

New River Symposium 2026

**APRIL 9-11, 2026
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA**



Program & Schedule



New River Conservancy



Keynote Speakers

THURSDAY 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

PLENARY KEYNOTE: PARKWAY BALLROOM

Gayle Manchin, Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission

Manchin believes in the power of partnerships and advocates for collaboration across Appalachia's 13 states. As ARC Federal Co-Chair, her top priorities are to support the creation of greater economic opportunities in the Appalachian Region, increase broadband access and critical infrastructure in all Appalachian communities, and work to restore hope and purpose to lives upended by the opioid crisis, all through a cross-regional, multi-state approach.

FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

SPECIAL KEYNOTE: GRANDFATHER BALLROOM

Dr. Kathie Dello, Assistant Secretary for Resilience for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Dr. Dello leads the department's efforts to strengthen North Carolina's resilience to withstand increasingly severe weather. She leads the efforts of the Division of Coastal Management, State Energy Office, Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Program (APNEP), Flood Resiliency Blueprint and the State Resilience Office.



Pre-opening Workshops

THURSDAY 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

*OPTIONAL

- Bioregionalism ~ Plemmons Student Union ~ Rough Ridge
- iNaturalist ~ Plemmons Student Union ~ Beacon Heights
- Urban Ecology ~ Rankin Science West
- Stream Restoration Principles and Practice ~ Rankin Science West

Concurrent Panel Discussions

THURSDAY 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Grandfather Ballroom ~ Ecological Communities

Hellbender Conservation in the wake of Hurricane Helene

Rough Ridge ~ Cultural Endurance

Delving into New River Conservancy History

Beacon Heights ~ Recreation Economy

Outdoor Recreation Resiliency in the Watershed

FRIDAY 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Grandfather Ballroom ~ Roundtables on Disaster Recovery

From Response to Resilience: Disaster Recovery and Regional Coordination

Rough Ridge ~ Cultural Endurance

Writing the Watershed

Beacon Heights ~ Recreation Economy

Building Forward, Collaborative Resilience in the Southeast

FRIDAY 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Grandfather Ballroom ~ Roundtables on Disaster Recovery

From Response to Resilience: Disaster Recovery and Regional Coordination

Rough Ridge ~ Cultural Endurance

Poetry, Prose, & Art Inspired by Tributaries of the Ohio River Watershed

Beacon Heights ~ Recreation Economy

Built to Last: Merging Restoration with High Traffic Areas



Schedule at a Glance

THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2026

- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM • Workshops
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM • Registration
- 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM • Plenary Keynote • Parkway Ballroom
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM • Lunch • Parkway Ballroom
- 1:30 PM - 2:50 PM • Concurrent presentations and panels
- 2:50 PM - 3:20 PM • Break
- 3:20 PM - 4:40 PM • Concurrent presentations
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM • Poster presentations
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM • Reception • Turchin Center

FRIDAY APRIL 10, 2026

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM • Breakfast • Parkway Ballroom
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM • Friday Keynote • Grandfather Ballroom
- 10:00 AM - 11:50 PM • Concurrent Panels
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM • Lunch • Parkway Ballroom
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM • Concurrent presentations
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM • Closing remarks

SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2026

- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM • New River Paddle Trip • *Optional
Craft and shuttle will be supplied.