

EDUCATION



INSPIRATION

CELEBRATION



**river**  
 **RALLY**  
education • inspiration • celebration

**May 8–11, 2017**  
**GRAND RAPIDS,**  
**MICHIGAN**

# AGENDA



## WELCOME TO RIVER RALLY 2017!

MONDAY, MAY 8 <sup>TH</sup>		
6:00pm–8:00pm	River Rally 2017 Welcome & Opening Reception	Ambassador Ballroom
TUESDAY, MAY 9 <sup>TH</sup>		
7:30am–9:00am	Breakfast & Keynote Speaker	Ambassador Ballroom
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops	
11:30am–12:45pm	Lunch & Plenary Panel	Ambassador Ballroom
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	Pantlind Ballroom
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 <sup>TH</sup>		
7:30am–9:15am	Breakfast & Table Top Discussions	Ambassador Ballroom
9:15am–2:00pm	Teen River Rally Service Learning	
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops	
11:30am–6:00pm	Field Trips	
6:30pm–8:00pm	Dinner On-Your-Own	
8:00pm–10:30pm	SYRCL Wild & Scenic Film Festival Movie Night	Pantlind Ballroom
THURSDAY, MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>		
7:30am–9:15am	Breakfast & Plenary Speaker	Ambassador Ballroom
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops	
11:30am–1:00pm	Workshops	
1:00pm–3:00pm	Lunch & Plenary Panel	Ambassador Ballroom
3:00pm–4:40pm	Workshops	
5:30pm–6:15pm	Cocktail Reception	
6:30pm–8:30pm	River Heroes Banquet	Ambassador Ballroom
8:30pm–...	Live Music & Celebration	

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please let us know how we did this year! Give us feedback through our River Rally event app, or take our online survey here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/RiverRally2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RiverRally2017)

We also appreciate your feedback about individual workshops, which can be done through the River Rally mobile app, or submitted on hard copy evaluations in each workshop room. We use evaluation results to continue improving Rally every year!

Welcome to River Rally 2017 in fabulous Grand Rapids, Michigan! Your job is to get as much from this event as possible—new knowledge, new friends, new ideas, and new energy to bring back to your work to safeguard the health of our nation’s rivers and the promise of affordable clean water for all.

River Rally 2017 arrives at a time when the social and political context of water is changing. We have seen clearly that 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.

Rather than turning a blind eye to this reality, we are intentionally bringing full focus to this changing context through our program this year. We believe that a different path forward is possible by working together across political, economic, social, and other divisions, though only if we fully understand where we stand today. During our time together at Rally, we invite you to explore how we respond, both individually and collectively. We hope that the experience can transform us all.

Our program is packed with great content, from our opening reception and warm welcome on May 8 to our River Heroes Banquet on the evening of May 11. Nearly 60 practical workshops designed to give you the tools you need to succeed in your work, five thought-provoking keynotes to expand your perspective, and 10 field trips to get you outdoors in the Grand Valley will keep moving, learning, and growing. Our program includes a number of returning favorites—a talent show, “tabletop” discussions, a movie night, networking opportunities, inspiring heroes, and great music—plus some exciting new programs, including our Teen Rally day. We promise a high energy event that delivers value where you can make memories.

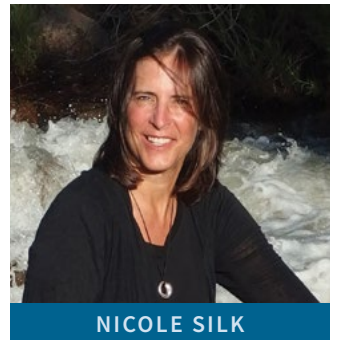
Your job now is to figure out how best to navigate this program so that it delivers the most to you. To help you, we have organized our content in multiple ways that you can use to guide your journey. You can follow one particular theme\* throughout your River Rally experience or pick and choose from multiple themes to best meet your needs. Make sure to stay through the River Heroes Banquet to get your full dose of passion, laughter, tears, and celebration.

For those of you who have been to River Rally before, welcome back. 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

\*Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability, Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency, Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation, Protecting and Restoring Flows, Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact, and Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water



NICOLE SILK



# ACTIVITIES



## MONDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>

### WELCOME RECEPTION

**6:00PM–8:00PM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM**

Monday evening is the official kickoff of Rally 2017! Join us for a cocktail reception to reconnect with old friends and meet some new faces. Grand Rapids mayor Rosalynn Bliss will introduce us to the city, and we will hear from Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director of the United Tribes of Michigan. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

## TUESDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

### FUN RUN

**6:00AM, LOBBY**

If you are a fitness enthusiast or if you enjoy fresh air first thing in the morning, join other Rally runners in the Amway lobby at 6:00am. Routes of different lengths will be available to explore the Grand River, the local art around downtown Grand Rapids, and several city landmarks. All abilities and speeds welcome, you can set your own pace!

### OPEN MIC & TALENT SHOW

**8:00PM–10:00PM, PANTLIND BALLROOM**

What talents did you bring to Michigan with you? Have you learned a new song on the accordion you

want to show off? Bring your favorite instrument to play, rock some stellar dance moves, slam a poem you love, sing and play for us, or make us laugh! River Rally is always full of surprises.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

### BREAKFAST TABLE TOP DISCUSSIONS

**7:30AM–9:15AM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM**

Choose a table labeled with a topic you are interested in, and engage with experts and other groups tackling similar projects. Brainstorm and network while fueling up for the day!

### TEEN RALLY

**9:15AM–2:00PM**

We are excited to introduce the first ever Teen River Rally! More than 50 local public high school students and their teachers from C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy and TRIO will be joining River Rally for a day of service learning programs designed to expose students to career pathways in conservation. Students will have the opportunity to attend a workshop and visit conference exhibitors, network with other Rally attendees and participate in a service learning fieldtrip. Be sure to introduce yourself to this next generation of environmentalists and conservation professionals!

### FIELD TRIPS

**12:00PM–6:00PM**

Wednesday afternoon we will shut down the computers and head out to explore the beautiful Great Lakes region. If you haven't registered for a field trip yet, check out the Q&A booth to see which trips have spots available, and visit the Field Trip Binder to see who is looking to swap with another attendee, or buy or sell space on a different trip.

### WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING

**8:00PM–10:00PM PANTLIND BALLROOM**

After dinner, join us back at the Amway Grand Plaza for an evening screening of carefully crafted documentaries that highlight our need to protect our natural landscapes and resources. Sponsored by the South Yuba River Citizens League, we will be screening short films that have been masterfully created to inspire possible solutions and re-ignite our passion to restore our environment. Prepare to be moved and motivated. Movie snacks provided!

2017 Film Screening:

- The Wild President, 6 minutes
- Great Lakes, Bad Lines, 28 minutes
- Milk & Honey, 14 minutes
- Skyranch, 9 minutes
- The Super Salmon, 25 minutes

## THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

### YOGA

**6:00AM–6:45AM PANTLIND BALLROOM**

Before you check your email or dive into our Thursday programming, set yourself up for a wildly zen day with an early morning yoga class!



### ANNUAL RIVER HEROES BANQUET & CELEBRATION

**6:30PM–8:30PM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM**

We will once again be honoring the heroes among us on the final night of Rally. Don't miss this special celebration of the 2017 Compton Award winner and the River Heroes. The banquet will be followed by dancing and live music from Trout Steak Revival, so stick around and kick up your heels!



Since winning the 41st Telluride Bluegrass Festival in 2014, the Colorado-based band Trout Steak Revival has played mostly original songs, though you might not know it from listening to them. The most surprising thing about the band is that the musicians aren't the born-and-bred bluegrass players that their sound suggests. The band formed after the boys, who had all met in their home state of Michigan, each moved out to Colorado, and discovered the bluegrass style that is prevalent in the Rockies. They have released three albums, the most recent on being Brighter Every Day (2015).

## STAY CONNECTED

Official hashtag: [#RiverRally2017](#)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TheRiverRally](#)

Twitter: [twitter.com/rivernetwork](#)

Instagram: [river\\_network](#)

Follow us, and share your thoughts, photos and experience at Rally!



# IMPORTANT INFO

## RISE & SHINE!

Breakfast will start at 7:30am every morning, and the programming will begin at 7:45am.

## REGISTRATION

Registration and check-in is located in the Center Concourse, and will be open during the following times:

Monday: 9am–6pm

Tuesday: 7am–6pm

Wednesday: 7am–1pm

Thursday: 7am–6pm

## Q&A

Drop by the Q&A window along the Center Concourse to purchase your 2017 Rally gear, search for a lost-and-found item you might be missing, or scour the Field Trip Binder for an open spot. Find a member of our fearless Q&A team to answer any Rally questions you have!

## RIVER RALLY APP

That's right, we've developed an app for Rally this year! Search for "River Rally" in the Android or Apple device store, and download the CrowdCompass App. You may also set up a login associated with your registration confirmation number. Find up-to-date schedules and create a personalized itinerary, maps to conference areas and local points of interest, and background info for speakers and presenters.

## MENTORING

Did you make an appointment with a mentor this year? Meet him or her in the Center Concourse, near the Registration office and Q&A window.

## THANK YOU NOTES

If you have received a Rally scholarship or stipend that has allowed you to join us this year, please take a minute to write a note to our funders expressing your gratitude. Drop it off at Q&A and we'll make sure it is delivered!

## WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

At the back of each workshop room there will be stacks of evaluations you can submit. There are also surveys you can fill out through the event app. Whether you choose to submit it digitally or hand-written, we appreciate your candid feedback so that we can continue to improve this event. Forms can be left in the room or submitted to Q&A.

## EXHIBITORS

Nonprofit organizations, public agencies, businesses, foundations, and resource professionals are showcasing their products, services, and resources that can help you and your team succeed. Make sure to take time during breaks and receptions to visit their tables and learn more about them.

## WI-FI

Attendees staying at the Amway and JW Marriott have access to free wi-fi in their hotel rooms. In the conference area, access to wi-fi is limited to presenters. Free wi-fi access is also available throughout the conference area, though signal strength may vary.

## HOTEL INFO

Check-in begins at 3pm, and checkout is noon. The hotel does not offer shuttles to the airport, but recommends a taxi or ride-share for the short trip.

## FITNESS CENTER

The Amway Grand Plaza offers a fully outfitted fitness center on the fourth floor of the Glass Tower to help you stay true to your active lifestyle.

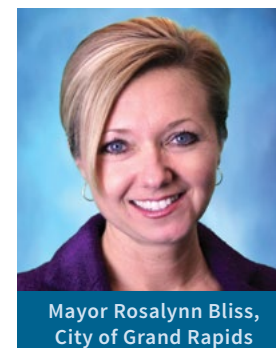
## PHOTOS, VIDEO, AND MEDIA

The talented and charismatic John Wathen will once again be the official River Rally photographer. We will also have a team capturing some of the magic of River Rally to share with those who can't join us in Grand Rapids. We hope to see you on social media sharing what inspires you with your friends, family and colleagues.

# WELCOMING RECEPTION

MONDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> • 6:00PM–8:00PM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM

Monday evening is the official kick-off of River Rally 2017! Join us at the hotel's Ambassador Ballroom to connect with old friends and make some new ones. River Network President, Nicole Silk, will say a few words, followed by a warm welcome to Grand Rapids by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director of The United Tribes of Michigan. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.



Mayor Rosalynn Bliss,  
City of Grand Rapids

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss became the City of Grand Rapids' first female Mayor when she took office in 2016. She is committed to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs as well as addressing disparities in her community and ensuring that Grand Rapids is welcoming to everyone. As Mayor, she also is passionate about engaging

the community in local government, particularly women and minorities, believing this is the best way to reflect the diverse community in which she lives. She also is an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University's School of Social Work. Mayor Bliss is active in the community, including serving as President of the Michigan Municipal League and serving on the boards of the Downtown Development Authority, Experience Grand Rapids, Grand Valley Metro Council, Kent County Land Bank Authority and Interurban Transit Partnership. She also is a member of the West Michigan Environmental Leadership Network. Mayor Bliss has been recognized statewide for her commitment, dedication and work in the field of child abuse and neglect and for her leadership in the community, including being honored as one of Crain's 100 Most Influential Women. Mayor Bliss previously served as City Commissioner for 10 years. She earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminal justice from the University of South Alabama and a master's in social work from Michigan State University.



Frank Ettawageshik,  
Executive Director of the  
United Tribes of Michigan

Frank Ettawageshik lives in Harbor Springs, Michigan, with his wife Rochelle. He is a traditional storyteller and potter, believing that native people need to be rooted in their traditions in order to be prepared for the future. He also has over forty years of public service. He served in tribal elected office for sixteen years, fourteen of them as the Tribal

Chairman of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the adoption of the Tribal and First Nations Great Lakes Water Accord in 2004, and the United League of Indigenous Nations Treaty in 2007. He now serves as the Executive Director of the United Tribes of Michigan, and is the Chairman of the United League of Indigenous Nations Governing Board.

Frank was a 2010 Fellow at the Native Nations Institute Indigenous Leaders Fellowship Program at the University of Arizona. In April of 2016, he was appointed to the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. In December of 2015, he joined approximately 200 Indigenous Peoples delegates as a member of the International Indigenous People Caucus on Climate Change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France.

**THANK YOU!** If you see these people, or the people representing these organizations, give them a high five or a hug and tell them how wonderful they are! This year's event would not be possible without their support, dedication, and hard work.

### RIVER RALLY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

American Rivers, Great Lakes office	Healing Our Waters
Calvin College	Huron River Watershed Council
City of Grand Rapids	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District
Clinton River Watershed Council	Plaster Creek Stewards
EPA Urban Waters	Thornapple River Watershed Council
Erb Family Foundation	Trout Unlimited
Grand Rapids District Office, Water Resources Division (DEQ)	Western Michigan Environmental Action Council
Grand Rapids White Water	
Grand Valley Metro Council	

### VOLUNTEERS

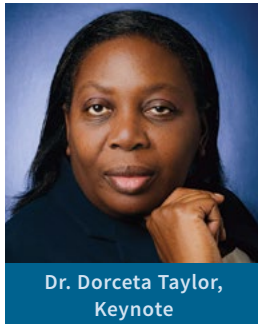
Suzi Wilkins Berl	Nancy Kissane
Kendall Gilbert	John Kinch
Peggy Hill	Bill Wikhuis
Barb Horn	Mary Nagy
Ellen Kohler	
John Wathen	

*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 of our 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.*

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

TUESDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> • 7:30AM–9:00AM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM

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.

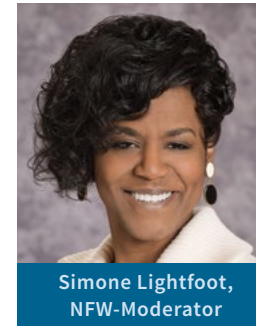


Professor Taylor is the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan. Her research interests include urban agriculture, food access, and food insecurity; institutional diversity; analysis of the composition of the environmental workforce; social movement analysis; environmental justice; leisure and natural resource use; poverty; and race, gender, and ethnic relations. Her current research includes an assessment of food access in Michigan and other parts of the country. A recently-published article on food justice in Detroit entitled, "Food Availability and the Food Desert Frame in Detroit: An Overview of the City's Food Systemstates" (*Environmental Practice*), exemplifies this work. Other recent research activities include the 2014 national report analyzing racial and gender diversity in the environmental field,

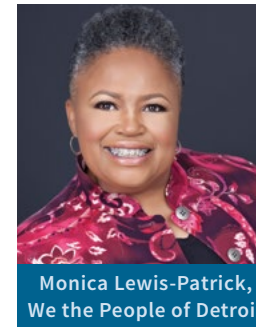
entitled *The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations, and Government Agencies*. Her 2009 book, *The Environment and the People in American Cities* (Duke University Press), is an award-winning urban environmental history book. She published an edited volume in 2010 entitled, *Environment and Social Justice: An International Perspective* (Emerald Press). She also published *Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility* (NYU Press) in 2014, and her newest book, *Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection: Social Inequality and the Rise of the American Conservation Movement* (Duke University Press) was printed in 2016. Professor Taylor was honored as the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Outstanding Alumnus in 2015, and awarded the Fred Buttel Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Environmental Sociology Award by the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association. She also received the Carol Hollenshead Award for Excellence in Promoting Equity and Social Change by the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan, in 2014.

## LUNCH PLENARY PANEL: 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?

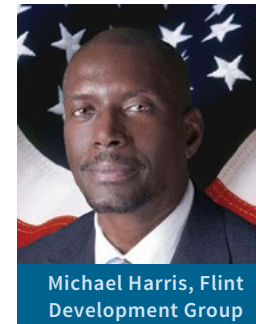


Simone Lightfoot is the Director of National Urban Initiatives at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). She works on conservation and wildlife issues all around the country that impact front-line communities, from access to clean and affordable water to urban impacts of climate change, to the transition of post-industrial urban centers. Simone connects NWF's existing work in key urban communities to national social and environmental justice organizations, fostering alliances and partnerships, and expanding NWF relationships with urban elected leaders at the national level. She is an Air Force Veteran, and previously served as deputy chief of staff in the Michigan House of Representatives and state director for voter empowerment for the national NAACP.



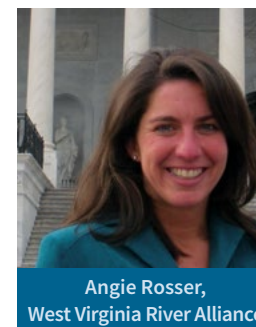
Monica Lewis-Patrick (aka 'The Water Warrior') is at the forefront of the water rights struggle in Detroit, as an educator, entrepreneur, and human rights activist. She currently serves as President & CEO for We the People of Detroit, and has been its Director of Community Outreach & Engagement since 2009. Lewis-Patrick is an active member of the People's Water Board Coalition, U.S. Human Rights Network, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and D-REM.org, and was named to the World Water Justice Council in October of 2015. In 2016, the KIND Foundation named Monica one of seven recipients of the KIND People Award. As a former policy analyst for Detroit City Council, Monica has authored legislation, conducted research, and delivered constituency services to thousands of city residents. She

is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's in Social Work and Sociology and a M.A. of Liberal Studies with a concentration in Criminal Justice/Sociology and Public Management.



As a proud resident of Flint, MI, Michael Harris carries Flint's hardworking values wherever he goes. After graduating from Flint Northwestern High School, he joined the U.S. Army and had the opportunity to play semi-pro basketball all over Europe. Michael returned home to attend the University of Michigan as a political science major. His extensive experience in security operations enabled him to rise quickly in the ranks of General Motors Security to become the youngest executive in the region. When GM downsized its operations, Michael became a GM UAW member and got actively involved in community organizations. He is a founding member of the Seneca Street Block Club and the Coalition for Positive Youth Development (CPYD) and has organized many grassroots neighborhood cleanups and crime watch efforts. Michael has served with such programs as the Clio road business district and

as Chair of the NAACP Act-So Program. He is the current President of the Greater Flint African American Sports Hall of Fame and former Chair of the Genesee County Democratic Black Caucus. Michael was elected as a precinct delegate and serves on the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee and veterans committee.



Angie joined West Virginia River Coalition as the Executive Director in 2012, bringing a background of working in West Virginia on social justice issues in the non-profit sector. Her experience involves policy advocacy, community organizing, coalition building and program administration. Angie serves as the West Virginia Headwaters Waterkeeper for six of the rivers that begin in WV's mountain headwaters region. She lives along the banks of the Elk River, and enjoys swimming and boating in it and many of West Virginia's waters. Her motivation for clean water advocacy is personal; she wants to be able to swim in her backyard river. Her motivation is also political, because she believes everyone has a right to enjoy clean water and that conservation of our water resources is central to a shared prosperity. This year, Angie is honored as a River Hero, with gratitude for her dedication

working for drinkable, swimmable, fishable rivers. Angie holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in Organizational Communication from West Virginia University.

TUESDAY



# TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

MAY 9, 2017 • 9:30AM–11:00AM

## 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*  
**Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Pullman**

## 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 & Environmental Justice Society; Dennis Chestnut, Groundwork Anacostia River DC; Beth Stewart, Cahaba River Society.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Vandenberg A**

## 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.*  
**Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Vandenberg B**

## 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 Rhode Island; Deneine Powell, Groundwork MKE; Maria Brodine, Groundwork USA.*  
**Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Haldane**

## 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; Janice Beecher, Institute of Public Utilities; Chris Hornback, National Association of Clean Water Agencies.*  
**Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Thornapple**

## 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 Birnbaum, SEB Strategies, LLC; Carolyn Klamp, Klamp & Associates, PC.*  
**Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Berkey**

## 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 & Wildlife Dept.; Shelly Plante, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.; Megan Bean Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.; Stephan Magnelia, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Kendall**

## 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 Dept. of Natural Resources; Kelly Goward, Macatawa Watershed Project; Tom Tisue, White River Watershed Partnership.*  
**Protecting and Restoring Flows–Winchester**

## 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, lets 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.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Imperial Ballroom**

# TUESDAY

MAY 9, 2017  
1:00PM–2:30PM

## 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. *Katie Rousseau, American Rivers; Angie Rosser, West Virginia Rivers Coalition; E. Michelle Mickens, Live 4 Change, LLC.*  
**Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Haldane**

## 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.*  
**Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Nelson**

## 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.*  
**Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Kendall**

## 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.*  
**Protecting and Restoring Flows–Winchester**

## 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.*  
**Protecting and Restoring Flows–Thornapple**

## 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.*  
**Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Vandenberg B**

## 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.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Berkey**

TUESDAY

# TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

MAY 9, 2017 • 3:00PM–4:30PM

## 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.*  
**Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Thornapple**

## 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.*  
**Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Vandenberg A**

## 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; Brian Richter, Sustainable Waters.*  
**Protecting and Restoring Flows–Haldane**

**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.*  
**Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Pullman**

## 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.*  
**Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Winchester**

## 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, Basin Coordinator.  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Nelson**

## 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.*  
**Protecting and Restoring Flows–Vandenberg B**

## 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 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.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Kendall**

## WEST MICHIGAN 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.*  
**Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Berkey**

# WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS

MAY 10, 2017 • 9:30AM–11:00AM

## CONSERVING & PROTECTING WATER WITH RAIN BARRELS

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; Zak Lance, River Network; Rena Stricker, Coca-Cola.*  
**Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Vandenberg A**

## 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.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Berkey**

## 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.*  
**Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Nelson**

## 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.*  
**Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Winchester**

## 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. *Kate Morgan, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Michael Hiller, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association; Pam Ritger, Clean Wisconsin, Sara Madden, Design Manager, StormWorks.*  
**Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Vandenberg B**

## 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.*  
**Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Thornapple**

## 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; Ty Hodge, Cox Enterprises; Lisa Cochran, Clean Bread and Cheese Creek.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Haldane**

## WATER REPORTER–CAPTURE, SHARE, REMEDIATE

Water Reporter is an online, community of people mapping their interactions with our nation's water ways and working together to improve them. Using the app allows anyone to connect with local restoration professionals and share experiences from river, as well as work closely with their local government or watershed organization to report spills, organize stream cleanups, or even map harmful algal blooms. Join us to learn how this growing community is working to drive volunteer engagement and support monitoring on a national scale. We'll share approaches in volunteer engagement and retention as well as provide examples of how Water Reporter can be used as the backbone of a new or existing monitoring effort. *John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons.*  
**Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Pullman**

WEDNESDAY



# BREAKFAST PLENARY PANEL: Rethinking Our Relationship to Urban Rivers

THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> • 7:30AM–9:00AM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM

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. This plenary panel will tell the story of the restoration of the Grand River, one of 19 Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations across the country. Panelists will provide a variety of perspectives with an emphasis on igniting community-wide excitement and other lessons transferable to cities across the US.



Mark Van Putten,  
Wege Foundation

Mark Van Putten is President and CEO of the Wege Foundation. Previously, Mark was President of ConservationStrategy® LLC, a philanthropic advisory firm specializing in environmental and natural resources issues. Mark currently serves as the Board Chair of the Environmental Grantmakers Association. Earlier, Mark served for 21 years on the staff of the Washington D.C.-based National Wildlife Federation—America’s largest membership-based conservation organization—including nearly eight years as President and CEO. He is a graduate magna cum laude of and served as a part-time Public Service/Public Interest Law Fellow at the University of Michigan Law School. He received his B.A. degree from Calvin College in 1976. On the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, he was named one of 30 nationwide “Clean Water Heroes.”



Chris Muller,  
Grand Rapids Whitewater

Chris Muller is the founder and President of M Retail Solutions and co-founder and President of Grand Rapids Whitewater. With more than 23 years of retail real estate experience, he has represented prestigious and notable retailers and landlords on a national, regional, and local level. He is known for his solution-based approach to retail real estate with unparalleled market analysis, strategic planning, and representation. Grand Rapids Whitewater is an organization dedicated to revitalizing the Grand River, by restoring the natural flow through downtown and putting the namesake rapids back in the river. This effort has been surrounded by volunteers and stakeholders on the local, state and national level. It is designated under the Urban Waters Federal Partnership through the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, has been mentioned in Governor Snyder’s State of the State Address, and has been endorsed by the Grand Rapids City Commission. Chris is also active in the International Council of Shopping Centers, serves on the board for a kids’ mountain biking program, and developed the highest rated LEED building in the World.



John Green,  
Founders Brewing

With over 20 years of experience in finance, commercial real estate and urban development, John Green has long been inspired by Grand Rapids, Michigan, the city he grew up in. Following his graduation from Indiana University with a degree in Economics, John worked as an investment adviser and securities trader in Chicago before returning to his hometown intent on renewing the depth of community ties he found lacking in bigger cities. As a co-founder in Locus Development, a real estate development and asset management firm, John earned a reputation for championing some of the most challenging projects in Grand Rapids, and in the process restoring the value of historic buildings and neighborhoods. John joined the board of Founders Brewing in 2007 and helped lay the groundwork for their expansion, eventually moving in to a full time staff leadership position. In March 2017, he was named President of Founders. John lives in Grand Rapids with his wife Deanna and three children; the family takes full advantage of Michigan’s great outdoors and also loves to travel the globe.



Mayor Rosalynn Bliss,  
City of Grand Rapids

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss became the City of Grand Rapids’ first female Mayor when she took office in 2016. She is committed to supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as addressing disparities in her community, and ensuring that Grand Rapids is welcoming to everyone. As Mayor, she is also passionate about engaging the community in local government, particularly women and minorities, because she believes that is the best way to reflect the diverse community in which she lives. She is also an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University’s School of Social Work. Mayor Bliss is active in the community including serving as President of the Michigan Municipal League and serving on the boards of the Downtown Development Authority, Experience Grand Rapids, Grand Valley Metro Council, Kent County Land Bank Authority and Interurban Transit Partnership. She is also a member of the West Michigan Environmental Leadership Network, and she served on Governor Snyder’s Child Lead Poisoning Elimination Board. Mayor Bliss has been recognized statewide for her commitment, dedication, and work in the field of child abuse and neglect, and for her leadership in the community, including being honored as one of Crain’s 100 Most Influential Women. Mayor Bliss previously served as Second Ward City Commissioner for 10 years. She earned her bachelor’s degrees in psychology and criminal justice from the University of South Alabama, and a master’s in social work from Michigan State University.



Joe Jones, Grand  
Rapids Urban League

Joe Jones currently serves as President/CEO of the Grand Rapids Urban League. In this role, Jones leads the development and implementation of an agenda that promotes economic empowerment as a means of elevating the standard of living in the underserved urban communities of Grand Rapids. The League is a 74-year old civil rights organization whose mission is to provide the means to empower African Americans and other minorities to achieve economic self-reliance, parity and civil rights. Born in Detroit, Joe has served as a grassroots organizer and has been an entrepreneur. He was recently appointed as City Commissioner, and is the first black Commissioner to serve the Second Ward. Joe earned his bachelor’s degree at Oakland University, and has a MA in Ministry Leadership from Cornerstone University.

THURSDAY

Continued on next page. >





Wendy Ogilvie, Grand Valley Metro Council

Wendy Ogilvie joined the Grand Valley Metro Council in 2013 as the Director of Environmental Programs, bringing her expertise of 25+ years in watershed and stormwater management and also her passion for convening and developing partnerships to build capacity in addressing environmental issues. Originally from Maryland, Wendy earned a B.S. in Forestry from The University of Michigan and an M.S. in Resource Development from Michigan State University. She worked as Watershed Coordinator Allegan Conservation District and later for Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., for 13 years focusing on water resource management projects. At GVMC, her programs include the facilitation of 23 NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permits in Kent and Ottawa Counties, implementing the strategic plan for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW), and assisting the project team in bringing back the rapids and restoring connectivity and habitat in the Grand River. Wendy also serves on the board of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum.

## LUNCH PLENARY PANEL: Lessons From Standing Rock & Beyond

**THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> • 12:00PM–1:30PM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM**

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's 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 are the relevant linkages between climate, water and indigenous culture raised by Standing Rock and other conflicts? What are the applicable lessons to our work anywhere in the United States and beyond? And how do we stand up together in defense of our waters and what we consider sacred?



Gary Collins, Northern Arapaho–Moderator

Gary is a member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and was raised on the Wind River Indian Reservation. He served as the Tribal Liaison for the Arapaho Tribe within the State of Wyoming's Governor's Planning Office. He was Chairman of the Arapaho Tribe when the "Big Horn Water Rights" case was before the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes Water Engineer for over eight years administering the Tribal Water Code. Gary holds a BS in Geology from the University of Wyoming. He is the Vice President of the MNI SOSE InterTribal Water Rights Coalition and a founding member of the Indigenous Water Network. Gary is also instrumental to his family ranching operation, which has operated since the early part of last century and uses grassroots irrigation and management techniques.



Roger Pulwarty, NOAA

Roger is the Senior Science Advisor for Climate Research at the NOAA Climate Program and the Physical Sciences Division in Boulder, Colorado. Throughout his career, Roger has helped design and lead, widely-recognized end-to-end programs focused on climate, impacts, and adaptation, including the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments, the National Integrated Drought Information System, and the first major adaptation program of the Global Environment Fund, on Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean. Roger is a lead author on the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction global assessment, the IPCC Special Reports on Water Resources and on Extremes, and a convening lead author on the IPCC Working Group II Impacts,

Adaptation and Vulnerability. Roger acts as an advisor on climate risk management to a number of national and international agencies, including the Organization of American States, the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent, the OECD, UNDP, and the InterAmerican Development Bank and the World Bank. He is the chair of the WMO Climate Services Information System, a key pillar of the Global Framework on Climate Services. Roger's work on integrating scientific research into decision-making has been awarded by NOAA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and by the Gold Medal for Excellence in Applied Sciences from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Academy of Sciences. Roger holds a bachelor's degree in atmospheric sciences, and a Ph.D. in climatology.



John Wathen, Water Protector and Hurricane Creek Keeper

John is the Hurricane Creekkeeper and founder of Friends of Hurricane Creek in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. An Alabama native who grew up on the Black Warrior River and served in the United States Navy, John is no stranger to water. John's first endeavor in the river world was the formation of the Stroker's Paddle Club in 1992. After being exposed to toxic chemical poisoning in his industrial day job, John quickly moved to become an environmentalist. In 1997, he helped found the Friends of Hurricane Creek. John's work goes well beyond the work of a typical river advocate. He has made a name for himself in Alabama and in the Southeast as a first responder to environmental disasters, including contamination of our waters due to oil, coal ash, and other contaminants. John has received several awards

for his work over the years, including River Network's River Hero award (2012), Roosevelt Ashe Award for "Outstanding Journalist in Conservation" (2010), Riverkeeper Watchdog of the Year (2007), Alabama Rivers Alliance's River Hero award (2006), Adopt-a-Stream Governors Award (1996 and 1997), etc. A tireless voice for environmental justice, his reach now also includes the Missouri River where he spent several months at Standing Rock uniting with other water protectors to defend sacred lands and waters. John is also River Rally 2017's official photographer.



Lee Sprague, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Lee is a member of the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (south of the Grand River) and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (north of the Grand River). Sprague has a degree in International Indigenous Law from San Francisco State University. He has a long history of seeking creative solutions to issues of environmental justice issues related to land, water, and air through collaborations among Tribal Nations, NGOs, government, academia, and others as a result of his work through the Urban Institute, the Michigan Sierra Club, the International Indian Treaty Council, and as a Tribal representative and leader. Lee has also served as a science curriculum consultant to UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and is the artist/designer of the Turtle Island Monument in Berkeley, California, a solar powered water fountain commemorating Indigenous People Day. He is a recipient of the Glenn Miller Tribal Leader Award for Environmental Advocacy and Treaty Rights, and the Bunyan Bryant, Environmental Justice Award by the Sierra Club. Lee is currently working on climate adaptation and management strategies and Mahnoomin (wild rice) restorations efforts in the Kalamazoo River Watershed, site of the Enbridge Tar Sands Oil Spill and the St. Joseph River Watershed. Lee spent several months at Standing Rock Standing Rock with the Michigan Canoe Cold Water Rescue Team peacefully resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline with other water protectors.



# THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

MAY 11, 2017 • 9:30AM–11:00AM

## 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.*

*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Haldane*

## HEALTHY WATERSHEDS, WETLAND RESTORATION SUCCESSES

This session will provide an overview of clever ways to integrate funding mechanisms that support watershed restoration and protection activities. There will be an opportunity for participants to consult with panelists after hearing from them about programs they've implemented that support on-the-ground protection and restoration of aquatic resources. *Rebecca Dils, U.S. EPA Office of Wetland Oceans and Watersheds; Matt Meersmen, Friends of the St. Joe River; Tom Harcarik, Ohio EPA; Jeff Lerner, American Forests; Jeanne Christee, Association of State Wetland Managers.*

*Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation*

## IDENTIFYING HYDROLOGICALLY ALTERED WATERS

Hydrologic alteration can have significant impacts on aquatic life, recreation, cultural resources and drinking water. 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 impaired waters. *Gerrit Jobsis, American Rivers; Katherine Baer, River Network; Adam Griggs, River Network.*

*Protecting and Restoring Flows–Thornapple*

## 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.*

*Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Vandenberg A*

## 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.*

*Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Vandenberg B*

## 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. *Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership, Carol Hamilton, Institute for Conservation Leadership.*

*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Kendall*

## 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.*

*Protecting and Restoring Flows–Nelson*

## 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.*

*Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Winchester*

## 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., JUST CHANGE LAW OFFICES.*

*Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Kendall*

# THURSDAY

MAY 11, 2017  
11:30AM–1:00PM

## 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.*

*Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Thornapple*

## 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.*

*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Vandenberg A*

## 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.*

*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Berkey*

## 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.*

*Protecting and Restoring Flows–Winchester*

## 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, Kupferman & Kupferman, LLC.*

*Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Pullman*

## 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.*

*Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Vandenberg B*

## WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OUTREACH

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 50th anniversary in 2018 provides a milestone to strengthen our common connection to water by increasing awareness of protected rivers as well as local waterways. During this workshop, learn how your organization can leverage anniversary momentum to build community around your river efforts during 2018 and beyond. *Lisa Ronald, Wild and Scenic Rivers 50th Anniversary; Cathi Bailey, Bureau of Land Management; Jennifer Reed, Fish and Wildlife Service; Stephen M. Chesterton, Forest Service; Joan Harn, National Park Service; David Moryc, American Rivers; Kevin Coburn, American Whitewater; Risa Shimoda, River Management Society; Alice Srinivasan, River Network.*

*Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Haldane*

## 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. *Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership; Carol Hamilton, Institute for Conservation Leadership.*

*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact–Kendall*



# THURSDAY WORKSHOPS

MAY 11, 2017 • 3:00PM–4:00PM

**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, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Inc.*  
*Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Vandenberg A*

**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 Broadus, Broadview Collaborative, Inc; Ann Brummit, Milwaukee Water Commons.*  
*Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability–Thornapple*

**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.*  
*Protecting and Restoring Flows–Vandenberg B*

**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.*  
*Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water–Nelson*

**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; Carol Hays, Prairie Rivers Network.*  
*Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Climate Resiliency–Haldane*

**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.*  
*Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation–Berkey*

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please remember to fill out a workshop evaluation form for each of the workshops you attend.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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THEME

*Tackling the Drinking Water Crisis and Water Affordability*  
*Restoring Urban Rivers and Achieving Resiliency*  
*Connecting Communities to Rivers and Recreation*  
*Protecting and Restoring Flows*  
*Growing Organizational Momentum and Impact*  
*Reducing Pollution and Safeguarding Clean Water*  
*Teen River Rally*

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# 2017 COMPTON AWARD WINNER

Each year we honor an individual with the “James Compton” Achievement Award for outstanding dedication to protecting rivers and waters. This year we thank Chairman Dave Archambault II for his courageous work at Standing Rock!



## DAVE ARCHAMBAULT II

Dave Archambault II is the 45th Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. As the Tribe’s top elected official, Dave seeks to find innovative ways to improve the governance of the Tribe and the lives of its people. In 2014, Dave hosted the historic visit of President Obama and the First Lady to the Standing Rock Reservation. During that visit, Dave accompanied the President and First Lady in a meeting with Standing Rock youth, who told of the challenges they face growing up on the reservation and about their aspirations for the future. At the national level, Chairman Archambault was appointed on the US Sentencing Commission’s Tribal Issues Advisory Group and to the US Department of Labor, Native American Employment and Training Council.

Prior to serving as Chairman, Dave worked for United Tribes Technical College, directing a project that focused on workforce development in Indian Country. Dave has an Associates of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Sitting Bull College, a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration from North Dakota State University, and a Master’s Degree in Management from the University of Mary.

Most recently, Chairman Archambault has emerged as a global leader for Indigenous Peoples’ rights as he has led the struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline, and continues to be a voice for tribal sovereignty in championing protection of tribal treaty lands and natural resources. Archambault has testified before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, led the Washington, DC “Native Nations Rise” march, and published two editorials in The New York Times. He was recently named a “Leader Global Thinker of 2016” by Foreign Policy Magazine and given the Native American Leadership Award by the National Congress of American Indians.

# 2017 RIVER HEROES BANQUET ON THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 6:30PM–8:30PM, AMBASSADOR BALLROOM

To be followed by live music and dancing!

No matter what challenges lie ahead, it is important to us that we make time each year to celebrate our community’s accomplishments, and the inspiring individuals that have made them possible. Join us in congratulating the 2017 River Heroes!



ANGIE ROSSER



DAVID SLIGH



DAVID DEEN



DENNY CANEFF



MARGARET FRISBEE



# JOIN OUR NETWORK

River Network provides our Members with the information, tools, resources, and connections they need to be effective stewards of our rivers and water resources. As a Member, we will help connect you to your peers and spark innovation, empower you with knowledge and capacity, and expand our collective influence. Together we can do more!

### MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Get matched with an expert who can help fulfill your organization’s science or technical needs.
- Coming in June 2017: Access robust resources and discussion forums through our new online community of practice, The Confluence.
- 25% off River Rally registration, and preference in River Rally scholarship awards.
- 25% off River Network online trainings and webinars.
- 25%–60% off outdoor equipment and apparel through Experticity.com.
- 25% off subscription to the Grassroots Fundraising Journal.

For a full list of benefits and to learn more, visit:  
[www.rivernetwork.org/join-our-network](http://www.rivernetwork.org/join-our-network)



River Rally 2016 © John Wathen

### MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

**Organization and Agency Members**—designed for local, state, regional and national non-profits, tribal groups, and agencies concerned with river and water health.

**Professional Members**—designed for individuals who are actively working at the local, state, regional, and national levels to protect and restore rivers and other waters.

**Student Members**—designed to help enrolled undergraduate and graduate students grow their knowledge and make connections that can help them launch and grow a career related to water.

*Questions? Ready to join or renew?*  
**Contact Victoria Yu, at**  
[vyu@rivernetwork.org](mailto:vyu@rivernetwork.org) or 720.930.4914

# LEARNING & WEBINARS

### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTING

River Network offers services to institutional funders and to our members at discounted rates in the following areas:

- Leadership Consulting
- Civic Engagement
- Policy Change
- Science Support
- Networks & Learning
- Evaluating Your Organization

### LEARN AT YOUR DESK

River Network offers free webinars and low-cost virtual training opportunities designed to help you become more effective in your efforts to safeguard our waters, from wherever you work:

- **Strong Champions:** Essential ingredients for strong coalitions, organizations and leaders
- **Clean Water:** Solutions and tools for keeping our rivers clean for people and nature.
- **Ample Water:** Solutions and tools for keeping our rivers wet and sharing water equitably

To learn more about how River Network can help you and your organization succeed, visit [www.rivernetwork.org](http://www.rivernetwork.org).



Colorado River Basin Water Transactions Group © April Ingle, River Network



2016 Colorado River Basin Water Transactions Meeting © Richard Garrett, TNC



River Network’s tent at Earth Day Texas 2016 © John O. Lumpkin



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MANAGED BY  
THE FOREST  
SERVICE ARE  
THE NATION'S  
LARGEST  
SOURCE OF  
DRINKING  
WATER

@ForestService #FSNatureWatch #FSNatureLIVE

For  
every  
drop  
we use,  
we give one back.

Working with our bottling partners and organizations across government, civil society and the private sector, Coca-Cola exceeded our goal of giving back to communities and nature the equivalent of all the water we use in our beverages and their production. We achieved this milestone by supporting projects in safe water access, watershed restoration and water for productive use, in addition to treating wastewater from our operations. Third-party assessors confirm we achieved this milestone early, but this is not the end of our journey. In the coming years, we plan to grow our conservation efforts and dedication to communities.

To learn more and see the partners who made this possible, visit [coca-colacompany.com/water](http://coca-colacompany.com/water).

*The Coca-Cola Company*

Follow us, and share your thoughts,  
photos and experience at Rally!

Official hashtag: #RiverRally2017  
Facebook: [facebook.com/TheRiverRally](https://facebook.com/TheRiverRally)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/rivernetwork](https://twitter.com/rivernetwork)  
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**river  
NETWORK**  
connecting people · saving rivers

The Wege Foundation welcomes you to Grand Rapids and



# RIVER RALLY 2017

Join us at the following sessions  
to hear from our Local Partners

**Collaborative Approaches in  
Stormwater Management**

Tuesday, May 9 at 1:00 pm

**West Michigan Rallies  
Around the Grand River**

Tuesday, May 9 at 3:00 pm

**Grand River Rainscaping and  
Experiential Learning Workshop**

Wednesday, May 10 at 9:30 am

**Rethinking Our Relationship to  
Urban Rivers Plenary Session**

Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 am

**Teen River Rally**

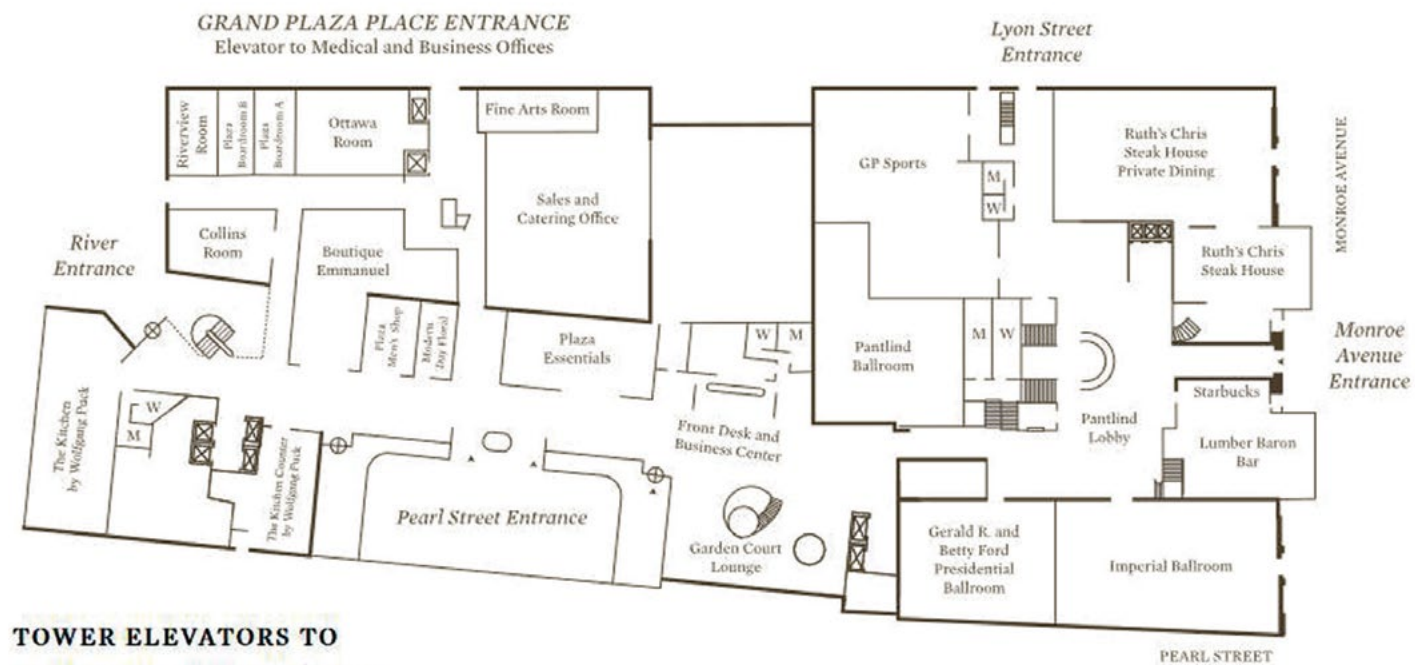
On Wednesday, May 10, local students will participate in River Rally. Help us engage them as they participate in sessions and career exploration.





# HOTEL MAPS

All River Rally programming will take place in the Amway Grand Plaza Conference Center.



## TOWER ELEVATORS TO

- Plaza Fitness Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Tower Club, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Cygnus 27, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Sky I & II, Private Dining Rooms, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Pinnacle Room, Take to 28<sup>th</sup> Floor

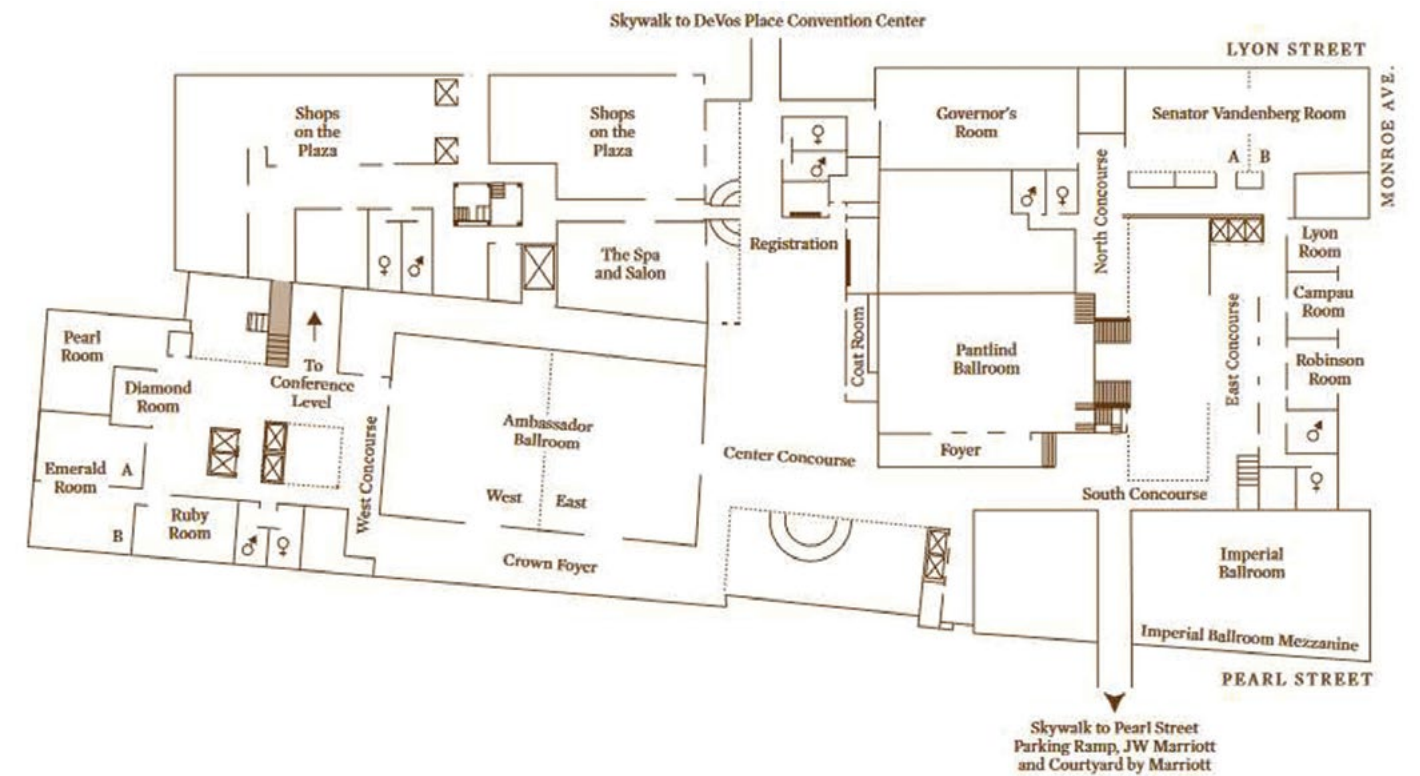
## LOBBY LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

### Key Locations

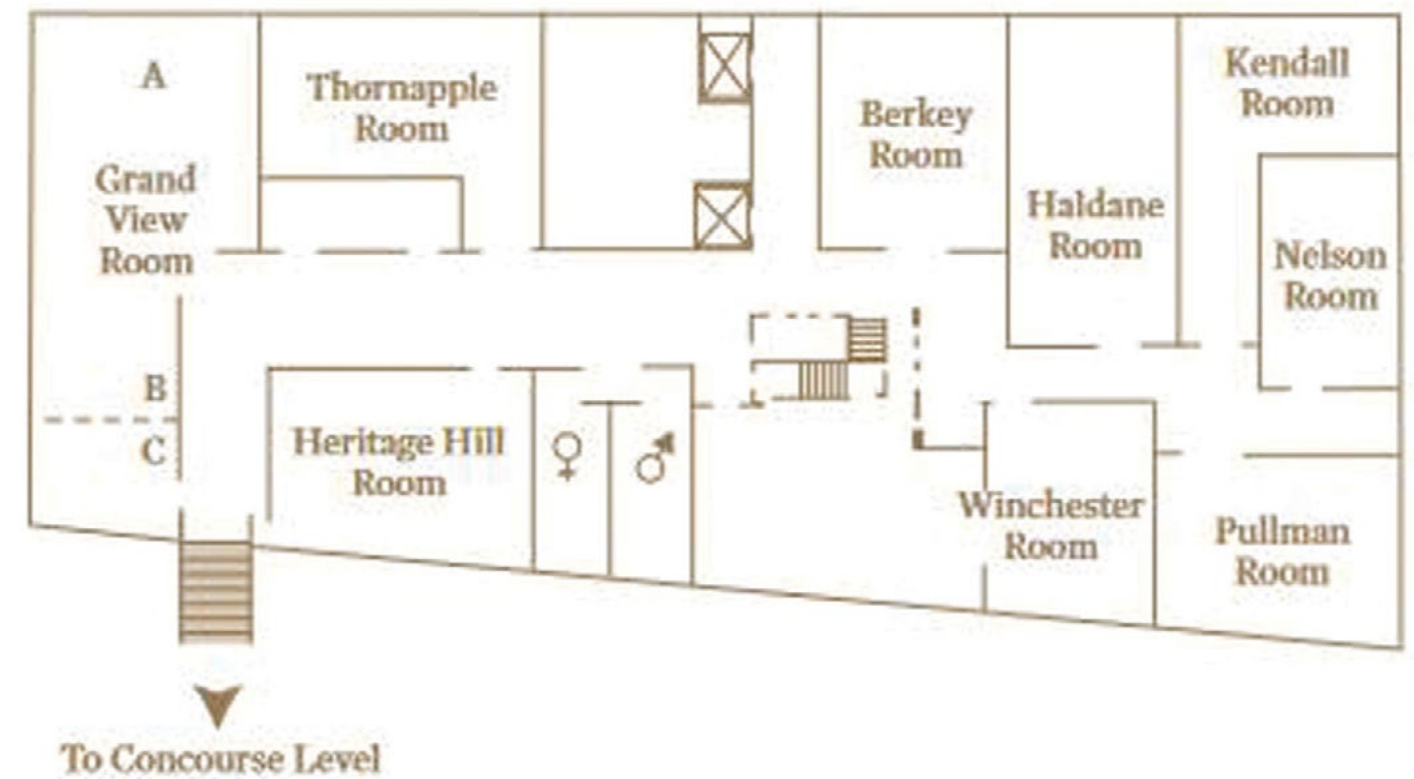
Center Concourse: Registration, Q&A, and Exhibitors

Ambassador Ballroom: Keynote & Plenary Sessions, all meals

Pantlind Ballroom: Hospitality Suite



## CONCOURSE LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



## CONFERENCE LEVEL FLOOR PLAN





### RIVER NETWORK STAFF

Katherine Baer, *Director of Science and Policy*  
 Ryan Carter, *Information Technology Specialist*  
 Jorie Emory, *Director of Community Strategies*  
 Travis Fry, *Marketing and Development Associate*  
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 Tara Watkins, *Director of Finance*  
 Victoria Yu, *Operations Associate*

\*Current staff and board members as of May 1, 2017

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Follow us, and share your thoughts,  
 photos and experience at Rally!



### RIVER RALLY 2018

April 29–May 2

Lake Tahoe, CA

Call for Workshops opens July 1, 2017



[www.riverrally.org](#)





## MISSION, VISION, AND FOCUS

River Network empowers and unites people and communities to protect and restore rivers and other waters that sustain all life. We envision a future of clean and ample water for people and nature, where local caretakers are well-equipped, effective and courageous champions for our rivers. Our three strategies for focused investment are strong champions, clean water, and ample water.

[www.rivernetwork.org](http://www.rivernetwork.org)

**RIVER RALLY IS HOSTED BY RIVER NETWORK.**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 21387  
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