

# Miriam M. Jenkins

Tampa, FL

Email : [mimijenkins@gmail.com](mailto:mimijenkins@gmail.com) Phone: 412.519.6442

Website: [www.mimijenkins.org](http://www.mimijenkins.org)

## Education

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**PhD Wildlife Biology** 2019

*Clemson University*

Dissertation: “*Enhancing Native Pollinators of Watermelon Agroecosystems in South Carolina*”

Advisors: Dr. Robert Baldwin, Dr. Merle Shepard

**M.S. Biology**

*University of Akron*

2014

Thesis: “*Density Effects on Competition for Pollination between Two Ohio Wetland Plants*”

Advisor: Dr. Randy Mitchell

**B.A. Environmental Studies/French, Global Studies Certificate** 2009

*University of Pittsburgh (Study Abroad: Université Stendhal, Grenoble, France)*

## Career Interests

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I am generally interested in the fields of conservation biology, applied ecology, sustainable agriculture, and pollination ecology. Additionally, I am interested in relating important and relevant scientific topics to the public and providing essential information that will lead to effective conservation and management of declining global biodiversity and natural resources.

## Relevant Experience

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**OPS Biological Scientist IV**

July 2022-current

*Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

- Primary task is developing new landowner assistance program to provide incentives for maintaining Florida panther habitat on private lands
- Work in collaboration with Office of Conservation Planning Services, Imperiled Species Management, and Florida panther biologists

**OPS Biological Scientist IV**

Feb 2021-July 2022

*Florida Department of Health, Hillsborough County*

- Provide COVID-19 prevention consultation to the community including schools, workplaces and youth programs
- Provide current state and CDC guidance on COVID-19 prevention and on case and outbreak investigations for cases occurring in specific community settings

- Lead role includes oversight and monitoring of other staff

**Lab Technician**

June-Aug 2020

*Auburn University*

- Identified bee specimens collected in Alabama powerline rights-of-way for pollinator/vegetation management study
- Developed material for native pollinator outreach opportunities for Auburn Bee Lab
  - Curated and organized a collection of Alabama Native Pollinators
  - Prepared and participated in several videos in the field describing Alabama powerline pollinators study
  - Contributed written content for “Alabama Bee of the Month” social media campaign

**Graduate Research Assistant**

July 2015-May 2019

*Clemson University*

- Collaborated with USDA Vegetable Lab, Clemson Coastal Research and Education Center, USGS Native Bee Lab and several small farms
- Independent research investigated effects of on-farm enhancements in floral diversity to native pollinator communities and watermelon pollination
- Collected and archived over 3000 insects including 2 new state records for SC
- Mentor/Supervisor to 11 undergraduate volunteers and 3 summer hires

**Sea Turtle Conservation Intern**

March-May 2015

*Caño Palma Biological Station, Costa Rica*

- Part of a 3-5 person team doing nightly sea turtle surveys walking 8-12 mi of beach in remote part of Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge
- Collected data on nesting leatherback, green and hawksbill turtles including clutch size, body measurements, bodily injuries and identified tracks/half moons
- Performed nest triangulations to mark and protect nest locations
- Assisted with various projects including nighttime caiman surveys, mammal surveys, forest phenology studies, and tent-making bat studies

**Pollinator Lab Technician**

Sept 2014-February 2015

*USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center*

- Identified ~41,000 insect specimens from American southwest with emphasis on bees (especially Apoidea: Apidae) using taxonomic keys for a nation-wide database of native plant-pollinator interactions

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Aug 2012-Aug 2014

*University of Akron*

- Independent research investigated effects of manipulating plant population density on pollen receipt, reproductive success, and pollinator behavior in two wetland plants *Mimulus ringens* and *Verbena hastata*
- Created a pollen library to distinguish pollen species under magnification
- Mentor/supervisor to 8 undergraduate volunteers, including 3 international students

**Undergraduate Researcher**

June 2009-Aug 2009

### *Chicago Botanic Garden REU*

- Independent Research investigated floral neighborhood effects on pollination success of purple coneflower in fragmented prairie remnants
- Assisted team of researchers with related projects including seedling searches along transects, hand pollination, and field observations on pollinator foraging behavior

### **Undergraduate Research Assistant**

May 2007-Aug 2007; Aug 2008-May 2009

#### *University of Pittsburgh*

- Assisted research on evolutionary biology of wild strawberry by observing pollinator behavior in the field, identifying wild pollinators in the field and dissecting fruits and buds for reproductive success

## **Teaching Experience**

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### **Adjunct Biology Faculty**

Aug 2019-Aug 2021

#### *University of Tampa*

- Environmental Science and Biological Sciences courses for non-majors
- Focus on instilling an awareness of global environmental issues and concepts
- Prepare inquiry-based activities to enhance student engagement with course material

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Aug 2012-Aug 2014

#### *University of Akron*

- Teaching assistant for Natural Sciences lab (4 semesters), Field Ecology lab (1 semester), Principles of Biology II lab (1 semester), Field Wetland Ecology (1 semester)

### **English Language Teacher**

Oct. 2010-April 2011

#### *French Ministry of Education*

- Taught English as a second language to children 2-14 years old in 4 elementary schools

### **Environmental Education Intern**

Sept 2009-Sept 2010

#### *Pittsburgh City Parks*

- Assisted staff in leading and planning environmental education programs for elementary school-aged children, families, and community members

## **Other Relevant Experience**

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### **AmeriCorps Outdoor Intern**

July 2019-December

2019

#### *Girl Scouts of West Central Florida*

- Designed, organized and implemented 12 new outdoor programs for Girl Scouts in 8 counties from age 5-18 years with a focus on environmental education
- Collaborated with Outreach department of GSWCF to provide free outdoor programs for girls in underserved, low-income communities and in Title I schools
- Facilitated 4 native plant and vegetable garden programs to Girl Scouts ages 5-18 years
- Developed gardening program and established a community garden at Wildwood Camp

- Established partnerships with 13 new partners for the Girl Scouts of West Central FL, including 4 Audubon Society chapters, UF/IFAS Extension, and a non-profit urban farm

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Nov 2018-July 2019

#### *The Sustainable Living Project*

- Assisted executive director in management, scheduling and program development for an urban farm and education site teaching the public about sustainable living practices
- Led volunteer groups of 5-25 people in building compost piles, planting and harvesting
- Assisted executive director in \$25,000 grant application for environmental education programs
- Wrote monthly newsletter for donors, volunteers and others

### **Land Management Intern**

April 2012-Aug 2012

#### *Bureau of Land Management*

- Conducted noxious weed inventory on federal and private logging land using National Invasive Species Information Management Systems and GPS to collect data
- Drove vehicle for 8-10 hours a day on hazardous and remote logging roads performing roadside invasive species inventory
- Quickly learned dominant native and invasive plant species in Oregon

## **Talks**

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(Public outreach talks listed under Outreach)

### **2017 College of William & Mary Graduate Research Symposium**

Jenkins, M.M. "*Enhancing native insect pollination on watermelon farms*"  
Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Natural Sciences

### **2016 South Carolina Entomological Society**

Jenkins, M.M. "*Enhancing native insect pollination on watermelon farms*"  
Award for best graduate student presentation

## **Poster Presentations**

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### **2014 Ecological Society of America, Sacramento CA**

Jenkins, M.M., Mitchell, R.M. "Density Effects on Competition for Pollination between Two Ohio Wetland Plants"

### **2014 University of Akron Science and Innovation Symposium**

Jenkins, M.M., "Density Effects on Competition for Pollination between Two Ohio Wetland Plants"  
(Awarded best poster in session)

### **2010 Ecological Society of America, Pittsburgh PA**

Gallagher, M.K., Jenkins, M.M., Gallinat, A., Dierson, G., Kiefer, G., Wagenius, S.  
"Interspecific Co-flowering Prairie Plants Compete for Pollinators"

### **2009 University of Pittsburgh Science 2009 Poster Session**

Jenkins, M.M., Wagenius, S. "Interspecific Co-flowering Prairie Plants Compete for Pollinators"

### **2009 University of Pittsburgh Biology Department Retreat**

Jenkins, M.M., Wagenius, S. “Interspecific Co-flowering Prairie Plants Compete for Pollinators”

### **2009 Chicago Botanic Garden Undergraduate Research Poster Session**

Jenkins, M.M., Wagenius, S. “Interspecific Co-flowering Prairie Plants Compete for Pollinators”

## **Outreach**

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- 2020: Temple Terrace Community Gardens President, Greco Garden Plot coordinator
- Social media outreach:
  - Instagram pollinator page [@apeekintopollinators](#)
  - [Blog](#) focused on sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation
- Nov 11, 2020: “Pollinators in Alabama Gardens” virtual presentation to Auburn University Community Garden
- Oct 21, 2020: “Global Pollinator Declines” virtual presentation to Florida Native Plant Society
- Oct 19, 2020: Guest on [Sustainable Living](#) Radio show WMNF Community Radio to speak about Florida bats
- April 20, 2020: Wrote an [article](#) for Vegetable and Specialty Crop Sciences
- Nov 2, 2019: “Florida Native Pollinators” presentation at Wilcox Nursery Fall Festival
- Oct 21, 2019: Guest on “[Sustainable Living](#)” radio show WMNF Community Radio to speak on topic of bats and pollinators
- Oct 19, 2019: “[The Buzz about Bees](#)” presentation at Tampa Heights Community Garden, in collaboration with Hillsborough County Planning Commission
- May, July & September 2019: “Three Part Pollinators Series”, 3 presentations given at The Sustainable Living Project, a non-profit urban farm, about wild pollinators in gardens and agriculture
- Nov 2018-Oct 2019 : Program development, grant research, and leading volunteer work days for a non-profit [urban farm and education center](#)
- December 2018-June 2019: volunteer for a non-profit (Tampa Bay Farm2School) in public school gardens and Temple Terrace Boys and Girls club, teaching children about nutrition, gardening, and local agriculture
- June 4, 2018: Guest on the [PolliNation Podcast](#) hosted by Oregon State University
- May 2016, May 2017—Charleston Main Public Library—gave two presentations open to public about native pollinator conservation
- June 2017, June 2018 Pollinator Week Events—organized and presented educational material about native pollinators, and planted pollinator-friendly gardens at two locations with Charleston Community Bee Gardens
- June 2018, June 2019: [Gave 2 talks at community gardens](#) in 2016 , 2017 about conservation of native pollinators, collaboration with Charleston Parks Conservancy

## **Training/Certifications**

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2018: Université de Bordeaux International Summer School: week-long intensive course for international doctoral students on interactions between ecosystems and urban-rural interfaces

2017: Beginner Beekeeper Course, Charleston Community Bee Gardens

2015: University of Minnesota tallgrass prairie bee workshop, a week-long intensive bee biology and taxonomy course

2012: First Aid/CPR (Bureau of Land Management), 4x4/Defensive Driving (BLM)

## **Scholarships/Grants**

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2019: Wrote and received a grant for building a native plant and pollinator garden at The Sustainable Living Project, a non-profit urban farm and education center (\$400 from ZooTampa, \$500 from The Sustany Foundation)

2018: Clemson Graduate Travel Grant Service (\$750) to attend the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Meeting in Jan 2019

2018: LabEx COTE travel grant (\$600) to attend COTE International Summer School in Bordeaux, France (Topic: "Interactions between Ecosystems and Rural-Urban Fringes")

2017: Clemson College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences travel grant to William & Mary Research Symposium (covered travel to and lodging in Williamsburg, VA)

2016, 2017: Watermelon Promotion Board (secured funding for summer hire each year)

2015-2018: Agricultural Society of South Carolina, PhD assistantship (\$23,000/year, 4 years)

## **Skills Summary**

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- Experimental design and independent scientific research on variety of biological topics
- Data analysis using multiple statistical techniques
- Scientific writing and communication
- Social media content development for public outreach
- Collaborations with variety of stakeholders and establishing new partnerships
- Presentations to wide audience ranging from elementary students through adults, and from scientists to the general public
- Development of multi-media material (written, video, posters, social media) to convey scientific information
- Experience working with a range of animals ranging from sea turtles to insects
- Worked cooperatively in teams and independently with a positive attitude in often difficult field situations in remote rural areas in the US and abroad
- Management and mentoring of 8-10 undergraduate field and lab assistants at once
- Collected data on sea turtles under time-sensitive, dark and difficult situations in remote area, following precise protocols to ensure their safety and that of the team
- GIS techniques used include creating maps of field sites and wetland classifications, buffering, vector processing, and digitizing

### **Other skills:**

- Languages: English (native), French (fluent in spoken/written), Spanish (basic)
- Software: Adobe Acrobat video and photo editing software (Premiere Pro CC, Photoshop), Microsoft office, ArcGIS, JMP, SAS, Slack, Dropbox, Vidgrid, Blackboard
- Photography—wildlife; macrophotography of pinned insects; dark-room developing & editing of black and white film

## References

Evan Krueger, Outdoor Director, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

[ekrueger@gswcf.org](mailto:ekrueger@gswcf.org) 813.262.1770

Dr. Merle Shepard, Professor Emeritus, Clemson University

[mshprd@clemson.edu](mailto:mshprd@clemson.edu) 843.442.2463

Dr. Rob Baldwin, Professor Conservation biology, Clemson University

[Baldwi6@clemson.edu](mailto:Baldwi6@clemson.edu) 864.642.7137