

Kevin G. Willson
kevin.willson383@gmail.com

Profile:

Ever since reading my first issue of *My Big Backyard*, I have developed an endless fascination of the natural world and the organisms that inhabit it. In the proceeding seventeen years, I have gained an appreciation for the natural world through my studies and experiences that is only surpassed by the fear of its future. I use this fear as motivation to improve the ecology of regaining and preserving lost habitats anywhere that can make a difference. I want to be a restoration ecologist to pass along a better world for all future generations of plants and animals.

Research Interests:

Restoration, Disturbance, Ecosystem, Plant, and Soil Ecology; Conservation Biology; Entomology; Ecosystem Services; Outdoor and Applied research.

Publications and Presentations:

Assessing effects of Mg(II) and Fe(II) on growth of *Phragmites australis* ssp. *americanus*

- Manuscript in preparation with Drs. Andrew Baldwin and Stephanie Yarwood
- Presentations:
 - Maryland Day 2015

Effects of Environmental Variables on Montane Longleaf Pine Ecosystems

- Manuscript in preparation with Dr. R. Scot Duncan
- Presentations:
 - 2015 Ecological Society of America Meetings
 - 2015 Emerging Researchers National Conference
 - 2015 UMD Undergraduate Research Day
 - 2014 Wildlife Habitat Council Symposium
 - 2014 UMD Agriculture and Natural Resources College Open House

Education:

University of Maryland

May 2015

- B.S. Environmental Science & Technology.
- B.S. Ecology & Evolutionary Sciences.
 - GPA: 3.7

Honors, Awards and Scholarships:

Honors and Awards

- University of Maryland Senior Marshal 2015
- University of Maryland Honors College Citation
- University of Maryland Dean's List every semester
- Eagle Scout

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Scholarships

- Maryland Delegate Scholarship recipient 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Winslow Scholarship recipient

Technical Skills:

Computer literate in:

GIS Sigma Plot SPSS Excel

Well versed in data collection and analysis in lab, greenhouse, and field settings.

Research Experience:

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Internship June 2014 - July 2014
Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

Dr. Scot Duncan

Researcher and Field Crew member

- Collected canopy cover data in montane Longleaf Pine (LLP) ecosystems.
- Statistically analyzed and interpreted raw data on:

Soil Depth	Canopy Cover	Juvenile LLP Abundance
Slope	Tree Species Richness	Adult Tree Basal Area
- Resulted in a detailed preliminary report on montane LLP ecosystems.

Capstone Project

Nov 2014 - Present

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Dr. Andrew Baldwin and Dr. Stephanie Yarwood

- Explored possible nutrient reasons why the native wetland plant *Phragmites australis ssp. americanus* experience chlorosis in a greenhouse setting.
- Worked with six students and two professors to perform the experiments:

Created a two factorial experiment.	Grew plants for three months.
Collected height, chlorophyll, biomass data	Found significant publishable results
- Discovered that adding excess dissolved Iron may reduce or eliminate chlorosis

SAWGAL Lab

May 2012 - Aug 2013, Aug 2015 - Present

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Dr. Brian Needelman

Research Assistant

- Features a combination of lab and fieldwork on a NERRS collaborative project.
 - Fieldwork:

GPS Mapping	Mosquito and Vegetation Sampling
Soil Collection	Several Types of Hydrological Testing
 - Lab work:

LECO preparation	Data analysis
Soil processing	Vegetation identification

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6101 Granby Rd Derwood, MD 20855

Cell phone number: (301) 760-6742

Lamp Lab

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

Dr. William Lamp

Research Assistant

Sept 2015 – Present

Professional Memberships

Ecological Society of America

Aug 2015 – Present