

2024 Ohio Rivers Symposium
Friday, March 22 – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Vila Milano Conference Center, Columbus, OH



- 8 a.m. REGISTRATION BEGINS**
- 9:15 a.m. WELCOME**
Mary Mertz, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
- 9:30 a.m. KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Aquifers of Ohio: An Overview
Craig Nelson, Groundwater Program Supervisor, Ohio Geological Survey
- 10:15 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:30 a.m. Groundwater Resources in the Western U.S.**
Dr. Rachel Gabor, The Ohio State University
- 11:15 a.m. Importance of Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions in the Great Miami Watershed**
Mike Ekberg, Water Monitoring Manager, Miami Conservancy District
- 12 p.m. LUNCH**
- 1 p.m. It's Cool to be Cold!**
Water quality and ecological requirements of a coldwater stream and current threats and protective measures
Greg Orr, Environmental Scientist (semi-retired), Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- 1:30 p.m. Coldwater Streams: Restoration Strategies and Native Brook Trout Conservation**
Paul Pira, Biologist, Geauga County Park District
- 2 p.m. Fascinating Fish Finds: Updates on Rare Ohio Fish**
Brian Zimmerman, Research Associate and Non-game Fish Biologist, The Ohio State University
- 2:45 p.m. BREAK**
- 3 p.m. Watershed Planning: Past, Present, and Future- What is most effective?**
Sarah Hippensteel-Hall, Ph.D, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship, Miami Conservancy District
- 3:30 p.m. New H2Ohio Rivers Initiative**
Mark Johnson, Chief, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water
Jon Horn, H2Ohio Program Manager, ODNR
- 4:15 p.m. State of Ohio Scenic Rivers**
Bob Gable, Scenic Rivers Program Manager, ODNR, Div. of Natural Areas & Preserves, Ohio Scenic Rivers Program
- 4:30 p.m. ADJOURN**