



From left to right are: Catherine Patterson, Terry Peterson, Audrey Kopich, Annalee Law.

## **An all women team of instructors, led students in week-long expedition at Dolly Sods in WV...a first for the program**

Students enrolled in the Adventure Sports program at Garrett College recently completed a week-long expedition in the Dolly Sods wilderness in nearby West Virginia. As part of the backcountry living skills core course in the adventure sports program, thirteen students were led by a group of all female instructors, which happened to be a first in the program.



**Terry Peterson, Associate Professor** of GC's Adventure Sports program, served as the lead instructor for the course, along with Audrey Kopich, Annalee Law and Catherine Patterson, all previous graduates of the College's Adventure Sports program.

"We are proud to have Audrey, Annalee and Catherine back home to share their talents with our new students," said Peterson. "Their confidence and quality leadership skills made for a fantastic course, and an exciting beginning to a new year."

According to Peterson, Kopich, Law and Patterson were chosen due to their wealth of knowledge regarding backcountry travel, extensive experience working and living in remote locations across the globe, and exemplary leadership qualities. They also served in the Transitional Age Youth Program, through the Garrett County Health Department mentorship program, during their time at Garrett and even after graduation.

"All of these young women love the outdoors and have unique specialized trainings," said Peterson, who has been a lead instructor for over 20 years at GC. "They are leaders in the field and well respected in the outdoor community."



**Audrey Kopich (2019 Graduate)** A current student at West Virginia University, Audrey Kopich (Uniontown, PA) is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Adventure Journalism & Photography. She has earned certifications from the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA), American Canoe Association (ACA) and the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Some of which are the ACA Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, AMGA Climbing Wall Instructor, and Leave No Trace Master Educator.



**Annalee Law (2012 Graduate)** Earning her Master's degree in Outdoor Recreation in Adventure Sports from Frostburg State University, Annalee Law (Smithsburgh, MD) is a certified instructor in several disciplines through the ACA. She has instructed numerous courses in the Adventure Sports program at Garrett. While a student at GC, she received training in sea kayaking, swift water rescue, whitewater rafting, canoeing & kayaking, climbing, telemark skiing and wilderness survival.



**Catherine Patterson (2011 Graduate)** Meanwhile, Catherine Patterson (Bowie, MD) is currently training with Seneca Rocks Mt. Guides and NROCKS to further her career as a lead climber in the climbing industry. She possesses certifications from Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) & MD Top Rope Site Manager through ASI. Highlights of her work experience include snowboarding and cross-country skiing instruction in Breckenridge, Colo., in addition to traveling to

New Zealand with Youth with a Mission (YWAM). She was also selected to be the student commencement co-speaker with Matt Davey-Karlson during graduation.

During the past few years, GC's adventure sports program has witnessed an increase in the number of female students, as opposed to a program that is traditionally dominated by males, which is reflective of the outdoor recreation industry as a whole.

"Our students are exposed to a wide array of collective experiences in the adventure sports program," stated Peterson, who is also a certified instructor trainer and has several certifications in the outdoor recreation field. "As a result, this creates the perfect learning environment for outdoor leadership development."

For more information on the Adventure Sports program at Garrett College, individuals may contact the Adventure Sports Office at 301-387-3330.