

**New York State Federation of Lake Associations presents the  
32<sup>nd</sup> Don Cook Western Region Conference  
Friday, October 30, 2026  
The Palmer Opera House  
12 West Main Street, Cuba, NY  
*Our Dynamic Lakes: Understanding Connections and Inspiring Action***

**Program:**

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|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:30   | <b>Light Refreshments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:30-9:40   | <b>Welcome from NYSFOLA</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9:40-10:20  | <b>Connected Waters, Common Challenges: Aquatic Invasive Species in Western New York</b><br>Andrea Locke, Coordinator, Western New York Partnership for Invasive Species Management,<br>Buffalo State University                                |
| 10:20-11:00 | <b>Mechanical Harvesting Approach to Managing Aquatic Plants on Chautauqua Lake</b><br>Heather Nolan-Caskey, Operations Manager, Chautauqua Lake Association                                                                                    |
| 11:00-11:40 | <b>Connecting Nutrient Management, Environmental Sustainability and Farm Profitability</b><br>Kirsten Workman, Nutrient Management and Environmental Sustainability Specialist, Cornell<br>PRO-DAIRY Team and Nutrient Management Spear Program |
| 11:40-12:10 | <b>The Wheel of Conservation: Engaging Communities in Watershed Stewardship</b><br>Rebecca Campbell, Conservation Technician, Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation<br>District                                                            |
| 12:10-1:00  | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1:00-1:40   | <b>From Ideas to Action: Building Lake-Friendly Communities Together</b><br>Emily DeBolt, Executive Director, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association and Vice-Chair,<br>Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance                                |
| 1:40-2:20   | <b>What's in the Mud? Lake Sediments as Storytellers</b><br>Jacalyn Wittmer Malinowski, PhD, Associate Professor, Geological, Environmental, and<br>Planetary Sciences, SUNY Geneseo                                                            |
| 2:20-3:00   | <b>Western New York Fisheries Health and Trends</b><br>Pete Austerman, Aquatic Biologist, NYS DEC Region 8                                                                                                                                      |
| 3:00-3:10   | <b>Parting Thoughts and Looking to 2027</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**\$35.00 Registration at [www.NYSFOLA.org](http://www.NYSFOLA.org). Register by October 19.**

**Refreshments** provided by **The Perfect Blend Coffeehouse and Eatery**

**Parking** is available across W. Main Street, in the lot behind Community Bank and the former Cuba National Bank building. This lot can also be accessed from Pa Ingalls Lane off Genesee Street.

**Accessible Facility:** The Palmer Opera House has a modern elevator for anyone preferring not to use the stairs.

While in Cuba, the 19<sup>th</sup> century **"Cheese Center of the World"**, visit **The Cuba Cheese Shoppe**, 53 Genesee St. All conference participants will receive a discount coupon, courtesy of The Cuba Cheese Shoppe.