



Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

Alabama Water Rally Agenda

Building the Movement for the Future

March 13 - 15, 2020 | Camp McDowell

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

noon – 6 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ALABAMA WATER RALLY! Get your official agenda, room assignment and everything else you need for a wonderful, wonderful weekend at Camp McDowell.
1 pm – 3:30 pm	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING OUR WATER & HOW CAN WE INFLUENCE THEM? Led by Cindy Lowry, Alabama Rivers Alliance In the current federal political landscape, more and more of the responsibility to protect and regulate our environment is being moved to the states. There is a complex web of state and federal (and even local) agencies who have some responsibility over our waterways in Alabama. This in depth session will provide an overview of those agencies and their responsibilities, review the history of our environmental movement's interactions with some of the most important agencies (including efforts to reform certain agencies), and provide opportunities for group discussions and brainstorming about how we, as a movement, can be the most effective in our interactions with these agencies moving forward to protect our environment. This session is designed to benefit both the experienced environmental advocates and the novice concerned citizens as we must build these strategies together to effectively #DefendRivers in Alabama.
1 pm – 5 pm Phifer Hall	BACTERIOLOGICAL MONITORING WORKSHOP Become a certified volunteer water quality monitor! Learn how to detect levels of E.coli and other coliform bacteria in water as indicators of contamination. Determine if water meets water quality standards for drinking, swimming, and aquatic life.
4 pm – 6 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	TABLING EXTRAVAGANZA This year's tablers will be a mix of new organizations, new voices, and those who have ideas and resources to share. There may even be an augmented reality sandbox! Join us as we mix and mingle with friends - old and new.
6:30 – 7:15 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	DINNER
7:30 – 9 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	BRINGING LIGHT TO IMPACTED COMMUNITIES Facilitated by Colette Pichon Battle. Communities across Alabama have been battling environmental and public health threats due to injustices in our state political, business, and government systems for decades. Residents of these communities are living on the frontlines of these problems every day. This is an opportunity to hear their stories and learn from their experiences. Bring your favorite beverage and join us by the campfire as we engage in a powerful discussion featuring Virginia Merriweather Anthony from Tuscaloosa (landfill), Julie Lay from Guntersville (biosolids) and Otis Petty from Barton (coal ash) [invited].

9:00 pm Hall Hall	COZY BY THE CAMPFIRE More networking, check out the tabling, bring your instruments and make some s'mores -- and new friends -- by the fire!
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SATURDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 – 7:55 am Back Patio, Doug Carpenter Hall	MORNING QI GONG (TAI CHI) 30 minutes of eye-opening simple movements and serious breathing. led by Tai Chi teacher Stephen Guesman.
8 am – 1 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	REGISTRATION IS OPEN! If you haven't already, get your official agenda, room assignment and everything else you need for a wonderful, wonderful weekend at Camp McDowell.
8 – 8:45 am Doug Carpenter Hall	BREAKFAST
9:15 – 11:45 am Doug Carpenter Hall	KEYNOTE: BUILDING THE MOVEMENT FOR THE FUTURE featuring Colette Pichon Battle Looking through the lens of a southerner and human rights attorney focused on climate disaster, this talk will discuss how issues of race, power and privilege play out in the fight for equitable disaster recovery, just transition and environmental justice. The talk will connect the dots of our social and economic structures and explore why those who care about climate change and the environment must join the various fights for justice in Alabama. <i>Discussion followed by World Cafe table discussion</i>
Noon – 1 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	LUNCH
1:15 – 1:30 pm	GROUP PHOTO TIME! Please join us for our group photo so we can fondly remember all of your beautiful faces for years to come. <i>Listen at lunch for ARA to tell you where to meet!</i>

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1

1:30 PM – 3 PM

Doug Carpenter
Hall

RESTORING WATERSHEDS USING REGENERATIVE DESIGN

Alan Booker, Institute of Integrated Regenerative Design

Many decision-makers have come to think of watershed conservation as both expensive and in conflict with the need for growth. But by using regenerative design approaches, we can actively restore our watersheds while simultaneously reducing cost and improving quality of life. In this session, noted Permaculture designer and consultant Alan Booker will explore the possibilities of restoring hydrological health using regenerative design techniques, and how to sell the benefits to key stakeholders.

Phifer Hall

SOCIAL SCIENCE AT THE GRASSROOTS

Ryan Thompson, Auburn University

The Anthropocene demands that scholars and activists alike recognize the importance of social science in understanding the numerous dire challenges facing us today. From the geographies of water contamination and environmental injustice, to the economics of natural resource extraction, to the demographics of climate refugees and the psychological implication of the sixth extinction, to cultural drive behind local conservation efforts; people remain a central actor. This interactive session explores the vital importance of people and their power across the social sciences. The discussion concludes with reviewing some of the tools and resources available for protecting Alabama's environment at the grassroots level.

Hall Hall

ORGANIZING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Emily Canfield, Sunrise Movement | Carolyn Foster, Poor People's Campaign |
Donna Matthews, Friends of the Locust Fork River**

In this session, we will take a look at three different organizations and their different approaches to change. From large national organizations to small grassroots watershed groups, we will look at their varied principals and approaches, which range from laying down in the streets, knocking on doors, or rallying for the river! Learn how we can work together for stronger voices utilizing each other's strengths.

Meet in
Doug Carpenter
Hall Foyer

STREAM WALK – FIELD SESSION

Josh Levesque, Camp McDowell

Take a stroll along and into some of the beautiful Camp McDowell streams and creeks. We will seek macroinvertebrates who live here and learn a bit about their adaptations which allow them to thrive. We will also slow down and take time to enjoy the natural beauty of such a place. This will involve a moderately strenuous hike on rocky trails. We will cross the Camp McDowell swinging bridge to enter the canyons. You will probably want to wear shoes that can get wet, a raincoat, and bring along water and layers of clothing... you never know what spring weather will bring!

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Doug Carpenter
Hall

EKVN-YEFOLECV MASKOKE ECOVILLAGE

Marcus Briggs-Cloud, Maskoke Ecovillage

Ekvn-Yefolecv is an intentional ecovillage community of Indigenous Maskoke persons who, after 180 years of having been forcibly removed from traditional Alabama homelands, have returned for the purpose of practicing linguistic, cultural and ecological sustainability. With only a handful of speakers remaining, they are revitalizing the Maskoke language with children through an immersion program in which Maskoke language is the sole medium of instruction centered on traditional agricultural and ecological knowledge curriculum. Residents of the ecovillage are building an off-grid income-sharing community with natural building construction and renewable energy. They are also reintroducing threatened animal species, sacred to Maskoke people, namely buffalo and sturgeon, through regenerative agricultural practices and a closed-lake aquaponics system. They will reintroduce lake sturgeon into the Coosa watershed in spring 2020. The project seeks to serve as an archetype for other Indigenous communities to model for Just Transition to more equitable and culturally/linguistically sustainable lifeways.

Phifer Hall

POINTS OF LEVERAGE: HOW TO INFLUENCE YOUR ELECTRIC

UTILITY Daniel Tait, Energy Alabama

Alabama is home to three distinct types of electric utilities, all of which have massive impact on the health, safety, and quality of water throughout the state. Learn about the governance structure and opportunities to influence municipal utilities, cooperative electric utilities, and investor-owned utilities. Also find out how you can take action by advocating for Energy Freedom and the benefits of 3rd party financing for solar projects.

Hall Hall

BUILDING STRONG BOARDS FOR THE FUTURE

Beth Stewart & LaTanya Scott, Cahaba River Society | facilitated by Tony Diliberto, Alabama Rivers Alliance Board President

Taking a fresh look at the work you do and the skills, connections, and resources you need to accomplish your work is always important. Are you bringing all the voices to the table to best support and accomplish your work? This interactive conversation will start with basic good practices. How do you build a successful board for fundraising, expertise and action? How do you add diversity to your Board that is meaningful to your mission? How can you build a Junior Board to involve young, diverse leaders in your work? Sitting in the round, this facilitated discussion session will be tailored to the participants and their needs, and is an opportunity to learn lessons from highly productive boards, share what has worked for you now or in the past, and ask for advice.

Meet in
Doug Carpenter
Hall Foyer

GEOLOGY OF MCDOWELL – FIELD SESSION

James Bratton, Camp McDowell

This is a two hour field session. Hike into our canyons to see the amazing 300 million-year-old sandstone that has been slowly carved away through years of weathering and erosion. Hike along the beautiful streams that cut through these massive layers. This will be a moderately strenuous hike on rocky trails. We will cross the Camp McDowell swinging bridge to enter the canyons. You will need to wear hiking sturdy hiking shoes, a raincoat, and bring along water & layers of clothing -- you never know what spring weather will bring!

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

4:30 pm – 5:30pm

Doug Carpenter
Hall

WETLANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Cleo Stubbs, Wetland Environmental Learning Projects (WELP)

The types of wetlands in our community, their function, values, sustainability, and environmental impacts. Find out what impact our important wetlands may feel with the rollback of WOTUS and what are some things you can do to help protect them.

Phifer Hall

TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Eva Dillard, Black Warrior Riverkeeper | Steven Dudley, Coosa Riverkeeper | Haley Lewis, GASP

This session will be a panel discussion on recent efforts to promote more government transparency by focusing on the different tools that are available to you as advocates and citizens. Which is the best tool to learn more about or highlight a pressing problem in your community? Coosa Riverkeeper Steven Dudley will discuss his organization's leading role in the effort to pass Fisherman's Right-to-Know legislation statewide. GASP's Staff Attorney Haley Lewis will talk about obtaining government documents on North Birmingham pollution using Alabama's Open Records Act. Black Warrior Riverkeeper's Staff Attorney Eva Dillard will talk briefly about the use of federal Freedom of Information Act as well as lessons learned from an environmental coalition's attempts to use the Environmental Management Commission's petition process to require better public notification of sewage spills.

Hall Hall

LEVERAGING RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

A STORY OF HURRICANE CREEK

Eric Courchesne, Oak Philanthropy

No money? No problem! Come talk about building a coalition of the willing to achieve your goals with less. There are many partners to help you build a strong board and expand your program support - from arts to science - if you know where to look.

GEOLOGY OF MCDOWELL continued

6 pm – 6:45 pm

Doug Carpenter Hall

DINNER

7 – 8:30 pm

FUTURE OF THE SOUTHEASTERN RIVER &

RIVER CELEBRATION AWARDS

With Scot Duncan, Birmingham-Southern College

Southeastern rivers are among the most beautiful and biodiverse in the world, yet their capacity to sustain species and humanity has been weakened by centuries of heavy management. Climate change—and the many challenges it brings—is causing us to rethink our relationship with rivers. Author Scot Duncan explores how as we are forced to adjust to the new climate, we have an unprecedented opportunity to re-engineer how we live with rivers so that both humanity and biodiversity can enjoy a secure and prosperous future.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

7:30 – 7:55 am Back Patio, Doug Carpenter Hall	MORNING QI GONG (TAI CHI) 30 minutes of eye-opening simple movements and serious breathing. led by Tai Chi teacher Stephen Guesman.
8 am – 8:45 am	BREAKFAST
	BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4 9:15 am – 10:15 am
Hall Hall	PFAS/PFOS Michael Freeman, Auburn University Amble Johnson, Southern Environmental Law Center 2019 saw a lot of new interest in PFOS/PFOA, with the media attention on 3M specifically and the growing concerns with forever chemicals in Alabama Waterways. Last year at Water Rally we took a look at the history of PFOS and where it had been detected in our state. We will take a look back at what happened in 2019 and set the stage for what is being done today and what's likely to come for this chemical "contaminant". Amble of SELC will give us an update on policy re PFOS/PFOAs.
Doug Carpenter Hall	ALABAMA'S SURPRISING BIODIVERSITY Scot Duncan, Birmingham-Southern College Alabama is a global hotspot for aquatic biodiversity. Dr. Scot Duncan, author of Southern Wonder: Alabama's Surprising Biodiversity, will share highlights about Alabama's biodiversity, explain why we have it, and why it matters.
Phifer Hall	FISH PASSAGE ON THE ALABAMA RIVER Henry Hershey, Auburn University In this session, we will be discuss the brief history of dams and migratory fish in Alabama. We will also take a look at some of the results from Auburn University's research on fish passage on the Alabama River. We will also discuss the future for migratory fish in our state - it may not be so bleak!
10:30 – 11:45 am Doug Carpenter Hall	PLENARY: EXAMINING YOUTH ACTIVISM <i>Presented by the ARA Junior Board</i> Join the Alabama Rivers Alliance Junior Board for a multimedia presentation on the resurgence of youth activism and youth leading the charge in the environmental justice arena. This plenary will examine youth activists' success to reach broader audiences through viral social media posts, hear firsthand from a youth activist and group coordinating youth activism about their experience with Alabama environmental activism, and close with a peer guided activity to extend the conversation outside of Water Rally.

noon

Doug Carpenter Hall

BOXED LUNCH PICK UP

12:30 pm

Meet at Doug
Carpenter Hall

FIELD TRIP TIME!

EXPERIENCE BIODIVERSITY - UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Led by Zac Napier

Join us as we explore some amazing biodiversity up close and personal with naturalist Zac Napier. He will call the birds, turn over rocks and have you see and smell things you never dreamed of! Be prepared to do some walking, maybe get your feet wet, but mainly be prepared to be entertained and amazed. Meet at Doug Carpenter Hall ready for this 1.5-2 hour exploration of the woods and streams of Camp McDowel and all the plants, animals, and other critters you find along the way.

OR

PADDLE CLEAR CREEK

Self-guided

Take a paddle along Clear Creek at your own pace and explore the beauty of spring along the banks. The creek is dammed up making this a smooth easy for all ages paddle. There is a fairly steep hike to get to the creek. This is a self-guided activity so you can spend as long as you like.