

30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
1994 - 2024



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

2024 Annual Conference and Meeting  
Saratoga Springs, New York  
*Embassy Suites by Hilton Saratoga Springs*  
*April 16 & 17, 2024*

***Celebrating 30 Years of the Forum***

**April 16**

- 6:30 - 7:30 Exhibitor/Poster Setup - *Atrium*
- 7:30 - 5:30 Registration and Review of Exhibits and Posters - *Atrium*
- 7:30 - 9:30 Breakfast Buffet - *Alley Kitchen*
- 8:30 - 8:40 Opening Remarks: Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *Grand Ballroom*
- 8:40 - 9:10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Rob Davies, Executive Director, Saratoga PLAN - *Grand Ballroom*
- 9:10 - 9:20 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - *Atrium*
- 9:20 - 10:40 CONCURRENT SESSION A
- Climate Resiliency - State Seal Room**  
*Moderator: Johanna Duffy, Barton & Loguidice, DPC*
    - Wetlands and Climate Resiliency: Together They Stand, Divided They Fall  
*Speaker: Sheila Hess, CC Environment & Planning*

- **Monitoring the Resiliency of Shorefront Park Living Shoreline**  
*Speaker: Elizabeth Clohessy, New York State Department of State*
- **Good Models and reliable data are the next best thing to having a Crystal ball: Predicting climate change impacts on future flood risk in the Catskills Region**  
*Speaker: Mark Carabetta, SLR consulting*

2. **Restoration of Wetlands, Streams, and Connectivity - Congress Room**

*Moderator: Amelia Leonard, Federal Emergency Management Agency*

- **Green Infrastructure Solutions for Stream Restoration in Urban and Rural Landscapes**  
*Speaker: Brad Mudrzynski, Land Ethic Planning & Restoration LLC*
- **The Rough and Loosen Technique and Wetland Restoration**  
*Speaker: Thomas R. Biebighauser, The Wetlands Trust*
- **The Intersection of ESG Policies and the Restoration Economy**  
*Speaker: Dan Spethmann, Working Lands Investment Partners*

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

11:00 - 12:20 CONCURRENT SESSION B

1. **Threatened and Endangered Species - State Seal Room**

*Moderator: Frank Parisio, New York City Department of Environmental Protection*

- **People and turtles need water: Striking a balance between habitat protection and public need**  
*Speakers: Claire Leonardi and David MacDougall, LaBella Associates*
- **NYPA Smart Path Project: Threatened and Endangered Species impacts and the Blanding's turtle**  
*Speaker: Chris DeRoberts, New York Power Authority*
- **Endangered Bat Habitat Assessments: Seeing the Forest Through the Trees**  
*Speaker: Michael S. Fishman, Edgewood Environmental Consulting, LLC*

2. **Technology: Benefits and Challenges - Congress Room**

*Moderator: Ed Frantz, E.H. Frantz Environmental*

- **Mapping Coastal Marshlands with Topobathymetric LiDAR**  
*Speaker: Clark Matthew, Whiteout Solutions*
- **Community Solar: Environmental and Land Use Permitting**  
*Speaker: Kevin R. Bliss, RIC Development, LLC*
- **Benefits of early-stage GIS analysis to predict the presence of wetlands**  
*Speaker: Rachael Foote and Megan Aubertine-Wilkes, Environmental Design and Research*

12:20 - 1:20 Lunch - *Restaurant/Skidmore*

1:20 - 1:50 **Identification of Plants in Winter - An Overview - State Seal**

*Speaker: Joseph McMullen, Botanist/Environmental Consultant*

2:00 - 3:20 CONCURRENT SESSION C

1. **Wetland Delineation and Classification - State Seal Room**  
*Moderator: Jeremy Waddell, Upper Susquehanna Coalition*
  - Utilization of mosaic method in agricultural delineation  
*Speaker: Olya Rizzo, H2H a BOWMAN Company*
  - Delineation discrepancies and peer review  
*Speaker: Justin Zoladz, WSP USA, Inc.*
  - A history of the definition of waters of the United States and how the current regulatory landscape effects the protection of wetlands  
*Speakers: Joshua Marchner and Joseph Knight, Environmental Design and Research*
2. **Land Use & the Role of Natural Resources session - Congress Room**  
*Moderator: Aimee N. Rutledge, Dubois & King, Inc.*
  - Wetlands and Water Resources in Open Space Protection Planning: A Closer Look  
*Speaker: John Behan, Behan Planning*
  - *Protecting Wildlife Connectivity Through Land Use Planning*  
*Speaker: Michale Glennon, Paul Smith's College*

3:20 - 3:40 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - Atrium

3:40 - 5:00 CONCURRENT SESSION D

1. **Wetlands Restoration and Management - State Seal Room**  
*Moderator: Kathleen Wolfanger, New York State Department of Transportation*
  - Wetland restoration impacts on vegetation composition in Lake Ontario coastal wetlands  
*Speaker: Adellia Baker, SUNY Brockport*
  - The Wetland Trust, Inc. Building Wetlands that will Last Forever  
*Speaker: Thomas R. Biebighauser, The Wetlands Trust*
  - *West Brook wetland restoration*  
*Speaker: Jim Lieberum, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*
2. **Wildlife - Congress Room**  
*Moderator: Charlotte Brett, Empire Environmental Partners*
  - When to move a mussel: Ribbed mussels enhance nitrogen removal, but not plant growth, in restored urban marshes  
*Speaker: Mary Alldred, SUNY Plattsburgh*
  - The Potential Impact of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) Invasion on Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) Habitat in Western New York  
*Speaker: Andie Graham, SUNY Brockport*
  - Muskrats and Marshes -are They on a Decline?  
*Speaker: Ed Frantz, E. H. Frantz Environmental*

5:00 - 6:00 Technical Poster Review - Atrium

## **April 17**

6:00 - 7:30 Spring Bird Walk - *with Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.*

7:30 - 8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast - *Atrium/Alley Kitchen*

8:00 - 8:25 Membership Meeting - Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *Grand Ballroom*

8:25 - 8:40 NYSWF Visioning & Planning - Ed Frantz, *E.H. Frantz Environmental* - *Grand Ballroom*

8:40 - 10:15

### **1. Federal Legislative and Regulatory Discussion - Grand Ballroom**

*Moderator: Kathleen Bennett, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC*

- USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Updates  
Speaker: Steve Kendrot, Deputy Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service NYFO; and Noelle Rayman-Metcalf, Region 5 Bat Coordinator, Region 5 Ecological Services Branch
- EPA Regulatory Updates  
Speaker: *Marco Finocchiaro, Chief of the Wetlands Protection Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*
- USACE Regulatory Updates  
Speaker: *Stephan Ryba, Chief, Regulatory Branch NY District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

10:15 - 10:30 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - *Atrium*

10:30 - 12:15

### **2. State Legislative and Regulatory Discussion - Grand Ballroom**

*Moderator: Kathleen Bennett, Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC*

- Adirondack Park Agency Presentation/Q&A Discussion - Regulatory Updates & Initiatives  
Speaker: *David J. Plante, Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs, NYS Adirondack Park Agency*
- NYSDEC Presentation/Q&A Discussion - Regulatory Updates & Initiatives  
Speaker: *Roy "JR" Jacobson, Head, Habitat Protection Section, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 - 4:00 Field Trips - Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

- TBA

## POSTERS

### **-Bergen Swamp Hydrology and its Impact on Black Creek Water Chemistry**

Tess Eichner<sup>1</sup>, Andie Graham<sup>2</sup>, and James Zollweg<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Department of Earth Science, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY

<sup>2</sup>Department of Environmental Science and Ecology, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York

### **-The Impact of Invasive Grasses on Reptile and Amphibian Populations in Wetlands**

Remi McCann and Andie Graham

Department of Environmental Science and Ecology, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York

### **-Feathers and Function: A Case Study in Evaluating Wetland Mitigation Using Waterfowl**

Lucas Kemmerling (Graduate Student – SUNY Plattsburgh), Plattsburgh, New York

### **-iMapInvasives: the official invasive species database for New York State**

Gregory Welter (New York Natural Heritage Program)

### **-Digging into the past: Reconstructing the community and disturbance regime of a fire-dependent ecosystem**

Lydia Harvey

SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, New York

### **-Evaluating Nutrient Limitations of Algae in Braddock Bay, Monroe County**

Brayden Link

Department of Environmental Science and Ecology, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York

### **-Microplastic and harmful algal blooms: Potential implications and population characteristics for *Daphnia pulex* and *Hyalella azteca***

Jakob Scholeno

Department of Environmental Science and Ecology, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, New York

### **-Integrating undergraduates and non-academics into large-scale research by exploring phenological asynchrony of vernal-pool breeding amphibians and woody plants**

Mary Beth Kolozsvary

Siena College, Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Loudonville, New York