

Steven DiFalco

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Education

Masters of Science, Natural Resource **University of Connecticut:** Storrs, CT 2018-Present

- Research Topic: Human Dimensions of Roadside Vegetation Management
Advisor: Dr. Anita Morzillo

Bachelor of Science, Organismal/Environmental Biology, GPA: 3.54 **SUNY New Paltz:** New Paltz, NY 2013

- Minor: Italian Studies through Università degli Studi "Carlo Bo": Urbino, PU, Italy Fall 2012

Resource Management and Research Experience

Natural Resource Specialist, Rockefeller State Park Preserve: Pleasantville, NY April 2016- Dec 2017

- Implement planning, surveying, mapping, as well as prioritizing management, restoration, and monitoring of invasive species infestations.
- Recruit, train, and supervise seasonal stewards, interns, and volunteers.
- Coordinate with other Preserve staff the field mowing and carriage road should management to achieve conservation goals.
- Oversee deer browse survey, vegetation monitoring, and other surveys within the park.
- Develop and manage collaborative opportunities with local schools to advance the Preserve's stewardship goals and promote the Preserve as a learning environment.
- Planning and purchasing native plants for restoration projects.
- Collection, propagation, and planting of native wildflowers.
- Attend and participate in Lower Hudson PRISM meetings.

Forest Ecologist, Prospect Park: Brooklyn, NY June 2014- April 2016

- Develop and implement park-wide restoration of natural areas, including site planning, site preparation, vegetation control of exotic plant species, mitigation of soil erosion, and planting native flora
- Conduct and supervise vegetation monitoring, including collection of field data, data entry, statistical analyses, and yearly reporting after data collection
- Coordinate, hire, and supervise the natural resource internship program which helps with vegetation monitoring and restoration projects
- Mapping and recording invasive species removal and occurrences
- Seed collection and nursery maintenance/purchasing of native flora for restoration projects
- Trail maintenance and construction
- Organize and oversee frequent volunteer projects & give plant identification tours of the park

Natural Resource Assistant, Scenic Hudson: Poughkeepsie, NY January 2014-June 2014

- Assist with stewardship of Scenic Hudson lands through invasive species mapping and control, habitat restoration, ecological inventorying and monitoring.
- Implement natural resource projects such as native plant propagation, ecological assessments, GIS database management, and initiating a citizen science program.
- Coordinate and oversee volunteers during volunteer workdays, education programs, and other recreational activities. Prepare site for volunteers and make sure all equipment is prepared for use.

Restoration & Invasive Plant Management Intern, National Park Service: Tucson, AZ Jun 2013- Oct 2013

- Work on invasive plant control projects at Saguaro National Park including mapping, manual and chemical control, conduct photo monitoring, and assist with hazardous fuel reduction projects.
- Collecting electronic data (using GPS and handheld computer) for the use in ArcGIS.
- Assist in park activities including restoration and revegetation of disturbed sites; work with park employees to lead community invasive plant management projects.

Student Researcher, SUNY New Paltz: New Paltz, NY 2010- 2013

- Designed and conducted study of the water quality of an anthropogenically effected water system.
- Performed bi-weekly collections of samples from various sites along tributary.

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Maryland Sea Grant: Cambridge, MD Summer 2012

- Designed, proposed, and carried out my own research project to understand the mechanism behind the growth of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV).
- Collection, processing, and data analysis on various metrics dealing with plant and water samples.

Invasive Species Removal Volunteer, Minnewaska State Park: New Paltz, NY

Summer 2011

- Aiding and assisting in the elimination of invasive species from Peterskill State Park.
- Field study: Monitored plots of different environments and growing conditions at Peterskill State Park
- Lab study: Developed and designed research project of the environmental factors affecting Japanese Stiltgrass growth by modifying soil pH and nutrient conditions

Presentations

DiFalco, S; Gurbisz, C., Kemp, W.M. 2013. Effects of Extreme Weather on a Large Submersed Plant Bed in Chesapeake Bay: Field Observations Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Conference poster presentation: New Orleans, LO

DiFalco, S; Gurbisz, C., Kemp, W.M. 2012. Investigating the effects of unusual weather patterns on water quality and Submersed Aquatic Vegetation biomass at the Susquehanna Flats. REU Research Presentations, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory: Solomons Island, MD

DiFalco, S; Richardson, DC. 2012. Factors affecting Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) growth. Student Research Symposium Poster Presentation: SUNY New Paltz, NY

DiFalco, S; Richardson, DC. 2011. Spatial and temporal variability of water quality in an anthropogenically affected river, Wallkill River and its tributary, New Paltz, NY. North American Benthological Society Conference poster presentation: Providence, RI

DiFalco, S., Crinieri, A., and Saleem, A. 2011. Water quality of the Wallkill River. Student Research Symposium Poster Presentation: SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY

Honors and Awards

- Segal AmeriCorp Education Award. \$1,600, 2013
- Maryland Sea Grant Research Fellow, \$3,000, 2012
- Luigi and Anita Traverso Italian Studies Minor Scholarship. \$500, 2012
- Quad Graphics Windhover Corporate Scholarship. \$1,000 per year, 2009-2012
- Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Recipient. \$3,000, Summer 2010
- New York State Scholarships for Academic Excellence. \$500 per year, 2009-2012

Skills

- Experience with ArcGIS, Microsoft Access, and Adobe Photoshop
- Previously a NYS Certified Pesticide Technician with 3 years of herbicide use, 2013-2016
- Wilderness First Aid and CPR/AED Certified, 2013-2017
- Operation of various equipment including: chainsaw, weed whacker, tractor, and chipper.
- Laboratory skills including spectrophotometry for nutrient testing and fluorometry for chlorophyll analysis.
- Languages: advanced Italian and basic Spanish