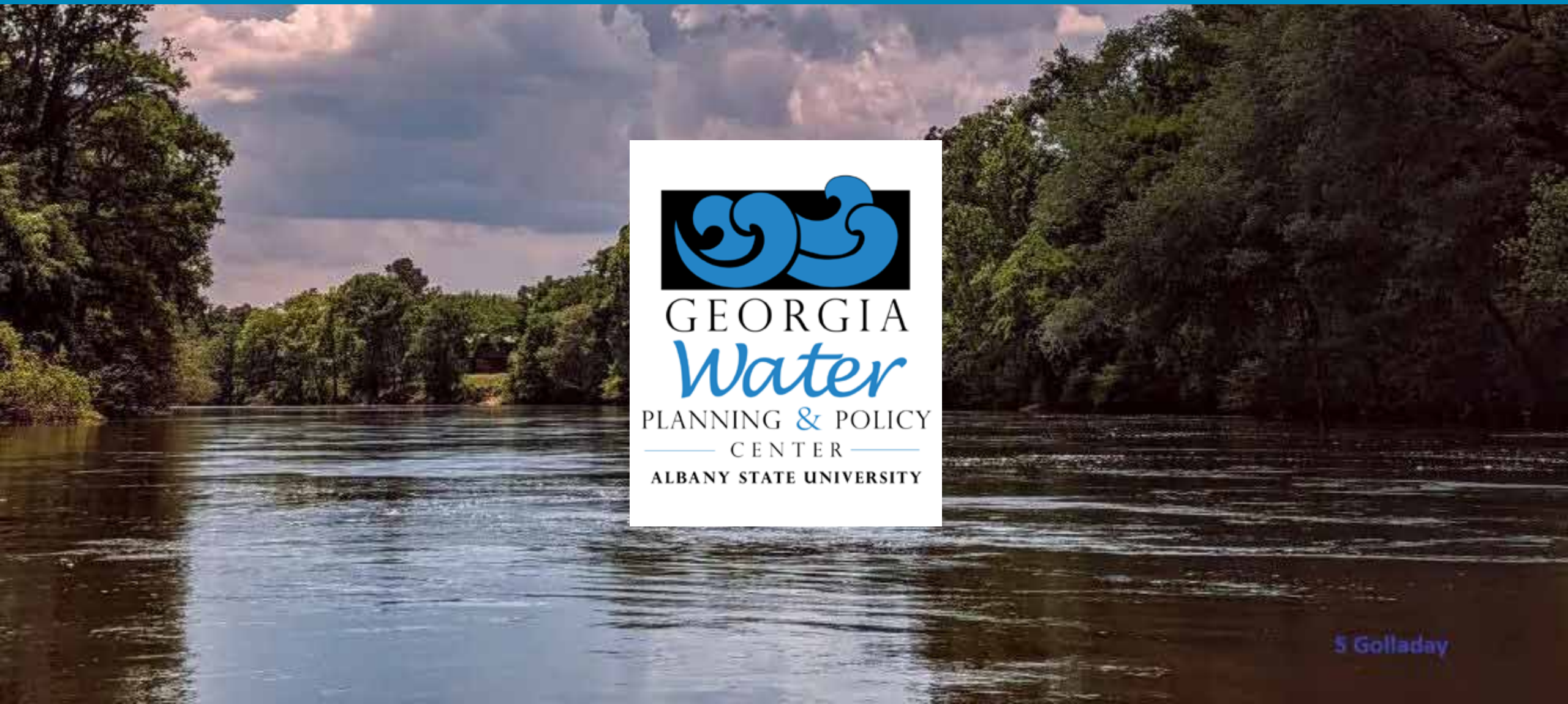
Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Waters Conference
April 28-30, 2026



GEORGIA Water PLANNING & POLICY CENTER
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We Hope Everyone Enjoyed the Tours

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SOIL AND WATER
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Working together to share a common resource.

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Thank You to Our Planning Committee!

2026 Conference Planning Committee

Paula Marcinek, The Nature Conservancy
Kristen Watson, City of Gainesville
Ania Truszczynski, Georgia EPD
Dan Calhoun, USGS
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Gail Cowie, GWPPC at ASU
Ben Emanuel, American Rivers
Ken Jones, Consultant, Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition, Apalachicola Caucus
Steve Golladay, GWPPC / Jones Center at Ichauway
Matt Waters, Auburn University
Sechindra Vallury, UGA River Basin Center
Courtney Cooper, GWPPC / Berry College
Kristin Rowles, GWPPC at ASU
Sarah Skinner, GWPPC at ASU

Thank You to the Team!

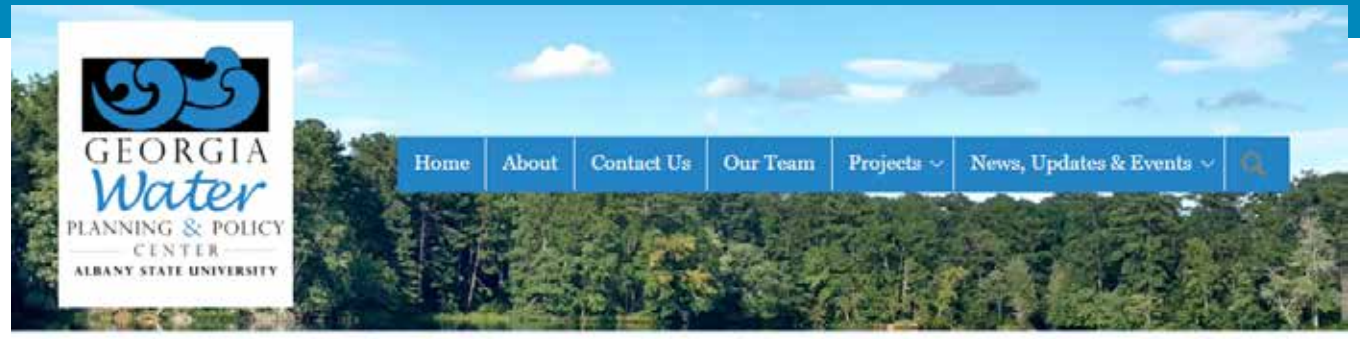








Online Schedule and Program



Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Waters Conference

April 28-30, 2026

Albany, Georgia

Main Conference Page

Schedule at a Glance

Detailed Program

Poster Presentations

Keynote Presenters

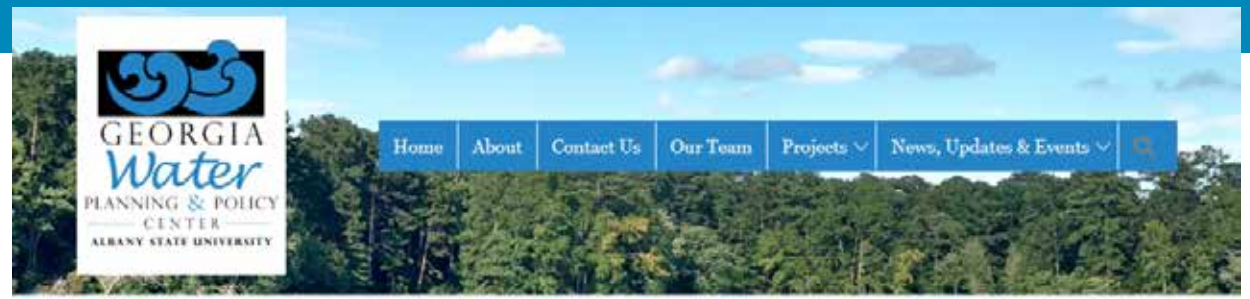
Join colleagues, partners, and stakeholders from across the Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint River Basin for three dynamic days of conversation, collaboration, and connection focused on the future of one of the Southeast's most important river systems.

Tuesday, April 28, afternoon: Pre-Conference Tours

We are offering two concurrently running pre-conference tours that will celebrate the history, beauty, and heritage of Southwest Georgia while highlighting the importance of efficient and sustainable water use in the region. Participants can choose between a land-based heritage tour, exploring historic sites, innovative water management projects, and the landscapes that have shaped Georgia's cultural and agricultural legacy; or a guided Flint River paddle trip, offering a firsthand experience of the region's natural beauty and the vital connections between healthy waterways, local communities, and resilient ecosystems. Space is limited. Additional registration required.

Go to https://h2opolicycenter.org/projects/acf-waters-2026/

Online Poster Abstracts



Poster Session

Wednesday, April 29

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Poster Abstracts and Authors

1. Expanding Water Literacy: Podcast-Driven Teaching on Indigenous Stewardship - Courtney Cooper, Berry College Student Team., Berry College +

2. GIS-Based Groundwater Availability Mapping in the Fractured Crystalline Piedmont and Blue Ridge of Georgia - Christopher Soltis, Georgia Environmental Protection Division −

Groundwater availability in fractured crystalline rock aquifers is notoriously heterogeneous, complicating efforts to identify optimal well locations for domestic and agricultural supply. This study presents a spatially integrated groundwater suitability model for the Georgia Piedmont/Blue Ridge region, developed using a multi-criteria weighted overlay analysis in a GIS environment. Ten thematic layers, Slope, Drainage Density, Distance to Streams, Lineament Density, Distance to Geologic Contacts, Lithology, Hydrologic Soil Group, Available Water Storage (0–150 cm), Land Cover (NLCD), and a derived Groundwater Potential Surface, were standardized to a standard scale (1–5) and weighted based on hydrogeologic significance. Lineaments were manually digitized and merged with smoothed NHD flowlines to capture both large-scale fractures and stream-aligned structural features. The resulting composite raster was classified into five groundwater suitability zones using natural breaks (Jenks). Model accuracy was evaluated by comparing raster scores to observed well yields (n = 1,497), with statistical assessments including correlation coefficients and box-and-whisker plots. While the correlation coefficient ($r = 0.05$) was low, suggesting a weak linear relationship, median yield values increased in higher suitability classes, validating the model's heuristic structure. This approach offers a scalable method for groundwater targeting in data-sparse, structurally complex terrains. It provides local planners and well drillers with a relative framework for siting high-yield wells.

3. Distribution and diversity of freshwater snails in Ichawaynochaway Creek, southwest Georgia - Courtney Fouke, The Jones Center at Ichauway, University of Alabama +

4. Ecosystem Water Use Efficiency of Geographically Isolated Wetlands - Carlie Blackburn, The Jones +

Click + sign to open and view Poster Abstracts

GWPPC Update – Current Projects