

Wetlands & Woodlands Summer Camp Staff 2019

Linda Bowman – Summer Camp Environmental Educator II (Sessions 2A, 3, 4A, 5A)



Linda is a lifelong educator with a passion for the outdoors. The second of six children, she always envied her brothers who got to do yard work while she had to work indoors. She grew up in Minnesota where she remembers playing in the woods across the street. Linda just retired after 40 years of teaching elementary students for the Grand Rapids Public Schools. She is also involved in several local organizations including Plaster Creek Stewards and River City Wild Ones. This is her second summer working for at the Preserve.

Fun Facts about Miss Linda:

- Some of her favorite Michigan animals are the wood frog and the turkey vulture because she loves spring and these critters are both signs of spring.
- Miss Linda currently has three cats.
- She spent several summers at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore participating in the Teacher Ranger Teacher program.

Amberleigh Greene – Summer Camp Environmental Educator II (All sessions)

Amberleigh is a senior at Calvin studying K-12 French Education. She is from Valparaiso, Indiana and has memories of summer vacations spent hiking and camping in national parks with her family. She spent fall of 2017 in France and got to hike in the French Alps! This is her second summer working as a camp leader and she is excited to learn more about the Michigan ecosystem and use her creativity to work with young learners.



Fun Facts about Miss Amberleigh:

- She loves sweet food because she loves to bake cookies, pies and other goodies!
- She doesn't really like cats because they don't seem to like her, they always look at her suspiciously.
- Her favorite spots in the preserve are the ponds because she loves looking for frogs and turtles.

Jeanette Henderson – Camp Director (All sessions)



Jeanette's official title is Program Manager of the Calvin Ecosystem Preserve & Native Gardens. Her responsibilities include overseeing all aspects of the Preserve's education and outreach programs and management of the Bunker Interpretive Center including but not limited to developing curriculum and programs, training Calvin students in environmental education/interpretation techniques, and teaching programs for Pre-K through adult. She is also in charge of propagating native plants for both the plant sale and restoration work. She holds a B.S. degree in Biology from Calvin College and certifications in Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, Growing Up WILD, Flying WILD and Leopold Education Project. She has worked at the state level for Michigan Audubon directing and coordinating

programs. Additional experience includes designing and teaching school and family programs as a marine educator for the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Savannah, Georgia and as a naturalist for several state parks in Michigan through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In her free time, she enjoys designing flowers for weddings and events, gardening, cooking, and traveling.

Fun Facts about Miss Jeanette:

- Her least favorite animal are snakes! It has a good portion of her life to not scream when she sees one. Even naturalists have fears! However, she is fascinated by most every other creepy crawlies. Millipedes, grasshoppers, slugs, worms, spiders and katydids are just a few creatures that fascinate her.
- Her childhood dream was to be a marine biologist studying marine invertebrates such as crabs and sea stars, fish and sea otters.
- Abbie Kat, her calico cat plays fetch and rolls on her back to be petted just like a dog.

Nicole Johnson – Summer Camp Environmental Educator II (Sessions 2B, & 4B)

Nicole is a Calvin alum with a B.S. in Biology. As a college student she was a camp leader during the summer of 2008. In addition, she worked as a Program Assistant during the school year. Recently returning to the Grand Rapids area with her family, she has a desire to instill a lifelong curiosity of the outdoors in her two children and continue her involvement with environmental education. She recently completed a Growing Up WILD and Project Learning Tree workshop and hopes to be involved in the community garden and park expansions in new



home in Caledonia, MI. Her hobbies are garden design and growing flowers.

Fun Facts about Miss Nicole:

- She loves being a camp leader to see the wonder and joy in kids as they explore Michigan outdoors and see things they have never seen before.
- She loves the library and reading books to her children
- She is a twin.

Nancy McIntyre – Summer Camp Environmental Educator II (Session 3)



Nancy was born and raised in Tolland, Connecticut. She has loved playing outside in the woods since early childhood. She has a B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Connecticut. Her passion is teaching and exploring nature with young people of all ages. She has worked with children in this setting at the Peace Valley Nature Center in Pennsylvania, at Blandford Nature Center and at the Wittenbach Wege Environmental Center. During the school year, she works as para professional with GRPS at Blandford School, an environmental school for sixth grade students. She has also taught Junior Master Gardening at Kent/MSU Extension. At the Ecosystem Preserve, she was the lead teacher for the Critters and Company program for many years and has been a Camp Leader since the summer of 2010. Her hobbies are kayaking, photographing nature and wandering.

Fun Facts about Miss Nancy:

- She loves being a camp leader because she gets to play with kids in nature and hopefully teach them to love nature like she does.
- Her most memorable W & W camp experience is when her small group spotted a mommy mink carrying a baby with four other babies following her.

Joshua Moelker – Summer Camp Environmental Educator II (All Sessions)

Josh is a senior at Calvin studying in Elementary Education with minors in Integrated Science and Math. He was born and raised in Grand Rapids and grew up playing in the parks near his house, exploring the woods at his grandparent's house, and boating with his family on Lake Michigan. Josh loves to be outside; he enjoys hiking, biking, running and can even be found reading a good book in the great outdoors. This is his second year working as a camp leader and he is excited to share his passion for exploring and being in nature with his campers.



Fun Facts about Mr Josh:

- His favorite Michigan animal is the green heron because they are beautiful birds and can often be seen hunting tadpoles and minnows on south pond.
- Morning bird or night owl? “I am definitely a night owl.”
- His favorite childhood memory of being outside is learning to water ski.

Julie Wilbourn – Department Assistant

Julie grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has a B.S. degree in Marketing from Miami University. Her work experience includes project management and analysis of market research studies, as well as market analysis and product management of various manufactured products. Most recently, she spends time volunteering at her children’s schools, coordinating enrichment presentations, book fairs, and hot lunch programs. Julie joined our staff in 2012, and in regards to camp assists Jeanette with camp registration and marketing. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and outdoor activities like biking and swimming.



Fun Facts about Miss Julie:

- Her favorite spot in the preserve is on North Pond deck in the fall, because when the wind blows the leaves off the trees and sends them swirling over the water, you feel like you’re in a giant snow globe.
- If she could be a tree, she would be a dogwood.
- She doesn’t have any pets - at the moment, she thinks her family is enough to take care of! But she has had ladybug, ant & butterfly habitats at home.

Volunteer Camp Assistants

We are grateful to the following teenagers for donating their time and skills to serve as Camp Assistants this summer.

Session #	Camp Assistants
Session 1	Will (4 th Year), Walter (1 st Year), Quinn (1 st Year), Nicki (1 st Year)
Session 2A	Robin (3 rd Year), Jimmy (4 th Year), Emma (1 st Year), Indria (1 st Year)
Session 2B	Ella (2 nd Year), Miriam (2 nd Year), Jacob (1 st Year)
Session 3	Sragvi (1 st Year), Lucius (2 nd Year), Qulani (1 st Year), Calder (3 rd Year)
Session 4A	Jimmy (4 th Year), Erna (2 nd Year), Henry (1 st Year), Michael (1 st Year)
Session 4B	Caden (3 rd Year), Calder (3 rd Year), Taylor (1 st Year)
Session 5A	Audrey (2 nd Year), Anneke (1 st Year), Maya (1 st Year), Baxter (1 st Year)