

## **Vita**

David Eldridge Kramar

David was born in California in 1974. He grew up in Nelson County, Virginia and graduated from Nelson County High School in the spring of 1992. After several years of "finding" himself he completed a bachelor degree in geography with a concentration in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) from Appalachian State University, December of 1999. After several years of working he decided to return to graduate school and was accepted into the Geography master's program at Virginia Tech with his focus again being on GIS. At this point his interests shifted from government applications of GIS to environmental modeling using GIS. This shift in interest opened many doors. As a result, he spent the summer of 2003 in Maine surveying loon territories and climbing osprey nests in an effort to collect blood samples for analysis of mercury (Hg), all of which directly helped his research. He was also married in June of 2002 to his wife, Laura, who has also helped with the capture of Common Loons for subsequent Hg analysis. Currently, he is employed part time with the Biodiversity Research Institute in Falmouth Maine and spends his summers either in the tops of trees, the sides of cliffs, or in a kayak in an attempt to better understand the processes that lead to the bioaccumulation of Hg in hydrologic systems and the associated biota of an area. Prior to graduate school, David did GIS consulting for other firms as well as municipalities. Much of the research that David has accomplished he intends to continue with while pursuing a PhD in ecology and environmental science in the fall at the University of Maine, while his wife, Laura, pursues her master's degree in agricultural economics.