



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation

# FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

Summer 2018 Newsletter

Vol. 3 Issue 2

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Strawberry Island State Park.  
Photo: OPRHP

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

## New Faces, New Places

Tom Hughes, NRS Biologist  
Central Region FORCES Program Manager



Maddie with a “Texas sized” bass caught during a FORCES training on Tully Lake. Photo: OPRHP

Every year our FORCES program ushers in a new group of talented and inspiring young professionals and students. In 2018, we have added two more FORCES Program Specialists to our ranks through some creative collaborations and conservation projects. Madeline Simpson (pictured right) traveled up from Texas to join the NYS Parks AmeriCorps, and she has been contributing significantly to environmental stewardship (see page 4). Thanks to the outstanding work of the Finger Lakes’ Environmental Field Team in acquiring a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, we now have Chenga Drury. Chenga manages an 8-person FORCES Stewardship Corps for invasive species management in Ithaca’s “Three Gorges” parks (see page 12).



The spring migration not only brought the endangered piping plovers back to Sandy Island Beach, but also inspired this year’s FORCES Stewardship Team. (left to right—Haley, Alivia, Shaina and Ally) Photo: OPRHP

Also happening this spring—the piping plovers returned to Sandy Island Beach! In April, our team was anxiously awaiting their arrival and to their delight, we had a nesting pair that brought to us a new family of four chicks. At the time of this writing, we expect these birds to be flying the Lake Ontario shoreline any day now. Thank you to our dedicated Project Coordinator Alivia Sheffield and her awesome team of FORCES Stewards—Shaina Johnson, Ally Berry and Haley O’Brien (pictured left).

Thanks to all our FORCES family in 2018 !!!

## Central Region Update

Mike Serviss AHTF Project Coordinator and Dallas Ortel, BCA Project Coordinator

The Bird Conservation Area (BCA) at Green Lakes State Park focused on defragmentation of the grassland. Scattered trees and a single hedgerow on the interior of the grassland significantly reduced the amount of grassland bird habitat. These trees were marked, identified, and measured by FORCES steward Abby Snow and OPRHP Steward Specialist Mat Bilz. A total of 125 trees were removed to free up over 20 acres of usable habitat. The largest connected section of grassland totals roughly 120 acres thanks to the hard work of these individuals!

The Fern Crew at Clark Reservation State Park kept busy this winter by performing much needed ecological research for the American hart's-tongue fern (AHTF). SUNY ESF FORCES interns Stephanie Chase and Megan Gorss assisted in taking weekly snowpack depth measurements within AHTF habitat to help determine the importance of depth and duration of snowpack on the occurrence of AHTF. Measurements were recorded across an elevational gradient and between different overstory canopy types. The data and a preliminary analysis are currently being used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a formal range-wide species status assessment. Other spring AHTF happenings included planning for propagation of AHTF at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park and strengthening partnerships with our AHTF conservation collaborators at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NY Natural Heritage Program.



Before and after view of the BCA Grassland  
Photo: OPRHP

## Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

Chenga Drury, Three Gorges FORCES Program Specialist

Spring in the Finger Lakes is a beautiful time of year as the trees start budding and creating leaves- representative of the start of the Environmental Field Team's projects coming to life! Whitney Carleton (Stewardship Specialist), Becky Sibner and Kyle Webster (Stewardship Project Coordinators), Brigitte Wierzbicki (Plant Materials Program Coordinator), Kira Broz (Wildlife Ecology Steward), and Chenga Drury (FORCES Program Specialist) teamed up to coordinate and successfully implement an annual prescribed burn in the Grassland Management Area at Ganondagan State Historic Site.



Charlie Ippolito planting native trees and shrubs to stabilize the stream bank at Ganondagan State Historic Site.  
Photo: OPRHP

Our FORCES project highlights this spring include the kick start of the Three Gorges Project (3G)! The FORCES Stewardship Corps (funded through 3G) surveyed, mapped, and removed invasive species in Buttermilk Falls, Robert H. Treman, and Taughannock Falls State Parks. They also assisted Becky and Kyle with spring vegetation monitoring. At Ganondagan State Historic Site, returning staff Emma Kubinski, Andrew Leonardi, and Charlie Ippolito furthered grassland and riparian restoration. David Rutherford joined the EFT, as Plant Materials Program Technician. We are continuously looking for new opportunities to engage our FORCES volunteers and interns, including planning for upcoming wildlife surveys, environmental stewardship projects, and partnerships!

## Upcoming Events

For more information email  
[amy.kochem@parks.ny.gov](mailto:amy.kochem@parks.ny.gov)  
 or visit [www.nysparks.com/events](http://www.nysparks.com/events)

- 7/19/18 Peculiarities of Pond Life  
Selkirk Shores State Park
- 7/26/18 Family Bird Hike  
Selkirk Shores State Park
- 7/27/18 Mysterious Mammals  
Verona Beach State Park
- 7/27/18 Goat Island Waterfall Walk  
Niagara Falls State Park
- 7/28/18 Geocaching Basics  
Delta Lake State Park
- 8/4/18 Family Olympics  
Bowman Lake State Park
- 8/4/18 First Saturday Hike  
Watkins Glen State Park
- 8/9/18 Fern Walk  
Letchworth State Park
- 8/14/18 Critters of the Night  
Beaver Island Nature Center
- 9/15/18 Monarch Butterfly Releases  
Letchworth State Park

## Coordinator's Corner

Amy Kochem, FORCES Program Coordinator

The 4th Annual FORCES Summit was held on April 8th at SUNY ESF. We had the honor of hosting Dr. Neil Murphy, former ESF President and Chairperson of Central New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission, as our key note speaker Dr. Murphy acknowledged and encouraged all of us to continue the incredibly valuable work that we do. Thirty-one students from SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY ESF, SUNY Oneonta, Ithaca College, Wells College, Niagara University, and the University of Buffalo joined together with Park staff to network with other club members/Stewards, learn about some new and exciting Park/FORCES initiatives, and of course, to celebrate program accomplishments!

Save the date for the 4th Annual FORCES Membership Gathering on Sunday, September 30th, at Glimmerglass State Park!

### **FORCES 2018 Summit Awards**

**Leadership Award:** Mike Serviss

**Service Awards:** Michelle Gianvecchio, Laura Young

**Club of the Year :** SUNY ESF FORCES



4th Annual FORCES Leadership Summit, April 8th, at SUNY ESF. Photo: OPRHP

### **Affiliated Institutions**

SUNY Alfred  
 SUNY Binghamton  
 SUNY Brockport  
 SUNY Cobleskill  
 SUNY Cortland  
 SUNY ESF\*  
 SUNY Geneseo\*  
 SUNY Morrisville  
 SUNY Oneonta\*  
 SUNY Oswego  
 SUNY Purchase  
 Alfred University  
 Bucknell University

Cazenovia College  
 Clarkson University  
 Columbia College  
 Cornell University  
 Finger Lakes Community College  
 Hartwick College\*  
 Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
 Houghton College  
 Ithaca College  
 Le Moyne College\*  
 Niagara Community College  
 Niagara University  
 Onondaga Community College  
 Pace University

Paul Smith's College  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 St. John Fisher College  
 Syracuse University  
 University of Buffalo  
 University of Rochester  
 Vassar College  
 Wells College\*

\*Denotes active FORCES Clubs

# Student Conservation Association, NYS Parks AmeriCorps Update

Madeline Simpson, FORCES Program Specialist (SCA)

This spring season I have worked closely with our FORCES stewards at Chenango Valley and Glimmerglass State Parks working on various land management, conservation, and environmental education projects. A few of my favorite projects we have worked on include the removal of invasive garlic mustard and pale swallow-wort, encouraging the beloved bluebird and bat populations through the redistribution of boxes and “hotels”, and engaging with the public through educational nature hikes.

Some projects we are looking forward to completing this summer include the improvement of trails and signage, GIS mapping, emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid surveying, pollinator gardens, recycling initiatives and sustainability programs. I look forward to continuing working alongside the inspiring FORCES stewards, building the next generation of conservation leaders, and improving the quality of our parks through preservation, restoration, and environmental stewardship.



FORCES Stewards Bailey, Danielle, and SCA NYS Parks Corps Environmental Educator Danni (right) showing “bat hotels” to park patrons. Photo: OPRHP

## Genesee Region Update

Veronica Medina, Letchworth State Park Environmental Steward

In the Spring of 2018 Letchworth State Park repaired a portion of Big Brook, a meandering stream running alongside the park road. The thalweg (low points) of the stream were altered in order to redirect flow away from the road. In addition, a riprap stone protection, drainage installations and soil deposits were used to prevent further road erosion. Once the erosion control project was completed, the Genesee FORCES club came out to help plant a variety of stream stabilizing shrubs, live stakes, and trees along the stream bank and stream bed. The restoration project was a huge success and the majority of the plantings survived due to the summer FORCES crew assistance with watering through the dry spells.



SUNY Genesee FORCES assisting with the stream stabilization. Photo: OPRHP

## SAVE the DATE: FORCES Fall Gathering

September 30, 2018

Glimmerglass State Park

The FORCES Gathering is an event for students to develop networking, attend natural history trainings, and to celebrate program accomplishments in a social setting.

*“I loved the opportunity to be a part of FORCES. It was honestly one of the highlights of my college experience, and I will continue to keep in touch and still try to offer as much as I can!”*

*-Kaylee Townsend,  
SUNY ESF recent graduate*

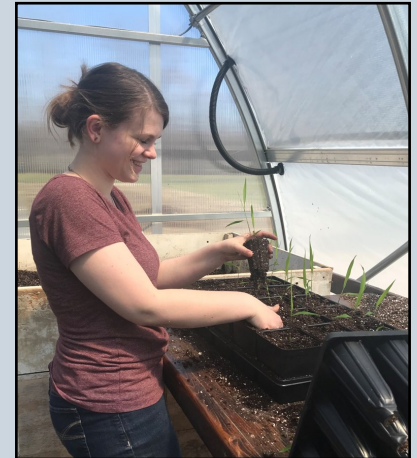
# Niagara Region Update

Jillian Harris, FORCES Program Specialist

It's been a full year since the FORCES program came back to the Niagara Region, starting with one steward in the spring of 2017. This spring we had five returning stewards including Zach Glaspy, Ivette Leon, Cassidy Okon, Renae Sentiff, Seanna Chilson and one new steward, Liz Connolly. While the chilly weather had us starting off slow, we soon finished the season with a bang (literally!).

With the threat of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) spreading throughout the state, it was important to begin surveys on the few stands of eastern hemlock we have. Back in the fall our stewards mapped known locations of eastern hemlock and they then went back in the spring to look for HWA, luckily not finding any.

Seanna Chilson worked as a Conservation Steward mainly working in our WNY Landscape Resource Center located at Knox Farms. She assisted Kevin McNallie, greenhouse manager, with sowing seeds, watering, and transplanting, and also helped with HWA surveys, educational material, and geese egg oiling. Seanna acquired a summer job as a boat steward with the Watercraft Inspection Program through NYS Parks, but is planning on coming back as a FORCES steward in the fall.



Seanna transplanting Indian grass in the WNY Landscape Resource Center Greenhouse. Photo: OPRHP

Ivette Leon was Niagara University's FORCES Campus Ambassador and worked to connect clubs with volunteer opportunities within the parks and helped organize events within the school. She worked to get the Niagara Women's Rugby club involved with removing lesser celandine at DeVeaux Woods State Park and to help make seed bombs for the Earth Day Expo at Niagara University. Ivette helped table the Earth Day Expo, where students had the opportunity to make seed bombs using locally collected seed to be later used in a hike down Devils Hole State Park to replant the area after construction work.

This summer the Niagara Region has a whopping seven stewards working under a variety of park staff on different projects ranging from invasive species management to water quality monitoring to greenhouse assistance. There are many plans in the works for National Pollinator Week and Invasive Species Awareness Week, so keep a look out on the Facebook page!



FORCES Campus Ambassador, Ivette Leon, and Program Specialist, Jillian Harris, at the Niagara University Earth Day Expo. Photo: OPRHP



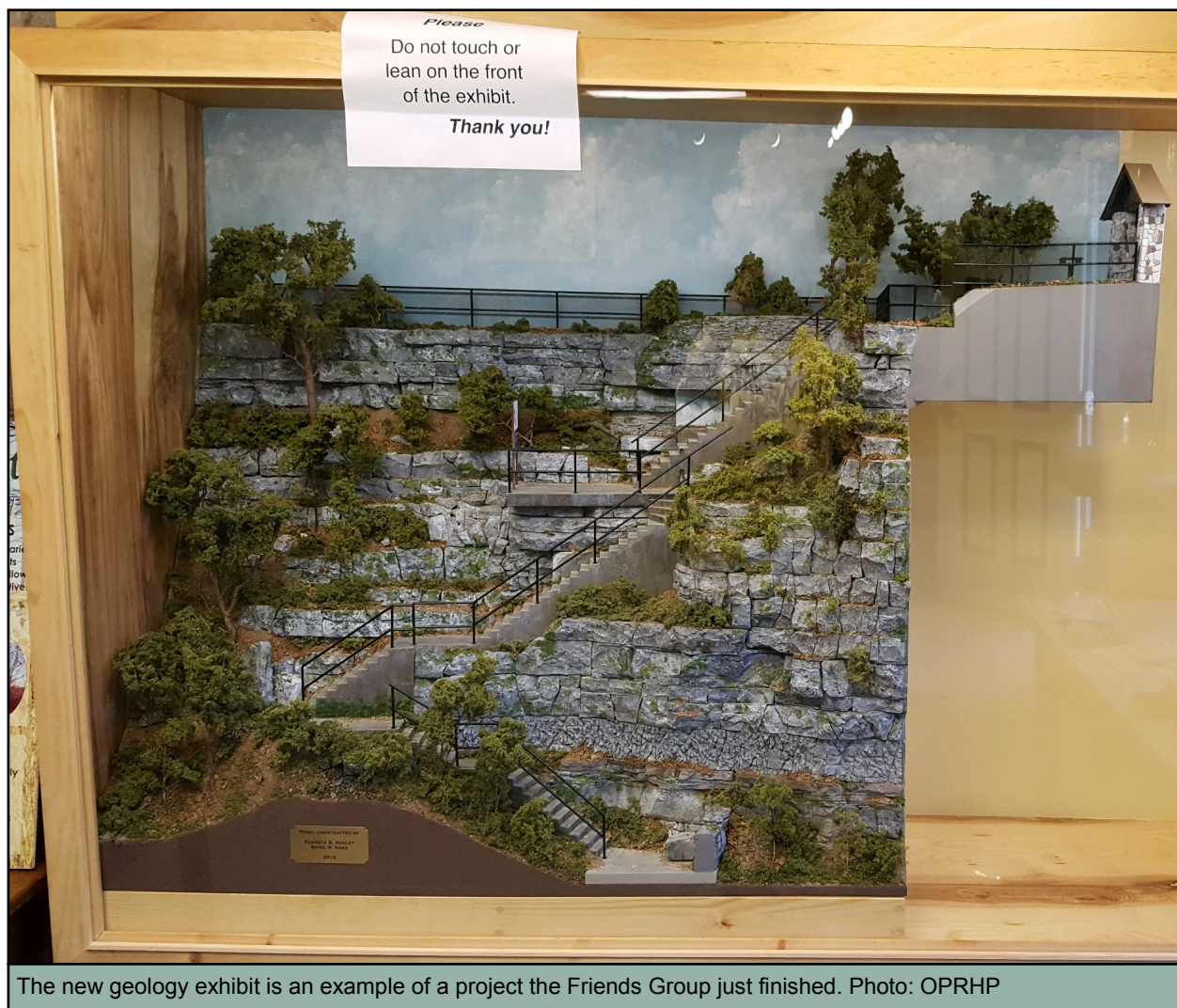
Niagara University Women's Rugby Club making seed bombs to be thrown into the Niagara Gorge for restoration efforts. Photo: OPRHP

## Featured Project: Clark Reservation Nature Center

Katie Mulverhill, Central Region Environmental Educator

We need your help!

Environmental Education is more than just presenting programs to kids (but that *is* my favorite part of it!). I love environmental education because in many ways, an educator is a cross between a scientist and an artist. I need my strong science background and understanding, but I also need to come up with creative ways to share knowledge. Besides putting together fun and educational programs, I also get to create other interpretive media, like signs and exhibits. This is where we need your help! The Friends of Clark Reservation State Park (Central Region) have been working hard to re-do the exhibits in the nature center they run in the park. This year they were awarded a \$8,500 grant, some of which is for new exhibits. The trouble is, we don't have anyone to design the exhibits. If you have a strong background in science, and are a creative person, this might be just the project for you! We really need someone with an interest in graphic design to help us with some of the interpretive signs and written exhibits. I can help with the technical side of things, and you can do the creative stuff. A win-win for sure! Let me know if you are interested in this project. I look forward to working with you soon! - Katie [e-mail: Katie.Mulverhill@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Katie.Mulverhill@parks.ny.gov)



The new geology exhibit is an example of a project the Friends Group just finished. Photo: OPRHP

## Steward Spotlight:

Paula Merkle, Conservation Steward

For the past two years, I have worked with FORCES in the Finger Lakes region and throughout that time I have held three different positions. It was these experiences that drove me to minoring in Environmental Studies, and pursuing a future career in Environmental Anthropology.

The first position I ever held was as an Environmental Education Steward, where I gathered historical information on Upper Buttermilk Falls State Park and later it was used in an educational pamphlet. It was the first independent research that I had ever conducted and it gave me an idea of what I hoped to do in the future, as well as supplying me with the tools that I would later use in my own research.

The year after I was eager to try my hand at a different sort of volunteering, and I became an Invasive Species Management Steward. This was my first time really being out in the field and getting to know all the native and invasive plant species in the area. It's thanks to this position that I can easily identify swallow-wort, Japanese knotweed, milkweed, and a whole variety of tree species. It was hard work, but I was always excited to come in and get my hands dirty, and it introduced me to some amazing people at the Parks, who I will forever be grateful for!

This past year was my last year with the Parks, and I had begun to think about what I wanted to do, not only with these experiences but also with my degree. So, this year I worked in my final position as a Cultural Interpretation Steward, bringing me full circle, back to where I had started. With both this position, as well as the Environmental Education Steward, I was in charge of my own project, and I decided to focus on something that I thought had a lot of importance to both the Parks and myself.

The fall semester I focused entirely on gathering historical information about the Newtown Battlefield State Park and the impact the Battle of Newtown had on Native Americans in Upstate New York. This was an effort to update the historical signs in the park, as well as shed light on the conditions that Native Americans suffered through during the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign. The park has long stood as a monument to the victory of American soldiers over Native Americans and their British allies, and this project was an attempt to acknowledge the devastation caused by this violent campaign.



Paula at the Cayuga Lake Pollinator Meadow.  
Photo: OPRHP

***“This internship taught me much more than I thought it would. I’ve learned many different skills from tracking, trail camera surveying, raptor and salamander surveys to brook trout habitat assessments.” -Lavran Pagano, Ithaca College***

# Finger Lakes Region Update

Lindsay Dombroskie, FORCES Program Specialist

Several FORCES Stewards were active in the region over the spring term. Paula Merkle continued her work from the fall as a Cultural Communications Steward. More information about Paula's various project work over the years including her more recent activities can be found in the Steward Spotlight section of this newsletter. Mark Hassett completed a credit-based Outdoor Adventure Leadership Stewardship. Lavran Pagano and Landon Silverman teamed up to volunteer on Conservation Steward projects. Invasive Species Management Stewards Cassie Kelm and Natasha Curran focused on credit-based and independent volunteer projects, respectively.



Mark leading the First Saturday Education Hike at Taughannock Falls. Photo: OPRHP

Mark collected data and created elevation profile signage for the Rim Trail at Robert H. Treman State Park during the winter months. We hope to place Mark's signage on the Rim Trail soon. He completed a trail assessment at Beechwood State Park in April. Mark also helped facilitate the First Saturday Education Hikes that occur monthly at various parks and are typically led by Josh Teeter, in addition to I Love My Park Day invasive plant removals at Fillmore Glen State Park.

Lavran and Landon spent most of their time surveying for river otter at former release sites. Their wildlife camera trap surveys at Buttermilk Falls State Park yielded 2,464 photographs,

28% of which were of animals—none of which were river otter. However, they also conducted winter track surveys and found river otter tracks and slides close to Jennings Pond. Other project work included a winter raptor survey of the Ithaca area parks, ash tree mapping at Sampson State Park, and a brook trout habitat assessment at Buttermilk Falls State Park.



Landon assessing a sizeable otter slide in hard snow. Photo: OPRHP



Cassie enters invasive species data into iMapInvasives. Photo: OPRHP

Cassie created a dichotomous key for identifying woody vines (AKA lianas) that occur in the Finger Lakes and Central Regions. The purpose of creating this key was to find a way to differentiate between lianas during the dormant season. With this key, management of invasive lianas like trumpet vine or Asiatic bittersweet can continue in the winter while sparing native lianas like Virginia creeper. Cassie also began an invasive species assessment along the Black Diamond Trail that we hope to continue in the future.

Natasha Curran surveyed for the invasive insect, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), at Buttermilk Falls State Park. HWA is a pressing concern at this and other gorge parks in the Finger Lakes. HWA often kills eastern hemlocks which are a foundation species in many gorge ecosystems. Natasha also teamed up with the Finger Lakes Parks Corps SCA and the Environmental Field Team to remove autumn olive at Two Rivers State Park in March.

Becky Sibner of the Environmental Field Team and FORCES staff went to the Ithaca College Environmental Technologies Class to talk about HWA, and invited them to Buttermilk Falls State Park to survey. The class also examined benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) living in water sheltered by eastern hemlocks, to document a BMI response to potential changes in hemlock health. This is an ongoing partnership with many benefits, including recruiting FORCES Stewards.





## Partner Highlight: Izaak Walton League of America

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Onondaga County

The mission of FORCES fits nicely with the Izaak Walton League of America's (IWLA) desire to instill an appreciation of nature in young people in our region, and to show them how to engage in the many activities that nature offers us. Project Watershed, our IWLA Chapter's signature program, engages young people and adults in citizen science – monitoring water quality in area streams. Early on we were blessed with the assistance of NYS Parks and Recreation people lending their expertise to make program participant experiences so much better.

Following, it was our good fortune to be asked to work with FORCES in presenting programs designed to train teachers and college students in protocols of EPA sanctioned stream monitoring. One such multi-year effort we've done, together, is with Hartwick College in their TAPUS (Think, Act, Protect the Upper Susquehanna River) two day workshop. Through this program many dozens of teachers and professors have learned techniques to engage their students in watershed educational activities – activities that also inform governmental agencies on water quality issues.

There has been, and continues to be, a rich relationship enjoyed by the Izaak Walton League with FORCES and, overall, NYS Parks and Recreation. Working together with people in the FORCES program on so many projects over the years we've witnessed benefits that have come to so many. We've watched FORCES personnel in effective action on a variety of efforts, including YARE (Youth Aquatic Resource Education), Learn to Fish programs for city youth, special events with needy community center youth, to name just a few.

May the FORCES be with us ----- always!! **Mat Webber, Izaak Walton League of America CNY Chapter President**

I have the awesome opportunity of being Project Coordinator for the Young Naturalist Leadership Team (YNLT). We are a collaborative group of about 20 students and young professionals that connect the Central New York community to conservation, restoration, environmental education and stewardship projects in the area. What sets us apart from other stewardship groups is that YNLT works to create professional opportunities and advancement by connecting members to valuable experiences, trainings, and professionals in the environmental field. YNLT is a program of the Central New York Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), and we are very grateful for all their support! We are different from college-based groups in that our member-base is not limited to just students. Our diversity in member's academic and professional status paired with our connection to IWLA members helps build and strengthen those professional connections for our members even more.



YNLT members, IWLA members, and OBG technicians after their wildlife monitoring training in March. Photo: OPRHP

Since its establishment just over a year ago, YNLT has been involved in three major community-based projects in Onondaga County. Our 'pilot project' was facilitating discussion and notetaking during break-out sessions at a Mini-Conference where over 60 local agency, organizational, and volunteer leaders met to discuss improving citizens science water quality monitoring. Second, we partnered with the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps and our YNLT members led over 50 volunteers in monitoring activities to record the wildlife and vegetation biodiversity in a recovering wetland system.

Our third and most recent project was exceptionally important to me. I was able to bridge both my volunteer involvement with YNLT and my professional work with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) to accomplish holding a successful forum on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed. With almost 300 attendees, it was the first event of this size or scale I've ever run and I wouldn't have been able to do it without our YNLT crew. From start to finish, twelve committed YNLT members helped ensure the forum and a Q&A panel session ran smoothly. On behalf of CCE Onondaga (and YNLT), I would like to extend a major thank you to the talented, passionate, and dedicated YNLT leaders and members, IWLA, and NYS Parks/ FORCES, of whom a lot of our YNLT help came through, for helping us at Extension connect the Onondaga community with information on ways to reduce their risk of exposure to HAB toxins.

We are a new, growing group- if you have any questions or ideas about YNLT projects- or any Natural Resources projects at CCE Onondaga- please feel free to reach out! Many thanks, YNLT and thanks for featuring us, FORCES!

**Shannon Fabiani, Cornell Cooperative Extension Water and Ecology Specialist [email: sf226@cornell.edu](mailto:sf226@cornell.edu)**

## SUNY ESF

Kaylee Townsend, Club President

## Le Moyne College

Erica Mackey, Club President



ESF FORCES recently transitioned to a new set of officers who are excited to continue projects and help the community anyway they can. This past spring semester, we constructed bluebird boxes at the Cazenovia Public Library and at Expeditionary Learning Middle School. We met with Le Moyne College FORCES and brainstormed future project ideas to accomplish together.

We gained a lot of new members through our club activities fair. At Selkirk Shores State Park, we helped with a candlelight hike which included loading up the popcorn bags, helping people stay on the trail, and running the food donation table.

Later in the spring, we had a nice potluck at Green Lakes State Park with ESF FORCES. We enjoyed great food and a walk along the lake even though it was a little chilly!



SUNY ESF FORCES at Selkirk Shores State Park. Photo: SUNY ESF FORCES

Jake O'Connell, Office of Experiential Learning and Outreach, became the club's new advisor, which was super helpful, and we were able to brainstorm some on campus ideas with him!

The club looks forward to helping with more projects during the fall semester.



This spring, we did a lot more activities both on and off campus to get people out into nature! One of our first events was the Spring Club Fair, where we recruited new members.

Next was building Bluebird boxes with SUNY ESF FORCES at the Cazenovia Public Library. We enjoyed helping people of all ages build these!

Later in the spring, we had a nice potluck at Green Lakes State Park with ESF FORCES. We enjoyed great food and a walk along the lake even though it was a little chilly!



Constructing bluebird boxes at the Cazenovia Public Library. Photo: Le Moyne FORCES

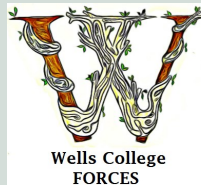
In late April, we participated in Earth Jam on campus to celebrate Earth Day. We helped participants plant succulents and air plants. Our last event was a volunteer event at Women in Nature in Dewitt. We enjoyed helping the participants get ready for their day and seeing all the different activities that the women got to participate in.

Next semester we look forward to increasing our membership, working with other clubs and doing more activities outdoors!

## Wells College

Shania Dauphinais, Club President

This past spring semester, Wells FORCES held a seed dispersal workshop on campus to educate about pollination gardens and sort through and plant seeds for a pollination garden at Long Point State Park. We held a Wilderness Survival Fair at Wells, mapped invasive species at Fillmore Glen and removed invasive plants at I Love My Park Day.



Wells FORCES and Lindsay Dombroskie mapping invasive species at Fillmore Glen State Park. Photo: Wells FORCES

## SUNY Geneseo

Steve Sicari, Club President



FORCES at SUNY Geneseo continued making an impact in the Genesee and Finger Lakes regions of Western New York. Over the span of eight events, the club logged 181 service hours and 363 recreational hours contributed by 63 different Geneseo student participants.

This past spring semester, FORCES was able to visit and serve in Letchworth State Park, Genesee Valley Park and Forest, Indian Fort Nature Preserve, and Hemlock Lake. Geneseo FORCES participated in service events such as invasive species removal, infrastructure fortification, surveying, bird box building, native tree planting, and native tree potting.

Alongside the eight events, the club organized an educational talk given by The Genesee Valley Conservancy's Dave Bojanowski, in which he spoke about the effects of farming and manure control in the area. FORCES at Geneseo also organized a successful scavenger hunt fundraiser where local businesses generously sponsored through donating prizes. Because of the club's dedication, Geneseo FORCES was honored to receive a 2018 Volunteer & Service Award from SUNY Geneseo in April.



SUNY Geneseo FORCES at their spring semester camping trip at Letchworth State Park. They were planting trees, campfire cooking, hammocking, doing a survival workshop, star gazing, marshmallow roasting, jamming around a campfire and more!!  
Photo: SUNY Geneseo FORCES

## SUNY Oneonta

Taylor Held, Club President



In the spring, we attended the FORCES Summit at SUNY ESF. While we were there, we had the opportunity to hear about all of the great activities other colleges were

doing with their FORCES club on campus. With this new insight, we are motivated to expand the different possibilities that our club can do for the upcoming semester. We are looking forward to enhancing our FORCES club in the upcoming semester.



Club members presenting at the FORCES Summit.  
Photo: OPRHP

## Hartwick College

Rebecca Nathan, Club President

Hartwick FORCES went through a transformation of officers last semester and we are very excited and energized for a chock full semester in the fall. We are planning to volunteer at Silver Lake Sanctuary to remove invasive species, plant native species, build birdhouses, and other projects to improve the habitat. We're also planning to do invasive species removal projects at other parks, especially looking at the Robert V. Riddell State Park across from our Pine Lake campus. We will also have a lot of hikes planned for the fall semester and look forward to any other projects that need volunteers!



## FORCES Staff Highlight:

Chenga Drury, Three Gorges FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region



Hi, I'm Chenga Drury! For the next two years, I will be a FORCES Program Specialist based out of Taughannock Falls State Park. I earned my Bachelors of Science degree in Natural Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry (SUNY ESF).

In my position, I will be assisting the Environmental Field Team with the Three Gorges Project (3G). My efforts will focus on the management of pale swallow-wort, Japanese knotweed, and porcelain berry in Taughannock Falls, Robert H. Treman, and Buttermilk Falls State Parks. During the summer seasons, I will be assisting the 8-person FORCES Stewardship Corps with surveying, mapping, and removals of invasive species. I will be helping with vegetation monitoring efforts related to the 3G in the spring and fall seasons. I'm looking forward to recruiting and leading volunteer groups who will engage in invasive species management, restoration, and environmental conservation!



FORCES Stewards from SUNY ESF and Le Moyne College contributed to the 12th Annual Women In Nature Outdoor Skills Workshop on April 28th. Photo: John Hluchyj

*"Identifying plants, surveying, working with transects, and GPS helped me to broaden my skills and knowledge, allowing me to improve my resume and be a better job candidate in the future."*

-Cassie Kelm,  
SUNY Cortland

### Contact Us

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Instagram accounts!

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## 2017 FORCES Stewards

### **Alfred University**

Lindsay Neubek, Art and Design Steward  
Thomas Brooks, Graphic Design Steward  
Cameron Jones, Environmental Education Steward

### **Bucknell University**

Katie Pendelbarry, Conservation Steward

### **Cazenovia College**

Lukas Evans, Conservation Steward

### **Clarkson University**

Pat Macko, COAS Conservation Steward

### **Cornell University**

Jessica Pearson, FORCES Program Steward  
Hailey Aleman, Conservation Steward  
Jasmine Grewal, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Xinhui Liao, Conservation Steward

### **Corning Community College**

Jane Suhey, Environmental Education Steward

### **Finger Lakes Community College**

Michelle Gianvecchio, Ornithology Steward  
Martha Van Bork, Conservation Steward  
Erika Ester, Plant Materials Conservation Steward  
Charlie Ippolito, Riparian Restoration Steward

### **Hartwick College**

Liz Karson, FORCES Club President

### **Houghton College**

Evan Stern, Conservation Steward

### **Ithaca College**

Adriana Del Grosso, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Jake Barney, Conservation Steward  
Nathanael Henderson, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Laura Young, Education and Outreach Steward  
Maddie Mathers, Conservation Steward  
Paula Merkle, Conservation Steward

### **Le Moyne College**

Austin Higgins, Ornithology Steward  
Justin Hussy, Conservation Steward  
Mandy Klaben, Plant Propagation Steward  
Erica Mackey, FORCES Club President  
Jensen Porter, Community Conservation Steward

### **Niagara County Community College**

Zachariah Glaspy, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Jeffrey Simoneit, Conservation Steward

### **Niagara University**

Ivette Leon, FORCES Campus Ambassador  
Jose Leuridan, FORCES Campus Ambassador  
Cassidy Okon, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Renae Sentiff, Invasive Species Management Steward

### **Paul Smith's College**

Brian Keating, Natural Resources Conservation Steward

### **St. John Fisher College**

Ryan Felski, Ornithology Steward  
Taylere Hermann, Plant Materials Conservation Steward

### **SUNY Alfred**

Kyla Wulff, Environmental Education Steward

### **SUNY Binghamton**

Allana Havernick, Conservation Steward  
Millet DeAngles, Invasive Species Management Steward  
Zachary Strebel, Invasive Species Management Steward

### **SUNY Brockport**

Cindy Brownson, Conservation Steward  
Michaele Freeman, Plant Materials Conservation Steward

### **SUNY Cortland**

Caitlin Niederhofer, Conservation Steward  
Shannon Shoff, FORCES Project Steward

### **SUNY ESF**

Lexi Grove, Environmental Interpretation Steward  
Lindsay Ayers, Conservation Steward  
Mariano Arias, Conservation Steward  
Erin Baccari, Conservation Steward  
Xue Dong, Environmental interpretation Steward  
Molly Elwood, Conservation Steward  
Brenna Galligan, Conservation Steward  
Stephen Garney, Conservation Steward  
Samantha Hollister, FORCES Club President  
Alexandra Grove, Environmental Interpretation Steward  
Sierra Jech, Conservation Steward  
Megan Jarvis, Conservation Steward  
Sarah Kirkpatrick, Conservation Steward  
Kaylee Townsend, FORCES Club Co-President  
Kaylyn Zipp, Conservation Steward  
Kaitlyn VanOrman, Natural Resources Management Steward  
Ally Whitbread, Conservation Steward  
John Zeiger, Conservation Steward  
Rozy Mori-Millet, FORCES Club Co-President  
Alden Morris, Natural Resources Management Steward  
Angelina Presutti, Native Seed Steward  
Cassandra Rogers, Conservation Steward  
Candace Shermerhorn, Aquatic Resources Education Steward  
Alivia Sheffield, Dune Restoration Steward  
Abby Snow, Conservation Steward  
Lydia Stewart, Conservation Steward  
Mitchel Thomas, Conservation Steward  
Marissa Lathrop, Environmental Interpretation Steward

### **SUNY Geneseo**

Ryan Colling, Geneseo FORCES Club President  
Steve Sicari, FORCES Club President

### **SUNY Oneonta**

Taylor Held, FORCES Club President

### **SUNY Oswego**

Kimberly Smith, Dune Restoration Steward

### **University of Buffalo**

Seanna Chilson, Conservation Steward

### **Vassar College**

Dylan Finley, Natural Resources Conservation Steward

### **Wells College**

Curtis Davis, Conservation Steward  
Shania Dauphinais, FORCES Club President

### **West Virginia University**

Travis Farber, Conservation Steward

# The Force Behind FORCES Picture Page



Seanna found a frog friend while oiling geese eggs out at Strawberry Island State Park.



SUNY ESF FORCES celebrated their 'Club of the Year Award' at the 4th Annual FORCES Summit held at SUNY ESF.



Liz and Zach, along with regional biologist Meg Janis participated in I Love My Park Day at Wilson Tuscarora State Park.



Jillian and Cassidy removing lesser celandine from DeVeaux Woods State Park.



Lavran and Landon discuss small rodent tracks in the snow.



Ithaca College Env. Science class sampled benthic macroinvertebrates at Buttermilk Falls State Park.

Photo credits: OPRHP



Left: Geneseo FORCES spring semester campout planting trees at Letchworth State Park. Photo: Geneseo FORCES



Wells FORCES at Fillmore Glen State Park on I Love My Park Day. Photo: Wells FORCES.



Friends of Recreation, Conservation  
and Environmental Stewardship

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FORCES Newsletter  
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Harriett Hollister Spencer State Park. Photo: OPRHP

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