

# Outreach experience for Emerald Shiner Project

by Jo Johnson, GLES M.A. student

I have been working as the outreach specialist for the Emerald Shiner Project since June this year. It is an exciting opportunity for a graduate student, because it allows me to build the necessary skills for both non-profit industry work and scientific research simultaneously. As a young scientist, gaining experience in both fields at once will help me choose which career path to pursue in the future. Additionally, engaging the public about the truth behind conservation is extremely valuable in this day and age, when scientific skepticism is widespread.

For my position, I have designed a [webpage](#) which is hosted through Buffalo State. It has pictures from our field and lab work, and outlines the major objectives and purpose of this research project. In addition to the web page, we have social media accounts on

[Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). This has allowed us to network with other scientists, environmental organizations, and students throughout the country. Images from our field work reach other ecologists in real time, and allow us to network with other researchers instantaneously. On a local scale, this position has allowed me to network with organizations such as Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, NYSDEC, New York Sea Grant, Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve and several others. I have tabled numerous environmental events over the summer, and engaged with dozens of students, local fishermen and water enthusiasts in the region.

This has been an extremely worthwhile experience for me in only three months' time.

My work as an outreach specialist has greatly improved my professional skillset, and will benefit me in my future endeavors. •



Jo Johnson with Ba Zan Lin from Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER sharing a table at Great Lakes Awareness Day. This event was hosted by NOAA New York Sea Grant at the Aquarium of Niagara.



Jo Johnson with a local fisherman at Small Boat Harbor. The boaters at this launch site were very interested in the Emerald Shiner Project, and the status of emerald shiner populations.



Jo Johnson giving a presentation about emerald shiners to a group of high school students both on land and water. Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER, in collaboration with Buffalo Public Schools has a group of students interested in environmental science that have a different guest speaker experience each week. Top photo credit: Adam Hovey

## GLES programs are growing

by Kelly Frothingham, GLES Program Coordinator

The [Great Lakes Ecosystem Science \(GLES\)](#) programs continue to meet or exceed enrollment projections. Fall 2015 started with two new students in the thesis-based Master's of Arts program and five new students in the Master's of Science Professional Science Master's (PSM) program.

These students join several others already working with faculty from Biology, the Great Lakes Center, and Geography and Planning on Great Lakes projects and internship initiatives. Current GLES thesis research covers everything from the impacts of global warming on farming to mapping invasive

species to studying fish in the lower Niagara River. Recent internships have been with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and Ecology and Environment. We expect that thesis topics and internship experiences will continue to grow and expand as enrollment in the GLES programs increases.

Two students from the original 2013-2014 cohort have graduated from the internship-based PSM program and there are currently two GLES M.A. students working on finishing their thesis research with a December 2015 anticipated graduation date. •



John Grabowski (GLES M.S. graduate, May 2015) and Dan Potts (Biology faculty) working on a riparian restoration monitoring project this summer.