

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 25 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

Jessica is a full-time employee with The Institute. 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 The Institute Jessica is the schedule master and events coordinator.



Pam Rowland (*Crinkle Root*) DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Since 1999 Pam has been an instructor with The Institute! 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. The Institute is fortunate to have her creating curriculum and teaching learners of all ages.

Dave Graff WATERSHED SCIENCE COORDINATOR/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

In addition to being a talented nature photographer, Dave has been teaching environmental education for over 20 years. Dave holds a BS with a double major in Communication/Photojournalism and Psychology from the University of Miami. With graduate work in marine science, he is a qualified biology teacher. The Institute was lucky to grab him as our full-time watershed specialist based on his experience as an Environmental Specialist at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Florida.



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 The Institute in 2014 and currently teaches five of our environmental programs. You may have seen her coaching cross country at Waynesboro High School.

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 The Institute is incredibly fortunate to have pulled her out of retirement just this year, to help us educate and inspire the learners in our community!



Meet our Staff

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Melanie Desmond (*Linen Lady*) FACULTY MEMBER

Melanie has a vast knowledge of American history and an interest in textiles—she is an accomplished historic costume designer, seamstress and textile historian. She earned a BA degree in Anthropology from the University of MD and an MS in Education from McDaniel College. She originally started teaching with The Institute in 2001, but left shortly after for a teaching position in Washington Co., Md. We are grateful that she came back to us in 2017.

Dr. Doris Goldman FACULTY MEMBER

Dr. Doris Armstrong Goldman is The Institute's resident PhD. Her list of studies in botany, zoology, pollination, and ecology is extensive. It's clear she is an expert in the realm of all things plant life...but did you know that she is also super creative and talented in the arts?



Melissa Irwin (*Lemon Balm*) FACULTY MEMBER

Melissa was hired by The Institute as a naturalist who has experience working with the Audubon Society and Moonfire Orchard. She holds a degree in Environmental Studies and specializes in all things growing in soil!

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

Beth has been with The Institute since 2007. She holds a degree in History and shares her time at The Institute 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 The Institute.



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 The Institute's mission.

Andrea Struble DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Andrea has worked for The Institute for more than 20 years. Her duties include designing and creating printed materials such as our journal/newsletter *Streamside*, brochures, fliers, educational materials and more. In addition she maintains The Institute'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, and a minor in Communications/Journalism.

