



2020 MEET OUR TEACHERS

Beaver Brook teachers are the reason our Summer Programs are the highest quality around!

◆ **LINDSEY BATES** teaches Social Studies at Milford High School and has worked as a teacher for the past 11 years. Previously she has spent her summer months working as a camp counselor, summer enrichment tutor, and caretaker. As a child, she attended the Beaver Brook summer program and took away from it a love of the natural world. She is excited to design a new summer program this year that includes sensory play that is vital for early childhood development. In her spare time she enjoys going on nature walks with her young son, painting, and exploring beautiful NH.

◆ **JP BLASI** is a college sophomore at the University of New Hampshire. He has always had a love for nature and animals and this is his fifth summer working at Beaver Brook. He is passionate about environmental conservation. In his free time he plays rugby for UNH.

◆ **ROSEMARY CLOUGH** loves teaching at Beaver Brook! The natural environment is supportive, relaxed, fun, rejuvenating and inspiring. She is the founder and director of Creative Kids Yoga, Yoga Dots and Moving Spirit Center for Yoga, Dance and Wellness. As a professional level Kripalu yoga teacher and a movement therapist, Rosemary has been playfully leading workshops, teaching yoga and creative dance for 35 years to students of all ages and abilities. She is passionate about empowering kids, giving them roots and wings!

◆ **VIRGINIA COMMISSO** has been teaching for over 30 years and is currently a Kindergarten teacher in Brookline. She enjoys learning and guiding children to explore and create. Virginia is looking forward to having Beaver Brook as a classroom again this summer!

◆ **ANGELA CRAGGY** Angela Craggy has been involved at BBA for more than 20 years, and has taught 4-12 year olds for more than 40 years. She enjoys sharing her love of nature with others and encouraging children to explore their outdoor natural environment. While hiking, providing hands-on experiences and activities she helps tap into their natural curiosity. She always finds time to enjoy camping, canoeing, fishing & other outdoor activities with her family. Angela is looking forward to another BBA summer filled with adventures, exploring and fun!

◆ **WINNIE CROUSE** truly enjoys teaching and has been involved with Beaver Brook for many years. A former public school elementary teacher, Winnie established popular Beaver Brook outreach programs to schools and preschools. Having grown up on a dairy farm,

Winnie is an asset to our farm-themed programs.

◆**KATRINE DICKAU** has always found joy in exploring the outdoors, especially when she can take others along! Her enthusiasm is contagious as she finds creative ways for others to understand and appreciate the processes of nature. Kat has been teaching as a year-round Beaver Brook educator since 2004. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental and Forest Biology from SUNY ESF. Kat lives in Hollis with her husband and two boys, and enjoys singing, playing fiddle, and creating artwork in her spare time.

◆**JEN FARQUHAR** has been a year-round BBA educator since 2014, teaching field programs, leading fitness hikes, and teaching science classes to homeschooled students. She loves the opportunity to share her biology background with others, introducing kids and adults to another world located just outside their back doors.

◆**BRUCE FESSENDEN** has been at Beaver Brook for more than 30 years, teaching kids a range of topics from insects to oceanography. He recently retired from teaching 8th grade science in Amherst and is a former Fellow at the Wright Center for Innovative Science Education at Tufts University. He has been a passionate explorer and observer of pond and wood since childhood and thinks that Beaver Brook is the best place in the world to pass it forward to new generations of kids.

◆**TARA HAPPY** joined Beaver Brook in April 2013. Originally from California, she arrived on Beaver Brook's doorstep new to the New England forests and animals, but she has grown to love everything from the spring peepers and wild turkeys to snowshoeing and maple sugaring! She is a former Wildlife Program Manager for a large wind energy site in CA and is now an Environmental Science teacher at Hollis Primary School, but she can't wait to get back to Beaver Brook catch some frogs and climb some rocks!

◆**CATHY INGRAM** is a recently retired elementary school teacher. She had joyfully taught 5-8 year olds for many years. Cathy has always enjoyed children's curiosity, imagination and their thirst for learning. She enjoys spending time with her family, the outdoors, and gardening, and is always excited to learn new things.

◆**STEPHANIE JONES** has an enthusiastic and motivated personality. She comes from a military air traffic control background, but has a degree in Environmental Science. She has taught in schools and been a park and wildlife refuge ranger. We believe she was meant to play with children and teach them about nature. She exudes a positive outlook and love of nature to everyone she meets.

◆**DENNIS KANE** is looking forward to leading his second Beaver Brook summer program. His connections with Beaver Brook include leading song and story summer campfires, performing at Fall Festival, attending many school programs with his Kindergarten classes and enjoying the natural beauty the Beaver Brook trails provide. Dennis is getting ready to retire from 34 years of teaching Kindergarten at Hollis Primary School.

◆**BECKY KELLNER** lives in Brookline with her husband Drew, two children: Matthew (12) and Ellie (10) and her dog Bailey. She is the assistant education director at Beaver Brook. Becky has lots of classroom experience having worked at RMMS in Brookline and at Hollis Preschool. She has a degree in Human Development and Elementary Education. Becky enjoys teaching children all that Beaver Brook has to offer and sharing her passion for caring for the environment. She eagerly enjoys being outside with her family and hopes that all families and children take time to enjoy nature.

◆**ERIN KENNEDY** is a hiking enthusiast who also happens to be our Office Administrator. She spent many years as a participant in our Friday Fitness Hiking group and from there began the challenge of hiking NH's four thousand footers, which she completed last summer. She has spent countless hours on the trails of Beaver Brook and is a strong believer in the health benefits of spending time in nature. Erin has a degree in Environmental Conservation from UNH and shares her love of the outdoors with her two sons. She also enjoys skiing, kayaking and camping and is truly looking forward to leading the Redlining Challenge this summer at Beaver Brook.

◆**CAT KOLAR** has 17 years of experience as a classroom teacher and a Master's in Education. She is part of an active outdoor family and is a scout den leader. Cat is a passionate learner herself and fosters children's love of science, fascination with nature, and respect for the environment.

◆**RICK LYDON** recently retired after teaching science and writing at Fairgrounds Middle School in Nashua for many years. He loves to tap into the energy of young people and get them excited about doing real science in Nature. He is looking forward to exploring the wide variety of ecological niches found in Beaver Brooks' landscape, providing unlimited opportunities for inquiry and discovery. He loves hiking, biking, kayaking and camping – in short anything outdoors. But Rick also carefully balances that with his love of painting, writing, music and reading, something he calls "The Marriage of Art and Science".

◆**CALLIE MCMASTER** is a junior at Westfield State University studying Early Childhood Education. Callie went to Beaver Brook camps for seven years and credits it for her love of the outdoors. She has taken this love for nature to the Dominican Republic and Cuba to work on coastal restoration and restorative agriculture. Callie has for passion for working with children and exposing them to the beauty and wonder of our natural areas. She also believes in the importance of exploration, creativity and the power of imagination. She looks forward to bringing all these passions to her campers.

◆**KATHY PARKER** recently retired after many years of teaching, most recently as enrichment teacher in a Bedford, NH elementary school. She thoroughly enjoys her job as an outdoor educator during the school year at Beaver Brook because she learns new things

every day. Kathy loves integrating science, math, nature and the environment into challenging and fun experiences for children. She is a past recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching and was honored to be the NH Conservation Teacher of the Year in January 2019.

◆**CAROL RITCHIE** grew up spending lots of time outside at as a Girl Scout and at her family farm. She teaches in Salem, NH and loves being able to share her love of the outdoors with all people. She has worked at Beaver Brook since 2006 and knows she has the best job in the world!!

◆**RIVKA SCHWARTZ** is a trained herbalist and loves to teach about all topics in nature. She is especially fond of leading the traditional Wednesday Wildflower Walks. It's great learning about healthy foods, flowers and herbs from Rivka! She can make lip balm, homemade root beer (from roots—the real way), creams, and many remedies.

◆**LINDSEY SHAKLEE** moved to New Hampshire from Colorado. She and her husband and three teenage kids have fallen in love with the forest. Lindsey knew she wanted to study Environmental Education after having the opportunity to help out with bird banding field trips while volunteering for Audubon of Greater Denver. Lindsey is currently a graduate student at Miami University working on a Masters of Education in Conservation Biology and has studied in Belize, Costa Rica and Baja. This is her first year with Beaver Brook and she is very excited to join summer camp!

◆**DIANE VARNEY-PARKER** currently teaches art at Milford Middle School. Besides her love of art, Diane also enjoys the outdoors and being active. She has completed many running events and several Sprint and Olympic Triathlons. Diane is also very passionate about protecting the environment. She has an award-winning Recycling Club at MMS and actively promotes sustainable habits in her home, school, and community.

◆**CHICK WETHERBEE** has been with Beaver Brook since 1995. He leads workshops in the region on Wild Herbs and Survival Skills. He is the owner of Earthward Natural Foods in Amherst and is a trained outdoorsman and tracker. He has attended and taught at the Tom Brown Jr. Tracker School since 1992 one of the largest wilderness and survival schools in the U.S.

◆**ABIGAIL ZIMMERMAN** grew up in Brookline and has spent the last three years as a missionary, while also studying Leadership and Management in Ireland. She has a love for the outdoors, hiking and working with children. Growing up attending Beaver Brook Camps and exploring the BBA trails created a passion for everything Beaver Brook has to offer. This will be Abby's fourth year on the summer camp staff.