

Our Local Biologists:



Bryan Windmiller

Bryan is the Director of Field Conservation at Zoo New England, where he oversees the Zoos' local wildlife conservation programs and support of international conservation efforts. Bryan earned a Ph.D. in biology and a Master's degree in Environmental Policy, both from Tufts University, and he has worked in various roles as a conservation biologist in Massachusetts since 1987. There's nowhere he'd rather be than waist deep in swamp muck looking for herps.



Emilie Wilder

Emilie wears many hats in the Field Conservation Department - from leading field trips with the several thousand kids who come out every year to release turtles with us, to making sure all our permits are up to date. Emilie is interested in the human dimensions of wildlife conservation, especially in finding win-win ways to live alongside wildlife. She and Bryan have championed Zoo New England's Hicatee turtle conservation partnership in Belize.

Our Belizean Biologists:



Tom Pop

Tom is the manager of the Hicatee Conservation and Research Center at the Belize Foundation for Research & Environmental Education (BFREE). Tom has extensive field experience supporting multiple researchers and multiple taxa over decades. His responsibilities include daily care, monitoring turtles, maintenance of facilities and turtles, oversight of interns and students, and data collection. Additionally, Tom remains highly valued and sought after for his skills as the leading Hicatee field technician in Belize.



Jonathan Dubon

Jonathan is the newest addition to the Hicatee Conservation and Research Center. He is a graduate of southern Belize's Independence Junior College, where he majored in Natural Resource Management and was first introduced to BFREE through a weekend field course. Jonathan collects and manages data for the HCRC, develops quarterly activity reports, and assists in animal management and facility maintenance activities. Jonathan also served on the Hicatee Awareness Committee in 2020 and wrote and produced an educational sing-a-long that was used to raise awareness of the declining species.