

# Protecting our Local Water Supply: An Alumni/Student Connection

by Shannon Fabiani '16

WITH SUPPORT AND volunteers from the ESF Department of Landscape Architecture, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Onondaga County completed a riparian buffer planting project in the Skaneateles, NY watershed this past November. Taking into account soil moisture and composition, shade conditions, and other factors of the landscape, the planting plan and species list was designed by landscape architect student intern, **Ethan Appelgren**, with support from CCE educators.

Two planting beds and a total of 200 root systems, all of which grow deeper and denser than the existing turf grass, were added to the property. Both bed location and species selection were designed to maximize effectiveness and

impact of additional root structures and added vegetation to reduce non-point source pollution to Skaneateles Lake given layout, slope, and conditions of the site. Species selected are all native to the region and zone they are planted in. The design also took into account the property owners' needs and maintenance capacity, their current and desired land use, and their viewshed of the lake.

Species planted included red maple, big bluestem, little bluestem, wild quinine, orange coneflower, eastern blue-star, and Christmas ferns. The added vegetation will reduce the nutrient and sediment loading that flows from the property into the lake by slowing surface water runoff and hold soils in place.

As an alumna of the College, I am very glad for the partnership with the ESF LA Department and wanted to share the project's success with my fel-



low alumni. I look forward to continuing to connect our ESF students to professional experience/stewardship opportunities as the scope of these riparian buffer planting projects expands. ✧

*This planting project was a result of a partnership between CCE Onondaga County, the City of Syracuse, and Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District with funds from the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program.*



This project was covered by ESF's Going Green series and can be viewed at [www.esf.edu/mag/riparian](http://www.esf.edu/mag/riparian)

Please join us  
in welcoming  
**Jessica Langdon**  
as our new ESF  
College Bookstore  
Manager!



Jessica is succeeding Stacey Messina, who recently retired to Florida after 15 years as the Bookstore Manager. Stacey grew the College Bookstore from an operation with a cash box and very few items in the basement of Marshall Hall to the impressive business it is today. We will miss her!

A native of Bloomfield, New Jersey, Jessica earned her bachelor's degree in 2009 from Messiah College (Grantham, PA). She recently relocated to Syracuse from Stafford, Virginia along with her husband and son. Most recently, Jessica filled the role of Administrative Assistant in the Alumni Office while Nichole Dougherty was on maternity leave. She did a fantastic job, and we are very happy that she is now a permanent part of the ESF Alumni Association team!

If you happen to be on campus, stop into the Bookstore to meet Jessica!

[www.esfbookstore.com](http://www.esfbookstore.com)



## ESF Alumna Devotes Years of Service to Teaching Area Students

by Maura Harling Steff  
*Office of Experiential Learning  
and Outreach*

THIS PAST JUNE, **Heidi (Wilson) Busa '80** retired from her position as a science teacher at Marcellus High School in Marcellus, NY. Her career as a science educator spanned over 35 years, beginning in the Syracuse City School District in the early 1980's. As most outstanding teachers do, Heidi further developed her tool box and became a facilitator for Project Wild (an educational program dealing with wildlife) and Project Learning Tree (an environmental education program dealing with forest resources). In 1995, she received the Outstanding Educator Award from Project Learning Tree on both the state and national level.

Heidi has also been an active member of the National Science Teachers Association, the North American Association for Environmental Education and an active contributor to science education curriculum develop-

ment in New York State. She was also honored three times with the "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" recognition.

A Wildlife Biology major and Botany minor at ESF, Heidi continued her connection with the College as a College Trustee (1998–2008) and as one of the first teachers in the ESF in the High School dual enrollment program, teaching EFB-120 The Global Environment: Energy, Adaptation and Evolution of the Human Culture. Many of the students in her ESF course reported over the years that they had learned so much beyond the textbook. Specifically, the field work and classroom discussions in the course impacted how they saw the natural world, and helped develop new understandings and potential ways to "fix" the environmental problems that we face today.

Former Marcellus High School student and ESF alumnus **Tim Schneider '15** was recently asked who his favorite teacher of all time was, and he answered: "When someone asks me this question, my answer is Mrs. Busa with-

out any hesitation. Her dedication to her students and her community is unparalleled by any other person I have ever known. I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Busa as a teacher in high school for my Biology and Global Environment classes at Marcellus, where she inspired me to follow my environmental love and apply to ESF. I will never forget the moment I found out I was accepted to ESF; it was on a high school class trip to visit the ESF campus. I was standing in Bray

friend. Without Mrs. Busa, I would not be where I am today as a professional or as a person, and I am forever grateful for her love and support over the course of our friendship." Tim is currently the Cayuga County Watershed Inspector for the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District in NY State.

We send our sincere congratulations to Heidi on her retirement but of course she is not really retiring from teaching altogether! She has taken on a new role

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Hall and someone from the Admissions Office staff came up to me and, with Mrs. Busa by my side, congratulated me on being accepted to ESF. It is a moment that will always be special to me because I got to share it with my mentor. Mrs. Busa has the biggest heart of anyone I know, she loves her family with undying passion, and she is not one to shy away from a challenge. I am not only proud to be called one of her students and a fellow Stumpy, but also a great

as a Science Specialist with the OCM BOCES Center for Innovative Science Education, where she will develop experiences in K-12 science. The Center's focus is on developing programs that give students the opportunity to develop a curiosity about the natural world coupled with an understanding between science and their life. Good luck to Heidi in her next adventure! ✧