



CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER
TEEN CONSERVATION PROGRAM

53rd Annual EECO Conference-April 2, 2020

- 9:00-9:45am **Registration and Poster Set-up**
- 10:00am **Opening Remarks-Division of Wildlife Chief-Kendra Wecker (tent.)**
Morning Moderator-Scott Butterworth, ODNR-Division of Wildlife
- 10:20am **Keynote-Gabriel R. Karns, Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources, The Ohio State University - Oh, The Places You'll Go!--A bit about my beginnings, the fickleness and importance of motivations, projects you may find interesting (or not...but they're still important), and opportunities for you to discover your own path to a career in conservation.**
- 11:00am **Isabella Gates, Ethan Lesher-West Clermont High School-Teenage Mutant Eastern Box Turtles-Can we determine the familiar relationships of Eastern Box Turtles in our study area by sequencing micro satellite loci DNA from blood samples?**
- 11:20am **Chris Young-New Philadelphia High School-Preliminary Effects of an abandoned mine reclamation project on the ecology of a headwater stream-We evaluated the effect of an abandoned mine reclamation project of leaf litter decomposition and macroinvertebrate diversity in a headwater stream system. Our results indicate that while the reclamation project has improved the terrestrial landscape, it may not lead to restoration of stream water quality.**
- 11:40am **Aiden Owens, Jack Rogan, Trey Pierce-University School-A survey of forest tree species composition: A 50 years comparison-Students at University School are using the quarter point method to study a 173-acre Beech-Maple forest to evaluate changes in the species composition over the last 50 years. Through this survey, we hope to measure the direct effects of climate change on a local level.**
- 12:00pm **Lunch-- Meet a Biologist, Officer, and Resource Manager! Meet and greet with ODNR and other resource agency staff. Meet Wildlife Officers, Wildlife Area Managers, and Fish Management staff and see their equipment too. This is an opportunity to interact with professionals in the field of environmental science. Check out the vendor exhibits as well.**
- 1:15pm **Joey Mushrush-New Philadelphia High School-Effects of Surface Mine Reclamation on Macroinvertebrate Diversity and Ecological Function of Headwater Streams--We evaluated the effect of modern surface coal mine reclamation laws on water quality by comparing leaf decomposition rate and invertebrate diversity in headwater streams draining reclaimed mine land, abandoned mine land, and unmined land. Our results suggest that mine reclamation does not restore key functional characteristics of headwater streams.**
- 1:35pm **Ruth Anand-Anands Homeschool-SNAP That! Using Camera Traps with AI to Manage Wildlife Data-Camera traps are widely used in wildlife habitats, but the volume of digital photos becomes too much for conservationists to manage. Learn how to use AI software developed by the author to identify species from the photos, making it efficient to analyze data and draw meaningful conclusions.**

- 2:00pm **Break-Please visit our vendors for resources and career information**
- 2:15pm **Poster Session-Review Posters and discussions with students—See Poster Session abstract for descriptions.**
- 3:00 pm **Cincinnati Nature Center's Teen Conservation Summit Begins!**
Afternoon Moderator-Connie O'Connor-Cincinnati Nature Center
- Rapid Fire Presentations** :20 slides, 20 seconds per slide (4 presentations)
- 4:15 pm **Keynote speaker: Corina Newsome-“From the Block, to the Zoo, to the Marsh: The Unexpected Adventure of a Black City Girl”--Despite a fascination with wildlife and the natural world, I never imagined myself as a wildlife scientist growing up, nor was I aware of what such careers actually looked like. After a chance encounter with an African American zookeeper, I became exposed to the diversity of careers that exist in wildlife conservation and finally saw a reflection of myself in the work. This talk will take you behind the scenes of my adventures in the realm of wildlife conservation, which include both zoo science and field biology.**
- 5:00 pm **Closing Remarks-Social Media Contest Winner Announcement**
Safe Travels! See you next year!
- 5:30 pm **Optional debrief discussion activity**



Thank you to the following Student Wildlife Research Symposium sponsors:



Thank you to the OCTWS and the OWMA for their support of our student presenters and their teachers and by providing funding toward the cost of lunch.