



Volunteer of the Month

Andrew Wilk

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park would like to recognize Natural Resource Intern Andrew Wilk as August's Volunteer of the Month.

Andrew is currently an undergraduate student at Frostburg University and resides in Silver Spring, Maryland studying Recreation and Park Management. He contributed significantly to the park with a total of 500 hours of volunteer service from May to August. He worked with a variety of Natural Resource projects which include establishing deer exclosures with the USGS, English Ivy removal, Emerald Ash Borer monitoring, integrated pest management, Harpers Ferry town deer management program, as well as leading his own volunteer projects.



His work here allowed Andrew to understand many of the facets of Natural Resource Management which in turn made him very versatile and knowledgeable about many of the park's themes and issues. One instance where his horizons were broadened involved working extensively with the United States Geographical Survey (USGS) along with other organizations in Harpers Ferry. He is in the process of establishing deer exclosures on Loudoun Heights, Short Hill, and Bolivar Heights. These are 5 meters by 3 meters in order to study how the environment thrives without White Tailed Deer devouring it. This project is very straining and involves hauling heavy equipment up and down Loudoun Heights, Short Hill and Bolivar Heights multiple days a week. Andrew has completed set up of fifteen traps to monitor the Emerald ash border (EAB) which is more than any other in this region. These projects will ultimately help preserve the environment and species around Harpers Ferry so they will continue to flourish for future generations. These are just a few of the many projects Andrew has conducted while here in the park. Aside from these large scale projects he has worked closely with the park's Natural Resource specialist, Dale Nisbet, on the day to day integrated pest management and large scale community work.

Andrew's favorite and most rewarding project has been his Shenandoah Shoreline clean up; which he piloted and completed since starting at Harpers Ferry. He enjoys preserving the environment and completing whatever means necessary in order to achieve this; which included, project approval through the Resource Management Division, assuring his project was in full compliance, and graphing/ differentiating which areas near the Shenandoah River were archeological soft spots and artifacts related to these historical areas. After completing these steps he led a group to remove the modern trash from the banks of the Shenandoah. Through this project, he has been able to understand the process required to execute new projects and environmental preservation.

While his time at Harpers Ferry is coming to a close, Andrew has exemplified what a dedicated and hardworking intern can accomplish; We wish him best of luck in all his future pursuit.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, please contact the park's volunteer coordinator at the address or phone number listed below. Volunteer today and give back!

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Volunteer Coordinator**
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