

BIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

APPLIED STEWARDSHIP

POLLINATOR RAIN GARDEN

This summer, *Sharon SmithDelisle* worked with various organizations like the Water Quality Restoration Project, Danbury Public Works, Housatonic Valley Association, Finding Our Way program, Pollinator Pathway Org., NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Native Nursery and Hitchcock Farm. Sharon assisted with constructing and tending rain gardens, stating “working with so many organizations on this project expanded my horizons. There are great people out there dedicated to the common goal of conserving and protecting our planet, especially our fresh water and our pollinators. We can all learn the importance of using native plants in their gardens and how restoring water quality and preventing erosion is an individual’s way of helping.



MARINE DNA METACODING

During the summer, *Abigail Lucas* worked with Dr. Yuan Liu of NOAA NEFSC and assisted at Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument project which involved filtering seawater samples to isolate DNA fragments for environmental DNA metabarcoding. Lucas traveled aboard the R/V Connecticut on which traveled 130 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, MA. The overall goal of the research was to collect baseline data to monitor biodiversity of the area. Lucas states, “I gained a wealth of experience through this internship. This was the first time I went on a multiday research expedition and was a once in a lifetime experience. I was able to learn more about the logistics of a research expedition and what it takes to conduct research far out on the ocean. I am grateful for the structure of the stewardship project encouraging career development through experience in areas which interest each individual student.”

