



Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy

PROTECTING LAND AND WATER FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE, FOREVER.

2021 Internship Biography and Reports



Chris Arrotti Biography

My name is Chris Arrotti. I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2020 with a degree in biology. In Fall of 2021, I will start a dual degree program at the University of British Columbia and Bangor University, studying forestry and conservation management. My general career aspirations range from government, private, or academic positions that apply research to land management practices and improve the quality of ecosystems. This internship will give me a greater understanding of how the private sector works and increase my field and technological skills.

5/10/21-5/21/21

My first two weeks included introductions to multiple sites: Cobble Brook Vista, Hauser, Mount Tom, Wildwoods, and Birch Rocks. These days I spent scouting out areas in which blazing, invasive removal, or trail clearings were necessary. I was taught how to use the weed whacker and hedge trimmer and used them accordingly at each site. This was also my first experience painting trail blazes, where I learned the distance between blazes is dependent on the line of sight. On remote days, I was introduced and taught the basics of ArcGIS and how to use the tablets for tracking and marking locations.

5/24/21-6/4/21

These two weeks I was introduced and worked in tandem with the other intern, Tim Strzepa, as well as introduced to the sites: MacAllister, Hadlow, West Briggs, and Mallory. Duties included hedge trimming, weed whacking, trailblazing, and tablet racking/marking. On remote days, I dedicated most of my time to learning about TRAFx trail counters, including setting up counters via computer to download/upload data from counters to computers. We also assembled and installed a trail counter at Cobble Brook Vista. The counters will be used to track the number of visitors at up to six preserves. These two weeks were also my first introduction to LENS remote satellite monitoring technology and an overview of grant writing with the new laptop provided.

Tim Strzepa Biography



My name is Tim Strzepa. I am a rising senior at Saint Michael's College with an environmental science major and a biology minor. I plan on attending graduate school either at the conclusion of my undergraduate career or after a few years of work experience. My interests include wildlife, photography, and hiking. I love being outside rain or shine! This internship position will supply me with valuable and practical experience in the environmental field. I look forward to learning technical skills along with field techniques.

Under the guidance of the NCLC employees, I hope to have an impact on my local community and really make a difference in the lives of those who utilize the various types conserved lands. I hope to be able to learn more about land trusts and work alongside professionals to help the future success of our lands. My general career aspirations include conservation, restoration, informing and teaching the public, as well as helping those without a voice. There are many options and ways in which to take my career, and this opportunity provides real world experience that I can use to direct my future career.

5/24/21-6/4/21

These first two weeks I was introduced to the staff and fellow intern, Chris. I have visited many field sites, including Mallory, Hadlow, West Briggs, Mount Tom, Khan, McCallister, Cobble Brook, and Hauser. I have completed and learned many tasks, such as how to use the tablets and our other software and programs (LENS, ArcGis, ArcMap, Landscape), how TRAFx trail counters are set up, and proper safety techniques when operating tools (weed whacker, hedge trimmer, and chainsaw). I have never been exposed to some of the methods and software used; through the help of staff, I have been able to adjust and learn how to do things efficiently and correctly. Generally, I have been learning about how land is acquired and maintained and the techniques and methods of the land trust to interact with landowners and donors.

Chris and Tim at the hairpin turn on the yellow trail at Cobble Brook Vista moving storm felled trees and debris.

