

# Rainforest Retreat Team

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## Dr. Eric Anderson

Dr. Eric Anderson is the Program Head of the Ecological Restoration BSc Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Eric's research focuses especially on the ecology and conservation of nearshore marine birds and their habitats along the Pacific Coast. Eric has taught bird identification and ecology for 25 years. During that time he's had the good fortune to study and enjoy birds throughout much of North America.



## Chef Robin Kort

In a lifetime of living, harvesting and cooking between the Coast Mountains and the Pacific Ocean near Vancouver, BC, Chef Robin Kort has gathered an abundance of delicious local plants, wild mushrooms and fresh seafood into culinary repertoire. Her cooking has been influenced by her mother, grandmother and many chef mentors from around the world. Her passion is sharing her collected research with you, connecting the dots from wilderness to plate and revealing delicious secrets from the forest to sea.



## Hélène Marcoux, RPF

Hélène Marcoux is an ever-curious forester, an avid educator and the manager of the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest. Her passion for the dynamic world of forest ecology, plant biology and the art (and science) of plant identification is nothing short of infectious! In her role at the Research Forest, Hélène oversees all aspects of forest management, including silviculture, operational planning, forest health monitoring - and finding ways to integrate research and educational opportunities into all facets of the forest. Hélène has worked for over 20 years in natural resource management and education.



## Victoria Farahbakhchian, RPBio

Victoria Farahbakhchian is a Registered Professional Biologist and Field Education Manager at the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest. Victoria's dynamic role spans coordinating and instructing UBC Faculty of Forestry Field Schools, leading Wild & Immersive initiatives, and supporting the Research Forest's operations. Beyond her professional pursuits, Victoria volunteers with Ridge Meadows Search and Rescue, where her true passion shines. Her greatest joy lies in guiding and protecting those who seek the serenity of the natural world, ensuring they connect and recreate safely in the great outdoors.



## Dr. Tahia Devisscher

Dr. Tahia Devisscher is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia. She is currently investigating the extent to which greening initiatives in and around cities build resilience to climate change and contribute to human mental and physical wellbeing. Over the past 15 years, Tahia has supported global to local climate adaptation strategies through nature-based solutions. Tahia has an interdisciplinary background and a PhD in ecosystems science from the University of Oxford, UK. She certified as a holistic yoga teacher in 2017, and as a forest and nature therapy guide in 2020. She has a passion for integrating her practice and her research. Since 2021, she has been facilitating wellness and creative retreats in nature.



## Cheyenne Merlo

Cheyenne is a RYT-500 and Pilates instructor. She teaches the practice of movement as a way to press pause on the mental stories we carry and instead, marry the mind to the body in the present moment. Through mindful movement, her aim is to have you feeling a better sense of connection and calm. She offers a well rounded practice that includes a balance of stretch, strength and stillness for all levels. Cheyenne lives on-site at Loon Lake as the Camp Host and finds much joy in bringing together people, nature and yoga.