

# 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

## 2023 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES



**Abby Aitken**  
Conservation Steward

Abby majors in Environmental Studies and Anthropology at Ithaca College. She is from Aspen Hill, MD and has fun cooking, swimming, beekeeping and gardening. She also enjoys art-mainly collage, drawing, and woodworking and her interests include environmental justice, invasive species, ethnobotany, environmental anthropology, and plant medicine. Abby's goals are to grow a ginger plant, develop skills in environmental education, improve her plant ID and cultivation skills, work on an anthropological/ethnographic project, and volunteer at a food-justice oriented organization.



**Braden Alessi**  
Plant Materials Steward

While attending Binghamton University, Braden is working towards his Master's Degree in Sustainable Communities. He grew up in Ogden, NY and enjoys gardening and ballroom dancing. Braden is interested in indoor house plants, sustainability, and meteorology. Once he earns his Master's Degree, Braden would like to pursue a career in the field of sustainability with a focus on climate change and learn more about international sustainability and environmental policies, projects, and plans.



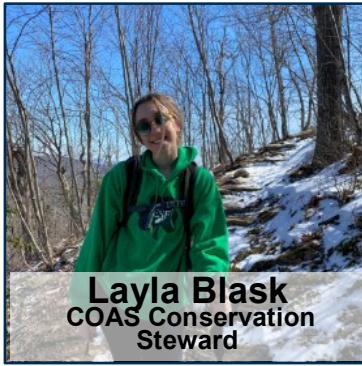
**Rachel Arcaro**  
American Hart's-Tongue  
Fern Technician

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.



**Lindsey Beck**  
Conservation Steward

Lindsey is currently a student at Niagara University, majoring in Environmental Science. Her hometown is Buffalo, NY, and she stays busy gardening, golfing, and spending time outside. Professionally, she'd like to work in environmental microbiology or conservation, specifically in water quality. One of her goals is to travel and experience new areas of nature in the world.



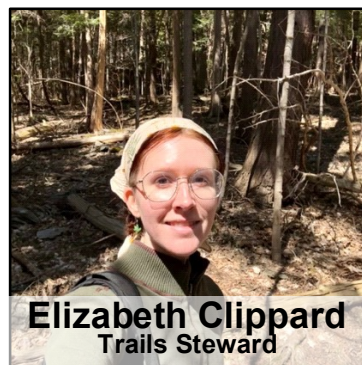
Layla attends SUNY ESF and studies Environmental Studies (Planning, Law, & Policy). In addition to serving as a COAS Steward, Layla holds the title of ESF FORCES Club Social Media Coordinator. She calls New Hartford, NY home and her interests include hiking, gardening, public outreach, and volunteering. Layla's goals are to network in her field and develop connections, learn more about public outreach, and possibly attend law school.



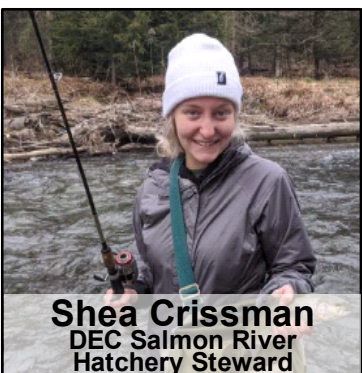
As a Hartwick College student originally from Yaroslavi, Russia, Margarita serves as the Hartwick College FORCES Club President. She majors in Computer Science and is a big fan of hiking and yoga. Both activities make her happy and help understand herself better. She also enjoys coding and the plethora of possibilities of how it can make the world a better place by writing programs and creating various Internet platforms. Margarita's goals reflect her interests as she'd like to become a software developer and create an app that will allow people to do for our planet and earn some benefits from it.



Madison, a Conservation Biology major at SUNY ESF, served with both NYS Parks and DEC FORCES as a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Steward and Habitat Protection Steward, respectively. She's from West Nyack, NY and enjoys hiking and camping and loves the Adirondacks! She's interested in animal care, habitat restoration work, watershed management, and forest health. Madison definitely wants to work outdoors, possibly doing restoration work.



Hailing from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Elizabeth attends SUNY ESF and is on track to earn a Master's Degree in Forest Resource Management. She served with FORCES as a Trails Steward, giving her the experience to fulfill her interests of invasive insects, forest ecology, and tree interactions. Elizabeth has also been sewing for over 10 years and loves painting with watercolors. With FORCES, she hoped to gain additional field and practical experience, as well as hands-on knowledge of New York ecology. After completing her degree, she would like to work in county/state parks or with the DEC.



Enrolled as a student at SUNY ESF studying Conservation Biology, Shea joined the FORCES team as a Salmon River Hatchery Steward with the DEC. She calls Bradford, PA home and enjoys fishing, skiing, snowboarding, camping, hiking, and building Legos. Her professional interests are aquatics, ecology, sampling, orienteering, and ecological interactions. She hopes to maintain a 3.0+ GPA for her remaining time at ESF and to one day move to Montana to become an environmental consultant with an oil and gas company.



**Trinity Cullen**  
Conservation Steward

Trinity, who served as a Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region, is from Brewster, NY and attends SUNY ESF. She majors in Conservation Biology and after graduating in 2004, plans to start either graduate or law school. In her free time, Trinity likes to cross stitch, go horseback riding, and play video games.



**Gavin Daugherty**  
DEC Fisheries Access  
Steward

Gavin attends SUNY Morrisville as an Environmental and Natural Resources Management major, and hails from Indianapolis, IN. He joined the FORCES team as a DEC Fisheries Access Steward. Gavin loves fishing, kayaking, gaming, and traveling. He'd like to become more educated and skilled in the aquaculture and fisheries conservation industry, learn more about different species of fish/wildlife, and to better understand the ecosystems that they live in, and how to manage them. Gavin would like to perfect his fly fishing techniques.



**Aubrianna  
De Lario-Brown**  
Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Serving with FORCES as an Audubon in the Parks Piping Plover Steward, Aubrianna is a student at SUNY ESF majoring in Wildlife Science. Her hometown is Rochester, NY, and she is very interested in the migration and productivity of avian species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Her favorite method of gathering data for this kind of science is through bird banding. Aubrianna's goals for the future include a public outreach/environmental education as well as biological consulting. Her first plan of action when she completes her undergraduate is to go into the Peace Corps.



**Julia DiGeronimo**  
Conservation Steward

Julia, who served as a Conservation Steward, is a student at Ithaca College majoring in Environmental Studies and Writing. She is originally from Verona, NJ. She currently works as a beekeeper, which has become one of her main interests. Reading fiction is a favorite thing to do during free time. While interning with FORCES in the Finger Lakes Region, Julia's goal was to experience working in another type of environmental job to see if she liked field work. She also wants to expand her environmental experience and always learn more.



**Ciaran Edwards**  
Restoration Steward

Growing up locally in Lewiston, NY, Ciaran served as a Restoration Steward in the Niagara Region. He attends Wesleyan University where he studies Biology. Ciaran's hobbies include bird watching, hiking, camping, and canoeing, as well as collegiate wrestling and playing guitar. His goals while interning were to help conserve nature and restore natural habitat as well as expand his skillset as he works towards his goal of becoming a research biologist.



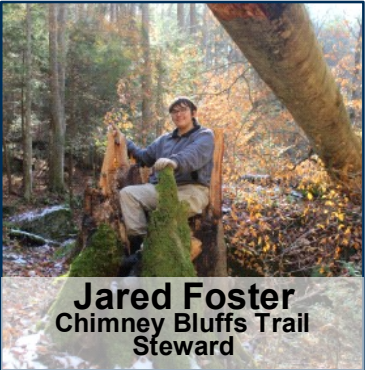
**Kayla Elkhay**  
Wildlife Conservation  
Steward

As a student attending SUNY ESF, Kayla majors in Conservation Biology. She is originally from Ludlow, MA, and joined the FORCES team as a Wildlife Conservation Steward in the Central Region. She enjoys reading, writing, watching anime, doing martial arts, and volunteer work. Currently she's volunteering at a cat shelter. Kayla's goals are to get involved in academic research and/or find employment in the conservation field. She thrives with both lab and field work.



**Jack Fegeley**  
Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Jack is a student at SUNY Oswego enrolled in Zoology. He served as an Audubon in the Parks Piping Plover Steward on Lake Ontario, going to work with his interests in conserving the environment, particularly, the Great Lakes Region, in which Jack has come to love. He enjoys hiking, camping, playing board games, working, and interacting with animals.



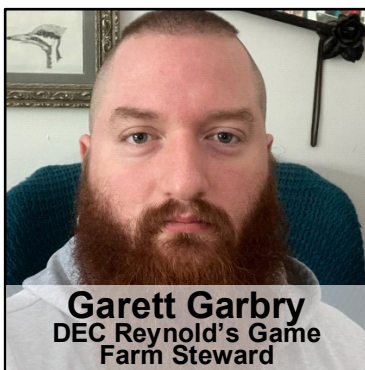
**Jared Foster**  
Chimney Bluffs Trail  
Steward

Originally from Port Byron, NY, Jared is working towards an Environmental Science degree at SUNY ESF. He enjoys woodworking, hiking, and map making and hopes to pursue career with the National Park Service.



**Ryan Frohlich**  
Wildlife Mngmt. Steward

Ryan is a student at SUNY ESF majoring in Conservation Biology. He is from West Babylon, NY, and one of his greatest interests is herpetology/herping. It's a hobby that Ryan has dedicated most of his time (and money) to. When he's not herping, he loves backpacking, hiking, and fishing, and being able to experience and enjoy nature to the fullest. A professional goal is to work on invasive species management and develop management plans to limit the spread of invasive species throughout the United States.



**Garrett Garbry**  
DEC Reynold's Game  
Farm Steward

Garrett joined FORCES as a DEC Reynold's Game Farm Steward in his home town of Ithaca, NY. He is enrolled at Tompkins Cortland Community College in the Environmental Studies program. He is passionate about zoology, agriculture, conservation, public education, invasive species control, outdoor recreation, hiking, hunting, kayaking, swimming, wading through swamps, and flower and produce gardening. He'd like to someday move south, buy land, build his own ecofriendly home and small farm, work for someone in the sustainability/conservation field, wetland conservation, or some combination there, "retire" and shift into self-employment, owning and operating a zoo.



Coming from Worcester, NY, Leean is a student at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in Wildlife Management. She enjoys gardening, bird watching, hiking, animal welfare, and interior design. Leean would like to become an Associate Wildlife Biologist by 2025 and work on conserving and protecting endangered and threatened species by educating the public and advocating for these species in the communities they inhabit. She hopes to start a wildlife rehabilitation facility within her lifetime as she just received her Class I Wildlife Rehabilitator License. Leean would also like to have a suitable location to house wounded wildlife, big and small.



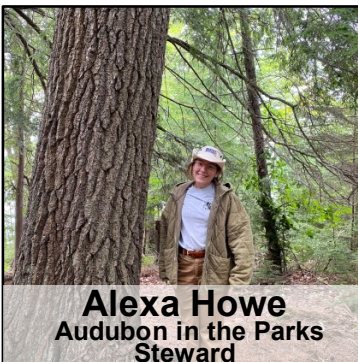
Ella attends Ithaca College and majors in Environmental Studies. She grew up in Manlius, NY and loves all things animal related, especially birds and mammals. She's interested in wildlife conservation and building better connections between animals and humans. In her free time, Ella enjoys walking around Danby State Forest with her rescue dog, Bea, or reading a book. She has been a beekeeper for three years, including head beekeeper at Ithaca College during summer of 2023, and hopes to continue beekeeping for as long as she can! Ella wants to continue to build her knowledge of the natural world around and help others see the beauty and importance of it. She would love to work in some form as an environmental educator.



Morgan is a native of Syracuse, NY, and is enrolled at SUNY ESF majoring in Conservation Biology with a minor in Marine Science. She likes to spend time reading, camping and watching David Attenborough documentaries. Morgan is passionate about herpetology and conservation, and would like to gain experiences involving plant identification through field work and outreach programs. Her goals include working for the DEC, conducting research at an aquarium or for the National Park Service, and to be able to reach out to the public about the importance of conservation and what they can do to help. Wherever her path leads her, Morgan sees herself researching the relationship between species in the environment and how to manage, protect, and conserve them in their natural habitat.



As a student at the University at Buffalo, Sara majors in Environmental Geoscience. She is originally from Canandaigua, NY and enjoys hiking, baking, thrifting, reading, and skiing. Sara's goals include gaining more field work experience and confidence with plant identification. After graduation Sara wants to go into soil conservation. Everyday Sara is working towards living a more sustainable, zero-waste lifestyle.



Alexa is working towards her Bachelor's Degree in Forest Health at SUNY ESF and is from Honeoye Falls, NY. Some of her interests include art, reading, crochet, and hiking. Professionally, Alexa is interested in making the health of our forests a topic of discussion and applying her knowledge on forest ecosystems in a professional setting. While working with FORCES, Alexa's goals were to learn more about native and invasive plants and insects and apply what she has learned in school to the position. Her professional goals include finding a niche within her major that she would like to pursue as a career.



**Connor Jacobs**  
COAS Conservation  
Steward

Connor is a student at SUNY ESF studying Wildlife Sciences, and is from Syracuse, NY. After joining FORCES as a DEC Land and Forest Steward last summer, Connor continued on and served as a COAS Conservation Steward with Parks. One of his goals is to become a National Geographic wildlife photographer, and this shines through in his passion for photography and birding/ornithology.



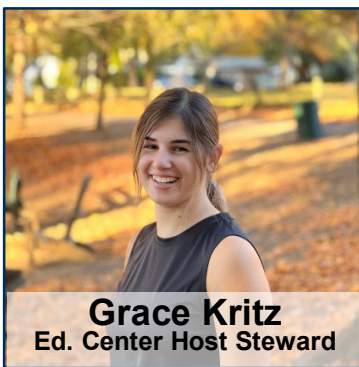
**Kyle Koprevich**  
Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Since he has so many different interests relating to nature, Kyle decided to study Forest Health at SUNY ESF. Growing up in Owego, NY offered lots of opportunities for him to enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, camping, boating, and playing music on his guitar. Kyle is also interested in habitat restoration and wildlife management. His goals are to identify invasives species at a quicker rate and learn more about how to remove them effectively. Professionally, Kyle would love to work in the forest health field.



**Christianna Kosta**  
Le Moyne FORCES  
Club President

Hailing from Plaistow, NH, Christianna is a student enrolled at Le Moyne College and majors in Environmental Science Systems and Biology. She joined the FORCES team as the Le Moyne FORCES Club President in the fall of '23. Music is a huge passion of Christianna's, as is educating youth on sustainability and preservation, and traveling. Her goal is to work on clean energy and restoration.



**Grace Kritz**  
Ed. Center Host Steward

Grace served as an Education Center Host Steward while attending SUNY ESF. She majors in Conservation Biology and grew up in Buffalo, NY. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, nature walks, singing, drawing, and weightlifting. Grace has several goals including working with algal blooms/ocean, travel, and photography.



**Savannah Kuhr**  
Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Savannah attends SUNY ESF as an Environmental Science major, and hails from Clay, NY. She enjoys running and is an athlete on the SUNY ESF cross-country and track & field teams. In her free time, Savannah loves to bake. Professionally, she's interested in environmental law. Savannah would like to dedicate her future career to leaving an impact in the world of environmental science.



**Alexis LaFever**  
AHTF Conservation  
Steward

Originally from Morrisville, NY, Alexis attends SUNY ESF with plans to graduate with a major in Wildlife Science. While with FORCES, Alexis was an American Hart's-Tongue Fern Steward in the Central Region. She loves wetlands and has a recent interest in birding. Professionally, Alexis wants to work in habitat restoration/management with waterfowl, wetlands, or upland game birds. She'd like to travel a little bit for work and grad school but eventually end up back in CNY.



**Mattix Lufrano**  
DEC Fisheries Access  
Steward

Hailing from Merrick, NY, Mattix graduated from Ithaca College majoring in Environmental Science. He has served as a FORCES Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region with Parks as well as a FORCES Fisheries Access Steward with the DEC. His goal is to work outdoors and conduct research doing so. Someday he wants to have a house with a garden where he can grow his own food, and is very interested in water ecology, fishing, and invasive species.



**Holly Malinowski**  
COAS Conservation  
Steward

Holly, who is enrolled at SUNY ESF in the Environmental Science program, is originally from Jordanville, NY. She enjoys hiking, learning about nature, working on her conservation efforts, and being around friends and family. Holly would like to be able to identify many kinds of plants, pursue a career in marine biology, and make new friends along the way.



**Julia McCann**  
Ed. Center Host Steward

While attending SUNY ESF, Julia majors in Environmental Science. She is from Camillus, NY and is interested in art and the outdoors and enjoys painting and hiking in her free time. Julia's professional interests are the environment and conservation. Her goal is to graduate from SUNY ESF and attend training to become a DEC conservation officer in NY. Personally, she plans to work hard at her academics and have a fun college experience!



**Kasey Neff**  
Wildlife Conservation  
Steward

Kasey is a student at SUNY ESF majoring in Conservation Biology. She grew up across the country in Queen Creek, Arizona and enjoys herpetology, yoga, hiking, and anime. While serving as a Wildlife Steward, Kasey hoped to gain more fieldwork experience in conservation biology. Eventually she'd like to be able to do snake surveys in the future, and to utilize yoga to elevate the connection between mind, body, and soul.



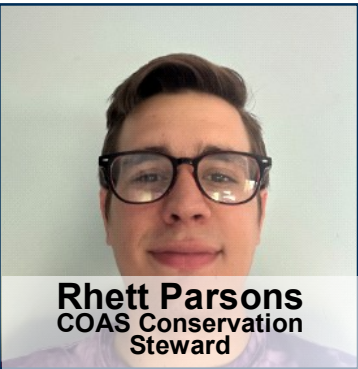
Sarah, originally from Bergen, NY, earned her Master's Degree in Conservation Science from SUNY ESF. She served as a DEC FORCES Ecosystems Health Steward and soon after, obtained a permanent position in the same office as a DEC Biologist. Many of her hobbies revolve around art, nature, and reading. While serving as a biologist, she would like to restore what humans have damaged, and help rebuild a small corner of God's Creation.



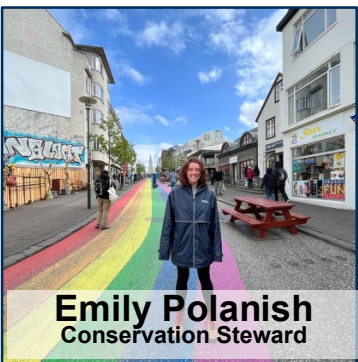
Hailing from Allegany, NY, Aodhan joined FORCES as a Jamestown Community College student majoring in Environmental Science. He enjoys cooking, baking, playing outside with his dog, playing video games, tending to his goats and chickens, and going out for walks. Aodhan would like to further his experience in the environmental science field, and travel to visit more countries in Asia and South America.



Jenna is originally from Webster, NY, and attends SUNY ESF majoring in Biochemistry. Hiking and exploring new places in nature is always fun to her, especially with her dog by her side. Jenna is always looking to learn something new, and as a biochemistry student, loves new challenges to take on. Jenna plans on continuing her education in graduate school, where she hopes to contribute to research on marine chemistry in the pursuit of understanding how marine biochemistry can be used in understanding options to help fight climate change.



As a Conservation Biology student at SUNY ESF, Rhett joined FORCES as a COAS Conservation Steward. He is from Schenectady, NY and professional and personal interests include collecting insects, hiking, backpacking, as well as a general interest in invertebrates and fish. While interning with FORCES, Rhett's goals were to learn how to function in a professional scientific setting, and to learn from professionals that have like minded degrees.



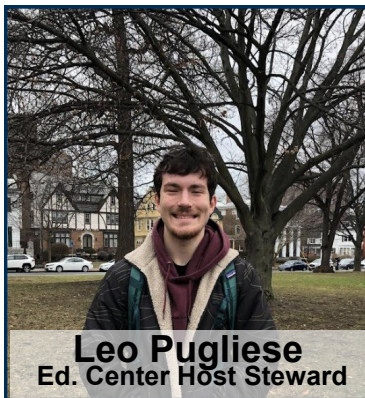
Emily is an Ithaca College student who comes from Bayport, NY, and is currently majoring in Environmental Science. She loves hiking, running, crocheting, taking walks in nature and learning about the environment using iNaturalist. Emily is Vice President of the Ithaca College Running Club and dog sitter for Guiding Eyes for the Blind at Ithaca College. Her goals are to learn more about how she can help in forest conservation and to foster a community that really cares about protecting their natural environments.





**Maxym Prybyla**  
AHTF Conservation  
Steward

Originally from Farmington, CT, Max is a current student at SUNY Morrisville studying Horticulture. He is a big reader, especially, sci-fi and fantasy. Max enjoys writing long-form fiction, going to the movies, live music, doing yoga, hiking, kayaking, jogging, and skiing. He has traveled to Europe a few times, and really hopes to travel to South America. Max can speak Spanish and Ukrainian fluently, and knows little bits of others. He believes that caring for, healing, and stewarding the land is vitally important, and rewarding. He's still exploring career possibilities, but finds conservation, permaculture, and remediation fascinating. His hope is to work with plants and the land and to volunteer for community projects, especially with children, and to continue his writing.



**Leo Pugliese**  
Ed. Center Host Steward

Leo served as an Education Center Host Steward and is from Kensington, MD. He attends SUNY ESF and studies Conservation Biology. He loves being outside and developed a passion for the outdoors at a young age by going to nature camps and exploring the patch of woods near his house. He has an interest in geography and how that interacts with ecosystems. Leo enjoys playing basketball and reading, and is self-admittedly a bit of a Lord of the Rings nerd. He ultimately would love to have a future where he can travel all around for work, but also have a home base where he can come back to.



**Colin Raymond**  
Ed. Center Host Steward

Colin calls Syracuse, NY home and is currently enrolled as a Sustainability Studies major at SUNY Geneseo. Wildlife, fishing, hiking, staying active, and being a member of the SUNY Geneseo Rugby Club as well as the Geneseo Gardening Committee, are some activities that keep him busy. If he's not outside, you can find Colin drawing, playing games, or listening to music. His interests include wildlife photography, conservation practices, and landscape architecture. Colin would like to some day pursue a job in an environmental field in hopes to help people and wildlife alike.



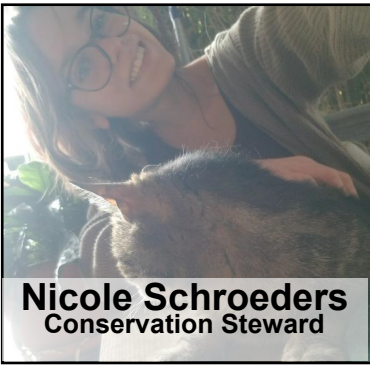
**Caitlyn Roesch**  
Conservation Steward

Caitlyn joined FORCES as a Conservation Steward in the Niagara Region. She is a student at the University of Buffalo majoring in Environmental Geosciences. Caitlyn is from Lancaster, NY and loves photographing bugs and finding cool rocks to add to her collection. In her free time, Caitlyn does a lot of hiking, reading, and knitting. After graduating from college, she hopes to pursue a career in environmental restoration full time.



**Ollie St. Clair**  
Conservation Steward

Ollie is originally from Wallingford, PA, and joined FORCES as an Ithaca College student majoring in Environmental Studies. He enjoys going out in nature and learning about the plants, animals, and processes. Ollie likes spending free time foraging for edible plants and mushrooms and crafting with foraged materials. He's been learning guitar for about a year and finds joy in music. Ollie's main goals, both professionally and personally, are to gain a wider understanding of plant/animal/mushroom identification, to get involved with projects relating to mammal tracking and ID, population surveys, and garden planting, and to gain more competence with GIS and common methods of wildlife/environment monitoring!



**Nicole Schroeders**  
Conservation Steward

Nicole is enrolled at Ithaca College in the Environmental Science program and is originally from Florida, NY. She served with FORCES as a Conservation Steward and loves biology, rock climbing, guitar, drawing, crafts, and agriculture. Nicole would like to learn more species identification, know more rocks and minerals, learn how to use a wheel for ceramics, welding, woodworking, get better at cutting wood with an axe, and do more outdoor climbing.



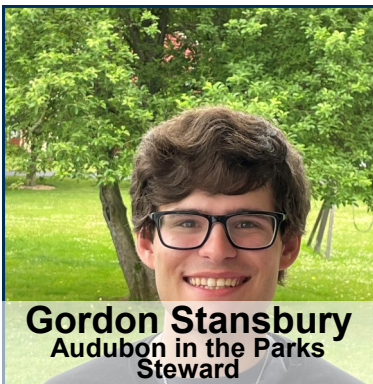
**Archer Shurtliff**  
COAS Conservation Steward

After growing up in Oswego and Central Square, NY, Archer decided to attend SUNY ESF as a Wildlife Science major. Quilting, painting, dogs, hiking, frog-watching, horror films, frogs and other amphibians, snails, wetland conservation, environmental policy, and environmental social justice are some of her interests. Archer has worked in a veterinary hospital for several years and knows that she loves working with and around animals!



**Gillian Smith**  
ESF FORCES Club President

Gillian graduated from SUNY ESF with a degree in Conservation Biology. In addition to serving as SUNY ESF's FORCES Club President, Gillian has held several Steward positions through the years. She enjoys going for hikes, spending time outside, biking, kayaking, hunting, and shooting her compound bow at the local archery. On a professional level, Gillian likes participating in outdoor conservation efforts and learning about local and native species of plants and animals. A personal goal is to experience as much as she can and take opportunities that pushes her to do new things that are challenging. Professional goals include learning more about the management of lands that are critical for wildlife and different wildlife management techniques. She would also like to get involved with some big game-related activities.



**Gordon Stansbury**  
Audubon in the Parks Steward

Gordon attends SUNY ESF as a Conservation Biology major and hails from Chittenango, NY. Since he was very young, Gordon has always had a very strong passion for animals and the outdoors. He loves outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and biking. Gordon hopes to enjoy many more outdoor activities as he continues to grow up. This love for the outdoors has led him to a strong interest in the conservation of pristine natural areas and the organisms that call these areas home. Gordon has a particularly strong interest in wildlife and has decided to dedicate his career to their conservation. He aspires to be a hard-working professional in the application of biological sciences to the problems of biodiversity, species preservation, and ecological sustainability. Gordon seeks to gain real-world, hands-on experience in the field to expand his knowledge base and is devoted to this field and eager to learn all that he can in order to become a competent wildlife biologist.



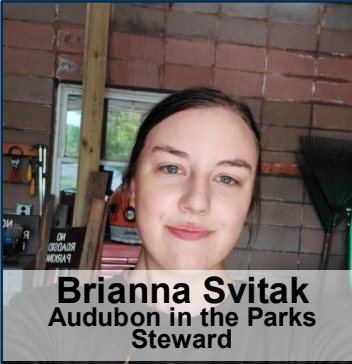
**Laura Stark**  
AHTF Conservation Steward

A native of Yorktown Heights, NY, Laura attends SUNY ESF and is working towards her Master's Degree in Ecology. She's specifically interested in invasive species ecology with her research focusing on the interactions between invasive earthworms and the invasive plant pale swallow-wort. In her free time, Laura enjoys hiking, botanizing, and gardening. After obtaining her degree, she'd like to continue working in the field of invasive species ecology.



**Isabel Stowell**  
Chimney Bluffs Trail  
Steward

Isabel served as a Chimney Bluffs Trail Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She attends St. John Fisher University and majors in Sustainability while double minoring in Sociology and Business. She is from Victor, NY and enjoys downhill skiing, hiking, crochet, minerals and fossils, music, singing, volunteering, and creating new sustainability initiatives. Isabel would like a career that positively impacts people and the planet. She would also like to work in the sustainability department of a company to help them reduce their carbon footprint and better serve society. She would also love a big garden with lots of flowers, close to a body of water.



**Brianna Svitak**  
Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Brianna is a SUNY ESF student majoring in Wildlife Science and originally from Baldwinsville, NY. She loves foraging and learning how to utilize the land where she lives. Brianna finds all wildlife fascinating, especially birds, and has a growing insect and fossil collections. She hopes to find a way to integrate traditional ecological knowledge with western conservation and to study birds for as long as she can and make deep connections with them.



**Tristan Thibault**  
Conservation Steward

Tristan, who calls Fairport, NY home, is a Sustainability major currently attending St. John Fisher University. He served as a Conservation Steward with FORCES this past year in the Finger Lakes Region. Tristan is especially interested in sustainability, ecology, and conservation and hopes to travel more and find a lifelong passion in the future.



**Claire vanLeishout**  
Conservation Steward

Claire is from Verona, NY and attends Niagara University as an Environmental Science major. At school, she does research of the effects of habitat fragmentation observed in red-backed salamanders but generally prefers working with large mammals. Claire is an equestrian of 10+ years, and has also been interning with her local large animal vet. In her spare time, Claire enjoys baking, kayaking, and going on runs or hikes. Her ultimate goal is to graduate with a Bachelor's in Environmental Science in 2025, go on to get an Associates for Veterinary Technician Certification, and then be able to assist both wildlife and domestic vets with those two degrees! Claire also has a very long bucket list that includes seeing the northern lights, becoming scuba certified, and owning a Highland cow.



**Kelly Warren**  
Conservation Steward

Kelly is a student at Ithaca College enrolled as an Environmental Science major. Her hometown is Huntington, NY and she's passionate about species conservation. She has done some work with beekeeping, as well as mammal tracking, and instantly fell in love with both. Outside of school/work, Kelly likes to do some crafts including crocheting, sewing, knitting, ceramics, and basic drawing. In the near future, Kelly wants to find a career involving sustainability and conservation and would love to continue work with insects, mammals, and plant species, while also educating others on the importance of land stewardship programs. In general, she wants to help species, and our ecosystems because this is how we will survive and thrive.



**Jimi Wiggins**  
Conservation Steward

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Jimi is a University at Buffalo student currently majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Sociology. He enjoys surveying and removal of invasive species within the local communities. Jimi also enjoys swimming, hiking, surfing, and spending time with his family. His goals include working for a state or non-profit organization that is focused on invasive species management. Long term, Jimi would like the opportunity to make a positive impact in the ecosystem within his community and far more reaching.



**Anna Wojtowicz**  
Conservation Steward

Anna is a University at Buffalo student hailing from Buffalo, NY who is working towards a degree in Environmental Sustainability. Her interests include nature, bugs and music. Anna's favorite bugs are beetles, specifically weevils. She is also interested in the management of wildlife as well as invasive species. Anna's goals are to work in the field as her career progresses and would love to work on management of wildlife as well as invasive species.



**Jennifer Wybieracki**  
Interpretation Steward

Jennifer served as a Clark Reservation State Park Nature Center Host Steward. She is from Buffalo, NY is a current student at SUNY ESF, majoring in Conservation Biology. Jennifer loves plants, art, and writing, and has recently gotten very into bird watching. She is also interested in invasive species and their ecology and management, because with climate change and so much disturbed habitats, they pose a huge threat to our native forests, lakes, wetlands etc. Her plan is to get into Environmental Journalism and communications and in doing this, Jennifer will be able to make a lot of heavy scientific information accessible to all who want to learn.

## 2023 FORCES STEWARDS: THE FORCE BEHIND FORCES

Giulia Gebert  
Angie Gugino  
Ed Heller  
Derek Hobson  
Caleb Landry  
Lauren McElroy  
Camberly Vanvalkenburg  
Kaylyn Weits

Hartwick College FORCES Club President  
Education Center Host Steward  
Education Center Host Steward  
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Steward  
Education Center Host Steward  
Education Center Host Steward  
DEC Lands and Forest Steward  
Le Moyne FORCES Club President

Hartwick College  
SUNY ESF  
Eckerd College  
SUNY ESF  
SUNY ESF  
SUNY ESF  
SUNY Morrisville  
Le Moyne College

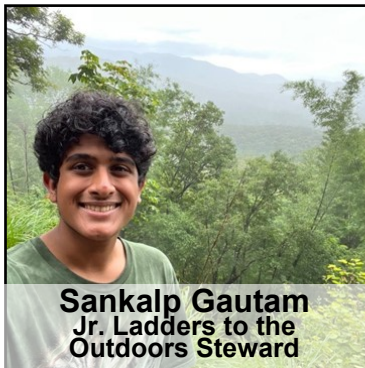
## 2023 FORCES STEWARDS: Jr. Conservation Stewards

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.



**Perle Convey**  
Jr. Audubon in the Parks  
Steward

Perle, originally from Orwell, NY, attends Sandy Creek High School and joined FORCES as a Junior Audubon in the Parks Steward. After high school, she plans to attend SUNY ESF with her interests in environmental justice and conservation guiding her. She wants to ultimately be a part of helping human infrastructure, become more environmentally friendly and sustainable, hoping to come up with ideas to help the world become more environmentally friendly. In her free time, Perle loves to paint and hang out with her friends.



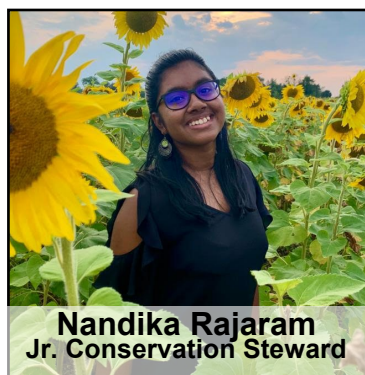
**Sankalp Gautam**  
Jr. Ladders to the  
Outdoors Steward

Sankalp joined FORCES as a Junior Ladders to the Outdoors Steward in the Central Region with multiple passions that include biology, ecology, animal behavior, composing music, making art, playing the oboe, and cooking. He grew up in Manlius, NY and attends Fayetteville-Manlius High School and would like to go college (undergrad and graduate school) for ecology and evolutionary biology, and pursue a career in wildlife conservation and research.



**Ayushi Nath**  
Jr. Conservation Steward

Ayushi grew up in Pittsford, NY and attends Pittsford Sutherland High School. She joined FORCES as a Junior Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region and enjoys reading, playing the flute and piano, singing, and dancing. After high school, she plans to attend college.



**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.



**Matias Romano**  
Jr. Ladders to the Outdoors  
Steward

Matias is a Nottingham High School Senior intending to study Biotechnology at Syracuse University in the fall. 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. This interest influenced his decision in high school to take part in the Natural Resources CTE at Nottingham. Matias is currently a Lab Host at the forest ecology Lab at ESF; in which he identifies tree leaves, sorts roots, and works with a variety of interested highschoolers in the Syracuse metro area. In his spare time Matias also lifeguards, swims, and helps lead science competitions at his high school. For the future, Matias hopes to apply his love for science and nature next year at SU, and hopefully with the parks next year.



**Nolan Tresco**  
Jr. Conservation Steward

Nolan is from Baldwinsville, NY and is a senior at Baker High School. Nolan served as a Jr. Conservation Steward contributing to the Bird Conservation Area project at Green Lakes State Park and educational programming with the Project WHIRL program in partnership with the Indian River Lakes Conservancy in the Thousand Islands Region. Nolan enjoys fishing, field biology, film, photography and music, and he hopes to pursue a college degree that combines all of his interests.



**Josie VanDyke**  
Jr. Conservation Steward

Josie is from Waverly, NY and served as a Jr. Conservation Steward in the Finger Lakes Region. She attends Waverly High School and enjoys environmental work, visiting parks, swimming, running for her high school teams, taking care of animals, working with children, and baking and cooking with her family. While interning with Parks, Josie's goals were to improve her core skills such as communication and flexibility, working with people and tools, and to familiarize herself with the State Parks agency.



Photos: OPRHP



# 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.

## 2023 FORCES CLUB OFFICERS



### Spring 2023

Rita Chistiakova, President  
Paige Witherbee, Vice President  
Cassidy Markel, Public Relations  
John Relyea, Secretary  
Giulia Gebert, Treasurer

### Fall 2023

Giulia Gebert, President  
Silas Moyer, Vice President

Faculty Advisor: Zsuzsanna Balogh-Brunstad, Department of Chemistry



### Spring 2023

Kaylyn Weits, Co-President  
Genevieve Kikukawa, Co-President

### Fall 2023

Christianna Kosta, President  
Allison Aveor, Vice President  
Meghan Walton, Secretary  
Carol Conroy, Treasurer  
Mary Chiaestel, PR/Social Media

Faculty Advisor: Jason Luscier, Department of Biological Sciences



### Spring 2023

Gillian Smith, President  
Alexis LaFever, Vice President  
August Tsutsumishita, Treasurer  
Layla Blask, Social Media

### Fall 2023

Gillian Smith, President  
Alexis LaFever, Vice President  
Jenna Canipe, Treasurer  
Layla Blask, Social Media

Club Advisor: Tom Hughes, NYS OPRHP Regional Stewardship Biologist



### Spring 2023

Break

### Fall 2023

Break

Faculty Advisor: Jim Kernan, Associate Professor, Geography Department





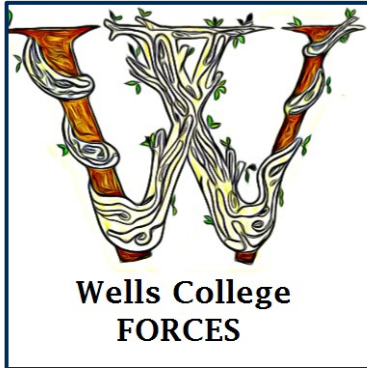
Spring 2023

Chloe Dymek, President

Fall 2023

Break

Faculty Advisor: Justin Hartnett, Department of Biology



Spring 2023

Break

Fall 2023

Break

Faculty Advisor: Jackie Schnurr, Department of Biology

## 2023 FORCES Team

Currently, FORCES has a programmatic presence in several regions across the state, including Central, Finger Lakes, Niagara, and Allegany. 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 16 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 10 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.



**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.”



**Joyce Lytle**  
**FORCES Program Specialist, Niagara Region**

Joyce holds a BS in Horticulture from Colorado State University. After graduating, she worked as a Sustainability Intern for The Presidio National Parks, San Francisco, CA where she assisted the native plants nursery, composting, community gardens and integrated pest management teams in habitat restoration efforts and leading volunteer programs. Joyce then began her career as a Landscape Gardener with the City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department where she worked to maintain and beautify several of San Francisco’s parks, again leading volunteers of all ages to restore native habitat in an urban setting, utilizing sustainable practices. After over a decade with San Francisco Parks, Joyce and her family decided to make the journey home, to New York State. Currently she resides in Lewiston.



**Kelly Punch**  
**SCA NYS Parks Corps AmeriCorps**  
**FORCES Program Specialist**

Kelly is from Syracuse, NY and earned a BA in Environmental Studies with a minor in LGBT Studies from Hobart & William Smith Colleges. Before joining FORCES, Kelly served with the Excelsior Conservation Corps as a Student Conservation Association corps member doing trail work in the Finger Lakes Region. Now working in the Central Region as the FORCES Program Specialist, their work focuses on outreach and education. Kelly enjoys drawing, playing with their dog, Ozzie, and video games. Professionally, they love mustelids and mycology, and hope to engage more in environmental outreach to underserved communities.



**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 Pursuits Department at Binghamton University and was a program director at a nature center. He lives in the Ithaca area.



**Adele Wellman**  
**Environmental Educator, Allegany Region**

Adele has been with Allegany State Park for over 20 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.

## 2023 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.



**Mat Bilz**  
**Regional Stewardship Manager, 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.



**Andrew Chouinard**  
**Agency Rope Access Coordinator, Niagara Region**

Andrew leads the rope access program and supervises the Niagara Regional Safety Department. A part of the State Parks team since 2007, Andrew has a rich background in safety management, including roles as Regional Safety Manager in the Finger Lakes and Niagara Regions. He is a certified instructor trainer with the American Red Cross, SPRAT certified, and OSHA Outreach Trainer and Specialist. Andrew's work focuses on ensuring the safety and integrity of park environments.



**Jordyn Dala**  
**Piping Plover Project Crew Lead, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Jordyn, originally from Macedon, NY, is a graduate from SUNY Oswego with a degree in Zoology. She joined FORCES as the Crew Lead for the Piping Plover Project Stewards in the Central Region. Some of her goals include hiking all 46 Adirondack High Peaks, visiting all National Parks in the US, visiting all 50 states and all seven continents. In her free time, she loves to hike, camp, bird watch, and play video games.



**Asmamaw Damtie**  
**Nursery Technician, Finger Lakes Region**

Asmamaw received his Bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences and Master of Science degree in Horticulture before stepping into his role of Nursery Technician in the Finger Lakes this past year. 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.



**Nick Dinardo**  
**Environmental Stewardship Technician, Niagara Region**

Nick holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Environmental Geoscience from the University at Buffalo. While attending school, he was a FORCES Steward in the fall of 2021 in the Niagara Region. After graduation, Nick was hired with State Parks in 2022 as an Environmental Stewardship Technician. At work, he is usually in the field managing invasive species, conducting rare species surveys, and restoring habitat for wildlife. Nick has a passion for botany, and often applies this knowledge at work. Outside of work, he's usually exploring natural areas and has a life goal to visit every national park.



**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!



**Tyler Harrington**  
**Invasive Species Technician, Niagara Region**

Tyler graduated from the University at Buffalo in 2021 with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Geosciences. His role with State Parks includes all levels of invasive species management as well as restoration plantings and native species surveys. Prior to starting with State Parks in 2022, Tyler worked with aquatic invasive species as a Watercraft Inspection Steward for WNY PRISM. Outside of work, his passions include birding, hiking, fishing, and almost all things outdoors.



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

Jillian has eight 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.



**Skyla Hays-Taber**  
**Regional Invasive Species Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Skyla grew up in DeWitt, NY and graduated from SUNY ESF in 2020 with a BS in Environmental Biology. Her interests include ecology, evolution, sustainability, conservation, wildlife surveys, public outreach and education, biological/wildlife illustration, art, dinosaurs and paleobiology, casual gaming, hiking, traveling, watching animated series and movies, science fiction and fantasy genres, reading comics. Skyla would like to learn skills including programming languages (Python and R) and arcGIS, so she can analyze and model data. She also wants to gain more experience with different kinds of surveys, projects, and educational outreach. Another goal that is both professional and personal, is to expand her illustration skills and create a portfolio, grow a tiny garden, finish decorating, create a terrarium with isopods, and update her ball pythons enclosure.



**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.



**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.



**Orchid Kinzie-Middleton**  
**COAS Project Coordinator, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Orchid is from Cazenovia, NY and earned her BS in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. Her hobbies include taking her dog for walks, painting, reading, making bracelets, and hiking in the Adirondacks. She has a special interest in invasive plant ecology, herpetology and fish ecology. Orchid hopes to continue to work for NYS Parks and Recreation for a few years before going back to school to get a Master's Degree. She eventually wants to travel for work, with special interests in working with manatees, low-income communities, and amphibians/reptiles.



**Elijah Kruger**  
**Environmental Educator, Finger Lakes Region**

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.



**Tyler Lee**  
**SCA NYS Parks Corps AmeriCorps**  
**Piping Plover Steward**

Tyler is from Brewster, NY and graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelors of Arts in Biology. He enjoys playing video games, bird watching, snowboarding, and hiking. One of his passions is martial arts, in which he currently trains in Muay Thai, but would like to get back into Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Tyler's favorite sciences are evolutionary biology and ecology. He also enjoys conservation field work and loves working with animals and hopes to continue finding opportunities that lets him do both. He'd like to find work out west in wildlife management, and to work in the US Fish and Wildlife Service some day. His dream is to retire with a goat farm where he can spend all day with a herd of goats.



**Raquel Menella**  
**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. She is interested in plant ecology and environmental conservation and collecting botanical data to contribute towards meaningful research. Raquel enjoys volunteering with local environmental groups, botanizing, and hiking. She also enjoys science communication and discussing environmental topics with individuals of all knowledge levels. Her long-term goal is to create a meaningful impact to better our planet and conserve the organisms which inhabit it.



**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!



**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**  
**Field 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 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.



**Billy Sullivan**  
**Trails Coordinator, 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 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 summers of 2021-22 and enjoys bird watching and educating children of all ages about science.



**Anyka Tetu**  
**Ladders to the Outdoors Crew Leader,**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Anyka graduated 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!



**Bailey Thieben**  
**American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Baily attends Endicott College and studies Environmental Science. She is from Syracuse, NY and has a particular interest in marine ecology. She likes to spend her free time outside and trying new foods and hopes to work in the field of marine or aquatic conservation ecology.



**Ethan Winter**  
**American Hart's-Tongue Fern Technician, Central Region**  
**Central Region Environmental Stewardship Team**

Ethan is from Stoney Brook, NY and studied Wildlife Science at SUNY ESF. He runs cross-country and track with ESF and enjoys reading, hiking, camping, and anything outdoors. Ethan likes to explore and learn a lot about the world around him. He wants to work on conservation projects, especially those within parks or protected areas or those with wildlife and to understand which projects really pique his interest.

## 2023 FORCES STAFF: ADDITIONAL STAFF

Staffon Donerlson  
Brian Radder

Ladders to the Outdoors Program Coordinator  
Environmental Educator Assistant

