

MEET OUR PROGRAM MANAGER

As the Program Manager, [Karli Riley](#) is responsible for the successful implementation of the [Swim Guide](#), [Fish Guide](#), and education & outreach initiatives. In 2017, Karli received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a Chemistry concentration and a minor in Business Administration from Berry College in Rome, Georgia on the Coosa River. During college, she worked in Berry's Chemistry Department as a Lead Laboratory Coordinator and as a Research Assistant for the School of Natural Sciences.

You may recognize Karli's face! In 2016, Karli was the Lead Intern overseeing the sampling teams and conducting all the lab work for the popular Swim Guide program. After her internship concluded, she returned to finish her senior year at Berry College with a clear vision that she wanted to pursue a career advocating for rivers in Alabama.

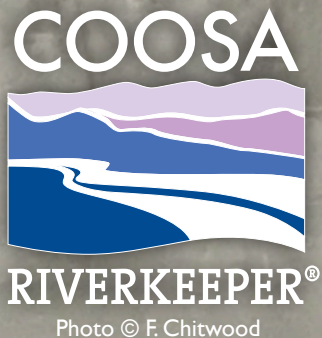
Following graduation, Karli worked as a seasonal Environmental Educator for the Cahaba Environmental Center in Montevallo, Alabama. She taught a diverse group of students about the natural and cultural history of Alabama.

Get your hat at
CoosaRiver.org/Shop!



In her free time, Karli is usually training for some sort of running event, drinking coffee, or talking about how much she loves the Coosa River (or maybe all three at once)! Karli is currently serving on the Junior Board of Directors for Alabama Environmental Council.

Thank you to Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for their support of expanding our staff and programs in the Coosa Valley of Alabama!



Issue 13: Winter 2018
2017 At A Glance
Meet Our Program Manager
Fishing Just Got Easier!

Karli sporting her Coosa Riverkeeper hat at Grand Teton National Park over the summer!

FISHING JUST GOT EASIER; LEARN ABOUT TEMP TRACK!

We just launched a new feature called **TEMP TRACK** on our [Fish Guide map](#) that enables fishermen to check recent river temperatures reported by a network of citizen-scientist volunteers.

WHY DOES TEMPERATURE MATTER FOR FISHING?

- Our goal is to **educate fishermen about water quality and pollution issues** that impact the Coosa's fisheries.
- Fishermen can use this information to **better understand the changing river conditions during the spawning season.**

HOW IT WORKS:

- 60 **volunteers submit water temperature readings weekly** on all the **Coosa lakes** to populate our interactive map.
- Data is available in **February, March, and April**— it is the **ONLY place where recent temperature reports are available.**
- The map also shows **dam operating schedules, stream flows, boat ramps, marinas, fish consumption advisories,** and more that will make your day on the water safe and fun.

Through Fish Guide, you can not only **inform your decisions about which part of the lake to fish based on temperatures**, but you can also find the closest boat ramp and see any active fish consumption advisories in that area. It's an **innovative tool that fishermen are excited to see in this age of fishing fueled by technology.**

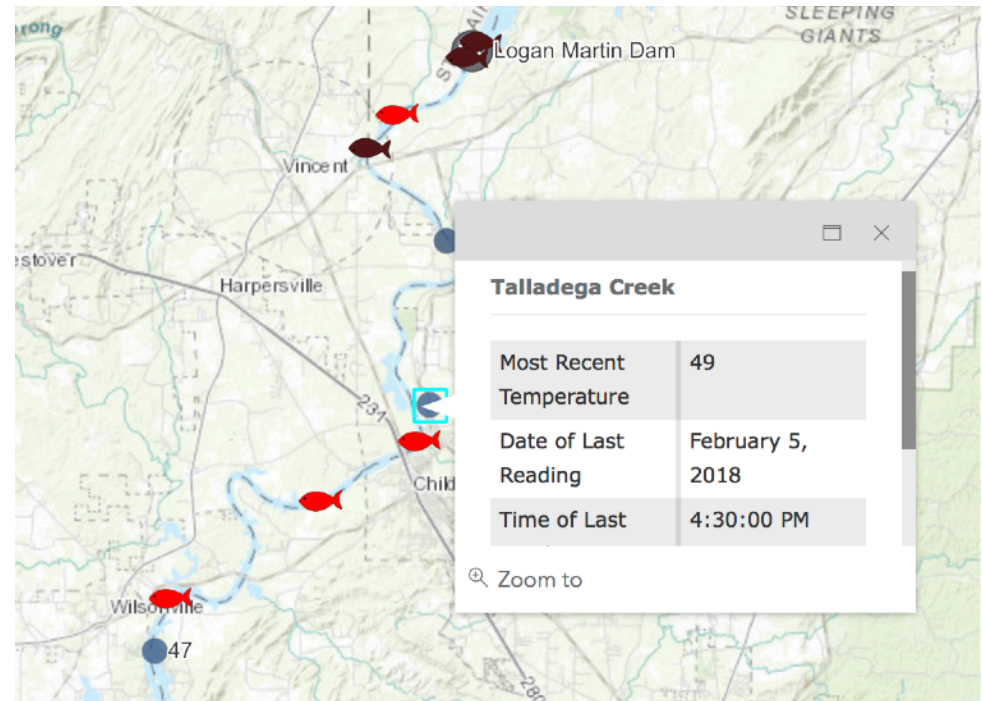
USING TEMPERATURE DATA:

Whether you are a seasoned bass angler or just starting out, it's important to understand the pre-spawn and spawn behavior of bass in Alabama. Typically, the magic water temperature for Coosa River fisherman to start determining the pre-spawn pattern for largemouth bass is 45 degrees. The actual spawn is said to start around 65 degrees. However, on the Coosa River it is safe to start looking for that first wave of spawning bass to set up in the shallows and preparing to spawn around the 60 degree mark.

FROM A FISHERMEN'S PERSPECTIVE:

"As a competitive angler," Michael Freeman, an avid Coosa River fisherman says, "I feel that this information will be beneficial in preplanning for tournaments. One of the first things I think about when heading to the lake is 'I wonder what the water temperature is?' I believe many anglers will take full advantage of this new resource."

The information provided on the Fish Guide is free to use, just like the popular Swim Guide bacteria monitoring program in the summer. Our Fish Guide program, and all of our other work, is supported entirely through donations. You can support our work by becoming a member today!



A screenshot from Temp Track map on CoosaRiver.org/FishGuide/



COOSA RIVERKEEPER

2017: YEAR AT A GLANCE

PROGRAMS

- Patrolled the river 40+ times
- Launched Fish Guide program
- Petition for sewage spill right-to-know resulted in electronic notification system
- Successfully advocated for stricter bacteria limits to protect swimmers

OUTREACH

- Reached 672,000 folks during Swim Guide season through social media
- Text message subscribers for water quality alerts grew by 220% in 20 weeks
- Initiated 120 new members into our Swim Club

ACCOLADES

- "2017 Group of the Year" by Alabama Rivers Alliance
- Earned Standards for Excellence accreditation
- Named "gold standard of public right-to-know" by Swim Guide Mobile App
- Certified Guidestar Platinum

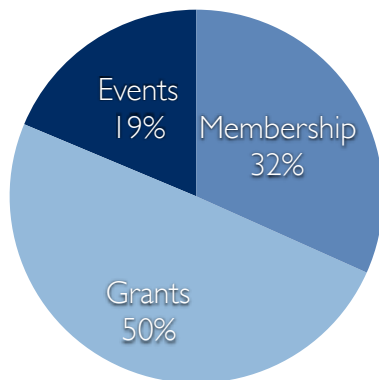
OPERATIONS

- Added 274 new members, our most ever in one year
- Hosted 12 interns and 150 service learning students from 5 local universities
- Most successful Cheers to the Coosa ever, we raised \$10,000 in 3 hours

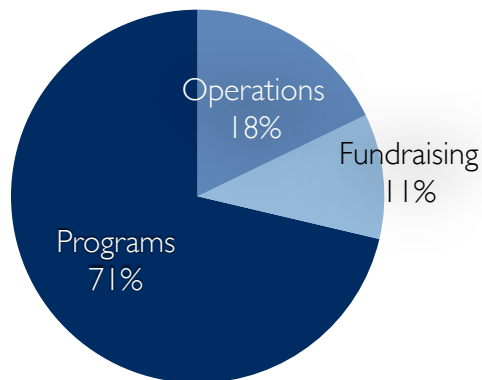
Our mission is to protect, restore, and promote the Coosa River & its tributaries in Alabama.

2017 FINANCIALS

INCOME



EXPENSE



We had a great year thanks to the
generosity of folks like YOU!

Our Corporate Sponsors & Foundations:

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
Blue Cross and Blue Shield's The Caring Foundation
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama
Alabama Chapter of the Sierra Club
Greater Gadsden Area Tourism Board
Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
Hugh Kaul Foundation
Trillium Foundation
Stephens Foundation
UAB Benevolent Fund
Patagonia, Inc.
ABAHAC

“On Logan Martin Lake”

By Tina Mozelle Braziel

1. Swimmer

Like a daughter who has not forgotten the world of her mother's body,
I know this lake, the springs veining her with cold,

each splash an attempt to get outside herself.
I know her wavering reflections ask:

is this how sky looks in that tree,
is this how still your home sits.

2. Dissenter

This lake ain't nothing
but a river fattened

within a stall. The river
is its hidden muscle, its bone.

The dam holds
what bit it can

while the river paws
at its foundation.

No one fights
a river and wins.

3. The River

Call me Coosa,
confluence of Etowah and Oostanaula.

I miss what is sinuous:
those syllables, my meander

through Alabama,
when Alabama meant thicket.

I won't answer to the stagnant thud
of Logan Martin, Lay Lake, or Neely Henry.

4. Former Farmer, Now Trailer Park Owner

I know the lake as bottom
where I once grew collards,

dark waves of them rippling
where that ski boat plows past those piers.

Now I harvest lot rent
from folks wanting nothing more

than to plant themselves
between my pines.

5. Fisherman

Along the rip-rap, casting a rod
for bass or crappie, I watch

the drift of the lake, its scaled skin,
water seeping into stone, rising into air,

moving through flesh. A Serpent.
The lake a mere bend of its body.