



NEXT GEN. SUMMIT

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE

Learning From



October 16 - 17 WIU QC Campus, Moline, IL

Register at www.riveraction.org/umrc

Join Us For The Upper Mississippi River Conference



Bill Quackenbush



Dr. Silvia Secchi



Chloris Lowe Jr.



Boyce Upholt

2024 Keynote Speakers

Please plan to attend the **18th annual Upper Mississippi River Conference - *Learning from Each Other*** - October 16th and 17th at Western Illinois University 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 discuss our common resource: the Mississippi River.

This year's theme highlights the need for all voices to be included in the conversation, including those from the next generation, which is why the conference will include the first ever "Next Gen. Summit."

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Meet-Up | Hyatt River Room, East Moline, IL (Optional)

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration, Breakfast, and Check-In | Riverfront Hall

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks | Riverfront Hall

- **Kathy Wine**, Executive Director and Founder, River Action

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Keynote Session | Riverfront Hall
"Learning from Indigenous Voices"

- **Bill Quackenbush**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Ho-Chunk Nation
- **Chloris Lowe Jr.**, Twice Past President of the Ho-Chunk Nation and CEO of Lowe Consulting

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Breakouts | Riverfront Hall

Breakout 1: "Flooding Fundamentals"

- **Janet Meshek**, Principal Engineer, Meshek & Associates
- To Be Announced

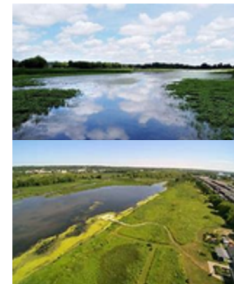
Breakout 2: "How Climate is Changing Industry"

- **David Cummins**, President, Blue Sky Maritime
- **Robert Sinkler**, Infrastructure Director, Illinois Regional Port District

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. Boxed Lunch Distribution | Riverfront Hall

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Field Trip or Film (Choose 1)

Field Trip 1: Nahant Marsh (\$15)



Nahant Marsh in Davenport, IA is one of the largest urban wetlands along the Upper Mississippi River. The site executive director, Brian Ritter, will provide a briefing on the history of the site and future plans for the marsh.

Field Trip 2: Blue Heron Eco Cruise (\$15)



The "Blue Heron" pontoon will travel to Rock Creek Marina and Eco Tourism Center, located downstream of Camanche. The guided tour provides commentary on the local backwaters, sloughs, and river channel.

Film Program (Free of Cost) | Riverfront Hall

"Moved By Waters" - Panel and announcement by **Robert Sinkler**

4:00 - 6:30 p.m. Networking Break/Commute to Dinner

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner (included in registration) | The Bend Event Center

- **Dr. Mark Dixon**, Biologist, University of South Dakota

Thursday, October 17, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Registration, Breakfast, Check-In | Riverfront Hall

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Master Class | Riverfront Hall
“The Benefits of Interdisciplinary Education”

- **Greg Harrington**, Professor, Department Chair, University of Wisconsin Madison, Civil and Environmental Engineering
- **Ed Freer**, Landscape Architect, Urban designer, Waterfront Planner, Freer Design LLC, Madison, Wisconsin
- **Roger Viadero**, Founder and Chair of Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Environmental Studies, Western Illinois University

9 a.m. Next Gen. Scholars Arrive

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. Next Gen Summit Panel

Students: QC Complex Atrium | In-person

Regular Attendees: Riverfront Hall | Streaming

“From Theory & Knowledge to the Workplace”

- **Megan Tarasi**, Sustainability Analyst, HNI
- **Bob Bohannon**, Retired Plant Manager, City of Moline
- **Janet Meshek**, Principal Engineer, Meshek & Associates
- **Andrew Layer**, Programs Manager, Living Lands & Waters
- **Dr. David Greenwood-Sanchez**, Assistant Professor, University of Iowa Political Science
- **Lorraine Foelske**, Illinois DNR
- **Ray Wolf**, Retired SOO, National Weather Service
- **Holly Edgell**, Managing Editor, NPR Midwest Newsroom

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Students: Travel to riverfront and participate in water testing activity (shuttled to luncheon)

- **Bob Bohannon**, Retired Plant Manager, City of Moline

Regular Attendees: Breakout Sessions | Riverfront Hall

Breakout 1: “The Ebb and Flow of Environmental Education”

- **Chris Like**, State Leader in Science, Iowa Department of Education
- **Joe Schwieterman**, Professor, DePaul University

Breakout 2: “We Do What Government Can’t”

- **Speakers** - To Be Announced

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Transition to Luncheon

12:30 – 1:45 p.m. Network Luncheon | The Bend Event Center

“Environmental Justice as the Standard”

- **Dr. Silvia Secchi**, Professor and Senior Research Fellow, University of Iowa Department of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences and Environmental Policy Research Program

1:45 – 2:00 p.m. Return to WIU

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: “Climate Changed: Evolving Science Communication Practices for Public Information”

- **Ray Wolf**, Retired SOO, NWS
- **Everett Hamner**, English Professor, WIU

Breakout 2: “Water, the Defining Force”

- **Lorraine Foelske**, Illinois DNR
- **Bob Bohannon**, Retired Plant Manager, City of Moline

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Closing Plenary | Riverfront Hall
The Great River

- **Boyce Upholt**, Author of The Great River

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Presenting Sponsor



River Action
822 E. River Dr.
Davenport, IA 52803

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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 _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Expiration Date (mo/yr) _____ CVV# _____

Signature _____



UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONFERENCE
FEATURING THE NEXT GEN. SUMMIT

Full Conference

Early Bird \$150 thru 9/27
Regular \$220 after 9/27

Single Day **Wed.**
 Thurs.

Early Bird \$100 thru 9/27
Regular \$150 after 9/27

Student Full Conference

Early Bird \$25 thru 9/27
Regular \$40 after 9/27

Meals (Included in registration). Check below for additional guest meals.

Wed. Boxed Lunch \$20

Wed. Dinner \$40

- Sauteed Chicken or
- Portobello Dish (Vegetarian)

Thurs. Luncheon \$30

Sandwich (with soup/salad)

- Roast Beef
- Ham Turkey

* Please specify any dietary restrictions:

Add-ons: Field Trip 1: Nahant \$15 Field Trip 2: Eco Cruise \$15

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