



**NYFOA**  
New York Forest Owners Association

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**Hudson Valley Regional Conference**  
**September 9, 2023**  
**Columbia-Greene Community College**  
**Hudson, Columbia County, NY**

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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: Black Bears of NY** – Seth Liddle. Seth will be explaining the natural history, biology, and management of black bears and how people can avoid conflicts with them.

Seth Liddle is a Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Technician with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. He is responsible for addressing nuisance wildlife issues and assisting with general wildlife management in Albany and Schenectady County. He has worked on various projects that includes work with hellbenders, timber rattlesnakes, furbearers, waterfowl and upland game birds across many wildlife management areas in Region 4. He holds an Associates degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology from SUNY Cobleskill.

**9:45 am - 10:45 am**     **Session #2: Planting for Pollinators** – Lacey Smith. Lacey will discuss 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. Lacey will share information on how to support native pollinators and the NRCS programs that benefit pollinators in woodlands. Lacey will also share information on 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 - 12:00 pm**     **Session #3: NY Forestry Issues & Opportunities** – Jason Drobnack. Jason will be providing 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.

**12:00 pm - 1:15 pm**    **Lunch**

**1:15 pm - 2:45 pm**    **Session #4: Forest Carbon Markets Panel** – Jessica Bakowski & Sierra Giraud.

Jessica will be presenting information about the forest carbon market/income opportunity for private forest owners with Forest Carbon Works.

Sierra will be presenting information about the forest carbon market/income opportunity for private forest owners with the Family Forest Carbon Program.

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.

Sierra Giraud is the Senior Forestry Manager for the Family Forest Carbon Program with the American Forest Foundation. She aids consulting foresters and landowners in understanding and representing the Family Forest Carbon Program for the northeastern region. She has a BS degree in natural resource management from SUNY ESF. She has worked in private timberland management across New England and is a native of and now lives in Central NY.

**2:45 pm - 3 :00 pm**    **End of Raffle & Silent Auction**

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**    **Afternoon Sessions:**

**3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**    **Option #1: Estate Planning for Forest Landowners Panel**

**Estate & Legacy Planning Toolbox** – Nick Jensen

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. He has a Bachelors 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 – Bob Davis**

Bob is the Chief Executive Officer of the Winnakee Land Trust, a not-for-profit organization specializing in the long-term protection and stewardship of private forest lands in New York State. Bob brings a forester's perspective to the land trust community and translates the importance of active stewardship and sustainable forest management to traditional land conservation. He has over 35 years of experience in government, consulting, academia, and now non-profit land protection and stewardship, and brings a unique perspective on the conservation of Family Forest Lands. He is the former Director of Forest Properties at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry responsible for the management of 26,000 acres of forest land; former principal of Forestry Advisors, LLC consulting firm; and began his career in the Hudson Valley as a NYSDEC Forester. He has BS in Forest Resource Management and MS in Forest Ecosystem Science from SUNY ESF.

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Option 2#: Woods Walk – Tour of the grounds of Olana State Historic Site.** Once the home of well-known painter, world traveler, self-taught architect, farmer, and landscape designer Fredric Church, Olana overlooks the Hudson River. The 250-acre naturalistic landscape is considered one of Frederic Church's greatest works of art and is one of the most intact artist-designed landscapes in the United States. This composition included a working and ornamental farm, meadows, an artificial lake, native woodlands, and five miles of carriage roads. The mission of the Olana Partnership is to inspire the public by preserving and interpreting Frederic Church's Olana.

**Website:** <https://www.olana.org/>

**Location:** 5720 Route 9G, Hudson, NY 12534

**Directions from CGCC:** Gather at the Conference Registration table before departing CGCC.

Left/West on Route 23 towards the Village of Catskill. Enter the traffic circle before the Rip Van Winkle Bridge over the Hudson River. Take the first exit on to Route 9G South. Olana is on the left one mile south of the circle.

**4:30 pm**

**Adjourn at Conference Venue**