



ALPINE 2021 Summer Institute Participants



Clare Brown is a graduate of Loyola University in New Orleans with a degree in Economics. She is interested in the intersection of environmental and natural resource issues with economic principles and hopes to continue to learn and explore creative ways to sustain responsible natural resource access. She served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar as an Agriculture Food Security Advisor and is currently serving in the AmeriCorps as a Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council in Providence, RI.



Erik Boyer is the Director of Stewardship at Wildlands Trust in Plymouth MA. As Stewardship Manager he is responsible for the management of Wildlands Trust fee properties and conservation restrictions. He is motivated by his passion for both land management and improving public access opportunities for residents of Southeastern MA, enhancing the ecological value of conservation lands and public enjoyment. He previously worked with the Town of Dennis' Department of Natural Resources, as a Natural Resource Officer. Before that, he was a Program Supervisor and member with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Erik is originally from the Philadelphia area, and came to Massachusetts in 2004 to earn his bachelor's degree in biology at Gordon College. He grew up in a heavily developed suburb and always treasured hiking trips with his family to the New Jersey Pine Barrens and Acadia National Park. He spends most of his free time recreating outdoors in every way imaginable: trail running, rock climbing, mountain biking, and hiking the trails with his dog Tilly.



Ana Colón-García was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico and graduated from Haverford College with a major in anthropology and a minor in environmental studies. During her time there, she discovered a passion for environmental conservation and education through her work with an anti-mining organization in Intag, Ecuador. As a result, she decided to return to her Island to work with Para La Naturaleza, a nonprofit unit of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. Ana currently writes and conducts research for the Communications Team. Before that, for the past three years, she worked as Volunteer Coordinator recruiting and training volunteers for the organization's Reforestation Unit.

Ana is passionate about community conservation and coastal restoration. She spends most of her time near the ocean, swimming, surfing, and taking pictures. Constantly amazed by Puerto Rico's ecosystems, she plans to continue working to ensure they are protected for generations to come.



Christopher Densmore is a writer, naturalist, and conservationist living on ancestral Mohican lands presently known as Berkshire County in Western Massachusetts. He works on communications, outreach, education, and volunteer management for the Berkshire Natural Resources Council -- the regional land trust there. After earning a BA from Carleton College in Minnesota, he lived in Oregon and New Mexico for several years working as a sommelier and outdoor educator. He recently returned to his original home in New England, and is currently a student in Eastern Oregon University's low-residency MFA in Creative and

Environmental Writing. When he isn't writing or trying to discern the differences between various types of tree bark in the forest, he practices yoga, gardens, and reads as much as he can get his hands on.



Born and raised on Cape Cod and the South Shore of Massachusetts, **Noah Henkenius** decided to venture out to Western Massachusetts for college. After graduating from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in December of 2020, Noah was hired to be Berkshire Environmental Action Team's (BEAT) Stewardship Manager in January of 2021. Noah became a dedicated bird watcher in college and continues to do so recreationally in his free time as well as occasionally leading bird walks for BEAT. In addition to leading bird walks, as Stewardship Manager for BEAT, Noah is responsible for performing water quality sampling, doing stream continuity assessments using NAACC protocols, coordinating invasive species removal efforts and certifying vernal pools for the state's database, among various other activities.



Colin Howe grew up in upstate New York and has found the Adirondack Park a particularly inspiring example of successful conservation. His experiences in the Adirondacks initially interested him in the natural world and inspired him to major in biology at Middlebury College where he graduated in 2021. While pursuing his biology degree at Middlebury, he focused on ecology and came to appreciate the importance of large tracts of functional habitat to ecosystem health. Colin is starting a post-baccalaureate fellowship at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) studying HIV antibody development in June.



Delia Kostner is a psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Amherst, New Hampshire. Delia is on the faculty of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. Delia's recent research has focused on ways our environment shapes human personality and more specifically, the psychological underpinnings of our mistreatment of the earth. Delia is an avid outdoors person and an amateur naturalist. Most weekends Delia can be found with her husband hiking and exploring the New England mountains in all 4 seasons, although they have been known to wander further afield across the US, as well as the mountains of Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Japan. Delia lives on 7 mostly wooded acres in Southern NH with her husband, a pediatrician, and a very opinionated cat, Sid.



Samantha Myers is currently a graduate student working towards a MS in Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Originally from Maryland, she grew up biking along the Potomac River and exploring marshes around the Chesapeake Bay. After earning a B.A. in Environmental Biology from Washington University in St. Louis, Sam headed back home to work for The Nature Conservancy's Maryland/D.C. chapter, where she helped with prescribed burns and rare plant monitoring as part of the Land Management team and studied the historical impacts of fire on forest health in western Maryland. Now in Western Mass, Sam's current research focuses on developing forest management strategies that landowners can implement to increase forest carbon storage and resilience to climate change. Her interest in

conservation work stems not only from a love of the natural world, but also from recognizing the need for effective long-term stewardship of conserved lands, which ecological research can help to inform. In her free time, Sam enjoys cooking and finding new spots to hike or bike in New England.



Hailing from the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, **Sara Pearce** is settling into her new home in the Northern Rocky Mountains. She is currently an AmeriCorps member serving at the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, a nonprofit organization in Bozeman, Montana. In December of 2019, Sara graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a B.S. in Natural Resource and Environmental Management. During her time in the Hawaiian islands, Sara was able to put her love of wildlife to work as a student assistant with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources in their endangered invertebrate lab, while also volunteering on a translocation project for Black-footed Albatross at the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge. Looking forward, Sara is excited to have a hand in building connectivity and environmental resilience in a changing world and hopes to one day become a wildlife biologist.



Alyssa Seibt is from Portland, Oregon. She is about to finish her freshman year at Oregon State University where she is majoring in environmental economics and policy and minoring in comparative international agriculture. Alyssa plans on attending law school after attending OSU to become an environmental lawyer. Alyssa has lived in Oregon her entire life and in her free time she loves to explore what the state has to offer through hiking or camping.



Rachel Sharon is 30 years old and for the past six years has worked seasonally with the state parks department in Massachusetts. This summer Rachel is doing a Terra Corps service term and working at the Mass Audubon Sanctuary Broadmoor. Rachel is currently attending Framingham State working towards a BS in Wildlife Biology and a Minor in Art. She is a Registered Yoga Teacher and an Aspiring wildlife rehabilitator, ideally specializing in Opossums.



Colleen Smith graduated with a BS in forestry with an emphasis in soils and a minor in geospatial analysis from Humboldt State University in 2019. Colleen is a California native, but moved out to Massachusetts a year ago now with her partner and dog. She's recently ended an AmeriCorps term working with a land trust in Falmouth, MA and has started a research assistant position at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Falmouth where she's focused on soil carbon monitoring. Some of Colleen's hobbies include plant ID and foraging, hiking, reading, and napping.



After growing up with a firm hatred of camping and the outdoors, **Kate Sutcliffe** wisely changed her mind after impulsively spending a summer working on a trail crew in Utah. After several professional detours through the worlds of public health and management consulting, she has meandered her way back to conservation. Kate is currently spending a year serving with TerraCorps at Mount Grace Land Trust in Athol, MA, where she collaborates with Open Space Committees and other municipal volunteers across the state. A New England transplant, she holds a deep fondness for prairies and cornfields but must admit the forests are clamping down on her heart. She is particularly interested in the intersection between workforce development and conservation, as well as how people perceive and represent their wilderness experiences.



Sean Thackurdeen is a biocultural conservationist working as a grant maker to uplift nature, people, and their wellbeing. He spent 7 years working as an ally and environmental anthropologist with indigenous communities in the South Pacific. He currently serves as Program Associate for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



Deana Thomas is currently a student at the Community College of Rhode Island. She lives in the rural town of North Scituate, where she has started a small farm. She is cultivating mushrooms outdoors, growing flowers, vegetables, and helping to ensure the success of native plants in the woods. Deana enjoys spending time in nature, photography, hiking and primitive tent camping. She has been observing and documenting fungi and other organisms she finds as hobby. She feels a great calling to contribute to the protection of the land; its history and the life it supports.



Sophie Traficonte graduated from Connecticut College in 2015 with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in photography. After graduating, Sophie worked for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation first as a Director's Fellow and then as a Project Manager in the Boston office. This position included working on different programs in the parks and it allowed her to get a start in the world of conservation. She joined New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in 2017 and she is currently the Conservation Project Manager at NEFF. Sophie focuses on land protection projects in New England and also manages the implementation of the Pooled Timber Income Fund, which uses planned giving principles to draw new lands into protection. Her goals are to expand her knowledge in the technicalities of land protection so that she can reach her maximum potential in the field of conservation.