

# ESS Newsletter

## May, 2023

### National Wildlife Habitat Certification

This week Allegheny College officially became a National Wildlife Habitat certified through the National Wildlife Foundation. Professor Rich Bowden's Junior Seminar class spent the semester creating a proposal to acquire this certification. They also spent time developing ideas to make the Allegheny campus the best habitat it can be, with suggestions to plant a variety of younger trees, install bat and bird houses, and even to create a wildlife pond. On Wednesday, April 26, the Junior Seminar class presented their findings and suggestions to various stakeholders at Allegheny, including some Environmental Science department professors, the Office of Sustainability, Physical Plant, and Admissions. At the end of the presentation, Professor Bowden presented the new certification plaque designating our Wildlife Habitat status.



Students planting the chestnut tree.



Students pose with the certification plaque.

### Arbor Day!!

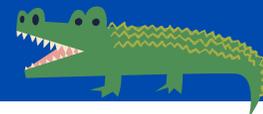
Happy Arbor Day! For the second year in a row, an Environmental Science 210 Class planted a tree on campus for the Arbor Day Foundation. In the Fall of 2021, the class decided to plant a tree every spring in honor of Arbor Day. Last year's tree proudly stands outside of Carr Hall, the Environmental Science building. This year, the class contacted Physical Plant and asked where a tree was most needed on campus. That location was Carnegie Hall. A new beautiful Chestnut tree now stands tall and proud on campus this Arbor Day!



By Rachel Ditzenberger

By Ava Loch

Allegheny College



## PERC Sustainability Champions

This year, there are three Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) Campus Sustainability Champion awards to members of our very own ESS department! Dr. Matt Bethurem was recognized for his work with the Meadville Climate Action Plan and other work related to climate resilience in Meadville. London Dejarnette (24') received this award for their efforts to address food insecurity on campus and the revival of the Food Recovery Network chapter at Allegheny, a student group that recovers and redistributes leftover food that would've become waste. The Solar Pilot Team, a group of 11 students led by Dr. Ian Carbone, was also awarded for the installation of a solar array on the roof of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meadville, with the hope that this project will be the first of additional solar design and install projects for non-profits provided by Allegheny teams. Congratulations to all the inspirational Sustainability Champions!



The Campus Sustainability Champions. From the left: Dr. Matt Bethurem, London Dejarnette, and representatives of the Solar Pilot Team: Ariana Clark, Elsa Waidelich and Lindsay Kutz



### I Want to Be a Farmer

When people ask what I want to be  
I have no flashy response  
I take a breath and tell them simply  
"I just want to be a farmer"

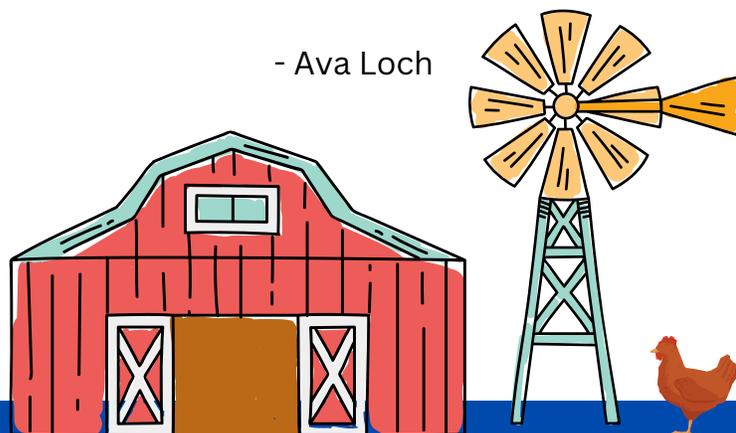
I want the sun on my neck  
Sweat trailing lines down my back  
I want to see my hands in the soil

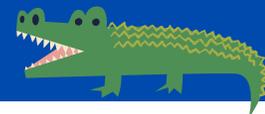
I want to give to Earth and people  
To protect, provide, to nourish  
I want to be a sustainer of life  
A steward in the midst of takers

Awake at the crack of dawn  
When the day is still soft and the light does  
not yet burn  
Sore from the day before but  
Ready to do it all again

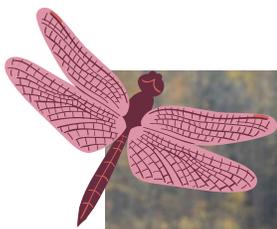
I want to work hard and let it be known  
Because I am proud of what I do  
Know these are my thoughts when I say to you  
"I just want to be a farmer."

- Ava Loch





## Sigma Xi Undergraduate Research Conference



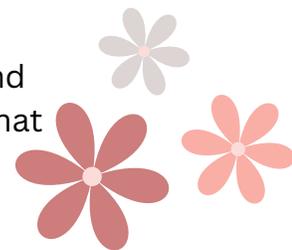
Brody poses with a trout from his research location, Caldwell Creek.



On April 22nd, Allegheny Students participated in the 31st Annual Sigma Xi Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn State Behrend! Students from many different colleges throughout the region gave oral or poster presentations that were based on research they had previously conducted, which were then judged by various panels of experts. The presentations given were interdisciplinary and covered various areas including biology, psychology, humanities, and mathematics. Around 30 awards were given out at the conference, and of the 35 participants from Allegheny, 10 won awards! Junior Eden Brody ('24), who placed 2nd in Biology Oral Presentations, stated that "the conference was a nice opportunity to see what students in the area were working on, and that it was a good experience with a really supportive environment. Congrats to all Allegheny students who attended!

**Congrats to all of our graduating seniors!  
Here are some of our seniors' fun class memories and advice for underclassmen:**

We went out in the ravine behind the cemetery for a project and that is the chilliest spot!



Get out and explore the area around here!



Going outside to look at trees was so fun!



Take any environmental classes that interests you the most to help you see what appeals to you!



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