

- Center for the Arts (CFA)
- Frothingham
- Glover
- Accessible

Thanks to all of today's participating schools and organizations

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James Tufts Pener Environmental Stewardship Conference

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.

THAYER ACADEMY | CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The James Tufts Pener Environmental Conference honors the life and legacy of the late James Pener '23, a beloved member of the Thayer community whose passion for the study of environmental science and commitment to conservation were evident to those who knew him.

GET TODAY'S SCHEDULE, MAP, AND YOUR PHOTO BOOTH PHOTOS AT THAYER.ORG/PENERCONFERENCE

8:30 A.M. Registration | CFA

9:15 A.M. Welcome | CFA
Chris Fortunato - Mark Pener - Skip Schneider

9:30 A.M. Student Presentations | CFA

USING AI FOR SUSTAINABILITY: DRONE TRASH IDENTIFICATION
Ajay Devendran - Roxbury Latin

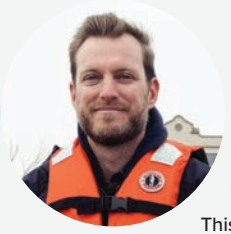
THE SOUND OF BIODIVERSITY: HOW NOISE RESHAPES ECOSYSTEMS
Arthur Chen - Thayer Academy

BLOOMBUSTERS: BIODETECTING TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS USING CRISPR TECHNOLOGY
Shaanveer Gupta, Vidyuth Sathish, and Aashrita Joga - Thayer Academy

10:15 A.M. Break

10:30 A.M. Keynote Presentation | CFA

KEYSTONE SPECIES RESTORATION IN AN URBAN SETTING
Pete Malinowski, President and CEO of Billion Oyster Project



Pete Malinowski grew up farming oysters with his parents and siblings on the Fishers Island Oyster Farm. His passion for the environment and education led him to the New York Harbor School, where he founded the school's aquaculture and oyster restoration programs and spent five years as a teacher. This work at Harbor School led to the development of Billion Oyster Project in 2014. For the last decade Malinowski has led Billion Oyster Project and efforts to build a clean, accessible, and abundant New York Harbor that is well-known, well-loved and well-cared-for by the greatest city in the world. Malinowski spends as much of his free time as possible on the water or in the woods with his three children: Adrian, Maxwell, and Daisy.

11:20 A.M. Lunch | Grab and Go to Workshop Locations

11:40 A.M. Hands-On Workshops | Various Locations

ROOTED IN CARBON: PROTECTING OUR COASTAL SINKS
Giavanna Christiano, Katherine (Katie) Donahue, Ryleigh (Erin) Flaherty-Clapham, and Jenny Wong with faculty member Dr. Taylor Sehein - Thayer Academy
Glover (Beneath the Waves Lab)

DESIGNING A WORLD IN TRANSITION: FROM EVERYDAY PFAS EXPOSURE TO COLLECTIVE RESPONSE THROUGH ART, POLICY, AND PUBLIC SPACE
Elsie Vijjeswarapu and Katie Kenealy - Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research (CCSCR)
Glover (205)

GOING GREEN: MAKING AN INDOOR GARDEN AT YOUR SCHOOL
Ameer Hasan - Roxbury Latin
Glover (311)

FIGHTING FAST FAST FASHION IN 2026
Tess Neuefeind Lessig and Griffin MacDonald - Buckingham, Browne & Nichols
Glover (130)

DESIGNING AND PAINTING YOUR OWN REUSABLE TOTE BAGS
Alex Kaye, Ella Wenger, and Katherine Silvers - Thayer Academy
Frothingham (Art Room)

HOW ENVIRONMENTAL MAPPING, GIS, CAN HELP US LIVE AND MAKE MORE EDUCATED, SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS
Declan Bergan and Manny Chikwendu - Thayer Academy
Glover (300)

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
Faculty member Nicki Pardo - Thayer Academy
Frothingham (Photography Room)

12:40 P.M. Student Talks | CFA

FROM SCRAPS TO SUSTAINABILITY
Suhas Sanjay Kaniyar - Belmont Hill

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: WHY KNOWING ISN'T CHANGING BEHAVIOR
Alyssa McGuirl - Thayer Academy

EXPANDING EV - A LOOK AT USING ELECTRIC BUSES IN MODERN-DAY SCHOOL TRANSPORT
Alta Randall - Thayer Academy

1:15 P.M. Activity Break

- Oyster Tasting (Island Creek Oysters)
- Tours of Thayer's Hydroponic Farm
- Environmental Advocacy
- Sustainability Clubs Meet
- Photo Booth

1:50 P.M. Student Talks | CFA

SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH THE MODERN LENS: USING DRONES TO CREATE A GREENER PLANET
Adrian Chen and Ilan Tarevskiy - Belmont Hill

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DIETARY PATTERNS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS
Sadie Borushko - Thayer Academy

FROM SOLHEIMAR TO THE STATES: CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY IN AN UNSUSTAINABLE SOCIETY
Carly Woll and Erin Kennedy - Dana Hall

2:30 P.M. Closing Remarks | CFA