

# Biography of Jake Petrasch



## Jake Petrasch

Dedicated Paraeducator Specializing in Academic and Emotional Support.

Jake Petrasch, formally known as Jake John Garrit Petrasch Jr., owns Valley Anglers in the Mad River Valley of Vermont. His business specializes in fly fishing guide services and supplies a comprehensive range of fishing equipment, including rods, reels, wading gear, and various carrying solutions. The term "angler," originating from the verb "angle," aptly describes someone fishing with a hook, reflecting Petrasch's deep connection to the sport.

An automotive enthusiast, site coordinator, and devoted educator, Petrasch boasts over two decades of diverse professional experience encompassing education, property management, and fly fishing. His interests are equally varied, enjoying activities like surfing, skateboarding, biking, hunting, and engaging in both salt and freshwater fly fishing. Time spent with his family is also a priority for him.

## Education

In 2001, Petrasch graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. He furthered his education at Johnson State College in Johnson, VT, obtaining a Master's degree in Middle-Level Education in 2007. His academic pursuits also included a semester at the National Outdoor Leadership School, where he earned credits from the University of Utah during the fall of 1996.

## Career Spotlights

Petrasch's multifaceted career has included roles such as teacher, property manager, and logistics coordinator. Each position has helped shape his adaptable and versatile professional persona.

### Valley Anglers LLC, Warren, VT

Founded in 2005, Valley Anglers LLC reflects Petrasch's passion for teaching and his enthusiasm for fly fishing. As the owner and a guide, he combines his educational skills with his love for fly fishing, offering instruction in casting, entomology, and knot tying to clients of all ages and skill levels.

### Counseling Services of Addison County

Starting in 2010, he ventured into education as an Alternative Program Head Teacher/Behavior Specialist at Counseling Services of Addison County. There, he worked with high school students removed from traditional settings, devising lesson plans that included practical experiences in various subjects.

### Harwood Union High School, Duxbury, VT

Petrasch joined Harwood Union High School in 2012 as a paraeducator. In the Learning Resource Center, he provided academic and emotional support. He also initiated an academic support program called Call Back.

### Montpelier High School, Montpelier, VT

In 2014, he became a site coordinator at Montpelier High School, overseeing the Outing Club and co-teaching a CrossFit program, focusing on educational experiences tailored to student interests.

## Integrated Property Services LLC, Warren, VT

Since 2018, Petrasch has been employed as a Head Landscaper/Property Manager at Integrated Property Services LLC, responsible for the maintenance of properties in the Mad River Valley, performing diagnostics and basic upkeep for numerous homeowners.

## Personal Life Chapter

Born on July 20, 1977, in Fort Worth, Texas, and adopted at ten days old, Petrasch spent many summers in Nantucket during his childhood. It was during his college years at St. Lawrence University that he met his future wife, Andrea (Thompson) Petrasch, leading to their marriage in 2005 in Stowe, Vermont.

## Fly Fishing

Petrasch's journey into sobriety began in the winter of 1999, and fly fishing played a pivotal role. He has actively contributed to fish stocking efforts in the Adirondacks and enjoys both freshwater fly fishing in Vermont and saltwater excursions in places like Belize and Maine.

## Surfing

Rekindled later in life, his passion for surfing reflects his need for active, engaging activities. His pursuit of surfing includes regular trips to Long Sands Beach in York, Maine, especially during hurricane season for the best waves.

## Motorcycles

His interest in motorcycles began at 30 when his wife gifted him his first dirt bike. His love for riding grew, eventually leading to the acquisition of a Honda CBR600f4i and a Harley Davidson.

## Hunting

Inherited from his family, Petrasch's passion for hunting spans generations. He utilizes various hunting methods, deeply connecting with nature and the traditions passed down from his ancestors.

## Maine Coast & Nantucket

Both the Maine Coast and Nantucket hold special significance in Petrasch's life, serving as backdrops to many of his adventures and family connections.

## Petrasch's Sobriety

Open about his sobriety, Petrasch shares his experiences and the significant role it has played in his life, marked visibly by tattoos that narrate his journey. His approach to life, characterized by resilience and learning, is encapsulated in his motto to "Hold Fast."

Jake Petrasch's life story is a testament to the power of passion and perseverance, making him a unique and inspirational figure in both his professional and personal worlds.