

Annual Lake James Watershed Symposium

Protecting our Land and Water for Future Generations

February 26, 2025 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The Barn at North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics- Morganton

Presented by

Lake James Environmental Association, Catawba Riverkeeper, Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina, and the NC School of Science and Mathematics-Morganton

Check-in (8:30 –9 AM)

Welcome (9 AM) - NCSSM and Joanne Deyo (Lake James Environmental Association)

Morning Sessions (9 AM- 12 PM)

- **9:10 Celebrating our Accomplishments and Continued Progress - Moderator: Joanne Deyo (LJEA)**
 - LJEA Annual Summary
 - Growing Partnerships
 - Wilderness Watershed Adventure Program - Sophie McCarthy (LJEA and Catawba Riverkeeper) and Brittany Watkins (Foothills Conservancy of NC)

- **9:45 Lake James Watershed Water Quality Update - Moderator: Todd Bell (LJEA)**
 - 2023 and 2024 Data Summary and Discussion - Ann Marie Traylor (Environmental Quality Institute) and Marshall Taylor (LJEA)

- **10:15 Break**

- **10:30 Partners & Progress - Moderator: Marshall Taylor (LJEA)**
 - **10:30** LJEA/NCSSM Collaboration - Christiane Burkins/Jane Cantwell (NCSSM)
 - **10:35** Data Analytics Mentorship Program and Accomplishments - Todd Bell (LJEA)
 - **10:50** Fate of Copper Sulfate used as Algacides - Alyssa Gaglinano (Warren Wilson College)
 - **11:10** Progress toward Fonta Flora Park Watershed Restoration and Habitat Enhancement-Lee Kiser (LJEA)
 - **11:25** Impact of Invasive Plants on our Wetlands - Zoe Riggs and Josh Holbrook (Montreat College)
 - **11:40** Update from Duke Energy- Brett Hartis (Duke Energy)

Lunch (12 PM-1 PM)

Afternoon Sessions (1:00 PM- 4:30 PM)

- **1:00 Land Protection & Management in the Lake James Watershed - Moderator: Brittany Watkins (Foothills Conservancy of NC)**
 - **1:00 PM** General FCNC Protection around Lake James - Michael Gaffney (FCNC)
 - **1:20 PM** Paddy Creek's Restoration Project- Katelyn Nelson (FCNC)
 - **1:40 PM** Trails as Storm Water Management - Shane Prisby (FCNC)

- **2:00 Restoration Updates in the Northern Basin- Moderator: Grant Buckner (Catawba Riverkeeper)**
 - **2:00 PM** Stream Repair in the Carolinas- Josh Robinson (Robinson Design Engineers)
 - **2:20 PM** Assessing the Effectiveness of Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA's) as a Stream Restoration Tool: A Case Study from the Southern Appalachian Foothills -Dr. Derek Martin (App State)
 - **2:40 PM** Bethel Park Stream Restoration -Geoff Smith (Wildlands Engineering)

- **3:00 Break**

- **3:10 Advocacy - Organizer/Moderator: Ryan Carter (Catawba Riverkeeper) and Joanne Deyo (LJEA)**
 - General Statewide Legislative Priorities
 - IBT
 - Upper Catawba State Trail
 - Helene Recovery
 - Local Advocacy

- **3:30 Hurricane Helene Panel- Moderator: John Searby**
Panelists: Brandon Jones (Catawba Riverkeeper), Marshall Taylor (LJEA), Shane Prisby (FCNC), Jeff Lineberger (Duke Energy), Dr. Shea Tuberty (App State), Adrienne Jones (McDowell EMS)

- **4:30 PM Raffle Drawing, Recognition, Closing Statement -Joanne Deyo (LJEA)**

Adjournment (4:45) - Please join us for Happy Hour at Hillman Beer in downtown Morganton after the Symposium!

Thank you to our sponsor, Duke Energy!