

Kathryn Caruso

caruso.k.e@gmail.com | (919) 667-5773 | [LinkedIn](#)

Experience

Summer of Service Program Coordinator | *Conserving Carolina* May 2022 — Present

- Develops environmental service-learning programming and leads day-to-day activities of Summer of Service
- Mentors Summer of Service members to foster personal growth and cultivate supportive group dynamics
- Ensures physical and emotional safety and well-being of participants and local environment and community

Forestry Technician | *Hemlock Restoration Initiative* April — May 2022

- Protected hemlock trees in seven-person team through fieldwork and treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid

Remote Sensing Researcher, NASA DEVELOP National Program | *Science Systems and Applications, Inc.*

Vermont & New Hampshire Ecological Forecasting | *NASA Ames Research Center* Jan. — April 2022

- Modeled forest defoliation due to *Lymantria dispar* in four-person team using remote sensing data
- Created graphical user interface for land management partners to monitor defoliation
- Communicated research in ArcGIS maps and StoryMaps, oral presentation, and technical paper
- Collaborated with four-person team, science advisors and partners to inform forest management

Carolina Coastal Plain Ecological Forecasting | *Center for Geospatial Research* Sept. — Nov. 2021

- Modeled habitat suitability of Venus flytrap in five-person team using geospatial and remote sensing data
- Forecasted Venus flytrap habitat in 2050 using TerrSet's Land Change Modeler
- Communicated research in ArcGIS maps and [StoryMap](#), oral presentation, and technical paper
- Collaborated with a five-person team, science advisors, and partners to inform rare plant conservation

Kupu AmeriCorps Habitat Restoration Member | *O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex* Sept. 2020 — Aug. 2021

- Restored dunes, wetlands, and dry forests through native plantings and invasive species removal
- Coordinated over 400 outplantings in dry forest restoration plot through staff and volunteer workdays
- Managed nursery of over 40 native species and created a digital record-keeping database and seed library

McCullough Research Fellow | *UNC Asheville Office of Sustainability* Sept. 2018 — Aug. 2020

- Examined *S. virginiana* sexual reproduction through fieldwork, labwork, & analysis in RStudio and Excel
- Facilitated plant education and contemplative practice workshops for pre-K through middle school students

Science Writing Intern | *National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center (NEMAC)* Nov. 2019 — Aug. 2020

- Communicated disaster research in written and visual tools for [Landslides website](#) and Drought.gov
- Collaborated in a team of four to prepare communication tools in Canva, WordPress, and ArcGIS StoryMaps

Undergraduate Mycology Researcher | *UNC Asheville & Warren Wilson College* May 2019 — May 2020

- Investigated shifts in mycorrhizal fungi with hemlock decline using fieldwork, labwork, and analysis in Excel
- Shared results in [peer-reviewed article in American Midland Naturalist](#) and [Original Minds interview](#)

Education

B.S., Biology, Minor in Religious Studies | *University of North Carolina Asheville* 2016 — 2020

Summa Cum Laude, 3.97 GPA

Awards

UNC Asheville Biology Department: Bernhardt-Perry Award for Undergraduate Research

French Broad French Broad Garden Club: French Broad French Broad Garden Club Scholarship

UNC Asheville Undergraduate Research Program: Research Grant

McCullough Institute: McCullough Fellowship

UNC Asheville: Laurels Scholarship