



# MEET OUR SUMMER TEACHERS 2021

Beaver Brook's educators are the reason our Summer Programs are the highest quality around!

◆**JP BLASI** is a college junior 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! She strongly believes the natural world 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 more than 35 years to students of all ages and abilities. She is passionate about empowering kids and 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 the outdoors at Beaver Brook as a classroom again this summer!

◆**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!

◆**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.

◆**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 quickly grew 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 cannot wait to get back to Beaver Brook to catch frogs and climb some rocks!

◆**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 been a park and wildlife refuge ranger and now a public school teacher. 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.

◆**BECKY KELLNER** lives in Brookline with her husband Drew, two children: Matthew (13) and Ellie (11) 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 everything 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 in 2019. 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 Hike it All 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.

◆**ANJALI LONGAN** is thrilled to be back at Beaver Brook, and it will be extra special as she works alongside her daughter, Vanessa this year! With 20 years of teaching experience and a Master's in Education, Anjali brings to BBA her experience, passion, and dedication to connecting children and families to the natural world around them. In her free time, Anjali enjoys living life to the fullest with family and friends!

◆**CALLIE MCMASTER** is a senior 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 a 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. Before being a teacher at Beaver Brook, she worked as a teacher's assistant for many of other teachers.

◆**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 year round 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 is 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 with bird banding field trips while volunteering for Audubon of Greater Denver. Lindsey is currently a graduate student at Miami University working on a Master of Education in Conservation Biology and has studied in Belize, Costa Rica, and Baja. She is the lead teacher for Beaver Brook's forest preschool and teaches many on-campus and outreach programs.

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**SUMMER CAMP COORDINATOR GAIL BASILIERE** was born and raised in Massachusetts and has lived here in New Hampshire for the past 40 years. Gail is a longtime lover of education; she spent 23 years teaching first grade in the NH public school system and thankfully she chose to share her teaching talents at Beaver Brook. As a well-loved and highly experienced teacher she is an obvious asset to Beaver Brook, but it is her positive attitude and seemingly magical way with children that makes her simply amazing. When not leading a pack of inquisitive children through the trails here at Beaver Brook she enjoys reading and quilting. With all her diligent work with children over the years, we are impressed

that she has found the time to make over 100 quilts! Gail has also established many school gardens so that children can learn where their food comes from.

**EDUCATION & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CELESTE PHILBRICK BARR** has been at Beaver Brook since 1999 running the education and community outreach programs. In addition to these responsibilities, she teaches and is happy to lead children into a field to pick berries or dig up some worms. She is an aquatic biologist by background, but these days, she blends all her knowledge and environmental passion together in ecology. She has a degree in Environmental Conservation, minor in Zoology and a Master's in Marine Science & Public Policy. She was a Fulbright Scholar and Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines in marine fisheries. Celeste loves working with people of all ages: leading Fitness Hikes, hosting Women's Winter overnights and cooking up new and innovative children's' programs for Beaver Brook. She has a genuine interest and passion for spreading the love of nature to others and when she is not here at Beaver Brook she can usually be traced back to another trail or mountain. Celeste is dedicated to continually learning something new about nature and sharing it with others.