



NEWS ALERT
September 23, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran Nashville photographer and environmental advocate John Guider to canoe the Duck River in its entirety

WHAT: John Guider, an acclaimed Nashville photographer and environmental advocate, is embarking on a monumental canoe journey, traveling the full 265-mile length of Tennessee's Duck River, one of the most biodiverse rivers in the world. His journey aims to raise awareness about the Duck River's environmental crisis, worsened by drought conditions, and to document its unparalleled beauty through his award-winning photography.

WHEN: Guider will launch his canoe on **Monday, September 30, 2024**, weather permitting. His journey is expected to span the majority of October, with timing contingent on river conditions.

WHERE: The journey begins near **Old Stone Fort State Park**, near the river's source, and continues through **Normandy Lake** and downstream below **Normandy Dam**, passing through **Shelbyville, Columbia, and Centerville**, before culminating in the **Tennessee River**.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: Guider's trip will include key stops in **Columbia, TN, and Centerville, TN**, where the media will have the opportunity to meet him, learn about the journey, and engage with him about his conservation efforts. Dates for these stops will be announced via Harpeth Conservancy's social media as the trip progresses. Press will be invited to all events.

During the journey, John will be documenting the natural beauty of the Duck River through daily photography and journal updates, which will be available for media and the public to follow on Harpeth Conservancy's website and John Guider's official page. In addition, his trip will be tracked live via GPS, with real-time mapping accessible on both platforms.

To track John, visit: <https://harpethconservancy.org/johnguider>

WHY:

- **Environmental Advocacy:** The Duck, is one of the three most biodiverse rivers in the world. But the Duck is also in crisis. The current drought has lowered water levels on the river significantly and proposed increases in water withdrawals pose a significant threat to the river, as well as the people and wildlife who depend on it. To help highlight the threats this river faces, it was listed as the #3 river on American Rivers' 2024 **Most Endangered Rivers**. John wants to draw attention to the need to preserve the Duck River and urge people to take action. This journey is a powerful reminder of the urgent need to protect this critical natural resource. In

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collaboration with Harpeth Conservancy and the Southern Environmental Law Center, John is using his platform to elevate this vital cause.

- **Collaborative Conservation:** John's journey underscores the importance of protecting the Duck River, not just through individual actions but through community engagement and policy change. Harpeth Conservancy and the Southern Environmental Law Center are key partners in this mission, working alongside Guider to amplify the call for conservation.
- **Adventure and Art:** As a seasoned adventurer, Guider has navigated many of America's iconic waterways, not only capturing their beauty through his photographs but also experiencing several near-death experiences. On the Duck he will be focused less on his own survival and more on that of the river.

CALL TO ACTION: Join John Guider and Harpeth Conservancy in raising awareness about the Duck River's plight. Visit <https://harpethconservancy.org/duck-river-mer/> to learn more about the 2024 Most Endangered Rivers campaign, and find out how you can take action to support efforts to protect and preserve this vital waterway.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PRESS INQUIRIES:

To arrange interviews, receive invitations to upcoming events, or for general inquiries, please contact:

- Jess Martin, Harpeth Conservancy
 - jessmartin@harpethriver.org
- Eric Hilt, Southern Environmental Law Center
 - ehilt@selctn.org
- David Fox, John Guider's friend
 - david.fox2050@gmail.com

Live updates and further details will be posted regularly on Harpeth Conservancy's social media platforms.

About John Guider

John Guider is a renowned photographer, adventurer, and environmental advocate, dedicated to highlighting the beauty and fragility of America's rivers. With a passion for conservation, he aims to raise awareness about the Duck River, one of the world's most biodiverse rivers, now facing a critical drought.

Since 2003, John has navigated many of America's iconic waterways, including the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers. His award-winning photography, featured in galleries and

museums, captures the natural world's beauty. During his Duck River journey, John will document the river's landscapes and wildlife daily.

Learn more at www.johnguides.com

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