

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



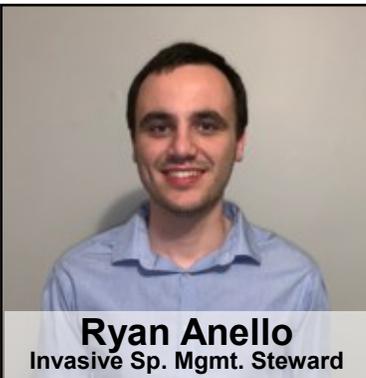
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

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

2019 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



Sydney majors in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF. She is from Holland Patent, NY and enjoys hiking, camping, road tripping, swimming, and adventuring with her dog, Mylo! Last summer, Sydney served as a Trails Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. As she worked with the Finger Lakes Trails Crew, her goal was to learn new skills involving trail maintenance and restoration.



While attending the University at Buffalo, Ryan majors in Environmental Engineering. He grew up in Buffalo, NY and his interests include groundwater modeling, remediation work, hiking, outdoor activities, hockey, and football. Ryan served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. His career goal is to become a P.E. (Professional Engineer) and he hopes to work on restoration sites or something similar.



Originally from Monroe, NY, Angelica attends Pace University where she studies Environmental Science. Her interests include plant cultivation, sculpting, crocheting, and map making. Her goal is to graduate and get involved with forest restoration and to pursue a career in the environmental field.

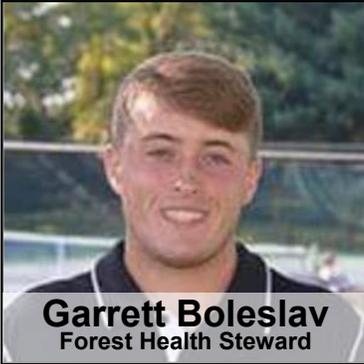


Elizabeth studies Biology and Music at Binghamton University. Her hometown is Endwell, NY and she enjoys many activities including drawing, reading, playing the flute and saxophone, running, and just being outside. Elizabeth served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She would like to someday work in the conservation/biology field and become a private flute teacher as a side job.



Emily Baxter
AHTF Technician

At SUNY ESF, Emily majors in Environmental Biology. She is from Canandaigua, NY and enjoys running and camping. Her personal and professional interests mostly revolve around botany. She served as an American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician in the Central Region. Emily loves houseplants and will take any opportunity to expand her collection! In the past she's had field jobs as a Boat Steward through OPRHP and as a member of the Water Chestnut Strike Team through the Finger Lakes Institute PRISM. Once she graduates from ESF, Emily would like to continue her education through a master's program in a botany related program. She may even pursue a degree in environmental education. She wants a career that she's passionate about and that she will never grow bored of.



Garrett Boleslav
Forest Health Steward

While attending Ithaca College to study Environmental Science, Garrett served as a Forest Health Specialist in the Finger Lakes Region. He calls Syracuse, NY home and some of his hobbies include tennis, hiking, camping, and water sports. While working with NYS OPRHP, Garrett's goal was to help protect the Finger Lakes Region's native plants.



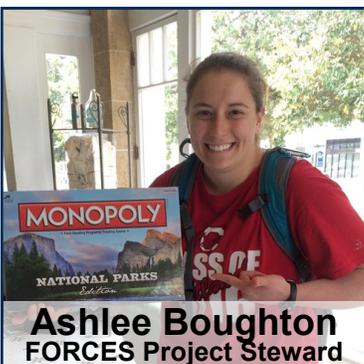
Christopher Bolt
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Chris grew up in Lockport, NY and attends the University at Buffalo to study Environmental Geosciences. He enjoys hiking and skiing and he hopes to have a positive lasting impact on the environment through his career and daily life. Last spring, Chris served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region.



Anna Bornstein
Stewardship Corps Member

While enrolled at Ithaca College and majoring in Environmental Studies/Music, Anna also served as a FORCES Stewardship Corps Member in the Finger Lakes Region. She is from Stonington, CT and in her spare time she has fun hiking, studying climate change, and composing music. Anna would like to meet Tom Hanks in person and find a job working on legislation to better the climate crisis.



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 to 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!



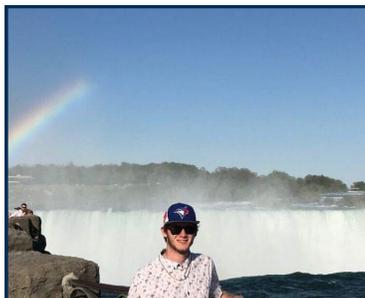
Kevin Brown
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Kevin studies Environmental Science at Niagara University. Last summer, he served as an Invasive Species Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. He calls Wilson, NY home and loves fishing and everything outdoors. Kevin would like to pursue a career in something related to the conservation field. He enjoys being outside and would like something that allows that on a daily basis.



Camille Butterfield
Conservation Steward

When Camille is not busy studying Studio Art and Landscape Studies at Smith College, she may be running, reading, writing, making and viewing art, making and listening to music, outside, or spending time with friends and family. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Taconic Region. Camille loves learning about plants, trees, birds, astronomy, history, biology, ecology, engineering, landscape architecture, urban planning, and graphic design. Camille is from Mamaroneck, NY and hopes to become a well-rounded citizen of the world, and to retain a love for learning and creating that she may foster in others. She hopes to use art as a tool of communication and education about global climate change, by increasing the accessibility and visibility of information about the world around us, and finding creative ways of adapting to and mitigating environmental crises, while also inspiring hope for the future.



Zach Campbell
Wildlife Conservation Steward

Zach recently graduated from SUNY Cortland and majored in Conservation Biology. He grew up in Horseheads, NY and enjoys hiking, fishing, photography, hunting, cooking, and music. Last fall, Zach served as a Wildlife Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. He would like to someday work for the DEC, preferably in fisheries, and would love to start a small tackle shop and host a youth fishing/conservation education program year round run by employees of the shop.



Olivia Card
Stewardship Corps Member

Olivia attends Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and studies Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology. She served as a member of the FORCES Stewardship Corps. She calls Horseheads, NY home and is interested in mammalogy, wildlife diseases, tick-borne illnesses, tick ecology, conservation biology, landscape ecology. She enjoys hiking, cooking/baking, TV, and her cat. Her dream job would be to work for a government agency or nonprofit to complete research that will influence conservation policy. Some personal goals include to have the best family and pets ever, move to Maine, and to travel to Iceland and Italy.



Cheyenne Carter
Conservation Steward

After growing up in Freeport, Maine, Cheyenne came to New York to major in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. Her passions include rafting, skiing, hiking, yoga, playing music, writing, bird watching, and too many other things to list that involve positive culture and the natural world! During her time with Parks, Cheyenne served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. After graduation, she hopes to become a strong leader in environmental action who creates and facilitates a sustainable future where humans live in synchronicity with the natural cycles of earth and all of its organisms.



Miguel-Angel Castillo
SUNY Oneonta Club President

Miguel-Angel recently earned his Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Sustainability and Geography from SUNY Oneonta. Hailing from Islip, NY, he enjoys traveling to NYS Parks and anything outdoors with his friends. When he was FORCES Club President, Miguel-Angel worked on strengthening the partnership between NYS Parks and SUNY Oneonta FORCES. At some point in his life he would like to take a back-packing trip to Glacier National Park.



Will Caston
Cons. Research Steward

Originally from Hawthorne, NY, Will attends SUNY Cortland to study Conservation Biology. He served as a Conservation Research Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. In his spare time, Will likes to hike, camp, travel, meet new people, and be outside. He'd like to pursue a career that includes conservation, biology, and environmental and constitutional law.



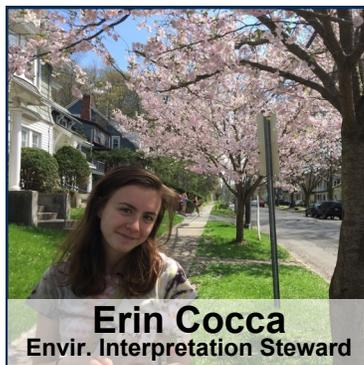
Dylan Chorny
Conservation Steward

Dylan studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. Clifton Park, NY is home and he wants to learn as much as he can about the natural world and hike mountains in his free time. Last summer, Dylan served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. One of Dylan's goals is to climb all the 4,000 footers in the northeast. So far he's done 71/115. After graduation, he wants to hike the Appalachian Trail and eventually, he'd like to work with the DEC.



TJ Clark
Trails Steward

TJ is working towards his degree in Recreation Studies at Niagara County Community College. He has always been interested in hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes & 4 wheelers, and camping. TJ would someday like to become a DEC officer, but open to any job that keeps him outdoors.



Erin Cocca
Envir. Interpretation Steward

Erin studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She is from East Aurora, NY and is interested in conserving nature and spending as much time in nature as she can. Erin has served several semesters as an Environmental Education Center Host in the Central Region. She would like to make the world a better place and educate others on how to do so as well!



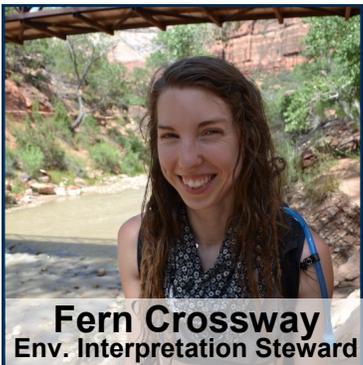
Sean Colby
Conservation Steward

Sean is enrolled at the University of Buffalo where he studies Geography with an Earth Systems Science Concentration. He is from the town of Niagara, NY and likes football, playing music, running, and biking. Sean served as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. While he works towards earning his PhD, Sean would also like to learn many aspects of the environmental field.



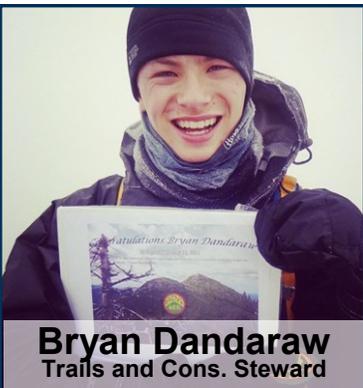
Cristen Crew
Env. Interpretation Steward

Cristen is enrolled at SUNY ESF and is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies with a focus in Natural Systems. She grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana and has fun doing yoga, swimming, hiking, and reading. Her professional interests include coastal planning, wetlands, natural resource planning, flood prevention, and social/natural disaster preparation. Cristen's goal is to work towards coastal resilience and preparation for social and natural disasters through comprehensive land-planning and positive land transformations geared towards coastal habitat restoration.



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.



Bryan Dandaraw
Trails and Cons. Steward

Bryan attends SUNY ESF and is enrolled in the Environmental Science program. Originally from Clifton Park, NY, Bryan enjoys climbing, hiking, kayaking, exploring new areas with his dog, biology, ecology, aquatic sciences, and GIS. He served as a Trails and Conservation Steward in the Saratoga/Capital Region. Bryan's goal is to work with spatial data in GIS, work to preserve natural areas, wildlife studies, and environmental education.



Chris Danforth
Conservation Steward

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



Thomas DeVantier
Pollinator Steward

Thomas majors in Environmental Science at Niagara University. North Tonawanda, NY is home and last summer, he served as a Pollinator Steward in the Niagara Region. He likes to be organized, talking to people, and staying on time for projects. His goal is to find a job that makes him happy and work in the parks.



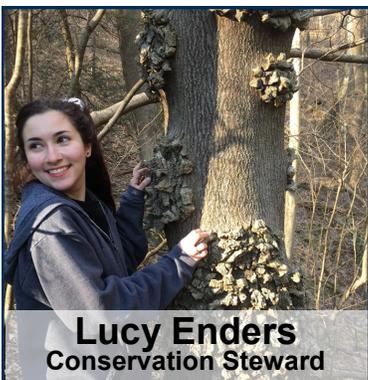
Emily Dupuis
Conservation Steward

While attending Hudson Valley Community College, Emily majors in Environmental Science. She is from Cohoes NY, and likes hiking, camping, and truly enjoys nature. She would like to work in a park as a conservationist after graduation.



Iriel Edwards
Inv. Species Mgmt. Steward

Iriel is enrolled in the Environmental & Sustainability Sciences, Entomology program at Cornell University. West Monroe, Louisiana is home and some of her interests are natural resource conservation, community involvement and participatory research, insect conservation, climate change, and environmental justice. Iriel served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She'd like to gain experience in environmental management, give back to her community and state, meet great people, and have fun!



Lucy Enders
Conservation Steward

Lucy majors in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. She's from York, PA and enjoys art, music, photography, and nature. One of her favorite things to do in her free time is draw, and her favorite subjects are flowers and people. Lucy also loves going to see live music with her friends and learning new things about plants and other various creatures. She has a dream of writing and illustrating her own field guide one day, most likely for plants because they're really fun to draw and identify!



Trey Fahsel
Dune Restoration Steward

Trey studies Biology at Mercyhurst University. He served as a Dune Restoration Steward in the Central Region. Growing up in Liverpool, NY Trey enjoys listening to music, reading, and movies. His ideal career goal would be to work in marine conservation or environmental science.



Tyler Forhan
Dune Restoration Steward

Tyler studies Environmental Sustainability and Society at Hartwick College. Tyler grew up in Baldwinsville, NY and last summer he served as a Dune Restoration Steward in the Central Region. While interning with NYS Parks, he wanted to learn more about shorebirds and their nesting and to help spread awareness to campers, so they know what areas to avoid during the nesting period. His goals were to make new friends/coworkers and to be able to give every detail about shorebirds when presenting them to campers.



Chris Freer
Invasive Sp. Mgt. Steward

While majoring in Environmental Studies at the University at Buffalo, for several seasons now, Chris has served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. His hometown is Tonawanda, NY and his passions include hunting, fishing, and bowling. During his internship with NYS Parks, his goals were to focus on networking, gaining background knowledge, and mastering technical skills.



Caprice Genninger
Conservation Steward

Caprice attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Biology. Her hometown is Rochester, NY and she served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. Caprice enjoys hiking, traveling, camping, botany, and gardening and she's very interested in learning a wide range of subjects, as her interests are wide spread.



Luke Giunta
Le Moyne FORCES Co-Pres

At Le Moyne College, Luke studies Environmental Science Systems and serves as the Le Moyne FORCES Club Co-President. He is from Lyndonhurst, NJ and is interested in renewable energy. His goal is to obtain a career working in addressing climate change.



Zachariah Glasp
Supervising Con. Steward

Zachariah recently earned his degree in Recreational Studies from Niagara County Community College. He grew up in NYS and his interests include baseball and wildlife. He has served as a Supervising Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region as well as an Aquatic Strike Team Member for NYS Parks. 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.



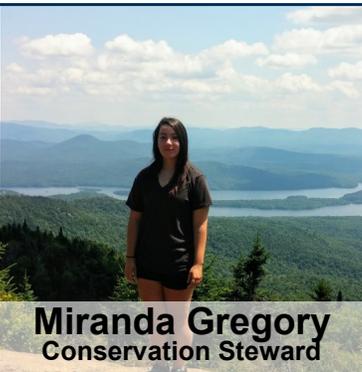
Ava Glasser
Stewardship Corps Member

While attending Binghamton University, Ava studies Environmental Science. She grew up in South Orange, NJ and she likes botany, plant conservation, gardening, hiking, reading and protecting and teaching about native plant communities. Ava served as a member on the FORCES Stewardship Corps last summer. One of her goals is to climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks!



Bianca Gonzalez
Greenhouse Steward

While attending the University at Buffalo, Bianca studies Biological Sciences. She grew up in Wallkill, NY and likes to craft and is interested in biology. Last summer, she served as a Green House Steward in the Niagara Region. Her goal is to graduate and then work in the conservation field.



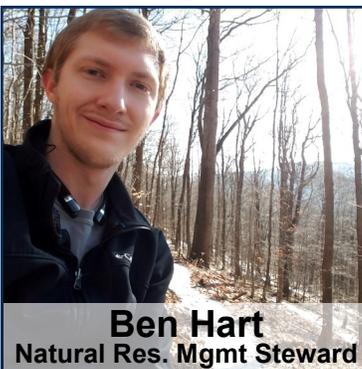
Miranda Gregory
Conservation Steward

At SUNY ESF, Miranda studies Environmental Biology and served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. She is from Syracuse, NY and she's interested in geology, herpetology, entomology, hiking, backpacking, and kayaking. After graduation, Miranda would like to buy a van and travel the country, and eventually work in a state or national park.



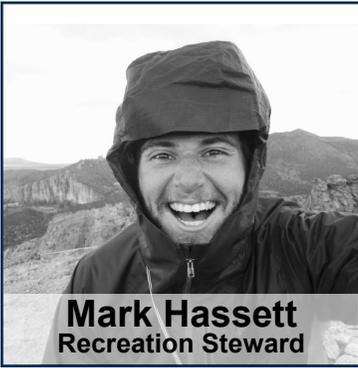
Jessica Harling
Conservation Steward

Jessica is working towards her BS in Environmental Science at SUNY Brockport. She is from Lyndonville, NY and she served as a Conservation Steward in the Genesee Region. Spending time outdoors, hiking, fishing, attending different organizational and sporting events at her school are some of her favorite things to do. She also enjoys playing softball and volleyball and loves to be involved with musicals. Some of Jessica's goals are to obtain a job in the environmental science field as well as start some volunteer work at local parks. She looks forward to owning her own home and joining community organizations.



Ben Hart
Natural Res. Mgmt Steward

Ben served as a Natural Resource Management Steward in the Central Region. He is working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management at SUNY ESF. He grew up in Moorestown, NJ and enjoys hiking and camping and is interested in invasive species management, botany, and ecology. Once he finishes his program, Ben hopes to continue working in a parks setting, either at the state or national level.



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. Mark would like to hike the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails, teach himself how to surf, and 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.



Jordan Hayes
Env. Interpretation Steward

Jordan is enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in Wildlife Management. She is from South Glens Falls, NY and is interested in animals of all kinds from their habitats and their behaviors to their wellbeing. Jordan served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Saratoga/Capital Region. She loves being outside hiking and kayaking as well as exploring nature. Her goals are to become a wildlife rehabilitator and a zoologist.



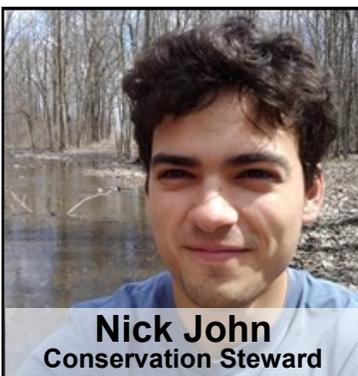
Jenna Hoffman
Water Quality Steward

Jenna studies Environmental Geosciences & Sustainability at the University at Buffalo. She grew up in Cicero, NY and she's interested in gardening, JoJo's Bizarre Adventures, and cats. Last summer, Jenna served as a Water Quality Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Her goal is to visit every national park in America.



Matt Janson
Bird Steward

Matt is enrolled in Cornell University's Environmental & Sustainability Sciences program. He is from Charlotte, NC and birding, fishing, and kayaking keep him busy! While working with Parks as Bird Steward, his goals included surveying areas in NYS Parks for rare or unusual bird species & concentrations.



Nick John
Conservation Steward

Nick studies Applied Mathematics at Rochester Institute of Technology. He grew up in Ithaca, NY and his hobbies include making bread, and track and field. Nick served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. He would eventually like to become a first-rate mathematician and apply his skills to meaningful problems.



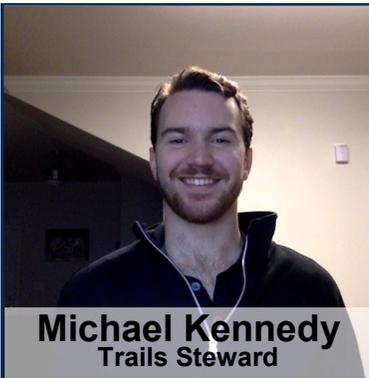
Delaney Kalsman
Env. Interpretation Steward

A native of Olean, NY, Delaney is working towards her Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Biology from SUNY ESF. She enjoys trail running, bird watching, and volunteering for ESF conservation biology labs and the CNY humane society. Delaney has served many semesters as an Environmental Education Center Host in the Central Region. In the future, Delaney would like to work in the field of watershed, ecosystem services, and/or management and ecological restoration.



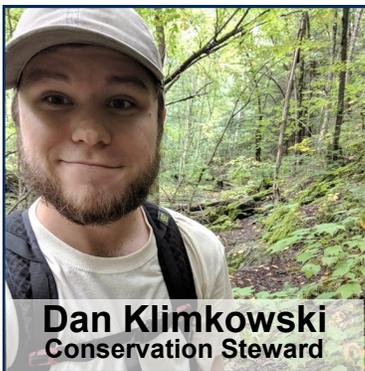
Thomas Kelafant
Avian Survey Steward

While attending Hudson Valley Community College, Thomas studies Biology. Voorheesville, NY is home and ornithology, nature, travel are some of his interests. Thomas served as an Avian Survey Steward in the Saratoga/Capital Region for several semesters. He hopes to get a degree in Wildlife Biology and go on to work with birds in the field.



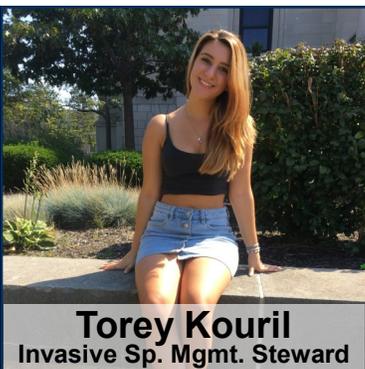
Michael Kennedy
Trails Steward

Michael is working towards his degree in Psychology and Spanish at Binghamton University. His hometown is Manhasset, NY and he served as a Trails Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Michael enjoys psychology, cooking, archery, hiking, guitar, fishing, camping/bushcraft, and travel. Michael has many goals in mind, some of which are to complete a Master's Degree in Public Health, achieve fluency in Spanish, hike the Appalachian Trail, find meaningful work in environmental protection, and meet likeminded individuals.



Dan Klimkowski
Conservation Steward

Dan is working towards his BS in Environmental Science with a focus in Environmental Analysis at SUNY ESF. Making his way north from Springfield, Virginia, he served several semesters as a Conservation and Data Management Steward in the Central Region. Dan enjoys mountain biking, backpacking. 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.



Torey Kouril
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Torey attends the University at Buffalo where she majors in Environmental Geosciences. She is from East Northport, NY and is interested in environmental conservation, and resource management. Torey served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. She eventually wants to work for the DEC.



Jesse Larose
Stewardship Corps Lead

Jesse completed his Bachelor's of Science in Forest Resource Management from SUNY ESF. He is from Syracuse, NY and he served as the FORCES Stewardship Corps Lead in the Finger Lakes Region. Jesse enjoys hiking, camping, traveling and is interested in forest recreation. One of his goals is to hike the Pacific Crest Trail.



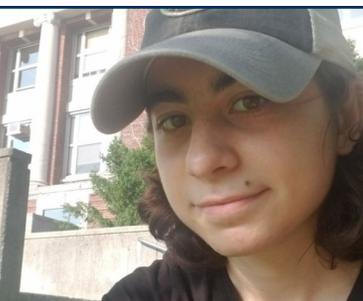
Alison Liguori
Conservation Steward

Alison studies Environmental Science at Siena College. Her hometown is Woodbury, NY and she likes nature, animals, and watching Game of Thrones and The Office. As an Environmental Science major, she believes that promoting and preserving biological diversity is essential, especially in an increasingly anthropogenic world. Last spring, Alison served as a Conservation Steward in the Saratoga/Capital Region. She hopes to eventually work in the field of restoration ecology.



Emily Link
ESF FORCES President

Emily attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Biology. She grew up in Pittsburg, PA and has interests in kayaking, testing her hiking ability, and cooking new recipes. She enjoys helping others, whether it be person or animal. As an ESF student and FORCES Club President, it's no surprise that she's very passionate about the environment, including maintaining and protecting it. Professionally, she's interested in biological field research, especially forest ecology. After graduation, Emily hopes to be accepted into the Peace Corps. She's also very interested in field research, which she plans to pursue after her service in the Peace Corps. Her long-term professional goal is to attend law school and become an environmental lawyer.



Giana Losquadro
Env. Interpretation Steward

While attending SUNY ESF, Giana studies Environmental Biology. She grew up in Lake Grove, NY, and her hobbies include reading, writing, collecting, and sketching local fungi. She is also interested in environmental sustainability and outreach. Giana served as an Environmental Education Center Host. Her goal is to obtain a Master's Degree in Agriculture, possibly with a focus in plant pathology and to assist developing countries in creating sustainable agriculture as well as limiting the effects of invasive species globally.



Mary Luellen
Conservation Steward

Mary majors in Natural Resources Management at SUNY ESF. East Aurora, NY is home and she enjoys walking her dogs and skiing. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Mary would like to find a career in which she can work outside every day.



Evan McCabe
Env. Interpretation Steward

While at St. Bonaventure University, Evan studies Environmental Studies. His hometown is Clarence Center, NY and he's interested in photography, especially of birds! He also enjoys running, hiking, biking, and being outside. Last summer, he served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Allegany Region. Evan has a lifelong goals of learning more about the natural environment that surrounds us while educating others.



Matthew McDonald
Invasive Sp. Mgmt. Steward

Matt served as an Invasive Species Management Steward in the Niagara Region. He studies Environmental Science at Niagara University. He grew up locally in Niagara Falls, NY is interested in anything involving sports and lifting weights, hockey, soccer, going to the gym, bodybuilding, and caring for the environment. After graduating, Matthew would like to work for either NYS Parks or the NYS DEC.



Meaghan McElroy
Communications Steward

Originally from New Paltz, NY, Meaghan came to Ithaca College to study Journalism and Environmental Studies. Hiking, swimming, baking, reading/writing, playing Quidditch (go IC Hex!), and playing/listening to music are some of her favorite things to do. During her time with NYS Parks as a Communication Steward, Meaghan wanted to improve as an environmental educator and as a science communicator.



Mark McKenna
Water Quality Steward

Mark is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at Canisius College. Grand Island, NY is home and he has fun playing baseball, hockey, video games, and appreciates a clean earth. He served as a Water Quality Steward in the Niagara Region. Mark's career goal is to become an environmental engineer.



Sophie Millar
Oneonta FORCES President

Sophie attends SUNY Oneonta and majors in Environmental Sustainability and Geography. She is from Ilion, NY and likes Frisbee, basketball, tennis, and soccer. In addition to serving as SUNY Oneonta's FORCES Club President, she is also part of SUNY Oneonta's Mock Trial Team. She loves musicals, collecting plants, and spending time with family and friends. Sophie would like to pursue a future in environmental law.



Rebecca Miller
Dune Restoration Steward

Rebecca studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She is from Sandy Creek, NY and enjoys wildlife conservation. During her internship with NYS Parks as a Dune Restoration Steward in the Central Region, Rebecca hoped to build a relationship with NYS Parks and learn how to engage and teach the public about conservation issues.



Jamie Moore
Pest Management Steward

While attending Niagara University, Jamie majors in Environmental Sciences. Her hometown is Lancaster, NY and she likes reading, writing, singing, acting, piano, hiking, and sailing. Some of her personal goals are to focus on self care and time management. While serving as a Pest Management Steward in the Niagara Region last fall, Jamie hoped to acquire field experience and learn new things.



Christina Morrow
Geneseo FORCES President

Christina attends SUNY Geneseo and studies Geography. She grew up in Fredonia, NY and she is into composting, hiking, camping, sustainability, and conservation. In addition to serving as the SUNY Geneseo FORCES Club President, Christina also served as a Conservation Steward in the Genesee Region. She would like to continue environmental stewardship and education and promote systemic sustainability initiatives such as composting, for the duration of her time at Geneseo. After graduation, Christina is interested in working at a park, land trust, or research group.



Rebecca Nathan
Hartwick FORCES President

Hailing from Cross River, NY, Rebecca recently graduated with her Bachelor's of Science in Geology and Environmental Sustainability from Hartwick College. As the former Hartwick FORCES Club President, she enjoyed doing trail clean ups and working on projects such as building birdhouses or planting native species.



Miles Neidorf
ESF FORCES President

Miles recently graduated from SUNY ESF with a degree in 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 former ESF FORCES President, and while serving as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region, Miles increased his professional skills and learned more about invasive species and forest management.



Miranda Neyerlin
Geneseo FORCES President

Miranda completed her Sociology Degree at SUNY Geneseo and served as the SUNY Geneseo FORCES Club President last spring. Her hometown is Buffalo, NY and her interests include hiking, running, yoga, and movies (especially Disney). She is hoping to attend law school. Other goals include enjoying the outdoors as much as possible.



Nina Ng
Conservation Steward

Nina studies English and Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. She is from Erie, PA and likes hiking, painting, and cooking with friends. During her internship as a Conservation Steward with Parks, Nina wanted to learn more about planning, understand forest sustainability more deeply, and meet new people who she can learn from!



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 also served as a FORCES Campus Ambassador at SUNY Cobleskill, spreading the word and promoting FORCES on campus. She is interested in birds and herpetofauna and would like to gain more 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 in the Central Region. She'd like to help everyone become their own environmental steward.



Maggie O'Brien
Stewardship Project Tech.

Originally from Farmington, NY, Maggie majors in Environmental Studies at SUNY ESF. While serving as a Stewardship Project Technician in the Finger Lakes Region, she wanted to gain experience working in the field, learning what the day to day responsibilities of an environmentalist is. Maggie enjoys creative writing, music, coloring, photography, reading, video games (especially Pokemon), and spending time in nature.



Elizabeth Padgett
Plant Materials Pgm. Tech.

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 as well as an American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician 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.



Max Pizarro
Hartwick FORCES President

Max is a Geology Student and FORCES Club President at Hartwick College. He is originally from Goshen, NY, a small town in the lower Hudson Valley. Max is an Eagle Scout and has certifications from the BSA National Camping School in both Ecology/Conservation and Aquatics. Outside of school, Max works as the Aquatics Director at BSA Camp Bullowa, and he volunteers with his home troop. He loves teaching and giving back the knowledge he's amassed over his life. Eventually, Max would like to teach professionally.



Emily Purce
Env. Interpretation Steward

Emily is working towards her degree in Environmental Studies, Policy, Planning, and Law at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Oswego, NY, likes cats, and is interested in local and national politics, environmental education, and environmental justice. While serving as an Environmental Education Center Host, Emily wanted to improve on her public speaking, teach children and adults the importance of the environment, and influence and write comprehensive environmental regulations and legislation.



Nesa Rampersad
Env. Field Team Steward

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



Christie Rechin
Education and Cons. Steward

Christie attends SUNY Cortland and majors in Outdoor Recreation with a focus in Cultural and Environmental Interpretation. Her hometown is Orchard Park, NY. She enjoys outdoor activities such as birding, archery, rock climbing, and hula-hooping. Some of Christie's goals include having a better understanding and directly participate in the interrelationship between environment/wildlife and human beings, with an emphasis on mutually beneficial management techniques.



Alec Ritter
Conservation Steward

Alec is enrolled in the Biology program at SUNY Geneseo. He grew up in Williamsville, NY and is interested in sustainability, social entrepreneurship, biology, travel, skiing, hiking, fishing, biking, reading, and woodworking. He served as a Conservation Steward in the Genesee Region. Alec would like to use his education to contribute to conservation research, advocate for the implementation of sustainable initiatives, and create businesses aimed to achieve greater social equity without compromising environmental health. He strives to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, and hopes to use travel to expand his cultural awareness. He tries to always keep a positive attitude and to build and maintain strong relationships with his friends and family.



Patrick Robertson
Stewardship Corps Member

Patrick grew up in Oradell, New Jersey and studies Environmental Geochemical Science at Ithaca College. He served as a FORCES Stewardship Corps Member in the Finger Lakes Region. Patrick is into sports, especially basketball and baseball, watching Netflix, hiking, camping, and reading a good book once in a while. Patrick's goal is to be happy, find a job that he looks forward to doing, and make others around him enjoy life.



David Rojek
Env. Interpretation Steward

David is from Buffalo, NY and attends ESF where he studies Natural Resource Management and Minors in Recreation Resource and Protected Area Management. He served as an Environmental Education Center Host. His interests include hiking, snowshoeing, kayaking, sailing, camping, and traveling. Professionally, David is interested in parks and giving people opportunities to recreate and enjoy their local environment. His professional goals are to finish his undergraduate degree and continue learning about park management at Green Lakes State Park. After graduation, David would like to continue his education and pursue a graduate degree in Public Administration while continuing to work his way towards becoming a park manager. As for personal goals, David would love to move somewhere warmer!



Brooklyn Saliba
Conservation Steward

Brooklyn is enrolled in the Environmental Science program at Ithaca College. Smithfield, RI is home and some of her interests include conservation, restoration, toxicology, and the maintaining of forest health. While interning as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region, Brooklyn wanted to learn as much as she could and hopefully be able to create a solid foundation for the future. She'd also like to own three German shepherds, hike everywhere with them, and be outdoors as much as possible!



Isabel Schulman
Stewardship Corps Member

In addition to serving as a FORCES Stewardship Corps Member, Isabel also served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She attends Ithaca College and majors in Environmental Studies. Newtown, MA is her hometown and she likes trail maintenance, the Boston Red Sox, and sustainable communities. While with Parks, Isabel wanted to learn how to treat invasive species. Some of her goals are to teach conservation and sustainability outside of the USA, and to write blogs or articles on conservation and environmental issues.



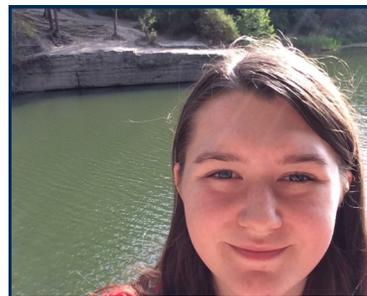
Saadiya Sheekh-Nuur
Env. Interpretation Steward

Saadiya studies Environmental Biology at SUNY ESF. She is from Syracuse, NY and is interested in water quality. Saadiya served as an Environmental Education Center Host last fall.



Nicole Sheffler
Env. Interpretation Steward

Nicole recently graduated from Binghamton University with a Bachelor's Degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. She grew up locally in Binghamton, NY and some of Nicole's interests are ecology, sustainability, environmentalism, science education, reading and writing, gardening, hiking, sustainable agriculture, and environmental education. Nicole served as an Environmental Interpretation Steward in the Central Region. Her goal is to build a career in the environmental field.



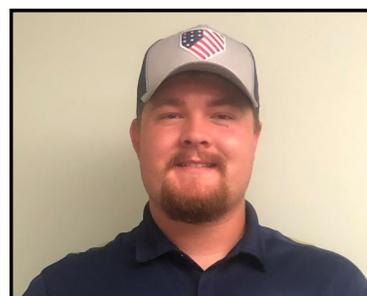
Shannon Simmons
Wells FORCES President

Shannon is enrolled at Wells College and studies Health Science. She grew up in Holtsville, NY and wants to work with animals as a zoologist or wildlife biologist. Shannon has served as the Wells College FORCES Club President for 2 semesters and continues to do so. She would someday love to work at a zoo or in the wild with the wildlife helping the species thrive in the wild.



Jennifer Skala
Stewardship Corps Member

Trekking across the country from Fremont, CA, Jen served as a FORCES Stewardship Corps Member in the Finger Lakes Region. She majors in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College and loves learning about ecological interactions between species and how changes to one aspect of a habitat can have a lasting ripple effect. She also enjoys gardening, writing, drawing, and woodwork. Jen hopes to translate her love of ecology, plant communities, and animal behavior into a career in invasive species monitoring and management. Someday this may also help her create an amazing home garden, ideally with a small greenhouse for plants that prefer warmer climates. Her ideal retirement plan is to turn into a tree.



David Stillinger
Trails Steward

David majors in Recreation Studies at Niagara County Community College. His hometown is Wheatfield, NY and he served as a Trails Steward in the Finger Lakes Region last summer. David enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, baseball, and camping. His goal is to pursue a career in the outdoor industry with an agency like NYS Parks or the DEC.



Michael Streicher
Conservation Steward

At the University at Buffalo, Michael studies Environmental Geosciences. He is from Tonawanda, NY and is interested in habitat remediation/rehabilitation, fishing, and hiking. While serving as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region, Michael hoped to gain a greater wealth of knowledge in a professional, environmentally focused setting.



Rob Swiss
Conservation Steward

While attending SUNY ESF, Rob majors in Environmental Studies. He is from Armonk, NY and served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Rob enjoys backpacking and climbing trees. His lifetime goal is to understand the natural world.



Haley Synan
Env. Interpretation Steward

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



Lauren Tannenbaum
Conservation Steward

Lauren is enrolled in the History program at Oberlin College. She is from Briarcliff, NY and some of her favorite things are learning about state and local history, environmental justice, politics, music, and writing. Lauren served as a Conservation Steward in the Taconic Region. She hopes to find a job that will help in creating a sustainable future.



Grace Trentini
Env. Interpretation Steward

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



Jake Vitale
Env. Interpretation Steward

At SUNY ESF, Jake is enrolled in the Conservation Biology program. He served as an Environmental Education Center Host in the Central Region. He grew up in Palmyra, NY and is an aspiring Adirondack 46er who enjoys vlogging while hiking. Jake also likes to play basketball and lacrosse. After graduation, Jake would like to travel the world with stops that include the Pacific Crest Trail and to California and Utah to do environmental research. He'd also like to become a professional photographer.



Leo Wahl
Conservation Steward

Leo served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. He's working towards his degree in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. He is originally from Longmont, CO and has interests in wildlife, botany, birding, cooking, hiking, board games, travelling, and sustainable agriculture. Leo enjoys learning about ecology/species interactions, invasive species management, and animal behavior. Eventually, he'd like to find a job where he can combine all of his interests and ultimately, be happy!



Hannah Whalen
Conservation Steward

At SUNY ESF, Hannah majors in Environmental Biology with a minor in Urban Forestry. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Central Region. Hannah grew up in Truxton, NY and in her free time enjoys sewing, crocheting acorns, and spending time with her cat. She also love plants, so much so that in her career, Hannah aims to work on plant propagation, conservation, and sustainable planting.



Emma Wilson
Envir. Interpretation Steward

Emma attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Studies. Her hometown is Medina, NY and she enjoys hiking, her dogs, and writing. Emma has served as an Environmental Education Center Host in the Central Region. She hopes to someday become an environmental educator, somewhere where it does not snow!



Kylee Wilson
Le Moyne FORCES President

Kylee recently graduated from Le Moyne College with her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science Systems. She grew up in Livonia, NY and likes ecology, frogs, hiking, swimming, and botany. As the former Le Moyne College's FORCES Club President, her goal was to get Le Moyne FORCES more involved in hopes to grow their club.

2019 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Amanda Cooper
Angela McEnerney
Jordan Claman
Owen McGivney
Zoe Gliosco
Chris Bodie

Environmental Interpretation Steward
Conservation Research Steward
Conservation Steward
Trail Maintenance Steward
Avian Survey Steward
Environmental Interpretation Steward

Post Collegiate
SUNY Cortland
Tufts University
SUNY Cobleskill
Hudson Valley CC
SUNY ESF



FORCES

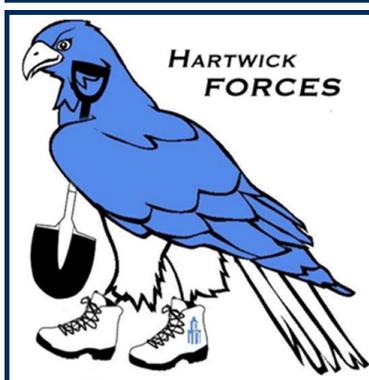
Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



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.

2019 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



HARTWICK
FORCES

Spring 2019

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

Fall 2019

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

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry



FORCES

Spring 2019

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

Fall 2019

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

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences



ESF

Spring 2019

Miles Neidorf, President
Christopher Farewell, Vice President
Declan Daly, Treasurer
Clare Foley, Secretary
James DeRosa, USA Representative
Alexi Deiseroth, Social Media Chair

Fall 2019

Emily Link, President
Michael Dolan, Vice President
Hannah Brown, Treasurer
Clare Foley, Secretary
Spencer King, Social Media Chair

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



FORCES
of SUNY Geneseo

Spring 2019

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

Fall 2019

Christina Morrow, President
Lina Clifford, Vice President
Allison Menendez, Treasurer
Jenny Bartholomay, Secretary
Brian Zapfel, Events Coordinator
Erika Skinner, Publicity Coordinator
Dustin Lieb, Education Coordinator

Faculty Advisor: Jim Kernan, Geography Department



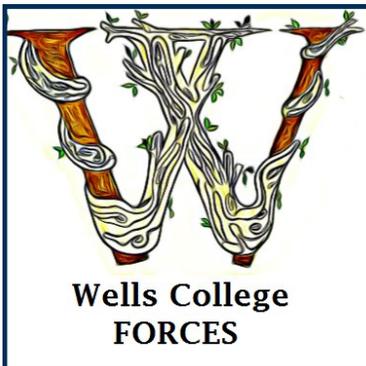
Spring 2019

Miguel-Angel Castillo, President
Madison Young, Vice President

Fall 2019

Sophie Millar, President
Samantha Pepe, Vice President

Faculty Advisor: Donna Vogler, Department of Biology



Spring 2019

Shannon Simmons, President
Daniel Popp, Vice President
Dana Grover, Treasurer
Aaron Connolly, Secretary

Fall 2019

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

Faculty Advisor: Jackie Schnurr, Department of Biology

2019 FORCES Team

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



Jeremy Brady
Stewardship Specialist, Genesee Region

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



Regina Bulson
FORCES Program Specialist, SCA NYS Parks Corps, Central Region

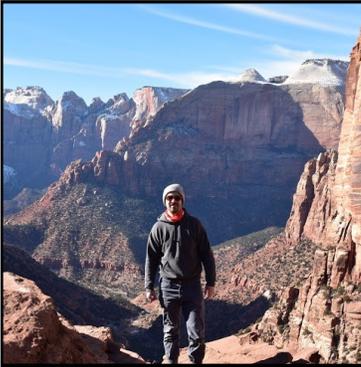
Regina grew up in Marlboro, NY and earned her BS in Recreation and Leisure Program Delivery from SUNY Cortland. After graduating, she served with the NYS Excelsior Conservation Corps and then as the FORCES Program Specialist with the SCA NYS Parks Corps. In the spring of 2020, she will begin her studies at SUNY New Paltz in the Early Childhood/Childhood Education Program. Regina likes to run, read books, go on outdoor adventures, listen to country music. Her personal goals include running a marathon, travel outside of the country, explore national parks, and go on a country-wide road-trip.



Philip Corney

Conservation Coordinator, Saratoga-Capital District Region

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



Andy Damon

Regional Conservation Coordinator, Saratoga/Capital Region

Andy earned his BS in Ecology from SUNY Plattsburgh. Since graduating, he spent some time researching military impacts/training on the landscape of Fort Drum, NY. He's 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 this position, Andy was a project leader for Excelsior Conservation Corps. There, 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 NY. In the fall of 2019, Andy took a new position within the NYS Park agency as a Stewardship Specialist.



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 in Jacksonville, NC. She worked with NYS OPRHP as the Finger Lakes FORCES Program Specialist from 2017 to 2019 and recently took a position with Texas A & M Natural Resources Institute as a Project Coordinator.



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 a grant funded Three Gorges Project. The focus of the project is invasive species management and native species restoration in the three parks of Tompkins County.



Jillian Harris

FORCES Program Specialist, Niagara Region

Jillian has worked for the Parks for almost 4 years as a Water Quality Program Assistant and FORCES Program Specialist. She's worked on projects ranging from wildlife surveys to invasive species management to pollinator habitat creation. Jillian holds a BS in Biology from Niagara University and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Natural Resource Stewardship from Colorado State University through an online degree program. Buffalo has been home her whole life but she suffers from wanderlust and attempts to travel to as many places as she can. Last spring, Jillian accepted the Stewardship Specialist position for the Niagara Region.



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 over 11 years. Prior to his work in the NYS Parks system, Tom worked for SUNY ESF, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, and Cornell University. He has also served as a Professor for Limnology at Wells College. Tom grew up in the western Finger Lakes region in the small town of Rush, NY.



Amy Kochem

FORCES Program Coordinator

Amy received her AAS in Ecology and Environmental Technology from Paul Smith's College, her BS in Biological Science from SUNY Brockport, and her MS in Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation from SUNY Cortland. Prior to holding this position, Amy was an environmental educator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at Rogers Environmental Education Center. She enjoys music, gardening, interior decorating, and skiing. She lives 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. She recently left her position as Natural Resource Specialist at Rockefeller State Park Preserve to be the Science & Stewardship Coordinator at a local non-profit nature preserve. While at Rockefeller, she helped the FORCES program grab a foothold in the Taconic Region and worked with 14 Stewards during her two years with Parks. Rebecca spent much of her time out in the field with Stewards managing invasive species, planting native tree saplings and running community programs. She's excited for the future of the program and hopes it will continue to grow.



Alexandra 'Allie' Tillman

FORCES Program Specialist, Niagara Region

Allie earned her BS in Geology with an Environmental Science Concentration from SUNY Cortland. She's worked for State Parks for almost 2 years now, starting in the Horticulture Department at Niagara Falls State Park and moving into the FORCES Program Specialist position for the Niagara Region in the spring of 2019. She volunteers as a judge for the Niagara/Orleans County Envirothon and the Western New York Science and Engineering Fair. She serves on the Advisory Committee for the Niagara Career and Technical Center Natural Resource Program. When she's not working, Allie is usually playing rugby, hiking, camping, or playing with her dog, Fae.



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.



Carlin Wakefield
FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

Carlin was born and raised in Buffalo, NY and received a BS in Environmental Studies with a focus in communication from SUNY ESF. In the summer of 2017, she interned with NYS DEC and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater as an Aquatic Invasive Species Technician assisting with education events, tabling at festivals, and educating along the Hudson Estuary. In the summer of 2018, Carlin started working for NYS OPRHP as the Lead Steward for the Three Gorges Project Stewardship Corps. She surveyed, mapped, and removed invasive species within Taughannock Falls, Robert H. Treman, and Buttermilk Falls State Parks. In the summer 2019 she started as a FORCES Program Specialist and couldn't be more thrilled!



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.

2019 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
Regional Stewardship Manager, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Field Team

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



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 earned her MS in Environmental Science and Ecology from SUNY Brockport, and holds a BS in Environmental Public Policy from SUNY Albany, as well as an AS in Veterinary Science Technology from SUNY Canton. Kira has a passion for herps, fuzzy moths and mammals, cats, and cycling.



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

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



Aaron Heminway
Regional Biologist, Niagara & Genesee Regions

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



Eryn Iacovitti
Environmental Analyst, Niagara Region

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



Charles Ippolito
Stewardship Project Technician, Finger Lakes Region

Charlie majors in Conservation Biology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He grew up in Victor, New York and serves as a seasonal Stewardship Project Technician at Ganondagan State Historic Site. Charlie is interested in botany and enjoys hiking, fishing, bowling, birding, and skiing. As he continues his studies at ESF, he'd like to become more familiar with identifying plants and pollinator species; also to continue networking and to be involved with environmental research.



Emma Kubinski
Lead Stewardship Technician
Finger Lakes Region

Emma attends Cornell University and majors in Plant Sciences with a concentration in the ecology of natural landscapes and minor in Soil Sciences. She lives in Victor, NY and loves learning about plants and soil, backpacking/hiking, and eating ice cream! Emma has a passion to cure the world of plant blindness through education and inspiration of others and to find sustainable ways to tackle invasive plants.



Lydia Martin
Stewardship Project Technician, Finger Lakes Region

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



Carley McMullen
Invasive Species Specialist, Niagara Region

Carley started volunteering with FORCES in 2018 after she graduated from Niagara University. She earned her BS in Biology, focused in Environmental Studies. She served as a Invasive Species Management Steward and it became clear that this was her passion. Carley joined the Student Conservation Association in 2019, and was lucky enough to stay on as an Invasive Species Specialist with Parks, continuing her love for the outdoors. Her other interests include her dogs, reading, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. Carley hopes to continue working for Parks in the future where she can gain more knowledge about conservation work.



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!



Dave Spiering
Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Coordinator

Dave is the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Coordinator for NYS Parks where he works on stewardship in state parks and implementing conservation projects in the Great Lakes Basin. Originally from Wisconsin, he has a BS in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin and an MS in Ecology from Colorado State University. Dave was formerly the ecologist at Tiff Nature Preserve, a former industrial dump, where he got interested in the ecology of brownfields and recently completed a PhD at the University at Buffalo studying plant community succession in post-industrial ecosystems.



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 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, NY.



Josh Vogel
Hemlock Preservation Program Coordinator, Finger Lakes Region

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



Kyle Webster
Stewardship Project Coordinator
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

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



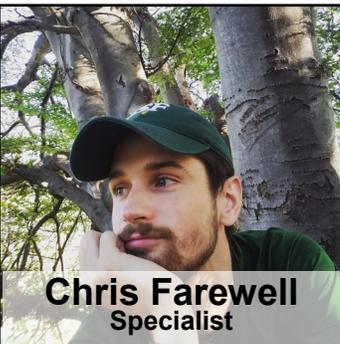
Brigitte Wierzbicki
Plant Materials Program Coordinator
Plant Materials Program at Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park
Brigitte manages a program that provides native, regionally appropriate seed and plants for environmental stewardship projects. She's been involved with State Parks since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

2019 Western NY Invasive Species Strike Team



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,



Chris Farewell
Specialist

Chris graduated from SUNY ESF with a BS in Forest Resource Management. He is from Garnerville, NY and enjoys kayaking and hiking, reading and writing, taking car rides to new places and trying new restaurants, learning all that he can about different terrestrial invasive species, both their ecology and management strategies. Chris would love to travel more. He hopes to go on an extended road trip and see several National Parks. Chris hopes to one day become a National Park Ranger. He'd like to work out west where he can educate patrons on the importance of conservation and stewardship practices and to effect lasting change in how people interact and see the world around them.



Sam Schultz
Specialist

Sam is from Tully, NY and recently graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Plant Sciences. She enjoys doing yoga, reading dystopian novels, cooking, hiking and camping, as well as catching up with old friends. Sam would like to find the work life balance of being able to put everything she has into her job but also to enjoy her time away from work. Sam would also like to continue traveling and seeing new places, meeting new people and someday backpacking across Europe. Professionally, she hopes to become more involved in the communication and outreach aspects in the field of invasive species to help bridge the gaps between professionals and the public, as well as between land managers, researchers, and policy makers.



Maddie Holden
Specialist

Maddie graduated from Cornell University with her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental & Sustainability Sciences. She grew up in Jacksonville, Florida and loves hiking, camping, reading, traveling, and learning more about the natural world around us! Maddie's career goal is to work to achieve community-based conservation solutions to ensure the protection of endangered species and the well-being of the local communities.