

Diverse Connections for Diverse Watersheds

Conference Agenda



Date: August 24-25, 2022

Location: Ijams Nature Center, 219 Island Home Ave, Knoxville TN

August 24th

11:30 am – 12:30 pm EDT **Registration (@Visitor Center)**

12:30 pm – 12:45 pm EDT **Welcome**

12:45 pm – 1:30 pm EDT **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 EDT **Keynote Address**

Theodore Coopwood, III

National Coordinator of Youth Programing and Regional Coordination, *Environmental Protection Agency*

Mr. Coopwood has devoted over 37 years of federal service to empowering others to take actions to promote leadership in environmental equality and to foster new ideas to protect human health and the environment. Mr. Coopwood speaks nationally as a motivator on social, personal, professional, and environmental issues.

2:15 pm – 2:30pm EDT **BREAK**

2:30 pm – 3:15 pm EDT **Aquatic Connectivity Informational Session**

Dr. Kit Wheeler, *Tennessee Tech University*

Victoria Ruddle, *Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership*

Daniel West, *Geological Survey of Alabama*
Alabama Aquatic Connectivity Team Lead

Robert Bullard, *The Nature Conservancy*
Tennessee Aquatic Connectivity Team Lead

Erin McCombs, *American Rivers*
North Carolina Aquatic Connectivity Team Lead

August 24th

3:15 pm – 3:35 pm EDT **Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Informational Session**

Gail Lazaras, *American Rivers*

3:35 pm – 4:30 pm EDT **Decision Support Tools & Resources**

Emily Granstaff, *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

Victoria Ruddle, *Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership*

Jonathan Cawthon, *Sewanee*

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm EDT **Social (@Ijams Homesite)**

6:00 pm EDT **Celebration Banquet & Dinner**

Awards Celebration: Allen Clare, *Tennessee Valley Authority*

Evening Speaker: Cumberland River Compact

August 25th

8:00 am – 8:30 am EDT **Breakfast (@Visitor Center)**

8:30 am – 8:40 am EDT **Day Two Welcome**

8:40 am – 9:30 am EDT **Environmental Justice Session**

Dr. Margot Brown

Vice President, Justice and Equity, *Environmental Defense Fund*

9:30 am – 11:00 am EDT **Aquatic Connectivity Working Session**

Led by: Jeffrey Wright, *Trout Unlimited*

This session is designed for participants to gain knowledge in (1) steps needed to plan, prepare, and execute a project to address aquatic connectivity, and (2) understanding their potential role and how their affiliation can assist in future projects.

11:00 am – 11:15 am EDT **BREAK**

11:15 am – 11:45 am EDT **Closing Networking Session**

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

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

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EDT **Subcommittee Meetings (everyone is welcome to participate)**

The three subcommittees that will be gathering are 1.) Education & Outreach, 2.) Conservation & Restoration, and 3.) Sub-network Paddle Events. Please join any one of these meetings.

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