Clifton F. Albrecht

Assistant Professor
Sul Ross State University, Biology
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sul Ross State University
Assistant Professor (40 hours/week) — Alpine, TX
Supervisor: Dr. Christopher Ritzi — January 2025 – Present

- Teach multiple Biology courses at the undergraduate and graduate level.
- Act as academic advisor to an undergraduate McNair scholar.

Stephen F. Austin State University — Nacogdoches, TX
Graduate Research Assistant (40 hours/week) — May 2021 – December 2025
Supervisor: Dr. Rebecca Kidd

- Independently designed and implemented a large-scale study of tree seedling ecology in three East Texas riparian forests. Analysis is ongoing, and results will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Independently designed and implemented a large-scale study of forest understory vascular plant communities in three East Texas riparian forests. Analysis is ongoing, and results will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Developed a methodology to calculate coefficients for weighted averaging of forest understory light environment measurements taken using a concave hemispherical mirror canopy densiometer. This methodology is available for general use as the installable R package *canavg*, hosted on GitHub under user profile *albrechtcf*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (20 hours/week) — November 2021 – May 2024
Supervisor: Dr. Rebecca Kidd

- Taught undergraduate Forest Ecology laboratory as primary teaching assistant for three semesters. Assisted the primary teaching assistant as needed for a further two semesters.
- Provided extracurricular mentorship with regards to lesson comprehension and technical writing skills to enrolled undergraduate students.

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley — Edinburg, TX
Plant Physiological Ecology Lab Graduate Assistant (40 hours/week) — January 2019 – May 2021
Supervisor: Dr. Bradley Christoffersen

- Designed and implement a large-scale assessment of South Texas reforestation efforts. Results of this project were published as Albrecht et al. 2022, listed below.
- Adapted existing methodology for assessment of woody plant loss of xylem hydraulic conductance in response to desiccation for the study of honey mesquite (*Neltuma glandulosa*).
- Adapted existing methodology for imaging microscopic xylem anatomical traits for the study of a large number of South Texas dryland woody plants species.

Herbarium Technician (20 hours/week) May – August 2020
Supervisor: Dr. Andrew McDonald

- Manually transcribed label data from several hundred physical plant collections into digital format for archiving in the SEINet database. This effort was part of the TORCH initiative to digitize collections housed in Texas and Oklahoma herbaria.
- Used a camera and lightbox to photograph ca. 100 physical plant collection, then uploaded photographs to SEINet database. This effort was part of the TORCH initiative to digitize collections housed in Texas and Oklahoma herbaria.
- Conducted independent research into the biogeography of *Opuntia* spp. and the narrowly endemic bromeliad *Tillandsia bailey* in South Texas and adjacent areas of Tamaulipas and Nuevo León.

Teaching Assistant (20 hours/week) January – December 2020
Supervisor: Dr. Mark Scally

- Taught three sections per semester of undergraduate Genetics lab.
- Provided extracurricular mentorship with regards to lesson comprehension and technical writing skills to enrolled undergraduate students.

Texas Conservation Corps Austin, TX
Crew Leader (40 hours/week) December 2017 – December 2018
Supervisor: Emily Thornton

- Co-managed a team of 6-8 people on a variety of conservation projects in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Projects included trail construction and maintenance, prairie restoration, fuels reductions, and fence construction.

Bureau of Land Management and the Chicago Botanic Garden Carson City, NV
Conservation and Land Management Intern (40 hours/week) March – November 2017
Supervisor: Dean Tonenna

- Collected, processed, and shipped bulk seed collected from wild populations of plants in western Nevada and adjacent areas of California. This effort was part of the national Seeds of Success program.
- Established office Intermountain Regional Herbarium Network (IRHN) portal and manually transcribed collection label data to database.
- Carried out surveys of the narrowly endemic forb *Ivesia webberi*, during which a previously unknown population was discovered and documented.
- Carried out demographic surveys of the single known population of the narrowly endemic *Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *williamsae*.

Texas State University - San Marcos San Marcos, TX
Edwards Aquifer Rsrch. & Data Cntr. Assistant (20 hours/week) November 2016 – February 2017
Supervisor: Aaron Swink

- Sorted microinvertebrate fauna from mineral sediment and detritus in multiple collections from across Texas using a stereomicroscope.

Landscape Eco. and Entomology. Lab Assistant (20 hours/week) August – December 2016
Supervisor: Dr. Michael Huston

- Sorted and identified bees collected in the Christmas Mountains of Brewster County, Texas.

New York Department of Environmental Conservation Ray Brook, NY
Backcountry Steward (40 hours/week) May – November 2013
Supervisor: Scott van Laer

- Assisted with a wide variety of projects. Projects included: backcountry trail construction, backcountry search and rescue, trail system mapping, and natural history interpretation to the public.

Sonoran Desert Network Tucson, AZ
Vegetation Survey Technician (40 hours/week) May – June 2011
Supervisor: Sarah Studd

- Assisted with backcountry vegetation surveys using National Park Service standard vegetation mapping protocols in southern Arizona and adjacent southwestern New Mexico.

EDUCATION

Stephen F. Austin State University Nacogdoches, TX
PhD – Forestry
Awards: T.L.L. Temple Graduate Assistantship
Minor: Spatial Science
Graduation: December 2024

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Edinburg, TX
M.Sc. - Biology
Awards:
Presidential Graduate Research Assistantship
Best Graduate Student Poster – Texas Soc. for Ecological Restoration 2019 conference
Graduation: May 2021

Texas State University - San Marcos San Marcos, TX
B.S. - Biology
Minor: Geography
Graduation: December 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Albrecht, C., Contreras, Z., Wahl, K., Sternberg, M., Christoffersen, B. (2022). Winners and losers in dryland reforestation: species survival, growth, and recruitment along a 33-year planting chronosequence. Restoration Ecology 30(4).

Mohsin, F., Arias, M., **Albrecht, C**., Wahl, K., Stoeffels, W., Ramachandran, G., Christoffersen, B. (2021). Assessing species-specific responses to restoration interventions in South Texas. Forest Ecology and Management 491.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Albrecht, C., K.R. Kidd, 2025. A novel methodology for weighted averaging of forest canopy coverage measurements made using a canopy densiometer. Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Albuquerque, NM. April 25, 2025. (poster)

Albrecht, C., K.R. Kidd, J.P. Stovall, B.P. Oswald, J.E. Van Kley, S. Jack, 2023. The regeneration niche in bottomland hardwood forests: sorting of tree communities along interacting gradients of flood and light stress in three East Texas floodplains. Society of American Foresters National Convention, Sacramento, CA. October 27, 2023. (poster)

Albrecht, C., K.R. Kidd, J.P. Stovall, B.P. Oswald, J.E. Van Kley, S. Jack, 2022. The interacting roles of hydrology and light in structuring regeneration and understory communities in East Texas bottomland hardwood forests. Graduate Research Conference, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX. April 18, 2023. (poster)

Albrecht, C., Salazar, K., DeLeon, K., Christoffersen, B., 2019. Winners and losers in reforestation efforts: Identifying physiological traits contributing to species survivorship along a planting chronosequence. Texas Society for Ecological Restoration Annual Convention, Galveston, TX. November 9, 2019.

SKILLS

- Collection and management of physical plant specimens and associated data
- Use of dichotomous keys and related literature for identification of plant collections
- Use of ESRI ArcGIS Pro and associated GIS software for mapping and geographic analysis
- Programming, data management, and statistics in R (expert)
- Programming, data management, and statistics in Python (basic competency)
- Macro photography with focus on very small (< 1 cm) plant morphological features
- Use of standard forest survey equipment – navigational compass, clinometer, bole diameter tape
- UAS operation for aerial image and video acquisition
- Generation of land surface orthomosaics and terrain models from UAS imagery in Pix4DMapper
- Use of ImageJ image analysis software for quantification and analysis of woody stem cross-sectional vascular anatomy

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Botanical Society

JOURNAL REFEREE EXPERIENCE

- The Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Geospatial Analyst Certificate from SFASU (ongoing) – Expires: n/a
- Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG) – Expires: n/a
- California Native Plant Society Vegetation Rapid Assessment/Relevé Certificate – Expires: n/a
- Texas Stream Team Certificate of Achievement – Expires: n/a
- DOI-BLM Herbicide Applicator's License – Expired: April 2020

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Southwestern Association of Naturalists, Albuquerque, NM — April 24-27, 2025
- Society of American Foresters Annual Conference, Sacramento, CA — October 25 – 27, 2023
- Silviculture Instructors Tour, Georgetown, CA — October 23 – 25, 2023
- Biennial Southern Silv. Research Conference, Nacogdoches, TX — March 21 – 23, 2023
- Texas Soc. for Eco. Rest. Annual Conf, Galveston, TX — November 8 – 10, 2019
- California NPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment, Bodega Bay, CA — October 3 – 5, 2017

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Native Plant Research Institute – San Marcos, TX — January – December 2015

- Researched the edibility, toxicity, and geographic ranges of plants native to central Texas.

Summit Steward Program – Algonquin Peak, NY — June 2013

- Assisted with alpine vegetation surveys within standardized 1 m^2 plots. These surveys are ongoing and are intended to help assess the impacts of restoration efforts, recreation, and climate change on alpine vegetation in the region.

San Marcos River Rangers (Texas River Rangers) – San Marcos, TX — August – November 2011

- Conducted repeated water quality testing of the San Marcos River. Measures included: dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, pH, turbidity, algal cover, depth, and temperature.