

Amy Wroblewski

Position: PhD Candidate
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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University

PhD Candidate in the Ecology program and Anthropology department

State College, PA

August 2018-Present

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Concentration in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior GPA 3.5/4.0

Austin, TX

August 2016

Thesis: Fruiting Together: The influence of conspecific tree density on fruiting phenology

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Art in History

GPA 3.5/4.0

Study Abroad: Vienna, Austria; Summer 2015

Austin, TX

May 2016

PRESENTATIONS

Scattered Seeds: how Aboriginal Community foraging could impact physical and nutritional traits of *Solanum diversiflorum*

July 25, 2022

Botanical Society of America Conference

October 2021

Climate Change and Policy on Engandered Plants

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science

Endangered Plants: Climate Change and Human Dimensions

Pennsylvania State University Ecology Colloquium and The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science

December 9, 2020

Plant Community Composition: seed dispersal, genetics, and the Martu

Pennsylvania State University Ecology Colloquium

September 18, 2019

August 2, 2017

Effect of Warming Temperatures on Flowering Phenology

W.K. Kellogg Biology Station Symposium, Michigan State University LTER

April 15, 2016

Fruiting Together: The influence of conspecific tree density on fruiting phenology

The University of Texas Undergraduate Research Forum

PUBLICATIONS

Davis, D. S., Buffa, D. C., & Wroblewski, A. C. (2020). Assessing the Utility of OpenAccess Bathymetric Data for Shipwreck Detection in the United States. *Heritage*, 3(2), 364-383.

RESEARCH

The Impacts of Climate Change on Endangered Plants March 2020-Present
The HEnDy Lab at The Pennsylvania State University State College, PA

- I used quantitative and qualitative coding methods on federal ESA documents to assess how climate change has impacted endangered plants and actions being done to mitigate climate change threats.
- I collected data on how ESA documents incorporate in local communities and cultural uses of plants into their conservation and restoration plans.
- Long term goals: examine how federal recovery plans take into account human uses of endangered plants and how they engage with communities in restoration goals

Paths of Dreaming: using ethnography, genetics, and spatial sciences to explore people-plant relationships in past and present of Australia's Western Desert July 2020-Present
State College, PA

The HEnDy Lab at The Pennsylvania State University

- I am currently in the second year of greenhouse experiments on the Australia species *Solanum diversiflorum*, an important food resource for aboriginal Australian communities in the western desert
- June 2022 I was a member of a field team that traveled across the southern Kimberly and northern Pilbara of Australia- taking morphometric measurements of fruits and collecting leafs for future analysis
- Long term project goal: analyze how phenotypic traits, nutritional traits, and genetic diversity of *S. diversiflorum* have been influenced by human movement and use.

The Mushroom Hunting in PA Project May 2020-Present
The Pennsylvania State University State College, PA

- I am using mixed ethnographic methods to examine how the pandemic has impacted how people in the Mid-Atlantic learn to hunt for mushrooms.
- I have created a network of connections amongst a diverse group of mushroom hunters in the region
- I collected data through an Online and printed survey from March-November of 2022
- Once the data is analyzed I will share the results with the mushroom hunting community in the state, both through written reports but also through presentations at local mushroom club foray events.

Lab Technician

October 2017-July 2018

The Lowry Lab at Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI

- Watered, fertilized, and harvested a large scale experiment on the impacts of climate change on beans.
- Prepped and carried out wet lab work, primarily PCR and running gels on DNA samples.
- Organized and maintained a seed bank in the lab.

Field Technician

March-October 2017

The Zarnetske lab at Michigan State University

MI

- Learned how to identify Michigan grasses and sedges at all stages within their life history to track their phenological changes over the field season
- Improved the infrastructure of the experiment, expanded the parameters of the study to include Carbon and Nitrogen extraction of plant tissues for analysis

Herbarium Technician

May-August 2017

University of Michigan Biological Station

Pellston, MI

- Scanned herbarium specimens into the Michigan Flora database from the UMBS archives. Created a protocol for future scanning projects.

Undergraduate Researcher

January 2014-May 2016

The Jha lab at The University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

- Carried out a senior project on the impacts of space and fruiting phenology of tropical trees
- Carried out DNA extractions on leaf and seed samples using CTAB protocols
- Worked as a team to solve extraction difficulties with seed samples in the lab

Volunteer Intern

July-August 2014

The Environmental Protection Agency

Corvallis, OR

- Extracted and checked the quality of DNA for algae samples from a project examining the impacts of bio-fuel algae when introduced to native algae communities.

Freshmen Research Initiative: Functional Genomics

January-December 2013

University of Texas at Austin

Austin, TX

- Worked on an independent project on the impacts of heat stress on various strains of yeast.

TEACHING AND OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantship: Cultural Anthropology (ANTH45N)
Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University

Fall 2020 (TA)
Spring 2021 (TA)
Fall 2021 (Instructor)
Spring 2022 (Instructor)

Food from Forage

The Arboretum, Pennsylvania State University

- I designed and ran three workshops on how plants that are often considered “weeds” in central Pennsylvania can be used for edible and medicinal purposes. Head of committee for the 2020-2021 year
- Workshops included hands on activities and instructions on how to safely and sustainably forage for plants.

Outreach Committee

Fall 2018- Summer 2022

Department of Anthropology, Pennsylvania State University

- Ran science fair booths at local and rural schools and central Pennsylvania
- Connected with outreach groups around the Penn State campus to connect Anthropology to resources outside of Liberal Arts

Letters to a PreScientist

2019-2020 and 2021-2022 School Years

- Exchanged letters with a single middle school aged student throughout the school year. The focus is on promoting science as interesting and fun, and presenting college as attainable for all students.
- 2021-2022 was given an award by the student's teacher for positive mentoring

Skype A Scientist

March 2020-December 2021

- In the Spring 2021 semester I completed 5 talks to students about the cultural importance of plants- other semesters I completed 2-3 talks to elementary and middle school students.

Ecology Seminar Series Spring 2020

October 2019- May 2020

- Worked as a team to organize and invite speakers from all over the country to speak about various aspects of conservation ecology

REU Intern Mentor

Pennsylvania State University and College of Menominee Nation

May 21-July 13, 2019

- Mentored and helped four Menominee students develop projects oriented around plants, virtual reality, and the community.
- Put together lesson plans oriented around the student’s interests and the skills they would need to complete their project
- Managed and tight schedule and the logistical paperwork of the REU

Tutor

September 2015-May 2016

University of Texas Athletics

Austin, TX

- Help students improve their study skills and worked in teams with groups of students once a week