

LLNF Conservation Fellows Program

Perspective from the first Fellow, Madelyn Trimpi Fall 2020



My name is Madelyn Trimpi, and I am a high school intern for the Linda Loring Nature Foundation. I lived on Nantucket for the first years of my childhood but became a seasonal resident when moved to Woodstock, Vermont when I was 5. Nantucket holds such a special place in my heart, making my motivation to protect the open land and shores stronger.

Pre COVID, I planned to travel abroad during my first semester of senior year. I wanted to go to Madagascar to work with lemurs for a couple of weeks and then visit family around Europe to connect myself with organizations that protect and preserve the environment and fight against climate change. Before this could come to full fruition, the pandemic overtook the world and plans were wiped clean. I was sad, but I knew that people were going through much worse and that I couldn't linger on my disappointment. When my high school announced that they were going to be implementing a hybrid model learning system, I decided that creativity and alternative planning were going to be my best option.

With my mom's help, I connected with Dr. Sarah Bois, the Director of Research and Education here at the Linda Loring Nature Foundation (LLNF). Coincidentally, LLNF was thinking about how they could connect high school students with the organization, therefore, drawing the interest of a younger crowd in their work and research. We talked and created an internship position that I would do for three months through the fall. In September, I arrived, quarantined, and got to work. For the first half of my time here, I collected and pressed plants to help build up a collection for the LLNF herbarium. This collection will be archived and added to an effort to see what plants flower at what time and keep a record of the property flora. By the end of October, the flowering season had come to a close so I began gathering background research on birds and plants. LLNF will use this compilation of data to see if and how climate change affects the growing seasons of plants and animals and bird migration and breeding patterns.

My time here has been inspirational and formative. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to pioneer this program with LLNF. I hope that this position will increase program opportunities for high school students interested in conservation and field research for the Linda Loring Foundation and inspire more people to care about their natural community.