



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

FORCES

Friends of Recreation, Conservation, and Environmental Stewardship

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Vol. 9 Issue 2

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

NYS Parks' Centennial Off To A "Wild" Start

Tom Hughes, Environmental Stewardship Biologist
Central Region FORCES Program Manager



Youth from Syracuse City Parks and Recreation gave our eastern bluebirds a head start to their breeding season by constructing nest boxes at Green Lakes State Park as part of a *Ladders to the Outdoors* program. Photo: OPRHP

This edition is certainly packed full of "wild" life, including lots of our feathered friends. This spring and early summer, FORCES Stewards and partners were out there building and monitoring nests, from eastern bluebirds to piping plovers to peregrine falcons. But, that's not the only wildlife we are keeping our eyes on. Finger Lakes FORCES Stewards have their camera lenses locked in, including at Jennings Pond (page 9), where camera traps have even captured river otters! We are lucky to have so many wildlife enthusiasts on our team. On page 7, you'll learn about a couple of our SUNY ESF superstars— *Audubon in the Parks Steward* Connor Jacobs (Conservation Biology) and NYS Parks Corps member Spencer Van Epps (Wildlife Science).



New York State
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We'll see you out there



FORCES Program Specialist Anyka Cerninaro releases silver flies to control hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) at Mexico Point State Park in partnership with NYS Hemlock Initiative. Photo: OPRHP

Wildlife comes in all shapes and sizes, including invasive insects. Learn more about the HWA from FORCES Alum and NYS Parks' Biologist Mike Serviss and what our agency and its partners are doing to protect native eastern hemlock forests (above and page 4).

Alumni Spotlight: Mike Serviss

NYS OPRHP Environmental Stewardship Biologist, Mid-State District (Central Region)

I would venture to guess that very few young folks, when imagining their future, would think, “When I grow up, I’m going to research and protect rare plants and people will refer to me as ‘The Fern Guy’.” I certainly did not imagine this future for myself, even through my twenties. Now, I could imagine no one I’d rather be than the “Fern Guy” at New York State Parks. FORCES played a big part in me becoming the professional pteridomaniac (fern enthusiast) that I am today. So, how did this come to be?

It was the spring of 2015 and I was finding my footing in the environmental field as a 30 year-old graduate student in the Fernando Lab at SUNY ESF. My research plan was set. I was to study methods for propagating and reintroducing the state and federally threatened American hart’s-tongue fern in central New York. One small matter was yet to be resolved- how can I get funding for this

research over the summer? This is where Tom Hughes and the FORCES program came in and played a big role in my life. I applied for the Edna Bailey Sussman Fellowship through SUNY ESF with Tom as my co-sponsor and internship supervisor. To my delight, my application was approved and I was set to work for NYS Parks on the fern project under the FORCES umbrella. I did not know it then, but this was the start of my professional career as the “Fern Guy” with NYS Parks.

We transplanted somewhere in the range of 2,000 hart’s-tongue ferns that summer with assistance from SUNY ESF students and NYS Parks FORCES interns. Additionally, we mapped and removed tens of thousands of invasive plants that were threatening hart’s-tongue fern populations at Clark Reservation and Chittenango Falls State Parks. These were major steps forward in the conservation of this rare and charismatic fern species- a species that has been researched and prized by botanists for centuries.

I returned to work for NYS Parks over the following summers as a seasonal staff member and successfully defended my thesis in December 2017 while working for Parks as a long-term seasonal. Tom was a member of my graduate committee and has proved a valuable mentor throughout my career, guiding me through as I worked up the ranks and eventually became appointed to an Environmental Stewardship Biologist title in 2023. Over this time I have researched many biological topics, coordinated state and federally funded conservation projects, became a published scientist, formed partnerships with numerous conservation-minded organizations, mentored dozens of FORCES Stewards, graduate students, and Parks staff, organized responses to major forest health issues in our Parks, and, the achievement that has led to my fitting moniker as the “Fern Guy,” managed the continued propagation, reintroduction, and recovery project for the American hart’s-tongue fern.

Needless to say, it has been quite a journey from my humble beginnings in the field as a volunteer small animal handler at the Utica Zoo to where I am currently. I have to give a huge thanks to Tom Hughes, Amy Kochem, and the FORCES program for their significant positive impact on my career and my life. Who knows what people would be calling me these days without that first step back in 2015.



Mike Serviss training FORCES Stewards to identify and census the American hart’s-tongue fern. Photo: OPRHP



Farewell Wells College FORCES. We will miss you!

Coordinator's Corner

Amy Kochem, FORCES Program Coordinator

As always, it was an incredible spring with many fantastic project happenings. Stewards participated in unique project work including hemlock woolly adelgid monitoring, raptor surveys, live plant staking, native plantings, and lots of environmental education. In January, we welcomed Spencer Van Epps, SCA FORCES Program Specialist, to our team (see p. 7).

Our 9th Annual FORCES Leadership Summit was held on April 6th at SUNY ESF. This year's Summit was especially exciting because it was held in conjunction with the National Association for Interpretation's Northeast Regional Conference. Students had the opportunity to attend informative workshops throughout the day and to network with many professionals in the field.

We said goodbye to Joyce Lytle, former FORCES Program Specialist in the Niagara Region. Joyce accomplished many wonderful tasks in her short time with FORCES. We wish her all the best on her new journey!



FORCES Staff and Stewards and NYS Parks Corps in front of Marshall Hall at SUNY ESF for the 9th Annual FORCES Summit. Photo: OPRHP

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***Denotes active FORCES Clubs**

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Pittsford Mendon High School
Pittsford Sutherland High School
Sandy Creek High School
Scarsdale High School
Waverly Central School

Central Region Update

Mike Serviss, Environmental Stewardship Biologist; Delaney Kalsman, Stewardship Specialist; Billy Sullivan, Regional Technician; Kennedy Sullivan, Piping Plover Project Coordinator



Biocontrol insect predators known as silver flies (*Leucotaraxis piniperda*) begin to feast on HWA at Mexico Point State Park. April 2024. Photo: OPRHP

We focused on surveying and management of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) this winter and spring. NYS Parks staff, FORCES Stewards, SCA NYS Parks Corps, and volunteers helped to survey over 1,100 acres of Central Region hemlock forests at fifteen different parks. Finger Lakes PRISM also assisted with HWA surveys at Green Lakes and Bowman Lake. We did not detect any HWA in any new parks this season, leaving six parks HWA-free (to our knowledge). As many of our HWA detections have occurred within the last four years, our hemlock stands and forests are generally intact. We are working hard to keep them in the best condition possible. This spring we chemically treated hemlocks at two parks with the greatest need (Selkirk Shores and Mexico Point). We also released several thousand biocontrol insect predators with our partners at the New York State Hemlock Initiative Lab at Cornell University at Selkirk Shores and Mexico Point. These activities add to work done in previous years. We hope that the integrated

management of these hemlock stands will help to keep HWA populations in control and preserve these awe-inspiring forests for generations.

Work on the American hart's-tongue fern (AHTF) project also continued as we tended to our AHTF propagates at Clark Reservation State Park throughout the winter and spring. We have a stock of about 125 ferns to plant in this, the culminating year of the reintroduction project! To assist with the planting and related conservation management goals for the fern project, we welcomed a huge crew of six seasonal staff this spring. The Fern Crew will also help with invasive species management, data collection, population censuses, and community engagement throughout the 2024 season. Stay tuned for highlights from the season in the next newsletter!

~Mike

The spring season focused on the management of nuisance Canada goose populations. Including the hazing and treatment of nests in areas of high patron traffic. This work is done to reduce patron-animal conflict as well as reduce potential water quality risks such as HABs (harmful algal blooms) which can be a result of large numbers of geese in one area. FORCES Stewards from SUNY ESF & SCA NYS Parks Corps members participated in management efforts, covering over 20 miles of trail along the Erie Canal, Glimmerglass State Park, and Battle Island Golf Course. Overall, four nests were successfully treated in high traffic areas along the Erie Canal and at Battle Island Golf Course. Additionally, staff monitored Canada geese for avian influenza at Green Lakes State Park (Cont'd p. 5).



SUNY ESF FORCES survey coverboards at Selkirk Shores State Park. Photo: OPRHP

Central Region Update (Cont'd)

Mike Serviss, Environmental Stewardship Biologist; Delaney Kalsman, Stewardship Specialist; Billy Sullivan, Regional Technician; Kennedy Sullivan, Piping Plover Project Coordinator

FORCES Stewards and park staff continued monitoring coverboards and red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) as a bioindicator to assess long term forest health changes. Currently, we are monitoring eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) stands at Selkirk Shores and Robert V. Riddell State Parks but received confirmation to start monitoring Mexico Point State Park in the spring. This is an effort to monitor long term health of the stands as treatments for hemlock wooly adelgid continue. For one survey, staff were joined by SUNY ESF FORCES Chapter for a survey at Selkirk Shores.

~Delaney

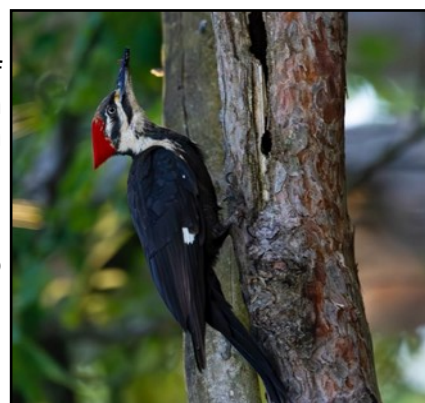


FORCES Stewards monitoring bluebird nests at Chittenango Falls SP.
Photo: OPRHP

BCA (Bird Conservation Area) Morning Songbird Surveys: Rosamond Gifford Zoo and FORCES Stewards have joined together to help conduct morning song bird surveys at Green Lakes State Park. The goal of this project is for Park Staff to get a better idea of the diversity and abundance of specific grassland songbirds in the park. Green Lakes has one of the largest BCAs in the Central Region. Knowing which species of birds are present and or continually coming back year after year, will help with future grassland management projects.

Old Growth Songbird Surveys: FORCES Stewards and Parks Staff have been conducting Old Growth Forest Songbird Surveys at Green Lakes State Park. Points within the Old Growth Forest were picked and surveyed once a week for songbird abundance and diversity. This will help determine the overall health of our Old

Growth Forest based on species abundance and diversity. This will in turn, help to get a better idea of deer abundance. There is a correlation with old growth songbird species and deer browsing activity.



Pileated woodpecker. Photo: OPRHP



Eastern bluebird eggs and fledglings. Photo: OPRHP



Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Checks: FORCES Stewards and Park Staff have been monitoring for eastern bluebird reproduction success at Green Lakes and Chittenango Falls State Parks. Green Lakes SP is home to 25 bluebird boxes, and Chittenango Falls SP is home to 19 boxes. So far this year, Green Lakes has had 30+ bluebirds fledge with around five-six more tree swallow nests with eggs/nestlings. All boxes are home to a mix of eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens. Chittenango Falls SP has had two blacked capped chickadees fledge. While also having three-four house wren nests, 1 tree swallow and 1 bluebird nest, none of which have fledged yet, at the time of this writing.

~Billy

Central Region Update (Cont'd)

Mike Serviss, Environmental Stewardship Biologist; Delaney Kalsman, Stewardship Specialist; Billy Sullivan, Regional Technician; Kennedy Sullivan, Piping Plover Project Coordinator

Before plovers arrived, our team partnered with the SCA Thousand Islands Trail Crew with habitat restoration efforts at Sandy Island Beach State Park! We graded sand, cut down dead trees, and removed encroaching vegetation that was impeding on nesting habitat. The team also participated in several outreach events to keep spreading the word about plover conservation!

The plover season started off strong with three prospecting adults visiting Sandy Island Beach State Park. Arwen, a nester since 2018 at our park, came back for another season. She unfortunately chased off a new visitor, Evie, who originated from Michigan. After Arwen's territorial dispute and inability to find a male, she moved north to nest in Canada. Hawkeye successfully returned for his 2nd nesting season. He originally started at Sandy Island Beach SP but moved to NYS DEC's beach—Lakeview Wildlife Management Area. There, he paired up with Stevie Nicks, who hatched at Sandy Island in 2020. Stevie Nicks and Hawkeye got settled at Lakeview and were able to nest!



Central Region SCA and Thousand Islands Trail Crew members assisting with habitat restoration at Sandy Island Beach SP. Photo: OPRHP



Poppi Seed (left) and a killdeer. Photo: OPRHP

Our season unfortunately took a huge loss when Stevie Nicks was preyed upon by a suspected mink. US Fish and Wildlife Service recovered the eggs, and they were sent to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse for rehabilitation. The zoo is not only a great resource during emergencies, but their zookeepers are now helping us in-the-field directly with the plovers. During this difficult time, we heard news from our Canadian friends that Poppi Seed, a 2023 chick from our beaches, was found and survived his first winter! It seems we called Poppi into existence because only a few days later, he appeared at Sandy Island Beach! He gave our Stewards a difficult time when it came to reading his bands and flying off for a few days... but it seems he's stuck around.

Currently, Hawkeye and Poppi Seed are our only plovers in NYS between Lakeview and Sandy Island. We are in a shortage of females and the further the season progresses, the less chances we have for a new nesting attempt. Our bachelors will continue to be protected through our dedicated stewardship efforts.

~Kennedy

"This position made realize that conservation work is a true passion of mine. My college years have helped allow me to explore different options for what areas I want to study, but not necessarily specific jobs. This internship allowed me to practice working in the field and helped me recognize a very real possible career path for me. I felt extremely accomplished by the end of my time with FORCES."

~Ben Newsome, Ithaca College

Steward Spotlight: Connor Jacobs

Audubon in the Parks Steward, Central Region



My name is Connor Jacobs and I grew up in East Syracuse, NY. This fall, I will be a senior at SUNY ESF majoring in Conservation Biology. I am interested in charismatic fauna, in particular those of the avian variety. I have a particular passion for photography and enjoy taking pictures of these beautiful creatures, as well as other components of the natural world.

This is my third year as a FORCES Steward. My first position was with DEC FORCES, assessing assets at State Lands and Forests and other locations around the CNY Region. The following summer, I moved to the State Parks side doing more invasive management and working with species of conservation concern. As an Audubon in the Parks Steward, I have been involved in point count assessments of local bird species and bird nest box surveys at Green Lakes State Park. I have also been involved with the Piping Plover Project at Sandy Island Beach on Lake Ontario. I am also involved in the protection of the nesting grounds and educating the public of the importance of preserving this endangered species. Another endangered species I work with is the Chittenango Ovale Amber Snail. This project involves site surveys, invasive species management, public outreach and rearing in the lab at SUNY ESF. Other projects I am involved with include deer impact

assessments, beaver dam removals, and park management in various locations around CNY. Being a FORCES Steward allows me the opportunity for valuable hands-on experience, working on many different projects while being outside in nature.

Staff Highlight: Spencer Van Epps

NYS Parks Corps FORCES Program Specialist, Central Region

I am thrilled to have rejoined the FORCES team this fall as the SCA FORCES Program Specialist for the Central Region! I first got involved with FORCES in 2022, during my senior year at SUNY ESF as a Deer Check Station Steward out of Green Lakes State Park. After the stewardship role and graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science, I knew that I wanted to work with State Parks in some way or another. I had applied for a different SCA position within Parks initially, and I was lucky when Tom Hughes thought that I would be a better fit for this position, and I have been loving the role. The variety of work ranges from environmental education, habitat restoration, invasive species management, to surveying and more, has kept me busy and learning a lot quickly.

I hope to continue to be a part of the team and have a positive impact on our shared projects!



Finger Lakes Update

Carlin Shew, FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

Finger Lakes welcomed two new Conservation Stewards this semester. Ben Newsome and Chiarina Hunt, both Ithaca College students, have been working hard during the Spring 2024 season on a variety of stewardship projects around the region. From trail corridor clearing at Sampson, to new bluebird boxes at Taughannock Falls and Robert Treman, visiting the New York State Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI) for overwintering mortality surveys, Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) egg mass surveys around the Ithaca area, invasive species removals, benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring, bird surveys and so much more. We have been busy getting around the whole region, to 15 total Finger Lakes State Parks.



Left to right: Carlin, Chiarina, and Ben on the Taughannock Falls Gorge Trail. Photo: OPRHP

In addition to our Conservation Stewards, we welcomed back two students from Ithaca College who continued with the program from the Fall semester, Nicole Schroeders and Fisher St. Clair. This semester, they focused on a research project looking at roadkill ecology on roads adjacent to Buttermilk Falls State Park. They created transects where they recorded vehicle-wildlife collisions throughout the season and conducted wildlife camera trapping in surrounding forest. They collected and preserved the specimens they found using pelt preservation techniques taught by Finger Lakes Biologist, Dave

Rutherford, and presented their findings in a community workshop held at The Soil Factory (a local community center in Ithaca, NY). Thanks to Nicole and Fisher for their ongoing dedication to the FORCES program.



FORCES Conservation Stewards and SCA Parks Corps members at the New York State Hemlock Initiative Lab at Cornell University. Photo: OPRHP

We also hosted two students from the Rochester, NY area this spring. Brian McMahon, a SUNY Brockport graduating senior, completed his 500-hour internship to graduate with a degree in Park & Rec Management. He served the position of Environmental Field Team & Education Steward working at the Environmental Field Office at Ganondagan State Historic Site and assisting the stewardship team, trails

crew, and education team across a wide variety of great projects, including the NYS Eclipse event, guided tours, trails maintenance and work at Chimney Bluffs State Park and Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, assisting regional biologists and assisting the Mid-State District and Statewide FORCES group with a live staking planting at Westcott Beach. We are happy to welcome Brian to our Environmental Stewardship Team as a seasonal employee this summer season (Cont'd p.9)!



Live staking planting days at Westcott Beach State Park with FORCES Stewards, SCA, and Parks Staff from the Mid-State Capital District. Photo: OPRHP

Finger Lakes Update (Cont'd)

Carlin Shew, FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

Last but certainly not least, is Addie Hartman, a homeschooler and Genesee Community College Student from Sparta, NY who served as a Jr. Conservation Steward this semester. Addie focused her hours on peregrine falcon surveys at Stony Brook State Park where we had our second ever nest attempt (last year was their first attempt that was unsuccessful). Unfortunately, this year again the eggs did not hatch. However, it was through Addie's continued and thorough surveys, that we realized this was likely due to observed improper incubation and prolonged periods of cold where adults were not incubating their eggs. We hope that the pair of falcons return to Stony Brook State Park and try again for a viable nest next year. Check out this edition's [Featured Project](#) to learn about the Taughannock Falls nest!

Our wildlife tracking and camera trap project at Jennings Pond saw the most productive season yet in 2024, with amazing sightings in person and on our trail cameras. FORCES Conservation Stewards did a lot of work sorting and organizing camera footage from the season, with Ben creating two highlight reels which are posted on our FORCES social media accounts (@forcesnys on Instagram)!

We started the season strong with tracking otter slides off the loop trail at Jennings Pond adjacent to the hemlock swamp. Ben hung up a camera at that exact location and the next week we had amazing video footage of a river otter sliding and running through the area. Our second-best location, the furthest south in the park which we've nicknamed "The Game Trail" has been the best camera location by far with incredible diversity this season. We got clips of beaver, porcupine, fisher, and a male ruffed grouse displaying his feathers and neck ruff. We loved to see the wide variety of wildlife in our parks this season and will continue this project to see what other interesting critters turn up! Stay tuned for more fun feathered and furry updates from our social media pages this summer.



Top left: bobcat; top right: beaver; bottom left: river otter; bottom right: ruffed grouse. Photos: OPRHP



Ithaca College Environmental Studies students survey for benthic macroinvertebrates in Buttermilk Creek. Photo: OPRHP

FORCES hosted their annual lab visit from Ithaca College Environmental Studies students on April 23rd and 25th where students surveyed the health of our creeks and eastern hemlock forests at upper Buttermilk Falls State Park. SCA Parks Corps Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Stewards, Torie Lakkis-Biggs and Kristen Broadbent assisted leading the group with help from Educators Finn Henderson, Meagan Terry, Spencer Grinsfelder, and Abby Aitken. This collaboration is an annual tradition that helps introduce a new generation of Stewards to the beauty of our parks and importance of work to monitor and conserve our streams and forests. Thanks as always to our Ithaca College faculty partner and Professor, Anne Stork, for the continued support.

Lastly, two notable events that finished out the spring semester were leading invasive species removals at Fillmore Glen State Park's "I Love My Park Day" volunteer event and hosting our region's first ever "FORCES Project Expo" at our Environmental Education & Stewardship Office. This end-of-season showcase event allowed spring Stewards to share details of their impressive work throughout the semester with regional staff, managers, and administrators. Participants joined in-person and virtually to listen to all 5 Stewards present on their focus projects. Stay tuned for another FORCES Project Expo in August for our summer Stewards to showcase their great work this season!

Featured Project: Taughannock Falls Peregrine Falcons

Carlin Shew, FORCES Program Specialist, Finger Lakes Region

This Spring 2024 semester marks the third consecutive year Finger Lakes FORCES Stewards and staff have surveyed the Peregrine Falcons at Taughannock Falls throughout the nesting season. Since the falcon's return to the gorge in 2020, FORCES Staff have been in collaboration with Finger Lakes Environmental Stewardship and Region 7 DEC Wildlife staff to gather important behavioral information to help inform management of this New York State endangered species. This semester, FORCES Conservation Steward Ben Newsome and Program Specialist, Carlin Shew took on the majority of the surveying for this project and were assisted by additional staff, Stewards, and Student Conservation Association members.



Finger Lakes Stewardship Staff members Chenga Drury, Whitney Carleton, and US Forest Service staff surveying the nest during a tour of Taughannock Falls. Photo: OPRHP

This nesting season was early in timeline compared to the 2023 season, with eggs laid, hatch, and fledge dates happening approximately 5 days earlier than last year.

We documented that eggs were laid on or around March 15th. During the period of incubation, both the female and male adult falcons were vigilant with keeping their eggs warm. FORCES Staff witnessed the pair switching off the nest several times and they were never seen leaving the eggs uncovered for more than 10-15 seconds.

Hatch occurred on April 18th, with four fuzzy white chicks observed sitting under their mother, still doing her important work to keep the young warm during the early spring cold snaps. Unfortunately, the unseasonably cold weather during the weekend of April 27th-28th saw one chick lost. With this loss, Regional Stewardship Staff were on high alert for potential stress or other issues with the nest.



Adult female perched on the South Rim Trail. Photo: OPRHP



Photos: OPRHP

As April turned to May and our fledge window approached, the park started to come to life with the hustle and bustle of visitors. This is when the Finger Lakes Regional Administration and Park Managers made the call to act with an abundance of caution and re-route a small section of trail within line-of-site to the nest. The goal was to give a buffer for the nest, decreasing human activity and overall impact during the critical week leading up to our anticipated fledge date. Thanks to great DEC and Regional State Parks cooperation, we had signage immediately made and posted, as well as direct communication with local birders in the community. This management was rolled out quickly, and thankfully we can say preceded a healthy and normal fledge for all three chicks over Memorial Day weekend! This project was a team effort, thank you to all who assisted on this important work.

Partner Highlight

Audubon NY & Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Fly-in, Take Two!



This past March, NYS Parks and FORCES again partnered with Audubon NY and Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition to send *Audubon in the Parks* Stewards to D.C. Photo right—Nandika Rajaram, Perle Convey & Kennedy Sullivan.

<https://ny.audubon.org/news/great-lakes-plover-protectors-meet-dc-lawmakers>

Photos: Nandika Rajaram & Kennedy Sullivan



We want the Roots Network to amplify the passions of our Stewards, share FORCES Family stories, and help each other grow personally and professionally in the field we care so much about. We encourage you to join the FORCES Roots Alumni Network group on *LinkedIn* and connect with fellow Stewards there. Share job opportunities, highlights from your current positions, and relevant events amongst good friends. Finally, thank you for finding a family in FORCES and laying down Roots with us!



Send us your Selfies!

We are always looking for great pics for our FORCES photo album. We know you are out there working hard, having fun, and taking some amazing shots of our beautiful State Parks. Please share them with us. It is through your collective lens that we see all of us together as a FORCES family.



The Force Behind FORCES Picture Page



FL Stewards and FORCES Staff Ben, Carlin, Fisher, and Nicole at the FORCES Project Expo.



Live staking planting days at Westcott Beach State Park! FORCES Stewards, SCA, and Park Staff from the Mid-State Capital District came out to assist.



FL Steward Ben Newsome hanging up the first camera trap of the semester at Jennings Pond.



FL Stewards Torie, Kristen, Carlin, Ben and Chiarina at Fillmore Glen's I Love My Park Day on May 4th.



Eastern meadowlark in Green Lakes State Park's BCA.

Photos: OPRHP



Kennedy leading a "Paint and Listen" event at the Great Swamp Conservancy.



Ithaca College Environmental Studies students assess canopy health of Eastern hemlock forests.



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**FORCES Newsletter
Summer Edition 2024**

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