

BSWP Student Research Awardees Archive

The 2022 Awardees

Jack Hatajik (University of Pittsburgh): "Mapping the population dynamics of the invasive *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard) in response to climate"

Olivia Holley (Penn State Behrend): "Soil composition varies with presence of *Celastrus orbiculatus*"

Isiah Kratzner (West Virginia University): "Quantifying genetic diversity in a sensitive Appalachian herb, smooth rock skullcap (*Scutellaria saxatilis*: Lamiaceae)"

2022 Awardees Jack Hatajik (University of Pittsburgh) and Olivia Holley (Penn State Behrend) gave short presentations on their research at the May 8 meeting.

Awardee Jack Hatajik presented a poster on his BSWP-funded work at the Botany 22 Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska.

The 2023 Awardees

Jacqueline Baker (Penn State University): "Documenting a new taxon *Allium burdickii* in western Pennsylvania: habitat and herbarium studies"

Megan Gauger (University of Pittsburgh): "Weather-induced flower closure in spring ephemeral forest wildflowers and its effect on pollen viability"

Christopher Perrone (University of Pittsburgh): "Determining the effects of a changing climate on phenology of a dioecious Species: *Lindera benzoin*"

Gillian Revenis (Chatham University): "Are exclosures really doing any good? Exploring native plant regeneration and abundance in a severely invaded suburban fringe forest plagued by white-tailed deer and non-native plant invaders"

2023 student awardee Megan Gauger (University of Pittsburgh) presented her research at the June 10, 2024 BSWP meeting in a presentation titled "Weather-induced Flower Closure in Spring Ephemeral Forest Wildflowers." She showed us captivating time lapse images of spring ephemeral flowers opening and closing and connected these movements with temperature, time of day, and weather data.

The 2024 Awardees

Olivia Carson (University of Pittsburgh) "Polyploid population establishment and bioremediation potential in duckweed" • Faculty mentor: Dr. Martin Turcotte

Ryan Dow (University of Pittsburgh)
"Variation in plant traits associated with pollinator interactions as a response to allopolyploidy"
Faculty mentors: Dr. Nathália Susin Streher and Dr. Tia-Lynn Ashman

Athalya Joseph (University of Pittsburgh) "Using herbarium specimens to estimate potential seed longevity in comparison with Beal's seed experiment"
Faculty mentor: Dr. Castilleja Olmsted

Malcolm Kurtz (Chatham University)
"Creating an herbarium collection featuring plants of ecological significance to native bird populations at Eden Hall Farm in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania"
Faculty mentor: Dr. Linda MK Johnson

Damon LeMaster (West Virginia University) "Creating a grass (Poaceae) I.D. application in Appalachia"
Faculty mentor: Dr. Ember Morrissey

Jedidiah Lingenfelter (St. Vincent College)
"Characterization of mycorrhizal associations in *Asimina triloba* of Western Pennsylvania"
Faculty mentor: Dr. James Kellam

Kayleigh Long (Bucknell University) "Assessing the genetic status of the critically imperiled box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*) in Pennsylvania"
Faculty mentors: Dr. Chris Martine and Dr. Melody Sain

Kayleigh Phillips (University of Pittsburgh)
"Unraveling poison ivy's response to climate change: a historical analysis of toxicity"
Faculty mentor: Dr. Mason Heberling
Kayleigh Phillips presented her project, "Unraveling Poison Ivy's Response to Climate Change: An Analysis of Toxicity" at the following events:
Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation (MCSI) Undergraduate Research Project Symposium (July 23)
[See her project's video here.](#)
Pymatuning Lab of Ecology (PLE) Ecology and Evolution Student Research Symposium (August 1)
University of Pittsburgh Fall Undergraduate Research and Creative Expression Fair (October 1)
American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting (December 9th, abstract accepted to the session "Global Environment")