



Alabama Rivers Alliance  
*Water Is Life*

# Alabama Water Rally Agenda

## Reconnecting Rivers, Roots, & Allies

March 17 - 19, 2017 | Camp McDowell

### FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

12 pm - 4 pm Phifer Hall	<b>WATER WATCH CERTIFICATION FOR BIOLOGICAL TESTING</b> <i>FREE, but you must PRE-Register directly with Alabama Water Watch in advance. <a href="http://www.alabamarivers.org">www.alabamarivers.org</a></i>
3:00 pm Camp Store	<b>REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ALABAMA WATER RALLY!</b> Registration at the Camp Store - look for the signs as you arrive!
6:00 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>KICK OFF DINNER</b> <b>Welcome to Alabama Water Rally</b> from Cindy Lowry & Martha Hunter!
7:15 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>BILL DEUTSCH - RETURN OF THE WATER SPIRITS</b> Dr. Deutsch will explore how people around the world relate to rivers and how that can help us stay motivated and broaden our personal river work. Hear his decades-long journey of coming from New York to Pennsylvania to Alabama and working 25 years with Alabama Water Watch and Global Water Watch.
8:00 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>ALLIANCE NETWORKING SOCIAL AND WATER CEREMONY</b> Join in the fun as you get to know your Alabama Rivers Alliance partner organizations and the benefits of being part of a larger whole. Water Ceremony will symbolize the power of water and the power of our combined organizations to make a real difference. Continue getting to know each other with our <b>Networking Scavenger Hunt</b> that will last all weekend and can take you from the educational to the silly! Participate in the “get to know you” questions for the Scavenger Hunt. There will be PRIZESSSS! <i>Led by Martha Hunter (Alabama Rivers Alliance)</i>
9:00 pm Hall Hall	<b>DANCING &amp; PARTYING WITH RIVER DEFENDERS ACROSS THE STATE!</b> <i>Get your dancing pants on and come party with your new best friends and 2Blu and the Lucky Stiffs! Bring your drink tickets!</i>

### SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

8:00 am Camp Store	<b>REGISTRATION OPENS</b>
8 - 8:45 am Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
8:45 - 10:45 am Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>PLENARY: WORKING AS AN ALLIANCE: WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER</b> This 2-hour interactive session will provide an update on the latest state and federal policy actions and how they will impact the work of our river movement. We will have facilitated table discussions on how to prioritize our efforts, build power together, and stay organized while trying to play defense and offense on important issues facing Alabama’s water resources and communities. <i>Led by Cindy Lowry, April Ingle &amp; Mitch Reid.</i>

	<b><i>Saturday, March 18 continued</i></b>
<b>11 - 12 noon</b> <b>Doug Carpenter Hall</b>	<b>PLENARY: WHEN THE LEVEE BREAKS: MOVING FORWARD WITH AN ALABAMA WATER PLAN</b> New national report from River Network from September 2016 reviews southeastern water policies and highlights the need for an Alabama Water Management Plan. <i>Led by April Ingle &amp; Katherine Baer.</i> Followed by an update on the status of an Alabama Water Plan by Alabama Rivers Alliance with an opportunity to ACT NOW.
<b>12 noon</b> <b>Doug Carpenter Hall</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1 - 1:30 pm</b>	<b>BREAK!</b> Great time to network - how's your Scavenger Hunt going?

## SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1

### 1:30 PM - 3 PM

<b>Doug Carpenter Hall</b>	<b>SEWAGE IN ALABAMA</b> The proper handling of our human waste is a task we typically take for granted. However, a majority of our sewage treatment facilities have violated their permit in the past three years and Alabamians in the Black Belt are struggling with geological and financial challenges leading to pools of raw sewage in their yards. This session will provide an overview of Alabama's ongoing problem with improperly treated sewage, how it impacts our health and our rivers, and what local groups are doing to address this important issue. <i>Led by Nelson Brooke (Black Warrior Riverkeeper) and Catherine Flowers (ACRE)</i>
<b>Christ Church Lodge</b>	<b>MOVING ALABAMA TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE</b> While the science on climate change is clear, that isn't the only reason to move away from dirty fossil fuels. Alabama's current energy production has a profound impact on our rivers and our health. This session will explain how our current energy sources are impacting our water, air, and health, describe the barriers to moving Alabama toward cleaner energy, and provide information about activities currently underway to address these problems. <i>Led by Haley Colson Lewis (GASP)</i>
<b>Hall Hall</b>	<b>ENDANGERED SPECIES: DON'T TAKE ME FROM THE RIVER</b> Alabama's streams are hotbeds of bio diversity but our state also ranks in the top five nationally for endangered species. This session will look at the laws and policies that protect endangered species and the habitats that sustain them. It will provide examples of how citizens can effectively engage in the process when species are threatened. <i>Led by Elise Bennett (Center for Biological Diversity)</i>
<b>Phifer Hall</b>	<b>AVOIDING A COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN</b> <i>Want to know more about how to reach out to your membership or how to communicate internally with your board or committee members? Learn what tools are available and how to use them. Bring your own laptop! This will be an interactive workshop based on who shows up and what you want to learn! Platforms include: Facebook, Twitter, Listservs, Google groups/Gmail filters, Mailchimp, Dropbox and Trello. Led by Kyle Crider (Alabama Environmental Council)</i>

# SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

3:30 pm - 5 pm

Doug Carpenter Hall

## DEFENDING RIVERS 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. *Led by Cindy Lowry (Alabama Rivers Alliance).*

Hall Hall

## PUT THIS IN YOUR PIPELINE

From the Dakota Access and Sable Trail Pipelines to the leak and explosion of the Colonial Pipeline near the Cahaba River, pipelines have been prominent in recent news. This session will help participants understand the current threat that pipelines pose to our rivers and communities and discuss strategies for dealing with new and existing pipelines threats. *Led by Raleigh Hoke (Gulf Restoration Network).*

Phifer Hall

## INSTREAM FLOW: WHAT DO YOU "MEAN"?

The USGS lists alteration of stream flow as one of the greatest causes of stream impairment in the nation. One fundamental way to protect streams is to develop policies that protect the flows of stream using sound science. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has developed an internal instream flow policy to guide the department's day to day operations and has been working as a member of Governor Bentley's Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG) to develop recommendations for a statewide Instream Flow policy as part of the state water planning process. This session will discuss the science behind instream flows and how the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources works to protect flows in Alabama's streams and rivers. *Led by Taconya Goar (Alabama Department of Natural Resources).*

Christ Church Lodge

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

Whether you are a staffed organization or all volunteer, learn how to organize a program harnessing the power of volunteers and interns to benefit your organization's goals. This will include great tips on how to set up "wish lists" of projects and how to match the right volunteer or intern to the job. Very empowering! *Led by Justinn Overton (Coosa Riverkeeper)*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 continued

5:30 - 6:30 pm Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>DINNER</b>
7 - 8:30 pm Hall Hall	<b>RIVER CELEBRATION!</b> <i>Celebrating 20 years of Alabama Rivers Alliance defending rivers for Alabama!</i> From our roots as the Alabama State Rivers Coalition to the successes of the ADEM Reform Coalition and the creation of the Alabama Water Agenda, you won't want to miss the tales from 20 years of defending rivers in Alabama. Old timers: bring your stories to share and newcomers: bring your energy as we celebrate past victories and cherish the lessons learned. Brad McLane (ARA's founding executive director 1997 - 2003), Adam Snyder (ARA executive director 2003-2007) and Cindy Lowry (current ARA executive director 2007 - present).  <b>RIVER CELEBRATION AWARDS</b> From past to present, we will recognize the many people who make our organization strong by working tirelessly to #DefendRivers and Alabama's amazing natural environment.
8:30 - 10 pm Hall Hall	<b>CONTRA DANCE PARTY!</b> featuring The Sparklers! <i>Ask us - it's fun! Bring your drink tickets!</i>

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

9:30 am	<b>BRUNCH</b>
10 am - 11 am Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>PLENARY: EMERGING LEADERS: A LOOK AHEAD</b> What does the future of Alabama's environmental movement look like? ARA's brand new Junior Board has developed this plenary to look toward the future of river protection and environmental activism in Alabama. The interactive discussion will begin with a short video featuring voices from across the state. This is your opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from the next generation of River Defenders. Help us welcome the future leaders of our environmental movement! <i>Led by ARA Junior Board.</i>
11 am	<b>Check out of rooms :</b> ( We will miss you!
12 noon Doug Carpenter Hall	<b>Pick up boxed lunches for your field trips!</b> <b>FIELD TRIPS!</b> Meet your field trip leader at Doug Carpenter Hall. Fill your water bottle! Look for the sign for your field trip. Have fun & see you next year!