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Water (DWMAPS) ●

EPA Office of Water's Source Water Protection (SWP) team demonstrates the many functionalities of DWMAPS and highlights newly added spatial layers resulting from collaboration with other EPA programs. Participants will identify potential sources of contamination and SWP partners in their local area.

Terrell Tiendrebeogo, US Environmental Protection Agency

Drinking Water

Addressing PFAS in the Huron River Watershed: A Case Study for Regional Watershed Protection ●

PFAS contaminates the Huron River of southeast Michigan. This session will discuss lessons learned by the Huron River Watershed Council and recommend advocacy priorities for river protection organizations as they address PFAS.

Daniel Brown, Huron River Watershed Council

Drinking Water

An Analysis of Current Water Infrastructure Financing in Pennsylvania ●

We will present our insights on how the Pennsylvania state financing programs are meeting the needs of water managers and seek to brainstorm how to facilitate extending the reach of the available financing programs to more Pennsylvania communities to address water management needs.

Erica DePalma and Alex Cartwright,

The Water Center at Penn

Drinking Water

Let's Talk About Clean Water Policies! ●

Get up-to-date federal water policy news, learn ways to engage, and share water policy developments happening in your states and communities – and hear about others too. We'll also have small group discussions to network and exchange ideas and tips on effective water policy development and advocacy.

Julian Gonzalez, EarthJustice; Kristine Oblock, Clean Water Network; April Ingle and Erin Kanzig, River Network; Charles Miller, 2021 Emerging Leader

Policy & Advocacy



Adapting Volunteer Monitoring to the Digital Universe ●

Tired of sifting through soaked, scribbled upon, wrinkled bits of paper to secure your vital data? This session will share how HRWC converted our volunteer monitoring programs to a digital platform, allowing our volunteers to collect data in the field with nothing but their own cell phones.

Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council

Science & Climate

Stronger Together: Connecting Communities to Science Through Inter-Organizational Collaboration ●

This workshop celebrates collaboration. Our commitment to collaborative work amplified the impact of community based water monitoring. Connecting people to science and to each other helps ensure that all water bodies have enough data to assess their health and for evidence-based decisions and actions.

Gabrielle Parent-Doliner, Water Rangers

Science & Climate

Storytelling & Resonance: Creating a Culture of Empathy and Support ●

Creating a culture of empathy and support is an important tool to combat isolation and individualism in our organizations and movements. Leave with a better understanding of the value of connecting through storytelling and resonance, and how use this in your work.

Megan Nguyen, Sunrise Movement

Strong Organizations & Leaders

Uncommon Collaboration: Tales & Techniques from Four Unlikely Water Partners ●

Professionals who work in the fields of conservation, agronomy, drinking water, and land frequently find themselves at odds. Four Iowa women have become unlikely partners in the struggle to improve water quality one field and stream at a time and discuss strategic watershed alliances.

Jennifer Terry, Des Moines Water Works; Mary Beth Stevenson, City of Cedar Rapids; Ruth McCabe, Heartland Co-op; Mollie Aronowitz, Peoples Land Management Company

Water & Agriculture

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 WORKSHOP BLOCK D 4:15-5:00PM

Litter Management Strategies and Solutions ●

In 2020, Keep America Beautiful conducted a US litter study that logged over 50 billion pieces of litter on the ground. Litter remains a prevalent issue to address in our fight for climate change, climate equity, and public health. Participants of this session will learn from folks on the ground about different approaches to managing litter in their communities, and solutions for removing, diverting and preventing litter from the source.

Karla Noboa, River Network; World

Without Waste Partners

Climate-Resilient Communities

Allocate State Revolving Funds to Enhance Equity ●

The workshop focuses on the steps local, state, and federal policymakers can take to ensure historically under-invested communities benefit from federal funding provided through the State Revolving Fund program. Reforms are necessary to ensure communities with the greatest need access these funds.

Katy Hansen, EPIC

Drinking Water



SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

Once in a Lifetime: Navigating Hydro Relicensing 🇺🇸

Hundreds of hydropower facilities will be re-licensed in the next several years. Join Connecticut River Conservancy's river stewards to learn how to navigate the regulatory process, and how you can advocate for more transparency, ecological health, and recreational access for your river.

Andrea Donlon and Kathy Urffer,

Connecticut River Conservancy

Policy & Advocacy

How Process and Partnerships Lead to Action: A Collaborative Assessment of Wild and Scenic Rivers 📋

Learn how the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council and Adventure Scientists are enabling volunteers to collect high quality samples across the WSR system, and how this data, and corresponding partnerships, will improve management decisions for this precious resource.

Lindsay Wancour, Adventure Scientists;

Steve Chesterton, US Forest Service

Science & Climate

Creating the Next Generation of Environmental and Social Justice Leaders at Anacostia High School ●

In 2019, Anacostia High School launched a redesign to train students as environmental and social justice leaders. Hear from DC Public Schools staff, students, DC Dept. of Energy & Environment, and Univ. of DC about this transformative project-based learning, career development and teacher training.

Katherine Antos, DC Department of Energy and Environment; Angela Benjamin, Anacostia New Tech High School; Patrick Gusman, University of the District of Columbia

Strong Organizations & Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder Modeling & Reporting for Climate Change & Water Quality ● 📋 🦀

If you plant trees along a stream but no one estimates the impact, did you improve water quality? FieldDoc is a prioritization and tracking tool developed for BMP installation on agricultural, urban, and reclaimed land. Learn how the tool has become vital to multi-stakeholder decision-making.

John Dawes, The Commons

Water & Agriculture



MONDAY WORKSHOPS

MONDAY, JUNE 6 WORKSHOP BLOCK E 9:15-10:45AM

Practicing Popular Education, Inclusion, and a Commitment to Material Change in CBPR ●

This interactive workshop will explore how to conduct CBPR shaped by popular education, prioritizing inclusion, and in tandem with timely material change towards climate justice. We'll share an example of such research by the Northeast Action Collective, then practice creating together. *Becky Selle, West Street Recovery; Doris Brown West Street Recovery / Northeast Action Collective*
[Climate-Resilient Communities](#)

Guaranteeing Access to Water: From Water Resources to Drinking Water ● 📄

Without a clear measure of success, many households will never achieve access to drinking water and others will lose access. During this workshop we will discuss defining "access" to water and sanitation and how our existing laws help and hurt our lasting achievement of access. *Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari, The Center for Water Security & Cooperation*
[Drinking Water](#)

Climate & Water in South Texas: How Science and Grassroots Organizing Will Save the Rio Grande ● 📄

Science and data in addition to building people power are crucial to driving social change. Come learn how river advocates in Laredo are forging water security and climate justice programs through coalition-building to drive critical outcomes designed to protect and restore the endangered Rio Grande. *Tricia Cortez and Martin Castro, Rio Grande International Study Center*
[Policy & Advocacy](#)

Dam Removal: Restoring the Rights of Rivers ● 🦀

An introduction to the practice of dam removal, how to prioritize projects and build necessary partnerships. We will explore the benefits of dam removal to nature and people in times of changing climate. How does dam removal honor the fundamental rights of a river to exist, thrive, and evolve? *Beth Styler Barry, The Nature Conservancy*
[Science & Climate](#)

What Our Volunteer Programs Learned from COVID ●

The pandemic changed volunteering - some programs ended, others transformed. Overall volunteer hours dropped (but only about 30%). We'll discuss our survey of how organizations adapted, what works now and how it differs with populations rural, urban, middle-class and disadvantaged. *Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Jason Frenzel Huron River Watershed Council*
[Strong Organizations & Leaders](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 6

WORKSHOP BLOCK F

11:00-11:45AM

Upstream Releaf: Developing Wholistic Conservation Initiatives

Pennsylvania's Riparian Forest Buffer initiative aims to improve waterways by accelerating the planting of streamside trees through broad partnerships. Presenters will review the aspects of this initiative and learn how to use a similar suite of strategies to address other conservation issues.

Vallie Edenbo, Kelly Rossiter, and Teddi Stark, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Climate-Resilient Communities

Assistance that Saves – Incorporating Water Efficiency Into Affordability Programs

Water utility customers may have high bills due to inefficient water fixtures or failing plumbing in older homes. This workshop will describe the experiences of utilities working with community partners to use their water conservation programs to help meet affordability challenges.

Veronica Blette, US Environmental Protection Agency; Karen Guz, San Antonio Water System

Drinking Water

Diverse Perspectives on the Clean Water Act's 50th Anniversary

Join the Clean Water for All Coalition on the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act to celebrate the progress made by one of the most comprehensive environmental laws and discuss what still needs to be done to ensure fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water for all.

Jenifer Collins, Clean Water for All

Policy & Advocacy

Water Data Collaborative: A Network of Community Scientists

The Water Data Collaborative's (WDC) "Mainstem Network" will serve as the centralized meeting point for community water science. With this network the WDC will offer a suite of services to organizations that will amplify the impact of their monitoring programs and the data they create.

Robbie O'Donnell, Water Data Collaborative;

John Dawes & Erin Hofmann, The Commons

Science & Climate

Lessons from Pandemic Fundraising

In this interactive workshop, we'll share some high-level lessons and data about pandemic fundraising and then pivot to practical examples from the workshop presenter and participants. If you can, please bring your laptop to add to a shared Google sheet that we'll co-create during the session.

Jonathan Poisner, Jonathan Poisner Strategic Consulting

Strong Organizations & Leaders

Attaining TMDL Goals Using the Partnership Wild and Scenic River Framework

A small watershed association, working over 20 years with partners, was able to attain fecal bacteria reductions that met TMDL goals on a tributary to the Musconetcong National Wild and Scenic River through partnerships and Microbial Source Tracking. Lessons learned will be shared.

Alan Hunt, Musconetcong Watershed Association;

Paul Kenney, National Park Service

Water & Agriculture

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 WORKSHOP BLOCK G 9:30-11:00AM

New Voices/Nueva Voces - Power Sharing for Climate Change Planning ●

The Woonasquatucket River Watershed in Rhode Island experiences flooding and urban heat island impacts due to climate change. We can do a lot to mitigate the effects of both but the frontline community members that experience the worst of these, have not always had a say in how. Until now. *Elder Gonzalez Trejo and Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council*
Climate-Resilient Communities

Cultivating Community-Based Leadership on Behalf of Our Common Waters ●

Milwaukee Water Commons' Water School is a model for fostering broad leadership on water issues. We will share successes, challenges and lessons learned. Attendees will explore opportunities to build deep partnerships that foster leadership and set priorities in their home communities. *Rhonda Nordstrom, Milwaukee Water Commons*
Climate-Resilient Communities

Cultural Competence: Engaging the Latin@ Community ●

Participants will be engaged in a lively discussion about how to better identify with and engage the Latin@ community; including topics like language access, cultural values, and barriers to participation. *Abel Olivo, Defensores de la Cuenca*
Climate-Resilient Communities

Investing Equitably in Water Infrastructure: Ensuring Equitable Allocation of State Revolving Funds ● 📄

Safe drinking water, healthy waterways, water affordability, and climate resilience all depend on investment in water infrastructure. Historic sums of federal funding are flowing through State Revolving Funds, but studies show these programs don't always deliver dollars to communities most in need. This session will demystify the rules that govern how this funding is allocated, using Wisconsin as a case study, and offer tools for advocates.

Anna-Lisa Castle, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Brenda Coley and Kristen Shead, Milwaukee Water Commons
Drinking Water

Stormwater Permits as a Tool for Protecting—and Restoring—Urban and Suburban Rivers 📄 🦀

In recent years, several mid-Atlantic states have used municipal stormwater permits to begin to restore water quality. Using Pennsylvania's program as an example, this session will explore highlights, challenges, and replicable strategies for local groups engaged in watershed advocacy. *Lia Mastropolo, American Rivers; Susan Myerov, Pennsylvania Environmental Council*

Policy & Advocacy

DC's Stormwater BMP Equity Analysis ● 🦀

DC's Department of Energy and Environment will share preliminary analyses of BMP distribution throughout the city through the lens of EPA's Environmental Justice Screening Tool. Results will inform future efforts to focus BMP implementation in more equitable ways to serve all District residents. *Lorena Kowalewski, DC Department of Energy & Environment*
Policy & Advocacy



Nutrient Pollution, Toxin, Climate, & Policies ● 📖 🦀

Basic facts regarding nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, its effect of creating harmful algal blooms in the Shenandoah River, Chesapeake Bay and other waters, sources of this pollution and legal and policy steps that can be taken to reduce it.

*Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates;
Mark Frondorf, Potomac Riverkeepers*

Science & Climate

Multi-Stakeholder Monitoring in the California Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring System ● 📖

Harmful algal blooms can set off environmental and public health crises. California's new monitoring network mobilizes Tribal Governments, NGOs, and technical service providers. Data management practices and software standards underpin the data collection and sharing of results with communities.

*Anna Holder, California State Water Resources Control Board; John Dawes, The Commons;
Lucas Stephens, PhD, Internet of Water*

Science & Climate

White Leaders & DEI Work: An Honest Conversation ●

Executive Directors Marie McCormick and Rebecca Esselman, in working with DEI consultant Morgain MacDonald, discuss the ups and downs of their organizations' collaborative work since their intentional financial investment in integrating DEI. This honest conversation is about what it has taken to do the internal work necessary to become part of the solution addressing the inequity, oppression, racism and injustice that plagues our country. Everything is on the table, from choosing a woman of color consultant, the process of moving from "talking to doing," authentic inclusion in place of recruitment, having challenging conversations with staff and board, the unexpected turns, as well as some of the victories after just 18 months. This workshop will be a series of reflection questions for all three, with plenty of opportunity for participants to engage and ask their own questions.

*Rebecca Esselman, Huron River Watershed Council;
Morgain MacDonald, Morgain MacDonald Consulting, LLC; Marie McCormick, Friends of the Rouge;
Anne Brasie, Clinton River Watershed Council*

Strong Organizations & Leaders



The Power of Peer Learning for Clean Water

We'll explore ways to facilitate peer learning among colleagues, members, stakeholders, and constituents to build more people power for clean water action. You will learn about the science behind peer learning, and we'll share examples that we facilitate to build capacity in watershed management. *Jenny Seifert and Rebecca Power, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension*

Water & Agriculture

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 WORKSHOP BLOCK H 11:30AM-12:15PM

How to Get Underserved Communities Involved in Stormwater Management ● 🦀

RiverSmart Homes is a program administered by the District of Columbia's Department of Energy & Environment that offers incentives to residents to reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. We will look at the tactics to get underserved communities involved and motivated. *Kevin Newman and Arielle Conti, DC Department of Energy & Environment*
Climate-Resilient Communities

Case Study: Replacing Toxic Lead Water Pipes Equitably—and Faster—in Under-Resourced Cities ●

EPIC and one partner city will present on the first year of the Lead-Free Water Challenge: obstacles, partnerships, and solutions to replacing lead pipes in under-resourced cities (pop. 5-40K); centering equity; using new technologies and better communications; accessing funding; and best practices. *Maureen Cunningham, EPIC*
Drinking Water

Mussel Power! Species Recovery, Restoring Water Quality, & Improving Climate Resilience ● 📄 🦀

Mussel Power! is a species recovery and water quality program of the Anacostia Watershed Society, restoring mussel populations in the Anacostia River. Participants will hear talks by project staff and join a mussel recovery activity such as collecting data and/or releasing mussels into the river. *Jorge Bogantes Montero and Christopher Williams, Anacostia Watershed Society*
Science & Climate

Communicating at the Climate-Water Nexus ●

Climate change is water change. In this workshop, the Water Hub and Climate Nexus connect the climate and water dots through a communications lens. You'll leave this session with the latest public opinion research on climate change and water, and recommendations for messages that work. *Sarah Bucci, Water Hub at Climate Nexus; Molly Fisch-Friedman, Climate Nexus*
Strong Organizations & Leaders



FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an opportunity to explore practical applications of a specific topic, explore solutions being implemented successfully, connect with peers, and experience what Washington, DC, has to offer. Trips will leave after lunch on Monday, June 6, and are scheduled to return to the hotel no later than 5:00pm, in time for the Awards Reception & Celebration.

Policy & Advocacy 101 Tour

There is no more direct way of getting your voice heard than meeting with legislators. In this free field trip led by the River Network team, make the 2-mile walk to the US Capitol to learn the ins and outs of lobbying. **Free**

Enhancing Connection Through Art

The Blue Art Collective and a local muralist will lead you through a participatory art project as you explore how art and social justice interconnect. This project, created at the Capital Hilton by River Rally attendees, will become a permanent installment at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Washington, DC. **Free**

Urban Litter Capture in Action!

Take the Metro to the Anacostia River and learn how Bandalong litter capture works in real time. Anacostia Riverkeeper, River Network, and Storm Water Systems will explain how these devices are implanted in a riverbed and their efficacy in urban litter capture. **\$35**

DC's First State Conservation Area: Kingman and Heritage Islands

The Department of Energy and Environment will lead you on a walking tour of the Kingman and Heritage Islands. Learn how this 47-acre conservation area is setting the tone for equitable green spaces, habitat restoration, green jobs, and education across the Anacostia River. **\$35**

Restoration of the Anacostia River

This boat tour of the Anacostia River, taking off from Yards Marina, will explore various restoration, remediation, and development sites run by the Department of Energy and Environment as well as local NGOs. Bus/van travel required. **\$35**

Paddle the Anacostia River

Wildlife enthusiasts rejoice! Explore the Anacostia River wetlands via canoe, where you will have the opportunity to spot herons, egrets, osprey, turtles, beavers, and more. No experience necessary. Bus/van travel required. **\$35**

RiverSmart Bike Tour: From Asphalt to Ecosystem

See first-hand the value of innovative partnerships between schools and communities! Travel by Capitol Bikeshare to various RiverSmart school gardens while learning about the benefits of green spaces for students. **\$35**

Alger Park Upland LID & Stream Restoration Tour

Tour an award-winning subwatershed restoration project and see stormwater management in action! Learn how this solution catches, slows, and filters stormwater before it reaches the stream in Alger Park. Bus/van travel required. **\$35**

Thriving Aquatic Gardens That Inspire

Stroll through Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in this guided walking tour. Don't miss their celebrated marsh and wetland ecosystem and migratory bird species along the Anacostia River. Bus/van travel required. **\$35**

Equitable Development & Partnerships

Building Bridges Across the River (BBAR) facilitates multi-sector collaborations to promote social, cultural, economic, and racial equity. The 11th Street Bridge Park's Director of Equity will lead you on a tour of community facilities and the equitable development plan. Bus/van travel required. **\$35**

Not sure which field trip to attend?

Meet other River Rally attendees in the lobby at 2:00pm to coordinate ad-lib visits to local museums, monuments, and rivers.

LEGACY AWARD

This year, the River Network Board of Directors created a new award: the Legacy Award. Recipients are identified for their significant achievements in the river and water arena and all that they've done to expanding thinking about rivers, water, and solutions that stick.



BETSY OTTO
Washington, DC

Betsy Otto is currently a Fellow of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation. She spent ten years as a Senior Fellow and Director of the World Resources Institute's Global Water Program, where she directed the development of Aqueduct™, a global water risk assessment and mapping platform in wide use by Global 500 companies, finance institutions, and international organizations. During her tenure, WRI's water program tripled in size and scope to include a global body of work on nature-based solutions and innovative finance, corporate thought leadership, water, food and energy policy analysis, early warning prediction systems for water-driven conflicts, and work to help sub/national and city governments plan for future water and climate impacts. Among these efforts, she conceived and helped direct the Urban Water Resilience Initiative, working in African cities which will dominate the world's largest cities by 2100.

Betsy has 30 years of experience working to promote global awareness of water challenges and solution, sound land and water planning, and infrastructure systems that incorporate upstream ecosystem services, green infrastructure designs in cities, and integrate drinking water, stormwater and wastewater management. Prior to joining WRI, Betsy developed successful clean water and water supply programs for American Rivers in Washington, DC, where she worked closely with mayors, utilities, federal agencies and Congress to promote smart water policies and drive public and private investment toward more sustainable water infrastructure solutions. She speaks frequently on major podiums and has been featured in the BBC, Guardian, New York Times, Netflix Explained, and other media.

Betsy earned a Masters in Water Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute, a MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School, and a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois. From 2006-2007, she was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

RIVER HEROES

River Heroes are nominated annually by their peers, selected by peers, and celebrate with peers at River Rally. With this award, we recognize individuals who bring people together to solve water problems, seek solutions that are inclusive and equitable, go “above & beyond,” never give up, and inspire and help others to make a difference.



MELANIE ARIENS

**Artist in Residence, Milwaukee Water Commons
(Milwaukee, WI)**

Melanie facilitates water-inspired art experiences for local leaders, scientists, students, and community groups as the artist in residence for the Milwaukee Water Commons. She has grown the multicultural We Are Water event and shaped the Water School program with unparalleled love and commitment. Her art with message transcends divides to bring people together around the water-people connection and she has been a tireless advocate for local waters.



ARTHUR JOHNSON

**CEO, Lower 9 Center for Sustainable Engagement &
Development (New Orleans, LA)**

Arthur advances initiatives around food security, the natural environment, and the built environment in the Lower Ninth Ward, one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods by storms, hurricanes, and flooding in the Gulf Coast region. Arthur is a founding member of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Coalition, member of the City Council of New Orleans Environmental Advisory Commission, member of the Louisiana Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, member of the HBCU Community-Based Organization Gulf Coast Equity Consortium, and recipient of the Paul and Joyce Aicher Foundation Leadership-in-Democracy Award.



CHRISTINA MCVIE

President of Community Water Coalition of Southern Arizona

Christina retired as a registered nurse in the 1990s and started a new career in environmental activism. For over 20 years, she has defended the Santa Cruz international watershed by strengthening local water policies to serve the watershed and the people most affected by contamination. Her success can be attributed to her steadfast commitment to her watershed and her remarkable ability to mobilize the people and communities.



ANN-MARIE MITROFF

Former Director of River Programs, Groundwork Hudson Valley and Groundwork USA (Yonkers, NY)

As coordinator of the Saw Mill River Coalition, Ann-Marie guided the habitat plan and community involvement for Yonkers' \$18 million river daylighting. She co-founded the Urban Waters Learning Network, an EPA-funded partnership between Groundwork USA and River Network. The Network, now with over 500 member organizations, has carved out a dynamic niche within the environmental and social justice movements, leading the way in conversations about equitable development, access, and environmental justice.



TREY SHERARD

Riverkeeper, Anacostia Riverkeeper (Washington, DC)

Trey serves as a community organizer and a voice for the Anacostia River. In addition to coordinating Anacostia Riverkeeper's Clean Waterways cleanup series, he manages several Bandalong litter traps and ARK's green infrastructure program. Most recently, Trey used volunteer-collected data to advocate for and unanimously pass the polystyrene foam ban in Washington, DC. His gifts of inspiration and education make him a powerful advocate for a fishable and swimmable Anacostia.

UWLN AWARDS

The Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN) Awards, sponsored by the US EPA, celebrate significant achievements of individuals who have improved urban waterways and worked to engage the neighborhoods around them, and are chosen for recognition by their peers in the UWLN.

The UWLN is a partnership of River Network and Groundwork USA.



GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY **Signature Award**

The Signature Award goes to a person—or in this case, people—who contribute to the overall success of the UWLN and its members by giving of their time to listen and respond to peers seeking their expertise and experience. In the past, Groundwork Hudson Valley has shared their experiences with audiences at River Rally workshops, showcasing their work daylighting the Saw Mill River in Yonkers, NY and sharing their pioneering work on the NOAA-funded Climate Change curriculum offered to public high school students.

This Signature Award also recognizes the work of Groundwork Hudson Valley's youth leaders on the Green Team — high-school aged youth who work on a variety of restoration projects in the Hudson River watershed in Yonkers, NY and have regularly maintained and improved the Saw Mill River since the first daylighting phase was completed in 2012.



MELANIE GÁRATE **Environmental Justice & Equity Expert**

Melanie Gárate is the Climate Resiliency Manager for the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) in the Boston area. She began her career as a marine ecologist examining how people impact climate change. Through her research, she was struck by the disproportionate environmental impacts to low-income communities, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, which sparked her passion for environmental justice work. Now, her work focuses on increasing the resilience of people impacted by climate change. At MyRWA, she works with municipal staff, community based organizations, public health officials, and local residents to increase climate resiliency regionally. With community equity and health as a priority, she focuses on enhancing climate solutions within the watershed via nature based solutions and social change.

Prior to MyRWA, Melanie focused on coastal conservation and environmental education in the greater Boston area at Mass Audubon and the New England Aquarium. Melanie holds a Master of Science degree in Marine Ecology and Climate Change from the University of Rhode Island, where she obtained a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to study mangrove ecology and perform community outreach in Puerto Rico.



ANDY HYRCYNA
Water Quality & Monitoring Expert

As the Watershed Scientist for the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) since 2014, Andy leads the water quality monitoring programs—including the successful baseline program—and manages multiple green infrastructure efforts to address stormwater pollution. Andy comes to MyRWA from the Sustainability and Environmental Management Program at Harvard Extension School, where he received a Master's in Ecological Management. Andy discovered a passion for ecology and environmental protection mid-career, after many years in non-profit book publishing. He now leads MyRWA's water quality monitoring program and restoration efforts across the watershed. He enjoys biking and kayaking with his wife and two daughters.



VILLANOVA URBAN STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP
Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Expert

The mission of the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership (VUSP) is to advance the evolving field of sustainable stormwater management and to foster the development of public and private partnerships through research. VUSP activities build on more than twenty years of GSI research, making them one of the leaders on the science and engineering of GSI. The achievements of the Villanova Engineering faculty in water research and the performance of students past and present serve the College's belief that engineers have a moral obligation to pursue knowledge to address environmental and social threats and seek opportunities for both local and global change. Addressing these issues requires transformative engineering approaches that integrate resiliency—the ability to recover or rebound from trauma—into the design. Using the faculty's expertise in Water Resources, Geotechnical, and Environmental science, VUSP is working to advance the science and understanding of water resiliency issues, such as urban and coastal flooding, watershed impact, estuary impact, and water supply issues through nature-based solutions.

Amanda Garzio-Hadzick will represent VUSP at the UWLN Learning Forum at this year's River Rally.



OUR MISSION & VISION

River Network empowers and unites people and communities to protect and restore rivers and other waters that sustain all life. We envision a future with clean and ample water for people and nature, where local caretakers are well-equipped, effective and courageous champions for our rivers. We believe that everyone should have access to affordable, clean water and healthy rivers.



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