



## 2024 ESFPA/ARC Fall Forestry Roundtable

**Location:** SUNY Adirondack, Northwest Bay Conference Center, 640 Bay Rd, Queensbury, NY 12804

**Date and time:** Wed. October 30, 2024, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Organizer:** Dan Fitts, (518) 241-6186, [adkresearchconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:adkresearchconsortium@gmail.com)

### Overview:

- **8:30 a.m. Registration**
- **9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks:**
  - Dan Fitts, Executive Director, Adirondack Research Consortium
  - John Bartow, Executive Director, Empire State Forest Products Association
- **Session 1: 9:15- 10:30 a.m.- Status and Future of Private Forest Stewardship**
  - The future of New York's forests needs more people who know forests deeply and care for them deeply, too. To slow climate change and ensure viable forests and the resources and products from them, we need to conserve our privately owned forests and get clear about what is getting in the way of current and future private forests from thriving. To do this we need to explore some key issues facing our private forests and those forest landowners.
  - **Moderator** – Robert Stegemann
  - **Panelists:**
    - Dr. Michele Brown – The Nature Conservancy
    - Craig Volmer – NY Forest Owners Association
    - Ginny Brandreth – Brandreth Park
    - Sean Ross – Lyme Timber
- **Break: 10:30 – 10:40 a.m.**
- **Session 2: 10:40 – 11:20 p.m. - Landowner Perspectives on Converting Land to Mature Forest for Carbon Sequestration**
  - New York State's 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act established ambitious climate mitigation goals. To achieve these goals, it will be essential to increase carbon sequestration in the form of mature forest growth. A vast majority of the land that may be converted into mature forest is privately owned. The purpose of this survey was to identify landowners' willingness to convert their land, or a portion thereof, into mature forest, and to better understand the barriers to and incentives that could increase landowners' willingness
  - **Presenter** –Dr. Kathryn Bills Walsh, Cornell CALS

### **Session 3: 11:20 – 12:15 p.m. – Applied Technology in Forestry and Logging**

- Forestry and logging have always been one of the most challenging industries to keep up with. The complexity of managing a forested area, harvesting, processing logs, and creating sustainable forest management practices has been an issue that foresters and stakeholders have been trying to improve for decades. New technologies have been incorporated into the forestry industry, making forestry and logging operations more efficient and sustainable.
  - **Moderator** – Dr. John Foppert, Paul Smiths College
  - **Panelists** ;
    - Jim Hayner - Forester & GIS Manager, Lyme Adirondack Forest Company
    - Emily Reichert - Forester, LandVest
    - Todd Waldron - Northeast Region Forest Conservation Director, Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society
- **Lunch 12:15 p.m.**
  - **Lunch Speaker** – Interim Commissioner NYS DEC Sean Mahar
- **Session 4: 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. – Status and Future of New York’s Bioeconomy**
  - The bioeconomy is part of the solution to many great challenges such as climate change, deterioration of ecosystems, declining employment in the forestry sector and new markets and products in the wood products sector. Keeping New York’s existing bioeconomy and the infrastructure and workforce necessary to support it while also growing onto new and emerging markets is the focus of this panel.
  - **Moderator** – John Bartow, Empire State Forest Products Association
  - **Panelists:**
    - Dr. Jenny Frank, SUNY ESF
    - Matthew “Matty” Aracich, President, Buildings & Trades Council of Nassau & Suffolk Counties
    - Dr. David Nye, ARPA-E/U.S. Department of Energy
- **Break: 2:15 – 2:20 p.m.**
- **Session 5: 2:20 – 3:50 p.m. - Forestry's Future in a Changing Climate: Gathering Insights and Solutions for Resilience**
- The Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network (ACORN) will hold a listening session with Forestry Roundtable participants to gather information about climate impacts to forests, forest management, and the forest products industry, and lead a visioning session to identify solutions and shovel-ready projects that will keep forestry vibrant and key to meeting NYS's climate goals. ACORN is holding listening sessions in communities and with different workforce sectors in the 14 counties of Northern NY for the purpose of developing a North Country Rural Resilience Roadmap to guide federal, state, and private funding opportunities. ACORN is a partnership of the Adirondack Research Consortium, The Wild Center, and Paul Smith's College with funding from NYSERDA and the Adirondack Foundation.

**Moderator:** Sunita Halasz (she/her)  
Climate Strategy Advisor, Adirondack Research Consortium  
Project Coordinator, Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network (ACORN)
- **Wrap-up 3:50 – 4:00 p.m.**