

Melissa Vaughn

(540) 819-4352

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Education

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA

BS in Biology | May 20, 2017

Fisheries Observer | Alaskan Observers

March 10, 2020 - August 1, 2022 | 40 hours per week | \$5,100 per month

Supervisor Vanessa Fleming | (971) 601-0829

130 Nickerson St. Unit 206 Seattle, WA 98109

Sampled at sea, on fishing vessels, for 2 to 9 days at a time. Gathered fishing effort and location information, sampled for species composition and collected biological data from both prohibited and target species. Documented Marpol and Coast Guard violations. Worked closely with ship captains and their crew. Daily data input and communication with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Briefing and debriefing of trip information with NMFS.

Surveying Technician | Turner Land Surveying

September 15, 2019 - February 26, 2020 | 40 hours per week | \$3,100 per month

Supervisor David Turner | (919) 623-5095 | P.O. Box 148 Swannanoa, NC 28778

Assisted the licensed surveyor in collecting data for maps of streams and wetlands used in mitigation projects. Participated as the instrument operator in the performance of different types of surveys, which include topographical, stakeout, boundary, and volume quantity. Carried heavy equipment over rugged terrain and performed job duties in the elements.

Kayak Instructor | Nantahala Outdoor Center

May 1, 2019 - October 31, 2019 (Seasonal) | 40 hours per week | \$2,100 per month

Supervisor Tosh Arwood | (828) 736-0167 | 13077 U.S. 19 West, Bryson City, NC 28713

Planned logistics and executed beginner to intermediate programs on class II/III whitewater. Checked in guests, distributed properly fitted gear, managed time for various class lengths, and shuttled the classes. Performed gear and guest rescues. Worked in a team environment with other instructors for large programs such as week-long kids camps.

Research Experience

Undergraduate Researcher | Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center

January 10, 2017 - May 10, 2017 | 20 hours per week | non-paid work

Supervisor Dr. Jess Jones | (540) 231-2266 | 1B Plantation Rd Blacksburg, VA 24061
Conducted a study to improve current culture techniques for common and federally endangered freshwater mussels by raising ion concentrations, which have the potential to enhance and improve survival and growth of the mussels, therefore, producing a higher success rate of propagation. Assisted in the infestation of the host fish with larval mussels. Planned and designed the project including water quality monitoring parameters, construction of aquaculture system, collection and analysis of data.

Laboratory Technician | Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center

June 6, 2016 - December 10, 2016 | 20 hours per week | \$800 per month

Supervisor Dr. Jess Jones | (540) 231-2266 | 1B Plantation Rd Blacksburg, VA 24061

Assisted in captive propagation and culture of species listed as federally endangered and other non-listed species for release into native streams. Performed captive care techniques for host fish and juvenile mussels including counting and measuring mussels using dissecting microscopes, water quality monitoring, constructing and maintaining aquaculture systems.

Laboratory Technician | Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center

September 1, 2015 - June 5, 2016 | 20 hours per week | \$800 per month

Supervisor Dr. Jess Jones | (540) 231-2266 | 1B Plantation Rd Blacksburg, VA 24061

Assisted a project studying the effects of major ion concentrations and trace metal nickel on the growth and survival of freshwater mussels. Performed captive care techniques including water quality analysis, chemical testing, and chamber preparation for *Villosa iris* and the federally endangered species, *Epioblasma capsaeformis*. Assisted in field collection, identification, and measurement of mussels from the Clinch River watershed in Virginia.

Skills and Certifications

Trained in Swiftwater Rescue (2018), Wilderness First Aid (2018), CPR (2022), and ACA Level 4 Kayak Instructor (2019)

Computer Skills

Mac OS: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Creative Suite 4 (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign), and Final Cut Pro