

12th Annual

Black River

Watershed Conference

Sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council



Thank you to our Exhibit Sponsors:

STEERING COMMITTEE

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Organized through the efforts of:

Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Thomas Voss

Retired NYSDEC Environmental

2021 Black River Initiative Highlights

- 2021 Held 11th Annual Black River Watershed Conference (Virtual)
- 23 Volunteers participated in the Black River Trash Bash at Eatonville Falls, Marble Street Park & Lyons Falls
- SLELO PRISM completed the Black River Trail Feasibility Study to assess & prioritize invasive species
- 50 volunteers planted 50 trees in Watertown's Bicentennial Park through efforts coordinated by Tree Watertown
- Lewis County SWCD received over \$1M from NYS Ag. & Markets to assist three farms along the Black River to reduce runoff, protect drinking water, and improve habitat
- Beaver River Watershed residents became eligible for the septic replacement fund
- DEC completed a new fishing access site ADA compliant in the Town of Denmark
- Trout Unlimited received funding from the Beaver River Advisory Council to assess



HISTORY

OF THE BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

The 2022 Annual Black River Watershed Conference marks the event's 12th anniversary of bringing the latest research to watershed communities that not only ensure economic viability, but protect water quality at the same time.

The Black River Watershed Conference originated as a goal set forth in the 2010 Black River Watershed Management Plan authored with the cooperation of the Town of Greig as the municipal sponsor and funding from the NYS Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant Program, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Black River Advisory Council. The steering committee that helped put the watershed plan together included the NYS Tug Hill Commission, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District under the direction of Bergmann and Associates and 62 municipalities in the watershed. The Town of Greig was the recipient administrator of the LWRP funds.

In 2017, Emily Fell (NYSDEC and NYS Tug Hill Commission) coordinated an effort to update the watershed plan to integrate the US Environmental Protection Agencies 9 element requirements for watershed plans. The updated Black River 9 Element watershed plan helps prioritize projects that improve water quality in the Black River

We appreciate your feedback!

Please click on the QR code (right) using your phone's camera to fill out the Black River Watershed Conference



SCAN ME

12th Annual

Black River Watershed Conference

Sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council
June 8th, 2022 3 Willows Event Center, Lyons Falls NY

Agenda

Time	Program Topic	Presenter
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast, Registration & Exhibitor Networking	
9:00 -9:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County SWCD
	Black River Watershed Conference Committee	Thomas Voss, NYSDEC Retired
9:15 -10:15 AM	Soil and Water Conservation District Updates	
	Japanese Knotweed Control Demonstration	Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County SWCD
	MS4 General Permit Updates	George Birth, Jefferson County SWCD
	Agricultural BMP's for Water Quality Protection	Tim Wimmer, Oneida County SWCD
10:15 -10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 -11:30 AM	Community Updates	
	Friends of the Black River Overview & Goals	Heidi Lehman, Friends of the Black River
	Black River Trash Bash	Jennifer Harvill, NY Tug Hill Commission
	Salt Task Force	Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County SWCD
11:30 -12:00 PM	Open Forum Discussion	
12:00 -1:00 PM	Lunch & Exhibitor Networking	
1:00 - 1:40 PM	Municipal Culvert Replacement Using North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative	Jo-Anne Humphreys, Trout Unlimited
1:40 - 2:20 PM	NYSDEC's Water Quality Monitoring (RIBS) &	Keleigh Reynolds, NYSDEC
2:20 - 2:30 PM	Break	
2:30 - 3:10 PM	Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative	Robert Smith, SLELO PRISM
3:10 - 3:50 PM	Drinking Water Source Protection Program	Noreen Gallagher, NYSDOH
3:50 - 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks	
	Complete Survey (See QR Code Page 3)	

SPEAKERS

AT THE 12TH ANNUAL BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Nichelle Swisher, District Manager, Lewis County SWCD

Welcoming Remarks, Japanese Knotweed Control Demonstration & Green Infrastructure

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 20 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 will also speak about Japanese knotweed projects, green infrastructure, and give an update on the salt task force.

Jennifer Harvill, Nat. Resources and Community Dev. Director, NYS Tug Hill Commission

Welcoming Remarks, Black River Trash Bash

Jennifer Harvill was born and raised in New Hartford, New York and attended the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Much of her early work focused around GIS applications in land use and management applications in the New York City Watershed in both Ulster and Delaware Counties. Jennifer Harvill is the Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects Director at Tug Hill Commission where she has been working since 2007. In addition to welcoming remarks, Jennifer will provide an update on the Black River Trash Bash.

George Birth, Environmental Resource Engineer, Jefferson County SWCD

MS4 General Permit Updates

George Birth is the Environmental Resource Engineer for Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District. He graduated from Clarkson University with a civil engineering degree and has over five years of experience in stormwater management and design. His presentation will cover recent updates to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit.

Tim Wimmer, Resource Conservation Specialist, Oneida County SWCD

Agriculture Best Management Practices for Water Quality Protection

Tim Wimmer has 16 years of experience working for the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District and is currently the Resource Conservation Specialist, and Senior Agricultural point of contact, and is an AEM Certified Planner. He is involved with the design and implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's) on farms in the county. Tim will give an overview of BMP's installed on farms in Oneida and will discuss planning processes, designing the BMP's and implementation on farms to provide water quality protection.

SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Caitlin Stewart, District Manager, Hamilton County SWCD

Protecting Water Quality in the Black River Watershed with Green Infrastructure Innovation

Caitlin has been part of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District since 2003 where she interned, then served as the conservation educator, and now District Manager. Educational credentials include a MS in Geoscience, from UMass Amherst, and a BS in Environmental Science and Geography from SUNY Oneonta. She lives with her husband Matt, and their dog Artemis in Lake Pleasant where she enjoys outdoor adventures in the Adirondacks wild and beyond. Discover how Caitlin upholds the Conservation District's mission on promoting the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County by visiting www.hcswcd.com. Caitlin will give an update how stormwater pollution was prevented at Inlet's Arrowhead Park using cutting edge green infrastructure innovation.

Heidi Lehman - Friends of the Black River

Friends of the Black River Overview, Goals & Projects

Ms. Lehmann currently serves as a trustee for the Village of Castorland where she lives with her family. She holds a MBA from Empire State College and a bachelors degree from SUNY Potsdam. Ms. Lehman lived in France for seven years before moving back to the North Country where she became interested in travel narratives of turn-of-the century French émigrés, who traversed the Black River Valley. She will give a brief overview of the goals and projects of the Friends of the Black River group including the Castorland Journal, NYS Heritage grant funding opportunities, and historical encounters with indigenous groups.

Casandra Buell, Director of Planning and Community Development, Lewis County Planning Beaver River Septic Replacement Program

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. Casandra will provide an overview of the Septic Replacement Program and provide an update on projects within 250 feet of the Beaver River and Lower tributaries.

Emily Fell, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, NYSDEC, Cornell Water Resources Institute. Great Lakes Updates

Emily works as the Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator for the NYSDEC and Cornell Water Resources Institute. Her background is in natural resources management, and she received her B.S. from the SUNY ESF. She has been with the NYSDEC and Natural Heritage Trust in this role for 7 years prior to joining WRI, and works out of the Tug Hill Commission office. Emily enjoys working with communities and stakeholders to advance goals of NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda and the Black River Watershed 9 Element (9E) Plan, including water quality, natural resource management, invasive species, resiliency, and stewardship of recreational resources, and works closely with NY Sea Grant to

promote Great Lakes Literacy and Stewardship under the Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange . Emily will provide an overview of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA), ongoing efforts within the Black River watershed.

**Jo-Anne Humphreys, Stream Restoration Specialist, Trout Unlimited
Municipal Culvert Replacement Using the NAACC**

Jo-Anne Humphreys is the Stream Restoration Specialist for Trout Unlimited's Northeast Coldwater Habitat Program. Undersized road stream crossings frequently contribute to flooding, road closure, stream degradation and aquatic organism passage barriers. We will look at the causes and effects of undersized crossings and address methods to improve crossings for resiliency and passage.

**Keleigh Reynolds, Rotating Integrated Basin Studies Project Quality Assurance Officer,
NYSDEC, Water Quality Monitoring (RIBS) & Citizen Science Programs (CSLAP, WAVE)**

Keleigh Reynolds (Environmental Program Specialist) has been with DEC's stream section since early 2020, and has been a part of DEC's Division of Water since 2018. Keleigh is the coordinator of the WAVE program, and also contributes to the RIBS program organization and yearly roll out. This presentation will highlight the citizen and community monitoring programs that are a part of DEC's RIBS (Rotating Integrated Basin Studies) program. Objectives of the RIBS program are to assess water quality of all waters of the state. The presentation will discuss how the community and citizen science programs affect the RIBS cycle, and how the public can get involved in these programs.

**Robert Smith, Terrestrial Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator, SLELO PRISM
Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative**

Robert received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science from SUNY ESF with a focus in Forest Ecology. As the Terrestrial Restoration & Resiliency Coordinator, he assists a five county region (Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, and St. Lawrence) with the management of invasive species. The Urban Forest Sustainability Initiative Program is designed to help our communities sustain their urban forests by encouraging the following strategies: having a management plan, increasing tree species diversity, planting climate adaptable trees, implementing proper pest management, planting the right trees in the right places including native tree species that benefit native wildlife. Taking these steps enhances the resiliency of our urban forests against invasive pests and climate change.

**Noreen Gallagher, Environmental Analyst, NYS Department of Health
Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program (DWSWP2)**

Noreen Gallagher works at the Department of Health in the Bureau of Water Supply Protection. She joined the Department in June 2019. Noreen coordinates with regional DOH staff, Local Health Departments and municipalities to develop source water protection strategies and implementation at the local level. She continues to work with staff from DOH and DEC to support and develop resources for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. Co-presenter for the DWSP2 Presentation.

**Lindsey Drew, Environmental Analyst, NYSDEC
Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program (DWSWP2)**

Lindsey Drew works for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the Division of Water, starting in November 2021. Lindsey coordinates with DWSP2 technical assistance provider and supports program outreach. She also serves to support DEC and DOH in program implementation.

SPEAKERS CONTINUED

DWSP2 Program cont.: In 2021, DEC and DOH announced the new Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The goal of the program is for municipalities to create community-specific drinking water protection plans in a way that strengthens relationships, fosters collaboration, and engages stakeholders so that public drinking water sources are protected now and in the future. The state is seeking communities to work with a technical assistance provider, free of charge, to develop and initiate implementation of their drinking water source protection program. This webinar will go over the free technical assistance available, where to apply, resources available, and highlight previous communities that have gone through this process.

EXHIBITORS



Local North County Knowledge and Experience: The North Country is where we live, work, and cultivate life-long relationships. As locals, we understand the seasonal conditions and the construction methods required. We're familiar with the regulatory compliance requirements, from permitting to energy efficiency standards and much more. We have an extensive network and a respected reputation. With each unique design, AOK is incorporated into, we aim to strike a balance between environmental sustainability and developed efficiency. Address: 1580 US-11, Gouverneur, NY 13642. Email: kbender@aokengineering.com, or kmuray@aokengineering.com.



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