

***Bart Merrick***

Bart Merrick has been an environmental educator for eighteen years (15 of which have been in Maryland), working with teachers and students from Massachusetts to Virginia, to promote environmental literacy and foster understanding, awareness and respect for the natural world. He developed an appreciation for the many opportunities to learn and explore offered by Maryland's diverse environments, especially the Chesapeake Bay, through his work with both Living Classrooms and Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Upon receiving a Masters in Environmental Science, Bart went to work for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as the Education Coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. In this position he began to grasp the breadth of scientific work occurring in the Bay and along with many others he began to incorporate more of this work into education programs. Currently, Bart Merrick is the Education Coordinator for NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Environmental Science Training Center focusing his energies on integrating the use of environmental science and technology with field-based learning experiences.

***Cindy Ghent***

Assistant professor since 2008 teaching non-majors biology, experience teaching that population for 11 years. Author of course text book and laboratory manual, which include content and activities that are part of this proposal.

***Denise Frebertshauser***

Instructor has been a faculty member with the University of Maryland Extension for over 16 years. She currently works with the Environmental Sciences and Outdoor Education Programs with the 4-H Youth Development Program. She has presented on numerous environmental science, youth development, and risk management topics locally as well as nationally.

***Desiree Shelley***

Desiree Shelley is currently the Environmental Education Coordinator at the Parks & People Foundation. She has been delivering, coordinating and developing Environmental Education programs in both after-school, in-school, summer, formal and informal educational settings at Parks & People since June 2009. Desiree graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2008 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Technology. She has used her educational background in environmental science and personal experience in both visual and performing arts as a foundation to create curriculum that incorporate both disciplines.

***Frank Marsden***

Founder and Director of Eden Mill Nature Center, Program Director, naturalist, ACA Canoe Instructor. Some even consider me a nice guy.

***George Radcliffe***

38 years as public middle school teacher

- MAEOE member since its beginning
- 6 years as MOS Youth Coordinator
- Numerous times presenting at MAEOE and NSTA Conferences

***Joanne Schmader***

After 20 years in travel management, Joanne went back to school to study environmental management, environmental law, pollution prevention, and green building, achieving USGBC LEED AP certification in 2009. She joined MAEOE as the Maryland Green School Coordinator after interning with the Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Construction. As a community activist, she works with Garrett Park Conservation Action Network on sustainability education, energy demand side reduction and stormwater management.

***Kelley Cox***

Kelley Cox is the Founder of PWEC, a biologist, and a Certified Instructor of Project WET. Kelley has a BA in Biology from Salisbury University and experience in aquaculture and aquarium maintenance, and Chesapeake Bay research and monitoring. Carol McCollough is an estuarine ecologist specializing in shellfish pathology. She has a BS in Biology from Washington College and extensive experience in Chesapeake Bay natural history, water quality monitoring, and shellfish research and monitoring.

***Keith Williams***

Keith has a degree in environmental biology from Kutztown University and worked as a senior environmental biologist for ten years before starting his education career. He taught middle school science and has been an outdoor educator for 15 years. He is the Director of Education at NorthBay. He is a volunteer firefighter and is a member of the Maryland Wildlands Fire Team. In his spare time he likes to fish, hike, and backpack with his wife, two sons and daughter.

***Kim Dixon***

Kim Dixon is a Masters Student with Miami University of Ohio and the Cincinnati Zoo's Global Field Program that specializes in traveling around the world to look at cultural and environmental issues through inquiry and field experience.

Kim has traveled to Mongolia, Namibia and Australia working with researchers to study Pallas Cats, Pryzwalski's Horses, Cheetahs, and the great barrier reef. While working in the field she developed a program for teachers to use inquiry while at informal learning and cultural institutions.

Kim has been teaching at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore for the past 5 years and has developed teacher

trainings, classroom experiences, tours, and various other programs for the Zoo in environmental education.

It is her personal philosophy that children learn best through observing real world situations and applying their knowledge base. Inquiry is a great way to challenge your students to be open minded learners who trust their own observations and questions.

### ***Kimberly Check***

Kim Check has been the Education Director of the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, an outreach of Salisbury University since 2008. Through this position she is dedicated to educating youth and adults about the unique natural and cultural resources of the Eastern Shore. Originally from western Pennsylvania, Kim's professional experiences have taken her from south Florida to the Rocky Mountain West. Bird research, conservation and education themes have played an important role in her professional and personal life for the past decade. Her diverse experience in bird conservation and environmental education includes work at the state and federal levels of the government including the National Park Service. Most recently her work has been in the non-profit realm including work with the National Audubon Society and conducting field research for The Nature Conservancy. Kim is passionate about the use of bird education to connect people to the natural world.

### ***Mike Harding***

Over 20 years of experience in risk management, risk consulting and safety management encompassing a broad background of expertise. Core competencies include:

- Identifying and appraising current conditions and practices within an organization.
- Examining the feasibility of various risk control and financing techniques
- Communicating risk control and financing information to stakeholders.
- Measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of the risk control and financing systems.
- Educating, implementing and self auditing to ensure compliance at all levels

EDUCATION and CREDENTIALS

MS - Safety Management, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

BS - Education, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Professional Associations

American Society of Safety Engineers, Professional Member

World Safety Organization, Certified Safety Executive

National Safety Council

Risk and Insurance Management Society

### ***Peggy Eppig***

I am an agroecologist studying wild bee pollination systems on agricultural lands in New England and the Mid-Atlantic and have an active citizen science bee survey program in NH. I teach earth systems, climate change, agroecology and natural history of New England at both Keene State College and Antioch

University New England in Keene, NH. I continue to work with the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation developing curriculum for natural resources and agriculture education at the secondary and post secondary levels. My work in pollination systems and agriculture education has been presented at several regional and national conferences for education, environmental studies, resilience science and agriculture.

***Sarah Hilderbrand***

With a degree in Environmental Science, Mrs. Hilderbrand has been teaching Environmental and Outdoor Education for over 11 years to students of all ages. In the last six years, working for Environmental Concern, she has focused on wetland education and schoolyard habitat creation. In that time she has worked with the design and creation of over 55 schoolyard habitats from wildflower meadows to rain gardens with the majority being wetlands.

***Steven Mickletz***

Steven Mickletz is Naturalist and Manager of Public Programs at Irvine Nature Center where he plans events, coordinates summer camp, and does what he can to help visitors experience more good things from nature than they expected. He has spent time teaching about the environment and aiding wildlife research in Costa Rica, Florida, Honduras, North Carolina and South Carolina before moving to Maryland in 2010. One of his favorite things about visiting so many places has been the variety of people he has gotten to teach as well as learn from. Steve graduated from the University of Delaware in 2005 with a degree in Wildlife Conservation.

***Thomas Hutson***

Thomas Hutson is University of Maryland Extension's 4-H Youth Development Educator based in Talbot County. During the past four years, he has created and taught educational programs to youth ages 5 through 18 within Talbot County as well as throughout Maryland. Major areas of focus for Talbot County 4-H include environmental science (ecology and resource conservation), science skills (scientific methods and engineering), and personal health/safety awareness. His programs are highly flexible, and most activities can be adapted for use with nearly any age group from youth to adults. In addition to working with youth, Mr. Hutson trains and coordinates 32 long-term adult 4-H volunteers and 75 short-term adult volunteers.

Prior to working with Extension, Thomas Hutson worked for 13 years as a high school science teacher in Caroline County (environmental science, Earth science, biology, science ethics, physical science), four years as a wildlife conservation project aide at the National Zoological Park in Washington, DC, and seven years as a counselor for adults with mental retardation.

