

Steven A. Conaway

- EDUCATION**
- PhD candidate, Plant Pathology, August 2007 –present**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- Bachelor of Science, Environmental Horticulture, Summa Cum Laude, May 2006**
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**
- Biological control of invasive weeds with host specific fungal pathogens, 2007-present**
- Mapped and monitored field sites using GIS techniques.
 - Assessed genetic diversity of pathogens and plants with molecular laboratory techniques.
 - Propagated greenhouse plants. Implemented integrated pest management strategies.
 - Maintained field sites with hand and power tools.
 - Recorded many ecological and environmental factors including species richness, soil quality, and weather conditions.
 - Analyzed experimental data with a variety of statistical techniques.
 - Advised and supervised undergraduate research projects.
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
- Centre County Master Gardener, 2010-present**
- Developed weekly lessons for second graders on gardening and environmental stewardship.
 - Produced educational and promotional materials for demonstration gardens and events.
 - Provided diagnostic expertise and informational database for Master Gardener hotline.
 - Designed and organized successful outreach events for farmers, gardeners, and families.
- Discovery Space, children’s science museum, 2011-present**
- Organized special program on the biology of fungi.
 - Led plans to install demonstration pollinator and vegetable gardens in conjunction with new hands-on children’s programming entitled “Ready, Set, Grow!”
- Girl Scouts of America “Plant Life” badge program, 2010**
- Developed and taught novel programs on integrated pest management and plant science in conjunction with the Penn State chapter of Graduate Women in Science.
- President, Plant Pathology Association (graduate student organization), 2009-2010**
- Initiated new fundraising programs to assist educational travel opportunities.
 - Established student outreach program with local retirement community.
- PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**
- Visiting researcher at USDA Pacific Basin Ag Research Center, Hilo, HI, Aug-Sept 2011**
- Collaborated on field study of emergent diseases in tea plantations
 - Assisted tropical forestry project assessing Koa tree replanting strategies.
 - Researched local case studies of successful biological control programs reliant on educating stakeholders and the public.
 - Presented personal research at annual meeting of American Phytopathological Society and International Symposium on the Biological Control of Weeds.
- Visiting scholar at USDA Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, MN, March 2011**
- Worked with top rust disease researchers on current research methods and how to adapt them to weed biological control pathogens.
 - Presented special research seminar to staff scientists.
- TEACHING**
- Introductory Plant Pathology, Teaching Assistant, 2010**
- Assisted with curriculum design, administered lab sessions and gave several lectures.
- Integrated Pest Management, Teaching Assistant, 2009-2010**
- Taught guest lectures on genetic diversity, biological control, and epidemiology.
 - Designed tests, facilitated class discussions and advised students on study materials.