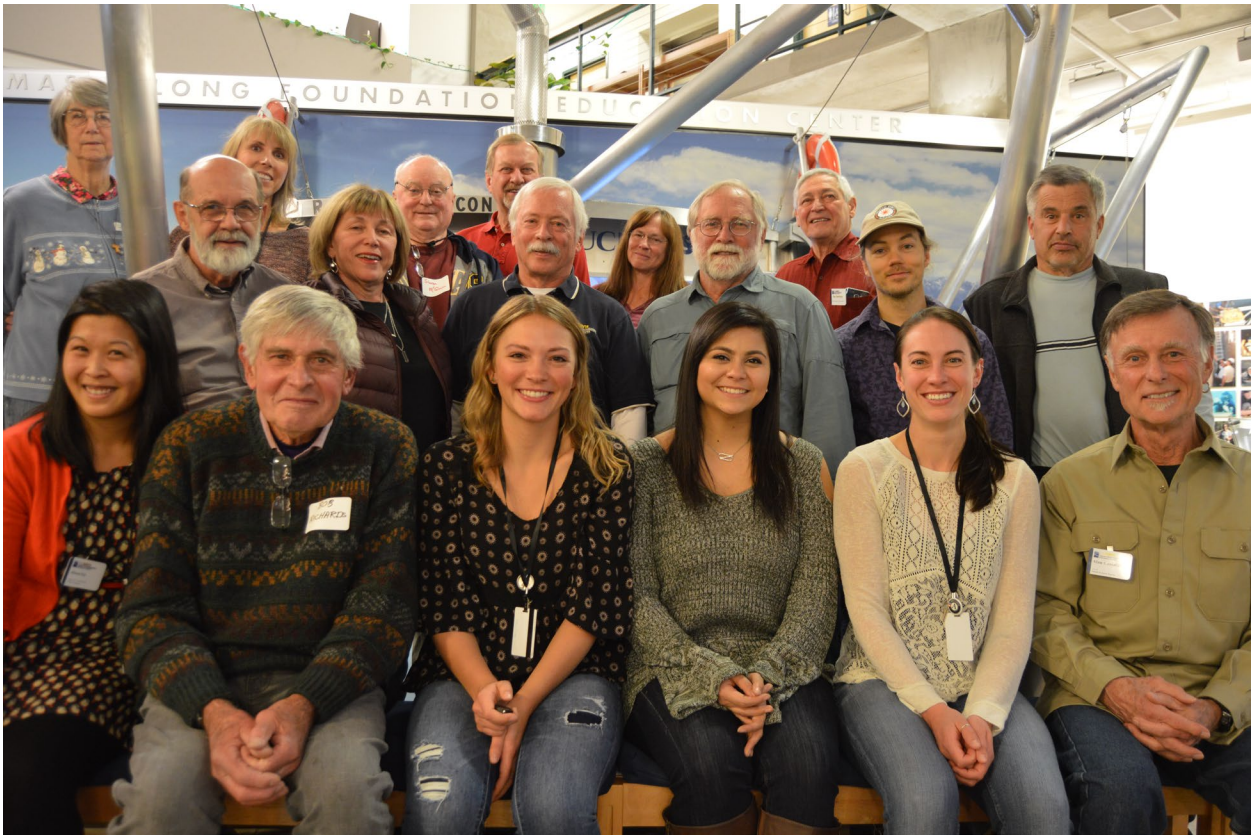
Docent Roster

2018



A Who's Who Guide of the UC Davis TERC Docents and Education Team

Heather Segale

Education & Outreach Director, UC Davis TERC

Hometown: Tahoma, CA (originally from Michigan)

At TERC since: 2005 (before the new building was built)

Background/Education: Undergraduate degrees in Business, Psychology and a Master's of Science in Natural Resources with a focus in Hydrology/Limnology

Favorite thing about working at TERC: Working with all of the wonderful docent volunteers, AmeriCorps members and scientists at TERC

Interesting fact: I have volunteered in Kenya, Cameroon, and Costa Rica conducting water hygiene education programs and drilling wells for clean water.

Alison Toy

Program Coordinator & Docent Program Manager, TERC

Hometown: Tulare, CA

At TERC since: Since 2012

Background/Education: B.S. Environmental Sciences Biological Emphasis and a minor in education from UC Berkeley

Favorite thing about working at TERC: Meeting all sorts of fantastic people from different walks of life and working for an organization whose values align with my own

Interesting fact: Taught English in Akita City in Japan for two years and moonlight as a snowboard instructor for Alpine Meadows

Bre Harris

AmeriCorps / Education Program Assistant, TERC

Hometown: Missoula, MT

AmeriCorps member since: October 2017

Background/Education: Bachelor of Science in Biology from Western Washington University

Favorite thing about working at TERC: Applying my background in biology to the aquatic food web at Lake Tahoe

Interesting fact: I enjoy mountain biking and skiing in my free time.

Christine Limon

AmeriCorps / Education Program Assistant, TERC

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

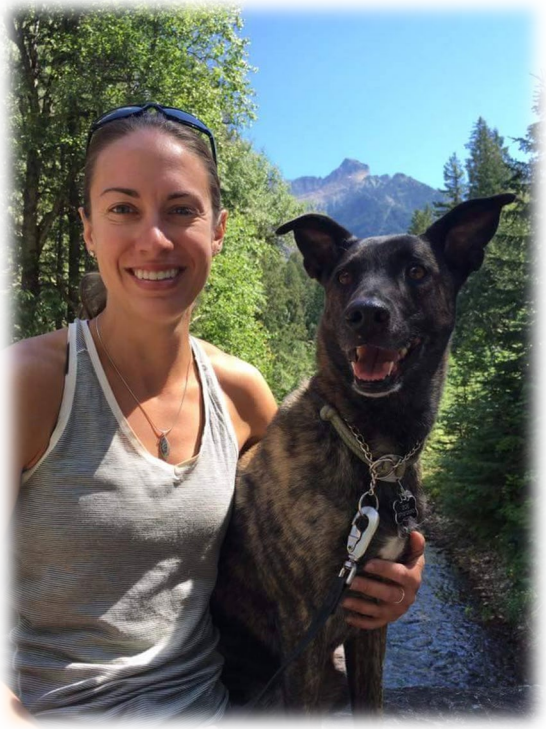
AmeriCorps member since: October 2017

Background/Education: B.S. in Environmental Chemistry from The University of Texas at San Antonio

Favorite thing about working at TERC:

Liz Bronson

AmeriCorps / Education Program Assistant, TERC



Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

AmeriCorps member since: October 2017

Background/Education: Undergrad- Athletic Training/ Sports medicine from Ithaca College. Grad- Resilient & Sustainable Communities from Green Mountain College

Favorite thing about working at TERC: Interacting with visitors, guiding them to engage with science and become more closely connected with the region.

Noah Easter

Summer Intern 2018, TERC

Hometown: Incline Village

Docent since: June 2018

Background/Education: Undergrad at UC Davis for Environmental Policy and Planning

Favorite thing about being a docent: Helping inform people about the challenges facing the lake

Interesting fact: Went to high school in Hong Kong

Cristina Muñoz

Summer Intern 2018, TERC

Hometown: Gardnerville

Docent since: June 2018

Background/Education: Sophomore at Washington Lee University

Favorite thing about being a docent: Visitors think you are really smart and I can use all the information I have learned to start conversations with locals, family, and friends.

Interesting fact: I can play the steel drums.

Stephanie Ambrosia

Hometown: Thousand Oaks, CA

Docent since: 2017

Background/Education: B.A. in American Literature & Culture; Teaching Credential in Elementary Education

Favorite thing about being a docent: Challenging visitors to think about the watershed in which we live and recreate

Interesting fact: Works as a full-time interpreter for the Lake Tahoe Sector of California State Parks

Beverly Bales

Hometown: Sacramento, CA (via cedar rapids, IA)

Docent Since: 2017

Background/education: B.A applied economics USF

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning new things, meeting people of all ages, from all over the world, contributing to the knowledge base of those who come through the door.

Interesting Fact: V.P of Sacramento Walking Sticks, Largest walksporting club in the country (560 members)

Barry C. Barmann

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Docent since: 2016

Background/Education: BA in Psychology (Ohio State University), MA in Psychology (University of Pacific), PhD (University of California, Santa Barbara). Clinical Psychologist and co-Executive Director of the “Center for Anxiety and Chronic Worry, Incline Village. University Professor for 28 years at California Lutheran University.

Favorite thing about being a docent: To give people a better sense and pride for (as Mark Twain once stated): “the fairest picture the entire earth affords.” To provide visitors to the UC Davis Tahoe Science Center with a new lens through which to view Lake Tahoe from a difference perspective; one that says “I can make a difference; I can help make Lake Tahoe even more stunning through my efforts, and those of others.”

Jim Beres

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Docent since: 2015

Background/Education: BS/MS Electrical Engineering. MBA

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting new people and talking about Tahoe

Martha Betcher

Hometown: Gardnerville

Docent Since: 2017

Background/education: BS Microbiology, minor chemistry. 2nd Teaching credential, taught middle school science/math. Worked as a school librarian for the past 17 years.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing love and science for Lake Tahoe and the Watershed

Karen Bohannan-Reed

Hometown: Cupertino & Tahoe City

Docent since: 2010

Background/Education: B.S.: UNR, MS: UCSF

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting the guests.

Interesting fact: Retired nurse, native gardener & hiker.

Dennis Breen

Hometown: Milwaukee, WI now Incline Village

Docent since: 2014

Background/Education: Retired MD

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing the history of Lake Tahoe and encouraging visitors to understand the challenges of preserving this treasure.

Interesting fact: I kayak, sail or swim in Lake Tahoe as often as possible during the summer.

Mary Bronson

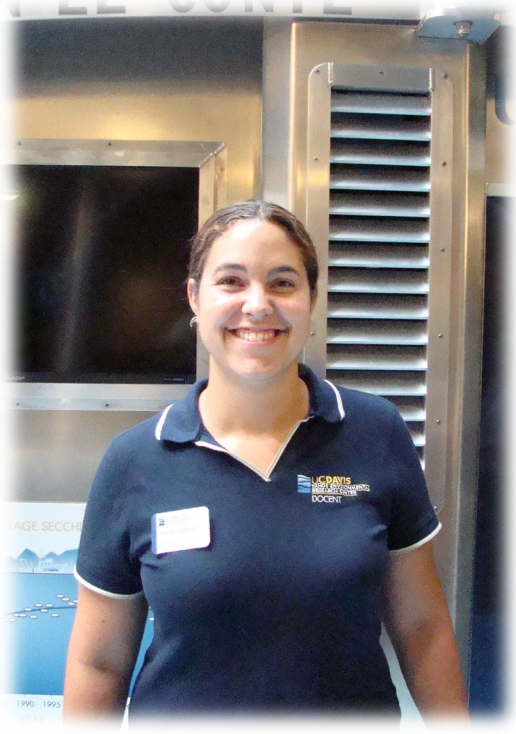
Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Background/Education: Career ranging from Project Management for railroad and transit control systems to producing a fine art and craft festival.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning more about the beautiful place we live and sharing this with others.

Interesting fact: I've volunteered with many different organizations for over 30 years.

Kellie Carter



Hometown: Reno, NV

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: B.S. Fisheries & Wildlife Science; B.S. Biology; Concentrations: Zoology and Marine Biology

Favorite thing about being a docent: I get to learn new things every time I docent. Someone always asks a question that I don't have an answer for. I then get to look it up and learn new things!

Collin Caruso

Hometown: Truckee, CA

Docent since: 2014

Background/Education: Born and raised in Truckee/Tahoe attending our local schools and will be a junior at Truckee High

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning the science of Lake Tahoe and our wildlife, plus working on public speaking

Interesting fact: I've traveled in Asia, including Vietnam, Singapore and Hong Kong, and love playing baseball (made Varsity this past season)

Jamie Casey

Hometown: Tahoe City, CA

Docent since: Summer 2015

Background/Education: Bachelor's degree from UNR studying English Literature and has a fascination with geology

Favorite thing about being a docent: Talking to people about Lake Tahoe, learning more about the lake

Interesting Fact: I was born here in Tahoe Valley at home in 1949. My mother had the library in our home

Alan Castator

Hometown: Chicago

Docent since: March 2015

Background/Education: Litigation Lawyer 1972-2001; Judge Pro Tem 2005 – Present; BS University of Illinois; Juris doctor Chicago-Kent

Favorite thing about being a docent: Public speaking, research, educating the public

Interesting Fact: Springboard diver high school through college

JoAnn Cobb

Hometown:

Docent since:

Background/Education:

Favorite thing about being a docent:

Interesting fact:

Heather Cotanch

Hometown:

Docent since:

Background/Education:

Favorite thing about being a docent:

Interesting fact:

Phyllis Conces

Hometown: Born in New Orleans, LA but currently split my time between Incline Village in the summer and Dallas TX the rest of the year.

Education background: Associate Degree in Computer Science and Bachelor Degree in Accounting from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA**.** Master of Business and Public Administration from Rice University in Houston TX

My favorite thing about being a docent: How much I have learned about Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Basin.

Interesting fact: My first summer in Tahoe was 4 years ago and in that summer I completed hiking the Tahoe Rim Trail in 14 segments and also kayaked completely around the Lake over 5 days. I am working on completing the TRT for a second time.

Susan Crutchfield

Hometown: New Home, Texas

Docent Since: July 2017

Background/education: School Teacher, Bridge Teacher, BA Texas Tech

Favorite thing about being a docent: Hopefully getting others as excited about Lake Tahoe as I am. I love learning more and more about the area and the history of the lake and enjoy sharing that with others.

Interesting Fact: I have taught bridge for 15 years.

Paul “Bubba” Crutchfield

Hometown: Liberty, Texas

Docent since: Summer 2017

Background/Education: Retired from U.S Rice Industry. Texas Tech – International Trade

Favorite thing about being a docent: Furthering the understanding of how research at Lake Tahoe can be used to improve water quality worldwide.

John H. Eisele Jr., M. D.

Hometown: Davis, CA, & Truckee, CA

Docent since:

Background/Education: Retired emeritus professor at UCD School of Medicine (specialty in Anesthesiology, Pain Medicine & Respiratory Physiology

Favorite thing about being a docent: Enjoy sharing science and ecology with Tahoe citizens and visitors. Only people can save the Lake

Interesting fact: Since boyhood I've loved nature and the outdoors, and of course, I was an Eagle Scout (back East).

John Farley

Hometown: Davenport, Iowa

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Aerospace Engineering, MS Stanford University

Carol Heinricy

Hometown: Coleman, South Dakota

Docent since: 2008

Background/Education: BS in Elementary & Special Education, Masters of Education in Special Education, MS in Environmental Education, Retired from teaching for 30 years in Carson City, NV

Favorite thing about being a docent: Interesting people, and there's always something new to learn.

Interesting Fact: I would love to go back to Newfoundland.

Christie James

Hometown: Now: Carson City, Nevada, Grew up in Orinda, California

Docent Since: May 2017

Background/education: B.S – U.C Davis, Environmental Policy Analysis and Regional Planning. MSS University of Denver, Interpersonal Communication

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing my love of the lake and hearing other's stories of being at Tahoe.

Jim Kelly

Hometown: Tahoe City/ Rocklin CA

Docent Since: July 2017

Background/education: B.S/M.S Civil Engineering. Registered Civil Engineer; Environmental Professional – Managed District, San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Getting to know Tahoe and the people in Tahoe

Steve Klukkert

Hatchery Docent

Hometown: Plumas County , CA

Docent since:

Background/Education: Formerly Plumas Co., CA Native Plant Society, and worked X-C winters on Donner Summit. I want to stay focused on deeper (ecology) in the Hatchery zone. I have a UC Berkeley graduate degree. I attended Feather River College (after UCB), where they had a Watershed Technology Program, a trout hatchery, & equine curriculum.

Tim Kosier

Hometown: Watertown, SD

Background/Education: BA in Psychology, MA in Guidance and Counseling, with a focus on mental retardation and elementary education. I've spent 35.5 years working with people with disabilities.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting a variety of people-different ages, backgrounds, and locales.

Interesting fact: I enjoy hiking at Marlette and Spooner Summit, snow shoeing to Chickadee Ridge, and kayaking at Sand Harbour.

Alex Kuprin

Hometown: Petushki

Docent Since: 2015

Background/Education: Physics, X-Rays, Outdoors

Favorite thing about being a docent: Inspiring visitors' thinking and interest in science.

Interesting fact: I was the "Most Unique Ski Instructor in 2014 – 2015" of the Diamond Peak Kids Ski School.

Sandra Lackovic

Hometown: I grew up on Long Island, NY now I live in Incline Village

Docent since: 2012

Background/Education: BSN, MA Stony Brook University. Taught NYC inner city high school in Bronx, NY

Favorite thing about being a docent: Field trips! I love to see the students' engagement and excitement – hands on learning is so important!

Interesting fact: I do medical missions to Central and South America with the Flying Doctors of America

Eileen Lewis

Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: BS, MS Chemistry; PhD Chemistry & Cognition; faculty member at Cañada College and UC Berkeley; Program Director at the National Science Foundation (Division of Undergraduate Education).

Favorite thing about being a docent: sharing knowledge and helping people understand Tahoe's environmental issues and opportunities

Interesting fact: Sailor, scuba diver, ski instructor, ski patroller, and granny

Hank Lewis

Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Industrial Engineering, operations research, 35 years as business executive

Favorite thing about being a docent: Having the opportunity to learn and give back to the community

Interesting fact: sailor, scuba diver, skier, national ski patrol, I live in Truckee

David Long

Hometown: Portland View, PA

Docent since:

Background/Education: California Polytechnic University in Pomona. Environmental Consulting.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Explaining the Tahoe natural environment.

Interesting fact: I love to fish.

Barbara Longshore

Hometown: Incline Village, NV

Docent since: 2014

Background/Education: Over 40 years in public education including all educational institutions in Incline Village. Traveled to Australia, the Bay Area and Reno to teach. B.A. and standard secondary teaching credential.

Favorite thing about being a docent: After living in the Tahoe area for 40 years and learning about all the research that has been acquired, it is a sheer joy to share that with visitors and guests. Providing objective science based information for the protection of my home, Lake Tahoe, and it's watershed is rewarding.

Ann Lyman

Hometown: Orinda, CA. I have lived in Piedmont for the last 34 years until we retired and moved up here three years ago.

Docent since: 2011

Background/Education: I graduated from ASU in Geography/Natural Resources and have worked in related fields. Recently, I have worked on conservation issues and environmental legislation.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Talking with people from different areas of the country and learning more about Lake Tahoe.

Jim Markle

Hometown: Martinsburg, WV

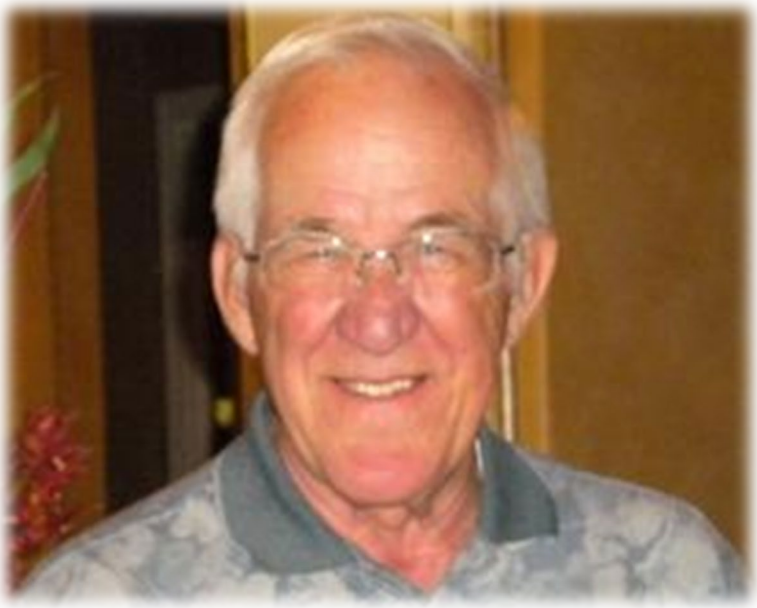
Docent since: 2007

Background/Education: Master of Arts in Communication (Journalism-Print), Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design, Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, OH. My professional career as a creative director, advertising manager, photographer and writer covers several decades. That includes managing my own design firm outside Chicago. As a college instructor, I've taught an array of design, history, photography and writing courses. Since moving to Incline Village in 2007, I've spent more time with my photography. Since 2004, I've won numerous national and international awards. Although my images have appeared in numerous publications and galleries, I enjoy working with people, especially children. But the real inspiration for all my work is the environment.

Favorite thing about being a docent: I enjoy meeting people who express an interest in Lake Tahoe and want to learn more about the challenges we face. If I can inspire people, young and old alike, to appreciate, preserve and share our passion for the environment, what more can I ask?

Interesting fact: I love to travel and spend time with family and friends. I also enjoy the outdoors. That includes, camping, hiking, backpacking, biking, kayaking, skiing and strapping on my snowshoes.

Larry McComber



Hometown: Marshalltown, Iowa; Scottsdale, AZ; Incline Village, NV

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Industrial Engineer and business executive

Favorite thing about being a docent: I like being a docent because of the people I meet. Visitors who find TERC are very interested in the information TERC has to offer and are fun to talk with. TERC staff people are great.

Interesting fact: My wife likes to travel. We've visited 15 countries in the first seven months of 2013 with a bike trip to Slovakia and Hungary coming up in September. We visit US gateway cities as we leave or re-enter the USA. This year those cities include Houston, Seattle, Boston, Minneapolis and Philadelphia

Bruce McNulty

Hometown:

Docent since:

Background/Education:

Favorite thing about being a docent:

Interesting fact:

Joanne Monardo

Hometown: Warren, Ohio

Docent since: July 2018

Background/Education: Physical Therapist, Acupuncturist and Wound Care Specialist (retired)

Favorite thing about being a docent: Being able to influence visitors to think in terms of preservation of the lake

Interesting fact: Soon-to-be grandma

Marla Moore

Hometown: Silver Spring, Maryland

Docent since: 2016

Background/Education: Retired from NASA. Advanced degrees in physics and astronomy

Favorite thing about being a docent: I enjoy meeting very interesting people and sharing information about the science of Lake Tahoe. Visitors are very interested and inspired by this wonderful TERC science center and the message we are trying to teach – very rewarding.

My-Linh Nguyen

Hometown: Reno/Sparks, NV

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Graduate degree in civil/environmental engineering, surface and groundwater quality, and water resource management.

Favorite thing about being a docent: learning about Lake Tahoe's environment and interacting with the public and other docents.

Interesting fact: I work as a source water protection engineer at Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, and previously worked as a research manager at a nonprofit drinking water research organization.

Bob Niederer

Hometown: Los Gatos, CA, originally from Carlstadt, NJ

Docent since: 2009

Background/Education: BSEE, Lehigh University, MBA Santa Clara University

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning from meeting very interesting people that ask challenging questions that make me think and be on my toes. I learn as much from them as they do from me. Also, they really appreciate the work that TERC is doing and being shown around.

Gary Nield

Hometown: Rocklin, CA and Incline Village, NV

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Retired educator – high school and middle school for 36 years, BA Idaho State University, MEd, University of Utah, many other classes and workshops at UNR and UCD

Favorite thing about being a docent: Making people aware of Tahoe's uniqueness.

Interesting fact: I spent many years at Incline High School and Middle School teaching about much of Tahoe's natural history.

Lynda Nield

Hometown: Rocklin, CA and Incline Village, NV. I also lived in Davis, CA for 20 years.

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: Idaho State University – Microbiology; taught Jr. High math and science; real estate broker; adult and family literacy country-wide director in Davis, CA; moved from Tahoe to Davis and back.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting different people and sharing the lake's "story" with them.

Interesting fact: I lived in Incline Village in the 70s and 80s, moved to Davis and then back to Incline.

Frances Pierce

Hometown: Homewood, CA (via Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Vernal, UT, Golden, CO, Tucson, AZ, and Reston, VA)

Docent since: 2012

Background/Education: BA Earth Science, UC Santa Cruz; additional studies in business, Spanish, and economic geology. Retired after 37 years with USGS.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing all the great information in the Ed Center with adults and children alike, getting them revved up.

Interesting fact: I served as a scientist on a NOAA ship in the gulf of Alaska; I was a nanny for Jane Fonda, and had been coming to Lake Tahoe for 61 years before I actually lived here.

Gil Potter

Hometown: Corcoran, CA

Docent since: 2015

Background/Education: MBA from UC Berkeley, former Hospital Administrator and Health Care Analyst.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing my love of Tahoe with visitors.

Priya Finnemore Renkert

Hometown: Cupertino, CA

Docent since: 2016

Background/Education: BA: Geography/Environmental Studies; MA: Geomorphology

Favorite thing about being a docent: rolling up my sleeves and getting my hands dirty at the Tahoe City Hatchery/Field Station!

Bob Richards

Hometown: Born in Richmond, CA. Raised in Napa, CA. Now residing in Tahoe City.

Docent since: Since the program started.

Background/Education: Napa High School. UC Davis Zoology 1957-61, UC Davis Masters Program, Thesis done on lakes in the Siskiyou Mountains of Northern California.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting interesting people of all ages and nations and giving them information on one of the most unique lake ecosystems in the world (and getting to work with so many nice docents, Americorps members, and staffs of the UC Davis TERC, UNR, DRI, and SNC.

Interesting fact: I love flyfishing from a tube float, camping, hiking, RV traveling, helping my wife with her dog-raising hobby, living at Tahoe, and loving my two girls, their families, and our 7 grandchildren!

John Russell

Hometown: So. Pasadena, CA

Docent since: 2014

Background/Education: B.S. and M.S. Colorado State University and Ed.D. University of Southern California

Retired university professor and commercial real estate broker

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting folks and educating about science related to the Lake Tahoe Basin, and stimulating students to become scientists.

Interesting fact: My favorite interesting fact was discovering Fremont made a mistake establishing state boundary lines.

Marie Russell

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Docent since: July 2018

Background/Education: BA, Communication Studies, UNLV

Favorite thing about being a docent: Sharing the value of Science in everyday life

Interesting fact: I knew Elvis

Nicole Simington

Hometown: South Lake Tahoe

Docent Since: August 2017

Background/education: Undergraduate at UC Davis, studying atmospheric science

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning more about Lake Tahoe

Interesting Fact: I broke my arm this past year.

Mark Spohr

Hometown:

Docent since: 2018

Background/Education:

Favorite thing about being a docent:

Interesting fact:

Ray Steinberg

Hometown: Incline Village

Docent since: 2017

Background/Education: Masters of Science in Structural Engineering

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting people

Interesting fact:

Paul Twichell

Hometown: Grew up in Titusville Pa. (Home of the first Oil Well); Lived in Simi Valley Ca. for 37 years; Lived at Incline the past two years.

Docent since: June 2011

Background/Education: MS Physics University of Illinois 1974; MBA from USC 1979; worked at Rockwell International/Boeing for 33 years, Director Business Development for last 15 years (10 years advanced nuclear technology, 13 years rocket technology, and 10 years laser weapons). Co-founded Enhanced Energy Systems specializing in advanced oil recovery.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Meeting people with a diversity of backgrounds, attending UC Davis "monthly" lectures, and getting to know the outstanding TERC staff.

Interesting fact: Co-founder of K through 12 private school now with over 1300 students. Past Elder at Grace Brethren Church Simi Valley. Been married for 40 years with four grandchildren (two are twins).

Tiller Van Doren

Hometown:

Docent since:

Background/Education:

Favorite thing about being a docent:

Interesting fact:

Elaine Van Fossen

Hometown: Southern CA originally, Tahoe City for last 30 years.

Docent since: 2013

Background/Education: UCSB, BS Environmental Economics, UC Berkeley, Masters in Natural Resource Economics. Worked for USDA, Bureau of Reclamation, SRI International

Favorite thing about being a docent: Learning and sharing info about this area.

Aaron Vanderpool

Hometown: Incline Village

Docent since: 2014

Background/Education: SNC Environmental Science and Ecology, Sustainability

Favorite thing about being a docent: Always learning and gaining a better understanding of Lake Tahoe and the natural world around us.

Interesting fact: I have seen ball lightning over Lake Tahoe and don't blame anyone for not believing me because I don't believe it myself.

Terese Walsh

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Docent since: July 2018

Background/Education: Business Administration

Favorite thing about being a docent: The faces of amazement when telling others about the lake- it seems the element of surprise is never-ending!

Interesting fact:

Rita Warren

Hometown: Originally from Berkeley, CA now in Incline Village, NV

Docent since: 2012

Background/Education: Docent at the Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe.

Favorite thing about being a docent: I love meeting people and learning along with them as they may have things to share relevant to the lake.

Interesting fact: I get along with all types of people, young and old! My father was among the people who started Incline Village back in the 1960's, so I have been at the lake since I was 13 years old. I moved here full time 18 years ago and love it. I also love all the facts I am learning to keep Lake Tahoe's environment healthy.

Keith Williams

Hometown: Summer/Fall - Truckee; Winter/Spring – Davis

Docent since: 2016

Background/Education: BS, MA from UC Davis; PhD in Biomechanics from Penn State; Faculty member at UC Davis in Exercise Biology for 32 years.

Favorite thing about being a docent: Getting to see visitors, especially kids and young adults, nodding their heads when something related to environmental responsibility is interesting or makes sense to them.

Interesting fact: I spent ten summers when I was younger working as a California State Park ranger, leading hikes and campfire programs, so being a docent reminds me of those good times.