

Onyksa M. Domenech Colón
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Work Experience:

Creator, Researcher, Writer and Educator

Margarite's L.L.C.- Punto Informativo

03/2021-Present

Orocovis, PR

- Designing and developing an educational project about the biodiversity, natural resources, and agriculture of Puerto Rico.
- Researching and analyzing scientific data about exotic and endangered species in Puerto Rico.
- Creating, writing, and publishing environmental educational content for social media platforms.
- Preparing and presenting the created educational content for a diverse community of children and adults at seminars, schools, universities, community gatherings and over different remote communication tools.
- Developing and evaluating Business Plan Proposals and/or Research Proposals for different agroecology projects.
- Assisting and identifying agricultural, educational and/or resource conservation Grant Programs to facilitate and provide resources for potential participants.

Plant Protection Technician

USDA APHIS PPQ

9/2018 – Present

Carolina, PR

- Identifying and collecting native and target fruit flies for the Carolina PIS Fruit Fly Domestic Program.
- Preparing and presenting scientific and educational content for a diverse community of children and adults at scientific seminars, university symposiums and community activities.
- Planning and implementing several work plans to identify and collect target plant pests and diseases for the Survey Domestic Program, (Exotic Wood Borer, Khapra Beetle, Red and South American Palm Weevils, Mango Seed Weevil, Mollusks, Exotic Scales and Mealybugs, Citrus diseases)
- Inspecting and surveying private and public properties to identify tropical tree species and correlate host/pest interactions.
- Recording the collected data using the Agricultural Risk Management System (ARM).
- Enforcing Federal and/or State plant quarantines and regulatory orders for the movement of plants, plant products, equipment, and other regulated articles.
- Navigating using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to gather information, prepare survey maps, and define quarantine areas.

Plant Protection Quarantine Technician

USDA APHIS PPQ

01/2017 - 09/2018

Worcester, MA

- Surveyed tree hosts at public and private properties for the presence of Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), using GPS and GIS equipment.
- Planned, scheduled, and coordinated survey work plans.
- Led teams of 4 to 5 employees to conduct survey inspections and reported detailed information to supervisors to accomplish program goals.
- Maintained, repaired, and replaced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- Inspected sites, wrote permits, enforced federal regulations, restricted movement of host material in and out of quarantine zones and regulated areas.
- Conducted and Trained Quality Assurance (QA) operations with federal contractors, as well, evaluated contractor performance for contract renewal purposes.

Consumer Safety Inspector
USDA APHIS FSIS

07/2015 - 08/2016
New York, NY

- Oversaw meat and poultry processing establishments for regulatory compliance of their Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, Hazard Analysis, and critical Control Point Plans.
- Responsible for overseeing large groups of employees.
- Implemented control measurements for pathogens in meat processing products such as *E.coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella* and/or *Campylobacter*.

Forestry Technician
USDA FS

09/2014 - 11/2014
Alpine, AZ

- Prepared daily field work plans to collect forestry and botanical data and to build water barriers, fences, and gates.
- Completed plot summaries using a portable data recorder to identify and treat invasive plants using both natural control methods and herbicide application.
- Led volunteers and forest crew technicians to accomplish recreational and maintenance projects.
- Patrolled forest areas to enforce federal regulations while navigating using paper maps and Garmin GPS unit to locate targets.

Education:

Ana G. Méndez University - Cupey PR
MA: Curriculum and Instruction

05/2021

- Thesis: The Integration of Naturalist Intelligence to the Environmental Education Curriculum of Puerto Rico and its Implications on Learning and Emotional Intelligence.

University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez PR
BS: Agronomy - Crop Protection

05/2014

- Plant Biosecurity Certification
- Graduate Courses: Insects of Tropical Crops, Control of Plant Parasitic Nematodes
- Investigation Program for Biological Control specializing in bacterial antibiotics against fungal plant pathogens.

Certifications:

- Botanical skin care product preparation **08/2020**
- Basics of Plant Identification for Conservation Planning **02/2021**
- Herbal Aphrodisiacs preparations **08/2021**
- Herbal formulations for healthy food **09/2021**

Skills:

- Fully proficient in English and Spanish languages, advanced in writing, speaking, and reading.
- Ability to handle tools that involve agriculture, forestry, construction, and vehicle maintenance.
- Trained and performed backcountry survival techniques during extreme weather conditions for 8 to 10 consecutive days in a 3-month period.
- Advanced Software proficiency: Word Processing tools (Microsoft Word, Publisher, Power Point, Excel, Sway), Canva (content and web creation), Wix, Communication tools, Social Media platforms, Research Publication Data Bases, Adobe Acrobat DC, Photo Editing tools.