



ESS Newsletter

December, 2024



Alumni Highlight - Freddy Smith!

After graduating from Allegheny in 2020, Freddy gained experience in multiple jobs, starting as a contractor at Clearwater Mills in Maryland, until he came into his current position as a technician for the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Grant Program at the Lawrence County Conservation District in PA. Here, he works to administer grants to local road-owning entities that facilitate repairs to and environmental improvements of dirt and gravel roads, as well as low-traffic paved roads. This is done specifically to help reduce sedimentation into streams from roadways. Freddy is also the coordinator of the county's West Nile, Mosquito, and Tick program, which keeps the local community updated on vector populations (mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, etc.) and vector-borne illnesses. Altogether, the work he does greatly varies, and he can be seen doing just about anything that relates to various environmental projects! In his free time, Freddy is a big fan of deer hunting and outdoorsy activities like hiking, backpacking, and as of recently, fly fishing!

In terms of advice for current ESS students, Freddy recommends engaging with ESS professors as much as possible (even if you have to come up with something to ask them), leaning into alumni networks, and looking into career services through the library! Overall, Freddy says that he is incredibly grateful for his time at Allegheny, and that the ESS program made him who he is as a person. If you have any questions about things like district work, feel free to reach out to him at fsmith@lawrencecd.org. Thanks so much for sharing your story!

Introduction to Creek Connections!

Are you looking for another class but are not sure what to take? Why not try an Internship with Creek Connections?

I have been working for Creek Connections since my 1st year here and have loved every moment of it. As a whole, every single day tends to be different, but it is a good way to learn more about aquatic ecosystems and determine if you may be interested in education. While it is not the only thing we do, we spend a fair amount of time off campus visiting schools and teaching predominantly middle school students about aquatic ecology and water quality monitoring through macroinvertebrate sampling and chemical tests. As an intern, you will also work on a project, but you will be given ample time to work on it and most likely will not need to work on it outside of the time you are in the office! We hope to see you in an upcoming semester!





Future of Allegheny Green Clubs

Allegheny College has a robust collection of student clubs and organizations, including several environmentally focused groups. However, over the past few years club leaders have noted ever-decreasing participation in their organizations. There is much speculation on what causes the ongoing membership challenges, and potential factors include the high number of clubs to lower student population, the relatively high percentage of student athletes, and residual pandemic impacts on social patterns. Whatever the case, the old club system seems to be losing functionality and appeal.

In response to this situation, student leaders of Students for Environmental Action, Green Students of Color Society, Bike Share, and Food Recovery Network have begun discussing and planning a way to combine these groups into one functional organization with sub-committees focused on the goals and services of each current club. The hope is that by working together, the clubs can streamline managing communication, general meetings, and event planning without sacrificing the missions of each club. Additionally, this coalition strategy would allow flexibility in the club from year to year, depending where student member interest is strongest and give struggling clubs a chance to rebuild in the future (e.g. Sustainable Design Team a.k.a. Food Foragers which is no longer active as of last year).

Club leaders are optimistic that this strategic change can help keep the valuable projects and community building that our organizations work towards going as we adapt. If you're a student looking to get involved, please stop by any of the green club tables at the winter involvement fair or feel free to reach out by email. Additionally, if anyone has any ideas for a new name for the merged clubs (or any other questions or suggestions), send an email to sea@allegheny.edu!

FCVC Hemlock Treatment

The diameters of hundreds of hemlocks over about three acres were measured in the Cemetery Run ravine by Students for Environmental Action (SEA) with the French Creek Valley Conservancy (FCVC) at the end of September. The measured trees ranged from small saplings to trees three feet wide. Measuring the hemlocks was an important step in preparing for the application of imidacloprid which was injected into the soil at the base of each tree to protect them from the hemlock wooly adelgid. The hemlock wooly adelgid is a problematic invasive insect found last year at Greendale. The application of imidacloprid was completed in the first week of October. This was a cool opportunity for SEA students to get involved in a local conservation project as well as an introduction for some students to the public access hiking trails that exist at Greendale.

Contributions By:
Luna Hammer
Willow Vowler
Elsa Waidelich

Edited By:
Luna Hammer

Faculty Advisor:
Rich Bowden

**Interested in writing
for the ESS Newsletter?**
Contact our editor at:
hammer01@allegheny.edu

