

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

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

2018 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



Emily Ammons
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Originally from Shrewsbury, MA, Emily attends SUNY Cortland and double majors in Biology and Mathematics. She enjoys playing with her dogs, reading, and learning new things. Emily served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. After she completes her undergraduate degree, she hopes to earn a Master's Degree in Data Analytics or Business Analytics to kick start her career as a statistician or data analyst.



Hannah Annunziata
Conservation Steward

While attending Buffalo University, Hannah is working towards her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Geosciences. She grew up in Buffalo, NY and likes hiking, reading, and soccer. Hannah served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Her goals include graduating a semester early and then after college, starting her career and beginning the next chapter of her life; hopefully doing field work and/or research.



Mariano Arias
Conservation Steward

Having majored in Zoology in Argentina, Mariano worked towards conservation of native forests against the encroachment of commercial plantations in his home country. He now lives in Ithaca, NY, and is working towards his PhD in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. His research aims to enrich our understanding of the impact of ant distribution and abundances in the dispersion of myrmecochorous plants across forest patches.



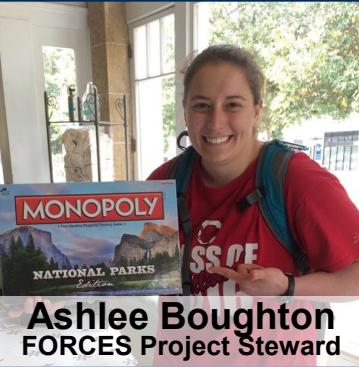
Ally Berry
Dune Restoration Steward

Ally studies Environmental and Watershed Science at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Auburn, NY and is interested in water quality, harmful algal blooms (HABs), mycology, and policy. Ally served as a Dune Restoration Steward at Sandy Island Beach State Park. Playing the violin, modeling, acting, hiking, camping are just some of her favorite hobbies. She would like to become an environmental consultant/scientist or environmental attorney.



Garret Boleslav
Stewardship Corps Member

Garrett studies Environmental Science at Ithaca College. His hometown is Syracuse, NY and he enjoys many activities including tennis, hiking, camping, and water sports. As a member of the Stewardship Corps, his primary goal was to help protect the Finger Lakes Region's native plants. He also served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region.



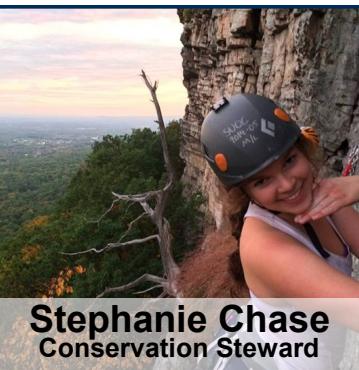
Ashlee Boughton
FORCES Project Steward

Ashlee holds a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from SUNY Cortland. She grew up in Woodstock, NY and her hobbies include hiking, fishing, backcountry camping, canoeing, woodworking, ice hockey, and playing with her dog Trixie! Ashlee served as a FORCES Project Steward in the Central Region. She would like go to graduate school and earn a Masters Degree in Forestry from SUNY ESF and eventually go on an extended backcountry canoe trip in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota!



Cindy Brownson
Conservation Steward

Cindy studies Earth Science at SUNY Brockport. She is from Kirkville, NY and enjoys running and camping. Cindy served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. She hopes to work in environmental compliance.



Stephanie Chase
Conservation Steward

Stephanie attends SUNY ESF and studies Forest Ecosystems Science, minoring in Native Peoples and the Environment. She is originally from Coxsackie, New York and loves rock climbing, ice climbing, trail running, backpacking, and plant ecology and pathology. Stephanie served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. She'd like to pursue a graduate degree and career in plant biology/pathology while still having time to climb.



Seanna Chilson
Conservation Steward

When Seanna is not busy studying Environmental Geoscience at University at Buffalo, she likes to hike, camp, and explore unfamiliar places. She usually has her nose in a book. Seanna is from Corning, NY and served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Her main goals, career-wise, are to always do what she is passionate about and to be constantly learning new things!



Skylar Claud
Oneonta FORCES President

While attending SUNY Oneonta to study Sustainability and Geography, Skylar served as the SUNY Oneonta FORCES Club President. She calls Leicester, NY home and some of her hobbies include drawing and hiking. She'd like to someday work with a nonprofit studying water quality and resources.



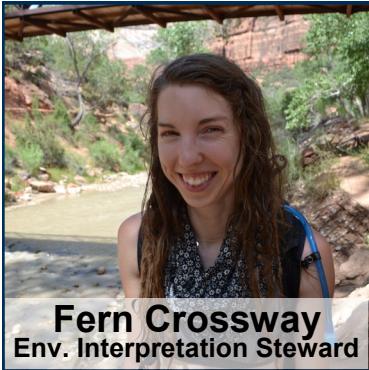
Jeremy Collings
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Before coming to SUNY Cortland, Jeremy worked as a nature educator at Lime Hollow Nature Center, which influenced his decision to major in Conservation Biology. He grew up locally in Cortland, NY. He plans on pursuing a PhD in plant ecology after completing his BS. He has worked with Dr. Andrea Dávalos since the summer of his freshman year on a study aimed at assessing the efficacy of invasive plant management in New York State Parks.



Elisa Colon
Conservation Steward

While attending SUNY ESF and majoring in Forest Resources Management, Elisa also served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. She is from Jamesville, NY and in her spare time likes hiking, kayaking, and swimming. Her dream job would be to work for a National Park or National Forest.



Fern Crossway
Env. Interpretation Steward

Fern studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Hamilton, NY and claims to be a nomad at heart; she loves traveling, hiking, backpacking, and living out of her tent or car as often as possible. When she's stuck in the house, she enjoys writing, editing photos from all of her adventures, making art, and gardening. Fern is passionate about ecopsychology and ecofeminism, and is interested in holistic approaches to environmental problem-solving. She hopes to continue studying after completing her degree at ESF. She would like to combine her educational background with her interests to help others reconnect to the natural world. Fern hopes to become a leader in preserving ecosystems, protecting wildlife, and helping others rediscover their own wildness.



Natasha Curran
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Natasha attended Ithaca College and majored in Environmental Studies. She is from Brewster, NY and enjoys outdoor education, history, and music. While she interned with Parks, she wanted to learn about the variety of opportunities within State Parks, as well as meet new people.



Shania Dauphinais
Wells FORCES President

Shania recently graduated from Wells College with her BS in Environmental Science and Biology. She served as the Wells College FORCES Club President for several semesters. She calls Lawrenceville, PA home and enjoys nature and hiking. As FORCES Club President, she led the club on many adventures and increased the amount of projects accomplished in New York State Parks.



Curtis Davis
Conservation Steward

Curtis spent much of his time working in Letchworth State Park as a Conservation Steward. He studies Environmental Science at Wells College and plans to graduate in 2019. His hometown is Dansville, NY and his passions include fishing, hiking, kayaking, and playing sports. After graduation, Curtis hopes to work in an agency that promotes and helps with environmental health and sustainability. He'd like to get his masters in ecology and/or conservation.



Adriana Del Grosso
Stewardship Corps Member

Adriana Del Grosso recently earned her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Ithaca College. Hailing from Kensington, Maryland, she enjoys hiking, camping, art and being active! In addition to serving as a member of the Stewardship Corps, Adriana also served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Her future ambition is to participate in various projects to benefit parks and local ecology. She's looking forward to always learning more and developing skills that will help her in future endeavors.



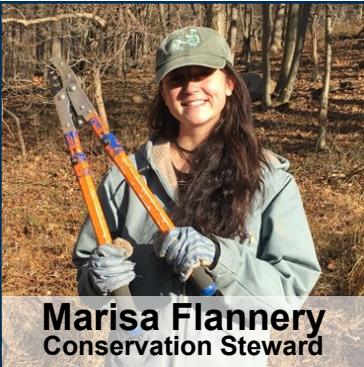
Shannon Doody
FORCES Project Steward

Originally from Tully, NY, Shannon graduated from SUNY Plattsburg with a BS in Environmental Science. One of her personal interests is travelling and is always down for exploring new places, especially landscapes that are out of the ordinary. A favorite place that she's visited so far is a tiny island off the coast of Italy called Ventotene, and the next place she looks forward to visiting is Scotland. Her goal for the near future is to apply to graduate programs as she is excited about the prospect of focusing on her studies again and furthering her education. She'd also like to continue to improve on her tree identification skills.



Hajar Faal
Natural Res. Cons. Steward

Hajar studies Entomology at SUNY ESF. She served as a Natural Resource Conservation Steward and conducted her work in the Finger Lakes Region. She lives in Syracuse, NY and is interested in forest entomology, chemical ecology, and pest management. Hajar enjoys hiking, skiing, and playing backgammon. She would like to be involved in the management of environmental and forest issues, and to learn and apply practical methods.



Marisa Flannery
Conservation Steward

Marisa is a Conservation Steward at Rockefeller State Park. She's working towards her MS in Environmental Science at Pace University. Marisa is originally from Red Hook, New York and has always been interested in the environment and biology. She's most interested in plants and soil and why/how soil type is a major influence on which plants can grow. Marisa's short term goals are graduating with honors from graduate school and starting a career in the environmental field.



Hunter Flood
Conservation Steward

Hunter Flood is enrolled at SUNY ESF where she studies Natural Resources Management. She is from Rochester NY and likes hiking, camping, cooking, and teaching. She served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. Hunter would like to get involved with recreation and education programs that educate people with the hopes that they care more for these special resources.



Chris Freer
Invasive Sp. Mgt. Steward

While majoring in Environmental Studies at the University at Buffalo, Chris served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. His hometown is Tonawanda, NY, and Chris likes to hunt, fish, bowl, and is interested in invasive species. During his internship with NYS Parks, his goals were to focus on networking, gaining background knowledge, and mastering technical skills.



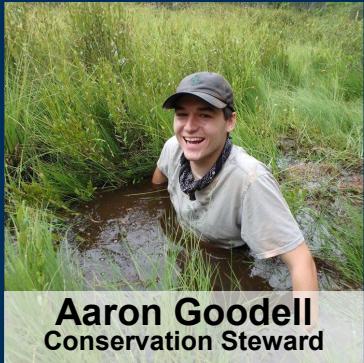
Bryn Giambona
Conservation Steward

Bryn studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. Ballston Spa, NY is home and she is interested in invasive species and plant identification. She served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. Bryn hopes to work all over the world, understanding and learning varying plant species. She primarily wants to work with invasive terrestrial plants to minimize and eradicate their presence within varying ecosystems.



Zachariah Glaspy
Supervising Con. Steward

Zachariah majors in Recreational Studies at Niagara County Community College. He grew up in NY and his interests include baseball and wildlife. He is a Supervising Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. His dream job is working outside most of the time helping plants and animals excel in their native habitats and preventing invasive species from overtaking.



Aaron Goodell
Conservation Steward

Aaron is enrolled at SUNY ESF and is working on his Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science. He grew up in North Syracuse and enjoys hiking, kayaking, skiing, and camping. Aaron served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. His goal is to land a career in wetland delineation or wildlife management.



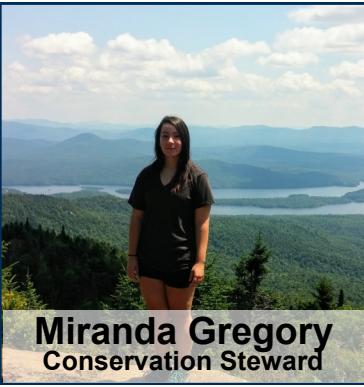
Megan Gorss
Conservation Steward

Megan studies Natural Resources Management at SUNY ESF. She is from Saratoga Springs, NY and is interested in alternative agriculture, outdoor recreation including rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, soil science, and folk music. Megan served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. She would like to live a simple life in the American West, working various seasonal jobs until she finds one that suits her best! Advocacy for access to outdoor recreation and empowerment through outdoor recreation are two fields that she would love to explore in her professional career.



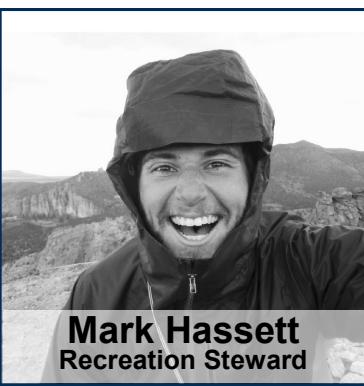
Julia Greco
Conservation Steward

Julia attends SUNY ESF and studies Environmental Studies. She is from Randolph, NJ and is interested in yoga, hiking, reading, food, and environmental law. Julia served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. Her personal and professional goals include getting her law degree and furthering her yoga practice.



Miranda Gregory
Conservation Steward

Miranda attends SUNY ESF and studies Environmental Biology. She is from Syracuse, NY and she's interested in geology, herpetology, entomology, hiking, backpacking, kayaking. Miranda served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. She'd like to buy a van and travel the country, and eventually work in a state or national park after graduation.



Mark Hassett
Recreation Steward

Mark attends Ithaca college and majors in Outdoor Adventure Leadership with a minor in Environmental Science. He likes hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, and playing rugby of which, he has been doing for the last 3 years at Ithaca College. His goals include hiking the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trail, teaching himself how to surf, and to open his own outdoor company restaurant. He'd also like to work for an outdoor education company in the southwest, work as a ski patrol guide, and to do environmental conservation in Hawaii.



Max Heimburg
Conservation Steward

Max is enrolled at SUNY ESF and studies Conservation Biology. He comes from Aurora, NY and enjoys ecology, natural history, camping, sports, and music. Max served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. He'd like to graduate with a 3.2, find a job he enjoys, and travel out west.



Taylor Held
Oneonta FORCES President

As a senior at SUNY Oneonta, Taylor served as the Oneonta FORCES Club President. She majors in Environmental Science. She is from Bellmore, NY and has fun hiking, SCUBA diving, and reading. While President, her goal was to expand and improve the FORCES club at SUNY Oneonta.



Charlie Ippolito
Riparian Restoration Steward

Charlie attends Finger Lakes Community College majoring in Environmental Studies. He is from Victor, NY and served on the Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team and worked locally at Ganondagan State Historic Site as a Riparian Restoration Steward. Charlie enjoys fishing, skiing, botany, hiking the Adirondack Mountains, birding, men's softball, and camping. His goal is to become an ecologist and to pursue his own set of fieldwork and environmental research.



Juliana Isnardi
Conservation Steward

Juliana majors in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. She is from Plainsboro, NJ and enjoys hiking, camping, live music, and all things equestrian. Juliana served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She would like to become more knowledgeable on her native plant and animal species and make an impact on NY State Parks through conservation work .



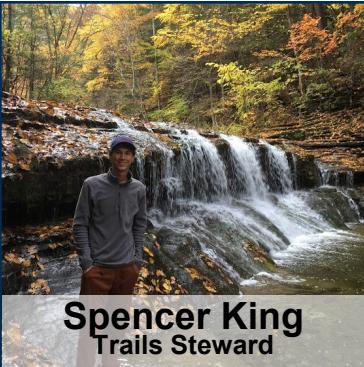
Liz Karson
Hartwick FORCES President

Liz graduated form Hartwick College with a BS in Environmental Geology. Liz served as the Hartwick FORCES Club President for two semesters. She is from Crown Point, NY and in her spare time, Liz enjoys hiking, camping, music, and geology. Her goal is to become a water quality specialist and help people in water crisis situations.



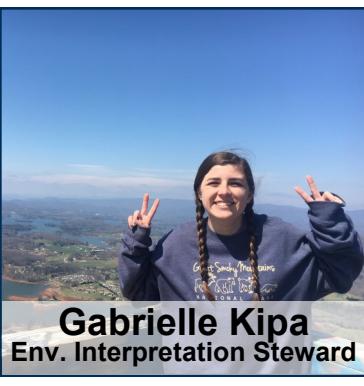
Cassandra Kelm
Inv. Species Mgmt. Steward

While studying Biology at SUNY Cortland, Cassandra enjoys learning about medicinal properties that plants possess, and learning about the physiological adaptions that organisms utilize to survive when subjected to stressors. She is from Poughquag, NY. She would like to become a proficient ecologist who can survey a habitat and recover it to the best of her ability. She'd also like to broaden her knowledge and understanding about invasive species, specifically invasive insects and planarians.



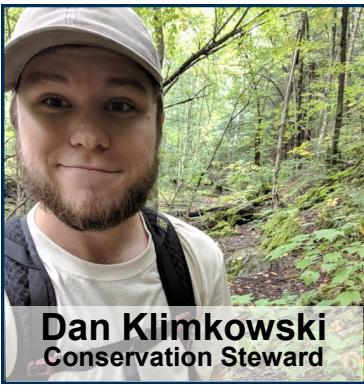
Spencer King
Trails Steward

Spencer is enrolled in the Natural Resource Management program at SUNY ESF. He is from Newfield NY and some of his hobbies include hiking, camping, and kayaking. Spencer would like to someday work for the National Park Service or the US Forest Service.



Gabrielle Kipa
Env. Interpretation Steward

Gabrielle attends Auburn University and studies Wildlife Ecology and Management. She served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward at Allegany State Park. She is from Escondido, CA. She enjoys photography, baking, wildlife conservation, and traveling. She'd like to attend graduate school for wildlife science and work in a state or national park (ideally Great Smokey Mountains National Park) as a wildlife biologist.



Dan Klimkowski
Conservation Steward

Dan is working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science with a focus in Environmental Analysis at SUNY ESF. Making his way north from Springfield, Virginia, he served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. His interests include mountain biking, backpacking, and environmental stewardship. Academically, he's really enjoyed chemistry and ecology, and anything that involves taking data and analyzing it to make accurate future predictions. His goals are to finish his undergraduate degree, go on to graduate school, and help contribute scientific research that will benefit society and the environment.



Sean Korbas
Conservation Steward

Sean graduated from SUNY ESF with a BS in Conservation Biology and a minor in Water Resources and Marine Science. He grew up in Syracuse, NY and served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. His interests include watershed management, ecology, predator-prey dynamics, limnology, fishing, hiking, basketball, and spending time with family and friends. He would like to become a high school teacher and eventually principal, advocate for equal opportunities, help those who are in need no matter the situation, travel, and eat lots of good food.



Aaron Krinsky
Natural Res. Mgmt. Steward

Aaron studies Natural Resources Management at SUNY ESF. His hometown is Slate Hill, NY and he enjoys laughing, being outside, and stepping out of his comfort zones. Aaron served as a Natural Resource management Steward and conducted most of his research in the Central Region. He'd like to obtain a career that keeps him motivated, in a place that keeps him happy.



Emma Kubinski
Stewardship Project Tech.

Emma is enrolled at Cornell University majoring in Plant Sciences with a concentration in Ecology and a minor in Soil Sciences. She is from Victor, NY and has been interning with the Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team since 2014 and has been seasonally employed by them since 2016. Her main focus has been grassland restoration at Ganondagan State Historic Site. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, backpacking, exploring new places, learning as much as possible about plants, eating food (especially ice cream), and much more! She'd like to travel the world and make a difference through her love for conservation and restoration work.



Ivette Leon
FORCES Ambassador

After double majoring in Political Science and Environmental Studies, Ivette earned her BS from Niagara University. She is from New York, NY and her pastimes include canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, traveling, cooking, going to National Parks, and playing rugby. At Niagara, Ivette served as a FORCES Campus Ambassador, spreading the good word about the FORCES program. She plans on attending graduate school and she would like a hands-on job where she can enhance her knowledge and work with the community.



Andrew Leonard
Stewardship Project Tech.

Andrew served as a Stewardship Project Technician with the Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team. He is working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science & Ecology: Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology with a minor in Chemistry at SUNY Brockport. He grew up in Hilton, NY and enjoys blacksmithing, cats, lizards and invasive plants. Eventually, he'd like to work in the environmental science field as a land manager or scientist and to live in the Midwest.



Johanna Little
Stewardship Corps Member

Johanna was a member of the Stewardship Corps in the Finger Lakes Region. She studies Wildlife Science at SUNY ESF and grew up in Ithaca, NY. Johanna is interested in entomology, ornithology, hiking, hunting, and fishing. She would like to become a Wildlife Biologist or a Forest Health Specialist.



Erica Mackey
Le Moyne FORCES President

Erica earned her BS in Environmental Science Systems at Le Moyne College. Erica also served as the Le Moyne FORCES Club President. Originally from Ballston Lake, NY, Erica enjoys being outdoors, camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing and working with children! She has been a camp counselor for the past three summers. Erica is interested in learning how different ecosystems work in different geographical locations. Her goal is to get her MS in a specific field in environmental science. She hopes to make a contribution to creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly world.



Brynn Marion
Geology Steward

Brynn attends Hartwick College and studies French and Geology. She is from Guilderland, NY and is interested in geology, languages, and painting. She wants to always continue to learn.



Autumn McClinton
Conservation Steward

After making the trek north from Bertram, Texas, Autumn enrolled at SUNY ESF and studies Wildlife Science. She served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. When she's not studying or in class, the majority of Autumn's time goes towards her family (her husband, dog, and her cat). They love to go on long hikes, create music, and go on road trips! After graduation, she hopes to work a variety of seasonal jobs around the country in order to find what interests her the most. Her goal is to be a wildlife manager at a state or national park.



Carley McMullen
Inv. Species Mgmt. Steward

Carley graduated from Niagara University with a BS in Environmental Science, concentrating in Biology. She grew up in Sanborn, NY and likes photography, hiking, kayaking, reading, and music. She served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. In the future, Carley would like to put this skill set to use and work for the Parks Service.



Mat Meile
Conservation Steward

Mat studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. He is from Jamestown, NY and served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. Mat likes hiking, camping, and fishing. His goal is to become a biologist somewhere out west.



Paula Merkle
Conservation Steward

A native of Vernon, VT, Paula received her BS in Anthropology from Ithaca College. She enjoys going to concerts, hiking, and swimming. She served as a Culture and Communication Steward as well as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Paula plans to attend graduate school and hopes to make an impact in the world by applying the things that she has learned to real life situations.



Stephanie Minarik
Wells FORCES President

Stephanie attends Wells College and majors in Environmental Science. She grew up in Rochester, NY and has served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region and as the Wells College FORCES Club President. She enjoys hiking, video games, plant propagation, photography, and skipping rocks on Cayuga Lake. She'd like to become more familiar with native and invasive species, plants and insects identification, become more familiar with the geography/geology of the Finger Lakes Region and eventually work for the National Park Service as a project manager.



Thomas Minett
Conservation Steward

Thomas attends Ithaca College and majors in Environmental Science. Croton-on-Hudson is his hometown and he is interested in wildlife biology. He also enjoys hiking, climbing, and swimming. He'd like to gain experience in working in parks and to be able to someday work with the National Parks Service.



Mason Molesso
Conservation Steward

Mason studies Construction Management at SUNY ESF. He grew up in Syracuse, NY, right in the heart of Eastwood. He served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. His hobbies include fishing, kayaking, climbing, camping and hiking. He has a degree in Forestry from Paul Smith's College as well as many years of experience working as an Arborist. He has spent the past decade on the road exploring the US and he'd like to further his education in sustainable building practices, and to hopefully build some aesthetically pleasing, sustainable homes.



Danielle Moyer
Env. Interpretation Steward

Danielle is working towards her MS in Sustainable Communities at Binghamton University. Her hometown is Heuvelton, NY and her interests include sustainability, public education, habitat restoration, art, camping, and hiking. She served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward at Chenango Valley State Park. She'd like to become an Environmental Consultant or to have her own construction company for sustainable building.



Alicia Musk
Env. Health and Safety Steward

Alicia attends Cornell University and is working towards a Masters of Public Health. She served as an Environmental Health and Safety Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She lives in Groton, NY and is interested in yoga, running, hiking, biking, swimming, skiing, traveling, DIY home improvements, and lounging around with her husband and dogs. She would like to become an Infection Preventionist; conducting investigations and presenting environmental health research that will ultimately lead to a worldwide decrease in the spread of infectious diseases among biotic factors.



Rebecca Nathan
Hartwick FORCES President

Hailing from Cross River, NY, Rebecca studies Geology and Environmental Sustainability at Hartwick College. As the Hartwick FORCES Club President, she enjoys doing trail clean ups and working on projects such as building birdhouses or planting native species. Rebecca would like to learn more about invasive species removal and native plants and visit more NY State Parks this year and do other projects that need volunteers!



Miles Neidorf
ESF FORCES Co-President

While attending SUNY ESF, Miles studies Natural Resources Management. He calls Yorktown Heights, New York home and enjoys spending time hiking and going to parks with friends. He is also an avid billiards player. As the ESF FORCES Co-President, and while serving as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park, Miles plans to grow his professional skills and learn more about invasive species and forest management. After college, he would like to join the Peace Corps.



Miranda Neyerlin
Geneseo FORCES President

Miranda studies Sociology at SUNY Geneseo and serves as the SUNY Geneseo FORCES Club President. Her hometown is Buffalo, NY and her interests include hiking, running, yoga, and movies (especially Disney). She is currently studying to take the LSAT so she can attend law school. Other goals include enjoying the outdoors as much as possible.



Kali Oaks
Conservation Steward

Kali attends SUNY Cobleskill and studies Wildlife Management. She is from Cortland, NY and served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She is interested in birds and herpetofauna. She'd like to gain experience with wildlife.



Hailey O'Brien
Rare Species Cons. Steward

Hailey attends SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and majors in Environmental Studies & Communication. She is from Albany, NY and her interests include reading, writing, and playing outside. She served as a Rare Species Conservation Steward at Chittenango Falls State Park. She'd like to help everyone become their own environmental steward.



Cassidy Okon
Conservation Steward

Cassidy majors in Environmental Science with a Public Health minor at Niagara University. Buffalo, NY is home and she enjoys photography, painting, traveling, and fishing. She served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. Her future plan is to attend grad school for her Masters of Public Health with a focus in Environmental Health.



Elizabeth Padgett
Plant Materials Pgm. Assistant

Elizabeth attends Finger Lakes Community College and majors in Natural Resources Conservation. She grew up in Webster, NY and served as a Plant Materials Program Assistant in the Finger Lakes Region. Elizabeth enjoys camping, reading, woods moseys, road trips, gardening, and music. She would love to continue working with plants and to travel in her future.



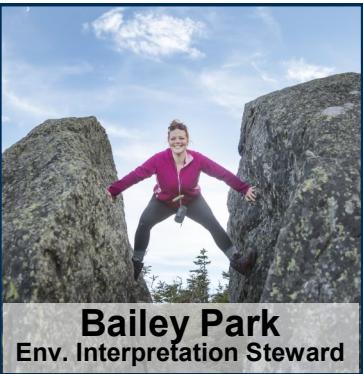
Lavran Pagano
Conservation Steward

Lavran studies Environmental Science at Ithaca College. He grew up in Morris, NY, just outside of Oneonta. In his spare time, Lavran enjoys hiking, weightlifting, anything outside and he would one day like to become a conservation biologist or an ecologist.



Lily Palmer
Conservation Steward

Lily grew up in Fayetteville, NY and attends Morrisville State College to study Renewable Energy Technology. She served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. Her passions include fashion and music. She has enjoyed doing musical theatre for many years and has participated in many exotic musicals! She enjoys life to the fullest and intends to make hers meaningful. Wicked! Is one of her favorite shows. She is thrilled about the opportunities college in Upstate New York has to offer.



Bailey Park
Env. Interpretation Steward

Growing up going to NYS Parks, Bailey served as an Environmental Education Steward at Chenango Valley State Park. She is from Binghamton, NY and attends SUNY ESF to study Natural Resources Management. Bailey is interested in wetland research, mycology, geology, and conservation biology, and enjoys designing, gardening, kayaking, hiking, and softball. She'd like to explore out West, own a piece of land with a pond, go zip-lining, and her dream job is still yet to be determined, but she knows it's out there!



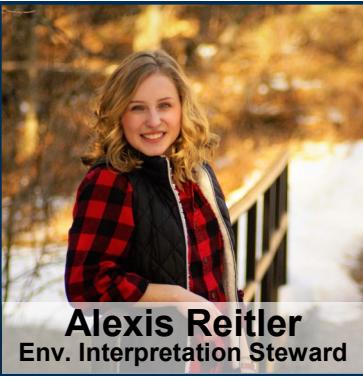
Emily Parsons
Conservation Steward

Originally from Owego, NY, Emily came to Syracuse to study Environmental Biology at SUNY ESF. Her interests include photography and traveling and one of her goals is to be accepted into a PhD program after receiving her Bachelor's Degree. She served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. Emily would like to get a job in the field and spend her free time traveling and photographing the world and eventually settling down in or near her hometown.



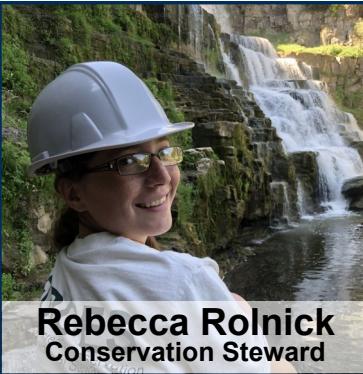
Nesa Rampersad
Env. Field Team Steward

Nesa is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at Finger Lakes Community College. She grew up in the Bronx and has fun skateboarding, dancing, traveling, and studying wildlife. She served as an Environmental Field Team Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Her goal is to someday become a biological/field/wildlife technician.



Alexis Reitler
Env. Interpretation Steward

Lexie attends Houghton College and majors in Environmental Biology. She served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Genesee Region. She is from Eldred, PA and enjoys hunting and fishing.



Rebecca Rolnick
Conservation Steward

Rebecca attends SUNY ESF and majors in Conservation Biology. She is from Fayetteville, NY and likes hiking, birding, reading, and playing trumpet. She served as a Conservation and Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Her career goal is to work to protect biodiversity and connect people with nature.



Alexandra Sakoulas
Conservation Steward

Alexandra studies Geology at SUNY Oneonta. She is from Oneonta and enjoys hiking, traveling, taking in a view, and learning. She served as a Conservation Steward at Glimmerglass State Park. She'd like to get a master's degree and do a through-hike in the states or abroad.



Renae Sentiff
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Renae attends Niagara University and studies Environmental Science. She is from Lyndonville, NY and is interested in agriculture and wildlife. She served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. She would like to someday go to grad school.



Georgia Shaw
Env. Interpretation Steward

Georgia attends SUNY Cortland and studies Physics and Engineering. She is from Gowanda, NY. Georgia served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward at Allegany State Park. She enjoys hiking, and seeing wildlife. Bears are her favorite animal. She'd like to make the outdoors accessible for all and to share her love for nature with everyone.



Abby Sheflin
Conservation Steward

Abby studies Biology at Le Moyne College. She is from Rochester, NY and likes singing, reading, hiking, cooking, fishing, and writing. She served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. Her professional goal is to attend graduate school for marine biology, obtain her PhD and work toward improving aquatic environments. Personal goals include visiting Hawaii, Australia, and Costa Rica (again) and to become SCUBA certified.



Steven Sicari
FORCES Club President

Steven received his BS in Applied Mathematics with a minor in Recreation Resources and Protected Area Management from SUNY Geneseo. He served as the Geneseo FORCES Club President. He is from Saint James, NY and his interests include mathematics, modeling biological systems, ecology, computer science, music, game development, and survival skills. His ultimate goal is to find a job that includes all of his interests!



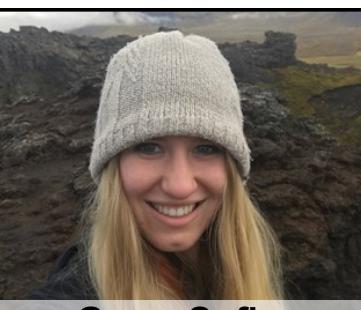
Landon Silverman
Conservation Steward

Hailing from Tenafly, NJ, Landon studies Anthropology at Ithaca College. While serving as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region, he wanted to see how different populations and cultures define and interact with nature, biological conservation, environmental protection, cultural resource management, ecology, and animal behavior. Landon would like to learn more about conservation and forest management, to have hands on experience relating to what he's learned in class, and to acquire skills that he can use in the future.



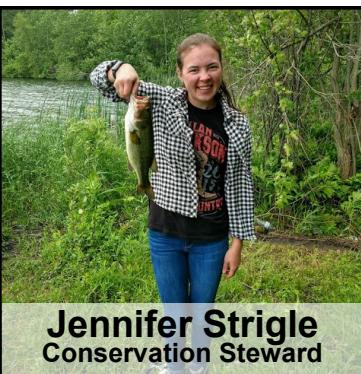
Abby Snow
Conservation Steward

Abby Snow is a junior at SUNY ESF, majoring in Conservation Biology because she is passionate about preserving ecosystems and the species within them. She served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. She is from Scarborough, ME and enjoys volleyball and spending as much time as possible outside with her friends and family. Her dream is to become a biologist working with a documentary team in the middle of nowhere and educating others about the importance of conserving our natural resources working in the field.



Gwyn Sofka
Stewardship Corps Member

Gwyn attends Cornell University and majors in Environmental and Sustainability Sciences. Her hometown is Albany, NY. Gwyn is interested in environmental policy, specifically climate change mitigation. She served as a member of the Stewardship Corps in the Finger Lakes Region. She'd like to end up in Washington DC working on climate change issues at a national level.



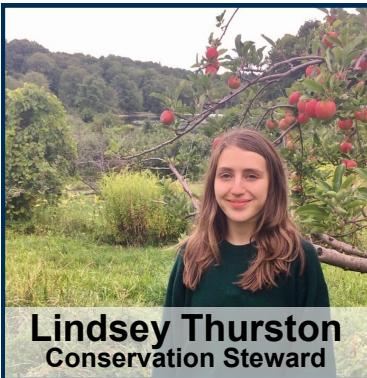
Jennifer Strigle
Conservation Steward

Jennifer is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Constableville, NY and she is interested in community planning, park management, GIS, and water quality. Jennifer served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. She would like to become an environmental planner/consultant and someday own a farm.



Jane Suhey
Conservation Steward

Jane is from Horseheads, NY and is a student at Cornell University. Her interests include hiking, spending time with her horse Buster, baking, making stained glass windows, and learning more about natural history. Jane has been involved with FORCES for several years in the Finger Lakes Region serving as an Environmental Interpretation and Conservation Steward. She plans to earn a Bachelor's Degree in geoscience and a MS in geology. She would also like to study abroad and be involved with environmental research. Jane enjoys sharing what she has learned and experienced with others.



Lindsey Thurston
Conservation Steward

Lindsey grew up in Hartsdale, NY and studies Environmental Geochemical Science at SUNY New Paltz. She served as a Conservation Steward at Rockefeller State Park Preserve. Lindsey enjoys gardening, hiking, reading, and map making. She'd like to attend graduate school and pursue a career in Environmental Engineering. She wants to be creative and get results!



Emily Timkey
Envir. Interpretation Steward

Emily is enrolled at SUNY Geneseo and studies Biology. She is from Ellicottville, NY and likes hiking, birding, and is interested in aquatic ecosystems. She served as a an Environmental Interpretation Steward at Allegany State Park. During her internship, Emily hoped to learn more about the park and its history, to hike all of its trails, and to see a bear!



Kaylee Townsend
ESF FORCES Club President

Kaylee earned her BS in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF and served as the FORCES Club President. She grew up in Central New York in the town of Liverpool. She has always been interested in animals and science. When she was younger, she loved to read books about animals, space, and anything science related. With her Conservation Biology degree, Kaylee hopes to work in a zoo doing animal care, or become an environmental conservation officer.



Grace Trentini
Conservation Steward

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



Julian Tucci
Conservation Steward

Julian earned his BS in Bioprocess Engineering from SUNY ESF. He is from Syracuse, NY and enjoys being active and outdoors. Julian served as a Conservation Steward at Clark Reservation State Park. He spends most of his free time at the gym, hiking, swimming, sailing or fishing. He's not a big fan of winter!! Julian has always been interested in research, drug discovery and biopharmaceuticals. After his bachelors, he plans on doing his PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology. Julian hopes to have a small farm someday.



Emily Verbeck
ESF FORCES Co-President

Emily recently earned her BS in Environmental Science with a focus on Watershed Sciences from SUNY ESF. While attending ESF, Emily served as the ESF FORCES Co-President. She calls Manlius, NY home and enjoys anything that involves the outdoors, friends, and family. She loves running, recreating in local parks, playing with her dog, and relaxing by a bonfire. She would like to manage her time while working with others to help educate the public about environmental issues and projects focused on watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. Outside of her studies, she is aiming to live a healthy life style with minimal waste and to have a positive mind, body, and spirit.



Carlin Wakefield
Stewardship Corps Lead

Carlin attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Studies. She is from Buffalo, NY and served as the Stewardship Corps Lead. Carlin is interested in environmental interpretation, permaculture, and art. She would like to continue her education, teaching, creating, and inspiring.



Harrison Warner
Conservation Steward

Harrison attends Onondaga Community College and majors in Environmental Technology. Originally from Baldwinsville, NY, his hobbies include skiing, running, and photography. Harrison served as a Conservation Steward at Green Lakes State Park. His goal is to work somewhere in the Syracuse area for the state, national, or county parks department.



Harrison Watkins
Conservation Steward

Harrison studies Biochemistry at SUNY Buffalo. He is from Marilla, NY and really enjoys climbing, mountaineering...and more climbing! He served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. Harrison would like to go on to graduate school at SUNY Buffalo for Biology or another related field.



Courtney Whisenant
Env. Interpretation Steward

Courtney majors in Wildlife Conservation at Virginia. She is from Louisa, Virginia and while in NY State, she served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward at Allegany State Park. Courtney enjoys hiking, camping, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, and petting dogs. While interning at Allegany, she hoped to learn skills so she may pursue a career in a state park.



Kylee Wilson
Le Moyne FORCES President

Kylee attends Le Moyne College and majors in Environmental Science Systems. She grew up in Livonia, NY and likes ecology, frogs, hiking, swimming, and botany. As Le Moyne College's FORCES Club President, her goal was to get the Le Moyne Chapter of FORCES more involved in hopes to grow their club.

Adelia Baker
Alexander Chavez
Lina Clifford
Elizabeth Connolly
Jessica Fite
Ben Hart
Veronica Medina
Patrick Robertson
Adam Sullivan
Marta Szumski

Stewardship Corps Member
Conservation Steward
FL Environmental Field Team Steward
Natural Res. Mgmt. Steward
Env. Interpretation Steward
Natural Res. Mgmt. Steward
Conservation Steward
Conservation Steward
Stewardship Corps Member
Invasive Species Mgmt. Steward

SUNY ESF
Onondaga Community College
SUNY Geneseo
Niagara Community College
Texas A&M University
SUNY ESF
SUNY Geneseo
Ithaca College
Wells College
University of Buffalo

FORCES

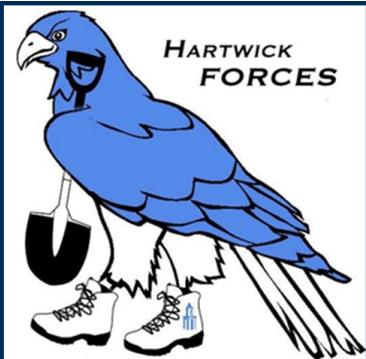
Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

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

2018 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



Spring 2018

Elizabeth Karson, President
Rebecca Nathan, Vice President
Hunter McRee, Treasurer
Gabbi Urban, Secretary

Fall 2018

Rebecca Nathan, President
Max Pizaro, Vice President
Myranda Hollenbeck, Treasurer
Hunter McRee, Secretary

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry

Le Moyne



Spring 2018

Erica Mackey, President
Jensen Porter, Vice President
Mandy Klaben, Treasurer
Kylee Wilson, Secretary
Richelle Brousseau, Public Relations

Fall 2018

Kylee Wilson, President
Rachael Miller, Vice President
Morgan Gaylord, Treasurer
Haley Synan, Secretary
Luke Giunta, Public Relations

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences

Spring 2018

Kaylee Townsend, President
Emily Verbeck, Vice President
Allison Becker, Treasurer
Clare Foley, Secretary

Fall 2018

Emily Verbeck, Co-President
Miles Neidorf, Co-President
Chris Farewell, Vice President
Declan Daly, Treasurer
Clare Foley, Secretary
Alexi Deisereth, Social Media
James Derosa, USA Rep.

Faculty Advisor: Jake O'Connell, Office of Experiential Learning and Outreach



Spring 2018

Steve Sicari, President
Amelia Mindich, Vice President
Allison Jones, Treasurer/Historian
Christina Morrow, Secretary
Miranda Neyerlin, Events Coordinator
Brian Zapfel, Education Coordinator
Maddie Walker, Publicity Coordinator

Fall 2018

Miranda Neyerlin, President
Christina Morrow, Vice President
Allison Jones, Treasurer
Brian Zapfel, Events Coordinator
Maddie Walker, Publicity Coordinator
Lina Clifford, Education Coordinator

Faculty Advisor: Jim Kernan, Geography Department



Spring 2018

Taylor Held, President
Anna Zoodsma, Vice President
Becca Rogers, Treasurer
Thomas Rascona, Secretary
Public Relations, Joe LaCourt

Fall 2018

Skylar Claud, President
Madison Young, Vice President
Edward Bassong, Treasurer

Faculty Advisor: Donna Vogler, Department of Biology



Spring 2018

Shania Dauphinais, President
Stephanie Minarik, Vice President
Shannon Simmons, Treasurer
Letitia Hatch, Secretary

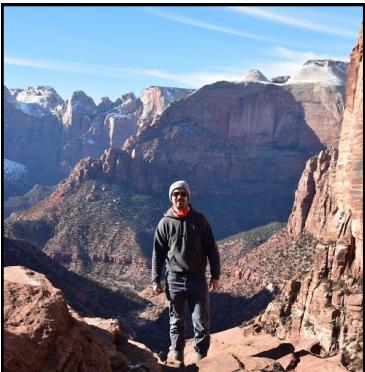
Fall 2018

Stephanie Minarik, President
Shannon Simmons, Vice President
Abigail Gilson, Treasurer
Daniel Popp, Secretary

Faculty Advisor: Jackie Schnurr, Department of Biology

2018 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.



Andy Damon

Regional Conservation Coordinator, Saratoga/Capital Region

Andy earned his Bachelor's Degree in Ecology from SUNY Plattsburgh. Since graduating, he spent some time researching military impacts/training on the landscape of Fort Drum, NY. Andy has worked as an SCA intern at Saratoga Spa State Park, where he studied the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly, as well as Moreau Lake, where he was an environmental educator/interpretive guide. Prior to Andy's current position, he was a project leader for Excelsior Conservation Corps. For 10 months of the year, he worked with and supervised his crew on surveying projects, building trails, invasive species management, carpentry and stonework projects, forestry work, and more, all while camping throughout the entire state of New York.



Lindsay Dombroskie

FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

Lindsay has a broad-based knowledge of terrestrial ecology. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from the University of Saskatchewan, and focused on landscape ecology during her Master of Science Degree in Ecology at the University of Alberta. Lindsay's subsequent employment as an environmental consultant provided experience planning and implementing a variety of vegetative, avian, and mammalian surveys related to oil and gas development in western Canada. Within the USA, Lindsay has worked on an elk nutritional study near Mt. St. Helens in WA, as well as a red-cockaded woodpecker research and population recovery project in Jacksonville, NC. She started with NYS OPRHP in her current role in 2017.



Chenga Drury

Three Gorges FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

Chenga grew up in Ithaca, NY and earned an AAS in Environmental Studies from Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) and her BS in Natural Resources Management from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. She interned with NYS Parks in the summer of 2017, surveying and mapping for an invasive bunchgrass, Slender False Brome in Tompkins County. This was her first experience working with invasive species and since then she has been hooked! In 2018, Chenga was hired as a FORCES Program Specialist through the two-year grant funded Three Gorges Project. The focus of the project is invasive species management and native species restoration in the three parks of Tompkins County.



Jillian Harris

FORCES Program Specialist, Niagara Region

Jillian earned her BS Degree in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Studies from Niagara University in 2015, as well as a minor in Communications. She's worked for State Parks for almost 3 years, working on projects such as water quality monitoring, invasive species removals, pollinator gardens/habitats, forest pest surveys, and others, all while teaching others the way of the FORCES program. Buffalo has been home her whole life but she suffers from wanderlust and attempts to travel to as many places as she can. Jillian is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Natural Resource Stewardship with a concentration in Ecological Restoration from Colorado State University through an online degree program.



Tom Hughes

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

Tom holds a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University, a MS in Biological Sciences from SUNY College at Brockport and a Master's of Professional Studies in Environmental Interpretation from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has worked as a biologist for NYS OPRHP for the last 10 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. Tom grew up in the western Finger Lakes region in the small town of Rush, NY.



Meg Janis

Natural Resource Steward Biologist, Genesee and Niagara Regions

Meg received her BS in Biology from SUNY Brockport in 2003 and has served as Park's Natural Resource Steward Biologist, Genesee and Niagara Regions since 2008. She enjoys being a mom, camping with family, cooking and eating.



Amy Kochem

FORCES Program Coordinator, Central and Finger Lakes Regions

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



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".



Rebecca Policello **Natural Resource Specialist, Rockefeller State Park Preserve**

Rebecca earned her BS in Biology from Marywood University and specialized in forest health. In her last position at Teatown Lake Reservation, Rebecca worked extensively on invasive species management, water quality monitoring, forest plots, forest pest surveys, and student mentorship. She started working in the Taconic region as a Natural Resource Specialist for Rockefeller State Park Preserve in 2018. In the coming years, Rebecca hopes to expand our FORCES program and have multiple options for students to become involved in Parks in the Lower Hudson Valley.



Madeline Simpson **FORCES Program Specialist, Central Region** **SCA New York State Parks Corps**

Madeline graduated from Oklahoma State with a BS in Applied Sociology with an emphasis in Environmental Issues. She made her way north from Fort Worth, Texas. She enjoys getting to know new people and cultures, travelling, hiking, health and fitness, anything artsy (painting, taking photographs, visiting art museums). Madeline worked closely with collegiate students, assisting and providing hands-on stewardship opportunities throughout the Central Region.



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.

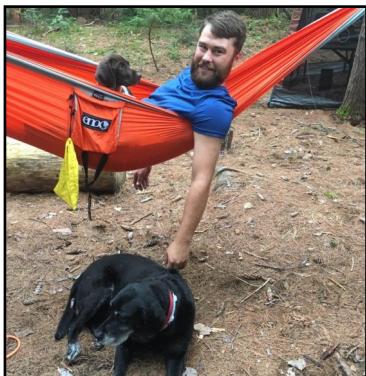


Adele Wellman **Environmental Educator, Allegany Region**

Adele has been with Allegany State Park for 19 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.

2018 FORCES Support Staff

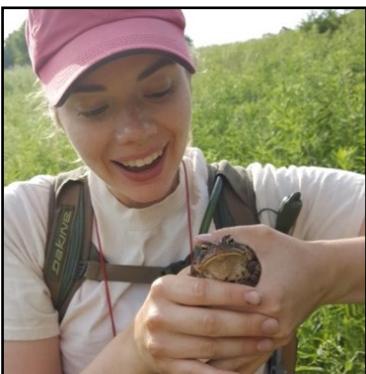
In addition to our FORCES Team, our extended family of regional Environmental Field Teams work with FORCES Stewards and program partners to support environmental and park improvement projects throughout our NYS Parks. Many of these OPRHP staff from the Central and Finger Lakes Regions are listed here,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



Mat Bilz

**Stewardship Specialist, 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.



Kira Broz

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

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



Whitney Carleton

**Stewardship Specialist, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team**

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



Shaina Johnson

**Dune Restoration Steward
Central Region Environmental Field Team**

Shaina received her BS in Biology from SUNY Potsdam. She grew up in Boylston, NY and enjoys playing soccer, kayaking, and hiking. Her goals are to keep learning about the environment and move to Arizona in a few years. She'd like to become an environmental conservation officer.



Dallas Ortel
Green Lakes Bird Conservation Area Project Coordinator
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Dallas worked as the Project Coordinator for the Bird Conservation Area (BCA) at Green Lakes State Park. He grew up in the outskirts of Jamestown jumping around to various areas of New York throughout his life. He received his AAS in Natural Resource Conservation with a minor in Law Enforcement at Finger Lakes Community College. After working for NYS OPHRP as a Strike Team Supervisor in 2016, he headed back to school to obtain his BS in Environmental Science from Southern New Hampshire University. Dallas' interests involve hiking, kayaking, camping, and traveling. In the fall of 2018, Dallas accepted a position with Apex Companies in Syracuse working on stormwater systems.



David Rutherford
Plant Materials Program Technician
Plant Materials Program at Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park

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
American Hart's-Tongue Fern Project Coordinator
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Mike earned his AS in Liberal Arts at Mohawk Valley Community College, a BS as well as a MS in Conservation Biology with focuses on plant science and restoration ecology from SUNY ESF. Mike specializes in rare and threatened plant conservation, but also moonlights in environmental interpretation, cartography (GIS), and ecology. He grew up in New Hartford, a suburb of Utica, NY and currently resides in Syracuse. Mike loves to play soccer, craft, travel, and explore as many natural areas as he can.



Alivia Sheffield
Great Lakes Piping Plover Project Coordinator
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Alivia earned her AS in Environmental Science from SUNY Jamestown Community College and received her BS in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. Her focuses are in avian biology and conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Alivia enjoys balloon twisting, camping, kayaking, and bird watching. She hopes to continue to make a difference in our natural world, conserving wildlife and natural resources!



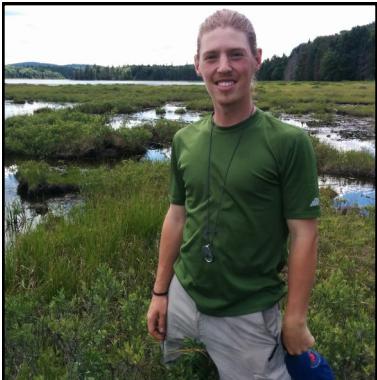
Becky Sibner
Stewardship Project Specialist
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

Becky started working for NYS Parks in 2013 as a seasonal Forest Health Specialist, and returned in 2014 as a FORCES Program Specialist. Becky has a BS in Environmental Studies from Ithaca College.



Luis Suatoni
Meromictic Lakes Project Coordinator
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Luis holds an AAS in Math & Science from Onondaga Community College, a BS in Biology from SUNY Oneonta, and is currently working on his MS in the Professional Science Masters Lake Management Program at SUNY Oneonta. He's a certified Advanced Open Water and Ice Diver and enjoys SCUBA diving in both fresh and salt water, as well as using SCUBA to assist in research. He enjoys underwater photography and tries to bring his camera whenever he goes diving. He has been with Parks for five years holding positions on the maintenance crew and as a lifeguard at Green Lakes State Park. Luis grew up in Fayetteville.



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.



Kelsey West
American Hart's-Tongue Fern Conservation Steward
Central Region Environmental Field Team

Kelsey received her BS in Environmental Biology from SUNY ESF. She worked and volunteered with NYS OPRHP in 2015, 2016, and 2018, and served a term with AmeriCorps in 2017. Her career has focused on invasive species management and plant conservation, but she hopes to continue learning about forest and natural resource management in her new position at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties.



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 New York Flora field trips and volunteers in the Rochester Academy of Sciences Herbarium.

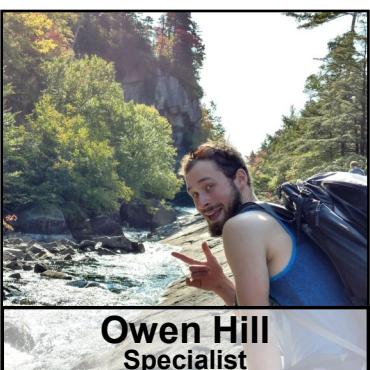
2018 Western NY Invasive Species Strike Team

In 2018, OPRHP fielded two (Western and Eastern), four-person Invasive Species Management Strike Teams to preserve and protect our park lands, forests, and waters from the threats posed by invasive species. This is the seventh year of this program. The Western Team, housed at Clark Reservation State Park reported that they worked on 21 species at 43 New York State Parks and college campuses. They covered the Central, Allegany, Finger Lakes, Genesee, Niagara, Saratoga/ Capital, and Thousand Islands Regions.



Phil Bossert
Supervisor

Phil received his BS in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. He is from Pennsburg, PA and enjoys hiking, camping, invasive management (and getting paid for it), watching/getting excited about birds, salamanders are cool too, learning about any Domain of life, not eating fungi but amazed by their life cycle, ecological systems, environmental and social justice, finding amazing views, reading, playing with May (his guitar friend), brewing beer, fossils, rocks, live music, and being near water. He hopes to travel to tropical coral reefs, build a cottage as part of a community in the woods, get more tattoos, and go to outer space.



Owen Hill
Specialist

Owen graduated from the ESF Ranger School in 2016 and then in 2018, completed his BS in Environmental Natural Resource Conservation & Natural Resource Management from ESF. He is from Fairport, NY and enjoys climbing, mountaineering, and more climbing! He would love to someday buy a VW Bug and travel the country working odd forestry jobs, eventually buying land in the Adirondacks on Blue Mountain Lake.



Jaclyn Ruhl
Specialist

Jaclyn is from Vestal, NY, just outside of Binghamton. She recently graduated from SUNY Oneonta with a BS in Biology. She took interesting classes in her time at college including Parasitology, Ethnobotany, Ecosystem of the Human Microbiome and a tropical biology field course in Peru. Jaclyn likes to love on her 8 dogs, swim, and play rugby. She is still exploring the field of biology and hopes to assist in more research in the future.



Emily Wilson
Specialist

Emily graduated with an Environmental Studies degree from Niagara County Community College. She is from Niagara Falls, NY and she enjoys yoga, hiking, camping, gardening, reading, making jewelry, painting, and learning new things! Her many goals include seeing the Alaskan glaciers and the Pacific temperate rainforest, road tripping through Canada, becoming a certified yogi, getting a bachelors degree in herbalism and/or conservation biology, and starting a business selling her own line of healing oils.