

JILLIAN NEECE

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin- Madison Madison, WI
M.S. in Integrative Biology Sep 2024-Present
Advisor: Dr. Monica Turner

University of Minnesota- Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN
B.S. in Plant and Microbial Biology Dec 2020
Minors in Entomology and Sustainability Studies
Dean's List: Spring 2018 – Fall 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Severson Dells Nature Center Rockford, IL
Natural Resources AmeriCorps Member Apr 2023-Jun 2024
Rockford, IL

- Lead twice-monthly public workdays to collect native prairie seeds and remove invasive species such as honeysuckle and garlic mustard.
- Maintain trails and grounds by removing poison ivy, wild parsnip, fallen branches, and other debris to ensure the grounds can be safely accessed by school groups and the public.
- Write educational blog entries and social media posts on topics such as plant phenology, fire disturbance, disability and the outdoors, and native bee behaviors.
- Digitize historical herbarium records dating to the 1950s for comparison to modern plant vouchers.

Friends of the Forest Preserves Rosemont, IL
Conference Manager- Wild Things 2023 Nov 2022-Apr 2023

- Executed a statewide conference in celebration of ecological restoration and habitat conservation for approximately 2000 attendees.
- Gathered, managed, and analyzed conference attendee data and post-conference surveys to determine areas for future growth and improvement.
- Communicated respectfully and effectively with donors, partner organizations, presenters, contractors, volunteers, and attendees to provide conference information and updates.
- Secured all necessary permitting and certifications, including event insurance and food distribution certifications.
- Recruited, trained, and empowered 100 volunteers to ensure a safe and successful conference environment.

Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Rockford, IL
Campaign Organizer- Save Bell Bowl Prairie Feb 2022-Apr 2023

- Collaborated with conservation organizations and land management agencies to implement strategies to protect a remnant dry-gravel prairie containing endangered and threatened plant and insect species.
- Maintained the savebellbowlprairie.org website using the Squarespace platform.
- Designed educational posts for Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook ensuring that posts were accessible for people who utilize screen readers and other accessibility tools.

- Engaged and supervised over 40 volunteers and community advocates through outreach and education to effectively increase awareness of, and passion for, remnant ecosystems.
- Organized press releases, local and national media contacts, social media, and other communications around the movement to Save Bell Bowl Prairie.

Severson Dells Nature Center
Community Science and Volunteer Support
AmeriCorps Member

Winnebago County, IL
 Mar 2021-Nov 2021

- Managed five county-wide community science programs to encourage stewardship and data collection in the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.
- Gathered, analyzed, and interpreted community science data using Google Sheets and R software to monitor trends, create graphs and charts, and give presentations that depict data comprehensibly.
- Develop the bimonthly Community Science Corner newsletter through Mail Chimp to share updates and engagement opportunities with community members.
- Collaborated with local land managers to plan and implement monthly seed collection workdays for up to 50 volunteers of varying abilities and experience levels.

Cariveau Native Bee Lab
Project Manager

Saint Paul, MN
 May 2020-Mar 2021

- Designed an independent research project to test the effects of seed mix density and diversity on the nectar production of prairie plants.
- Followed detailed protocols to collect native bees, quadrat sample prairie vegetation, and measure plant seedling establishment in over 200 experimental plots.
- Identified native prairie forbs and grasses to species using dichotomous keys and field guides.
- Used emergence traps to study nesting areas of ground-nesting bees in prairies.
- Worked independently and efficiently to accurately enter data, developed field guides for weedy and sown plant species, and processed bee specimens.

UMN Department of Entomology
Teaching Assistant

Saint Paul, MN
 Jan 2020 – Dec 2020

- Assisted Dr. Matt Petersen in the preparation and delivery of course material for the online, introductory biology course, Insect Biology.
- Independently oversaw a section of 15-25 students by answering questions and triaging comments to the lead professor.
- Fostered interest in ecology and entomology with non-major undergraduate students.

USDA Cereal Disease Lab, Yue Jin Lab
Technical Support

Saint Paul, MN
 Apr 2019-May 2020

- Aided the Yue Jin Lab in researching stem rust on wheat and oat plants through plant maintenance, harvesting, rust collection, inoculations and local surveys.
- Collaborated with undergraduate students, graduate students, and scientists to solve research related problems and plant next-steps for ongoing projects.
- Trained new technicians on standard protocols, lab and field safety, and plant maintenance requirements.
- Prioritized projects in order of importance and deadline to ensure all work was completed in a timely and satisfactory manner.

OUTREACH EVENTS

- J. Neece, K. Johnson and J. Kuroda. May and July 2022. *Save Bell Bowl Prairie*. Presented at Severson Dells Nature Center's 2022 Pollinator Palooza and the Boone County Fair.
- J. Neece and A. Chambers. June 2021. *Explore Nature with 815 Outside*. Presented at the Klehm Arboretum's Garden Fair 2019.
- J. Neece, J. Brokaw and A. Coker. July and August 2020. *Wild bee biology and conservation*. Presented to Dream of Wild Health 'Garden Warrior' students. Hugo, MN.
- J. Neece, J. Brokaw and A. Coker. July 2020. *Native bees*. Presented to 4-H students. Virtual presentation. <https://youtu.be/xfqv3NW-eGk>.
- S. Rao and J. Neece. August 2019. *Insect Petting Zoo*. Presented at the Minnesota State Fair.
- C. Hildebrand and J. Neece. April 2019. *Painting with Maggots*. Presented at the Great Minnsect Show with UMN Dept. of Entomology.
- J. Neece, K. Schroeder, N. Slade and A. Waheed. April 2019. *Bioremediation of metals*. Presented at the Bell Museum's Saturday with a Scientist Program.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- J. Neece. *Disability and the Outdoors*. July 2023. Severson Dells Nature Center's Field Notes Blog. <https://www.seversondells.com/blog/disability-and-the-outdoors>.
- J. Neece, J. Brokaw, A. Coker, and B. Bruninga-Socular. *Seeding density of wildflower mixes affects nectar production in a focal plant species*. April 2023. *Restoration Ecology*. 31:7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.13912>.
- J. Neece. *Translating the IEPA Reports on the Chemtool Fire*. June 2021. Severson Dells Nature Center's Field Notes Blog. <https://www.seversondells.com/blog/chemtool>.
- A. Coker, J. Neece, J. Brokaw, B. Bruninga-Socular, Z. Portman and D. Cariveau. *Potential of seed mixes to provide nesting habitat for ground-nesting bees*. November 2020. Poster. Entomological Society of American Conference.
- J. Neece, A. Coker, J. Brokaw, B. Bruninga-Socular and D. Cariveau. *Quantifying nectar rewards in tallgrass prairie seed mixes*. November 2020. Oral presentation. Entomological Society of America Conference.