



# 26<sup>th</sup> Eastern Black Bear Workshop

**High Peaks Resort  
Lake Placid, NY  
April 7-10, 2025**



**EBBW Program**

**Sunday, April 6:** Travel Day for early arrival and working group members

**Monday April 7:** Travel Day for regular attendees

8:00 am	SEAFWA Large Carnivore Working Group Meeting – <i>till 5 pm; Algonquin Room</i>
	NEAFWA Black Bear Technical Committee Meeting – <i>till 5 pm; Wright Room</i>
4:00 pm	Welcome table opens
7:30 pm	Welcome Social – <i>The Den</i>

**Tuesday, April 8:** First Day of EBBW – *meeting in the McIntyre Range*

7:00 am	Welcome table opens
7:00 am	Breakfast ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
9:00 am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> – <i>Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources, NYSDEC</i>
9:15 am	<b>Managers Forum</b> – <i>Jeremy Hurst, NYSDEC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern Jurisdictional Survey – <i>Nathan Bowersock, MDC – 30 min</i></li> <li>• Working Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SEAFWA LCWG – <i>Colin Carpenter, WVDNR – 10 min</i></li> <li>○ NEAFWA BBTC – <i>Dave Wattles, MDFW – 10 min</i></li> <li>○ Open Q&amp;A – <i>10 min</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:15 am	Break – <i>15 min</i>
10:30 am	<b>Managers Forum continued</b> – <i>Jeremy Hurst, NYSDEC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons From Over the Hill (panel)</li> </ul>
12:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
1:00 pm	<b>Session 1: Trash Cans &amp; Dumpsters</b> – <i>Mike Orlando, FWC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design, Safety Standards, and Bear Resistance - discussion with industry – <i>Kirk Sander, Derick Foster, Stephen Mullis, Michael Recor</i></li> <li>• Open forum discussion – <i>30 min</i></li> </ul>
3:00 pm	Break – <i>30 min</i>
3:30 pm	<b>Session 2: Trash Talk... then Hunting &amp; No Hunting</b> – <i>Courtney LaMere, NYSDEC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When Trash Attacks: Beyond the Garbage Cans in Florida – <i>Michael Orlando, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 15 min</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open forum discussion – <i>15 min</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Louisiana's First Bear Season Following Delisting – <i>John Hanks, Louisiana Department of Wildlife &amp; Fisheries – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Managing human-bear conflict without hunting - Lessons from Connecticut – <i>Kyle Testerman and Jason Hawley, Connecticut DEEP – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Black Bear Population Growth in the Eastern Panhandle of Florida, USA – <i>Shelby Shiver, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Open forum discussion – <i>15 min</i></li> </ul>
5:00 pm	Adjourn
6:00 PM	Dinner ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
7:30 PM	<b>Poster Session</b> – <i>Lake House Lobby</i>

<b>Wednesday, April 9 – meeting in the McIntyre Range</b>	
7:00 am	Breakfast ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
9:00 am	<b>Session 3: Community Co-Management of Black Bears – Jonathan Russell, NYSDEC – Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on Establishing North Carolina as a BearWise State – <i>Ashley Hobbs, North Carolina WRC - 15 min</i></li> <li>• Increasing Outreach Capacity Utilizing the Virginia Master Naturalist Program – <i>Carl Tugend, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources - 15 min</i></li> <li>• Florida's Bear Response Contractor Program: Ten Year Update (2015-2025) – <i>Chris Boyce, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 15 min</i></li> <li>• Stakeholder Involvement in Florida Bear Management – <i>David Telesco, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - 15 min</i></li> <li>• Utilization of Law Enforcement to Reduce Bear Conflict in New Jersey – <i>Michael Madonia, NJ Fish &amp; Wildlife - 15 min</i></li> <li>• Panel Discussion – <i>15 min</i></li> </ul>
10:30 am	Break – <i>15 min</i>
10:45 am	<b>Session 4: Reducing Human-Bear Conflicts – Jessica Haggerty, NYSDEC – Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing the effectiveness of energized fencing to protect bird feeders from bear damage – <i>Hannah Leeper, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Bear-human Conflicts in the Adirondack High Peaks: History and Solutions – <i>James Stickles, NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Efficacy of relocation of black bears as a mitigation tool – <i>Ryan Williamson, University of Tennessee – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Open forum discussion – <i>30 min</i></li> </ul>
12:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
1:00 pm	<b>Optional Field Trips – Olympic Training Center Tour or Adirondack Ecology via the Whiteface Mountain Gondola</b>  <b>Ad Hoc Discussion groups</b>
6:00 PM	Dinner ( <i>on your own</i> )
<b>Thursday, April 10 – meeting in the McIntyre Range</b>	
7:00 am	Breakfast ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
9:00 am	<b>Session 5: Understanding the Effects of Habitat Loss &amp; Fragmentation – Dave Kramer, NYSDEC – Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimating Population Size and Managing Genetic Diversity of the Isolated Central Georgia Black Bear – <i>Ben Carr, University of Georgia – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Promoting <i>Ursus americanus</i> connectivity across the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley – <i>Heather Clendenin, University of Memphis – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Black Bear Habitat Selection and Movement in Response to Wind Energy – <i>Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Open Q&amp;A – <i>30 min</i></li> </ul>
10:15 am	Break – <i>15 min</i>
10:30 am	<b>Session 6: Social Science &amp; Decision Analysis in Bear Management – Ryan Rockefeller, NYSDEC – Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancements in Decision Analysis and Applications to Harvest Management of Recovering Black Bear Populations – <i>Dana Morin, Mississippi State University – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Benefits of Value of Information Analysis to Black Bear Management – <i>Erin Morrison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – 15 min</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perception and trust influence acceptance for black bears more than bear density or conflicts – <i>William F. Siemer, Cornell University – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Investigating Human Dimensions of Black Bear Management: A Social-Ecological Systems Approach in Michigan, USA – <i>Julie Young, Utah State University – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Panel Discussion – <i>30 min</i></li> </ul>
12:00 pm	Lunch ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> )
1:00 pm	<b>Session 7: Bear Mange</b> – <i>Brittany Delor, NYSDEC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial trends in reports of American black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>) mange in the Ozark Mountain Region, Arkansas – <i>Jillian Broadhurst, University of Georgia – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Impacts of Multiple Mortality Factors on Mange Affected Black Bear Populations – <i>Katie Martin, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Engaging Stakeholders in Agencies' Response to Bear Mange – <i>Raquel Francisco, University of Georgia – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Finding the missing link: using a multi-state occupancy model to investigate sarcoptic mange co-occurrence between coyote and black bear in the Ozark Mountains – <i>Marcelo Jorge, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Assessing and Managing Sarcoptic Mange in Arkansas Black Bears: A Five-Year Surveillance and Conservation Strategy – <i>Robert Edwards, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Panel Discussion – <i>30 min</i></li> </ul>
2:45 pm	Break – <i>30 min</i>
3:15 pm	<b>Session 8: Capture &amp; Monitoring</b> – <i>Dan Ruggiero, NYSDEC – Moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Next Generation of Bear Trapping? Using automated traps to increase efficacy and efficiency of trapping black bears – <i>Anthony Ballard, Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Using Video Camera Traps to Understand Black Bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>) Interactions with Hair Snares – <i>Caitlin Brett, North Carolina State University – 15 min</i></li> <li>• Open Q&amp;A – <i>15 min</i></li> </ul>
4:00 pm	<b>EBBW Business Meeting</b> – <i>Steering Committee</i>
4:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
6:00 PM	Farewell Banquet Dinner ( <i>provided; Great Range Room</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes of a career in bear management – <i>Jim Cardoza, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (retired); Karen Noyce, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (retired)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Friday, April 11</b>	
AM	Departure

## Poster Session Preview

- 1. Impact of Sarcoptic Mange on American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) Population Dynamics in Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, USA**  
*by Fang Chen; Virginia Tech*
- 2. Population Genomics of the Eastern Lineage of American Black Bears**  
*by Heather Clendenin; University of Memphis*
- 3. Black bear density and space use in the Northern Lower Peninsula, Michigan**  
*by Sara Fischer, Julie K. Young, Anna B. Miller, Taylor Peltier, Megan Stone, Cody Norton, and Tyler Petroelje; Utah State University*
- 4. Utilizing Tri-Axial Accelerometers to Classify Behavior of Free-Ranging American Black Bears**  
*by Brogan Holcombe; Virginia Tech*
- 5. Developing a Range-wide American Black Bear Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Panel for Population Monitoring**  
*by Fabian Jimenez; Mississippi State University*
- 6. Serum progesterone and reproductive ultrasounds provide further insight on American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) pregnancy development**  
*by J. Bernardo Mesa Cruz; East Stroudsburg University*
- 7. Student Work in Progress: Social Dimensions of Human-Black Bear Interactions in Michigan, USA**  
*by Taylor Peltier, Anna B. Miller, Julie K. Young, Sara Fischer, Megan Stone, Emily Pomeranz, Cody Norton, and Tyler Petroelje; Utah State University*
- 8. Preliminary Analysis of Camera Trap Data from the Virginia Bear Mange Study**  
*by Isabella Sciarrino<sup>1</sup>, Brogan Holcombe<sup>1</sup>, Madison Thurber<sup>1</sup>, Marcella Kelly<sup>1</sup>, Katherine Martin<sup>2</sup>, Carl Tugend<sup>2</sup>; (1) Virginia Tech; (2) Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources*
- 9. Results of A Novel Method to Monitor Bear Cub Survival**  
*by Shelby Shiver, Brian Scheick; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*
- 10. Student Work in Progress: A Social-Ecological Systems Approach to Understanding Recreation and Black Bear Management in Michigan**  
*by Meg Stone; Utah State University*
- 11. Assessing the Impact of Mange on Black Bear Densities in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia**  
*by Madison Thurber; Virginia Tech*
- 12. Evaluating the Human Dimensions of BearWise®: Insights into Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors in Urban Bear Management**  
*by Sarah Wyrick<sup>1</sup>, Nils Peterson<sup>1</sup>, Emily Griffith<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Strules<sup>1</sup>, Nick Gould<sup>1</sup>, Colleen Olfenbuttel<sup>2</sup>, Christopher DePerno<sup>1</sup>; (1) North Carolina State University; (2) North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission*