

# Lucy Bennison Laffitte, M.Ed. Ph.D.

## ADDRESS

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## EDUCATION

2010 Ph.D. Environmental Resources, NCSU  
1986 M.Ed. Adult and Information Design, NCSU  
1980 B.S. Natural Science, University of Oregon

## EXPERIENCE

### August 2020 – present

- **President, International Big History Association.** Responsible for all aspects of the corporation's business, articles of incorporation and bylaws. Oversees strategic planning, fund raising, conferences, newsletter, conference and symposia.

### 2010-2020 Adjunct Teaching Professor

- **HON 296.001 Cosmos, Earth, Life, Humanity**, North Carolina State University (4 semesters)  
This course presents the history of the universe as we know it, from the Big Bang to the future in a single chronological narrative. We review the science embedded within this BIG HISTORY, intentionally blending scientific and historical ways of knowing. We unpack the grand narratives of cosmology, plate tectonics, evolution, and human innovation. We begin with the story of the creation of the cosmos, move to the development of earth, then to the story of life, the story of first civilizations (agriculture, cities, markets and exchange), the story of the modern world (technology, nations and empires) and conclude with what we can safely predict about the future, near and far. Breaking with tradition, our textbook will be Google, Wikipedia, and resources from an internationally crowdsourced online course by the same name.
- **HON 296.002 Philosophy of Research**, North Carolina State University (2 semesters)  
This course is designed to develop an overarching understanding of research and its boundaries. Throughout the course students will explore how research manifests in different disciplines. This exploration will include comparison between different approaches to research through analysis of works representing those disciplines. The last three weeks of the semester will be dedicated to discussion of the intersection of ethics and research. Students will investigate the potential ethical problems that may rise and will learn about existing solutions, such as the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- **SCIN 136 Introduction to Forestry with Lab**, American Public University System (24 two-month terms)  
*Online*  
This course will examine basic forestry definitions, historical factors in U.S. forest history, forest flora and fauna, forest management, the relationship between forest resources and human uses, and case studies. The Forestry lab provides students with hands-on application of forestry principles with or without having access to forest resources. The course will involve learning techniques for measuring forest resources; identification procedures for soils, trees and climate; and research techniques of current forestry concerns, such as urban forestry and deforestation. If the student has access to forested areas, he or she will be able to conduct research in the field; however, if the student is located in a non-forested area, all necessary data will be available online.
- **SCI 300 Environmental Science**, Living Arts College (16 quarters)  
This course provides the student with the principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. It seeks to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems.

### 2015-2016

**Educational Producer, UNC-TV, Durham, NC:** Responsible co-producing UNC-TV's *North Carolina Science Now*, an Emmy nominated, 5-7 minute weekly segment on UNCTV. Each video was packaged as a classroom-ready, digital learning object for publication online at PBS Learning Media.org, with discussion questions, links to learn more, and correlated by both NGSS and NC State Standards, and often accompanied by a biography of the scientist in the story. Each biography, called *What's My Story* explained how the scientist made the transition from middle school to his/her current career. Each month, one video was chosen to be the feature of an interactive, digital learning objects. Using Microsoft OneDrive to host animated slides, designed and created Understanding the Small Biological Molecules; Understanding Tissues and Cells; Keep Your Body in Motion; and Applying Nucleic Acid

Technology aligned standards. Secured \$40,000 from NC Water Resources Research Institute and NC Sea Grant in collaboration with the UNC Institute for the Environment to create an interactive digital learning portal on Drinking Water Resilience. The website contains eight videos, four learning modules, 544 maps, and 76 illustrations designed to communicate the systems science of surface water through visually interactive digital learning materials.

#### **2014-2015**

**Education Manager, KQED Quest; UNC-TV, Durham, NC:** Managed education managers at six PBS stations to fulfill educational objectives for this National Science Foundation funded, KQED-hosted project. Weekly duties included production management meetings via Skype; word press web page design; devising, and maintaining adherence to, the content rubric; meta data management, and project management. Content included 18 digital learning objects organized about six themes: surface water, ground water, renewable energy, non-renewable energy, ocean acidification, and topsoil management. Surface Water was the focus for UNC-TV for which I managed a partnership with aquatic researchers at Stroud Water Research Center, a watercolor artist, a videographer, and an animator to produce Quest Surface Water. This four- part series included a 16-page website on the watershed continuum theory (Navigate A Watershed), a 3:17 minute video on institutional learning about surface water (A Watershed Moment), a 5:33 animated video about nutrient flow through trophic levels in surface water (Follow That Nutrient), and an overview of the System of Surface Water in the U.S. Each part included a comprehensive set of introductory questions, discussion questions, follow-up questions, links to learn more, extension activities, and correlations to NCGS standards.

#### **1999-2002**

**Educator, Forest History Society, Durham, NC.** Designed, wrote, and coded middle school distance education web-based modules called "If Trees Could Talk" on environmental and conservation history in the US. Modules required the analysis of photographs and archival documents. Wrote lesson overviews, class activities, and all instructions for 4 of the 8 modules. Field Tested modules with K-12 teachers in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and Portland, Oregon.

#### **1995-1996**

**Educator, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University.** Designed and implemented three programs--a Teacher-Researcher Lecture Series; A Community Alliance with an inner-city elementary school; and a summer course on Environmental Science for Duke's Talent Identification Program for high school juniors and seniors. The Teacher-Researcher Partnership was in-service K-12 teacher education.

#### **1991-1994**

**Director, Rachel Carson Institute, Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA.** Directed an institute in honor of Rachel Carson: developed mission statement, graphic identity, goals and objectives; represented the Institute viewpoint on public and private sector boards; generated \$105,000 through grant writing; designed and implemented three thematic celebrations in honor of Carson with national essay contests; annual high-school "Ecofest;" a 40-course adult education certificate program called Conservation Ecology that generated \$50,000 in revenues; hired & supervised adjunct faculty.

#### **1991-1994**

**Founding Producer & Host, The Allegheny Front, Pittsburgh, PA.** Founded the award-winning environmental radio show. Each week, collated environmental news, compiled a calendar of environmental events, wrote a short essay called *The Nature Front*, and interviewed local environmentalists. Highlights included interviewing environmental luminaries David Orr, Sylvia Earle, Dave Foreman, Al Gore, Bruce Babbitt, George Woodwell, and David Brower. Served on the executive boards for Earth Day 1990 Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Land Trust, and the Environmental Committee for Duquesne Power & Light.

#### **1989-1991**

**Director, Frick Woods Nature Preserve, Pittsburgh, PA.** Responsible for the administration and management of 11 staff, a 5000-sq ft Nature Center and the 250-acre Reserve. Oversaw 5 family festivals, a ropes course, summer camp, and preschool programs for a total of 16,000 visitors per year. Developed a new corporate identity and marketing strategy for the Nature Reserve: logo, mission and goals, newsletter and membership campaign. Computerized the facility, hosted Earth Day 1991 for the City, and raised \$8,000 through grant writing.

#### **1987-1989**

**Science Teacher, Winchester Thurston School, Pittsburgh, PA.**

Taught science to grades K, 2, and 5. Used hands-on learning methods and a live plant and animal vivarium to teach the science standards for Pennsylvania.

#### **1986-1987**

**Education Director, New England Wild Flower Society, Framingham, MA.** Responsible for all aspects of this

conservation organization's citizen science programming for six New England states. Administered a total of 100 courses and field trips; designed and produced two program and events brochures; edited two issues of Wild Flower Notes--the society's color magazine; edited and published 2 issues of the newsletter; co-chaired a symposium "Endangered Plants Across Massachusetts;" and supervised the Certificate Program in Native Plants. Hired, evaluated and managed instructors and registered and matriculated students.

#### 1982-1984

**School Services Programmer, NC Museum of Natural History, Raleigh, NC.** Responsible for implementing a new partnership with Wake County Schools. Developed after-school programs, in-service teacher training, in-school visits, and museum tours for school groups. Developed, tested and piloted a Highlights Tour of the Museum for visiting school groups.

#### 1980-1982

**Education Coordinator, Tall Timbers Research Station, Thomasville, GA.** Responsible for educating the local community about the Station's pioneering research in fire ecology in the longleaf pine ecosystem. Worked with pioneering quail wildlife biologist Herbert Stoddard Jr. and ecological forester Leon Neel, and herpetologist Bruce Means. Created a documentary slide show on the history of the Stoddard-Neel timber methods, a permanent museum exhibit; and 3 traveling exhibits. Natural history content covered the ecology of Longleaf Pine forest in general and red cockaded woodpeckers, fire ecology, insectivorous plants, marine biology, rattlesnakes, black rat snakes, gopher tortoises, and bob white quail specifically.

#### 1980

**Educator, University of Oregon Museum of Natural History, Eugene, OR.** Developed eight new exhibits and co-wrote a documentary audiovisual presentation on paleolithic archaeology.

#### 1976- 1980

**Naturalist, Wellfleet Bay Natural History Day Camp, Wellfleet, MA.** Co-led campers on daily forays into ponds, salt marshes, forests, oceans and bays to study birds, bugs, bunnies, and bullfrogs.

## PUBLICATIONS

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [Understanding the Small Biological Molecules](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [Vaccine Hunting: Applying Nucleic Acid Technology](#): UNC-TV Science

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [Understanding Tissues and Cells](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [Keep Your Body in Motion](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [The System of Surface Water](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [Navigate A Watershed](#): Stroud Water Research Center, KQED,

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [Follow That Nutrient](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [A Watershed Moment](#): PBS LearningMedia

Laffitte, L.B. & M. Drostin, 2015 [Drinking Water Resilience Interactive Project, UNC-TV](#)

Laffitte, L.B. 2013 What's My Story: A career biography of a scientist: UNC-TV Science

[Meteorologist](#)

[Herpetologist](#)

[Fisheries Ecologist](#)

[Food Science](#)

[Wildlife Zoologist](#)

[Physical Chemistry Conservation](#)

[Sustainable Management Ecologist](#)

[Bio & AA](#)

[Ecologist](#)

[Biosystem Engineer](#)

[Object Conservator](#)

Laffitte, L.B. 2002 [If Trees Could Talk: A Curriculum in Environmental History](#): Forest History Society.

Laffitte, L.B., 2019 "Big History Meets the Montessori Method" The NAMTA Journal: Searching for Evolutionary Scientific Truth. Volume 43, Number 3.

Laffitte, L.B. 2017 [Big History Comes to North Carolina. IBHA](#): Origins, Volume 7, No. 3

Laffitte, L.B. [Thinking Like a Big Historian](#), Big History Project. 12/15/16

Laffitte, L.B. [Communing with Other Worlds: Is Proxima Centauri B Ready ?](#) Big History Project. 11/17/16

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [What I Learned on My Summer Vacation](#), IBHA: Origins, Volume 5, No. 10

Laffitte, L.B. 2015 [What I'm Doing on My Summer Vacation](#), IBHA: Origins, Volume 5, No. 5

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [Coal Ash Conundrum](#). QUEST: The Science of Sustainability, KQED.

Laffitte, L.B. 2014 [Lionfish, Pythons, and Mustard Weed, Oh My](#). QUEST: The Science of Sustainability, KQED.

Ross; Bell, Cavaliere, Dixon, DuMond, Laffitte, Mance, Townsend, Steelman. 2004. Partners for Environmental Justice and the Walnut Creek Wetland: A History. Published by the Department of Forestry at North Carolina State University.

Alibrandi, Marsha; Lucy Laffitte, Cheryl Oakes and Steven Anderson. 2004. "Environmental History: If Trees Could Talk" in *The Middle Years: Hands-On Learning in Grades 6-8* edited by Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn, Green Teacher Magazine, Toronto.

Laffitte, Lucy. *Where Orioles Sing*, [Carnegie Magazine](#), Carnegie Museum. Jul/Aug 1990

Laffitte, Lucy. Native to Nauset, The Cape Codder, Orleans, MA, 1985-1987.

"Fruits of the Rose" Oct 8, 1985.

"Deadly Relations" Oct 22, 1985

"Time and Tides" Nov 5, 1985

"Ibimi, Berries and Bogs" Nov 19, 1985

"Winter Stars" Dec. 3, 1985.

"Unto the Green Holly" Dec 17, 1985.

"New Neighborhood in Winter" Jan 20, 1986

"Signs of Spring" Mar 11, 1986

"Song of the Honeybee" Mar 25, 1986

"Knowing the Wildflowers" Apr 15, 1986.

"An Underwater Ringside Seat" Apr 29, 1986.

"Alien Asparagus and Its Kin" May 13, 1986.

"Tea-Kettle-Tea" May 27, 1986.

"Plants with a Pungent Punch" Jun 10, 1986.

"Summer Stars and Mars" Jun 24, 1986.

Caterpillars, Carrots and Caraway" Jul 22, 1986.

"Footloose and Faceless in Salt Pond" Jul 8, 1986.

"Where the Bugs Are" Aug 19, 1986

"Monarch Magic" Sep 2, 1986. "A Contrast" Sep 16

"Autumn, Andromeda and Apple Pie" Sep 30, 1986.

"Pepos on My Porch" Oct 14, 1986.

"Getting Wind of the Weather" Oct 28, 1986.

"Smelling the Mushrooms for Sweet Corn" Nov 11

"A Wild Food Feast" Nov 25, 1986

"Christmas Greenery" Dec 9, 1986

"Mystique of the Mistletoe" Dec 23, 1986.

"Winter Water" Feb 3, 1987

"Harbors and Habitats" Feb 17, 1987

"I Don't Like Spiders and Snakes" Mar 3, 1987

"Harvesting Liquid Sunshine" Mar 17, 1987

"Peep Show" Mar 31, 1987

"Stirring Mud Flats" Apr 28, 1987

"Cape Cod Time" May 12, 1987

"Bug Bites" May 26, 1987

"The Singer Not the Song" Jun 6, 1987

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

L. B. Laffitte & Claudia Mann, October 19, 2019 *Keeping it Cosmic: Strategies for keeping Cosmic Education in the Heart of Your Practice*. Montessori Association of North Carolina. Charlotte, North Carolina.

L. B. Laffitte, March 23-24 2018. "**Interdisciplinarity and Super Interdisciplinarity (Big History)**." Roundtable Discussant. The Study of All Existence: Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts Conference on Interdisciplinarity and Big History. Pune, Maharashtra, India

Lucy B. Laffitte, March 23-24 2018. "**Nature and the World Around Us.**" Roundtable Discussant. The Study of All Existence: Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts Conference on Interdisciplinarity and Big History. Pune, Maharashtra, India.

L. B. Laffitte & Eric Chaisson, April 20-22-2018. "**Cosmic Evolution and Big History.**" Montessori History: Searching for Evolutionary Scientific Truth. North American Montessori Association Conference. Cleveland, Ohio.

L.B. Laffitte: June 15, 2018. *Cosmic Evolution, Big History, and the Whole Shebang*. Environmental Educators of North Carolina. Concord, North Carolina.

L.B. Laffitte: *Find Your Place in the Scheme of Things: Using the Big History Project to Think More Clearly*. Bridging the Gap. Raleigh, NC. 10/24/17

L.B. Laffitte: *Teaching the Unity of Science*. NC Science Teachers Association, Greensboro, NC 10/20/17

L.B. Laffitte: *What about questions in Big History: An Algorithm for the Aha*. International Big History Association. Amsterdam, NE. 7/16

L.B. Laffitte: *Cycads, Lycopods and Platypus, Survival of the Less than Fit*. International Big History Association Conference. San Rafael, CA. 7/14

- M. Drostin & L.B. Laffitte: *Using Online Interactive Learning Tools to Educate Students about Water Management Challenges in North Carolina*. WRRRI Water Conference. Raleigh, NC. 3/15.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Science Education in PBS Learning Media*, NC Science Teachers Association, 11/14
- L.B. Laffitte: *PBS Learning Media Environmental Education Assets*, Southeastern Environmental Education Association. Asheboro, NC 10/14
- L.B. Laffitte: *Watershed Continuum*, Water Education Summit, Asheville, NC, 10/14
- L.B. Laffitte: *Lycopods, Cycads, and Platypus: Survival of the Less Than Fit*. International Big History Association. San Rafael, CA. 8/14
- L.B. Laffitte: *Teaching Literacy with Science in PBS Learning Media*, National Science Teachers Association. Charlotte, NC. 10/13
- L.B. Laffitte: *Teaching Big History to Underserved Populations*, Big History Institute, San Rafael, CA, 6/13
- L.B. Laffitte: *Measuring Sustainable Development in Higher Education: A Conceptual Framework*. Policy Sciences Annual Institute, 10/05. Yale University Law School, New Haven, CT.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Improving Decision Making for Non-Point Source Reduction*. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Non-point Source Monitoring Workshop, Raleigh, NC. Sept 18-22.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Invoking Sustainability in Higher Education: A Proposal*. Policy Sciences Annual Institute: Yale University Law School, New Haven, CT. Oct 17-20. 2004.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Tracking the Trends: Watershed Management* Policy Sciences Institute: Yale University, New Haven, CT. Oct 16-19.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Wolfpack Water Quality: Building Capacity for Sustainability at NC State*. Greening the Campus V: Ball State University, Ohio. Sep 16-19.
- L.B. Laffitte: *Laden with Lichens*. First Annual Writers Conference in Honor of Rachel Carson: Boothbay Harbor, ME, 6/01.
- L.B. Laffitte: *The Environmental History of Nauset Marsh*, NAAEE Conference: Boston, 8/00.
- L.B. Laffitte, L.B., Marsha Alibrandi and Cheryl Oakes. 2000. *Environmental History in Middle School: methods and content*. NAAEE Conference Presentation: Island, TX, 8/00.
- L.B. Laffitte, *Environmental History in Middle School: methods and content*. Forest History Center Teacher Training: Grand Rapids, MN, 7/00 / World Forestry Center Teacher Training: Portland, OR, 6/00

## **FIELD EXPERTISE**

Wildflower Identification  
 Tree Identification  
 Bird Identification  
 Winter Night Sky Study

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Identification  
 Winter Plant Identification  
 Mushroom Identification  
 Marine Biology

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Conference Chair: International Big History Association: Webinar. August 3, 2020  
 Vice President, International Big History Association  
 Conference Chair: International Big History Association Conference, Philadelphia PA  
 Secretary, International Big History Association  
 Executive Committee, International Big History Association  
 Anthropocene Working Group, International Committee on Museums of Natural History  
 Member: Partners for Environmental Justice  
 Invited Member: Environmental Affairs Committee, Duquesne Light Company  
 Charter Board Member: Allegheny Land Trust  
 Founder, producer & host of award winning *The Allegheny Front* WYEP 91.5 FM

Earth Day 1990 Planning Committee: City of Pittsburgh.

Chair: Earth Day 1990 Symposium, City of Pittsburgh.