

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND SESSIONS



November 28-29, 2018

Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, AL

**Abstracts must be submitted by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2018.**

## OVERVIEW

The Alabama-Mississippi Bays & Bayous Symposium is a biennial event held alternately in Alabama and Mississippi to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about the state of our coastal environment. The Symposium will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information and experiences relating to water quality; habitat management; living resources; resilient communities; and oil spill research, recovery, and restoration for the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists, resource managers, elected officials or agency representatives, community action group members, industry representatives, and others are invited to highlight their efforts and accomplishments through oral presentations, **individually or in group sessions**, or poster presentations at the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium 2018.

- **Individual Oral Presentations** will be 10 minutes long with a five-minute question-and-answer period following each presentation. Presentations will be reviewed and grouped, to the extent possible, to form thematic sessions.
- **Group Sessions** We encourage science, research, and restoration practitioners to propose full thematic Group Sessions, focusing on different aspects of the

same project or issue. Group Sessions will include a five to seven-minute topic introduction, followed by four or five individual 10-minute presentations, followed by a single question-and-answer period for all presenters. Everyone participating in a Group Session is responsible for her or his own registration and abstract submission, which should also indicate 1) the name of the Group Session topic and 2) and the name of the Session Lead. The Session Lead will serve as the point of contact with Program organizers. If a Group Session cannot be accommodated by the Program Committee, individual presentations will still be considered as stand-alone presentations and grouped thematically to the extent possible.

- **Poster presentations** A poster session will be held the evening of Wednesday, November 28. Posters should complement the Symposium's themes and apply to one of the five tracks. This year, we will try to accommodate all poster abstract submissions.
- **Student Awards** will be presented to first, second, and third place student presenters of both oral and poster presentations. First place winners will receive a \$300 award, with second and third place winners receiving \$200 and \$100 awards, respectively.

# TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

## **Water Quality: Assessing and improving water quality to support economies, ecosystem services, culture, and community resilience**

Water Quality is one of the values identified as most important to coastal residents along the northern Gulf of Mexico. Many of the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits provided by bays, bayous, and other estuarine systems depend on the presence of pristine water. Water quality impairment through natural or anthropogenic input alters the livelihoods of people who live and work in estuarine watersheds. Therefore, assessing water quality and developing methods to reduce impairments are essential to building resilient and sustainable coastal communities. In this track, we invite researchers, resource managers, policy makers, and community members to address topics related to coastal water quality improvements or remediation strategies to address water quality stressors or impairments, community outreach or education of the public and policymakers, and other topics relating to water quality. Topics related to the interaction between water quality and estuarine benefits are particularly encouraged.



## **Habitat Management: Conservation and restoration for resilient ecosystem service provision to support healthy populations and communities**

Population growth along Alabama's coast has led to profound changes in the environmental quality of coastal habitats that support the fish and wildlife valued by coastal residents. Pressure from this growth often negatively affects provision of ecosystem services, such as supporting commercially and recreationally-important species of fish and shellfish. Other services, like shoreline stabilization and protection of coastal communities from storms, filtration of waterborne pollutants, and sequestration of atmospheric carbon, can also be compromised by coastal development. In turn, this may have dire consequences on the economy, sustainability, and well-being of coastal communities. Protection and restoration of important habitats are used to mitigate the extent of human impact on coastal degradation. In this track, we invite conservation and restoration practitioners from academia, the private sector, state and federal agencies, NGOs, local governments, and grassroots organizations to share their experiences to improve our collective understanding of what constitutes effective ecosystem restoration, as well as methods devised to implement such practices in projects along the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere.

## **Living Resources: Understanding the flora and fauna of coastal ecosystems and their contributions to ecosystem function**

With fish and wildlife representing another value important to coastal residents, this track focuses on the living coastal resources of the northern Gulf of Mexico and their role in supporting resilient coastal systems and communities within the region. Northern Gulf coastal ecosystems are highly complex and dynamic systems characterized by a rich diversity of living resources that provide great environmental, economic, and social value to the region. These resources function to provide important ecosystem services that benefit communities, ranging from lucrative fisheries to the first line of defense for coastal communities from powerful storms. Studies of these resources help us better understand and separate the effects of natural and anthropogenic changes and often have direct applicability in resource management, ecosystem protection, and planning for resilience from the perspective of awareness, preparation, and recovery following perturbation. This track encourages a broad range of presentations focused on the region's living resources and aims to stimulate dialogue and sharing of information among the multiple stakeholder groups concerned with sustaining healthy populations.



# TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

## **Resilient Communities: Adapting to environmental changes to maintain economies, ecosystem service provision, cultural values, and quality of life in the face of natural and anthropogenic stressors**

This track will encompass natural, anthropogenic, and social impacts to coastal hazard resilience and how communities adapt to these impacts. It will encourage a broad range of presentations focusing on state and local efforts to minimize environmental impacts while enhancing economic opportunities and improving resilience to both natural and technological hazards. This track will also include education and outreach efforts to raise awareness and understand climate and hazard challenges. Topics may include land policies; innovative floodplain management strategies; sustainable building design techniques and methodologies; community response and adaptation activities related to climate change, sea level rise, and inundation events; and cultural and sociological impacts associated with natural and anthropogenic coastal hazards. Submissions discussing resilience-related topics, including engineering, living shorelines, modeling, remote sensing, field-based experiments, social vulnerability indexing, and other topically-relevant behavioral science are also encouraged.



## **Oil Spill Research, Recovery, and Restoration: Sharing research results, recovery approaches, and/or successful restoration efforts related to Deepwater Horizon or other oil spills impacting the northern Gulf of Mexico**

Eight years after the largest accidental marine oil spill in history, we have a better understanding of human and ecological recovery from the spill, with many restoration efforts underway or planned to advance the recovery process. The track may include updates on human and ecological research, restoration, extension, or education and outreach-related discoveries. The focus will be forward-looking regarding the ongoing recovery of communities and habitats. This track relates to impacts and recovery of any Gulf of Mexico spill, including the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. While topics might otherwise be classified under one of the four other Symposium tracks – water quality, habitat management, living resources, or resilient communities – submissions to this track directly link to an oil spill or are a result of funding from an oil spill-related source.

# ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

**Abstracts must be submitted by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2018.**

**To submit your abstract, go to <http://www.baysandbayous.com>.**

Select **"Submit Abstracts"** from the menu. You will be directed to **"Create a User Account."**

Do so, with your name as you'd like it to appear in the program.

Then Log In to your Dashboard. Select **"My Abstracts,"** then **"Submit Abstract,"** and then fill out the form according to the directions below. You can register and pay fees later.

- 1. Title:** The title of the presentation should be written in title case (not all caps). Do not use italics, underline, or bold to distinguish other headings or subheadings, except for scientific names (which should be italicized).
- 2. Type names of author and co-author in upper/lower case** as you would like them to appear in the program. Your name will automatically be the same as the name on your account.
- 3. Institution(s) and email:** Type all authors' institutional affiliations and the e-mail address of the presenting author only.
- 4. Maximum length:** 250 words.
- 5. Spacing:** Single spaced.
- 6. Paragraphs:** Paragraphs must be separated by a blank line and not indented.
- 7. Select either Individual Presentation or Group Session.**  
**NOTE:** For those indicating Group Session, please enter the Group Session name (e.g., Fowl River Marsh Study) and the Session Lead's name. A drop-down menu will offer you the opportunity to provide these two additional items.

## POSTER SUBMISSIONS

Follow the Guidelines for Abstracts above. The maximum poster size will be 36" X 48".

**The Program Committee will provide you with its recommendations by September 28, 2018.**

**Presenters must register for the Symposium and are responsible for registration costs.**

**Online registration will begin June 20, 2018 at [www.baysandbayous.com](http://www.baysandbayous.com).**

**Call Bethany Dickey at 251-459-8870 with any questions.**

