



NEXT GEN. SUMMIT

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE

A Piece of a
LARGER PUZZLE

OCT. 14-16 Stoney Creek Hotel, Moline, IL



Join us for the 2025 Upper Mississippi River Conference

Please plan to attend the **19th annual Upper Mississippi River Conference - A Piece of a Larger Puzzle - October 15th and 16th** at Stoney Creek Hotel in Moline, IL. Since the conference was first established, River Action has continued its mission to bring together conservationists and regional stakeholders from all disciplines to form a more wholistic perspective on river and climate issues.

This year's theme highlights the need for collaborative problem-solving. Prioritizing the next generation of conservationists will be paramount in this process, which is why the conference's "Next Gen Summit" will return for its second year.

Our Generous Sponsors



Conference Schedule

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

2:00-4:00 p.m. WEDG (Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines) Workshop [Main Ballroom]

“Opening the Edge Along the Moline Riverfront”

- Joseph Sutkowi, President, WEDG
- Chris Mathias & Alex Elias, RENEW Moline

4:00-5:30pm WEDG Happy Hour & Networking

6:00-8:00 p.m. Conference Meet-up [Hotel Bar]

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

7:00-8:30 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Check-In [Hall Main Ballroom]

8:30-9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks [Main Ballroom]

- Kathy Wine, Executive Director and Founder, River Action

9:00-10:30 a.m. Keynote Session [Main Ballroom]

“The Mississippi River, A School of Democracy”

- David Murray, Senior Writer and Author, The Waterways Journal

10:30-10:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: “Why Do We Measure?” [John Deere Room]

- Nina Struss, River Health and Resiliency Organizer, Prairie Rivers Network
- Steve Hilberg, Midwest Climate Scientist, CoCoRaHS

Breakout 2: “Redevelopment Designs for the Mississippi River Basin” [Green Acres Room]

- Johanshir Golchin, Director, Energy and Environment Research Group

12:15-1:00 p.m. Boxed Lunch Distribution

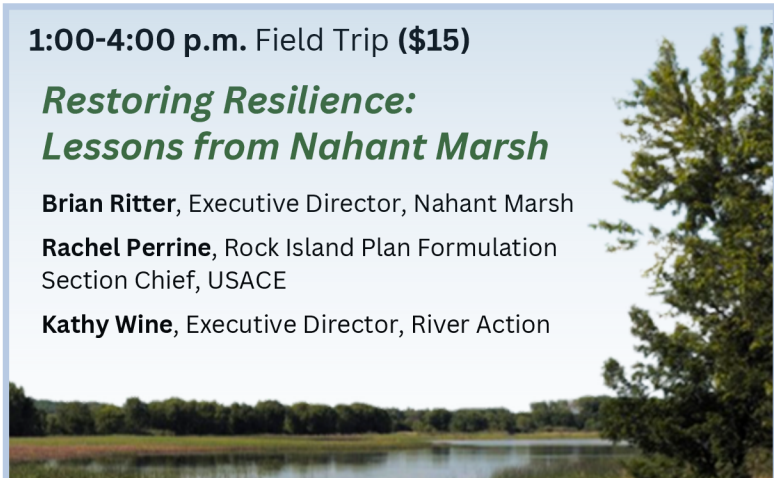
1:00-4:00 p.m. Field Trip (\$15)

Restoring Resilience: Lessons from Nahant Marsh

Brian Ritter, Executive Director, Nahant Marsh

Rachel Perrine, Rock Island Plan Formulation Section Chief, USACE

Kathy Wine, Executive Director, River Action



Wednesday Evening (cont.)

4:30-6:30 p.m. Break (networking and dinner set-up)

6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner (included in registration)
[Main Ballroom]

An Evening with

Aldo Leopold

"Early Life"

Steve Brower,
Leopold Landscape Alliance

"Leopold Land Ethic"

Fr. Robert Grant,
St. Ambrose University

"Work in Leopold's Department"

Dr. Jonathan Pauli,
UW-Madison, Department of
Forest and Wildlife Ecology



Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:00-8:00 a.m. Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Check-in

8:00-9:15 a.m. Waterfront Design Discussion
[Main Ballroom]

"Making the Riverfront Magnetic: Conversing with Experts"

- **Tom Klein**, Director, Center for Urban & Community Design, University of Miami
- **Scott Streeb**, Principal and Director, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Denver Office

9:15-9:30 a.m. Break (*students arrive*)

9:30-10:30 a.m. Next Gen Summit Career Panel
(regular attendees welcome)

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Rotating Student Activities / Upper Midwest Ports Panel

Students refer to separate agenda

Ports Panel: "Old Ports, New Life"

[Green Acres Room]

Moderated by **Bob Sinkler**, Corn Belt Ports

- **Illinois Waterways Ports Commission**
- **Mid-America Port Commission**
- **Ports of Eastern Iowa Authority**

- **Port of Winona, MN**

12:15-12:30 p.m. Transition to Luncheon

12:30-1:45 p.m. Network Luncheon

"Exploring Extreme Weather"

- **Maiya May**, Climate Reporter and Host of the PBS program, "Weathered: Earth's Extremes"

1:45-2:00 p.m. Transition/Networking

2:00-3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Breakout 3: "Warning: Flood! - How to Be More Prepared and Resilient" [John Deere Room]

- **Holly Shutt**, Working Lands Biologist, Ducks Unlimited
- **Scott Cagle**, Iowa Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Services

Breakout 4 : "TBD" [Green Acres Room]

3:15-3:30 p.m. Break

3:30-4:30 p.m. Closing Plenary [Main Ballroom]

"Lessons from the Meskwaki Nation"

- **Joan Flecksing**, Director, Meskwaki Nation Department of Natural Resources, Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Luncheon Speaker

Maiya May

The PBS host of the program
WEATHERED: Earth's Extremes will
discuss her work in
climate reporting,
and topics included
in her various
episodes.

WEATHERED
EARTH'S EXTREMES



River Action
822 E. River Dr.
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Registration

Make checks payable to River Action or provide credit card info below.
Mail this form and payment to 822 E. River Dr. in Davenport, IA 52803.
For more information or to register online, visit riveraction.org/umrc.

Full name _____

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Name on Credit Card _____

Expiration Date (mo/yr) _____ CVV# _____

Signature _____



UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE

FEATURING THE NEXT GEN. SUMMIT

Full Conference

Early Bird \$175 thru 10/5 ☐

Regular \$250 after 10/5 ☐

Single Day ☐ Wed.

☐ Thurs.

Early Bird \$125 thru 10/5 ☐

Regular \$175 after 10/5 ☐

Student Full Conference

(non-summit presentations)

Early Bird \$30 thru 10/5 ☐

Regular \$50 after 10/5 ☐

Meals - Please Select

(Included in Registration)

Wed. Box Lunch ☐

Please specify any dietary restrictions: _____

Wed. Dinner

Baked White Fish ☐

Spinach Ravioli ☐

Creamy Baked Chicken ☐

Thurs. Lunch

South of the Border Buffet ☐

Check Below for guest meals**

Wed. Boxed Lunch \$25 ☐ Qty _____

Wed. Dinner \$45 ☐ Qty _____

Baked White Fish ☐

Spinach Ravioli ☐

Creamy Baked Chicken ☐

Thurs. Luncheon \$30 ☐ Qty _____

South of the Border Buffet

Add-ons: Field Trip: Restoring Resilience:

Lessons from Nahant Marsh \$15 ☐

A block of rooms has been reserved at a **discounted rate** at the
Stoney Creek Hotel in Moline, IL for conference participants.
Contact the hotel directly or visit riveraction.org/umrc for details.