



Office of the West Seneca Town Supervisor
Hon. Gary A. Dickson

Memorandum

To: Honorable Town Board
From: Gary Dickson, Town Supervisor
Date: December 6, 2021
Subject: Deer Task Force

Dear Colleagues,

Attached is a resume from Brittany Herson. Ms. Herson is a West Seneca resident and has a master's degree in biological sciences with a concentration in applied ecology from SUNY Stony Brook. She works with invasive species and has seen firsthand that deer help spread the seed of invasive species, which have a negative impact on native biodiversity and ecosystem health. She has participated in outdoor fieldwork in the ecology field since graduate school and has experienced the negative impacts of ticks, which are also spread by deer. She would like to use her background in ecology to explore different options for deer in West Seneca.

Please approve her appointment to the West Seneca Deer Task Force.

Brittany Hernon

Education

State University of New York at Stony Brook
Biological Sciences with a Concentration in Applied Ecology

Master of Arts, May 2013
GPA: 4.00

State University of New York at Geneseo
Major: Biochemistry; Minor: Environmental Studies

Bachelor of Science, May 2011
GPA: 3.73

Professional Experience

Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Manager, November 2017-present
WNY PRISM | Buffalo, NY

- Coordinate WNY PRISM Terrestrial Invasive Species Program including Early Detection and Response, Crew Assistance Program and data management.
- Provide supervision and direction for WNY PRISM Field Operations Manager.
- Hire, train and supervise Early Detection Survey and Monitoring Technicians and GIS Technician, assist with additional WNY PRISM seasonal hiring efforts including development of job descriptions.
- Coordinate early detection species surveys, site monitoring, rapid response and management efforts.
- Ensure all necessary permits, permissions, MOU's, and insurance documents are in place for stewardship activities.
- Communicate and work with WNY PRISM partners, provide for information sharing and use of working groups.
- Assist with volunteer program as it aligns with Terrestrial Invasive Species Program goals and efforts
- Represent WNY PRISM at events by providing outreach materials and invasive species information using a table display.

QA Laboratory Supervisor, July 2016-October 2017
(Lead Laboratory Technician, September 2015-July 2016;
QA Laboratory Technician, October 2013-September 2015)
Steuben Foods | Elma, NY

- Supervised QA Laboratory Technicians in the main lab to ensure they carried out product analysis correctly.
- Trained and mentored incoming laboratory technicians on proper lab techniques and provided a general overview of aseptic processing.
- Set up new equipment, wrote procedures and trained lab techs, leads and other supervisors.

Hummingbird/ Plant Ecology Field Assistant, May 2013 – July 2013.

Hummingbird Monitoring Network | Patagonia, AZ

- Recorded hummingbird behaviors using point counts and focal observations along transects.
- Conducted floral censuses and nectar analysis with a portable refractometer to look at hummingbird resource availability.
- Managed databases to ensure collected data were entered and analyzed properly.

Research Assistant, August 2012 – May 2013.

Stony Brook University Ecology and Evolution Department | Stony Brook, NY.

- Monitored populations of spotted knapweed to look at fecundity and study insect parasitism relationships among biocontrol agents and this plant.
- Created species distribution models for biocontrol agents using ArcGIS, R and MaxEnt.