

N. Lee May

NLeeMay@tamu.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Texas A&M University (in progress) | College Station, Texas | 2019-present

Ecology & Conservation Biology | Certificate in Applied Biodiversity Science

Advisor: Dr. Urs Kreuter

B.A., James Madison University | Harrisonburg, Virginia | 2006-10

Geography – Global Studies | Minor: Middle Eastern Communities & Migrations | Phi Beta Kappa

Senior Project: “A Geographic History of the Appalachian Identity”

HONORS

W.B. Davis Endowed Scholarship | Texas A&M Department of Ecology & Conservation Biology | 2022-23

Sid Kyle Graduate Assistantship | Texas A&M Department of Ecosystem Science & Management | 2020-22

Merit Fellowship | Texas A&M College of Agriculture & Life Sciences | 2019-20

PUBLICATIONS

Professional Reports:

Kreuter, U. P., Wilcox, B. P., Veldman, J. W., May, N. L. 2022. “2022 Recommended Land Management for the Water Quality Protection Lands, Austin, Texas.” Submitted to the Water Quality Protection Lands Wildland Conservation District, Austin Water, City of Austin, Texas.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fundamentals of Ecology | ECCB 215 | Lab Instructor | Texas A&M University | Fall 2020; Spring 2023

Ecosystem Management | RWFM 411 | Lab Instructor | Texas A&M University | Spring 2023

PRESENTATIONS

“The Production of Destruction: How Society Invented the Flammable Lost Pines ‘Forest’ of Texas” | AAG Annual Meeting | 2023

“Historical Research Across Disciplines” | JMU Middle East Student & Faculty Research Workshop | 2022

“Developing Charlottesville’s Food Identity” | Tom Tom Founders Festival | 2014

“Changing Pace & Changing Identity: the ‘Race’ of the Jordan River” | JMU Middle East Conference | 2008

“Guantánamo Bay: Self-Defense or Self-Destruction?” | JMU General Education Student Conference | 2007

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

General Manager | Tilman’s Cheese and Wine | Charlottesville, Virginia | Sept 2017 – July 2018

First employee and manager of new wine bar and cheese shop. Negotiated and established initial vendor relations. Helped develop menu and operations model. Oversaw hiring and training of staff of twelve. Managed front of house, retail, and kitchen.

Sr. Manager, Visual Merchandising | Relay Foods | Charlottesville, Virginia | Sept 2012 – Aug 2017

Relay Foods was an internet start-up founded in 2009 and acquired by Door to Door Organics in 2016. We were an online grocery service with a mission “to make eating quality, healthy, and sustainable food simple” by connecting customers to hundreds of local vendors. Through our partnerships, we sought to enrich the

communities we entered rather than decimate local foodscapes as national chains might do upon arrival. Over my seven years at Relay, I watched the company grow from twenty employees to over two hundred at the time of our 2016 acquisition. I initially started in operations but became the first hire of our merchandising department where I remained for the rest of my tenure. Listed from most to least recent, my duties included the following:

- Selected as a member of the 25-person transition team who designed the new company structure and model after acquisition
- Managed the hiring and training of 12-member merchandising team
- Developed and executed company-wide visual merchandising strategy for markets in 19 states
- Regularly prepared and delivered presentations to potential investors, current partners, and the executive team
- Oversaw a continually changing database of over 5,000 products and corresponding metadata
- Built communication systems between merchandising, marketing, IT, and operations
- Member of team that planned, prioritized, and launched new markets during periods of expansion
- Established and managed over 300 vendor partnerships ranging from local farms to multinational brands
- Built logistics plans for delivery, product storage, and internal transfers
- Designed and analyzed reports for revenue and user experience
- Led department through 2 mergers, each that doubled the company
- Developed category review process to regularly improve gross margin and customer experience that became model for both our company and partners

Merchandising Manager | Relay Foods | Charlottesville, Virginia | Sept 2011 – Aug 2012

- Developed initial department structure and strategy, and designed the tools needed to execute
- Established a brand focus on transparency and connecting customers with producers as key component of business model
- Relay’s visual merchandising and user experience was recognized by the Hartman Group in 2012 as the industry leader in digital food narrative and customer engagement ([see graph on page 7](#))

Operations Associate | Relay Foods | Charlottesville, Virginia | Feb 2011 – Aug 2011

- Initially hired as member of experimental team that built operations model
- Designed sorting process known as “Lee’s Vendor Waves” used in fulfillment centers for five years

Interpretive Naturalist | National Park Service | Assateague Island National Seashore | May 2009 – Aug 2009

- Developed and led interpretive programs for visitors of all ages
- Conducted lecture programs in classroom setting and a variety of field locations
- Educated visitors on the importance of conserving barrier island resources
- Taught programs on wildlife identification, proper resource extraction (crabbing, shellfishing, and surf fishing), and history
- Attended a two-week training program offered by leaders in the interpretation field

MISCELLANEOUS EXPERIENCE

Musician and Songwriter | The Can-Do Attitude (band) | 2009 – 2018 | Two studio albums recorded

Contestant | Jeopardy! (television program), Season 30 | January 2012

Volunteer | Las Vueltas Farm, Dota, Costa Rica | September – December 2010; July - August 2016

Travel | I have traveled to thirty countries over the past fifteen years