

Careers in Weed Science

Erika Haug: Research Scholar, Aquatic Weed Science NCSU

Primary duties

Design and conduct field-based and lab-based research projects relevant to aquatic weed management and communicate results to the public through presentations and journal articles

Develop, review, and submit research grant proposals

Mentor graduate student research assistants and serve on graduate student committees

Recruit, interview, onboard, train, and supervise student workers and technical staff

Extension and outreach activities: guest lectures, field days, develop and execute annual APM workshop

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

A guest lecturer spoke about invasive aquatic plant management to my high school environmental science class. I thought "wow that looks really fun!" I connected with the speaker after the lecture and asked about internships. I interned with NH DES for two summers during college and it was love at first paddle for me.

What do you love about your job?

I love that it is always changing and that there is always some new complex problem to solve. I also really love the opportunity to work outdoors.

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

To study weed science is to take part in ensuring the future of food, clothing, and water supply for our communities. That is pretty exciting in and of itself.

If you are interested to hear more about Erika's story or ask any questions, you can email her at ejhaug@ncsu.edu



Education

B.S. 2008 McGill University, Montreal QC
Biology

GIS Graduate Certificate 2017 North Carolina State University

Ph.D. 2018 North Carolina State University
*Fisheries Wildlife and Conservation
Biology, Aquatic Weed Science*

Path to Current Role

Graduate Research Assistant, Aquatic Weed Science, NCSU - 2014-2018 (4 years)

Limnologist/Biologist, Applicator, Aquatic Weeds - Aquatic Control Technology - 2008-2014 (6 years)

Research Assistant, Invasive Aquatic Plants, McGill University - 2007-2008 (1 year)

Exotic Species Intern, NH DES - 2005-2006 (2 summers)

Other interests?

I enjoy painting and spending time outdoors with my friends and family.

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Involvement in Professional Societies

- Aquatic Plant Management Society – 2009 – Present
 - o Student Representative on the Board of Directors 2014-2015
 - o Serve on board of directors 2020-2023
 - o Serve on student affairs, awards, and program committees
 - o Chair the Scholastic Endowment Committee
- Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society – 2009-Present
 - o Serve on board of directors 2020-2023
 - o Serve on the communication and outreach subcommittee and the student membership group
- Western Aquatic Plant Management Society - 2017
- South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society – 2014-Present
- Weed Science Society of North Carolina - 2014-Present
 - o Elected Student Representative on the Board of Directors 2015-2016
- Weed Science Society of America - 2016-Present
 - o Public Awareness Committee 2020 - present
- Massachusetts Congress of Lakes and Ponds - 2008-2014
 - o Served on the board of directors and collaboratively coordinated the annual meeting 2011-2014

Imparting wisdom

Your grades do not matter as much as you think they do.

Get involved. Join societies and volunteer at the registration booth at conferences. Take internships in the field you are interested in. Participate in any networking opportunities that come your way.

Finding a job is certainly about qualifications but who you know in the industry can be the difference between getting an interview and not.