

James Waters, 47, is a devoted father of two, avid outdoorsman and a passionate and generous teacher.

Born and raised in rural Virginia, James spent much of his childhood exploring the woods behind his home. The Boy Scouts was an integral part of his foundation and development into the skilled and grounded man he is today. His introduction to hunting by men from the Pamunkey Indian tribe (Powhatan and Pocahontas's tribe) was a unique entrance into the world of venatics. He was taught how to hunt squirrels and skunks on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation, the oldest and most prominent reservation in North America. After a successful hunt, an elder tribe member guided James through the process of cleaning the skunk hide and sewing it into a bag complete with sinew thread and antler buttons. He later progressed to deer hunting, mostly self-taught, taking with him the valuable lessons he learned from the indigenous elders of respect and reciprocity for the land and animals. James now enjoys guiding hunts and teaching the lesser known yet arguably more important aspects of hunting, like respect, no waste and reverence, as well as practical subtleties that uplevel the entire hunting experience. He has guided hunting trips in Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Alabama and Florida.

As a teenager, James discovered his passion for mentoring and teaching children when he became a camp counselor. He taught riflery, archery, swimming, water skiing and horseback riding. He was also a lifeguard at the YMCA where he taught basic swimming classes. His calm yet confident approach when teaching is remarkable and effective. He uses his distinct approach with animals as well and has had great success training dogs, cattle and horses.

James's adventurous spirit led him to an interesting job as a young man chasing down hot air balloons. He was in charge of readying the balloons for take off, then driving the chase vehicle, maintaining radio contact, finding a suitable location for landing, assisting with the landing, then breaking down the balloon and driving the passengers back to their vehicles. Later he pursued his pilot's license and flew Cessna airplanes.

His adventures landed him in south Florida where he stayed for twenty years earning a living as a successful state certified commercial general contractor and home inspector. While there, he acquired his PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification and still enjoys scuba diving, fishing, spearfishing, surfing and ocean related sports. During his time in Florida, he hunted and explored the swampy thickets of the Everglades.

James now resides in the Appalachian mountains in western North Carolina with his wife and two children on their hundred acre farm. They practice sustainable forestry, ethical wildlife management, and regenerative farming. They raise heritage breed Scottish Highland cattle and train them using low stress cattle handling techniques. James owns and operates a sawmill and produces ethically harvested lumber. Sustainability and connection to source are at the heart of everything on the farm. James has worked hard to create a lifestyle for his children that would serve as a foundation for the rest of their lives, as well as teach them the necessary skills to be resilient and live in natural harmony with the land. James finds himself at home in the natural world. His ability to find peace, refuge and comfort in environments many find confronting, uncomfortable and dangerous is a skillset he has developed and enthusiastically shares with others.

It was an obvious and instant connection between James and Eustace when they first met and discussed chainsaws, training bulls, and building projects. They have since developed a friendship based on mutual respect and interests and can be found working on various projects at Turtle Island Preserve, training horses, building custom homes, and riding stallions and dirtbikes.