

Natural History Field Studies Faculty Bios 2018-2019

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.

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.

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.

Tovi Lehmann is a research biologist and facility head in the laboratory of malaria and vector research, National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Health. He has experience leading multidisciplinary studies on diverse organisms, especially malarial mosquitoes. He also conducts courses and leads seminars on fungi. Ph.D. Entomology, University of Arizona.

Jean Mansavage is the Chief Senior Historian in the Research Branch of the U.S. Air Force History Office. She performs primary historical research, conducts oral histories, and writes responses to inquiries from Congress, the military, and the public. Monograph on D.O.D.'s Natural Resources Conservation program. Ph.D., History, Texas A&M University.

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. She teaches classes and leads field trips for ANS both in the mid-Atlantic and farther afield. B.A. Goshen College.

Liam McGranaghan teaches biology at Northern Virginia Community College and Loudon Valley High School. He bands raptors, and has 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.

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.

Sally Valdes is a retired Environmental Protection Specialist/Fishery Biologist, Division of Environmental Assessment, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Department of the Interior. Worked with BOEM's Environmental Studies Program; wrote sections of environmental impact statements. Subject matter included fish and fisheries, birds and bats, invasive species, impacts of climate change on wildlife. M.A. in biology, University of Michigan. Ph.D. in aquatic ecology, Cornell University.

Paula Wang retired from teaching biology at Sidwell Friends School and Holton Arms School. Adjunct faculty, School of Education, American University. As a Maryland Master Naturalist, she leads environmental and natural history programs. M.S. in Microbiology, Medical College of Virginia. M.S.S.E. in Science Education, Montana State 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.