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Be sure to visit our sponsors' virtual booths to learn more about their work and speak with their representatives!

VIRTUAL RIVER RALLY

IMPORTANT INFO

Our Commitment to Diversity and Our Community

River Network seeks to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in our work and in the work of organizations across our network. We welcome, involve, and value all perspectives, voices, styles, and identities, with special attention to racial power dynamics. We foster inclusion by building internal structures and processes that promote a sense of belonging. We encourage inclusion throughout our network by validating the inherent worth and dignity of all people with an expectation of mutual respect.

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.



Personal Pronouns

During registration we asked for your pronouns. Why? In accordance with our commitment above, River Network recognizes that using an individual's correct personal pronouns is a way to show respect and foster an inclusive environment. While our new virtual platform does not display pronouns, we encourage Rally participants to add their pronouns to their name in their personal Zoom account, to be displayed during live workshops and peer calls. This will help create and maintain a welcoming and respectful space for all at Rally by acknowledging the personal pronouns of all attendees. To learn how, please refer to this resource from the *University* of California San Francisco. To learn more about personal pronouns please visit mypronouns.org.

Connect in the Meet Your Network Chat Lounge!

Your go-to destination for network interaction! Click **Meet Your Network** at the top of the virtual platform screen to connect with peers, presenters, speakers, River Network staff, and everyone else involved in Rally for open-ended chat conversations on any topic under the sun. Start your own thread or jump in to one already underway to make new professional connections and learn from the network.

Q&A

In this designated space within the Meet Your Network Chat Lounge, find answers to all your conference-related questions. Our crew will be fielding questions throughout Rally and are happy to point you in the right direction.

IMPORTANT INFO

Workshop Evaluations

Your feedback matters! Your reflections help us to assess the effectiveness of River Rally learning opportunities and make improvements for next year. After each session, please click the **Survey** button above the video player and complete a short survey.

Sponsor Booths

Be sure to visit our generous Sponsors in their virtual booths. Learn more about the nonprofit organizations, public agencies, businesses, and foundations who are showcasing their products, services, and resources that can help you and your team succeed. And, simply click **Connect With Us** to directly contact each sponsor.

Recording at Virtual River Rally

All Virtual River Rally live plenaries, workshops, peer calls, and evening events will be recorded through River Network's Zoom account. By participating in any of these events, you agree that your voice, name, and image may be recorded and become part of live programming recordings, and you authorize use of these recordings by River Network. If you do not wish to be recorded, please mute your microphone and turn off your video.

STAY CONNECTED

Official hashtag: #VirtualRiverRally
Facebook: facebook.com/rivernetwork
Twitter: twitter.com/rivernetwork
Instagram: river_network

Join the buzz, and share your thoughts, photos, and River Rally highlights!

Visit riverrally.org for the latest info.

EVENT TYPES

This year's virtual format means new types of Rally programming. Brush up today!

Live Workshops

Watch and participate LIVE as you learn about new solutions and strategies from this year's presenters. Live workshops will offer multiple opportunities to interact, from break out rooms to real-time chat and more.

Featured Workshops

Mark your calendars to watch recorded workshops with other Rally attendees. Chat with peers as you learn together from expert presenters across each of our six themes.

On-Demand Workshops

Explore our library of Rally sessions at your own pace. Press play on over 60 informative and inspiring workshops as you have time... no more choosing between two concurrent sessions that both pique your interest!

Peer Calls

Engage with peers from across the country! Each week, River Network staff will facilitate calls related to our Rally themes to share knowledge, build your professional network, and inspire hope.

Film Nights

With support from South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), spend every Tuesday night of Rally enjoying a program of thought provoking and beautiful films from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. These films are available through the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour Program. Visit wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/ for details.



WORKSHOP THEMES

Each week of Virtual River Rally features live workshops related to two of the themes below, presented by water and conservation professionals from across the US. Explore additional workshops across all these themes in our on-demand library at your own pace as well!

WEEK 1MAY 18-22

Water & Agriculture

Learn what it takes for agriculture and healthy rivers to exist side-by-side, what is possible in collaboration with farmers and ranchers toward 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.

Resilient Communities

Explore how rivers can be drivers of the social vitality and economic future of cities and communities, how to help communities become less vulnerable to the impacts of floods and droughts, lessons for avoiding harm to vulnerable populations caused by restoration and recovery, and connections between urban and rural landscapes and perspectives.

Effective Leadership

Gain access to new ideas to help you transform your organization, lead change processes and inspire your team, become the staff or board leader that you aspire to be, identify and sharpen the skills necessary for the road ahead, become a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization, and expand your ability to tell your story and achieve fundraising success.



Learn about how communities are engaging their residents in data collection, how data can help inform our understanding of both the overall health of rivers and water and also where harm is occurring (e.g., flood and drought impacts) and the impact of climate change, and opportunities to leverage what we are learning for bigger impact locally, regionally, and nationally.



WEET-5

Drinking Water

Expand your understanding of the challenges faced by water utilities seeking to upgrade their infrastructure and improve their services to deliver greater access to safe drinking water, the unequal implications of rate increases (for service upgrades and other purposes) to low income and racially diverse communities in urban and rural settings, and novel approaches for a more equitable path forward.

Policy & Advocacy

Grow your familiarity with laws and policies that protect healthy rivers and clean water in your community, new laws and policies that could help you strengthen protection for places you care about, how civic engagement for water may be what is missing in your community, and what you can do to enable activism and accountability moving forward.

Workshop Tracks

Equity, Diversity,
Inclusion, or Climate
Justice - E

Water Infrastructure -



WEEK 1

LIVE PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

Water & Agriculture + Resilient Communities

	Monday, May 18 th	Tuesday, May 19 th	Wednesday, May 20 th	Thursday, May 21 st
12:00– 1:30pm	Welcome to River Rally and Virtual Conference Tour!	Live Workshop: "Restoring Freshwater to Texas Ecosystems" (Sharlene Luerig, Andrew Purkey, Kyle Garmany)	Live Plenary: "Food Insecurity, Water, & COVID19 — Lessons for a Better Future"	Featured Workshop: "Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in America" (Robert Bonnie)
2:00– 3:30pm	Featured Workshop: Blue Tide featuring Joe Fitzgerald (Kevin Jeffery)	Live Workshop: "Connecting Rural Conservation to Urban Restoration" (Eileen Boekestein & Carlos Calderon)	Featured Workshop: "Plastics Crisis: Fighting a Petrochemical Buildout" (Yvette Arellano & Tricia Cortez)	Live Workshop: "Mobilizing Communities in Land & Water Work" (Jill Erikson, Alicia Smith, and Others)
4:00– 5:30pm	Featured Workshop: Understanding Your Organization's Reach (Theresa Huck)	Peer Call: Engaging Farmers & Ranchers	Live Workshop: "A Tale of Two Richmonds: Equity, Climate, & History" (Rob Jones and Matt Holmes)	Peer Call: How Are We Engaging Community Members and Building Leadership for Climate Resilience?
8:00pm		Film Night: Farming & Ranching	Young Professionals Happy Hour	Community Happy Hour

WEEK 1

LIVE PROGRAMMING

_ Water & Agriculture + Resilient Communities

MONDAY, MAY 18

Welcome to River Rally and Virtual Conference Tour!

12:00-1:30p

Join River Network staff and board leadership for a fun welcome to Virtual River Rally! Get a glimpse of the hope and inspiration we have planned for our three-week program, experience a virtual tour of this year's innovative platform, and see a sneak peek of where we will be for Rally next year.

Featured Workshop: Blue Tide 2:00-3:30p

From River Network's 2019 Emerging Leader, Kevin Jeffery, comes Blue Tide, a new video series. Through each 5-minute film you'll meet emerging young leaders working at the intersection of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and the environment in a range of professions, especially around water. In this Rally sneak peek, meet Joe Fitzgerald and learn about his work at Milwaukee Water Commons. *Kevin Jeffery, Blue Index*

Featured Workshop: Understanding Your Organization's Reach 4:00-5:30p

Calculate your organization's current reach and learn how to increase engagement. Participants will explore how to use the reach their organization currently has to acquire higher-level sponsors and increase attendance at events. *Theresa Huck, South Yuba River Citizens League*

TUESDAY, MAY 19

Live Workshop: Restoring Freshwater to Texas Ecosystems (3) 12:00-1:30p

Workshop participants will learn how to effectively work with willing farmers and ranchers to restore freshwater flows to important Texas ecosystems. These flow restoration efforts will be related to similar work in other western states.

Sharlene Leurig, Texas Water Trade and Kyle Garmany, The Nature Conservancy

Live Workshop: Connecting Rural Conservation to Urban Restoration E 2:00-3:30p

A Michigan case study shows how connecting upstream agricultural conservation to downstream urban restoration creates opportunities for unique partnerships and funding. Workshop activities will help you identify opportunities in your own watershed. Eileen Boekestein and Carlos Calderon, Grand Valley Metro Council/Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds

Peer Call: Water & Agriculture 4:00-5:30p

During this Peer Call we will have focused discussions on the intersection of equity and environmental justice, agriculture, and water and rivers. Make connections in small breakout groups and come away with new ideas to reinforce our work together at these intersections.

Film Night: Farming & Ranching 8:00p

Enjoy a 64-minute program from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival:

- In Your Hands
- Sonora Rising
- Givers and Takers
- Who's Your Farmer?
- Herd Impact

For film descriptions, please visit wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/on-tour-films/

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Live Plenary: "Food Insecurity, Water, and COVID-19: Lessons for a Better Future" 12:00-1:30p

As a result of COVID-19, we are facing an unprecedented public health and economic crisis. This crisis is also revealing the fault lines that divide our nation and

WEEK 1

have prevented us from achieving more equitable solutions. Speakers will explore these topics as well as how this crisis may shift our relationship to food production and distribution, between rural and urban areas, and regarding water and climate change. Speakers will also share lessons for a better future.

Featured Workshop: Plastics Crisis: Fighting a Petrochemical Buildout 2:00-3:30p

Break Free From Plastic is a global movement that seeks to shift the narrative of plastics toward rural and urban communities who face disproportionate impacts from plastics production. Learn how to weave these themes into your ongoing advocacy work. Yvette Arellano, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.); Tricia Cortez, Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC Inc.)

Live Workshop: A Tale of Two Richmonds: Equity, Climate, & History (E) 4:00-5:30p

In Richmond, VA, and Richmond, CA, we're examining the impact of climate change on our communities through the lens of historic policies of discrimination. Learn how data and community-based conversations are shaping climate resilience strategies. *Rob Jones, Groundwork RVA; Matt Holmes, Groundwork Richmond*

Young Professionals Happy Hour 8:00p

Calling all young professionals across the network! Join River Network Emerging Leaders Megan Nguyen (2020) and Kevin Jeffery (2019) for connection, networking, games, and more. This unstructured social time is open to all who consider themselves a young professional.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Featured Workshop: Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in America 12:00-1:30p

Rural Americans matter—a lot—to the fate of U.S. environmental policy. While rural Americans express support for natural resource conservation, they and their elected officials often voice less support

for existing federal environmental policies and laws. Why do rural voters and their representatives often oppose environmental regulations? What accounts for this apparent rural/urban divide on attitudes toward environmental policy? This session will unpack these questions and explore the opportunities that exist to engage rural voters on climate change and environmental policies generally. Robert Bonnie, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University

Live Workshop: Mobilizing Communities in Land and Water Work (2) (1) 2:00-3:30p

Learn from stewardship leaders in Detroit and Kansas City about how to revitalize and build resilient communities through service learning, green infrastructure, clean water access, and prioritizing economic opportunities that benefit neighborhoods. Jill Erickson, Heartland Conservation Alliance; Alicia Smith, Freshwater Future and Urban Waters Learning Network 2020 Environmental Justice and Equity Award winner.

Peer Call: How Are We Engaging Community Members and Building Leadership for Climate Resilience? 4:00-5:30p

Join leaders from our Network for an in-depth discussion and peer networking opportunity to explore how we can engage community members in climate resilience initiatives. Maria Gabriela Huertas (Caño Martin Peña Community, Puerto Rico), Andy Krikun (US Water Alliance), Cate Mingoya (Groundwork USA) and Jonathan Phillips (Groundwork Elizabeth) will lead us into this conversation, moderated by Heather Passchier (National Park Service). We will then break into peer groups to learn and share from one another about how we can engage and activate various sectors of our community to build greater climate resilience.

Community Happy Hour 8:00p

Join River Network staff and board leadership for unstructured social time to connect with other leaders across the network.

LIVE PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

Effective Leadership + Science & Climate

	Monday, May 25 th	Tuesday, May 26 th	Wednesday, May 27 th	Thursday, May 28 th	Friday, May 29 th
12:00- 1:30pm			Live Plenary: "Helping Our Nonprofits Survive the Pandemic"	Featured Workshop: "Volunteer Programs That Transform Organizations" (Baird Straughan & Jason Frenzel)	Featured Workshop: "Birds, Bivalves, Botany: Assessing Ecological Lift" (Lee Marlowe, Martin Reid, Chris Vaughn)
2:00- 3:30pm	MEMORIAL DAY – NO LIVE PROGRAMMING	Live Workshop: "Building Multi-Racial Organizations for Our Waters" (Brenda Coley and Kirsten Shead)	Live Workshop: "Lessons on Network Building from the Delaware River" (Kelly Knutson, Grant LaRouche, and Sarah Clark)	Live Workshop: "Streamline the Lifecycle of Your Data" (Water Data Collaborative)	Peer Call: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning
4:00- 5:30pm		Live Workshop: "Making a Stronger Case for Water" (Brandon Hayes)	Live Workshop: "Getting More BANG from Your Strategic Plan" (David Allen)	Live Workshop: "How's My Waterway" (EPA)	Featured Workshop: "Making a Splash When Talking About River Flows" (Eric Eckl)
8:00pm		Film Night: Science & Climate	UWLN Award Presentation and Panel	Leaders of Color Social Hour	

Live Workshop

Plenary Social Time

Featured Workshop
Peer Call

LIVE PROGRAMMING

Effective Leadership + Science & Climate

TUESDAY, MAY 26

Live Workshop: Building Multi-Racial Organizations for Our Waters (£) 2:00-3:30p

We will discuss the differences between diversity, equity, inclusion, and multi-racial leadership and share stories – both successes and challenges—as Milwaukee Water Commons works to build a multi-racial organization focused on our waters. Brenda Coley and Kirsten Shead, Milwaukee Water Commons

Live Workshop: Making a Stronger Case for Water (3) 4:00-5:30p

Take a deep dive into communicating about water conservation. In a highly interactive workshop, we will explore assumptions about diversity (geographic, ethnic, economic), the place of climate in our work, and what we can learn from other movements. *Brandon Hayes, Bold Bison Communications and Consulting*

Film Night: Science & Climate 8:00p

Enjoy a 53-minute program from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival:

- Nature Now
- Place of the Pike: Ginoozhekaaning
- Last Call for the Bayou: South As South Can Go
- Sounds of Survival
- I Am Public Lands

For film descriptions, please visit wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/on-tour-films/

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Live Plenary: "Helping Our Nonprofits Survive the Pandemic" 12:00-1:30p

The impacts of COVID-19 on the nonprofit sector have been swift and promise to be long-lasting. How can we lead our organizations through these uncharted waters and respond in a way that keeps us mission-focused, responsive, nimble and viable? Our panel of nonprofit experts will explore some of the most salient issues we face today—a funding landscape that is rapidly changing, the need to remain adaptive in our programming and the responsibility for communicating the importance of our work in ways that are both sensitive and compelling. Join us for this conversation and leave with ideas and inspiration to help you move away from reactive mode and provide steady and stabilizing leadership over the long-term.

Live Workshop: Lessons on Network-Building from the Delaware River **E** 2:00-3:30p

Learn how a network-based strategy is supporting a large coalition to create change basin-wide. Leave this interactive session with tools for balancing the benefits and costs of collaboration, cross-state advocacy approaches, and forming effective partnerships. Kelly Knutson, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed; Grant La Rouche, National Wildlife Federation; Sarah Clark, Institute for Conservation Leadership

Live Workshop: Getting More BANG from Your Strategic Plan 4:00-5:30p

The product of strategic planning is not a document; it is the consensus that stands behind it. In this workshop, participants will learn how to organize an inclusive process that will help drive the organization forward with vision and energy. David Allen, Development for Conservation

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Featured Workshop: Volunteer Programs That Transform Organizations 12:00-1:30p

You can design your volunteer program to build advocacy, increase diversity, and train spokespeople and program leaders. We'll explore the exemplary volunteer program of the Huron River Watershed Council, which has transformed the organization. Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council

Live Workshop: Streamline the Life Cycle of Your Data (£) 2:00-3:30p

Have yellowed data collection sheets jammed in a cabinet? This workshop is for you. The Water Data Collaborative wants to help you manage, integrate, and visualize their data. Learn a streamlined process and best practice resources to quickly collect and disseminate data with resources like Water Reporter, Salt Watch, and open data management tools. John Dawes, Chesapeake Commons; Sam Briggs, Izaak Walton League of America; Adam Griggs, River Network

Live Workshop: How's My Waterway? 4:00-5:30p

Learn about EPA's "How's My Waterway?" application and the data it provides. Attendees will feel empowered to communicate water quality information to their community in order to protect and restore their waters. Kiki Schneider, US EPA, Office of Water; Miranda Chien-Hale, US EPA, Office of Water, Watershed Branch

Leaders of Color Social Hour 8:00p

Come dressed to impress (full outfit... favorite hat... feather boa?), put on your dancing shoes, BYOB, and send us your favorite songs to help build the playlist! This social hour is open to all who self-identify as leaders of color in the water space. Registration required. *Click here* to reserve your spot.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Featured Workshop: Birds, Bivalves, Botany: Assessing Ecological Lift 12:00–1:30p

Restoration of the San Antonio River has resulted in ecological lift of the urban river system. Learn about simple tools and practical approaches for measuring lift using plants, birds, and freshwater mussels as bio-indicators. Lee Marlowe, Martin Reid, and Chris Vaughn, San Antonio River Authority

Peer Call: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning 2:00-3:30p

Join this peer call to discuss ways to approach climate adaption in your community, whether urban, rural, or both. Gwen Griffith, Model Forest Policy Program, Wendy Ogilvie, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, and Kristine Surfus, National Association of Clean Water Agencies will be on this call to share some of their experiences and discuss with participants how this can be applied to create climate resilient watersheds in other places.

Featured Workshop: Making a Splash When Talking About River Flows 4:00-5:30p

In this interactive training, participants will learn how to navigate messaging to different audiences in red states. Discover which messages will resonate with each audience and who should be the messenger. *Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC*





LIVE PROGRAMMING AT A GLANCE

Drinking Water + Policy & Advocacy

	Monday, June 1st	Tuesday, June 2 nd	Wednesday, June 3 rd	Thursday, June 4 th
12:00- 1:30pm	Featured Workshop: "Healthy Forests for Clean Drinking Water" (Kris Olsson, Ellen Koehler, Josh Leisen, Kimberly Brewster)		Live Plenary: "Water, Equity, and Sustainability — COVID-19 and Beyond"	Featured Workshop: "How to Build a Movement in a Year — A Wisconsin Water Agenda" (Raj Shukla)
2:00– 3:30pm	Live Workshop: "En Español: How to Reach and Activate Latino Communities" (Corazón Latino)	Peer Call: Drinking Water & COVID-19	Live Workshop: "Building Bridges Across the Political Divide" (Chandra Brown)	Live Workshop: "Use Community Knowledge to Achieve Water Equity" (Diana Toledo, April Ingle, Alicia Lehrer)
4:00– 5:30pm	Live Workshop: Safe Drinking Water Act 101 (Katherine Baer, Nick Leonard, Jennifer Peters)	Featured Workshop: "Drinking Water Guide: A Resource for Advocates" (Sheyda Esnaasshari)	Featured Workshop: "Clean Water Act 101" (Albert Ettinger, Gayle Killam)	Peer Call: Stay Up to Speed on Water Policy
8:00pm		Film Night: Civic Engagement & Inspiration	Community Happy Hour	Awardee Panel, Celebration & Happy Hour

Plenary Social Time Live Workshop Featured Workshop

Peer Call

LIVE PROGRAMMING

Drinking Water + Policy & Advocacy

MONDAY, JUNE 1

Featured Workshop: Healthy Forests for **Clean Drinking Water**

12:00-1:30p

Keeping our drinking water safe, clean, and affordable requires upstream watershed protection. This workshop will describe strategies to preserve natural lands important for source water protection. Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council; Ellen Koehler, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; Josh Leisen, Huron Pines; Kimberly Brewster, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

Live Workshop: En Español—How to Reach and Activate Latino Communities 🖪 🕕 2:00-3:30p

The session will serve both as the launch of the newly-developed River Network Drinking Water Spanish-language Guide, as well as a case study to review, discuss, and analyze methodologies to create culturally relevant outreach materials and educational tools to empower Latino audiences and other diverse communities around water-related issues. Felipe Benitez, Corazón Latino; Sheyda Esnaashari, River Network

Live Workshop: Safe Drinking Water Act 101

4:00-5:30p

The Safe Drinking Water Act is the main federal law governing drinking water, and yet many groups are unfamiliar with how it works. Join us for an overview of this landmark law, including its strengths and weaknesses, and an in depth look at several provisions you can watchdog back home. Katherine Baer, River Network; Nick Leonard, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center; Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Peer Call: Drinking Water & COVID-19 2:00-3:30p

Join River Network staff and presenters from the Drinking Water theme to share and receive pertinent updates on the fight to halt water shutoffs and restore water access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline groups, advocates, and all others interested in staying up-to-date on this issue are invited to join and learn more about what's being done across the country to end water shutoffs and ensure safe and affordable water for all at this time.

Featured Workshop: Drinking Water **Guide: A Resource for Advocates** 4:00-5:30p

River Network's Drinking Water Guide covers the basics of drinking water from the source to your taps. This quick session will provide a high-level overview of the Guide along with tips for how to use it in your community. Sheyda Esnaasshari, River Network

Film Night: Civic Engagement & Inspiration 8:00p

Enjoy a 71-minute program from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival:

- Mi Mamá
- This Land
- Big World
- Ashes to Ashes
- L'Eau est La Vie

For film descriptions, please visit wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/on-tour/on-tour-films/

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Live Plenary: "Water, Equity, and Sustainability—COVID-19 and Beyond" 12:00-1:30p

How has COVID-19 impacted our thinking about what we need to do to achieve water equity and sustainability in the near- and long-term? Does it open up new opportunities to move policy reform forward and create new collaborations? What will we all face as policy advocates, community organizers, and water systems looking to provide safe, clean, affordable, and sustainable water into the future? Join a conversation with a panel with deep experience acting on these issues including water utility management, community organizing, policy advocacy, and integrated water management.

Live Workshop: Building Bridges Across the Political Divide 2:00-3:30p

An interactive, hands-on training for advocates and communicators. Learn how to find influencers, build relationships with decision makers, and advocate effectively for conservation priorities. *Chandra Brown, Influence Advocacy, LLC*

Featured Workshop: Clean Water Act 101 4:00-5:30p

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Clean Water Act, including what it regulates and how people and organizations can use it to protect their local rivers, lakes and streams. Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates; Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways

Community Happy Hour 8:00p

Join River Network staff and board leadership for unstructured social time to connect with other leaders across the network.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Featured Workshop: How to Build a Movement in a Year—A Wisconsin Water Agenda 12:00-1:30p

Learn about the River Alliance of Wisconsin's bold agenda that reimagines water resource management in keeping with their social, environmental, and economic needs. Raj Shukla, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Live Workshop: Use Community Knowledge to Achieve Water Equity (5) 2:00-3:30p

Participants will be trained on the Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Toolkit and how to implement toolkit strategies in their communities. Learn from community leaders who have used CBPR to achieve more equitable outcomes. Diana Toledo and April Ingle, River Network; Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and Urban Waters Learning Network 2020 Signature Award winner.

Peer Call: Stay Up to Speed on Water Policy

4:00-5:30p

Get quick updates on the latest federal water policy news, hear from 2020 River Hero Maya van Rossum about the "Green Amendments for the Generations" movement, and learn ways to engage. We'll also have small group discussions for networking and to exchange ideas and tips on effective water policy development and advocacy.

Awardee Panel, Celebration & Happy Hour 8:00p

On the last Thursday of River Rally, gather virtually for the annual River Hero awards celebration. River Heroes are nominated annually by their peers, selected by their peers, and celebrated among peers. 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. Bring your questions for 2020 Heroes Catherine Coleman-Flowers, Amanda Pitzer, and Maya van Rossum, Compton Award recipient Daryl Vigil, and Emerging Leader Megan Nguyen, and be inspired by their reflections on their work, and what they hope for the future.

ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS

Explore our on-demand content library and view workshops from each of our River Rally themes at your own pace.

WATER & AGRICULTURE

The Confluence of Agriculture and the Environment: To be successful, watershed management planning needs agricultural involvement. This workshop highlights how agriculture interconnects with watershed and stream management planning, from initiating local planning efforts to implementing multibenefit improvements, along with what producers identify as their greatest water-related challenges and how they are dealing with changing dynamics around water. Phil Brink, Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Water NetWORK; Callie Hendrickson, White River & Douglas Creek Conservation Districts; Gretchen Rank, Mancos Conservation District

Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank: Are you leading projects that restore river flows and/or ground water? Would you like to connect with businesses who may want to support them? If the answer is "Yes!" attend this session to learn about the Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank. *April Ingle, River Network*

Farm Bill Funding for River
Conservation **(E):** Federal agency funding can often provide a foundation for building partnerships to improve river health, drought resiliency, and other community priorities.
Come learn about program funding available from USDA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and EPA. *Melinda Kassen, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership*

Closing the Deal with Rural
Landowners: How can conservation groups
improve their sales pitch and close voluntary
land management activities? Presenters surveyed
and interviewed 100 field staff in 4 states to find
answers. Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work;
Jennifer Miller Herzog, Land Trust Alliance



Understanding Rural Attitudes Toward the Environment and Conservation in **America:** Rural Americans matter—a lot—to the fate of U.S. environmental policy. While rural Americans express support for natural resource conservation, they and their elected officials often voice less support for existing federal environmental policies and laws. Why do rural voters and their representatives often oppose environmental regulations? What accounts for this apparent rural/urban divide on attitudes toward environmental policy? This session will unpack these questions and explore the opportunities that exist to engage rural voters on climate change and environmental policies generally. Robert Bonnie, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Plastics Crisis: Fighting a

Petrochemical Buildout (a): Break
Free From Plastic is a global movement
that seeks to shift the narrative of plastics
toward rural and urban communities who
face disproportionate impacts from plastics
production. Learn how to weave these themes
into your ongoing advocacy work. Yvette
Arellano, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy
Services (t.e.j.a.s.); Tricia Cortez, Rio Grande
International Study Center (RGISC Inc.)



Rooted in Nature: Achieving Equitable Resilience (a): The session will highlight the lessons-learned and the victories achieved in the implementation of nature-based projects and development of cross-sector approaches in advancing equity in the wake of climate-related disasters. Jordan Macha, Bayou City Waterkeeper; Iris Gonzalez, Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience

Daylighting the Saw Mill River **(B)**:

Learn how architects, artists, community groups, city officials, and more came together to daylight Yonkers, NY's forgotten underground Saw Mill River, leading to ecological, economic, and cultural revitalization. Discover ideas and proven methods for how to daylight your own hidden waterways. *Oded Holzinger, Groundwork Hudson Valley*

Green Design for a Resilient Caño
Martin Peña (2) (1): San Juan, Puerto
Rico, was devastated by floods following
Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Learn how
community-based green infrastructure design
assistance benefited these communities
affected by urban flooding. Clark Wilson, US
EPA Office of Research and Development

Leading with Equity for Flooding Resilience and Investments in Water Infrastructure (E) (1):

Available by Friday, 5/29 Historically marginalized populations suffer disproportionately from the effects of flooding and inadequate infrastructure investments. A focus on equity is key to increasing resilience, creating opportunities for community

feedback and targeting future investments to positively impact vulnerable populations. Learn how institutionalized racism and other forms of inequity play out and what can be done to address them. Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Jennifer Arnold, Reciprocity Consulting, LLC

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Inspiring and Mobilizing Your
Board of Directors: Your Board exists
to provide leadership and support in all of
your organization's programmatic areas –
including fundraising! Learn the "why" of
board fundraising, actionable steps and
fundraising tactics to set your Board up for
success. Demystify the fundraising process,
anyone can do it. Lisa Runkel, River Network

The Power of Hidden River Histories:

We will learn to use historical skills to empower us to tell stories of our communities. Using as examples historical maps, journal entries, and photos, we will discuss what it takes to create livable and just pasts and futures for our rivers. Scot McFarlane, Columbia University; Ramya Swayamprakash, River Historian and Ph.D. Candidate

Making a Splash When Talking About River Flows: In this interactive training, participants will learn how to navigate messaging to different audiences in red states. Discover which messages will resonate with each audience and who should be the messenger. Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC

Volunteer Programs That Transform Organizations (E): You can design your volunteer program to build advocacy, increase diversity, and train spokespeople and program leaders. We'll explore the exemplary volunteer program of the Huron River Watershed Council, which has transformed the organization. Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council

Understanding Your Organization's Reach: Calculate your organization's current reach and learn how to increase engagement. Participants will explore how to use the reach their organization currently has to acquire higher-level sponsors and increase attendance at events. Theresa Huck, South Yuba River Citizens League

New Voices at the Water Table (E):
Can priority neighborhoods build leadership among their residents? The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council is working on just that in Providence, RI. Come find out how students engage adults to become leaders in priority neighborhoods. Alicia Lehrer and Sara Canuel, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council; Kiana Gonzalez, MET Student

Setting the Stage for Effective
Meeting Management: Do your meetings
always start the same way? There are better
ways to set up, introduce, and run a meeting to
produce meaningful discussions and generate
creative ideas. This workshop will review some
tips to help hold more effective meetings.
Amy Zola, San Antonio River Authority

SCIENCE & CLIMATE

Natural Defenses Against Climate-Driven Flooding (a): As extreme rainfall events occur more and more frequently, communities across the country face unprecedented flooding. Learn how green infrastructure and nature-based defenses can protect both communities and rivers from climate-driven disasters. Emily Powell, National Wildlife Federation; Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance; Danielle Goshen, Galveston Bay Foundation; Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy

Assessing Climate Resiliency on a Watershed Scale : Climate does not adhere to municipal borders. The Lower Grand River Watershed's Climate Resiliency Plan offers strategies that will build a better and more climate resilient watershed through hands-on projects, data collection, and civic engagement. Wendy Ogilvie and Eileen Boekestein, Grand Valley Metro Council



Meeting the Rural Resilience
Imperative: This lively workshop on rural
resilience will open your eyes to the importance
of rural adaptation and new methods to learn
about and protect the vast forests, farms, and
watersheds we all depend upon for our air,
water, food, fiber, and natural systems. Gwen
Griffith, Model Forest Policy Program; Edward
(Ned) Gardiner, NOAA Climate Program Office

Advancing Stormwater Mitigation with Science 1: Learn to use science to engage the community and demonstrate the value of stormwater mitigation measures. Speakers will highlight the use of data from three perspectives: green stormwater infrastructure, ecological biodiversity, and triple bottom line. Jake Aalfs, Brandon Herman, and Lee Marlowe, San Antonio River Authority

Inadvertent PCBs: PCBs in our waterways are becoming an increasing concern nationwide. Learn how the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force; consisting of point source polluters, state agencies, and conservation groups; identifies PCB sources and works toward reduction. Mike Petersen and Chelsea Updegrove, The Lands Council

Birds, Bivalves, Botany: Assessing Ecological Lift: Restoration of the San Antonio River has resulted in ecological lift of the urban river system. Learn about simple tools and practical approaches for measuring lift using plants, birds, and freshwater mussels as bio-indicators. Lee Marlowe, Martin Reid, and Chris Vaughn, San Antonio River Authority

Combating Harmful Algae Blooms:

This workshop will discuss Harpeth Conservancy's experience in attempting to combat harmful algal blooms in the Harpeth River in Middle Tennessee, as a case study by addressing technical and legal issues in measuring and managing nutrient pollution. Ryan Jackwood, Harpeth Conservancy

Increasing Government Support for Citizen Science : Citizen science is key to a swimmable, drinkable, fishable future. This presentation on Swim Drink Fish's Great Lakes monitoring hubs celebrates the growing support to engage citizens in science and recreational water data collection.

Gabrielle Parent-Doliner, Swim Drink Fish

The Environmental Flow Information Toolkit (EFIT): The EFIT is a geospatial decision support tool that uses multiple data sources to identify areas for environmental flow protection and restoration. The workshop will review the EFIT development process and its application to streamflow conservation. Johanna Valente, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department





DRINKING WATER

Healthy Forests for Clean Drinking Water (a): Keeping our drinking water safe, clean, and affordable requires upstream watershed protection. This workshop will describe strategies to preserve natural lands important for source water protection. Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council; Ellen Koehler, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; Josh Leisen, Huron Pines; Kimberly Brewster, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.

Drinking Water Guide: A Resource for Advocates : River Network's Drinking Water Guide covers the basics of drinking water from the source to your taps. This quick session will provide a high-level overview of the Guide along with tips for how to use it in your community. Sheyda Esnaasshari, River Network

Getting the Lead Out While Protecting Watersheds (2) (1): Learn about Denver Water's plan to reduce lead in drinking water while preventing additional nutrient pollution in regional watersheds, understand the challenges and benefits of reducing lead exposure, and how to address lead in your own community. Jennifer Peters, Clean Water Action

National Forests: America's Best Water Source: With 180 million Americans dependent on drinking water sourced from National Forests and with the need to ensure this water can be tapped now and into the future, new partnerships can enhance and strengthen water protection and resiliency work. Marlies Wierenga, WildEarth Guardians

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Clean Water Act 101 E: This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Clean Water Act, including what it regulates and how people and organizations can use it to protect their local rivers, lakes and streams. Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates; Gayle Killam, Water Policy Pathways

TMDLs—Thinking Beyond Permit **Limits:** By challenging traditional TMDL implementation, two watershed-based groups are utilizing holistic and cost-effective watershed management approaches to identify and implement watershed-scale projects aimed at improving biodiversity and stream health. Deanna Doohaluk, TCF/ DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup; Susan Myerov, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

How to Build a Movement in a Year-A Wisconsin Water Agenda:

Learn about the River Alliance of Wisconsin's bold agenda that reimagines water resource management in keeping with their social, environmental, and economic needs. Raj Shukla, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Civic Participation: More Than Just **Volunteering (E):** Organizations often struggle to engage the public in restoration and decision-making on a long-term basis. This workshop will describe innovative strategies to engage hard to reach audiences and merge government projects with bottom-up activism. Gretchen Mikeska, District Department of Energy and Environment; Erin Garnaas-Holmes, Clean Water Fund; Dennis Chestnut; Danielle Burs, DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice; Trey Sherard, Anacostia Riverkeeper

Online Advocacy Programs for Citizen **Engagement (E):** Which online advocacy programs fit your organization? What do they cost in time and dollars? What results can you expect? Follow the West Virginia River Coalition's experience with different programs as it increases citizen engagement by 260%! Baird Straughan, LeadGreen; Kathleen Tyner, West Virginia Rivers Coalition



Stewardship Networks: We're in This **Together (E):** We discuss how partners from government, universities, and non-profits have mapped stewardship networks and projects in the Denver Metro area to understand and strengthen the civic capacity to care for the natural resources of Denver's neighborhoods. Travis Warziniack, US Forest Service

The What, Who, & How of Nonprofit **Advocacy Work:** One of the greatest myths surrounding 501(c)(3)s is that they cannot participate in advocacy or lobbying. Learn the difference between advocacy and lobbying, how they are defined by law, the regulations governing them, and what activities 501(c)(3)s can and cannot do. Brenna Goggin, River Network

Scaling Investment to Meet Local Water Challenges: This interactive workshop will challenge water leaders to scale localized infrastructure investments to address pressing water supply, stormwater runoff, and water treatment challenges facing their communities. Cynthia Koehler, WaterNow Alliance

COMPTON AWARD



Daryl Vigil Co-Director, Water & Tribes in the Colorado River Basin

T. Daryl Vigil, Jicarilla Apache, Jemez Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, is the co-director of Water & Tribes in the Colorado River Basin and the Water Administrator for the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Chairman of Water is Life a Tribal Partnership; official spokesperson for and past Chairman of the Colorado River Ten Tribes Partnership; member of the Coordination Committee of the Next Steps of the Colorado River Basin Supply Demand Study; member of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Planning, Construction, and Operation Committees; member of the Coordination Committee of the San Juan River Recovery and Restoration Project; past Secretary/Treasurer and Board of Trustees member of the Colorado River Water Users Association; past Chairman of the Board of the Jicarilla Apache Utility Authority; and the past President/CEO of the Apache Nugget Corporation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation's Gaming Enterprise.

The Compton Award is a special recognition from River Network's Board of Directors of one individual whose admirable and noteworthy achievements have benefited multiple communities and rivers over many decades.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD



Megan Nguyen Communications Associate at CalTrout

At CalTrout, Megan is a science communicator who manages both educational content for social media and programming for outreach events. She believes that uplifting diverse voices in conservation will inspire the next generation of science communicators. Outside of work, Megan is an energetic advocate using her voice to inspire people to turn their passion into action. Her energy and creativity as a musician and organizer shines bright in her activism work with the Sunrise Movement, a national movement of young people fighting for policies that address climate change. She's led strikes, sit-ins, and trainings for Sunrise, and through this work, Megan hopes to empower young leaders to challenge injustice in their communities.

Connect with Megan on social media at @TheMeganPhone on *Instagram* and *Twitter*.

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes someone early in their professional career who deserves our attention for their work at the intersection of water and equity. This award was inspired by former River Network board member Leslie Lowe, who was a passionate supporter of investing in and recognizing new and younger voices and perspectives in the water arena.

RIVER HEROES



Amanda Pitzer Executive Director of Friends of the Cheat (Kingwood, WV)

Pitzer is a tenacious and dedicated educator and water advocate, having initiated many programs that earned her recognition in West Virginia. In her 10-year tenure at Friends of the Cheat, Pitzer has successfully constructed 9 treatment projects to combat acid mine drainage, secured the preservation of 3800 acres of the Cheat River Canyon, and established the Upper Cheat Water Trail with 9 public access sites.



Catherine Coleman Flowers Founder and Director of Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (Montgomery, AL)

Coleman Flowers founded the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise to address the root causes of poverty in Alabama. Now an internationally recognized advocate for the human right to water and sanitation, Coleman Flowers works tirelessly to promote sustainable initiatives that strengthen families in rural and impoverished communities.



Maya van Rossum Founder of Green Amendments for the Generations (Bristol, PA)

For over 25 years, van Rossum has dedicated her life to protecting the Delaware River watershed. Now the founder of Green Amendments for the Generations, van Rossum has secured many legislative victories for the Delaware River Basin and its surrounding communities including a moratorium on fracking and the establishment of the nation's highest water quality standards for PFAS in New Jersey.

URBAN WATERS LEARNING **NETWORK AWARDS**



Phyllis Boyd Environmental Justice & Equity Expert Award

Before becoming the Executive Director of Groundwork Indy in August 2015, Phyllis was a landscape architect and urban designer focused on sustainable design and planning and dedicated to working with diverse communities to transform their built environments into meaningful, relevant, and life-enhancing places. After eight years in the field, she decided to transfer her skills and passion for working on community-oriented revitalization projects to the non-profit sector and joined Groundwork Indy. Her experiences during her teen years working on Student Conservation Association trail crews in the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico and in Baxter State Park in Maine were transformative. Phyllis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Indiana University in Bloomington and is a two-time alumna of The University of Texas at Austin where she received her Master of Arts in Botany in 1997 and her Master of Landscape Architecture in 2006.



Alicia Lehrer Signature Award

Alicia Lehrer joined the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (WRWC) as Executive Director in March 2008. She holds a BA in Environmental Science from Columbia University and an MS in Natural Resources Science from the University of Rhode Island. Alicia's work at the WRWC has included spearheading migratory fish passage restoration at the first five dams on the river, working with partners to determine cleanup efforts of the Centredale Manor Superfund site, and leading Woonasquatucket River Greenway expansion, improvement, and maintenance. Alicia joined Clean Water Action's efforts to establish the RI Green Infrastructure Coalition in 2014 and has remained an active member. This partnership has helped inspire her to create green infrastructure demonstration projects in Olneyville and Elmhurst, and begin to develop larger plans to help make the Woonasquatucket corridor more resilient in the face of climate change. Alicia also serves on the RI Paths to Progress committee, working to establish a network of active transit (biking/walking) paths across RI.



Andrea Savage Youth Leadership Expert Award

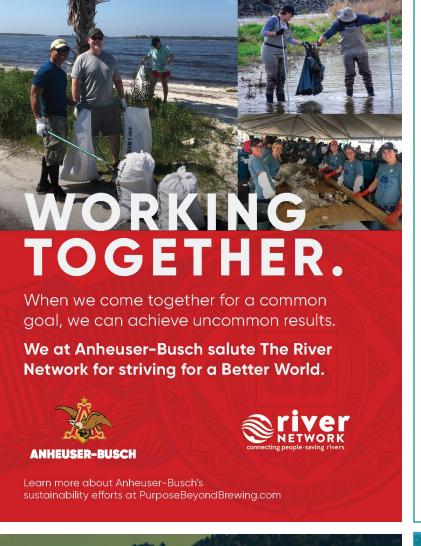
Andrea works with both youth and the Spanish speaking community in Southwest Denver & the City of Sheridan to restore healthy urban waterways and organize for environmental and social justice. She holds a BA and MA in Community Education from Goddard College and serves as chair to the Harvey Park Sustainability Team. Andrea has over 10 years experience in community education and environmental justice, including work for the Sierra Club, San Benito Rising, Santa Cruz Water Department, Amigos de las Americas, and Instituto de la Naturaleza y Sociedad de Oaxaca. She lived and worked abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years.



Alicia Smith Environmental Justice & Equity Expert Award

Alicia is the proud mother of three. She and her family currently reside in Toledo, Ohio and a proud native of Detroit, Michigan. Alicia is the Community Liaison for Junction Coalition, in Toledo, Ohio. She lives, works and enjoys the Junction community's natural social environment with neighbors, friends, family, and visitors. Alicia's passion flows from her belief that all citizens need information to thrive. As such, she works to build the capacity of each family. She believes that Justice work is not limited to the Environment but touches on issues of Social and Economic Justice with the goal of promoting Peace, Public Health and a better quality of life for all citizens. Junction Coalition started as an opportunity to help community help themselves, learning to collaborate with anchor institution and share collective work. During the 2014 Algae Bloom (Outbreak) Junction Coalition was pushed into environmental action. Families were in need of support, information and education not just for the few days of the crisis but a continuum of support and interaction for safe, clean and affordable drinking water.

The Urban Waters Learning Network Awards, sponsored by the US EPA, celebrate significant achievements of individuals who have improved urban waterways and revitalized the neighborhoods around them. Recipients are chosen for recognition by the Urban Waters Learning Network, a partnership of River Network and Groundwork USA.









May 14–17, 2021 • The Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio Call for workshops opens July 1

Special thanks to local partners San Antonio River Authority and The Westin Riverwalk San Antonio for their flexibility and ongoing collaboration!





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.

