

2020 Natural Areas Virtual Conference

Student Award Winners

The Natural Areas Association (NAA) is committed to encouraging and supporting the next generation of natural area stewards. NAA's support of students and young professionals comes in many forms including the annual student presentation competition that is held during each conference. This year, 26 students signed up for the competition. Seventeen participated as oral presenters and nine as poster presenters. Ten natural areas professionals volunteered their time as judges for this year's competition. Student presentations were excellent covering a range of interesting and topical subjects and selection of competition winners was challenging. Below is the list of competition award winners. Congratulations to you all and congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year's competition. Based upon the presentations, our natural areas are in good hands in the future.

Oral Presentations (Tie for first place):

- **1st: Tessa Putz**, University of Nevada, Reno. Presentation title: Seasonal water availability drives trait variation in isolated *Pinus ponderosa* populations
- **1st: Clayton Hale**, Mississippi State University. Presentation title: Coastal Swamp-Cedar Regeneration 14-Years Post-Hurricane Katrina
- **2nd: Alison Agneray**, University of Nevada, Reno. Presentation title: Surviving in the invaded desert: A climate- and trait-based approach to restoration in the Great Basin

Poster Presentations (Tie for third place):

- **1st: Claudia Pighetti**, University of Nevada, Reno. Poster title: Novel Use of Passive Acoustic Recorders for Mapping Coyotes on Public Lands
- **2nd: Benjamin Spei**, University of Idaho. Poster title: Differences in community composition and structure between riparian and non-riparian aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx.)
- **3rd: Delaney Demro**, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Poster title: CREEQ: A Public Perceptions of Recreational Water-Quality Citizen-Science Initiative
- **3rd: Clayton Hale**, Mississippi State University, Modeling Habitat Suitability for Mountain *Stewartia* and the Implications for Plant Conservation on Public Lands

