



For Immediate Release

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Black Rock Forest Announces 2026 David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants Supporting Research

Cornwall, NY (April 7, 2026) – Black Rock Forest announced today the recipients of its 2026 David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants. This year, Black Rock Forest is awarding a combined \$26,850 to three research groups.

The fund celebrates the legacy of a long-time Board member and chair, David Redden and supports research projects in Black Rock Forest with applications to conservation. Projects can focus on any scale, from molecules to ecosystems. Since 2019, Black Rock Forest has distributed 37 David Redden Conservation Science grants totaling more than \$197,000. Many of these awards have supported high school, college, and graduate student investigations into the natural world.

“The David Redden Conservation Science Fund continues to increase our understanding of the forest by supporting dozens of visiting researchers, greatly increasing our organization’s science and conservation capacities. Managing this program, particularly the student researchers that it supports, is one of my most rewarding responsibilities at Black Rock Forest,” said Dr. Scott LaPoint, Director of Research at Black Rock Forest.

The 2026 recipients of the David Redden Fund Awards are:

Drs. Danny Gentile and Rachel Cox of Lisman Laboratories at the Riverdale Country School for “Fish Species Diversity as indicated by eDNA monitoring in Black Rock Forest”,

Ms. Kaitlin Karl and Dr. Mark Davis of the Illinois Natural History Survey at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for “Integrating population genomics and disease surveillance to assess the health of the Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) at Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, New York”,

Dr. Mustafa Saifuddin of New York University for “Characterizing forest soil microbial biodiversity and activity”.

Black Rock Forest is looking forward to hosting the research groups and supporting their work over the next year. Results will be shared with the public through forest events, newsletters, and scientific publications.

Black Rock Forest is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization with a mission of advancing scientific understanding of the natural world through research, education, and conservation programs. The organization maintains a 3,920-acre forest and a scientific field station in the Hudson Highlands, 60 miles north of New York City. We collaborate with our Consortium members —universities,



schools, scientific and cultural institutions—to pursue and foster scientific inquiry, and to create educational programs for K-16 students, teachers, and the general public. Black Rock Forest works with many partners to pursue conservation goals in the Hudson Highlands and the greater mid-Hudson Valley region.

Photo credit: taken by BRF Staff, Corina Vernon, one of last year's grant recipients