

Drew and Tom



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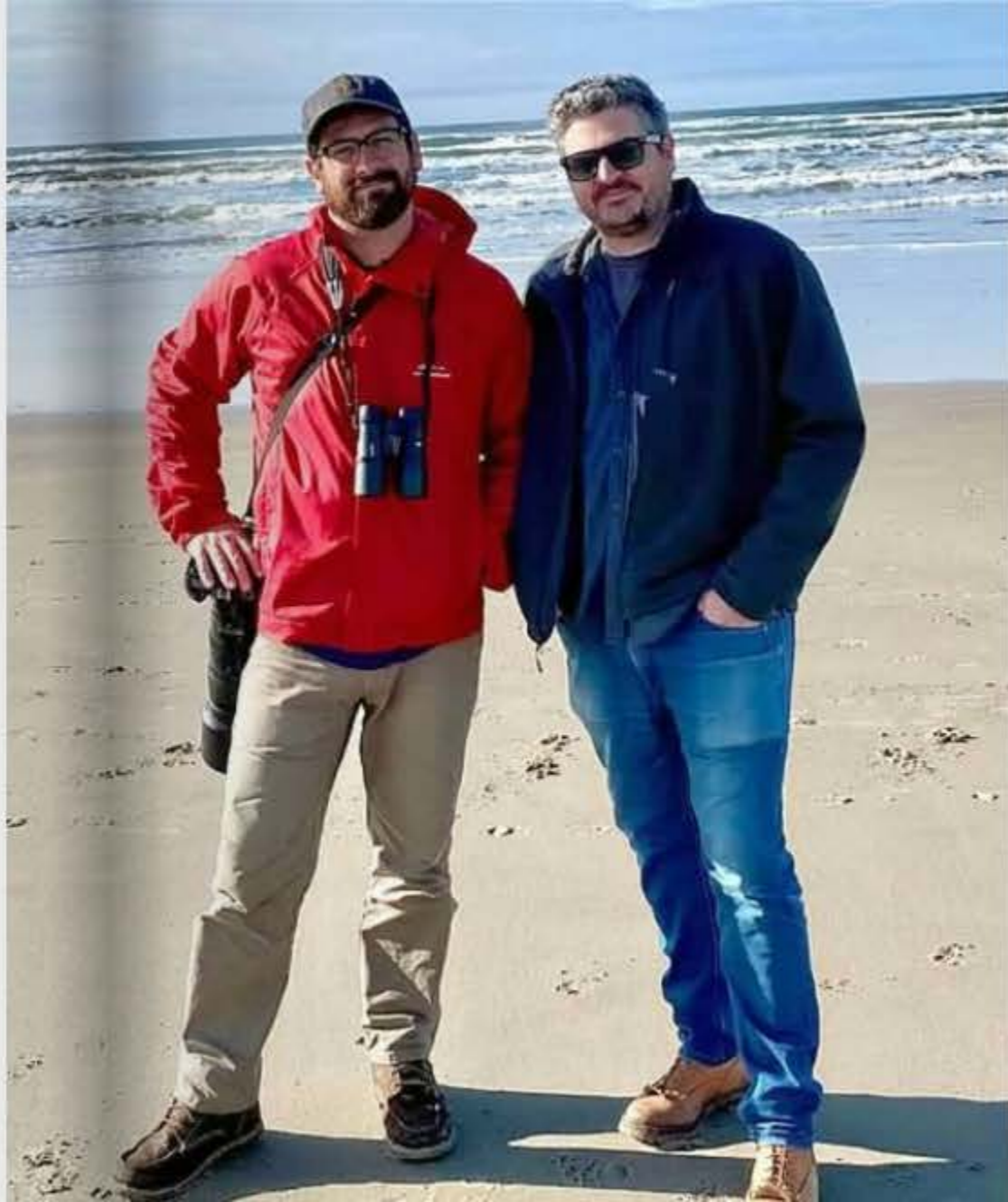
About Us



We have a lot in common but our personalities and interests are different and compliment each other. Family and friends are most important in our lives.



We both grew up in coastal towns in Massachusetts and went to college in Maine, but we met here in Portland, Oregon, in 2013. We lived together for several years in St Johns before buying our home about 25 miles northwest of Portland in Columbia County.



We are both hard working, fun loving people who are lucky to have found each other! Our dream is to become parents and grow our family through an open adoption.



Our Wedding



We got married in North Portland on April Fools' Day in 2017. Many of our friends and family members were able to be there to celebrate with us. We had a food cart make wood-fired pizzas, we served pies for dessert and had a DJ play records.

Fun and adventures

We love to spend time with friends and family going on walks, playing games, cooking and telling stories. We've been fortunate enough to travel around the Pacific Northwest, around the country and on a few trips abroad. We are often camping with friends in the summer and finding new places to explore on the weekends and during school vacations.



Winter walk in Spokane



Bog walk in Alaska



Rafting and camping the John Day River in Oregon



Boardgames with Drew's family



In Alaska with Tom's family



Space Needle with Drew's parents and Tom's sister



Summer cookout in Massachusetts

Meet Tom



Checking on the backyard bees

Works as a teacher at an elementary school (currently a mixed class of 3rd & 4th graders)

Spends free time birdwatching, taking photographs, kayaking, beekeeping, reading and gardening

Loves spending time outdoors, finding and photographing wildlife, camping, learning about nature, playing cribbage, eating pizza



Birding on a trip to Italy



Tom and his sister on a walk



Tom, Drew and Tom's parents

I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts and spent my childhood biking, swimming and fishing. Both of my parents have always been very supportive of my interests and encouraged me to try lots of different things. Even though I moved far from them, we visit with each other multiple times a year and are quite close. I've always been close with my older sister and she now lives in the Northwest too (in Seattle). We get to visit with each other often and meet up to go camping as much as possible.

Growing up I always liked outdoor activities, animals and nature, visual art, and reading. In high school I became a serious rock climber and fell in love with science. I went to college in Maine and studied philosophy and poetry. I worked on dairy and vegetable farms and was able to study abroad for a semester in India. After college, I served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar, and then moved to Oregon. I worked for non profits and school garden programs before going to grad school to become a teacher.

Since meeting Drew, I've picked up some new hobbies. I started birding, kayaking and keeping bees. His love and partnership has helped me figure out who I am and what I want to be. I am so excited for the next stage in our lives, and for us to become parents together. Open adoption appeals to us because it centers the child, it values openness and honesty, and it recognizes that families include anyone who cares deeply for one another.

Meet Drew



I grew up in a small town on the coast in Massachusetts. I have two brothers, one older, one younger. My parents raised us in a loving home full of books, music, friends, and family. My younger brother has a 13 year old son and my older brother and his wife have a baby on the way.

- works for a local nonprofit that builds equity using technology
- spends free time cooking, woodworking, playing games, electronics, gardening, thrifting
- loves having company, learning how to fix things, collecting vinyl records, cooking delicious food, trap shooting



Christmas 1988ish



Line cook, 2008



Pre-smartphone selfie, 2006



With my brothers, 2017

Growing up, I spent a lot of time with my good friends stomping around the woods, building forts and going on fake treasure hunts. We spent a ton of time at the beach throughout my childhood. I played soccer and spent a lot of time roller blading and playing street hockey.

I started working in food service as soon as I could get a job and learned a lot in the service industry over the years. As a young person, I was eager to earn money and be independent. I ended up working in many restaurants on school breaks and after I graduated college. I still love to cook and do so almost every day. I have a desk job now. While I miss working with my hands, I like that it gives me the resources and flexibility to travel and pursue my hobbies.

In 2006 I moved to Oregon from Maine, joining some friends I knew from college. I took an Amtrak across the country which was a great adventure for 24 year old me! My friends have since moved but I loved the Northwest and have stayed since then. I miss my family in the Northeast but we make a point to visit several times a year.



Drew's friends from childhood, 2021



Reenacting mountain goat attack, 2022

Our Home



We live at the end of a small street in a somewhat rural area, about 25 miles northwest of downtown Portland. We are minutes from a sizable town with everything you'd ever need. It's an easy drive to Portland and also easy to get to the coast from here. We have an acre of property and have filled it with fruit trees, native plants, flowerbeds, berry bushes and bee hives. We spend a lot of time at home, working in and enjoying the yard, reading by our woodstove, hosting friends for a meal or backyard hangout.



Friends & Family

For us, good friends are family and our time together is the most important. We visit with friends and family as often as possible and have several annual traditions that reunite family and friend groups from around the country. We are often back in Massachusetts for holidays and family events, and started some new traditions out here like annual camping trips with different friends.



Traditions

In some ways, we're creatures of habit. We have close friends who we have dinner with almost every Friday night. We have annual reunions with old friends that we would never miss. We have friends who we backpack with each summer. But we've enjoyed breaking tradition and spending a holiday in a new place or with different parts of our families. We're excited to start new traditions that revolve around a child and the important people in their extended families.



A vacation with Drew's parents, Tom's parents and Tom's sister



Friday night dinner with friends



An annual reunion of old friends



Hopes for our Child

We were both extremely fortunate to be raised by generous, loving and open-minded parents and are lucky to have siblings we can count on and actually like hanging out with. We hope to be the kinds of parents that provide a child with opportunities to express themselves and learn about the world and how to make it better. We want our child to grow up knowing they have a lot of people who care about them and want them to be happy.



Drew with our best friends' kid



With Tom's sister and her family



At the coast with friends

Open Adoption

We hope to become parents to a child that is raised knowing their whole story, knowing that their birth family and their adoptive family are all part of the same family, the same network of people who care for and support them no matter what. We're lucky enough to have extended support systems, loving and supportive biological families and a network of friends who have become family, and we want the same for our child.



Thanks for taking the time to learn about us!

