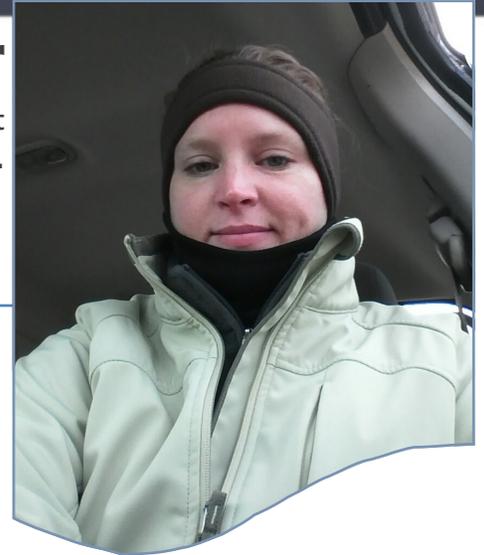


STEM SPOTLIGHT

Tisa R. Bomar

Environmental Scientist
EnSafe, Inc.

Bachelor of Science in Biology— University of Memphis
Masters of Science in Forest Resources (concentration in Wildlife Ecology and Management)— University of Arkansas at Monticello



Q: How did you select your college major?

A: I had many interests throughout high school and during my initial college years. I attended different introductory classes in an attempt to figure out which path would fit me best. I focused on Biology at the University of Memphis and took classes like genetics, evolution, and field techniques which challenged me. These courses furthered the decision to continue my education in wildlife and ecology.

Q: What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?

A: I spent my childhood in a small town where free time was spent hunting and fishing. I knew early on that I wanted a career which allowed me to work outdoors. In my final year at the University of Memphis, I met and worked for Dr. Michael Kennedy who introduced me to wildlife ecology. With his recommendation, I met with a professor at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and accepted a graduate research shortly thereafter.

Q: If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A: If I could go back to high school and select any elective course to better prepare me for college, I would choose calculus. I took several math classes and completed algebra, trigonometry, and geometry but chose other electives over calculus. In college, I realized how higher level math classes would be beneficial for other classes such as physics.



Q: What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A: My favorite aspect of my job is that I do not have the same task day after day. I work about 40% in the office and 60% out of the office. This provides me with the ability to see a project from start to finish.

Q: How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A: The company I work for is an environmental firm and every day I see how they make a positive impact on society and the community. As an employee, we are always encouraged to devote a portion of our time to volunteer opportunities and become involved in societies that relate to our field of interest.

Q: What's the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

A: Learn something new each day. I feel that many people go to work and complete the same task day after day. My coworkers have various backgrounds including geology, engineering, and ecology. Because of this, I get the opportunity to learn something new each day from many different fields.

Q: What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A: Remember each person is different. Some students will leave high school knowing exactly what they want of their future; others may need to try different classes before deciding on a career. There will also be some students that finish college in four years but for others it might take a year or two longer. Don't compare yourself to others; instead focus on finishing school and what you want for your future.

