



NYFOA
New York Forest Owners Association

Adirondack Regional Conference
September 30, 2023
Tupper Lake Middle-High School
Tupper Lake, Franklin County, NY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

8:00 am - 8:30 am **Registration and refreshments**

8:30 am - 8:45 am **Welcome**

8:45 am - 9:45 am **Session #1: Moose of NY** – James Stickles. This presentation will provide information about the natural history, biology, re-introduction, and management of Moose in the Adirondacks.

James Stickles is a Region 5 Big Game Biologist with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He is responsible for big game management in the northern Adirondack Counties of NY, specializing in Moose and other wildlife and game species. He holds a BS degree in Wildlife Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a MS degree in Forest and Natural Resource Management from the University of Georgia. He started his career with the Florida Fish and Wildlife service and has been with the NYS DEC since 2016. He is a native of Keesville, Essex County, NY.

9:45 am - 10:45 am **Session #2: Planting for Pollinators** – Lacey Smith. This presentation will provide information on how pollinators provide vital ecosystem services and food security. Unfortunately, pollinators are in decline and face many challenges, such as pressure from invasive species and habitat loss. Information will be provided on how to support native pollinators and the NRCS programs that benefit pollinators in woodlands, and information about native trees and shrubs that are highly beneficial to native pollinators.

Lacey Smith is the Northeast Regional Partner Biologist with Pollinator Partnership (P2). She works in joint capacity with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to promote, coordinate, and implement conservation efforts that relate to pollinator conservation on private lands. Lacey also provides pollinator related educational outreach and training to NRCS staff, producers, partners, and landowners. Lacey has a BA in Environmental Geoscience and MS in Forestry from West Virginia University.

10:45 am - 11:00 pm **Break**

11:00am - 12:15 pm **Session #3: Forest Carbon Markets Panel** – Jessica Bakowski & Chris Zimmerman.

These presentations will provide information about the history of the forest carbon markets, background on how the carbon trading and offset system works, the climate benefits of carbon sequestration/storage, and the forest carbon market opportunities for private forest owners with their respective organizations.

Jessica Bakowski is the New England Regional Forester for Forest Carbon Works. She holds an MS degree in natural resource management from the SUNY ESF and has over 10 years of experience in conservation and forest management planning. She is an SAF Certified Forester and has worked extensively with both state agencies and private landowners to help facilitate sustainable land management. She currently lives in northern Vermont.

Chris Zimmerman is a Forest Restoration Strategy Lead with the Nature Conservancy in New York. The Nature Conservancy together with the American Forest Foundation developed the carbon accounting methodology used by the Family Forest Carbon Program; Chris coordinates this program in NY. He has been an ecologist with The Nature Conservancy for over twenty years and currently works on natural climate solution strategies. Chris has a bachelors degree from Evergreen State College and a Masters degree from Wright State University with a focus in forest ecology and forestry.

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Session #4: NY Forestry Issues & Opportunities – Jason Drobnack. This presentation will provide information and updates on: *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act* - priorities for forests, the opportunities for forest owners, and how forest management fits into NYS climate goals; *Regenerate NY and NY Connects Grant* – metrics of the program, successes and challenges, how can we get increased adoption, and how the \$60 million NY Connects Grant will help forest owners; *Federal Investments in Forest Stewardship* – Inflation Reduction Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and historic investment in the Forest Stewardship Program.

Jason Drobnack is the Section Chief for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Private Lands, Utilization and Climate Forestry Section. The section is responsible for private forestry programs, including 480-a and Regenerate NY, to assist private forest landowners in sustainably managing their forest resource for the long term. Prior to holding this position, Jason was a private and public lands forester working out of the DEC office in Stamford, NY.

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Break - End of Raffle & Silent Auction

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm Session #5: Estate Planning for Forest Landowners Panel

Estate & Legacy Planning Toolbox – Nick Jensen. This presentation will provide information on the core concepts of estate planning, the importance of an estate plan and the concerns one will address, an overview of the types of ownership structures that can be set up for a property to effectuate transfer of ownership, with specific emphasis on forming a Limited Liability Corporation. All with a specific focus on forestland ownership.

Nick Jensen is a Wealth Advisor with Mercer Advisors in Rochester, NY. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Financial Planner. Nick has 30 years of experience in public accounting, corporate finance, and wealth advisory services, specializing in helping landowners. He has a bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and holds a JSM degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Nick is a NYFOA member and currently serves on the Board of Directors, also serving as Treasurer on the Executive Committee. He owns a farm and forest in the Finger Lakes.

Preserving your Forest Legacy, Planning Tool Options and Conservation Easements – Megan Stevenson. This presentation will provide information about options that are available to landowners to protect and preserve the legacy they created for their land with a land trust or conservancy besides intergenerational transfer or sale of the property. It will cover what it is involved in bequeathing a property to a trust in fee, bequeathing or selling a conservation easement, and what the benefits, liabilities, and responsibilities are with these transactions, including what might be involved in setting up lifetime use when pursued prior to passing.

Megan leads all aspects of land protection for the Adirondack Land Trust, working primarily with private landowners to conserve forests, waters, farms, and wild places. She was born and raised in Northeast Pennsylvania and spent summers in the Adirondacks on Balfour Lake in Minerva, near where her mother grew up. Megan earned a BA in Environmental Studies from George Washington University and an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University. Before joining the Adirondack Land Trust, Megan worked for The Conservation Fund in Pennsylvania for several years. She now lives in Saranac Lake with her husband, son and two dogs and enjoys spending time outdoors.

4:15 pm

Adjourn