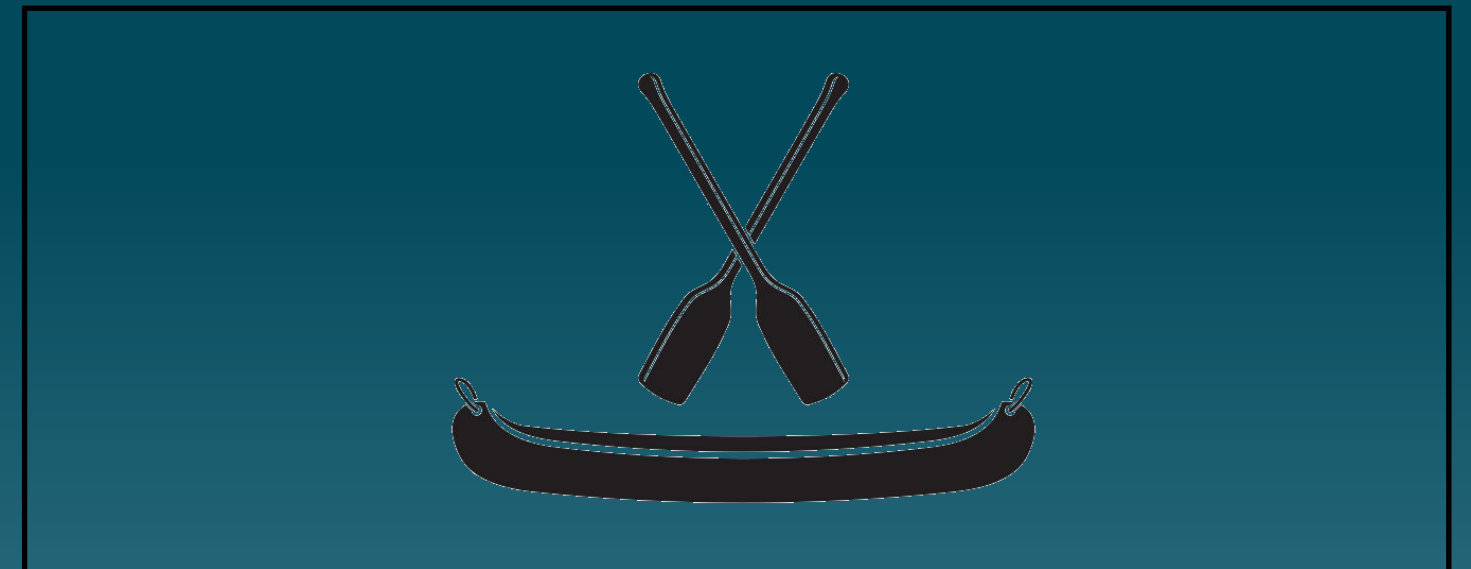


# 2024

# Black River

# Watershed Conference




**THE BLACK RIVER WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE  
WELCOMES YOU TO THE 14TH ANNUAL BLACK RIVER  
WATERSHED CONFERENCE!**

**NYS TUG HILL COMMISSION  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
HAMILTON  
HERKIMER  
JEFFERSON  
LEWIS  
ONEIDA  
NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

# AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
9:00-9:15	Welcome & Opening Remarks
	<b>LIGHTNING ROUND</b>
	Oneida County Envirothon (Payton Reese, Oneida County SWCD)
	Jefferson Co. Stormwater Coalition: MS4 Public Outreach (Sarah Trick, Jefferson Co. SWCD)
9:15-10:00	Black River Signage (Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County SWCD)
	Japanese Knotweed Treatment in the Town of Webb (Gabrielle Lewosko and Alexis Sprague, Herkimer County SWCD)
	Lake Monitoring - The Hyperdrive Version! (Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD)
	Forestport Boat Wash Station (Louanne Cossa, Town of Forestport)
10:00-11:00	Stormwater Considerations for Solar Development in New York: Where are we Headed? (Julie Melancon and Ben Fiorese, NYS DEC)
11:00-11:15	BREAK
11:15-12:00	Hydroelectric Projects in the Black River Basin: The Process and Opportunities for Relicensing (Jessica Hart, NYS DEC; John Wiley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-1:15	Question and Answer Session
1:15-1:45	Black River Adaptive Modeling Update (Jasmine James, Ramboll Engineering)
1:45-2:15	Ducks and Bobolinks: Habitat Restoration on the Keller Mohawk Public Conservation Area (Linda Gibbs, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust; John Fraser, Ducks Unlimited)
2:15-2:30	BREAK
2:30-3:00	Climate Smart Lewis County (Cassandra Buell and Lauryn Tabolt, Lewis County Planning)
3:00-3:30	New York Statewide Reforestation Plan (J.J. Käthe, NYS DEC)
	Closing Remarks

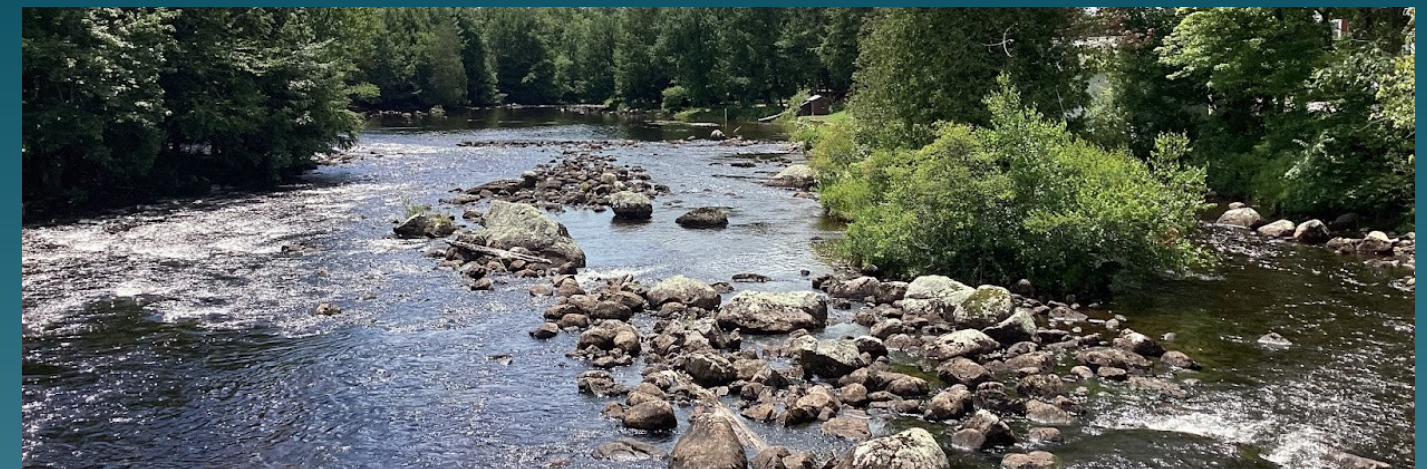
# INFORMATIONAL DISPLAYS



**Drinking Water Source Protection Program**

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation | Department of Health | Department of State | Department of Agriculture and Markets

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's mission is to conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.



## SPONSORED BY

**Black River Advisory Council**  
**NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**  
**Barton & Loguidice**  
**Converse Laboratories, Inc**  
**Northern Credit Union**

*Please take a moment to fill out a post-conference survey to help us plan for next year's conference! The form is available here, and paper copies are also available.*





## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

# Barton & Loguidice

At Barton & Loguidice, LLC, we help public and private entities solve their capital planning and facility-related needs. We offer consulting in the following practice areas:

Solid Waste	Water Resources
Transportation	Facilities
Environmental	Sustainable Planning & Design
Land Surveying	Asset Management

Our diverse service platform allows us to provide a holistic view of the challenges our clients face and the solutions that best suit them, resulting in significant cost savings, project feasibility and acceleration, alternative financing options, and reduced risk. Since our founding in 1961, we have helped municipalities achieve their goals and improve their communities. Headquartered in Syracuse with a local office located in Watertown our staff of over 350 is spread across 15 different offices in the Northeast extending from Maryland to Maine. Our locational variety allows us to readily provide on-site assistance to our clients across the North Country and the Northeastern United States, addressing their issues personally and in a timely manner.



At Northern Credit Union, we understand the importance of comprehensive business services to empower your organization's growth. From lending, payroll and HR solutions to business investment services, we provide tailored solutions to meet your diverse business needs.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES CAITLIN STEWART



Caitlin has been part of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District team since 2003, first as an intern, then educator, and now, manager. Educational credentials include a MS in Geoscience, UMass Amherst, and a BS in Environmental Science and Geography, SUNY Oneonta. Serving as president of the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, and the Upper Hudson and Mohawk River Watershed Coalitions keeps her work schedule jam packed. She lives with her husband and dogs Artemis and Hurricane in the breathtaking Hamilton County, and stokes her life with outdoor adventures in the Adirondack wild and beyond. Discover how Caitlin upholds the Conservation District's mission of promoting the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County by visiting [www.hamcoswcd.org](http://www.hamcoswcd.org).



# CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



PAYTON REESE

## ONEIDA COUNTY ENVIROTHON

Payton is a Water Quality Specialist for the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District since 2022. Bachelors in Biology from SUNY Geneseo. Coordinator for the Oneida County Envirothon and lead on erosion and flooding control stream projects for the district.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY STORMWATER COALITION: MS4 PUBLIC OUTREACH

Sarah is an Environmental Resource Specialist for Jefferson County Soil and Water. She is the lead on the Sandy Creeks Nine Element Plan currently in development in Jefferson and Oswego Counties and previously worked for the Indian River Lakes Conservancy as their Watershed Coordinator. Throughout her professional career she has been dedicated to water quality and youth education. Jefferson County SWCD's SW CARES programing mixes these two specialties into an interactive lesson both in and out of the classroom, explaining high-level concepts in a way local 4th graders can digest.



SARAH TRICK

## BLACK RIVER SIGNAGE

Nichelle Swisher is the District Manager of the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Chairperson for the Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. She is a native of Lewis County, has her Master's Degree in Biology-Aquatic Ecology (SUNY Brockport) and has over 24 years experience in soil and water and natural resource conservation. Mrs. Swisher served as the Project Manager for the Black River Watershed Management Plan and is part of the watershed steering committee assisting in organizing the Annual Black River Watershed Conference.



NICHELLE SWISHER



J.J. KÄTHE

## New York's Statewide Reforestation Planning Effort

As resiliency planting coordinator within the Climate Forestry & Carbon unit at NYSDEC, J.J. Käthe is seeking input from agencies and organizations across the state to create a reforestation plan. The plan will act as a roadmap to achieving the Climate Act Scoping Plan goal of establishing 1.7 million acres of new forest by 2040. J.J. has experience working in invasive species management, greenhouse operations, volunteer coordination, data processing, and emergency preparedness from work at non-profit organizations, in the private sector, and at DEC. She holds BA and MS degrees in Geography from SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Albany.

# CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS



New York Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts. Since 1986, NYSFOLA has partnered

with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to coordinate the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program. This program is the state's largest volunteer lake monitoring program with over 180 sites and 600 volunteers.



## Converse Laboratories Inc. (CLI)

We offer a wide variety of water and environmental testing services serving most of NNY. Testing is available for all entities, public and private.





**JOHN FRASER**

### **DUCKS AND BOBOLINKS CONTINUED**

John has been working in conservation throughout New York for over 25 years. He started with Ducks Unlimited in 2016, where he has been involved with in-lieu fee wetland mitigation projects in both New York and Vermont. John has worked on many facets of mitigation projects, including site identification, planning, construction, monitoring, and adaptive management.



**CASANDRA BUELL**

### **CLIMATE SMART LEWIS COUNTY**

A native of Lewis County, Casandra Buell is the Director of Community Development and Planning for Lewis County. In this roll, she is responsible for overseeing a variety of county-wide initiatives to include grant programs, infrastructure planning, public transportation, community development activities, and local law development. In recent months, her team has tackled water infrastructure development, broadband expansion, childcare augmentation, and a variety of facade and streetscape improvement projects.



**LAURYN TABOLT**

Lauryn is a Community Development Specialist in the Lewis County Planning & Community Development Department, where she began as an intern in 2021 and transitioned to a full-time role in 2022 following her graduation from Hobart & William Smith Colleges with a degree in Environmental Studies. Lauryn serves as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator for Lewis County, where she led the effort to collect the documentation needed to submit Lewis County's application for Bronze Certification in 2023.

### **JAPANESE KNOTWEED TREATMENT IN THE TOWN OF WEBB**



**GABRIELLE LEWOSKO**

Gabrielle Lewosko has been working for the Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District since October of 2021 as a Conservation Aide and was later promoted to Natural Resource Conservation Technician. She has been the lead of the Invasive Species Management program as a certified Pesticide Technician, hydroseeding, and educational events. She also works with our Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program.

Gabrielle Lewosko has been working for the Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District since October of 2021 as a Conservation Aide and was later promoted to Natural Resource

Alexis Sprague is the newest Natural Resource Conservation Technician for Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District. She graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with a



**ALEXIS SPRAGUE**

bachelor's in Environmental Management. She will be running our hydroseeding program, educational events, and helping run the invasive species management program. Alexis is working towards becoming a certified pesticide technician.



**JULIE MENANCON**

### **STORMWATER CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK STATE: WHERE ARE WE HEADED?**

Julie Melançon is the Green Energy Management Section Chief in NYSDEC's Division of Water. She oversees and manages the Division's portfolio of renewable energy projects statewide, coordinating with internal and external partners to progress New York State's renewable energy targets. Ms. Melançon has over 20 years of stormwater experience in both the public and private sectors. She is a member of the International Erosion Control Association and National Association of Environmental Professionals. She is also a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control.



## STORMWATER CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOLAR DEVELOPMENT IN NEW YORK STATE: WHERE ARE WE HEADED? CONTINUED



**BEN FIORESE**

Ben Fiorese is an Environmental Program Specialist at NYSDEC in the Division of Water's Green Energy Management Section (GEMS). He graduated from SUNY ESF in 2023 with a Bachelor's in Environmental Science, and currently assists with permitting and construction oversight of renewable energy facilities and transmission lines throughout the state.

### HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS IN THE BLACK RIVER BASIN: THE PROCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELICENSING THE THIRD-MOST HEAVILY DEVELOPED WATERSHED IN THE U.S."

Jessica Hart is the Regional Permit Administrator in the Division of Environmental Permits for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Region 6. Jessica manages the Region 6 permitting and project management program. She started working seasonally for the DEC with the Bureau of Wildlife in 1999, switched to the Bureau of Fisheries for several years, and then started a permanent Environmental Analyst 1 position with the Division of Environmental Permits in 2008. Jessica began shadowing the biologist that managed hydro relicensings for two DEC

regions around 2011 and is managing five hydro projects undergoing relicensing in the Black River watershed currently.



**JESSICA HART**

John Wiley is a Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service focusing on the restoration of natural river processes and fish passage through the regulation of federally licensed hydropower projects in New York State.

John engages diverse stakeholder groups including

the public, fishing groups, NGOs, States, other Federal agencies, and power



**JOHN WILEY**

## HYDROELECTRIC CONTINUED

companies to seek creative and science-based outcomes from the relicensing process. John received an M.P.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from SUNY-ESF and an M.S. in Forest Ecology from Ohio University and is an avid rock climber, mountaineer, and river wander.



**JASMINE JAMES**

## BLACK RIVER ADAPTIVE MODELING UPDATE

Ms. James is a staff scientist at Ramboll with experience in consulting and a wide range of water quality and watershed management projects. She graduated from Le Moyne College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in applied statistics. She has previously worked at Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) (Syracuse, NY) and EcoLogic LLC (Cazenovia, NY), an environmental consulting company. Notable environmental project work include alum treatment analysis in Cape Cod, Drinking Water Source Protection Programs (DWSP2), Nine Element Plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Integrated Watershed Action Plans (IWAPs).

## DUCKS AND BOBOLINKS: HABITAT RESTORATION ON THE KELLER MOHAWK PUBLIC CONSERVATION AREA

Linda Gibbs moved to the Tug Hill Region in 1995, and has served as Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust's Community Programs Director since 2018, facilitating and leading a wide variety of recreational and educational programs throughout the Tug Hill Region. The Keller Mohawk Hill PCA is one of her favorite places to visit, and she's looking forward to bringing people out to experience it in the coming years. Ms. Gibbs holds a B.S in Forestry and Wildlife Biology from SUNY CESF and a Master of Science Teaching degree from Antioch New England Graduate School.



**LINDA GIBBS**