

MK Klenkar
they/them
(216) 456-7078
mkklenkar@gmail.com
mkklenkar.com

Education	M.S. in Environment and Natural Resources. The Ohio State University Degree Completed December 2023; Diploma Conferral May 2024 Thesis: “Effects of Invasive Species Management on Ecosystem Composition and Function in a Deciduous Hardwood Forest”, Advisor: Dr. G. Matt Davies Graduate Enrichment Fellow B.S. in Environment and Natural Resources, 2017. The Ohio State University. Specialization: Ecosystem Restoration, Minor: Horticulture Cum Laude, Dean’s List, OSU Competitive Soil Judging Team
Publications	Klenkar, M. K. (2023). Effects of Invasive Species Management on Ecosystem Composition and Function in a Deciduous Hardwood Forest. The Ohio State University. Available on OhioLink Thesis & Dissertations Center. Burke, D. J., Klenkar, M. K., & Medeiros, J. S. (2018). Mycorrhizal Network Connections, Water Reduction, and Neighboring Plant Species Differentially Impact Seedling Performance of Two Forest Wildflowers. International Journal of Plant Sciences, 179(4), 314–324.
Presentations	MK Klenkar. “Effects of invasive species management on ecosystem composition and function in a deciduous hardwood forest,” Exit Seminar (November 2023). Presentation delivered as part of the successful thesis defense for a Master of Science at the Ohio State University Environment and Natural Resources Graduate Program, Columbus, OH. https://senr.osu.edu/events/graduate-exit-seminar-mk-klenkar MK Klenkar. “Plants of Concern Monitoring in FPCC 2019,” Plants of Concern Advisory Meeting (December 2019). Presentation delivered at the annual advisory gathering for Plants of Concern at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL.
Teaching Experience	Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources, August 2022 - May 2023. Courses taught: ENR 3321: Biology and Identification of Woody Forest Plants ENR 5560: Dynamics of Ecosystem Restoration

**Professional
Research Experience**

**Plants of Concern Research Assistant, Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, IL)
April 2019 – January 2021**

Researched rare and endangered plant species across the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) for the Plants of Concern project. Collaborated with Cook County ecologists and reported research results to aid management.

Organized and trained community science volunteers.

- Collected extensive data on rare plant populations to add to Plants of Concern's 20-year dataset.
- Completed data analysis to determine population trends across FPCC. Wrote annual reports summarizing results, which will be used by land managers across the county to inform conservation strategies.
- Additional projects included plant population origin research and projected climate change impact analyses.
- Developed the first-of-its-kind online comprehensive plant monitor training program, as well as a plant data collection app for mobile devices to eliminate paper use in the field.

**Water Quality Research Technician, Regional Science Consortium (Erie, PA)
May – September 2018**

Researched water quality and conservation, ensuring public safety at Presque Isle State Park. Communicated with partners of the RSC, such as PA DCNR and other stakeholders in water quality.

- Quantified *E. coli* and other bacteria in water samples using vacuum filtration, plating, and aseptic technique.
- Utilized a lab technique, ELISA, to test for toxins produced by cyanobacteria.
- Secured public safety using predictive models for water quality.
- Worked in the field collecting water/sand samples and data used in ongoing research, including Tombolo study and other projects.
- Managed laboratory equipment; ensured organization in the lab and kept track of dozens of samples for multiple projects daily.
- Delivered educational outreach programs to students and conducted programs on field trips.

**Plant and Microbial Ecology Research Intern, The Holden Arboretum
(Cleveland, OH) Summers 2014 & 2015**

Pivotal research experience in two paid internships focusing on the study of anthropogenic effects and invasive species on the temperate hardwood forests of NE Ohio. Co-authored published research on mycorrhizae and herbaceous forest plants.

- Extensive metagenomic laboratory experience, including DNA extraction, amplification, and analysis.
- Field work in forest structure, diversity, and soils. Developed biodiversity assessment protocols and documented plant communities in old growth forest stands.
- Plant nutrient analysis and photometry.
- Root staining and microscopy.

**Other Professional
Environmental Work**

**Natural Resource Analyst, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
(Columbus, OH) 2024 – Present**

Manages parkland use across departments, and by external partners, through the administration of CRPD's Non-Park Use Policy program.

- Coordinates interdepartmental project review and provides conservation consultation on park development.
- Works closely with in-field conservation team to develop resource management strategies.
- Participates in conservation programming and represents CRPD at partner and stakeholder meetings

**Nature Program Developer, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department
(Columbus, OH) 2024**

Created programs and training materials for CRPD's Conservation section.

- Engaged community members and external stakeholders regarding parkland management.
- Worked closely with in-field conservation maintenance team and park asset management section.

**Sustainable Landscape Design and Installation, Freelance (Columbus, OH)
2021 - 2024**

Small-scale and residential landscape design and installation focused on sustainability and incorporation of native plants. Work includes independent projects as well as partnership with local landscaping professionals and artists.

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center (Bay
Village, OH) Summer 2016**

Completed wildlife care for species admitted to the LENSCL rehabilitation facility, as well as care of resident educational animals.

- Handled diet and medications for hundreds of animals over the season. Handling, cleaning, feeding, and medicating of wildlife. Worked with program animals including glove-trained raptors.
- Provided public educational programs, delivering key information on resident animals to visitors in an informal environment. Communicated with patrons regularly regarding animals in rehabilitation.

**Activities &
Volunteerism**

**President, Landscape and Floriculture Forum, The Ohio State University,
2015 - 2017**

L.A.F.F. is an organization and a community for students with an interest in horticulture or simply a love of plants.

- Duties included managing club officers, planning activities and educational trips, and fundraising.

Vice President, Pi Alpha Xi Horticultural Honor Society, Epsilon Chapter, The Ohio State University, 2016 - 2017

Pi Alpha Xi was established to unify students, educators, and professional leadership, to focus on the enrichment of human life through plants.

- Duties focused on organization of the holiday poinsettia sale held by PAX annually, raising \$15,500 in revenue.

Study Abroad: New Zealand, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources, Summer 2017

- One month in New Zealand studying the impacts of ecotourism and land management on resources and the environment.

Study Abroad: Iceland, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources, Autumn 2015

- Two weeks on Iceland's volcanic lands studying geology, soil, energy, agriculture, ecotourism, and Icelandic history.

Community Safety Team, Columbus Community Pride, 2018 & 2019

- Assisted organization of public safety team and ensured a welcoming event for community members.

Aquatic Ecology Lab Volunteer, The Ohio State University, 2015

- Assistant to graduate students studying macro-invertebrates, stream ecology and restoration.