

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



New York State
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.

2022 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



Delia Ablard
Pollinator Garden Steward

Delia majors in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. She is from Ithaca, NY and has fun swimming, paddle boarding, water coloring, cooking, and surfing. She enjoys working with kids, whether at swim lessons or summer camp, and she loves to be outdoors! Delia's personal goals are learning to play the piano and to complete a triathlon. Professionally, she'd like to work with kids and to master plant identification.



Ana Maria Arroyo
Conservation Steward

While attending Ithaca College, Ana Maria majors in Environmental Studies. She grew up locally in Ithaca, NY and loves everything about wildlife! She enjoys wildlife tracking and taking long hikes with her dog, especially when they can discover new trails around Ithaca. When Ana Maria is not working in the woods, she de-stresses by painting, sewing or practicing guitar. She would like to pursue a career in wildlife conservation and environmental education and plans to continue her training in wildlife tracking. Julia would also like to learn more about using technology in wildlife studies and is especially interested in mustelids, particularly the fisher.



Nadezhda Atanasova
Eco. Systems Health & Habitat
Protection Steward

Originally from Skopje, Macedonia, Nadezhda joins FORCES as an Environmental Science major at SUNY ESF. She served with FORCES as a DEC Ecosystems Health & Habitat Protection Steward. Some of her interests include GIS environmental analysis and mapping, water and soil quality, water treatment, and habitat restoration and remediation. She also enjoys playing water polo, swimming, running, hiking, skiing, and cooking. On her road to lead an active life, Nadezhda ultimately hopes to gain hands-on experience with research projects, field work, and following her ideal career path wherever it may take her.



Julia Baumann
Env. Ed Center Host Steward

Julia is currently a student at SUNY ESF, majoring in Conservation Biology and is also the president of the Honor Society. Her hometown is Buffalo, NY, and stays busy volunteering in the Syracuse community while learning about the history of the area. Professionally, she also enjoys learning about wildlife conservation, and public education concerning conservation-all on the road to working in public outreach within a state or national park. In her free time, she loves to hike, read, and listen to music.



Jack Bennink
Chimney Bluffs Trail Steward

Jack attends Colgate University and studies Environmental Studies and Biology. Last summer, he served as a Trail Steward at Chimney Bluffs State Park. He calls Albany, NY home and his interests include downhill skiing, fishing, basketball, and public service. Jack's goal this past summer was to get actively involved in conservation while gaining professional experience in the conservation field.



Layla Blask
COAS Conservation Steward

As a SUNY ESF student originally from New Hartford, NY, Layla served as a Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail Conservation Steward. She majors in Environmental Studies with a focus in planning, law, and policy, and her goals reflect her interests in policy-her goals include learning about public outreach, developing important connections, and potentially attending law school. Layla's interests and hobbies include hiking, gardening, public outreach, and volunteering.



Dallas Brummer
Conservation Steward

Dallas, an Environmental Studies major at the University at Buffalo, served with FORCES as a Conservation Steward in her home region, the Niagara Region. Though being from Buffalo, NY and working in New York State, she hopes to work in Latin America and focus on sustainable agriculture while there. Dallas likes hiking and being outside, learning new field skills along the way.



Megan Cammett
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Hailing from Rush, NY, Megan attends SUNY ESF and is on track to major in Conservation Biology. She served with FORCES as an Environmental Education Center Host Steward, giving her the experience to fulfill one of her goals to educate people in the importance of biodiversity of earth's ecosystems. Megan also wishes to work with animals threatened by human impacts to help conserve them into the future. In addition to this, she enjoys hiking, reading, and caring for and learning about houseplants.



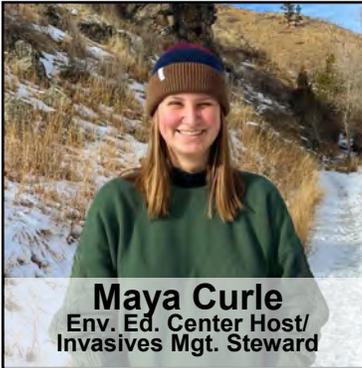
Steven Campbell
Env. Field Team Steward

Enrolled as a student at Paul Smith's College majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Science with a concentration in Wildlife, Steven joined the FORCES team as an Environmental Field Team Steward. He calls Perinton, NY home and enjoys doing just about anything outside, from camping to hiking to hunting. He hopes to eventually find a job in his respective field, and accrue more knowledge about invasive species while also brushing up on his plant and tree identification.



Silas Cochran
Env. Ed Center Host Steward

Silas, who served as a Environmental Education Center Host Steward at Green Lakes State Park, is from Alfred, NY and attends SUNY ESF. He majors in Environmental Education and Interpretation and plans to become a National Park Ranger after graduation. In his free time, he likes to camp, cook, and eat.



Maya Curle
Env. Ed. Center Host/
Invasives Mgt. Steward

Maya attends University of Vermont as an Environmental Management major, and hails from Camillus, NY. She joined the FORCES team this past year as an Environmental Education Center Host and Invasive Species Management Steward in the Central Region. Maya loves to go on trips to explore nature, find frogs and salamanders, and have fun with her friends. In her studies and hobbies, she wants to be successful in her field and contribute to nature as much as she possibly can.



Alyssa Derr
Invasives Mgt. Steward

Serving with FORCES as an Invasive Species Management Steward, Alyssa is a current student at SUNY Morrisville in the Associate in Applied Science program, majoring in Natural Resource Conservation with a concentration in forestry. Her hometown is Syracuse, NY, and her goals include learning as much as she can about the environment and applying that knowledge in her future pursuits. Alyssa would love to visit as many National Parks as she possibly can and be able to recognize the uniqueness of each park. She is an avid learner of all things environmental, especially forest ecosystems and all living organisms within those habitats. In her down time, Alyssa enjoys hiking and photographing whatever she finds-even painting some of those photographs later on.



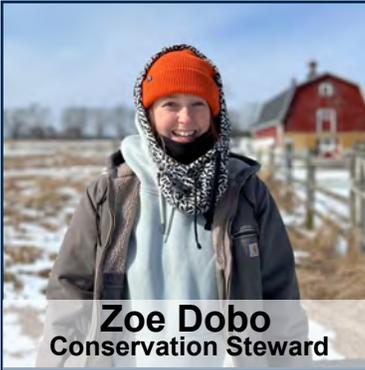
Nicholas Deya
Env. Communication Steward

Nicholas, who served as an Environmental Communication Steward, is a student at SUNY Geneseo majoring in Communications, and is originally from Fairport, NY. He is currently working towards his bachelor's degree with the goal of finding a career in a park setting while combining his background in communications with his passion for creating informational, visual content (using photography, creative writing, and the like). He has his eyes set on potentially working with environmental agencies such as the Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife, and the National Park Service or New York State Parks. Nicholas is also interested in hiking, cycling, going on road trips, and American history.



Chloe Diebold
Water Quality Steward

Hailing from West Seneca, NY, Chloe is a student enrolled at Niagara University and on track to major in Environmental Science. She joined the FORCES team as a Water Quality Steward and sought out experience in the field while having the ability to network along the way. When she is not in the field, Chloe enjoys hiking, rugby, and learning about sustainability.



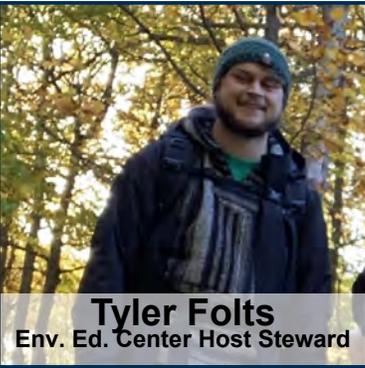
Zoe Dobo
Conservation Steward

As a student attending the University of Buffalo, Zoe plans to major in Environmental Studies. She is originally from Lockport, NY, and joined the FORCES team as a Conservation Steward. She ultimately wants to work for a program she is passionate about and living a holistic and sustainable lifestyle from all angles, influenced by her interests in environmental justice and policy. Zoe also enjoys reading, skateboarding, and yoga.



Hilary Doran
Horticulture Steward

Hilary is a student at Niagara County Community College in the Horticulture Associate in Applied Science program. She was a Horticulture Steward with FORCES this past year, going to work with her interests in gardening and habitat restoration guiding her. She wants to leave as much land natural as possible, and wants to own a small farm to propagate native plants, grow flowers, and food. Hilary is also a wildlife and bird watcher, and enjoys knitting.



Tyler Folts
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Originally from Franklinville, NY, Tyler joined the FORCES team as an Environmental Education Center Host Steward in the Central Region while attending SUNY ESF. He is on track to major in Environmental Studies and as a lover of environmental literature, he hopes to be an author someday, helping others appreciate nature and grow to love the environment. Tyler also loves hockey, Magic the Gathering, and all types of music as a self-proclaimed huge Dead Head.



Max Franklin
Trail Management Steward

Max is a 2022 alum of the University at Buffalo, having graduated with a degree in Environmental Geoscience. He is from Tonawanda, NY, and served as a Trail Management Steward with FORCES. One of his goals is to learn more about trail management and design, and to expand his knowledge of native plant species, which as a hiker and traveler, Max is able to do frequently. He is also interested in community outreach programs that generate public interest in the outdoors and the environment as a whole.



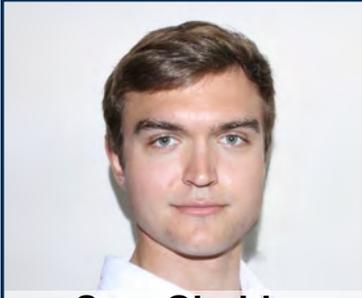
Brian Gantley
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Brian, a Conservation Biology student at SUNY ESF, joined FORCES as an Environmental Education Center Host Steward in his home region of Central New York. He aims to graduate in May 2023 and get a job afterwards. His interests include plants and gardening, running, hiking, yoga, biotechnology, law, nature, and becoming a better swimmer.



Rebecca Geneus
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Rebecca is a SUNY ESF student hailing from Huntington in Long Island, NY, attending school as an Environmental Studies major with a focus in policy, planning, and law. She served as a FORCES Environmental Education Center Host Steward in the Central Region, fueled by her passion for environmental justice issues, environmental literacy, and community outreach and outdoor education for marginalized communities. She is also interested in climate justice and food.



Sam Giraldo
COAS Conservation Steward

Coming from Rochester, NY, Sam is a student at SUNY ESF majoring in Environmental Science. He joined the FORCES team as a COAS Conservation Steward, and hopes to graduate in the next year with his B.S. before getting a job in the field. He is keeping his options open in terms of potentially finding work with the state or a private group, seeking experience however he can before finding the right path for him. Sam finds plants and bugs particularly interesting and uses his extracurriculars as opportunities to learn more about each, but his focus area lies primarily with weather patterns.



Stesha Grossman
DEC Fish Hatchery Steward

Stesha attends SUNY ESF, originally from Brookfield, CT, and plans to major in Wildlife Science. As a NYSDEC Salmon River Fish Hatchery Steward, Stesha was able to put her passion for marine ecology to work with FORCES. Her goals include traveling to the deepest part of the Mariana Trench, saving and helping as many animals as possible, catching over 100 species of fish, and contribute her time and energy to as many organizations that are associated with helping wildlife and environment as possible. She would love to be a part of the DEC or Fish and Wildlife Service and be able to teach other the importance of environmental health in a hands-on way. Stesha enjoys fishing, hiking, photography, and watching wildlife documentaries.



Bethany Holland
Conservation Steward

Bethany, a native of Silver Spring, MD, is enrolled at Ithaca College and majoring in Environmental Science. She spent her time with FORCES as a Conservation Steward and is extremely passionate about insects and other invertebrates, learning about how they fit into our ecosystem and how they interact with other organisms. Bethany would like to be a field entomologist or ecologist, and her summer with FORCES helped her become more familiar with different species of plants, insects, amphibians, and other creatures in the Finger Lakes Region in particular. She eventually would also like to become a beekeeper! Additionally, Bethany enjoys running, juggling, and listening to fictional podcasts.



Ian Holway
Conservation Steward

As a recent graduate of Canisius College (May '21), Ian majored in Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation. He is originally from Amherst, NY, and served with FORCES as a Conservation Steward. Following this, his goals include pursuing a second degree in Environmental Science and seeking a career in ecology or conservation afterwards. Ian's interests include video games, 3D modeling and printing, spending time with friends, ecology, and conservation.



Leanne Hughes
COAS Conservation Steward

Leanne, a Master's student at SUNY ESF from Cazenovia, NY, is on track to major in Environmental Biology with a focus on Forest Pathology and Mycology. She joined FORCES as a Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail Conservation Steward, serving in the Central Region. One of her personal goals is to complete graduate school and create a transgenic American elm that displays increased drought resistance and salt tolerance when compared against non-transgenic American elms. Leanne is also interested by plant and fungi identification, gardening and growing unusual plants, hiking, and spending time with her dogs.



Connor Jacobs
Land and Forest Steward

Connor, a student at SUNY ESF studying Wildlife Sciences, is from Syracuse, NY. He joined FORCES this past summer as a NYSDEC Land and Forest Steward in the Central Region. One of his goals is becoming a National Geographic wildlife photographer, and this shines through in his passion for photography and birding/ornithology.



Cassidy Jimenez
Conservation Steward

Cassidy, an Environmental Studies major at the University at Buffalo, served with FORCES as a Conservation Steward in her home region, the Niagara Region. Cassidy likes hiking, ceramics, and learning more field work skills including those that focus on GIS work. She ultimately would love to get more experience in the field of wildlife management as well before finding a stewardship-based job.



Dephil Jones
Conservation Steward

Hailing from Brooklyn, NY, Dephil is a student enrolled at the University at Buffalo and on track to major in Environmental Geoscience. Dephil joined the FORCES team as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region with the hopes of getting the experience needed to work in the field of conservation, potentially with an agency like the EPA. He enjoys reading, writing poetry, and being outside submerged in nature.



Megan Joyce
Ed. Center Host/Trail Steward

Megan, a Chimney Bluffs Trail Steward and Environmental Education Center Host Steward, attends SUNY ESF with plans to major in Environmental Biology. She is also originally from Nunda, NY, and hopes to continue her education by working towards a Master's in fire ecology as one of her interests is forest regeneration post-fire. Megan is very interested in tree and plant identification, forestry, and fire ecology. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, camping, and reading.



Orchid Kinzie-Middleton
COAS Conservation Steward

Orchid attends SUNY ESF as a Conservation Biology major, and hails from Cazenovia, NY. She has been part of the FORCES team for several seasons as a Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail Steward in the Central Region. Orchid loves to paint, read, make bracelets, hike, and take her dog, Cody, for walks. Her interests include invasive plant ecology, herpetology, manatees, and fish ecology. Orchid hopes to one day work for NYS Parks after graduating, then return to school to earn her Master's.



Emily Kuhlkin
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Originally from Perry, NY, Emily attends SUNY ESF with plans to graduate with a major in Natural Resources Management. While with FORCES, Emily was an Environment Education Center Host Steward in the Central Region. She hopes to one day visit all 50 states and to find work doing habitat management for landowners. In her free time, Emily enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping.



Quinn Laczowski
Regional Wildlife Steward

While attending SUNY ESF for Wildlife Science, Quinn spent her time with FORCES as a Regional Wildlife Steward. She is originally from Clarence, NY and wants to remain in New York State, working in wildlife management or environmental education. Professionally, Quinn is interested in working with large mammals. She also loves hiking and other outdoor activities.



Jennifer Loiacono
Horticulture Steward

Jennifer, who is enrolled at Niagara County Community College in the Horticulture Associate in Applied Science program, is originally from Niagara Falls, NY. She served with FORCES as a Horticulture Steward and was guided by her passion for herbalism and promoting plants for human health. She also wishes to promote environmental conservation while maintaining an interest in making natural skin care as well as gardening.



Mattix Lufrano
Conservation Steward

Hailing from Merrick, NY, Mattix is a student at Ithaca College majoring in Environmental Science. He joined FORCES as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region and his goal is to definitely work outdoors and conduct research doing so. Someday he wants to have a house with a garden where he can grow his own food, and is very interested in water ecology, fishing, and invasive species.



Jack MacMullen
AHTF Conservation Steward

Jack is a student at SUNY Cobleskill on track to major in Environmental Management. While serving with FORCES, he was an American Hart's-Tongue Fern Conservation Steward in the Central Region. He is originally from Camillus, NY, and hopes to be successful in his field and contribute to nature as much as possible. Jack loves to explore nature, find frogs and salamanders, go on trips, and hang out with his friends.



Raquel Mennella
Trails/Wildlife Tech Steward

Raquel, originally from Bridgewater, NJ, is a student at SUNY ESF majoring in Environmental Biology. She served with FORCES as a Chimney Bluffs Trail Steward and a Wildlife Technician Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Her long-term goal is to create a meaningful impact to better and conserve our planet through plant-related research and education. She loves plant ecology and environmental conservation, especially studying in the field and collecting botanical data to contribute to research. In her free time, Raquel enjoys volunteering with local environmental groups, botanizing, discussing science and environmental topics, and going on long hikes.



Emily Miller
Conservation Steward

Hailing from Lockport, NY, Emily joined FORCES as a SUNY Cortland student majoring in Conservation Biology. Her time with FORCES was spent as a Conservation Steward, and after school she hopes to attend graduate school for marine conservation. Emily enjoys reading, hiking, and being with her dogs.



Shawna Mulvilhill
Ecosystems Health &
Habitat Protection Steward

Shawna, originally from New Hartford NY, is a SUNY ESF student majoring in Environmental Science with a focus on Watershed Studies. With FORCES, Shawna took on the NYSDEC Ecosystems Health & Habitat Protection Steward title, enhanced by her passion for aquatic ecosystems studies. She hopes to identify unknown trees and wetland species, and would also love to travel and expand her knowledge on different landscapes and cultures. She is also a fan of hiking with her dog, gardening, kayaking, crafting, and cooking.



Jack Murtagh
AHTF Conservation Steward

As an Environmental Resources Engineering student at SUNY ESF, Jack joined FORCES as an American Hart's-Tongue Fern Conservation Steward in the Central Region. He is from Garden City, NY, and hopes to become an environmental engineer. Jack also enjoys hiking, gaming, and music.



Zoey Obert
Env. Ed. Center Host Steward

Zoey is a SUNY ESF student who comes from Watertown, NY, and is currently majoring in Conservation Biology. With FORCES, Zoey was also an Environmental Education Center Host Steward in the Central Region. She looks forward to earning her Bachelor's Degree and obtaining a job in the conservation biology field doing something that she loves. In her down time, she enjoys running, painting, hiking, and reading.



Sarah Olney
Ecosystems Health & Habitat
Protection Steward

Originally from Bergen, NY, Sarah is a current student at SUNY ESF studying Conservation Science. She served as a NYSDEC Ecosystems Health & Habitat Protection Steward while with FORCES, and one of her ultimate goals is to restore what humans have damaged on the planet. She enjoys art, nature, and reading.



Aaron Otis
DEC Fisheries Access
Steward

Aaron, who served as a NYSDEC Fisheries Access Steward, is from Syracuse, NY and attends SUNY ESF. He is currently in the Masters of Public Administration program and wants to preserve outdoor spaces in New York, instilling a love of nature in fellow citizens. He is particularly interested by environmental policy.



Hunter Parise
DEC Fish Hatchery Steward

Hunter calls Vestal, NY home and is currently enrolled as a Wildlife Science major at SUNY ESF. He joined FORCES as a DEC Salmon River Hatchery Steward in the Central Region.



Aaron Pierce
DEC Lands and Forest
Steward

Aaron, who joined FORCES as a DEC Lands and Forest Steward, is a student at SUNY ESF studying Forest Resources Management. He is from Canandaigua, NY, and hopes to become a professional forester in the future. Aaron enjoying hiking, kayaking, music, and skiing.



Angela Pitsakis
Horticulture Steward

Angela, who is enrolled at Niagara County Community College in the Horticulture Associate in Applied Science program, is originally from Amherst, NY. She served with FORCES as a Horticulture Steward and wants to work in an environment where she can help build ecologically sound landscapes that benefit people, animals, and pollinators alike. Angela enjoys houseplants, gardening, hiking, television and movies. Professionally, her interests include invasive species removal and native plant restoration.



Anna Purtell
Env. Field Team Steward

Hailing from Rochester, NY, Anna attends Binghamton University as a student majoring in Environmental Sciences: Ecosystems and Biological Sciences. She joined FORCES as an Environmental Field Team Steward, and while she is not totally sure what her career path may be, she knows that she wants to make a small difference to improve sustainability in her corner of the world. Anna loves to play ultimate frisbee, run, hike, and listen to podcasts. She also loves to learn about renewable energy technologies and the intricate workings of nature.



Noah Roche
Regional Wildlife Steward

Noah is a student attending SUNY ESF, pursuing a degree in Forest Resource Management and minoring in Urban Forestry. He is originally from Virginia Beach, VA, and joined FORCES as a Regional Wildlife Steward. His goal would be to join the work force after he receives his Bachelor's, potentially either in the public or the private sector of forestry. Noah might even fulfill another goal of becoming a park manager and own land to cultivate his own forest stands. Personally and professionally, he is interested in all things nature, though he also produces his own music and DJs when given the chance.



Conor Sarasin
COAS Conservation Steward

Conor attends SUNY ESF as a Environmental Science major with a focus in watershed studies, and hails from New Hartford, NY. He joined the FORCES team this past year as a Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail Steward in the Central Region. Conor loves to hike with his dog, garden, kayak, cook, and craft. His interests include wetland restoration and would love to expand his knowledge in different cultures and aquatic ecosystem studies, brushing up on his tree and wetland plant identification skills.



Zachary Skowronski
Landscape Arch. Steward

A native of Lancaster, NY, Zachary attends the University at Buffalo with plans to major in Civil Engineering with a minor in Environmental Design. Driven by his passion for civil engineering, he joined FORCES this past year as a Landscape Architecture Steward, and he hopes that after graduation he can find a career in his field that provides financial security, potentially in road design. When he is not working, Zachary enjoys auto racing, Buffalo-area sports teams, soccer, biking, hiking, and swimming. Professionally, Zachary sees road design, urban planning, and historic preservation as his interests.



Gillian Smith
Land Mgmt/Public Access
Steward

Gillian, originally from Rochester, NY, joined FORCES as a SUNY ESF student majoring in Conservation Biology and is also the ESF FORCES Club President. Her role as a NYSDEC Land Management and Public Access Steward is informed by her drive to preserve and manage wildlife habitats and learning different ways of doing so. She is an avid hiker and loves spending time outside, also taking part in hunting, archery, and lumberjack activities on the ESF Woodsman Team. Gillian loves to learn about local and native species of plants animals professionally, and wants to take part in outdoor conservation efforts however she can.



Jillian Smith
Water Quality Steward

A recent Canisius College graduate who majored in Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation, Jillian joined FORCES as a Water Quality Steward. Two of her major interests are marine conservation and environmental law, and with these skills she would love to eventually work with New York State Parks, DEC, or Fish and Wildlife Services. In her free time, Jillian loves to be outdoors and to work on DIY projects.



Jennifer Sorrell
Invasives Mgmt. Steward

Jennifer is a SUNY ESF student majoring in Natural Resources Management originally from Marcy, NY. As an Invasive Species Management Steward with FORCES, she was able to put to work her knowledge of invasive species removal and conservation. Some of Jennifer's goals include training in martial arts, staying local to assist with conservation management, and to help educate others about environmental issues. Her other interests include art, history, pets, bonsai, and hiking.



Ryan Steinhauer
Invasive Mgmt. Steward

Ryan, who calls Syracuse, NY home, is a Conservation Biology major currently attending ESF. He was an Invasive Management Steward with FORCES this past year and wants to take with him the knowledge that he can make a difference, which keeps him motivated as well. He wants to learn as much as he can about and preserving different kinds of life, and is particularly interested in birds and mammals. Ryan wants to eventually travel more and see different parts of the world, some just being random trips with his friends.



Madison Stevens
Env. Ed Center Host Steward

Hailing from Orchard Park, NY, Madison is a SUNY ESF student majoring in Recreation Resources and Protected Area Management. She served with FORCES as the SUNY ESF FORCES Club President and as an Environmental Education Center Host Steward in the Central Region, and she hopes to graduate with her Bachelor of Science, receive Wildlife Biologist Certification from The Wildlife Society, and to eventually work in an outdoor recreation setting utilizing environmental education and interpretation in her work. Madison enjoys wildlife photography, open water and Nitrox Computer Diving, and Timber Sports.



Luke Thompson
Nat. Resources Mgt. Steward

Luke, who calls Hinsdale, NY home, attends Jamestown Community College as an Environmental Science major. He served with FORCES as a Natural Resources Management Steward and wants to learn as much as he can about invasive species management and promoting the health of native wildlife. Luke's other interests include writing, playing music, field recording, and studying native biodiversity.



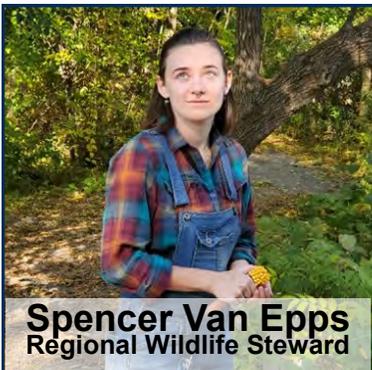
Brandon Tomasik
Conservation Steward

Brandon is a student at the University of Buffalo, currently enrolled as an Environmental Geoscience major in his own hometown of Buffalo, NY. As a member of FORCES, Brandon served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. One of his goals is to learn in-depth plant identification and work in the environmental conservation field. In his free time, Brandon enjoys hiking with his dog, paddle boarding, and riding dirt bikes.



Matthew Trease
COAS Conservation Steward

Originally from Chittenango, NY, Matthew is a SUNY ESF student currently majoring in Biotechnology. His time as a FORCES Chittenango Ovate Amber Snail Conservation Steward gave him the chance to work with an incredibly vulnerable creature in his home region. He ultimately would like to research and develop genetically modified plants or animals to help solve practical problems. Matthew also enjoys cooking, reading, writing, acting, and genetics.



Spencer Van Epps
Regional Wildlife Steward

Spencer, originally from Galway, NY, is a SUNY ESF student majoring in Wildlife Science who joined FORCES as a Regional Wildlife Steward. Eager to finish up college and ideally find work in wildlife rehabilitation, Spencer plans to also move out to Kansas for two years to experience life on the farm, only to travel once more afterwards along the West Coast to find home. There is never a dull moment between two beloved dogs and a cat, and to keep busy otherwise Spencer hikes, cooks, colors, reads, plays board games, and finishes jigsaw puzzles.



FaithAnn Vanderwalker
Regional Wildlife Steward

FaithAnn is a SUNY ESF student hailing from Medina, NY who is working towards a degree in Wildlife Science. She was a Regional Wildlife Steward with FORCES, and one of her professional goals is to get a permanent job in New York that has a field aspect to it, ideally having to do with animals as she has always dreamed of being a wildlife biologist. She wants to finish hiking the Adirondack High Peaks with 33 of them completed, as well as having a mini homestead and visiting all 50 states. She has worked with snapping turtles before, but she loves all animals and helps raise chickens and goats personally. Additionally, FaithAnn enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening, and getting to experience new things.



Jordan Weiss
Conservation Steward

Jordan of Clifton Park, NY is a current student at Ithaca College, majoring in Environmental Studies. She served with FORCES as a Conservation Steward and hopes to combine her love for the environments and kids by doing environmental outreach after she graduates. When she is not immersed in nature and wandering the woods, she loves to cook and has gotten into Legos.



Allyson Williams
Engineering Steward

Hailing from Albany, NY, Allyson joined FORCES as a student enrolled at the University at Buffalo majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Her time with FORCES was spent as an Engineering Steward, and after school she hopes to find work with renewable energy. In her free time, Allyson enjoys hiking, baking, running, and going to concerts.



Spencer Wybieracki
Conservation Steward

Spencer, a student at Niagara University studying Environmental Science, is from Depew, NY. He joined FORCES this past season as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. One of his goals is becoming a DEC Officer or Park Ranger. Spencer also enjoys fitness, fishing, and sports.

2022 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Michael Brown
Brandon R. Chartrand
Megan Couell
Emily Gelardi
Michaela Germain
Trevor Hanson
Gabby Hood
Mikael Melfi
Emily Meyers
Austin Nino
Abby Thomas

Piping Plover Conservation Steward
DEC Salmon River Hatchery Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward
COAS/Piping Plover Conservation Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward
FORCES Club Co-President/Volunteer
Regional Wildlife Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward
Piping Plover Conservation Steward

SUNY Oswego
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
Cazenovia College
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
Le Moyne College
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF

2022 FORCES STEWARDS: Jr. Conservation Stewards

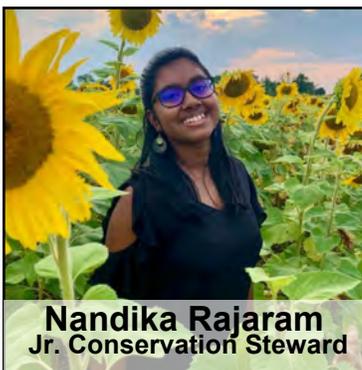
In addition to our base of FORCES collegiate students, FORCES has expanded its reach into local high schools to creatively engage more students. Our 'Junior Conservation Stewards' (high school participants) get the opportunity to work with our Park staff and their collegiate mentors.



Perle, originally from Orwell, NY, attends Sandy Creek High School and joined FORCES as a Junior Conservation Steward. After high school, she plans to attend SUNY ESF with her interests in environmental justice and conservation guiding her. She wants to ultimately be apart of helping human infrastructure become more environmentally friendly and sustainable, hoping to come up with ideas to help the world become more environmentally friendly. In her free time, Perle loves to paint and hang out with her friends.



As part of The Walden Project, Jewel of Honeoye, NY joined FORCES as a Junior Conservation Steward with multiple passions, many of which invoke a great love for the outdoors: plant identification, seed collecting, bone collecting, fishing, cartography, fire building, and gardening are just a few. She is also interested in novel writing, wood carving, textile work, and ceramics. Some day she hopes to become a falconer, learn Latin, learn how to preserve food, build or carve a canoe, visit Scotland, and perhaps earn a pilot's license.



Nandika, with a passion for marine life and plants, joined FORCES as a Junior Conservation Steward. She currently attends Liverpool High School and is originally also from Liverpool, NY. She hopes to expand upon her love for aquatic plants and the ocean and eventually help solve problems dealing with ocean pollutants some day. Nandika is also learning about to write fluently in her native language, Malayalam. Other interests of hers include reading, writing, traveling, music, working with people, environmental sciences, public speaking, swimming, and dance.

2022 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Ethan Gmerek
Allison Lang
Raven Rybak

Jr. Conservation Steward
Jr. Conservation Steward
Jr. Conservation Steward

Orleans/Niagara BOCES
Orleans/Niagara BOCES
Orleans/Niagara BOCES



Photos: OPRHP

FORCES

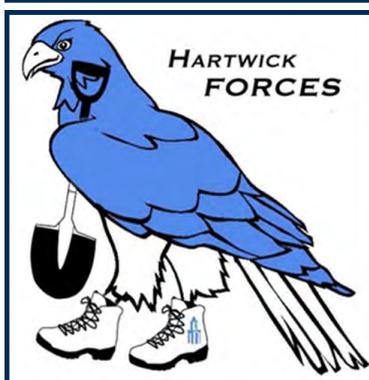
Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



New York State
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.

2022 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



Spring 2022

John Relyea, Co-President
Will May, Co-President
Gretchen Ogden, Public Relations

Fall 2022

Rita Chistiakova, President
Paige Witherbee, Vice President
Giulia Gebert, Treasurer
Cass Markel, Public Relations
John Relyea, Secretary

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry



Spring 2022

Mikey Melfi, Co-President
Brandon Bardin, Co-President
Jacob Steward, Vice President
Gen Kikukawa, Treasurer
Brandon Rawson, Secretary
Marie Stewart, Social Media

Fall 2022

Kaylyn Weits, Co-President
Gen Kikukawa, Co-President

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences



Spring 2022

Madison Stevens, President
Jessica Castellan, Vice President
Michael Malone, Secretary
Fiona Koye, Social Media

Fall 2022

Gillian Smith, President
Alexis LaFever, Vice President
August Tsutsumishita, Treasurer
Layla Blask, Social Media

Club Advisor: Tom Hughes, NYS OPRHP Regional Stewardship Biologist



Spring 2022

Break

Fall 2022

Break

Faculty Advisor: Jim Kernan, Associate Professor, Geography Department



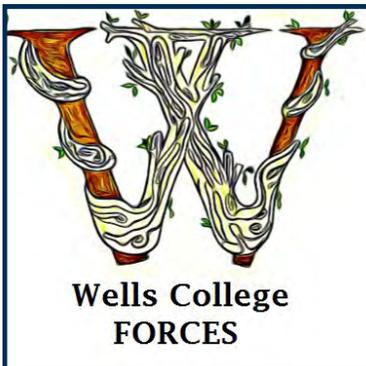
Spring 2022

Chloe Dymek, President

Fall 2022

Chloe Dymek, President

Faculty Advisor: Donna Vogler, Department of Biology



Spring 2022

Break

Fall 2022

Break

Faculty Advisor: Jackie Schnurr, Department of Biology

2022 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.



Tom Hughes
Natural Resource Steward Biologist, Central Region
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 15 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. Amy has served as the FORCES Program Coordinator for over 8 years. Prior to holding this position, she was an environmental educator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at Rogers Environmental Education Center. She enjoys music, gardening, interior decorating, and alpine/cross country skiing.



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.



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."



Kelly Punch
SCA NYS Parks Corps AmeriCorps
FORCES Program Specialist

Kelly is from Syracuse, NY and earned a BA in Environmental Studies with a minor in LGBT Studies from Hobart & William Smith Colleges. Before joining FORCES, Kelly served with the Excelsior Conservation Corps as a Student Conservation Association corps member doing trail work in the Finger Lakes Region. Now working in the Central Region as the FORCES Program Specialist, their work focuses on outreach and education. Kelly enjoys drawing, playing with their dog, Ozzie, and video games. Professionally, they love mustelids and mycology, and hope to engage more in environmental outreach to underserved communities.



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.



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 4 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 over 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.

2022 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,

Bird Conservation Area Project Coordinator, Central Region Central Region Environmental Field Team

James graduated from SUNY ESF with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science. He has worked for Parks as a Forest Health Specialist for western NY and as an Invasive Species Technician for the Central Region. 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.



Alex Brown
Stewardship Specialist, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Alex received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Paul Smith's College in 2013, with a concentration in Fish and Wildlife Management. After graduating, her career took on many forms between 2013-2015; Veterinary Assistant, Conservation Corps Steward, and Zipline Tour Guide. For 6 years, Alex worked with the Region 7 DEC as a Wildlife Tech focusing on big game management. She loves exploring with her son, wining and dining with her husband, going for walks with their dogs, gardening, downhill skiing and singing the wrong words to all her favorite songs.



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

Whitney has worked for NY State Parks since 2013 including time 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.



Asmamaw Dantie
Nursery Technician, Finger Lakes Region

Asmamaw received his Bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences and Master of Science degree in Horticulture before stepping into his role of Nursery Technician in the Finger Lakes this past year. He grew up in Woreta, Ethiopia, and now resides in Geneva, NY to work with State Parks. He enjoys traveling, gardening, and community service, while professionally he is interested in research and advancing his career.



Jordyn Dala
Piping Plover Project Crew Lead, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Jordyn, originally from Macedon, NY, is a graduate from SUNY Oswego with a degree in Zoology. She joined FORCES as the Crew Lead for the Piping Plover Project Stewards in the Central Region. Some of her goals include hiking all 46 Adirondack High Peaks, visiting all National Parks in the United States, visiting all 50 states, and visiting all seven continents. In her free time, she loves to hike, camp, bird watch, and play video games.



Cara Gannon
Environmental Educator Assistant, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Cara received a Bachelor of Science from Coastal Carolina University majoring in Recreation and Sport Management. After college, she served two terms with the Student Conservation Association and AmeriCorps working as an Environmental Educator. She began a permanent position working as an Environmental Educator Assistant for the Central Region in November 2021. Cara loves her job because she gets the opportunity to teach others about the world around us! Some of her passions include hiking, camping, traveling, coaching tumbling, and spending time outdoors trying new things!



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.



Charlie Ippolito
Invasive Species Technician, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

Charlie graduated from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 2021 with a Bachelor's Degree in Conservation Biology. He has been a part of the Environmental Field Team since 2017 and focuses his energy managing and restoring ecologically important areas within New York State Parks. He is from Victor, NY and spends most of his free time outdoors, fishing, skateboarding, birding, botany/bryology/entomology, and hiking the Adirondack mountains. His current goals are to continue refining his botany and bryology identification skills and to document rare pollinator insects.



Kanika Jackmola
Bird Conservation Area Invasive Species Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Kanika graduated from SUNY ESF with a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science with a Minor in Environmental Writing and Rhetoric. She is from Centreville, Virginia, 30 minutes outside of D.C. She enjoys wildlife photography, hiking, reading in a hammock, and going on long car rides. Kanika would like to become a certified Wildlife Biologist through the Wildlife Society, get her Master's Degree in some form of wildlife physiology, and become either a biologist or an educator.



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

Delaney 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 Olean, NY and she enjoys reading science fiction novels, sewing and knitting. She also enjoys hiking and identifying plant and bird species. Delaney would like to continue her education in invasive management and forestry as she enjoys land management and protecting native plant diversity.



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.



Stephanie Minarik
American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Stephanie is a Wells College Graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies. She grew up in Rochester, NY and her interests range from home improvement projects to playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends around the country, to traveling back home to hike the trails at a favorite nature preserve. Stephanie is always trying to expand her professional networks and building up her resume in order to obtain a permanent position with New York State 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 and 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.



Meghan Rahner
SCA NYS Parks Corps AmeriCorps
Piping Plover Steward, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Meghan grew up in Auburn, NY, and graduated from Macquarie University with an Environmental Conservation degree. She joined the team as the Central Region's Student Conservation Association Piping Plover Steward. She enjoys learning about mixology and cocktails, metal sculpture work, backpacking, and bouldering. At work, Meghan's interests pertain to wildlife rehabilitation, animal husbandry, urban greening with climate change adaptation, and conservation management. Some day, Meghan would like to manage an urban greening project and successfully complete endangered species reintroductions in wildlife conservation.



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.



Billy Sullivan
Trails Coordinator, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Billy recently graduated from SUNY ESF with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Environmental Biology and started his position with Parks in 2021. He'd like to hike all 46 high peaks in the Adirondacks and become a 46er before age 40 and to eventually work in a National Park thoroughly studying bird populations. Raptorial birds in particular are his favorite to learn about but he also finds songbirds fascinating. Helping preserve and maintain wildlife is an overall professional goal of his.



Kennedy Sullivan
Piping Plover Field Technician
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Kennedy obtained her Associate in Applied Science in Zoo Technology from Jefferson Community College in Watertown. She served as a Piping Plover Technician with Parks in the summers of 2021-22 and enjoys bird watching and educating children of all ages about science.



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.

2022 FORCES STAFF: ADDITIONAL STAFF

Troy Flemming
 Joel Graves
 Skyla Hays-Taber
 Colton Ratey
 Gina Sciarra
 Grace Sinsebox

Central Region
 Central Region
 Central Region
 Central Region
 Central Region
 Central Region

AHTF Technician
 AHTF Technician
 Invasives Technician
 AHTF Propagation Technician
 BCA/Invasives Technician
 Piping Plover Technician

