

DOWN THE DUCK

JOHN GUIDER
DUCK RIVER JOURNEY | 265 MILES



VETERAN NASHVILLE PHOTOGRAPHER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE JOHN GUIDER'S JOURNEY TO PROTECT TENNESSEE'S DUCK RIVER

In the fall of 2024, John Guider, an acclaimed Nashville photographer and environmental advocate, completed a monumental canoe journey, traveling the full 265-mile length of Tennessee's Duck River, the most biodiverse river in North America. His journey aimed 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.

Partnering with Harpeth Conservancy and Nashville PBS (WNPT), and produced by Archaea, Guider's trip is the subject of a feature-length documentary, *Down the Duck*.

KEY MESSAGING

01 Environmental Advocacy

The Duck, is one of the three most biodiverse rivers in the world. But the Duck is also in crisis. The 2024 drought 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. This documentary will continue to draw attention to the need to preserve the Duck River and urge people to take action. It is a powerful reminder of the urgent need to protect this critical natural resource.

02 Collaborative Conservation

This documentary underscores the importance of protecting the Duck River through individual actions, community engagement, and policy change.



Duck River near Manchester, TN | John Guider



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 documented the river's landscapes and wildlife daily.

Learn more at www.johnguider.com

For more information on John's Journey and documentary updates:

<https://harpethconservancy.org/johnguider>

03 Adventure and Art

As a seasoned adventurer, John Guider has navigated many of America's iconic waterways, not only capturing their beauty through his photographs but also experiencing several near-death experiences. In *Down the Duck*, his experience with the river, the community, the relationships he formed, and how we all are intertwined— are central to the greater conservation story being told.

FILM DETAILS

The project needs to raise \$175,000 to complete a 30-minute film for national distribution with accompanying curriculum education material for use nationwide. With **Harpeth Conservancy** and **Nashville PBS (WNPT)** as key partners, this project aims for a Summer 2025 release to raise awareness and advocate for action.

The documentary highlights Tennessee's Duck River, the most biodiverse river in North America and one of only three global hotspots for fish and mussel diversity. It will underscore the immense pressure from regional development and rising demands for drinking water, agriculture, and industry. The continued overuse of the Duck's water threatens its local communities and invaluable endangered species. Further, the documentary aims to highlight local communities and how the river brings people together.

Every contribution is a step toward securing the Duck River's future—let's work together to keep this essential waterway thriving.



ARCHAEA

ACTION STEPS

Join John Guider and Harpeth Conservancy in raising awareness about the Duck River!

- 01 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 river here:

<https://harpethconservancy.org/duck-river-mer/>



- 02 Help **fund** this documentary project and help us bring the Duck River's story to life!



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