

Eighth Annual

Black River
Watershed Conference

Camp Turk

8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Black River

Woodgate, NY 13494

Watershed Conference

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Sign-in, Vendors/Exhibitors and Networking
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<i>Welcome</i> ~ Conference Master of Ceremonies ~ Thomas Voss, Regional Permit Administrator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6. <i>Introduction</i> by Host County ~ Jo-Anne Humphreys, Oneida County Soil & Water Conservation District
9:15 am - 10:30 am	<i>Soil and Water Conservation District Projects</i> ◆ <i>Streambank Restoration in Oneida County</i>- Jo-Anne Humphreys, Water Quality Specialist, Oneida County SWCD ◆ <i>Natural Channel Design</i> - Catilin Stewart, Conservation Educator, Hamilton County SWCD ◆ <i>Soil Health and Stabilization</i> - Nichelle Billhardt, District Manager, Lewis County SWCD ◆ <i>Stormwater and MS4 Update</i> - Christine Watkins, Executive Director, Jefferson County SWCD ◆ <i>Invasive Species Management</i> - Katie Whitcomb, Natural Resource Conservation Technician, Herkimer County SWCD
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am - noon	KEYNOTE - <i>Changing Weather in a Changing Climate</i> ~ David Eichorn, Meteorologist
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Optional <i>Tour of Camp Turk</i> - Andy Croniser, Site Manager, Camp Turk
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	<i>A Winter Balancing Act: Salt, Snow, and Safety On Our Roads</i> ~ David Orr, Director/Senior Extension Associate, Cornell Local Roads Program
1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	<i>National Weather Service Flood Warning Services for the Black River Basin</i> ~ Sarah Jamison, Senior Service Hydrologist, NWS; Dan Kelly, Observing Program Leader, NWS; and Jeane Wallace, Senior Hydrologist, NWS Northeast River Forecast Center
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	<i>Connecting Habitat in the Black River Valley and Beyond</i> ~ Alissa Rafferty, Wildlife Connectivity Project Manager, The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter; Linda Garrett, Executive Director, Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Closing Remarks

***The Black River Watershed Conference is organized by the Herkimer, Hamilton,
Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts,
NYS Tug Hill Commission and the
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 6.***

Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

Black River Advisory Council

The Black River Watershed Conference is sponsored by the Black River Advisory Council (BRAC-2). The council, made up of various interests in the Black River corridor, was formed out of the Offer of Settlement for the Black River Project (FERC No. 2569) and the Beebee Island Project (FERC No. 2538). The council oversees a fund designed for projects the promote ecosystem restoration and protection, natural resource stewardship, public education, facility maintenance, and applied research necessary to accomplish these projects and provide these services and additional public access to outdoor recreational resources not currently agreed to by licensees. The conference organizers wish to thank and recognize the contributions of the BRAC-2. It is this monetary contribution from the BRAC fund that provides the field trip portion of the conference at no cost to our participants. For more information, contact Dick McDonald, BRAC's Chair at (315) 785-2264 or richard.mcdonald@dec.ny.gov.

BRAC-2



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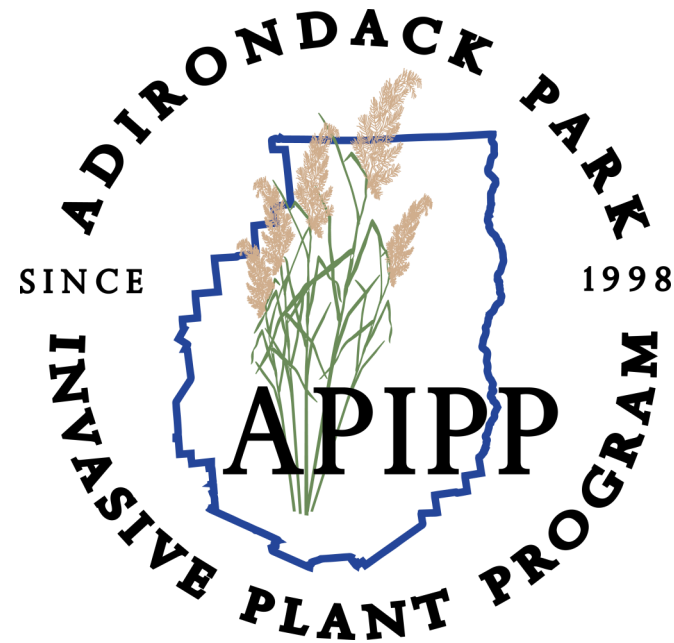
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Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) serves as the Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), one of eight PRISMs across New York State. APIPP's mission is to protect the Adirondack region from the negative impacts of invasive species and is a partnership program founded by The Nature Conservancy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Transportation and New York State Adirondack Park Agency. Since its founding in 1998 the program has grown to include more than 30 cooperating partner organizations, and over 700 volunteers. Funding for the program is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. For more information, please contact Brendan R. Quirion Adirondack Invasive Species Program Manager at bquirion@tnc.org or call (518) 576-2082 or visit our website at www.adkinvasives.com.



NEW YORK'S GREAT LAKES BASIN: *Interim* ACTION AGENDA



Coordinated by
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Great Lakes Watershed Program

*In partnership with state and federal agencies, municipalities, academic institutions,
non-profits, and community partners throughout NYS's Great Lakes basin*



Andrew M. Cuomo - Governor



Joe Martens - Commissioner

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Great Lakes Program

Emily Sheridan is the Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Program. The program seeks to foster collaboration and promote an ecosystem based management approach to achieve goals related to water quality, natural resources, sustainability, recreation and resiliency within NY's Great Lakes basin, as identified in NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda. To learn more or to request assistance from the program, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html> or email emily.sheridan@dec.ny.gov.

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER



David ("Dave") Eichorn is a Meteorologist with over 30 years of experience, just retired from television in April 2016. As a Meteorologist, Dave has won awards for severe weather coverage of the superstorm of March 1993, Hurricane Gloria, and for educating the public in the science of Meteorology.

While Dave is most widely known for his weather broadcasts on television, he has also expanded his work into lecturing and education, teaching at a number of colleges across Central New York.

Dave is a visiting professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry where he teaches Introductory Meteorology and Environmental Meteorology. He is a full member of the American Meteorological Society. He has a specialized background in meso-scale (small scale) atmospheric modeling and lake effect snow forecasting.

Dave has a B.S. degree in Environmental Science from the SUNY Empire State College and a Master's degree in Environmental Science from SUNY ESF. In 2011 Dave was presented the SUNY Chancellor's award for academic excellence. While working on his master's degree, he developed climate science courses for SUNY ESF under a NASA grant. Part of his course work involves educational outreach.

Since January 2006, Dave has given dozens of talks and presentations on climate change with a meteorological perspective to thousands of Central New Yorkers. Dave has worked with SUNY-ESF speaking with Syracuse City School District students at the "SUNY-ESF/SCSD Environmental Challenge" science fair and in 2008, moderated SUNY-ESF's seminar series "CNY's Response to Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges" working with community leaders across all of Central New York on local efforts toward the mitigation of our carbon footprint. He is focused on global weather patterns and potential regional weather impacts as a result of climate change.

Conference Host and Speaker Biographies

Thomas Voss – Conference Master of Ceremonies

Tom is currently the Regional Permit Administrator for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Region 6. Tom started his career with DEC in 1985 working in the Fish and Wildlife unit in Utica. He worked in several different divisions within Region 6 since that time and has a broad understanding of the department's programs.

Nichelle Billhardt – Conference Speaker

Nichelle Billhardt 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 has her Master's Degree in Biology-aquatic ecology and has over 18 years experience in soil and water and natural resources conservation. Ms. Billhardt 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.

Jo-Anne Humphreys – Conference Speaker

Jo-Anne is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control at the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District. She has 22 years of experience with the district and specializes in stormwater and stream restoration issues.

Caitlin Stewart – Conference Speaker

Born in New Hartford, NY, Caitlin Stewart was 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 in 2008 as a Conservation Educator at the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2008. She lives with her husband, Matt, in Lake Pleasant. Caitlin stokes her life with outdoor adventures and enjoys camping, biking, hiking, paddling, snowshoeing, skiing, and yoga in the Adirondack wild and beyond.

Katherine Whitcomb – Conference Speaker

Christine Watkins – Conference Speaker

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.

Conference Host and Speaker Biographies

David Orr - Conference Speaker

David P. Orr, PE, PhD. is Director / Senior Engineer for the Cornell University Local Roads Program, the New York State LTAP Center. With over 30 years in the local highway community, David has experiences covering the gamut from the field to the office and from storms to sunny days. He has a broad range of expertise and experience in highway engineering and construction, including design, inspection, project management, purchasing, budgeting and supervision. David interacts with local, state and national partners and works closely with CLRP customers and provides technical assistance to highway and public works officials in New York State. He is the Acting President of the NLTAPA, the association of 52 LTAP & TTAP Centers located across the county. Before joining the Program, he worked for eight years at the Yates County Highway Department. He is a licensed professional engineer in New York State and has Ph.D. on low-volume roads from Cornell University.

Alissa Rafferty - Conference Speaker

Alissa Rafferty is the Wildlife Connectivity Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter. She leads local efforts—ranging from wildlife tracking to transportation planning—for the Staying Connected Initiative, a regional group of partners maintaining and enhancing forest connections from New York to Maine and into Canada. Alissa, a Lake Placid resident, grew up in the Adirondacks and graduated from St. Lawrence University with a degree in Biology and Environmental Studies. Before coming to The Nature Conservancy in 2010, she studied loons in Wisconsin, tropical birds in the Peruvian Amazon, and invasive insects in Montana.

Linda Garrett - Conference Speaker

Conference Host and Speaker Biographies

Dan Kelly - Conference Speaker

Dan is the Observing Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Buffalo, NY. He is originally from Minnesota, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Atmospheric Science at Iowa State University in Ames, IA. Mr. Kelly started work for the NWS in Des Moines, IA his senior year of college, then moved to central Illinois and finally Buffalo, NY. As an Observing Program Leader, his primary duties are collection and quality control of numerous sources of meteorological and hydrological data, as well as the management of nearly 70 volunteer weather observers as a part of the NWS Coop Observer (Coop) Program. Observations from some of these Coop sites have been taken daily for well over one hundred years, and is used to define and to track changes in our climate. Additionally, he coordinates with other Federal, State and Local Governments to obtain data to improve river and flash flood forecasting.

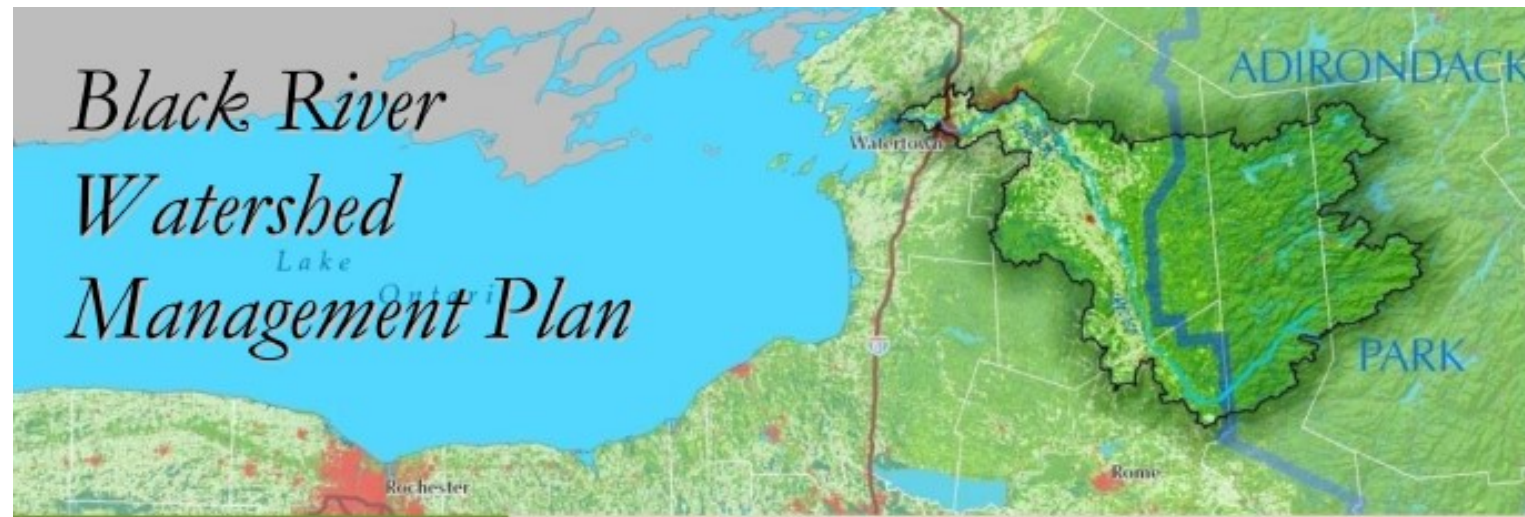
Jeane Wallace - Conference Speaker

Jeane is a senior hydrologist for the Northeast River Forecast Center (NERFC), part of the National Weather Service, in Norton, Massachusetts. She is a Massachusetts native, having grown up along the south coast near the Cape Cod Canal. She received a Bachelor's degree in meteorology from Cornell University, and a Master's degree in Atmospheric Science from Texas A&M University. While a graduate student, she was a summer intern at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. She later held positions within the National Weather Service at Oklahoma City and Norman, Oklahoma, and at the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center in State College, Pennsylvania. She has been at the NERFC for over 16 years. As a senior hydrologist, her responsibilities include leading the forecast team in producing hydrologic model inputs (temperature and precipitation forecasts) and running the hydrologic model to produce forecasts of river and reservoir levels and flows. In addition, she is the leader of the NERFC Modeling Team, which is responsible for the calibration, maintenance and improvement of the models used in forecast operations. Her focal point area within the NERFC domain is the Great Lakes drainage of New York.

Sarah Jamison - Conference Speaker

Ms. Jamison is a hydrologist for the National Weather Service Office's in Cleveland Ohio and Buffalo New York. Born in Maine, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Meteorology and a minor in Hydrology from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne Florida. Ms. Jamison has worked at the National Weather Service Offices in Missouri, North Carolina, and Ohio where she has been for the last seven years. Her responsibilities as Service Hydrologist is to warn the public of potential flooding. National Weather Service flood warnings are driven by our ability to monitoring streams, rivers and rainfall. In her career Sarah has led numerous major flood events, most recently the major flooding in Findlay Ohio in July and support during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. She supports NOAA's role in focusing on the harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie by sharing forecasts and promoting information on the NWS webpage. Her role as coordinator between the National Weather Service and the public and core partners is a critical key to reducing the risk to life and property during significant flood events.

Black River Watershed Management Plan



WHY PREPARE A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The purpose of the Black River Watershed Management Plan is to examine the existing physical and regulatory conditions of the natural and built environments within the Black River watershed, identify those factors negatively impacting water quality, and recommend strategies that focus on the protection and improvement of water quality in the watershed.

Preparation of the Black River Watershed Management Plan began in 2007 and was coordinated by the Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District and overseen by a Project Advisory Committee, which included numerous agencies and stakeholders from each of the Black River counties. Additionally, a variety of forums and outreach mechanisms were used to engage interested persons in the development and preparation of the Black River Watershed Management Plan. Funding was provided from two Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grants to the Town of Greig and matching funds from the Black River Advisory Committee Fund and NYS Senator Griffo. A National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant was also secured by the Tug Hill Commission.

THE BLACK RIVER WATERSHED

The Black River drains approximately 1.2 million acres of the western slopes of the Adirondack Mountains and the eastern edge of the Tug Hill Plateau before emptying into Lake Ontario near Watertown. The Adirondack portion of the watershed is drained, for the most part, by two large watercourses – the Beaver River and the Moose River – and several smaller tributaries such as the Independence River, Otter Creek, and Woodhull Creek. The Tug Hill region of the Black River watershed, however, is characterized predominantly by numerous small tributaries flowing over steep slopes. As a whole, there are approximately 4,000 miles of rivers and streams within the watershed, as well as more than 500 lakes and ponds covering approximately 35,000 acres within 19 distinct subwatersheds. This heavily forested region exhibits a variety of ecological conditions related to differences in climate, topography, dominant vegetation, land cover, soil, geology, and hydrology.



Subwatersheds
of the Black
River watershed

