

PUBLIC SERVICE



**ANN BERRY
SOMERS**
UNC Greensboro

Ann Berry Somers is a Senior Lecturer at UNC Greensboro in the departments of Biology and Geography, Environment and Sustainability, and serves as an academic adviser. She is recognized for the extraordinary scope and impact of her efforts to raise awareness about conservation of North Carolina's natural diversity.

Somers instills in others a sense of wonder and an understanding about the importance of wildlife in our shared world. She involves students at UNC Greensboro in diverse, hands-on experiences, including study abroad courses in Costa Rica to work with the Sea Turtle Conservancy and at Little Cayman Island with the Central Caribbean Marine Institute. She partners with state organizations such as North Carolina State Parks and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. In addition, she mobilizes volunteers to survey and monitor reptiles and amphibians for conservation and sustainability programs such as the 100-year Box Turtle Connection project. For the past 12 years, she has chaired the group, overseeing efforts to collect more than \$1 million in matching federal funds.

Somers also encourages elementary, middle and high school students to become involved in hands-on conservation activities. Through free residential outdoor programs and partnerships between nonprofits and state agencies, she inspires students to embrace opportunities to improve their world. For example, two former students designed the winning entry for a North Carolina Wildlife license plate, which shows a colorful Pine Barrens treefrog.



Ann Berry Somers' commitment to providing a variety of opportunities for people to improve their rapport with the natural world means a generation of North Carolina citizens are inspired to continue her conservation efforts for future generations.