

## 2026 Finger Lakes Research Conference

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Vandervort Conference Room, Scandling Campus Center (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Hobart and William Smith Colleges ([campus map](#)), Geneva, NY 14456

### 2026 Conference Program

8:15 a.m.	Registration and Poster Set-Up
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Overview <b>Lisa B. Cleckner</b> , Director, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
9:00-9:30 a.m.	A Review of Research Originating from NYSDEC's Finger Lakes Watershed Program <b>Lewis McCaffrey</b> , Research Scientist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Decadal Shifts in Algal Composition to Determine Patterns in the Skaneateles Lake Ecosystem: 50 Years of Historical Data <b>Dominique Dermino</b> , Research Fellow, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
10:00-10:30 a.m.	A Full System Approach to Manure Management on Modern Dairy Farms <b>Tucker Kautz</b> , Senior Technician, Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District
10:30-11:00 a.m.	<i>Break</i>
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Feasibility of Channel Relocation Combined with a Subsurface Geotextile Resistance Layer as a Solution to Mudboil Contamination in Onondaga Creek, New York <b>Kyle Thomas</b> , Principal, Natural Systems Engineering, PLLC
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Beating the Seneca Drums: a quest to quantify ephemeral methane emissions in Seneca Lake <b>Ben Uvegas</b> , Postdoctoral Associate, Cornell University
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Welcome and Lunch <b>Mark Gearan</b> , President, Hobart and William Smith College
1:15 – 2:00 p.m.	Food webs and PFAS in Finger Lakes fish communities <b>Susan Cushman</b> , Associate Professor of Practice, Hobart and William Smith College, and <b>Roxanne Razavi</b> , Assistant Professor, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Shifting Gears After 10 Years: Initiating New Techniques for Hydrilla Control and Restoration on the Erie Canal <b>Lindsay Yoder</b> , Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, New York State Water Resources Institute, Cornell University
2:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks <b>Lisa B. Cleckner</b> , Director, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith College
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Poster Session and Reception</b>