



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1

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Taughannock Falls State Park. Photo Credit: Michael Gill

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

An Introduction to FORCES

Tom Hughes, NRS Biologist
Central Region FORCES Program Manager

Wow, it is extremely exciting for me to see the growth of our FORCES program over the past several years! We started FORCES as a pilot program in the Central Region in 2008, as part of our agency's Natural Resource Stewardship (NRS) & Environmental Interpretation Initiative. FORCES first emerged through our institutional partnership with SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF). Right from the start, our dedicated and talented ESF student volunteers and Stewards created a foundation for program success that would eventually lead to the establishment of the ESF FORCES club (see page 8), which continues its glorious evolution and expansion.

In 2013, funding and support from OPRHP and the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) with donor support from the Alliance for New York State Parks, a program of the Open Space Institute, initiated our current expansion of the FORCES program. Today, FORCES enjoys a network of 22 affiliated collegiate institutions with six clubs! (See page 3 for listing of colleges & universities.)

I'll admit that this inaugural issue of our newsletter is way overdue! For that, I will take the blame. We had many versions of our first newsletter drafted over the past several years, but I kept saying, "not yet, there is one more awesome thing I want to



First annual FORCES Gathering. Students attended trainings in a social setting at Seneca Lake State Park. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

add." Thus, our newsletter fell victim to my perpetual procrastination. Well, I'm happy to report that we got a lot of those earlier messages out through other means, and now we are finally able to roll out a newsletter that truly reflects the enthusiasm, dedication and contributions of our FORCES family of staff, faculty, students and community partners.

I hope that you will enjoy learning about the great diversity of projects, programs and events that our FORCES participants contribute to both within and beyond our NYS Parks. I am personally very grateful for the opportunity to work with so many amazing young professionals in many of the most magnificent places in NY State. I look forward to many more years of success for the FORCES program and its incredible student legacy.

"I have enjoyed volunteering with Parks, the people I have met, and the wonderful networking opportunities FORCES offers." – Radka Yang

Central Region Update

Patricia Shulenburg, Program Specialist

Central Region FORCES staff have been busy launching our Facebook Page, *FORCES NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation*. Be sure to connect with us! You can share information and pictures on Twitter and Instagram using *#forcesnysparks*. We have also created a LinkedIn page where we will post jobs and group discussions. This is a platform to share ideas, events, news, and network with other FORCES members. We have connected with many students at Cazenovia College, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Morrisville, Onondaga Community College, and SUNY Oswego, just to name a few. We welcomed 11 stewards to our parks projects this Fall.



Assistant Professor Rebecca Hargrave and SUNY Morrisville students control invasive shrubs. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

Fall projects include Sensory Trail design at Glimmerglass State Park, Women in Nature program planning, and hosting outdoor classrooms from Cazenovia College (electrofishing), and SUNY Morrisville (invasives removal).

Finger Lakes Region Update

Becky Sibner, Program Specialist

FORCES in the Finger Lakes Region has been steadily gaining momentum throughout 2015. We have had stewards and volunteer groups from Ithaca College, SUNY ESF, and Cornell University working on projects that vary from trail blazing and bridge repair to cell phone tours, policy research, photo projects, and the inevitable invasive species removals.

The highlight of this fall was our ash seed collection project, which began over the summer with surveys and mapping of female ash trees, and lasted through the end of October. With the help of 10 stewards and volunteers, we collected seeds from 50 ash trees around the region, and they are now being processed and stored at the Mid Atlantic Regional Seed Bank.

Next semester looks like it will bring great diversity in FORCES steward projects, as we recruit students interested in everything from website design to coyote tracking.



Ithaca College students survey for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Photo Credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

Ganondagan Historic Site

Whitney Carleton, Project Coordinator

FORCES at Ganondagan State Historic Site is continuing work on multiple major projects. Planning is underway for the prescribed burn scheduled to take place between May and early June in the Grassland Management Area. Current SUNY ESF FORCES President, Kyle Webster, rejoined the Ganondagan team in November (He first interned here in the summer of 2014) and will be leading restoration efforts on the site's remaining ~150 grassland acres. Coupled with Alexis VanWinkle's efforts in bird surveys and habitat establishment, there is hope that these combined efforts can lead to a Bird Conservation Area at Ganondagan.

Other major projects include a 10-acre pollinator grassland, finalizing native landscaping for the new Seneca Art and Culture Center, continuing Seneca interpretive plantings along the Green Plants Trail and surveying Seneca Lake State Park for invasive species. In related news, our efforts have paid off in the form of a new Environmental Field Office! The former visitor center for the park is being transformed into a lean, green, FORCES machine and should be fully finished before spring! We are excited to start our search for summer interns for Ganondagan and Seneca Lake State Park!

Ganondagan State Historic Site Staff 2015

Whitney Carleton, Project Coordinator
Alexis VanWinkle, Supervising Steward
Mallory Scahill, Conservation Steward



Kyle Webster, Conservation Steward, leads a team of Pittsford Sutherland students in invasive species removals. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

Upcoming Events

3/12 Maple Syrup Demonstration
Green Lakes State Park

3/26 Trout Season Kickoff
Chenango Valley State Park

3/26 Easter Egg Hunt
Green Lakes State Park

4/2 First Saturday Hike
Taughannock Falls State Park

4/10 FORCES Summit
Hartwick College's Pine Lake
Environmental Campus

4/22 Earth Day

4/30 Women In Nature
Pompey Rod and Gun Club

5/7 First Saturday Hike
Taughannock Falls State Park

5/7 I Love My Park Day
Participating State Parks

5/12 United Way Day of Caring
Ganondagan State Historic Site

5/14 Fishing Derby
Chenango Valley State Park

6/2-6/3 FORCES Trainapalooza
Ganondagan State Historic Site

6/12 Urban vs. Rural Birdwatching
Ganondagan State Historic Site

For more information email
patricia.shulenburg@parks.ny.gov
or visit www.nysparks.com/events

"Finally, my internship marked the first time where my work was being done in a real-world environment." – Ian Liebentritt

Coordinator's Corner

Amy Kochem, FORCES Program Coordinator

"Real-world experience", "incredible networking opportunities", "fosters individual interests and personal growth", "provided a connection to my community", "vast knowledge gained", "new life-long friends"...

These are just some of the phrases that you'll hear from students involved with the FORCES Program.

In the 2 ½ years that I have been working with FORCES, I have seen several students graduate and

pursue their professional careers. Many feel that their participation and experiences with FORCES gave them that extra edge over their competitive candidates.



Amy Kochem removes pale swallow-wort at Selkirk Shores State Park. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

While students are gaining real-world experiences in our parks and historic sites, FORCES is much more than the hands-on natural resources projects. There is also the personal element that can't be tangibly measured. These components include stories and laughter shared, unexpected teachable moments in the field, a personal connection to the park you've shed blood, sweat, and tears in, and the special bond that is created between students and FORCES staff.

I personally enjoy the mentorship role that I serve with FORCES. I thrive on providing meaningful opportunities where students find genuine experiences and connections in their field and increase personal growth. I too have been inspired and motivated by these enthusiastic students!

Starting fresh out of college as an environmental educator with the DEC at Rogers Environmental Education Center, I vividly remember my colleagues and other professionals in the field providing me with fantastic opportunities to not only succeed, but to flourish in my career. After my various unforgettable experiences, I remember feeling like I had the world by the tail and I wish this same feeling for each and every student involved with FORCES.

Active FORCES Clubs **Affiliated Institutions**

Hartwick College

Le Moyne College

SUNY ESF

SUNY Geneseo

SUNY Oneonta

Wells College

Cazenovia College

Cornell University

Finger Lakes Community College

Hobart and William Smith College

Ithaca College

Niagara University

Onondaga Community College

SUNY Binghamton

Pace University

SUNY Cobleskill

SUNY Cortland

SUNY Morrisville

SUNY Oswego

SUNY Purchase

Syracuse University

Tompkins Cortland Community College

FORCES Programs 2015

Patricia Shulenburg, Program Specialist

The **Leadership Summit** is an annual event designed to bring FORCES club officers and ambassadors together to provide strategic planning for the program, enhance the connectivity among staff and institutions, and celebrate member achievements. Nine institutions attended the first Summit held at Le Moyne College on April 19, 2015. There were breakout discussions, club updates, and awards.

The **FORCES Trainapalooza** is a two-day training event that was held on June 1-2, 2015. Twenty-seven stewards from twelve institutions attended the program. The event included an iMapInvasives training by Finger Lakes PRISM Coordinator Hilary Mosher. Additional workshops included terrestrial invasive species ID and removal, interpretive hiking with plant and bird ID, addressing FAQ's from park visitors, parks regions and historic sites overviews, natural and cultural

history of NYS Parks, and outreach techniques.

The first annual **FORCES Gathering** was held on October 4, 2015 at Seneca Lake State Park in Geneva. Thirty-five students from SUNY ESF, SUNY Oneonta, Ithaca College, and Wells College joined together with park staff to develop their networking skills, attend career trainings, and celebrate program accomplishments.

The next FORCES event will be the FORCES Leadership Summit to be held on Sunday, April 10th, 2016 at Hartwick College's Pine Lake Environmental Campus.



Tom Hughes presents Founder's Awards to Jessica Henderson, Kelsi Douglas, Jenae Withey, and Caitlin Hawley. Photo Credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP



Congratulations to the students of FORCES SUNY Geneseo who were recognized by their college with the 2016 Volunteer and Service Award!

FORCES Member Awards

Leadership Awards: Greg Broslawski, Andrew Randazzo

Service Awards: Brendan Condit, Brent Wells, Stacey Davis, Caroline Demeter, Rousseau Nutter, Shani Saul, Jordan Mueller

Founder's Awards: Heather Hiltbrand, Emily Martin, Morgan Nivison, Erica Leicht, Carley Wenderlich, Jenae Withey, Kelsi Douglas, Caitlin Hawley, Jessica Henderson, Brandon Panensky

Finger Lakes Student Projects

Josh Teeter, FORCES Program Manager
Environmental Education Supervisor

Working with FORCES program students has many benefits. The diverse range of projects allows us to fulfill our agency's mission while enhancing parks and the quality of our student's education. There is a variety of student projects in our parks.

First, as part of a greater project to reduce tick populations we plan to have students from Tompkins Cortland Community College drag for ticks to get pretreatment population numbers and test for the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the cause of Lyme Disease. This will be done in the campground and cabin areas where a majority of park patrons spend their time.

The next project involves safety and the protection of a native species: ash trees. This collaborative

project will involve NYS Park staff, Ithaca College and SUNY ESF. Students will locate, identify and categorize ash trees to provide a variety of potential management options for dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer.

The third project, informational videos about hydrilla, one of the world's most invasive aquatic plants, is being worked on by SUNY Cortland graduate, Maddie Ulinski. This plant's presence in the Cayuga Inlet threatens Finger Lakes and Great Lakes freshwater systems. The footage for these videos was filmed by Michael Gill from Cazenovia College.

The last project is a group of informational packets, developed by Mitch Riley, a Cornell MBA student to be used by teachers and administrators. To make field trips to the park easier to organize, essential details along with educational and recreational content material will be available on the NYS parks website.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Donna Vogler

SUNY Oneonta Biology Department

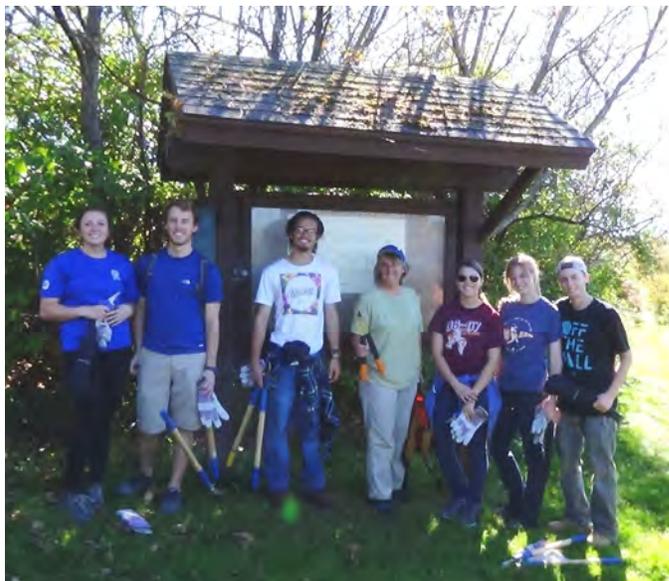
Greetings from SUNY Oneonta. I am Dr. Donna Vogler, club advisor to the SUNY Oneonta FORCES group. Like many faculty advisors to student clubs, I was initially recruited by students who knew of my interest in resource management and environmental issues from the courses I offer such as Ecology and Conservation Biology. In my case it was a particularly eager student, Brandon Panensky, who completed an internship with FORCES the previous summer and got the ball rolling at SUNY Oneonta. However, I was also aware of FORCES through Tom Hughes who I had met at various professional meetings around the state. I write this note partly to give you a brief history of my involvement with FORCES, but also to encourage other faculty to consider serving as advisor to a new FORCES unit at your school.

Initially, I only agreed to be a co-advisor, as my schedule was particularly tight the first year. Fortunately FORCES is a student-run organization and I found my duties to be fairly light. I now attend some of their executive board meetings and about half of the regular club meetings. Because many of the students involved in our FORCES are those likely to be in one of my courses, I am able to connect with several representatives of our FORCES before or after class. One of the labs I run in Ecology is a soils exploration, and several of the FORCES students in my class asked to use a version of it in a "Young Scientists" program they were developing with a local middle school. While I attended their program and provided the lab materials, our FORCES students did everything from developing the lesson plan, printing worksheets, and teaching. The middle school kids seemed to enjoy the dirt time, the FORCES students became teachers, and from my Advisor's perspective, it was a pleasure to bask in my students' success in applying the very ecological principles I taught them.

For a faculty advisor, FORCES is a good platform onto which you can build partnerships. As one example, the Oneonta FORCES group has three state parks nearby: Gilbert Lake, Glimmerglass, and a new state park, Robert V. Riddell. I am personally excited to be on the ground level with Robert V. Riddell and used it this past semester in a graduate Wetlands Delineation course. FORCES can also be a way to network with like-minded faculty at your own institution and other colleges or universities.

For example, our SUNY Oneonta FORCES held a couple of potluck meetings with the FORCES group of our cross-town neighbor, Hartwick College. Working with Hartwick FORCES gave me an opportunity to network with faculty who share my interests in natural resource conservation. I'd like to give a shout out to all the other FORCES advisors out there to consider events with a neighboring FORCES unit. Another example of a FORCES partnership that helped me recently was using FORCES students as a source of volunteers for a local Greenway group I belong to (the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway). FORCES students are outdoor hardy and thanks to the FORCES organization, our group now has tools and gloves for invasive species removal and trail work. This past fall I organized a FORCES workday to clear overgrown sections and taught them to use machetes safely, which for them was a highlight.

In closing I would like to encourage other faculty to be a part of FORCES. Certainly I have found the experience rewarding, both professionally and personally, and the time commitment is reasonable. For those of you who are currently advisors of FORCES groups, I look forward to hearing about your program through this newsletter.



SUNY Oneonta FORCES assist Dr. Donna Vogler (center) with invasive species removal and trail work on the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway project. Photo credit: Monica Cej

Hartwick College

Caitlin Hawley, Club President



Caitlin Hawley collects leaves for ID with a student. Photo Credit: FORCES Hartwick College

Hartwick FORCES held several events this Fall term, at local state parks in Oneonta. The events included Gilbert Lake Fall Fest, Glimmerglass State Park Picnic, Environmental Education Day at Oneonta High School, and a joint SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick potluck.

Our first event at Glimmerglass State Park was a picnic and Tom Hughes led a bluebird nesting box build for the park for National Public Lands Day. Next was the first annual Fall Fest at Gilbert Lake State Park. This included local vendors, fun for the children, hikes, a dog show, pumpkin painting, and local bands. This was a perfect opportunity for families and children become more familiar with

state parks in their area. Our first annual Environmental Education Day, held at Oneonta High School, was organized by Gina Profetto, Peter Fauth, Amanda Barber and middle school teacher Adrienne Cej. We worked with twenty students on identifying leaves, and measuring tree diameter at the high school. We helped students tag the trees. These measurements will be recorded annually as a continuation of this program. Our last event was organized by SUNY Oneonta, a combined potluck at their local cabin.

Our FORCES club had its first senate recognized semester and we plan on increasing campus-wide events to promote our club. This includes cleaning up trails at Pine Lake campus. We plan to hike at state parks. Hartwick FORCES has grown and is becoming more established on campus and in the community. We have high hopes for the future of FORCES and its involvement with our neighboring University, SUNY Oneonta.



SUNY Geneseo

Brandyn Balch, Club President

This was our first semester as an officially recognized organization at SUNY Geneseo, so as president I was prepared for any outcome. However thanks to the dedication of our members, I could not have asked for a more successful beginning! Our goal this past semester was to organize at least one event each week and one extended camping event in the middle of the semester.

We tracked hours and attendance for each member so they can put these experiences on their resume and use us as a reference. This is a major draw for many planning to attend graduate school. We facilitated eleven events for a total of 365 volunteer hours and 284 recreation hours, not including summer work. We helped raise in excess of \$16,000 for the nature center under construction in Letchworth State Park during our camping trip. We spread awareness about invasive plants, maintained trails, and went on beautiful hikes.

Our club camped under the stars, counted meteors, and jammed out to impromptu drum circles. The invaluable connections and friendships that arise from our common values in this program will be treasured for a lifetime.

Our goals for next semester include hemlock woolly adelgid surveys, a camping trip, and archival work at the Letchworth museum. We have created a non-board position; *project manager*. This position will facilitate parks projects with a subcommittee while providing weekly updates. This will allow us to have diverse and ongoing projects. I would encourage any other school to adopt this system if you think it might work for you!

We are just getting started and have passion and momentum in our membership to propel us forward. You will be hearing a lot about SUNY Geneseo in the coming years!



Letchworth State Park. Photo credit: FORCES SUNY Geneseo

After being established in the spring of 2015, Le Moyne FORCES is continuing to be more active and increasing student involvement. We began the fall semester with members going to the New York State Fair to build bird boxes and bird feeders with the public. Several members spent two days at this event leading crafts and talking with the public about NYS Parks. We attended Wicked Woods at Green Lakes State Park. Numerous FORCES members volunteered their time by serving food, assisting with crafts, or participating on the haunted trail. Everyone that volunteered had a great time at the park.

In the upcoming spring semester, Le Moyne FORCES looks to continue to grow its involvement. Last spring, Le Moyne FORCES worked with SUNY ESF members on the Young Biologist Program bringing the biology of NYS Parks to students at Holy Cross Elementary School. This was a great experience and we are hoping to be involved in the program this year. We are planning to remove *Phragmites*, an invasive plant species, around the reservoir on the Le Moyne Campus. By removing this species and limiting its growth, students can access the reservoir for other activities. We will also participate in other NYS Parks activities once they are scheduled, whether they are with the public or specific FORCES events. We are also planning to become involved with the Earth Day Event on Le Moyne's Campus. We look forward to an even better semester this spring and are excited to grow Le Moyne FORCES!



Le Moyne students Brynn Furnace and Dominik Maida ID tree species at the FORCES Gathering. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

“It is great to work closely with OPRHP staff to better understand how the larger agency works; being able to work with experienced staff helps enrich the learning process, and provides insight difficult to obtain in a solely classroom setting.” – Chad Crowley

Wells College FORCES took part in a variety of activities including building blue bird nesting boxes at the NYS Fair, participating in the FORCES Gathering, maintaining trails, removing invasive species and hosting a Sustainability Fair.

We held two volunteer work days at Fillmore Glen State Park in October where we performed trail maintenance on the Upper Gorge Trail by raking leaves and clearing debris.

We also worked at Robert H. Treman State Park with Becky Sibner to remove invasive species; Asiatic bittersweet, Japanese barberry, and multiflora rose from sections of the Finger Lakes hiking trail.



Andrea Gould, Carley Legg, Hakeem Rihan, Kirsten Whistle, and Aaron Heisey. Photo credit: FORCES Wells College

This semester Wells FORCES collaborated with another environmental group on campus to host a Sustainability Fair. Ana Toumpas led two interactive educational games on emerald ash borer and pale swallow-wort. Carley Legg led a workshop on the presence of the black bear in New York State and Aaron Heisey led a booth on tracking using pelts.

Next semester we are partnering with Wells College Buildings and Grounds to cooperate in the removal of pale swallow-wort. We will be working with professors to incorporate a survey of hemlock woolly adelgid into science labs in February. Wells FORCES looks forward to further collaboration with other on-campus clubs to increase our presence in the student community. We will continue to work at Fillmore Glen State Park and Robert H. Treman State Park, and hope to increase our presence at Long Point State Park. A camping trip for club bonding is also planned for the spring.



SUNY ESF

Kyle Webster, Club President
Brigitte Wierzbicki, Club VP

We had a busy and exciting fall semester! The semester's big project combined our goals of increasing on-campus engagement and more effectively restoring ecosystems at our state parks. We teamed up with ESF's Plant Propagation Club and Green Campus Initiative for native wildflower propagation. This fall we collected the seeds and prepared them for overwintering in the greenhouse. This spring we will plant the wildflowers after invasive removals to better reestablish our native plant communities!

We also continued our annual projects, including building bluebird nesting boxes at the State Fair, assessing ash tree health at Clark Reservation, and removing invasives at Selkirk Shores. Our annual spring event, Women in Nature, will be here soon!

There's much work to be done, and volunteers are needed for leading workshops or organizing the event, so let us know if you're interested. We welcomed many new members this semester and we look forward to the spring semester festivities, so get ready for our snowshoe hikes and spring camping trip!



Andrew Randazzo, Brigitte Wierzbicki, and Kyle Webster collect Joe-Pye weed. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

And finally, Andrew, if you're reading this know we miss you dearly. You've been a great president and we wish you the best in all your future endeavors!



Students enjoy a campfire at Trainapalooza. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

A few words from our students...

"The benefits include new friends, resume builders, connections within state parks, strengthening the bond between campus and parks, and fun outdoors all year round." – Erica Leicht

"Joined for the great networking opportunities, stayed for the excuse to spend as much time in Letchworth as I possibly can!" – Brandyn Balch

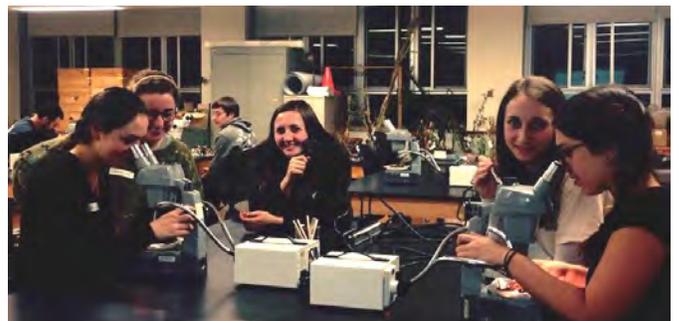
"Overall I realized how important the work I did is. I actually made a difference, even though it was a small one. – Maggie Terry



SUNY Oneonta

Alexa Tumbarello, Club President

SUNY Oneonta FORCES had a great fall semester! We were able to help out with local trail projects, campout at Robert Treman State Park before the FORCES Gathering at Seneca Lake, and we started a new education program; Young Scientists! In this program, we lead biweekly science activities for middle school students and promote visitation to NYS Parks. This spring, we hope to bring Young Scientists outdoors into local NYS Parks.



SUNY Oneonta Young Scientists program. Students designed, advertised and implemented a soils organism program for middle school students. Grace, Caroline, Alexa, Kelsey, and Courtney. Photo credit: FORCES NYS OPRHP

Steward Spotlight: FORCES and Ferns by Mike Serviss

Natural Resources Conservation Steward
MS Candidate Conservation Biology SUNY ESF

Tucked away in crevices and cracks along the steep, rocky slopes of Clark Reservation State Park, you'll find one of the rarest plants in all of New York, the American hart's-tongue fern (AHTF). Years of management and research by SUNY-ESF and OPRHP have improved the quality of habitat and expanded our knowledge of aspects of the fern's biology, ecology and management practices throughout its range. Despite these advances, the American hart's-tongue fern remains threatened with the challenges of habitat loss, invasive species, small population sizes and climate change.

These challenges have inspired us here at SUNY ESF and Clark Reservation to think outside the proverbial conservation box and employ new strategies to recover the species: population augmentation and reintroduction. In July of 2015, over 2,000 American hart's-tongue ferns, propagated in the Fernando Lab at SUNY-ESF, were planted between three sites in central New York, including Clark Reservation! Additionally, microclimate monitoring stations provided by OPRHP were installed at each site. The goal of this research is to determine the life stage of AHTF that is most suitable as a transplant and to analyze microclimate conditions at each site. A large percentage of AHTF transplants survived the extremely dry summer months after a census was conducted in October 2015. That's great news!

FORCES volunteers have provided critical support to the project, logging hundreds of hours in invasive species management, and planting and monitoring AHTF transplants. The need for support from FORCES volunteers will continue through 2016 as many exciting new projects are in the works! We plan to plant several hundred more ferns in the spring of 2016 and analyze the physical characteristics of each site including soil moisture and pH, canopy cover, slope, aspect, and more. FORCES volunteers are needed to help with invasive species management in AHTF habitat in the spring, summer and fall of 2016. With our FORCES combined, AHTF is certain to survive!

Interested in the American hart's-tongue fern project? Please contact project lead Mike Serviss of SUNY-ESF at mjserviss@syr.edu or your FORCES representative to find out how you can help!



Courtney Wein, Jake Brillo, Courtney Pitman, and Radka Yang assist installing a weather station. Photo credit: Mike Serviss

For more information about 2015 FORCES Stewards see *The Force Behind FORCES* publication coming soon to our website.

Contact Us

Amy Kochem
FORCES Program Coordinator
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2015 FORCES Stewards

Cazenovia College

Michael Gill, Visual Media Steward
Hannah Graether, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward

Cornell University

Brendan Condit, FORCES Program Steward
Chad Crowley, Policy and Projects Steward
Ellen George, FORCES Project Steward
Mitch Riley, FORCES Program Steward

Finger Lakes Community College

Chad Barnes, Conservation Steward
Joe Giro, Conservation Steward
Tosha Slaughter, Conservation Steward

Hartwick College

Caitlin Hawley, FORCES Project Steward
Jessica Henderson, Campus FORCES Ambassador

Hobart and William Smith College

Kathryn Busa, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Nicole Desko, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward

Ithaca College

Jake Barney, Land Management Steward
Greg Broslawski, Environmental Education Steward
Brittany Longhetano, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Connor Pearce, Historic Preservation Steward
Sarah Schmidlin, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Drew Tallon, FORCES Project Steward
Jennifer Williams, Photography and Project Steward

Le Moyne College

Morgan Nivison, Environmental Educator

Niagara University

Jason Ellis, FORCES Coordinator

Onondaga Community College

Chris Blowers, Campus FORCES Ambassador
Rebecca Cosgrove, FORCES Project Steward

Paul Smith's College

Quinn Davis, Invasive Species Management Steward

SUNY Binghamton

Ian Liebenritt, Data Management Steward

SUNY Cortland

Jordan Nesbitt, Campus FORCES Ambassador
Madeline Ulinski, Environmental Education Steward
Brent Wells, Historic Preservation Steward

SUNY ESF

Jake Brillo, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Jenny Frank, Regional Sustainability Steward
Stephen Garney, Conservation Steward
Nichole Henger, Natural Resources Mgt. Steward
Christopher Herold, Natural Resources Steward
Diana Jagde, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Josh Jarecki, Conservation Steward
Jackie McCabe, Environmental Education Steward
Olivia Morris, Field Assistant, AHTF
Courtney Pitman, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Andrew Randazzo, Nat. Resources Mgt. Steward
Marcus Rosten, Env. Interpretation Steward
Mike Serviss, Natural Res. Conservation Steward
Alivia Sheffield, Conservation Steward
Maggie Terry, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Kyle Webster, Invasive Species Mgt. Steward
Kelsey West, Field Assistant, AHTF
Julia Woznicki, Data Management Steward
Radka Yang, Conservation Steward
Haixu Zhao, Conservation Steward

SUNY Geneseo

Vivian Hattori, Conservation Steward
Erica Leight, Campus FORCES Ambassador
Brandyn Balch, Campus FORCES Ambassador

SUNY Morrisville

Mark Kicher, Natural Resources Mgt. Steward

SUNY Oneonta

Marty Farchione, FORCES Project Steward
Brandon Panensky, FORCES Program Steward

SUNY Plattsburg

Julia Kostin, Conservation Steward

Victor High School

Emma Kubinski, Conservation Steward

Wells College

Courtney Wein, Environmental Education Steward

Western Invasive Species Strike Team

Tim Lamendola, Supervisor, SUNY Binghamton
Leif Love, SUNY ESF
Katie McCann, SUNY Cortland
Katie Sweeney, Wells College

The Force Behind FORCES Picture Page



Top: Mark Kicher and crew at Green Lakes State Park.
Right: Fair Haven Beach State Park water chestnut pull.



Top: Bluebird nest box building at the NYS Fair.
Left: Cody Gilbertson raises endangered Chittenango ovate amber snail hatchlings.



Top: SUNY Geneseo maintains trails.
Bottom: Kelsey McKeighan assists student in soil organism ID at the Young Scientists Program, SUNY Oneonta.



Top: Jake Barney and Drew Tallon repair a bridge. Bottom: A game of Twister at the FORCES Gathering.



Electrofishing with Cazenovia College and Dr. Thad Yorks' Lab.



American hart's-tongue fern Conservation Stewards. Chittenango Falls State Park.

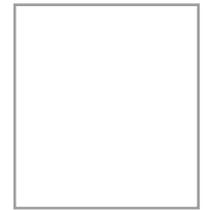
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Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

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Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



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Photo Credit:
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Watkins Glen State Park

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