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WHAT IS AN RC&D?

RC&D is a unique program that helps people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that will improve the area's economy, environment, and living standards. It provides a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their area a better place in which to live.

Each RC&D Council determines its own goals and objectives relative to local needs. There are four areas that are emphasized by RC&Ds: Land Conservation, Community Development, Water Management, and Environmental Concerns. RC&Ds are a division of the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative designed to address the nation's education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the local level. Opportunities for Americans over the age of 17 and of all backgrounds to earn education awards for college or vocational training by serving their country in this organized program. By providing service in any of the four aforementioned category of needs, participants receive the following benefits:

- Living Stipend During Service
- College or Vocational Training Awards ($4725 for tuition or loan forgiveness)
- Basic Health Insurance
- Child Care Allowance

For more information about the AmeriCorps Program, call 1-800-880-4183. Or, for more information about RC&Ds, call Tidewater RC&D at 804-443-1118 or Old Dominion RC&D at 804-736-8403.

This brochure was developed by the AmeriCorps Cluster serving the Eastern part of Virginia and sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Richmond, Virginia. This AmeriCorps Cluster has two site locations. One is with the Tidewater RC&D Council in Tappahannock which represents the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck. The other site location is the Old Dominion RC&D in Keysville which represents south side Virginia.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service also sponsors an AmeriCorps cluster in western Virginia located at the New River Highland RC&D in Wytheville. The U.S. Forest Service sponsors four AmeriCorps Members that also work with this cluster.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Association of RC&Ds prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis or race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

MAKING THINGS HAPPEN IN VIRGINIA

AND

AMERICORPS

GETTING THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA

FORESTRY MARKETING SPECIALIST

Leeanne Cruse recently moved from Chatham to the Dunnsville area. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropology from the College of Charleston in 1992. After graduating, she spent some time in Ghana, West Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Her main responsibility there was managing a tree nursery in the Northern Region.

As an AmeriCorps member, Ms. Cruse is the Forestry Marketing Specialist for the Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council. Some of her duties will include researching and developing markets for forestry products, developing and implementing market plans, assisting with the writing of grants, and assisting in the Natural Resource Education programs already in place in the area. She is also working with others on several area beautification projects.

Ms. Cruse hopes that her participation in the AmeriCorps program will make a positive impact on the economy of the area in which she is working, increase the awareness of the community to environmental needs, and improve her owns skills as a professional.

GIS COORDINATOR

Natalie Clevinger and her husband, Roger, relocated from Richmond to Tappahannock in July 1994. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Geography from James Madison University in 1989 and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994. Prior to graduate school, Ms. Clevinger worked as a Research Analyst for the Virginia General Assembly's Division of Legislative Services. Natalie's hobbies include horseback riding, boating, and teaching aerobics.

As an AmeriCorps member, Natalie is the GIS Coordinator for the Tidewater Resource, Conservation, and Development Council. She will be responsible for establishing the Geographic Information System to be used by the RC&D Council. Some of her responsibilities include creating and mapping an inventory of dry fire hydrants, fulfilling the mapping requirements for the Piankatank River Watershed Project, updating a map of Farm Stands in the RC&D area, and creating a User's Guide for the GIS so that others in the office will be able to use the system.

Natalie's goal in working for the AmeriCorps program is to serve the rural community in which she and her husband have chosen to reside by contributing technical support on projects important to the Counties in the region.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Doug Spencer is a Landscape Architecture student a Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is currently working on his senior project in his hometown of South Boston. When not working on school projects, he freelances as a commercial/residential landscape designer, plays tennis and basketball, coaches little league basketball, and enjoys studying military history/strategy as well as political philosophy.

As an Americorp member for the Old Dominion RC&D, Doug will be contributing landscape design to several projects including the Lee's Retreat Civil War Parkway (between Appomattox and Petersburg) and the Staunton River battlefield Park in Clover. He will also be working on other park designs for the communities of rural Virginia.

Doug's goal in working for the Americorp program is to make a solid impact on the landscape of rural Virginia by blending landscape design principles with appropriate economic vision.

HISTORIAN

Brain Bates is a life-long resident of Buckingham County in central Virginia. Brain earned his Bachelor of Science degrees in Anthropology and Political Science from Longwood College in 1992. While at Longwood, Brian served as an intern with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond. He received a Master of Arts degree from the Institute of Archaeology, University College, University of London in November of 1993. Brian has worked on numerous archaeological excavations in different regions of the world but most recently was the Principal Investigator of an excavation in Fairfax County. Currently, Brian is an adjunct Instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Longwood College.

As an AmeriCorps member, Brain operates out of the Old Dominion RC&D Council office in Keysville. He is working as an advisor to several citizen's groups whose interests are in historic preservation and outdoor recreation. Brian is also working in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, assisting that agency in the development off a visitors center at a newly formed state battlefield park. Brian also provides services to local groups in the areas of historic preservation, research, education, and community in local development.

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

THE EIGHTH EDITION, Volume 1, Number 8
Katherine Gibney, Editor

TWO FROM AMERICORPS/USDA ANTI-HUNGER TEAM GET SPECIAL INVITATION

Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps Director **Bari Gladstone** and USDA/AmeriCorps Team Member **Diane Grenkow** were selected to participate in a National Service & Children's Health Forum in Washington, D.C. on June 27 at George Washington University. The Forum was chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and hosted by Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service, Eli Segal.

According to a Corporation official, Members from the top 30 AmeriCorps programs in the child health area were chosen to take part in the Forum. Grenkow facilitated a panel discussion on nutrition.

One of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Team's projects involved helping students plant a garden, with the produce going to a local food pantry. They then incorporated the project into the school curriculum. Members have also assisted in the summer feeding program and taught nutrition education.

ABOUT OUR COLLEAGUES

AMERICORPS SERVICE SPARKS CAREER CHOICE

AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team Member **Karen Mushrall** in Cherryfield, Maine has been accepted to graduate school at the University of Maine College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

As an AmeriCorps/USDA Member, Mushrall coordinated the water quality needs of the cranberry industry, working with growers and plugging them into technical assistance. As a graduate student, she plans to continue cranberry research, and will return to the area and work with AmeriCorps/USDA Members to maintain continuity in the project.

LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Speaking of the Vermont USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team, the daughter of **Director Bari Gladstone** just received a Community Service Award during her high school graduation. Abby Gladstone was one of 25 high school graduates in the state chosen for the honor by the Champlain College in Stowe, Vermont. Her community service included giving Mom a hand in the AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger program.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- August 26, 1996

Update:
The Future of USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Projects

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.

2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA , in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.

3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.

4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided $1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, as a result of the Fiscal Year 1996 appropriations process, CNS has been prohibited from making grants of operating funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this language is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, unless prohibited by additional appropriations language, Federal agencies such as USDA can still use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Thus, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so.

The cooperative agreement authorizing FY 1997 USDA AmeriCorps programs is being withheld pending such discussions with Congress. No USDA AmeriCorps projects may formally start before such an agreement is signed.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary Glickman, CNS Head Harris Wofford, USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg, and other USDA and CNS officials are now working hard to reach consensus with Congress on this issue.

All USDA AmeriCorps sites will be notified immediately when an agreement is reached.

The Department hopes to resolve this issue early in September.

Glickman Kickoffs National Week of Food Recovery

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman went to work with AmeriCorps/USDA Members at the California Emergency Foodlink in Sacramento August 14 to sort and pack plums for the needy -- - and to announce the National Week of Food Recovery scheduled for August 19 - 25.

Following the announcement, **Bryan Rodrigues**, who is working with the FOOD Crops organization in Watsonsville, Ca., helped the Secretary. Rodrigues is a member of a special AmeriCorps/USDA "Summer of Gleaning" program operating in 20 states throughout the country. The program is based on the premise that up to one-fifth of the food produced for consumption in this country in fields, commercial kitchens, markets, stores, schools, and restaurants is lost -- but could be salvaged for use in the battle against hunger.

Also assisting Glickman at the Foodlink were **Tricia Price**, who is an AmeriCorps member in Placerville, Ca., and **Lana Osgood**, a member working in Yuba City, Ca.

AmeriCorps/USDA projects nationwide heldspecial food recovery events during the week. For example, on August 24, four AmeriCorps members were to have organized a youth theater performance in Monterey County, Ca., that would require a food donation as the price of admission. In the Peoria, Illinois area, AmeriCorps members who have taken part in the first, yearlong gleaning project in Havana, were recognized in a ceremony on August 20, then headed to a field to gather crops left behind after the harvest.

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff
February 8, 1996

AmeriCorps Leads Effort To Renovate Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps members have been renovating a community center in Flora, Mississippi in their spare time, along with the 114 volunteers they enlisted to assist in rehabilitating the dilapidated building.

Chanel Richards and **Annie Rattler,** the Madison County AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team members in Madison County, Mississippi, are sponsored by the Rural Economic and Community Development Agency. Along with Walter Jones, Executive Director of the Madison County Human Resource Agency (MCHRA) and the volunteers, they have been working on the Charles Bannerman Family Development Center, primarily on the weekends.

THE AMERICORPS members and the volunteers, who range from 5- to-50 years of age, have logged more than 1,300 hours in cleaning the center of debris, repairing the floors, and painting the walls.

Following completion, MCHRA will provide services to the children and families of Flora and surrounding Madison County at the center. The AmeriCorps members have been providing service learning to the children assisting in the renovation.

THE MEMBERS hope the children's involvement will give them a sense of pride and ownership in the facility, thereby discouraging vandalism to the building.

The facility will also be used for community meetings and events, family leadership-development projects, social services, conflict resolution programs, drug-free activities and recreational events.

The center has been in disrepair for 20 years. Five years ago, the Mississippi Action for Community Education leased the center and its 68 acres to MCHRA.

Annual Report Released

"AmeriCorps/USDA. . .at work - First Annual Report" detailing the outstanding accomplishments of our members during our inaugural year was mailed to all sites on February 6. During 1994-95, our members provided 1.812 million hours of service to communities in 38 states across the country and recruited 14,176 non-compensated volunteers. Each member will receive a copy of the report.

The Administrative Answer

(From time-to-time we will address administrative issues in the newsletter about which we get calls. Please submit any administrative question(s) that you would like to see addressed in print to the editor at the above address. Or call Ron DeMunbrun at (202) 690-3894 or Dee DiFiore at (202) 690-3051 for an answer by telephone.)

A word to the wise --- Members, if you have to travel in performance of your AmeriCorps service, don't leave home without adequate funding for lodging and food.

Don't assume that these items are covered. Make arrangements with your site supervisor to have the money in hand before leaving for your destination.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- August 2, 1996

AmeriCorps Team Gleans Food at Olympics

If there was a gold medal for gleaning, the AmeriCorps Team that salvaged food from the Olympics in Atlanta would be the recipient.

As of July 31, the AmeriCorps members, who are working in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, had rescued more than 60 tons of perishable food from various vendors at the Olympic events.

"THE INTERNATIONAL GAMES have provided our AmeriCorps members with a unique opportunity in the battle to alleviate hunger in the host city," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "I hope that their work is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all sorts of varied types of special events nationwide."

As the games came to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members started their nightly service, according to Amy Hudson, community relations manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "They have been invaluable, working all night to rescue food from Centennial Park events and delivering it to the Food Bank," she said.

Three of the AmeriCorps members are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are **Casey Long** and **Gabe Weinberg** of Atlanta, and **Paul Soares**, of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development Agency.

THE OTHER AMERICORPS/VISTA members from the Hunger Center assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: **Alex Dishun, Julia Dennehy, Sofia Ginzburg, and Aileen Cham.**

The AmeriCorps/USDA members in 20 states participating in this summer's USDA gleaning projects across the country are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments. Preliminary figures indicate that as of July 31, these teams had gleaned approximately 50 tons of food.

August 19-25 has been designated as Food Recovery Week and all AmeriCorps/USDA projects are urged to spend that week -- or at least one day that week -- engaged in some activity to recover excess food. Specifics on the Food Recovery Week were published in the July 26 edition of *Esprit d'AmeriCorps*. All projects should have received a response form by now to be faxed to the National Office detailing their special food recovery event. **Please fax forms by August 10.**

Members Leave Olympic Park 30 Minutes Before Bomb Blast

The normal routine of the AmeriCorps members gleaning food at the Olympics would have put them at the stage in Centennial Park at about the time that a bomb went off killing two people about 1:30 a.m. on July 27.

But the team finished a little early that night and left at about 1 p.m., according to Max Fineberg of the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington.

ESPIRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff
February 26, 1996

Members to Plant Trees As Part of Day of Service

AmeriCorps/USDA projects to commemorate Oklahoma bombing victim

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps members will enlist community volunteers to join them in tree-planting projects at sites nationwide on April 23 to commemorate the victims of the Oklahoma bombing as part of a National Day of Service.

"Some of the 169 victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were USDA employees," said Joel Berg, Director of National Service for the Department. "I hope that all our projects will conduct tree-planting ceremonies to link these two dates."

THE NATIONAL DAY of Service is celebrated annually to focus attention on AmeriCorps and the community service of non-profit and private organizations. Many people will take time off from their jobs for their normal routine to give service to those in need.

"We will dedicate this year's 'Day of Service' to the memory of those who lost their lives in the Oklahoma bombing," Berg said. "Let us take this opportunity to remember those who died in that needless tragedy and to demonstrate our national unity," Berg said.

Projects soon will receive additional information and a form to submit to Washington about their specific plans for their tree-planting on April 23.

The National Office will publish a press release nationwide to announce the AmeriCorps/USDA members participation in the 1996 National Day of Service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Greetings from Lebanon, Virginia.

I just wanted you to know that I am being well received in Southwest Virginia, and that I have had some news coverage.

Our ***Lebanon News*** ran the enclosed article which **Blaine Delaney** and I are quite proud of so I thought I would share it with you.

I am enjoying the newsletter -- keep up the good work!

Marlene S. Fields

(Editor's Note: Marlene and Blaine are members of the Rural Development Team working through the Black Diamond Resource Conservation District in Lebanon, Virginia. Marlene has two adult children, James and Jennifer. Thanks to Marlene and other members and staff who continue to send us original copies of newspaper articles and videotapes of news segments about our projects nationwide. Know that they are well-used in Washington to broadcast the message about our dedicated members and their accomplishments.)

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

East St. Louis/Lovejoy AmeriCorps

Volume 1, No. 2 GETTING THINGS DONE FOR AMERICA May 1996

Arbor Day/ Celebrations

We have spent the first two weeks getting ready to go into the local schools setting up programs, ceremonies and actual planting of trees for this special occasion. The AmeriCorps team went to seven school consisting of two different district and passed out seedlings for the third grade classes also helping plan their activity for arbor day.

AmeriCorps/URP Team-Up

AmeriCorps participants have started working with the Gray Boulevard Beautification Committee in landscaping their area and laying out a community garden, we have also been helping the Alta Sita Community in creating a community park as part of their URPS grant. We extended our services to Parkside Neighborhood Corporation by helping them landscape the corner of 68th and State Street a main focus part of the city.

Environmental Science Seminars

More than 1500 students has been reached through our seminars given to various schools in district 188 and 189. These seminars were given to educate the children about their environment. The topics covered was on trees, air, water, recycling, and protecting the environment.

Tree City Designations

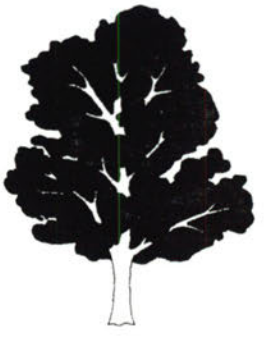
AmeriCorps was instrumental in helping developing a Tree City Ordnance for the cities of East St. Louis and Lovejoy. The ordinance has specific rules and regulation concerning tree trimming and maintenance of trees.
In passing this ordinance trees will be maintain in such a way that it would be beneficial in helping to control flooding, reduce air pollution, conserve water and reduce soil erosion, with this ordinance it is hoped that this will make the city residents aware of the importance trees are to the community and how to take proper care of them.

Neighborhood Clean-UP

AmeriCorps helped with the flood clean-up along with the East ST. Louis City Works Department. They went in various neighborhoods cleaning-up debris left by this years flood. Participants helped senior citizens and the disable clean up their yards, and their homes and tried to reassure them that they have not been forgotten at this disastrous time and that help is out there for them.

JOEL BERG, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SERVICES TOURS EAST ST LOUIS/LOVEJOY PROJECT SITES

Thirteen members of the East Saint/Lovejoy AmeriCorps team were working with their Director of National Services Joel Berg, they took him on a tour of some of their sites, he helped prepare food for the homeless at the kitchen where some of the members were helping out. Mr. Berg also helped other members paint a building on a lot that will eventually be made into a mini park. The final site was at Kenneth Hall Park where he participate with members in putting up the side of the state of the art greenhouse being constructed by URPS and AmeriCorps.



ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- April 18, 1996

Teams schedule special projects nationwide

Day of Service events to commemorate Oklahoma bombing victims

AmeriCorps/USDA Members nationwide have scheduled events to commemorate the victims of the April 19 Oklahoma City bombing, in conjunction with the April 23 National Day of Service.

Here's a roundup of activities across the country. Congressional and state officials, mayors, school board members, and civic leaders have been invited to participate in the AmeriCorps/USDA events.

OKLAHOMA

In Oklahoma City, AmeriCorps/USDA Members from Cheyenne, Sentinel, and Woodward, Oklahoma, will join Members of other organizations to plant trees, present educational programs on conservation, and conduct cleanup and repair activities at the Mark Twain Elementary School, a mile from the bombing site. The school was slightly damaged by the explosion but did not qualify for special funding for repairs available in the wake of the bombing.

On April 19, the actual anniversary of the explosion, AmeriCorps/USDA Members in Claremore, Oklahoma will participate in two treeplanting ceremonies at the Rogers State College Conservation Reserve. Members from Sentinel also planted trees with students from the Pioneer Elementary School in Elk City in cooperation with the Great Plains Resource and Conservation District.

On April 19 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, Members sponsored by the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD), will plant flowers in the downtown area, in conjunction with local garden clubs.

KENTUCKY

In Bowling Green, Kentucky, AmeriCorps Member Lisa Hines, who is working with the organization Neighborhood P.R.I.D.E., is coordinating a Spring Cleanup along a four-block area in the city. On April 23, other AmeriCorps/USDA Members sponsored by RECD, will join the Cleanup for a "Repair Affair", along with about 100-200 volunteers. The members will repair roofs, windows, paint exteriors, and stabilize the porches of homes in the neighborhood.

Some RECD Members will plant trees at the Sue Bennett College in London on April 23.

MAINE

On April 23, AmeriCorps Members in Maine, sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will seed four mudflats with softshell clams to enhance stock along the Maine coast. Sites for the special project are in Lubec, Waldoboro, South Portland, and Scarborough, Maine.

A REQUEST

If any media cover an AmeriCorps/USDA Day of Service event, please notify Communications Coordinator Katherine Gibney by voice mail at (202) 720-4369.

Please leave the name of the newspaper, the television channel, and/or the radio call letters. Please fax a copy of any newspaper article to (202) 720-4614, and obtain a video or audio tape of any television or radio coverage.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

The majority of AmeriCorps teams will be planting trees in memory of those who died in the bombing. Congressional, state, and municipal officials will participate in the projects. Here's a roundup of some of the treeplanting ceremonies by state scheduled for April 23:

ARKANSAS

The Members, sponsored by RECD and NRCS, will plant trees in Holly Grove as part of the AmeriCorps Holly Grove Flood Relocation Project.

MISSISSIPPI

Members sponsored by NRCS will plant trees at the Greenwood Federal Building in Greenwood.

In Jackson, Mississippi, AmeriCorps Members sponsored by RECD will team with community volunteers on April 23 to clean the yard of a senior citizen's home in Canton, Mississippi. Following the cleanup, contractors will renovate and repair the interior and exterior of the home with an RECD grant.

NEBRASKA

NRCS Members in Nebraska will plant trees at the Center City Park in Center, Nebraska, and at the Gilman Park Arboretum in Pierce. On April 26, a treeplanting ceremony is scheduled for Creighton, Nebraska and on April 23 in Neligh, Nebraska.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Macedonia Elementary School in Blackville, South Carolina, will be the site of the treeplanting by NRCS-sponsored AmeriCorps Members. NRCS Members will join Members sponsored by the FSA and RECD to plant trees in Florence, Greenwood, and Winnsboro, South Carolina. 14 and 34 in Pierre.

SOUTH DAKOTA

NRCS Members will plant trees on both sides of Highways 14 and 34.

LOUISIANA

The Lewis Vincent Elementary School in Denham Springs will be the site of a commemorative treeplanting by NRCS AmeriCorps Members. Also on April 23, NRCS Members will teach four classes of science students and one class of agricultural students at St. Helena High School in Greensburg, Louisiana.

Cyberspace Surfers, Alert - - Our Newsletter Is On the 'Net

Beginning with this edition, *Esprit d'AmeriCorps* will be available on the Internet.

To find our newsletter, access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at *http://www.usda.gov* and click on News and Information

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

THE SIXTH EDITION, Volume 1, Number 6
Katherine Gibney, Editor

MISSISSIPPI AMERICORPS MEMBERS PARTICIPATE ON PANEL

Two AmeriCorps Members served on a panel as part of a recent three-day conference on volunteerism for all the Members in Mississippi. AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger Team Member **Toussaint Griffin,** and Rural Development Team Member **LaDonna Gulley,** participated in a panel entitled: " A Conversation about AmeriCorps."

Corps Members from national direct and state-funded projects spent the three days networking, learning about assessing community needs, and developing action strategies for solving problems. The conference also featured a Job/Education/Training Fair to give AmeriCorps Members a look at some of the opportunities after their service is completed.

GETTING THINGS DONE - WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING NATIONWIDE

(Editor's Note: The following is compiled from the weekly activity reports from regional facilitators. Reading these reports is an inspiration. The type, level, and amount of work being done throughout the country by our AmeriCorps/USDA Members is overwhelming. Unfortunately, the time and space requirements of the newsletter allow for only a small sampling of the activities from our projects in 38 states.)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DRY FIRE HYDRANT PROJECT IN LOUISIANA

Four AmeriCorps/USDA Members sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Louisiana are helping in rural fire protection by assisting in the planning and installation of more than 2,000 dry fire hydrants.

The Rural Development Team Members and their locations are: **Angela Norsworthy,** Ruston; **Tressa Lantz,** Natchitoches; **Dominic Beggan,** Jenning; and **Robin Torrence,** Denham Spring.

The hydrants are structures located at ponds or reservoirs that provide a source of water for rural fire districts when no regular fire hydrants are available.

ABOUT OUR COLLEAGUES

Carol Judy, Rural Development Team Member in Campbell County, Tennessee, has been selected by the National Congress of Neighborhood Women (NCNW) to go to China in September to the wrap-up conference of the United Nations Decade of Women. Carol will serve as a representative of rural Appalachian women.

NCNW is a grassroots organization and a partner in the USDA/AmeriCorps project sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Appalachia.

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

THE SEVENTH EDITION, Volume 1, Number 7
Katherine Gibney, Editor

SECRETARY GLICKMAN VISITS AMERICORPS MEMBERS IN MISSOURI

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman met beside the swollen waters of the Missouri River in St. Charles County on June 9 with USDA/AmeriCorps Members working in flood recovery in the state.

Paul Johnson, Chief of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), and Grant Buntrock, Acting Administrator of the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA), also were present at the Defiance, Missouri site to talk to AmeriCorps Members **Chris Fulcher, Trish McCracken,** and **Ed Gilmore.** The three are members of a Rural Development Team sponsored by NRCS. **Cora Emerson, Keith Arnold,** and **Jeff Stewart,** Members of a Public Lands and Environment Team in East St. Louis, Illinois who have been doing flood-recovery work, also were on hand, as were East St. Louis USDA/AmeriCorps Members **James Pace** and **Dana Tibbs.**

"I listened and learned about the valuable service these members have been performing to help local flood victims," said Glickman. "These victims might not have received this type of assistance if it were not for the existence of the AmeriCorps program.

"It meant a lot to the Members for the Secretary, the NRCS Chief and CFSA Administrator to visit with them," said Ross Braun, USDA/AmeriCorps Project Director for Missouri and a NRCS resource conservationist.

ABOUT OUR COLLEAGUES

AMERICORPS MEMBER SCORES AS LOCAL VOLUNTEER

Peter Kim, a USDA/AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team in Barre, Vermont, has been successful both on and off the job. The soccer team he volunteered to coach just won the state championship in its league. Kim is a native of Buffalo, N.Y., and a graduate of the University of Vermont. He volunteered to coach the 13-and-14-year-olds -- who were last in their league last year -- as a way to get to know the community.

As a result of his success, the local high school in Barre has offered him a job as junior varsity soccer coach following the completion of his AmeriCorps service.

As a USDA/AmeriCorps Member, Peter has worked with food assistance, summer and breakfast feeding programs; assisted schools in developing community service programs by connecting them with anti-hunger resources; helped with nutrition education through the Extension Agency; worked with community programs in creating community gardens and developing a curriculum for the local schools on how to plant a garden.

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

THE FIFTH EDITION, Volume 1, Number 5

METAL SIGNS TO IDENTIFY USDA/AMERICORPS PROJECTS NATIONWIDE

Signs to be erected at each site to identify the work of 1995-1995 USDA/AmeriCorps Members are nearing completion and will be distributed to project managers as soon as possible.

"It is important that people recognize where the contributions are being made," said Paula Cole-Jones, National Coordinator for National Service and Volunteer Programs for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "People participating in AmeriCorps are role models and these signs will help communities identify their accomplishments."

Hopefully the signs will reach projects in time for installation during graduation ceremonies.

GETTING THINGS DONE - WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING NATIONWIDE

(Editor's Note: The following is compiled from the weekly activity reports from regional facilitators. Reading these reports is an inspiration. The type, level, and amount of work being done throughout the country by our AmeriCorps/USDA Members is overwhelming. Unfortunately, the time and space requirements of the newsletter allow for only a small sampling of the activities from our projects in 38 states.)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEMBER IN VIRGINIA

USDA/AmeriCorps Member **Delton Alderman**, an engineer and a member of the Forest Service Rural Development Team in Wytheville, Virginia, has designed and built a portable, stress-laminated timber bridge which can be easily dismantled and carried in a truck and placed across a stream.

Although the bridge could have many uses, he specifically designed it for loggers to get timber across streams without disrupting water quality. His work also has potential for creating new jobs in a new industry -- the manufacture of hardwood timber bridges.

He will give a demonstration of the portable bridge on May 31 to George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and R C & D engineers on May 31.

ABOUT OUR COLLEAGUES

Kristin Korutz, a Member of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rural Development Team in Michigan, is one of five finalists in the AmeriCorps category of the Governor's Community Service Award. She was nominated for her outstanding service in groundwater risk assessment and education.

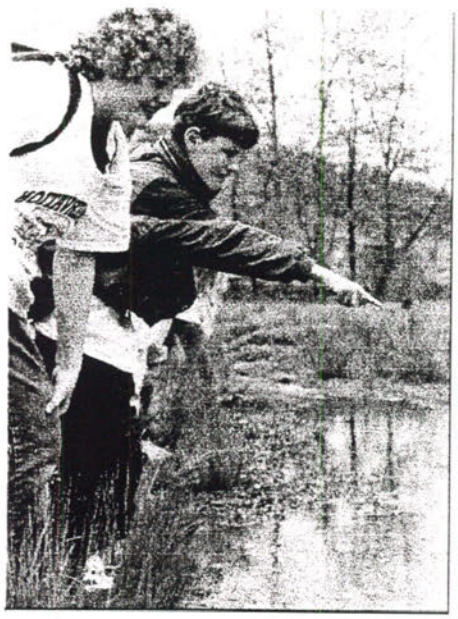
The Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee Resource Conservation & Development Council with assistance from the USDA Forest Service-AmeriCorps program

Spring 1995 **Volume 1.1**

CONSERVATION EDUCATION NEWS

Earth Day every day . . . at Envirothon and Conservation Camps

caption



Mr. Monk's statement

900 attend Conservation Camps

Approximately 900 students, teachers, and parents attended the RC&D Council's first-annual Conservation Camps during April and May. Schools in Carter, Johnson, and Unicoi Counties, and Elizabethton City participated. Conservation Camp '95 gave fourth-grade students and their teachers the opportunity to learn about conservation and other related topics while enjoying the outdoors.

The original dates for Conservation Camp were April 20 and 21 for all school systems. However, due to unforeseen changes in T-CAP test dates, the camp dates, locations, and presenters had to be altered. With all of the changes, the number of students attending far exceeded our expectations. For this reason, some schools did not receive T-shirts, literature packets, etc. Elizabethton City Schools attended camp April 20 and Carter County April 21 at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. Unicoi County attended camp May 5 at Johnny Lynch's Farm in Unicoi. Johnson County attended camp May 12 at Mountain City Elementary School.

At each camp there was an average of 14 learning stations for the students to visit. Professionals from nonprofit organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, as well as citizen volunteers gave 10-12 minute presentations on a broad range of topics. Students and teachers moved from station to station, learning about forestry, forest fire prevention, aquatics, recycling, soil conservation, wildlife, and many other topics. (cont. next page)

South Greene wins regional Envirothon

A team of five students from South Greene High School claimed first place in the second-annual regional Envirothon, held April 19 at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Elizabethton. Teams from Hampton and Cloudland High Schools placed second and third, respectively.

Fifteen teams from high schools in Carter, Greene, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties competed. Participation increased about 50% over last year's regional event, with two new counties and five new high schools joining the growing number of Envirothon participants throughout the country.

The victorious South Greene High School team, newcomer to Envirothon, proceeded to the state contest, held in Crossville May 8-9.

Envirothon is a hands-on outdoor competition with regional, state, and national levels. The contest is designed to promote awareness of natural resources and current environmental issues. Since the first Envirothon, held in Pennsylvania in _____, 23 ??states now hold competitions. (cont. page 2)

The Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee RC&D Council conducted this region's first Envirothon in 1994, when the Hampton High School team from Carter County won first place in the regional competition, and third place in the state. The six other RC&D Councils in Tennessee also conduct Envirothon competitions in their regions. (cont. next page)

Thanks to our sponsors:

Tenn. Dept. of Agriculture
USDA Forest Service-AmeriCorps
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Waste Management, Inc.
McDonald's
Environmental Biotech
Carter, Johnson, and Unicoi Soil Conservation Districts
All USDA agencies that provided presenters
Johnny Lynch's Farmhouse Gallery and Gardens
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- July 26, 1996

Projects, Take Note!

August 19-25 designated as Food Recovery Week

The figures are preliminary -- but impressive. Our 20 special "Summer of Gleaning" projects have already rescued more than 100,000 lbs. of food for distribution to the hungry.

The program is based on the premise that up to one-fifth of the food produced for consumption in this country in fields, commercial kitchens, markets, stores, schools, and restaurants is lost -- but could be salvaged for use in the battle against hunger. Gleaning has been designated by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman as one of his top priorities.

TO EXPAND THE effort, the week of August 19-25 has been designated as "National Week of Food Recovery" and all USDA AmeriCorps projects are urged to spend that week -- or at least one day that week -- engaged in some activity to recover excess food.

Projects are encouraged to work with existing Summer of Gleaning sites and/or contact local anti-hunger groups to arrange to glean food from fields or to recover food from large events. institutions, and/or restaurants. **Projects are also encouraged to work with state, national, and community service commissions to recruit other, non-USDA, AmeriCorps members and community volunteers for the week's activities.**

WITH THIS EDITION of *L'Esprit d'AmeriCorps* is a form for information about your gleaning project to be faxed to the National Office, and a site list for the Summer of Gleaning projects.

Our Second Year Coming To A Close

AmeriCorps/USDA is about to graduate its second class, as projects nationwide plan special ceremonies.

In Kentucky, 14 Rural Development Team members and six Summer of Gleaning members have organized a service project for their final day. The members will serve food at Hope Center, a facility for homeless men in Lexington, then work in the center's garden. Later that evening, a banquet is planned and local dignitaries have been invited. Let us know your project's graduation plans by faxing the accompanying form to the National Office at (202) 720-4614.

Commemorative Plaques Are Again Available

The metal signs that can be used to designate a site as an AmeriCorps/USDA project are available again this year.

Fax your request for plaques to Dee DiFiore at (202) 720-4614. Order as many as you thing that you will need.

THERE ARE ABOUT 600 available and they will be divided among projects as fairly as possible. Projects are encouraged to use them as part of graduation ceremonies or some sort of ceremony that would make a good media event.

They should be erected as close as possible to the specific work site. Space has been left for projects to engrave more information as desired.

AMERICORPS/USDA RESPONSE FORM FOR SPECIAL SERVICE PROJECT DURING NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY

Location of Project (City or State): _____

Description of Event: _____

_____

_____

Event Site: _____

Date and Time: _____

Number of AmeriCorps/USDA members expected to attend: _____

County or counties of duty stations of AmeriCorps/USDA members expected to participate: _____

Collaboration with 1) existing gleaning project _____

2) local anti-hunger group _____

3) non-USDA AmeriCorps project _____

Local leader invited and/or confirmed: _____

_____

Name, telephone and fax numbers of contact person for food recovery project:

_____

Please fax to (202) 720-4614 when complete.

Call (202) 720-6350 with questions.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- September 5, 1996

The Administrative Answer

Can an AmeriCorps/USDA member serve a third year?

AmeriCorps members are eligible for an educational award for only two years. The AmeriCorps/USDA Program has a policy that states a member may only serve for the two years for which he or she is eligible for an education award. The AmeriCorps/USDA member may not serve a third year even if he or she is willing to forgo the education award.

However, the Corporation for National Service policy is different. The Corporation allows AmeriCorps members to serve a maximum of three years, but they can only receive the education award for the first two terms. The USDA policy differs from that of the Corporation's due to the legal basis under which the Agriculture Department's AmeriCorps Program operates.

In North Dakota

Sioux join with AmeriCorps members on satellite technology project

*(Editor's Note: **Kelly Bosch** and **Jessica Krumwiede** completed their 1995-96 term of service and graduated on July 31. They were AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team members sponsored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Jessica, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chipewa tribe, has enrolled in the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks while Kelly hopes to serve another year with AmeriCorps. The following excerpts are reprinted from an article in the **Minot** (North Dakota) **Daily News**.*

Rural Fort Totten - As threatening storm clouds approach from the northwest during a gloomy afternoon down a muddy gravel road west of Fort Totten, Jessica Krumwiede and Kelly Bosch travel down a muddy gravel road west of Fort Totten.

Their once tan pickup is now a dull gray splattered with dirt and mud from the back roads they have been traveling the past week and a half. They've taken the time, however, to wipe the mud and dirt away from the "AmeriCorps" logo attached to the driver's side door.

THEIR JOB IS easier, they say, if people know who they are.

"Once we explain what we're doing, what we're there for, we get a good response," Bosch said. "Most everyone is concerned about water quality."

With an ever-expanding Devils Lake chewing up shoreline foot by foot on the northern end of the Devils Lake Sioux Indian Reservation, tribal officials are being forced to move homes along the lake to higher ground.

THEIR FLOODING woes aren't limited to problems above ground, however. "There's a number of old, abandoned wells" on the reservation, said Peggy Cavanaugh, who serves as both the emergency management coordinator and health director for the tribe. "We have areas where the waters are rising going close to wells or covering wells. We're concerned about the mixture of runoff and the movement of water, and the old wells. "The flooding has given us fear for the quality of water. We don't want the lake to hurt the aquifer once these wells go under."

"The first thing we have to do is begin locating the wells," Cavanaugh said. Then the tribe can start looking for funding to seal the ones that are abandoned or threatened, she said.

THE PAST TWO weeks, Krumwiede and Bosch, Devils Lake natives, have spent their days walking around the reservation with high-tech equipment in their hands looking for wells.

The two have battled stormyweather and muddy back roads, the occasional unfriendly dog and sand flies that swarm in massive clouds around the edge of the lake along the way.

It's all in the name of quality water, and it's exciting," Bosch said as he and Krumwiede surveyed lake lots on Devils Lake southwest shore for potential well sites. "Everything's an adventure."

On the reservation, their mission is to identify the location of water wells -- those that have been abandoned and those that are still in use but within a mile of the lake -- using satellite technology.

The collaboration of the tribe and the AmeriCorps program in North Dakota came about primarily through the help of Don Felch, a liaison between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Devils Lake Sioux and Turtle Mountain Ban of Chippewa tribes. "The tribe wanted something done," Felch said over the phone. "They're being flooded out . . . and they were looking for anybody that would give them some help. And the only thing the NRCS as an agency could provide to them would be to help seal wells though cost-sharing."

* * *

WHAT BOSCH and Krumwiede are doing is using the tribe's Global Positioning System equipment to determine the coordinates of abandoned wells and wells near the lake. The equipment utilizes satellites the Defense Department used during the Persian Gulf War, that are now being used for everything from farming to fishing to traveling. The equipment Bosch and Krumweide use looks simple enough.

It consists of a hand-held device, a battery pack and a survey rod.

"We stand as close to the well as we can get and place the receiver over it," Bosch said as he tried to simultaneously work the equipment and swipe bothersome sand flies away from his face.

"IT'S LIKE a little calculator," Krumwiede continued. "We press a few buttons, and the satellites give the coordinates -- attitude and longitude."

At the end of the day the information gathered in the field is transferred to a computer at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Totten.

That information is sent to a BIA computer system in Lakewood, Colo., where computer maps are made. Those computer maps can be transferred to paper at the BIA area office in Aberdeen, S.D., Felch said.

* * *

FELCH SAID he hopes the AmeriCorps project succeeds and can continue somehow after the AmeriCorps involvement ends. "We'll see what kind of data we get," he aid. "That's going to be the exciting part -- actually looking at the end product."

Bosch and Krumwiede agree.

"A few years down the road we'll see what kind of impact this has, but right now we're just doing the legwork," Bosch said.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- August 26, 1996

Update:
The Future of USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Projects

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program. *These funds were not transferred to USDA* --- they were deposited into a trust fund that will later pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.

2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA , in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects --- principally to five anti-hunger projects.

3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds. USDA used funds from several agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas directly related to the mission areas of those agencies.

4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds. In the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided $1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

However, as a result of the Fiscal Year 1996 appropriations process, CNS has been prohibited from making grants of operating funds to Federal agencies. The legal result of this language is that USDA funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA --- has been eliminated.

The few USDA AmeriCorps projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS.

The prohibition on the distribution of CNS operating funds (funding source #2) to Federal agencies does NOT restrict the ability of CNS to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, such as USDA, in order to provide non-financial assistance to AmeriCorps projects of Federal agencies and provide educational awards (funding source #1) to the AmeriCorps Members in those projects.

Thus, unless prohibited by additional appropriations language, Federal agencies such as USDA can still use their own appropriated funds (source #3) and obtain state, local, and private matching funds (source #4) to support AmeriCorps projects.

Thus, if CNS signs a cooperative agreement providing non-monetary assistance to USDA, AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the Department will still have the legal ability to continue and the graduates of those projects will still be able to obtain educational awards.

However, even though both CNS and USDA have the *legal* ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so.

The cooperative agreement authorizing FY 1997 USDA AmeriCorps programs is being withheld pending such discussions with Congress. No USDA AmeriCorps projects may formally start before such an agreement is signed.

USDA and CNS both want to be sure that Members of Congress do not have even the perception that USDA and CNS are violating Congressional intent by continuing to sponsor AmeriCorps projects.

Secretary Glickman, CNS Head Harris Wofford, USDA Director of National Service Joel Berg, and other USDA and CNS officials are now working hard to reach consensus with Congress on this issue.

All USDA AmeriCorps sites will be notified immediately when an agreement is reached.

The Department hopes to resolve this issue early in September.

Glickman Kickoffs National Week of Food Recovery

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman went to work with AmeriCorps/USDA Members at the California Emergency Foodlink in Sacramento August 14 to sort and pack plums for the needy -- - and to announce the National Week of Food Recovery scheduled for August 19 - 25.

Following the announcement, **Bryan Rodrigues**, who is working with the FOOD Crops organization in Watsonsville, Ca., helped the Secretary. Rodrigues is a member of a special AmeriCorps/USDA "Summer of Gleaning" program operating in 20 states throughout the country. The program is based on the premise that up to one-fifth of the food produced for consumption in this country in fields, commercial kitchens, markets, stores, schools, and restaurants is lost -- but could be salvaged for use in the battle against hunger.

Also assisting Glickman at the Foodlink were **Tricia Price**, who is an AmeriCorps member in Placerville, Ca., and **Lana Osgood**, a member working in Yuba City, Ca.

AmeriCorps/USDA projects nationwide heldspecial food recovery events during the week. For example, on August 24, four AmeriCorps members were to have organized a youth theater performance in Monterey County, Ca., that would require a food donation as the price of admission. In the Peoria, Illinois area, AmeriCorps members who have taken part in the first, yearlong gleaning project in Havana, were recognized in a ceremony on August 20, then headed to a field to gather crops left behind after the harvest.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- July 26, 1996

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Commemorative Plaques Are Again Available

The metal signs that can be used to designate a site as an AmeriCorps/USDA project are available again this year. Projects are encouraged to make the erecting of the plaques a part of graduation ceremonies or some sort of ceremony that would be a good media event.

For example, Rural Development Team members might place plaques on houses they have renovated or on main streets that have been rebuilt due to the work of AmeriCorps USDA members. Plaques should be erected as close as possible to the specific work site. Space has been left for projects to engrave more information as desired. Fax your request for plaques to Dee DiFiore at (202) 720-4614. Order as many as you thing that you will need. They will be divided among projects as fairly as possible.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- July 15, 1996

Senate committee continues AmeriCorps funding

The Senate Appropriations Committee on July 11 passed the FY 1997 budget bill that includes a $402 million allocation for AmeriCorps, essentially maintaining the national service's funding level approved for FY 1996 which begins this fall.

Earlier last week, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA/HUD/Independent Agencies passed a measure backing the $402 million funding for AmeriCorps. The full Senate will now consider the appropriations bill with the national service funding, where national service has fared well.

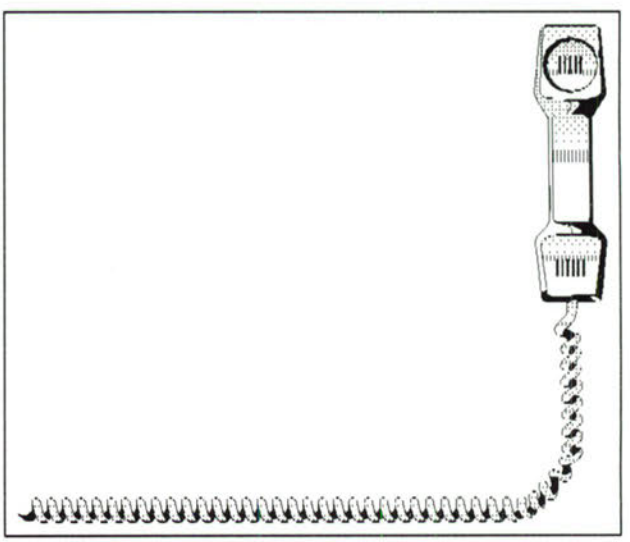
THE HOUSE OF Representatives recently struck funding for AmeriCorps. After both chambers complete action on budget bills, a conference committee will iron out differences and send a join proposal back to both houses for consideration. The final bills then go to the Presidents, who has said that he will veto any measure without adequate funding for AmeriCorps. If the process is not completed by September 30, a continuing resolution can be enacted to fund affected programs and agencies.

"These victories are yours," said Harris Wofford, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service, in a statement released last Friday. "These sound decisions reflect the growing recognition that national service is getting things done in communities across our nation; that AmeriCorps has begun to take root as an important thread in the fabric of community life, and that national service is an effective tool in meeting our nation's many challenges."

TALKING POINTS. . .

So your next door neighbor keeps asking you fine points about what AmeriCorps is -- or the local television station is coming to interview you about your project. Or your supervisor wants a briefing book about your program.

With this week's edition, you will receive two sets of handi-dandy Talking Points -- three pages total --- about the Summer of Gleaning and the overall AmeriCorps/USDA program.



ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- July 1, 1996

Two AmeriCorps/USDA Projects Take Awards

AmeriCorps Team Earns Award For Forest Service

Leadership provided to the AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team in Minnesota has earned a Forest Service employee an award from Partnership Minnesota, an organization that fosters interagency cooperation.

Al Steele, Rural Development Specialist with the Northeastern Area, was presented the award, which recognizes innovative governmental and civic cooperative efforts, and spotlights individuals who work well with partnerships. The Team Members were: **Jennifer Melbye, Jon Kolstad, Carlos Cervantes, Darren Jablonsky, Robert Gore, Andrea Athenas, Julie Smith, Todd Johnson,** and **Brandon Howard.**

AMERICORPS projects that led to the achievement of this award are:

*For the Southeastern Minnesota Forest Resource Center, members increased community outreach by the center and boosted tourism and community development efforts.

*For the Wemin Resource, Conservation District, members conducted a river cleanup and a forestry project to encourage Conservation Reserve Program enrollees to install riparian buffers and windbreaks with fast-growing, merchantable timber. The forestry project will soften the

Continued In Second Column

Vermont Anti-Hunger Project

The Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps has been chosen to receive a national America The Beautiful Foundation Award for a garden project in Duxbury, Vermont.

Two team Members, **Frank Huard** and **Stevan Ashton** are developing the garden with the Waterbury Senior Center, Waterbury Food Shelf, The Settlement Farm, the Northfield Savings Bank and the Vermont Department of State Buildings. The garden idea grew out of a need for fresh produce for area programs and because there was no community garden site in the area.

Land, services, and seeds from The America the Beautiful Program were donated for the project.

Continued From First Column

economic impact of the Conservation Reserve Program's declining acreage levels. It also resulted in the Wesmin RC&D receiving a grant of $250,000 from the McKnight Foundation to continue the effort by developing a growers cooperative

FOR THE CENTRAL Minnesota Initiative Fund, the East Central Regional Development Commission, and the Mille Lacs Community Development corps, members planned and conducted an effort to assess and report on barriers to sustainable development in central Minnesota. As a result, Sustainable Communities Project was established to implement the report's findings.

America The Beautiful Cites

Statement ...

By Harris Wofford, Chief Executive Office, Corporation for National Service

By now you've undoubtedly heard that the U. S. House of Representatives eliminated FY 1997 funding for AmeriCorps and Learn & Service America. While morning headlines proclaimed our demise, the net effect of the day's action is -- on balance-- quite encouraging.

The VA/HUD Independent Agencies Appropriations subcommittee bill had proposed $367 million -- an 8 percent cut from current levels-- for the AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America programs beginning in the fall of 1997.

AN AMENDMENT to eliminate the two programs, offered by Rep. John N. Hostettler of Indiana, was defeated by a wide margin in a bipartisan vote of 183-240. Nearly double the number of Republicans voted against the amendment (50) as voted for the 1993 Act. They were joined by nearly every Democrat (189 plus 1 independent).

A subsequent tactical play by Rep. Todd Tiahart of Kansas -- passed by voice vote when only a handful of members were on the floor -- transferred $40 million of Corporation funding to the Veterans Administration; the remaining $327 million was earmarked for deficit reduction. The amendment was offered during a series of pro-veterans amendments that received near-unanimous support. Armed with the earlier bipartisan victory for AmeriCorps funding, Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Lewis of California and other AmeriCorps supporters quietly accepted the amendment, rather than engaging in a divisive competition with veterans' medical programs.

As the New York Times reported (June 27): "A voice vote does not put lawmakers under the kind of political pressure that a recorded voted does, so tonight's vote was not a true test of the future of AmeriCorps."

IN A FINAL parliamentary move of the evening, Subcommittee Ranking member Louis Stokes of Ohio offered a motion to recommit (send the bill back) to committee to restore national service funding. Chairman Lewis-- siding with proponents of AmeriCorps-- rose in favor of the motion. Supporting the recommittal motion by the minority party is highly unusual for a subcommittee chairman. Although procedural votes usually follow party lines, 21 Republicans joined with 183 Democrats and 1 independent in favor of the recommittal. Perhaps sensing a close vote, the Speaker (who by tradition rarely votes) came to the floor and cast his vote. Some Republicans who had initially voted to restore AmeriCorps funding changed their votes before the clock ran out on the high-pressure, late-night roll call. The final losing tally of 205-212 did not include the votes of 12 Democrats, who were not present at that late hour.

Yesterday's action is only one step in a long budget process. The next step for AmeriCorps is

Senate VA/HUD Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee consideration, where national service has fared well. The Senate timetable is unclear. Neither house has yet completed action on the Labor /HHS

appropriation bills, which fund AmeriCorps*VISTA and the National Senior Service Corps (Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, and Retired & Senior Volunteers.)

WHEN BOTH HOUSES complete action on the bills, a conference committee will iron out differences and send final joint proposals back to both houses for passage. The final bills are then sent to the President. If the process is not completed by September 30, a continuing resolution can be enacted to fund affected programs and agencies.

Last night, Chairman Lewis said, "I don't believe that the leadership wants to have last year's fight all over again." A White House spokesman said,"The President has not lost one iota of enthusiasm for national service.. ,we will work as hard as we need to retain healthy funding for the program through the legislative process.:"

It is unfortunate that yesterday's action might be construed by some to indicate the demise of national service. They are wrong. Our position is much stronger than it was one year ago. Congressional critics like Senator Grassley and Chairman Lewis are now working with us to sustain and improve national service. The bipartisan victory on the Hostettler amendment--together with last springs's successful bipartisan effort in the Senate--puts us in good position when the House and Senate conferees meet later this summer or fall.

INDEED, AS THE New York Times reported this morning (June 27): "In private, even some of the program's most ardent opponents conceded tonight that is unlikely that they would succeed (at killing national service) this year... the latest attempt to eliminate the program is expected to be quashed in the Senate.

The strong favorable roll call vote yesterday is a direct result of your hard work. Our challenge is to do even better despite headlines that might discourage potential recruits, private sector partners, and the AmeriCorps members who are doing their best to serve our country. We must continue to communicate national service accomplishments--and to thank those who support service. Inviting elected officials and other community leaders to graduation ceremonies or site visits might be a good opportunity for them to experience national service first hand. Let your community know that national service is here -- and getting things done.

"The ongoing AmeriCorps and Learn & Serve America grant processes for programs, beginning this fall --the Class of '97--is unaffected by the budget proposals now being debated in Congress."
-Harris Wofford

NOTE: WHILE THE OVERALL AMERICORPS PROGRAM IS SECURE FOR ITS THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION TO BEGIN THIS FALL, THE FUTURE OF THE SPECIFIC USDA PORTION OF AMERICORPS IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN USDA, THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEES THAT FUND AMERICORPS , AND THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE FUTURE.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- June 25, 1996

Voices FromVirginia

Book of Essays on AmeriCorps Features Two USDA Members

(The following is reprinted from a newly released book of essays, "The AmeriCorps Experience - Voices from Virginia." Emily Pritchard, a Member of the Rural Development Team sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Virginia, and Paula Bailey, also a Member of the Rural Development Team in Virginia sponsored by Rural Development. Due to space limitations, we are only printing the essay of Paula Bailey.)

I first learned of the AmeriCorps program through the Virginia Employment Commission. I had decided to work for a year to obtain money for graduate school. The AmeriCorps program seemed most appropriate. The program has allowed me to save money for college and earn an educational award. I have applied for admission to several Schools of Pharmacy. I plan to acquire a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and practice in a community hospital. The AmeriCorps program has allowed me to get one step loser to achieving my goals.

I am working in the Rural Economic and Community Development office with the single-family housing and housing-repair programs which are designed to help low- and very low- income families. The housing- repair program assists homeowners with very low income to repair their homes to make them safe and sanitary. One of the success stories involves a 92-year-old woman who had been carrying water into her home since she was a child. She more did not have any indoor plumbing at all. I made contact with the elderly woman's granddaughter to let them know that help was available am happy to report that through the housing-repair loan and grant program the home now has a well, bathroom, and all indoor plumbing.

THE HOME OWNERSHIP program is designed to help low-income families acquire ownership of modest affordable housing . A success story involves a family of tenant farmers. he elderly family consists of the husband, wife , and an unmarried son. The family was forced to leave the home they occupied for 40 years when the owner of the farm decided to sell the property. The family's income was very low and they were unable to get the credit needed to purchase a home of their own. After several months in the application process and home construction, the family has recently moved into their new home. If it had not been for the home ownership low- income program, this family may have been homeless.

The majority of my time is spent working with very low-income applicants in Lee County, Virginia. I have been making the people in the community aware of these programs. I also assist the applicants in completing the application, and assist them in all other steps of the loan and grant process. The individuals who would qualify for repair loans and /or grant assistance seem to be the least informed on the assistance available to them. I feel that I have made a significant difference with these applicants. The number of home-repair loans and grants has tripled since 1994. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **WORKING IN THE** AmeriCorps program had made me aware of how many people, in my own community , are in desperate need of help. I have also learned how the local, state, and federal agencies are trying to reach those individuals and provide them with the help they need to have safe and sanitary housing. The AmeriCorps program has taught me that one person can make a difference in the lives of many needy individuals. Just as I have helped the very low-income elderly in my community through the AmeriCorps program, I will continue to assist rural America in the future by serving as a community pharmacist.

Update: North Carolina

Some of North Carolina's trout streams are cleaner -- thanks to the AmeriCorps/USDA Team in the state.

Members have completed projects along Snow Bird Creek in Graham County, where they replanted riparian vegetation and cleaned up trash. In Buncombe County, they teamed up with the Riverlink Association to clean up an area along the French Broad River.

Currently, Members are working in Henderson County on streambank restoration.

In order to save money, Team Members made their own seines, which are used in water quality monitoring. Made of mesh netting, seines trap material for later analysis in determining the quality of the water.

Members include **Sonia Abel, Trevor Baker, Reid Cloud, Kellye Orange, Laurel Talbot,** and **Trish Whitefield,** Team Leader.

The project is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Sally Stokes is site director.

AmeriCorps Staff Shirts Available

Members have their uniforms -- now staff can sport their AmeriCorps affiliation with a polo shirt emblazoned with the AmeriCorps/USDA staff logo.

And there is a cap to match. Staff may purchase the shirt for $16 ($1.25 per shirt more for XXL and XXXL) and the cap for $4.75.

For more details, see the accompanying order form.

AmeriCorps Now Has Its Own Alumni Organization

AmeriCorps Alums is building a national network of alumni/ae and friends that is ensuring that AmeriCorps is not just a year but a lifetime of service.

In November 1995, the Partnership for National Service launched the organization to keep the network of former AmeriCorps members active and strong. After only nine months, AmeriCorps Alums has interacted with hundreds of AmeriCorps graduates, and has created a strong database of former members and programs.

AmeriCorps Alums may be reached at (202) 337-2562. The address is: AmeriCorps Alums, Partnership for National Service, 555 13th Street, NW, Suite 300 East, Washington, DC 20004.

Team Gets Appreciation Letter From Congressman

*(From May 15-17, nine AmeriCorps/USDA members helped clean up debris from the Tall Grass Prairie in the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, Nebraska following a tornado. The members were: **Mary Rose Backhaus, Jo Britt, Stephen W. Cook, Nadine Chavet, Travis Dunekacke, Jeffery Gorgen, and Bonnie Tyrrell.** The following letter was sent to Stephen Chick, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Nebraska.)*

"Dear Mr. Chick:

Thank you for your assistance in sending the AmeriCorps /Team USDA to participate in the cleanup effort in Beatrice and the Homestead National Monument of America.

As you know, I visited Beatrice the weekend after the tornado struck and surveyed the extensive damage and the large amount of debris created by the storm. The participation of the volunteers from AmeriCorps certainly made the difference in the cleanup process. The AmeriCorps/Team USDA is to be commended for its work to removed debris from the Homestead National Monument and from Pioneer Acres. Their flexibility and quick response to the overwhelming need in Beatrice is an example of the good that AmeriCorps was created to do."

- DOUG BEREUTER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
(R - NEBRASKA)

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- June 12, 1996

Awards Include AmeriCorps Field and Headquarters Staff

AmeriCorps staff in the field and at headquarters received awards from Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman during the 50th Annual Honor Awards Ceremony in Washington on June 5.

National Service Program Field Staff honored for "reinventing Government by creating and managing a highly successful AmeriCorps national service program while building community, opportunity, and responsibility," included: **Tim Cattron (Michigan), Alan Herceg (Michigan), Bruce Leggitt (Arkansas), Larry Miles (Kansas), Holly Martien (Louisiana), Billy Moore (Louisiana), Carzella Pritchett (Illinois), Eddie Seidensticker (Texas), Wally Turner (South Carolina), Leroy Tull (Oklahoma)** , from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Staff from Rural Development who were honored: **Louis Elliott (Kentucky), Delores Gomez, Barton Hawkins, Richard Hoffpauir, Bettye Oliver (Mississippi), and Eric Vigil.**

Honorees from the Forest Service: **Elizabeth Crane, David Johnson (Washington state), Deryl Jevons, Mindy Martin, Samuel Mejia, Tony Montana, Alan Pigg (Georgia), and Bruce Weingardt.**

Elizabeth Riley of the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition, received an award for her organization's work as an Anti-Hunger Team sponsored by Food & Consumer Services. **(Continued on page 2)**

Paper on national service work places third at symposium

"The Volunteer Spirit and the Environmental Middle School: An EnviroCorps Project" is the title of an essay written by an AmeriCorps/USDA member with EnviroCorps in Portland, Oregon, which took third place at a symposium in Seattle, Washington recently.

The essay was written by Team Leader **Rich Melo,** and was submitted to the National Service and Education: Partnership for Success Symposium on May 6-7. The symposium focused on the work of various AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve Programs in education.

Team members have been working part-time at a public middle school organizing butterfly and native plant gardens in the schoolyard, making food baskets for needy families in Portland, and helping with wheelchair-accessible garden beds for a disabled living community. Students also take field trips at least once a week and learn through hands-on experience and service-based learning.

The members are: **Joy Fyfield, Ann Ledo, Jon Mugglestone, Karen Shay, Erik Steffens, Terri Tufts, and Lara Utman.**

(2)

Honor Awards

(Continued from Page One)

The Maine AmeriCorps/USDA Team was honored for"establishing a grassroots network of citizens, public organizations, and AmeriCorps members to develop and implement a unique statewide water quality improvement program with positive results." Honored were: **Richard Baird,** group leader, and AmeriCorps Members, **Dana Nelson, John Badger, Donald Collins, David Garcelon,** and **Wayne Munroe.**

Staff members in Washington who are now or have been part of the National Working Group received awards for "reinventing Government by bringing together diverse agencies to build a complicated and successful AmeriCorps Program as one Team USDA." Among the recipients were: **Ron Demumbrun** and **Katherine Gibney**, Office of Communications; **Jim Coyle** and **David Gibson**; Rural Development; **Dee DiFiore** and **Paula Jones,** Natural Resources Conservation Service; **Donna Hines,** Food and Consumer Services; **Charles Sims,** Farm Services Agency; **Katherine Allen, John Seymour, Michelle Scott, John Sebelius,** and **Lou Woltering**, Forest Service; **Larry Winston,** Agriculture Research Service; **Elizabeth Jones,** Food Safety and Inspection Service.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff ---
May 30, 1996

Burned-out community gets relief

AmeriCorps/USDA Members assist in cleanup following fire

It was "like a war zone," said John Thomas of the New Mexico community where five AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team members arrived two weeks ago to help in cleanup efforts following a devastating fire.

Thomas is the Rural Development Coordinator for New Mexico, and at the instigation of State Rural Development Director M. Steven Anaya, the USDA Members joined forces with AmeriCorps Members from the National Civilian Conservation Corps in San Diego, California, and Denver, Colorado, to assist in the cleanup in Lama, New Mexico.

THE MEMBERS shoveled up to "a foot or two of ashes" out of some homes, Thomas said. The fire, which started in early May, destroyed private and forest land and property -- about 8,500 acres and 20-30 homes. The Members who participated in the disaster-relief project included **Jason Deherra, Charlene Black, Hal Marshan,** and **Bruce Armstrong,** who are sponsored by Rural Development, and **Eric Aune**, who is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"They have been very, very helpful," said Alf Watt, a resident who also is assisting in the disaster-relief effort. "They are really an energetic group of young people."

THE PHILMONT Boy Scout Camp provided tents for the AmeriCorps Team, as did the National Guard. Residents from surrounding communities were making meals for the Members until Anaya contracted with a local Senior Citizens Center to provide food. Members are taking showers at a molycorps mine, which is also providing trucks to haul debris. (Molycorps is a substance that is mixed with steel to harden it.)

National Staff, Anti-Hunger Team Takes Part in One-Day Gleaning

Members of the National Staff of AmeriCorps/USDA, other Department officials, and the Members of the Anti-Hunger Team in the District of Columbia recently helped sort and box 25,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes at a farm in Clinton, Maryland, for distribution to the needy.

The project, sponsored by the Washington Area Gleaning Network, officially opened the organization's gleaning season. AmeriCorps/USDA National Staff who pitched in were: **Jim Coyle, Coordinator for Rural Development; Donna Hines, Director, Anti-Hunger Program; and Charles Sims,** Director for Farm Service Agency. Other USDA officials included **Sean O'Neal** and **Bart Hanford,** confidential assistants for Rural Utilities Service, **Bonnie Berry,** confidential assistant for the Rural Housing Service, and **Brad Captain,** confidential assistant to the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Members of the D. C. Anti-Hunger Team who participated were: **Jenette Chance, Warren Linder, Dunia Membreno, Wilson Rivera, Craig Speller,** and **Gerrie Wiggins.**

ESPIRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- March 19, 1996

Immediate Staff and Member Alert!!

Secretary Glickman to talk with Members nationwide by satellite

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman will talk to AmeriCorps/USDA Members across the country on Monday, March 25, from 11 a.m. - noon EASTERN STANDARD TIME during a satellite video teleconference.

AmeriCorps Members, project managers, and representatives of partner organizations nationwide are encouraged to participate in the teleconference by going to a site that can downlink the conference. Site supervisors are requested to identify one or more downlink sites in each state as soon as possible and to invite interested parties to participate in the conference. Most Natural Resources Conservation Service and Rural Economic and Community Development state offices have the technological capability to downlink the conference, as do most Extension offices and universities. The downlink should be free or at minimal cost. The site must have the technological capability to pull down the conference by "C-band." The satellite coordinates will be provided to you in the next day or two.

In addition, site supervisors are asked to identify one AmeriCorps/USDA Member who will represent each site during the conference. The Secretary will address participants, then each site's representative will be called on to tell the Secretary how many Members are at that site and explain in one or two sentences what service they are performing at that site. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

We will work with the local agency public affairs staff to encourage media coverage of this event.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE BY COB THURSDAY, MARCH 21 AND FAX IT BACK TO 202-720-4614 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY QUESTIONS, CALL 202-720-5746 OR 202-720-4369.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff --- September 5, 1996

The Administrative Answer

Can an AmeriCorps/USDA member serve a third year?

AmeriCorps members are eligible for an educational award for only two years. The AmeriCorps/USDA Program has a policy that states a member may only serve for the two years for which he or she is eligible for an education award. The AmeriCorps/USDA member may not serve a third year even if he or she is willing to forgo the education award.

However, the Corporation for National Service policy is different. The Corporation allows AmeriCorps members to serve a maximum of three years, but they can only receive the education award for the first two terms. The USDA policy differs from that of the Corporation's due to the legal basis under which the Agriculture Department's AmeriCorps Program operates.

In North Dakota

Sioux join with AmeriCorps members on satellite technology project

*(Editor's Note: **Kelly Bosch** and **Jessica Krumwiede** completed their 1995-96 term of service and graduated on July 31. They were AmeriCorps/USDA Rural Development Team members sponsored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Jessica, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chipewa tribe, has enrolled in the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks while Kelly hopes to serve another year with AmeriCorps. The following excerpts are reprinted from an article in the **Minot** (North Dakota) **Daily News**.*

Rural Fort Totten - As threatening storm clouds approach from the northwest during a gloomy afternoon down a muddy gravel road west of Fort Totten, Jessica Krumwiede and Kelly Bosch travel down a muddy gravel road west of Fort Totten.

Their once tan pickup is now a dull gray splattered with dirt and mud from the back roads they have been traveling the past week and a half. They've taken the time, however, to wipe the mud and dirt away from the "AmeriCorps" logo attached to the driver's side door.

THEIR JOB IS easier, they say, if people know who they are.

"Once we explain what we're doing, what we're there for, we get a good response," Bosch said. "Most everyone is concerned about water quality."

With an ever-expanding Devils Lake chewing up shoreline foot by foot on the northern end of the Devils Lake Sioux Indian Reservation, tribal officials are being forced to move homes along the lake to higher ground.

THEIR FLOODING woes aren't limited to problems above ground, however. "There's a number of old, abandoned wells" on the reservation, said Peggy Cavanaugh, who serves as both the emergency management coordinator and health director for the tribe. "We have areas where the waters are rising going close to wells or covering wells. We're concerned about the mixture of runoff and the movement of water, and the old wells. "The flooding has given us fear for the quality of water. We don't want the lake to hurt the aquifer once these wells go under."

"The first thing we have to do is begin locating the wells," Cavanaugh said. Then the tribe can start looking for funding to seal the ones that are abandoned or threatened, she said.

THE PAST TWO weeks, Krumwiede and Bosch, Devils Lake natives, have spent their days walking around the reservation with high-tech equipment in their hands looking for wells.

The two have battled stormyweather and muddy back roads, the occasional unfriendly dog and sand flies that swarm in massive clouds around the edge of the lake along the way.

It's all in the name of quality water, and it's exciting," Bosch said as he and Krumwiede surveyed lake lots on Devils Lake southwest shore for potential well sites. "Everything's an adventure."

On the reservation, their mission is to identify the location of water wells -- those that have been abandoned and those that are still in use but within a mile of the lake -- using satellite technology.

The collaboration of the tribe and the AmeriCorps program in North Dakota came about primarily through the help of Don Felch, a liaison between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Devils Lake Sioux and Turtle Mountain Ban of Chippewa tribes. "The tribe wanted something done," Felch said over the phone. "They're being flooded out . . . and they were looking for anybody that would give them some help. And the only thing the NRCS as an agency could provide to them would be to help seal wells though cost-sharing."

* * *

WHAT BOSCH and Krumwiede are doing is using the tribe's Global Positioning System equipment to determine the coordinates of abandoned wells and wells near the lake. The equipment utilizes satellites the Defense Department used during the Persian Gulf War, that are now being used for everything from farming to fishing to traveling. The equipment Bosch and Krumweide use looks simple enough.

It consists of a hand-held device, a battery pack and a survey rod.

"We stand as close to the well as we can get and place the receiver over it," Bosch said as he tried to simultaneously work the equipment and swipe bothersome sand flies away from his face.

"IT'S LIKE a little calculator," Krumwiede continued. "We press a few buttons, and the satellites give the coordinates -- attitude and longitude."

At the end of the day the information gathered in the field is transferred to a computer at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Totten.

That information is sent to a BIA computer system in Lakewood, Colo., where computer maps are made. Those computer maps can be transferred to paper at the BIA area office in Aberdeen, S.D., Felch said.

* * *

FELCH SAID he hopes the AmeriCorps project succeeds and can continue somehow after the AmeriCorps involvement ends. "We'll see what kind of data we get," he aid. "That's going to be the exciting part -- actually looking at the end product."

Bosch and Krumwiede agree.

"A few years down the road we'll see what kind of impact this has, but right now we're just doing the legwork," Bosch said.

ESPRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff ---
August 2, 1996

AmeriCorps Team Gleans Food at Olympics

If there was a gold medal for gleaning, the AmeriCorps Team that salvaged food from the Olympics in Atlanta would be the recipient.

As of July 31, the AmeriCorps members, who are working in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, had rescued more than 60 tons of perishable food from various vendors at the Olympic events.

"THE INTERNATIONAL GAMES have provided our AmeriCorps members with a unique opportunity in the battle to alleviate hunger in the host city," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "I hope that their work is precedent-setting and that it will become standard practice at all sorts of varied types of special events nationwide."

As the games came to a close each evening, the AmeriCorps members started their nightly service, according to Amy Hudson, community relations manager for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "They have been invaluable, working all night to rescue food from Centennial Park events and delivering it to the Food Bank," she said.

Three of the AmeriCorps members are part of the Department's special 12-week Summer of Gleaning Program currently underway in 20 states. They are **Casey Long** and **Gabe Weinberg** of Atlanta, and **Paul Soares**, of the Washington, D.C. Anti-Hunger Team, a USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps project in collaboration with the Congressional Hunger Center. Long and Weinberg are sponsored by USDA's Rural Development Agency.

THE OTHER AMERICORPS/VISTA members from the Hunger Center assisting in the Olympic gleaning project are: **Alex Dishun, Julia Demeliy, Sofia Ginzburg, and Aileen Cham.**

The AmeriCorps/USDA members in 20 states participating in this summer's USDA gleaning projects across the country are recovering fresh fruits and vegetables left in the fields after harvesting, and salvaging perishable foods from commercial establishments. Preliminary figures indicate that as of July 31, these teams had gleaned approximately 50 tons of food.

August 19-25 has been designated as Food Recovery Week and all AmeriCorps/USDA projects are urged to spend that week -- or at least one day that week -- engaged in some activity to recover excess food. Specifics on the Food Recovery Week were published in the July 26 edition of *Esprit d'AmeriCorps*. All projects should have received a response form by now to be faxed to the National Office detailing their special food recovery event. **Please fax forms by August 10.**

Members Leave Olympic Park 30 Minutes Before Bomb Blast

The normal routine of the AmeriCorps members gleaning food at the Olympics would have put them at the stage in Centennial Park at about the time that a bomb went off killing two people about 1:30 a.m. on July 27.

But the team finished a little early that night and left at about 1 p.m., according to Max Fineberg of the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington.

What if there double lines do you prefer or close or like this single

ESPIRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff
March 6, 1996

From the Field

A Visit with the Los Angeles Anti-Hunger Project

(Editor' s Note: The Department of Agriculture has AmeriCorps members in more than 100 locations nationwide and staff members from the Washington office are continually making visits to these sites. From time to time, these staff members will give an account of how they saw our Members getting things done all across America.)

BY DONNA HINES
AMERICORPS/USDA DIRECTOR ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAMS

On my recent trip to California, I had the pleasure of visiting with USDA's AmeriCorps anti-hunger project in Los Angeles, run by the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition (IHC).

"Upon reflection, it occurred to me that two of the strongest common threads linking every one of these 40 Members and the staff of IHC together are their unfailing enthusiasm for the work they are doing, and the unshakable conviction that they are performing service that can never be reduced to mere dollars and cents."

Donna Hines

IHC operates a 40-Member project in the Los Angeles area (including the nearby San Fernando Valley) that runs the gamut of anti-hunger activities: outreach and assistance to WIC and Food Stamp applicants/recipients, gleaning and community gardening, nutrition education for schoolchildren and elderly persons, microenterprise efforts that help low-income families and individuals break out of the poverty cycles that keep them spinning, homeless outreach and referrals, etc.

DURING THE COURSE of my day-long visit, I sat in on an interview with a young homeless woman who hadn't eaten in two days and had no way to feed her toddler; observed a planning session at the University of Southern California's Business Enterprise Network (BEN), where a smll group of Members will be teachng students in an alternative high school the basics of entrepreneurship (starting a business); discussed with another group of Members their plans for the Second Annual Youth Anti_Hunger Conference, which is expected to be even biggrt than the 1,000-student turnout they had last April; watched as one of the largest food banks in the country gratefully accepted the Team's help in revamping its community garden, and made plans for Members to solicit restaurants and fast-food producers as participants inits food rescue program: and participated in the groundbreaking for a gardent that will provide fresh vegetables to young and expectant mothers staying in a shelter adjacent to IHC's offices. The youngest mother at the shelter is 11 years old.

I also talked with the other Team Members, who were eager to tell about their current projects, such as School Breakfast (Start Your Head) and nutrition education presentations in the Los Angeles schools -- outreach and advocacy work with low-income families who are having problems with the established public assistance structure -- and a wide variety of other projects that made me tired just to hear about them! IHC even managed to squeeze in a reception that evening where I had the opportunity to talk with the Members again, as well as to meet some of the organization's key partners in Los Angeles.

UPON REFLECTION, it occurred to me that two of the strongest common threads linking every one of these 40 Members and the staff of IHC together are their unfailing enthusiasm for the work they are doing, and the unshakable conviction that they are performing service that can never be reduced to mere dollars and cents.

These Members are not only feeding people's bodies -- they are engaged in feeding their minds, and their dignity, and maybe even their very souls, and somehow in this process, they are feeding their own as well.It was an incredible, and incredibly short, visit, but it reminded me of what we are all here to do, and refueled my excitement about doing it.

AmeriCorps and its Peace Corps predecessor join forces

AmeriCorps and its predecessor -- the Peace Corps -- joined forces at work sites across the country on March 1 to celebrate the international agency's 35th anniversary.

In Washington, D.C., the AmeriCorps/USDA Members at the National Plant Materials Center in Beltsville, Maryland, painted four bathrooms at the Blow Elementary School in northeast Washington. The seven do watershed restoration and reforestation throughout Maryland and D.C. as part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Public Lands and Environment Team.

They are: **Matt Shinderman, Kery Tibbs, Nicole Abrams, William Watkins Jemel Jacobs, Marvin Drummond, and Lina Undayag.**

Larry Winston, AmeriCorps/USDA project manager at the National Arboreteum in the District, painted bathrooms at the Richardson Elementary School in northeast along with Public Lands and Environment Team Members, **Michael Smith and Adrian Harris.**

Tim Forbes, Gerrie Wiggins, Willie Wilson, and Craig Speller, members of the AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger Team in the District, painted bathrooms at the Rudolph Elementary School.

THE ANTI-HUNGER Team teaches nutrition education in the elementary and junior high schools, works with soup kitchens, food banks and a gleaning project, does nutrition screening for the elderly, teaches life skills management with the School for Tomorrow whose students are mothers preparing to get off welfare.

Project Members also are organizing youth anti-hunger clubs to assist high school students in meeting a 100-hour community service requirement through anti-hunger work.

ESPIRIT D'AMERICORPS

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff
February 26, 1996

Members to Plant Trees As Part of Day of Service

AmeriCorps/USDA projects to commemorate Oklahoma bombing victims

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) AmeriCorps Members will enlist community volunteers to join them in tree-planting projects at sites nationwide on April 23 to commemorate the victims of the Oklahoma bombing as part of a National Day of Service.

"Some of the 169 victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were USDA employees," said Joel Berg, Director of National Service for the Department. "I hope that all our projects will conduct tree-planting ceremonies to link these two dates."

THE NATIONAL DAY of Service is celebrated annually to focus attention on AmeriCorps and the community service of non-profit and private organizations. Many people will take time off from their jobs or their normal routines to give service to those in need.

"We will dedicate this year's 'Day of Service' to the memory of those who lost their lives in the Oklahoma bombing," Berg said. "Let us take this opportunity to remember those who died in that needless tragedy and to demonstrate our national unity."

Projects soon will receive additional information and a form to submit to Washington about their specific plans for their tree-plantings on April 23.

The National Office will publish a press release nationwide to announce the AmeriCorps/USDA Members participation in the 1996 National Day of Service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Greetings from Lebanon, Virginia.

I just wanted you to know that I am being well received in Southwest Virginia, and that I have had some news coverage.

Our ***Lebanon News*** ran the enclosed article which **Blaine Delaney** and I are quite proud of so I thought I would share it with you.

I am enjoying the newsletter -- keep up the good work!

Marlene S. Fields

(Editor's Note: Marlene and Blaine are Members of the Rural Development Team working through the Black Diamond Resource Conservation District in Lebanon, Virginia. Marlene has two adult children, James and Jennifer. Thanks to Marlene and other Members and staff who continue to send us original copies of newspaper articles and videotapes of news segments about our projects nationwide. Know that they are well-used in Washington to broadcast the message about our dedicated Members and their accomplishments.)

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

AmeriCorps/USDA provides flood relief

Members from Idaho, New Jersey, and Oregon assisted in recent flood-recovery efforts in several states hardhit by disastrous winter floodwaters.

In Idaho, **Lisa Swanson**, who serves in Lewiston, provided information to members of the Nez Perce tribe about the available flood-relief services, took photos in the field to be included in the survey being prepared by the field disaster assessment teams, and continues to distribute flood-sample bottles so local residents, especially the tribal members, can submit wellwater samples for contamination assessment.

Lisa, along with **Rob Miller** in Orofino, **Rexanne Vandiver** in Coeur d'Alene, and **Ken Preston** in Moscow, performed a variety of other flood-relief tasks: assembling equipment for the assessment teams, making field trips to pinpoint location and extent of damage, and manning telephones.

THE AMERICORPS/USDA Members are part of the Idaho Rural Development Team sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Kevin Braniff and **Doris Ignatow**, NRCS Rural Development Team Members in adjoining New Jersey, went to Pennsylvania to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to canvass door-to-door in several communities. They distributed fliers listing services available to help flood victims and asked victims if they had signed up for assistance.

The two were featured in an article with an accompanying photograph on the front page of the *Scranton* (PA) *Sunday Times* on February 4.

THE FULL-TIME NRCS Public Lands and Environment Team Members in Portland who assisted in flood relief are: **LaMarr Cannon, Cheng Cha, Jim Closson, Jill Cox, Mike Grosso (Team Leader), Ann Ledo, Rich Melo, Mike Metcalf, Joe Nicter, Angela Parker, Erik Steffens, Jennifer Szolnoki, and Lara Utman.** Part-time Members who helped out are: **Joy Fyfield, Kirsti Krejs, Jonathan Mugglestone, Karen Shay, Erik Steffens, and Terri Tufts.**

The 18-Member Team helped to sandbag along the swollen Willamette River and at the city's wastewater treatment facility. They also worked at an American Red Cross telethon sponsored by the organization to raise funds for flood relief. The telethon netted approximately $500,000.

AmeriCorps Personals. . .

WEDDING❤❤

Josh Yates, project director for the AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger Team in Washington, D.C., will marry Molly Soper, director of development for the Gospel Mission, on March 23 in New Orleans. During 1995, Josh was a Mickey Leland Hunger Fellow and AmeriCorps Member.

He worked with Donna Hines, director of AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger Teams. In addition to the District of Columbia, the Department sponsored four other Anti-Hunger Teams across the country in Los Angeles, Mississippi, Milwaukee, and Vermont during AmeriCorps' inaugural year.

#

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 18, 1995

To: AmeriCorps USDA State Coordinators and Site Supervisors

Through: FCS, FS, FSA, NRCS, and RECD National AmeriCorps Coordinators

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA JB

Subject: **First Quarterly Reports for the 1995-1996 Program Year**

Happy new year! We have both good news and bad news for you regarding the first quarterly report for the 1995-1996 program year of AmeriCorps/USDA, covering October 1 through December 31, 1995. We'll start with the bad news: The report format is going to change *yet again*. You will receive the new format in the next few days. Even if you have already completed the report in the old format, we will ask you to adopt the information to the new format.

However, the following multiple bits of good news should more than cheer you up:

First, ***you will be able to use the new format each quarter for the remainder of the year***. We will not change the format again for the entire program year.

Second, the ***new format should take considerably less time and effort to complete.*** Rather than continuing to require lengthy written narratives explaining each project's progress, the new format will focus more on obtaining a numerical accounting of each site's progress in completing the previously approved community service objectives. In addition, rather than requiring each operating site and/or cluster to complete lengthy written narratives, the new format will focus more on obtaining accurate aggregated data for the entire state, as certified by each agency's state AmeriCorps coordinator.

Third, the ***deadline for submitting these completed reports to your agency national office has been extended for a full month --- to Monday, February 26.*** Given this lengthy extension, we fully expect each state to meet the new, firm deadline.

We apologize greatly for the changing formats and late notification, especially since many of you have already completed your first quarter report using the old format. However, we have been negotiating the new format with the Corporation for National Service, whose employees were furloughed during both government shut-downs. As you know, our offices were also closed for nearly a week by a blizzard. We thank you for your patience and understanding. We trust that you will agree with us that, not only is the new format less cumbersome, but that it will provide USDA with a better tool to fully document the remarkable success of our AmeriCorps program.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

AMERICORPS/USDA ONLINE

A Newsletter About and For AmeriCorps/USDA Members and Staff
January 17, 1995

(Editor's Note: Please send us your news, personal items, vignettes etc., -- ON A DISK IF POSSIBLE -- to the following address: Katherine Gibney, Editor, 14th & Independence Aves., SW; Room 542-A, Washington, D.C. 20250; (202) 720-4369.)

NEW YORK AMERICORPS TEAM HAS THEIR WORK MAPPED OUT

A five-member Rural Development Team of AmeriCorps/USDA members in East Aurora, New York, is providing community service through the geographic information system and computer mapping projects, according to John Whitney, District Conservationist at the Natural Resources Conservation Service East Aurora Field Office.

"This AmeriCorps team is helping communities throughout Erie County and western New York take advantage of the power and benefits of computer mapping technologies," said Whitney. "As a direct result of their work, communities are making land-use decisions more efficiently and with more attention to environmental and social impacts and constraints."

The AmeriCorps/USDA team Members include Scott Barnwell, Christian Castiglione, Jo Ghosen, Gayla Gross, and Lisa Matthies. The team compiles information on land use, tax parcels, public utilities, hazardous waste sites, watersheds, wetlands, soils, and other natural or environmental resources and creates maps showing the spatial relationship between these features.

The projects are initiated at the request of individuals, federal, state, and local agencies and governments, and the Seneca Nation of Indians. Completed projects help these entities with short-term and long-term planning, to comply with regulations to preserve and protect natural resources, and improve public service and public awareness of environmental features within local communities.

Some current projects include digitizing tax parcel and special district maps with the city of Tonawanda, digitizing watershed boundaries in western New York, mapping surviving American chestnut tree locations with the American Chestnut Tree Foundation, compiling wetlands data with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, and locating and mapping abandoned natural gas wells with the Seneca Nation of Indians.

QUOTE TO NOTE

(We continue to receive copies of articles from local newspapers about our AmeriCorps/USDA projects across the country. Keep those articles coming -- and

also any copies of videotapes from television spots and cassettes from radio stories. The following is a quote by our AmeriCorps Director which appeared in the Fargo and Minot, North Dakota newspapers about our project in that state.)

"These are services that are not offered by anyone else. There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in." - Jay Mar, North Dakota AmeriCorps Director.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE ANSWER

(From time-to-time we will address administrative issues in the newsletter for which we get a number of calls. Please submit any administrative question(s) that you would like to see addressed in print to the editor at the above address. Or call Ron DeMunbrun at (202) 690-3894 or Dee DiFiore at (202) 690-3051 for an answer by telephone.)

Here's the question for this edition: What is the policy for AmeriCorps Members with regard to the two-week active military Reserve duty concerning pay and credit for service hours performed?

Last year, Members who were required to serve two-week active duty did so without pay and received no credit for service hours during this period. However, the policy has been changed by the Corporation for National Service.

This year, active military Reserve duty will count as service hours and Members will receive their AmeriCorps pay. The policy covers required military duty, not volunteer duty. The Time and Attendance code is 65.

NEITHER RAIN NOR SLEET, NOR LOTS OF SNOW . . .

The Blizzard of '96 didn't stop AmeriCorps/USDA Anti-Hunger Team Members in Washington, D.C. from a scheduled community service project on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15.

The DC Service Corps Members caulked, sanded, and painted the interior of apartments at New Livingston Manor, a low-income housing project in southeast Washington. Working alongside the current Team were Members from last year's project who served with the DC Service Corps, AmeriCorps/USDA National Director Joel Berg, and officials from the Corporation for National Service.

AmeriCorps/USDA Members throughout the country participated in special projects to honor the assassinated Civil Rights leader.

(Jot us a few lines about what your Team did for the MLK holiday and we'll print the info as space allows.)

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Special Edition
1995-96 Annual Report

WINDBREAK

A Publication of the Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District
Serving Southwestern San Bernardino and Western Riverside Counties

Vol. 15, No. 2
Summer 1996

Conservation Jamboree & Awards Barbecue

The District sponsored the Conservation Jamboree on June 2, as a pre-event to the annual Awards Ceremony at the Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park. Visitors to the Jamboree participated in organized games and activities, and visited booths from local agencies, groups, and businesses. Llamas, pigs, goats, and sheep were also an attraction to the event. Over 150 visitors braved the 100 degree weather and high smog levels to take part in the Conservation Jamboree.

Many groups and organizations brought information, giveaways, and other things for viewing. These organizations included the Glen Avon 4-H, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, Las Llamas, Zar's Red Power Durocs, Green Garden Farm, City of Chino, City of Rancho Cucamonga, NORCAL/San Bernardino, Inc., Jurupa Area Parks and Recreation District, and the San Bernardino County Stormwater Program.

Children enjoyed making rainsticks, bird feeders, animal tracks, bubble wands, and newspaper hats and masks. Also, kids and adults alike wandered around with Native American Symbols on their cheeks, after visiting the face painting station.

Participants use mailing tubes, pasta and beans, and reused materials to create their "rainsticks" at the Conservation Jamboree.

But by far, the most popular activity was the pie eating contest. Over forty people of all ages crowded around the contest table, with family and friends cheering them on.

The Jamboree was followed by the Awards Ceremony/Barbecue. Forty invited guests came to recognize those who have done wonderful work in conservation and students who won contests and scholarships (see page 2 for list).

Costs for the awards and day's activities were partially funded by numerous sponsors and proceeds from the Jamboree's "Opportunity Drawing" (please see page 8 for sponsors and donors).

Though exhausted after the affair, Event Coordinator Penny Peterson has already discussed plans to make next year's event even better.

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August '96 USDA-NRCS Oklahoma Environmental Corps Volume 1.2

AmeriCorps

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADD 'EM UP

With less than two months to go in the Oklahoma USDA-NRCS AmeriCorps program for FY 1996, Team USDA has been racking up hours of community service and accomplishments.

LeRoy Tull, Program Director for Oklahoma's NRCS AmeriCorps projects, was recently recognized as USDA AmeriCorps Program Director of the Year. Tull said he feels this award is especially meaningful to him because the nomination came from the Oklahoma NRCS Project Managers and team members themselves. "A Program Director is only as good as the AmeriCorps team effort," said Tull.

Tull also received a group honor from Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. The National Service Program Staff in the Field Award nomination was submitted by the Office of Communications. Group members received a plaque and were honored by the Department of Agriculture during a ceremony via satellite on June 5. Tull also received a Certificate of Appreciation from NRCS Chief Paul Johnson.

USDA alone has approximately 1,000 AmeriCorps members in 45 states. We are all proud that recognition is coming to our state and our projects.

"Whatever recognition is received, will be and is shared by all of us; the AmeriCorps team members, project managers, NRCS staffs, and our conservation partners," said Tull.

GETTING THINGS DONE

As of July 1, the three Windbreak Restoration Teams at Cheyenne, Sentinel and Woodward have completed work on 34 shelterbelts/windbreaks, spanning 18 miles. In addition, the three teams have planted more than 13,000 trees and provided conservation education to over 1500 youth.

The Conservation Development team at Claremore has educated more than 5400 youth and 500 adults. They have also developed a one-mile trail with a walk bridge and maintained 5 miles of trails.

By September 30, these totals will grow, and all teams will have completed their work. Each team member will have completed at least 1700 hours of community service--this totals more than 20,000 volunteer hours for the Oklahoma USDA-NRCS AmeriCorps Teams!

RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

At present, NRCS will have two AmeriCorps Teams in Oklahoma for the 1996-1997 year. The Conservation Development and Education Project will be in Northeastern Oklahoma at Claremore. Arnold Hamilton, NRCS District Conservationist, will serve as Project Manager. The Windbreak Restoration Project will be in Northwestern Oklahoma at Alva. Shelly Oliphant, DC, will serve as Project Manager.

We are now recruiting applicants to serve in these AmeriCorps programs beginning in October 1996. Applicants should be informed applications are being accepted on the premise that the program will continue and be fully funded for the 1996-1997 year.

Applications and other information may be obtained from the Project Managers or the NRCS State Office at Stillwater.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

INSIDE

2 Team Talk
3 By Members Past and Present
4 What Makes It All Worthwhile
6 Safety
8 Crossword Puzzle

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 USDA, Suite 203
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655

FAX (405) 742-1201

Page 1 of 9 Date: 8/2/96

TO: Joel Berg, Director
USDA National Service
Washington, DC
Attn: Also Dee & Katherine

FAX # (202) 720-4614
Office # (202) 720-6350

FROM: Project Director

Office # (405) 742-1207

COMMENTS: Advance Copy - Will send you an original when printed - probably in the next day or so.
"Oklahoma's AmeriCorps Members Newsletter"

AmeriCorps Crossword

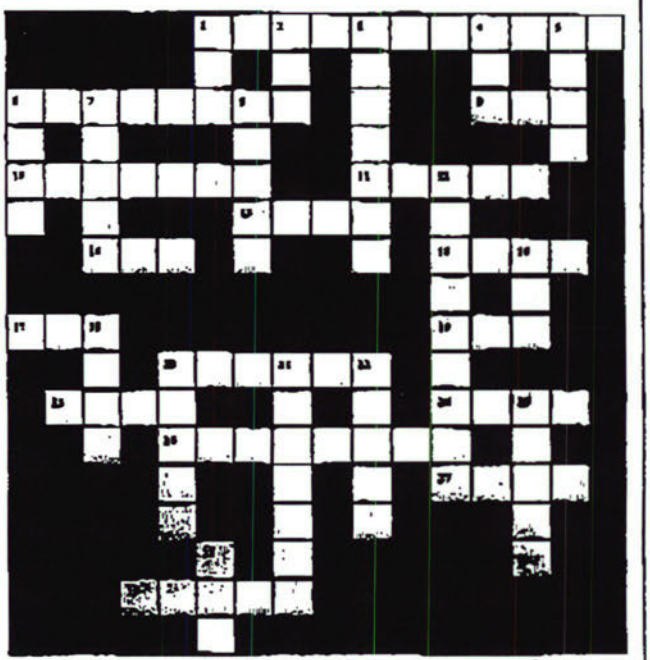
By Cindy Jones

ACROSS

1. Where some of us work
6. AmeriCorps is a _____ Service Program
9. Pollution watch group
10. Annual physical (slang)
11. _____ showers
13. Arrive on shore
14. Cutting device
15. Food for Mr. Ed
17. Soil and H_20 mixture
19. Shade tree
20. Morning brew
23. Joel Berg employer
24. Dumbo's claim-to-fame
26. A Day of rememberance
27. OK NRCS AmeriCorps Program Director
29. Part of CCC

DOWN

1. Ray producer
2. Snakelike fish
3. Cyclone
4. Spelling contest
5. Foliage unit
6. USDA AmeriCorps sponsor
7. Arbor Day honoree
8. Forbidden fruit
12. Prairie States Forestry Project Initiator
16. Western OK Area Service Forester
18. 1930's bowl
20. CCC boys lived here
21. #11 Across brings
22. Cream of the crop
25. Measuring device
28. Exists



AmeriCorps
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 USDA, Suite 203
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655

BUG OFF!

Troublesome Summertime Insects

By Jeremy Moler

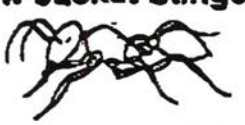
Illustrated By Jon Boyd

Mosquitoes

Rainfall in mid and late May often results in an abundance of mosquitoes by early June. Similarly, heavy rain during mid-summer through fall can produce breeding areas in which large numbers of mosquitoes can develop.

An important development involved the finding of a related species known as Aedes aegypti in Pittsburg and LeFlore Counties in Oklahoma in October 1987. This mosquito is known as the yellow fever mosquito. Between 1693 and 1901, it was estimated that these mosquitoes infected a half a million people. Mosquitoes are not naturally infected with the organisms that cause diseases. They must obtain the disease-causing organism by biting a person infected with the organism causing degue or yellow fever. These diseases are prevalent in the Caribbean Islands and Mexico, but they have not been reported from the U.S. in recent years.

Bee, Wasp, Hornet, Fire Ant or Yellow Jacket Stings



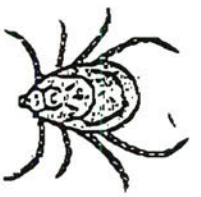
Perhaps one person in ten is allergic to the venom injected by insects in the Hymenoptera family. For such sensitive individuals, being stung by a bee or other Hymenopter insect can be a life-threatening emergency, called an anaphylactic reaction.

Symptoms of such a reaction after a bee sting may include swelling around the eyes, lips, tongue or throat; difficulty in breathing; coughing or wheezing; and widespread numbness or cramping. Hives may appear on the skin. Speech may be slurred, and anxiety, mental confusion, nausea, vomiting, and unconsciousness may occur.

Treatment: Mild Insect Bites

If the stinger from a bee or other insect remains in your skin, it must be removed carefully. Remove bee stingers, particularly the tip of the stinger, so as not to inject more venom. Mild insect bites can be treated with an application of a paste of baking soda, a cold, wet cloth, or hydrocortisone cream (purchased without a prescription) or calamine lotion to reduce itching and inflammation.

Ticks



If you find a tick crawling on your skin, carefully remove it. Do not crush it between your fingers; drop it in a fire or smash it between two rocks. Wash your hands afterward.

If the tick has already bitten you and is holding on to your skin, do not pull it off. Cover it with oil (any kitchen or machine oil will do). The film of oil will make breathing difficult for the tick, so it will relax its clamp on your skin. When it is free, remove the tick with tweezers.

After the tick has been removed, wash the area thoroughly. Watch the area carefully for the next week or two for signs of LYME DISEASE.

Repellents

Repellents can protect humans from mosquito bites for one to five hours, depending on the amount of sweating and rubbing of the skin, the percentage of active ingredient in the repellent and abundance of mosquitoes. The area of skin to be protected should be covered evenly, because mosquitoes will find and bite untreated spots. It's often helpful to use spray repellents on outer clothing.

Repellents are available as aerosols, creams, solids (sticks) and liquids. You should keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils, and lips.

Permanone is a repellent that is available as an aerosol for use on clothing, not on skin. This product reportedly provides the best protection from ticks and mites and chiggers.

DEHYDRATION

By Brant Rogers

"It is the the water in your body that maintains your life, not the water in your canteen."

The body gets rid of excess heat and attempts to keep the temperature normal by sweating. However, when you sweat, the body loses water and dehydration results. It has been proven that you can do twice as much or walk twice as far with sufficient water and normal temperatures than you can after you lose 1 1/2 quarts of water by sweating in 100 degree temperatures.

No permanent harm is done to a person who dehydrates up to 10% of his weight if later he drinks enough water to gain it back. However, 25% dehydration at temperatures in the nineties or above will probably be fatal. You can drink cool or warm water as fast as you want, but ice cold water may cause distress and cramps.

(1) Symptoms of Dehydration: Only by the ability to recognize the initial symptoms of dehydration can one expect to take corrective measures to prevent further (and possibly fatal) dehydration. Learn these symptoms: Thirst, discomfort, slow motion, no appetite, and later nausea, drowsiness, and high temperature. If dehydration is from 6 to 10%, symptoms will be: dizziness, headache, dry mouth, difficulty in breathing, tingling in arms and legs, bluish color, indistinct speech and finally, inability to walk.

(2) Prevention of Dehydration: Thirst is not an indication of the amount of water you need. If you drink only enough to satisfy your thirst, you can still dehydrate. Drink plenty of water, especially at meal times and during the cooler early morning hours.

A pebble or small coin carried in the mouth will alleviate the sensation of thirst but is not a substitute for water and will not aid in keeping your body temperature normal. Avoid smoking. It encourages oral breathing, exposing large areas to drying influences, thereby increasing the rate of dehydration and need for water. Salt will do you definite harm unless plenty of water is available. Don't worry about salt, but do try to keep up the water intake.

(3) Ration Sweat, Not Water: In hot deserts you need about a gallon of water a day. If you walk at night, you may get 20 miles for that gallon, but if you walk in the daytime heat, you will get less than 10 miles to the gallon.

Keep your clothing on, including shirt and hat. Clothing helps ration your sweat by slowing the evaporation rate and prolonging the cooling effect. It also keeps out the hot air and reflects the heat of the sun. Stay in the shade during the day. Sit on something 12 or more inches off the ground, if possible. DO NOT LIE ON THE GROUND as it can be 30 degrees hotter than a foot above the ground. If travel is necessary, travel slowly and steadily.

Rationing water at high temperatures is actually inviting disaster because small amounts will not prevent dehydration. Loss of efficiency and collapse always follow dehydration. IT IS THE WATER IN YOUR BODY THAT MAINTAINS YOUR LIFE, NOT THE WATER IN YOUR CANTEEN.

DON'T LET THE HEAT BEAT YOU

By Charles Hughes, Jr.

Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are conditions caused by overexposure to heat.

*HEAT CRAMPS are the least severe. Heat cramps are often the first signals that the body is having problems with severe heat. Heat cramps are painful muscle spasms.

*HEAT EXHAUSTION is a more severe condition than heat cramps. It usually affects construction workers, factory maintenance or people who wear heavy clothing in a hot, humid environment. Heat exhaustion signs include cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, headaches, nausea, dizziness, weakness, and exhaustion.

*HEAT STROKE is the least common, but the most severe heat emergency. It occurs within people who ignore the signals. Heat stroke develops when the body systems are overwhelmed by heat and begin to stop functioning. Some of the signals of heat stroke are red, hot, dry skin, change in consciousness, rapid weak pulse and rapid shallow breathing.

So, if YOU feel any of these conditions, get out of the sun, slowly cool your body down before it's too late, or FATAL

Letters to Woodward AmeriCorps Team

"Thank you for teaching the students how to identify trees at our natural resources day at the Alabaster Caverns State Park on Tuesday, April 23, 1996. The Freedom School students (four year old - 8th grade) and teachers seemed to really enjoy it. We plan to have the natural resources day again next year and hope you will consider teaching again....Thanks again."

Sincerely,
Woods County Conservation District Staff
NRCS Staff - Freedom Field Office

"Justin thank you for having a conservation field day. I liked the games and I liked that birds and worms game. I liked the science stuff and the cow stuff."

By Tara

"Thank you for having a conservation field day. I really liked the lab and the greenhouse. I liked the games and the refreshments too. I liked the experiment."

By Tyler Clark

"I would like to thank you for the tour of the cave it was cool. I also liked the ambulance. The nature walk was fun too. I can't believe Paul Clark knew so much about trees. The cows were awesome. I'm glad I learned how to plant a tree. Thanks for the salt. Lunch was great, and so were the coloring books."

Sincerely yours,
Chelsea Ferguson

"Thanks Field Station Workers! The third grade class of Highland Park says Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!"

(Signed by the
teachers and students)

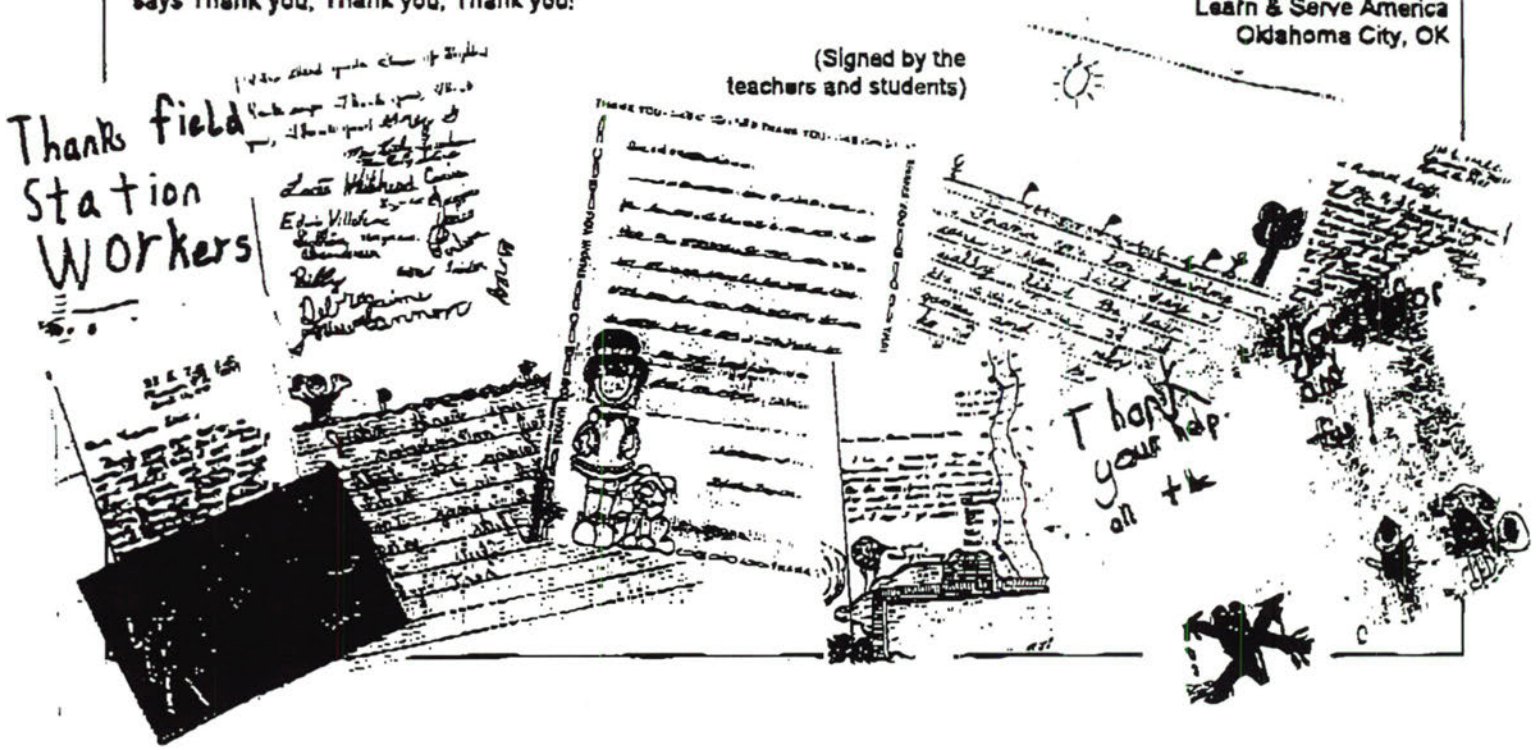
Letter to Cheyenne, Sentinel and Woodward AmeriCorps Teams

"Thank you for participating in Youth Service Day 1996 at Mark Twain Elementary School – what a success! The trees truly enhance the school's appearance, and give the students a sense of pride in and ownership of their school. Your contributions helped so much, and the students and teachers really appreciated all of the volunteers.

Teachers told me throughout the course of the day, their students positively commented on their enjoyment of the activities. During one session, a student looked up from her project, wide-eyed and smiling, and said, "This is just such a fun day!"

The trees, mulch, collages, flower pots, and the litter-free playground look great, and the students have one more reason to love their school! Your commitment to service really has made a difference in the Mark Twain community. With heartfelt thanks..."

Andrea Bentley, VISTA
Learn & Serve America
Oklahoma City, OK



APPRECIATION

WHAT MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE!

The following is a sampling of some of the cards and letters received by the USDA-NRCS AmeriCorps teams. It's always nice to know your work and efforts are appreciated. We thank those who have taken the time to write to us and let us know our work has been worthwhile and those that made the effort to just say "thank you."

Letters to Claremore AmeriCorps Team

"It was the best time I ever had. The Tree Factory was pretty cool when she showed us the wood that had been on fire. The Mystery Activity was so fun that my mom and dad want to go. The How Many Bears was cool. Dale was cool and fun to be with. Especially when he made Jake the crippled bear. Quick Frozen Critters with Tonia was the coolest activity there. I had the most fun time. The Unnatural Trail Walk was cool. We saw two snakes in the bushes on the trail."

Your friend,
Lora Upky

"I had a wonderful time at the Conservation Reserve. I liked the games, and seeing all of the animals like the deers, frogs, fishes, snakes, and I'm lucky I didn't have any ticks on me. Last but not least Thank You For The Wood and I hope I go again."

Your friend,
Ricky Cherry

"Thank you for letting us come! I had the best time of my life! And I got lucky and didn't get any ticks! My favorite activities were "Quick Frozen Critters" with Tonia, "Unnatural Trail Walk" with Steven, "Mystery Activity" with Melanie, and "How Many Bears" with Dale. Thanks again! Bye!"

Your friend,
Julia Gibson

"...I would like to compliment Steven, Melanie and Tonia for the manner in which they presented their activities and themselves. AmeriCorps should be proud of them..."

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Parkhurst
Westside 2nd Grade
Claremore, OK

Letters to Cheyenne and Sentinel Teams

"I would like to thank you and your team for helping us plant our trees. We really appreciate the time you spent with the classes in order that they would have a better understanding of trees. Once again, thank you."

Cindy Buckmaster
Pioneer Elem.–Elk City, OK

"I just wanted to say THANK YOU for the wonderful station that you provided for our natural resource day. I think we had a very successful day and the third graders had a lot of fun and learned a lot at the same time. Once again THANK YOU, without your help I couldn't have made the day possible...you all were a lifesaver!!!"

Nena Wells, District Manager
Upper Washita CD–Cheyenne, OK

"On behalf of the West Caddo Conservation District Board of Directors, District staff and NRCS staff, I wish to express our gratitude...regarding the shelterbelt renovation project recently completed on Ruth Barton's property.

Our district commends you and team members Cindy Jones, Coley Boyd and Jon Boyd, for the pride and dedication expressed by each throughout this task. The willingness to do a good job, manifested by this team, is somewhat of a rarity in today's workforce and an example all employees should follow.

Ms. Barton has indicated that she is also extremely pleased with the outcome of this project. Good public relations with our customers is one of the main objectives our district strives for and you have greatly benefited us in achieving this goal with Ms. Barton..."

Joe Frank, District Manager
West Caddo CD–Fort Cobb, OK

LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS

By Anthony Lovelace

Hello to my AmeriCorps friends. It's been a while since I saw any of you, so I thought I would put a little something in the newsletter. I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and well on your way to accomplishing all your goals. I am enjoying my job so far, it's tough trying to keep Steve Kelley and George Moore in line, a full time job as a matter of fact! Of course, if you ever have a question about professional wrestling you can ask George, and if you ever want to hear a good fish story, ask Steve, which reminds me of the old saying: Do fishermen lie or do liars fish?? Hmmm, we may never know. On a more serious note, I really enjoy putting my education to work to help producers solve their conservation problems. I am learning a lot of new ways to fight erosion and also learning a lot about engineering. There are many times that I miss our late night gossip sessions and the camaraderie. Enjoy the here and now for who knows what tomorrow will bring. I wish each and every one of you a long and successful life. The memories from the year and a half I spent in AmeriCorps will always be fond ones. If ya'll ever have a spare minute give me a buzz at the Clinton office. Take care!!

BASS FEVER

By Joey Rozell

Not been able to get away to the honey hole? Well now is the time! Here are a few helpful hints for you.

1) GET OFF YOUR LAZY CAN!
2) Change your line (often).
3) Never forget your rubber worm (black).
4) Buy your favorite Top Water Lures because it is that time of year.
5) Be sure you have good, sharp hooks.
6) Call your favorite fishing BUD!
7) Last but not least, **Put This Paper Down and Get Out There!**

CRP : OBJECTIVES THEN & NOW

By Paul Clark

With the Conservation Reserve Program coming to a close, what do we have to show for it? By stopping tillage on marginal land, soil structure has been dramatically improved. There has been an increase in soil organic matter, a greater infiltration of water, and the creation of many wildlife habitats. These are some of the environmental objectives obtained, but what about economic benefits? CRP has elevated land prices, helped marginal fields become lucrative in the rental market, and established a retirement plan for many landowners. These are definitely positive outcomes from the CRP.

With the program ending in the years to come, maybe we should consider transforming the program. Instead of calling it the Conservation Reserve Program, let's call it the Conservation Renewal Plan. Ten years of soil conservation can either be continued or abandoned. In the end, the ultimate fate of CRP is in the hands of the landowners, for they will determine what is best for them both environmentally and economically. But chances are, the land owners will not go out of their way to continue environmental safeguards without the advice and monetary support of the government.

If I were to talk to the landowner, I would point out what he has now, opposed to what he had before. And I would also remind him that the soil is a resource, not a commodity. In closing, I would like to share a favorite quote of mine from Louis L'amour:

"Yet we must never forget that the land and the waters are ours for the moment only, that generations will follow who must themselves live from that land and drink from that water. It would not be enough to leave something for them; we must leave it all a little better than we found it."

TEAM TALK

CHEYENNE

"The volunteer service for AmeriCorps has been a great deal of help and enjoyment. I have met many great people and have worked with many wonderful kids and members. I believe that everyone has benefited from this service; it was a very good experience."

--Brant Rogers, Team Leader

"I plan to go to welding school in Tulsa. AmeriCorps has given me the opportunity to further my education as well as getting my G.E.D. and a career of my choice."

--Charles Hughes, Jr.

"My volunteer time with AmeriCorps has been a good year. We have learned to work together for a common cause. I plan on going to night school to work with computer knowledge to be able to continue working with the public."

--Robert Jencks

"AmeriCorps has been a great experience. Besides learning new skills, I have met a lot of wonderful people."

--Jeremy Moler

"Yes, it's true AmeriCorps has been an experience. I believe all involved with AmeriCorps have gained from the experience. I'm really proud of the quality work the Cheyenne Team has performed. I also believe the best experiences come when working with the youth. We should continue the work already started and educate the public about our natural resources."

--Greg Allen, Project Manager

CLAREMORE

"The AmeriCorps team has been a bright star to our Claremore field office. They have enlightened us in many areas. I hope future teams can live up to the standards set by the '95-'96 team."

--Arnold Hamilton, Project Manager

"'AmeriCorps? What's AmeriCorps?' This is the response I get from people that see my T-shirt or who ask what I do. When I tell them about our program and my role in our wildlife reserve, I do it with pride. I feel great about the work we're doing. It's great to give something back to a community that has done so much for me (not that I'm from Claremore, but you understand). I hope everyone is getting as much out of their year."

--Steven Southard, Team Leader

"I have learned a lot through this AmeriCorps project. Not only have I learned about environmental education, but also about working with and around others. Most of all, I have enjoyed meeting new people that have the same career goals as I do. I will be able to use this experience for years to come."

--Melanie Sumter

SENTINEL

"Our team had the opportunity to go to Oklahoma City and do a project at the Mark Twain Elementary School. This National Youth Service Day Project gave team members from several different programs a chance to work together. I think that everyone walked away with a sense of pride and an overall good feeling for what we had accomplished that day by pulling together and working as one big TEAM. I feel that the members and volunteers had just as good of a time as the kids, while at the same time we were 'getting things done'. Way to go everyone, keep up the good work."

--Cindy Jones, Team Leader

"We're almost finished now and I've had a great time. I'm still learning and have enjoyed teaching at the outdoor classrooms. National Youth Service Day in Oklahoma City was a blast. I enjoyed helping the kids and 'getting things done'."

--Coley Boyd

"Well, we are getting closer to the end of our term and I can now say that I have really enjoyed it. I have enjoyed everything, except; the thorns, dead falls, ticks and poison ivy. It has been a training and learning period for me with the outdoor classrooms, newsletters, Effective Presentation training, tree plantings, National Youth Service Day and the day-to-day activities in AmeriCorps. All in all I have had a blast."

--Jon Boyd

"I have to say that because of AmeriCorps I have probably learned more about people in the last ten months than I have in my lifetime. I've experienced and witnessed selflessness, pride, commitment, enthusiasm, overcoming adversity and a lot of hard work and dedication. I've seen many diverse combinations working together as teams. Even though many seemed unlikely groups, they worked together like old-time friends. I've seen raw potential being developed and old wisdom being shared. They have all displayed a common thread of mutual respect for one another and a willingness to exercise tolerance."

--Karen Branson, Project Manager

WOODWARD

"The team is working well together this year providing valuable service to landowners in northwest Oklahoma. They are learning practical and interpersonal skills that they can use in whatever field they choose after their term of service is complete."

--Jim Shearhart, Project Manager

"An interest in preserving our precious top soil can be seen through the national program, AmeriCorps. It requires a team effort, from both the government and the landowners with one common goal, to stop soil erosion."

--Paul Clark, Team Leader

August '96 USDA-NRCS Oklahoma Environmental Corps Volume 1.2

AmeriCorps

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADD 'EM UP

With less than two months to go in the Oklahoma USDA NRCS AmeriCorps program for FY 1996, Team USDA has been racking up hours of community service and accomplishments.

LeRoy Tull, Program Director for Oklahoma's NRCS AmeriCorps projects, was recently recognized as USDA AmeriCorps Program Director of the Year. Tull said he feels this award is especially meaningful to him because the nomination came from the Oklahoma NRCS Project Managers and team members themselves. "A Program Director is only as good as the AmeriCorps team effort," said Tull.

Tull also received a group honor from Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. The National Service Program Staff in the Field Award nomination was submitted by the Office of Communications. Group members received a plaque and were honored by the Department of Agriculture during a ceremony via satellite on June 5. Tull also received a Certificate of Appreciation from NRCS Chief Paul Johnson.

USDA alone has approximately 1,000 AmeriCorps members in 45 states. We are all proud that recognition is coming to our state and our projects.

"Whatever recognition is received, will be and is shared by all of us; the AmeriCorps team members, project managers, NRCS staffs, and our conservation partners," said Tull.

GETTING THINGS DONE

As of July 1, the three Windbrook Restoration Teams at Cheyenne, Sentinel and Woodward have completed work on 34 shelterbelts/windbreaks, spanning 18 miles. In addition, the three teams have planted more than 13,000 trees and provided conservation education to over 1500 youth.

The Conservation Development team at Claremore has educated more than 5400 youth and 500 adults. They have also developed a one-mile trail with a walk bridge and maintained 5 miles of trails.

By September 30, these totals will grow, and all teams will have completed their work. Each team member will have completed at least 1700 hours of community service—this totals more than 20,000 volunteer hours for the Oklahoma USDA-NRCS AmeriCorps Teams!

RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

At present, NRCS will have two AmeriCorps Teams in Oklahoma for the 1996 1997 year. The Conservation Development and Education Project will be in Northeastern Oklahoma at Claremore. Arnold Hamilton, NRCS District Conservationist, will serve as Project Manager. The Windbreak Restoration Project will be in Northwestern Oklahoma at Alva. Shelly Oliphant, DC, will serve as Project Manager.

We are now recruiting applicants to serve in these AmeriCorps programs beginning in October 1996. Applicants should be informed applications are being accepted on the premise that the program will continue and be fully funded for the 1996-1997 year.

Applications and other information may be obtained from the Project Managers or the NRCS State Office at Stillwater.

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6 Safety
8 Crossword Puzzle

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

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

January 26, 1996

DEER SURVEYS A COLD ADVENTURE FOR PARKS TEAMS

Members of the Milford, Perry, and Glen Elder teams have participated in this adventure. The members of the Perry report seeing over 130 deer, while members of the Milford team report seeing in excess of 500 deer. The deer surveys benefit the state of Kansas biologists and wildlife and parks officials at the respective sites.

COLD WEATHER AFFECTS SERVICE AND TRAINING

Extremely cold and blustery weather put a chilling effect on the December 18 and January 17 training sessions held in Salina, and on the service given by all of the members. Members, from several teams, drove on icy roads to get the defensive driving class on the 18th. While Sgt. Brown of the Kansas Highway Patrol gave his defensive driving presentation, the streets and highways across the region were pelted with ice. Obviously, the members attending the session, especially those from the Cheney, Southeast Kansas, Perry, and Topeka teams, practiced what Sgt. Brown told about defensive driving, especially Katrina Hine of the Southeast Kansas team who drove home by herself.

The Cheney team reported that it took them an extra hour and a half to get to the session, and an extra hour and a half to get home. AmeriCorps Member Carolyn Wooten said, "After the return trip (3 hours driving 35 mph maximum on ice and packed snow and dodging downed power lines) we found ourselves pretty stressed and worn at the nerves!"

After the Sexual harassment/HIV awareness session on January 17, the Hays and Glen Elder/Webster teams drove into winds in excess of 50 mph, and blowing snow as they returned home. Kevin Prichard and Lance Hockett, driving the vans returning to Hays, were reported to have had a difficult time holding their vehicles on the road. Tony Ifland and Jennifer Rima of the Glen Elder team had a horrific experience in getting Jennifer's vehicle to function as she attempted to get home. The experience was so bad that Tony, it is learned, upon returning home immediately sought libation to calm his nerves. Hopefully, the day of our last training session on February 15 will be storm free.

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KATRINA HINE, GETTING THINGS DONE IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

Katrina's project has three points of emphasis: Ag. education in the classroom, water quality, and farm safety. After weeks of toil in accumulating material for the objectives, she was able to "Get Things Done," such as the water quality clinic she set up in Chautuaqua County. After reviewing data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) on test sites in the county, she learned that the citizens of Chautuaqua County might be interested in checking the water in their wells. She discussed the idea with the Chautuaqua County Farm Bureau personnel and got them to help sponsor the project. She then found quotes from local laboratories for the cost of testing for coliform bacteria and nitrates. After selecting a laboratory, she prepared news releases and Faxed them to the local newspapers and a nearby radio station and asked that the releases be run for two consecutive weeks. In the news release she mentioned the KDHE test results, the cost of testing, and that all results would be held in strictist confidence.

She ordered sample containers and packaged them into kits of two. She coded the containers so that only the participants would get the results. Experience taught her that the instructions from the laboratory for doing the testing were too complicated for elderly and/or visually impaired persons, so she simplified them, and made a "how to poster." The betting among people who had run this kind of project before was that no one would have their water tested.

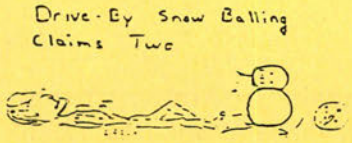
The response to her endeavor was good and on January 8, the designated day for returning the samples, 19 county residents plus one from nearby Oklahoma brought their samples for testing. One elderly woman was unable to bring in her containers, so Katrina drove out to the ranch in the "middle of a pasture, where she had never been before," to get the sample. Katrina noticed the red and brown stained hands of another participant. Not only were her hands brown, but so as the water in the containers. Katrina upon inquiry, learned that the water had been retrieved from a hand dug well with a rope and bucket.

After Katrina received the samples, she hand delivered them to the laboratory in nearby Pittsburg, Kansas. On January 22 a professor from Kansas State University Extension Service, at no expense to the participants, drove to the Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Office and met with the participants and explained the test results. After others learned of the success of the project, they now want her to conduct such tests in their counties.

Who is Katrina Hine? In her youth she was known as the driver of the wildlife ambulance, because she would either care for injured wild animals herself or would transport them to the local veterinary, who didn't always appreciate her delivery. As an adult she has two lizards, named Fred and Wilma who co-habitate with her son's turtle. She wants an iguana, but her husband won't let her have one. Her favorite things are the smell of fresh hay, newly worked soil, and horses. What she likes most about AmeriCorps in Southeast Kansas is, "The chance to provide water quality service and safety training to often forgotten rural communities."

Notes From The Members at Topeka and Perry

Perry



Perry AmeriCorps Member Betty Mills reports that "December was filled with many adventures, especially on Friday, December 18, thanks to one of the prettiest snowfalls in a while. It was a nice wet snow, good for packing snowballs." While TJ bladed the road and parking lot with the tractor, Travis and Betty tried their luck throwing snow balls at him with little accuracy. Betty built a snow person which was ran over several days later. When the guys were asked "Who did it?" the infamous "I dunno" was the response. Betty through her informant "Buddy" found out. While members unloaded goose tubs from the flatbed trailer, someone suggested that the tubs would make good sleds. The adventurous Betty crawled into one and Travis tried to roll her down the hill. Both Betty and Travis agreed afterward that it was probably a good thing that the experiment failed or the guys would still be chasing Betty in the tub.

In addition to having some fun in the snow the team has spent a great deal of time removing trash from the area, making signs for the marshes, and installing entrance gates. Betty reports only one accident for the Perry team. "Mary Cora, Rick's dog, needed eight stitches on her right front leg after tearing it on a barbed-wire fence making sure that the local wildlife was not to sedentary." The sad note from the team is that as the new year began, Dan Green decided to resign from AmeriCorps.

Notes from the Topeka team:

* Kimberly Rose broke two toes when a cement block fell on her. Her recovery has been rapid and she is back in action.

Due to the adverse weather, these members have been serving outside of their designated project. Examples of their service include:

* Painting, two rooms were painted and the stairwell were painted at the Topeka Ronald McDonald House.

* Helping, time has been spent at the Topeka Health Agency visiting and doing services for (i.e. weatherizing homes and shoveling snow) elderly citizens.

* Visiting, time has been spent at the Topeka Daycare Association visiting with children ages 2-6 years old and moving furniture.

* Giving, giving time to the Topeka Rescue Mission and Thrift Store. Duties included preparing food baskets for the holidays, and sorting donated shoes, clothes, and food.

(Continued)

* Participating, participating in the volunteer program at the Helping Hands Humane Society in Topeka where members have: bathed puppies, cleaned cages, fed dogs and cats, and **socialized with dogs and cats who exhibit scared, timid, or mistrustful behavior.**

* Serving with the Topeka Parks and Recreation Department. At Gage Park they have repaired picnic tables and memorial benches. Members have helped cut Christmas trees, repaired door frames, and **sold approximately 3000 lbs. of scrap metal pulled from Shunga Creek.** A 20-ton dumpster has been filled with trash, junk, scrap metal, wood, and plastic extracted from 2.5 miles along and in Shunga Creek.

Cartoons shown in this edition were drawn by AmeriCorps Member Travis Crickenberger (CRICK).

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Americorps
Making a Difference in Iowa

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Des Moines, Iowa December, 1995

Making a Difference
For the people

Children and their families will benefit for years from the National Day of Service held last April in Des Moines. All AmeriCorps members from Iowa were invited to help the Oakridge Neighborhood Housing Project improve the grounds. The 26 AmeriCorps members that work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Iowa helped plant trees, pour concrete sidewalks, clean up trash, and beautify the area. Kids in the area worked with the AmeriCorps members on some of the activities.

National Day of Service

For more information about what AmeriCorps members are doing for natural resource conservation and rural development, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Des Moines, Iowa.

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USDA/AmeriCorps

Louisiana

To: Joel Berg and Katherine Gibney

Subject: Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Team Newsletter and Video

Date: April 1, 1996

NEWSLETTER!! The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Team has developed the attached newsletter. This newsletter is being forwarded to you for your review, approval and recommendations. Their intended audience includes: AmeriCorps/USDA members in Louisiana, the Louisiana Serve Commission, Louisiana state and national legislators, and local Lafourche parish government officials. The team has requested that we ask you to forward a copy of this newsletter to the President.

FANTASTIC VIDEO!!! Also enclosed is a copy of a video produced by a local cable company highlighting the team's efforts in Louisiana. This effort was not solicited by team members---the local cable company recognized the tremendous impact our team is making in Lafourche Parish and called our team leader to arrange the interview and filming. The audience was about 39,000 viewers. It was aired on March 20, 22, and 23, with air times on the 22nd and 23rd at 55 minutes after EVERY hour.

We would like to distribute this video to Louisiana's state and national legislators. Please review the tape and comment. **Should this be distributed from your office or ours? The team has requested that we ask you to forward a copy of this to the President!**

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Team, their team leader, and project manager have all been nominated for USDA AmeriCorps awards. Please include this tape in your review of the nominations.

Holly

Holly Martien

From the desk of...

Holly L. Martien
Administrative Program Specialist
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AmeriCorps Team Talk

Volume 1 Issue 1 **February 1996**

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

Christmas Trees Put inTheir Place

USDA-AmeriCorps members are working hard to do their part in helping to reduce coastal erosion with the help of used Christmas trees. The trees will not only help prevent soil erosion, but will also create fish-nursery habitat.

Pictured left to right: Gary Fine, PMC Manager, Garland Gisclair, Eric Arabie, Clay Hebert, Tiffany Arabie, Jean' Guidry, Rebekah Richoux, Neal Ledet, Penny LeBoeuf, Andy Chiasson, Susan Terrebonne, Team Leader.

The tree projects began on January 29, 1996, in Leeville, Louisiana, and involve a lot of effort and balance. The trees had to be loaded onto trucks from the various drop off sites and driven to the placement site. Then, the trees were pulled by members across mud and water to three-foot-wide containment cribs. That's where balance comes in! After four days of work, our team had placed approximately 1,500 trees.

On February 6, 1996, we started a new tree project in Fourchon. This project was a little easier because we used a boat to carry the trees to the cribs. It took two days to place approximately 1,000 trees. Local news-station CCTV-5 and the Daily Comet newspaper covered the event. This project was a cooperative effort by the Department of Natural Resources, Solid Waste Management, Coastal Zone Management, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. **This is a prime example of "Getting Things Done."**

AmeriCorps On the Road--The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Team would like to thank all the area high schools for allowing the team to visit and speak with students about AmeriCorps and what the team is doing to help the community. Coastal erosion is one of the biggest problems in this area and our USDA-AmeriCorps members are doing their part to help protect and restore coastal wetlands. Members brought plants, informational brochures, and pamphlets to pass out to interested students. These informational visits not only provide an awareness to coastal erosion problems but also assist in recruitment efforts for the coming year. No one knew who we were in the beginning, but with completion of projects and visiting with the community, we have created an awareness for AmeriCorps.

Members Enjoy a Tasty Crawfish Boil With a Texas Twist

Texas, like Galliano, has a ten-member USDA-AmeriCorps Team. Five team members, Danny Jackson, Wayne St. Croix, Chris Burke, Jonathan Parker, and Morgan Wright, Cory Froelich (team leader), and Eddie Seidensticker (project manager), had the opportunity to visit the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center February 12-15, 1996. They were welcomed with some tasty French cuisine. The Galliano team decided the best way to welcome the Texas team was with some good ole boiled crawfish "Cajun style".

The next day, the Texas team along with our Louisiana team, worked cooperatively with Coastal Zone Management to plant giant cutgrass along Bayou Lafourche. The plants were removed from the Plant Materials Center ponds and replanted near Cote' Blanche

bridge in Cut Off, Louisiana. It was a very interesting experience watching the Texas team work along the bayou. On the third day, the teams went to Timbalier Island, and on their last day in Galliano, Louisiana, the members from Texas planted some cypress trees they had brought with them. We enjoyed meeting and working beside the Texas Team.

Funniest & Most Unusual Event--Details are sketchy as to who started the fracas and exactly what transpired, but during a break from the hard work of hauling the Christmas trees and tying them down, a mud fight broke out between Neil Ledet and Jean' Guidry. Mud balls flew and both were covered in mud and water. According to witnesses, it was a tie. Penny LeBeouf, who happened to get caught up in the middle of the war, received minor wounds. Mud in the face and sore ribs from laughing. The wounded were treated on site and released to continue working. A little fun never hurt anyone.....seriously that is!!!

Team-Work Accomplishes More!! The USDA-NRCS Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental team has learned quickly that with team-work a lot more can be accomplished. During November, December, and January, the group propagated a total of **20,000** plants to be used for sand stabilization and soil erosion prevention projects on Timbalier Island and Fourchon Beach. Keep up the good work!!

Feeling Caged--The team also assisted in the construction of 1,305 wire plant cages. The cages are constucted to fit over plants to keep the nutria and other animals from devouring the vegetation. The Boutte Field Office asked for assistance, and our team was more than willing to comply.

Boating and Water Safety was February's safety topic. The rules of safe boating, along with water safety, were explained in detail to the team. With warmer temperatures around the corner, boating trips will be more frequent. Safety rules and regulations for these topics are necessary and must be followed to ensure that the lives of team members will not be at risk. Life preservers must be worn at all times when aboard the boats. Another safety topic discussed was sun safety. We watched a video on how to work safely in the sun and how to reduce the risk of skin cancer. This was very helpful since 99% of our work is outdoors.

Secret Valentine Pal--Love was in the air February 14, 1996. Cupid struck our team with a big arrow. One of the members suggested that everyone pull names and make valentine cards, in secret, for the name pulled. It was not revealed until Valentine's Day who had who's name. The card exchange along with some candy and cake brought the valentine spirit back to life. We had a ball!

It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it!

On February 26, 27, and 28, the Environmental Team and members of the Plant Materials Center staff went to Port Fourchon Beach to construct sand fences. The fences trap sand as the wind blows through it, thus creating a dune. The dune helps to prevent washover from the Gulf which, in time, could break up the island. The team set up over 1,000 feet of sand fence.

The fences are constructed of 4"x 4"x 8' treated posts spaced five feet apart and buried four feet in the sand. After the posts are put in place, the fencing is rolled out and spread along the wall of posts. Then, the fencing is stretched and nailed to keep it straight and tight. Wire is then placed over the nailed slats and tied around the post to reinforce the durability of the fencing. The fences are important to the stability and future of this beach. We are very proud to have been involved.

For more information about AmeriCorps, call Gary Fine or Susan Terrebonne at (504) 475-5280 or write to: USDA-NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, 438 Airport Road, Galliano, LA 70354.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

From the Ground

INTERFAITH HUNGER COALITION

April 1996 | Issue No. 3

From the Ground is a community-based publication that explores the human face of anti-hunger service.

From the Ground is the official newsletter of the USDA AmeriCorps* Anti-Hunger Project of Interfaith Hunger Coalition, whose mission is to end hunger in Southern California.

National Volunteer Week April 21-27, 1996

"AmeriCorps: Putting the Unity Back Into Community"

"If you are thinking one year ahead, sow seed ...
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree ...
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people."
- Chinese Proverb

Interfaith Hunger Coalition

Executive Director
Liz Riley

AmeriCorps Staff

Project Director
Rod Sprott

Project Coordinator
Dionne Kyle

AmeriCorps Leader
Tina LaRoche

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Corporation for National Service.

The *USDA Interfaith Hunger Coalition AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team* has dedicated the past 7 months to educating and empowering the communities of Los Angeles about hunger and poverty issues, and acting on their AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done." Continuing the spirit and celebration of service that has guided our work, the AmeriCorps Team is gearing up to join in the activities of **National Volunteer Week** and the **Day of Service.**

The *Los Angeles Regional AmeriCorps Network* will launch the week with a **Day of Service Kick Off** at City Hall from 8-10 AM on Tuesday, April 23. Included in this year's event will be a Resource Fair providing a forum for national service programs to share their service work and agency information.

Meanwhile, our AmeriCorps team will help "celebrate and educate" at the **Earth Day Community Environmental Fair** on Saturday, April 20 from 10-3 at Grace E. Simons Lodge, Elysian Park. A comprehensive list of service projects for **National Volunteer Week** has been assembled - with events ranging from one on one tutoring of a refugee family to small group gardening with the residents of Dome Village to large scale shelter clean-ups and beautification projects.

The *USDA Interfaith Hunger Coalition AmeriCorps Team* spends hours each week in service with the diverse communities of Los Angeles, and **National Volunteer Week** is an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, renew ourselves, and explore some of the other unique service opportunities in L.A. that embody the AmeriCorps spirit of "getting things done."

Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council

Fall/Winter 1995-1996
Vol. 5, No. 1

All Eyes Were On East Tennessee

For Third U.S. Forest Service's Rural Communities Assistance Conference

More than 400 people from all over the United States and beyond met in East Tennessee this October to learn about rural community development.

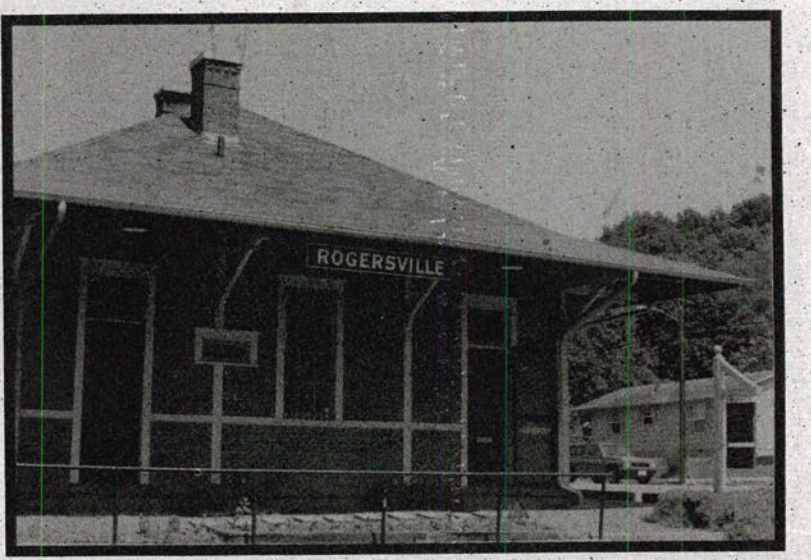
The Clinch-Powell RC&D coordinated the third U.S. Forest Service's Rural Communities Assistance Conference in Knoxville from October 15 -19, 1995.

Attendance was up from 150 at the previous conference to 410 who attended the Tennessee-based conference.

"It says something about the interest in our area," said Coordinator of the Clinch-Powell RC&D, Lindy Turner. "There were people here from Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and many other places."

Within its nearly 50 sessions, the conference included tours to area points of interest in all five of the Clinch-Powell RC&D counties and elsewhere.

Conference participants listened as small businesses in the area told their success stories; they took in historic sites across the region and sampled the culture of East Tennessee including area crafts, food and music.



The Rogersville Depot was one of several tours to East Tennesse that was part of the National Rural Community Assistance Conference in Knoxville this fall.

According to Turner, only 30 percent of the program participants were Forest Service personnel. The other 70 percent were concerned citizens and professionals from communities all over the United States who came to share information on helping their rural communities.

The conference was an opportunity to focus attention on our area and the great things our local communities have done.

Turner says the conference focused on ways to build vital rural communities without compromising the physical, human, environmental and social benefits of these areas.

Several programs discussed how to use natural resources to create high-dollar items instead of just shipping out raw materials. Another program invited participants to learn about development from small international communities.

Turner says the conference was an excellent opportunity to focus attention on East Tennessee and the great things our local communities have done.

"What's Inside....."

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PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

AmeriCorps Accomplishments

What Is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is getting things done all over the U.S. The program is a national service initiative started by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

USDA AmeriCorps is dedicated to making a lasting difference in the rural communities of America through sustainable community-based efforts.

This year RC&D hosts three new AmeriCorps members and one returning member.

Jeremy Williams is returning for a second term of service. He recently completed his master's degree in geography at the University of Tennessee.

New member Betty Wilson is a resident of Claiborne County. She lives in Cave Springs with her husband William and six-year-old daughter. Betty has a B.A. from Lincoln Memorial University in education, history and social science.

Full-time AmeriCorps members are Sharon Smith and Cassandra Sheaffer. Sharon is a UT graduate in public health education and also has a degree in English. She taught English for five years in Korea.

Cassandra Sheaffer recently moved to Tennessee from Ohio. She earned a degree in agricultural communication and crop sciences from The Ohio State University.

All AmeriCorps members are looking forward to getting things done in this area.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Hancock County Old Jail Restoration

RC&D AmeriCorps members have teamed up with the East Tennessee Community Design Center and the Hancock County Historical Society to restore the Hancock County Old Jail.

For several years the Hancock County Historical Society has wanted to redesign the historic Hancock County Jail. Plans are now in progress to renovate the historic site and turn it into a Hancock County and Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum.

AmeriCorps VISTA members, sponsored by the Tennessee Community Design Center, are providing technical design assistance and cost estimates to help the project adhere to the strict standards of the National Historic Register.

Additional technical assistance will be provided by the Tennessee Historical Commission. The jail is one of only two buildings in Hancock County listed on the National Historic Register.

Tennessee Wilderness Road And Visitors Guides Created

Vacationers to East Tennessee may not realize the other historical and interesting sites beyond the traffic congestion of the Smoky Mountains.

Four new travel guide brochures will direct people to unique areas in the Clinch, Powell and Holston river areas.

The brochures are a project of the Clinch-Powell Specialty Recreation and Heritage Initiative of which AmeriCorps members played a part.

The first of the travel guides to be completed is the Historic Tennessee Wilderness Road guide. This full color brochure points out sites of interest ranging from the Cumberland Gap to the Cherokee National Forest.

Along with this brochure the committee is also completing a Three Rivers Recreational Guide which lists area parks, golf courses, hiking trails, waterfalls and other natural sites of interest.

Also planned are similar guides to regional arts and crafts and photography opportunities.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

Clinch-Powell RC&D has moved.

New Address: Route 2, Hwy 11W Rutledge, TN 37861
(Phone and fax numbers have not changed)

Innovative Clinch River Community Project wraps up a successful first year.

Hancock County may be one of the most financially strapped counties in the state, but it is tremendously wealthy in many ways.

In addition to a rich cultural heritage, the Clinch and Powell rivers add a beauty and biodiversity to the county that is unique and powerful.

The Clinch River Community Project is an innovative and ground-breaking partnership between the Nature Conservancy in Tennessee and Clinch-Powell RC&D. The partnership has completed a sucessful first year in conserving the river area. At the forefront of this work is field representative Leslie Colley.

Leslie, a native Tennessean, moved to Hancock County last December to begin her work.

Although she's been here only one year, Leslie has been working with land owners and area agencies to complete projects that will improve the water quality and help ensure a bright future for the area and citizens of Hancock County.

One serious problem for county streams is non-point source contamination from livestock. Non-point source pollution comes from a collection of small sources, like farms. It is harder to trace and to prevent than pollution that comes from just one major source, such as factory waste.

Often farmers know what changes need to be made, but lack the funds to do it.

Animals near streambanks present a two-pronged problem for stream life. Livestock can trample vegetation next to the banks, increasing erosion and sedimentation into the streams.

Additionally, manure and feed can cause severe algae growth, harming stream wildlife.

Often farmers know what changes need to be made to their operations, but lack the funds to do it. Grant money from a variety of state and federal agencies can help farmers make the necessary changes to their operations.

For example, a project along the Davis Branch tributary deals with a herd of about 20 cattle. The stream banks will be fenced off from the animals and a 50-year-old pond will be renewed and restocked to provide a clean alternative water source for the cattle.

Relying on the technical assistance and financial support of agricultural and environmental agencies, and the knowledge and input of the landowners, we are improving water quality one project at a time!

To prevent sedimentation, AmeriCorps members plant trees along the riverside at the Presley Farm in Hancock County.

Clinch River Community Project Upcoming Events

- **Seminar on Pasture Management and the Clinch River Monday, February 12, 7 p.m. at the Sneedville Community Center.**
- **Seminar on Timber Management and the Clinch River Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m. at the Sneedville Community Center.**

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Partners for Clean Communities

1995 Shows Litter Reduction

Every year Partners for Clean Communities conducts a statistical study, the Photometric Index, which pinpoints major sources of litter. The results from the 1995 study show a decrease in overall litter.

Congratulations to everyone for making our area cleaner! Rural roads were the only area that did not show an improvement.

Do you know the seven major sources of litter in our counties? They are: 1) improperly stored household garbage, 2) improperly stored commercial garbage, 3) construction and demolition sites, 4) uncovered trucks, 5) loading and unloading areas, 6) motorists and boaters and 7) pedestrians.

Reductions in litter are shown in the diagram below.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Partners Still Striving to Make a Difference in Local Communities

Three years after official certification, Partners for Clean Communities is still striving to change attitudes and behaviors.

PCC was formed to help citizens and local governments seek solutions to solid waste problems.

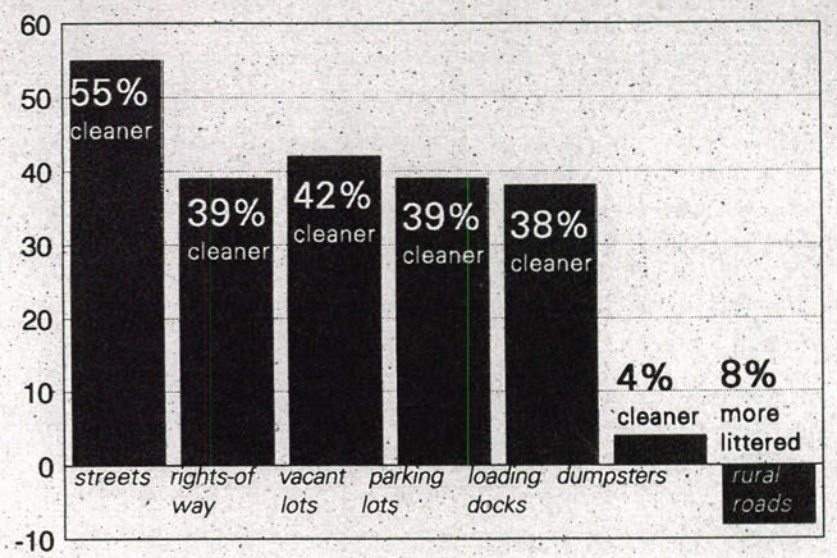
As a program of the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, this public education organization is dedicated to education, solid waste management and litter reduction.

This non-profit group assists our communities with solid waste education, technical assistance, litter reduction and control, and environmental programs directed to schools, businesses, industries and the general public.

July 1994 - June 1995 saw nearly 6,000 volunteer hours given to our local communities.

For every $1 of local, state or other government support given to our Keep America Beautiful affiliate, $1.55 worth of benefits was returned to our communities!

% decrease in litter as compared to base year



1995-96 Projects:

- Assistance with Conservation Camp*
- Adopt-a-Highway/Street school presentations
- ENVIRO 2000 teacher inservice program*
- Distribution of boat litter bags
- Heritage Days
- Shipley Farm newspaper recycling
- Christmas Parade
- "Assignment Earth," a grade school musical presented on Earth Day
- Assistance with five Household Hazardous Waste Collections*
- Grainger County Tomato Festival
- Outdoor Classroom
- Chipping of the Green
- Civic presentations & tours
- Grainger County Earthday Festival
- Christmas Card Recycling*
- Garbage Busters, a second-grade program focused on educating students about solid waste and litter.*

*Read more about these projects in this newsletter.

PCC Collects Hazards in the Home

What do your kitchen and a toxic waste dump have in common??

You may be surprised to learn the number of toxic and hazardous materials around your home.

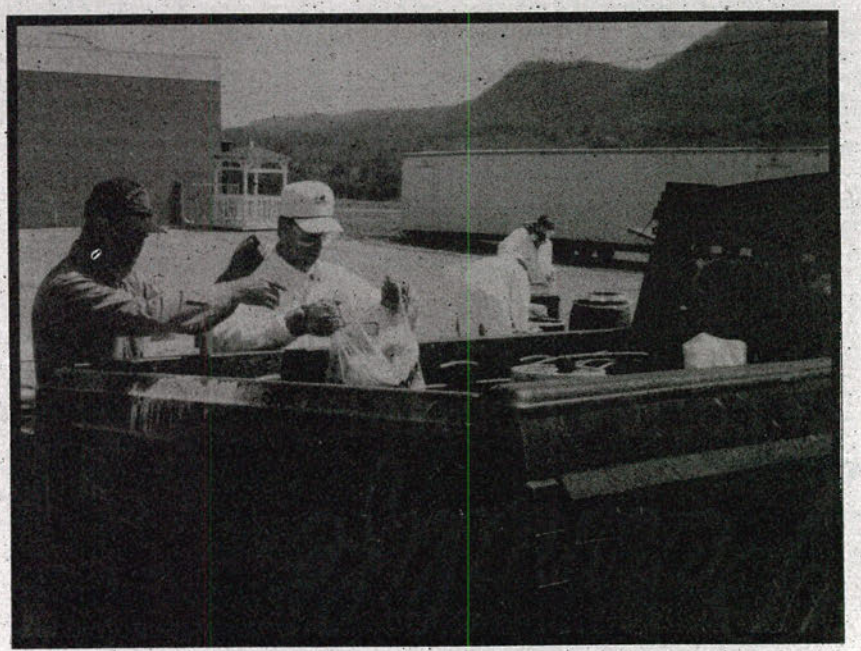
In an effort to dispose of these items, PCC held the Spring Round-Up -- five Household Hazardous Waste Collections within our five-county region between March 25 and May 6, 1995.

More than 7,700 pounds of waste were collected from the 112 participating households. Materials considered hazardous are flammable, corrosive, toxic or reactive with heat or other materials.

Some examples include paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, automotive fluids, batteries (all types) and aerosols.

Sponsoring and assisting PCC with these successful events were Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union counties, the RC&D, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Forest Service-sponsored Ameri-Corps member Liz Upchurch.

We hope to have similar collections in the future. For more information about these events please call us!



Volunteers load up some of the 7,700 pounds of hazardous trash collected from area homes this spring.

Trash to Treasure

Thanks to the support from local Tennessee Litter Grant Funds, the RC&D and PCC, a new pocket brochure is now available. To get your free copy/copies or for additional information, please call (423) 828-8494 or 1-800-814-6355.

Green Christmas

Christmas creates much joy and warmth, but it also creates a lot of trash.

This year 29 area banks helped keep some of that trash out of the landfill. In cooperation with PCC, the banks helped collect Christmas cards to be recycled.

The cards will be sent to St. Judes Children's Hospital, where the children use them to make their own cards, which they then sell.

A special thanks to the banks and people who participated.

Congratulations

to Angie Johnston and husband Kevin on the birth of their baby! Joshua Hunter Johnston was born Saturday, January 13.

Partners for Clean Communities is involved with several functions throughout the year and is always looking for new volunteers to help out. For more information on how you can get involved with Partners for Clean Communities or Keep America Beautiful, contact Angie Johnston at 828-8494 or 1-800-814-6355.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Environmental Education and Our Learning Center

Garbage Busters

Second-graders are taking a new look at solid waste these days thanks to a program called Garbage Busters. As Garbage Busters, students are learning about their role in solid waste reduction and recycling.

AmeriCorps member Sarah Buchanan, sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, developed the program for use in the schools within our five-county region. While working for the council, Buchanan taught the curriculum in all of the participating schools. Each of the lessons focuses on an aspect of solid waste that the students face everyday.

Students turned their classroom into a park to learn how animals feel about litter, learned how to reduce waste in the classroom and school, how and what to recycle and how to shop for the environment.

Schools in all five counties participated in the 1994-1995 school year, which means there are more than 1,000 "graduated" Garbage Busters running around sharing their knowledge and know-how.

Water Wizards

Water Wizards begins its fourth year across our five-county region this fall.

There are currently 722 Water Wizards enrolled for the 1995-1996 school year. This program uses simple, hands-on lessons to introduce third-grade students to important water issues in our region.

Water Wizards is a series of nine lessons involving simple experiments, reinforcement activities and take-home extension activities for further exploration and sharing with family members.

Water Wizards grows more popular every year with teachers and students. Each student receives a tote bag as a reward for program participation.

Enviro 2000

July 18, 1995 marked the date of the third successful ENVIRO 2000, teacher inservice program.

More than 85 local educators attended the program, which was organized by AmeriCorps member Sarah Buchanan.

The free, environmental education workshop included twelve sessions. These sessions offered ideas and curricula on environmental and solid waste issues which could be incorporated into current classroom structures.

Primary focus areas included outdoor activities and lessons, solid waste education, wildlife, The Knoxville Zoo and RC&D's education programs. Instructors included staff from a variety of education partner groups and agencies.

Envirothon 2000 is sponsored annually by RC&D and PCC with finanical support from the Knoxville Utilities Board, Holston Electric Cooperative, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and Tennessee litter grants. To date, approximately 250 teachers have attended the Enviro 2000.

Elementary students listen as an AmeriCorps member speaks about solid waste issues.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

Conservation Camp

The sixth annual Conservation Camp, "Healthy Water, Wealthy World," was a HUGE success, just as the previous five camps were.

Between May 2 and May 4, 1995 nearly 1,200 students and teachers gathered on the scenic Clinch River for a day of fun, hands-on learning in a natural setting. True to history, it rained for one and a half of the three days. Despite the cold, spirits were high and learning was fun, fast and furious. If you've missed out on this in the past, give us a call and help out in May 1996!

Conservation Camp is May 7, 8 and 9.

A group of sixth-graders listens at one of the educational stations at the 1995 Conservation Camp.

Envirothon

The third regional RC&D Envirothon was held on April 25, 1995 on the Clinch River in Grainger County. High school students from the RC&D counties were eligible to compete in teams to test their knowledge in aquatic resources, soils, wildlife, forestry and a current environmental issue which changes each year.

Powell Valley High School took top honors again and went on to place second at the state level. Good luck to all teams in the upcoming competition!

This year's local Envirothon is April 25.
State competition is May 13 & 14.

One of the competing Envirothon teams work on the soils part of the competition.

Learn and Serve

The Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service sponsored a grant to have a Youth Leadership Council in Grainger County under the Learn and Serve program. Grainger County's grant was one of twelve granted in the state of Tennessee.

The goal of the council is to build youth leadership skills through community service. Most of the service projects focus on solid waste management and water resources protection.

As program participants, students negotiate individual contracts with their adviser. These contracts commit the students to carry out a certain number of community service projects.

Last year, for instance, students helped out with the Grainger County Earth Day Festival, Envirothon, Conservation Camp and other individual projects. Among the future pending projects are developing school recycling programs, a spring walk-a-thon, and in-school educational activities.

The program is coordinated by Clinch-Powell RC&D Council, PCC, AmeriCorps, Grainger County Schools, Family Resources Center and the Grainger County Gifted Program.

Have you been missing out on any of these educational programs and opportunities? For more information about any of the educational programs, contact Betty Wilson at 423-828-5927. For information on Learn and Serve contact Angie Johnston at 828-8494 or 1-800-814-6355.

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

RC&D Recognizes its Best Helpers

Every year the RC&D Council recognizes community members and others who continually help make their programs successful. The following awards were announced at the council's annual meeting in October.

Best Friend Award went to the **Tennessee Division of Forestry's Offices and Personnel** in our five-county area. They play a crucial role by generously contributing man hours and equipment for several of our recent events. The division is especially helpful in building trails and cleaning our educational site for programs like Conservation Camp and the Envirothon.

Conservation Educator of the Year was awarded to **Georgette Cornelius**. Georgette has been the third-grade science teacher at Ellen Myers Elementary School for the past three years. In that time she was a great promoter of our Water Wizards water quality program for third-grade students.

The Oliver Sanders Volunteer of the Year award was presented to **Donna Barnard** of Grainger County who has been an active part of both RC&D and PCC activities. Donna is also a member of the county school board and works for the Grainger County Executive. She has donated her time helping us with projects like Conservation Camp, Grainger County Earth Day and the Tomato Festival.

RC&D programs are possible only with the help of groups and individuals like these!

RC&D Receives National Awards

RC&D started the year right with two prestigious national awards under their belt.

Out of 274 RC&D councils nationwide, our local council received 1994-95 National RC&D Council of the Year. Coordinator Lindy Turner also received the Chuck McCarty Coordinator of the Year Award.

Southeast Regional RC&D Council President Jeanette Jamison presented the awards.

"This is a truly unique occurrence that both national awards go to the same RC&D," said Jamison. "Members of the Council, RC&D employees and local citizens should be very proud."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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The U.C.R.E.W. Monthly

March 1996 Volume 1 Issue 3

ENVIROTHON 1996

How many schools have entered? Have you gotten the food yet? What about the t-shirts, in-kind sheets,awards and volunteers? What **is** an Envirothon? AmeriCorps who? What is a greenway? The Southeast Tennessee what of where? Let me tell you folks, it has been a very enlightening year already. Not only did I have to find these answers for myself, but also for those who are helping with, participating in or sponsoring the 1996 Envirothon. I will not bore you with all the details. However,there are some details I need to let you know.

The Southeast Tennessee Regional Envirothon will be held on April 16th at the Greenway Farms in Hixson. The following is a list of the subjects the students will be competing and the instructors for each:

Aquatic	UT Agricultural Ext. Service
Forestry	TN Division of Forestry
Soils	Natural Resources Cons. Service
Wildlife	TN Wildlife Resources Agency
Greenways	Tennessee Greenways

Deadlines are approaching. Thirteen teams have shown interest in this years event. If you plan on volunteering, you had better get ready. If each team has five members, that will be 65 teenagers. Man this is great! Each year the word spreads from one county to the other. What is the word being spread? The word is that Envirothon is a competitive game without physical contact. It causes students to work together as a team. In the Southeast Tennessee Envirothon, the teams are awarded $100 and a chance to go to the state competition. The winner of the state goes on to the nationals to be held in Nebraska this year. If we can compare this learning event to an athletic competition, a regional Envirothon is the semi-finals, the state is a Divisional Championship and the national is the ***Super Bowl***.

Envirothons have been going on since 1980. Although when it first started, it was called the EnvirOlympics

(continued on page 3)

JUST A NOTE TO INFORM YOU

This is to inform the readers that the AmeriCorps position in the Hamilton County SCD is now vacant. This position will remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

The projects that were underway are being picked up by the four remaining Cluster #2 members. These members are working on their own projects as well as these. Keep up the hard work. Together we can make things happen.

Bobby W. Peters

Bobby W. Peters, Coordinator
Southeast Tennessee RC&D

MARCH ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARIES

Toya Walker

—Assisted Heather Houvenagle, Chairperson of the Monroe County Beautiful, in a slide show and solid waste presentation at Madisonville Intermediate School and Brown Elementary School in Sweetwater.

—Portrayed Ruby Raindrop at the Bradley County Soil Conservation District Annual Tree Day at Bradley Square Mall.

—Attended the Team Tennessee Events Team Committee meeting in Nashville. Discussions and preparations for the statewide service event were held. It will be April 27th in Chattanooga.

—Attended Monroe County Beautiful Board Meeting/ Committee Training Session. It helped me better understand myself as well as others.

—Met with Brenda Lee, Coordinator for the East Tennessee SWEP (Solid Waste Education Program),and Bette Tedford to discuss ideas for the design of a room at the Madisonville Recycling Center. This room will be used to help attract youth to the center.It is expected to open in Madisonville within the next month.

Kelli Smith

—Attended the Friends of the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway Water Quality Team Meeting. I learned of various projects that the FNCCG are sponsoring and undertaking.

—Helped Pam McNabb, Administrative Assistant for the Hamilton County SCD, with Ruby Raindrop at Westview Elementary School. Ruby met about 125 students.

—Portrayed Sammy Soil at the Bradley County Soil Conservation District Annual Tree Day at Bradley Square Mall.

—Contacted and talked with Anita Meeks of Palmer, Tennessee. The city of Palmer is interested in building a city park and has requested assistance in the planning and development stages.

—Met with Mike Zeman, State Biologist, about Riparian Management Project in Polk County. I took him to a farm in Benton on the Ocoee River. It has some erosion problems along the bank , a severe headcut has developed and an alternate water source is needed. Funds are available to aid this farmer with the repair. Zeman typed up his suggestions for the problems at hand. Once the repairs are completed, the SE TN RC&D plans to use this farm as a demonstration site.

Jamie Travis

—Completed my Erosion and Stormwater Control Proposal and presented it to the City and County Planners for their input. The County Planner, Doug Hancock, informed me that the Bradley County Planning Commission was in the process of revising their subdivision regulations, and that they would be happy to discuss my proposal and include any pertinent guidelines into their revised ordinances. Craig Bivens, City Planner for Cleveland, offered much the same response and informed me of the city's willingness to work on controlling erosion.

—I met briefly with County Executive Donna Hubbard. I told her of my work with Erosion Control.She showed interest and support for this project, agreeing that some sort of ordinance was needed in Bradley County.

—Spoke with several teachers at Valley View Elementary School about Environmental Education Programs in their classrooms. Billie Hamilton, a Second grade teacher at Valley View, met and discussed with me the possibilities of an Outdoor Classroom. We tried to get an idea about what would be best suited for the school and its surroundings.

—Assisted with the Bradley County Soil Conservation District Annual Tree Day at Bradley Square Mall.

Cheryl Moore

—Attended "Project Learning Tree" at Sequatchie Co. High School. Mike Black, a private forester, was the instructor. We went through the P.L.T. book and performed the activities. This is laid out to get more student involvement in the environment.

—Assisted at the Bradley County Soil Conservation District Annual Tree Day at Bradley Square Mall. Also took trees to area schools for Hamilton County SCD.

—Attended the State Envirothon Committee Meeting in Crossville, the Office of Conservation Education Committee meeting in Nashville at the Ed Jones Ag. Center and the Southeast Tennessee RC&D Council Meeting at the Bonny Oaks Ag. Center.

—Met with Juanie Weaver , first to get things rolling for the regional Envirothon. Secondly, we covered the State Envirothon awards and touched on details of regional Envirothon. For further information, see Envirothon article.

Envirothon...
(continued from page 1)

Envirothon is great hands on learning for the students.This is no fly by the seat of your pants competition. Before the competition, students study for hours with their coaches. At the event, students will get 30 minutes at each station, with 10 minutes travel time between. Following is a rough draft of the scheduled events:

9:30-9:50	Registration
10:00-10:20	Orientation
10:30-11:00	Station 1
11:10-11:40	Station 2
11:50-12:20	Station 3
12:30-1:15	**LUNCH**
1:25-1:55	Station 4
2:05-2:35	Station 5
2:45-3:00	**BREAK**
3:10-3:40	Awards

The funding for the 1995 Envirothon was primarily through the Cherokee National Forest. This year, with budget cuts affecting all government agencies, the private sector has been targeted for donations. As to date, we have received funds from the Friends of the North Chickamauga Creek Greenway, Scenic Cities Beautiful and the Hamilton County Tennessee Farm Bureau. Other agencies or groups are meeting to see if they too can help with this hands-on educational project. Although we may not receive funds from all of the agencies solicited this year, next year they will be aware and plan ahead to help.

Volunteers are needed. From what I hear, volunteers are the ones that really make this event run smoothly. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Peters and Juanie Weaver. Everytime I felt lost out in left field, these two were there to help and guide me. Thanks again.

I hope this article has given some insight and details on what has, is and will be happening at the Envirothon event. If you would like to volunteer, please call me, Cheryl Moore, at (423) 479-6788.

NATIONAL WEEK OF SERVICE

The week of April 22 through April 26 is National Volunteer Week and the Tennessee AmeriCorps Programs will be actively involved in service projects in their local communities.

April 23-24, 1996

The Chattanooga Association for Education of Young Children is sponsoring a children's festival at Warner Park in Chattanooga. This festival will target children from 2-6 years of age. Aside from the activities, we will be assisting in the beautification of the Warner Park Zoo. This is a unique opportunity for us to volunteer in the community.

April 26-27. 1996

The Tennessee Commission on National Community Service is sponsoring a beautification project at the McCallie Homes, a public housing unit in Chattanooga.This project will aid in beautification, litter pick up and some minor repairs for elderly citizens. Also, the Bethleham Center, a day care and community center, will also recieve some minor repairs and beautification. We are honored to take part in this statewide sponsored event.

The Bradley County Soil Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service would like to express our appreciation for AmeriCorps' help in the recent Tree Day. The event was a great success with over 1300 tree seedlings being distributed to over 200 persons at Bradley Square Mall. Your help in handing out tree seedlings and especially your help with the Sammy Soil and Ruby Raindrop characters was greatly appreciated. The Soil Conservation District looks forward to working with the AmeriCorps program in the future.

John Eads

John Eads, Chairman
Bradley Co. SCD

William A. Dailey

William A.Dailey
District Cons.
USDA-NRCS

Calender of Upcoming Events

SOUTHEAST TN RC&D REGIONAL ENVIROTHON
Date: April 16, 1996 Place: Greenway Farm
Time: 9:30-2:30p.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!
For more information contact Cheryl Moore at 479-6788

EARTH FAIR
Date: April 19-20,1996 Place: Chattanooga State
Times: 10:00-2:30 p.m. (both days)
For more information contact Pam McNabb at 894-1687

GIVE-A-HOOT WEEK
Dates: May6-10,1996 Place: The Scott Farm
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!
For more information contact Pam McNabb at 894-1687
or Oscar Scott at 892-2009

TENNESSEE STATE ENVIROTHON
Date: May 13-14, 1996 Place:4-H Camp in Crossville
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!
For more information contact Cheryl Moore at 479-6788

The U.C.R.E.W. Monthly

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inside...

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*Summaries of months activities ——pg. 2
* AmeriCorps Projects ——pg. 3
* Calender of Upcoming Events ——pg. 4

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A Project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

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The Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps

A Project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

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Maine AmeriCorps - USDA

Water Quality Times

January, 1995 Volume I, Number 1

QLF Provides Training and Development for Maine AmeriCorps - USDA

Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA

From Casco Bay to Fort Kent, twenty men and women are volunteering forty hours a week for ten months to improve water quality in the state of Maine. These dedicated, environmentally concerned individuals are participants in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national community service program and have been selected from a large pool of applicants to serve on a variety U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service projects.

Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA members are "getting things done" on rural community-based projects ranging from aquaculture to erosion control. Participants are assisting communities by providing technical support, environmental education, data collection and other research. In all cases, the AmeriCorps volunteers serve as catalysts to bring citizens around the table to talk about water quality issues.

Karen Malley (right) assists her team members as they work together to cross the "Acid Swamp."

Lisa Taylor talks about her experience on the Casco Bay Watershed resource inventory and monitoring project.

Fostering Leadership

The Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment is providing essential training to the AmeriCorps volunteers. Through a year-long series of group and one-on-one interactions QLF is helping these emerging conservationists to develop essential leadership skills, infusing greater self confidence to tackle the difficult issues that their communities face today.

Team Building

On Tuesday, November 29, 1994, thirteen AmeriCorps volunteers, community leaders and Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery staff met at the Stahl's Bar clam flats in Waldoboro. The group's mission was to assist with the removal of protective nets from and sampling of 14 experimental, seeded clam plots. The volunteers came from up and down the coast to help with the arduous task of mucking on the flats at low tide. The group worked to support one another as footing was extremely difficult and the nets just as heavy.

It was a beautiful day on the Maine coast. There was a distinct atmosphere of comaraderie and supportive team work as the group learned about the crash of the local clam population and advances in shellfish aquaculture.

QLF, in cooperation with Maine's AmeriCorps partners, organizes and participates in team building and community, group work projects activities such as the one described above. These activities encourage an attitude of "getting things done" by working together

Site Visits and Coaching

With over thirty years of experience in training pre-professional and professional conservationists, QLF has learned first hand the value of mentoring through close contact and site visits. Staff maintain phone contact with Maine AmeriCorps participants, providing the support and guidance necessary for project success, and personal and professional development. Environmental professionals trained in community development, they visit Maine AmeriCorps project sites to spend time with participants, listening and offering feedback on their projects.

In response to a recent visit by QLF's Community Conservation Leadership Coordinator, Kate Noonan, Charlie Parker, North Coast Fisheries Coordinator said, "It means so much to us to have you come all the way out here to see what we are doing. The feedback is helpful and knowing that you know what we are doing first hand really helps". Barbara Coffey, St. Croix River Watershed coordinator, stated "I can use all the help I can get in learning how to work with the community, and the environmental education resources that you have to offer make a big difference and help to save time."

A Brighter Future

As New England and eastern Canada respond to the crash of the groundfish industry, high unemployment, and changing land use practices, the need has never been greater for leaders who can provide both solutions and hope for their troubled communities. AmeriCorps members develop personally and professionally through service and training and will continue to give of themselves as civic-minded, environmentally-aware citizens. They are the community leaders who will facilitate sound decision-making as the region enters the 21st Century.

• • •

For more information, please contact:

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E-mail: atlantictr@igc.apc.org

Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA: (top left to right) Charlie Parker, Iver McLeod, Mark Chellis, Amanda Smith Hatch, Karen Malley, Greg Lord, Karen Mushrall, Gary Marquis, Richard Baird (Director), Barbara Coffey, (bottom left to right) Rob Klimas, Nicki Violette, Teresa Simeone, Lisa Taylor, Holly Sheehan, Liz Frederic. Missing: Jane Lamson, Denise Perry, Karen Bert, Lee Humphreys and Hollis Clinton Tedford III.

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Editor: Kate Noonan

HELP LINES

The Official Newsletter of First Call For Help - Milwaukee

May 1995 *Issue 23*

AmeriCorps workers join First Call For Help

In February, First Call For Help (FCFH) became involved in President Clinton's national service inititative - AmeriCorps. The initiative allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs. Participants in the program work for a year earning a stipend of about $7,500 and then receive and educational voucher worth $4,270. Participants in the local project must be between 18 and 23 years of age.

Two AmeriCorps participants, ***Jose Caban*** and ***Jennifer Williams***, joined our staff in February. A third, ***Geraldine Ball***, joined us in April. (See profiles on back page.)

At FCFH, the AmeriCorps workers will be completing part of their service goals. The AmeriCorps participants work in several teams in four focus areas. Here is a summary of their goals:

1) Community Outreach and Access - The team will assist in increasing awarenss and access to various food and nutrition resources. The team will be actively involved in the dissemination of information for these programs. They will be directly involved with food pantries and work to increase the number of low-income youth enrolled in the summer Youth Food Program.

2) Infrastructure Construction - The team will develop a Facility Enhancement Plan for local food sites and/or meal programs. They will be responsible for the physical improvement of some of the sites, construct handicapped accessible gardens, and participate in Spring Neighborhood Clean-Up Projects.

3) Farmers Markets/Urban Farming - The team will help local farmers deliver their products to neighborhood farmers markets. They will be responsible for the promotion of the markets and assist in the development of educational programs at the markets.

4) Food Handling - The team will work in local food pantries, meal programs and various community food drives. They will work in the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee's warehouse and will collect, sort, inventory and assist in the delivery of food.

May Calendar of Events

May 1-5	FCFH Training Week *Resources, Resources, Resources!*
May 14	Mother's Day
May 15	LAST DAY applications will be taken for Energy Assistance Program
May 29	Memorial Day ***FCFH Office is CLOSED***

STAFF REMINDER

As most of you have undoubtedly noticed, FCFH is at staffing capacity almost all of the time now. This is great news for us and for our clients. We are answering more calls and answering each call more quickly.

Because of this increase in staff, there have been and will be times when several minutes pass between each call you answer. During these times, PLEASE remember to do the following:

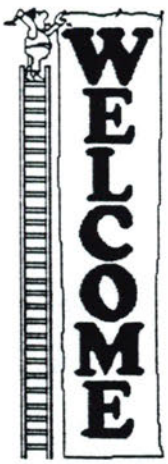
* *Be as thorough as possible on every call. (Tell callers about S.H.A.R.E., commodities, etc.)*

* *Accept other tasks that may be assigned to you.*

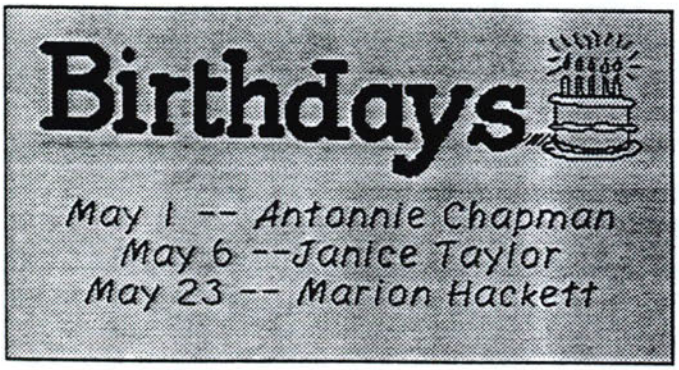
* *Quietly keep yourself busy.*

Seven new workers join FCFH team

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our FCFH team:



Geraldine Ball - AmeriCorps
Antonnie Chapman - T.E.P.
Carol Hudson - T.E.P.
Kim Ramage - Volunteer
Julie Toperzer - Volunteer
Trina Wilson - FCFH Staff (temporary)
Donna Woodley - Volunteer



ANNIVERSARIES

April 29 - Delores Spiegl
(a volunteer at FCFH for 4 years)

May 2 - Sean Leatherwood
(a staff member at FCFH for 1 year)

May 4 - Nell Walker
(a senior aide at FCFH for 1 year)

Meet our AmeriCorps workers

Jennifer, Jose and Geraldine

FCFH is lucky to have three workers from the AmeriCorps service project placed in our office. If you haven't gotten the chance to talk with each of them yet, here's a little introduction:

Jennifer (Peaches) Williams joined FCFH in February. A native of Chicago, Peaches moved up here about three years ago. She became interested in the AmeriCorps program because of the combined emphasis on education and employment. She spends Mondays through Thursdays working here and spends Fridays attending classes for her G.E.D. When her AmeriCorps service ends in September, Peaches hopes to utilize her new work skills in a permanent job. After working for a while, Peaches hopes to attend school for fashion design or interior decorating.

Jose Caban has lived in Milwaukee his whole life. He too joined FCFH in February. For him, the AmeriCorps program provides the opportunity to help the community while learning a variety of job skills. After completing his service, Jose plans to continue helping the community, attend college and eventually become a psychologist.

Geraldine Ball, another lifelong resident of Milwaukee, just joined us in April. She applied for the AmeriCorps program so she could get quality job training and work toward her G.E.D. at the same time. She enjoys helping people and has certainly had that opportunity with AmeriCorps. Geraldine hopes to attend Alverno College when she completes her service, and eventually, hopes to attend law school.

USDA/AmeriCorps
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(913) 823-4500
FAX (913) 823-4540

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

June 14, 1995

GETTING THINGS DONE DURING ADVERSITY

Extremely wet weather in May and early June has made it difficult to "get things done." While the weather may have slowed you down, it hasn't stopped you. Don't quit now, you are too close to the end of your service to give up your education award.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR GETTING YOUR EDUCATION AWARD?

Each of you have a six page green handout titled,"AmeriCorps Education Awards." Page 2 of the handout, "What happens when you complete your service" explains the procedure for getting your award. "When you complete your term of service, the project director or the Corporation will notify the Trust that you have successfully completed the program. The Corporation will send you a letter informing you of the amount of the award. You may then present the award to your loan holder or the school you plan to attend. The loan holder or school will contact the Corporation for payment...When payments are made, the Corporation will inform you of the amounts and balance in your account.

"You should receive a letter from the Corporation within 20 days of completing your service. Because the letter will automatically be sent to the permanent address that you furnished when you enrolled, it is important that you keep the National Trust Fund informed of any changes to that address."

AMERICORPS MEMBERS FOCUS IN ON MEADE STATE PARK

Dodge City AmeriCorps Members Kyle Hedges and Mike Houck escorted 55 Cimarron School District 5th graders on a wilderness trail at Meade State Park before the end of the school year. While other AmeriCorps teams have helped students in similar endeavors, the experience at Meade was unique. A wind driven fire caused by downed power lines on March 22 closed half of the park. The park and wildlife areas suffered extensive damage. Kyle and Mike were able to vividly show the students the effects of fire on wildlife habitat.

Due to the fire, a significant number of damaged trees pose a hazard to people, facilities, vehicles, as well as picnic, camping and hiking areas throughout the park. Every storm or high wind increases the hazard potential of soil and increased possibility of windthrow. AmeriCorps USDA has volunteered to help restore the burnt area. Eleven volunteers from our two corps will spend June 20 thru 23rd at the park in a clean up effort.

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

Kevin Feleay and Cody Lind are the two remaining members of the Topeka team. They report that Tracy Streeter, Kansas Conservation Commission, is happy with the members' product produced in Douglas, Shawnee, and Osage Counties. It has been suggested that the team can get to more counties by doing fewer transects, as long as it doesn't sacrifice quality. Cody reports that, "Now we mark every four river miles and field sample one-third of those marks. That accounts to 140 transects in Osage County alone!"

Kevin reports that," Shawnee and Douglas Counties are complete, but field work remains. Mapping of 80 sections in the Hillsdale Watershed Project is complete, but field work remains." Kevin is also tired of the wet weather and has asked for divine help in getting dry weather.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).
To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

KANOPOLIS TEAM FIGHTS HIGH WATER

The members from the Kanopolis team, Scott Morris, Kurt Grimm, and Chris Newton report that they too have been dealing with too much water. Collectively the team: moved trash barrels and picnic tables to higher ground, attempted to clean up flood debris on the wildlife area but found the ground too wet and didn't want to get stuck again, rebuilt an information center that had been vandalized, built and installed a new information shelter for the Kanopolis Wildlife area, planted 200 trees and shrubs for wildlife habitat, marked grills and buoys, rebuilt and replaced hail and wind damaged park facilities.

Some of the individual member activities include: Scott mowed accessible areas and has kept the shop clean, Kurt used his mechanical skills to help put new side rails on the boat trailer. Chris honed his teaching skills by: doing interpretive programs during the Memorial Day Weekend, making a handout and getting prizes ready for Chris' Saturday Fishing Clinic, explaining to participants at a child care facility how people and animals use their senses, telling about 55 Girl Scouts at a local ranch how the goose refuge program works at Kanopolis. Chris plans on using his AmeriCorps education award to earn an education degree.

TEACHING IS PART OF EMPORIA TEAM'S SERVICE

Jim Peterson and Neil Bass have been active working with youth. During May they gave presentations to the Howard (Kansas) Envirothon in which students from Howard, Longton, Moline, and Elk Falls participated. Neil informed students about small mammal habitat, and Jim discussed ixodid ticks and the use of fire as a management tool. During June they will be involved with wildflower tours in the counties of Butler, Marion, Morris, Greenwood, and Lyon.

Future plans call for involvement in the Butcher School's summer intersession program. Butcher is located on the Emporia State University (ESU) campus and is still being used as a training school for educators. ESU used to be known as Emporia State Teachers College.

During the summer intersession, four three hour educational classes will be taught. Subjects to be covered include basic entomology, ichthyology, and botany (trees and shrubs).

Congratulations are in order for Jim and Neil. Jim completed a Master of Science (MS) degree in environmental biology at Emporia State this spring, and Neil will receive his MS in biology from Fort Hays State this summer.

A PRESENTATION MADE TO TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY GIRL SCOUTS

Members of the Perry team, Nathan Sexton, Greg Wahlmeier, and Rich Linneman, gave a wildlife presentation to about 250 Girl Scouts at Camp Chihowa. They also helped students from Valley Falls High School put up bluebird houses and place goose tubs in the park's marshes. In an odorous endeavor, they helped the City of Valley Falls pump down their sewage lagoons. Rich said, "The only nice thing about the pumping was that we did it on a cool day."

Restoration work has included building six new picnic tables, making repairs to the rest rooms and building a new dock at Shawnee State Fishing Lake. The Perry team reports that the reservoir water was up 20 ft., flooding several park roads and fields.

Rich reports, "TJ Wahlmeier has completed boot camp and is now at advanced training and should be back in July. Greg is at his two weeks of national guard training and is sorely missed. Greg seems to be able to fix just about anything I can break, and I have work piled up for his return."

Nathan is spending time at Melvern State Park which saves him on travel costs. Rich and his wife moved back to Lawrence in time for their second anniversary.

HUTCHINSON TEAM BUSY WITH 5TH GRADERS

Dean Krehbiel and Scott Allen participated in a conservation day at the Dillon Nature Center. Approximately 500 local 5th graders were involved in the project. Dean and Scott gave 18 talks about conservation practices. They also report that they have completed riparian work on six counties.

Scott doesn't want me to forget to mention that Dean's four month old son Colter, "is healthy and growing like a weed."

It should be noted that Scott and Dean were at Pratt during the Miss Kansas/Miss America Pageant. Scott was actively scheming, without avail, to find some way to provide community service to the Pageant.

HAYS TEAM IS MUCH TRAVELLED

Kami Legere, Craig Curtis, Tracy Beach, and Lance Hockett have seemingly visited every end and corner of Area 5. The four day trip to Sharon Springs, rattle snake capitol of Kansas, was surely different.

SICK BAY REPORTS FROM GLEN ELDER AND WEBSTER

Trent Anderson from the Glen Elder team is back to service after hurting his shoulder in a freak shop accident. Bill Plante has returned to the Webster team after appendix surgery.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

We want to conduct graduation exercises in August or September. We are looking for suggestions on what to do and where can meet to hold the exercises. We are thinking about modeling our exercise around the way the Kansas Commission for National and Community Service conducted their Day of Celebration. Please give me your suggestions for this event as soon as possible.

AMERICORPS APPLICATIONS FOR 1996

While the final approval for the 1996 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Consolidated Farm Service Administration (CFSA) AmeriCorps projects have not been made, applications are being accepted. Selection of applicants cannot be made until the projects are approved and funded. Current members who are interested in renewing should fill out an application and mark their choice of projects.

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

Providing community service is the center piece of your AmeriCorps experience. As evidenced by the newsletter reports from the teams, you are providing good service to the youth in your communities. IT IS HOPED THAT IN YOUR LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS YOU WILL CONTINUE GIVING SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY BE IT WITH YOUTH, SENIOR CITIZENS, CONSERVATION GROUPS, HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES, CIVIC GROUPS, ETC.