



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES  
RESEARCH CENTER

# Falconer Lectures Spring 2023

Tuesdays, March 28 - April 18

Refreshments from 6 pm • Lectures begin at 7 pm

ETEC, Room 149A/151A  
1220 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12226

Free Parking

MARCH 28

## Why I Love Factory Farming

**Joe Regenstein**, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Food Science, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

Factory farming has recently gotten an ill-deserved bad name in the press. Commercial farmers work hard to optimize the success of their plants and animals. As part of this process, they work with companies that support the farming industry to create modern systems that do just that, often with significant attention to animal welfare. The treatment of animals on these farms or ranches often yields the best possible outcomes for the animals, the environment, and consumers. The speaker will explore some of the issues around factory farming to help frame why certain practices are being done and what the benefits might be.

APRIL 4

## Two of Earth's Earliest Fossil Forests, Catskill Mountains

**Charles Ver Straeten**, Ph.D., Devonian/Sedimentary Geologist, New York State Museum

Around 385 million years ago, Earth's first known forests were scattered across the lowlands of ancient eastern New York. At that time, the lands of New York were positioned slightly north of 30-degrees south of the equator. In 2009, the world's oldest known fossilized forest was discovered by the author in Cairo, New York. It predates the prior oldest known fossilized forest in Gilboa, New York by nearly two million years. In this talk, the story of this exciting geologic discovery will be accompanied by discussions of the setting of these forests, and of forest life in the Devonian Period according to clues gleaned from the New York fossil record.

APRIL 11

## Pre-Lecture Drone Event • 5-7 pm

Join us before the lecture to meet members of the University at Albany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity's course CINF 467: Technology-Based Community Support, as they provide live drone and robotics demonstrations.

## Understanding Weather and Drones

**Meghan Conway**, Director of Weather Systems and Projects, TruWeather Solutions

Weather conditions have a tremendous impact on our transportation systems, but what happens when experienced human pilots and engineers are no longer onboard to respond adaptively? This is the question faced by the growing Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) industry. TruWeather Solutions (TWS), through a partnership with UAlbany's Center of Excellence in Weather and Climate Analytics, is developing innovative UAS beyond visual line-of-sight solutions and services that leverage improved drone weather monitoring and forecasting capabilities. Many of these services rely in part on the New York State Mesonet. This talk will feature an overview of TWS's involvement in UAS test ranges and UAS infrastructure planning in New York, particularly with regard to urban applications where spatial variability in wind speed and direction is greatest.

APRIL 18

## Let's Talk Climate: Finding Ways to Build Hope and Action for a Resilient Future

**Jen Kretser**, Director of Climate Initiatives, The Wild Center, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks

Climate change is impacting all of us and it is happening right here in New York State (NYS). Climate change is overwhelming and can feel pretty hopeless, but there are many ways we can work together to build hope and optimism for the future. This conversation will explore what climate impacts are happening here in NYS and the solutions that are available to address the climate crisis. With this climate solutions lens in mind, the speaker will share how education and engaging youth is essential to promote climate action and just transition to a more resilient future. Hear how youth are working across the state to advance climate change education and action. Build a new understanding of the role community partnerships, including the role of cultural institutions can play in supporting young people and engaging the public.



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