

Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference - DRAFT AGENDA



February 4-6, 2026 • Water's Edge Resort • Westbrook, CT

Pre-Conference Workshop: Feb. 3, 12:30-5 p.m. and Feb. 4, 9-11:30 a.m. (Preregistration required)

Location TBD

EPT Taxa Identification Workshop: Orders Ephemeroptera (mayflies), Plecoptera (stoneflies), and Trichoptera (caddisflies)

Steven Burian, Emeritus Professor, Southern Connecticut State University

Wednesday, February 4

12:00	Registration			Westbrook Prefuction
	Invasive Plants Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Estuary Long-Term Monitoring Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Temperature and Seasonal Monitoring Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
1:00	Successful Control of Four Invasive Aquatic Plants in a Connecticut Lake Summer Weidman, CT Agricultural Experiment Station Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.	Seeing Clearly, Acting Strategically: The Role of Monitoring in Connecticut's Nutrient Management Evolution Kelly Streich, CT DEEP Kathleen Knight, CT DEEP	Long-term Temperature Trends in Rivers and Streams Across Connecticut Mary Becker, CTDEEP Alexander Towle, CTDEEP	
1:30	Tracking the Spread of Connecticut River Hydrilla Greg Bugbee, CT Agricultural Experiment Station	Advancing Hydrologic Risk Assessment Under Climate Change Greg Stewart, USGS	Effects of Temperature on Stream Periphyton Communities and Assessment in Maine Adam Pepi, ME DEP	
2:00	Invasive Plant Management and Rare Aquatic Plants: Strategies to Mitigate and Prevent Loss of Desirable Species Alejandro Reyes, GEI Consultants	Bridging the Gap from Headwaters to Coast: In-Stream Nutrient Monitoring in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed Michael Colombo, USGS	Status Update on Regional Monitoring Networks (RMNs), with a Focus on Thermal Sensitivities of Stream Macroinvertebrates in Northeast and MidAtlantic States Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech, Inc.	

Updated 12.15.2025

Wednesday, February 4

2:30	Break		Pre-function Space
	Macroinvertebrates as Bioindicators Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Cyanobacteria/HAB Monitoring/Mitigation Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	WQ Monitoring Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
3:00	Investigating the Use of Benthic Macroinvertebrates to Identify Cold Water Streams in Massachusetts Timothy Gardner, Mass DEP	Building and Calibrating an Alum Dosing Station to Reduce HABs in an Urban Lake Carl Nielsen, TRC Environmental Corp.	
3:30	Evaluating the SNEP Low Gradient Macroinvertebrate IBI with Data From Connecticut Streams...Again Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP	Benthic HAB Monitoring in New York State Keleigh Reynolds, NYSDEC	Water Quality and Greenhouse Gas Dynamics in Beaver-Modified Ecosystems: Seasonal and Spatial Trends Across Southern New England Lev Becker, UCONN
4:00	Deicing Salt Contamination Contributes to Loss of Diversity in Urban Stream Benthic Invertebrate Communities in Vermont Eric Moody, Middlebury College	Investigating Organic Toxins Produced by HABs and Effects of Algicides on Algae Toxins in New Jersey Aquatic Environments Shuting Liu, Kean University	The Value of Sustained, Long-Term Monitoring of Fish Assemblages in the Kennebec River is About to be Realized: Planned Reconnection of 800 Miles of Habitat Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiversity Institute David Courtemanch, The Nature Conservancy Maine
4:30 - 6:30	Exhibitor & Poster Session Royal Ballroom		
6:00 - 7:00	NEAEB Meeting Stannard Room		

Thursday, February 5

7:30	Breakfast			Royal Ballroom
8:45	Words of Welcome Presenter, NEIWPCC Commissioner, CT Presenter, CT DEEP Westbrook Ballroom			
9:15	Plenary Session Andrew Fisk, PhD, Northeast Regional Director at American Rivers Westbrook Ballroom			
10:15	Break			Pre-function Space
	Groundwater Monitoring & Assessment Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Emerging Contaminants Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 1 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
10:45	The NYS Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program Redesign: Selecting Water Quality Parameters to Generate Meaningful Data Giancarlo Coppola, NYS DEC	An analysis of PFAS Levels in New Hampshire’s River Trend Network Ted Walsh, NH DES	Compilation and Application of Lake Sediment Diatom Core Samples from Lakes of the Northeast Benjamin Block, Tetra Tech	
11:15	The NYS Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program Redesign: Programmatic Goals and Sampling Design Chase Novello, NEIWPCC/NYS DEC	6PPD–Quinone Concentrations in Streams Following Rainstorms Tom Danielson, ME DEP	Assigning Northeast Lakes to Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) Levels Based on Lake Sediment Diatom Communities Jen Stamp, Tetra Tech	
12:00	Lunch Royal Ballroom			
	Coastal Acidification Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Sediment Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 2 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
1:30	Coastal Acidification Monitoring in Long Island Sound Tributaries and Embayments in near-bottom Environments Gina Groseclose, USGS	Layers of Impact: Testing How Added Sediment Depth Alters Salt Marsh Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in a 7-year Field Experiment Carly Shaw, UCONN	The Neotoma Paleoecology Database: A Resource for Lake Management Don Charles, Drexel University	

Thursday, February 5

	Hold for Federal Presentations Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Sediment Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Diatoms 2 Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
2:00	Monthly Measurements of Carbonate System Parameters in Long Island Sound Reveal Hypercapnia as an Additional Stressor to the Western Sound Erich Nitchke, UCONN	Development of a Sediment Quality Evaluation Tool for Screening-Level Risk Assessment Grace Hoeckele, CT DEEP	Lake Bioassessment Panel Discussion Mary Becker, CT DEEP Kellie Merrell, VT DEC
2:30	Break Pre-function Space		
	Biological Monitoring Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Community Science Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Enhancing Habitats for Biota Ballroom C Moderator: TBD
3:00	Biological Assessment in the Littoral Zone: Macroinvertebrates as Indicators of Lake Shoreland Disturbance Jeremy Deeds, ME DEP	An Overview of Connecticut Lake Watch and Associated Web-Based Mapping Applications Melissa Czarnowski, CT DEEP	The Science and Management of Forest Insect Pest Outbreaks in Riparian-Stream Ecosystems Courtney Larson, VT DEC
3:30	Implementing Biocriteria for Water Quality Protection in Maine: 40 Years of Innovation and New Horizons Jeanne DiFranco, ME DEP	Tracking River Health: Evolution and Impact of Charles River Watershed Association’s Biological Monitoring Program Ryan Smith, CRWA	Baiting Hollow Fish Passage Conceptual Design Luke Gervase, GEI Consultants
4:00	Insights from 25 Years of Biological Monitoring in the Ranch Brook and West Branch Little River Watersheds: A Comparative Study of Benthic Macroinvertebrate Response to Shifting Hydrologic Conditions Meghan Hickey, VT DEC	Maine Marsh and Stream Explorers Tom Danielson, ME DEP Doug Suiter, ME DEP	Riparian Buffer Design for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects Julie Michaelson, Xerces
4:30 - 5:30	Break / Trivia (Optional) Westbrook Ballroom		
6:00	Annual NAB Banquet & Awards Royal Ballroom		

Friday, February 6

7:30	Continental Breakfast			Royal Ballroom
	Environmental Policy Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Long Island Sound Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Lakes and Reservoirs Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
9:00	Are Locally Led Initiatives the Answer to a Growing Vacuum Left by the Minimization of Traditional State and Federal CWA Programs? Chris Yoder, Midwest Biodiveristy Institute	Temporal Variation vs Tidal Cycle on Enterococci Concentrations in a Coastal Connecticut Waterway Kasey Burns, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Caffeine Monitoring in Vermont Lakes as a Tool for Motivating Maintenance of Septic Systems Mark Mitchell, VT DEC/Lake Champlain Sea Grant	
9:30	Maine's New Freshwater Nutrient Criteria Tom Danielson, ME DEP	Long Island Sound's Pathogen Monitoring Network - Coordinating Efforts to Curb Sewage Pollution Mary Donato, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Applying Oxygen Generation to Existing Aeration Apparatus in a Large Connecticut Drinking Water Reservoir Benjamin Burpee, GZA	
10:00	Massachusetts Secondary Contact Recreation Criteria Update Dahlia Tympanick, MassDEP	Bugs in the Bay: Building an Index for Long Island Sound Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Ismar Biberovic, Tetra Tech	Human vs Robot: Using Remote Systems to Track Dissolved Oxygen William Henley, South Central CT Regional Water Authority	
10:30	Break			Pre-function Space
	Massachusetts Coastal Monitoring Ballroom A Moderator: TBD	Long Island Sound Long-Term Datasets Ballroom B Moderator: TBD	Data Management Ballroom C Moderator: TBD	
11:00	Spatiotemporal Water Quality Trends in Mount Hope Bay, MA, 2016 - 2024 Suzanne Flint, Mass DEP	Communicating 30 years of Water Quality Data in Fairfield County, Connecticut Nikki Spiller, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Data Management at the State Level: Using an Oracle Database to Store and Recall Environmental Data of Various Types Jake Reynolds, NH DES Kristen Hugger, NH DES	
11:30	Coastal Water-Quality Monitoring in Massachusetts Kaitlin Laabs, USGS	Changes in Benthic Fish and Crustacean Communities in a Long Island Sound Embayment Marisa Olavarria, Harbor Watch/Earthplace	Flagged and Filtered: A Practical Approach to QA/QC for a Decade of Water Quality Monitoring Chloe Pearson, The Nature Conservancy	

Poster Presentations

Leslie Matthews, CTDEEP Kelle Merrell, VTDEC	Are we sampling enough? Evaluating sampling effort for a Vermont macrophyte bioassessment dataset.
Gabrielle Anderson, CTDEEP	Exploring Macroinvertebrate Response to Shoreline Habitat and Water Chemistry in Connecticut Lakes
Mary Becker, CTDEEP	NEAEB / NAB 50th Anniversary
Nicholas Champeon, Holy Cross	Effects of Cyanobacteria and Invasive Aquatic Plant Treatment on Biological Parameters of Lentic Systems in Worcester, MA
Christiana Korkor Teye, University of Maine Erin Grey, University of Maine	Optimization of Bacteroides dorei qPCR and LAMP Assay for Wastewater Detection
Maggie Harper, Middlebury College	The Role of Surficial Geology: Understanding the Variability of Chloride in Urban Streams and Its Impacts on Macrobenthic Invertebrates
Zachary Utz, Middlebury College	Understanding the Impacts of Alternative Deicing Agents on Sensitive Aquatic Insect Taxa
Allyson Szabo, CTDEEP Mary Becker, CTDEEP	Exploring the Effect of Chloride on Benthic Macroinvertebrate Communities in Connecticut Streams
Evelyn Hall, UCONN	Impact of Land Cover Type on Long Island Sound's Salt Marsh Stability
Alexis Sims, UCONN	Annual and Seasonal changes of Carbonate Parameters in the Long Island Sound
Meaghan Hickey, VTDEC	Insights from Over 20 Years of Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring in Vermont with the LaRosa Partnership Program
Jessica Landry, CTDEEP	Enhancing Connecticut's Volunteer Water Monitoring Data Communication Through Interactive Reports

Wednesday, February 4

Poster Presentations

Paige Vichiola-Silva, Farmington River Watershed Association Ciara Kilkenny, Farmington River Watershed Association	Investigating Reoccurring Cyanobacteria Blooms on Rainbow Reservoir in Windsor, CT
Isaac Shepard, ME DEP	Fish Size Affects PFAS Concentrations in Maine Game Fish
Lily Zopelis, Southern Connecticut State University Sean Grace, Southern Connecticut State University	The Effects of Depth and Light Availability on the Morphology and Gene Expression of <i>Saccharina latissima</i>
Carriel Cataldi, CTDEEP Gavin Jackson, CTDEEP	Eelgrass Flowering Density and Seed Maturity Assessment in Groton, Connecticut
Sienna Moore, Holy Cross	Identifying and Mapping the Distribution of Asian Clams <i>Corbicula fluminea</i> and Rusty Crayfish <i>Faxonius rusticus</i> Through Environmental DNA in Worcester, Massachusetts
Molly McCann, UCONN	A Database Documenting Saltmarsh Restoration History in the Long Island Sound Region
Rachel Biton, UCONN Sage Ganshirt, UCONN	How Tidal Hydrology and Soil Characteristics Influence the pH Response of Potential Acid Sulfate Soils Used in Salt Marsh Sediment Addition
Jovan Snyder, IEC	Staten Island Living Breakwaters - Eelgrass Restoration Pilot
Alana Boirie, UCONN	Evaluating Shear Strength as an Indicator of Belowground Biomass in Salt Marshes
Lexie Davis, NYSDEC/WRI	When the Creek Boils Over: The Case of the Canaseraga Creek Mudboils
Keith Fritschie, VTDEC	Winter Streamflow Events Capable of Disturbing Salmonid Spawning Gravels are Increasing at Many New England USGS Gages

Wednesday, February 4

Poster Presentations

Stephen Biazio, IEC	NY/NJ Harbor Discrete Monitoring Network Established in Conjunction with NJDEP
Ciara Kilkenny, Farmington River Watershed Association Paige Vichiola-Silva, Farmington River Watershed Association	Investigating Sources of Nutrient Pollution Throughout the Farmington River Watershed
Skylar Ross, UCONN	Spatial Patterns of Denitrification Potential and Soil Nutrient Storage in a Beaver-Created Ecosystem
Meher Khanna, Neponset River Watershed Assoc	Hotspots and Outfalls: Following-up With Water Quality Data
Josephine Edward, Ekiti State University Agunbiade Rasaki Olusola, Ekiti State University	Water Quality Monitoring for Sustainable Rural Resource Management: A Case Study of Ureje Reservoir in Ado-Ekiti
Utkir Adkhamov, Nashua River Watershed Association	Multi-Tier Source Tracking of E. coli Contamination in Septic-Dominated Watersheds Method Development and Field Validation
Ernest Neafsey, LG Sonic US	Sound Science: Integrating Ultrasonic Algae Control into Biological Monitoring and Lake Management in the Northeast
Marielena Lima, Charles River Watershed Association	Chloride Monitoring in the Charles River Watershed
Soheyl Faghir Hagh, University of Vermont Tian Xia, University of Vermont	A New Drone-Enabled Framework for Real-Time Water Quality Sensing, 2-D Mapping, and True 3-D Depth Profiling
Parmida Amngostar, University of Vermont Soheyl Faghir Hagh, University of Vermont	A Low-Power Wireless CTD System for Autonomous Water Quality Monitoring in Remote Environments
Elizabeth Sherman, Maria Mitchell Association	Developing a New High-Frequency Coastal Monitoring Program in Nantucket Harbor: Emerging Stress Indicators and Integrating Data from Different Platforms

Wednesday, February 4

Poster Presentations

Reanna Morra, USGS	U.S. Geological Survey Continuous Water Quality Monitoring on Long Island, NY
Jennifer Lafayette, USGS	Photosynthetically Active Radiation Monitoring in Saugatuck and Southport Embayments in Connecticut, 2022-2024
Olivia Sirard, College of the Holy Cross	From Forest to City: How Landscape Development Shapes Stream Oxygen Dynamics in the Blackstone River Watershed
Kiyoko Yokota, State University of New York at Oneonta	Thermocline Depth of Otsego Lake (NY)
Alina Tran, Southern Connecticut State University Sean Grace, Southern Connecticut State University	Upper Thermal Regimes and Quiescence in the Temperate Coral <i>Astrangia poculata</i>
Ryan Colarusso, VHB	Using In-Stream Biological Indicators to Assess Water Quality Remediation at Vermont Ski Resorts

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