

Natural History Field Studies Faculty Bios 2017

Rick Borchelt is the Director for Communications at the Department of Energy's Office of Science. He has led many field trips in bird and butterfly identification and conservation. B.A., Biology, Southeast Missouri State University. Graduate hours in entomology and science writing.

Joel Cohen teaches STEM courses, including life sciences, chemistry, and ecosystem studies, at Parkland Middle Magnet School in the Gifted and Talented program. Previously Senior Research Fellow at International Food Policy Institute; research specialist at the US Agency for International Development. Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Massachusetts.

Jai Cole leads the Aquatic Ecology Unit for the Montgomery County MD Department of Parks. She manages the stewardship of streams, lakes, ponds and stormwater management facilities and devices in the park system. She plans, coordinates and supervises biological monitoring studies for resource management, stream restoration, and park development projects. B.A., Biology, University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Mark England is Senior Project Manager/Estimator at Can-Am Contractors. He leads birding trips and forays and participates in breeding bird atlases and surveys.

Emily Ferguson is an outdoor recreation planner for the National Park Service, working with the Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program. Previously, she held public meetings pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), providing scientific information to community members. She also teaches tree identification classes for Master Naturalists and Tree Stewards. M.S., Biology, University of South Florida.

Rachel Gauza is an aquatic biologist with the D.C. Department of Energy & Environment. Previously she served as education outreach coordinator at the Association for Zoos and Aquariums. As National Coordinator for FrogWatch USA, she leads acoustical studies, develops curricula, and runs workshops to train volunteers. B.A., Biology, Hood College.

Jane Huff is a natural science educator and former Director of Education for the Audubon Naturalist Society. She is a recipient of the Graduate School, USDA Faculty Excellence Award. Ph.D., Zoology, Michigan State University.

Margareta (Gogi) Kalka has researched the climate footprint of global and local food systems, studied bat ecology, and surveyed threats to tropical biodiversity. She has taught courses and led seminars in ecology and biology in the U.S., the U.K, and Germany. M.S. Energy and Resources, University of California Berkeley; M.S. Biology, University of Berlin, Germany.

Joe Marx teaches physical and historical geology at Northern Virginia Community College, and leads geological field trips for ANS. M.S., Geochemistry, California Institute of Technology. B.S., Chemistry, Georgetown University.

Stephanie Mason is the Senior Naturalist for the Audubon Naturalist Society, where she teaches classes and leads field trips for adults on a wide range of natural history topics. Although her home-base in the natural world is the DC-metro area, she also leads trips farther afield to destinations such as Costa Rica, Panama, and the Galapagos. She spends each August in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park where she is conducting a long-term butterfly research.

Liam McGranaghan teaches Biology at Northern Virginia Community College and Loudon Valley High School. Bands raptors and authored several articles and one book on raptors. Winner of Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators. M.S., Biology, George Mason University.

Teresa McTigue is the deputy director of NOAA's Center of Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, located in Silver Spring, Md. Her work has primarily involved research into the trophic dynamics of salt marshes and the management of large scale coastal habitat restoration projects. Ph.D., Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M.

Katherine Nelson is a Planner-Coordinator with the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning. She is a recipient of the Outstanding Award in Physical Planning. She is a certified Arborist. B.S., Soil and Crop Environmental Science. M.S. in Planning, University of Virginia.

Amanda Rose Newton is a board-certified entomologist and beekeeper. She has worked as a Curatorial Assistant for the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, been an Entomologist at the Missouri Botanical Garden, performed Biocontrol Research for the University of North Georgia and North Carolina State University. Strong interest in pollinators, invasive insect control, and citizen science opportunities. M.S. Entomology, University of Nebraska, B.S., Biology, George Mason University.

Sean Potter is a NASA media relations specialist supporting the agency's Science Mission Directorate. Previously was a meteorologist and communications specialist for NOAA's National Weather Service, executive producer of online news and weather-related news briefs. Earlier, he created weather segments for several national network-level news broadcasts and monitored hydrometeorological data from national data collection sites. M.S., Atmospheric Science, Indiana University.

Gemma Radko is the Communications/Media Manager for the American Bird Conservancy. She completed MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) training through the Institute for Bird Populations in 1998. A licensed bird bander, she operated the MAPS station at Adventure in Potomac, MD. B.A., Allegheny College.

Sujata Roy is a Volunteer Naturalist with Montgomery Parks, leading programs for all ages at Black Hill Regional Park and Little Bennett Regional Park. She is an avid wildflower enthusiast, an active birder, and all-around nature lover. B.A., University of Chicago.

Cathy Stragar is an Environmental Scientist at Peer Consultants. She conducts forest and wetland delineations and stream assessments, leads field work in insect inventories and plant surveys. She's a workshop facilitator and educator for ANS. M.S., Entomology and Applied Ecology, University of Delaware.

Carl Taylor is a retired Research Associate from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. He currently lectures on ferns of the mid-Atlantic, leads field trips in northern Virginia for the Beltway Naturalists group, and regularly teaches classes in plant taxonomy and identification for the Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners groups. Ph.D. in Botany, Southern Illinois University.

Kerry Wixted is an Education and Outreach Specialist for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. She coordinates projects, develops wildlife resource material involving rare/threatened/endangered species, and conducts workshops on invasive species. She's taught courses in biology, physiology, and ecology. M.S., Biology, West Virginia University.