



**BUTTONWOOD
NATURE CENTER**
HOME OF THE INSTITUTE

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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*) COMMUNITY 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.



Katherine Bigham (*Trout Lily*) ENVIRONMENTAL/EARLY LEARNING EDUCATOR & NATURALIST

Katherine began her environmental education growing up in rural Pennsylvania, which led her to a degree in Environmental Anthropology at Appalachian State University. Since graduation she has worked in many roles, all of which prioritize sharing with others the beauty and wonder of our natural world. She has worked on sustainable farms, on a wilderness trail crew for the U.S. Forest Service, as a National Park Ranger, and as an educator at the California Academy of Sciences. Returning home to Pennsylvania, she is delighted to educate about the ecosystem she was raised in, working as a naturalist at Strawberry Hill as well as Buttonwood Nature Center.

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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EDUCATE • INSPIRE • UNITE



Meet our Staff

continued from reverse

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.

Michelle Smith JR. DUCK STAMP CONTEST COORDINATOR & EDUCATOR
Michelle is an avid hiker, photographer, artist and outdoors enthusiast. During 17 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, W.Va., she designed training courses, guided graphic design and illustration projects, and coordinated the W.Va. Junior Duck Stamp program. Experience as a K-12 art teacher equipped her with a strong foundation in engaging diverse learners—an approach she continues to apply through conservation-focused educational programs.



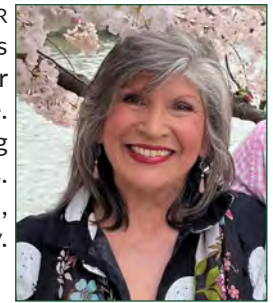
Lynn Teach (*Morning Glory*) FACULTY MEMBER
Lynn started with the Institute in 2018. While her background is in healthcare and nursing, she has been working in the Waynesboro School District teaching reading and assisting teachers. She taught secondary students at Brooklane's Laurel Hall School and now 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, W.Va. 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 (INTERIM) COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY DIRECTOR
Andrea has worked for Buttonwood/The Institute since 1997. Her duties have included designing and creating printed materials such as our journal/newsletter *Streamside*, brochures, fliers, educational materials and more. In addition, she has maintained our website and created publicity for upcoming events and programs via press releases, ads, 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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