

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation
and Environmental Stewardship



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

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

2024 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



Jenna Canipe
ESF FORCES Club President

Jenna majors in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She is from Mannsville, NY and loves all music, art, taking care of her plants and pets, and spending time in the woods with her dog. In her free time, Jenna enjoys working on her hobby farm taking care of and hanging out with her dog, donkeys, goats, chickens, and cats. Jenna is interested in working with people who she can learn from, whether that is through their knowledge or experience. A few of her personal goals are graduating with her degree, learning how to crochet, and hiking more. Jenna would like to gain more field experience exploring all different aspects of conservation jobs. Jenna is hopeful to get a job that brings her to places like the western United States.



Perle Convey
Audubon in the Parks
Steward

While attending SUNY ESF, Pearl majors in Environmental Studies. She grew up in Sandy Creek, NY and enjoys hanging out outside in the summer, making bracelets, and bird watching. She has served as an Audubon in the Parks Piping Plover Steward for many summers with FORCES. Pearl would like to work in Environmental Policy to help make the world better. Once successful, she hopes to live in the mountains with her cats.



Sarah Fettig
Ed. Center Host Steward

Originally from Camillus, NY, Sarah is a sophomore at SUNY Binghamton double majoring in Environmental Studies and Economics. She enjoys spending time in nature and helping people in whatever way that she can. In her free time, Sarah prefers hiking, reading, and playing music. While interning with FORCES, she hopes to learn about the NYS OPRHP agency and find a place for herself here full-time after college.



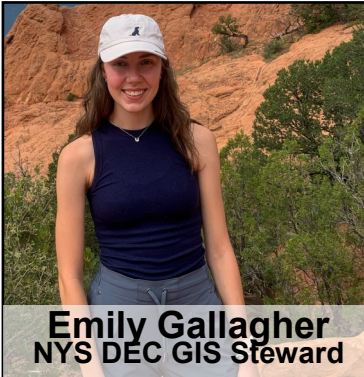
Madeline Foss
Community Conservation
Steward

After growing up in DeWitt, NY, Maddie attended Hamilton College, majoring in Public Policy with an Environmental Studies and Spanish Minor. She finds joy in hanging out outside in the summer, making bracelets, and bird watching. Maddie runs cross country and track at college and spends lots of time outside running at Green Lakes and Clark Reservation State Parks. Maddie hopes to attend graduate school for public policy and find a job where she has the opportunity to analyze and improve environmental policy and ideally where she can spend time outside engaging with the local ecological community.



Ryan Frohlich
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

Ryan studies Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. His hometown is West Babylon, NY and his interest, both personal and professional, is herpetology/herping. It's a hobby that he dedicates most of his time (and money) to. When he's not herping, Ryan has fun backpacking, hiking, fishing and just being able to experience and enjoy nature to the fullest. Ryan would like to work on invasive species management and develop management plans to limit the spread of invasive species throughout the United States. A goal that he is actively pursuing is the monitoring and conservation of endangered species, particularly species that often get overlooked while continuing to decline.



Emily Gallagher
NYS DEC GIS Steward

Emily grew up in Cortland, NY and attends SUNY Cortland majoring in Political Science. As an outdoor enthusiast, she's always enjoyed hiking, paddle boarding, fishing, and horseback riding. Emily often finds herself walking in a field and applying the remote sensing skills she's acquired. She looks forward to starting her career after graduating, hopefully working for a federal or state agency. Emily would like to find a job that allows her to work and travel all over the country.



Gillian Glessman
Clark Reservation SP
Naturalist Steward

While attending SUNY ESF working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Conservation Biology, Gillian served as a Clark Reservation State Park Naturalist Steward. She calls Henric, VA home and some of her interests include Animal/Veterinary Science, visual arts, foraging, and education. Gillian hopes to gain experience in science communication, increase public awareness of ecological topics, and learn and practice educational skills.



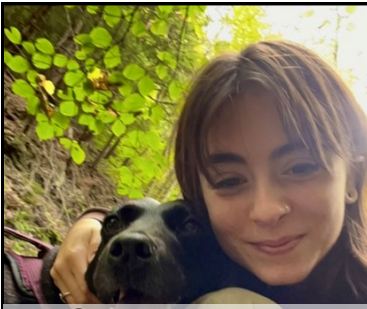
Angelina Gorman
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

While enrolled at SUNY ESF, Angelina majors in Conservation Biology. She is from Liverpool, NY and has fun birdwatching, fishing, kayaking, and hiking. When she's not working, she enjoys going to local concerts and spending time with her 4 lizards and rabbit. Angelina would like to work for the NYS DEC in some capacity, but her overall goal is to have a job with the state where she can work outdoors with wildlife.



Jenelle Gringevich
Ed. Center Host Steward

Jenelle is working towards a BS in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. She grew up in Brocton, NY and her hobbies include hiking and camping and she's interested in herpetology and invasive species. Jenelle wants to work and be outdoors as much as possible and do field research that makes a difference.



Chiarina Hunt
Conservation Steward

Chiarina majors in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region and calls Bucks County, PA home. She loves all music, art, taking care of her plants and pets, and spending time in the woods with her dog. She is interested in learning more about regenerative agriculture, conservation, and animal welfare. Chiarina has been working on improving in identifying local species, especially plants, trees, amphibians, and fungi lately, but admits she has a lot to learn! She would love to continue to work in wildlife rehab and animal care.



Connor Jacobs
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

When Connor is not busy studying Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF, he may be capturing photos of all things nature. He served as a FORCES Steward in the Central Region for many seasons. Connor is passionate about the environment and its conservation and has been interested in birds and the work of the Audubon Society for many years now. Central New York is his home and working with FORCES to protect and conserve the region is important to him. Connor would love to continue this work after graduation in one form or another and it is his hope to be able to continue working with birds, possibly with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, or the Audubon Society.



Christianna Kosta
Le Moyne FORCES Club
President

While studying Environmental Science Systems and Biology at Le Moyne College, Christianna has served as the Le Moyne FORCES Club President for several semesters. She grew up in Plaistow, NH and music is a huge passion of hers, as is educating youth on sustainability and preservation, and traveling. Christianna would eventually like to find a job involving clean energy and restoration.



Jenna Magioncalda
ESF FORCES Club President

Majoring in Environmental Studies and serving as the ESF FORCES Club President, Jenna has lots of good going on! She is interested in wetlands protection and management, marine ecosystems, and environmental outreach and interpretation. In her free time, she likes to swim, read, do puzzles, crosswords, coloring books, baking, birding, backpacking, hiking, music, board games, hockey, and baseball. She is Scuba certified and has earned her Interpretive Guide Certification.



Lily Marks
Conservation Steward

Lily is working towards her degree in Environmental Science at Ithaca College. Hailing from Wallingford, PA, her interests include sustainable/regenerative agriculture, and work with invasives. Lily has fun doing pottery, listening to music, dancing, crafting, and cooking. While interning with FORCES, Lily was excited to improve her plant ID skills, especially with invasives and for foraging wild edible plants. She hoped to deepen her connection with her surroundings, aiding in conservation and working towards sustainable self-subsistence/sufficiency.



Brian McMahon
Env. Field Team Steward

After growing up in Spencerport NY, Brian enrolled in the Recreation & Leisure; concentration in Park & Rec Management program at SUNY Brockport. He is interested in understanding the science behind each area of conservation to know why this is being done, as well as the potential negatives and also knowing what needs to be preserved and how we can best act on it now for our future generations to experience such amazing landscapes within NY. Brian also wants to learn what it takes to operate state parks not just in New York, but across the country and knowing how each area of our parks work together to bring in the best experience for our users, as well as keep our parks as beautiful as they can be!



Alicia Menduni
Conservation Steward

Originally from Yorktown, NY, Alicia attends Ithaca College and majors in Environmental Science, Public and Community Health. She likes playing ultimate frisbee, baking, volunteering, listening to music, and doing anything with her dog. She is also very interested in ecology and food system sustainability. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. Alicia would like to improve her plant and track ID skills, learn more about gardening, and find a meaningful career that combines environmental science and public and community health.



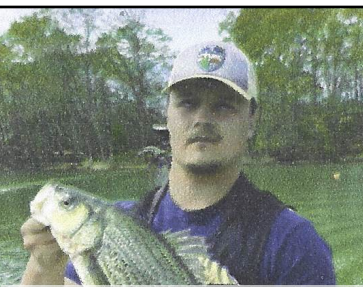
Ben Newsome
Conservation Steward

Ben is enrolled at Ithaca College majoring in Environmental Science. He grew up in Northampton, MA and has an interest in beekeeping, wildlife surveying, arboriculture, and educating people on environmental science and ecology. For fun, Ben loves rock climbing, backpacking, and listening to as much music as he can find! His environmental goals for the future are to become a master beekeeper for the state of New York and to keep studying ecology, conservation, and agriculture. Ben would also like to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, and do a lot more outdoor rock climbing!



Ivy Penree
Conservation Steward

Ivy is working towards her degree in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. Growing up in Ilion, NY, she is interested in entomology, herpetology, wetland restoration and ecology, and visual arts. She enjoys educating the public on the existence and importance of local biodiversity as well as how others can be stewards themselves. Ivy's goals include maintaining upstate New York's biodiversity with a focus on insects and wetland fauna through restoration of degraded ecosystems, protection of native and endangered species, and/or management of invasive species.



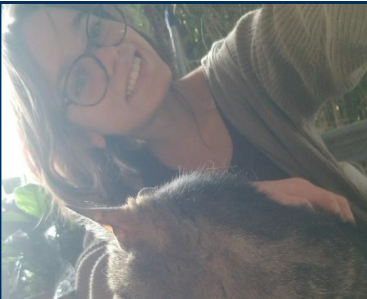
Evan Powell
NYS DEC Fisheries
Steward

Evan studies Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at Clemson University. He is from Berkshire, NY, and enjoys camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, golfing, fish biology/hatcheries, and conservation. While interning with DEC FORCES, Evan would like to gain experience within the field of fisheries biology, learn more about fish conservation, gain more working experience with fish hatcheries.



Kat Resanovich
Ed. Center Prog. Assistant

Kat is enrolled at SUNY ESF where she studies Environmental Education and Interpretation. She is from Rockland County, NY and loves spending time with her cat, Stinkbug, scuba diving, crafting, and is taking up needle felting. She would like to obtain a job working full time in environmental education or outdoor education and visit more State and National Parks.



Nicole Schroeders
Conservation Steward

Nicole attends Ithaca College and is working on her degree in Environmental Studies. She is from Florida and has fun rock climbing, playing guitar, drawing, crafting, and is interested in biology and agriculture. She would like to learn more species identification, know more rocks and minerals, learn how to use a wheel for ceramics, welding, more woodworking, get better at cutting wood with an axe, and do more outdoor climbing.



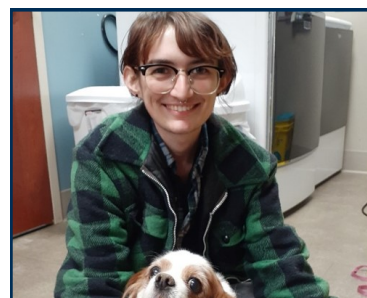
Amonette Sellers
Conservation Steward

Amonette studies Environmental Science at Ithaca College. She is from Spencer, NY and enjoys gardening, animals, cooking and baking, and crochet. She served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region for a few semesters. Amonette hopes to become better at identification, get on the iNaturalist leaderboard and land a job that services the community and wildlife.



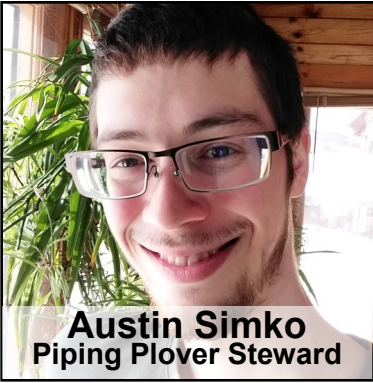
Peyton Shearer
Ed. Center Host Steward

Peyton attends SUNY ESF and majors in Environmental Studies. Originally from Grand Island, NY, she enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, snowboarding, water sports, crafting, painting, drawing, media arts, and is interested in policy and law. She'd like to learn to learn to crochet and cook better/new things, to improve reading, writing, and speaking skills.



Archer Shurliff
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

After growing up in Oswego and Central Square, NY, Archer went on to attend SUNY ESF to major in Wildlife Science. They enjoy quilting, painting, dogs, hiking, frog-watching, and horror films and are interested in amphibians, snails, wetland conservation, environmental policy, and environmental social justice. After working in a veterinary hospital for several years, Archer realized that they love working with and being around animals so maybe this will lead to a future career path!



Austin Simko
Piping Plover Steward

Austin majors in Conservation Biology at SUNY ESF. He grew up in Erieville, NY and loves hiking, running, movies, biodiversity, ecology, psychology and is interested in mental health counseling. He hopes to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree and move on to a mental health counseling and eventually obtain a Master's Degree to become a mental health therapist.



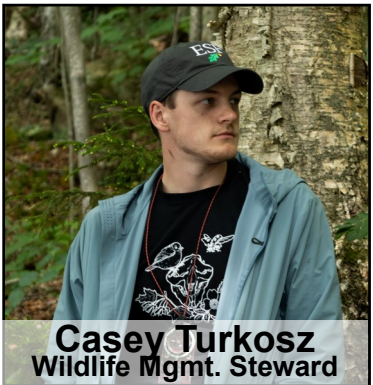
Fisher St. Claire
Conservation Steward

Fisher is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program at Ithaca College. They are from Wallingford, PA and enjoy going out in nature and learning about the plants, animals, and processes around! Fisher likes to spend free time hiking and foraging for edible plants and mushrooms and crafting with foraged materials. They are interested in learning more about cooking and preserving food to be able to live more sustainably! A main goal of theirs is to gain a wider understanding of plant/animal/mushroom ID and to get involved with projects related to mammal tracking and identification, populations surveys, garden planting, and invasives management/removal.



Madison Syrmanske
Conservation Steward

At Niagara University, Madison majors in Environmental Science. Port Byron, NY is home and she is happy spending time with her three nieces and nephew. While she is very interested in land animals, she also loves marine animals—from seals, to whales, to sharks, to stingrays, to even just the water itself. Madison has lots of fun going on adventures and walking nature trails. Madison strives to find a job involving wildlife conservation to help the environment and protecting the creatures that live in it.



Casey Turkosz
Wildlife Mgmt. Steward

Casey majors in Wildlife Science at SUNY ESF and served as a Wildlife Management Steward in the Central Region. He is from Harmony, NJ and his interests include birding, backpacking, hiking, music, board games, hockey, and baseball. Casey hopes to become a well-rounded ecologist through experiences in the lab and the field and to make a difference in the world of conservation. He currently has an interest in avian science, and wants to continue his education after graduating with his Bachelor's Degree.

2024 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Rae Burke	Wildlife Management Steward	SUNY ESF
Sara Czajkowski	Wildlife Management Steward	SUNY ESF
Helen Dibra	Environmental Education Center Host Steward	SUNY ESF
Giulia Gebert	Hartwick College FORCE Club President	Hartwick College
Michaela Germain	Wildlife Management Steward	Paul Smith's College
Sam Lasher	Environmental Education Center Host Steward	SUNY ESF
Bethany Mangioni	Conservation Steward	Niagara University
Gillian Pineau	Environmental Education Center Host Steward	SUNY ESF
Max Roy	Environmental Education Center Host Steward	SUNY ESF
Sam Swartz	Environmental Education Center Host Steward	SUNY ESF

2024 FORCES STEWARDS: Jr. Conservation Stewards

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



Adaline Hartman
Jr. Conservation Steward

Living in Sparta, NY, Addie is homeschooled and also takes a few courses at Genesee Community College. Dance, theatre, literature, bird watching, raising monarch butterflies, art have been long-time hobbies and she claims that attending Letchworth State Park's Home Ecologist Program for a number of years when she was younger, really deepened her love of nature. Addie loves teaching and working with children and thinks it would be really fun to perform in a Broadway Show!



Nandika Rajaram
Jr. Conservation Steward

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



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2024 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



Spring 2024

Giulia Gebert, President
Silas Moyer, Vice President

Fall 2024

Giulia Gebert, President
Silas Moyer, Vice President

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry



Spring 2024

Christiana Kosta, President
Allison Quear, Vice President
Mary Charleston, Treasurer
Meghan Walton, Secretary

Fall 2024

Christiana Kosta, President
Allison Quear, Vice President
Mary Charleston, Treasurer
Meghan Walton, Secretary

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences



Spring 2024

Jenna Canipe, President
Alex LaFever, Vice President
Jenna Magioncalda, Treasurer
Morgan Holsinger, Social Media

Fall 2024

Jenna Magioncalda, President
Morgan Holsinger, Vice President
Sophia Eallonardo, Treasurer
Marley Wong, Social Media

Club Advisor: Tom Hughes, Environmental Stewardship Biologist, NYS Parks



Spring 2024

On Pause

Fall 2024

Faculty Advisor: James Kiernan, Associate Professor, Geography Department



Spring 2024

Fall 2024

On Pause

2024 FORCES Team

In 2024, FORCES had a programmatic presence in three regions across the state, including Central, Finger Lakes, and Niagara. Within these regions, several OPRHP staff directly supervise FORCES Stewards, volunteers, clubs and their projects. In addition, this dedicated team works hard to maintain and grow FORCES relationships with our collegiate, agency and other partners.



Tom Hughes **Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Central Region** **Central Region FORCES Program Manager**

Tom holds a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell University, a MS in Biological Sciences from SUNY College at Brockport, and a Master's of Professional Studies in Environmental Interpretation from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has worked as a biologist for NYS OPRHP for nearly 17 years. Prior to his work in the NYS Parks system, Tom worked for SUNY ESF, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, and Cornell University. He has also served as a Professor for Limnology at Wells College. Tom grew up in the western Finger Lakes Region in the small town of Rush, NY.



Amy Kochem **FORCES Program Coordinator**

Amy received her AAS in Ecology and Environmental Technology from Paul Smith's College, her BS in Biological Science from SUNY Brockport, and her MS in Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation from SUNY Cortland. Amy has served as the FORCES Program Coordinator for over 11 years. Prior to holding this position, she was an environmental educator for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at Rogers Environmental Education Center. She enjoys music, gardening, interior decorating, and alpine/cross country skiing.



Carlin Shew **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.



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.



Anyka Tetu (Cerminaro)
FORCES Program Specialist, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Anyka graduated from SUNY ESF with her bachelors in Natural Resources Management as well as SUNY Ranger School with an Associates in Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation. She has worked on a number of lab programs with ESF as well most recently spending time with the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation where she worked as the crew leader of the Ladders to the Outdoors program. Just like any good ESF grad, she also is an enthusiast of fishing, hunting, running, hiking, camping and biking, as well all things outdoors!



Spencer Van Epps
SCA NYS Parks Corps FORCES Program Specialist, Central Region

Spencer grew up in Saratoga County and graduated from SUNY ESF in 2022 with a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science. Spencer spends the majority of their time with their two dogs and hopes to advance their handling skills as well as pick up scent work this year. Outside of the pups, Spencer enjoys board games, jigsaw puzzles, hiking, camping, and listening to audiobooks. They have always been passionate about dogs and work best when able to be physically active. Spencer would love to combine work in the field of canine conservation and spend time traveling and gain experience in a variety of ecosystems.



2024 FORCES Support Staff

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



Rachel Arcaro
American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Originally from Syracuse, NY, Rachel joined FORCES as a Natural Resources Management major at SUNY ESF. She served with FORCES as an American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician. Rachel likes to be outdoors and is interested in endangered species, forest health, and animals. She hopes to someday find a career that she loves.



Tee Atwater
American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

While attending SUNY ESF, Tee majors in Conservation Biology and served as an American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician. She grew up in Highland Park, NJ and loves working and being outside. Tee aspires to visit every national park and hopes to work in a national park some day.



Mat Bilz
Regional Stewardship Manager, Capital, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship 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.



Whitney Carleton
Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

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



Asmamaw Damtie
Nursery Technician, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

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



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

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



Nick Gonzalez
Invasives Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

After receiving his Associates Degree from SUNY ESF Ranger School in Env. and Natural Resource Conservation, Nick continued his education and is currently enrolled at SUNY ESF in the Ecosystems Science program. He has a profound appreciation for trees and the forests they grow in and is interested in wildlife conservation, particularly birds and herpetofauna. Outside of school/work, he enjoys skateboarding, hiking, baking, reading, and thrifting. Nick's goals include nurturing a connection with the natural world, and sharing that connection with others, to gain more experience in education and outreach, and meet individuals who share the same interests.



Jillian Harris
Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Niagara Region
Niagara Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Jillian has years of experience working alongside capital and operational staff on natural resource management across 18 parks. She specializes in invasive species management and habitat restoration on a local scale. Jillian was born and raised in Buffalo, receiving her Bachelor's Degree from Niagara University in Biology concentrating on Environmental Science and her Master's Degree from Colorado State University in Natural Resource Stewardship concentrating on ecological restoration. She enjoys being able to educate staff, visitors and the next generation on good stewardship practices, while relishing in the beauty of the natural world.



Charlie Ippolito
Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

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



Nicole Jeung
SCA NYS Parks Corps Educational Program Steward, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Nicole grew up in San Francisco, CA and graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. She enjoys hiking, running, yoga, swimming, going out to eat, and anything outdoors! Nicole would eventually like to go graduate school.



Delaney Kalsman
Stewardship Specialist, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Delaney received her Bachelor's of Science Degree from SUNY ESF where she studied Environmental Biology. Before holding her current position, Delaney was very active with FORCES as an Environmental Education Steward for several semesters. Delaney grew up in Olean, NY and she enjoys reading science fiction novels, sewing and knitting. She also enjoys hiking and identifying plant and bird species. Delaney would like to continue her education in invasive management and forestry as she enjoys land management and protecting native plant diversity



Elijah Kruger
Environmental Educator, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

Elijah is passionate about the outdoors and is always trying to find ways to help others get more out of their experiences in nature. He loves all things birds but is interested in teaching and learning more about any number of natural history topics. Since graduating from Ithaca College with a BS in Recreation Management he has worked for New York State Parks for over 10 years. He is currently an environmental educator in the Finger Lakes Region.



Holly Malinowski
American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Holly is working towards her Environmental Biology Degree from SUNY ESF. She is from Jordanville, NY and her interests include spending time with friends and family. She enjoys being outside and exploring new places. Professionally, Holly is interested in sharks and their conservation, along with gaining more knowledge on water quality testing and how this connects with freshwater bodies. Her goal is to obtain knowledge within her career field and to obtain a Master's Degree within conservation biology and work towards water quality testing within the surrounding lakes.



Raquel Mennella
American Hart's-tongue Fern Crew Leader, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Raquel is from Bridgewater, NJ and graduated from SUNY ESF with a BS in Environmental Biology. Her hobbies include hiking, baking, crocheting and she enjoys botanizing, learning new plants, and talking about plants to anyone who will listen. She also enjoys science communication and discussing environmental topics with individuals of all knowledge levels. Raquel's goals entail creating a positive impact on our earth which betters all organisms who dwell on it. To do this, she will focus on plant conservation as conserving plant's aids all of us in the long run.



Katie Mulverhill
Environmental Educator, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Katie enjoys being outside and introducing people to the nature that surrounds us. She earned her degree in Environmental and Forest Biology with a concentration in Nature Interpretation from SUNY ESF. She loves her job because every day she does something different! Some of Katie's favorite outdoor pastimes include snowshoeing, hiking, kayaking, birding, and camping. She travels to many of our parks throughout the Central Region for environmental education programs. Katie looks forward to working together soon!



Hunter Parise
SCA NYS Parks Corps Piping Plover Steward, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Hunter obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science from SUNY ESF. He is from Vestal, NY and is interested in wildlife conservation and management, the manipulation of ecosystems through silvicultural techniques has been a fascination of his since he learned about the various techniques at Ranger School. Education is also a great interest, as it is a powerful tool in getting the public to care about species. Hunter has many hobbies, including working with his hands and creating gardens and aquariums. He hopes to someday have and manage his own property and work a job that makes him happy. He'd like stability and the ability to better those around him by setting an example.



Jonathan Repp
American Hart's-tongue Fern Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

At SUNY ESF, Jonathan studied Environmental Biology and earned his Bachelor's Degree in 2024. He grew up in Fairport, NY and professionally, Jonathan's interests are flora and fungus. His free time is spent mountain biking, road biking, gravel biking, playing disc golf, and board games. He enjoys spending time with family and close friends. Jonathan would like to grow into a position where he can help ensure native plants are thriving and help with management of parks natural resources, whether it be with State Parks or NPS or even USFS.



Matias Romano
Environmental Education Program Steward, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Matias studies Biotechnology at SUNY ESF and has been a part of the FORCES team for a few seasons. He is originally from La Paz, Bolivia but spent all his childhood in Syracuse. Since he was little he's been going to NYS State Parks, which helped instill his love for the outdoors and all things nature. In his spare time Matias also lifeguards, swims, and enjoys being outside.



David Rutherford
Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Finger Lakes Region
Finger Lakes Environmental Field Team

Dave received his BS in Biotechnology at SUNY ESF and worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 7 years before changing careers to his true passion, conservation. As the field technician for the Plant Materials Program, Dave spends most of his time collecting local, native seeds for restoration and enhancement projects throughout New York State. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, backpacking, camping, hunting, and Wegmans.



Mike Serviss
Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Mike is a researcher and a field biologist specializing in rare and threatened plant conservation but also moonlights in environmental interpretation, cartography (GIS), and ecology. He earned an AS in Liberal Arts at Mohawk Valley Community College and BS and MS degrees in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. He coordinates all projects related to AHTF conservation in OPRHP, including propagation, reintroduction, invasive species and habitat management, education and outreach, and collaboration with our state and federal partners. Mike also helps coordinate Regional Stewardship and conservation projects. He grew up in New Hartford where he enjoyed skateboarding and eating the best pizza on Earth. Mike currently resides in Syracuse, NY and loves to play soccer, craft, travel, and explore nature.



Dave Spiering
Assistant Environmental Stewardship Western District Manager,
Niagara Region

Dave has worked for Parks for six years and currently works on stewardship in NYS State Parks and implementing conservation projects. 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 completed a PhD in 2019 at the University at Buffalo studying plant community succession in post-industrial ecosystems.



Peter Sterbak
Invasives Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Peter received an AS degree in Fine Arts, a BS in Psychology, a Juris Doctorate, and a MS in Education. He enjoys bicycling, pencil sketches, pen and inks, oil paintings, photography, and writing short stories. Peter and his wife also enjoy camping and a lifetime moment for him was at waking up at 3:00 am with his wife, atop Mt Mahogany in Death Valley seeing a satellite crease across the light-pollution free sky.



Savi-Cartier Stewart
Regional Sustainability Steward, SUNY Climate Corps, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Savi attends SUNY ESF and studies Environmental Resource Engineering. She grew up and resides in Syracuse, NY and her interests include all things technology-engineering design, playing a video game or understanding what the power of AI can do! She also enjoys time at home with family and her cats. Savi-Cartier hopes to someday become an environmental resource engineer, a profession focused on developing sustainable solutions for managing natural resources, addressing environmental challenges, and improving ecological health.



Brooke Stratton
SCA NYS Parks Corps Env. Education Steward, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

Brooke grew up in Prattsburg, NY and graduated from SUNY ESF with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Education and Interpretation. Environmental education is more than a job or hobby for her it's also so FUN- being able to connect with people on an environmental level and leaving them with a thirst for more adventure is so incredibly rewarding. Being outdoors is a must for Brooke and when she's not hiking, talking, or swimming Brooke enjoys reading and taking naps. Brooke would like to work on more public projects and find out what it's like to work for a public park and the different kinds of goals they have.



Billy Sullivan
Regional Technician, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

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



Kennedy Sullivan
Piping Plover Project Coordinator, Central Region
Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team

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

