

NRT Conservation Science Newsletter



Fall 2022

Looking Forward

Greetings esteemed colleagues! It is with great excitement that we started this fifth year on our NRT grant and celebrated all of our joint efforts through our in-person retreat. After two years, it was such a pleasure to come together in person to continue to learn from one another.

Together we have experienced and coped with the impacts of the pandemic, and yet we have accomplished so much! We have enthusiastically welcomed four cohorts of trainees, integrated new faculty and partners to our team, developed new program components, gained incredible insights from the various internship opportunities, presented at diverse conferences and invited presentations, and published numerous papers and reports related to our collaborative work.

As a program, we feel very fortunate to be able to learn from each of you and look forward to continuing to grow this important collaboration into 2023 and beyond! Thank you for the honor of working with you to advance conservation and training efforts in Maine!

*~ Dr. Sandra De Urioste-Stone,
Program Leader*

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the trainees who have completed their degrees in 2022:

-  Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez, MS Ecology & Environmental Science
-  Gabrielle Sherman, PhD Forest Resources
-  Michelle de Leon, MS Ecology & Environmental Science



These outstanding graduates will now join our growing list of NRT Conservation Science alumni, and we look forward to hearing about their future endeavors.

We also offer congratulations to NRT faculty Bridie McGreavy (Dept. of Communication & Journalism) and Adam Daigneault (School of Forest Resources) for being awarded tenure this year. Best wishes for your sabbaticals!

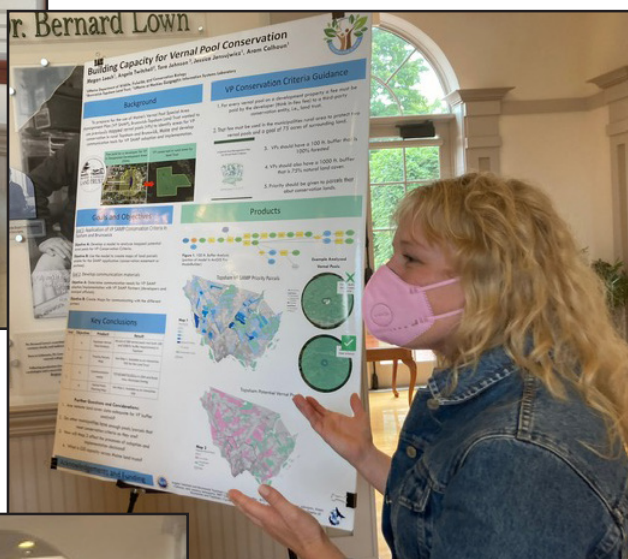
NRT Conservation Science Annual Retreat

In September, nearly 40 people gathered at Buchanan Alumni House on UMaine's Orono campus for our program's fourth annual retreat. The event provided an engaging forum for interactions among trainees, faculty, and conservation partners. We extend a special thank you to our retreat planning committee: program coordinator Emily Uhrig, faculty members Jessica Jansujwicz and Parinaz Rahimzadeh, and trainees Alyssa Soucy, Gabrielle Hillyer, and Lucy Martin.

Poster Session



A poster session during the lunch hour gave trainees the opportunity to share their research or internship experiences with partners and faculty.



“Thank you so much for the NRT retreat-- it was great to meet everyone!”
--Allison Foster, NRT Trainee

For more information about our program, visit our website:
<https://umaine.edu/conservationscience/>



Science Communication Panel

The retreat's morning session featured a science communication panel, with guest speakers Catherine Schmitt (Schoodic Institute), Christine Feurt (Wells Reserve), Jennifer Smith-Mayo (UMaine Communication & Journalism), and Natalie Springuel (Maine Sea Grant). Many thanks to our panelists and to trainees Gabrielle Hillyer and Lucy Martin for their excellent job facilitating the panel.



Discussion Groups



The afternoon wrapped up with small group discussions, with faculty facilitating at each table while trainees and partners discussed career paths, skill development, and internships.



Faculty members Aram Calhoun, Jay Wason, Jessica Jansujwicz, and Laura Rickard kindly volunteered to be note-takers and facilitators for the discussions.

Engaging Internships

We've had another great year of internships. Working with conservation partners in locations throughout Maine, trainees conducted projects on a range of topics, with activities including GIS mapping of vernal pools, carrying out trail use surveys, and assessing workforce development priorities among fishermen. During their projects, trainees build and enhance their professional skills while helping partners advance their organization's conservation goals. This mutually beneficial interaction often leads to ongoing collaborations that continue beyond the internship. We'd like to thank all of our conservation partners and trainees for making the internships such a valuable component of the NRT program!

"The internship experience reaffirmed my interests in human dimensions while opening my eyes to the possibilities of a career in science writing."

*--Alyssa Soucy, NRT Trainee
Host: Biodiversity Research Institute*

Welcome New Partners

In 2022, we welcomed three land trusts as our newest conservation partners: Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (<https://www.btlr.org/>), Mahoosuc Land Trust (<https://www.mahoosuc.org/>), and Orono Land Trust (<https://oronolandtrust.org/>). All three organizations have been involved in our internship program this summer, and we are excited to develop future collaborative opportunities with these partnerships.



Collaborative Research in the Spotlight

In July, a study coauthored by five NRT trainees/alumni--Lydia Horne, Asha DiMatteo-LePape, Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez, Valeria Briones, Alyssa Soucy--and faculty member Sandra De Urioste-Stone was published in the journal *Tourism and Hospitality Research*. The study examining a participatory approach to climate change planning on Mount Desert Island, Maine, is an excellent example of the collaboration that emerges from our program.

Read their publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/14673584221114730>

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