

9th Annual
Black River
Watershed Conference

The Black River Watershed Steering Committee

Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Jefferson and Oneida County
Soil and Water Conservation Districts
New York State Tug Hill Commission
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Sponsors

Black River Advisory Council

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Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center

HISTORY

OF THE BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

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 include 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.

In 2017, Emily Sheridan (NYSDEC and NYS Tug Hill Commission) spearheaded the effort to update the watershed plan to comply with the 9 Element Plan requirements of the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Black River Watershed is now eligible for federal funding to implement projects in the watershed that improve water quality.

The 2019 Annual Black River Watershed Conference marks the event's 9th anniversary of bringing the latest research and techniques to watershed communities that not only keep them economically viable but protect water quality at the same time.

The steering committee welcomes you and applauds your efforts in protecting the Black River Watershed. Clean water begins with you and we thank you for your time and effort to be here.

ALDERSGATE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

In 1945, the Executive Secretary of the Board of Education, Rev. S. Foster Walker took a map of New York State, located the section for the boundary lines of the Northern NY Conference and pinpointed the center with a 10 mile radius. He found it included Brantingham Lake and a small lake nearby named Pleasant Lake.

Conference Layman DeWitt C. LeFevre reminisced; the land was, "located on a small lake with sandy beaches, containing a good cement block farm house (built before 1940 and still being used today) and some small barn buildings, having large groves of tall pine trees and acres of flat, sandy land. This farm seemed ideal for our camp.

Purchased by the incorporated Board of Education of the Northern New York Conference of The United Methodist Church (now the Upper New York Conference) in 1946, the King Farm property at Brantingham, NY, fulfilled the dream of a place where lives could be changed. The property became Camp Aldersgate.

Between 1947 and 1948, the original Aldersgate buildings were erected. The Methodist Protestant Church that eventually became Aldersgate's chapel was moved from the Brantingham Four Corners to Aldersgate's grounds between 1958 and 1959. The church was built in 1880 and continued to be active until 1942 when the board dissolved it. During the summers of 1946-1948, the Rev. S. Foster Walker had helped reopen the church and served as the pastor on a voluntary basis. The church was finally abandoned and closed May 1949. Romola Walker wrote, the "little church was placed back in where the trees came out and it looked as if it had always been there."

Aldersgate has been operating for 67 years and is one of five camp and retreat centers owned and operated by the Upper New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Camp & Retreat Ministries is led by staff and volunteers, supervised by the Executive Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries and overseen by the Committee on Camp & Retreat Ministries.

9th Annual



Watershed Conference

June 4, 2019

Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center, Brantingham Road, Greig, NY

Sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council

Organized through efforts of the Lewis, Oneida, Hamilton, Jefferson and Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the NYS Tug Hill Commission and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6

Agenda

Time	Event	Other information
8:30-9:00	Continental Breakfast, Registration	Exhibitor Networking
9:00-9:15	Welcome, Introduction	Nichelle Swisher, Manager, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District Marilyn Patterson, Supervisor, Town of Greig
9:15-10:00	Soil and Water Conservation District Projects	<i>The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25 Year Perspective ~</i> Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD <i>MS4 Update ~</i> Christine Watkins, Jefferson County SWCD
10:00-10:15	Break	Refreshments and Exhibitors
10:15-11:15	Keynote Speaker	<i>The Great Lakes Compact, A Decade of Lesson Learned ~</i> Peter Annin, Director, Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater
11:15-12:00	Guest Speaker	<i>Road Salt Pollution of Surface and Groundwater Resources in the Adirondack Region ~</i> Dr. Dan Kelting, Adirondack Watershed Institute
12:00-1:00	Lunch Break	Optional Tour of Aldersgate at 12:30
1:00- 1:05	Speaker Introductions	Jennifer Harvill, Natural Resource Specialist, NYS Tug Hill Commission
1:05-1:45	Guest Speaker	<i>Hydroelectric Projects in the Black River Basin: The Process and Opportunities for Relicensing the Third-most Heavily Developed Watershed in the U.S. ~</i> John Wiley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1:45-2:30	Guest Speaker	<i>Geologic Natural History of the Black River Watershed ~</i> Dr. Chris Ebey, Jefferson Community College
2:30-2:45	Break	Refreshments and Exhibitors
2:45-3:30	Guest Speaker	<i>The Ecological Cost of Convenience: Plastic Pollution Along the Shore and in the Foodwebs of Lake Ontario ~</i> Dr. Eric Hellquist, SUNY Oswego
3:30-3:45	Closing Remarks	Hand in survey

SPEAKERS

AT THE 9TH ANNUAL BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Nichelle Swisher – Introductions

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.

Marilyn Patterson-Town of Greig Supervisor

Marilyn Patterson grew up in New Hartford, NY Spending summers at Brantingham Lake. She was married and moved to Greig in 1970, and bought their house in Greig 1979. She worked for Jefferson-Lewis BOCES for 35 years. Marilyn received her Associates Degree in Business Administration in 1995 while bringing up 2 children. In 1994 she took a position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. From 2001 to 2005 she served as a town Councilwoman, then took the seat of Supervisor for the Town of Greig to present, running for another 2 year period in 2020.

Caitlin Stewart

Title: "The State of Hamilton County Lakes: a 25 Year Perspective"

Caitlin Stewart was born in New Hartford, N.Y., and has been awestruck by the Adirondacks her entire life, as she spent family vacations at her grandparents' camps on Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake. After receiving a BS in Environmental Science and Geography from SUNY Oneonta and a MS in Geoscience from UMass Amherst, she began her career as a Conservation Educator at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2008. In 2019, Caitlin became the District Manager. She lives with her husband, Matt, and their dog, Artemis, in Lake Pleasant. Caitlin stokes her life with outdoor adventures in the Adirondack wild and beyond.

Christine Watkins

Title: "MS4 Update"

Christine Watkins obtained her Bachelor of Science, Agronomy degree at Cornell University. She began her SWCD career as a Conservation Technician in Lewis County, where she worked for nearly ten years. In 2000, she accepted an Agronomist/Nutrient Management Planner position with Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District. Christine is a Certified Crop Advisor and AEM Certified Nutrient Management Planner. In 2013, she became the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PETER ANNIN

Title: "The Great Lakes Compact, A Decade of Lessons learned."



Peter Annin is the Director of the **Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation** and the author of **The Great Lakes Water Wars**, the definitive work on the Great Lakes water diversion controversy. Before coming to Northland College in 2015, Peter served as a reporter at Newsweek, the associate director of the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources, and the managing director of the University of Notre Dame's Environmental Change Initiative. He continues to report on the Great Lakes water diversion issue and published the second edition of the Great Lakes Water Wars in the fall of 2018.

SPEAKERS CONTINUED

Dr. Dan Kelting, Paul Smith's College

Title: "*Road Salt Pollution of Surface and Groundwater Resources in the Adirondack Region*"

Dr. Kelting has been the Executive Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College since 2003. Dan received his Ph.D. in Forest Soils from Virginia Tech and he also holds an A.A.S. in Forest Technology, a B.S. in Resource Management, and an M.S. in Forestry. Under his leadership, the AWI has developed the largest water quality monitoring and aquatic invasive species programs in the Adirondacks. Dan grew up in Malone, NY, just 30 miles north of Paul Smith's. Being from an avid outdoor family who spent countless days enjoying the woods and waters of the Adirondack Park, he developed a strong connection to the region and its natural resources.

Jennifer Harvill, NYS Tug Hill Commission

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 has been a Natural Resources Specialist at the Tug Hill Commission since 2007 and has been working on many different projects with the communities on Tug Hill. She lives outside of Watertown with her husband and three teenage sons. She enjoys fishing, camping, gardening and canning in her free time.

John Wiley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Title: "Hydroelectric Projects in the Black River Basin: The Process and Opportunities for Relicensing the Third-most Heavily Developed Watershed in the U.S."

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. His work in the Black River was recently featured in a special publication by the Department of Energy highlighting test-cases for dealing with the large number of new licenses to be issued in the next decade. John engages diverse stakeholder groups including the public, fishing groups, NGOs, States, other Federal agencies, and power 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.

Dr. Chris Ebey, Jefferson Community College

Title: "Geologic Natural History of the North Country and Black River Watershed"

Chris Ebey, PhD, grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois at Chicago for her degrees in mathematics (BS) and geology (MS.) She was a School of Aquatic Sciences scholar and did her PhD and postdoctoral research in Europe. She returned to teach geology at University of Illinois at Chicago. Six years ago she became the geology professor at Jefferson Community College.

C. Eric Hellquist, SUNY Oswego

Title: "The Ecological Cost of Convenience: Plastic Pollution Along the Shore and in the Foodwebs of Lake Ontario"

C. Eric Hellquist is an ecologist and an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the State University of New York at Oswego. He works in aquatic and wetland ecosystems. He studies invasive cattails and their impacts on native communities in the Lake Ontario watershed. Farther afield, he studies the ecology and diversity of the aquatic flora of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He and his students also have been researching the "ecology of plastics" in and along Lake Ontario. This work has focused on microplastics in the diet of preyfish and salmon as well as the deposition of macroplastics along the shoreline.

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EXHIBITORS

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NYSDEC Great Lakes Program - Emily Sheridan

The mission of NYSDEC's (non-regulatory) Great Lakes Program is to protect, restore, conserve and enhance the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters and associated natural resources within the Great Lakes basin for sustainable use and enjoyment by the people of New York. The Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) is a collaborative, integrated action plan that can be used in planning, funding and tracking projects that achieve priority goals for environmental quality, natural resource conservation, and sustainability/resiliency within NY's Great Lakes communities.

Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator-Nicole Saavedra

The Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) coordinates the work of binational governments and partners to protect, restore, assess, and monitor the Lake Ontario ecosystem, and achieve Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement commitments to restore it's health. DEC Environmental Program Specialists work within the Great Lakes Program to implement the LAMP's in NY's Great Lakes basin