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[Americorps/USDA - Second Quarter Report - December 1, 1994 - March 31, 1995] [2]

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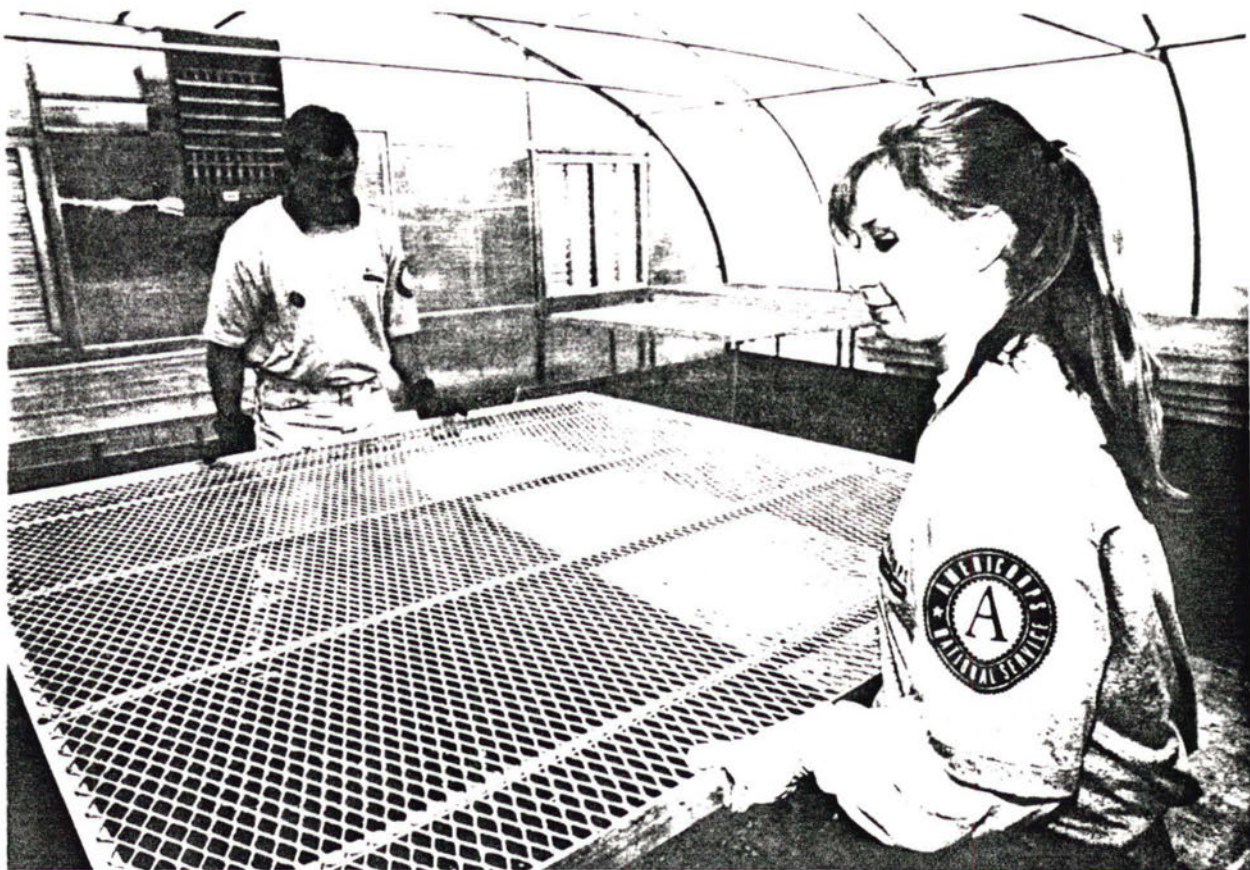
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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



Members in Acworth, Georgia build greenhouses which will be used to grow plants for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.



Selective pruning helps ensure high quality, knot free lumber for timber harvesting. Members hike up steep terrain to prune young Douglas Fir on the Hood Canal Ranger District, Olympic National Forest.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

William Booth
Founder

Lt. Colonel Donald Arnold
Divisional Commander

PAUL A. RADER
GENERAL



Harold D. Hinson
Territorial Commander

Major & Mrs. L.W. Morrison
Commanding Officers

Lieutenant & Mrs. James F. Dennis
Assistant Officers

The Salvation Army

FOUNDED IN 1865

20 N.E. FIRST AVENUE
P.O. BOX 575
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA 55903
PHONE (507) 288-3663
FAX (507) 281-8348

December 28, 1994

Janice Syverson
R R 2 Box 98
Twin Valley, MN 56584

Dear Janice:

I want to thank you for all your work during the 1995 Christmas Toy & Joy Shop. Your efforts made it a great success.

We hope that you will consider volunteering in this capacity again next year.

Please remember that there are many volunteer opportunities available throughout the year. Should you be interested in these opportunities, please contact our office.

Again, thank you for all your help!

Mrs. Lt. Sandra Dennis
Assistant Corps Officer

SJD/lmh

March 3, 1995

Director
Americorps
U.S. Department of Agriculture
AG BOX 1310
14th & Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20250-1310

Dear Sir or Madam:

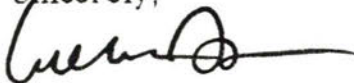
My wife and I have just attended an "open house" staged by leaders of the Americorps organization in Goldendale, Washington. The Greener Pastures Institute is in the process of building a new headquarters in Washington state.

We met some very dynamic, committed young people at the open house describing their myriad efforts to restore riparian habitat in Klickitat County and take on other needed community service projects.

I understand that political pressures may be brought to bear to disband this program which is obviously creating educational and training opportunities for young people while at the same time contributing to community beautification and development. It reminds me of the old VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program.

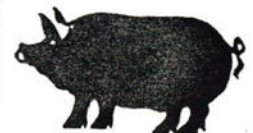
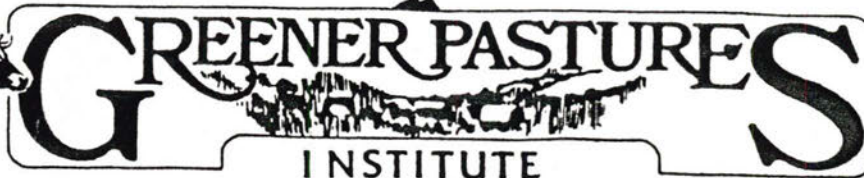
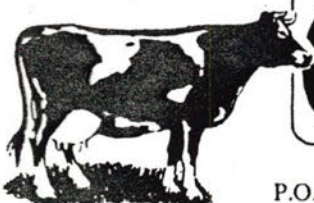
I hope you will pass this letter along to those who can positively influence continued funding of the Americorps program.

Sincerely,



William L. Seavey
Director

cc: Dave Kreft, Natural Resource & Conservation Service, Goldendale



P.O. BOX 2190, PAHRUMP, NV 89041-2190 • PHONE (702) 382-4847 / 1-800-688-6352

NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

208 West Coal
Gallup, New Mexico 87301-6306
(505) 722-4327
FAX (505) 722-9211

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March 23, 1995

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CONTROL DISTRICT

OTHER

ENTERPRISE DIVISION

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT SIX

Ms. Ana Gomez
Natural Resource Conservation Service
AmeriCorps Team USDA
504 North Main
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

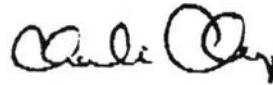
Dear Ana:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your superb assistance with the Aztec and Bloomfield business survey. Without your dedicated effort we would have been unable to meet the stringent deadline set forth for the completion of the project.

I've spoken with Patty Lundstrom and Jennifer Dowling at the COG, and they were equally impressed by the timeliness in which you were able to conduct all of the surveys. Though the analysis is currently in its early stages, the results appear to be promising and we anticipate gaining a great deal of insight.

Thank you again for your help and we will forward a copy of the final report to your office.

Sincerely,



Charlie Chavez
Chairman

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

xc: Mayor Mike Padilla, City of Aztec
Mayor Art Kittell, City of Bloomfield
Debi Lee, Manager City of Aztec
Al Keller, Manager City of Bloomfield



METRO

March 24, 1995

Senator Mark Hatfield
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatfield:

Attached is a resolution adopted March 23, 1995, by the Metro Council, in support of continued funding for the AmeriCorps program. We have found AmeriCorps to be a valuable tool to provide valuable work experience for urban youth and college students, while helping local projects aimed at cleaning and restoring the environment.

We have local experience with AmeriCorps, through an EnviroCorps project employing 20 young people working to restore parts of the Columbia Slough and other fragile natural environments. This program is already producing results from a committed group of workers.

We hope that you will give strong consideration to continuing funding for AmeriCorps on a national level, to continue producing benefits, like those already accruing to the Portland metropolitan region, in communities throughout the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth McFarland
Presiding Officer

Mike Burton
Executive Officer

Ed Washington
Metro Councilor

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING
IS A COMPLETE AND EXACT COPY OF THE
ORIGINAL THEREOF.

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

Guthy Rao
Clerk of the Metro Council

FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPRESSING
SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL
AMERICORPS PROGRAM

) RESOLUTION NO. 95-2119
)
) Introduced by Councilor
) Ed Washington

WHEREAS, The AmeriCorps program was established in June, 1994 to provide opportunities for young men and women across the country to work on conservation projects while earning a small stipend and college tuition credit; and

WHEREAS, The AmeriCorps program also provides the opportunity for its participants to gain valuable work experience while contributing to their community; and

WHEREAS, Metro is a participant in a local EnviroCorps program that is affiliated with AmeriCorps, which provides work experience for up to 20 young adults in helping to restore the Columbia Slough area adjacent to the former Whitaker School; and

WHEREAS, The local EnviroCorps program provides an excellent opportunity for inner-city youth to serve their community by cleaning and restoring this part of the Columbia Slough, and serve their own interests by doing productive work; and

WHEREAS, The EnviroCorps program is an excellent example of federal and local cooperation to achieve the multiple goals of assistance to our young people and environmental restoration; and

WHEREAS, Reduction or elimination of funding for the program at the federal level will deprive residents of the Metro area and across the country from realizing the multiple benefits of this most worthwhile program; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Metro Council supports continued funding for the AmeriCorps program by the U.S. Congress, and directs that this resolution and a cover letter be sent to all members of Oregon's and southwest Washington's congressional delegations.

ADOPTED this 23 day of March, 1995.

J. Ruth McFarland
J. Ruth McFarland, Presiding Officer



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Wilbur L. Cave

District No. 91 - Allendale-Bamberg-

Barnwell Counties

P. O. Box 574

Allendale, SC 29810

404-A Blatt Building

Columbia, SC 29211

Tel. (803) 734-2829

Res. (803) 584-4544

1-800-281-7783

Committee:

Medical, Military, Public
and Municipal Affairs

March 30, 1995

Ms Jacqueline Porter

205 Izlar Street

Blackville, SC 29817

Dear Ms Porter:

I would like to commend you on your work for the Blackville community as an Americorp volunteer. After reading your letter concerning services for HIV positive citizens, I contacted Ms Debra Dicks of the Barnwell City Health Department. The following is a list of services Ms Dicks indicated are available for citizens of the area:

- Pre-test Counseling regarding what HIV is;
- Counseling on being HIV positive once a test is positive, including counseling about health factors and lifestyle behaviors;
- Counseling on the AIDS disease once a second lab test indicates HIV positive status;
- Questioning on whether the client has a private medical provider and/or health insurance;
- A client is then referred to an HIV case manager who is in the district. Case management is based on individual need and is funded by Ryan White funding that just recently became available;
- Help in filling out disability of Medicaid form;
- Referrals to other departments, such as the South Carolina Mental Health Department, which also provide services for HIV positive individuals; the HIV Consortium; and given information on private counseling groups (located in Aiken, South Carolina);
- At the choice of the client, follow up lab work regarding T-4 counts can be performed by the Health Department. This work is based on availability.

Page Two
March 30, 1995

In addition, the department now has contracts with physicians on an as-needed basis for those clients who do not have a private source medical provider. Some medication can be obtained from the Consortium, Ryan White funds, and from drug companies. The Health Department aids in filling out the necessary applications for this medication.

From this information, it appears that the problem for the county is not the lack of services, but is in convincing citizens to come forward and utilize these services. Your position as an Americorp volunteer to link resources and people is ideal for this challenge.

It is my pleasure to help you in any way I can in confronting this problem. I hope you will let me know if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wilbur L. Cave".

Wilbur L. Cave

WLC/mr
18V-4,5

CITY OF MARVELL
P.O. BOX 837
MARVELL, AR 72366

April 6, 1995

Mr. Joel Berg
AmeriCorps Director
USDA
Room 538-A
14th & Ind., SE
Washington, DC 20256

Dear Mr. Berg,

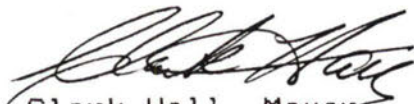
The City of Marvell would like to express their sincere appreciation for the work that the AmeriCorps volunteers have provided in our rural community. The workers have provided services that our city would not have been otherwise able to afford or provide.

Currently Jana Coleman is working with the City of Marvell filling out grant applications, organizing community volunteer committees, and assisting with the planning and installation of handicap ramps in our downtown area. She is a major force in getting the City prepared for new projects to be implemented, such as Neighborhood Watch, a new county library in our community, and an updated City map. In conjunction with the AmeriCorps participant and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the City of Marvell has applied for a Floodplain Management Study. With the AmeriCorps volunteers assistance this project, which is greatly needed in our area, is closer to becoming a reality for the City of Marvell.

Other individuals and groups are also being helped by additional AmeriCorps volunteers in our area. Vivian Jones is teaching Staff Development at the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center located in Marvell. Harrison Locke is assisting an area farmer in vegetable production.

In closing, the AmeriCorps volunteers are an asset to not only our town but to the entire Delta region. It is with great respect that I request the continuance of this program.

Sincerely,


Clark Hall, Mayor

CITY OF MARVELL

P. O. BOX 837

MARVELL, ARKANSAS 72366

CITY HALL (501) 829-2573
WATER DEPT. (501) 829-2573
POLICE DEPT. (501) 829-3271

March 15, 1995

Ms. Jana Coleman
Americor Program
Room 217
617 Walnut St
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Jana,

As mayor of Marvell, I just wanted to say thank you for all the long hours you put in on our recent Cops-More grant. The job you did was outstanding. The City was indeed lucky to have your co-operation.

Please keep us informed on the Flood Plain Management Study. We are in desperate need of this service. If there is anything further that I need to do please let me know.

If there is any way possible I would like to have you in Marvell on a regular basis. I feel that with your help, together we could tackle all of our problems.

Again, thanks for a great job. If there is anything I can do to help you in other programs just let me know. I am looking forward to working with you in the near future.

Thanks again


Clark Hall, Mayor

HOLLY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Everybody is Somebody"

P.O. BOX 489

HOLLY GROVE, ARKANSAS 72069

BOARD MEMBERS

Patilla Tyler, President
Bobby Doss, Vice President
Farmon Hardaway, Secretary
Robert Artis
Moses Burton

PAMELA BROWN
Superintendent
462-3397

HARRY MAYO
High School Principal
462-8856

CORNELIUS BARNES
Elementary Principal
462-3910

March 17, 1995

Mr. Bruce Leggitt
Central Arkansas RC&D
NBA Building-Suite 205
4000 McCain Blvd.
North Little Rock, AR 72116

Dear Mr. Leggitt:

Renee Spurlock, Audria Coleman, and Jana Coleman, members of the AmeriCorps-USDA, are very active in and concerned about our community.

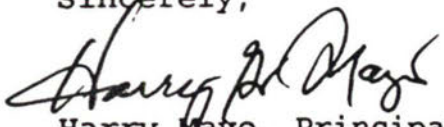
They serve on various projects whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the Holly Grove community. Two good examples are the Crime and Drug Committee and the Education Development Committee. One goal of the Crime and Drug Committee is to organize Neighborhood Watch Programs throughout the city.

As members of the City Beautification, Recreation and Tourism Committee, Ms. Spurlock and Ms. J. Coleman have the task of implementing ideas that will encourage tourism in our city thereby improving our sagging economy.

Vivian Jones is a member of the AmeriCorps-USDA Program who is working on the DAD (Dealing With Adolescent Development) Program. The goals of the DAD Program are to bring job opportunities to the city and to provide the African American youth of the city with programs to help them deal with problems they currently face. As a member of the DAD program, I plan to personally work with about thirty of these at risk African American males.

I have observed both concern and dedication to purpose in Ms. A. Coleman, Ms. J. Coleman, Mrs. Jones and Ms. Spurlock. As a fellow member serving on several committees with them, I have seen their devotion and hard work.

Sincerely,



Harry Mayo, Principal
Holly Grove High School

Mayor
LULA TYLER

City of Holly Grove

Aldermen
MOSES BURTON
PATRICIA CHASTAIN
DON DEARING
J. T. RICHARDSON

P. O. BOX 430
HOLLY GROVE, AR 72069
501-462-3422

March 22, 1995

Paula Cole Jones
Director, Americorp
USDA-NRCS

Dear Ms. Jones:

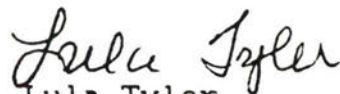
The City of Holly Grove is very proud to have Americorps workers in our town. They have shown a great interest in improving the living conditions for all of our citizens. They have shown much enthusiasm and motivation in working with our community.

The City has undertaken several projects and the Americorp workers have been very instrumental in keeping the projects out front. They have been very active in the FEMA buy-out and also in reactivating committees that will determine the growth of the City. Also they have been very beneficial in locating funding sources for our projects.

All of the citizens, especially the senior citizens, look forward to reading The Holly Grove Update that is prepared monthly by the Americorps workers. This effort has also brought the City closer together.

It is a pleasure to have Americorps workers in our community. They have been most helpful and cooperative in our endeavor to motivate our residents to become an active part of our community. I hope to see the Americorps program extended here in Holly Grove for at least another year to allow for the completion of the projects that have already been started and to further educate the public in order that the programs that have been initiated by the Americorps workers will continue to be successful.

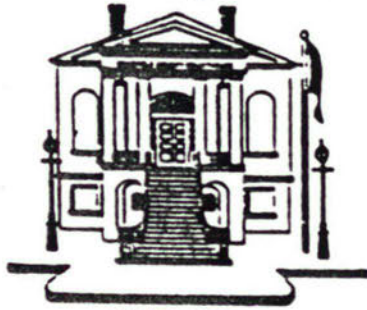
Respectfully,


Lula Tyler
Mayor

Edgefield County Tax Collector

Handwritten signatures and initials in the top right corner.

Linda B. Priest
Tax Collector



SUITE 203
129 Courthouse Square
EDGEFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA 29824
(803) 637-4068

FEBRUARY 16, 1995

MR. MARK BERKLAND
STATE CONSERVATIONIST
USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

DEAR MR. BERKLAND:

THIS LETTER IS TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE AMERICORP TEAM IN EDGEFIELD COUNTY. THE AMERICORP VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR COUNTY CONSISTED OF CHAD WESTON, ANGI PAULUS, CHRIS BEVER, SHERRELL STEVENS AND SUSAN MILLER.

THEY DID A ROAD INVENTORY TO HELP US IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 911 SYSTEM HERE. THERE HAD BEEN NO ACCURATE RECORDS UPDATED AS TO ALL ROADS AND ROAD NAMES IN OUR COUNTY IN A LONG TIME. DUE TO THEIR EFFORTS, WE NOW ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE NAMING OF ROADS.

OUR TEAM HAD A VERY PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZED OUTLOOK ON THE PROJECT. THERE WAS NEVER A DAY THAT WENT BY THAT THEY WERE NOT A BLESSING TO US.

PERSONALLY, I CAME TO KNOW EACH PERSONALITY TRAIT AND I HOPE WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A LASTING FRIENDSHIP BECAUSE THEY ARE VERY DEAR FRIENDS TO ME.

IN APPRECIATION FOR EDGEFIELD COUNTY AND THE 911 PROGRAM, I SAY "THANK YOU".

SINCERLY,

Linda

LINDA PRIEST AND MIKE CASEY
E911 COORDINATORS FOR
EDGEFIELD COUNTY

CC: MS. MARTHA RICH, ACTING CO. ADM.
MR. JIM WILSON, AMERICORP'S COORDINATOR
MR. CHAD WESTON, AMERICORP VOLUNTEER

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



February 9, 1995
205 Yosemite Drive
Greenwood, S.C. 29649

James A. Timmerman, Jr., Ph.D.
Director
W. Brock Conrad, Jr.
Deputy Director for
Wildlife and
Freshwater Fisheries

Mr. Mark Berkland, State Conservationist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
1850 Assembly Street
Strom Thurmond Building, Room 950
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Berkland:

I would like to thank you and your staff, especially Jim Wilson, for the assistance provided to Wildlife Management Region II, S. C. Department of Natural Resources, by the Greenwood 1 AmeriCorps team. The team was eager and enthusiastic and, other than initial instructions, went about their tasks with little need for supervision by my staff. They posted about 100 miles of Wildlife Management Area boundary with about 900 signs, coded over 3,000 deer data cards, and used GPS technology to obtain location and size information on 30 of our permanent wildlife openings. Along with our personnel they helped in control burning about 300 acres to improve wildlife habitat and erected 24 new wood duck nest boxes.

The members of team, Chris Bever, Angi Paulus, Susan Miller, Sherell Stevens and Chad Weston, showed considerable interest in and appreciation for the wildlife resources of the area, even though their career choices lay in other fields. Hopefully their brief exposure will help them be more aware of the need for natural resource conservation as they pursue their careers.

I am hopeful that we will be able to obtain the assistance of another AmeriCorps team either later this year or in future years. Their help will make a significant impact on our ability to more effectively management the wildlife resources of the area.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Gooding
Regional Wildlife Biologist

cc: Tim Ivey

SHERIFF
COUNTY



O. DUDLEY RUSHTON

TELEPHONE: (803) 445-2112
(803) 445-2116

205 E. CHURCH ST. • SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

January 20, 1995

Mark W. Berkland
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
135 Assembly Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Sir;

As Sheriff of Saluda County and being in charge of the Jail and Dispatch Services for the Sheriff's Office, The Saluda Police Department, The Ridge Spring Police Department, Nine(9) Fire Departments in the county along with having to communicate with State Highway Patrol through the Greenwood District Office as well The Department of Social Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the local Department of Probation-Parole and Pardon Services, and local Wildlife officers through Edgefield Wildlife, no one realize the importance of more than I.

We have found that there is a lot of preliminary work to be done before 911 can become a reality. This is not only time consuming, but also expensive. This created a problem, as I was not sure where this money or the qualified personnel would come from to undertake such an enormous and tedious task.

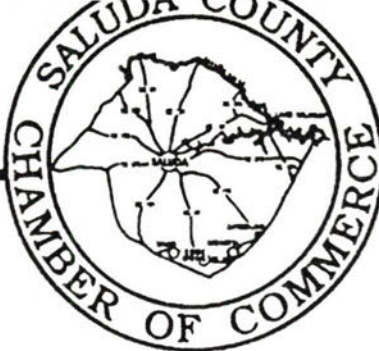
Fortunately however, I was informed by our Chamber of Commerce of an organization called AmeriCorps and the services they offer. This has been a blessing to us. The job these young people have done has been very professional. We are not only very pleased with their work but also impressed with the way it was done.

To you Sir and AmeriCorps we are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Dudley Rushton
Sheriff Dudley Rushton

DDR/mrw



February 6, 1995

Mark W. Berkland
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1835 Assembly Street
Columbia SC 29201

Dear Mr. Berkland:

On behalf of the Saluda County Chamber of Commerce, I wish to express my thanks to the NRCS for their assistance in allowing us the opportunity to witness firsthand the services of AmeriCorps volunteers in our community from January 3 through January 25th.

The Newberry I team; Diggs Hill, Abbe Gage, Karen Kinard, Madeline Cislo, and John E. Morgan III exhibited sunny attitudes, abundant energy, and a willingness to work that will be hard to match by anyone else. Their work was so extremely significant to our project here for the implementation of the "911" program.

The team divided the county, researched information and gathered data, physically visited and inventoried every road in the county and prepared maps showing the location of homes, hazards, roads, etc. They developed spread sheet information identifying five fire districts in the county and computerized all the data. The information will now be assembled into revised maps of the county which will be distributed to the emergency and law enforcement personnel. The AmeriCorps Newberry I team touched the lives of every resident of Saluda County with their work in a very short time, and we truly appreciate having met and known them all.

We do look forward to seeing our friends again soon. Please extend our thanks for an excellent job! A photo is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Carol S. Williams
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

c Mr. Dan Guy
District Conservationist, Saluda County

December 9, 1994

Mr. Mark Berkland
State Conservationist
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
1835 Assembly Street, Room 950
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Berkland,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the work performed by the Americorps Greenwood No. Two Volunteer team. Initially, I had submitted a proposal for the Americorps volunteers to code SCDHEC's water classifications on hardcopy maps of the state's stream system for a nine county area. I had anticipated this work effort would take approximately three to four weeks. Work was to begin October 17, 1994, with a completion date of November 17th. The team finished the initial task within a week's time and continued to complete the water classification coding for the entire state. The process incorporated a rigorous quality assurance/quality control program that the volunteers adhered to diligently. In addition, the team labeled and sleeved 2,000 photographs associated with our National Aerial Photography Program, indexed and inventoried hundreds of topographic maps, keyed in historic data on our state's water classifications and accompanied staff field biologists on sampling expeditions.

For each team member their week consisted of traveling one day to the SCDHEC's Central office in Columbia to key in data and assist in GIS coding, one day travel to meet with the field biologist for sampling, two days in the Greenwood Office for stream map coding and on their 'Free Friday' cleared and developed nature trails and erected fences at an Earth Education Resource Center in Laurens. Days began at 8:00 sharp and whether they were traveling from Augusta, Laurens or Greenwood, all volunteers arrived at the various work locations promptly. The Americorps volunteers were always professional and enthusiastic about their work, maintaining a wonderful sense of humor even when tasks became difficult or tedious. Each volunteer was a joy to work with and I cannot overstate how appreciative SCDHEC is of being the recipient of the work produced from the volunteer's effort. I believe the Americorps Program has established a wonderful beginning with this initial effort from the Greenwood Office and I wish the program continued success with future endeavors. You can be proud of the work the Greenwood No. Two team has accomplished. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to have been associated with the Americorps Program.

Sincerely yours,


Jeannie Pickett Eidson
Environmental Quality Manager

cc: Wally Turner, USDA-NRCS
Jim Wilson, USDA, Americorps Coordinator
Russ Sherer, SCDHEC WPC Bureau Chief
Glenn Trofatter, SCDHEC WPC Division Director
Dave Payne, SCDHEC WPC Section Manager
Americorps Greenwood No. Two Team



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Farmington District Office
1235 La Plata Highway
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

IN REPLY REFER TO:
6700 (07427)

APR 5 1995

Mr. Eric Aune
Americorps
504 N. Main
Aztec, NM 87410

Dear Eric:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the assistance you provided for the habitat improvement projects being implemented by the Farmington District. Your voluntary support for these projects is truly appreciated and we applaud your commitment to improvement of natural resources on public lands. Like many offices in the Bureau, Farmington volunteers are an integral component for on-the-ground activities and your contributions are, in many cases, a key component to successful completion of the tree planting projects.

Again, thanks for volunteering the time to help.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Farrell

Assistant District Manager for Resources

*Northwest New Mexico
Council of Governments*

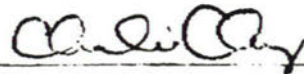
*Certificate of Appreciation
Presented to*

Ms. Ana Gomez

*for Outstanding Support and
Dedicated Service*

This 23rd day of March of 19 95

Charlie Chavez



Chairman of the Board

Patricia Lundstrom

Executive Director



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER OUTREACH MATERIALS

A SLOUGH OF ACTIVITY

E N V I R O C O R P S

An environmentally focused group participating in President Clinton's AmeriCorps program

This is our first Newsletter. Quite a bit is happening on both the full and part-time crews, so here is a brief description of a few major projects we are working on during our year of service in the AmeriCorps program.

•Part-time crew•

Team leader Tamra Cochran is involved in all the activities which the part-time crews participate in.

•Roosevelt team•

Beth Polidoro, Jonathan Mugglestone, Cassandra Rutherford, and Katherine Demsky, the part-timers involved with Ms. Dunster's class at Roosevelt High School, drafted a proposal to include her students in an upcoming event at Smith and Bybee Lakes on April 29th.

The Roosevelt students and EnviroCorps members have gathered cuttings from plant species found in the wetlands around the lakes and are rooting them in a greenhouse adjoining Ms. Dunster's classroom. On April 29th, at the Smith and Bybee Lakes Day, the students will demonstrate how to transplant the newly rooted cuttings and then assist anyone who wishes to join in and help plant them.

As the project progresses Ms. Dunster and the EnviroCorps crew will teach the students something about the ecology of the Columbia Slough watershed system in which the cuttings they have rooted are to be planted. It should be a rewarding experience for all concerned.

•Alberta Park team•

The other group of part-time members; Alexandria Le, Grayson Hashida, Robert Smith Jr., Richard Melo, and Avis Dunas have drafted a proposal for a multifaceted project in Alberta Park, located in the Vernon neighborhood of Northeast Portland.

The park is an ideal spot to design naturescaped areas in which native plants are grown to attract birds and other species of small animals. It is also a good location to develop a community garden, which will afford students from nearby Vernon Elementary School a safe place to grow flowers and vegetables.

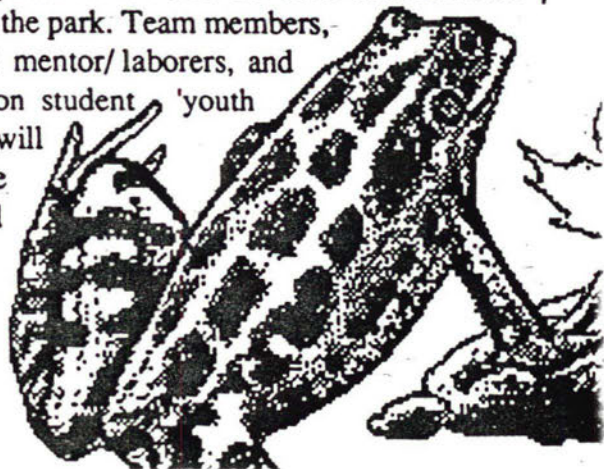


There is a possibility that building an 'urban tree house' can be incorporated into the plans as well. The tree house will serve as an outdoor classroom where community residents can participate in educational and cultural workshops on a wide variety of topics, geared towards experiential learning.

The EnviroCorps team is coordinating efforts with Mr. Yamashida from the Parks Department to discuss and refine plans for the proposed project. In early March a public forum was held at Vernon Elementary School giving people interested in the park an opportunity to voice ideas and concerns they held about any proposed changes in, or additions to, their neighborhood greenspace.

People living nearby definitely want more lights installed. We will provide the Parks Department with information about the expressed needs of the community in the hopes of gaining the city's support to make necessary improvements in the park a reality.

When we arrive at a mutually agreed upon course of action students from Jefferson High School will join EnviroCorps team members for a six week summer session in the park. Team members, serving as mentor/ laborers, and the Jefferson student 'youth partners', will provide the brains and the brawn needed to get the job done.



The full-time crew, Brian Elliot, Cheng Cha, Joshua Burke, Joshua Feigin, Kathryn Heriza, Karen Shay, Terri Tufts, and team leader Michael Burch have been busy too.

Their main focus recently has been the formulation of a plan for a restoration project on property owned by Halton Tractor Company along the Columbia Slough in North Portland.

The initial presentation to the Halton Company owner Chuck Harrison and his staff was met with considerable enthusiasm, both for the professional manner in which the crew members accomplished their work and for the impressive plans they drew up for the site.

The project will take months to work its way through the various studies and permit requirements before final approval is given and actual work on the site can begin. The EnviroCorps team next year may inherit this project, but the groundwork is well under way.

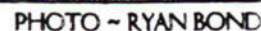
Everyone usually works together on Saturdays when it's possible. Often the part-time crew joins in on a project which the full-timers have been working on for several days or more.

Removing giant sword ferns from Oxbow Park along the Sandy River was such a project. Plans to create an Elk meadow within the park requires the clearing of several acres. Trees, shrubs, and numerous old ferns

•Fairview Creek Headwaters•

Another planting project that has been underway for a few months is out at the headwaters of Fairview Creek. The full-timers, and occasionally the part-timers, have been planting native species in an area which was recently re-contoured to more closely resemble the natural meanderings of an intact waterway. There are more scheduled work days along the creek in the next few months.

These are a series of ponds constructed to contain toxic run-off from a future industrial park. Water levels in the ponds can be controlled as water is slowly released back into the Columbia Slough Watershed System. Some of the toxins can be recovered before release of the water and any remaining waste will filter through the containment ponds before entering the natural wetlands. Both crews have been involved in planting native trees and shrubs around the ponds. (continued on next page column 2)



ENVIROCORPS'

internship program commenced after the New Year, providing team members the opportunity to work individually with various Portland environmental and educational agencies.

Though designed primarily to enhance the diversity of the team members' education, which they in turn later apply to future EnviroCorps projects, the internship program also establishes working relationships with the Portland-area environmental community.

Internships include working with such groups as; The Nature Conservancy, The Wetlands Conservancy, The Audubon Society, and The Oregon Natural Resources Council. Other internships include taking environmentally minded classes and working with young students in the classroom.

True to the design of many of the EnviroCorps projects during the team's first year, the internship program provides team members ample educational opportunities while performing service activities.

The internship program continues through June.

RICHARD MELO



PHOTO - RYAN BOND

• **Whitaker Ponds** • is a large project that the EnviroCorps teams are working on in stages. The entire plan for the area will take years to fully implement, but our crews have worked steadily to plant indigenous grasses, trees, and shrubs around sections of the ponds. We plan to organize more work parties and a summer project which will focus on restoration efforts in the area.

• **AmeriCorps Video Project** •

Several of the EnviroCorps members are involved in documenting the myriad projects that other AmeriCorps teams around Oregon are working on.

We are interested in meeting the people from the diverse programs throughout the state and recording their stories. The experiences which they share with us about their year of service will be added to an ever growing testimonial that we hope will show the value of these national service projects all around the country.

The list of projects in which we are involved goes on and on. We have worked in cooperation with many other groups and each of us fortunate enough to have been here at the beginning of this 'new' idea for service will come away with something worthwhile to ponder.

Thanks to our management team for their often behind the scenes support. You know who you are.

There are many events coming up in the next few months. To find out additional information about these events, the AmeriCorps program, or other questions you may have please write or give us a call. Thanks for your interest.

ENVIROCORPS



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
2115 SE Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97214
503/725-5582 FAX 503/231-2271



USDA/AmeriCorps

Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, KS 67401-4642
(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

April 17, 1995

READY- AIM- FIRE

CONFLICT and RESOLUTION
The Problem at GLEN ELDER



The AmeriCorps crew at Glen Elder is beginning to see the results of its work. The team has worked on and off at the target range that was demolished during the flood of 1993. The latest effort was setting limestone posts around the parking area. It was a day at the target range that spurred AmeriCorps Member Judy Long to draw a cartoon depicting how well the crew "works together" and handles "Conflict and Resolution." According to Long, "One of the crew was especially ornery one day. Although the crew didn't actually tie the member to the post with barbed wire, it was mentioned - all in a spirit of fun."

The cartoon was presented to the Regional Facilitator at the training session for all members on Conflict and Resolution on March 14.

While the team at Glen Elder has not "fired" on any of its members, it has, like other environment teams, worked with fire. They have been doing a lot of burning in the wildlife areas.

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE WOULD BE PROUD OF THE GOOD NEWS FROM EMPORIA

The wetland team of Neil Bass and Jim Peterson have completed remote sensing and the riparian inventory in Lyon and Morris counties. In addition to their daily community service, the team has been active with students and senior citizens.

Members have been assisting with the OWLS (outdoor wildlife learning station) project at Emporia Middle School. Member Jim Peterson says, "This exciting program was initiated by 8th grade science teacher Janet Hesterman and utilizes grant monies provided by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDW&P) and matched by Diddle-Webb Press of Emporia." The funds are being used to purchase hundreds of trees and shrubs that will eventually form a 1300 ft., six-row windbreak north of the school building. The planting will provide necessary habitat and food for a variety of wildlife and will be used as a living classroom by middle school science classes, in addition to beautifying school grounds. AmeriCorps biologists Neil Bass and Jim Peterson contributed technical and practical knowledge that will ensure the success of this worthwhile project. Member Neil Bass said, "The team plus representatives from the NRCS field office, KDW&P, Diddle-Webb Press, and middle school volunteers were present on March 31 to assist with planting. McDonald's of Emporia contributed refreshments."

The Emporia team has also placed wild bird feeders (compliments of KDW&P) at local retirement centers and schools.

PERRY TEAM REPRESENTS A GOOD MIX

Nathan Sexton grew up in Southeast Kansas and currently lives in Emporia. He graduated from Emporia State University with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Biology and enjoys sports and outdoor activities. Through the AmeriCorps program he hopes to gain experience in a wildlife related agency, with a goal of being employed in wildlife management or conservation. He has two aquariums filled with fish.

Rick Linneman grew up in Smith Center, Kansas, and currently lives in Topeka. He is the Corps' lone Kansas University graduate with a bachelor's degree in geography. Rich enjoys hunting and has adopted a dog named "Meri-Corps" who he is attempting to train to hunt. Rick is also a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Greg Wahlmeier, from Mayetta, joined AmeriCorps for the educational benefits and for the experience. He is currently attending community college night classes. Greg is enrolled in the Kansas State University (KSU) Professional Pilot program. In addition to his AmeriCorps service, he serves as a crew chief for the Kansas Army National Guard on a UH-1 Huey helicopter, and is awaiting a slot for Warrant Officer/Flight School. Greg has been a pilot since age 17 and he too enjoys hunting and fishing.

T.J. Wahlmeier, also from Mayetta, like brother Greg joined AmeriCorps for the educational benefits and for the experience. He is currently on active duty with the Kansas Army National Guard, and will return in July to finish his tour with AmeriCorps. T.J. is training as a crew chief in the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, and plans on attending Office Candidate flight school in the future. T.J. received his private pilots license in 1994.

Greg says, "One nice thing about our team is that we all come from different areas, and have separate views on the situations we encounter. These differences also make for some interesting conversation. Each one of us has a speciality that educates the others and adds to our ability to 'GET THINGS DONE.' Nathan is a wealth of information on wildlife and teaches us something about it every day. T.J. is the one who pushes us to 'get things done,' and seems to have a million different ways to do everything. Rick is an excellent time manager and keeps us on track during the day so that we can get as much done as we can." Rick says, "Greg can fix anything he can get his hands on, broke or not."

The team is involved in a number of different park projects ranging from restoration and maintenance of flood damaged facilities, to the building of wildlife habitat and controlled burns. Greg says, "We spend a good portion of the week interacting with the public in one way or another. It may be in the form of giving informative presentations to local boy scout troops, working with local schools, talking with visitors to the lake, or in just talking about what is new during our daily stop at Jim's Station, while eating peanuts and sipping sodas."

Greg says, "We all agree that AmeriCorps is an enjoyable experience, and we are pleased that we were given the opportunity to participate in the program. Being given the trust and opportunity to be involved in the decision making process enhances the learning experience and builds self-esteem and confidence, therefore making us better people."

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Thanks to those of you who will participate in the Celebration of Community Service in Topeka on April 19. Meeting and working with non-USDA AmeriCorps Members from across the state will be a good experience.

Arlen Flax and Cody Lind will represent you in the "Celebration of Service" in Kansas City, Kansas, on April 25.

WETLANDS TEAMS HAVE NEW DIRECTION

On April 6, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will make agriculture wetlands delineations and certifications only upon request until the Congress completes action on the 1995 farm bill and the National Academy of Science completes work on a wetlands study.

"Current wetlands determinations by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are still valid," said Jim Lyons, under secretary for natural resources and environment. "Any new delineations also will be valid. What we're saying is that we are not going to make delineations in advance until we and Congress have a chance to review and, if appropriate, revise current policy."

What will the wetlands teams now focus on? Kansas AmeriCorps Project Director Larry Miles says, "During the week of April 24 we are going to get together with NRCS principal staff and Area Conservationists to determine the new focus of the teams. The emphasis will continue to be wetland and riparian related."

PROPOSED 1995/1996 AMERICORPS PROJECTS

Kansas AmeriCorps/USDA Larry Miles says, "We are at this time proposing that the Parks and Wildlife teams be renewed for 1995/1996. Three other projects have been proposed: Aquatic Habitat & Riparian Restoration, Shawnee County, 5 members; State Park Restoration, Crawford County, 5 members; and Big Creek Bank Stabilization & Riparian Improvement, Hays, 2 full time and 16 part time members."

DID YOU KNOW?

The family of Hays team member Tracy Beech, wife Kim, and son Brenden, have family cat, and a pet ferret. Kevin Feleay will married to Angela Schirer on April 22. Craig Curtis, also of the Hays team, is to be married in June 17 to Anita Lessor. Audrey and Ryan Tompkin (a member of the Manhattan team) have a 7 month old daughter named Leigh.

NEWSLETTER GAFFS

"Fur trees?" Several of our AmeriCorps biologists and riparian specialist have assured me that Kansas does not have "Fur" trees.



And, "Kneel"ing to someone, is not something our Rugged Individualist "Neil" Bass would do.

Common Ground

The RECD AmeriCorps Newsletter

AmeriCorps, January 1995, Volume I, Issue 1

Inside This Issue:

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- Get Yourself Connected: BBSmania
- Participant Profile: Michele Humfleet



AmeriCorps members with Dayton Watkins, Louis Elliott (far left and left), Thomas Fern, and Michael Dunn (far right and right).

Administrators Meet with AmeriCorps Members

By: Laura Duncan

AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America--to make people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps Member. And I'm going to get things done.

On November 28, 1994, AmeriCorps participants met with Michael Dunn, Acting Administrator of Rural Housing Community and Development Services, and Dayton Watkins, Acting Administrator of Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service, after they spoke at the Kentucky RECD state conference. Dunn and Watkins talked to AmeriCorps members about the role of AmeriCorps and the services that AmeriCorps members may provide in their communities. Watkins inquired about the communities each served in. Please see "Administrators", p2

ADMINISTRATORS (cont.)

He stressed the importance of community involvement to the members and challenged participants to demonstrate, through their efforts, the vital role of AmeriCorps in community life.



Happy New Year

Getting The Job Done

By: Rebecca Estep

Getting the job done—that is the goal of the AmeriCorps program. It's in our pledge. It is our motto. I joined the AmeriCorps program for many reasons, not the least of which was the opportunity to make a difference in the community—to get the job done.

It's not been easy. I

have had to face many obstacles along the way, such as growing into a new job; learning all the ins and outs of a set of government regulations which sometimes seem to make little or no sense and which at times appear to hinder more than help; dealing with lack of funds, space and equipment; and adjusting to the awkward feeling of taking one step forward, two steps back. Even worse is the feeling that for every person we can help, there are ten other people that need our help.

The area to which I've been assigned is one of appalling poverty, joblessness, and other conditions that one would associate with a so-called "third world" country. While it's a joy to help one person improve their standard of living, that joy dissipates very rapidly when returning to either the office, or home, and driving past even more dwellings that are not fit for animals to live in. Even worse is when you're trying to alleviate the problem (and it seems the more energy you put into your work, the more it grows in intensity), that's when you discover that you're one person very quickly.

So, what do we do? Do we rejoice with the ones we've helped? Or dwell on those who still need help? Do we say that the glass is half full or half empty? I believe that doing exclusively one or the other poses a danger.

More obvious is the danger of just seeing the problem, seeing the glass that is

half empty. If we dwell on simply how much more needs to be done, we lose courage, and quickly become overwhelmed and paralyzed in our pessimism, becoming of no use to the people we are agonizing about.

On the other hand, there is equally a danger of just seeing what we've accomplished, seeing the glass as half full. When we lose sight of our mission and just focus on what we have done, we become tempted to just rest on our laurels. We slack off and are not as effective in reaching those who yet need help.

Perhaps what needs to be practiced is balance. We can take pride in our successes, but we need to use those successes as an incentive to spur us to do even more for our community. We must never lose sight of our mission; realizing that one person cannot alleviate all of the problems in our area, we can at least make a start.

As I write this, we are on the threshold of a new year, a new beginning. We should start this new chapter in our lives by remembering that we are here to make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. With that in mind, I wish you the blessings of the season.



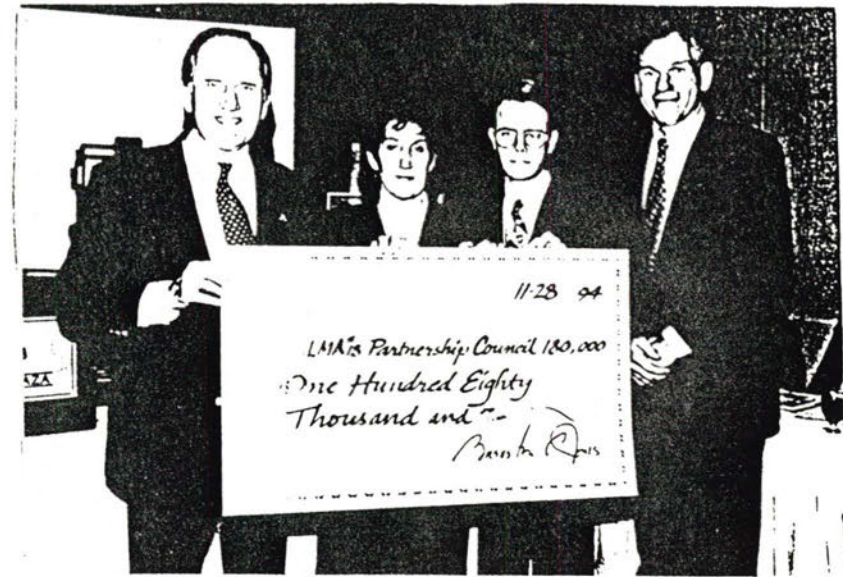
KRADD Update: School-to-Work Initiative

By: Laura Duncan

On November 28, 1994, Matthew Hall, the AmeriCorps participant working at Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD), went to Frankfort to receive a \$180,000 grant check for KRADD's School-to-Work initiative from the Governor of Kentucky, Brereton Jones. Kentucky was one of eight states to receive funding for the School-to-Work initiative.

Following a competitive application process, Governor Jones awarded KRADD monies to initiate its program. Matt Hall worked extensively on the grant package in October and November of 1994. He helped put together the package, revise the document, and went to Frankfort to participate in an application interview prior to receiving the funds.

The School-to-Work initiative will incorporate career education into the curriculum of grades K-12. The curriculum will include such innovative techniques as vocational training, mentoring programs, and shadowing programs. The purpose of the initiative is to provide the students with broad transferable job skills. The goal of KRADD's program, according to Hall, is to "integrate changes, enhance



Governor Jones (left) issues award check to Matthew Hall (second from right)

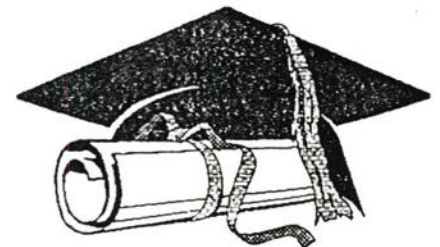
overall learning of students, and provide industry training."

Though Hall is no longer working with the project, he has found the experience a rewarding one. He especially enjoyed working with the council that advised on and planned the School-to-Work initiative for KRADD. The council, composed of members of the community from the business, industry, labor, and education sectors, helped Matt to feel comfortable in his role and appreciated.

The relationship he established with the council was the highlight of his work. Another crowning moment came for Hall when he had his picture taken with the governor of Kentucky. Though he didn't get to talk with the governor, receiving the check from Governor Jones was a

dream come true for Hall.

Hall expects the educational aspect of the initiative to begin right away. As soon as a coordinator has been hired, the curriculum will be implemented. Some high school students participating in the program will be placed at job sites right away, but the full impact of the program will be felt in 2007 or 2008 after today's kindergartners complete the twelve year plan.



Jackson, Wayne/Clinton Designated a Rural Empowerment Zone

By: John Mills

It was about four forty-five p.m. Tuesday evening, December the 20th, just before closing time at Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation when the phone began ringing almost continuously. The little office that houses the organization was frantic for several hours beyond its regular closing time. The staff hurriedly received and relayed information for the following day's presidential phone call from Washington officially announcing that Kentucky Highlands was an Empowerment Zone winner.

The constituency of callers that evening consisted mainly of officials from the White House, senator's offices, county Judge-Executives, and reporters from the Louisville Courier Journal, the Lexington Herald-Leader, and a few local papers. As each of us heard of the announcement, we felt KHIC President Jerry Rickett was up to his typical prank of prematurely and confidently announcing we had received the award.

However, we quickly came to realize from his intense expressions that this time, it was the real thing. Once confirmed, the behavior alternated between incredible excitement, with people

jumping up and down or shouting, and that of quiet amazement or simply trying to overcome disbelief.

Many of the people responsible for developing the "strategic plan" for the Jackson, Wayne/Clinton EZ attended the news conference the next day, which was held in the basement of Kentucky Highlands. There was media coverage from WLEX TV18, WYMT TV57, and a handful



of journalists were present to document the official announcement from President Clinton via telephone. The conference phone call linked all of the EZ or EC awardees together on the same line so that President Clinton could speak to each recipient. What was said was not audible to the people in attendance, but it was nevertheless exciting to watch the President of the United States recognize and award three counties in southeastern Kentucky and the people who devote themselves to those communities.

Everyone should realize that each county in southeastern Kentucky needed

an EZ, but it is important that we appreciate the fact that at least some counties in our area received an EZ. The economic impact that the EZ funds can make in those counties should extend beyond their borders to surrounding counties. We like to think of ourselves in Southern and Eastern Kentucky as a close knit group of neighbors with a common identity sharing the same basic problems. Maybe we need to live up to that vision.

What Now?

By: Laura Duncan

We all knew this day was coming, yet I wasn't prepared for the shock of it. I fully expected Cumberland Gap to be designated an Empowerment Zone (EZ), or an Enterprise Community (EC) at the very least. The odds of this happening were incredibly small. Still, I hoped. When the announcements were made on December 21, 1994, Cumberland Gap was absent from the list of designees. In my four months of working with AmeriCorps, I had never thought seriously about what I would do if Cumberland Gap didn't become an EZ or EC. Now I have to.

Thinking about my disappointment, I wondered if other AmeriCorps members felt the same. Of course, we had been fortunate enough to get one of our AmeriCorps Please see "What", p5

WHAT (cont.)

sites designated an Empowerment Zone--Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC). I realize after talking to him that John Mills, our AmeriCorps volunteer at KHIC, is as excited as I am disappointed, but how does Matt at KRADD feel? Or Michele at CVADD? Mona at KCEOC? Lara at Big Sandy Area Development District? I imagine that all of them feel as I do to some degree because this changes things for all of us.

Now, we all must learn how to do something with nothing. And perhaps this is the greatest challenge of all--to accomplish something, to get things done, with limited resources. But perhaps this is the biggest blessing of all as well. More often than not most of us, as AmeriCorps workers and as human beings, will have to do much with little. Such is life. More often than not, even if there are resources available, we have to dig a little to find them. It is not a simple thing.



This is something that the communities we work in already know. Since I came to Middlesboro in October, I have watched as Bell County tried to build an industrial park. To finance it, the county had to apply for grant funds through three different agencies. Pineville, also in Bell County, attempting to expand its water treatment plant, has applied or will apply for funds (mostly loan funds) through at least two separate agencies. Each of these agencies, of course, have their own policies and procedures for applying for, receiving, and using grant and loan funds, and the applicant is responsible for figuring out the rules and following them carefully. This is hard work.

For each of the AmeriCorps participants whose site did not receive a designation, it will be hard work, also. Work to redirect our energies. Work to get things done. Work to empower ourselves and our communities. But there will be rewards, too. Rewards like seeing our communities evolve. Rewards like becoming an essential part of our communities. Rewards like getting things done for our communities, ourselves, our country.

We could look at this situation as a disappointment, but we can also see it as an opportunity--an opportunity to test our abilities, to grow as people, to rise to the challenge that life has offered us, to excel.

Something Good in Barbourville

By: Rebecca Davidson

A couple of weeks ago when Laura Duncan asked someone to write an article about something good that had happened on the job, I didn't feel I had anything good to say because of a couple of disappointing loan applications which hadn't worked out.

After several things not working out, you look forward to something that does. It finally did. A young couple with two small children came in and applied for a 504 repair loan.

I went with Barry Turner, ACS, to make the initial inspection. We found that more than half the roof leaks, there are holes and cracks in the walls big enough to put your arm through, there is absolutely no insulation in the entire house, the porch has fallen through, and they are presently heating their house with portable electric heaters.

It is just a dangerous situation for the whole family, especially for the six-month old baby and the three-year old toddler. Everything looks good, and we will probably be able to do the loan. However, their house is in such bad shape that it will take more than our loan to help them with everything they need.

I took the advice of Dave Gibson in Washington. Please see "Good", p6

GOOD (cont.)

with whom we all spoke at the December 13th AmeriCorps meeting. Mr. Gibson said we should try to find other resources to help the families in our communities. Anna Jean Tackett came to our office to talk with Robert Dunn, County Supervisor, about another family, and while she was there, I asked her about the programs she works with that assist lower income families-KIP, GEER, ARC, and GAP. While discussing the family I have been working with, Ms. Tackett and I found that two of the four programs she works with might benefit this family. They may receive enough help now to make most of the necessary repairs to ensure safety for their children.

Programs like AmeriCorps are what help a community. I am glad to be able to make a difference in my community while being an AmeriCorps member.

December Training By: Laura Duncan

The final AmeriCorps training session of 1994 was held on December 13th. The session held at ECU campus in Corbin, KY was hosted by KCEOC's AmeriCorps participant, Mona Powell. Powell graciously provided refreshments to AmeriCorps participants and RECD session trainers. Thanks Mona!

The first half of the session was devoted to introducing AmeriCorps members to RECD waste/water loans and grants and public facilities loans. RECD employees Doug Moore and Jimmy Hall discussed qualifications for these loans and processing of the loans, then reviewed a checklist of documents required for receiving a loan. Afterwards, Moore and Hall fielded questions from AmeriCorps participants and discussed with several participants particular RECD loans or potential loans within their service areas.



The second part of the session was used to discuss site objectives and to call Dave Gibson, the national RECD AmeriCorps director, in Washington to discuss the objectives and other issues. Gibson pointed out specific areas of a few participants' objectives which need work. He said that AmeriCorps members need to become "resource[s] for technical assistance" within their communities. As part of the process of becoming a resource in the community, Gibson suggested that AmeriCorps members spend time on the

Internet. Gibson stated, "Tons of resources [are available] on Internet for small communities." AmeriCorps members individually introduced themselves to Gibson and told Gibson a little bit about the communities in which they work. Louis Elliott, Kentucky's RECD AmeriCorps director, asked Gibson to attend an AmeriCorps training session slated for February and to meet with AmeriCorps members. Gibson plans to attend.

Site Profile: Kentucky Highland By: Laura Duncan with John Mills

Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation began in the 1960's as part of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations' initiative called the War on Poverty. The Job Start Corporation was established 26 years ago using federal grant funds in order to create jobs and provide economic opportunity in southeast Kentucky. It evolved into Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC). During the Reagan administration, KHIC was forced to learn to survive without federal grant funds. KHIC responded by thriving. According to Elmer Parlier, Vice President of Investment at KHIC, "[KHIC] should be a model for
Please see KHIC, p7

KHIC (cont.)

investment companies to illustrate how venture capital can be implemented for community/economic development." Indeed, Kentucky Highlands stayed in business after other non-profit CDCs (Community Development Corporations) ceased to exist following the Reagan era.

Kentucky Highlands serves eleven counties in eastern Kentucky-Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Whitley, and Wayne. 3,832 people are employed by companies that KHIC has invested in.

Managing government programs which help businesses create jobs is KHIC's essence. KHIC is expert at packaging start up business deals, getting capital, creating a business plan, complying with tax regulations, and training management personnel.



The future of KHIC looks as promising as its history. KHIC applied for and recently received designation of its Jackson, Wayne/Clinton area as a rural Empowerment

Zone. The Clinton/Gore administration, which spearheaded this economic development plan, announced KHIC's designation in late December of 1994. Due to the award, over the next ten years 40 million dollars worth of grant funds and tax incentives will be funneled into the area to attract businesses and promote economic growth. KHIC has several projects planned.

In Jackson County, there are plans to improve interior access roads and the sewer system in Jackson County Industrial Park as well as to build a spec building on the site; to construct a large water supply reservoir; to establish an entrepreneurial training center; to renovate downtown areas in McKee and Annville; and to build a community center.

In Clinton/ Wayne County, plans include the construction of an industrial park; renovation and expansion of the Clinton County Public Library (which will include a state-of-the-art computer center with a fiber optics network); acquisition of a recycling and composting facility; construction of an amphitheater; development of a youth center and swimming pool; revitalization of downtown Albany; building of a Wayne County Youth Center; extension of waterlines to unserved sections of the Zone; construction of a regional airport; and construction and equipping of rural fire stations within the

Zone.

At the time that I finish this article, KHIC has not received any EZ funds, and so preparatory work is still underway. AmeriCorps' John Mills has been helping write letters to get the word out about the designation and attending planning meetings. He foresees a similar role even after the funds start rolling in, with him and many other KHIC personnel quietly working behind the scenes to assure that jobs continue to be created, the economy gains strength, and the quality of life is improved for eastern Kentuckians.

Get Yourself Connected: BBSmania

By: Laura Duncan

In the last issue of the newsletter, I supplied you with basic information needed to access online services such as America Online, Compuserve and the Internet. In this issue, I'll tell you about Bulletin Board Systems or BBSes. The first computer bulletin board systems were created in the early 1980's. They were first designed so people could list objects to sell or trade. As computer speed grew and PCs became more powerful, transferrable files, freeware, shareware, and even chat and mail were added.

Please see "Mania", p8

MANIA (cont.)

The typical BBS has hundreds or even thousands of freeware and shareware programs stored on it. Some BBS Sysops (System Operators) charge a monthly fee to use the BBS, but the large majority are free to use--the only charge being for the phone call, and most cities have at least one BBS, so the phone call is free also.



Why would someone run a BBS?

Some people run a BBS to collect software. This is done using basically the same process as saving a file. Another reason for running a BBS is for profit. In addition, many businesses run a BBS to support their customers. The customer can get information about products from the BBS or use it to ask questions about products they plan to buy or already own. In recent years, many cities have started running BBSes. This is done so people can call the BBS and get information about the city.

Besides hundreds of freeware and shareware programs, some BBSes offer advice and help. An example

of such a BBS is the Small Business Administration BBS or SBA Online. SBA Online offers files for business owners to view or download to help them with running their small business. SBA Online offers a 800 (free) line, a direct dial line, and a 900 line. The 800 line offers a few files to download, including one with phone numbers for many government BBS services and information about the system. It is used basically to get one acquainted with the BBS. To get the file with phone numbers of the government BBSes just dial the 800 line and download or view the file called "GOVBBS". The 900 line and the direct dial line offer complete access which means the caller can download hundreds of files and programs or even connect to the Internet. Some useful numbers for SBA Online and other BBSes are listed below.

SBA Online

1-800-463-4636

1-202-401-9600

1-900-463-4636

Internet: sbaonline.sba.gov

E-Mail: firstname.lastname@sbaonline.gov

HH InfoNet BBS

1-203-738-0342 Conn.

File-Link

1-212-627-1901 NY

IBM Net Connection

1-317-882-5575 IN

The Fifth Dimension

1-502-423-8654 KY

Valley PC Board

1-502-937-6143 KY

One Stop PCBoard

1-509-943-0211 WA
Over the River
1-606-491-7911 KY
Department of Agriculture
1-800-624-2723
1-800-821-6229
FEDIX
1-800-232-4879

Internet sources for federal employees:

ACE Gopher service

Internet access

OPM Mainstreet

1-202-606-4800

FedWorld

1-703-321-8020

Participant Profile: Michele Humfleet by Laura Duncan



Michele Humfleet

Michele Humfleet is originally from London, where she now works for RECD's AmeriCorps program at Cumberland Valley Area Development District (CVADD). Michele heard about AmeriCorps from her friend Malena Mullins who read about the program in a local newspaper. Michele
Please see Michele, p9



AMERICORPS

"GETTING THINGS DONE"

USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



EST. Dec., 1994

MAR. 95, VOL. 4

911-ABBEVILLE

Greenwood I has spent the last three weeks in Abbeville county completing the roadwork phase of Abbeville's 911 implementation. Their objectives were to inventory every road in the county, compile a spreadsheet of their gathered data, and update a digitized road map of the county. Their road data included road type, signage, number of residents, zip codes, fire districts, political boundaries, and landmarks. They included anything that might help a rescue squad get to their destination faster. Abbeville County will now begin their addressing phase.



Greenwood I project leader, Angi Paulus, debriefs corps members on the activities planned for the day.

Dam Inspections

Newberry Team II was assigned to work with DHEC under the direction of George Ballentine to survey low hazard dams. The survey was done in Aiken County and Newberry Team II surveyed the county in search of 100 low hazard dams. After locating the dam, the team looked for new development and used the GPS (Global Positioning System) to measure latitude and longitude. In addition, dam ownership was verified to update DHEC's records. The information will be useful to Aiken residents as well because if new development is present, the classification of the dam is upgraded to high hazard, thus alerting residents to the danger of a broken dam.



Newberry II members, Amy Overstreet, Jay Henderson, and Angela Brinkley, use a GPS unit for dam inspections in Aiken County.

911-SALUDA

Newberry I has returned to Saluda County to continue work on the Emergency 911 project where phase 1 ended, by undertaking Phase 2 during the month of March. AmeriCorps' primary objective involves modifying every county tax map, over 200, in an effort to create a comprehensive numbering system which will eventually include every household in Saluda County. The Newberry I volunteers are dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Carolinians and are proud to do their part in upholding the AmeriCorps' pledge of "Getting Things Done".



Newberry I team member, Karen Kinard, busies herself with one of over 200 county tax maps during the AmeriCorps Saluda County Emergency 911 conversion effort.

911-McCormick

For the two weeks ending March 17th, the Greenwood II team of AmeriCorps surveyed and remapped McCormick County by mapping and recording data on all state, county, and forest service roads in the county limits. This is the first phase of a program to initiate an emergency response system that does not exist at the present time. The Greenwood II team, with project leader David E. Holcombe, has been able to help get this program off the ground by providing assistance to the Council of Governments, Upper Savannah Division, as well as Mr. Paul Bjorkman. The team members took accurate mileage measurements, as well as recording the number of residences and commercial properties, and grading the roads. This data was then put in a computer file for future use in the county.



Greenwood II member Greg Maxwell inspects flooded county road for 911 survey in McCormick County.



AMERICORPS

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FEB. 95, VOL. 3

Dry Hydrant Program

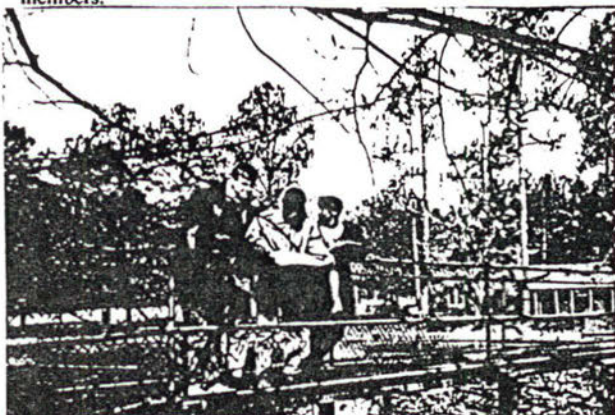
Newberry Team II has been working in Richland County for two weeks under the direction of George Rice with the Richland County Emergency Services. The team completed installation of 19 dry hydrants which included painting the pipe red, stabilization of hydrant heads, and marking the area for high visibility with water point signs and blue reflective plates. The benefits of dry hydrants include improved fire protection, water conservation, lower insurance premiums for homeowners, and will ultimately save lives and property. After the installation of dry hydrants in rural SC, an estimated \$52,270,178 will be saved on insurance premiums, property, fuel and water. A press conference and demonstration will be held on March 3rd at 10:00a.m.



Newberry II members Angela Brinkley(left) and Jay Henderson, both of Columbia, paint a dry hydrant in Richland County.

Dam Inspections

For twelve days during the month of February, Greenwood Team I inspected 83 Low Hazard dams in Lexington county for the SC DHEC-Bureau of Water Pollution Control. Data from the survey will be compiled onto Classification Check Sheets and mapped to indicate dam locations. The technicians that usually inspect these dams are no longer assigned to the task of inspection, therefore, the team provided a valuable service to DHEC and the Lexington community. Now, dam ownership records will be updated and information on hazardous dams will be available for community members.



Greenwood I members Susan Miller, Chris Bever, Angi Paulus, and Sherell Stevens inspect a dam in Lexington County.

Environmental Education

Ninety Six was the location of Greenwood Team II's three week initiative for February. In conjunction with the National Park Service, the team has been busy on a number of different projects carried out at Ninety Six National Historical Site. For patrolling purposes, over a mile of boundary has been cleared. In addition, the team planted grass, performed a biological survey for an already existing classroom pond, and constructed a colonial kitchen garden.

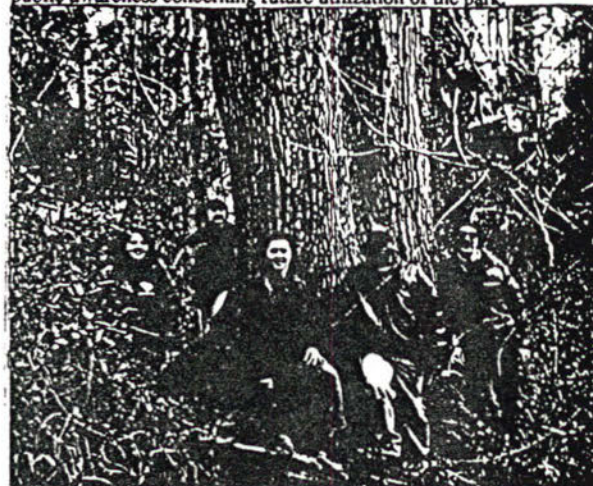
The team was also involved with the "Parks as Classrooms" program. Greenwood II assisted with the creation of Science and History curriculum for 8th, 9th, and 10th grades. This project was also adopted by the Ninety-Six Resources Conservation and Development Council.



Greenwood II members Dawn Kendall and Greg Maxwell brave the cold at Ninety-Six historical site as they clear a boundary area.

Community Outreach

Newberry Team One has been assisting the Newberry Soil and Water Conservation District in beginning a public campaign to assess the local needs and long term goals for the development of Lynch's Woods Park. Located in Newberry county, Lynch's Woods Park is 260 acres of exquisite wilderness that was donated to public use in the 1930's. The team took on the responsibility of increasing public awareness concerning future utilization of the park.



Newberry I members at Lynch's Woods Park with Dr. Charles N. Horn, Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry at Newberry College (far right).



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USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
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JAN. 95, VOL. 2

WATERSHED MODELING

In the area of environmental conservation, the Newberry 2 team, lead by Amy Overstreet, has completed a watershed model and data analysis in Newberry County. This project was sponsored by the Newberry Conservation District with technical assistance being provided by Steven Henry, an Agricultural Engineer. The two components of this project involved watershed modeling, utilizing the AGNPS computer model (Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution), and creating a spreadsheet to include data from SCDHEC water monitoring stations.

Two targeted subwatersheds, within the Bush River Camp-Creek watershed, were studied using parameters such as topography, land use, soil type, practice factors, etc. The gathered information was loaded into the computer system and resulted in a watershed model to be used in comparing management techniques and pinpointing potential solutions to nonpoint source pollution.

The team also created a Lotus 123 spreadsheet using the water monitoring data, collected over many years, to allow researchers to plot trends and make predictions for the future.



Jim Wilson (right), of NRCS, provides technical assistance in measuring land slope Percentages to AmeriCorps N2 members.

EMERGENCY-911 CONVERSION

The Newberry 1 team completed "phase one", a road inventory, in Saluda County during the month of January. The team's responsibilities included copying all tax maps (over 200), modifying maps to include all roads in Saluda County, establishing road sheets containing all road names, numbers, and lack thereof as a reference to the map. These tasks were accomplished in 13 riding days and saved Saluda County taxpayers a substantial amount. This team of volunteers went down every road in the entire county in order to ensure the location and number of houses on these roads to help qualify Saluda County for 911 installation. This project will help make Saluda County a safer place to be in the case of an emergency.

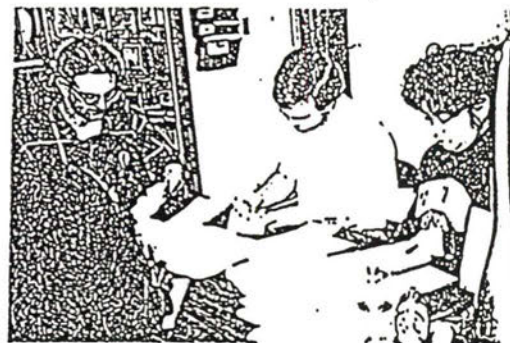


Newberry 1 team member, John E. Morgan III, surveys a Saluda County Map during the road inventory portion of "phase one" of the emergency 911 conversion.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT

The Greenwood 1 team has been working on a wildlife enhancement project sponsored by the Wildlife Dept. in Abbeville County during the month of Jan. 1995. Their work consisted of: deer card coding, control burning, installing Woodduck boxes, posting WMA signs (Wildlife Mngt. Area) in designated areas, and marking wildlife habitat clearings (food plots) on maps using a Global Positioning System (GPS). The concentrated areas were McCormick, Greenwood, Edgefield, and Abbeville counties.

The team put up over 600 WMA boundary signs, about .10 of a mile apart, and coded over 1500 deer data cards for the Wildlife Dept. to scan and compile all information in one database. The volunteers also helped the Wildlife Dept. with controlled burns at specific locations in the AmeriCorps nine county service area, assisted in the removal of old duck boxes, and installed new boxes for the beginning of the Feb. Woodduck nesting.



Members of AmeriCorps Greenwood 1, Sherril, Chad, Chris, and Susan code deer information cards to help the Wildlife Dept. in their efforts for enhancing wildlife habitats.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

During January, the volunteers of the Greenwood 2 team have been working at the John Del La Howe School in McCormick County on building a wilderness campsite. AmeriCorps members, with the assistance of two carpenters, have constructed 8 buildings as part of an outdoor learning environment to be utilized by students and teachers. The buildings, with a combined total of 1,816 sq. ft., will be used by 12 students and 2 adults for a four month period. After every four month period, a new group of students would be allowed to make use of the wilderness campsite.

This is just another way AmeriCorps, Rural Development Team, is continuing to uphold its pledge of community service for South Carolina.



Greenwood 2 volunteers, Greg Maxwell (left) and Richard Eaton (middle), get building assistance from professional carpenter (right).



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DEC. 94, VOL. 1

Under the area of Public Safety and Community Development, the Greenwood 1 team spent six weeks during November working on road inventory in Edgefield County as the first phase of an E-911 system implementation. The team of five created a spreadsheet data base of road inventory and an updated road map of the county, which is critical to an effective E-911 service. Edgefield County will now begin the addressing phase of the process.

During December, Greenwood 1 worked on the team's annual publicity campaign. They generated this newsletter, a script for a state wide video, Public Service Announcements, a quick fact sheet about the AmeriCorps, and several other key publicity items.



In dealing with Grassland Initiatives, Newberry 2 conducted a Grassland Survey in Abbeville County. They collected data for 223 Primary Sample Units (PSU's), including grass type and height, land use, water source, water access points, and erosion effects. At the completion of the four week project, the data was stored in a spreadsheet for future reference. This information will be useful in assessing the demand and basic needs for sustaining or enhancing the pasture resources of the land units surveyed.

Newberry 2 went to Aiken's Camp Long in December. Their objective was to create human intervention study sites to study the effect of man on nature. This 4-H camp is used by kids from all over South Carolina.



Greenwood 2 spent four weeks in November on a Stream Coding Project designed to upgrade the entire state's ability to gather information about the quality of the streams, rivers, and lakes located within each of the 46 counties in South Carolina. The objective of the project was to code Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Carolina River Reach 3 files and maps for water quality according to data the Department of Health and Environmental Control provided. Upon completion of their project, the team had plotted and verified more than 660 streams throughout the state.

Their December project involved building an outdoor education center in Batesburg-Leesville with the help of area school kids. They created trails and outdoor classrooms to help incorporate lessons with nature.



The Newberry 1 team visited 16 farms in Newberry County to evaluate the water quality of agricultural waste facilities and receiving fields for the development of environmentally safe utilization of agriculture by-products. Soil samples were taken to be fertilized with the waste material from the holding facilities and analyzed. Thirty-four percent of the forty-four fields sampled were excessively high in phosphorus concentrations. Their results showed that waste should not be applied to a third of the fields sampled.

During December this team worked on a teacher/farmer curriculum for schools in Newberry. They took



Fact Sheet

SC RURAL DEVELOPMENT AMERICORPS USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in South Carolina is sponsoring an AmeriCorps rural development project. A diverse team of 20 members with varied educational, social, and ethnic backgrounds are challenged by projects relating to specific rural objectives. The rural development objectives are the driving force behind the AmeriCorps projects which include: water quality, environmental education, public safety, wildlife habitat, and community enhancement. We work with a variety of sponsors including federal, state and county government agencies, and private organizations.

Our twenty members are divided into four teams of five. Each five member team works on community projects lasting from three to four weeks. We have targeted our assistance the first year in nine rural counties in the state.

The development of the individuals through training, leadership positions, and community service is an integral part of our AmeriCorps project. Each of our members have key roles and responsibilities within their five member team. These roles include team leader, administrative, publicity, morale, and transportation. The team members selected their team mates for each position. They each serve as a project leader which enables them to plan, resource, and work directly with a community sponsor and be responsible for the implementation of a three to four week project. To date we have kept all twenty of our original members which makes us feel good about how members relate to our project.

Success

Through the end of February 1995, our AmeriCorps members had completed over 20 rural development projects (see attached list). The community sponsors have been highly complimentary of our members accomplishments (see excerpts from letters received by state conservationist).

Some additional accomplishments:

- * 2 brochures
- * monthly newsletter
- * over 50 newspaper and magazine articles
- * 5 television programs
- * project video for South Carolina
- * approximately 25 presentations to groups & organizations

**ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS
in the
100 Year Floodplain**

- Effective Immediately -

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in conjunction with the State Office of Emergency Services and the City of Holly Grove will be exercising a buy-out for all residents in the 100 year floodplain within the Dial Creek floodplain.

**If you are interested in the buy-out,
immediately contact:**

***Audria Coleman, USDA/NRCS Americorps,
at: 462-8300, or,***

**come by my office at the
Holly Grove Fire Department**

USDA is an equal opportunity employer!