

# FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation  
and Environmental Stewardship



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

FORCES mission is to engage New York State college students to simultaneously improve OPRHP resources and enrich student academic, recreational, and career opportunities.

## 2020 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



**Kit Atanasoff**  
Inv.Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Kit majors in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. He is from Foxboro, MA and is interested in forest health, GIS, trail work, hiking, kayaking, unicycling, and making little wire bonsai trees. Last summer, Kit served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. His goal is to get more involved in volunteer work, and do conservation projects around the country.



**Jenny Bartholomay**  
SUNY Geneseo Club President

While attending SUNY Geneseo, Jenny majors in History and Political Science. She grew up in Henrietta, NY and historic preservation/environmental conservation interest her. Jenny served as the SUNY Geneseo FORCES Club President. She also enjoys running, hiking, cooking, and reading. Jenny's career goal is to work for either NYS OPRHP, the National Park Service or for a similar organization at an outdoor historic site.



**Rachael Bealer**  
Env. Interpretation Steward

Originally from Banoor, PA, Rachael attends SUNY ESF where she studies Environmental Biology. She likes Ducks Unlimited, aquatics and microbiology, and wetland ecosystems. Rachael served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Her career goal is to graduate with her Bachelor's in Environmental Biology and land a position working in wetlands or a related ecosystem.



**Anna Bornstein**  
Stewardship Corps Member

At Ithaca College, Anna majors in Environmental Studies. She is from Buffalo, NY and enjoys hiking, music, and running. Anna served as a Three Gorges FORCES Stewardship Corps Member in the Finger Lakes Region. She would someday love to travel to all 50 states and have a career focusing on sustainability and conservation.



**Jay Bortel**  
Trail Mgmt. Steward

Jay studies Biology with a minor in Animal Welfare at Medaille College. His hometown is Liverpool, NY and he enjoys many activities including running cross country for Medaille, hanging out with friends, being outside, watching movies, playing video games, and hiking. Jay served as a Trail Management Steward in the Niagara Region. He would like to continue his education with a masters program, or work for a government agency.



**Amber Ciesielski**  
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

Amber grew up in Orchard Park, NY and attends the University at Buffalo to study Environmental Sustainability/Geosciences. She served as a Wildlife Management Steward in the Niagara Region. Amber enjoys hiking, climbing, birding, and reading. She would like to work in the sustainability field and possibly go on to a masters program. She'd also go to Asia/Africa and visit elephants in national parks/preserves.



**TJ Clark**  
Trails Steward

While attending Niagara County Community College enrolled in the Recreation Studies Department, TJ served as a Trails Steward in the Niagara Region. He calls Tonawanda, NY home and some of his hobbies include hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes and camping. He would like to become a DEC conservation officer but is open to any job that keeps him outdoors.



**Sean Colby**  
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

While enrolled at the University at Buffalo majoring in the Ecology and Evolution Masters program, Sean also served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. He is from Niagara, NY and in his spare time enjoys football, playing music, and biking. Sean would like to learn new aspects of the environmental field and work towards earning his PhD.



**Sara Cosenza**  
Community Conserv. Steward

Sara is working towards a BS in Forest Health at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Colden, NY and her hobbies include spending time in the outdoors camping, kayaking, and hiking. She is very passionate about environmental education, especially tree health. Sara served as a Community Conservation Steward in the Central Region. She is currently working on the American Chestnut Project at SUNY ESF and would like to publish a paper on her findings. After graduation, she would like to become a forest health advisor for NYS Parks and to continue her research on tree pathogens.



**Lauren Craige**  
Env. Interp. Steward

Lauren studies Environmental Biology at SUNY ESF. Last spring, she served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. She calls Fairfax, VA home and was previously a competitive rock climber. Other interests include organismal biology and education. Lauren would like to increase her knowledge of organismal biology and expand her knowledge on educating biology.



**Madeline Czymmeck**  
Conservation Steward

When Madeline is not busy studying Environment and Sustainability at Cornell University, she may be hiking, camping or traveling. At home in Lansing, NY, she loves swimming and watching sunsets at the lake. Madeline is also interested in soil-water interactions and protecting the quality of these resources and how soil and riparian ecosystems can act as a filter for water contaminants. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Madeline plans to go to graduate school and have a career combining research and public outreach. She also would like to do fieldwork in cool places so she can explore while getting some experience! Ultimately, Madeline wants to have a job she enjoys doing most days, have hiking trails near where she lives and be surrounded by people she loves.



**Chris Danforth**  
Conservation Steward

Chris recently graduated from SUNY ESF with a degree in Conservation Biology. He comes from Dalton, MA and enjoys hunting, fishing, and hiking. Chris served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. His career goal is to pursue a career in aquatics and fisheries in NYS.



**Anthony DeAngelis**  
Water Quality Steward

Anthony attends the University at Buffalo and studies Environmental Geoscience. Last summer, he served as a Water Quality Steward in the Niagara Region. He calls Lancaster, NY home and is interested in hydrology, water quality, pollution, and ecology. During his time with Parks, one of his goals was to get a better understanding of careers in the field, network, and gain valuable field experience.



**Lucy DesJardins**  
Pollinator Steward

After growing up in Lockport, NY, Lucy enrolled in the University at Buffalo to major in Political Science/Gender and Sexuality Studies; transferring to Environmental Science. Lucy served as a Pollinator Steward in the Niagara Region. She loves baking and runs a dog collar business. Lucy is interested in transgender issues and wildlife conservation and her goal is to work for a nonprofit on public policy. Once she distinguishes a career path, she will go on to grad school or law school.



**Joy Fleckstein**  
Pollinator Steward

Joy is working towards her degree in Environmental Science at the University at Buffalo. Hailing from Springville, NY, she enjoys nature, reading, and watching TV/ hanging out with friends. Joy served as a Pollinator Steward in the Niagara Region and during this time, she hoped to gain more knowledge in the environmental field.



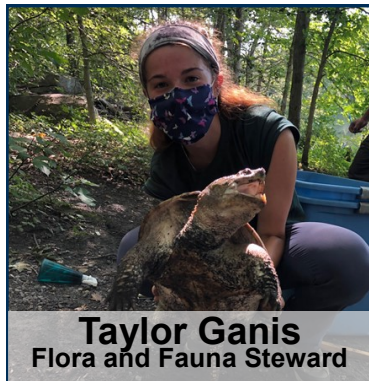
**Rachael Foote**  
Nat. Resource Mgmt. Steward

Originally from Arcade, NY, Rachael attends SUNY ESF to study Forest Health. She served as a Natural Resource Conservation Steward in the Central Region. In her spare time, Rachael likes hiking, fishing, astronomy, microbiology, geology, exploration, natural history, plant propagation, soccer, fishing, and environmental education. She'd like to educate the public on what is out there and to explore and protect on an environmental standpoint.



**Derek Gallo**  
Conservation Steward

Derek studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. Brookfield, CT is home and he enjoys biking, backpacking, music, studying plants, and working to save the planet. Last summer, Derek served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. Some of Derek's goals include working with endangered species, hiking the 46 Adirondack High Peaks, and running a marathon.



**Taylor Ganis**  
Flora and Fauna Steward

Taylor is working towards her degree in Environmental Studies at Pace University. Wildlife conservation, specifically carnivores, are an interest and she served as a Flora and Fauna Steward in the Taconic Region last summer and during her internship, she gained more experience with camera trapping, turtle research, invasive species removal, and wildlife tracking.



**Morgan Gere**  
Data Management Steward

Morgan studies Computer Science at Niagara University. She is from Mumford, NY and is interested in video gaming and hiking. Morgan has served for several semesters as Data Management Steward in the Niagara Region.



**Luke Giunta**  
Le Moyne Club Co-President

Luke is enrolled at Le Moyne College where he studies Environmental Science Systems. He is from Lyndhurst, NJ and is interested in Renewable Energy. Luke served as the Le Moyne College FORCES Club Co-President for two semesters. His goal is to obtain a career working to address climate change.



**Felix Gonzalez**  
Flora and Fauna Steward

Felix is enrolled at Pace University and is working on his Master's Degree in Environmental Studies. Since his internship at Rockefeller State Park Preserve as a Fauna Steward, he has obtained a significant amount of experience in the methods used to perform field-research on aquatic turtles. Additionally, Felix has contributed to documenting the species of fish which inhabit the aquatic systems within the preserve, as well as disseminating information to the public on the importance of sustainable fishing practices.



**Miranda Gregory**  
Inv. Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Miranda studies Conservation Biology with a minor in Environmental Health at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Syracuse, NY and likes to spend time camping, kayaking, climbing, and hiking with her dogs. Miranda served as an Invasive Species management Steward in the Central Region. She is also a member of the Syracuse University Outing Club where she's served as Paddling Chair and Secretary. During her time at ESF, she's taken an interest in herpetology, entomology, and natural resources management. After graduation Miranda would like to work with NYS Parks. After that, she wants to travel and move west where she can work with the National Park Service.



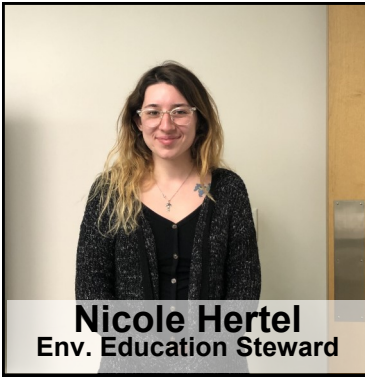
**Carley Guido**  
Env. Education Steward

Carley attends the University at Buffalo and is enrolled in the Biological Sciences program. Originally from Lake View, NY, Carley enjoys cooking, hiking, and singing. She served as an Environmental Education Steward in the Niagara Region. Carley's goal is to share nature with the world!



**Cameron Haberl**  
Greenhouse Steward

Cameron graduated from Medaille College where she majored in Biology. She comes from Clarence, NY and enjoys all things plants— annuals, perennials, and house plants. She also likes yoga, meditation, and crystals. During her position as a Greenhouse Steward in the Niagara Region, her goal was to learn as much about plants as possible, specifically starting from seeds.



**Nicole Hertel**  
Env. Education Steward

Nicole majors in Environmental Science at the University of Buffalo. Buffalo, NY is home and last summer, she served as an Environmental Education Steward in the Niagara Region. She likes art, hiking, and reading. Nicole's goal is to become a park ranger and work around the country at different parks.



**Tanner Holthouse**  
Trails Steward

While attending Niagara University, Tanner majors in Environmental Biology. He is from Wilson, NY and likes nature photography, woodworking, hunting, and fishing. Tanner served as a Trails Steward in the Niagara Region. His career goal is to become a conservation officer and visit Alaska.



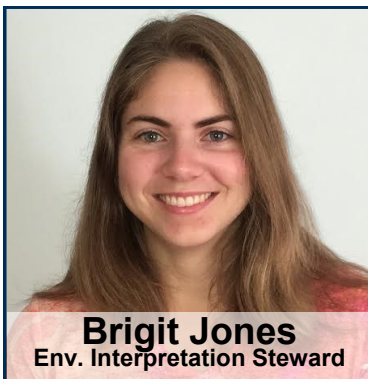
**Erica Hudkins**  
Stewardship Corps Member

Erica is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at Ithaca College. Fleming, NJ is home and some of her interests are biking, birding, hammocking, photography, and oil painting. Erica Served as a Three Gorges FORCES Stewardship Corps Member in the Finger Lakes Region. During her summer with FORCES, Erica wanted to use her skills such as GPS and power tools to work on stewardship projects, to improve on her plant ID, and to become a better communicator.



**Adria Ivkovic**  
Trails Steward

Adria majors in Chemistry at SUNY ESF. She served as a Chimney Bluffs Trails Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She's from Bethesda, MD and enjoys hiking and backpacking, playing guitar, and reading. Her favorite classes in college are labs, specifically chem labs. When Adria graduates, she is planning to hike the Pacific Crest Trail then work as a chemist for the EPA or the National Park Service.



**Brigit Jones**  
Env. Interpretation Steward

Brigit is working towards her Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF. She served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Growing up in Wall, NJ, Brigit enjoys birdwatching, hiking, knitting, and reading. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in environmental education and outreach.



**Jonah Kamen**  
Flora and Fauna Steward

Jonah attends Syracuse University and studies Biology. He served as a Flora and Fauna Steward at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in the Taconic Region. Throughout his internship with Parks, Jonah accumulated knowledge across various ecological facets, particularly assisting with the removal of invasive flora and the manual propagation of native flora. Additionally, Jonah supported fauna research initiatives, such as benthic macroinvertebrate stream sampling, as well as contributing to the pilot sessions of an aquatic turtle survey.



**Jason Kappan**  
Bird Conservation Steward

Jason graduated from the University at Buffalo with a BS in Environmental Studies, focusing in Environmental Resources and Management. His hometown is Depew, NY and he served as a Bird Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Jason enjoys hiking, camping, birds, Star Wars, video games, and movies. He hopes to thrive in his field of study and one day work in the Adirondacks.



**Jacob Kelley**  
Conservation Steward

While majoring in History at SUNY Cortland, Jacob served as an Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. His hometown is Albany, NY and his passions include being outside, hiking, fishing, and reading a good book outdoors. He wants to use the skills and ways of thinking that his history classes have taught him to better understand and protect the environment. Jacob's goal is to be able to use both field work and historical records to teach the public what is harmful and what is beneficial to the environment and find some easy ways for everyone to play a part.



**Garrett Kilcer**  
Bird Conservation Steward

At the University at Buffalo, Garrett studies Statistics. He is from Stockport, NY and is interested in snowboarding, basketball, and being outside. While serving as a Bird Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region, Garrett hoped to gain more field experience in the sciences.



**Christian Kirbach**  
Conservation Steward

Christian attends Sienna College and majors in Environmental Studies. He grew up in Rutland, VT and his interests include invasive species, skiing, and rugby. He has served as a Conservation Steward in the Saratoga/Capital Region last spring. While working with Parks, he hoped to learn more about invasives species and the NYS Park Agency.



**Savannah Kraus**  
Education Steward

While attending SUNY Cortland, Savannah studies Recreation. She grew up in Camillus, NY and she loves to read and watch a lot of comedies on Netflix. She chose Recreation as a major because she loves to hike and go on adventures, especially hikes to waterfalls or lakes. Savannah served as an Education Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She is interested in leading hiking tours and educational programs for kids. After graduation, Savannah, wants to work for NY State Parks or focus on environmental education in outreach programs.



**Madison LeMere**  
Trail Management Steward

While attending the University at Buffalo, Madison studies Environmental Science. She grew up in Buffalo, NY and likes photography and painting. She served as a Wildlife Management Steward in the Niagara Region. After graduating, Madison would like to move to Wyoming and work for Yellowstone National Park.



**Savanna Lenker**  
Conservation Education Steward

At Ithaca College, Savanna studies Environmental Studies and minors in Spanish and Photography. She served as a Conservation Education Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Savanna is from Camp Hill, PA and is interested in hiking, backpacking, kayaking, canoeing, photography, playing field hockey, being outdoors, and teaching people, especially children about the environment. She hopes to become an environmental educator or naturalist, where she would get to use the outdoors as her classroom and continue to learn about it. She also hopes to incorporate her interest in Spanish into her work, creating programs and brochures for Spanish speakers. Savanna plans to continue to use photography as a tool in education and continue her photography as a hobby.



**Emily Link**  
SUNY ESF Club President

Emily is working towards her BS in Environmental Biology at SUNY ESF. She is from Pittsburgh, PA and has served as the SUNY ESF FORCES Club President for several semesters. Kayaking, testing her hiking ability, and cooking new recipes are some of her favorite things to do. Emily is passionate about the environment, including maintaining and protecting it. Professionally, she is interested different types of biological field research, but especially forest ecology. After she graduates, Emily hopes to be accepted into the Peace Corps. She is also very interested in field research, which she plans to pursue after her service in the Peace Corps. Emily's long-term goal is to attend law school and become an environmental lawyer.



**Clare Maloney**  
Forest Health Steward

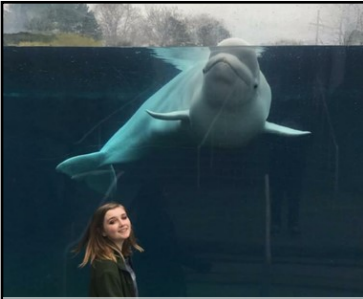
Clare served as a Forest Health Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She is working towards her degree in Recreation: Outdoor and Environmental Education Management at SUNY Cortland. Clare served as a Forest Health Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She grew up in Vestal, NY and enjoys running, rock climbing, folk music, and the environment. Her career goal is to work outside with people as an environmental or outdoor educator.





**Mary Martin**  
Inv. Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Mary attends SUNY ESF and is enrolled in the MS Landscape Architecture program. She grew up in New York City and she likes gardening, bird watching, mycology, and hiking and is interested in spaces that increase human-nature connections and create meaningful relationships with the natural world. Mary served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Central Region. Her professional interests include urban design, ecological design, and social justice. Her career goal is to practice urban ecological design.



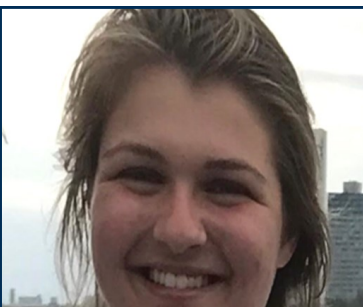
**Raymonda Martin**  
Flora and Fauna Steward

Raymonda studies Environmental Science at Pace University. She served as a Flora and Fauna Steward at Rockefeller State Park Preserve in the Taconic Region where she's learned plant and animal identification, data collection, and real in-the-field training. Upon graduation, Raymonda's career goal is to work toward preserving natural areas for animals and minimize invasive species.



**Hannah McConnell**  
Conservation Steward

Hannah studies Environmental Biology at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Corning, NY and she's interested in hiking, kayaking, camping, painting, and recently into foraging. Hannah served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. While earning her Bachelor's Degree from ESF, she would like to gain as field-related much experience as she can.



**Sophie Millar**  
Oneonta Club President

While attending SUNY Oneonta and studying Environmental Sustainability and Geography, Sophie served as the SUNY Oneonta FORCES Club President. She is from Ilion, NY and Frisbee, basketball, tennis, and soccer keeps her busy! Sophie is also part of SUNY Oneonta's Mock Trial Team and loves musicals, collecting plants, and spending time with family and friends. Her career goal is to pursue a future in environmental law.



**Fiona Modrak**  
Env. Interp. Steward

Fiona majors in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Conklin, NY and her hobbies include environmental education, citizen science, photography, baking, and community building. Her goal is to create environmental education programs that bring the larger community into long-term stewardship of the land.



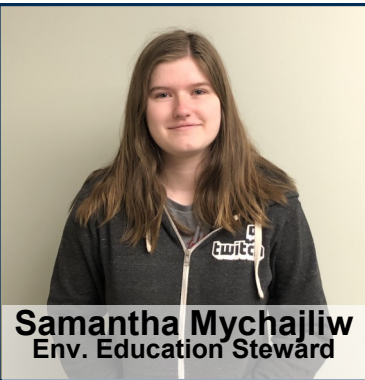
**Meghan Morral**  
Conservation Steward

A native of Rochester, NY, Meghan is working towards her Bachelor's of Science in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF and studying myology and sustainability practices. Gardening, and painting are some of her interests. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region and during this time, Meghan hoped to learn more about native flora in NYS, to create inclusive programs and educate others about conservation projects and environmental science while making opportunities for students to access nature.



**Christina Morrow**  
Stewardship Corps Lead

Christina graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from SUNY Geneseo. She grew up in Fredonia, NY and has been very active with FORCES over the years, holding her most recent position of Three Gorges FORCES Stewardships Corps Lead in the Finger Lakes Region. Christina enjoys walking, hiking, biking, collaging, reading, making kombucha, and composting. Her professional interests include fieldwork, environmental education, and sustainability. While she is in the Ithaca area, her goal was to explore as many trails in the Ithaca area as possible and to obtain a Master Naturalist certificate.



**Samantha Mychajliw**  
Env. Education Steward

Samantha is enrolled in the Biology and Environmental Studies program at the University at Buffalo. Her hometown is Cheektowaga, NY and she served as an Environmental Education Steward in the Niagara Region. Samantha enjoys reading, hiking, camping, and playing with animals. While with Parks, she hoped to experience all that she can within the science and environmental fields.



**Zaw Win 'Francis' Naung**  
Conservation Steward

Zaw Win 'Francis' Naung studies Environmental Geoscience at the University at Buffalo. Making his way from Yangon, Myanmar, he served as a Wildlife Management Steward in the Niagara Region and is interested in climate change related problems, especially how it affects humans and animals. During his experience with Parks, he hopes to improve communication skills in a professional working environment and to gain field work experience.



**Nathan Pavlick**  
Trails Steward

Nathan attends the University at Buffalo where he majors in Geology. He is from Painted Post, NY and is interested in skiing, biking, and groundwater studies. Nathan served as a Trails Steward in the Niagara Region. During his time with Parks, he hoped to learn more about conservation.



**Sarah Petty**  
Data Management Steward

Sarah studies Wildlife Biology at SUNY ESF. Her hometown is Wappingers Falls, NY and some of her hobbies include nature study, art, music, hiking, and camping. Sarah served as a Data Management Steward in the Central Region. Her goal is to earn a degree in Wildlife Biology and show others how awesome nature and the environment are and spark an interest in others.



**Max Pizarro**  
Hartwick FORCES President

Max recently graduated from Hartwick College with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. During his time at Hartwick, Max served as the Hartwick FORCES Club President. He is originally from Goshen, NY and is an Eagle Scout with certifications from the BSA National Camping School in both Ecology/Conservation and Aquatics. Outside of school, Max worked as the Aquatics Director at BSA Camp Bullowa, and he volunteers with his home troop. He loves teaching and giving back the knowledge he's amassed over his life. Eventually, Max would like to teach professionally.



**Colby Poerio**  
Research Steward

Colby studies Biology and Environmental Sciences at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Her hometown is Pittsburgh, PA and her interests include conservation and ecology. Colby served as a Brook Trout Habitat Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She hopes to work in conservation or renewable energy.



**Emily Purce**  
Env. Interp. Steward

Emily attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Studies, Policy, Planning, and Law. She grew up in Oswego, NY and has interests in cats, local and national politics, environmental education, and environmental justice. Emily served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Her career goal is to teach children and adults the importance of the environment, influence and write comprehensive environmental regulations and legislation.



**Emily Quaresma**  
Conservation Steward

While attending SUNY ESF, Emily studies Conservation Biology. She grew up in Coventry, RI, and her interests include mammals, plants, conservation, hiking, music, singing, her adorable dog Cardi, candles, and photography. Emily served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. Her personal goals are to expand her horizons while exploring the different areas of the world in order to learn more about how ecosystems connect and how to properly preserve them for the future. Professionally, Emily would like to educate people about the environment, what they can do to help, and eventually work with the conservation of large charismatic mammals.



**Kelly Rife**  
Conservation Steward

Kelly recently graduated from Buffalo State College with a degree in Earth Science. Her hometown is Buffalo, NY and she enjoys the outdoors, singing, and Disney movies. Kelly served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Kelly would like to go on a cross country road trip, visiting as many states as possible and her hope is to find a career that makes a difference with the environment.



**David Rojek**  
Env. Interp. Steward

David served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region for several semesters. He recently graduated with a degree in Natural Resource Management from SUNY ESF. David grew up in Buffalo, NY and his personal interests include all types of recreation—hiking, biking, snowshoeing, kayaking, and sailing. He enjoys camping and traveling as well. Professionally, David is interested in working with parks and recreation agencies, specifically giving people more opportunities to recreate, enjoy, and learn about their local environment. After already working with various parks and other types of public lands, David would like to continue building experiences to eventually become a public land manager.



**Justin Santiago**  
Research Steward

Originally from Wappingers Falls, NY, Justin came to Binghamton University to study Environmental Science with a concentration in Ecosystems. Justin has many interests including conservation biology, protection of wild landscapes, wildlife management, preservation of architecture, photography, and paleontology. He served as a Research Steward in the Central Region. Some of Justin's career goals are to work with zoological institutions, release and protect endangered wildlife, and eventually open his own facility to aid reintroductions.



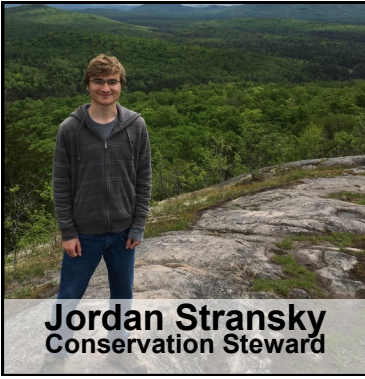
**Shannon Simmons**  
Wells FORCES President

Shannon recently graduated from Wells College with a degree in Health Science. She grew up in Holtsville, NY and wants to work with animals as a zoologist or wildlife biologist. Shannon has served as the Wells College FORCES Club President for several semesters. She would someday love to work at a zoo or in the wild with the wildlife helping the species thrive in the wild.



**Derek Spann**  
Conservation Steward

Derek attends the University at Buffalo and majors in Environmental Science. He is from Boonville, NY and has fun wrestling for the Division 1 team at UB. Derek would like to pursue a future in environmental law. He served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region and he would like to find a career that provides the opportunity to be outdoors and work in the environmental field.



**Jordan Stransky**  
Conservation Steward

Jordan studies Environmental Science at SUNY ESF. He is from Ontario, NY and served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. He likes to explore the world around him, learn how and why it works, and become involved in it. Science and art are his favorite ways of doing this. Jordan's goals are to learn more and become better informed so he can improve the quality of his life and have a meaningful impact through his work.



**Victoria Summers**  
Water Quality Steward

While attending Stetson University, Victoria majors in Environmental Science and Aquatic and Marine Biology. Her hometown is Orchard Park, NY and she served as a Water Quality Steward in the Niagara Region. Victoria loves being outside and learning about the environment, animals, and wildlife. She'd like to pursue a career that incorporates both majors, optimally something related to wildlife conservation.



**Haley Synan**  
Le Moyne Club Co-President

In addition to serving as Le Moyne College FORCES Co-President, Haley also served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. She studies Environmental Science Systems at Le Moyne College and is from Belchertown, Massachusetts. Haley enjoys swimming and hiking and some of her goals are to complete her Bachelors Degree as a student athlete, and then pursue a Masters Degree in Water Resources Management.



**Elona Tanski**  
Env. Interp. Steward

Hailing from Plainville, CT, Elona studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Elona is interested in all aspects of the marine environment. Connecting people to nature is a huge commitment to the Earth and worth every minute. In her free time she loves to hike, bake, and wade in tide pools. After graduation, she would love to work as a naturalist at a natural park and to SCUBA dive in a mangrove reef.



**Grace Trentini**  
Env. Interp. Steward

Grace is working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies-Policy Planning and Law at SUNY ESF. She is from Rochester, NY and has been a plant health technician for three years and has developed a love for understanding the vulnerabilities of trees, particularly in urban settings. Grace loves camping, hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, and yoga and spends her free time working with various political organizations mostly doing phone banking and canvassing to promote policies she agrees with. Grace is interested in the incorporation of nature in expanding urban landscapes. She hopes to work with city councils to have a voice in sustainable planning for the expansion of our populations.



**Tad Townsend**  
Trail Management Steward

Tad attends Niagara County Community College and majors in Recreation Studies. His hometown is Akron, NY and his interests include walking trails, cooking, and movies. Tad served as a Trail Management Steward in the Niagara Region. He'd like to find a career within State Parks as either a park ranger or with GIS/GPS.



**Alexandra Tzanetos**  
Conservation Steward

Alexandra studies Environmental Geoscience at the University of Buffalo. She is from Long Island, NY and likes hiking, kayaking, fishing, and reading. Alexandra served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Her goals include attending graduate school on the west coast after a few years in the workforce and then work for a government agency.



**Jasmine Umriger**  
Inv. Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Jasmine attends Cornell University and studies Plant Science. She is from Brooktondale, NY and served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She has fun hiking, swimming, playing polo at Cornell, and cooking. During her internship with Parks, Jasmine hoped to learn skills in conservation and preservation of native species.



**Amanda Varhol**  
Conservation Steward

Amanda attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Biology. She is from Prospect, CT and her interests include collecting new and different plants and crocheting projects for friends and family. Amanda gives back to the community at countless community service projects around the Syracuse area through her community service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. Her career goal is to create a sustainable remediation method that can be used to reestablish local plants to a devastated area that other organizations and groups can then implement. She wants to help recreate the ecosystems typically lost in secondary forests. Amanda also wants to learn if there is a major difference between reestablishment at different kinds of areas, such as farmland and waste dumping sites, and how to use what is thought was a negative trait of the site can still be beneficial to the health of a future forest.



**Douglas Vedilago**  
Conservation Steward

Originally from Massapequa, NY, Doug majors in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF. He served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region and he is interested in helping the environment, animals, and outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and swimming. Doug's career goal is to become an environmental filmmaker traveling the world and educating people about the environment. He would also like to work with a wild animal sanctuary at some point in his life.



**Zachary Widrick**  
Natural Res. Mgmt. Steward

At SUNY ESF, Zach is enrolled in the Natural Resource Management program. He served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region and enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, cars, vehicles, and operating equipment. He grew up in Adams, NY. Zach would like to someday have a family and a camp in the Adirondacks.



**William Wolff**  
Conservation Steward

William attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Studies with a focus in Policy, Planning and Law. He is originally from Camden, NY and is interested in the relationship between humans and the environment, environmental justice, and human and environmental health. William would like to find a career helping people and the environment in a mutually beneficial way.



**Victoria Yargeau**  
Conservation Steward

Victoria holds degrees in Anthropology and Art History from Canisius College and GIS and Technology from the University of Southern California. Derby, NY is home and she likes camping, drawing, watching YouTube, and knitting. Victoria's professional interests are focused on GIS, ethnographies, data collection and CAD. While serving as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region, Victoria's goals were to network and meet new people on similar career paths, and practicing to stay sharp in the field.

## 2020 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Danielle Minnick	Environmental Interpretation Steward	SUNY ESF
Timothy Ranger	Environmental Interpretation Steward	SUNY ESF
William Starkey	Conservation Steward	University of Vermont
Brett Van Patten	Conservation Steward	SUNY ESF

Thank you!





# FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation  
and Environmental Stewardship



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation

FORCES mission is to engage New York State college students to simultaneously improve OPRHP resources and enrich student academic, recreational, and career opportunities.

## 2020 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



### Spring 2020

Max Pizarro, President  
Tarah Smith, Vice President  
Aaron Hall, Treasurer  
Myranda Hollenbeck, Secretary

### Fall 2020

Tarah Smith, President

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry



### Spring 2020

Haley Synan, Co-President  
Luke Giunta, Co-President  
Ann Christopher, Vice President  
Brandon Bardin, Treasurer  
Jacob Stewart, Secretary  
Eh Moemo Qui, Social Media

### Fall 2020

Haley Synan, Co-President  
Luke Giunta, Co-President

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences



### Spring 2020

Emily Link, President  
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Emily Link, President  
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Maggie O'Brien, Social Media Chair  
James Farrell, USA Representative

Faculty Advisor: Tom Hughes, NYS OPRHP Regional Stewardship Biologist



### Spring 2020

Christina Morrow, President  
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Faculty Advisor: Jim Kernan, Associate Professor, Geography Department



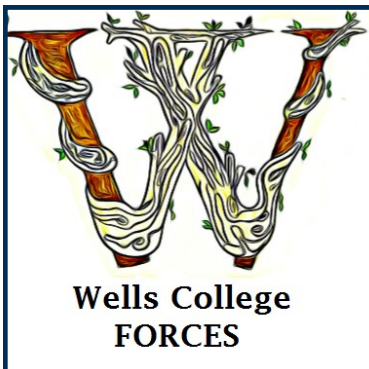
Spring 2020

Sophie Millar, President  
Samantha Pepe, Vice President

Fall 2020

Sophie Millar, President

Faculty Advisor: Donna Vogler, Department of Biology



Spring 2020

Shannon Simmons, President  
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Dan Popp, President  
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Poony Rizal, Treasurer  
Eh Tha Yooi Lee, Secretary

Faculty Advisor: Jackie Schnurr, Department of Biology

## 2020 FORCES Team

Currently, FORCES has a programmatic presence in seven regions across the state, including Central, Finger Lakes, Niagara, Genesee, Allegany, Saratoga/Capital, and Taconic. Within these regions, several OPRHP staff directly supervise FORCES Stewards, volunteers, clubs and their projects. In addition, this dedicated team works hard to maintain and grow FORCES relationships with our collegiate, agency and other partners.



**Jeremy Brady**  
**Stewardship Specialist, Genesee Region**

Inspired by his botany professor at SUNY Buffalo, Jeremy decided to pursue plant science during his first semester and his floral passion increased in the course of his education. An internship with the Bureau of Land Management took him to the wondrous deserts of Eastern Oregon where he applied his education to the conservation of the imperiled sagebrush ecosystem. Next, he worked multiple seasonal jobs including positions as a crew member for an ecological restoration company, a plant nursery clerk, and an apprentice on a small seed farm. Jeremy is currently completing his MS in Environmental Science and Ecology at SUNY Brockport. One of his greatest interests is the coupling of literature and nature which is best exemplified by his favorite poet, Emily Dickenson.



**Philip Corney**  
**Conservation Coordinator, Saratoga-Capital District Region**

Phil grew up in Ballston Lake, NY. He earned both his AAS in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology and his BT in Wildlife Management from SUNY Cobleskill. Prior to working with NYS Parks, Phil served as Wildlife Research Technician for the University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry on two separate research projects including Wild Turkey & Northern Bobwhite (Quail). He is a former ACE crew member serving 3 months out west, based in Flagstaff AZ, as well as a former ECC Survey & Assessment crew member, serving 10 months in 2018. He is an outdoorsman, who thoroughly enjoys spending his time traveling, hiking, biking, and kayaking.



**Joshua DiPaola**  
**Natural Resource Specialist, Taconic Region**

After obtaining his Bachelor's in Finance and Economics from Fordham University and a Master's Degree in Animal Behavior and Conservation from Hunter College. Josh has worked at a zoo, supported field-ecology research on mammals, volunteered at a wildlife rehabilitation center, as well as performing behavioral research on critically endangered pangolins. Josh's primary focus at Rockefeller State Park Preserve is wildlife conservation and management within the preserve.



**Chenga Drury**  
**Three Gorges Stewardship Project Coordinator, Finger Lakes Region**

Chenga grew up in Ithaca, NY and earned an AAS in Environmental Studies from Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) and her BS in Natural Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. She interned with NYS Parks in the summer of 2017, surveying and mapping for an invasive bunchgrass, slender false brome, in Tompkins County. In 2018, Chenga was hired as a FORCES Program Specialist through a grant funded Three Gorges Project. The focus of the project is invasive species management and native species restoration in the three parks of Tompkins County. Chenga most recently serves as the Three Gorges Stewardship Project Coordinator.



**Cara Gannon, FORCES Program Specialist, SCA NYS Parks Corps**  
**Central Region**

Cara grew up in Syracuse, NY and graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a Recreation and Sports Management degree. She loves to do yoga, hike, swim, paddle board, kayak, and also tumbling (gymnastics and cheer). She enjoys live music events and traveling. Cara's professional goals are to do a seasonal position in a National Park focusing on environmental education/interpretation and to eventually land a permanent job within the NYS Parks.



**Tom Hughes**  
**Natural Resource Steward Biologist, Central and Finger Lakes Regions**  
**Central Region FORCES Program Manager**

Tom holds a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University, a MS in Biological Sciences from SUNY College at Brockport, and a Master's of Professional Studies in Environmental Interpretation from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has worked as a biologist for NYS OPRHP for nearly 13 years. Prior to his work in the NYS Parks system, Tom worked for SUNY ESF, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, and Cornell University. He has also served as a Professor for Limnology at Wells College. Tom grew up in the western Finger Lakes region in the small town of Rush, NY.



**Amy Kochem**  
**FORCES Program Coordinator**

Amy received her AAS in Ecology and Environmental Technology from Paul Smith's College, her BS in Biological Science from SUNY Brockport, and her MS in Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation from SUNY Cortland. Prior to holding this position, Amy was an environmental educator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at Rogers Environmental Education Center. She enjoys music, gardening, interior decorating, and skiing.



**Thomas LeBlanc**  
**Naturalist, Allegany Region**

Tom has been with the Allegany Region since 1998 and has moved around between departments over the years. He spent most of his time working with the Resource Management Department before being transferred back to the Environmental Education Department in the fall of 2016. Tom studied Media/Wildlife through SUNY Empire State College. He is a well-rounded naturalist but he is most known for his work with bird banding, butterflies, and promoting “Birds R Cool.”



**Josh Teeter**  
**Environmental Educator, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Region FORCES Program Manager**

For the last several years, Josh has been the environmental educator for the Finger Lakes Region. He received a BS in Psychology from Binghamton University and a MS in Management of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure from SUNY Cortland. Josh also spent a year studying primitive and survival skills at Wilderness Awareness School in Duvall, Washington. Prior to working for NYS Parks, he taught classes in the Outdoor Purists Department at Binghamton University and was a program director at a nature center. He lives in the Ithaca area.



**Maya Thompson, FORCES Program Specialist, SCA NYS Parks Corps**  
**Central Region**

Maya grew up in Auburn, NY. She received her BS in Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation from Canisius College. Throughout college, she interned at the Philadelphia Zoo, Aquarium of Niagara, and Rosamond Gifford Zoo doing aspects of zookeeping or interpretation, eventually began working at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo after graduation as a zookeeper. Although Maya still loves animals and loved working at the zoo, she wanted to gain more experience in the conservation and wildlife biology world, so she pursued a MS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Clemson University.



**Alexandra 'Allie' Tillman**  
**FORCES Program Specialist, Niagara Region**

Allie earned her BS in Geology with an Environmental Science Concentration from SUNY Cortland. She's worked for State Parks for almost 3 years now, starting in the Horticulture Department at Niagara Falls State Park and moving into the FORCES Program Specialist position for the Niagara Region in the spring of 2019. She volunteers as a judge for the Niagara/Orleans County Envirothon and the Western New York Science and Engineering Fair. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Niagara Career and Technical Center Natural Resource Program. When she's not working, Allie is usually playing rugby, hiking, camping, or playing with her dog, Fae.



**Carlin Wakefield**  
**FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region**

Carlin was born and raised in Buffalo, NY and received a BS in Environmental Studies with a focus in communication from SUNY ESF. In the summer of 2017, she interned with NYS DEC and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater as an Aquatic Invasive Species Technician assisting with education events, tabling at festivals, and educating along the Hudson Estuary. In the summer of 2018, Carlin started working for NYS OPRHP as the Lead Steward for the Three Gorges Project Stewardship Corps. She surveyed, mapped, and removed invasive species within Taughannock Falls, Robert H. Treman, and Buttermilk Falls State Parks. In the summer 2019 she started as a FORCES Program Specialist.



**Adele Wellman**  
**Environmental Educator, Allegany Region**

Adele has been with Allegany State Park for 20 years, 17 as a Seasonal Naturalist and most recently, as the Environmental Educator for all the Allegany Region which includes Long Point and Lake Erie State Parks, to name a few. She has a degree in Biology and a minor in Horticulture from Tennessee Technological University. Although her specialties include trees, edible plants and insects, she is a wealth of information on many things in the park. Adele enjoys mountain biking, paddle boarding, telemark skiing, and snowboarding.

## 2020 FORCES Support Staff

In addition to our FORCES Team, our extended family of regional Environmental Field Teams work with FORCES Stewards and program partners to support environmental and park improvement projects throughout our NYS Parks. Many of these OPRHP staff from the Central, Finger Lakes, and Niagara Regions are listed here, but the number of agency staff supporting the FORCES program extends well beyond.



**Mat Bilz**  
**Regional Stewardship Manager, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Mat holds an AAS in Environmental and Natural Resource Conservation from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Ranger School. He also has a BA in Geography, concentrated on watersheds and ecosystems, from State University College at Buffalo. Mat has worked for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, WNY Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, as well as climbing for a tree care company. From hunting/fishing to snowboarding, Mat spends most of his time outdoors enjoying the many forms of recreation.



**James Boyd,**  
**Regional Invasive Species Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

James graduated from SUNY ESF with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science. Last year, he worked for Parks as a Forest Health Specialist for western NY. James loves to run, backpack, ski, and rock and tree climb. He's always looking forward to his next trip to the Adirondacks and Catskills. James hopes to travel more to the White Mountains, learn more rock and tree climbing techniques, and run a marathon.



**Kira Broz,**  
**Stewardship Project Coordinator, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Kira focuses her work on wildlife surveys and habitat enhancement. She has worked with State Parks since 2016, mapping invasive species and restoring riparian corridors at Ganondagan State Historic Site. She earned her MS in Environmental Science and Ecology from SUNY Brockport, and holds a BS in Environmental Public Policy from SUNY Albany, as well as an AS in Veterinary Science Technology from SUNY Canton. Kira has a passion for herps, fuzzy moths and mammals, cats, and cycling.



**Whitney Carleton**  
**Natural Resource Steward Biologist, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Whitney has worked for NY State Parks since 2013 as a NY Works Project Coordinator & Stewardship Specialist. Prior to working for State Parks, Whitney worked for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources as a Wetland Assessor. She earned her BS in Plant Biology and Environmental Science, minoring in Spanish from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a MS in Watershed and Wetland Resources from SUNY ESF. Whitney is also a Certified Professional Wetland Scientist.



**Aaron Heminway**  
**Regional Biologist, Niagara & Genesee Regions**

Aaron is the Regional Biologist for the Genesee and Niagara Regions, starting his career with Parks as the Biologist in the Allegany Region in 2016. He received a combined BS (Terrestrial Ecology) and MS (Wetland Ecology) in Environmental Science and Biology from SUNY Brockport. Before his current role in Parks, Aaron worked for environmental consulting firms as a Biologist and Project Manager.



**Evyn Iacovitti**  
**Environmental Analyst, Niagara Region**

Evyn holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from the University at Buffalo and began working for State Parks in 2004 as a Beach Water Quality Sampler. Since that time, she has been involved with various natural resource stewardship projects in the Niagara Region and has served as an Environmental Analyst for the region since 2017. She was born and raised in Western New York where she still lives with her husband and their family.



**Shaina Johnson**  
**Piping Plover Project Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Shaina earned her Bachelor's of Science Degree from SUNY Potsdam and has been working as a seasonal employee for NYS OPRHP for the last three years. Shaina grew up in Lacona, NY and in the winter season, with her Level 2 Certification, works as the Snowboard School Director at Dry Hill Ski Center. Shaina also enjoys kayaking, hiking, and running.



**Delaney Kalsman**  
**COAS Project Coordinator, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Delaney recently received her Bachelor's of Science Degree from SUNY ESF where she studied Environmental Biology. Before holding her current position, Delaney was very active with FORCES as an Environmental Education Steward for several semesters. Delaney grew up in Portville, NY and she enjoys birdwatching, yoga, freshwater resources with a main focus on limnology and freshwater microbiology. Delaney's long-term goal is to work with local and federal agencies to better improve the quality of the United States waterway to provide clean water and quantity insurance for people and animals.



**Lydia Martin**  
**Lead Stewardship Technician, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Lydia received her BS in Biology from SUNY Geneseo as well as a BS in Wildlife Science from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She loves anything and everything outdoors including hiking, camping, kayaking, and especially birding. After growing up in Naples, NY, Lydia has fun traveling and discovering new places. In her free time, she likes playing games such as Frisbee, foosball, and Euchre and also enjoys the challenge of learning how to identify species of plants, animals, and fungi. For the next few years, Lydia wants to learn as much as she can about habitat restoration, ecological communities, and wildlife and plant ecology.



**Carley McMullen**  
**Environmental Stewardship Technician, Niagara Region**

Carley started volunteering with FORCES in 2018 after she graduated from Niagara University. She earned her BS in Biology, focused in Environmental Studies. She served as a Invasive Species Management Steward and it became clear that this was her passion. Carley joined the Student Conservation Association in 2019, and was lucky enough to stay on as an Invasive Species Specialist with Parks, continuing her love for the outdoors. Her other interests include her dogs, reading, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. Carley recently earned the title of an Environmental Stewardship Technician with Parks.



**Katie Mulverhill**  
**Environmental Educator, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Katie enjoys being outside and introducing people to the nature that surrounds us. She earned her degree in Environmental and Forest Biology with a concentration in Nature Interpretation from SUNY ESF. She loves her job because every day she does something different! Some of Katie's favorite outdoor pastimes include snowshoeing, hiking, kayaking, birding, and camping. She travels to many of our parks throughout the Central Region for environmental education programs. Katie looks forward to working together soon!



**Claire Nellis**  
**Piping Plover Project Coordinator, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Claire grew up in Pulaski, NY and graduated with a Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Degree from Paul Smith's College in 2015. She enjoys horseback riding, hiking, board and card games, playing volley ball, and soccer. At work, Claire enjoys observing the behavior and life cycle of the animals around her and those that she works to conserve. Additionally, she loves getting the public excited about nature! Her professional goal is to increase public understanding and support for the plovers, add to her technicians (and her own) resume so that they are better equipped to pursue their careers. Claire also wants to instill in them confidence and passion for wildlife conservation work.



**Kate Noonan**  
**Piping Plover Steward, SCA NYS Parks Corps, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Kate grew up in Frederick, Maryland and graduated from Hood College with an Environmental Science and Policy degree. She loves to hike, backpack, paddle, slackline, do yoga, and explore new places and trying new things! Kate also enjoys being creative through music, cooking plant-based foods, collaging, and painting. Environmental education has always been a passion of hers and she wants to work outside protecting and preserving nature. She's committed to experiencing different positions in the environmental field until she figures out what she'd like to do.



**Elizabeth Padgett**  
**Endangered Plant Conservation Steward**  
**Central and Finger Lakes Environmental Field Teams**

Elizabeth has a degree in Natural Resources Conservation and Horticulture Finger Lakes Community College. She grew up in Webster, NY and enjoys botanizing, birding, gardening, crafting, music, photography, and considering how we (living organisms), can equitably share the planet. Elizabeth is always working on improving her identification skills, particularly grasses, sedges, raptors, and insects. A recent whim is to someday plant a garden organized taxonomically rather than aesthetically.



**Mark Roberts**  
**American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Mark attends SUNY ESF where he studies Natural Resources Management. He's from Lancaster, PA and is interested in birdwatching and identifying flora and fauna with friends. Mark also enjoys learning and talking about global affairs with people from around the world. He is the president of the Society for Ecological Restoration at ESF which is a subject matter he's quite passionate about. After college, Mark would like to find a position that allows him to use his knowledge and skills he continually acquires to further benefit the environment and the people. Using restoration ecology, he wants to help build a bridge that allows community members to invest back into their land to create a more sustainable cleaner future.



**David Rutherford**  
**Plant Materials Program Lead Technician, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Dave received his BS in Biotechnology at SUNY ESF and worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 7 years before changing careers to his true passion, conservation. As the field technician for the Plant Materials Program. Dave spends most of his time collecting local, native seeds for restoration and enhancement projects throughout New York State. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and Wegmans.



**Mike Serviss**  
**Regional Conservation Project Coordinator, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Mike is a researcher and a field biologist specializing in rare and threatened plant conservation but also moonlights in environmental interpretation, cartography (GIS), and ecology. He earned an AS in Liberal Arts at Mohawk Valley Community College and BS and MS degrees in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. He coordinates all projects related to AHTF conservation in OPRHP, including propagation, reintroduction, invasive species and habitat management, education and outreach, and collaboration with our state and federal partners. Mike also helps coordinate Regional stewardship and conservation projects. He grew up in New Hartford where he enjoyed skateboarding and eating the best pizza on Earth. Mike currently resides in Syracuse, NY and loves to play soccer, craft, travel, and explore nature.



**Peter Sterbak**  
**Field Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Peter received an AS degree in Fine Arts, a BS in Psychology, a Juris Doctorate, and a MS in Education. He enjoys bicycling, pencil sketches, pen and inks, oil paintings, photography, and writing short stories. Peter and his wife also enjoy camping and a lifetime moment for him was at waking up at 3:00 am with his wife, atop Mt Mahogany in Death Valley seeing a satellite crease across the light-pollution free sky.





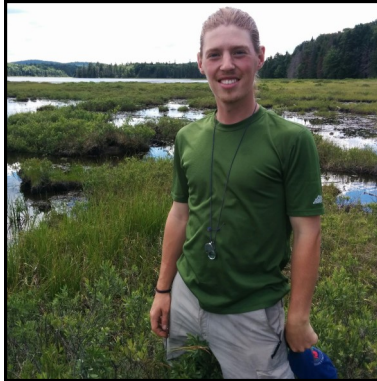
**Lilly Stradtman**  
**Environmental Educator, SCA NYS Parks Corps, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Lilly grew up in Bay Village, Ohio and came to New York for school at SUNY ESF, where she majored in Environmental Education and Interpretation with a minor in Recreation Resources and Protected Area Management. She loves translating her passion for nature into education for the public, and her favorite part of her job is doing roving interpretation in the parks. After Lilly completes her SCA term of service, she hopes to continue refining her interpretive skills and achieving her career goals of a full-time position at a nature center or zoo, working with both animals and people.



**Josh Vogel**  
**Forest Health Technician, Finger Lakes Region**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Josh received his Bachelor's of Science in Plant Biology from the University of Oklahoma. After graduation, he served with the SCA Hudson Valley Corp at Minnewaska State Park. Since then, he's been fully committed to fighting hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) within the Finger Lakes Region of NYS Parks. Josh does extensive HWA surveys, GIS mapping, and manages the NYS Hemlock Team, a dedicated group of park employees that treat hemlock trees found within NYS Park boundaries.



**Kyle Webster**  
**Stewardship Project Coordinator**  
**Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

Kyle manages ecological restoration projects and conducts vegetation monitoring and floristic assessments throughout the Finger Lakes Region. He started working for Parks in 2014, when he interned as a FORCES Conservation Steward. Kyle received two Associates Degrees in Horticulture and Sciences from Finger Lakes Community College and a BS in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF where he focused on plant diversity and ecology. While at ESF, Kyle served as the FORCES Club President. In his free time, you can find him woodworking, exploring natural areas, botanizing, camping, and working in herbaria.



**Brigitte Wierzbicki**  
**Plant Materials Program Coordinator**  
**Plant Materials Program at Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park**

Brigitte manages a program that provides native, regionally appropriate seed and plants for environmental stewardship projects. She's been involved with State Parks since 2014, when she began interning with the Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team. In 2016, she graduated with her BS in Environmental Biology from SUNY ESF, where she also served as ESF FORCES Vice President. Brigitte has been collecting seeds, propagating, and planting native plants for NYS Parks ever since getting involved with ESF FORCES. In her spare time, she enjoys attending NY Flora field trips and volunteers in the Rochester Academy of Sciences Herbarium.