

Alabama Water Rally Speaker Bios

CLEAN WATER ACT: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Bill Andreen (University of Alabama School of Law)

William Andreen is a Research Professor of Law at The University of Alabama School of Law and has written extensively about water law and policy. He is currently writing a book chapter titled The Clean Water Act: Success, Backlash, and Remaining Challenges which will be published in 2023.

[Click here to see his full CV.](#)

Cade Kistler (Mobile Baykeeper and Waterkeepers Alabama)

Cade grew up on Guntersville Lake in north Alabama. After earning his B.S. from Auburn University, he took a position with the U.S. Forest Service as a wilderness restoration intern in Washington state. However, sweet home Alabama called and Cade returned to work on his M.S. at Auburn University. He has completed all coursework and will receive his M.S. upon completion of his thesis.

After getting married, he followed his wife to her home in Baldwin County and has been exploring the treasures of the Gulf Coast since. In his spare time, Cade likes to kayak and bike with his wife and snow-ski whenever he can. Cade is thrilled to have the opportunity to work for the citizens of the Alabama Gulf Coast and preserve the environment of this majestic area.

Kistler, who served as Mobile Baykeeper's Program Director for six years, now fills the Baykeeper role previously held by Casi Callaway.

Keith Johnston (Southern Environmental Law Center)

Keith has years of experience with protecting our natural environment. He's worked all over the country from Alaska to DC to 'Bama. He has lent his expertise and talents to the US Forest Service, Environmental Enforcement Section, and New York State Attorney General, Environmental Protection Division. Keith opened the Birmingham office of SELC in 2010 and, along with SELC's team, is responsible for developing, implementing and leading SELC's legal advocacy program in Alabama; serving as SELC lawyer in litigation and case-specific advocacy.

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME: THE WORK OF MOVEMENT BUILDING

Michael Hansen (Alabama Hub, GS4GND)

Michael has a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Memphis and a master's degree in public relations from the University of Alabama. He has more than a decade of experience in business management, strategic marketing communications, and nonprofit organizations.

Prior to joining the GASP team, he was director of public relations for The Modern Brand Company where he managed communications for the Jefferson County Health Action Partnership's Champions for Health campaign — which included the highly successful SmokeFree Alabama initiative which led to the City of Birmingham's adoption of its smoke-free ordinance. Before his time at The Modern Brand, Michael served as public relations and marketing coordinator at Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Michael is an active member of the Greater-Birmingham community, working passionately as an advocate for health equity, food access, civil rights, and social justice. He has years of experience and extensive training in the areas of public health and environmental protection. He is a member of the board of directors for the Southeast Climate & Energy Network and Clean Water Action, as well as a member of the Arm in Arm National Core Support Team.

Michael previously served as Chair of the Equality Alabama board of directors and on the board of Rites of Spring. He also helped establish a junior board for the Community Food Bank of Greater Birmingham and Oasis Counseling for Women & Children.

Michael is especially proud to have worked tirelessly alongside other LGBTQ advocates and allies to pass Birmingham's Non-Discrimination Ordinance, which passed in 2017 and established the Birmingham Human Rights Commission.

Abigail Franks (Southeast Climate & Energy Network)

Abigail Franks is a recent Honors graduate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a degree in Political Science and Peace, Justice, and Ecology. She is especially passionate about transforming the South into a sustainable and resilient region and her ultimate goal is to work on a regional scale to craft climate mitigation and adaptation policies that would operate with a focus on climate justice and decarbonization. By doing so, she hopes to expand on these policies and include regulations for fossil fuel companies that mandate environmental cleanup and promote environmental accountability. Her specialties include topics such as nonviolent social movements, Alabamian environmental policy, community-based leadership, solar energy, and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. In her free time, she enjoys listening to podcasts, doing yoga, and cuddling with her dog, Ginny.

Kyle Crider (Alabama Interfaith Power & Light)

Kyle G. Crider holds a BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Alabama's innovative and interdisciplinary New College. He also holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from UAB, with a double-emphasis in Urban Planning & Policy Analysis. He is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional, Neighborhood Development (LEED AP ND) and serves on the U.S. Green Building Council's Alabama Market Leadership Advisory Board. He attends Saint Junia United Methodist Church.

April Ingle (Clean Water for All coalition)

April has a passion for protecting and enjoying rivers and assisting people who are working together to protect and strengthen their communities and the places they love.

In addition to her work at River Network, April is also the owner of April Ingle Consulting, where she works to boost the impact of organizations that are working for a better world.

Previously, April served as Executive Director of Georgia River Network (GRN) for 11 years. In this position, she was responsible for working with the GRN Board of Directors and staff to carry out GRN's programs, projects, administration, and fundraising to meet the organization's mission to protect, restore and enjoy Georgia's rivers. In this role, she also served on the Leadership Team and chaired the Communications Committee of the Georgia Water Coalition, a highly successful coalition of 200+ organizations and businesses with the common goal of clean water for current and future generations. Her time at GRN also gave her the opportunity to explore over 1000 miles of Georgia's magnificent rivers.

April was the recipient of Greenlaw's 2014 Environmental Hero award, was named one of Georgia's "40 Under 40" by Georgia Trend magazine in 2013, received Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's 2012 River Advocate of the Year award, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society – Hoosier Chapter's 1999 Education & Information award. She also served on the Special Committee for Review of Environmental Buffer Requirements for Athens-Clarke County; the National Blueways Program Task Force; and the Statewide Advisory Committee for Georgia's Statewide Water Management Plan.

April works from High Point, North Carolina and when she's not protecting rivers or assisting organizations, she likes to paddle, travel, cook, and spend time with her family and friends.

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WHAT WHY & HOW?

Kathleen Kirkpatrick (Hometown Action)

Kathleen Kirkpatrick is an environmental engineer, sustainability advisor, and activist with a passion for catalyzing sustainable development of resilient communities in the rural South. She grew up mostly in Alabama, left the region to attend college and pursue a career in environmental protection, then returned in 2012 after her hometown of Tuscaloosa was devastated by a tornado. A dedicated advocate for environmental and social justice, Kathleen earned a bachelor's degree in chemical and ocean engineering from the University of Rhode Island and pursued graduate studies in sustainable building and Biomimicry.

With a diverse career ranging from environmental policy, design sales, sustainability education, and nonprofit management to movement politics, she is currently Climate & Strategic Initiatives Director for statewide grassroots organizations Hometown Action and Hometown Organizing Project. Kathleen serves on the Board of Directors for Coosa Riverkeeper and Your Town Alabama, and continues to volunteer with a number of organizations for which sustainability and environmental justice are a focus. Kathleen has held a LEED Accredited Professional (AP) credential since 2009, and was the first Sustainable SITES AP and first EcoDistricts AP in Alabama.

Bradley Davidson, (Conservation Alabama)

Bradley Davidson was appointed executive director of Conservation Alabama in August 2021 after serving almost two decades in Alabama's non-profit, advocacy, and political sectors. Before coming to Conservation Alabama, Bradley ran his own consulting firm where he provided services including part-time state and federal compliance and administrative support to federal political campaigns, party committees, political action committees, and non-profit organizations.

Bradley has spent a large portion of his career working directly with the Alabama legislature as well as city councils, school boards, county commissions, and other local, state, and federal elected officials and agencies across Alabama. He has also advocated for clean energy tax policy in the New Mexico and Oklahoma statehouses. One of his chief concerns is civic engagement and voter participation. As Executive Director of Empower Alabama, he developed and executed a \$1.4 million voter contact program to increase voter registration among youth. His passion for civic engagement was largely what attracted him to the conservation voters movement.

Bradley is a native of Selma and holds a B.S. in business (finance) from the University of Alabama, an M.A. in economics from Vanderbilt University, and a graduate certificate in public administration from the University of Virginia. A native of Alabama's Black Belt, Bradley rejoices in the knowledge that his work is protecting the things that make Alabama a great place to live—our spectacular landscapes, wildlife, clean air, and clean water. Bradley lives in the Birmingham metro area and enjoys spending his free time visiting our nation's 63 national parks and exploring the nooks and crannies of rural Alabama.

Jack West (Alabama Rivers Alliance)

Jack joined the Alabama Rivers Alliance as Policy & Advocacy Director in 2020. He brings legal experience from corporate private practice, as well as an entrepreneurial background to ARA. Jack is

a Birmingham native and grew up camping in Cheaha State Park, fishing in Lake Guntersville, and backpacking Alabama's Pinhoti Trail.

Prior to joining ARA, he worked in-house with a solar company advising on issues of state policy. He also previously founded a technology company at Birmingham's Innovation Depot. After hours, Jack volunteers with Citizens' Climate Lobby and is a member of the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama's Roundtable.

Jack graduated from Sewanee: The University of the South where he indulged his love of the outdoors caving and hiking along the Cumberland Plateau. He earned his law degree magna cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law, serving as an associate editor on the Law Journal. Jack and his wife, Emily, live in the Roebuck Springs neighborhood with Ruffner Mountain's 14 miles of trails conveniently located right outside the back door.

Cory Pettway (community leader and ARA Board Member)

Meet Qunelius "Cory" Pettway, Community Liaison for Birmingham City Councilor Darrell O'Quinn (District 5). He is currently a member of the Alabama State and Jefferson County Democratic Executive Committees and is co-founder of The Willing Family, a community organization aimed at revitalizing urban neighborhoods in Birmingham. Cory has been awarded the Jefferson County Committee of Economic Development (JCCEO) Early Childcare Community Outreach Award twice for his work on the Kingston site. Cory is also a member of Cahaba River Society Junior Board, The Birmingham Barbers Coalition, Grassroots Coalition Birmingham, Our Revolution-Birmingham and is a Congressional Black Caucus Institute Political Leadership Alumni.

Cory is an uplifting and vibrant "life-centered" person who is dedicated to being the change he wants to see in the world. His experiences in life and career have allowed him opportunities to truly make an impact and that is what inspires him each day. He regularly volunteers with churches and non-profit organizations throughout the area by organizing events. He's taught and volunteered in the Birmingham City School System and he works closely with elected officials developing policy and empowering power to rise above adversity.

Cory believes in spreading a message of peace and love in efforts to encourage the unity of all life and looks forward to serving on the Alabama Rivers Alliance Board of Directors and working with the communities throughout Alabama which depend on our 132,000 miles of rivers and streams.

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