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Born in Columbus, Ohio, on August 12, 1968. Graduated from North Hills High School in Pittsburgh, PA in 1986. Worked as a Marine Education Intern at the Newfoundland Harbor Marine Institute in Big Pine Key, FL in 1989. Graduated from Swarthmore College in June of 1991 with a B.A. with Distinction in English Literature. Worked as a Fisheries Research Assistant for the University of Maryland's Horn Point Environmental Laboratory, 1991-1993. Entered the Masters program in Marine Science at the College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science in May, 1993. Began work as a Research Fishery Biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA in March, 1997. Married William Gardner Bunting Jr. in May, 1997. Defended thesis on July 18, 1997.