



MAY 19, NOON EDT  
INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL USING  
GOATS

webinar presented by Katherine Marchetto, Gavin Deming,  
and Jake Langeslag



**Katherine Marchetto**

Post-Doctoral Associate  
Department of Veterinary Population Medicine  
University of Minnesota

**Bio**

Katherine is a plant ecologist at the University of Minnesota currently studying the use of goat browsing to control invasive common buckthorn shrubs. She has previously studied plant viruses, dispersal of invasive thistles, and insect biological control agents. She earned her B.S. and M.S. at the Pennsylvania State University and her Ph.D. at Cornell University.



**Gavin Deming**

Executive Director, Allegheny GoatScape

**Bio**

Gavin established Allegheny GoatScape as a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania in early 2017 after taking on its previous iteration, Steel City Grazers. Previously he worked for ten years at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), fundraising and performing outreach, consulting and doing occasional field work for their community gardens and greenspace program. Gavin saw first-hand how efficient and effective goats could be in removing unwanted plants when he helped bring in Steel City Grazers for a WPC hillside restoration project, eventually leading to his desire to create the non-profit. Prior to WPC, he was program manager for a youth employment program at a neighborhood development organization in Pittsburgh. Gavin is a graduate of Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and also has a Master's degree in social work (focus on resource development and community organizing) from University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Website: <https://www.alleghenygoatscape.org/>

**Jake Langeslag**

Owner, Goat Dispatch LLC

**Bio**

Jake earned a B.S. degree in Ecology from Minnesota State University Mankato in 2004. He also did ecological research at Blandy Experimental Farm through the University of Virginia for two years. He then worked for W.E.S.T. an environmental consulting firm in the states of California and New York. In 2013, he founded his own ecological restoration company, Goat Dispatch, and has put most of his research focus on using goats and other animals to manage vegetation.

Website: <https://goatdispatch.com/>

**Abstract**

The use of livestock to control undesirable vegetation is growing in popularity. However, less is known about the pros and cons of this technique in comparison to other management methods, such as herbicide, cutting, and burning. In this webinar, Dr. Katherine Marchetto, Post-Doctoral Associate at University of Minnesota, will discuss her research on the effects of goat browsing on the invasive shrub buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and on overall plant diversity and composition. Dr. Marchetto will focus on two studies: 1. Experimental research assessing the viability of invasive buckthorn seeds after passing through goat digestive tracts, and 2. A meta-analysis of 59 studies about the use of grazing animals in vegetation control. Gavin Deming, executive director of Allegheny GoatScape, and Jake Langeslag, owner of Goat Dispatch, LLC, will share their observations from the field and provide webinar attendees with practical information on grazing goats to control invasive species.

Katherine M. Marchetto, D. Jo Heuschele, Daniel J. Larkin, and Tiffany M. Wolf "Goat Digestion Leads to Low Survival and Viability of Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) Seeds," *Natural Areas Journal* 40(2), 150-154, (6 April 2020). <https://doi.org/10.3375/043.040.0206>.