



## ALPINE SUMMER INSTITUTE 2018 STUDENT BIOS

### Alyssa Andrews



Alyssa grew up in Norway, ME. She graduated from Colby College in 2017 and is currently working for the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust as a Natural Resource Steward, where she does a lot of trail work, conservation stewardship, and water quality monitoring. In her free time, she can often be found wandering around in the woods, by a campfire, or learning how to fly fish.

### Gabriel Chevalier



Gabriel moved to Northampton, MA after finishing a degree in Geology and Environmental Science at Mount Holyoke College. She works part time as the lab manager at the Connecticut River Conservancy and as a Data Specialist for the Appalachian Mountain Club. When not working, Gabriel can be found on the bike path, lounging in a hammock, or eating ice cream.

## Luis Cruz



I was born in a small farming town in Mexico, and then moved to the San Francisco bay area with my family when I was two. After high school I relocated to San Diego, where I eventually met and married my wife Jamie. Six years ago, we packed our dog, cat, and whatever else could fit in a UHaul and moved across the country here to Rhode Island. It's here in coastal New England that I found my love for ecology and conservation. I returned to college, first at CCRI before transferring to URI, where I earned my BS in Biology. I am currently a MESM student and TA at URI. When I'm not focused on my academics, I love the beach, the Bills (to my wife's dismay), the Sharks, and the SF Giants!

## Jon Hamilton



I am a rising junior at Harvard College where I study environmental science and public policy. I grew up in the suburbs south of Boston, where I began developing an interest in nature. At college, I furthered this interest as an officer for the Harvard College Conservation Society as well as a leader for the outdoor pre-orientation program (FOP) and the outing club (HOC). This summer, I am working on a land conservation project for Kestrel Land Trust through the Harvard Forest REU program. Someday, I hope to work globally, helping to address fundamental human needs in a way that is sustainable and equitable.

## **Amanda Hewes**



I recently graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. I will be returning to UConn in August to begin a Master's of Science program, where I will be researching the morphology of tongues in Squamate reptiles and the evolution of different prey capture modalities in this group. Currently, I am an ecology intern at Highstead in Redding, CT. At Highstead, I am working to expand the Stewardship Science initiative by creating workshops for conservation organizations. I am also writing a wildlife monitoring manual and conducting a camera trap study to examine the effects of emerald ash borer-related canopy decline on wildlife composition. I have always wanted to be in conservation, but I have learned that we cannot conduct sound conservation without knowing the ecological and evolutionary history of the system we wish to help.

## **Annina Kennedy-Yoon**



I am an undergraduate at Harvard College, concentrating in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology with a potential secondary in Chemistry. I am a coxswain for the Harvard Men's Lightweight Crew team and I participate in a few dance companies on campus. I am originally from Salt Lake City, Utah and I enjoy spending my free time outdoors, exploring Utah's natural landscape. This summer I am working as a research assistant at the Harvard Forest. I hope to one day become a conservation biologist specializing in marine ecology.

## Sean Mahoney



Sean Mahoney directs the Forest Products Utilization and Markets Program for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Under Sean's leadership the program provides technical assistance and policy support to artisans, timber harvesters, sawmills, and members of the design community. Recent projects include the LEED gold certified visitor center at Walden Pond Reservation which received first prize for Wood in Government

Buildings from the U.S. Wood Products Council in 2018. Sean earned his B.S. in Forestry from the University of Vermont in 2012 and has established his practice of forestry to improve connections for urban and rural communities through sustainable forest products.

## Maggie Mansfield



My fascination with New England's forests began as a kid in western Mass where I could climb a tree one day and help split it into cord wood the next. I sought an undergraduate degree at College of the Atlantic to better understand the dynamics between land use and conservation and am currently pursuing an MS in forest resources at UMaine. I get particularly excited and nerdy about the understory plant layer.

## Helena Murray



Helena has a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Vermont and she is now working toward a masters at the University of Massachusetts focusing on forest conservation. Helena works in the Family Forest Research Center at UMass and this summer she is researching the economic contributions of forest land conserved by the US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program in New England and other areas of the country.

## **Maria Park**



Maria Park is a Baltimorean studying Integrative Biology and Studio Arts at Harvard College. This summer, as a member of the Holbrook Lab at Harvard, she is conducting senior thesis research on plant physiology and the potential effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on trees.

## **Mike Perrin**



I am a rising senior at the University of Vermont (UVM) majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Wildlife Biology and Green Building and Community Design. As an avid birdwatcher from a suburb of Boston, I am interested in land protection to preserve New England's unique biodiversity and to provide low-impact recreation opportunities for the public to enjoy. In previous summers, I gathered data on forest health with the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative (FEMC) and designed a collaborative project between UVM and Audubon Vermont to further the progress of the

Champlain Valley Bird Initiative. This summer I will be working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Vermont as their Stewardship Assistant.

## **Julia Rogers**



Julia graduated from Colby College in 2016 with a B.S. in ecology and evolution. She is now a graduate student in the natural resources department at the University of Connecticut (M.S. expected May 2019). Julia was inspired by her love of outdoor activities to pursue a career in land management and conservation. She enjoys whitewater canoeing, hiking, backpacking, cross

country skiing, and snowshoeing. In addition to pursuing her master's degree, Julia is an active volunteer at Joshua's Trust, a land trust in Northeastern

Connecticut, where she uses GIS to perform landscape scale analyses to inform conservation decisions and to map trails and land trust holdings. Following the completion of her master's degree, Julia hopes to work for a land trust in New England making land management and conservation decisions.