

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies'
Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Working Group
2018 Webinar Series

A Fish's Eye View: Snorkeling Freshwater Streams in the U.S.

April 17, 2018 ■ 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

We often perceive that there isn't much to see beneath the surface of our nation's freshwater rivers and streams, but once we look underwater, an amazing world appears. Fish of incredibly diverse colors, shapes and behaviors live in freshwater ecosystems. The streams themselves create otherworldly, breathtaking streamscapes, giving humans willing to submerge themselves the opportunity to witness incredible ecological feats such as thousand-mile fish migrations, predator-prey interactions, or the vibrant colors of mating displays. The underwater world of our rivers and streams is unexpected, largely unnoticed and amazing! They are thriving aquatic communities, composed of subjects intimately tied to one another and to humans through an aquatic matrix.

Snorkeling establishes powerful connections between people and rivers, and is one of the most intimate interactions we can have with a river, experiencing the movement and organisms of a moving water body on its own terms. Snorkeling allows us to bond with subjects that are intertwined in these aquatic communities, granting us new perspectives and reasons to care about the importance of clean water. The ways in which rivers, and the creatures that live in them, are woven into our cultural and natural heritage become apparent.

Join underwater naturalist Keith Williams and share his adventures of exploring and discovering the underwater world of our nation's rivers and streams. Keith will discuss how to establish successful river snorkeling programs to encourage fish watching.

Presented by:

Keith Williams is the founding director of education, and is the current executive director at NorthBay, one of the largest outdoor education programs in the U.S. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental biology and a master's degree in ecological teaching and learning from the Lesley University Audubon Expedition Institute. Keith served on the Maryland Governor's Environmental Literacy Working Group, and he currently serves on the Maryland State Department of Education Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Board. He has developed a river-snorkeling-based science curriculum, and established river snorkeling programs for nonprofits and the U.S. Forest Service. Keith has led thousands of people on river snorkeling adventures. His first book on river snorkeling, *Snorkelhead*, was published in June 2017.

Connection:

Join the webinar at fwc.adobeconnect.com/wildlifeviewing (sign in as guest, with first and last name, no password required).
Conference call audio: 888-670-3525
Participant code: 835-369-4269

