



river RALLY

education · inspiration · celebration

June 21–24, 2019
Cleveland, Ohio



A PRODUCTION OF RIVER NETWORK
www.riverrally.org

RIVER RALLY 2019

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

River Rally 2019 takes place along the banks of the Cuyahoga River and marks the last time that river caught fire from unregulated pollution 50 years ago, a pivotal event that sparked the environmental movement that led to the establishment of the Clean Water Act. You don't want to miss this one!

This year, our program features speakers who will illuminate how far we have come over the past 50 years, candidly reflect on where we stand today, and deliver game-changing insight for ensuring everyone has access to clean water and healthy rivers, both urban and rural, for the next 50 years. We will build your toolbox and confidence so that you leave inspired, informed, and empowered to build a more sustainable and equitable water future.

Our program centers on four key issues central to addressing today's water crisis, explored through workshops, plenaries, and small group discussions for alignment and action:

- Pursuing Safe, Clean, and Affordable Drinking Water
- Advancing Robust and Effective Water Laws and Policies
- Building Resilient Cities and Communities
- Working with Farmers and Ranchers

Content also includes topics that practitioners working in the water space need to succeed and a special feature on lessons from the Great Lakes:

- Expanding Impact through Science, Technology, and Monitoring
- Sustaining Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions
- Civic Engagement for Our Water Future
- Innovative Solutions from the Great Lakes Region

Each theme also intersects with considerations of equity, diversity, and inclusion—we are intentional about building this into our entire program as we continue to build a more inclusive movement for the waters of our country. This year's program includes over 70 keynotes, plenary panels, workshops, and field trips; a celebration of people who have gone above and beyond for the waters of our country (River Heroes, Compton, and Emerging Leader Awards); a film screening, and other evening social events; mentoring opportunities; and so much more.

You will find the atmosphere at River Rally warm and welcoming, inclusive of all perspectives, and exceptionally interactive. Every year, we move to a new location to connect you with people whom you wouldn't otherwise know or be able to learn from. We carry with us nationally relevant issues and perspectives from other regions to this location, infusing new ideas from around the country and elevating hope and promise for a future where healthy rivers and clean water are paramount.

I hope you'll join us!



Nicole Silk, President
River Network

River Rally 2019

June 21–24, 2019
Cleveland, Ohio



Register online: www.riverrally.org

2019 AGENDA

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST

4:30pm	Welcome Receptions
5:30pm	River Rally 2019 Opening Remarks: Lessons from the Cuyahoga River

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND

7:00am–9:00am	Breakfast and Plenary Keynote
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–12:30pm	Key Issues Caucuses
12:45pm–1:45pm	Lunch and Networking
2:00pm–3:30pm	Workshops
4:00pm–5:30pm	Workshops
6:15pm–7:30pm	River Heroes Program and Awards Reception
8:00pm–	Dinner On Your Own

SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD

7:00am–9:00am	Breakfast and Plenary Panel
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–12:30pm	Key Issues Caucuses
12:45pm–1:45pm	Lunch and Networking
2:00pm–3:30pm	Workshops
4:00pm–5:30pm	Workshops
5:30pm–7:30pm	Dinner On Your Own
7:30pm–	Evening Program: Film Screening

MONDAY, JUNE 24TH

7:00am–9:00am	Breakfast and Plenary Panel
9:30am–11:00am	Workshops
11:30am–12:30pm	Key Issues Caucus Reports and Closing Remarks
1:00pm–6:00pm	Field Trips
6:00pm–	Dinner On Your Own

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2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop Tracks

River Rally 2019 features workshops presented by water and conservation professionals from across the U.S., covering a variety of issues under the following themes:

1. *Farmers and Ranchers*
2. *Resilient Cities and Communities*
3. *Drinking Water*
4. *Water Laws and Policies*
5. *Science, Technology, and Monitoring*
6. *Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions*
7. *Great Lakes*
8. *Civic Engagement*

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

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

Urban Waters Learning Forum

River Network and Groundwork USA will host the Urban Waters Learning Forum on Friday, June 21st. During the morning of the Forum, we will host “Addressing Racial Equity in Environmental/Conservation Spaces,” a half-day workshop facilitated by Darryl Haddock (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance) and Jennifer Arnold (Reciprocity Consulting, LLC). The workshop is designed to help participants develop an awareness and understanding of institutionalized racism and ways they can begin undoing racism. The afternoon portion will offer facilitated networking opportunities, giving attendees a chance to share their work and have deeper discussions around a variety of topics. We will also present the Third Annual Urban Waters Learning Network Awards. *(Note: Participants may sign up to attend as part of the River Rally registration process. Capacity for the morning portion of the program will be limited.)*

Friday Night Welcome

Meet new people and reconnect with old friends at our welcome receptions on Friday evening. In addition to our traditional opening remarks welcoming everyone to Cleveland, we'll have a special info session for newcomers to Rally, a happy hour for people of color to network with each other, and a unique art reception.

River Heroes Awards and Celebration

Each River Rally we recognize River Heroes, nominated by their peers and selected for their dedicated work in our dynamic conservation community. We celebrate the successes won in this challenging field and honor people whose efforts to protect and restore their local waters have been extraordinary in scope, scale, impact, and heart. This year we will also honor our first Emerging Leader, a new award inspired by former River Network board member Leslie Lowe, and her generous spirit and encouragement of providing early-career recognition to individuals who show promise.

On Saturday, June 22nd, we will gather to acknowledge these outstanding leaders and celebrate with a reception.





REGISTRATION INFO & IMPORTANT DATES

January 22nd
Registration Opens Online

March 15th
Scholarship Applications Due

April 30th
Early Bird Registration Ends

June 21st – June 24th
River Rally 2019—see you
in Cleveland!

**Visit www.riverrally.org
for current info**

Scholarship Applications

River Network offers a limited number of scholarships to support registration fees for those who need financial assistance to attend River Rally. The application is part of the registration process, so to submit your application you must complete your registration online and pay a \$20 application fee. You should find out if you have received a scholarship award by early April and will have until the Early-Bird Deadline (April 30th) to pay any remaining balance on your registration. If for any reason you decide you cannot attend the event, you may cancel your registration without penalty before April 30th.

Emerging Leader Self-Nomination Process

To nominate yourself for the 2019 Emerging Leader Award, you must apply when you register. We will ask you to share links to any work you have available online and will ask essay questions that give you an opportunity to demonstrate your qualifications and outline examples of your work at the intersection of social justice and water. The winner will be notified by April 30th.



KEYNOTE AND PLENARY PANELS

Water and Democracy in the United States

Keynote speaker Keesha Gaskins-Nathan is the director for the Democratic Practice–United States program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Ms. Gaskins-Nathan is a long-time organizer, lobbyist, and trial attorney. Her work has included redistricting reform, voting rights, and elections, with a focus on voter suppression issues. Ms. Gaskins-Nathan is a frequent lecturer and writer on issues related to women and politics, movement building, and democratic reform.

Cuyahoga: From Flame to Fame, an American River

The Cuyahoga River is known worldwide as the river that caught fire. The story of this river is one of recovery—recovery of an ecosystem, of a connection to flowing water and its importance to humans. Join us on a journey into Cuyahoga River history, the life and times of an American river.

Water Equity, Water Security, and Climate Risk—Changing Expectations of Fairness and Equality

Where is change happening to reduce exposure to flood risk, increase climate resilience, and improve access to both clean, safe, affordable drinking water and the benefits of healthy rivers? Can we guarantee healthy rivers and clean water to everyone? Don't miss these passionate stories and perspectives of experiences from across our nation about the determination of our community to get it right. *Moderated by Jalonne L. White-Newsome (Kresge Foundation) with speakers including Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells (Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District), Radhika Fox (U.S. Water Alliance), Katherine Baer (River Network), and others to be determined.*

Soil: The Nexus of Climate, Food, and Water Security

Healthy soil holds water. By allowing better infiltration, healthy soils reduce runoff, mitigate flood risks, and maximize water storage on land. By reconnecting water, carbon, and nutrient cycles, healthy soils minimize nutrient losses to both the air and water, reducing contamination of surface and groundwater, mitigating greenhouse gases, and maximizing crop quality. Today's scientists are beginning to understand the many virtuous connections between soil, water, and life. Speakers will cover what we have learned, why it matters, and what it means for the future of healthy rivers, clean water, and working with farmers and ranchers. *Speakers include Jessica Chiartas, UC Davis, and others to be determined.*

Food & Water: Stronger Together

This session will offer tips and resources for leveraging USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partnership program opportunities to implement conservation and management practices that protect both surface and groundwater drinking water sources. NRCS, state, conservation district, and water utility leaders will share collaborative approaches for working with agricultural partners. *Bo Williams, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Deirdre Mason, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA); Adam Carpenter, American Water Works Association (AWWA); Martin Lowenfish and Dee Carlson, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
Drinking Water

Reaching New Audiences in Rural Communities ▲

Across many rural landscapes, water quality is dependent on the actions of private landowners who are often among the most difficult audiences to engage. This session introduces strategies for more effective engagement of rural audiences and delves into a case study showing how to amplify these strategies with tracking and collaboration for landscape-scale impacts. *Monica Zachay, St. Croix River Association; Nicole Butler, Forestry Program Coordinator, St. Croix River Association; Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell, Program Specialist, Sustaining Family Forests Initiative, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies*
Farmers and Ranchers

Addressing Institutionalized Racism ▲

Conservation organizations are increasingly focused on equity, yet meaningful change requires deepening the conversation, particularly related to racial inequities and institutionalized racism. This workshop will provide guidance and practice to open productive conversations about race, equity, and conservation, including framing questions, definitions, and history, and skills to facilitate brave conversations. *Jennifer Arnold, Reciprocity Consulting, LLC; Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Art, Water Conservation, and Social Justice ▲

This workshop explores the intersection between art, water, and communities. We will discuss projects that use artistic expression to increase access, inclusion, and participation in water conservation efforts and utilize creative techniques to collectively consider how art can weave together social justice and water conservation in our respective communities. *Sarah Davidson, Southeast*

Alaska Conservation Council; Erin O’Grady, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; Kevin Jeffery, University of Texas, Austin School of Architecture

Civic Engagement

Creating Local Government “Change Makers”

Local government decisions have major impacts on watershed quality. This workshop will describe Huron River Watershed Council’s “Change Makers” program, which trains local residents to become involved with local government, either through commenting on land-use decisions, becoming planning commissioners, or getting elected to local boards or councils. *Kris Olsson, Huron River Watershed Council*
Civic Engagement

Creative Engagement for Controversial Projects ▲

Making change on the ground or at the policy level is often controversial, but creative public engagement tools explored in this workshop can equip river advocates for success. *Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, American Rivers; Peter Raabe, American Rivers*
Civic Engagement

Emerging Industrial Toxins in Our Drinking Water ▲

In June 2017, media revealed that industry released GenX and other toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into North Carolina drinking water sources for four decades. In this session, North Carolina water advocates share lessons from the resulting fight and discuss the challenges and solutions for tackling PFAS pollution in your state. *Jean Zhuang, Southern Environmental Law Center; Emily Sutton, Haw River Assembly; Dana Sargent, Cape Fear River Watch*
Drinking Water



Engagement with Hispanic Stakeholders ▲

Strategic and deliberate engagement combats environmental racism and builds a more inclusive movement. This workshop will interactively walk participants through several engagement models, and a series of exercises will show how to elevate the voices of underserved communities. Learn best practices that grassroots organizers have used to effectively overcome recurring engagement challenges. *Paco Ollervides, River Network*
Resilient Cities and Communities

EnviroDIY: A Hands-On Monitoring Workshop

The EnviroDIY.org community is a group of do-it-yourself enthusiasts interested in environmental science and monitoring. Attendees will interact with open-source electronics and sensors using laptops provided by the presenters to learn about building low-cost monitoring systems that send realtime data to an online data repository (data.wikiwatershed.org/). *David Arscott, Stroud Water Research Center; David Bressler, Stroud Water Research Center*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Finding Common Cause for Clean Drinking Water

Well water contamination in Northeast Wisconsin brought an array of stakeholders together to develop rules to address it. Lessons from this effort by diverse stakeholders (citizens, farmers, nonprofit organizations, agricultural interest groups, and government officials), the necessary compromises, and communication and engagement efforts can serve as a blueprint for addressing agricultural water pollution elsewhere. *Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin*
Great Lakes

Fundraising Metrics and How to Use Them

Metrics matter. Period. They should be used to change our behavior and adapt to our changing environment and to help predict what may happen in the future.



*This is a working agenda and subject to change.

In this workshop, we'll explore the world of what you should measure and how to use the data you get back. *David Allen, Development for Conservation*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Keeping Our Water Safe and Public: A Case Study ▲

The Our Water Campaign is a coalition of ten environmental and community groups fighting for safe, affordable, and publicly controlled water in Pittsburgh during a well-funded privatization effort. Learn what has made them so effective in achieving several key wins for low-income ratepayers and how they build leadership. *Aly Shaw, Pittsburgh United; Brenda Lynn Smith, Exec. Director, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association*
Drinking Water

Nutrient Pollution: Dead Zones and Other Messes ▲

This workshop provides an overview of nutrient pollution from policy and scientific perspectives, with a particular focus on the Great Lakes. We will address the current regulatory atmosphere, the Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone, and how the nutrient pollution has harmed drinking water supplies, injured sport fishing, and created dead zones in Lake Erie. *Albert Ettinger, Albert Ettinger and No Associates; Molly Flanagan, Alliance for the Great Lakes; Matt Rota, Gulf Restoration Network; Dr. Jeff Reutter, Ohio State and Ohio Sea Grant*
Great Lakes

PFAS, PFAS, Everywhere: Problems and Solutions ▲

PFAS are persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic, and seemingly everywhere. First, learn how PFAS impact humans and wildlife. Second, get an overview of legal tools available to manage PFAS risk. This workshop will also offer small-group work to brainstorm solutions to tricky hypothetical instances of PFAS contamination. *Oday Salim, National Wildlife Federation and University of Michigan Law School's Environmental Law & Sustainability Clinic; Michael Murray, National Wildlife Federation*
Water Laws and Policies

PWSR Toolkit Benefits River Management and Coalitions ▲

Come use the Partnership Wild and Scenic River (PWSR) Toolkit, for rivers that are already designated or are new to WSR designation. Learn about the PWSR model, study process, and effective management plans. Suggest Toolkit content and leave with access and insight into the Toolkit, technical resources and national contacts to help protect, monitor, and manage your river. *Shana Deeds, Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR); Jamie Fosburgh, Acting Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program, NPS*
Water Laws and Policies

Resilience Lessons from North Carolina's Floods ▲

Climate change threatens more intense rains and frequent floods. In 2016 and 2018, North Carolina experienced extreme floods. This session will share lessons from water advocates' work to secure a smart recovery and will prepare you to advocate more effectively after flooding in your state. *Grady McCallie, NC Conservation Network; Matthew Starr, Sound Rivers; Peter Raabe, American Rivers*
Resilient Cities and Communities

The Fair Farms Approach ▲

This session will provide attendees with a deeper understanding of the Fair Farms approach with an emphasis on shifting the “farmer vs. environmentalist” narrative via positive messaging, coalition building, and consumer engagement. *Alicia LaPorte, Waterkeepers Chesapeake*
Farmers and Ranchers

Tools for Collaborative Decisions ▲

What can make or break your collaboration? Answer: Clear and timely decision making that supports forward progress while being able to work with disagreements and agreements. Join this workshop and learn about tools to support productive decision making within any collaborative setting. *Sarah Clark, Institute for Conservation Leadership; Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Urban Forestry: Key to Community Resilience ▲

Across the country, discussion of large-scale tree planting programs has generated a lot of buzz. This workshop will tell the story of two successful programs in the Groundwork network. Participants will learn how to successfully launch their own tree-planting program. *Tennis Lily, Groundwork Lawrence; Sherman Dean, Groundwork Richmond*
Resilient Cities and Communities

Using Trees to Protect and Restore Your Waterways

Trees are a key component of a healthy river and an important factor in creating ecosystem resilience to floods, droughts, and pollution. Come explore several new and established tools to help evaluate your tree canopy and incorporate trees into your river protection and restoration efforts. *David Rutter, Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments; Jennifer Gulick, Urban Canopy Works, LLC; Daniel Meaney, GISP, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Utilizing Landscape-Based Green Infrastructure ▲

This presentation will provide a background on the principles of landscape-based green infrastructure planning and implementation, discuss applying these techniques at multiple scales, and look at how successful case studies can be replicated in other communities. We will also discuss techniques for engaging diverse communities and incorporating climate change resiliency. *Karen Firehock, Green Infrastructure Center; Chris French, Green Infrastructure Center*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Water Unites Us and Moves Community Development ▲

Our Junction Community reinvestment began with green infrastructure installations to manage stormwater issues and blossomed into meeting many other community needs. Because a small river forms the boundary of our neighborhood, we are weaving its aesthetic and recreational uses into the fabric of our social and environmental justice framework. *Alicia Smith, Junction Coalition; Paul Hollenbeck, Toledo Design Center; Erkin Ozay, University of Buffalo/Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative; David Ross, Art Commission*
Great Lakes

Working with Farmers to Achieve Innovative Policy ▲

Environmental and agricultural NGOs are working together in Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois to leverage the immense popularity of federal crop insurance to incentivize cover crops—which simultaneously improve water quality outcomes and reduce the risk of crop loss. Join our discussion about working with agricultural partners to achieve common goals. *Claire O'Connor, Natural Resources Defense Council; Lara Bryant; Arohi Sharma*
Farmers and Ranchers

WOTUS: What Does the Clean Water Act Rollback Mean

Learn what the Clean Water Act rollback means for our nation's waters and receive knowledge and tools to activate your own networks to defend the Clean Water Act. *Glenn Watkins, National Wildlife Federation*
Water Laws and Policies



Great Lakes Agenda 2020: A Clear Vision

The Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition has made important gains that have had remarkable impact on the conservation and health of the Great Lakes. But, there is still much more work to do. Next year will be critically important to protect, sustain, and restore the Great Lakes. Most importantly, the 2020 elections present the potential for more shifts at the state and federal levels and offer the opportunity to advance a comprehensive Great Lakes Agenda. *Todd Ambts, Healing Our Waters Great Lakes*

Clear Water Farms: Use the Market to Protect Water ▲

This workshop will focus on the benefits and opportunities of using the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) certification for agriculture. Our pilot project will show how focusing on a process-based water standard can allow farmers to position themselves within a competitive market while improving the public perception of their operations. *Falon French, River Alliance of Wisconsin Farmers and Ranchers*

Creating an Alternative TMDL for Wissahickon Creek

This session will provide information on the value of integrated and collaborative planning among multiple and diverse communities. Although the ultimate goal is regulatory compliance, the planning process, which includes gaining the commitment of many diverse municipalities, is integral in setting the framework

for long-term environmental outcomes. *Patrick Starr, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Susan Myerov, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Ellen Kohler, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center*
Water Laws and Policies

Creative Green Infrastructure Funding Solutions ▲

Explore two innovations in stormwater funding and financing that add to community resilience with privately-funded green infrastructure. *Jeff Odefey, American Rivers; Janet Clements, Corona Environmental Associates; Katie Rousseau, American Rivers*
Resilient Cities and Communities

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. *Yomi Noibi, EcoAction; Merri Sheffield, Atlanta Watershed Learning Network; Jason Dozier, Atlanta Watershed Learning Network; Columbus Ward, Atlanta Watershed Learning Network*
Civic Engagement

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity: Measuring Up ▲

This workshop will put participants on a path to designing and measuring progress of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) strategy. Participants will learn the benefits and components of an EDI strategy and how to monitor and evaluate progress. The presenters are former or current River Network board members and are skilled in design and measurement of EDI initiatives. *Baljit (Bava) Wadhwa, Global Environment Facility; Jumana Vasi, River Network and Jvasi Consulting*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Leveraging Water Recreationists for Water Protection

Learn about a new strategy that highlights recreational uses of the Delaware River Watershed to elevate water quality protections to achieve the lofty goals of the Clean Water Act to make our waters fishable and swimmable. *Alice Baker, PennFuture; Nathan Boon, William Penn Foundation*
Water Laws and Policies

Mobilizing for Change: GOTC, GOTV and 501(c)(3) Organizations

Census 2020 results will influence public funding decisions and allocations for the next decade. Learn how to grow your organization's civic capacity and influence by participation in the census and in get-out-the-vote efforts associated with the next national election. This informative workshop will share rules for 501(c)(3) engagement and what you'll gain by getting involved. *Speakers TBD*
Civic Engagement

Reaching Beyond the Choir: Influencing Agriculture

Behavior change is not as simple as relaying data and facts. However, there are simple tactics you can use to reach beyond "the choir." This workshop will present strategies based on real-world agricultural examples and discuss how to relate them to your work. *Jessica Espenshade, National Wildlife Federation; Elizabeth Lillard, National Wildlife Federation*
Farmers and Ranchers

River Network's Safe Drinking Water Guide ▲

The time is now for our community to engage more deeply on drinking water issues. River Network, its partners and an advisory group, have developed a layperson-oriented drinking water guide that covers water treatment, safety, funding, equity, community engagement, and policy. This session will introduce the guide, explain how to use it locally, and seek further input. *Katherine Baer, River Network; Jumana Vasi, River Network Board member; Oday Salim, National Wildlife Federation; Paco Ollervides, River Network*
Drinking Water

Secrets of Successful Outreach to Rural Landowners

What do the best do differently from the rest? To answer that question, presenters of this session surveyed and interviewed more than 100 ace field staff in four states. Hear about their findings and receive tips to help you reach more landowners more successfully. *Eric Eckl, Water Words That Work, LLC; Jennifer Miller Herzog, Chesapeake Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance*
Farmers and Ranchers

Sharing Water to Save Working Lands

Irrigated agriculture supports rural economies, food security, and the environment, but growing water demands contribute to an increasing pressure to permanently transfer water out of agriculture. Learn what Western states, particularly Colorado, are doing to promote alternative transfer

methods to sustain agriculture while meeting multiple needs. *Alexander Funk, Colorado Water Conservation Board; Nicole Seltzer, River Network*
Farmers and Ranchers

Strategies for Recruiting the Board You Need ▲

In this workshop, examine the board experience and explore succession planning and leadership development. Learn the qualities of a good board member, how to find them, and the job description. We'll share tools for approaching this important work objectively and systematically, including how to recruit a diverse board that represents the community in which you work. *David Allen, Development for Conservation*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Streamflow, Water Quality Monitoring, and Loads

The U.S. Geological Survey describes how streamflow gages operate and the types of data they collect, stream water quality monitoring and sampling networks, and methods used to compute daily mean concentrations and loads of sediment and nutrients in streams draining into Lake Erie. *Kimberly Shaffer, U.S. Geological Survey, OKI Water Science Center*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

The New Frontier of Water Affordability ▲

Water affordability is a challenging issue impacting communities across the country. This expert panel will discuss how a revised and updated water affordability methodology—one that does not rely solely on MHI—will usher in a new frontier for individual household affordability and a utility's financial capacity. *Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District; John Mastracchio, CFA, Vice President, Raftelis; Dave Rager, President, American Water Works Association; Matt Bond, Chief Engineering Officer, KC Water*
Drinking Water



Water and Environmental Justice Mapping Tools ▲

Online mapping tools bring spatial decision-making tools to the public. Participants will learn to use several free online tools to examine the potential impact priority projects may have on different demographics, including environmental justice communities. *Matt Rota, Gulf Restoration Network*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Water Resilience: Innovation Through Collaboration ▲

This workshop will show examples of comprehensive urban water plans, developed collaboratively in New Orleans and Jacksonville, to explore definitions of resilience, share the challenges and successes faced by those involved in building an urban water plan, and allow opportunity for interactive discussion and learning among participants. *Arthur Johnson, Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development; Kay Ehas, Director, Groundwork Jacksonville*
Resilient Cities and Communities

Water Walkers: Why Water Matters ▲

Hear what Native people have been doing for 14 years to protect the Great Lakes, rivers, and waterways across the U.S. and Canada. This will be an opportunity to learn the history of the Mother Earth Water Walkers and their 19,000-mile walk to draw attention to the condition of water. *Carol Trembath, Lakeside Publishing MI*
Great Lakes

LIGHTNING ROUND: This year we are trying something new with our short format rapid-fire workshop sessions. They will all take place during the same concurrent session! In one 90-minute session, each workshop room will host three back-to-back 15-minute presentations. It is sure to be an exciting, information-packed experience.

Building a Grassroots Urban Waters Partnership

Learn how the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association turned a vision to restore Durham, North Carolina's most degraded urban stream into the city's first Creek Smart® nature preserve, city-owned wetland park, and LID school playground retrofit. Learn about how these projects were possible through advocacy for municipal code, ordinance changes, and a stormwater cost-share program. *Chris Dreps, Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association*
Resilient Cities and Communities



Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank

Are you planning, designing, or implementing on-the-ground restoration projects to restore river flows and/or recharge ground water? Would you like the opportunity to share your projects with businesses who may be interested in funding projects? If the answer is “yes!” be sure to attend this session to learn about the Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank, a new opportunity for River Network paid members to share restoration projects with businesses. *April Ingle, River Network*
Resilient Cities and Communities

Developing Comprehensive Youth Engagement Programs ▲

In this workshop, learn about Groundwork USA's holistic place-based, youth-centered development model. Groundwork's youth programs engage youth primarily in urban areas affected by environmental justice concerns and provide employment, leadership training, and exposure to career pathways through local and national partnerships. A case study of Groundwork Mill Creek Alliance will be highlighted. *Curt Collier, Groundwork USA; Tanner Yess, Deputy Director, Groundwork Mill Creek Alliance; Alan Edwards, Education Director, Groundwork Mill Creek Alliance*
Resilient Cities and Communities

Digital Storytelling in a Divided World ▲

Join us for a screening of River Alliance of Wisconsin's “Water Unites Us” short film series. Enjoy three new 2-minute films featuring very different water heroes: a farmer, a scientist, and a faith-based community organizer. Learn about the strategy behind this digital storytelling campaign and how your organization could replicate this successful approach to engage your audience. *Danika Laine, River Alliance of Wisconsin*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Engaging Communities in Protecting Urban Waters

Learn how to foster “smart conservation” that strategically redirects conservation practices to include non-traditional populations, especially as these groups are most vulnerable to climate variation and often have limited access to natural resources. Increasing community engagement provides solutions that ensure environmental restoration and a higher quality of life for vulnerable communities.

Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Quanda Smith, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Lauren Wiggins, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance; Donna Stevens, Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Civic Engagement

Great Lakes to Gulf: Visualizing Water Quality

The Great Lakes to Gulf Observatory is an interactive map-based web application that integrates water quality and contextual data to support the understanding of nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River watershed. Participants in this workshop will see a demo of the observatory’s capabilities and can follow along on their own. *Ted Kratschmer, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Guardians of the Grande

See the evolution of a water quality sampling event convened by a New Mexico Tribal Water Quality Working Group focused on data quality, standardization, and sharing. *Alex Heppner, AWQMS / Gold Systems*
Drinking Water

Healing Waters: Connecting Community to Watersheds ▲

Journey along the Susquehanna River in the remote Pennsylvania Wilds with Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Carol Parenzan and six prisoners as they discover how to become future watershed stewards. Learn how to create a similar program for underserved community members residing in your own watershed. *Carol Parenzan, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, Inc.*
Civic Engagement

Land Prioritization and Watershed Based Planning

Upstate Forever is partnering with drinking water utilities and other stakeholders to protect critical drinking water sources across Upstate South Carolina by combining the traditional watershed-based planning process with a GIS-based land prioritization analysis to identify where implementation would be most effective for protecting against or reducing pollutants of concern. *Katie Hottel, Upstate Forever; Erika Hollis, Upstate Forever*
Drinking Water

Latino Conservation Week: A Stepping Stone ▲

Hispanic Access Foundation will discuss the importance of engaging Latino communities in river stewardship and conservation efforts. This workshop will give participants the tools necessary to organize river events for Latino Conservation Week as a stepping stone for consistent and long-term engagement of Latino communities. *Chela Garcia, Hispanic Access Foundation; Jennifer Brandt, Hispanic Access Foundation*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Lessons Learned in Stormwater Monitoring

The San Antonio River Authority is among the many agencies pushing for the implementation of Low-Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the impacts of urban stormwater runoff on receiving watersheds. Hear about lessons learned within San Antonio River Authority’s experience developing a monitoring program with recommendations for finding solutions. *Mick Bartlett, San Antonio River Authority*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring



Ruined by Community Organizing ▲

The water needs us. How can we lead change for water at the depth and intensity needed? Using principles from community organizing we can influentially lead and communicate. Come ready for fast-moving learning that combines a “This I Believe” presentation with interactive activities. *Dianne Russell, Institute for Conservation Leadership*
Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Say Less, Better

Developing more than 400 story maps for Google’s new Voyager/Earth system helped GreenInfo Network refine its approach to how we communicate. We’ll share lessons about user focus, testing, engagement strategy, and technology, which are applicable to web projects, maps, or any other communication product. *Dan Rademacher, GreenInfo Network*
Science, Technology, and Monitoring

The Disruptor: Clean Water Innovation

The workshop will discuss the rapid growth of the plant-powered or vegan sector in the U.S., and the implications to the clean water movement and its alliances, programs, policies, and practices. *Harriet Festing, Anthropocene Alliance*
Drinking Water

The Indigenous Observation Network

Over 14 years, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council has provided Yukon First Nations and Alaska Tribes in the Yukon watershed with technical assistance, such as facilitating the development and exchange of information, conducting training, education and awareness programs to promote human and ecosystem health, along with developing research projects using an Indigenous Research Paradigm, social and physical science. This presentation will discuss the Indigenous Observation Network as a case study to highlight the benefits and challenges of forming a sustainable citizen-science monitoring program. *Edda Mutter, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council; Maryann Fidel, Environmental Scientist*
Civic Engagement

The Universal Declaration of River Rights ▲

This workshop will explore ways to implement the Universal Declaration of Rights of Rivers in order to safeguard riparian health. We will present various case studies that show how the Declaration was successfully implemented, in places such as Mexico, Nigeria, and Boulder, Colorado, in order to

understand how river rights can be pursued in different communities. *Grant Wilson, The Earth Law Center*
Water Laws and Policies

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan ▲

The Yakima River Basin in Washington State is a huge agricultural production region and also once supported huge numbers of salmon and steelhead. Learn about the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, a long term, common-sense approach to solving the complex and diverse needs of stakeholders in this unique basin. *Kelsey Green, American Rivers*
Farmers and Ranchers

Using Media as a Policy Tool ▲

Media is an essential advocacy tool for many environmental organizations. This workshop examines Alabama Rivers Alliance and others’ use of media relations for policy and advocacy. Traditional print media, social media, and multimedia such as documentary films are powerful yet cost-effective tactics for most strategic campaigns. *Curt Chaffin, Alabama Rivers Alliance*
Water Laws and Policies

Virtual Mapping for Conservation and Flood Defense ▲

FishViews enables collection and viewing of 360-degree, panoramic HD shoreline imagery and waterway data (across multiple digital platforms) to enhance visualization and communication of waterway issues. Participants will learn to use FishViews data and tools to explore and communicate about waterways, model inundation, and self-map their own rivers and streams. *Brian Footen, FishViews, Inc.; Courtney Gallagher, FishViews, Inc.*
Water Laws and Policies



Ballot Initiatives and Public Funding for Water

Public funding from state governments offer a promising alternative or complement to other funding sources for work in water advocacy, watershed protection, and river restoration and conservation. Hear stories from Minnesota, California, and Colorado about public funding available for healthy rivers and clean water, and the challenges faced by the campaigns behind these funding efforts. *Speakers TBD*

Civic Engagement

Bioassessment and Biological Indicators in Streams ▲

This workshop reviews the concepts of biological assessment, biological indicators, and biological criteria through lecture and hands-on learning. Attendees will leave understanding biological assessment and biological indicators and will feel empowered to use and interpret biological data from their own state or tribal waterbodies to take informed action. *Michael Paul, Tetra Tech, Inc.*

Science, Technology, and Monitoring

Creating Common Ground on Drinking Water Affordability

Panelists will discuss water affordability from the point of view of utilities, local governments, and residents using case studies from Philadelphia, Flint, Dearborn and Gary, Indiana. Attendees will then break out into teams to create a water affordability policy or organizing plan for a fictional city. *Jen McGraw, Center for Neighborhood Technology; Stacey Isaac Berahzer, IB Environmental; Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology; Matthew Braunginn, Mayors Innovation Project*

Drinking Water

Drink Up Policy Lovers ▲

Drinking water policies in the Great Lakes states vary considerably. In this workshop, attendees will see a comprehensive comparison of how these states are implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act and other key regional issues. Attendees will participate in evaluating these policies and creating an action plan for the region. *Katie Rousseau, American Rivers; Elin Betanzo, Safe Water Engineering; Nick Leonard, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center*

Water Laws and Policies

Reframe, Rethink, and Re-inspire Adult Learning ▲

Experience a mini facilitation workshop where you will learn techniques to re-inspire your professional development trainings utilizing effective practices and routines. We will explore how to sequence workshops, discussion strategies, and learner-centered facilitation and will consider cultural relevancy throughout. *Sarah Johnson, Wild Rose Education*

Strong Leaders, Organizations, and Coalitions

Regeneration: Young Farmers, Conservation, and Equity ▲

This workshop will help you understand the young farmer movement. Learn how indigenous communities and communities of color have practiced regenerative agriculture since long before the term existed. We'll also look at structures that prevent young farmers from achieving their conservation values and discuss how to strategically reduce those barriers. *Kate Greenberg, National Young Farmers Coalition*

Farmers and Ranchers

Solving Phosphate Eutrophication in Lake Erie

Lead presenter John Blakeman will illustrate the benefits of Upland Prairie Grasses Nutrient Retention STRIPS to end runoff damage to water quality in Lake Erie and discuss how they can be used in other parts of the country. Judy Shaw and Wil Hemker will add focus on economic and social benefits. *Judith Auer Shaw, University of Akron Research Foundation; John Blakeman, Prairie Scientist and President of Meadow Environments, LLC; Wil Hemker, University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF) and R3: River Bend*

Great Lakes

Southwest Urban Rivers: Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Antonio ▲

As populations grow in the American Southwest and along urban rivers, cities must balance access, healthy ecosystems, economic opportunity, and flood risk. Three river revitalization projects in Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Antonio will catalyze a discussion about building resilient cities and communities around ecosystems, sustainable development, and visionary planning.

Michael Affeldt, City of Los Angeles; Melissa McCann, Arizona State University, Rio Salado; Suzanne Scott, San Antonio River Authority; Sarah Rascon, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (JPA), Los Angeles River

Resilient Cities and Communities



FIELD TRIPS

After three days packed with education, collaboration, and networking inside, we will put aside our laptops and notebooks and head outside. Field trips are an opportunity to dive deeply into the practical application of a specific topic, explore solutions being implemented successfully, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Great Lakes region. Trips will leave after lunch on Monday and are scheduled to return to the Westin no later than 6:00 p.m.

Sustainable Water Affordability in Action

Experts from CNT, Mayors Innovation Project and IB Environmental, working on water affordability, including efficiency, alternative rate setting, and customer assistance programs will lead this hands-on workshop where participants will look at real-world data for their communities, identify affordability factors, and develop near-term actions and strategies to address water affordability.

The Urban Watershed Venture: History, Infrastructure, People, and Trails

We'll explore the region's urban watershed through one of the cleanest and most efficient modes of transportation—biking. Step back in time to discover a pre-industrial Cleveland, visit sites of civil unrest, see combined sewers and water-quality monitoring, and experience the rebirth of trails connecting culture across the city.

The Renewal of a River

By 2021, we envision the Cuyahoga River Watershed, its communities, and Cuyahoga Valley National Park as international symbols of human and ecosystem renewal. Enjoy a park ranger-narrated bus tour of the Cuyahoga River Valley, stroll to a marsh, shop at a farmer's market, and catch a glimpse of local wildlife on this river adventure.

Dam Removals on the Cuyahoga River

Dam removals have a vital role in restoration. See dam removal projects which are completed, in process, and just beginning, including stops at Cuyahoga Falls, the Gorge Dam, and the Canal Diversion Dam in the National Park.

FIELD TRIPS

Upper Cuyahoga Canoe Float Trip and Biological Stream Quality Monitoring

Experience the Upper Cuyahoga State Scenic River on a beautiful 4.7-mile canoe float. Learn from Ohio Scenic Rivers staff how canoe floats and biological stream quality monitoring can be tools to grow conservation in streamside communities.

Extended Workshop: Closing the Deal with Rural Landowners

This is a unique three-part training course to help conservation practitioners successfully recruit and negotiate landowners' participation in CREP, conservation easements, agricultural best practices, manure and forest management plans, and habitat restoration projects to improve water quality.

Smart Lake Erie: Enjoying and Protecting Our Gem

By stand-up paddle board or sailboat, enjoy Lake Erie and the mouth of the Cuyahoga River during a waterfront tour with Cleveland Metroparks. Visit one of Cleveland's drinking water intakes and text a "smart" buoy. Enjoy refreshments afterwards at the beach house while meeting key players on the water quality scene.

Sustainability in Action: West Creek Watershed Tour

Spend the afternoon exploring West Creek Watershed, including a glimpse of the Cuyahoga River. Through outdoor hiking and indoor touring, test various technologies that restore our urban watersheds while engaging the public. This trip will expand your knowledge about stormwater practices, innovative teaching tools, stream restoration, and public-private partnerships.

Boat Tour of Lower Cuyahoga River and Infamous 1969 Fire

Board Cleveland Metroparks Water Taxi, the ElCee2, for an exploration of the lower Cuyahoga River, traveling to the infamous 1969 river fire location. Via walking tour, learn about river improvements and stewardship opportunities. End the afternoon sharing refreshments with local leaders who are advancing the development of both downtown Cleveland and the river.

Lower Cuyahoga River Dragon Boat Tour

Explore the lower Cuyahoga River via dragon boat—a 20-person canoe—and experience the dynamic interplay between industry, recreation, and conservation. Learn how Cleveland Metroparks is improving the river through stormwater management and stewardship opportunities. End the afternoon meeting local leaders who are advancing the development of both downtown Cleveland and the river.

NEORSO Stormwater Management and Wastewater Infrastructure Tour

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will showcase facilities and project sites that have been fundamental to wastewater treatment and stormwater management programs. Participants will tour innovative wastewater facilities and stream restoration sites that have been instrumental in the rebirth of the Cuyahoga River and other Northeast Ohio watersheds.





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