

Champlain Basin Education Initiative Partners
Sharing Stories of the Saranac River



Date: Friday, October 23rd, 2015

Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Location: SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY (room location TBA)

Cost: \$20 per teacher, including lunch and materials (\$10 for SUNY Education students)

Overview:

Four experts will address topics including history, ecology of river systems, biology of terrestrial habitats, and geography. Participants will gather for a morning session that includes a short introductory presentation from each of the four experts. They will then spend much of the day learning in the field in small groups led by an expert and then considering ways to design exemplary place-based learning opportunities for their students. National standards will be addressed.

AGENDA

8:30-9:00 **Welcome and Introductions**

9:00-10:00 **“Keynote” Stories of the Saranac River**

Four experts present Stories of the Saranac as seen through the lens of :

- ***Where are we?***
Ryan Mitchell, Publications and Communications
Coordinator, Lake Champlain Basin Program
FOCUS: How can web maps be used to tell the story of changes in land use on the Saranac River shoreline?
- ***What are the stories of the past from a human history perspective?***
John Krueger, Ph. D., Historian, City of Plattsburgh
FOCUS: Consider the stories of the Battle of Valcour Island and the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay, two events that shaped Plattsburgh’s history and were oriented by Lake Champlain and the Saranac River
- ***Who lives here?***
Elizabeth Lee, Ecology Programs Director, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
FOCUS: Investigate animal signs and evaluate how shorelines look from the perspective of living creatures.

These signs of wildlife tell the story of how the Saranac River serves as a corridor for wild animals and people.

- ***Is the River healthy?***

Dr. Tim Mihuc, Director Lake Champlain Institute at SUNY Plattsburgh

FOCUS: Survey the aquatic macro-invertebrate population of the Saranac River to understand how the number of species present or absent, as well as their diversity, helps to tell the story of a river's health.

10:15-11:45 **Field site activity with expert at the river or chosen site.** Small groups will organize around each idea and perform site exploration before lunch with the guidance of the expert. Students will learn about the topic within the context of a particular place. Dress for the weather!

11:45-12:30 **Lunch**

12:30-1:00 ***What is excellent place-based student work?***

Amy Demarest, Our Curriculum Matters, and CBEI partner will present the “challenge” to small groups for the afternoon. After reviewing some examples and criteria of excellent place-based education participants will consider how standards can be addressed and assessed. They will be asked to brainstorm what excellent student work might be in the context of their small group focus.

1:00-2:15 **Small Group Workshop**

Groups reconvene with the task of considering how students can demonstrate new learning from these site visits. They will be prepared to share an example of an exemplary place-based, rigorous “product” or “outcome” based on their experience. This session may involve outdoor activities.

2:30-3:00 **Share findings from each group**

Small groups will share their findings.

3:00-3:30 **Closing, Evaluations and Certificates**