



PHOTO BY MARTHA HUNTER

ALABAMA WATER RALLY

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLEAN WATER

MARCH 15 - 17 | CAMP BECKWITH ON WEEKS BAY | FAIRHOPE

ALABAMARIVERS.ORG

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ALABAMA WATER RALLY 2019

Welcome to Alabama Water Rally! This event is designed to give you the tools, the friends, the energy, and the motivation to go back to your community and do all you can to protect your local creek, river, bay, or lake, and all the life that depends on it.

We are excited to spend this weekend together on beautiful Weeks Bay in Fairhope, Alabama. This waterbody — where salt and freshwater converge to create one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world — provides the perfect place for clean water advocates from across Alabama to come together sharing, learning and celebrating.

As Alabama celebrates its 200th year as a state, it is more important than ever that our state leaders make forward thinking decisions when it comes to our water. It is imperative that we as caring people, impacted community members, concerned volunteers and professional experts combine our voices and demand they recognize the importance of clean water to our economy and our way of life.

We hope you will leave this weekend inspired and motivated to use your own unique strengths to protect clean water and knowing that the people and organizations in Alabama's clean water movement are with you!



MEAL TIMES: Meals are served family style, and start and end **PROMPTLY** at the indicated start/end times. Please help Rally organizers and Camp staff by being on time for meals!

ARTBREAK!: ARA is excited to offer a creative outlet for attendees to explore how we can better use the arts as an effective avenue for change. Drop in anytime on Saturday and find journals and watercolors to creatively express your experiences with and inspirations from our rivers. Volunteers will be on hand throughout Rally to help guide you! PLUS: Send a message to our elected officials about Fishermen's Right to Know! **Bayfront Pavilion.**

COFFEE AND HOT WATER: Available 24 hours a day at the **Bayfront Pavilion.** ArtBreak! is located in this space as well, so take a moment to create some art as you enjoy some coffee or tea!

SUGGESTION BOX: Do you have a suggestion for next year or a complaint about this year? Look for the **SUGGESTION BOX** in the **Dining Hall** and drop your anonymous note in the box. We will be checking throughout the weekend.

PHOTOGRAPHS: A volunteer photographer will be taking photos throughout Rally. Please let any ARA staff know if you do NOT want your image to be published on ARA's website, social media, etc.

JOIN ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE! Join the #DefendRivers movement by becoming a member of ARA today! As a statewide nonprofit policy voice, we need your membership to give us stronger influence in making the changes we need to protect clean water!

FRIDAY
1—2:45 pm

DRINKING WATER GUIDE—

More than half of Alabamians get their drinking water from rivers and streams, yet recent polling showed that drinking water ranked 4th on the list of reasons that Alabamians value rivers and streams. This session will walk participants through the informative drinking water guide that has been developed by the national River Network to help community groups and citizens better understand their drinking water. Participants will also help identify what information is needed in Alabama to help us better understand, connect, and protect our drinking water sources.—**Katherine Baer of River Network and Cindy Lowry of Alabama Rivers Alliance, Alves Room 1**

3—4:30 pm

LEGISLATION &

COLLABORATION— This presentation will provide an update on the newly begun legislative session in Alabama, indicating key bills and issues being discussed in the State House. Additionally, several environmental groups in Alabama have come together to craft a shared vision and policy guide for environmental issues; these important documents will help legislators, organizations, and individual activists navigate state politics and improve

environmental protection.—
Brittany Stuber of Conservation Alabama & Curt Chaffin of Alabama Rivers Alliance, Alves Room 1

SATURDAY
9 am—10:30 am

PANEL: The Economic Benefits of Clean Water

Water interacts with almost every aspect of our economy in Alabama. From the water we drink to the built environment to the budding craft beer industry, clean water is essential to a thriving economy. Panelists will discuss how important clean water is to their industry and how they are working to make smart decisions about water on the front end to avoid costly problems on the back end and ensure a consistent product for their customers.

PANELISTS: **John Corbin of Red Clay Brewing Company, Mary Halley of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, and Charles Hyland of Mobile Area Water & Sewer System, Chapel**

SATURDAY
10:45 am—noon

BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

RESCUE YOUR RIVER OR LAKE WITH GREEN

INFRASTRUCTURE — Are your creeks, lakes and rivers degraded by post-construction runoff – muddy, polluted, with eroding and collapsing banks? Learn how to work with city officials, citizens, and development professionals to advocate for green infrastructure (GI) solutions to protect waterways, drinking water sources, and habitat and gain economic and greenspace benefits. A city official, a non-profit watershed leader, and an expert stormwater consultant will help you understand and communicate the impacts of post-construction stormwater, new stormwater permit requirements for AL cities and counties, and how GI is a cost-effective solution. You will receive educational resources and links to model development codes and GI projects. — **Beth Stewart of Cahaba River Society, Mary Halley of Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., and Ashley Campbell of City of Daphne,** *Alves Room 1*

THE ABCS OF PFOA/PFOS — In this session, we will take a look at the once forgotten contaminant PFOA/PFOS that resides in the Tennessee River, Coosa River and Mobile Bay and their effects on wildlife and humans. Considered an “emergent” contaminant by the EPA, PFOA/PFOS have been found in high levels in Alabama Waterways as a result of

commercial use in fire retardants and adhesives by 3M, DuPont and other companies along with the US Military. The EPA announced in early February 2019 that the agency will begin to provide citizens public interaction on the possibility of future reclassification of PFOA/PFOS as a pollutant.— **Michael Freeman of Auburn University,** *Alves Room 2*

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

BUDGETS — What is a water budget and why is it important? From small watersheds to entire regions, water budgets are an essential tool to managing water supply and quality. Just like a bank account, communities need to know how much water is coming in and going out—and even more importantly how much water is needed to survive and thrive. This introductory session focuses on the ideas and terminology surrounding water budgets and water management.— **Mitch Reid of The Nature Conservancy in Alabama,** *Chapel*

TRASH TALKIN': MICROPLASTICS IN OUR

WATER—In this session, participants will learn how microplastics and marine debris affect our ecosystems and how citizens can get involved in programs to decrease marine debris within their local waterways. We will sample water and sediments along the shores of Weeks Bay for microplastics and will discuss how to incorporate this

sampling into educational or citizen science programs.

— **Angela Underwood of Weeks Bay Reserve, Bayfront Pavilion**

2—3:15 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

THE DIRTY WATER RULE — The Clean Water Rule of 2015 defined “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to include more headwaters, ephemeral streams, and wetlands—all of which have a major impact on water quality and health. Currently, the Trump Administration is committed to repealing and replacing the WOTUS rule, seemingly ending protection of these important areas. This session showcases what this decision means in Alabama and how environmental groups and citizens can get involved. — **Keith Johnston of Southern Environmental Law Center,** *Alves Room 1*

CLIMATE CHANGE — Great advances have been made in weather forecasting. Because of this, the use of weather information in water resources decision-making has become ubiquitous. However, although we are greatly influenced by seasonal-to-interannual (SI) climate variability and advances have also been made to improve SI climate forecasts, water resources community has not yet embraced the use of SI climate forecasts in decision-making. This is especially true for the Southeast US. Furthermore, long term climate changes are expected to greatly influence water resources of the Southeast. In this seminar, I will present a few examples from my recent research on how SI climate

forecasts can be used to mitigate the negative impacts of drought in the Southeast and how climate change is projected to impact future droughts.. — **Dr. Puneet Srivastava of the Water Resources Center of Auburn, Alves Room 2**

IRRIGATION IN ALABAMA —

Although the Southeast enjoys more annual rainfall than most of the US, it still experiences periodic droughts and the rainfall distribution throughout the year is not ideal for agriculture. In Alabama, agriculture is further impacted because of relatively poor water holding soils and lack of widespread irrigation.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Alabama office is working with the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee to allocate funding for expansion of irrigation. A statewide resource assessment (SRA) has been completed. The SRA prioritized focus areas for expanded irrigation and identified natural and cultural resources in Alabama that could be negatively impacted by expanding irrigated agriculture. This presentation will cover aspects of the overall project, the SRA, and the current status of the watershed plans. — **Cameron Handyside, Earth Systems Science Center at University of Alabama at Huntsville, Chapel**

#DEFENDRIVERS 101— First comes passion, then comes action. Have you ever seen something in the river that didn't look right or didn't smell right, but didn't know what to do about it? Have you ever wanted to get more involved with an environmental organization, but didn't feel you knew enough to make a difference? This entry level session will provide an overview of

mechanisms for advocating for river protection in Alabama and offer an interactive group exercise to help participants learn how to get more involved in defending rivers in Alabama — **Cade Kistler of Mobile Baykeeper Bayfront Pavilion**

3:30—4:45 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS III

RIVERS, TREES AND SOIL: THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF WHOLE ECOSYSTEMS—

We all understand the economic and cultural importance of preserving our rivers and watersheds, but when you take a look at the place of rivers in the overall ecosystems they occupy, you quickly realize that you can't save the rivers without addressing the whole ecosystem, and you can't save the larger ecosystem without saving the rivers. Noted Permaculture design and consultant Alan Booker will discuss the strategies that will allow us to nurture and regenerate our ecosystems and the many economic benefits of preserving these resources. — **Alan Booker of Eldenbridge Institute Alves Room 1**

THE TRUE COST OF COAL

ASH— We hear a great deal about how much polluters are burdened by the cost of cleaning up their messes, but people and communities across Alabama are burdened with devalued property, increasing utility cost and most importantly, chronic or even severe health problems. While we cannot always prove the direct causes of these unspoken costs, we know that they tend to be

disproportionately in rural, lower wealth, communities of color. This session will discuss the true cost of coal ash as well as provide ways to get involved in helping solve these problems. — **Cade Kistler Mobile Baykeeper, Alves 2**

LIGHTEN THE LOAD: THE PROBLEM OF NUTRIENT LOADING —

With so many pollutants plaguing rivers, bays, and the gulf, phosphorous and nitrogen pollution may be the most far reaching. Often referred to as "nutrient loading," this pollution is difficult to identify and control; it mainly comes from nonpoint source runoff and over fertilization. This session explains what this problems means for wildlife and ecosystems, as well as potential solutions. — **Matt Rota of Healthy Gulf, Chapel**

PUBLIC SPEAKING BASICS: HOW TO OVERCOME YOUR FEAR OF BEING HEARD —

Mark Twain once said, "There are two types of speakers: Those who get nervous and those who are liars." In this session, we'll discuss ways of overcoming fear of public speaking, a crucial skill for any young professional. This includes simple techniques that anyone can use to overcome their fears and communicate their message. **Sam Norton of the ARA Junior Board, Bayfront Pavilion**

HAPPY HOUR, ETC. 5:15—6 pm

Join us for wine and craft beer, featuring Red Clay Brewing's exclusive tasting of a new beer being developed to support river groups in Alabama.

Runoff Got You Down? NRCS Rainfall Simulator Demonstration

starts at 5:15! Soil health affects run off. See a great visual demonstration of the beneficial effects of conservation practices such as no-till farming, cover crops, residue management and prescribed grazing effects. — **Frank Cochran, USDA-NRCS, Bayfront Pavilion**

KEYNOTE & RIVER CELEBRATION AWARDS 7—9 PM

ALABAMA'S WATER ECONOMY AND THE GROWING RIVER VOICE

Alabama is a river state! Our economy has been intimately connected to rivers, from the first Native American settlements to the present. In the complicated mix of government, market forces, and civil society vying for influence on the future of our rivers, a growing citizen voice advocates ample amounts of clean water for people and the entire aquatic ecosystem. This voice is best expressed when based on good science, a well-thought river ethic, and strategic actions. We unite at Water Rally to develop and express that voice, especially in Alabama's bicentennial year as we look forward to our third century! — **Dr. Bill Deutsch, Chapel**

RIVER CELEBRATION AWARDS

Celebrate some of the awe-inspiring people & organizations working tirelessly to protect clean water across Alabama. — **Hosted by Tony Diliberto, ARA Board of Directors, Chapel**

SING, SPEAK OR SAY!

Stick around after the awards for Sing, Speak or Say! Share your stories from the year, a song from your heart, or just enjoy a cold beer with

your friends while tapping your toes to the beat of the drums. **YES, WE SAID DRUMS.**

LIGHTNING SESSIONS SUNDAY 9—9:25 am

BIO BLITZ — Participants will learn what a Bioblitz is, and why they might be interested in hosting one in their watershed. This fun, family-friendly, plant and animal inventory method can be a valuable tool for monitoring changes in biodiversity over time. Bioblitzes have resulted in new discoveries that contribute to answering current scientific questions in our ecosystems. Come find out how you can start planning one that works for your watershed community. — **Sierra Hulsey Stiles, Alves Room 1**

ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL — Organizations come in all shapes and sizes. Learn about different types of groups in Alabama, including what makes an organization a Riverkeeper® and why one size doesn't fit all when it comes to protecting your local creek or community. **Cindy Lowry of Alabama Rivers Alliance, Alves Room 2**

9:30—9:55

STREAM BEAM — Learn about Stream Beam and how our gauges work to gather, maintain, and present valuable stream data as an open resource for the community. — **Gaylon Partain, StreamBeam, Alves Room 1**

WHAT IS A SCENIC RIVER TRAIL? — Learn about scenic river trails and how you can bring an Alabama Scenic River Trail chapter program to your community. — **Fred Couch of Alabama Scenic River Trail, Alves Room 2**

10—10:25

LITTER GITTER — We will deploy a Litter Gitter outdoors and give a quick description of how and where we are working. — **Don Bates of Litter Gitter Alves Room 1**

PADDLING FOR CLEAN WATER

— Margo Pellegrino has been paddling our country's waterways for clean water for many years now. Hear about her various journeys around the country via its coastal and inland waterways. Commons themes and observations will be discussed with a special focus on Alabama's rivers & coast. -- **Margo Pellegrino, Alves Room 2**

SUNDAY SESSION 9—10:25 am

TOO LITTLE TIME, TOO LITTLE MONEY

This session explains what a "campaign strategy" is and how to intelligently fundraise for specific programs. Every organization works on important and meaningful issues. With a lack of resources, small organizations need to be efficient and strategic. The interactive session will walk through a campaign strategy—explaining how to set goals, identify decision makers, and build the best path forward. We will then discuss ways to raise money for that vision. — **Justinn Overton of Coosa Riverkeeper and Curt Chaffin of Alabama Rivers Alliance, Bayfront Pavilion**

SUNDAY PLENARY 10:45 am—noon

Building Your Bench

Inspiring and attracting the next generation of environmental professionals. — **Presented by the Alabama Rivers Alliance Junior Board, Chapel**

TAKE ACTION!

Throughout the weekend you might ask yourself “How Can I Get Involved?”. We have four ways for you to TAKE ACTION this weekend! Visit our **Legislative Table in the Chapel** to TAKE ACTION now. Stay tuned to ARA’s emails throughout the year for more Action Alerts!

TAKE ACTION: Tell the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to **SUPPORT the Water Conservation and Security Act**. The WCSA is a scientific solution to better manage water supplies and protect us during water emergencies. Send emails to these Representatives and sign on to our comments available after Rally at AlabamaRivers.org/water-conservation-security-act

TAKE ACTION: Stand up for our local waterways in Alabama by letting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency know that you **oppose the attempted repeal of the Clean Water Rule**. The Southern Environmental Law Center can help you make public comments at ProtectSouthernWaters.org.

TAKE ACTION: Tell our Alabama decision makers that all fishermen have an unequivocal **Right to Know** what is in the water and whether the fish we catch are safe to eat. Fill out a #DefendRivers postcard by drawing your favorite fish and writing a short message to your representatives. Available in the **ArtBreak!** and **Ideas Worth Sharing** areas throughout Rally.

TAKE ACTION: Speak up about coal ash by supporting our call to action, urging utilities to “dig up and move” coal ash in a responsible way, rather than allowing life-threatening contamination to continue. **Sign our petition this weekend at the Legislative Table in the Chapel.**

RIVERS OF ALABAMA DAY!

*ARA’s annual Legislative Day
in Montgomery*

**Tuesday, April 9
from 10 am—4 pm**

*Join us for a day of talking with our
elected officials about protecting our
132,000 miles of rivers and streams*

OUR PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2019:

**Water Conservation and Security Act
Fishermen’s Right to Know
Coal Ash**

MORE INFO: ALABAMARIVERS.ORG

IDEAS WORTH SHARING!



Looking for some new and innovative ideas to take back to your watershed that will help you #DefendRivers?

Check out “**Ideas Worth Sharing**” in the Chapel!

These displays will be up for our Welcoming Ceremony on Friday night and you can visit them throughout Rally weekend!

You might discover a new way to measure changes in water level on your local river or stream, or find out how to reach new audiences through an Art and Photo Contest. You could also learn how to start the conversation about single use plastics in your watershed or begin to attract the next generation to your organization.

Also learn about: Trash Blows, Getting the Iron Out, Litter Gitter and more!

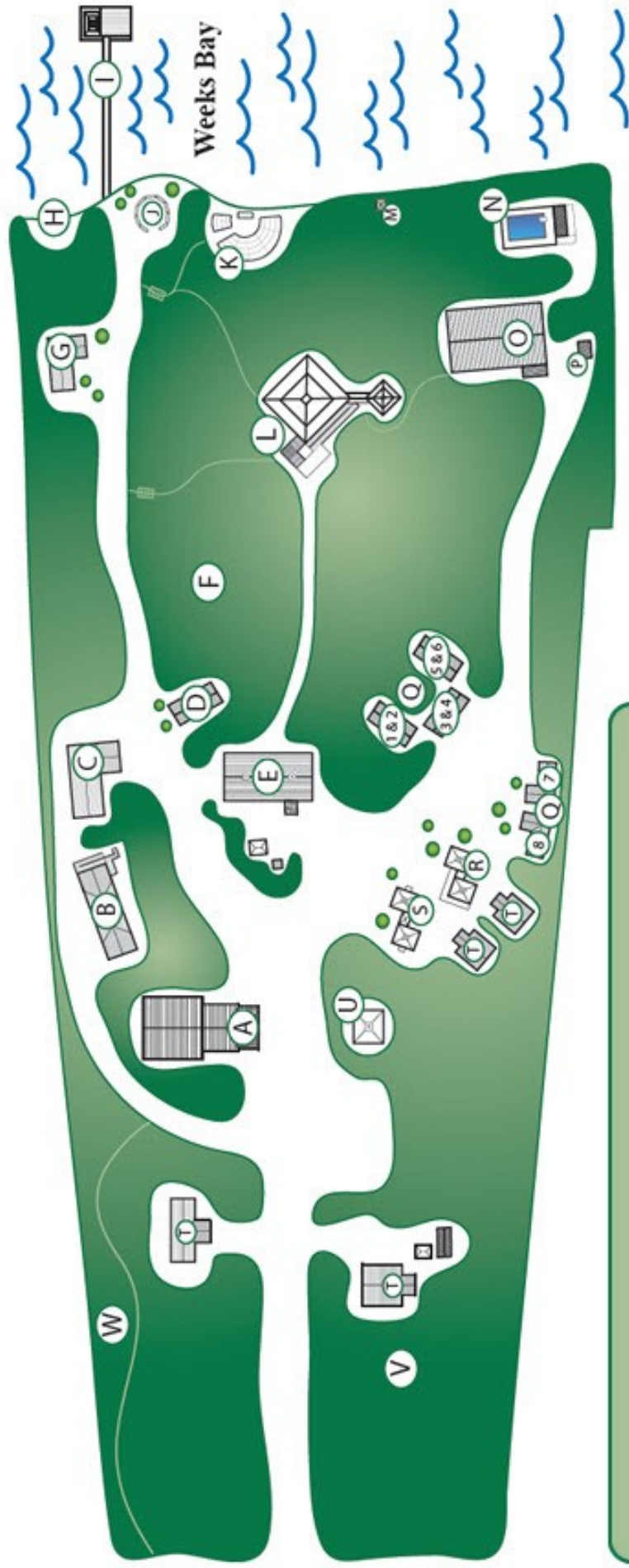
CHAPEL— ALL WEEKEND!

Getting Social at Water Rally?

*Tag us and use our hashtags
throughout Rally!*

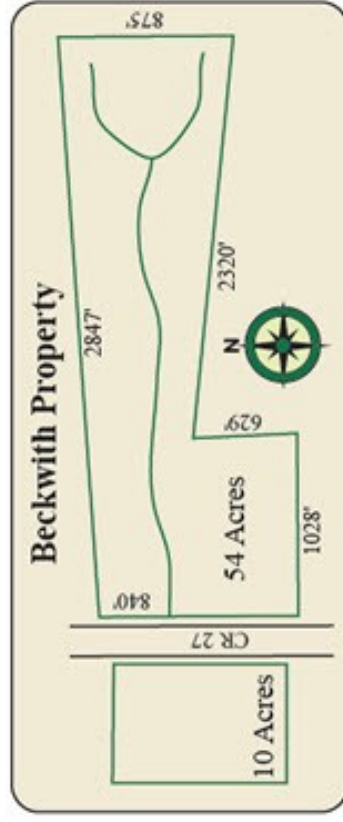
**#DefendRivers
#AlabamaWaterRally**

***Special thank you to ASAN
(Alabama Sustainable Agriculture
Network)
for their agenda template!***



A Alves Welcome Center
 B Hardman Lodge
 C Cumming Lodge
 D Chason Lodge
 E Wilson Hall - Dining
 F Games Field
 G Bayfront Pavilion
 H Beckwith Beach
 I Pier
 J Camp Fire Ring
 K Byrne Chapel
 L Chapel of the Resurrection

M Osprey Nesting Platform
 N Swimming Pool
 O Pavilion
 P Marsh Observation Deck
 Q Cabins
 R Odom Guest Rooms
 S Odom Guest Rooms
 T Odom Cottages
 U Odom Treehouse
 V Challenge Course
 W Nature Trails





Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

10 am—6 pm Registration open, *Alves Welcome Center*
Noon—12:45 LUNCH, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
1 — 5 pm Biological Water Testing with AWW, *Alves Room 2*
1 — 2:45 pm Drinking Water Guide with River Network, *Alves Room 1*
3 — 4:30 pm Legislation & Collaboration, *Alves Room 1*
6—6:45 pm DINNER, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
7—8:30 pm Welcome & Ideas Worth Sharing, *Chapel*
8:45 —10 pm Southern Exposure Films, *Bayfront Pavilion*
8:45—? Campfire by the Bay! *Campfire Ring*

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8 am—1 pm Registration open, *Alves Welcome Center*
8—8:45 am BREAKFAST, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
9—10:30 am PANEL: *Economic Benefits of Clean Water, Chapel*
10:45—noon Breakout Sessions I, *multiple locations*
12:15—1:15 LUNCH, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
1:15—1:45 Group Photo (*listen at lunch for where to meet!*)
2 —3:15 Breakout Sessions II, *multiple locations*
3:30—4:45 Breakout Sessions III, *multiple locations*
5:15—6 pm HAPPY HOUR w/ Red Clay Brewing plus Rainfall Simulator
Demonstration, *firepit outside dining hall*
6—6:45 pm DINNER, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
7—9 pm Keynote and River Celebration Awards, *Chapel*
9 pm—? Sing, Speak, or Share! , *Chapel*

SUNDAY MARCH 17

8—8:45 am BREAKFAST, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
9 —10:25 am Lightning Sessions!, *Alves Room 1 & 2*
9—10:25 am Too Little Time, Too Little Money, *Bayfront Pavilion*
10:45—noon PLENARY with the ARA Junior Board, *Chapel*
12:15—1:15 LUNCH, *Dining Hall (Wilson Hall)*
1 pmish- ? Field Trips!

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: WATER WE TALKIN' ABOUT & WHERE?

Rescue Your River or Lake with Green Infrastructure	Alves Room 1
The ABCs of PFOA/PFOS	Alves Room 2
The Importance of Water Budgets	Chapel
Trash Talkin': Microplastics in our Water	Bayfront Pavilion
BREAKOUT SESSION I SAT 10:45—NOON	
The Dirty Water Rule	Alves Room 1
Climate Change	Alves Room 2
Irrigation in Alabama	Chapel
#DefendRivers 101	Bayfront Pavilion
BREAKOUT SESSION II SAT 2-3:15 PM	
Rivers, Trees and Soil: The Economic Importance of Whole Ecosystems	Alves Room 1
The True Cost of Coal Ash	Alves Room 2
Lighten the Load: the Problem of Nutrient Loading	Chapel
Public Speaking Basics: How to Overcome Your Fear of Being Heard	Bayfront Pavilion
BREAKOUT SESSION III SAT 3:30—4:45 PM	
SUNDAY LIGHTNING SESSIONS	
Bio Blitz	Alves Room 1
One Size Doesn't Fit All	Alves Room 2
9—9:25	
Stream Beam	Alves Room 1
What is a Scenic River Trail?	Alves Room 2
9:30—9:55	
Litter Gitter	Alves Room 1
Paddling for Clean Water	Alves Room 2
10—10:25	