

30TH
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 - *Prefunction Grand Ballroom*
- 7:30 - 5:30 Registration and Review of Exhibits and Posters - *Prefunction Grand Ballroom*
- 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 - *Grand Ballroom*
- 9:20 - 10:40 CONCURRENT SESSION A
1. Climate resiliency - State Seal
Moderator: Johanna Duffy, Barton & Loguidice, DPC
 - Heat, Wind, and Rainfall: Which Wetland is the Most Resilient to Them All?
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**

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 - *Grand Ballroom*

11:00 - 12:20 CONCURRENT SESSION B

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

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

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

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

Moderator: Ed Frantz, E.H. Frantz Environmental

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

12:20 - 1:45 Lunch and Membership Meetings - *Grand Ballroom/Skidmore*

1:45 - 2:15 **Identification of Plants in Winter - An Overview -**
Speaker: Joseph McMullen, Botanist/Environmental Consultant

2:20 - 3:40 CONCURRENT SESSION C

1. **Wetland Delineation and Classification - State Seal**

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**

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

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

4:00 - 5:20 CONCURRENT SESSION D

1. **Wetlands Restoration and Management - State Seal**

Moderator: Kathleen Wolfanger, New York State Department of Transportation

- **Wetland restoration impacts on vegetation composition in Lake Ontario coastal wetlands**
Speakers: Adellia Baker and Rachel Schultz, 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**

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**
Speakers: Andie Graham and Matthew Altenritter, SUNY Brockport
- **Muskrats and Marshes -are They on a Decline?**
Speaker: Ed Frantz, E. H. Frantz Environmental

5:30 - 6:30 Technical Poster Review - *Grand Ballroom*

April 17

6:00 - 8:00 Spring Bird Walk - *with Kurt Weiskotten, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.*

7:30 - 8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast - *Grand Ballroom/Alley Kitchen*

8:30 - 8:35 Announcements - Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *Grand Ballroom*

8:40 - 10:00

1. Federal Legislative and Regulatory Discussion - Grand Ballroom

Moderator: Brad Sherwood, United States Army Corps of Engineers

- USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Updates
Speaker: TBD
- USACE Regulatory Updates
Speaker: *Stephan Ryba, Chief, Regulatory Branch NY District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- EPA Regulatory Updates
Speaker: *Marco Finocchiaro, Chief of the Wetlands Protection Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*

10:00 - 10:20 Break and Review of Exhibits/Posters - *Grand Ballroom*

10:20 - 11:40

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*

11:40 - 12:00 Closing Remarks - Chris Einstein, CHA Companies and Chair, New York State Wetlands Forum - *Grand Ballroom*

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

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

- *TBD*

POSTERS

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

Tess Eichner¹, Andie Graham², and James Zollweg³

^{1,3}Department of Earth Science, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY

²Department 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