

2026



GREAT LAKES EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

During the summer of 2026, teachers and educators from New York's Great Lakes are invited to join professional development opportunities with New York Sea Grant, the Center for Great Lakes Literacy, the Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange, and more!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Ontario Ships Past and Present

Oswego, NY
July 9 - 10, 2026

Community Action for Stormwater Cleanup And Debris Elimination (CASCADE) Curriculum Workshop

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
July 22, 2026

NY's Great Lakes Species in a Changing Environment:

Native & Invasive Crayfish

Rice Creek Field Station,
SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY
July 23, 2026

Great Lakes Field Station,
Buffalo State, Buffalo, NY
July 24, 2026

MOLLUSCA Robot Curriculum Workshop

Cornell University
Ithaca, NY
July 29, 2026

Newtown Creek
Wastewater
Treatment Plant Visitor
Center Brooklyn, NY
July 31, 2026

LAKE ONTARIO SHIPS PAST AND PRESENT

Join New York Sea Grant and the Center for Great Lakes Literacy to learn about the unique maritime heritage of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary region and current state of maritime transportation in the Great Lakes.

This two-day workshop will introduce participants to the shipwrecks of the new Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary (LONMS) and vessels that currently sail the lakes with Minnesota Sea Grant's *From Locks to Lakes Curriculum*. This workshop is hosted at SUNY Oswego with the help of the Great Lakes Institute.

Oswego, NY and other locations in the LONMS
July 9 – 10, 2026



What will you leave the workshop with:

- Certificate for CTLE credit
- \$200 Stipend
- Up to \$200 Travel reimbursement
- Lesson plans and educational materials

Recommended Grade Levels: Elementary, Middle, High

Subjects: Social Studies, STEM, Earth Science

When: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on 7/9, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on 7/10

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/26CGLLNYSHIPS> or scan QR code



Sponsors: New York Sea Grant, Center for Great Lakes Literacy, & SUNY Oswego
Great Lakes Institute

CASCADE CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Learn how researchers, educators, and community members are collaborating to reduce plastic pollution that enters the Great Lakes.

This workshop will visit neighborhoods in Rochester that have trash capture technology called LittaTraps™ and the labs at Rochester Institute Technology where the samples from those traps are processed. Workshop participants will learn how these devices capture plastic pollution and how they can engage their students on this topic.

What will you leave the workshop with:

- Certificate for CTLE credit
- \$100 Stipend
- Up to \$50 Travel reimbursement
- Lesson plans and educational materials

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
ROCHESTER, NY
JULY 22, 2026

Recommended Grade Levels: Elementary,
Middle, High

Subjects: Living Environment, Biology,
Environmental Science, STEM

When: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Rochester Institute of Technology &
Cornhill Navigation, Rochester, NY

Registration Link: bit.ly/26CASCADE or scan QR
code



Sponsors: New York Sea Grant & Rochester Institute of Technology

NY'S GREAT LAKES SPECIES IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS:

NATIVE & INVASIVE CRAYFISH



Join NYSG, the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation and researchers from the Buffalo State University and SUNY Oswego to learn about how a changing environment is impacting the diversity of native and invasive crayfish in New York's Great Lakes watersheds. At these workshops, teachers will learn about the role these organisms play in our ecosystems and our communities as well as the challenges they face. Participants will also gain hands on experience by working directly with academic researchers in the field sampling and identifying live crayfish.

RICE CREEK FIELD STATION
BROWNELL RD, OSWEGO, NY
JULY 23, 2026

GREAT LAKES CENTER
PORTER AVE, BUFFALO, NY
JULY 24, 2026

What will you leave the workshop with:

- Certificate for CTLE credit
- \$100 Stipend
- Travel reimbursement
- Lesson plans and educational materials



Recommended Grade Levels: Elementary, Middle, High

Subjects: Living Environment, Biology, Environmental Science

When: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration Link: bit.ly/26GLEEE or scan QR code



Sponsors: Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange Program (NYSG and NYS DEC) and the Center for Great Lakes Literacy

MOLLUSA ROBOT CURRICCULUM WORKSHOPS: USING ROBOTICS TO HELP STUDENTS TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION



How can technology help address environmental challenges like microplastic pollution? Can we look to nature for inspiration as we develop technology? Engage your students with questions like this and more with a Cornell University research project that is using biomimicry to design a microplastic collecting robot. Join one of this summer's workshops to learn from researchers, assemble your own classroom scale robot, and work with teachers who have brought this project to their classrooms.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
RHODES HALL 310
ITHACA, NY
JULY 29, 2026

NEWTON CREEK WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT VISITOR CENTER
BROOKLYN, NY
JULY 31, 2026

What will you leave the workshop with:

- Classroom scale version of robot, lesson plans
- Certificate for CTLE credit
- \$100 Stipend
- Travel reimbursement

Recommended Grade Levels: Middle, High

Subjects: STEM, Technology, Robotics, Living Environment, Biology, Environmental Science

When: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration Link: bit.ly/26MOLLUSCA or scan QR code

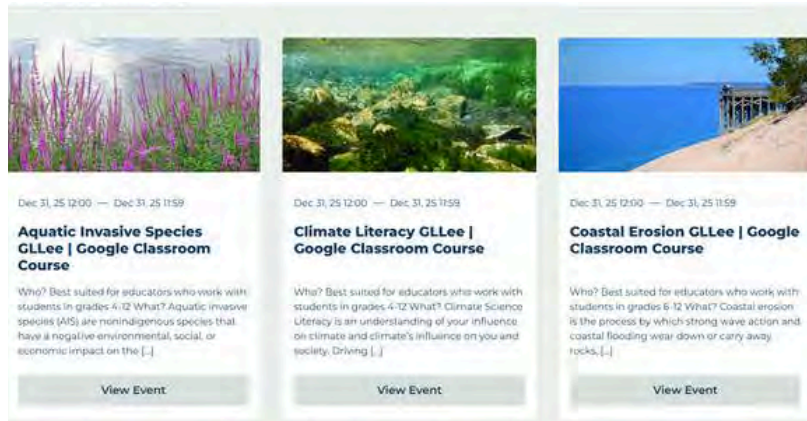


Sponsors: New York Sea Grant & Cornell University

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Great Lakes Literacy education explorations are online courses that offer an introductory collection of topics and issues, educational resources and partners assembled to better equip educators to explore Great Lakes Literacy and learning with youth. These free short courses can be accessed virtually anytime via Google Classroom and educators receive a certificate for three contact hours of study. Topics include aquatic invasive species, climate literacy, and habitat restoration.

Visit the [Center for Great Lakes Literacy website](#) for more information on these [courses](#).



Students Ask Scientists video calls connect classrooms across the Great Lakes region with scientists from various agencies and academic institutions. Whether it's a Q&A session from a scientist's office or a live tour of the research vessel Lake Guardian, students will see firsthand how classroom topics are applied in the field. [Visit the Center for Great Lakes Literacy website](#) for more information about this opportunity.



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Aquatic Invaders Attack Pack is a backpack filled with resources about aquatic invasive species (AIS) found in the Great Lakes. Each pack includes preserved specimens of some of the most problematic AIS in the Great Lakes, rugged plastic fact sheets, a classroom guide, and other materials.



Fish-o-Pedia Pack is a backpack filled with resources about Great Lakes fish. Each pack includes vinyl cutouts of 12 native and non-native Great Lakes fish. The pack also contains the Fish-o-Pedia cards filled with facts and figures about each species and *The Life of the Lakes: a Guide to the Great Lakes Fishery*.



Great Lakes Basin Map is a 7-ft x 10 ft vinyl map that illustrates the 2,212-mile journey from the tip of Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean. The map includes a depth profile of the lakes and major rivers in the system and shows the direction and volume of flow through each of the lakes.



To request to borrow any of these resources, please contact Great Lakes Literacy Specialist Nate Drag and nwd4@cornell.edu.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Great Lakes Basin Bag is an educational kit that provides an introduction to the Great Lakes. It includes 25 hands-on resources, including children's books, vinyl fish cutouts, a replica sea lamprey, a digital microscope, and example Great Lakes lesson plans.



Plastic Panic is an educational kit that models the journey water takes at a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) through a series of hands-on activities for students in 4th-7th grades. Students learn about microplastic pollution and discover what happens to pollutants as they enter and pass through a WWTP.



Trash Trunk is an educational kit with 14 lessons and activities, informational display cards, and supporting materials that teach learners about the origins of marine debris, its impacts, and what can be done.



The Watershed Game is an interactive, educational tool that helps students understand the connection between land use and water quality. The classroom version is designed for middle school students (grades 6-8), but can be extended to upper elementary and high school students.

To request to borrow any of these resources, please contact Great Lakes Literacy Specialist Nate Drag and nwd4@cornell.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Email Nate Drag

Great Lakes Literacy Specialist

New York Grant

nwd4@cornell.edu

www.nyseagrant.org/education

