



## **New York State Wetlands Forum, Inc.**

2023 Annual Conference and Meeting

Niagara Falls, New York

*Doubletree by Hilton Niagara Falls*

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/iagbadt-doubletree-niagara-falls-new-york/>

*April 25 & 26, 2023*

### ***Empowering People and Waters Within New York State***

#### **April 25**

6:30 - 7:30 Exhibitor/Poster Setup - *Prefunction Ballroom*

7:30 - 5:30 Registration and Review of Exhibits and Posters - *Prefunction Ballroom*

7:30 - 9:30 Continental Breakfast - *River's Edge Ballroom*

8:30 - 8:40 Opening Remarks: Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and  
Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *River's Edge Ballroom*

8:40 - 9:10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Jill Jedlicka, Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

9:10 - 9:20 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - *Prefunction Ballroom*

9:20 - 10:40 CONCURRENT SESSION A

1. **Large-Scale Energy Projects and the Work Involved - *River's Edge Ballroom***

*Moderator: Johanna Duffy, Barton & Loguidice, DPC*

- Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects - An Exercise in Multidisciplinary Coordination  
*Speakers: Emily Thiel and Delaney Martin, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*
- Wetlands Screening Considerations for the Siting and Procurement of Large-Scale Solar Projects  
*Speaker: Bram Peterson, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority*
- Out of Harm's Way - Evaluating the Overlap Between Wintering Grassland Raptor Survey Season and Deer Hunting Season  
*Speaker: Jason Dickey, TRC*

**2. Threatened and Endangered Species - Cascade Room A**

*Moderator: David MacDougall, LaBella Associates*

- Changes to the Federal Listing Status of the Northern Long-Eared Bat: A Summary  
*Speaker: Lisa Downing-Schmidt, TRC*
- Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Mitigation  
*Speakers: Corinne Steinmuller and Tom Wirickx, McFarland Johnson*
- Threatened and Endangered Species Initiatives  
*Speaker: Kirsten Gerhardt, The Wetland Trust, Inc.*

**10:40 - 11:00 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - Prefunction Ballroom**

**11:00 - 12:20 CONCURRENT SESSION B**

**1. Wetland Delineation and Classification - River's Edge Ballroom**

*Moderator: Jeremy Waddell, Upper Susquehanna Coalition*

- Atypical Wetland Delineation  
*Speaker: Shaina Souder, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District*
- What Makes a Wetland a Wetland?  
*Speaker: Justin Zoladz, WSP USA, Inc.*
- A Functional Path Forward for New York: Multi-Class Wetlands  
*Speaker: Jeffrey Mason and Kathleen Marean, WSP USA, Inc.*

**2. Invasive Species - Impacts and Management - Cascade Room A**

*Moderator: Amelia Leonard, Federal Emergency Management Agency*

- The Impact of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) on Wetland Habitats in Western New York  
*Speaker: Andie Graham, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science and Ecology*
- Leveraging iMapInvasives for Wetlands Survey and Management  
*Speaker: Jennifer Dean, New York State Heritage Program*
- Spotted Lanternfly  
*Speaker: Christine Colley, New York State Department of Transportation*

**12:20 - 1:45 Lunch and Membership Meetings - River's Edge Ballroom**

**1:45 - 2:15 Spring Wildflowers in Wetlands and Uplands - Their Identification and Importance in Nutrient Harboring - Cascade Room A**

*Speaker: Joseph McMullen*

**2:20 - 3:40 CONCURRENT SESSION C**

**1. Restoration of Wetlands, Streams, and Connectivity - River's Edge Ballroom**

*Moderator: Charlotte Brett, Empire Environmental Partners*

- Cayuga Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration  
*Speaker: Ryan Greer and Emily Root, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper*
- Restoring Aquatic Habitat Connectivity in an Upper Susquehanna Sub Watershed, One Crossing at a Time  
*Speaker: Gian Dodici, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

- Niagara River AOC Coastal Wetland Restoration Projects  
*Speakers: David Spiering and Alexander Silva, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation*

**2. Conservation and Mitigation, and the Tools Needed to Accomplish Them - Cascade Room A**  
*Moderator: Ed Frantz, E.H. Frantz Environmental*

- Wet Meadow Habitat for New York State Listed Species  
*Speakers: Katlyn Hojnacki and Sheila Hess, CC Environmental & Planning*
- Using Multi-Metric Modeling, Field Surveys, and Online Spatial Tools to Support Conservation and Management for Flood Resilience, Water Quality, and Native Species  
*Speaker: Laura Shappell, New York State Natural Heritage Program*
- Ducks Unlimited In-Lieu Fee Program 2023 Update  
*Speaker: Patrick Raney, Ducks Unlimited*

**3:40 - 4:00 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - Prefunction Ballroom**

**4:00 - 5:20 CONCURRENT SESSION D**

**1. Wetland Restoration and Management - River's Edge Ballroom**  
*Moderator: Kathleen Wolfanger, New York State Department of Transportation*

- Application of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program to Restoration Projects in Lake Ontario Wetlands  
*Speaker: Gregory Lawrence, SUNY Brockport*
- Multi-Agency Coordination For Water-Level Management in an Ecologically Sensitive Area  
*Speakers: Sarah Lazazzero, New York State Department of Transportation and Tim Baker, New York State Thruway*
- Assessing Treatments to Increase Establishment of Native Meadow Marsh Species in a Restored Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Invaded by *Typha x glauca*  
*Speaker: Lexi Belleville, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*

**2. Technology: Benefits and Challenges - Cascade Room A**  
*Moderator: Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.*

- Convolutional Neural Networks for High-Resolution Wetland Mapping with Open Data  
*Speaker: Michael Evans, Chesapeake Conservancy*
- Drones: Maintenance of ROW Wetland Vegetation Use Cases, Sharing NYPA's Experience Using Drones to Augment an Electric Utility's Integrated Vegetation Management Program Around Wetlands  
*Speaker: John Gwozdz, New York Power Authority*
- Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Platforms to Perform Natural Area Restoration and Maintenance  
*Speakers: Robert Cenni and Lucas Costilow, Davey Resource Group*

**5:30 - 6:30 Technical Poster Review - River's Edge Ballroom**

## **April 26**

- 6:00 - 8:00 Spring Bird Walk  
*with Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.*
- 7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast - *Prefunction Ballroom and River's Edge Ballroom*
- 8:30 - 8:35 Announcements - Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *Full Ballroom*
- 8:40 - 10:20 **Federal Legislative and Regulatory Discussion - River's Edge Ballroom**  
*Moderator: Kathleen Bennett, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC*
- USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Updates  
*Speaker: Noelle Rayman-Metcalf, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
  - EPA Regulatory Updates  
*Speaker: Marco Finocchiaro, Chief of the Wetlands Protection Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*
  - USACE Regulatory Updates  
*Speaker: Susan Baker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District*
- 10:20 - 10:40 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - *Prefunction Ballroom*
- 10:40 - 11:30 **State Legislative and Regulatory Discussion - River's Edge Ballroom**  
*Moderator: Kathleen Bennett, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC*
- NYSDEC Roundtable/Q&A Discussion - Regulatory Updates & Initiatives  
*Speaker: Roy "JR" Jacobson, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*
- 11:30 - 12:00 Closing Remarks - Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:00 - 4:00 Field Trips - Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
- East River Marsh Restoration Project at Beaver Island State Park  
*Field Guides: Alexander Silva and David Spiering, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation*
  - Cayuga Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration  
*Field Guides: Emily Root and Ryan Greer, of the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper*

## POSTER SESSION

- The Effects of Invasive Cattail on Zooplankton Community Composition in Littoral Wetlands  
*Presented by Andrew Parnas, State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry*
- Using Spatial Analytics to Identify Floodplain Forests and Investigate Their Ecological Condition in Eastern New York  
*Presented by Lydia Sweeney, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*
- The Impact of *Brachypodium sylvaticum* on Native Tree Seedling Regeneration in Bergen Swamp, Genesee County, New York  
*Presented by Kendall Hastings, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*
- The Effects of Japanese Knotweed on Arthropod Communities in Western New York  
*Presented by Ray Marszalek, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*
- Evaluating Internal Phosphorus Loading in Mediating Algal Blooms in Look Lake, Wayland, NY  
*Presented by Brayden Link, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*
- Wetland Restoration Impacts on Two Grasses in the Wet Meadow Zone in Lake Ontario Coastal Wetlands  
*Presented by Adelia Baker, SUNY Brockport, Department of Environmental Science & Ecology*