

# CNR NEWS



Winter/Spring 2023

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## Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, Clean Water Act Mark 50 Years

Fifty years ago, a landmark law was passed to protect and restore national waterways, which are vital to our health, ecosystems and economy. Since 1972, the Clean Water Act has helped prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution and create water that is drinkable, fishable and swimmable.

That same year, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point created a unit with similar goals. What started as the Environmental Task Force by Byron Shaw, late emeritus professor of water resources, is now the Water and Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL). Over its 50 years, communities, student employees and hundreds of thousands of residents have benefited from its water testing programs, educational outreach and five decades of data collected from groundwater sources across the state and the nation.

“Consistency and longevity have allowed us to paint a picture of groundwater and well water quality across Wisconsin,” said Kevin Masarik, a groundwater specialist and director of the Center for Watershed Science and Education at UW-Stevens Point, which houses the lab in the College of Natural Resources. “Everyone in Wisconsin benefits from clean drinking water, lakes and rivers. Our work empowers communities and individuals to learn as much as possible about their water quality so they are better able to make decisions on managing one of our state’s most valuable resources. “

Self-sustaining, WEAL is supported by the fees for water testing by private well owners, lake associations, water organizations, counties and contracts from the U.S. Geological Survey and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as well as various grants. WEAL also receives water samples collected as part of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects from states across the Great Lakes basin, including New York, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. WEAL has collected more than 125,000 different well samples from Wisconsin alone and analyzed water samples from as far away as Hawaii.

All of the well water data that WEAL collects feeds into an online resource for state water quality, the Well Water Viewer. An interactive website, it offers different parameters, such as nitrate, lead and bacteria, across the counties and informs private well owners what testing may be needed for their property. WEAL offers several different testing packages, specific or broad based, depending on the clients needs.

“People want an independent, unbiased source,” said Masarik. “We’ve built a reputation for that. We can recommend what testing is needed. Our expertise comes from many years of helping people diagnose water quality issues, and then using that knowledge to help others who have the same problem.”

*(Continued on next page)*



College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

## Water and Environmental Analysis Lab, Clean Water Act Mark 50 Years (cont'd)



The staff of the Water and Environmental Lab within the Center for Watershed Science and Education at UW-Stevens Point.

WEAL takes great pride in the outreach to its clients and local communities. In partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension, Masarik spends much of his time explaining water testing results to private well owners and groups across the state, sharing guidance and resources on water management. He and students also attend educational and sustainability fairs.

“All of the testing and outreach is centered on the Wisconsin Idea, that all should benefit from university resources and expertise beyond the boundaries of the classroom,” he said.

WEAL employs seven full-time staff, 18 part-time student staff and two administrative professionals. The lab maintains certifications from the state DNR, and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and U.S. Geological Survey. These efforts provide a level of trust and assure quality control for WEAL analysis, Masarik said.

“Its our mission to train future water quality specialists,” said Juli Bowling, an environmental analytical chemist and co-director of WEAL. “Students are supervised by full-time staff and become full analysts. We’ll hire students interested in the work that we do, from a variety of majors. There is a variety of work as well, from data entry and GIS mapping to sample processing and analysis with all of our instruments. When they graduate, they are already familiar with regulations and have all the safety training.”

“Employees really appreciate the experience our students gain in the lab. They have high job placement,” Masarik said. Bowling added that students who go on to graduate school are steps ahead of their peers in their understanding of laboratory procedures and troubleshooting.

Sophomore Lizzi Gizzi, Galloway, Wis., started working at WEAL her first semester at UW-Stevens Point. Growing up next to the Little Wolf River, she has always been inspired to study water and nature, leading to a major in hydrology and a minor in chemistry. “I heard about the job, and it was exactly what I wanted to do,” Gizzi said. “Once I started I knew it was the perfect place for me. I love the camaraderie here and knowing that I am helping people.”

Senior urban forestry major Cassidy Behnke, Brillion, Wis., has gained valuable experience working at WEAL. “I feel like I’ve gained new perspectives as a forester. I’ll be working in a city, where storm flooding could affect water-based systems and water quality.”

In addition, faculty and staff offer WEAL research and cutting-edge analytic techniques, Masarik said. “We are able to collaborate and learn from our campus colleagues. We wouldn’t be nearly as effective if we weren’t based on the UWSP campus.”

Even after 50 years, the work at WEAL is never done.

“The world is constantly changing, and water quality will always be at risk due to human activity and climate change,” said Masarik. “Without the long-standing Environmental Task Force and WEAL archive, we’d be less able to understand the impact our groundwater has on our lakes, rivers and streams. We hope to continue testing of water and monitoring to better understand how its changing over the next 50 years.”

For water testing or water education, go to the WEAL website, call 715-346-3209 or email [Water.and.Environmental.Analysis.Lab@uwsp.edu](mailto:Water.and.Environmental.Analysis.Lab@uwsp.edu).

**This article was written for the Point of U, UW-Stevens Point’s signature eNewsletter, highlighting the top news, strategic initiatives and success stories from our university as a whole. [Visit Point of U to read more.](#)**

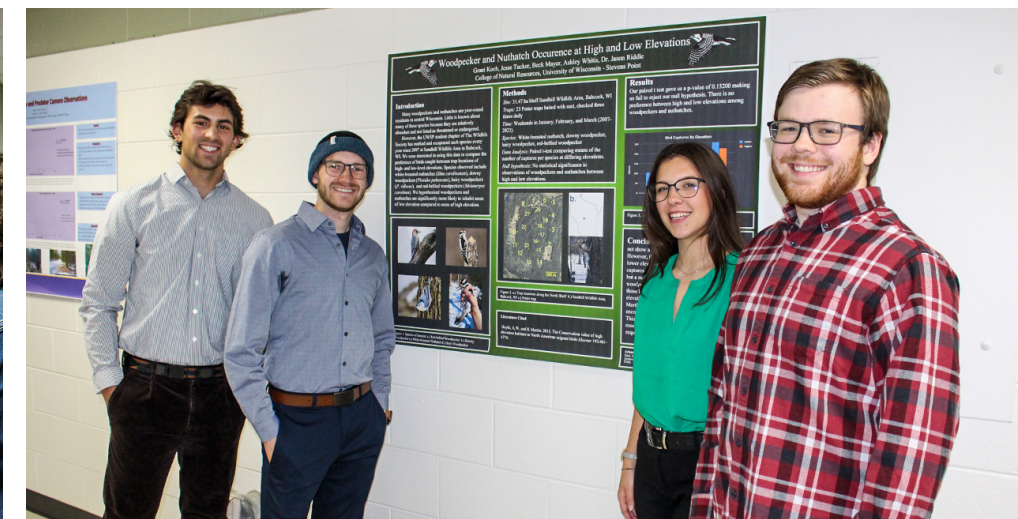
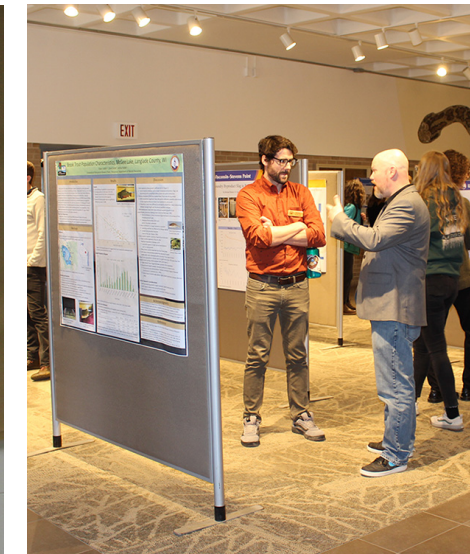
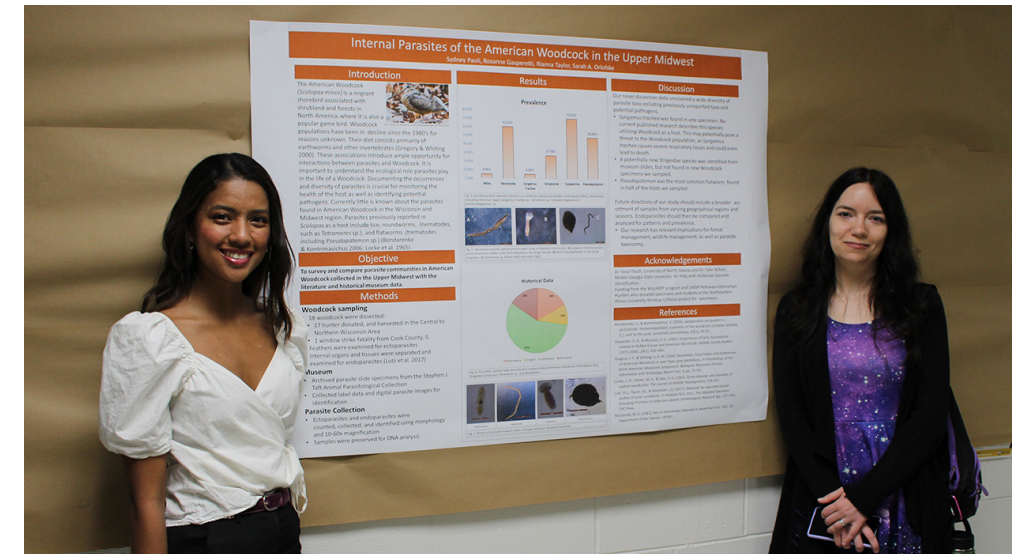
## Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium

We are thrilled to share the highlights of the 24th annual Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium, which took place on April 8, 2023. This incredible event celebrated the outstanding work of CNR students, as they presented their ground breaking research findings through engaging poster and oral presentations.

The symposium served as a dynamic platform where students had the opportunity to shine, while being evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges consisting of faculty, staff, and community volunteers. Their valuable insights and expertise added a meaningful dimension to the event.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated student-led steering committee meticulously planned and organized every aspect of the symposium, ensuring a seamless and unforgettable experience for all participants. Faculty mentors played a pivotal role in guiding students throughout their research journey, going above and beyond the traditional classroom setting to foster a spirit of discovery and educational growth.

This symposium was a true testament to the vibrant and collaborative research community at CNR, where students are empowered to push boundaries and pursue excellence. We applaud the exceptional efforts of everyone involved and look forward to witnessing even more remarkable achievements in the years to come. [Visit for more details.](#)



## Join us as a Judge at the 25th Annual Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium!

Join us as Esteemed Judges for the 25th Annual Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium!

Mark your calendars for April 19, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and be a part of a momentous event that celebrates the exceptional research accomplishments of our talented students.

As a judge, your invaluable expertise and insights will shape the evaluation of oral presentations and posters delivered by our students. Your dedicated time commitment of approximately 30 to 60 minutes will make a significant impact and is deeply appreciated.

Beyond giving back to the CNR community, this opportunity allows you to reconnect with fellow alumni and stay abreast of the cutting-edge advancements in research within the college. Your involvement will inspire and empower our students to reach new heights in their academic pursuits.

To confirm your participation or if you have any questions, kindly reach out to us at [contact information]. Let's join hands in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our students at the 25th Annual Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium!

2024 - Ready to Judge? Sign up here!



### Highest Honors - Oral Presentations

**Kayla Reed**  
*Initial Insights on the Thermal Ecology of Lake Whitefish in Northwestern Lake Michigan*

**Amber Smith**  
*Mercury Exposure in Migrating and Breeding Wood Ducks in Central Wisconsin*

**Selina Walters**  
*Effects of Riparian Habitat on Brook Trout Prey Availability, Diet, and Body Condition in the Little Plover River, Wisconsin*

**Luke Trittelwitz, Tess Bigalke, Shayla Schmitz**  
*Analysis of Waterfowl Browse on Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*) in Northwestern Wisconsin*

### Honorable Mentions - Oral Presentations

**Max Monfort**  
*Yellow Perch Responses Following a Large Scale Centrarchid Removal in McDermott Lake, Wisconsin*

**Patrick Catalano, Garrett Vetter, Isaac Cavanaugh, Colton Sime, Darian Woller**  
*Evaluation of Natural and Artificial Habitat on Brook and Brown Trout in Central Wisconsin Streams*

**Cecelia Giesen, Amber Smith, Alayna Reynolds, Abby Mueller, Will Watry**  
*Home Range and Habitat Selection of Rehabilitated and Released Female Black Bears in Northern Wisconsin*

**Nicole Luoma, Abby Mueller**  
*Examining the Apparent Survival and Detection Probabilities of Urban Eastern Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in Schmeeckle Reserve, Stevens Point, WI*

### Highest Honors - Poster Presentations

**Reece Lisowski**  
*Relation between body temperature and response to surveyor disturbance in *Sistrurus c. catenatus**

**Eli Nedden**  
*How Soil Properties Affect Wetland Seed Bank Analysis and Reflecting Wetland Restoration Potential*

**Kayla Reed**  
*Initial Insights on the Thermal Ecology of Lake Whitefish in Northwestern Lake Michigan*

**Alana Spang**  
*Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*) removal and native plant recolonization in Schmeeckle Reserve*

**Darian Woller**  
*Environmental influences on adaptive genomic variation of Lake Michigan's lake whitefish*

**Luke Trittelwitz, Tess Bigalke, Shayla Schmitz**  
*Analysis of Waterfowl Browse on Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*) in Northwestern Wisconsin*

**Roxanne Gasperetti, Sydney Paoli, Shayla Wagner**  
*Wetland Management Practices Associated with Parasite Diversity*

**Nicole Luoma, Justin Lechner, Katie Carlson, Alex Stone**  
*Population Estimates and Capture Probabilities of Urban Eastern Gray Squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in Schmeeckle Reserve, Stevens Point, WI*

**Patrick Catalano, Garrett Vetter, Isaac Cavanaugh, Colton Sime, Darian Woller**  
*Evaluation of Natural and Artificial Habitat on Brook and Brown Trout in Central Wisconsin Streams*

**Austin Wallin, Scott Lindenberger, Ava Cross-Weisbeck, Zachary Cason, Everly Eldeen, Catrina Johnson**  
*Analysis of Ruffed Grouse Drumming Direction in Northern Wisconsin*

### Honorable Mentions - Poster Presentations

**Caden Jungbluth**  
*Muskellunge epigenetic clock: non-lethal DNA-based aging*

**Jacob Tepsa**  
*Analysis of Environmental Education in Higher Education Programs: Opportunities for Professional Development*

**Gavin Meyer**  
*Analysis on Treatment methods of Northern Red Oak regarding White-Tailed Deer Bud Browse*

**Lily Lefebvre**  
*Evaluating Sensors as a Tool for Investigating Effects of Agriculture on a Groundwater Fed Stream*

**Blake Raymer, Kayla Reed**  
*Smallmouth Bass Diet Analysis in a Warmwater Central Wisconsin Stream Using the Aquatic Community Assemblage*

**Samantha Stellmacher, Morgan Goff, Tess Bigalke, Amber Smith**  
*Abundance Estimates of Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) in Schmeeckle Reserve 2022*

**Molly Murr, Catrina Johnson, Emily Knaack**  
*Effects of Window Coverage and Cardinal Direction on Urban Bird-Window Collisions on UW-Stevens Point Campus.*

**Luke Trittelwitz, Andrew Mehus, Jessica Bielak, Reece Lisowski**  
*Yearly Survival and Growth Rates of Propagated Fatmuckets (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*) in Central Wisconsin*

**Tess Bigalke, Samantha Stellmacher, Amber Smith, Morgan Goff**  
*Trap Success of Female and Male Southern Flying Squirrels in Schmeeckle Reserve 2020-2022*

**Claire Harwood, Amber DeValk, Trevor Pike, Samantha Stellmacher, Reece Lisowski, Lydia Dobberstein, Brayden Mueller,**  
*Densities of White-tailed Deer on Forests in North-Central Wisconsin*

**Nicole Luoma, Dana Lotz, Sophie Reid, Sophie Hauser**  
*Differential Timing of Migrating Northern Saw-Whet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*) Based on Age Categories*

**Gina Magro**  
*Avian Blood Parasites of Waterfowl in Green Bay, WI.*

**Ben Heinen**  
*Effect of Iron and Ammonia on the Chlorination of Municipal Well Water in the Village of Sussex, Wisconsin*

**Jacob Beer**  
*Impacts of Diet Availability and Composition on Condition and Abundance of Post-larval Walleye*

**Jackson Mikel, Olivia Stellpflug**  
*Modulator Dependent PFAS Adsorption Within a Porous Solid*

**Hailey Trompeter, Kaj Fritsch**  
*Effects of Climate Change on Microbial Communities in Restored Wetlands*

**Aidan Matson, Lizzi Gizzi**  
*Assessing the Effectiveness and Environmental Impacts of Alternative Deicers in Comparison to Standard NaCl-Based Road Salt*

**Jessica Bjornson, Sophia Halverson, Cassie Loeffler**  
*Using Stomach Content Analyses to Identify Diets of Male and Female Bobcats*

**Tess Bigalke**  
*Estimating Home Ranges of Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) Using Encounter Histories in Schmeeckle Reserve*

**Julia Nasiatka, Nick Larson, Gabby Michlig, Gabby Eklund**  
*Sex abundance of Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) in Mill Creek, WI at different times of day*

**Nicholas Albers, Mike Ayensu-Mensah, Tyler Jolin, Max Kindschuh, Aster Kabat, Jacob Ollarsabal, Mary Joy Relagio, Zach Tower**  
*Phytoremediation with *Cannabis sativa*- A comparative analysis of the effects of heavy metal, soil type, and fertilizer treatments on plant fitness*

## UWSP Student Follows Own Path to Address World Resource Problems



Anthony Spiegel may not be a typical College of Natural Resources student. The senior from Milwaukee, who is studying soil science and land management, is following his own path. This semester, that path led him to France on a first-ever federal scholarship awarded to a UW-Stevens Point student.

The path began in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where Spiegel worked as a fire lookout in the summer of 2020. He spent much of his time alone. “To keep myself sane, I saw two options: write philosophical nature essays or learn a second language.”

Spiegel tried the first one and soon opted for the second. He started learning French with the help of an online tutor. He eventually decided to minor in French at UW-Stevens Point. “The looks I received when I told people I’m taking on a French minor were priceless,” he said.

While initially insecure with his French proficiency, he was learning an important lesson: “I’m going to live my life how I want to.”

Spiegel wanted to experience life in Europe. “It was a bold move for me, as I’d never left the country before.” He explored working in various capacities before concluding – with the help of Katya Leek, advisor in the Office of

International Education – that UW-Stevens Point’s study abroad program was the best opportunity for him.

The search began for how to pay for it. Spiegel applied for a Gilman Scholarship, a federally funded program for undergraduates with the highest financial need. Offered through the U.S. State Department, the program helps fund studying abroad with a goal of promoting American economic competitiveness and national security. Applicants must show they are capable of being responsible ambassadors for the United States, partaking in cultural exchange, and expressing the diversity and values of American culture.

The application process was rigorous. Spiegel wrote three essays, secured adviser recommendations and created a project to complete after travel. He was not confident that someone without a French major would stand a chance to win this national award.

He did win – and it almost slipped out of his grasp. One morning, he noticed an email was blocked by the UWSP postmaster, which flags spam and security threats. “Usually, I delete these, but out of random curiosity, I decided to open it,” he said. It was the good news from Gilman.

“This email confirmed I should not be insecure about the ‘strange’ path I’m taking through college, and that I’m on my own path paved by my own desires and dreams.”

Spiegel is the only person from UW-Stevens Point in the program at Université de Caen Normandie this semester. Intimidating at first, he said, “this forces me to escape my comfort zone, and I’ve been loving meeting people from all around the world.”

He lives in Caen with a host family. He enjoys local cuisine at a more leisurely pace, supports local Normandy businesses – notably the boulangerie, or bakery – and enjoys talking to local residents. “Other than tripling my daily carb intake, I’m trying to experience an authentic French lifestyle,” Spiegel said.

He primarily studies French but is also observing a class in French, “Dynamics between Urban and Rural Spaces.” Spiegel is interested in a career in urban planning and is fascinated to learn the French approach to geography and cities.

Building equitable, efficient and sustainable cities is one way to manage natural resources, he notes.

“Worldwide problems require worldwide solutions,” Spiegel said. “Ecological and environmental problems will forever be a worldwide issue, and the world needs to cooperate if we want to get something done about it. Here I am in France, learning another language in the hopes that I can inspire a bigger audience to show how important it is to protect our natural resources.

“Even if I am not able to use French in my daily professional life, I will use the experiences and lessons I’ve learned here, in whatever career I choose.”

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## UWSP Fire Crew Partners with Florida Parks Service

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) Fire Crew embarked on a transformative trip to Florida during their winter break, joining forces with the Florida Parks Service to enhance their understanding of responsible fire management. This collaborative effort brought together 19 dedicated student participants from the UWSP Fire Crew, culminating in the successful execution of 13 prescribed burns across an impressive 1200 acres.

Known for its commitment to fire prevention, emergency response, and public education, the UWSP Fire Crew journeyed to Florida to expand its knowledge of fire management practices. Splitting into a north and south group, students gained hands-on experience in diverse Florida regions, each contributing significantly to the successful burns.

Working with Florida Parks Service experts, the UWSP Fire Crew meticulously planned, executed, and monitored prescribed burns. These intentional fires are crucial in restoring ecosystem health, curbing wildfire risks, and promoting biodiversity.

Reflecting on the experience, Garrett Schneider, a participant in the trip, noted, “As a student on this journey, I’ve recognized the profound impact of prescribed fire. It goes beyond safety; it’s about preserving thriving ecosystems shaped by indigenous practices. I entered college unaware that prescribed burning was even a tool in the toolbox of natural resource managers. The UW-Stevens Point Fire Crew and the employees of the Florida Parks Service made prescribed burning super approachable and exciting.”

The trip provided valuable insights into fire behavior, safety protocols, and the intricate science behind controlled burns.

Upon returning to campus, the UWSP Fire Crew carried a wealth of knowledge and renewed purpose. Their Florida expedition underscores their dedication to proactive fire safety and environmental stewardship and exemplifies the significant role that committed students play in advancing ecologically conscious fire management practices.



**Congrats to the Class of 2023**

Introducing some of our new CNR alumni! These May graduates have successfully landed positions aligned with their fields of expertise. They embody the essence of dedication, ambition, and excellence fostered by the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point.

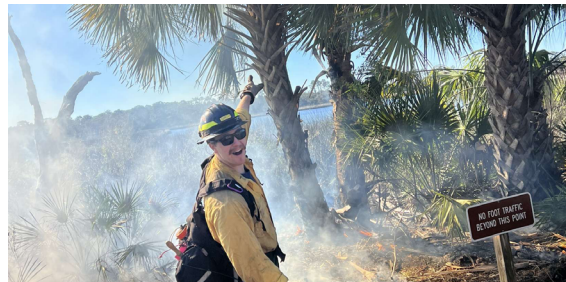


Grace Frickenstein

**Ian Anderson**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
North Dakota Game and Fish  
Wildlife Technician  
Jamestown, North Dakota

**Ashton Arnold**  
*Waste Management*  
City of Fond du Lac  
Wastewater Operator  
Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Shyann Banker**  
*Environmental Science and Management*  
Evergreen Consultants LLC.  
Environmental Specialist  
Office in Pulaski; Fieldwork Statewide



Nick Baumgartner

**Nick Baumgartner**  
*Forest Management*  
US Forest Service  
Engine Senior Firefighter  
Challis, Idaho

**Tess Bigalke**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Royal River Aquatic Specialties  
Environmental Consultant  
Various locations around the Midwest



Shyann Banker

**Sophia Callaci**  
*Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*  
South Carolina - Dept. of Natural Resources  
Diadromous Fisheries Project Employee  
Bonneau, S.C.

**Patrick Catalano**  
*Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*  
U.S. Forest Service  
Fisheries Technician  
Salmon, Idaho



Ashton Arnold

**Garret Dament**  
*Forest Management*  
Huber Resources Corp.  
Seasonal Forester  
Minocqua, Wis.

**Kasy Walker-Daniels**  
*Ecosystem Restoration and Management*  
KC Harvey Environmental  
Reclamation Field Technician  
Rawlins, Wyo.



Maddie Jenks

**Morgan Day**  
*Conservation Law Enforcement*  
Marathon County Sheriff's Office  
Deputy Sheriff  
Wausau, Wis.

**Riley Dirckx**  
*Forest Management*  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Forestry Specialist  
Baudette, Minn.

**Caden Ehlers**  
*Forest Management*  
Merjent Inc  
Ecosystem Restoration Field Technician  
Remotely across United States

**Sydney Ellis**  
*Forest Management*  
Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.  
Forester  
Tomahawk, Wis.

**Grace Frickenstein**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Wild and Free Wildlife Rehab  
Administrative Assistant Intern  
Garrison, Minn.

**Molly Fyhrlund**  
*Forest Management*  
United States Forest Service  
Wildland Fire Fighter  
Juneau, Alaska

**Andrew Greenawalt**  
*Masters in Natural Resources (Wildlife)*  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Environmental Scientist  
Sacramento, Calif.

**Michael Holst**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Wisconsin DNR  
Trail and Rec Specialist  
Merrill, Wis.

**Maddie Jenks**  
*Environmental Education and Interpretation*  
Heckrodt Wetland Reserve  
Naturalist Educator  
Menasha, Wis.

**Alexander Kind**  
*Ecosystem Restoration and Management*  
United States Department of Agriculture,  
Forest Service  
Biological Science Technician (Soils)  
Gold Beach, Ore.

**Emily Knaack**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
PhD student  
Louisiana State University  
Waterfowl Crew Lead  
Woodworth, La.

**Amanda Krieg**  
*Forest Management*  
Forest Service  
Forestry Technician (FIRE)  
Kettle Falls, Wash.

**Hannah Kruger**  
*Forest Recreation*  
Wisconsin DNR  
Parks and Recreation Specialist LTE  
Wausau, Wis.

**Brock Lederman**  
*Water Resources*  
Buffalo County Zoning Department  
Zoning Technician  
Alma, Wis.

**Lily Lefebvre**  
*Water Resources*  
Monroe County Land Conservation Dept.  
Soil and Water Conservation Specialist  
Sparta, Wis.

**Colton Lemke**  
*Wildlife and Ecology Management*  
Wildwood Wildlife Park - Zoo & Safari  
Zookeeper  
Minocqua, Wis.

**Kenzie Luterbach**  
*Sustainability*  
Midwest Renewable Energy Association  
Research Coordinator  
Custer, Wis.

**Erin McCune**  
*Ecosystem Restoration and Management*  
Tallgrass Restoration  
Restoration Technician  
Milton, Wis.

**Julia Nasiatka**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Kronenwetter Veterinary Care  
Veterinarian Assistant  
Kronenwetter, Wis.

**Marcie Nelson**  
*Chemical and Paper Science Engineering*  
SLB  
Field Engineer- Cementing and Fluids  
Windsor, Colo.

**Gretchen Puls**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Wildwood Wildlife Park Zoo and Safari  
Zookeeper  
Minocqua, Wis.

**Nick Retterath**  
*Forestry Management*  
Country Forest Products  
Forester  
Withee, Wis.

**Annika Roisen**  
*Water Resources*  
UW-Milwaukee Carvan Research Lab  
Animal Care Technician  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Amber Smith**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
USDA - Animal Plant Health Inspection  
Service - Wildlife Services  
Biological Science Technician  
(Wildlife)  
Zion, Ill.

**Sam Sodke**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Montana State University  
Weddell Seal Technician  
Erebus Bay, Antarctica

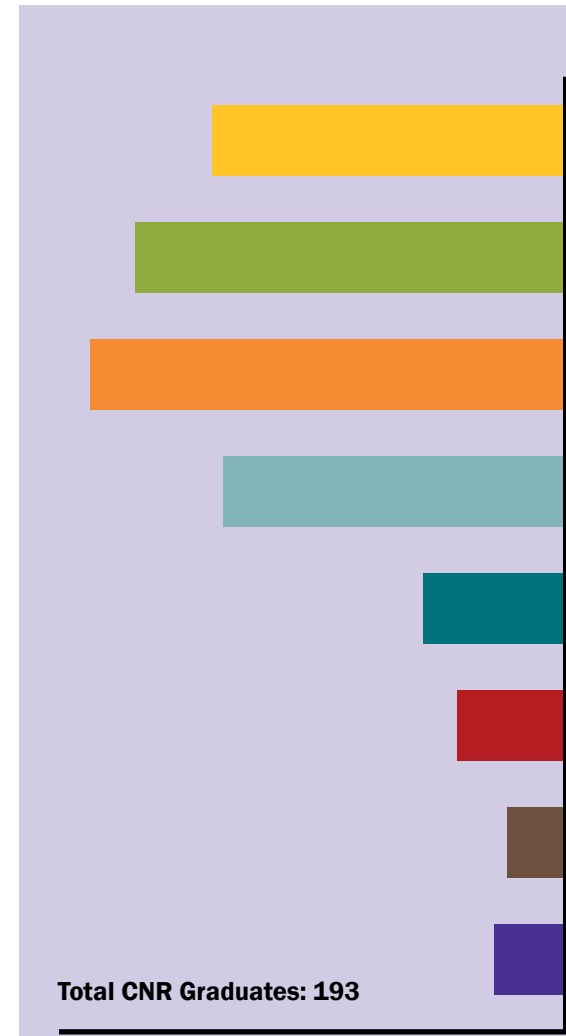
**Luke Trittelwitz**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Beaver Creek Reserve and  
Royal River Aquatic Specialties  
Avian Technician/Env. Supervisor  
Fall Creek, Wis.

**Carli Uher**  
*Forest Management*  
Steigerwaldt Land Services Inc.  
Inventory Forester  
Tomahawk, Wis.

**Dylan Undlin**  
*Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Biological Science Technician (Fish)  
Galena, Alaska

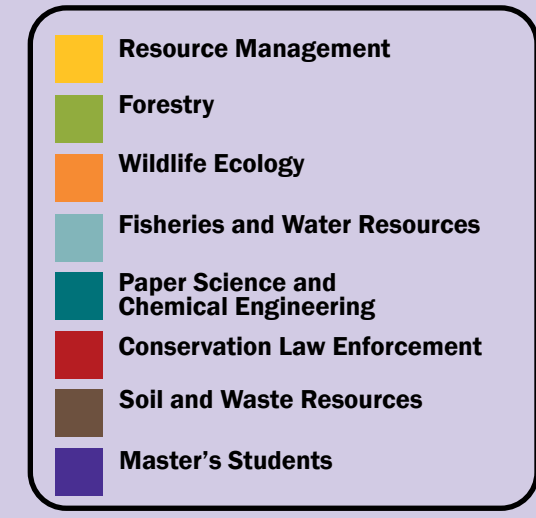
**Charles Vaughan**  
*Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*  
Minnesota DNR  
Invasive Carp Specialist  
St. Paul, Minn.

**Hayden Walkush**  
*Wildlife Ecology and Management*  
Michigan State University  
Quantitative Wildlife Center  
Wildlife Research Technician  
East Lansing, Mich.



Total CNR Graduates: 193

**May 2023 Graduates**



## Celebrating Excellence: Spotlight on Extraordinary Award Recipients

During our annual CNR Celebration Evening, we had the privilege of recognizing and celebrating the exceptional accomplishments of our outstanding alumni and remarkable contributors. Their significant impact in the realm of conservation filled the evening with inspiration and admiration.



Parker McMullen Bushman (left) was recognized with the prestigious Outstanding Alumnus Award by the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. Brenda Lackey, CNR Associate Dean for Academic Affairs presented the award.

**Parker McMullen Bushman**, a 2014 graduate of UW-Stevens Point, received the esteemed CNR Outstanding Alumnus Award. Bushman's impressive credentials as the CEO and founder of Ecoinclusive Strategies, co-founder of Inclusive Guide, and social media influencer under the moniker KWEEN WERK, have earned her well-deserved recognition. She serves as the board president of the National Association for Interpretation and has been named one of the 20 Most Influential People in the Outdoor Industry by Outside Magazine. With over 24 years of experience in non-profit leadership, interpretation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation, Bushman's work is driven by a passion for justice, accessibility, and equity, forged from her own encounters with the under representation of people of color in environmental organizations and green spaces.



August Ball (left) received the Conservation Leader Award from UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, pictured with faculty member Diane Lueck.

**August Ball**, the visionary founder of Cream City Conservation and Consulting, was honored as the 2023 CNR Conservation Leader. Through her organization, Ball is actively addressing diversity and land stewardship needs within environmental and community-based organizations. By fostering an inclusive culture and creating equitable green career pathways, she is revolutionizing the landscape of environmental initiatives. Notably, up to 60 percent of the proceeds from Ball's diversity consulting for environmental organizations, combined with generous funding from partners, are

dedicated to providing training and employment opportunities for youth in environmental industries. This remarkable initiative, known as the Cream City Conservation Corps, has engaged thousands of young individuals across southeastern Wisconsin in meaningful hands-on service to the land.



Betty Borchert (front center), the driving force behind the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Scholarship program, proudly stands with the 2023 UW-Stevens Point recipients.

**Betty Borchert** and **Steven Miller** were also recognized with CNR Outstanding Contributor Awards for their exceptional service. Borchert's unwavering dedication to providing scholarship opportunities to UW-Stevens Point students through her work with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) has been duly acknowledged. Serving as the chair of the WWF scholarship committee for an impressive 45 years, she has significantly expanded their scholarship program from two to over 14 annual scholarships. On the other hand, Miller, a UW-Stevens Point forestry alumnus, has made a lasting impact



Steven Miller (right) was the recipient of the CNR Outstanding Contributor Award. He is pictured with forestry professor Michael Demchik.

through his work with prestigious agencies and organizations such as the USFS, Texas Forest Service, and St. Johns River Water Management District. Notably, his instrumental role in establishing the Winterim Florida Prescribed Burning trip for the UWSP Fire Crew has provided valuable experiential learning opportunities for students, enhancing their understanding of prescribed burning practices. As an adjunct instructor at UW-Stevens Point, Miller has also imparted his knowledge through teaching upper-division fire courses, shaping the next generation of fire management professionals.

Last but not least, **Mark Hassman** was honored with the Paper Industry Leadership Award. A distinguished 1987 paper science and engineering UW-Stevens Point graduate, Hassman's contributions as a process engineer, technical leader, and director at Kimberly Clark Corporation have been truly remarkable. His ground breaking work in research, process, and product development across multiple locations, including the UK, has been recognized and celebrated. In a recent achievement, Hassman and his team secured two substantial grants totaling \$9.5 million from the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation, aiming to improve sanitation in developing countries in Africa and Asia. Through this project, they designed and built a mobile waste

treatment unit, further demonstrating Hassman's commitment to making a meaningful impact. Additionally, his support of the UWSP Paper Science and Chemical Engineering Department as a guest speaker and advisor, along with his contributions to the Board of Directors for the UWSP Paper Science and Chemical Engineering Foundation, exemplify his dedication to fostering future success in the field.



Mark Hassman (left) received the Paper Industry Leadership Award from Karyn Biasca, Chair of UWSP's Paper Science and Chemical Engineering Department.

The remarkable contributions of these individuals have not only enriched our community but also inspire us to aim higher and strive for positive change. Their achievements serve as a testament to the power of passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment.

The College also recognized the following faculty and staff members for their work during the 2022-2023 academic year.

- CNR Outreach Education Staff Award – **Nicole Filizetti**, Learning Specialist for the Wisconsin Forestry Center
- CNR Outstanding Contributor, **Scott Johnson**, former Treehaven Director
- CNR Professional Service Award, **Kendra Liddicoat**, Associate Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management
- CNR Scholarship Award, **Michael Demchik**, Professor of Forestry
- CNR Excellence in Teaching Award (peer-selected), **Michael Rader**, Associate Professor of Conservation and Parks Law Enforcement
- CNR Excellence in Teaching Award (student-selected), **Jason Riddle**, Gerald and Helen Stephens Professor of Wildlife



Nicole Filizetti



Scott Johnson



Kendra Liddicoat



Michael Demchik



Michael Rader



Jason Riddle

## University Award Recipients

The following CNR faculty and staff members received University Awards.

The UW-Stevens Point Service Award was given to **Rob Michitsch**. Rob's relentless pursuit of sustainable practices and influential role as an advocate for environmentally conscious solutions inspire students and colleagues alike. He has undeniably earned his place as a highly deserving recipient of the University Service Award through his unwavering dedication to sustainability, expertise in his field, and passion for service within the University and the greater community.

The Academic Staff Spirit of Community Service Award was given to **Gina Smith**, a resource specialist with the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-Stevens Point. Her work and life embody the importance of service in building a healthier community environment, both on and off campus. Her contributions have transformed the WCEE and left an indelible mark on the broader community. Gina Smith's passion for community service and her unwavering commitment to collaboration serve as an inspiration to all those who seek to make a positive impact on society.

[Learn more about all of the University award recipients here.](https://uwsp.edu/cnr)

# CNR NEWS



College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point



## Natural Resources & the Sciences Job and Career Exploration Fair

**December 5, 2023**

Are you in search of highly talented and motivated individuals to join your team? Our annual career fair is tailored to students who are actively pursuing majors in natural resources, the sciences, and closely related fields of study.

This is your chance to draw in committed students for summer internships, engage in meaningful interviews, and proudly display your business's potential. Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity – secure your spot today!

**Deadline to register is November 20, 2023.**



## Make a Difference

There are two significant ways you can help us continue to be one of the nation's leading undergraduate natural resources programs.

**Make a gift.** Help us maintain our position as a leading undergraduate natural resources program by making a financial contribution. Visit [www.uwsp.edu/givenow](http://www.uwsp.edu/givenow) to donate online. For check donations, please make them payable to "UWSP Foundation - CNR" and mail them to UW-Stevens Point Foundation, 2100 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

**Share your story.** Calling all alumni! We love hearing from you. Share your post-graduation experiences to inspire our faculty, staff, and students, and to contribute to our newsletter. Send your stories to [cnr@uwsp.edu](mailto:cnr@uwsp.edu).

Together, let's make a lasting impact and ensure the continued success of our college. Thank you for your support!



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