

## Monday, May 6, 2019

### 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

The second day of the Georgia Trail Summit offers the opportunity to come together in one unique venue – the Columbus, GA Convention and Trade Center. Enjoy inspiring keynote speeches and participate in break-out sessions and discussions designed to advance the role of trails across the state.

### Morning Plenary Session - 8:30 am to 10:00 am

**Welcome by Mayor Skip Henderson:** Mayor Skip Henderson took the lead office for the City of Columbus, GA in 2019. He will share insights into what makes Columbus special and how success in trails has changed the City for the better.



#### Keynote Speaker Chuck Flink

The Georgia Trail Summit Committee is excited to welcome Flink to our gathering in May. Widely regarded as one of America's leading greenway planners, Flink is President of Greenways Incorporated, an international consulting firm based in North Carolina. His successes include plans for more than 250 communities.

### Morning Break-Out Sessions (Concurrent) 10:15 am to 11:45 am

**Follow the River by Land and by Water** - The South Fork Conservancy and the Georgia River Network are two grassroots organizations creating very different trails to reveal and revive long ignored waterways. Sally Sears will moderate a panel of successful leaders creating vibrant urban and suburban trails on and beside critical waterways. Early supporters of the Yellow River Water Trail and the South Fork Conservancy trails will share how they energize hidden and forgotten waterways through positive and active use.

#### Panelists:

- Moderator: Sally Sears – Founding Director, The South Fork Conservancy
- Cassie Branum – Associate Principal Urban Designer, Perkins + Will
- Debra Griffith – President, Yellow River Water Trail
- Gwyneth Moody – Director of Programs and Outreach, Georgia River Network
- Ryan Gravel – Founder, Sixpitch

**Trails 'Shark Tank'** - Experts, trail advocates (Actors) will present their trail project and either: have their projects sent back to the TANK 'Idea' stage or achieve support from the SHARKS to move forward toward 'Action.' This skit-style session will be based on the PATH Foundation and KAIZEN Collaborative's experience working with cities and friends' groups throughout the state of Georgia.

**Panelists:**

- Ed McBrayer – Executive Director, PATH Foundation
- Erica Studdard – Community Development Director, City of Carrollton, GA
- Greta deMayo, PLA – Principal Landscape Architect, KAIZEN Collaborative

**Critical Paths for Greenways: Champion, Plan, Design, Operate** - This panel will explore, compare, and contrast a critical path framework for several greenway systems in small and mid-sized metropolitan regions following the perspective of four essential roles: the CHAMPION, the PLANNER, the DESIGNER, and the OPERATOR. Representative projects will include: the Tide to Town Greenway in Savannah, GA; The Coastal Georgia Greenway along Coastal Georgia; The Ebenezer Creek Greenway in Springfield, GA; and the Tennessee Riverwalk in Chattanooga, TN.

**Panelists:**

- Charles McMillan – Coastal Director, Georgia Conservancy
- Denise Grabowski – Principal, Symbioscity, llc
- Larry Zehnder – Parks Department Administrator (Past), City of Chattanooga, TN
- Laura Ballock – Savannah Office Lead, Barge Design Solutions, Inc.
- Steve Provost – Vice President, Barge Design Solutions, Inc.

**166 Miles and Something for Everyone** - Cobb County, GA is home to nearly 166 miles of greenways and trails, connecting Kennesaw State University through downtown Marietta and the Chattahoochee River, and from Cumberland to the western county line. These trails span diverse settings and contexts, from wooded parklands to wide suburban roadways. This session will cover two key factors in the growing success of the Cobb County trail system: partnerships and context-sensitive trail typologies.

**Panelists:**

- Eric Meyer – Planning Division Manager, Cobb County Department of Transportation
- Erin Thoresen, AICP – Transportation Planner, Gresham Smith
- Tracy Rathbone Styf – Executive Director, Town Center CID

**Lunchtime Plenary Session - 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm**

**Keynote Speaker Dr. Anne Lusk:** Dr. Lusk's research has focused on comfortable and safe environments that will motivate women, children, seniors, parents with children on their bicycles, and individuals of color, with lower incomes, and from the world to bicycle. She has over 36 years of experience designing, permitting, and funding bicycle facilities and delivering keynotes, consulting, and conducting research on bicycle facilities.

**Introducing The Chattahoochee RiverLands:** Walt Ray will facilitate a brief discussion with SCAPE, a renowned landscape architecture firm helping the metro-Atlanta region consider its relationship with the Chattahoochee River. Trails are an important part of the discussion when thinking about how we access the Chattahoochee River – on land and by water. Learn how you can influence the future of this public realm.

### **Afternoon Break-Out Sessions (Concurrent) 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm**

**What Comes First: A Clean River or Public Access?** – River recreation and water quality go hand in hand. But if a river is polluted, which of the two should come first? We are more likely to help protect something that we can see and experience. But is it safe to encourage people to explore a river that is impacted by pollution? This session will explore the relationship between water quality and water recreation with a focus on our mighty Chattahoochee River.

#### **Panelists:**

- Diana Wilson – Parks Commission Chair, City of Chattahoochee Hills
- Jessica Sterling – Technical Programs Director, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
- Kevin Jeselnik – General Council, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

**Connecting Communities through Florida's Trails** – Regional trail systems represent community partnerships from one town to the next. They also represent stories of hard working individuals in fields ranging from advocacy to maintenance. This takes a coordinated effort with state and local partners to join local trails into a regional system. In this session, speakers will discuss how their trails fit into a regional trail system and how a regional system of trails comes to be. Speakers include Britney Moore, Regional Coordinator with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Recreation and Parks – Office of Greenways and Trails and Ken Bryan, Florida Director for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

#### **Panelists:**

- Britney Moore – Regional Coordinator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Ken Bryan – Florida Director, Rails to Trails Conservancy

**Strategic Planning for Great Mountain Bike Trails** – Do you want to know what it takes to plan, fund, and build a high quality destination trail system for mountain biking and outdoor recreation? Join SORBA, IMBA Trail Solutions, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and local stakeholders for a discussion on how they have joined in partnership to create a model regional trail system at Standing Boy Park, just north of Columbus, GA. Attendees will learn the basics of creating a regional trail system - from community engagement, to planning and design, to funding and construction, to activation and promoting, and measuring success.

#### **Panelists:**

- Blake Melton – CVA - SORBA

- Steve Kasacek – IMBA, Trail Solutions Project Manager
- Taylor Brown – Grants Specialist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Tom Sauret – SORBA, Executive Director

**Ideas to Action: Successful Implementation Strategies** - This session will provide suggestions on implementing the very first trail project from a larger plan. With the key questions being answered and discussed among the panel, it is intended to provide first-hand experience and knowledge to the audience. Panelists will include: Nico Shen, KAIZEN Collaborative; Natalie Hale, Friends of the Thread Trail; Hasco Craver, City of Newnan, GA; Patty Hansen, City of Brookhaven, GA; and Jonathon Penn, City of East Point, GA.

**Panelists:**

- Hasco Craver – Assistant City Manager, City of Newnan, GA
- Jonathon Penn – Director of Parks and Recreation, City of East Point, GA.
- Natalie Hale – Executive Director, Friends of the Thread Trail
- Nico Shen – Associate Landscape Architect, KAIZEN Collaborative
- Patty Hansen – Fund Development Director, City of Brookhaven, GA

**Building Regionalism across Alabama: The Story of the Singing River Trail** – The Singing River Trail is a regional greenway being planned in north Alabama. This initiative began as a grassroots collaboration – engaging people from many different organizations and entities to connect communities, provide active-living opportunities, and spur further economic development for the region. Presenters will provide information about the Launch 2035: Land Use Planning Task Force and how this grassroots group plans to unite Limestone, Madison, and Morgan counties in defining a collective 20-year vision to ensure the region continues to prosper.

**Panelists:**

- Joe W. Campbell – General Counsel, Huntsville Hospital System and HealthGroup of Alabama
- Mary Beth Broeren – Director of Planning and Economic Development, City of Madison, AL
- Shannon Keith – Associate, Alta Planning + Design; President, Alabama Chapter Trail of Tears

**Closing Plenary Session - 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

**Building a Coalition for Recreation in Georgia:** With the success of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Amendment, we have seen the combined power that like-minded conservation organizations can use to benefit our state’s outdoor recreation landscape. But what does version 2.0 look like? Can we create a big-tent coalition of conservation non-profits, outfitters, and manufacturers to continue collaborative efforts like GOSA? How would such a coalition form and what would the benefits be for partner organizations? What might be the first priorities of

this coalition? Join George Dusenbury as he facilitates a discussion with: Michael Halicki of Park Pride, Dana Howe of the Grassroots Outdoor Alliance, Noah Wilson of Emergent Opportunities, and Daniel Jessee of REI about building a platform for collaboration to strengthen Georgia's outdoor industry. What might a logical progression from idea to action look like? Participants in the session will be able to ask questions of the panelists and there will be a call to action for organizational representatives to volunteer for leadership positions to further this effort.



**Keynote Speaker Aimee Copeland:** Aimee Copeland lives on her own terms, and that means mostly outdoors, despite the amputation of both of her hands, her right foot and entire left leg after she was infected by a flesh-eating bacteria while zip-lining at age 24. We are honored and excited to welcome Copeland to the 2019 Georgia Trail Summit as a Keynote Speaker. Her message will challenge us

all to think about who we are serving--and who we might be excluding--as we plan for the future of trails in our state.

***Registration for the 2019 Georgia Trail Summit is open.***

**Continuing Education Units:** Attendance at Monday's portion of the Georgia Trail Summit earns five (5) credit hours for continuing education units for landscape architects registered in the state of Georgia and any AICP registered urban planner. Any professional interested in documenting this attendance should contact [Walt.Ray@tpl.org](mailto:Walt.Ray@tpl.org) for details and to register.

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