



## SFS 2017 RALEIGH, NC CALL FOR SPECIAL SESSION PROPOSALS



The SFS Annual Meeting Committee invites proposals for special sessions at the 2017 meeting in Raleigh, NC (June 4-9). Proposals for a special session should include a brief description of the topic and a list of potential speakers. By proposing a special session, you are expected to serve as session organizer, invite speakers for the session, and inform them of key dates for abstract submission and other program deadlines. All special sessions are open to contributed presentations, in addition to those invited by session organizers. We expect that special sessions will include a mix of invited and self-nominated participants and we encourage session organizers to consider age, gender, and geographic diversity in their selection of invited speakers.

Our meeting theme for 2017 is "Designing our Freshwater Futures". Human civilization relies on a sustainable supply of fresh water to satisfy our thirst, water our crops, support fisheries, provide energy, and enrich our experience of nature. We are equally reliant on freshwater ecosystems to dispose of our wastes and to transport our commodities. These needs are often in conflict with one another, and unless carefully managed may conflict with our desire to maintain the beauty and biodiversity of rivers. Much freshwater science has focused on documenting the identity and distribution of freshwater species and their loss; how our farms, cities, dams and mines degrade the physical, chemical and biological integrity of receiving streams. As a result, we are adept at documenting the decline – research designed to identify solutions has proved more elusive. In our Raleigh 2017 meeting, we want to challenge the SFS community to shift their focus to how freshwater science can help imagine and implement solutions to the complex set of problems that plague freshwaters. We invite all special session topics, but encourage organizers to consider weaving this theme into their sessions either wholly or in part.

Organizers for special sessions should consider the following proposals:

- Sessions cover a topic that relates to the meeting theme
- Sessions represent new areas of research that are of growing interest to SFS membership
- Topics do not overlap with regular sessions. Sessions with similar topics may be combined.
- The session organizer (or an invited speaker) introduces the session with an overview presentation envision future directions in the session topic.
- Proposals are accompanied by a list of at least 5 likely invited speakers (no commitments from speakers are necessary at the time proposals are submitted). Ideally, speakers come from a range of disciplines and include people at early as well as mature career stages.

Please help us make this an innovative and productive scientific program by submitting a proposal for a special session. Feel free to contact Krista Capps ([kcapps@uga.edu](mailto:kcapps@uga.edu)) with questions about hosting a special session. Special session proposals must be submitted to Krista by **October 31** (400 words or less). Proposals for special sessions will be reviewed by the Annual Meeting Program Committee; the committee may ask for changes and resubmission of proposals, if appropriate. Results of the review will be sent to chairs of proposed sessions by **November 6**. Accepted proposals will appear on the meeting website.