

Working together to make a difference for aquatic life.

Conference Agenda



Date: August 23-24, 2023

Location: Marriott Shoals Hotel, 10 Hightower Place, Florence AL

August 23rd

11:30 am – 12:30 pm CDT **Registration**

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm CDT **Welcome**

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm CDT **Opening Networking Session**

A chance for you to gather, engage, and build valuable connections across our community working to safeguard our Basin's aquatic life.

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm CDT **Keynote Address**

William Finch, *Finch Conservation*

Finch is an award-winning writer, botanist, natural historian, and specialist in landscape interpretation and restoration and has been involved in Alabama conservation for more than 30 years. Through his consulting business, Finch Conservation, Bill is increasingly focusing his skills and efforts on large-scale landscape conservation and restoration efforts, in coordination with the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation.

2:15 pm – 2:30pm CDT **BREAK**

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm CDT **Freshwater Mussel Conservation Session**

Erin McCombs, *American Rivers*

Dr. Paul Johnson, *Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center*

Dr. Dan Hua, *Cumberland River Aquatic Center - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*

Dr. Amanda Rosenberger, *TN Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, Tennessee Tech*

August 23rd

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm CDT **Partner Lightning Talks**

A great opportunity to spark new conversations and collaborations and learn about the work of your peers across the Tennessee River Basin. All slots currently filled.

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm CDT **Social**

7:00 pm CDT **Celebration Banquet & Dinner**

Awards Celebration: Anthony Summit, *Tennessee Valley Authority*

The Snail Darter's Road to Recovery: David Matthews, *Tennessee Valley Authority & Warren Stiles, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

August 24th

9:00 am – 9:10 am CDT **Day Two Welcome w/Breakfast Bar**

9:10 am – 9:30 am CDT **TRBN Business Update**

9:30 am – 10:30 am CDT **It Takes a Village - A holistic approach to aquatic life conservation: panelists presentations.**

Nearly as diverse as the aquatic life within our Basin are the discipline types working to conserve it. This session is designed to highlight a diversity of approaches in safeguarding our Basin's aquatic biodiversity.

Morgan Harris, *Conservation Management Institute, Virginia Tech*

Brad Nail, *Alabama Forestry Association*

Zachary Wilbanks, *Wilbanks Engineering & Environmental Solutions*

Dr. Andrea Ludwig, *University of Tennessee*

Jeremy Monroe, *Freshwaters Illustrated*

10:30 am – 10:45 am CDT **BREAK**

10:45 am – 11:45 am CDT **It Takes a Village – A holistic approach to aquatic life conservation: panel discussion.**

Moderators:

Kathy Hawes, *Southeastern Partnership for Forests & Water*

Rob Hurt, *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

11:45 am – 12:00 pm CDT **Closing Remarks & Meeting Close**

August 24th

12:00 pm CDT Gather to depart for [Cypress Creek Paddle Event](#)

Pre-registration for this event is required.

A box lunch will be provided to paddle event registrants.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PLATINUM



SILVER



BRONZE

