Global Freshwaters Virtual Summit
An Initiative of the Global Being Foundation

In principal partnership with the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO

The Mississippi River runs through the heart of America, nurturing its life, land, and economy from the headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The availability of clean and abundant water impacts the health and well-being of everyone—especially those who live in river communities. The Global Freshwaters Summit will look at the human and natural systems the river sustains, as well as the restoration of freshwater biomes.

The Summit will cover five topics: State of the River, Governance, Protecting the River, Food and Agriculture, and Lifestyles in Harmony with Nature. Presenters will speak to how cross-cutting themes of health and wellbeing of the river in confluence with the human and natural systems it sustains call on us to move toward restoring our freshwater biome.

There is no cost to attend the week-long summit, but registration is required.

Included in your Summit registration is a free pass to the Global Freshwaters Summit and Global Freshwaters Summit virtual film festival honoring the Great Rivers. You will receive a link to sign up for the cinema experience with your summit registration confirmation.

This program is associated with the Missouri History Museum’s Mighty Mississippi exhibit presented by Bank of America. Education sponsorship provided by JSM Charitable Trust.

SCHEDULE
Monday, April 19, 4–8pm CDT/5-9pm EDT/2-6pm PDT | State of the River
Tuesday, April 20, 1–4:30pm/2-5:30pm EDT/11am-2:30pm PDT | Governance
Wednesday, April 21, 4–8pm CDT/5-9pm EDT/2-6pm PDT | Protecting the River
Thursday, April 22, 9am–12:30pm/10am-1:30pm EDT/7-10:30am PDT | Food and Agriculture
Friday, April 23, 9am–12:30pm/10am-1:30pm EDT/7-10:30am PDT | Lifestyles in Harmony with Nature

[Each day’s event schedule follows]
Please BE AWARE that all times on this schedule reflect the Central Daylight Timezone (CDT). BE SURE TO CONVERT YOUR TIMES! Time Zone Converter

The Virtual Doors to the Summit open daily 15 minutes before the start of each day’s program. All who sign into Zoom early are invited to enjoy a meditative experience by Listening Inspires.

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Monday, April 19, 4–8pm CDT/5-9pm EDT/2-6pm PDT | State of the River

We begin each day by acknowledging that we gather on the ancestral lands of Native peoples who were removed unjustly, and that we in this community are the beneficiaries of that removal. We honor them as we live, work, and study on these lands. We are gathering on the lands of the Illini Confederacy, the Osage Nation, Missouria Peoples and many other tribes who have called what is now known as St. Louis, Missouri home.

4:00–4:45pm CDT | Welcome, Introductions, and Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Virtual Tour

Dr. Frances Levine, President and CEO, Missouri Historical Society
Myra Jackson, Global Being Foundation
Thea La Grou, Founder, Films for the Planet
Words of Wisdom: Chief Caleen Sisk, Spiritual Leader & Chief, Winnemem Wintu Tribe
David Lobbig, Curator of Environmental Life, Missouri Historical Society

Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Tour

Moderator for the Day: Joseph Robertson, Founder and President, The Geoversiv Foundation

4:50–6:00pm CDT | Panel 1: Status of the Mississippi River

We begin by taking an honest look at what we know about the condition of the Mississippi river, biome, and the communities that rely on it. We will receive information from two “report cards.”

Panelists:
Kim Lutz, Executive Director, America’s Watershed Initiative, presents the “Mississippi River Watershed Report Card”
Olivia Dorothy, Director, Upper Mississippi River Basin, American Rivers, presents “America’s Most Endangered Rivers 2020”

6:00–6:15pm CDT


6:15–6:35pm CDT | Panel 2: Citizen Monitoring and Stewardship of Waterways

We open the conversation to tools to help fill the data gaps and to support citizen science, waterkeepers and river protectors who monitor ecosystem health.

Panelists:
John Dawes, Executive Director, The Commons
Holly Grimm, Ecosystem Monitoring Dashboard
6:40–7:40pm CDT | Panel 3: Toward a Healthy Freshwater Biome: What Needs to Happen?

The report is not good. We ask key leaders in ecosystem protection what needs to happen, what needs to be seen, and what is underway to honor the deep responsibility of repairing the harm done. The conversation places a deep concentration on regenerating freshwaters, Nature’s biodiversity, keystone species, forests and trees, and native plants as indicators and collaborators to restore river and ecosystem health.

Panelists:
- Mary Culler, Executive Director, Missouri Stream Teams Watershed Coalition
- Dr. Sharon Deem, Director, Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine
- Suzi Steer, Education and Alliances, TreeSisters

7:40–8:00pm CDT | Youth Rapporteur Summation by Sabrina Brewer, Colorado College, and Closing

8:30 PM CDT | Global Freshwaters Summit Virtual Film Fest Today’s Movie Discussion: Troubled Waters: A Mississippi Story, Larkin McPhee, Barbara Coffin, Produced by Bell Museum of Natural History. Film discussion moderated by Don Shelby with Tracy Fredin and John G. Shepard.

Tuesday, April 20, 1–4:30pm CDT/2-5:30pm EDT/11am-2:30pm PDT | Governance

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1:00–1:05pm CDT | Welcome & Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Virtual Tour

1:05–1:50pm CDT | Panel 1: Leading the Challenge in River Cities

Mayors from among the 124 Mississippi River main stem cities and towns are working together to protect and restore the Mississippi River as one natural system that supports human culture and economies, as well as the River’s unique ecosystem and wildlife. Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative will share their vision, legislative and policy proposals aimed at establishing a federal portfolio for the Mississippi River to set national priorities for investment to restore and protect the river, river communities, lands and economies.

Presenters: The Honorable Errick Simmons, Mayor, City of Greenville, Mississippi
- Colin Wellenkamp, Executive Director, Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative

1:50–2:05pm CDT | When They Blew the Levee: Pinhook, MO documentarians/authors David Todd Lawrence, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, and Elaine J. Lawless, University of Missouri.
2:05–3:00pm CDT | Panel 2: Flood Management and Resilience

Sharing what can happen locally, regionally and nationally to collaboratively protect and restore communities and “make room for the river.” Our cities and states cannot continue to implement solutions in silos without consideration of how they impact other jurisdictions.

**Moderator:** Olivia Dorothy, Director, Upper Mississippi River Basin, *American Rivers*

**Panelists:**
- Jessica Ludy CFM, *US Army Corps of Engineers*, Sacramento District
- Dámaris Villalobos-Galindo, CFM/Associate Civil Engineer, *Valley Water*
- Colleen Suter, Environmental Programs Manager, *Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation*
- Brandon Parsons, Associate Director, Rivers of Puget Sound and Columbia Basin, *American Rivers*

3:10–4:15pm CDT | Panel 3: Restoring Freshwater Biomes: The Work

Conservation organizations are working with local governments to support resilience and green jobs in major partnership efforts to restore, reconnect and expand conservation areas, trails and flood plains.

**Moderator:** Laura Madden, *Global Freshwaters Summit and Phoenix Consults LLC*

**Panelists:**
- Abu Bakr Moulta-Ali, Physical Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Partnership Programs Branch (Urban Waters)
- Emma Kluess, Vice President of Communications and Outreach, *Great Rivers Greenway*
- Colette Pichon Battle, Executive Director, *Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy*

4:15–4:30pm CDT | Youth Rapporteur Summation by Jesse Vogel, Ohio State Moritz Law School, and Closing

6:00pm CDT | Global Freshwaters Summit Virtual Film Fest Movie Discussion: *Invisible Hand: Who will speak for Nature?* Hosted by Jessica Watson and Bob Henkel of earthday365. [Film discussion](#) featuring Invisible Hand Directors Joshua B. Pribanic and Melissa Troutman.

Wednesday, April 21, 4–8pm CDT /5-9pm EDT/2-6pm PDT | Protecting the River

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4:00-4:05pm CDT | Welcome & Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Virtual Tour

4:10–4:55 pm CDT | Panel 1: Fierce Civility: A River Runs Through It

An introductory presentation on moving beyond conflict and polarization, for elected officials, public servants, community leaders and anyone participating in Civic Life.

Joe Weston, Executive Director, *Fierce Civility Project*

5:10–6:10pm CDT | Panel 2: Earth Law: Protecting Nature

Grant Wilson, Executive Director and Attorney of Earth Law Center, will lead a discussion of a grassroots movement that speaks to the responsibility humans have to the natural world around us.

Panelists:
- Monti Aguirre, Latin America Program Coordinator, International Rivers
- Gary Wockner, Save the Colorado
- Catherine Iorns Magallanes, Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington

6:10–6:40pm CDT | Panel 3: Earth Law/Community Organizing, Local Legislation, Courts, Lessons and Pathways

Moderator: Emily Underwood, Missouri History Museum
Panelists:
- Marsha Jones Moutrie, Member UN Harmony with Nature Expert Platform, Santa Monica City Atty 1996-2016
- Christopher Clark, Supervising Staff Attorney, Midwest Region, Earthjustice

6:50–7:45pm CDT | Panel 4: Those Who Walk with the Water: Stories from the Gulf to the Headwaters

The restoration of the living biome will rise from the place of caring community, from engagement with, in and of the Earth and waterways where we live, work and cherish. We invite a deep connection and commitment through the stories of restoration and care along the Mississippi River.

Moderator: Emily Underwood, Missouri History Museum
Panelists:
- Maggie Lorenz, Executive Director Lower Phalen Creek Project & Wakan Tipi Center Director
- John Shepard and Tracy Fredin, Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education
- Basia Irland, Interdisciplinary artist, Professor of Art and Art History at the University of New Mexico

Art, Video, Stories, Presentations

A Reading of the People’s Resolution Honoring the Great Rivers Mississippi and Missouri: Danielea Castell, Myra Jackson, Laura Madden

7:45–8:00pm CDT | Youth Rapporteur Summation by Samantha Lorca, Colorado College and Closing

8:30 pm CDT | Global Freshwaters Summit Virtual Film Fest Movie Discussion: The Rights of Nature: A Global Movement, Producers Issac Goeckeritz, Hal Crimmel, Maria Valeria Berros. Film discussion moderated by Don Shelby with Marsha Moutrie, Santa Monica City Attorney, co-author Rights of Nature legislation, and Dr. Allessandro Pelizzon, Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature.
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9:00-9:05am CDT | Welcome & Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Virtual Tour

9:05–10:05am CDT | Panel 1: Watershed Resilience through Food Waste Reduction & Food Justice

Food waste and food want – how are food systems evolving to better manage food production and access to healthy and abundant food from farm and factory to home and fork?

Moderator: Bob Henkel, Program Director, earthday365
Panelists:
- Maggie McCoy, Education & Volunteer Coordinator, Missouri Botanical Gardens Earthways Center
- Nick Speed, CEO and Founder, Ujima St. Louis
- Heru Adeleke, Founder and CEO, Heru Urban Farming

10:05-10:10am CDT | Interlude: FarmAid Concessions and Farmers Market Video

10:10–11:10am CDT | Panel 2: Regeneration: Farm and Freshwaters

Unhealthy soil and toxic waters limit the capacity of the land to produce abundance. Regenerative and bio-dynamic farming movements are taking hold to restore the soil and allow freshwaters to naturally regenerate. Food systems – transitioning and expanding eco-farm movement, creating markets and distribution, and educating consumers are helping to bridge this challenge.

Moderator: Lynn Peemoeller, Food Systems Planning LLC, Lecturer at Washington University St. Louis
Panelists:
- Ashlen Busick, Regional Representative, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
- Melissa Vatterott, Food & Farm Policy Director, Missouri Coalition for the Environment
- Holly Grimm, Dine (Navaho) Permaculture Farmer, Artist, Digital Entrepreneur

11:10-11:15am CDT | Interlude: Farmers Market Coalition Videos


Communicating and expanding the value of healthy food and healthy environment to reverse “underlying conditions” - human and natural - that have shown to elevate Covid-19 risk, especially in high-risk minority and low-income communities.

Moderator: Lynn Peemoeller, Food Systems Planning LLC, Lecturer at Washington University St. Louis
Panelists:
- Maris Brenn-White, DVM, Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine
- D’Ann Williams, Center for a Livable Future, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Erica Williams, Executive Director, A Red Circle
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Host: Lindsay Newton, Missouri History Museum

**Welcome & Mighty Mississippi Exhibit Virtual Tour**

**Panel 1: Repairing the Harm: Plastics Pollution**

One of the most ubiquitous human harms to the planet is plastics pollution, especially in our waterways. Two community-grounded solutions to engage and educate citizens report on their challenge and findings.

**Panelists:**
- Jenny Wendt, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
- Rachel Bartels, Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper

**Interlude: Messages from Global Confluence Cities and I AM WATER DROP Video**

**Panel 2: Toward a Fashion Revolution with No Harm**

Textile production uses around 93 billion cubic meters of water annually — the equivalent to 37 million Olympic swimming pools. Pollution from dyes and finishing processes further degrades freshwater supplies. Growing awareness is driving a revolution of sustainable and responsible fashion action.

*Sara Carvagnero*, Executive Director of *rén collective*, will update on this global movement and moderate a conversation with *Marc Yaggi*, Executive Director of *Waterkeepers Alliance*. 
10:45–11:45am CDT | Panel 3: Restoring the Great Rivers in One Generation

While the world is focused on technological solutions to arrest the converging crises of pandemic, denuded landscapes, drought, melting glacial ice, inequities, food insecurity, a quiet transformation is underway. A final panel wrap will highlight some of these powerful regenerative movements.

Panelists:
Jean Ponzi, Green Resources Manager, Missouri Botanical Gardens Earthways Center
Suzi Steer, Education and Resources, TreeSisters
Myra Jackson, Global Being Foundation

11:45am-12:00pm CDT | Youth Rapporteur Summation by Daniel Wechsler, Dwight School and Closing

7 pm CDT | Global Freshwaters Summit Virtual Film Fest Movie Discussion: Where There Once Was Water. Film discussion moderated by Thea LaGrou with Director and Producer Brittany App, Clare DuBois, Tree Sisters, Florencia Ramirez/Author “Eat Less Water,” and Chief Caleen Sisk, Winnemem Wintu Tribe.

Thank you for your attention to the Great Rivers Mississippi and Missouri And the protection and restoration of freshwaters and freshwater biomes.

www.globalfreshwaterssummit.org