



Meet our Staff

Introducing our Professional Staff and Faculty

Many of our staff members have a “nature name” of their choosing (in parenthesis after their name).



Tracy Holliday (*Goldenrod*) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tracy joined The Institute's staff in 1996 in a dual capacity as faculty member and as part of the administrative team. She's worn *lots of hats* during the past 27 years! An avowed nature lover and history buff, Tracy holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree that paved the way for her role as director. You can find her exploring local woodland trails, as well enjoying the woods and wild meadow at her own little restored log “homestead.”

Jessica Watson (*Tumble Leaf*) ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND EVENTS COORDINATOR
A full-time employee, Jessica was an administrator at the Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce for five years before starting with The Institute in 2017.

She holds a BS in Art Education and was previously employed at The Susquehanna Art Museum and Harrisburg Area Community College, where she taught Art History and planned exhibitions. At Buttonwood, Jessica is the schedule master and events coordinator.



Pam Rowland (*Crinkle Root*) EDUCATIONAL SITE COORDINATOR

Since 1999 Pam has been an instructor with The Institute/Buttonwood! A certified PA Master Naturalist, Pam has a BS in Health and Physical Education and master's degrees in Library Science and Recreation and Parks/Environmental Interpretation. Certified to teach grades K-12, Pam has taught Elementary Education, Environmental Education, Health Education, and Physical Education. Buttonwood is fortunate to have her advising development of our nature center campus from the outdoor educator perspective.

Mary Claire King (*Kingfisher*) WATERSHED SCIENCE COORDINATOR/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

With a BS in Wildlife Conservation from Virginia Tech and an MA in Environmental Education from Goshen College, Ind., Mary Claire joined our staff with a broad base of experience. She was Environmental Educator/Supervisor at the Montessori School of Johns Island in SC, and also worked in youth outreach with New River Land Trust in Blacksburg, Va. She served with the Virginia Tech Chapter of the Wildlife Society and is Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, and Aquatic Wild certified. Mary Claire values collaboration and looks forward to working with the Buttonwood team.



Shawna Staup DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Shawna joined our team in October, 2024, with wide-ranging skills and experience as a Maryland State Park Ranger. She created and led outdoor environmental education efforts at Elk Neck State Park, where she also staffed the nature center, welcomed park visitors, created programming, recruited, supervised, and supported the naturalist staff—and even operated a chain saw as needed! Shawna holds a BA in Environmental Studies with a biology minor from Salisbury University, Md., and several certifications including National Association for Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Guide, Project Wild, and Leave No Trace.

Jen Atkinson (*Running Bear*) FACULTY MEMBER

Jen is a Lebanon Valley College graduate who taught high school chemistry for 17 years. She started teaching with our staff in 2014 and currently teaches five of our environmental programs. You may have seen her coaching cross country at Waynesboro High School.





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THE INSTITUTE 

Meet our Staff

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Jan Barrasso FACULTY MEMBER

Jan holds a master's degree in education with a dual certification in Art and Elementary Education. She taught in the classroom for 32 years and Buttonwood is incredibly fortunate to have pulled her out of retirement to help us educate and inspire the learners in our community!



Beth Skroban (Woolly Bear) FACULTY MEMBER/DIRECTOR OF TEXTILE STUDIES

Beth has been with The Institute/Buttonwood since 2007. She holds a degree in History and shares her time at Buttonwood with her own sheep and alpaca farm, Four Sons Farm. Beth is incredibly talented and in addition to teaching for us, she has taught ballet for 25 years and teaches knitting and weaving out of her home studio.



Nora Slick (Mountain Laurel) FACULTY MEMBER

Nora started with The Institute in 1999 as a volunteer. A year later, she accepted a seasonal teaching position. She holds a degree in Outdoor Recreation from Frostburg State, and in addition to teaching both environmental and cultural history programs, Nora also works at River & Trail Outfitters near Harpers Ferry, WV. She has a wonderful rapport with students, and loves helping people of all ages to connect with the natural world and with the rich cultural heritage of our region.



Lynn Teach (Morning Glory) FACULTY MEMBER

Lynn started with the Institute in 2018. While her background is in healthcare and nursing, she has been working in the Waynesboro School District teaching reading and assisting teachers. She taught secondary students at Brooklane's Laurel Hall School and now teaches both Environmental and Cultural programs as a part-time employee of Buttonwood Nature Center.



Kettie Leighty FACULTY MEMBER

Kettie Leighty joined our staff in 2022. She holds a Regents Bachelor of Arts degree from Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV, and a graduate certificate in organizational management from American Public University System, Charles Town, WV. Kettie received training and taught classes with Tinkergarten, providing outdoor learning experiences for children. Kettie is passionate about getting outdoors with others and experiencing the wonder in all seasons, especially as it aids in building resiliency in ourselves and our children.



Bev McFarland (Willow) ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Bev was first a volunteer for The Institute, and became a faculty member in 1995. She began keeping our books as Accounts Manager two years later. Bev has an AA degree from Maryland Medical Secretarial School and has managed financial accounts for doctors, home businesses, and PTOs. She is organized and attentive to details, keeping our executive director and board of directors well-informed regarding budget matters. Bev's attentiveness to minding the dollars and cents is matched by her passion for Buttonwood's mission.



Andrea Struble DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Andrea has worked for The Institute/Buttonwood since 1999. Her duties include designing and creating printed materials such as our journal/newsletter *Streamside*, brochures, fliers, educational materials and more. In addition she maintains Buttonwood's website and publicizes upcoming events and programs via press releases, emails, and online media venues. Andrea holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Maryland, and a minor in Communications/Journalism from Shippensburg University.



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