NYC Urban Field Station | Summer 2019 Resident Profiles

The NYC Urban Field Station (NYC UFS) offers free residency to researchers, artists, land managers, and other relevant experts that are focused on NYC's social-ecological systems. The purpose of the Field Station is to facilitate and advance research that will have bearing on urban land management and stewardship. The summer is our most busy time here at the NYC UFS, as it is the height of the field season for researchers collecting data for their projects. This report highlights the people and their projects of the summer of 2019.

Green Infrastructure

Kate Zidar
Green Infrastructure Research Engineer
Julian Stolper
Green Infrastructure Field Engineer
Sustainable Water Resource Engineering Lab, Drexel University

An ongoing GI project; Julian Stolper (right); Kate Zidar (left)

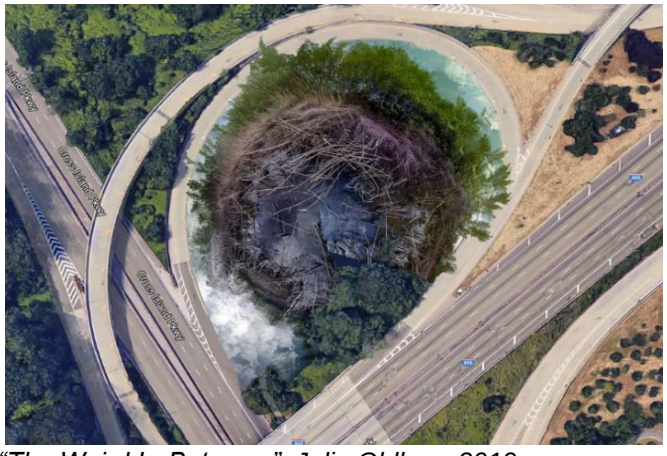
Kate and Julian are conducting interdisciplinary research and educational activities pertaining to green infrastructure (GI) across the city. Their overall goal is to enhance the understanding of the key hydrologic mechanisms by which GI can alter the production of ecosystem services in urban watersheds. To do so, they utilize lysimeters, soil moisture sensors, pressure transducers, and climate stations to collect performance data from GI sites across NYC.

For more information about this work, visit the SWER Lab website or contact Kate Zidar at cz387@drexel.edu

Creating an "Undiscovered City"

Julia Oldham
NYC UFS Artist in Resident, 2019
Eugene, Oregon

As one of this year's Artists in Resident, Julia came to the field station to create a body of work called "Undiscovered City" as part of the *Who Takes Care of New York?* Community-Partnership Exhibition at the Queens Museum this fall. For this project, she spoke to park stewards about their reflections on the future of the city, especially in regard to nature and climate change. She has been all over NYC for this work, creating a series of 360-degree photographs which she then digitally altered with additional visual elements to create a narrative. Staying at the NYC UFS has been crucial for her project, as it has allowed her to access research sites as well as access to scientists, volunteers, and other stewards who have helped her learn about the ecological complexities of the city.



"The Weird In-Between", Julia Oldham 2019

For more information about this work, visit her website or contact Julia at juliaoldham@gmail.com

Salt Marsh Sparrows

Alex Cook
MS Graduate Researcher
Anna Peel, Stephanie Hale, & Victoria Stover
Field Technicians
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

From left to right: Anna Peel, Alex Cook, Stephanie Hale, and Victoria Stover

SUNY-ESF has been researching imperiled tidal marsh birds in New York City for the past six years. This project aims to better understand the habitat selection and nest survival of saltmarsh and seaside sparrows breeding in the marshes of NYC. The results will better inform restoration projects to improve habitat for these species. This team presented at a Science of the Living City Brown Bag, highlighting their key findings. The NYC UFS has been the summer "home" for this team that wakes up each day at 3 a.m. to get to their wetlands just as the sun comes out - for more than half a decade!

A late summer rainbow captured during a search for sparrow nests in NYC's salt marshes

For more information about this work, visit the Cohen Lab website, the SHARP website, or contact Alex Cook at cookalex77@gmail.com

Tracking the Urban Coyote

Emily Weisenberger
MS Graduate Researcher
Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology at Columbia University

Emily is researching how white-tailed deer vigilance changes when coyotes are present or absent in rural and urban parks across NYC and the region. For this project, she is collaborating with faculty at Columbia University, researchers at the American Museum of Natural History, and with scientists from the Gotham Coyote Project.

For more information about this work, contact Emily at eweisenb1@gmail.com

Urban Foraging Practices in Russian Speaking Communities

Tatiana Gladkikh, PhD Student
Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont

Tatiana studies stewardship and nonmaterial benefits people receive from nature, and is currently in the data collection stage of her research. For this project, she focuses on values associated with urban foraging among Russian speaking communities in and across the city. The NYC UFS provided her with multiple resources to better understand the spatial distribution of Russian speaking communities, and to connect her with stewardship groups that were of particular relevance to her research.

For more information about this work, visit the Gould Lab's website, or contact Tatiana at tgladkik@uvm.edu

Oyster Restoration

Matt Hare
Associate Professor
Hanna Hartung
MS Graduate Researcher
Harmony Borchardt-Wier & Kaili Gregory
Field Technicians
Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University

Matt Hare (left); Harmony Bochardt-Wier (right)

This team of researchers from Cornell University are studying the wild and self-sustaining remnant populations of native oysters in the Hudson River Estuary and why they remain isolated near the Tappan Zee Bridge in Tarrytown, New York. In NYC, they are working with the Billion Oyster Project to understand the dynamics of the stable oyster populations up in the Hudson Valley and what can be learned from these communities in order to restore oyster populations in other parts of the estuary, including NYC.

A sample of the wild oyster population collected from the Hudson River Estuary

For more information about this work, visit the Hare Lab website or contact Matt Hare at mph75@cornell.edu

Community-based Adaptation, from Cairo to New York City

Zander Pellegrino
MES Graduate Researcher
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Cairo, Egypt and New York City—two of the world's most populated cities—are uniquely vulnerable to climate change but also have distinctive capacities to adapt. Zander's research compares how residents in these two cities naturally customize local climate adaptation. His work examines factors that restrict or facilitate communities' efforts to meet adaptation needs; providing valuable lessons for other cities seeking to adapt to climate change.

For more information about this work, contact Zander at zander.pellegrino@yale.edu