

STEPHANIE BETHE GIFFORD

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WELCOME MESSAGE

I teach so that I can share my love for learning. The more I learn, the more exciting science becomes. It all fits together; from molecules to ecosystems, their form serves their function. As a biology teacher, I strive to present students with intriguing questions and an understanding of how humans have short-term and long-lasting effects on other organisms and the environment around us. Some questions we answer during our school-year journey, others may remain elusive. Together we tackle the skills needed to investigate and make a coherent and scientifically-based understanding of the world around us.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Living Environment/AP Biology Teacher, Full-time position, Sept 2013 – present

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL

- Instruct high school biology classes, including AP Biology, and Regents Living Environment.
- Diversify instruction to meet the needs of varied learning styles and to maximize student interest, participation and comprehension. For example, kinesthetic (labs and classroom activities), auditory (lecture, group discussions, student presentations), visual (recording scientific observations, computer simulations, graphics and reading)
- Inspire and motivate learning among students by providing clear expectations and bringing enthusiasm and a sense of humor to a classroom where students feel comfortable taking risks.

Living Environment/AP Biology Teacher, Full-time position, Sept 2012 –June 2013

HOOSICK FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

- Instructed high school biology classes, including AP Biology, and one- and two-year Regents Living Environment.
- Prepared AP Biology Course Audit in accordance with the new curriculum (approved August 2013 by the AP College Board).

Middle School Science Teacher, Full-time position, September 2011 –June 2012

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL

- Planned and implemented, Life and Physical Science curriculum to 110 7th and 8th grade students to meet the Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum standards.

Long-Term Living Environment Substitute Teacher, Full-time position, April 2011 –June 2011

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL

- Prepared students for the Living Environment Regent's Exam with only two months to cover nearly half of the curriculum.
- Achieved 100% passing and 47% mastery for students eligible to take the 2011 Living Environment Regents Exam.

Instructor, Introduction to Environmental Science, Part-time position, January 2011-May 2011

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT

- Designed and instructed a multidisciplinary course to comply with requirements for an Associate's degree in Environmental Science.
- Used a wide variety of teaching techniques and assessments to maximize each student's strengths.

Living Environment/AP Biology Substitute Teacher, Full-time position, April 2010 –June 2010

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL

- Assumed responsibilities of a full-time teacher, including classroom management, lesson planning, grading and submitting grades for Living Environment and AP Biology Students.
- Achieved 100% passing and 63% mastery for students eligible to take the 2011 Living Environment Regents Exam.

Substitute Teacher, September 2008 – 2011

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOCES

- Implemented pre-planned lessons in accordance with school standards and teacher's guidelines.
- Employed a variety of personal and professional skills to maintain an effective learning environment.
- Worked with teachers in advance to obtain lesson materials and prepare for teaching in their classroom.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Ecological Management, Full-time position 1997-2006

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY - EASTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

- Directed strategic and annual planning, budgeting, policy-making, management planning and program operations for the chapter's ecological and preserve management activities.
- Supervised the management of 59 preserves and other conservation areas by working closely with staff, interns, volunteers, partner agencies and private landowners.
- Prepared and administered grants and participated in other fundraising efforts to provide for the conservation of biological diversity in eastern New York.
- Worked with private and public partners to promote and support the management of biological diversity at high-priority sites throughout the eastern New York.

Interim Executive Director, Full-time position, January 1999 - September 1999

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY - EASTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

- Oversaw and directed conservation programs for the chapter, including land protection, science, conservation planning, ecological management and land management.

Director of Research and Management, Full-time position, 1990-1997

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY – ALBANY PINE BUSH PRESERVE COMMISSION

- Served as the primary source of scientific and biological management expertise for the inland pine barrens ecosystem of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.
- Planned and administered biological and preserve management, and research and educational programs. These include, but are not limited to: native plant species initiative, ecological fire management, invasive species control, Karner blue and inland barrens buckmoth monitoring, and pine barrens restoration.

Co-Owner and Vice President, 1993-1998. **FIRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.**

Biological Technician, Seasonal, full-time position, 1988-1989. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

Field Survey Botanist/Ecologist, Full-time position, Summer 1987. **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

New York State Teacher Certifications:

- Biology 7-12 Certificate: *received December, 2011*
- General Science 7-12 Extension: *received May, 2012*
- Chemistry 7-12 Initial Certificate: *pending*

DUKE UNIVERSITY, *Master of Science, 1992*

Thesis: Changes in soil characteristics following fire in a sequoia-mixed conifer forest, Sequoia National Park, California.

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY, *Bachelor of Science, 1987*

Major: Biology

Minors: Education, Chemistry

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, *Prescribed Fire Burn Boss, 1993-2003*

NATIONAL WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP, *Type 1 Wildland Firefighter, 1991-2010*