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Vermont Fire Technical Support Team

Citizens currently have inadequate protection from loss of life and property because of the rural nature of Vermont's communities and their inaccessibility to adequate water supplies.

Rural property owners tend to pay higher insurance premiums and experience less personal security than their city cousins.

The primary goal of VFTST is to reduce loss of life and property, improve personal security and to reduce the cost of fire insurance in rural areas of Vermont. The team responds only at the request of communities.

Objectives

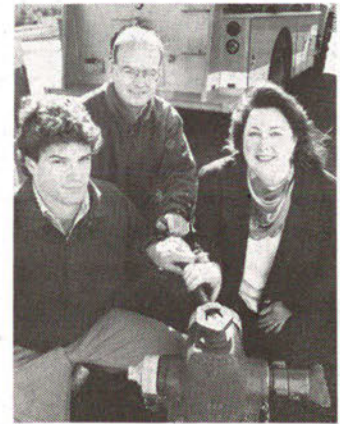
- To have 40 rural fire departments in Vermont, fully understand water supply needs and management principals.
- To develop innovative fire prevention water supply plans with 15 communities.
- To assist 40 rural fire departments and their communities develop marketing strategies and identify potential funding resources.
- To improve communication among fire departments, fire regulatory agencies and their communities.

We are grateful to Cellular One, IBM Corporation and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters for their generous donations.

Matthew J. Calcagni, Engineering Technician, is evaluating and designing water withdrawal facilities. He is assisting communities with adherence to engineering standards and specifications. He is also assisting them with the installation of dry hydrant systems. Matt is a native of Barre, and has recently obtained an Associates Degree in Civil Engineering from Vermont Technical College.

Sharon S. Quinlan, Education and Marketing Specialist, develops educational information and training tools. She is providing marketing support for team programs and for individual fire departments. Sharon has lived in Vermont for thirteen years, has a B.A. from the University of Maryland and has been in design and marketing for over twenty-five years. She is currently enrolled in Vermont College/Norwich University.

Thomas A. Page, Team Coordinator, is the person responsible for the coordination, scheduling and plan development for the team. Tom has a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from The Pennsylvania State University and currently resides in East Braintree. He has extensive experience working on environmental site assessments, wetlands delineation, identification and mitigation, and asbestos consultation.



Photograph by Bob Eddy

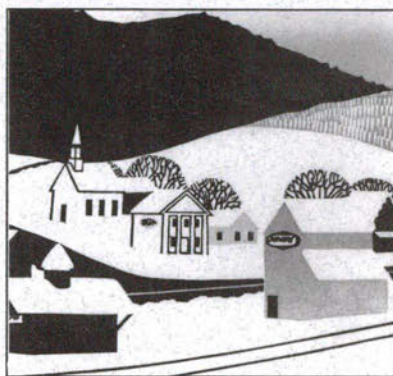
Vermont Fire Technical Support Team
*Matt Calcagni, Engineering Technician
Thomas A. Page, Team Coordinator
Sharon S. Quinlan, Education and Marketing Specialist*

What The Team Can Do For You

- *Assist with water supply and fire protection plans.
- *Assist with technical advice on dry hydrants and draft basins.
- *Identify potential funding resources.
- *Help with communication networking among departments.

The Team is located at:

George D. Aiken
Resource Conservation and
Development Council
PO Box 411, Rt. 66
Randolph, Vt. 05060
phone (802)728-9526
fax (802)728-5951
1-800-299-6408



Sabra Field 1967

**George D. Aiken and
Northern Vermont Resource
Conservation and Development
Councils.**

"Helping To Make Things Happen"

Our Mission...to help people achieve sustainable development while caring for and appreciating their natural environment; to ensure broadened economic opportunities, enrich communities and better lives.

We are...a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501 (c)(3) organization guided by a network of volunteers dedicated to meeting locally identified needs.

We coordinate and facilitate...technical and financial assistance for local communities and others who initiate, sponsor, plan and implement projects.

All team projects will be constantly evaluated by the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force.

**USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service.**

All programs and assistance of RC& D are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, marital status, handicap, or national origin.



AmeriCorps
"Working Together
Means Winning Together"

Vermont Fire Technical Support Team
George D. Aiken
Resource Conservation & Development
PO Box 411, Randolph, VT 05060



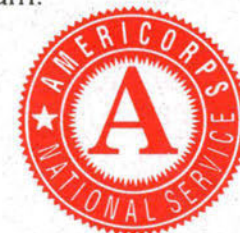
**Vermont Fire
Technical Support Team (VFTST)**

Mission Statement

The mission of the VFTST is to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life and property, and to improve the safety and welfare of the community.

This is accomplished by aiding the Volunteer Fire Department (VFDs) in developing fire protection plans, implementing the strategies and improving the fire departments capabilities.

In the spirit of community service the George D. Aiken and Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils have joined with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and AmeriCorps in collaborating to support the Vermont Fire Technical Support Team.



AmeriCorps

"Working Together Means Winning
Together"

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1994 State Earned Income Credit

This year the Wisconsin Earned Income Credit will be a stand-alone state credit. The credit is no longer calculated as a percentage of the federal EIC.

The income thresholds for the state will be adjusted for inflation annually, in \$10 increments. You will have two separate forms to complete in 1994 to receive the federal and state credits.

1994 Federal Earned Income Credit

This year, even more money is available. Families with only one child are eligible for an Earned Income Credit of up to \$2,038 in 1994. The maximum credit for two or more children will be \$2,528.



Who Is Eligible For Earned Income Credit?

Single or married people who worked full or part time at some point in 1994 can qualify for the EIC depending on their income.

- Workers who have one child in their home and an income of less than \$23,755 in 1994.
- Workers who have more than one child in their home and an income of less than \$25,296 in 1994.
- Workers who have no children but are between the ages of 25 through 64 on December 31, 1994, and an income of less than \$9,000 in 1994. The maximum credit will be \$306. *(This credit is only available through the federal EIC and not the state EIC.)*

Workers can obtain Earned Income Credit benefits by filing a separate Federal and State tax return.

Increase Your Take Home Pay! Advanced EIC Payment Option

Workers don't have to wait until the end of the year to receive their tax benefit. Employers can add a portion of a worker's EIC earnings to every paycheck and the worker can receive the rest of the credit after filing a tax return.

Eligible workers can obtain a federal W-5 form from their employer anytime during the year. However, a new federal W-5 form must be filed at the beginning of each year.

Workers can obtain Earned Income Credit benefits by filing a separate Federal and State tax return.

Is Advanced Payment Right For You?

Think ahead and make sure. If you think your income may go up later in the year or your family situation will change (maybe you plan to get married), advance payment is not a good idea for you.

If you're working more than one job and your total family income may go up this year and will be more than \$23,755, you should not take advance payment. None of your employers will know the correct amount to give you, and you could end up owing money back to the IRS.

Other Things To Know

If you receive the advance EIC in your pay, you must file a tax return for 1994. By filing a return you show the IRS the payments you received and filing a return allows you to apply for any extra credit to which you may be entitled.

If you're married and your spouse works, you should always check "Yes" in the box on line 3 of the W-5 (whether or not your spouse actually files a W-5). Otherwise, your EIC advance may be too large.

Do not claim more exemptions on your W-4 form than you're actually entitled to. Extra withholdings plus advance EIC payments can mean you will owe the IRS at the end of the year.

For more information on Earned Income Credit (Including Advanced Payment)

Call the Milwaukee EIC Hotline: 223-0662

To get help for filing or amending a tax return please call:

Federal
Internal Revenue Service
(414) 271-3780
TTY 1-800-829-4059

Wisconsin
Department of Revenue
(414) 227-4000

If you have a problem receiving information, please call us at 225-6200.

State Earned Income Credit Table

How Earned Income Credit Can Work For You

Tax Year 1994	Maximum Benefit	Minimum Income Eligibility	Income Cut-Off
Families with 1 child	\$92	\$7,980	\$23,740
Families with at least 2 children	\$499	\$7,980	\$23,740
Families with 3 or children	\$1,496	\$7,980	\$23,740
Tax Year 1995			
Families with 1 child	\$95	\$8,230	\$24,480
Families with at least 2 children	\$514	\$8,230	\$24,480
Families with 3 or more children	\$1,496	\$8,230	\$24,480
Tax Year 1996			
Families with 1 child	\$98	\$8,510	\$25,310
Families with at least 2 children	\$532	\$8,510	\$25,310
Families with 3 or more children	\$1,596	\$8,510	\$25,310

Federal Earned Income Credit Table

How Earned Income Credit Can Work For You

Tax Year 1994	Maximum Benefit	Income Range For Maximum Benefit	Income Cut-Off
Families with 1 child	\$2,038	\$7,750-11,000	\$23,755
Families with at least 2 children	\$2,528	\$3,425-11,000	\$25,296
Workers without children	\$ 306	\$4,000-5,000	\$ 9,000
Tax Year 1995			
Families with 1 child	\$2,040	\$6,000-11,000	\$24,396
Families with at least 2 children	\$3,110	\$3,425-11,000	\$26,673
Workers without children	\$ 314	\$4,000-5,000	\$ 9,230
Tax Year 1996 (Estimated)			
Families with 1 child	\$2,040	\$6,000-11,000	\$23,760
Families with at least 2 children	\$3,033	\$3,425-11,000	\$27,000
Workers without children	\$ 306	\$4,000-5,000	\$ 9,000

Get Money Back You've Earned!

Take The Tax Credit Your Family Deserves.



Need Help Paying Heating Bills?
These incomes may qualify for Energy Assistance

People in Household	Monthly Household Income
1	\$ 920.00
2	1,230.00
3	1,540.00
4	1,850.00
5	2,160.00
6	2,470.00
7	2,780.00
8	3,090.00

(FOR EACH PERSON OVER 8 ADD \$310.00)

To apply, you'll need the following:

- Social Security cards for everyone in your household.
- A copy of your last heating bill (or other proof).
- Proof of income for the last 3 months.

Where to apply for Energy Assistance

SDC Halyard Building - 2201 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.
Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SDC Westside Center - 2449 N. 36th Street
Monday thru Friday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SDC Southside Center - 931 W. Madison
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Milwaukee County/DSS - 1220 W. Vliet Street
Monday thru Friday - 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

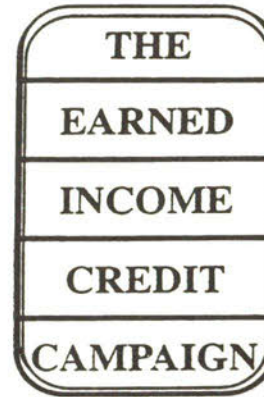
South Milwaukee City Hall - 2424 15th Avenue
Tuesday Only - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Beulah Brinton Senior Center - 2555 S. Bay Street
Fridays Only - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

West Allis Senior Center - 7001 W. National Avenue
Monday thru Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mill Road Library, Meeting Room - 6431 N. 76th Street
Tuesdays Only - 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This information is brought to you by:



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Put More Money In Your Pocket



Qualify for

EARNED INCOME CREDIT

**Not only do you deserve it,
you've earned it!**

What Is Earned Income Credit?

Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a tax benefit for working families having a combined gross income of less than \$23,755 and in most cases at least one dependent child living at home. The credit is available to married and single parents.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

19 May, 1995

*Americorps Member - Diane T. Ducharme - Recreation Accessibility Coordinator
USDA, US Forest Service / City of Asheville
Parks & Recreation Department
704/258-5821 704/257-4210 Asheville, NC*

Getting Things Done

- ◇ Establish database of people with disabilities and local agencies for communication network and advise from community.
- ◇ Research, Write, and Prepare Resource Manual for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Training's (totaling 230 pages).
- ◇ Completed a series of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Training seminars for various departments within the City of Asheville (totaling approx. 270 people):
 - Parks & Recreation - ADA Awareness Training
 - City-wide departments - ADA Awareness Training
 - Afterschool Program - ADA Awareness Training
 - Civic Center - ADA Awareness Training
 - City-wide departments - ADA Policy Training
 - City-wide departments - Sensitivity Training (encompassing a representative panel of peoples with a variety of disabilities from local agencies).
- * This is an expansion of original direction for the Americorps position, being only for the Parks & Recreation department's involvement, expanded to encompass the entire City of Asheville.
- ◇ Developing City of Asheville Americans with Disabilities Act Policy Compliance Procedures and Responsibilities.
- ◇ Assist in developing a park playground needs assessment survey.
- ◇ Developing a new program for Parks & Recreation - Adopt-A-Playground - the City's efforts to form a public-private partnership in providing accessible facilities.
- ◇ Establishing City of Asheville Americans with Disabilities communication network, i.e. information highway for ADA

COMMUNITY SERVICE

History

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a broadly sweeping civil rights law, signed into public law on July 26, 1990. It is intended to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities in all aspects of American life. This law includes provisions regarding employment (Title I), state and local government services (Title II-A), public transit services (Title II-B), public accommodations (Title III), communications (Title IV), and a miscellaneous category for clarifications (Title V).

In working with the City of Asheville, I have:

- ◇ install the importance to the City of Asheville of recognizing that all people in the community have an equal right to access under the ADA.
- ◇ educate both City of Asheville employees' and people with disabilities' communities on their rights and responsibilities to each other and to the ADA law.
- ◇ enable the City of Asheville to comply with ADA by providing technical support and manpower for expedient compliance. (Under Title II-A, Parks and Recreation should have been in compliance by January 26, 1992.)
- ◇ encourage communication from people with disabilities in the community with the City of Asheville via the ADA Advisory Committee.

RESPONSIBILITY

Education and patience can go along way. In working with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), I personally have grown in my awareness, not only of the various people with disabilities, but my responsibility to my community. We are all in "it" together, and thus grows the wealth of responsibility to each other. In so far as the City of Asheville, I believe I have educated the city's employees on awareness and sensitivity to people with disabilities. Yes, your right, this is a civil rights law mandated by the Federal Government, signed by the President himself, to provide a level "playing field" for all. I feel that I have provided more than just the law, but a more comprehensive view of the barriers we erect to peoples with disabilities, the opportunities we discount, and the hopefully a better understanding and alittle compassion for all people.

OPPORTUNITY

The City of Asheville is on its way to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Parks Recreation department has recognized the need for staff personnel with expertise in adaptive programs, thus posting and eventually will hire a part-time senior citizen program specialist. In heightening community awareness, the City of Asheville has been able to collaborate with various agencies to assert a “game plan” for compliance with the ADA. The foundations for the communication network have been established within the community and the City of Asheville. I believe this will facilitate the trust and opportunities for people with disabilities.

1994

HIGHLIGHTS

INTRODUCTION - PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Our success in "helping make things happen" depends upon a variety of public and private partners. We fully acknowledge that without their help and energies the highlights you are about to read about would not be possible.

Our partners are determined by the needs of the project we are working on. We expand our network of partners each year. These folks give their resources, time and expertise because we share with them a common goal.

"Collaborate" does not simply mean to "coordinate" or "cooperate". Collaborators share-power, make policy and program decisions together, share resources, dump old agendas and develop new ones together. Successes are equally shared and losses are equally mitigated.

We share our successes with the many partners we team with. We embrace less successful endeavors as learning opportunities and look forward to fine tuning our efforts to better meet the needs of local communities.

The RC&D Council is grateful to all of our partners collaborating with us in 1994. We celebrate the following highlights with them and look forward to continuing our work together to support Vermont communities.

CARPENTER LAND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Town of Royalton Recreation Committee asked the RC&D Council for technical information and resource data that would help them effectively and efficiently build a 9 acre recreation facility that meets the needs of citizens including Vermont Law School students. The Town owned the Carpenter Farm nine acre tract adjoining the Law School on the south side of the White River.

RC&D Coordinated an environmental review team that included the following:

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dan Koloski, District Conservationist
David Skinas, Archaeologist
- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Jon Bouton, Windsor County Forester
George Plumb, Recreation Chief
- Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
Les Varga, Transportation Planner
- Vermont Department of Environmental Engineering - Water Quality
Eric Sorenson, Assistant Wetland Coordinator
- Susan Space, Landscape Designer, Randolph, VT

This Team generated an Environmental Review Report that addressed recreational, wetland, cultural, vegetative, soils and landscape design issues. The report was used by the Town to hire a planning consultant to develop a comprehensive plan for the property.

The project was only possible because of the collaboration of the various partners. It is only through their willingness to share their expertise and time that the report to the Town of Royalton was possible. We on the RC&D Council appreciate their willingness to provide valuable resource information that will help the Town make sound land use choices on the Carpenter Land Recreation Area.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

SKITCHEWAUG SITE PROTECTED



Vermont's earliest known farming site, dating to 1120 A.D., has been protected through an amazing partnership involving public and private interests. The Skitchewaug Site is located along the banks of the Connecticut River in Springfield, Vermont. The loss of cultural resources and farmland was being caused by severe erosion of the river bank. The Vermont Division of Historic Preservation asked the RC&D Council to facilitate, coordinate and administer the technical and financial resources needed to protect the site.

The technical and financial resources needed for the project were provided by partners that come together in a true collaboration. The partners included:

- Errol Perry and Ken Young - Landowners
- VT Division for Historic Preservation & VT Legislatures
- New England Power Company
- Upper Valley Land Trust
- Consolidated Farm Services Agency
- Abenaki Tribal Council
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Frank W. Whitcomb Construction Corp.
- Connecticut River Joint Commission
- Tom Maclay, Construction Inspection
- Springfield Vocational Technical Center
- George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development Council
- University of Maine at Farmington - Archaeologist

The first public studies of the site were conducted in 1987 by the University of Maine at Farmington and funded by New England Power Company. The studies indicated that cultural deposits extended at least 2 meters below the present ground surface and were being lost regularly by erosion of the bank. Cultural features identified included hearths, pits, beans, maize and squash residue, living floors and human burials. The beans, maize and squash were carbon dated to 1120 A.D. which is some of the earliest known evidence of horticulture in New England. The condition and varied elements of the site indicates it is one of the most significant sites currently known in the Northeast.

The site is now stabilized by rock rip rap and vegetative cover. The farmland area is protected through a covenant to the Upper Valley Land Trust by the landowners. The construction was completed in record time just before winter set in. The creativity, dedication and foresight of all partners made this project possible and the benefits to society for protecting this site forever is incalculable. THE RC&D Council was happy to play a small roll with all the partners and looks forward to helping similar projects in the future.

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AMERICORP VERMONT FIRE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM



Team Members from left to right: Matt Calcagni, Tomi Page and Sharon Quinlan.

In the spirit of community service the George D. Aiken and Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils have joined with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and AmeriCorps to support the Vermont Fire Technical Support Team.

The mission of the Team is to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life and property, and to improve the safety and welfare of the community.

This is accomplished by aiding the Volunteer Fire Department in developing fire protection plans, implementing the strategies and improving the fire departments capabilities

Accomplishments of the Team to date are as follows:

- 72 towns and volunteer fire departments contacted VFTST for help with their Fire Protection Water Supply Plans, surveys and dry hydrant installations.
- VFTST completed 50 initial educational meetings.
- Team completed initial educational meetings with 3 mutual aid systems and held a Dry Hydrant Course for the Addison County Fire Fighters Association.
- VFTST assisted in the development of "Linking Economic Development and Community Fire Protection 'A Statewide Summit' ", on March 13, 1995 at the Statehouse in Montpelier.
- Team is in the process of developing 20 Fire Protection Water Supply Plans, 10 in the George D. Aiken RC&D area, and 10 in the Northern Vermont RC&D area.
- Team is assisting the towns of West Haven, Benson, Sudbury, and Hubbardton, to complete the installation of six dry hydrants in order to fulfill the Bennington and Rutland County Opportunity Council's Block Grant.
- Team is providing surveying and installation assistance on an "as needed basis" for communities who have monies ear-marked for dry hydrant installations in 1995, (i.e., Woodstock, Ripton, Strafford).
- Team discovered only a few volunteer fire departments market themselves to their communities. Team provided all towns with a handbook they wrote to help the VFD's with recruitment, fund raising activities, grants, and marketing of their dry hydrant programs.
- The Team is being assisted by two volunteers, Mr. Tom Maclay and Mr. James Tucker. One Vermont Technical College student, Dan Raymond, is helping the Team survey as part of his work-study project.
- IBM Corporation has donated two computers systems to the team to help produce professional Fire Protection Water Supply Plans.
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters donated 500 insulated coffee mugs to the team to be given to volunteer fire fighters as they travel around the state.



JORDAN ACRES SCHOOL, OUTDOOR LAB PROJECT GOALS

PROJECT COORDINATOR: HOLLY SHEEHAN, CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CIRCUIT RIDER

OBJECTIVE #1: To enable and encourage teachers to use the outdoor site behind their school. To make the outdoor site more physically accessible, and to provide teachers with information and hands-on, outdoor activities about the environment.

OBJECTIVE #2: To enable students to develop an environmental awareness which considers human behavioral impact on the environment and a willingness to take action to promote a clean and safe outdoors. To give to them knowledge, a sense of ownership and responsibility for the environment in which they live.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE OBJECTIVES WILL BE MET:

Teacher Workshops-

I will conduct at least three teacher training workshops, at the Jordan Acres School. The topics of sensory awareness, forestry, aquatics, soils, and wildlife will be addressed. Teachers will be lead through outdoor, hands-on activities which pertain to these subjects.

Building an outdoor Classroom

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) has volunteered about two weeks of their time to devote to building an outdoor classroom. The College Conservation Corps may also become involved with the project. Ideas for construction projects include, building foot bridges over swampy areas; making an interpretive trail, with natural objects that students can touch, and information for teachers to read; and building benches into a natural ampitheater. Some issues concerning materials, tools, etc. need to be ironed out. I am sending an official proposal to the NCCC, and will be

speaking to the College Conservation Corps. Hopefully this will all be confirmed within a month or two.

Using the outdoor lab

I am committed to spending almost every Friday of the school year with the Jordan Acres School. In the beginning I will be concentrating on the fourth and fifth grades. And later, if teachers are interested, I will work with the younger students. Each class will meet with me (outdoors, weather permitting) for an hour and a half.

Aquatics We will be "adopting" a section of the Androscoggin River. It is about a ten minute walk from the school. Educational activities on the Androscoggin include, water quality testing, macro-invertebrate collecting and surveying, trash clean-up days, monitoring seasonal changes, and re-vegetating eroding slopes. We will study watersheds, pollution and the concept that ecosystems are interconnected.

Sensory Awareness At the forested site of the outdoor classroom students will develop their sensory awareness skills, so that they become more thorough in observing nature and science. They will be encouraged to listen, smell, touch and to look closely. This will be done by having the students participate in activities which eliminate one sense, such as their eyes, and observe micro-habitats.

Forestry and Wildlife The forestry and wildlife lessons we be inter-connected, focusing on the forest ecosystem of the outdoor classroom. We will study wildlife habitat, seasonal changes, prey predator relationships, food webs, tree identification and physiology, wild flowers, edible plants and human survival in the outdoors, and human impact, etc.

Soils and Geology We will look at soils, and examine what they are made out of. Students will achieve an understanding of a soil layering. We will examine how water, animals, and plants relate to soils. We will study decomposers, nutrient cycles, and rocks. Human behavior and how it effects soils, which we cannot live without, will be examined by the students. Best management practices for land use will be explored.



A Project of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity



Team USDA

THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM IS IN VERMONT:

President Clinton created the AmeriCorps program as a "domestic Peace Corps" to fulfill his goal of reviving national service. In July, 1994, the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded five national AmeriCorps "Anti-Hunger, Nutrition and Empowerment" grants. Vermont was chosen to receive one of those grants with the sponsorship of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity. The project was further developed with the assistance of Senator Leahy, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Community Action Agencies, the University of Vermont Extension Service, the Vermont Departments of Health and Education, and the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. This is one of six different AmeriCorps programs funded in Vermont, all receiving support and assistance from the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service.

THE VERMONT ANTI-HUNGER, NUTRITION AND EMPOWERMENT CORPS:

Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps offers 40 Americans, mostly Vermonters, the opportunity to participate in a "season of service". The statewide program will be planning, training, developing and implementing projects from December 1994 through September 1995. The members are supported by an administrative staff of 3 (Bari Gladstone, Gina Purtell and Diane Girard-diCarlo) and a field staff of 5 team leaders (Laurie Larson, Lisa Guccione, Jim Owre, Holly Hammond, and Peter Mahar). The 5 regional teams will each consist of 8 adult members of diverse ages, educational experiences, economic backgrounds and interests yet maintaining a common desire to serve their community. Team members will live and work together, building community within their house as well as their geographical region. The locations of the households and counties covered by the teams are as follows: Jonesville: Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle; ^{Essex} ~~Northfield~~: Lamoille, Washington and Orange; St. Johnsbury: Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans; Bellows Falls: Windsor and Windham; Sudbury and Shaftsbury: Rutland and Bennington.

THE PROJECTS AND APPROACH

The five teams will work on a tremendous variety of projects, each in collaboration with Vermont communities and organizations or individuals committed to the issue of ending hunger. The teams may develop activities such as school breakfast programs, summer feeding programs, sustainable gardens, school / community nutrition education programs, food purchasing cooperatives for day care providers, enrichment of food shelf and community kitchen programs, increased access for those eligible for food assistance programs, and/or other special projects. The Anti-Hunger Corps members will be partners with communities in need of extra hands and technical assistance to create or improve strategies they will be able to sustain which reduce hunger and improve the availability and use of nutritional resources.

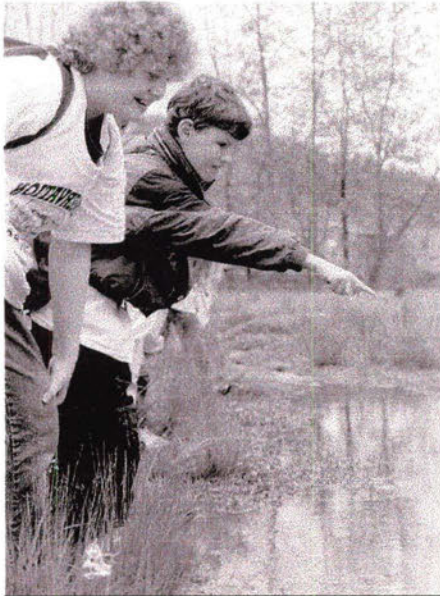
This is an exciting, novel program that has generated enthusiasm among the new staff, 'old hands' in the field, community members, and most recently selected AmeriCorps members. We look forward to working with Vermont communities to combat hunger in new and old ways.

103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1801
Office 1-800-360-2577 or 802-241-2577 Fax 802-241-2593

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-
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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

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

SUMMARY OF THE ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE MEMBERS NOT SEEN TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1995

The Food and Outreach crew consist of:

Treavis Fowler, Sheila Killebrew, Rhonda Evans, Mittie Rainey, Devon Williams, Gina Krosting, Beauty Wadlington, Shana Starks, Jennifer Williams, Jose Cabon, Alex Gonzalez and Geraldine Ball

Council for the Spanish Speaking, 614 West National Ave. Daniel Soto is the director, 384-3700. Our members Shana Starks and Rhonda Evans, are responsible for client in-take and for making sure that all of it's clients receive the correct amount of food.

Agape Community Center, 5975 North 40th street, Lisa Dallas is the coordinator of this project, 464-4440. The members who are assigned to this meal site, Devon Willams and Mittie Rainey, are responsible for all the preparation before the meal service begins. This site also happens to be one of the farmers market sites, where our members have pitched in to help sell the farmers goods.

The Gathering, 2612 West Mineral, Joe Oldfield is the director of this meal site, 272-4122. Rhonda Evans is our AmeriCorps worker assigned to this spot as a cook's helper. Rhonda is responsible for making sure that all the pre preparation has been taken care of. This will help the cook prepare the food quickly which in-turn the meal site will be able to service more people.

Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, 811 East Vienna, Michele Goldstine is the director, 962-3111. Hunger Task Force is responsible for providing food for the 105 pantries in there net- work. Our AmeriCorps members are there to provide assistance.

First Call For Help, 820 West Wisconsin Ave. There are three members assigned to the first Call program, Geraldine Ball, Jose Cabon and Jennifer Williams. This program is the first link for clients, here in Milwaukee, who may need some type of emergency service, such as food or shelter. The members are responsible for connecting the clients with the correct agency that will provide the client with the requested service. First call responds to over 400 calls each day.

Will's Road Side Market, 5500 West Silver Spring, Will Allen is the owner, 527-1908 Gina Krosting is the member who has been assigned this spot. She is the Wholesale manager and her duties include making sure that the farmers markets, run by AmeriCorps members, have their produce for that day.

Milwaukee Aids Project, 820 North Plakinton Ave. Andy Bagnal is the director. Here a member is responsible for running the food pantry that has been set up only to cater to AIDS patients in need of emergency food.

Right Alternative, 4434 West Marion, Tyran Moore is the coordinator of this project. Here Devon Williams is in charge of running the food pantry.

The construction crew consist of:
Leslie Snyder, Wynette Scheffield, Jeff Kohlweiss,

Today this crew is working at Cannon Baptist church, 2964 N. 11th st. The church's pantry was in need of new shelves and a fresh coat of paint.

The Farmers Market crew consist of:
Vonnie Thomas, Yolanda Thomas, Tatanisha Parker, Damon cobbs, Mary Hoover and Robert Huston

This crew will be working at the garden site on 1st. and Center.



**USDA
AmeriCorps Presents:**

Paintin' the Town **GREEN!!**

- * GEORGI, Environmental Singer and Storyteller
Performances starting at Noon and 2:00
- * Earth Easter Egg Hunt
- * Door Prizes
- * Art Exhibits from Local Students!!

April 15, 1995

**Grainger County Courthouse
Rutledge, TN
Noon until 3pm**

Made Possible by a Grant from the East Tennessee Foundation
and Partner's for Clean Communities

Keep America Beautiful System

For More Information, Please Call 828-5927

ITINERARY for IOEL BERG for JULY 5, 1995

VT. ANTI-HUNGER CORPS NORTHWEST TEAM REVIEW

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.--Meet at H. O. Wheeler School, West End of Archibald St. in Burlington. Visit H. O. Wheeler Summer Feeding Program. Americorps member Celia Chantal will be present.

10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.--Drive to St. Albans in Franklin County.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.--Visit St. Albans Summer Feeding Site. This will be the opening day of this program. Americorps member Emily Jones will be present.

12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.--Eat lunch at Summer Feeding Site with the kids. (This is my personal vision; if I can't work it out to eat there, we will use this time to grab a bite downtown somewhere.)

12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.--Visit Farm to Family Coupon Distribution Site at Health Department. Americorps member Charles Metcalf will be present.

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.--Drive with Americorps member Jamie Does to Northwest Correctional Center to do a pick-up of vegetables from the garden there and deliver to Franklin Grand-Isle Community Action Agency.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.--Return to Waterbury Central Office. (or Hampton Inn, or...?)

Northwest Team Leader Laurie Larson will accompany Mr. Berg on his field tour of the Champlain Valley. If there are any questions, feel free to call me at 862-9431, or 651-1867. Thanks! I'm looking forward to the tour.

Laurie

Timber on a Tightrope: A Demonstration Project to Reshape the Future

By Tim Richard

A tinge of exasperation marks Dudley Millard's voice as he comments on the southwest Colorado's logging industry, which is crumbling under evolving values that favor recreation, aesthetics, and biodiversity. "Everyone has had a finger in the pie since 1976, when the forest management plan started the decline of the timber industry," Millard says. "I don't know where this thing is going. Anytime you bring the public in to comment, everything comes to a halt. You just can't get everyone to agree on anything."

Despite his tone, not all seems gloomy for Millard, who isn't sure the people want to see the timber industry return. Although he sounds fed up with governmental decisions, he is one of a few timber operators in Montezuma County, Colorado willing to try a new direction that may lead to easing tension between loggers, millers, and the Forest Service. As long as there is timber to talk about, he holds out hope for the logging life he's known all of his 66 years. His snow-white head of hair betrays a youthful voice as he remarks, "It's promising, but we need a sustainable source of logs. I don't know if the Forest Service can change the way it does business, but it's moving faster than ever before."

The "it" Millard refers to is the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership, a unique experiment in collaboration and cooperation among county, state, and federal agencies, scientists, educators, and private industry, including the Colorado Timber Industry Association, of which Millard is current president.

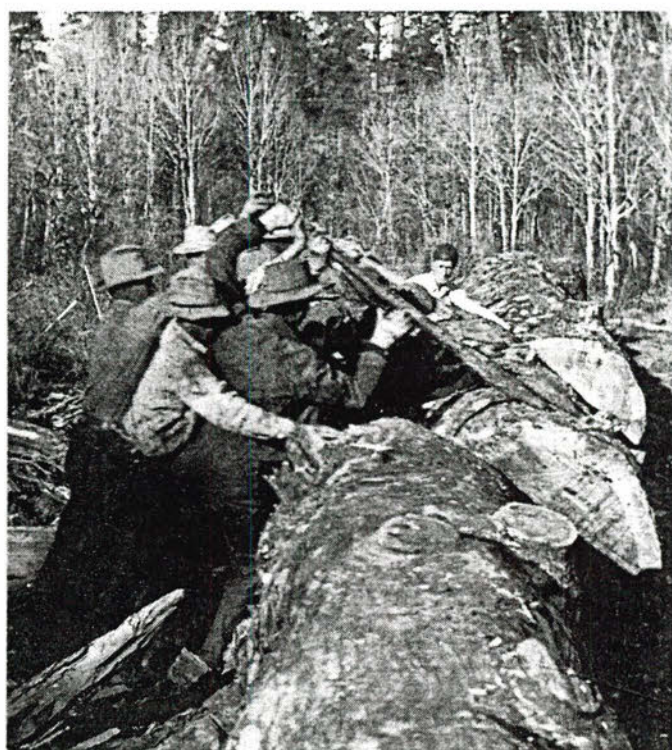
The multimember partnership emerged from a simultaneous recognition of common needs created by a weakened local timber industry, the forest's health, disappearing federal dollars, and legislative and regulatory policies. The partnership's quest is to learn if commercial logging can help restore badly needed forest health and if the Forest Service can support local communities in the spirit of ecosystem management.

"What we have is overstocked forests and a declining timber industry," says Mike Preston, associate director of the Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services. Preston was instrumental two-and-a-half years ago when Montezuma County commissioners approached him with the idea

of forming a program — the Montezuma County Federal Lands Program — to address the relationship between local economy and public land in the region. Only 23 percent of southwest Colorado is private; the rest is federal agency or tribal land. Montezuma County submitted a proposal to the USDA's Rural Community Assistance Program and won a grant for \$25,000. The Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership grew from the grant agreement made between Montezuma County, San Juan National Forest, and the Colorado Timber Industry Association to share time and data, seek markets for small-diameter timber, and hire Geographical Information Systems map makers and researchers.

"The [Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership] is about starting to figure out what the forest should look like, what materials can come from it, and what area timber people can do with it," Preston says.

Second-growth ponderosa pine and a thick understory of Gambel oak dominate the terrain found between 7,500 to 8,500 feet throughout the San Juan National Forest. A historical combination of grazing, fire suppression, logging, and particularly prolific seed years early this century produced even-aged and overstocked stands. Today, there is a moderate to high risk of dwarf mistletoe and mountain pine beetle outbreaks, not to mention catastrophic



Colorado insect-control crew inspecting ponderosa pine 72 inches in diameter, 1933.

390 per acre. Tree samples show that the frequency of natural fire as far back as 700 years averaged from five-to 40-year intervals in given areas, allowing regeneration to create a variable-aged canopy and contributing to a more biologically diverse ecosystem, the report states.

The San Juan National Forest's management strategy for the 189,000 acres of ponderosa pine on its west side may

burns are uncommon, but based on Romme's fire history, natural fires of the past occurred more often in summer than spring or fall. Kemp and Romme believe that a summertime prescribed burn might benefit native grasses and forbes, which may have evolved an adaptability to them. A summer burn would also burn hotter, clearing more debris than earlier or later burns.

Kemp, forester and silviculturist, is supportive of and enthusiastic about the demonstration's unique components.

"The difference in this project is that we're not out to maximize wood fiber growth and production," he says. "We're reducing the stocking below what this area is capable of producing as an ecosystem management objective."

In Romme's ideal scenario for restoration of the five sites, the objective is to remove trees less than 10 and 12 inches in diameter, leaving trees 16 inches and more in diameter. However, Kemp says trees larger than 16 inches in diameter will be harvested in two sites. "Thinning will help produce a more clumped appearance, comparable to presettlement conditions," he explains.

The second innovation is that, although two or three local logging companies will harvest the timber, the contract names Montezuma County as purchaser. Its role is to simplify

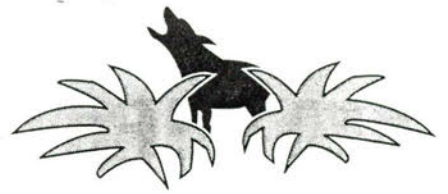
In Romme's ideal scenario for restoration of the five sites, the objective is to remove trees less than 10 and 12 inches in diameter, leaving trees 16 inches and more in diameter.

wildfire. Using tree ring dating and analysis, Fort Lewis College ecologist William Romme and other researchers have discovered that a pre-European settlement (circa 1870) fire regime created a landscape characterized by grassland dotted with ponderosa pine groves, considerably different from today's situation. Stumps surviving from turn of the century logging show that pre-1870 trees averaged 27 inches in diameter and numbered 40 to 50 per acre, according to Romme's recently completed report. The average tree size today is eight inches, and you can find 280 to

be largely determined by a demonstration project this summer to move stands closer to pre-1870 conditions.

Most of the preparations, including National Environmental Policy Act requirements, are complete. And Romme and San Juan National Forest forester Phil Kemp have chosen five sites totaling 447 acres (56 to 125 acres). Local contracted loggers will thin the demonstration plots, then Forest Service crews will conduct prescribed burning in August or early September, and Romme will follow with five years of monitoring and evaluation. Summer controlled

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

procedures and act as a liaison between the loggers and the Forest Service. The county helps reduce Forest Service costs and speeds chances of completing the project this summer. Instead of having to deal with more than five sales and contractors, the Forest Service has only one sale and one contractor.

A look at the statistics might hint at the reason Montezuma County commissioners want to play "a catalyst role," as Kemp calls it. From 1950 to 1980, the southwest Colorado timber harvest averaged 45 million board feet (mmbf) per year. Since 1980, it averaged 24 mmbf, with 12 mmbf in 1994.

Mill closings marked those later years. San Juan Lumber Company shut down in 1978 near Pagosa Springs and two years later in Durango. Wolf Creek Lumber Mill filed bankruptcy this year, and last March, a small Dolores mill closed. What the statistics don't show is that some 65 years of timber-related activities, combined with the fact that federal agencies control about 75 percent of the land, has profoundly shaped local culture and social values. County government, feeling responsible to preserve agriculture



Bunching logs for Big Wheels timber sale in 1924.

A. F. HOFFMAN

Utility poles have been mentioned, for example. More notably, lower-quality wood might be chipped and combined with coal for nearby power generating stations. The wood reputedly causes coal to burn cleaner. Western Excelsior in Mancos, which manufactures shipping materials, erosion control mats and fillers, and archery targets, is experimenting with manufacturing those products with pine instead of exclusively aspen.

Still, the mills can stack only so much of the small-diameter wood until someone figures out what to do with it.

"It's going to be a touchy job," remarks Bill Ragland, a Dolores saw timber logger and miller who will harvest some of the timber with his two sons and a grandson. "There's not many sawlogs. It's more or less a thinning job. It'll take time and patience to get this thing to work. It's kind of worrying me what we're going to do with that stuff, but I'm willing to go with my end of it to make it work."

Ragland expresses a notion of community stewardship similar to that articulated by Mike Preston. Continually promoting acceptance and participation, Ragland stresses that communities have a stake in the outcome of forest management and planning.

"The challenge is to develop a community stewardship model that allows communities to be active players in making ecological and community sustainability work together," Preston writes in a project case study. Although it's taken more than two years to see work on the ground begin, Preston em-

phasizes that the partnership's greatest good comes from building relationships.

A multifaceted public information and education program is raising awareness about the partnership and its demonstration project. Much of the task of public information and education goes to Carla Garrison, an AmeriCorps member and project coordinator, who keeps the project's momentum going. "Part of the objective of building public awareness is to ar-

demonstration areas on a path to an acceptable range of natural variation? Monitoring will eventually tell researchers the answers.

On the industry and marketing side: Can products be found to utilize small-diameter trees? Possible answers will be explored October 11 and 12 in Durango, Colorado during a the Growing Sustainable Forest Enterprises conference. For conference information, call AmeriCorps member Shannon Manfredi at (970) 247-7573.

Overall, one senses an air of optimism from talking with the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership members, but perhaps ecologist Romme expresses it most realistically: "I'm keenly aware that we're doing some new things, and I know we may not get the results we want ... But that's okay. We can go in and revise our approach. It's absolutely essential that we go about it that way. The good thing is that we have a mechanism to make it a success. We should act with an absence of dogma and not be afraid of showing our failures as well as our successes."

Tim Richard is an AmeriCorps member working with the San Juan National Forest and the Fort Lewis College Office of Community Services on county land use planning efforts and the upcoming San Juan National Forest forest plan revision. He also publishes and edits the San Juan Almanac, a journal of news and literary expression on social and environmental issues in the Four Corners region.

The challenge is to develop a ... model that allows communities to be active players

tulate what ecosystem management is, what principles the project is practicing, and what potential social and economic benefits the local communities stand to receive," she says.

But until the demonstration project is complete and monitoring is underway, many questions remain. On the Forest Service side of the equation: Can enough wood be provided on a sustainable basis to stimulate the local economy without adversely affecting ecological concerns, or for that matter, political concerns? Will the thinning and prescribed burns set the

Continually promoting acceptance and participation ... communities have a stake in the outcome of forest management and planning.

and logging while trying to adjust to tourism and growth development, sought opportunities such as the Ponderosa Pine Forest Partnership.

The partnership's goal of merging commercial activity with forest management ecosystem management hinges heavily on identifying marketable products made from small-diameter trees.

Participating loggers are acting considerably on faith because there is little or no market for the amount of small-diameter wood the project will produce. Posts and poles, firewood, saw timber, and house logs are possibilities, but the search for new products is on.

Common Ground

The RECD AmeriCorps Newsletter

AmeriCorps, April 1995, Volume 1, Issue 4

Inside This Issue:

Training in Memphis

Power of the Pen

Participant Profile:
Lara May

Site Profile: KRADD

Updates

KCEOC Update:
Life Skills Classes

Doing More

User Friendly

to meet with members from other states. Actual training began Monday morning.

The first day of training was conducted by various USDA personnel. Sessions dealt with various aspects of USDA and the AmeriCorps program. Members learned about the dynamics and economy of rural areas, got an introduction to using the Internet, were taught how to write press releases, and discussed how to represent AmeriCorps in a positive way.



AmeriCorps Members with Joel Berg in Memphis

AmeriCorps Members Attend Training Session in Memphis

By: Laura Duncan

The USDA AmeriCorps team spent the week of March 19 - March 24 in a special training session in Memphis, Tennessee. The session brought together AmeriCorps members throughout the country.

Members received training in various aspects of community development. Sunday evening, members attended a reception, where they had their first opportunity

The rest of the week the staff of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development, a nonprofit organization based in Nebraska, conducted an intensive training program in community development called "Helping Small Towns Survive." These sessions included an overview of Please see MEMPHIS, P2

MEMPHIS (cont.)

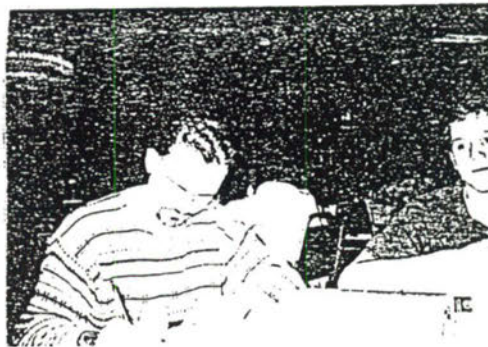
community development; a session on development of effective communication; training in working with community groups and non-profit organizations; an introduction to conducting community assessments; guidance in conflict management and identifying and developing leaders in the community; and direction in creating strategic plans for community growth. Sessions involved a great deal of interaction among members and team problem-solving.

The week was a hectic, involved one. We began sessions at 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. and finished at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. The program was quite demanding and required a great deal of work, but AmeriCorps members were rewarded for their efforts. We had the opportunity to become acquainted with AmeriCorps members in other states and establish a network of resources. We found that in other states AmeriCorps members had had difficulties similar to ours, and we were able to learn from their approaches and solutions to problems. We learned about group dynamics through our interaction with each other. We got to know (or to know better) AmeriCorps program leaders across the country including Dave Gibson, Jim Coyle, and Joel Berg. It was a great learning experience.

The Power of the Pen

By: John Mills

The Memphis training gathering for USDA AmeriCorps members has been in the history books (of our personal memoirs at least) for over a month now. I must admit that I haven't thought much about the sometimes boring, but very informative, event since I dragged myself off an airplane in Lexington, Kentucky. But, I recently received correspondence from two AmeriCorps members that reminded me of the unique and beneficial experience that it was.



John Mills with Chris Brady

Chris Brady, an AmeriCorps member in Ontario, Oregon, sent me a letter with some very helpful information on getting connected to the Internet and two 800 numbers for E-mail service after our conversation on the subject in Memphis. It was a real surprise to hear from him. He made mention

of the boost the Memphis gathering gave to his morale. It was just a simple reminder, but it did a lot for my spirits. To read about the people in his work, the obstacles he was encountering, and how he was confident that they would be overcome was inspiring to me.

Another AmeriCorps member from Blackville, S.C., Jacqueline Porter, sent me literature pertaining to community development corporations and the different approaches they take in their given communities. This gave me a new way to look at the community development subjects we discussed in Memphis and reinforced some of the material in my memory.

It is these thoughtful follow-ups from the acquaintances I made in Memphis that made it a valuable experience. By sharing their stories and letting me know that they are still out there struggling and committed, they have given me courage to do more and keep a positive outlook.

Participant profile: Lara May

By: Laura Duncan

Lara May has a long commute from her home in West Liberty, Kentucky to her office at Big Sandy Area Development District in Prestonsburg. She worked part-time during her last three years of school, so adjusting to her AmeriCorps service duties Please See LARA, P3

LARA (cont.)

was not difficult for her. The hardest part she says is the commute.

Lara attended UK where she received a BA in Sociology last August before becoming an AmeriCorps member. As an AmeriCorps member, Lara has been able to start making "a difference in Appalachia and rural communities." She especially appreciates her opportunities to learn about "implementing community development strategies," to network with AmeriCorps members across the state and the nation, and to participate in the teamwork essential to affect change. AmeriCorps has also helped Lara discover resources that she may be able to use in her career, and though her experiences with AmeriCorps, Lara has found a career focus as well--she wants to work with community development.

However, Lara, an active member of Foothills Artists, Inc., and the Morgan County Governance Project, has other interests outside of community development. She likes to write, though only for herself. One day she would like to share her writing, possibly even write a fictional book about Appalachia. She likes to be outdoors as well, enjoying activities such as walking, gardening or playing tennis. She does needlepoint, plays the piano, is taking an art class, and plans to take a photography class. She has a wide range of interests which include an obsession with

helicopters, which she would one day like to learn to fly.



Lara May

Lara is very close to her family: Her family is small, but tight-knit. Lara is especially close to her two older brothers, her two nephews, and her grandmother, who is teaching Lara the secrets of gardening. Lara shares a particular closeness with her mother Sallie, who has been a tremendous influence in her life.

Lara has a real sense of whimsy (her secret fantasy is to become a mermaid for a week) but since graduating from college she has begun to view the world differently, more realistically. "The real world," she says, "is very different from the college world, obviously, and being in the real world makes you wake up and take a look around you and realize that you've got to stay on your toes, that you can't just float along like you did in college. The real world won't be over in four years; it's FOREVER!"

Site Profile: Kentucky River Area Development Program Summary

The Kentucky River Area Development District (KRADD) is a quasi-governmental regional planning agency serving the citizens of Breathitt, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, and Wolfe Counties. Elected officials and citizens from each county make up the region-wide KRADD Board of Directors. KRADD has been serving the region for over 25 years.

There are 15 Area Development Districts (ADDs) for the state of Kentucky. The Area Development District concept originated in Kentucky in 1961 with the establishment of what were called Area Development Councils and became a basis for the Area Development authorization in a number of federal acts, including the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Public Works and Economic Development Act, of 1965.

The Program Development Office was established in the Kentucky Governor's Office in 1961 to provide the state role in working with the state established Development Areas. Today this role is served by the Department of Local Government in the Governor's office.

The local-state-federal
Please See KRADD, P4

KRADD (cont.)

partnership was fully realized in the federal acts, which then made federal designation and funds available for the final establishment of the fifteen Area Development Districts, or ADDs, in 1967. By executive order of the Governor, all state agencies were directed to work consistently with the fifteen areas in local area approaches to programs.

The Kentucky River Area Development District was incorporated in this final system of Districts in 1968 and funded as an Economic Development District under 301B of Title III of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and under Section 301 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. In 1972, the Kentucky General Assembly provided state statutory authorization for the fifteen ADDs with enactment of Kentucky Revised Statute 147A.050.

Kentucky ADDs have three distinctions, along with their long tenure, which distinguish them from similar area organizations, since utilized in most other states--the fifteen Kentucky ADDs provide a system of complete coverage to all 120 counties; Kentucky ADDs provide systematic linkage between area leadership and the Governor's Office and other state and federal agencies and private organizations; and Kentucky ADDs treat more than economic development by

dealing with all categorical program areas in Strategic Area Development Programs, basic to continuing program development to meet each area's development objectives.

Each ADD provides a communication link between local cities, local counties, the state, and the federal government. Kentucky ADDs assist local governments and communities in the areas of accounting, budgeting, personnel, and other financial or technical services. The ADDs assist local communities in obtaining state and federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Community Development Block Grant 9CDBG) and other state and federal resources. The ADDs of Kentucky have become centers of vast information and data that could be crucial to progress. Kentucky ADDs continuously look for processes to help communities manage an overwhelming array of information, to help people work together more effectively, to apply technology and to serve the changing needs of Kentuckians.

AmeriCorps Updates

From South Carolina

Recently, Jacqueline Porter sent me some materials regarding her work in Blackville, South Carolina. Jacqueline has been addressing the housing issue in Blackville.

She has been working with South Carolina State University to deal with such issues as homelessness, low-income rental assistance, and the housing needs of the elderly.

Ms. Porter was also recently recognized by House Representative, Wilber L. Cave for her concern about available services for HIV positive citizens in her area. In a letter to her, Representative Cave commended Ms. Porter on her work in the Blackville community and recognized her unique opportunity as an AmeriCorps volunteer to "link resources and people."

KCEOC Update: Life Skill Classes

By: Mona Powell

When I was first approached by the Knox County EZ/EC committee to develop a series of life skill classes for residents of Knox County, I was apprehensive about the project. I did not think that low-income families would respond well to the classes. Nothing could have been farther for the truth! In my original Site Objective I felt that we would have a great response if we reached 15 to 20 families. As of June 1, 1995, I have conducted classes for 45 families and have two sets of classes which have not began.

As an AmeriCorps member, it is extremely gratifying to see that I have Please See CLASSES, p5

CLASSES (cont.)

made a difference in my community. The people in my classes are very economically disadvantaged. Most are on welfare and other forms of public assistance. These people are extremely interested in how they can break the vicious cycle of welfare. They ask questions about how to finance an education, how to seek better employment, how to manage the little money that they do get, and how to protect their children from falling in the welfare trap.

It is sad to think that some people feel that my students do not care enough to "do something" about their situation. It is not that they do not care; they have never been taught the skills necessary to pull themselves up to a better way of life. Some of my students have grown up on the welfare rolls and thought that the only way for people in this area to survive was on welfare.

Many of my students have been laid off when businesses have closed or moved out of the area. When we are growing up, we do not imagine that we will work for a company for 15 years and then have to start all over again. There is a shock and numbness that goes with this traumatic experience that can not be explained to someone that has not experienced the situation.

There is a spirit among my students that is extremely rewarding for me. One of the students in the GED class that I visit with has recently

obtained her GED and is applying to Eastern Kentucky University for the fall term. This lady has two small sons and is a single parent. After class last week she said that had she not taken my classes she did not think that she would have had the courage to take her GED test and apply for college. She believes that she can now make a difference in her lifestyle that will also influence her sons to work hard to do their best. This is just one example of how AmeriCorps members can make a difference in communities! How lucky we are to have the opportunity to do so!

Doing More

By: Paula Bailey



Paula Bailey with Matt Hall and Michele Humfleet

I was born in Norton, Virginia in Park Avenue Hospital where my father worked. My family lived there for five years. When I was five, we moved to Dryden, Virginia close to my paternal grandparents. I have always

lived in Virginia, and have lived in Dryden for seventeen years. My parents are still married after 26 years, they have disagreements of course by they still love each other. My mom and I have a wonderful relationship. We are more like friends most of the time. My dad is pretty quiet and likes to have his way. My brother is just like dad. We all get along and have a very healthy family relationship. I don't think that any one person has had much influence over me. I think that my whole family has made the biggest impact on me. We have a rather large family so I have had the opportunity to watch and learn from my cousins' trials and errors.

My favorite hobby is oil painting. I find it very relaxing and enjoyable, and I am actually pretty good at it. I always thought it would be fun to paint, so my last semester of college I took a course in basic oil painting. I have been painting ever since. I also play the piano a little. I try to be completely honest with people without hurting their feelings. I really try to be considerate of other people because that is how I would like to be treated. I also try to focus on positive things in my life, and not to dwell upon failure or disappointments. I have a few close personal friends, but I usually don't open up very often. My philosophy of life is that you can only do what is possible. Every person has limits of Please See MORE, p6

MORE (cont.)

achievement, but they must be tested in order to know that you have done all that can be done. "What will be will be," one person can only do so much alone. United any people (AmeriCorps) can make a difference.

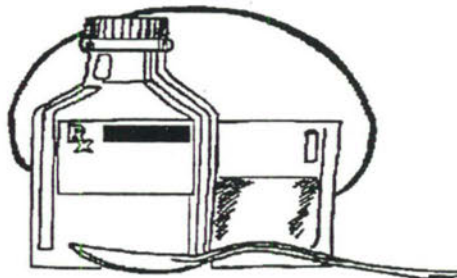
I attended a church school for two years, then I went to Dryden Elementary School and High School until I was in the 11th grade. Five schools in our area combined to create Lee High School where I graduated in 1990. I went to college at Clinch Valley College in Wise, Virginia. The college is a branch of the University of Virginia. I graduated with a major in Chemistry in May of 1994. I have applied to pharmacy school, and still have not heard whether or not I will be accepted. If I do not get into pharmacy school, I will either work toward getting a Master's in Chemistry or enter the Sonography/ Ultrasound program.

No matter which path I choose to follow, AmeriCorps will help me by providing me with a way to help pay for my education. I think that everyone's personal fantasy would be to have complete financial security and a career which you enjoy. This fantasy is somewhat realistic. I am trying to get realistic goals so that I will not be disappointed later.

Being out in the work-force has made me realize just how important a good quality education is to

everyone. Most of the jobs available in this part of Virginia require a specialized college degree or some type of experience. I didn't think it would be this hard to find a good job. I realize now more than ever that I will return to college to improve my education.

I have worked in a video store which proved to be the easiest job I have ever had. I worked at a grocery store while I went to college. Some people were very nice, but others were very hateful. I realized that I needed a job where I would be making a difference, or where what I did really mattered. [My service with AmeriCorps] has given me a feeling of importance.



The educational award was also a big incentive. Furthermore, this job promised the meaningful work that I had hoped for. Anyone can check out groceries, I want to do more.

Working with a team and being able to really help people is a truly rewarding experience for me. I like to be able to go back and say, "I told this person about our program, helped her fill out an

application, and took part in having the home repaired." Being able to know that you have made a difference in people's lives makes you feel good about yourself. No one experience has been more important to me than another. All of the projects I have worked with have had an impact on me. Working with each low income family makes me realize how lucky I am to have the opportunity to go on and further my education.

Usually I stay very busy. My duties include all angles of the application process. I also do some outreach so people will know about our program. I am also involved in the writing of the repair specification, the loan approval process, inspections on the work being completed, and the loan closing process. I never realized that the need for better housing in Lee County was so great. Many people do not have indoor baths, or plumbing. I have also learned how important it is to make sure that the repairs on the homes are done correctly. I have also learned how to work with the others in my office, as a team working toward a common goal.

I realize now more than ever that people in our community need help, and need to be educated about the help that is available. I have also come to realize that a quality education and experience in the real world are both essential to a successful career later in life.

Get Yourself Connected: User Friendly

By: Laura Duncan

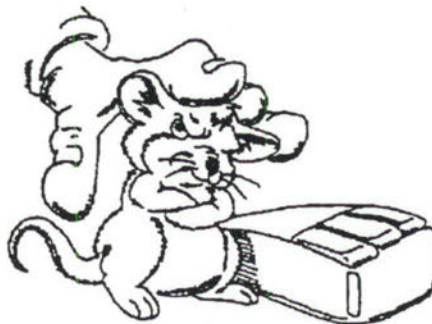


*Note: While this article is not specifically about the Internet, I think you might find its contents useful in any area of computer usage.

It's a simple fact: computers make your life easier. I never would have believed how much a computer would simplify my life before I started using one. In fact, I used to be afraid of computers. I thought they were too complex. I thought that I would have to learn incomprehensible, complicated terminology. I managed to complete my Bachelor's degree without touching a computer. I finished my Master's degree, also without taking one computer course. I had, however, in graduate school learned the very basics of using Microsoft Word, my first word processing program, on a

MacIntosh computer. By running tutorials and experimentation, I managed to learn just enough to be able to word process my papers in graduate school instead of typing. I was then, and am now, one of the world's worst typists. I use the hunt and peck method. I type very slowly and make numerous errors, but I discovered something while using the Mac--you can make as many mistakes as you want because editing on a computer is simple.

After graduate school, I never used a Mac again. I never used a computer at all again until I became a faculty member at Southeast Community College. There, I did the impossible; I taught myself WordPerfect 5.0 on a dinosaur IBM PC. Unlike with the Mac I used in graduate school, this old PC required the user to learn and manipulate Function Keys instead of the relatively simplicity of a mouse.



My knowledge of computers is not extensive, but I consider myself proficient. My greatest strength as a computer user is my willingness to learn. I am no longer intimidated by

computers. In fact, I couldn't live without my personal computer. I also think I have some aptitude for computers. After all, I am almost completely self-taught, except for an occasional question I may have asked my colleagues. On the whole, I learned by trial and error. I am still learning.

My advise to the potential computer student is this: if you can afford it, buy your own computer. There are two reasons I suggest this. First of all, you can learn at your leisure and without distractions. Secondly, you can choose a computer to suit you personal needs. If you can't afford to buy a computer, make time to learn to use one at the office or at a local college. Next, identify programs that will be useful to you. At the very least, learn to use a good word processing program. Run tutorials, if they are available, to introduce you to the computer you are using and its applications.

Don't be afraid to use resources--people resources and manuals, books or magazines about computer usage. If you have a friend who is computer proficient, ask questions when you don't understand something. If you don't have someone who can assist you, consult written materials for answers.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. We learn from our mistakes, and often with the computer, making a mistake leads to knowledge of a new Please See FRIENDLY, p7

FRIENDLY (cont.)

or better way to do things.

Don't give up. At first, learning a new program, or even basic knowledge about a computer, can be frustrating but stick with it and your efforts will be rewarded.

Don't be intimidated.

In most cases, there is very little you can do to harm a computer or its programs. Usually beginners do not have the skills required to destroy a program or any part of it. It is very difficult to alter a computer or its function by accident. You usually have to know what you are doing to accomplish this, and even if you do change a setting, it usually is simple to reset it.

If you are open and willing to invest a little time, you can learn more about computers and I think that you, like I have, will find the rewards well worth your efforts. No matter how limited your present knowledge of the computer, you can learn to use a computer if you want to, and no matter how extensive your knowledge of computers, there is always more to learn.



Happy Birthday

Matthew Hall

April 28



**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY E.O.C. and
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD and
MISSISSIPPI COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Will Conduct A

**LOW-INCOME FIRST-TIME
HOME BUYERS WORKSHOP**

Where:

**Mississippi County Community College
Osceola, Arkansas**

When:

Mondays, April 3, 10, 17 & 24, 1995

Time: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Facilitators:

Sandra Smith

**Missco E.O.C. Housing Counselor
and**

Johnnie Campbell

Americorps/Recds Member (Formerly FmHA)

**Eligible participants will receive help with their down payment and
closing costs up to \$3,000 (FREE!!)**

**Also valuable information on how to purchase a house. Financing,
Mortgage Rates, Insurance and Taxes, plus how to budget your finances.**

**Who is eligible to participate? The families that attend these workshops.
Those families that meet the income limits:**

1 PERSON.....	\$15,000	5 PERSONS.....	\$23,150
2 PERSONS.....	\$17,150	6 PERSONS.....	\$24,850
3 PERSONS.....	\$19,300	7 PERSONS.....	\$26,600
4 PERSONS.....	\$21,450	8 PERSONS.....	\$28,300

**If you and your family meet these income limits please attend
this FREE HOME BUYERS WORKSHOP!**

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

AmeriCorps Teams In Tennessee

Cluster 1: Carissa Hayes
Adriann Glover
Nonya Mackey
Mike Milholland
Amanda Poyner

Cluster 2: Cheryl Moore
Kelli Smith
Jamie Travis
Toya Walker

Cluster 3: Amy Crumley
Cassandra Sheaffer
Sharon Smith
Katherine Thompson
Betty Wilson
Jeremy Williams

AmeriCorps News From Tennessee
Volume 1, Issue 1
Spring, 1996



There are three AmeriCorps cluster sites in Tennessee busy "Getting things done". All the cluster sites have many goals to accomplish this year. In this newsletter, you will see some of the projects that the AmeriCorps in Tennessee are working on. AmeriCorps is about leadership, teamwork, and service to our communities. We have all enjoyed the great opportunities AmeriCorps has offered. We hope our service will contribute to helping people all across Tennessee.

MAINE USDA AMERICORPS NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER, 1995

WELCOME TO AMERICORPS!!

As new AmeriCorps members, you no doubt have many questions about the AmeriCorps program. This newsletter will be sent to you monthly to keep you up to date on everything that is happening in AmeriCorps (We hope!) and answer any questions you may have. This edition of the newsletter will serve as an orientation to the program, the USDA staff, the other AmeriCorps members, and everything else.

My name is Karen Malley and I am the AmeriCorps Leader for the Maine USDA AmeriCorps program. I am here to answer any questions you have that cannot be answered by your supervisor. My phone number at the NRCS state office is 866-7241. I am usually in the office from 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 P.M.. If you can't reach me at the office, please do not hesitate to call me at home (945-5874). On the following page is an organizational diagram for the Maine USDA program. As you may know, within the USDA, there are many organizations. The Maine USDA AmeriCorps program includes only the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Services Agency (FSA). Twenty members in the program are at NRCS sites, and five are at FSA sites. Hence, there is our FSA State Executive Director, Arnold Roach and our NRCS State Conservationist, Dave Musselman. There are also two program directors, Richard Baird from NRCS and Mike Tardy from FSA. As I said before, I am the AmeriCorps Leader. Cluster Coordinators, site supervisors, and project supervisors will vary.

NRCS EMPLOYEES

I am your contact person. Any questions that you have about anything should come to me. If you are unable to reach me

and it is urgent, here is a list of what each NRCS employee handles. You may call the NRCS employees, but please remember, these people have their real jobs to do and any AmeriCorps work they do is additional.

Darci Edgecomb:

- health insurance
- child care
- USDA worker's compensation
- loans & educational award

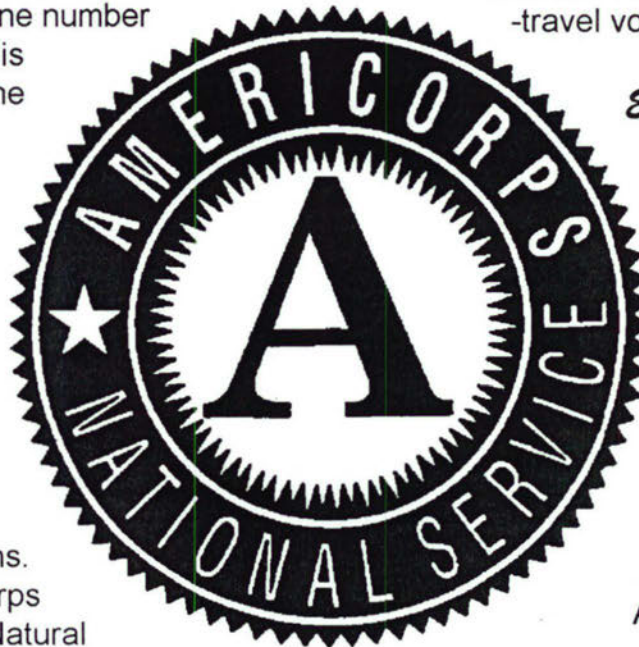
Patty Clark:

- time sheets
- travel vouchers

Elaine Tremble:

- general inquiries
- dealing with Corporation for National Service and NRCS Headquarters.
- mileage reimbursement

If you are unable to contact Patty, you can call Kyle Bolduc about travel, and Roger Ashe about time sheets.



FSA EMPLOYEES

For those of you who are at FSA sites, things will differ slightly. If you are having problems with health insurance, living expense, or time sheets, etc., you can talk to your site supervisor (who is also the project supervisor in all cases) and they will help you resolve them. I am also here to help!

ROLES OF CLUSTER COORDINATORS, SITE SUPERVISORS, AND PROJECT SUPERVISORS

When so many people are involved with a program, there is often confusion about duties and roles. Here is a brief synopsis of

AMERICORPS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Roles (con't)

supervisor, and the project supervisor.

Cluster coordinator:

The cluster coordinator is in charge of all cluster functions. These include scheduling a meeting during any month when there is not a training, setting the agenda for that meeting, and providing a facility in which to have the meeting. Cluster coordinators will sometimes be responsible for informing the site supervisors, project supervisors, and members of some information.

Site supervisor

Site supervisors are the main NRCS contact with the project and in some cases will be the same person as the cluster coordinator. They are responsible for overseeing the work plan, and handling any problems that may arise between the site supervisor and the member. Site supervisors must have biweekly contact with the members if the members are not operating out of the NRCS site. If this is not possible, then they must arrange with the cluster coordinator or another site supervisor to have this biweekly contact.

Project supervisor

This may be the same person as the site supervisor and cluster coordinator. The site supervisor is responsible for day to day supervision of the AmeriCorps member. They are responsible for seeing that the member gets all reports in on time and that the work plan objectives are being accomplished. The project supervisor should sit down with the member at the start of the program to establish any strong points or interests of the member and adjust the work plan slightly according to those.

FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

All AmeriCorps members will be paid for nine federal holidays which they will not have to work. However, depending on which group you started with, your holidays will vary. If you started on or around October 2 with the first group of participants, then October 9, Columbus Day, will be one of your nine. If you started on or around October 10 with the second group, then September 2, 1996, Labor Day, will be one of your nine. The following are federal holidays for all AmeriCorps participants:

IN 1995

Veterans Day- Nov. 10

Thanksgiving-Nov. 23

Christmas-Dec. 25

IN 1996:

New Years Day-Jan 1

Martin Luther King

Day-Jan. 15

President's Day

Feb. 19

Memorial Day- May 27

Independence Day-
July 4



IMPORTANT

The following is a brief description of the

AmeriCorps program. This must be in press releases, fact sheets, brochures, or flyers describing AmeriCorps Programs. (These paragraphs must be included in any materials related to USDA AmeriCorps projects!) The statement about Equal Opportunity Employment must be treated likewise . All that this means is that you must submit this to the press as part of any written material. Press have the right to edit what you give them and most likely will edit this out (for short newspaper articles, commercials, etc.). However, we are legally required to submit it! The EO statement must also go on the bottom of any letters to anyone outside of the USDA AmeriCorps program!

AMERICORPS BLURB

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 AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

I am aware that this is a poorly written statement. However, we must include it in everything!

EO STATEMENT

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. 20252, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). The USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

EMERGENCIES

We hope that this does not happen, but if you do have an emergency at work (i.e. injury),

here is what to do. First, if the injury is serious--go get treatment!! If the injury is not serious, we would like you to get in touch with us before getting the injury treated. In the case of an emergency, you should contact your supervisor, contact the AmeriCorps Leader (leave a message if I am not here), and then go receive treatment. If the injury is serious, get treatment, contact your supervisor (site and project), and then contact me, at home if necessary. If you cannot reach me, contact Richard Baird or Mike Tardy (depending on which program you are in) and leave a message. This scenario would be the same for any occurrence which would cause you to miss work for an extended period of time.

TRAINING

You already know about our first training on October 29, 30, and 31. This training will be held at the Sunday River ski resort in Maine and will be a statewide training. This will give you the opportunity to

become familiar with the other AmeriCorps groups in Maine. Fortunately, this year we will not have to attend statewide

trainings as a program unless we feel that they will benefit our members. In addition, a training on Integrated Crop Management, Farm*A*Syst, and Home*A*Syst has been planned for November 6 and 7. All members are encouraged to attend and site and project supervisors are welcome as well. This will entail staying overnight for some of you and I will have more information on that as the date approaches. Trainings in First Aid which includes training in CPR have also been planned for each cluster. We do not have dates on these yet, but the Southern and Aroostook clusters will be trained one day in the week of October 23-27, and the Down east cluster will be trained either Nov 1, 2, or 3. All trainings are required for all members!!

MAINE
AMERICORPS
TEAM USDA



SWEARING IN CEREMONY OCTOBER 12, 1995

Maine Commision for Community Service
&

AmeriCorps Programs

AmeriCorps Works for Maine--Portland

College Conservation Corps of Maine

Downeast Rural Health TEam--Lubec

Maine USDA AmeriCorps

Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers--Ellsworth

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

8:00

8:15-12:00

12:00-1:00

1:30-2:15

2:15-2:30

WELCOME

SERVICE PROJECTS

CLEAN UP AND LUNCH

SWEARING IN

WRAP UP

SERVICE SITES

SERVICE SITES

AUGUSTA

BLAINE HOUSE

BLAINE HOUSE

Calling All PALS!*

Maine National Service Orientation Conference

**October 29-31, 1995
Sunday River, Bethel**



sponsored by
Maine Commission for Community Service



***PALS are ... Partners in AmeriCorps and Learn & Serve!**

(Including AmeriCorps*VISTA)

Program Directors ♦ Supervisors ♦ VISTAs

AmeriCorps Members ♦ Learn & Serve Project Directors



This program was designed by the pioneers in 1994/95 AmeriCorps programs as their legacy and based on their review of the trailblazing year.

Start the new service year by ... meeting your colleagues across the state ... learning skills you will need in the first few months ... developing the unique "mission" of this National Service Class ... becoming a member of Maine's national and community service network.

Fee: \$20/day total for VISTAs and other non-AmeriCorps members
AmeriCorps members attend courtesy of ME Commission

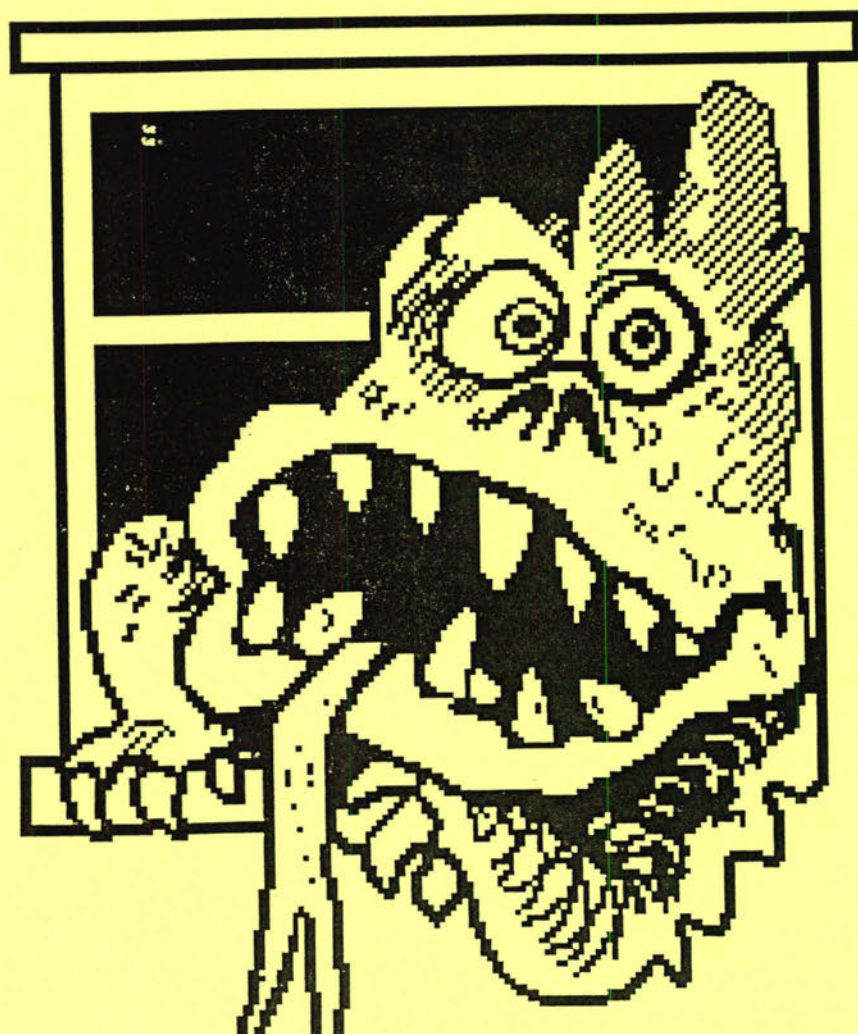
Registration – October 29 at 4:30 pm Departure – October 31 at 2:30 pm

To Sign Up – VISTA Volunteers and Supervisors ... register directly by calling the Commission at 624-6011; Learn & Serve ... contact Caroline Allam at 767-9696; AmeriCorps supervisors and members ... contact your program director.

Deadline for sign up is October 16! Please let us know about special needs. Rooms are double
... if you have a roommate, please let us know so we can assign you a roommate.

Time frame	Sunday, Oct. 29	Monday, Oct. 30	Tuesday, Oct. 31
Breakfast Activities		7:30 -- Breakfast with PALS; after eating sort "On the Wall" items	7:30 -- Breakfast
Early AM		8:30 -- <i>CNS 101: what is under the umbrella of National Service</i> <u>Lisette Nieves</u>	8:30 -- 10:30 <i>Conflict Resolution</i> (half of participants) <u>John Forssen</u> <i>Diversity in Maine</i> (50% of attendance)
Mid AM Break @ 10:30		9:30 -- 3 simul. workshops (1) Cultivating the ethic of service when you're not in school [supervisors]; (2) Meeting Learn & Serve challenges with success [L&S directors] (3) Orientation for New AmeriCorps [non-VISTA] members -- based on handbook	10:30-12:30 Sessions repeat but participants swap topics
Lunch 12PM-1:30		Meal and Speaker: "The Power of Individuals: Changing Our World" Business: Recruit volunteers to draft "Class Mission" and design closing ceremony	Meal and speaker: "Lighting Fires: Service as a vehicle of change"
Early PM		1:30 - 4:15pm <u>Choose 1</u> <i>Mobilizing Communities</i> aka "Getting things done when you're from away" <u>Liz Crockett</u> <i>Marketing 102: No Press Releases, Please!</i> <i>Is Your Program User-Friendly?</i> aka Sharing Power, Building Ownership in Customers and Members <u>Ray Cook</u>	1 PM -- Mission committee presents draft; group consideration and adoption; 2 PM -- Closing ceremony as designed by participant committee 2:30 - Departure

Mid-PM	4:30 -- Registration and check in at training site	4:30 -- Corps, VISTA, & Learn/Serve meetings to share applications developed during afternoon workshops	
Dinner	5:30 -- Buffet with welcome and outline of night's activities + news	5:00 -- Reception Hosted by ME Commission 5:30 -- Dinner; PALS catch up on day's events	
Evening	6:30 -- Event Opening -- norms, expectations, commitments. Setting up PALS; "Why are you serving?"	6:30 -- <i>Prisms and Links</i> aka solidifying membership in Maine's National Service Corps through activity and fun! <u>Bill Michaud</u>	

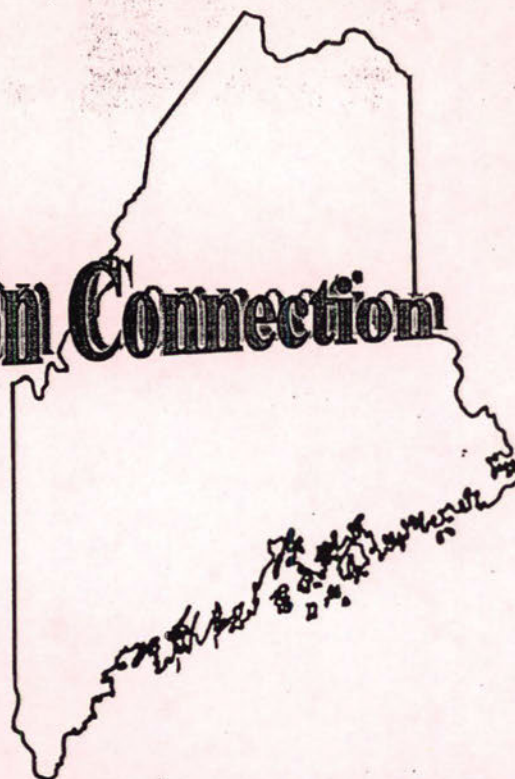


**TRICK
OR
TREAT!**



The Extension Connection

A Series of Extension Programs
Over Interactive Television



Speakers and Topics

September 14, 21, & 28 Fall Gardening Tips
Session 1 Barbara Murphy "Garden Season Extension"
Session 2 Rick Kersbergen "Putting the Garden to Bed"
Session 3 Marjorie Hundhammer "Composting from A-Z"

October 5 & 12 Habitat for Wildlife: In Backyards and Woodlots
Cathy Elliott
Session 1 "An Introduction to Wildlife Ecology, Biology, and Habitat"
Session 2 "Creating Wildlife Habitat in Backyards and Woodlots"

October 19 & 26 Cattle Management Shortcourse
Stacey Gunter and Cal Walker
Session 1 "Cattle Health: The Pros and Cons of Grazing"
Session 2 "Feeding Cattle Economically"

November 9 & 16 Food Safety for the Holidays
Mahmoud El-Begearmi
Session 1 "Planning and Purchasing Food for the Holidays"
Session 2 "Proper Food Handling for a Safe Holiday"

November 30 Home Water Quality
John Jemison "Do You Know If Your Water is Safe?"

December 14 & 21 Crop Nutrient Management Shortcourse
Tim Griffin and John Jemison
Session 1 "Nutrients—How Much is Too Much?"
Session 2 "Striking a Balance"

Available Sites

Ellsworth Center
Houlton Center
Sanford Center
Madawaska HS
Guilford HS
Mt. Blue HS (Farmington)
Telstar HS (Bethel)
Mt. View HS (Thorndike)
L/A College (Lewiston)
Extension Office Skowhegan

207 Shibles Hall, University
of Maine, Orono
(broadcast site)

All programs are on Thursdays,
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. You are
welcome to attend any or all
programs at any location.
Admission is FREE! Contact
your local Cooperative Extension
office or Cal Walker at 1-800-287-
7170 for a registration form.

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Questions and complaints about discrimination in any areas of the University should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, Suzanne Estler, 318 Alumni Hall, 581-1226. Inquiries about discrimination may also be referred to the Maine Human Rights Commission, U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, or other appropriate federal or state agencies.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

In order to insure that any training we provide (statewide or otherwise) is useful, I would like to conduct a survey to see what you would like to be trained in. I have listed a few suggestions that I heard from people last year and from returning members this year. Please feel free to suggest anything else you feel would be useful. Please circle or otherwise indicate the skills you would like to be trained in.

TRAINING SURVEY

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PRESENTATION SKILLS-ESPECIALLY PRESENTING TO CHILDREN

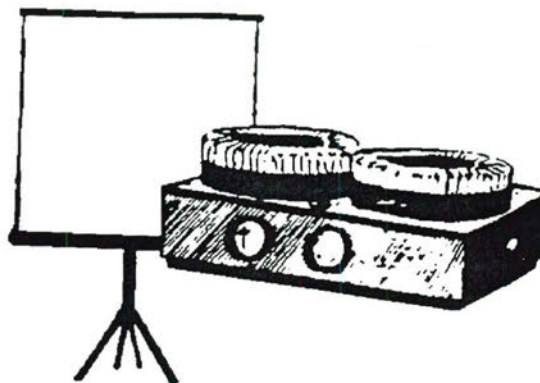
HOW TO PLAN FUNCTIONS

HOW TO NETWORK

RESUME WRITING/ INTERVIEW SKILLS

GRANT WRITING AND FUND RAISING

CAREER PANEL

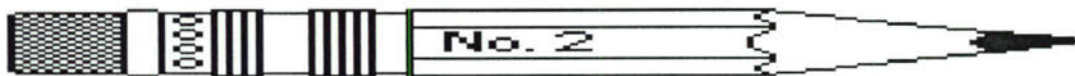


OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Quarterly Reports and Daily Log

Quarterly reports, although sometimes tedious, are a very important part of what we do. Not only do these give you the opportunity to improve your writing skills, they also keep everyone else informed of how successful we are at completing our objectives. If AmeriCorps is going to continue, the costs must be outweighed by the benefits and quarterly reports are a good way of expressing those benefits. Since we are using quarterly reports to justify the costs of the AmeriCorps program, they must be very numbers oriented. Included in this newsletter, you will find two examples of well written, numbers oriented quarterly reports, and a project assessment form that the USDA uses. These should give you an idea of what you must cover in your report. This doesn't mean that you cannot have fun and express the more human side of your project. One way to handle this is to have a summary section at the end of each report listing the numbers for that quarter and for the year (Example 1). **I cannot stress how important these reports are! Please, please take your time and make these reports good!** When we send in a poorly written quarterly report with spelling errors and grammatical mistakes it reflects back on our program as a whole!

In order to provide correct numbers on your quarterly reports, it would be a good idea to keep a daily log of what you do, how many hours you do it for, how many people you do it with, and how many people you effect by doing it. We know that some of these things are hard to put numbers on, but we must try! **You must also keep track of any time that any volunteers donate to your program and any volunteer time you donate to your program or any other organizations!**



PROGRAM CLOTHING

Sometime this year you will be provided with national AmeriCorps clothing. You will receive two t-shirts, one sweatshirt, one hat, one pin, and two patches. We hope that all of the clothing will be here by October 4 so that we may distribute it at the administrative update. You will receive at least one t-shirt and two patches at the meeting. Last year, in addition to national AmeriCorps clothing, program clothing was ordered. Some of the items were not well received so this year we are soliciting suggestions on program specific clothing. Do you want it? What do you want? Three ideas have been voiced to me, they are:

1. A program sweatshirt in black or green with the Maine USDA AmeriCorps logo on the back. I heard no hood on this one since the national sweatshirt is hooded--what do you think??
2. A jacket. Maybe a black nylon jacket with a light lining that slips over the head, a zipper that goes 1/3 of the way down, and a hood. This would have the "A" emblem on the back and the program logo on the front breast.
3. The gray golf shirts from last year to provide a semi-dressy alternative.

We need feedback!! Tell me what you think of these ideas and tell me about any ideas you have. We are also looking into ordering a lapel pin for each of you. These are slightly nicer than the buttons and can be worn with dress clothing.

AMERICORPS PARAPHERNALIA

As you heard during the Administrative Orientation, you must wear a piece of AmeriCorps clothing while you are working. This does not mean that if you are SCUBA diving, you must put your pin on your wetsuit. Nor does it mean that if you are sitting at home doing work, you have to wear your sweatshirt. AmeriCorps paraphernalia should be worn whenever you are interacting with the public. Use your judgement on this one!

Topic: WEEKLY NEWS NOTES FROM THE NORTHEASTERN AREA
To: S&PF, Washington, D.C.
From: The Northeastern Area
Date: April 22, 1996

"Bringing Forestry to The People"

Provide Multiple Benefits for People

CHICAGO GOES WILD: On April 10, over 30 environmentally conscious organizations committed their support to protecting, managing and restoring the unique plant and animal communities native to the Chicago area. Partners include world class educational and cultural institutions (Field Museum, Morton Arboretum, Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanic Garden, John G. Shedd Aquarium - to name a few), Federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profits, research and land management organizations.

At the well-attended, kick-off press conference at the Field Museum of Natural History, Under Secretary of Agriculture James R. Lyons, described the national significance of this project and the importance of managing natural resources in urban areas. Amidst a shower of flash bulbs, Mr. Lyons presented a check of \$700,000 from the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry to the Chair of Chicago Wilderness as seed money for this initiative. Mr. Lyons urged all partners to work hard to match the generous contribution provided by the Forest Service. Immediately following the press conference, members of the press and the partnership loaded onto buses and toured sites that best illustrate the goals and objectives of Chicago Wilderness. Dave Lothner (NCFES), John Dwyer (NCFES), and Larry Stritch (R-9), participated on the tours as representatives of the Forest Service. Members of the Volunteer Stewardship Network (5,000 members strong in NE Illinois!) provided onsite demonstrations of ecological restoration - including prairie burns and oak rescue. In addition, the volunteer stewards described the importance of the tall grass prairie and oak woodland ecosystems, and identified species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois. (181 species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois are found in the Chicago metropolitan area.)

Look for more exciting events from this partnership - 35 projects have been endorsed by Chicago Wilderness and planning for future events is currently underway. For more information about Chicago Wilderness, please contact Gina Childs (NA-SPFO), at 847-866-9311, ext. 14.

AMERICORPS TEAM WINS PARTNERSHIP MINNESOTA COOPERATIVE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:

In August 1994, a collaborative effort between the Minnesota DNR, the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area was started to implement an AmeriCorps Program in Minnesota. The focus of this AmeriCorps Rural Development Team was to enhance economic opportunities, improve environmental quality, and encourage healthy, sustainable communities. Nine non-profit organizations were identified as partners. These organizations included RC&D Councils, Environmental Learning Centers, and regional community and economic development organizations. Forest Service leadership was provided by Al Steele of the Northeastern Area's Economic Action Program. AmeriCorps Team members worked to identify priority local needs and then worked with their sponsoring organization to address those needs. In addition to their regular work activities, AmeriCorps members developed and implemented many public service projects.

AmeriCorps members took the AmeriCorps motto of "getting things done" to heart. Their efforts formed well over 100 specific partnerships to "get things done." Partnership Minnesota exists to promote cooperative working relationships between Federal and Minnesota State and local government agencies to benefit the public. The Cooperative Public Service Award provides public recognition to outstanding examples of innovative intergovernmental and civic cooperative efforts. The award will be presented by the Governor during the Partnership Minnesota conference at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute in May. Congratulations to Al Steele and the members of the Minnesota AmeriCorps Team.

THREE NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Three new pesticide related publications produced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University are currently available through Michigan State University Extension. The authors are Roseann Kachadoorian, and Jane Cummings-Carlson of the Wisconsin DNR; and Deborah McCullough and Doug Lantagne of MSU. Funding to develop the bulletins was provided in part by a Focus Fund grant from the Forest Service, NA State & Private Forestry. The cost of each is \$2.50.

Pesticides for Use in Forest and Seed Tree Orchards in the North Central Region, Extension Bulletin E-2592, December 1995, 38pp.

Pesticides for Use in Conifer Nursery Production in the North Central Region, Extension Bulletin E-2539, December 1995, 41pp.

Pesticides for Use in Christmas Tree Production in the North Central Region, Extension Bulletin E-2595, 52pp.

To obtain copies contact: Bulletin Office
10 B Agricultural Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

For additional information contact: Steve Katovich (612) 649-5264

ILLINOIS AND TAX: During the latter part of February and the first part of March, Lloyd Casey assisted the Illinois Division of Forestry with 6 sessions on Timber Tax. The sessions were held at local colleges located in various locations throughout the State. The majority of the participants were new to the services of the Division and learned about the sessions through news releases.

In addition to tax, the landowners were exposed to the idea of forming a state-wide Forest Landowners Association in order to create a voice with the State Legislature and Congress. The Illinois Forest Resource Plan was also discussed as a precursor to the development of a new plan. Participants requested that future sessions address Estate Planning for forest landowners.

LET'S GO CAMPING: Chuck Coole and Susan DeLost, of the Morgantown Field Office's Civil Rights Committee, and Vicki Watkins, Recreation Planner in FRM, have successfully recruited 16 students from the local area to attend West Virginia conservation camps this summer. The CRC is providing scholarships for the kids to attend the camps. A big thanks to Vicki, Chuck, and Susan for their efforts!!

GYPSES MARCHES ON: In late March, Amy Onken, (FHP-Morgantown) delivered the GypsES system to the Ohio Department of Agriculture and conducted a training session for Department personnel. Some of the important features that GypsES will provide our cooperator are: 1) a fully functional GIS system; 2) GPS file handling where GypsES can draw flight lines or create pheromone trap survey designs; and 3) research products such as defoliation models, a phenology model, and a spray deposit model. Currently the Ohio Department of Agriculture is using the system for digitizing all of their treatment blocks and importing these blocks into the AGNAV GPS system that will be used by their aerial application contractor. GypsES is unique in that it was developed to integrate information and technology into a decision-support system and is now actually being used operationally for gypsy moth management.

DGPS TRAINING: During the 1995 gypsy moth suppression and eradication project review meeting at Cacapon State Park in July, several state and Federal cooperators expressed the need for DGPS software training. With a cooperative effort between Amy Onken (FHP-Morgantown) and Dee Dee Sellers (FHP-Asheville, NC), the Forest Service sponsored a DGPS software training session on both the SATLOC and AGNAV software. The meeting was well attended with representatives from seven State agencies (OH, WV, PA, VA, MD, MI, and NC), and two Federal agencies (FS-Regions 8 and 9, and NPS). Individuals were given a copy of the software in order to receive "hands on training." This training was a great opportunity to get all the answers to those mind-boggling questions about DGPS in preparation for the 1996 suppression season.

ANOTHER PLT/WILD WORKSHOP IN MORGANTOWN: The Morgantown Field Office recently sponsored its second joint Project Learning Tree/Project WILD workshop of the Spring. This session was attended by 49 people, while the earlier workshop had 43 in attendance. The attendees were introduced to both programs, the purposes, and origins, and then had the opportunity to participate in several educational activities. The session was coordinated by Dan Kincaid and Vicki Watkins of the Morgantown office. The class included people from various Federal and state agencies and school teachers from 6 counties in WV and PA.

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Maine USDA AmeriCorps Newsletter November, 1995

Two new members!

Two new members have joined the Maine USDA AmeriCorps team since we last met. **Joel Stetson** has filled the China Lakes Watershed Water Quality Coordinator position and **Sherman Hoyt** is the new St. George River Estuary / Penobscot Bay Water Quality Coordinator! Both new members will be in the southern cluster so all of you in the southern cluster will get the opportunity to meet them at your first cluster meeting on December 6. Everyone else can give them a call (numbers are on the lists in the last pages of this newsletter) if they want to introduce themselves. Welcome to the team—we hope you have a great year!

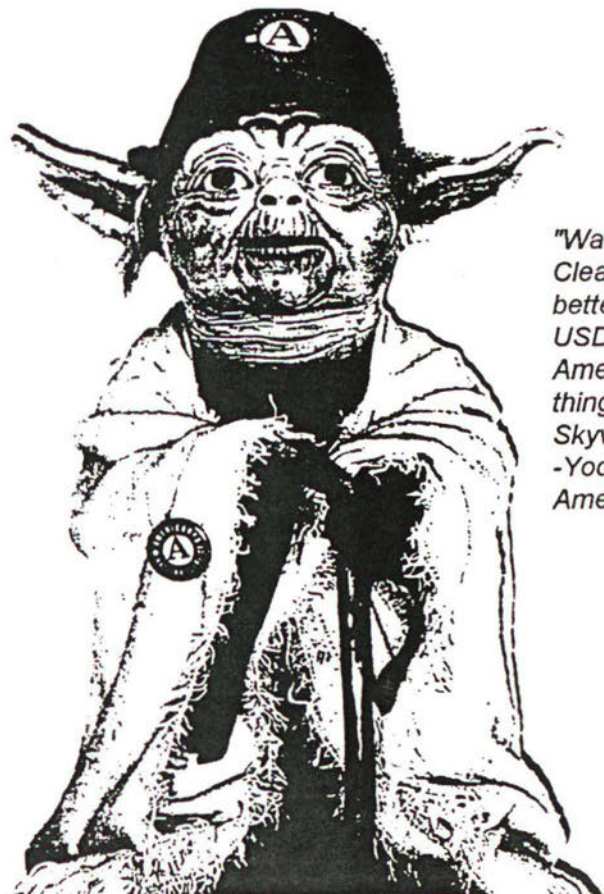
Training

Just as the training whirlwind is settling down -- news about more training!! Don't worry, this one is not right away. In fact, it is not until February! That's right, the next statewide training is not until the middle or end of February. We are not sure on dates yet, so please do not schedule any major vacations in February (I know that the living expense is burning a hole in your pocket!).

Although formal training for most of you ended after the first statewide training, the FSA AmeriCorps members and a few others have been getting trained in Farm*A*Syst, Home*A*Syst, Integrated Crop Management, and record keeping. John Jemison and Tim

Griffin from Cooperative Extension gave the training, which took place on November 6 and 7. **GREAT JOB, GUYS! THANKS!** Mr. Bagel. Shaw's and Shop N' Save also donated lunch and breakfast during this training—more thanks!

All the members also received training in First Aid and CPR during October. Our thanks to the Red Cross for all of their help!



*"Water good.
Clean water
better. Maine
USDA
AmeriCorps be.
thing seen since
Skywalker!"
-Yoda on
AmeriCorps*

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Quarterly reports

Plans of Work

ATTENTION!! All plans of work are due! If you are not currently working on yours -- get your rear in gear. I need to have all plans of work before I get your quarterly reports (or at least at the same time!) If you have any questions, give me a call. I would be glad to help.

As you know, the deadline for quarterly reports is drawing near (ugh!). The good news is that your quarterly reports only need to be one paragraph long. This paragraph should briefly explain the three to five most

important things you have gotten done during the first quarter. Please relate your quarterly report to your plan of work. Also remember to include how many volunteers you have worked with and the number of hours they have donated to your project.



Season's Greetings



Practical Farm Training

A practical on the farm training will take place on January 4 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and will be open to any interested AmeriCorps members. Tim Griffen from

University of Maine Cooperative Extension plans to take members out to one of the University's dairy farms to review daily farm operations. Members will spend half of the day with the dairy farm manager. An additional one day intensive training on crop and weed identification will take place this spring. IF you plan on attending the January training, let me know as soon as possible so that I can let Tim know how many are coming.

Training Update

The dates of the February training have been decided! The training will start at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 27 and end at 1:00 PM on Thursday, February 29. The actual training portion of the session will end at noon on February 29 and then lunch will be offered to those who wish to stay. Training will be held in Orono at the Black Bear Inn and Conference Center. Please let me know if you do not plan to stay overnight or if you have a roommate preference.

The Missouri Community Service Commission Bulletin

A weekly update on national and community service in Missouri.

April 7, 1995

Volume 1, Number 8

SENATE AGREES TO RESCISSION PACKAGE

\$105 MILLION CUT FROM NATIONAL SERVICE

The senate agreed late last night to a compromise between proposed amendments by Senators Dole (R-KS) and Daschle (D-SD) that would shrink the proposed rescission amount passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee two weeks ago from \$210 million to \$105 million. The compromise demonstrates the support that national service has in Washington and across the nation, despite the current political climate. The deal was made after Dole introduced a second-degree amendment that would have put national service program cuts at \$416 million, the amount approved by the House three weeks ago. Dole's amendment came in response to an amendment by Senator Daschle that would have restored full funding for national service and several other programs. The package passed the Senate by a vote of 99 to 0, and the bill will go to conference committee after the Easter recess. Proponents of national service warn that AmeriCorps and other service programs are still in danger, as the distance between the Senate and House figures is substantial. Cuts could be raised to higher levels through the conference committee.

CORPS MEMBER TRAINING TO TAKE PLACE IN ST. LOUIS

AmeriCorps members from the East side of the state will gather in St. Louis for a one day workshop on community development next Monday and Tuesday. AmeriCorps members from national direct and state-funded projects will spend the day learning about assessing community needs and developing action strategies for solving problems and building the future. Corps members will also learn about the activities of other projects and have an opportunity to share successes and challenges. Training is being provided in cooperation with University Extension and is part of the Commission's strategy for program development, assistance, and training.

COMMISSION TO REVIEW NEW AND RENEWAL PROPOSALS

The Missouri Community Service Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 26, in Jefferson City to review new and renewal AmeriCorps proposals. To mark the occasion and recognize Commission members' involvement and dedication, Lt. Governor Roger B. Wilson, chairman of the Commission, will recognize the members on behalf of Governor Mel Carnahan by introducing them to the state senate during the legislative session that day. "We just want to show our appreciation for all the work they are doing, especially during these difficult times," Wilson said. "This program has lots of local support, and you can see it in the dedication of these Commission members." The programs selected by the Commission will be submitted to the Corporation for consideration for funding this Fall. Whether the projects are implemented and given the opportunity to accomplish something for Missouri communities ultimately depends on Congress' decision on the rescission bill.

Speaking of Getting Things Done...

AMERICORPS MEMBERS WILL BE BUSY ON NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

On April 25, 1995, national service programs across the country will engage in special service projects to celebrate service and demonstrate its power to "get things done." In Missouri, projects are scheduled at individual sites across the state. In Kansas City, a "national concentration site" for service activities that day, AmeriCorps members from the Youth Volunteer Corps of America are coordinating a recognition ceremony and service event with other national service projects from Kansas and Missouri. Service participants will be matched with projects across the metropolitan area. Anyone needing more information should contact YVCA at (913) 432-9822.



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

December 5, 1995

MR. "GIGGLES" IS BURP NOVEMBER WORKMATE OF THE MONTH

Dale Sparks was selected to be the Workmate for November by the AmeriCorps members of the Hays, Big Creek Urban Renovation Project (BURP). Dale's BIO includes:

- * Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky
- * Area of Interest: Wildlife biology
- * Turn ons: Roadkill cats, cinnamon chili, pizza delivery
- * Turn offs: Leaky wadders, FSHU Tigers
- * Favorite Tool: Grappling hook
- * Hobbies: Netting bats, stuffing live possums into mailboxes
- * Best Anecdote: "You could use a good slap with a wet squirrel"

A trait Dale's teammates did not list is giggling. As demonstrated by his demeanor at the defensive training class in Salina, Dale has a propensity to find humor in mundane things. His tittering, often contagious to other teammates, turns into chortling and howls of laughter. It has been reported that his convulsions have often caused those around him to "roll on the ground in stitches."

When the team is not convulsing in laughter they are providing service to the City of Hays and Fort Hays State University. During November they renovated 1/2 mile of woodlands, hauled 47 dump truck loads of brush collected along 10 miles of stream bank, and made presentations to 40 high students.

Milford Team Forms

Every team will go into and out of the stages of forming, storming, norming, and performing. The Milford team reports that their team, of three men and two women, has successfully completed the norming stage. Team Leader Jeff Goeckler has led his team consisting of Kerry Kitchner, Rick Henry, Paula Meek, and Linda Johnson. Kerry is refuted to be "on the level when tipped in the right or left direction, or whichever the bubble goes." Rick Henry is their expert on greyhound dogs, and the "types of creatures that lurk out in the sticks," Paula Meeks is described as the team's "True AmeriCorps Member Who Gets Things Done." Linda Johnson finished her Hunter Safety Course just in time for bird season.

Some of Milford activities include: removing fallen trees from roadways, creating marshes in their wildlife area and with the Corps of Engineers at Tuttle Creek, getting the wildlife area ready for hunting season, and sacking sunflower seed to be given to farmers for birds.

SECOND SESSION OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS TO BE HELD

The second session for the defensive driving session is scheduled for December 18. The class begins at 8:30 a.m. and will last until 5:00 p.m. Members will be expected to eat at the site, cost for lunch is \$3.20. **All members who have not taken the class are expected to attend.**

Topeka Team Leads Shunganunga Clean UP

The members of the Topeka team lead the Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps teams in media coverage. Due to the media market and nature of their service in Topeka, these members have represented the corps very well on television and in the local paper. Like the other USDA teams the members of this team are from various schools and states.

Larry Ballou has degrees from Cloud County Community College and Kansas State University. He has been an assistant track coach at Cloud County Community College and has done agricultural research at Kansas State.

Bree Enderle, one of two Kansas University alumni on the team, has a degree in systematics and ecology. She sees serving in AmeriCorps as an opportunity to gain useful knowledge of environmental development and protection.

Jenny Halstead, the other University of Kansas graduate, on the team also has a degree in systematics and ecology. She completed an internship at a wildlife rehabilitation clinic in September. Jenny, like Faye Yoder of the Kanopolis team, enjoys working with horses.

Gary Larson is one of the team's Washburn University graduates. He has a degree in biology and hopes to attend graduate school. When not in school Gary was active in the construction industry in and around Topeka.

Milton Nokes has degrees from Washburn University and Emporia State University. He has seven year of experience as a psychologist, counselor, and mental health technician. He will join with Shana Martin, from the Cheney State Park team, and Jim Meisenheimer to give members the training on conflict resolution in February.

Kimberly Rose is the team's Oklahoma representative. She has a B.S. degree in biology and botany from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. She also has two broken toes as a result of a cement block falling on her foot. Before the accident, she represented the team and USDA/AmeriCorps on a television interview.

Cody Lind, one of two second year members, has a B.S. in wildlife biology from Kansas State University. He has been able to use his previous year's experience with AmeriCorps to help the other members understand the Corps goals and requirements. He is the newly engaged member of the team.

Nathan Sexton, another of the returning members, is an Emporia State University graduate with a major in environmental biology. Nathan, along with Kimberly and unlike Cody, has an interest in zoos.

Judy Logsback joined the team in December 7 after having worked as a research assistant for the Nature Conservancy in Fallon, Nevada. She has a degrees from Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin.

Ryan Tompkin, word has just been received that Ryan, after one year with Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps and part of this year, will be leaving the team and returning to Nebraska on December 22. Those who have served and worked with Ryan will miss him. We all wish he and his family the best.

Cheney Team Leads Corps In Extra Community Service Activities

The members of the Cheney team are: Carolyn Wooten, Kari Hacker, Scott VanGieson, Shana Martin, and Gary Hanson. Like the members of the other teams, each member at Cheney is **unique and special**. The team used their November 10 holiday to meet and help veterans at the Veteran's Hospital in Wichita. Activities of that day included escorting ill and disabled veterans to a ceremony in the hospital's auditorium, and to distribute cards and veteran's greeting to those who could not leave their rooms to attend the ceremony. While distributing the cards, the members thanked the veterans for their service to America.

A highlight of the day for the members was to meet and speak with Bob Watson, a 100 year old WWI veteran and past regional director of the American Red Cross. Mr. Watson, still mentally and physically fit, continues to drive his car in and around Wichita.

Kanopolis Team

Kurt Grimm, Faye Yoder, Jim Talley, Diane Howard Spear, Kathy Oberle, and Aimee Tabor make up the Kanopolis team. This team has been active in trail maintenance, tree planting, refuge clean up, and fish netting. Team leader Kurt Grimm is a second year member. Kurt is the team's rattle snake expert. Faye Yoder, the mother of two, likes the outdoors and horses. She is an "expert" in the care of equines. Jim Talley, a student at Kansas Wesleyan University, is the father of one and soon to be two. Diane Howard Spear is the corps most recent newly wed. While Diane is our most recently married, Kathy Oberle is one of the newer members of our parks' team. Aimee Tabor is the team's "pixie." The one with the squeaky voice and playful mischievous demeanor.

Southeast Kansas FSA/AmeriCorps Member

Katrina Hine is currently the lone member of the Southeast Kansas Ag. In The Classroom Education Project. Katrina, the mother of three, is an expert on gerontology. She is also becoming well versed on farm safety and water pollution. In the next few weeks she will be presenting programs to farm groups, volunteer fire departments, and students on farms safety. Included in her presentation will be the use of life like dummies which will graphically depict the human heart beat and loss of extremities when individuals become entangled in power take offs, bailers, and other farm equipment.

GLEN ELDER TEAM REPRESENTS A GOOD MIX OF MEMBERS

The Glen Elder/Webster team members demonstrate a diversity of values and education. Jennifer Rima likes to listen to the music of Motley Crew and Queen while Julie Grauerholz enjoys the notes of Mozart and New Orleans jazz. Jerri Senger has worked at Glen Elder as a naturalists and has discovered what it is like to take part in green submarine races on the 4th of July. Green submarines are watermelons cover with lard and thrown into the water for retrieval. Jerri was able to cool off while participating in those races on the 4th. Rick Moore is the senior member of the team and is very

productive in rebuilding signs for the park. Team leader Tony Ifland, like Diane Howard Spear at Kanopolis, was recently married.

PERRY TEAM TAKES USDA/AMERICORPS NATIONAL DIRECTOR TO SWEET SHOP

The Perry team members entertained USDA/National AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg at an old fashion soda fountain in Valley Falls, Kansas, during a recent visit. Joel met the members at noon time in a nearby field cutting trees and removing debris. The members had intended to take Berg to the Roadkill Cafe, but after finding that it was closed, settled on the soda shop. Joel was heard to exclaim that the malt shake he ordered was "one of the best he ever had drank."

The Perry team could really be called, "**Betty and the guys, plus one.**" Betty Mills, the mother of two adult sons, is the lone female on the team. After helping her husband raise and educate two sons she is looking forward to the AmeriCorps award that can only be used for her. Travis Crickenberger, an ex-coast guard member, may be the Corps cartoonist for this year. Jeff Araiza, the quiet one with the infectious smile, is from Topeka. Dan Green, another Topekan, has worked at various jobs before joining AmeriCorps. Dan likes the outdoors and what the team is doing. T.J. Wahlmeier and Rick Linneman are the two returning members of the teams. T.J. and Rick are members of the Army National Guard and Naval Reserve, respectively. T.J. has heard and endured Rick's singing before, something the other members have yet to fully endure. Rick's dog, **MeriCorps** accompanies he and the team whenever feasible when he is at the wildlife area. **Betty and the guys, plus one!**

KICKAPOO TEAM

Chaline Owings and Kristen Mitchell are the members of the Kickapoo team. Chaline is, a mother of three and is well versed in Native American culture. Kristen, a graduate of Emporia State, is a biologist. Projects that Kristen and Chaline are helping with include the development fields of wildfowlers and in reestablishing native grasses on the reservation. The members will also work with recycling and adolescence health.

EX-AMERICORPS MEMBER RETURNS AFTER SERVICE IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Ryan Webster, a member of the 1995 Milford team, returned to Kansas after having spent 30 days in the Virgin Islands helping repair damage caused by Hurricane Marilyn. Along with 19 other USDA AmeriCorps members and four leaders, they completed 103 projects. During a visit to Salina, Ryan said that residual effects of the trip were the friends he made and the people they helped. Sammy, an African American, from Chicago is an example of the friends he made. Ryan said, I had never really met and mixed with people from other races before." Ryan and Sammy have called each other since coming home shortly before Thanksgiving and are making plans to visit each other's home towns. Other memories include:

How appreciative the people were for the help of the members. Thankful homeowners furnished members with sodas, and on occasion offered to provide them with transportation to tour the island.

The high humidity caused his jeans to always be damp. Ryan often wore the same pair two or three days before sending them to the laundry, which cost \$16.00 a load.

The humidity coupled with the heat and mosquitos were things he did not like.

He spent on the average \$35.00 a day for food.

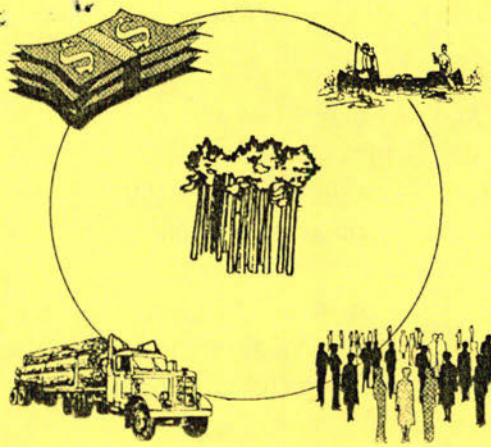
At first they had electricity for only two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening.

Anyone, not wearing an official badge, caught on the streets after the curfew of 10:00 p.m., spent a day in jail for every hour in which the curfew was violated.

Tap water could not be used for drinking or for brushing teeth.

He saw few stop signs, and few citizens recognize them when they were there. Driving English style bothered him while he was there and when he returned home, he had to readjust.

Ryan is very proud of the service he and his companions performed. He welcomed the opportunity to represent the members of the Kansas Corps. The experience proved that AmeriCorps Members are good at **GETTING THINGS DONE!**

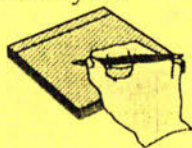


NEW RIVER-HIGHLANDS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORESTRY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

About this Newsletter

Welcome to the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Forestry Committee Newsletter! This new quarterly publication will function as a communication "bridge" between the forest industry (wood products users and producers) and local municipalities, governments and economic development boards. It will share information about current projects so that interested parties will know how to become involved. This newsletter will provide local forestry information that directly impacts Southwest Virginia, and it will summarize events important to towns and counties in this RC&D Area. Overall, the newsletter is to help inform all recipients of forestry related events and topics.

Enclosed, you will find a survey asking your opinion about this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey so that we can tailor the newsletter to the needs of the readers. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!



Jerry McReynolds

Jerry McReynolds, Chairperson of the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Forestry Committee, is originally from Tazewell where he grew up and graduated high school in 1958. During his twenty year assignment in the US Army, Jerry served as an aviator in Vietnam and ultimately retired as a major. While in the military, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach. He then went to work for Coleman Altizer Corporation and served four years as General Manager and four years as Vice President. In 1986, Jerry and his brother Buddy bought Coleman Altizer and changed the name to C&A Wood Products which now consists of two sawmills and produces 10 million board feet a year. Jerry's on-the-job training in the forest industry since 1978 has mixed with his enthusiasm to make a better future for his home county and its residents. As a result, he is heavily

involved with forest related activities such as serving as chairperson of the Forestry Committee; participating as a member of CHIPS (see Loggers' Committees), the self-insurance board, Forest Products of Virginia Board, Chamber of Commerce, and Log a Load for Kids Committee; and he participates in Christmas parades and county fairs. He spends all of this time to make his hometown and Southwest Virginia a better place to live for his three children and three grandchildren.

Jerry thinks the role of the RC&D is to fill in the gaps between the private sector and the government by bringing in volunteers from the community because they know what needs to be done. As chairperson, he presides over the meetings and gives them direction. He motivates members to volunteer and go the extra mile. Jerry notes that the Council has been very active since its inception.

As chairperson, Jerry believes this newsletter should serve the needs of the Forestry Committee to get out educational and informative news about events to come so that people can plan to be involved. He sees it as telling what will happen in the future rather than reporting too much of what has already past. He wants to see the newsletter going somewhere more than showing what has been done.

Jerry thinks that the biggest thing affecting business today is the compensation issue (see Self Insurance). Accompanying that issue is health insurance. Also he is weary of calls to regulate forestry, which would require permits, engineer studies and pre-harvesting plans; all of which would cost so much they would drive many of the

small loggers and sawmillers out of business. He thinks the best thing Southwest Virginia can do is increase the use of proper forest management in our area because it is a renewable resource and the supply of coal is finite and going fast. To do so he believes we need to make education the first priority.

To improve forestry operations in Southwest Virginia Jerry believes there should be more emphasis on adding value to products rather than exporting logs. This would provide more jobs, add to the tax base and lower the need for social services. He thinks that log concentration yards are detrimental because they encourage poor forest harvesting practices. Log yards only buy premium logs, causing loggers to cut only the best trees and leave a forest of less quality. Landowners lose because they do not sell as much wood and this practice leaves undesirable trees. Therefore, concentration yards need to be more concerned with the future forest and not leave a poor forest that will be harder to sell. They set the standards for logging practices and it will get worse if they don't begin to broaden the limits of what they will accept.



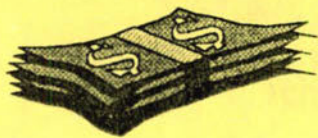
Becker Joins RC&D

Charlie Becker is the new Forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry, headquartered in the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area. A native Virginian, Charlie began his career

working for the Forest Service and TVA, then spent the last seven years as area forester for Wythe and Bland Counties.

Charlie earned a master's degree in forestry from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife from Virginia Tech. His previous involvement with the New River Highlands RC&D Forestry Committee will be a valuable addition to his experience and education while working with the RC&D Areas. Charlie's goal is the improvement of the quality of life in Virginia through promotion of proper forest management in all of the RC&D Areas in our state. His responsibilities include developing logger training workshops and demonstrations, promotion of better use of wood waste, and arranging educational seminars. Charlie will also supervise three AmeriCorps positions for their one year term, and he is a forest firefighter.

Charlie's hobbies include the renovation of his old farm house when he has time. He took the Forester position in July after it was vacated by Rob Morgan, who is now a Private Forest Consultant.



Self Insurance

The Virginia Forestry Association plans to join with loggers from Southwest and Eastern Virginia, with the help of Manry Rawls Insurance, to combat rising compensation rates for the industry. Self insurance will require a nine member board of 75% premium payers to set standards for the evaluation of companies on their work record and attitude toward safety. These

evaluations will determine eligibility for the lower rates. Four of the board members will be Southwest Virginia loggers. This ensures that local loggers will be making decisions for fellow loggers. Another bonus will be Loss Control Engineers (LCE's), who will have a background in both the forest industry and insurance. These LCE's will aid loggers with their practical, on-the-job experience by visiting the logging sites to point out safety problems, educate loggers about solutions for these problems, and encourage the speedy return to work of an injured employee. They will be the most important element to ensure success since they will reduce accident rates by improving safety measures.

Applications for self-insurance will be accepted after January 1, 1995. Anyone interested should contact Bill Rilee at Chesapeake Corporation in West Point (804-843-5370), Jerry McReynolds at C&A Wood Products in Tazewell (703-988-2711), the Virginia Forestry Association in Richmond (804-741-0836 or 1-800-421-TREE [8733]), or Bob Shaffer at Virginia Tech (703-231-7671).



Loggers' Committees

When loggers need to join together to accomplish a political, educational, informational or any goal, they should consider forming a county loggers' committee to present a strong, unified voice. Because of educational opportunities and the importance of bringing individual loggers together, the Virginia Forestry Association has

endorsed and sponsored these committees. With 15 to 18 committees in the state, three are in Southwest Virginia. TREES (Timber Resources Economic Environmental Society), which represents Buchanan County, meets every third Monday at the Rainbow Restaurant in Grundy at 6:00 p.m. for the meal and 7:00 p.m. for the meeting. CHIPS (Citizens Harvesting Important Products Society), which represents Tazewell and Bland Counties, meets every second Tuesday at the Fincastle Restaurant at the same times. The third group, Tri-County Loggers Association, is newly formed and represents Lee, Wise and Scott counties. The relatively low dues are based on production and number of employees. Anyone interested should contact Jerry McReynolds at C&A Wood Products (703-988-2711), Bill Rilee at Chesapeake Corporation in West Point (804 843-5370), the Virginia Forestry Association in Richmond (804-741-0836 or 1-800-TREE [8733]), or Bob Shaffer at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg (703-231-7671).



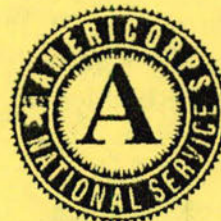
A new RC&D for Virginia

Six of the Southwestern Virginia counties have come together to form the new Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area, a result of much encouragement from the current chairperson, Ralph Miner, and vice-chairperson, William Kimbler. Lee, Wise, Scott, Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell Counties, as well

as the City of Norton, will pull together with planning and conservation districts to decide what problems face the area and tackle them as a team. The four main issues are likely to be (1) water quality, (2) alternative agriculture products/markets, (3) tourism (Eco-tourism/Agri-tourism such as nature trails) and (4) environmental education.

The RC&D Area's first long range work plan will be developed 1995 and they will appreciate any input. They plan to fill the gaps and not duplicate any efforts of other organizations.

The Black Diamond RC&D Coordinator is Blaine Delaney. His degree from Penn State is in agriculture engineering. He was District Conservationist for five years in Tappahannock and Coordinator for the North Central Washington RC&D for the past two years. Blaine can be reached at (703) 889-1150.



AmeriCorps

The New River-Highlands RC&D has hired five AmeriCorps members to work with Rural Development in Southwest Virginia. The members will receive a living stipend provided by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Three of the positions are with the USDA Forest Service and all five will be a great asset to the Committee this year. (See page 5.)

(AmeriCorps, continued from page 4.)
Delton Alderman, Forest Engineer, will design and construct portable, low-cost, stress laminated timber bridges for logging, and possibly design a permanent residential stress laminated bridge. He will also assist volunteer fire departments with grants for and the installation of dry hydrants in the New River-Highlands RC&D Area. As part of an AmeriCorps group project, Delton will develop the technical information for the dendrology guide used as a teaching aid in the outdoor classroom along the Riverwalk in Marion. His bachelor's degree is in forestry and wildlife management with a concentration in industrial forestry operations from Virginia Tech. Delton brings the experience of ten years as a Private Forestry Consultant to the AmeriCorps Team.

Adrienne Perkins, Forest Economic Specialist, will promote the value of proper forest use and management to the local economy. She will present forest growth and harvest statistics to each county economic development board to encourage an increase in forest utilization. Adrienne will gather information for articles and edit this newsletter, as well as lead a Jefferson National Forest videography project. She will also assist with public relations for the Riverwalk. Adrienne earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies with a concentration in public relations from Virginia Tech.

James Pratt, Forest Products Marketing Specialist, will locate and promote

specialty forest products in Southwest Virginia, explore and develop potential markets, give demonstrations, and expand the use of established products. He will also contribute to the Riverwalk development. James earned two bachelor's degrees from Virginia Tech; one in communication studies and one in english.

Two of the AmeriCorps positions were allocated to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Audrey Biggs is the Outreach Coordinator and Mindy Clark is the Landscape Architect.



Calendar of Events

February 14, 1995 CHIPS Meeting

February 20, 1995 TREES Meeting

February 23, 1995 New River Highlands
RC&D Forestry
Committee
Meeting

June 23-24, 1995 Appalachian Hard-
wood Expo

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???QUESTIONNAIRE???

Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think about our newsletter. We will use this information to improve the future issues. All comments, whether positive or negative, are welcome and necessary for this newsletter to be successful. Please return this questionnaire to: New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Forestry Committee Newsletter, 110 West Spiller Street, Suite C, Wytheville, Virginia 24382-1929. Thank you!

1. Do you like the format? (Graphics, columns, is it easy to read, pleasant to the eye?)

2. What information would you like to see in future issues ? How often would you like to see it published (Quarterly)?

3. Does this newsletter accomplish its goal? (To be a communication bridge between governments, wood industry and economic professionals?)

Other comments:

New River-Highlands
Resource Conservation and Development
Forestry Committee Newsletter
110 West Spiller Street, Suite C
Wytheville, Virginia 24382-1929
(703) 228-2879



Internal Newsletter
USDA/AmeriCorps

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

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

March 6, 1995

WEBSTER TEAM DEMONSTRATES "GETTING THINGS DONE"

The Environmental team at Webster Reservoir consisting of Ciny Ochs, Vicky Owens, Bill Plante, and John Rosendale show the citizens of Rooks county that AmeriCorps Members are good at "Getting Things Done."

When the Members discovered that a shelter at Rooks State Fishing Lake had been trashed by vandals, they went to work cleaning up the debris, fixing the burnt picnic table, and removing the graffiti from the shelter's limestone walls.

A week was spent cleaning the walls and fixing the picnic table. Due to the fear of damaging the shelter's limestone walls, hand brushes instead of a sandblaster were used in the cleanup. Vicky Owens said, "We could not imagine what kind of people could be so destructive." After all of the work repairing and cleaning up the area, John Rosendale said, "It is rather frustrating to think this could happen again."

ALL IS SAFE IN DODGE CITY

Emporia State University graduate Mike Houck is the team leader of the Dodge City wetlands team. Mike has been the sole AmeriCorps/USDA Member, off and on, at Dodge City since November. His former sidekick Jason Vajnar accepted a position with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife. Like other wetlands team members Mike has found himself spending more time working in a county office than originally expected. Community activities have included teaching hunter safety classes and working with the Finney County Sheriff's Auxiliary Patrol.

In January, Mike was involved in teaching a Kansas Hunters Education course at the Garden City Community College. After some intense law enforcement training with the Finney County Sheriff's Department, he will be on patrol with the Auxiliary at fairs and other events. Other community endeavors will include planting trees and building nesting structures at Ford County Lake.

MILFORD AMERICORPS MEMBER WELL TRAVELLED

Doris Hankins, a member of the Milford State Park Environmental Team, has lived in various states from Alabama to Washington with stops in Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan and Kansas. Doris has three children and two grandchildren. She likes singing and enjoys participating in her church choir. She also likes the serenity of Milford State Park where she has been able to enjoy observing bald eagles and other wildlife while she works to restore the lake area to pre-1993 flood conditions.

Doris will use her educational award to pay off college loans and to pay for future educational expenses.

WETLAND VIDEO BEING DISCUSSED

The Hays AmeriCorps wetland and riparian team consisting of Tracy Beach, Kami Legere, Craig Curtis and Lance Hockett have finished their work in Rooks county and have moved to Ellis county. Lance completed 75 riparian transects in Rooks County.

The team is reported to be discussing plans for an educational yet "provocative" and still to be rated wetland video. The video, it is hoped, will blend the intelligence of The Discovery Channel with the dynamics of an "Up With People" performance. The plan is to put together an informative video that shows the public exactly what is seen on the slide compared to what is seen in the field. The video would provide a look at a wetland compared to nonwetland in terms of soil, hydrology, and plants. Hopefully the video will be used at upcoming information meetings.

HUTCHINSON TEAM IS BUSY

On January 6, AmeriCorps Members Dean Krehbeil and Scott Allen, accompanied by Randy Clark, Biologist, presented a talk to Lyons Middle School on endangered, threatened, extinct species and how they coincide with wetlands.

Scott talked about AmeriCorps and the procedures used for wetland inventory in Kansas. Dean talked about the importance of conserving and preserving wetlands, and the impact wetlands have. Additional community service work has included constructing fish habitat by sinking discarded fur trees in Cheney Lake Reservoir.

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

On February 3, Jennifer Krehbeil presented her husband, Dean, an AmeriCorps Member, with a son, they named Colter. In reference to his new role in life, Dean said, "Everyone ought to have the experience at least once."

WETLANDS TEAMS ON THE MOVE

Wetland and Riparian teams at Dodge City, Topeka, Emporia, Hays and Hutchinson have completed work at their initial sites and have moved. Two of the teams are returning to the counties of their Area Offices: Topeka team to Shawnee county and the Hays team, Ellis county. The Emporia team has moved to work in Chase county, the Hutchinson team is now in Harvey county, and the Dodge team is now working in Meade county.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER

AmeriCorps Members are reminded that the deadline for each team to submit stories for the April newsletter is March 30.

The Server

"Working Together to Serve America"

Vol. 1 No. 1

Spring 1994

IN THIS ISSUE

Introducing the National Cooperative/Clearinghouse	page 1
Technical Assistance	page 3
The NSLC Partners Page	page 4
Individuals with Disabilities Can Contribute to Service-Learning	page 5
Program Profile	page 6
The Database	page 6
The Information Corner	page 7
Upcoming Events	page 8

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Introducing the National Cooperative/Clearinghouse

by Rob Shumer

NSLC Director

It's a national service-learning cooperative. It's a K-12 clearinghouse for service-learning. It's a cooperative *and* a clearinghouse.

As a Cooperative, this new entity is a collaborative effort between thirteen organizations, centered at the National Youth Leadership Council and the University of Minnesota, designed to provide technical assistance to Serve-America grantees and others as an arm of the Corporation for National and Community Service. These regional partners, from California to Massachusetts and from Michigan to Arkansas, are working together, providing information about the field to the National Center at the University of Minnesota

and also offering training and capacity building to states and grantees, helping them develop and improve their programs. In this part of the Cooperative, information collected and developed flows out to the field for use by practitioners.

As a Clearinghouse, the partners assist in collecting data and information and relay it to the National Information Center, located in the College of Education at the University of Minnesota. There it is processed and organized and made available to all interested parties. The Center is also charged with developing a database on K-12 service-learning programs, organizations, and consultants around the

country, as well as a national calendar on trainings and conferences related to service-learning. In addition, the National Center is developing a national electronic bulletin board which will be accessible through the Internet for practitioners and researchers to post and receive information on a continuous basis. The Center also maintains an active 800 telephone number (1-800-808-SERVE) to answer any and all questions about K-12 service-learning in general.

While the National Cooperative has technically been in existence since May, it really did not get under way until October. Since that time, staff have been hired, equipment ordered and purchased, and partners convened to develop specific plans for implementation of this rather large and complex project.

A lot has already been accomplished. Regional meetings have been held in almost all sections of the country. In each meeting, service-learning leaders in the regions met to discuss technical assistance plans and possibilities for trainings within the localized areas. As a result, special trainings are planned for all regions between February and April 1994.

The national database is in its final stages of development. The computer

-continued on page 2

-from page 1

program is written and the system is being tested. Data are already being entered. The database will be operational by early March.

Design of the electronic bulletin board is still proceeding. Our research shows there are many systems already available, so the decision is whether to work with an existing bulletin board or create a new one. We will do both, at least for the first year.

The Cooperative/Clearinghouse is just beginning to take shape. As with any new project, it takes time, patience, and thought. We believe the time and thought put into this new system for service-learning will benefit all of us for years to come. ☼

Join the NSLC Mailing List

You can have the NSLC newsletter, *The Server*, mailed to you if you are on our mailing list. In addition, we will send you notices of other services or information as they become available.

To get on the NSLC Mailing List, call 1-800-808-SERVE or send a message via Internet to:
serve@maroon.tc.umn.edu

The Server

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Middle School Students Learn by Doing

"Hello, this is the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. How may I help you?"

If the voice at the other end of our toll-free number sounds rather young to you, that's because you've come across one of the middle school student interns at the Clearinghouse. Five students from Chiron Middle School have been spending 4 hours each week as part of a service-learning project at the Clearinghouse.

The students learned about writing business letters as they wrote letters to other middle schools to find out the types of service-learning activities found elsewhere. In addition to polishing their keyboarding skills, the students help the Clearinghouse staff fill requests for information that come in via the toll-free telephone number.

When asked why he enjoyed working at the Clearinghouse, Donald Williams, grade 7, stated, "I love to learn new things and help people out." ☼



HELLO CAN I HELP YOU?

Disabilities, from page 5

too low as by setting them too high. Negative expectations will bring negative results. Program facilitators need to be aware that adapting activities students with special needs should not water down the experience, only make it accessible and rewarding to all participants based on their unique abilities.

- If you are concerned or uncertain about how to include someone with a disability in an activity, ask that person's advice. That person is the expert, knows his or her limitations and abilities, and has developed techniques for overcoming barriers.
- Adapting an environment to accommodate the specific needs of a learner often isn't very difficult if approached creatively.
- Finally, be aware of legal requirements and guarantees. The Americans with Disabilities Act might cover volunteer activities as well as paid employment.

There are a number of national and local resources on disabilities that can assist you in learning about and working with persons with disabilities in service programs. Contact your state's Council on Disabilities for more information on resources in your area.

The NSLC will have a **Service Resource Guide** on this subject available in May. ☼

[left] Donald Williams, a middle school student intern at the Clearinghouse, drew his idea of an Information Specialist at the Clearinghouse.

Technical Assistance

by Joel Longie

NSLC Technical Assistance Director

What comes to mind when you hear the word *clearinghouse*? Most of us would envision a physical space that houses a repository of articles and information on a given topic area. Call a toll-free telephone number and you can receive cutting edge information on the topic area of your choice. Yes, this is the premise of the National K - 12 Serve America Clearinghouse operated by the National Youth Leadership Council and the University of Minnesota. A caller can access various types of community service and service-learning information by calling 1-800-808-SERVE and relaying their need or interest to one of the Clearinghouse staff. However, this Clearinghouse has taken this idea a step further by developing a partnership and national network of key organizations in service-learning who can provide technical assistance by phone or, in some cases, a site visit.

The target audiences of the K - 12 Serve-America Clearinghouse consist primarily of teachers and others in the field of service-learning who have not had access to information, curricular materials, technical assistance, training, or a direct link to their peers. Conventional approaches to a clearinghouse design could not provide this flexibility of response. For this reason, the Clearinghouse established regional technical assistance networks that are collecting and disseminating quality service-learning curricula, developing a network of peer consultants who can provide direct technical assistance, and working with state leaders in their respective regions to help build capacity for ServeAmerica grant recipients.

The Clearinghouse has deployed a decentralized model with Regional Technical Assistance Centers located in geographical regions throughout the states. There are currently ten Regional Technical Assistance Centers who serve as "ready response" centers, taking technical assistance referrals from the National Center's toll-free hot line, as well as promoting their services within the region. The Regional Technical Assistance Centers include the

The Clearinghouse has deployed a decentralized model with Regional Technical Assistance Centers located in geographical regions throughout the states.

Arkansas Department of Education in Little Rock; Close-Up Foundation in Washington, D.C.; Community Service-Learning Center in Springfield, Massachusetts; Constitu-

tional Rights Foundation in Los Angeles; East Bay Conservation Corps in Oakland; Michigan K - 12 Service-Learning Center in East Lansing; National Drop-Out Prevention Center in Clemson, South Carolina; Pennsylvania Institute on Environmental and Community Service-Learning in Philadelphia, Project Service Leadership in Vancouver, Washington; and the National Youth Leadership Council which serves as the National Center. The Technical Assistance Centers also identify the network of peer consultants available for direct technical assistance.

Also contributing to the technical assistance network are three universities that serve as Regional Information Centers. The Information Centers collect and process data and pertinent information on service-learning and share this information with the other Regional Centers and with the main Clearing-

house. These include Stanford University in California; University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and the University of Minnesota which serves as the National Information Center. Also included in this leadership network are national specialists in tribal programs, the National Indian Youth Leadership Project; and the Arkansas Division of Volunteerism, a specialist for community collaborations.

Our motto, "Working Together to Serve America," best exemplifies the collaborative model of our Clearinghouse effort. Future articles for this column will identify various technical assistance efforts and outcomes as we proceed with our development of the national network. ☼

Peer Consultant Network Stipends Available

The National Technical Assistance component of the Clearinghouse is now offering paid incentives for peer consultants to provide direct help to individuals. Currently \$100 stipends are available for consultants who arrange face-to-face meetings with those requesting assistance.

Meetings can occur on the consultant's site, or the consultant can meet the requesters at their location. In either case, the goal is to connect experienced service-learning practitioners with those who are just beginning the process. For further information, contact the National Clearinghouse or one of our regional partners for more details.

The NSLC Partners Page

Focuses on:

The Regional Information Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Located at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst campus in the Connecticut River valley of western Massachusetts, the Regional Information Center (RIC) offers people in the eastern part of the United States a personal connection for accessing information about community service-learning (CSL) projects. The RIC is part of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse and is currently affiliated with the Community Service Learning Center, Inc. in Springfield, MA. The RIC supports the Clearinghouse's creation of a national CSL database and will use it to assist regional and national requests for information. Our priority, as an RIC, is to ensure that the developing CSL database and CSL networks are accessible to all current and potential CSL practitioners.

Staffed by graduate students and faculty from the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts, the RIC is working to create a strong relationship between the School of Education and the RIC. Currently the School of Education and Continuing Education host a nationally acclaimed tutoring program, TEAMS, that involves over 100 college students and thousands of community youth during a semester. TEAMS is a student directed and taught program that includes a 6 hour per week tutoring commitment, as well as a weekly 3 hour reflection seminar for tutors. In addition to supporting the TEAMS project, the RIC is working to integrate CSL into the teacher education programs here at the University. The RIC is interested in the School of Education incorporating CSL into the practicum experiences for students throughout their tenure in the program.

Accessing Community Service-Learning: Inside and Outside Perspectives

by Martha A. Potyrala & Charlotte M. Steen

Regional Information Center Project Assistants
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

The Regional Information Center (RIC), located at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, conducted four surveys this year in order to ask practitioners about community service-learning (CSL). The purpose of these surveys was to find out what practitioners think CSL is and to determine the best ways for practitioners to learn more about CSL. Using two telephone surveys and two written questionnaires, the RIC has gained insights about the range of interests and concerns people have about CSL and the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse.

The RIC surveyed local community leaders and middle school educators to represent the outsiders' perspective of the CSL network. Outsiders do not connect their work to the concept of community service-learning.

The telephone surveys revealed a general interest in CSL among the local community workers. However, most of those not already involved in the CSL network found many terms, such as democratic values and public service, vague and inaccessible. Community workers prioritized **language sensitivity** and a willingness for the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse to offer training and support.

Middle school educators are interested in the Clearinghouse as a creator of a national movement of knowledge about CSL, but are not necessar-

ily concerned about having access to a national database. These educators defined the top priorities for the National Clearinghouse as:

1. to provide access to CSL practices and curricula,
2. to identify critical needs and issues for CSL, and
3. to build awareness of K-12 service activities as a national education priority.

For these teachers, face-to-face interaction with RIC staff was a priority. For them, it would be most significant if we were to build relationships and connect needs and questions to practitioners and answers within the region. **Human interaction and support** is more important than access to electronic information.

Communication through Internet looks like a future goal rather than an immediate reality for most teachers. If the teachers do have access to computers and Internet, they still do not know how to use them. Many schools, of course, do not have Internet connections and some do not have computers with Internet capabilities. The RIC will need to develop different ways for practitioners to connect to the RIC, the national database, and to regional support services.

The RIC questioned ServeAmerica grantees and the participants of the 1993 *New England Regional*

-continued on page 5

Individuals with Disabilities Can Contribute to Service-Learning by Robin Vue-Benson

Everyone can be a resource to others in some unique way. Persons with disabilities, however, often get overlooked as a resource because of a false perception of them as always being recipients of service and incapable of giving service to others. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in service-learning activities is not only feasible, but may also provide another level of learning for participants with and without disabilities.

One means of categorizing these activities is by distinguishing between the contexts in which the service takes place. Many persons with disabilities serve as volunteers within the disabled community. In

The inclusion of persons with disabilities in service-learning activities is not only feasible, but may also provide another level of learning for participants with and without disabilities.

the offices of many advocacy groups or service agencies working with persons with disabilities, volunteers with disabilities provide essential services by helping with office work, lobbying, providing community education, and working with disabled clients. In addition, differently-abled persons have unique gifts which they use to assist each other in independent living. There are a variety of mentoring relationships pairing persons successfully living with disabilities with newly disabled or younger disabled persons. Though these activities occur all the time, they may not be recognized as service.

Service-learning by people with disabilities also takes place within the

general population with non-disabled persons as the recipients of the service. There are fewer examples of this kind of service in the literature, since it usually takes place in "mainstream" service programs. Such inclusion, perhaps, has the greatest potential for changing attitudes about who can be a service provider. Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities to themselves and to others.

Here are some general guidelines for facilitating the service-learning experience for people with disabilities:

- When recruiting participants for your service-learning program, invite everyone. The biggest barrier to inclusion is not asking a potential participant.
- Inclusion in a service-learning activity means everyone participates - there should be no bystanders.
- Every participant has a variety of abilities and disabilities. Be aware of how a specific type of disability affects what can and should be expected of a participant.
- The service-learning experience for an individual with a disability is undermined as much by setting expectations

-continued on page 2

continued from page 4

Community Service-Learning Conference in order to gain the insiders view of the CSL network. Insiders have diverse backgrounds in

CSL and a wide variety of information they want to access.

The ServeAmerica grantees were generally interested in reaching out to other programs around the United States. They want **specific information**, not vague, overgeneralized academic articles. They wanted a useful means of sorting the information they think the Clearinghouse will be offering them.

Although the CSL Conference participants reported that while most aspects of CSL were equally important, two stood out: "active, experiential learning" and "student awareness of future responsibilities as productive citizens." The seeming divergence in these two choices poses a question: Where does interest in CSL really lie? "Active learning" promotes student-centered classrooms. "Focusing on the development of productive citizens" promotes teachers showing students how to behave as citizens, creating teacher-centered learning. The most effective method of getting people involved in CSL is to not limit perspectives.

The most compelling aspect about the four surveys is the complementary responses. All respondents are looking for **clear information and precise direction** for CSL practices. They also expressed a desire to focus on developing personal contacts among CSL practitioners over an electronic contact. The range of needs and interests of everyone surveyed suggests that the collaborative approaches with multiple focal points should be a primary goal. Specific activities to develop the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse should vary over time and place, depending on which aspects seem most relevant and urgent to potential and current CSL practitioners at that time.

Program Profile: Leadership for Empowerment Program (LEP)

Begun in October 1991, LEP is an effort to offer service-learning to middle school-aged youth with and without severe developmental disabilities. The LEP curriculum is based on a partnership between a middle school and a YMCA or other local community agency.

After a program site is established, the school determines the most appropriate program format, whether an after school club or an activity during the school day itself. In addition, the school recruits a balanced ratio of youth to enhance possible friendship-building among youth with and without disabilities. The community agency proceeds with programming, which includes youth servicing the community in a variety of ways, including environmentally, creatively, and educationally. Youth are then referred to other existing programs as they advance to high school. The program is flexible and capable of being adjusted to meet the needs of the participants and the collaborating agencies.

For more information about LEP, contact the NSLC.

Name the Database and the Gopher Server

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse is nearing operating status with its database and its Internet Gopher Server. Help us name them. We are looking for names that are much shorter than ours (the National Information Clearinghouse) and that are related to service-learning.

Call us at 1-800-808-SERVE by April 1 to offer your suggestions.

The Database by Jane Maland

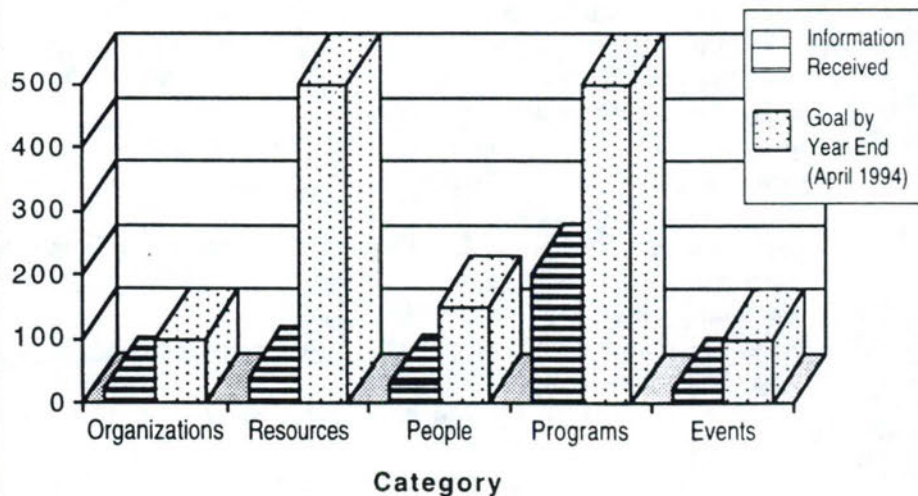
The National Service-Learning Cooperative offers a national electronic database of service-learning related programs, organizations, library/media resources, people and events. The information on this database is accessible by calling 1-800-808-SERVE and via the Internet on a Gopher Server located at the University of Minnesota.

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse began database development in September 1993. The Database contains information related to service-learning activities and resources around the country. Cooperative partners, Learn and Serve America supported grantees and sub-grantees, other established service-learning organizations and programs, and interested individuals provided the information used to construct the NSLC database. We

invite all individuals, programs and organizations with service-learning experience to help us build a comprehensive service-learning database. Call our toll-free number and request the appropriate form, or simply provide us with information over the telephone. Contact Jane Maland at NSLC if you have any specific questions regarding the database.

We plan to distribute the NSLC database software to interested individuals. We are presently looking for beta-testing sites so that the program will serve a wide variety of needs. After beta-testing is completed, NSLC will distribute the software free of charge to those interested in using it. It will be available for both IBM-Windows and Macintosh users. The database program is being developed using FoxPro.

Information in the Clearinghouse Database



This graph shows how much information has already been received and our goals for each category in the database.

The Information Corner

by Brad Belbas

NSLC Information Specialist

Serving the Field: What We Have Learned in the First Six Months

We reached the benchmark of three-hundred requests for information on February 22, 1994. As the staff at the Clearinghouse reflects on what we have learned, certain trends are beginning to form.

We have received a variety of calls ranging from a gentleman who hoped we could "service" his dentures, to teachers wanting to develop service-learning in their schools, to foundations seeking data to justify funding service-learning efforts. The majority of these calls, however, are from practitioners at various stages of implementing service-learning programs.

In response to these requests, we developed a packet of written materials (available free of charge), which provide information about the National Service-Learning Cooperative, its services, and its resources. Additionally, we provide information on regional contact people and organizations who can act as local resources for information and technical support. The core of support for our referrals is our network of thirteen regional Cooperative Partners, the Corporation for National and Community Service, state service-learning coordinators, and a variety of other programs, organiza-

tions, and individuals.

The Clearinghouse is working to enhance its ability to provide networking services and information to the field by the most accessible means. Our computer database will make its debut at the National Service-Learning Conference in Albuquerque, NM on March 4th and 5th.

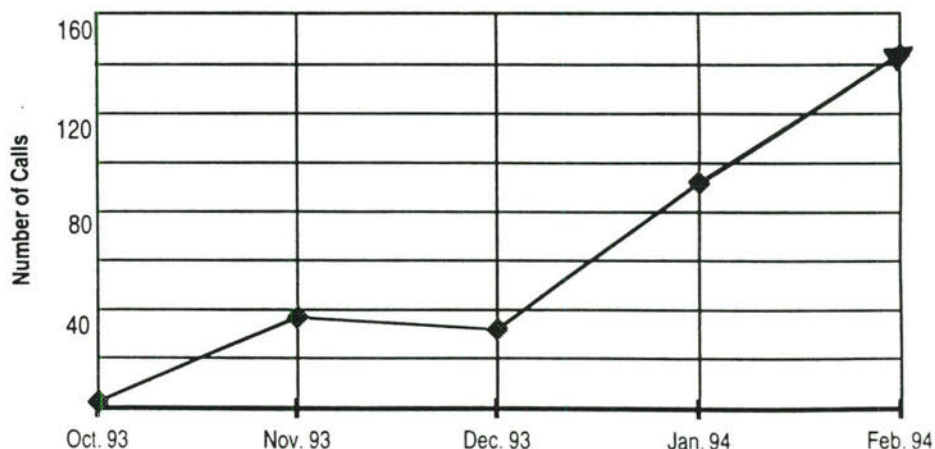
While we are still waiting to receive the bulk of data from the requests we have sent to the field, we have received a number of responses which are entered in the database. Although some in the field have expressed concerns regarding the accessibility of this data, everything in the database will be available to anyone who calls an Information Specialist at our 1-800 number or who has access to the Internet. The categories of information available from the database are: 1) program

and 2) organization descriptions, 3) calendar of events, 4) library/multi-media materials, and 5) speakers/consultants/peer consultants.

Complementary to the resources of the database is the National Technical Assistance effort, directed by Dr. Joel Longie. Along with our Cooperative Partners and the Corporation for National and Community Service, Joel is working to develop regional networks of people with experience in service-learning who can provide technical assistance. A focus of this plan is to provide face-to-face contacts with people qualified to assist with the tasks at hand.

If you have information that you think would be helpful to us or others or if you have questions related to the field of service-learning, please call us at 1-800-808-SERVE (7378).

Number of Calls by Month



The number of calls per month to the Clearinghouse has increased greatly since October.

Contribute to the National Clearinghouse Database

The National Clearinghouse needs information:

- Is your organization interested or involved in service-learning?
- Do you have a service-learning program?
- Do you have or know of reference materials in the area of service-learning?
- Have you developed or participated in a service-learning program?
- Do you have expertise in service-learning that you are willing to share with others?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes," NSLC would like to hear from you. Call 1-800-808-SERVE to request the database forms for organizations, programs, library materials, and/or peer consultants/speakers/consultants. ☼

Upcoming Service-Learning Events

March 3-5	National Service-Learning Conference: "Leadership for Community Renewal." Albuquerque, NM. Hosted by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project. Sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council.
March 6-9	National Dropout Prevention Conference. San Jose, CA. Sponsored by Educational Options and the National Dropout Prevention Center.
April 14-17	Tenth National Conference on Student Community Service. Boston, Massachusetts. Hosted by the University of Massachusetts at Boston, City Year, and a Coalition of Boston Colleges and Universities. Sponsored by COOL (Campus Outreach Opportunity League).
April 17	The National and Community Service Career Fair. Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. Co-sponsored by ACCESS and COOL.
April 19	National Youth Service Day. Washington, D.C.
April 21-23	SuperConference '94. The Marriott Crystal Gateway, Washington, D.C. A joint venture of Youth Serve America, City Year, Points of Light Foundation, Lutheran Brotherhood, United Way of America, and Youth Engaged in Service.
June 18-25	Summer Service Learning Institute. Alexandria, VA. Sponsored by ACT (Active Citizenship Today).

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

R-290 VoTech Ed Bldg.
1954 Buford Avenue
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108



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SUPPORT & TRAINING FOR ASSESSING RESULTS

Second Quarter Issue, 1996

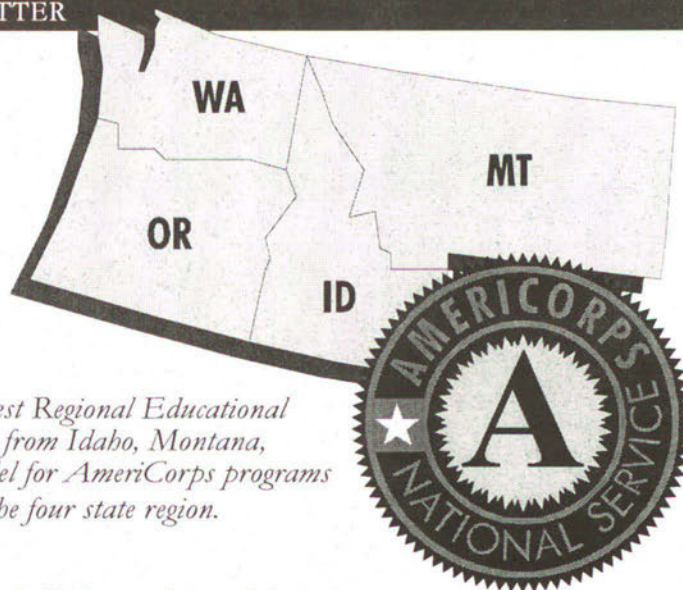
*Evaluation Assistance for: AmeriCorps
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San Mateo, CA 94402
1-800-548-3656 FAX 415-345-3648
internet:star@aism.attmail.com

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

STAR Collaborates with AmeriCorps Network Northwest

Project STAR has joined in the collaboration with Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) and the State Executive Directors from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to develop an evaluation plan model for AmeriCorps programs across the four states and for all AmeriCorps programs in the four state region.



What is AmeriCorps Network Northwest?

AmeriCorps Network Northwest is a four-state consortium developed to share resources and provide assistance to AmeriCorps programs in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. One of the many benefits of the collaboration is combining resources so as not to "re-invent the wheel." The process of building an evaluation model across the four states utilizing the priority areas of the Corporation for National Service (CNS) in education, environment, human needs, and public safety, is an attempt to create a model that may have use to all AmeriCorps programs. Activities of AmeriCorps Network Northwest are guided by the State Executive Directors of the Commissions for National and Community Service of each participating state: Kelly Houston, Idaho; Mary Blake, Montana; Marlis Miller, Oregon; and Bill Basl, Washington.

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL)

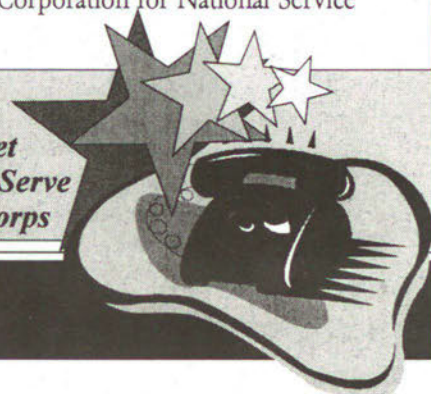
The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) is an independent, nonprofit, educational research and development institution. NWREL was selected by the State Executive Directors to facilitate the operation of the AmeriCorps Network Northwest. NWREL has been the communication link between the State Commissions and STAR. Careful evaluation and documentation of the process will determine if this new regional approach might have applications in other parts of the country.

Collaboration with STAR

In collaborating with NWREL and the AmeriCorps Network Northwest, STAR's primary goal is to develop instruments to measure member development and community building. NWREL's task will be to analyze and report the data generated from these instruments. Ken Terao, Senior Evaluation Specialist with STAR, and STAR Evaluation Coaches Susan Hyatt, Carolyn Cohen, and Kim Powleson recently met with Oregon AmeriCorps Program Directors in Portland Oregon, and with Idaho, Montana, and Washington Program Directors in Spokane, Washington. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain feedback from Project Directors to gain information in the development of instruments. STAR's Evaluation Coaches also provided training to Project Directors in developing evaluation plans for evaluating community service activities.

STAR is excited to join in collaboration with an already ongoing successful team. The AmeriCorps Network Northwest is a model for AmeriCorps programs everywhere, and one that the Corporation for National Service has their eye on!

Inside:
STAR on the Internet
STAR and Learn & Serve
STAR and Senior Corps



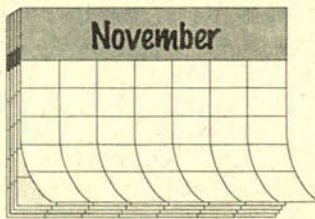
Call STAR for help with objectives.

Conservation News

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Stillwater, Oklahoma

November 1995

Calendar



National American Indian Heritage Month

2: Area 4 OACD Meeting -
Ft. Cobb

8: Area 5 OACD Meeting -
Poteau



10: Veterans Day - **Holiday**

11: Area 3 OACD Meeting -
Afton

14: Area 1 OACD Meeting - Enid

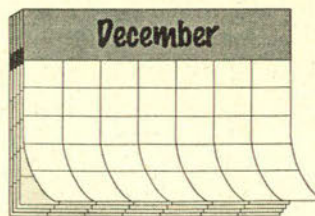
14: Great Plains RC&D Tour

14-16: Grant Workshop - Elk
City

15: Area 2 OACD Meeting -
Blackwell



3: Thanksgiving Day - **Holiday**



25: Christmas Day - **Holiday**

Message From Our State Conservationist

On October 30 and 31, I attended a South Central Region strategic planning session in Fort Worth, Texas. LeRoy Tull, Assistant State Conservationist (SI), Mason Mungle, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, and Buddy Cranford, President of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, also attended from Oklahoma.

Along with representatives from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and the regional staff, we began identifying key issues and strategies for the region. Each state will also develop action goals to meet individual state needs, and develop a state strategic plan.

As we have always known, we need to know our destination before we start off on a journey. That process will map out our journey for the future.

Many of you will become involved in this process in the coming year, and we will keep everyone informed.

Ronnie L. Clark

What's Inside

From The Field	2	Earth Team	3
FYI	2	Human Resources Update	4
RC&D News	3	AmeriCorp	4
Retiree News	3	TQM Update	5

From the Field

Booth at Durant expo a big success

NRCS, CFSA and the Bryan County Conservation District jointly sponsored a conservation information booth at the Second Annual Bryan Agriculture Industry Exposition in Durant.

Many landusers, business people and individuals visited the booth and several bulletins and various information pamphlets were handed out.



El Reno staff talks to community college students

Both Duane Crider, District Conservationist, and Tony Wright, Technician Trainee, El Reno Field Office, spoke recently to a class at the Redlands Community College. The class consisted of approximately 25 Redland's agriculture orientation students.

The two presented topics such as land and water management. Career opportunities in agriculture, and student interests were discussed. Crider and Wright also spoke of opportunities within the NRCS. A demonstration on the laser level was also shown to the class.

Sallisaw works with Cherokee Nation

The Sequoyah County Conservation District and the NRCS is working with the Cherokee Nation Tourist Information Center and the Cherokee Nation Courthouse in promoting conservation activities.

The Cherokee Courthouse has been a long-standing museum in the area and recently they have taken on the additional role of providing information about Cherokee Nation activities

for tourists and local residents.

The Cherokee Nation recently erected two large information signs east and west on I-40 in Sequoyah County.

The Sequoyah County Conservation Team is working with the Cherokee Nation in promoting the Harmony theme by displaying posters and brochures about the conservation effort. "This will be an ongoing process where we will continue to provide information and promote the conservation movement with the help of the Cherokee Nation," said Andy Inman, District Conservationist, Sallisaw Field Office.

McAlester Field Office assists with expo center

The McAlester Field Office recently assisted with the installation of a subsurface drainage system for the new Expo Center Building at the Pittsburg County Fairgrounds. The system, designed by Tim Miller, Area Engineer, involved 1,350 feet of 15" ID corrugated metal pipe. The pipe was connected to the downspouts on the building. The runoff from the roof had caused considerable erosion problems as well as problems inside the building. The roof area of the center has a surface area of two acres. This project was a combined effort of the Pittsburg County Conservation District, Fairgrounds Authority, the City of McAlester and the First National Bank of McAlester. The project was an associated measure with the Ouachita Mountains RC&D project.

Kay County busy with activities

Kay County Conservation District held its first countywide speech contest recently. Winners in each

division will compete at the OACD Area 3 meeting scheduled in Blackwell on November 15.

The "Earth Bus" from the Omniplex Science Museum in Oklahoma City, is scheduled to be in Ponca City at St. Mary's School for two days. Approximately 470 fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students from seven schools are expected to visit the hands-on ecology and environmental exhibits.

FYI

Build Your Brain Power

Everyone knows that if you exercise your muscles they become strong. The same is true for your brain. The more you exercise it, the more power you will have.

Here are several ideas:

- ✘ Figure calculations in your head. Try not to always rely on calculators and adding machines.
- ✘ Learn how to play a musical instrument. If you already play one, learn how to play a musical piece from memory.
- ✘ When you are faced with a problem, spend five minutes brainstorming possible solutions.
- ✘ Play a sport, write, or draw with your nondominant hand.
- ✘ Pursue new hobbies.
- ✘ Associate with interesting and stimulating people.

Source: NRCS Health & Safety, July 1995 Issue, Chillicothe, MO

RC&D News

Great Plains RC&D

Grant writing workshop. A grant writing workshop is scheduled for November 14-16 in Elk City. Grant's Link, Inc. of Missouri will be conducting the workshop. For more information, contact the Great Plains RC&D office.

Tree planting. The American Forests Global Releaf will provide \$3,500 towards planting trees in riparian areas at the Black Kettle National Grasslands in Roger Mills County and similar areas around Elk Lake in Beckham County. The Great Plains RC&D is working with Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Service Forester, Tom Murray, the City of Elk City, USDA Forest Service, and the Upper Washita County Conservation District to get the trees planted this spring.



Tree inventory grant awarded. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Urban Forestry Council has awarded two grants totaling \$16,750. The grants will be used to conduct a tree inventory on the Northfork Conservation District outdoor classroom, and hire an environmental education specialist to conduct urban forestry programs at the site and in area schools.

Environmental Education Conference. Teachers from Clinton, Sayre, Elk City and Merritt schools and Tamra Mach, Secretary, East Canadian County Conservation District, attended the EPA Region VI Environmental Education Conference in Dallas. Workshops covered topics about outdoor classrooms, recycling, grants and fund-raising. The Great Plains RC&D, Custer County Conservation District and East Canadian County Conservation

District sponsored the teachers' attendance.

Solid waste grant awarded. The Council has been awarded a \$71,000 RECD Solid Waste Technical Assistance grant to develop a four-county regional solid waste management plan for Roger Mills, Beckham, Washita and Custer counties. The RC&D will coordinate county task forces for data collection and work with a private consultant to analyze the data and formulate a plan for the region. This grant also provides coordination assistance with each of the county task forces in Jackson, Greer, Kiowa and Harmon Counties.

National Envirothon Contest. Nelda Tucker, Sayre High School Science teacher, recently attended the National Envirothon Contest held at Harriman State Park and Rexburg's Ricks College campus in Idaho. More than 30 state winning teams participated from across the United States and Canada. Ms. Tucker's trip was sponsored in part by the Upper Washita Conservation District and the Great Plains RC&D Council. As a result of Ms. Tucker's trip, she will be assisting the RC&D and conservation districts in western Oklahoma to develop a Regional Envirothon Competition for the area schools. The Envirothon helps students become more educated about conserving our resources and develop problem solving skills while having fun at learning.



Outdoor environmental education center.

The North Fork of the Red River Conservation District has requested the assistance of the RC&D in coordinating the development of an outdoor environmental education center

located at Upper Elk Creek Watershed Site 23B, north of Elk City. A committee consisting of representatives from ten of the surrounding schools, conservation district directors and individual citizens is being formed to develop a site plan. Funding sources will be identified and administered by the RC&D.

Retiree News

Walter F. Wilson, former Supervisory Construction Inspector at the Davis Watershed Office, passed away October 12. Mr. Wilson served in the Army Air Force during World War II, but spent the majority of his career with the SCS. He retired in 1980. Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife, Lorene, and two sons including Tom Wilson, Soil Conservationist at the Hobart Field Office.

Earth Team



Two hundred and eight Earth Team members worked 9,441 hours in FY95. Forty-eight NRCS offices utilized the skills and knowledge of volunteers during the year.

Special recognition and thanks goes to Earth Team members Marcus Scott, Beaver Field Office, who worked 1,680 hours, Larry Spurgeon, Mangum Field Office, who worked 1,404 hours, and Winnie Jaques, who worked 594 hours during the year.

New Earth Team Volunteers include Mary Ellen Tidwell, Talihina Field Office, Amber Easter, Watonga Field Office, and Jason Johnson and Chris Gomez, both of El Reno Field Office. Welcome!

Human Resources Update

Promotion

Charles M. Willmon, from GS-11 Design Engineer, Stillwater SO to GS-12 Environmental Engineer, Lakewood, CO

Ray C. Riley, from GS-12 Environmental Engineer/Hydrologist, Stillwater SO to GS-13/14 Interdisciplinary Watershed Sciences Institute, Raleigh, NC

Letitia F. Toomer, from GS-11 Agricultural Economist, Chickasha Planning Staff, Chickasha, OK to GS-12 Agricultural Economist, Water Quality Institute, Richmond, VA

Terry D. Costner, from GS-11 Hydraulic Engineer, Chickasha Planning Staff, Chickasha, OK to GS-12 Hydraulic Engineer, Wetlands and Riparian Area Team, Bozeman, MT

Rena I. Conner, from GS-11 Contract Specialist, Stillwater SO to GS-12/13 Realty and Property Specialist, Lincoln, NE

Z. Keith Vaughan, from GS-12 Agronomist, Stillwater SO to GS-13 Remote Training Specialist, Stillwater SO

Eddie L. Kephart, from GS-12 Resource Conservationist, Columbia, SC to GS-13 Assistant State Conservationist, Stillwater SO

Conversion to Term Appointment - NTE

Merrie S. Reeder, GS-04 Biological Aid, Stillwater SO

Reassignment

Robert N. Jones, from GS-14 Deputy State Conservationist,

Stillwater SO to GS-14 Deputy State Conservationist, Auburn, AL

Susan R. Sebert, from GS-6 Secretary, Ecosystem Based Planning Staff, Stillwater SO to GS-6/7 Program Assistant, Stillwater SO

Resignation

Larry D. Burdine, GS-4 Soil Conservation Technician, Purcell FO

Sonjia Y. Richey, GS-03 Soil Conservation Aid, El Reno FO

Gregory V. Evans, GS-03 Soil Conservation Aid, Okemah FO

Travis Zachery, GS-03 Soil Conservation Aid, Holdenville FO

Alonzo L. Batson, GS-03 Soil Conservation Aid, Tulsa FO

Termination - Expiration of Appointment

Dustin Camp, AmeriCorp Member, Mangum, FO

Termination - Abandonment

Jodie Lloyd, GS-04, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Ardmore FO

Conservation day awards

October 2 was the 38th Annual Oklahoma Conservation Day at the Tulsa State Fair. Those receiving awards were:



Outstanding District Cooperator
Gerald Waner, Lincoln County Conservation District

Outstanding District Director
Garland Phillips, Cherokee County Conservation District

Outstanding Conservation District
Nowata County Conservation District

Congratulations goes out to the winners for their dedication and hard work towards conserving our nation's natural resources.

EPA permit received

Oklahoma City received their Non-point Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from EPA effective September 1, 1995. The Oklahoma City Field Office, district staff and Jody Stringer, Environmental Engineer, Tulsa, are working with Gary Shockley, NPDES Coordinator, to implement the permit. The main focus now is on education of the permit requirements and how to plan, install and maintain an effective Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Second year of AmeriCorp begins

submitted by LeRoy Tull



This marks the second year of the USDA-NRCS AmeriCorp Environmental teams in Oklahoma. Members located at Claremore, Woodward, Cheyenne, and Sentinel began serving their term October 23.

Each location has a five-member team. Services will range from renovating and restoring shelterbelts/windbreaks in the western part of the state, to developing conservation education sites in the northeast part of the state.

The AmeriCorp kickoff celebration and swearing in ceremonies was October 26 at the State Capitol.

Last year's environmental teams were recognized as one of the best AmeriCorp programs within USDA. Congratulations goes out to the 95-96 teams!



TQM Update

submitted by Les Conner

What is the future of Total Quality Management in Oklahoma? I am continually confronted with this question as I travel the state to meet with NRCS and district employees to discuss TQM concerns. Significant progress in addressing quality concerns identified during Quality Awareness training has created a strong movement for more changes in the work environment.

Successful implementation of concerns such as upgrading technicians, documentation for time and attendance records, and hundreds of area concerns have made the implementation of the quality management process into our daily work environment a huge success. The most successful change initiated through the quality management process has been the creation of a consistent forum for employee involvement.

Employee meetings, area and state quality steering teams, and work improvement groups have created a forum for employees to make quality improvement suggestions, and to be actively involved in formulating changes. State staff has made a commitment to involve employees in the process of formulating changes to their work environment. Two recent examples of this commitment are: district conservationists serving on a task force to develop Oklahoma's field office staffing plan, and district and NRCS employees serving on a joint task force to merge the district's annual plan of work and the field office annual plan of operations into one document.

A tremendous amount of time and energy has been invested in the process of resolving the concerns identified during and after Quality Awareness training. This investment has affected change, but the job is not finished. The task of creating a quality work environment will require the continued investment of time and energy for our entire workforce. The state management team fully supports this important process.

As important as the process of solving quality concerns is, it is important to remember that it is just one stem in the Quality Process. The primary goal of Quality Management is for each of us to strive toward meeting our customer's expectations 100% of the time. It is imperative that we focus on Quality Management as a process and not as a program to solve all of our concerns. Ultimately, the success of TQM hinges on a response centered on, "How can I meet your expectations?", and not on, "How are you going to meet my expectations?". Treating others with respect and actively participating in forums to create positive change takes commitment.

In talking to employees across the state, I have found deep commitment and tremendous pride in efforts to treat customers with respect, and to meet customer's expectations. I have seen this commitment in the attitudes and work ethics of many employees. Because of this commitment, my answer to the question, "What is the future of TQM in Oklahoma?" is an easy one. Quality Management in Oklahoma is alive and well! Oklahoma's workforce and work environment will continue to improve as we embrace the TQM process.



*Wishing you and
your family a safe
and Happy
Thanksgiving*

Cut on dotted line and place on calendar

REMINDER

REMINDER

REMINDER

Articles for the December issue of *Conservation News* are due to Public Affairs by November 15. Be sure to include any upcoming events (December & January) you would like to have on the calendar.

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AmeriCorps Teams In Tennessee

Cluster 1: Carissa Hayes
Adriann Glover
Nonya Mackey
Mike Milholland
Amanda Poyner

Cluster 2: Cheryl Moore
Kelli Smith
Jamie Travis
Toya Walker

Cluster 3: Amy Crumley
Cassandra Sheaffer
Sharon Smith
Katherine Thompson
Betty Wilson
Jeremy Williams

AmeriCorps News From Tennessee

Spring, 1996

Volume 1, Issue 1



There are three AmeriCorps cluster sites in Tennessee busy "Getting things done". All the cluster sites have many goals to accomplish this year. In this newsletter, you will see some of the projects that the AmeriCorps in Tennessee are working on. AmeriCorps is about leadership, teamwork, and service to our communities. We have all enjoyed the great opportunities AmeriCorps has offered. We hope our service will contribute to helping people all across Tennessee.

Trail Talk

December 1995 News from Humphreys Soil Conservation District Volume 1 Issue 4

Annual Banquet Honors Area Residents

Three individuals were recently recognized by the Humphreys Soil Conservation District for their conservation efforts. David Hatcher was honored as "Conservationist of the Year" for 1995. Mr. Hatcher was selected for his promotion of conservation practices both locally and throughout the state. He serves on many county and state committees and has served as Humphreys Soil Conservation District Director since 1978. Mr. Hatcher was also recognized for his variety of conservation practices on his own cattle farm on Deer Creek north of Waverly.

Jim and Helen Brasfield were also honored as "Volunteers of the Year" at the annual banquet. Both are RC&D directors and have participated in "Celebrate the Earth" days and the area wide Envirothon for several years. The Brasfields were recognized not only for their conservation efforts but also for their wide array of community service.

Thank you Mr. Hatcher and Mr. and Mrs. Brasfield for your ongoing efforts to improve our community and our world.

AmeriCorps Program Continues in Humphreys County

AmeriCorps National Service Program unites a diverse group of Americans with a common goal of meeting environmental and human needs through a partnership with communities. The project promotes an ethic of service, citizenship, and responsibility with each of its members.

The AmeriCorps program was initiated by President Clinton as a way for individuals to provide service to their community while earning educational grants.

AmeriCorps members Mike Milholland and Adriann Glover are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the Rural Development Team.

Locals Tour Europe

Forty-six local residents participated in an eleven day trip to Europe over the summer. The group visited the countries of Belgium, England, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and Switzerland. The tour group visited many sites of historical interest, agricultural lands, and manufacturing facilities.



Christmas Trees

Pine, fir, and spruce are varieties of popular Christmas tree species. Successful Christmas tree plantations require:

- * Planting new trees each spring to produce sustainable crops year after year
- * Pruning trees annually until they are harvested
- * Controlling grass and weeds, and minimizing rodent damage
- * Harvesting and marketing your trees in November and December of each year.

These trees may provide a high return on marginal land if a strong and accessible market exists. Check with your state forester or Christmas tree association about the market in your area before planting.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The county's first Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was held at the Agriculture Center in September. The project was sponsored by Humphreys County and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation with assistance from Sanitation Department personnel, the Soil Conservation District, and AmeriCorps members. Approximately 994 pounds of household waste were collected in the form of waste oil, aerosols, latex and non-latex paints, poisonous material and flammable liquids. Twenty-six households participated with fifteen of them being from Waverly. Many participants would like for this to be an annual event.

Our thanks to all who planned, organized, aided, and participated in this important project.

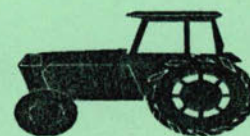


Conservation District Provides Funding

Approximately \$26,000.00 of cost share assistance was provided to local landowners in 1995. Funds were provided for conservation practices such as ponds, winter corn crops, no-till planting, and pasture improvement.

A limited amount of funds is still available for spring conservation practices. Contact the Soil Conservation District for more information.

PRIME FARMLAND



If you think the energy crisis is having an effect on your life, just wait until the food crisis! We will have to change our eating habits drastically unless we STOP the abuse and loss of America's farmlands. Only about 2% of the land in Tennessee and about 1.5% of Humphreys County is prime agricultural land and there is not enough to waste. HELP US CONSERVE IT!

Nature Center

Several Nature Center projects were completed during the summer such as...

- * An overlook near the beginning of the trails
- * Water and electricity at the pavilion
- * Refurbishing of the main trail with wood chips

Approximately 2000 visitors toured the Blue Creek Nature Center during the past year. Anyone interested in a nature tour contact Mike or Adriann at 296-3442.

Recycling Grant

A grant has been received for an Oil Recycling Center to be used to heat the Ag Pavilion. More information will be forthcoming as the project develops.

Season's Greetings

Ray May

Joe Adams

Odell Poyner

Eric Mayberry

☆ Adriann
☆ Glover

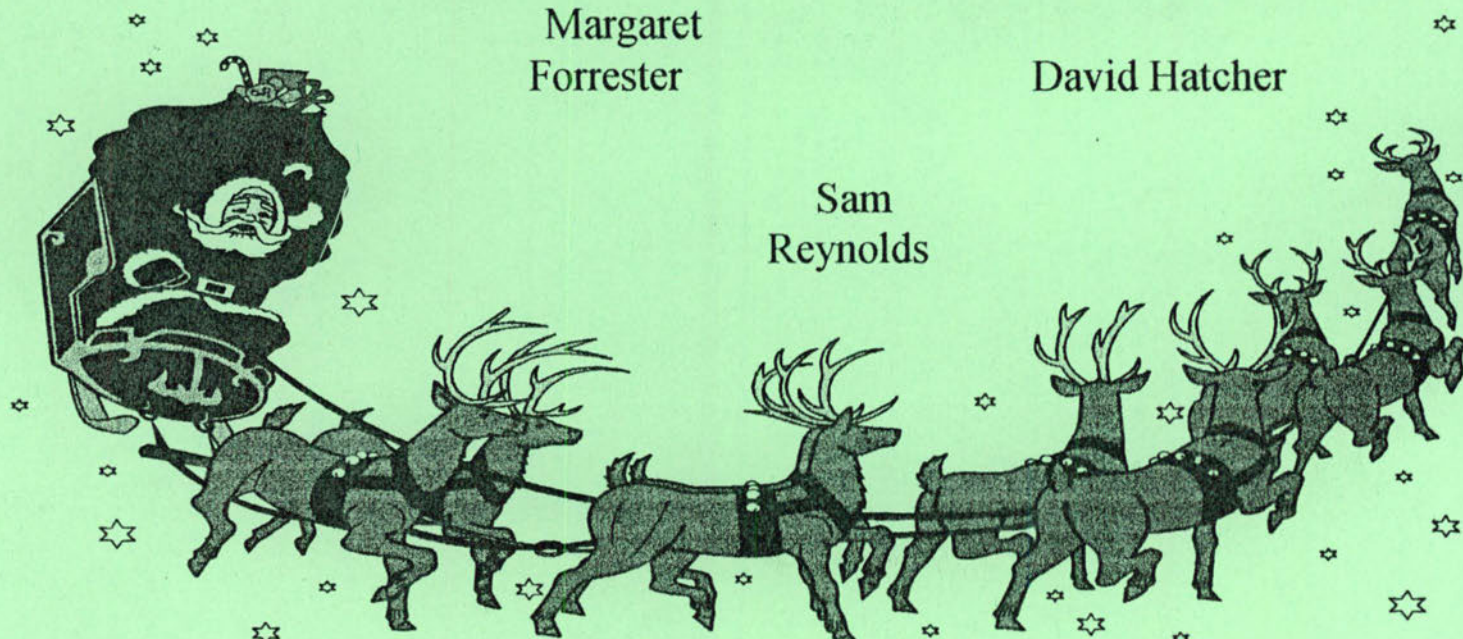
Mike Milholland

Cheryl
Patterson

Margaret
Forrester

David Hatcher

Sam
Reynolds



Upcoming Events

December 12 - Soil District Annual Chili Dinner
11:00 - 1:00

District Board Meeting - December 14
8:30AM

Office Closed - December 25, January 1 and 15

District Board Meeting - January 11
8:30 AM

All programs and services of the Natural Resources Conservation Service are offered and are available on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap.

Trail Talk is made possible through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Non-Point Source Funds.

Trail Talk

Humphreys Soil Conservation District
115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

inside...

Banquet Awards, European Trip, AmeriCorps
Hazardous Waste Collection, Nature Center, Tid-Bits
Holiday Greetings
Upcoming Events

Page 1
Page 2
Page 3
Page 4

Trail Talk

February 1996 News from the Humphreys Soil Conservation District Volume 2 Issue 1



Humphreys County Soil Conservation District

Local Soil Conservation District to be Spotlighted

Humphreys County and the Humphreys County Soil Conservation District will be spotlighted at the annual Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts convention in Memphis February 25-27. SCD Supervisors David Hatcher, Ray May, Sam Reynolds, Eric Mayberry, Margaret Forrester, District Secretary Cheryl Patterson, and District Conservationist Odell Poyner will represent Humphreys County at the 10:00 AM General Sessions on Tuesday morning when they will bring to life the District and Blue Creek Nature Center with a narrated slide program presentation centered on the county, the Nature Center, and the residents who have made it all possible through hard work and determination. The "District Spotlight" is a new feature of the convention and Humphreys SCD is honored to be chosen as the first.

Christmas Tree Recycling Big Success

The Christmas Tree recycling project was a huge success this year. A total of 111 trees were collected and chipped at the Nature Center for use on the trails. Adding collection sites to New Johnsonville and McEwen proved to be a worthwhile venture. 12 trees were collected from New Johnsonville, 39 from McEwen, and 60 from Waverly.

The Soil Conservation District's AmeriCorps members along with the Humphreys County Recycling Committee would like to thank all those who helped organize and carry out this important project.



"The plain truth is that Americans, as a people, have never learned to love the land and to regard it as an enduring resource. They have seen it only as a field for exploitation and a source of immediate financial return."

Used Oil Recycling Center to be Functional by End of March

Do-it- yourselves: Blue Creek Nature Center is adding a used oil recycling center to its facilities. Petroleum based or synthetic motor oils (hydraulic oil, transmission oil, power steering oil, crank case oil. etc..) may be recycled and will be accepted at our recycling center. We will not accept oil filters, anti-freeze, or any non-oil based liquids. The used oil recycling center will be located on the west side (left-hand side as you drive up the hill) of the Exhibit Building, which is located behind our office building here at the Agriculture Center / Fairgrounds. The used used oil will be used in 3 heaters, one for the big room at the back of our office building and 2 for our Exhibit Building, allowing us the flexibility to host events during the cold weather season and do it inexpensively. The used oil recycling center and the 3 used oil heaters were purchased through a state grant. This project is a part of our on-going program of environmental based projects and education at Blue Creek Nature Center.

Recycling your used oil is a simple process: Pour the oil into a clean, leakproof container that has a screw-on top. Original motor oil containers, as well as many household containers, are suitable. **Never use containers that held household chemicals such as bleach.** Make sure the container is made spill-proof with a secure lid. There are containers specifically designed for carrying used motor oil that may be purchased at automotive supply stores.

If you are not taking your used oil immediately to a recycling center, never temporarily store it in a container that previously held beverages, food, or chemicals. Be sure that the container used, regardless of the type, is clean and clearly labeled as used oil. Keep out of reach of children and pets.

Boating / Water Safety Workshop the First of Many to be Held at Blue Creek Nature Center

There will be a boating and water safety workshop conducted by TWRA agent Robert Dougherty on February 22nd at 6:30 PM. The workshop will offer valuable information concerning boating and water safety. The workshop is an ideal introduction to boating safety for children who will be spending time on rivers and lakes this summer.

Several other workshops are being planned at this time. There will be a Used Oil Recycling workshop in March as well as a flower gardening/landscaping workshop. Polly Rooker with TWRA will be conducting a Birding workshop in May. Keep your eyes open for other things that are in the making.














What's New at the Nature Center













The winter months have still been busy months at the nature center. Many improvements have been made and plans are underway for more projects. Come out any time for a visit!

- * 5 bluebird houses were built and placed on the premises
- * 3 bat houses were built and placed at the edge of the woods
- * New stakes for tree and understory identification plates were made and the old ones were replaced
- * Plans are underway for a new trail that will meander along Bear Branch
- * Plans are underway for a new rest area / study area to spotlight the "space tree"























First AmeriCorps Cluster Meeting Held at Blue Creek Nature Center

The first AmeriCorps cluster meeting for Cluster #1 was held on January 17th. The cluster consist of AmeriCorps members of the Chickasaw-Shiloh RC&D region based in Jackson, Tennessee, a member from the Hickman County SCD, and the two AmeriCorps members based here in Humphreys County. Many plans were made for combined efforts in all three areas. Members will help with environmental activities and are planning several city beautification projects, which will begin in Humphreys County.

A highlight of the day was a visit from John T. Harris, state coordinator for the AmeriCorps program. Mr. Harris brought T-shirts, sweat shirts, and caps for the 5 AmeriCorps members and ate lunch with the group at the pavilion. A quarterly AmeriCorps newsletter is in the making that will alternately spotlight each of the state's 3 cluster groups. This area's group will be the first to be highlighted. The newsletter will contain profiles of each member and the work that has been and will be done in each area.

"A debt of service is due from every man to his country proportioned to the bounties which nature and fortune measured to him."

Cost-share funds are still available for pasture seeding and livestock exclusions. Pasture seeding dates are February 20 th thru April 1. You may sign up at any time. For more information contact the Soil Conservation office at 296-3442.

SCD Office Personnel

District Conservationist

Odell Poyner

Office Manager

Cheryl Patterson

AmeriCorps Naturalists

Adriann Glover

Mike Milholland

Soil Conservationist

Joe Adams

Board of Supervisors

David Hatcher, Chairperson

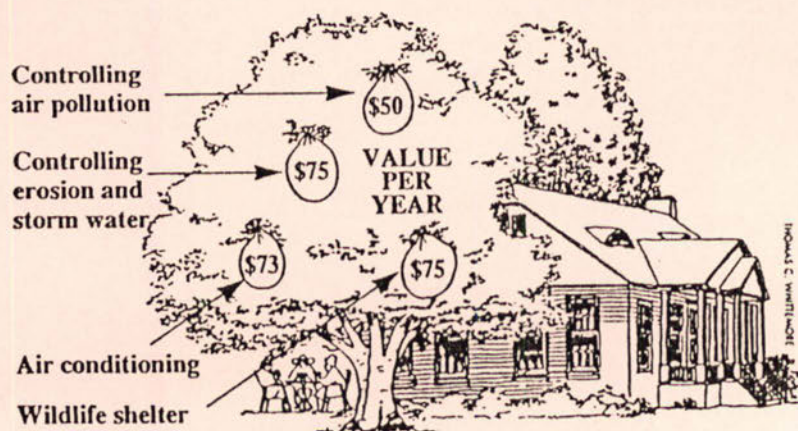
Margaret Forrester

Ray May

Eric Mayberry

TN Division of Forestry to Host Annual Arbor Day

The Tennessee Division of Forestry will once again be hosting their annual Arbor Day celebration by giving away trees at Blue Creek Nature Center. Arbor Day is a national day (each state has its own unique day) that recognizes the need and importance of trees to all forms of life.



Annual Values of a Strategically-Planted Shade Tree



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8 - District Board Meeting 8:30 AM
February 15 - Contractor Workshop 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
February 19 - Office Closed for Presidents Day
February 22 - Boating/Water Safety Workshop 6:30 PM
March 1 - Arbor Day
March 14 - District Board Meeting 8:30 AM
March - Used Oil Recycling Workshop
April 22-28 National Volunteer Week
April 23 - "Celebrate the Earth"
April 24 - "Conservation Camp"

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Trail Talk is made possible through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Non-Point Source Funds.

Trail Talk

Humphreys Soil Conservation District
115 West Blue Creek Road
Waverly, Tennessee 37185

inside...

TACD Convention; Christmas Tree Recycling
Used Oil Recycling Center; Nature Center News
Arbor Day Information; AmeriCorps Clusters; Tid-Bits
Upcoming Events

page 1
page 2
page 3
page 4



USDA/AmeriCorps

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

Contact: Jim Meisenheimer

NEWSLETTER

July 1, 1996

Winding Down

The AmeriCorps class year of 1995/96 is quickly coming to an end as many members near completion of their hours. Graduation events are set for August 6 and 7 at the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Nature Center, Wichita.

Significant Corps and Team Events Since April

Since April 1 there have been two significant all corps events: April 23, Remembering the Oklahoma Bombing Victims, and May 20-23, the Southeast Kansas Signature Project. Significant team events include: Cheney - entertaining members from the Technical Evaluation Center of Hutchinson (TECH); Kanopolis - lead in moving 10,000 potted trees; Glen Elder - member helping at Adult Education Center; Milford - helping with an outdoor classroom; Perry's - controlled burning; Hays - members attack on Big Creek; Topeka - pollution patrol; and Southeast Kansas - lead with the signature project.

Cheney Team Keeps On Going

Neither rain, drought, hot or cold weather stops the members of this team from completing their service. Carolyn, Scott, Kari, Gary, and Shana are not deterred from the elements of weather as exemplified by their toil in bitterly cold of January and stifling heat of June. It has been learned that Kari, Shana, and Carolyn suffered from the heat when carrying railroad ties uphill and digging holes at Sandhills State Park in near 100-degree temperatures on June 20. Like all of you, this team perseveres in all kinds of weather. When it rains, they just keep going until forced to stop. There is a saying in the Army that it rains "on" the Army. The same can be said of the Cheney team, "It rains on them."

June 7 was a special day as they entertained guests from The Training and Evaluation Center of Hutchinson Inc. (TECH). TECH is a place where children and adults can move beyond the limitations of their disabilities. A place where the restrictions that inhibit independence, self-confidence and fulfillment are overcome with the assistance of a compassionate and supportive community. TECH serves both adults and children with disabilities. TECH serves adults ages 16 through retirement. Due to publicity in the Hutchinson News about the Cheney team's service at the Hadley Day Center, Hutchinson, the team was contacted by TECH officials. After a team visit to see and meet with the TECH facilities, citizens, and staff, the adult citizens of TECH were invited for a day at Cheney State Park.

On June 7 twenty-two adult TECH citizens and four staff members arrived in three vans and were greeted by the AmeriCorps team, Sara Hacker, Cheney State Park Seasonal Employee, Larry Miles and Jim Meisenheimer. Carolyn, Kari, Shana, Scott, and Gary spent a considerable time getting ready to take their guests fishing and to help them pick up cans. Yes! There are members of TECH who like to pick up cans!. The AmeriCorps members worked with Alan Stark, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park Regional Supervisor, to get loaner fishing poles from the Wichita Nature Center, and to get fishing tackle and printed fishing material which was donated to TECH. Cheney State Park Employees, Duane Panek and Phil Wooten volunteered to

haul and place five picnic tables for lunch. Gambinos of Cheney agreed to provide pizzas, and Knowles Short Stop to provide soft drinks.

As soon as the guests arrived, each was given a name tag and an AmeriCorps lapel pin. Each of the guests, plus Sara Hacker was made an honorary Cheney State Park member. Later at the insistence of two of the TECH female citizens, Duane Panek and Phil Wooten were also made honorary Cheney State Park members. The guests were excited about fishing, yet one could not wait to pick up cans.

The AmeriCorps ensemble helped each of the able guests bait hooks with worms, throw lines into the lake, and untangle lines from trees and other fishing poles. Three fish were caught creating instant excitement. AmeriCorps Project Director Larry Miles worked diligently with one of the severely autistic TECH citizens who caught the largest fish of the day. Larry used hand signals to have the citizen reel in his catch. After Larry and Shana worked to unhook the catch, they asked the guest through hand gestures if he wanted to touch the fish. The guest, showing emotion for the first and only time of the day, stepped forward and gently touched his catch. Everyone who witnessed the guest's touching of the fish was exuberant.

Other special moments were when the members and Sara distributed pizza and soda to their guests, and made sure their needs were met. Each of the AmeriCorps members, the Cheney State Park employees, and those who contributed to the event deserve a great deal of credit for the undertaking. Carolyn Wooten said, "I do believe everyone had a great time."

Glen Elder Team Reports

Reconstructing one of the most damaged Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Wildlife areas of the 1993 flood has been a big chore for Tony Ifland, Julie Grauerholz, and Rick Moore. Cleaning up more than 150 acres of flood debris has been part of their tasks in the third quarter.

Extra service by a team member is exemplified by Julie as a volunteer tutor for the Adult Education Center in Osborne, Kansas. Julie has had to adapt literature based on teaching English as a second language for two German speaking ladies. Susan Applegate, Director Adult Education Center writes, "Julie is a great asset to our program."

Kanopolis Team Members Involved In Teaching And Tree Transportation

Kurt Grimm, Kathy Oberlee, and Diane Spear have been involved in teaching classes on jet ski safety, basic first aid training in Claflin, and an interpretative program. In addition, they were the lead team with the transportation of 10,000 potted trees.

Using Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks materials, classes on "Tracks" have been given to several groups of students. Kurt Grimm introduces the class by telling students about AmeriCorps and what his team does at Kanopolis State Park. After a question and answer session, the members help students imprint animal tracks on the students t-shirts. The team members have a kit with several molds of animal and fowl feet ranging from: ducks, turkeys, raccoons, beavers, to bobcats. Members also provide paint and paint brushes. Children ranging from age 3 years to 12 enjoy picking out, applying various colors of paint to the chosen mold, and imprinting them on their t-shirts. Some of the students print the name of the animal or bird beneath the track on their t-shirts. The excited faces of the children and their questions and attention gives this team a great deal of personal satisfaction.

Kanopolis AmeriCorps team led members from Cheney, Milford, Topeka, and Perry in a joint effort with The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDW&P), the Lindsborg Regional Tree Growing Out Station, and the Kansas Department of Corrections, to move 10,000 potted Austrian Pines.

When the prison honor camp decided to get out of the tree business, KWD&P agreed to take the trees for replacement in state parks that were devastated during the floods of 1993 and 1995. KDW&P needed a site to nurture the seedlings until they are big enough to replant. The citizens of Lindsborg offered their Regional Tree Growing Station, approximately 110 miles from the honor camp in El Dorado. USDA AmeriCorps agreed to help pot, transport, load and unload the seedlings.

AmeriCorps members served beside honor prison inmates at the honor farm in potting and loading the seedlings. KDW&P officials wanted AmeriCorps members to serve as role models to the inmates. An inmate, after one day of serving beside AmeriCorps members potting seedlings and loading trucks and trailers exclaimed, "This is harder than we normally work."

Potting and loading the seedlings may have been the easy part for the Kanopolis team. On three of their many 220 mile round trips, the vehicles they were driving and/or the trailers they were pulling had tires fail. On one occasion, a truck lost a water pump and the driver and his passenger were rescued by a passing U.S. Federal Marshall. The tree transportation project again proved how AmeriCorps members join forces to Get Things Done.

One Old And One New Friend Join And Rejoin The Kanopolis Team

Tigger the camp tom cat disappeared during the winter months and AmeriCorps members and park personnel assumed that a bob cat had finally gotten him. Early this spring Tigger reappeared as if he had never left. Later in the spring Tigger was joined by a mixed female puppy that someone had dumped in the park. The two have come friends and pets of the AmeriCorps members and park staff.

Milford Team Busy In Repairing Wildlife Area And In Assisting Others

Jeff Goeckler, Paula Meeks, and Rick Henry has spent the past few months burning 1500 acres, cutting 1500 cedar trees, planting 600 trees and 100 sandhill plums, spraying 800 acres, building fence, and removing tons of debris from the Milford State Park.

Others items of service included participating in the Oklahoma bombing memorial, the El Dorado tree potting exercise, and the Southeast Kansas special project.

Paula has proven that she can keep up with Rick and Jeff. She found three abandoned pheasant eggs, placed them under a heat lamp and hatched them. In order to keep the camp cat from finding the chicks, she placed them in a covered cage on saw horses. Paula plans to set the birds free once they are old enough to function on their own.

Paula has also proven to Jeff that she can get a carp without resorting to a bow and arrow or fishing pole. When bait was needed to bait a raccoon trap, she found a shallow stream, took off her shoes and socks, and plunged into the stream. The water was deeper than she thought, almost waist deep. Paula was not deterred and with the use of a stick got her fish.

However, in playful manner, it is said that Jeff tested Paula's reaction to snakes. One day while she was sitting in a pickup, Jeff is refuted to have picked up a live three-foot bull snake and unexpectedly placed it beside her. Paula it is said, demonstrated her quickness by making a quick egress out of a side window.

Controlled Burning Not Always Controlled At Perry

During their burn season the Perry members realized that controlled burning is not always what it implies. Team leader Rick Linneman reports that there have been a few "hair raising" out of control experiences. It started when the water truck that Betty was driving got stuck among the flames causing Rick's adrenalin to flow and

he quickly pushed it out. On another occasion, Rick was cutting down burning trees when falling embers burnt a hole in his hat and singed some of his hair. This time Betty saved Rick by watching his back and warning him of pending harm.

Like the team members at Topeka and Hays, Perry members have been battling beavers. Perry members report that every morning, "we run out and open the waterways on two of our marshes, and every night they run out and dam them up again. We will fight this until we win!" The Hays and Topeka teams have used chicken wire and electric fences in their respective efforts to control beavers who have feasted on newly planted willow poles.

Betty Mills has had the experience of serving with the fisheries biologist shocking fish. It is reported that she is having a difficult time distinguishing which ones to net as she says, " They all look the same belly up."

Last but not least in importance is the day the team spent at Topeka remembering the Oklahoma victims on April 23, 1996. Rick and T.J. told Betty they remembered April 19, 1995, as they were with the other Kansas USDA AmeriCorps members, Kansas Learn and Serve students, and Kansas Commission AmeriCorps members observing a national day of celebration when Pat Kells, Executive Director for the Kansas Commission on National and Community Service, relayed the tragic news of the bombing.

The membership of the Perry team has increased by one. Edmond Cron of Smith Center, has joined Betty, T.J., and Rick. Edmond likes camp mascot MeriCorps and to use the all terrain vehicle to travel throughout the wildlife and area.

Hays Daily News Headlines Read, "AmeriCorps Crew Attacks Erosion on Big Creek"

Adele Shaver, Hays Daily News, May 30, 1996, writes, "What kind of tree can you cut into posts, stab in some mud and expect to root down and leaf out?...Willow poles will." Shaver reported to the newspaper's readers that "willow poles are just one of the strategies being used by the team along dangerously eroding banks on Big Creek as it curves through Hays near the Fort Hays State University campus.

Erosion was undercutting a bank along highway U.S. 183 Alternate posing a danger to traffic. The sheer drop plunged 10 feet to the water. Shaver reports that second year AmeriCorps member Tracy Beech called the drop, "a cliff." In addition to planting willows to control erosion, members hauled in truckloads of soil to rebuild the bank, and laid fabric cover around American plum and chokeberry bushes; crib walls, "resembling latticed retaining walls made of boards," were built out recycled plastic; lunker boxes have been placed in the water to serve as foundation for the rebuilt banks. "The lunker boxes are open to the water side, so they will provide fish habitat," said Ken Urban, Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist and AmeriCorps Site Director. At another area along the creek the members stabilized the bank by having three large semi-trailer trucks dump large 200 to 300 lbs. rocks down the bank to the water's edge. Many of the rocks had to be moved by hand in 90 degree plus temperatures. Lisa Mermis and others ended up with pinched and blackened appendages of their hands.

The team reported that using Bioengineering techniques it took, " 72 cubic yards of dirt, with only shovels and a lot of sweat, plus 265 willow posts, 250 shrubs, and 3 rolls of weed barrier to stabilize the area where the crib walls were built."

Other service given by the team includes: aiding Hays elementary schools in preparing outdoor learning areas emphasizing both wildlife and gardening, participating in the Kansas Special Olympic Basketball Tournament, joining forces with the Fort Hays State University Students in Service to Community AmeriCorps members to clean up a playground, paint a shed, and make a garden for the children of the Russell Head Start Program.

Two of the work-mates of the month for the Hays team include:

Kevin Pritchard:

Hometown: Nevada, Missouri (Ne-VA-duh)
Education: MS Soil and Water Science, University of Arizona
Area of Interest: Baseball
Hobbies: Andrew and Patrick (2 sons) and Gail (1 wife)
Turn ons: Peanut-butter crackers, bananas, National Public Radio
Turnoffs: Chipper, Rush Limbaugh, UCLA

****Note:** It has been reported by respective team mates that, Kevin Pritchard and Judy Logback, Topeka while serving in their respective areas found, \$40.00 and \$20.00 in cash that no one claimed. It is reported that Kevin spent the money on his mother-in-law, and Judy has, so far, failed to buy lunch for her fellow team mates.

Neil Bass:

Hometown: Lakeland, Florida
Education: MS Biology, Fort Hays State University
Area of Interest: Appalachian Trail
Hobbies: Eating beaver (Castor canadensis), home brew, rancid food consumption
Turn ons: Dyed black hair, combat boots, buffets, gallon of milk and 2 lbs. of Oreos
Turn offs: Overpopulation, littering, Florida tourists, hernias
Best anecdote: Because I want to, that's why

Topeka Team Garners Front Page Story In The "Topeka Capitol"

On June 11 a large colored photo appeared on the front page of the "Topeka Capitol Journal." The photo shows Jennifer Halstead and Bree Enderle with long poles in their hands, standing in chest high water, slogging their way up Shunganunga Creek with a flat bottom boat between them. The caption on the bottom of the picture is entitled, "Pollution patrol." The team has gathered tons of debris from the creek. Personnel from Dillons Grocery Stores, Topeka, were interested in the 19 shopping carts they have found.

In addition to cleaning Shunganunga Creek and its banks, the team has been active in the construction of a 350' retaining wall consisting of two tons of guard-rail timbers and 48 tons of Vera-Lock bricks along Shunga Creek which prevents sediment from washing down onto the sidewalk that runs along Shunga Trail, and a 100' cedar tree revetment along a branch of the Wakarusa River. Willow poles have been planted at several locations in Shawnee County. Seventeen thousand trees and shrubs were planted by the members on farmland surrounding Banner Creek Reservoir. Like the Hays team, and somewhat like the Perry team, beavers have wreaked havoc on team activities, especially willow poles. The Topeka members resorted to the use of an electric fence, while the Hays members used chicken wire to protect the willows from the genus Castor.

The Topeka members led the April 23 remembrance of Oklahoma City bombing victims with Judy Logback giving the address on behalf of the AmeriCorps members. Larry Ballou has been instrumental in making and fixing: the team's garbage scowl (the boat used on pollution patrol), electric winch; for the Topeka Parks and Recreation, trailer ramps. Other members have helped fix and repair soccer goals. Other activities the members have helped with are: Helping Hands Humane Shelter, Shawnee County Health Agency, Wild Care, Kansas Aids quilt exhibit, and Tire Amnesty, and helping with the Shawnee County Conservation District's nonpoint source pollution display and EnviroScape and stream bank trailer on Earth Day which were viewed by approximately 3,000 students.

Cody Lind, like Tisa McNee Stewart, was married recently. It is reported that Cody returned from their honeymoon with the flu and was unable to meet the team in Elk Falls at the USDA-Signature Project. **Cody, we all understand!!** This is the third known marriage of an USDA-AmeriCorps member this term, the first being Diane Howard Spear. **Congratulations and best wishes to each newly married members and spouses!**

Southeast Kansas Team Led Signature Project In Elk Falls And Sedan

Tisha McNee Stewart and Katrina Hine organized and coordinated the USDA-AmeriCorps signature project in Elk and Chautauqua counties. On May 20, 1996 Tisha and Katrina met the first contingent of the 25 volunteer AmeriCorps members who would sleep in tents, church camp dormitories, cars, and on the ground while giving four days of service to Elk Falls population 130 and Sedan population 1,300.

Tisha and Katrina had to make sure that tools, food, and bathing facilities were in place for the members. During the members' stay they provided liquids to quench the thirst of the members who were toiling in 80 degree temperatures. Tisha and Katrina acted as bridges between the members and the local citizens. The citizens of both Elk Falls and Sedan went out of their way to make the members stay memorable.

In Elk Falls, the green monster, a concrete gym turned civic center with peeling, faded green paint, had to be stripped and painted. The visitor center needed to be primed and painted after the tar paper and old nails were removed. An iron bridge, on the list of historical landmarks, needed to have 60 feet of wooden flooring removed and replaced. Several of the tombstones at the cemetery, especially those of the Buffalo Soldiers, had to be set upright and cleaned. Other vintage tombstones needed cleaning and a tool shed needed painting.

USDA-AmeriCorps members were joined by Meillyn Kreusser, Barbara Scott, Linda Dailing, and Gloria Jenkins, Bridges Across The Heartland, Kansas City, Missouri; Mellinda Owens, Kansas Health and Safety Extension Corps, Hutchinson; and volunteers from the respective teams.

The biggest surprises of the project turned out to be the difficulty and length of time it took to repair the sixty foot of flooring on the iron bridge, the heavy rocks for the path way in Sedan, and the hospitality of the citizens of Elk Falls and Sedan.

Members only had to take out and replace planks on the remaining unrepaired floor of the bridge. The task was filled with risk as there was no net to catch anyone who might fall from the bridge to the stream, approximately fifty feet. The members soon learned that the asphalt on the boards had to be removed with sledge hammers, picks and spades. As the temperatures rose the asphalt tended to become fluid and would not break easily.

Kerry Kitchener, Milford team, volunteered to lead the initial group of Mellinda Owens, Brock Rogers, Neil Bass, Tracy Beach, and Brian Johnston to fix the bridge. After a morning of sweat and hard labor they were joined by Judy Logback, Bree Enderle, and Jennifer Halstead. The group soon split into separate teams as the first group then concentrated on removing the old rotten boards and replacing them with semi deteriorated boards that had to be cut with a chain saw and pieced into the flooring.

Judy, Mellinda, Neil, Tracy, Jennifer, and Bree soon took charge of removing the remaining 30 foot of asphalt. What originally was considered a male task became a unisex exercise. Judy, Jennifer, Bree, and Mellinda took turns with Neil and Tracy in wielding the 12 pound sledge hammers. Brock Rogers said, "I have never worked so hard."

Food and entertainment were never a problem for the volunteers. On the first night, many of the town's citizens met the members at a pot luck dinner. The dinner included a pot of Neil Bass's homemade turtle soup which he enjoined any and all to partake of. Besides providing meals at Ed's Sunnyside Cafe, and the Cape Cod restaurant, the citizens of Elk Falls entertained the members by hauling them on a hayrack pulled by mules to local points of interest within the community. Jennifer and Bree followed on two saddled mules. Dale showed his prowess to model a Heisman trophy pose by flying off the end of the hayrack. Dale and Krista took an active role in Barry McQuire's magic show on May 21. The only problem the members had with the night of the 21st was their walk back to their living area in darkness as the mule drawn hayrack had left. Elk Falls does not have street lights. The mules had left a trail of odorous reminders that they too had provided service by pulling and hauling members around the town, the then pedestrian members had to be careful in the moonlight not to step in the odorous droppings.

The members, if they wanted to shower, had to go a mile down a dirt road to a rustic but unique bed and shower facility located within the fences of a petting zoo. A livestock gate had to be opened and closed when entering and leaving the facility in order to keep the animals from leaving. On one occasion an armadillo was seen parading behind the fence causing some anxious moments for some members.

Comments that summarize the feelings of most of the members about their stay in Elk Falls included: Aimee and Shana agreed, "everyone worked hard and the experience was better than we ever imagined it to be;" Larry Ballou told Katrina, "If I get fat because of the good food, it is your fault;" and Milton Nokes' remark of, **"going to Elk Falls was like going to friend house."**

Each person who participated in the Elk Falls project was given a document entitled, "Residentus Absentus, Certificate of Honorary Citizenship of Elk Falls, Kansas." Conditions of citizenship include: agreeing to never move to Elk Falls, and unlimited visiting privileges as long, "they don't stay too long."

The stay at Sedan was a gratifying and as memorable as that in Elk Falls. Members quickly recognized the contributions of the citizenry, especially Don Armstrong, to the development of The Hollow. The Hollow is a beautiful park created out of an old city dump by volunteers and contributors. AmeriCorps members helped in the project by weeding the flower beds and in the moving and laying of large rock for pathways. Mr. Armstrong said, "The citizens of Sedan are overwhelmed by the AmeriCorps members presence." In his gratitude for the members presence, he gave each member present on May 23 a t-shirt emblazoned with the logo of The Hollow.

Memorable moments at Sedan included: the fish fry and jazz concert put on by The Hollow's benefactors, the good food, the hospitable reception of the citizens, and the activities at the church camp where the members spent one night. Included in the night at the camp was a net-less volleyball game between several members.

All of the members will remember the beans served at every meal and their interaction with local citizens and members of different teams. Kurt Grimm, Kanopolis team leader said, **"Every AmeriCorps member should have an experience like this."** With the planning and organization of Katrina, and Tisha, coupled with the cooperation of local citizens and the spirit and enthusiasm of AmeriCorps members, the slogan of "Getting Things Done" was demonstrated.

Elk Falls Special Project

Painting The Green Monster (gym) White



Larry Ballou



Kurt Grimm



Gary Larson

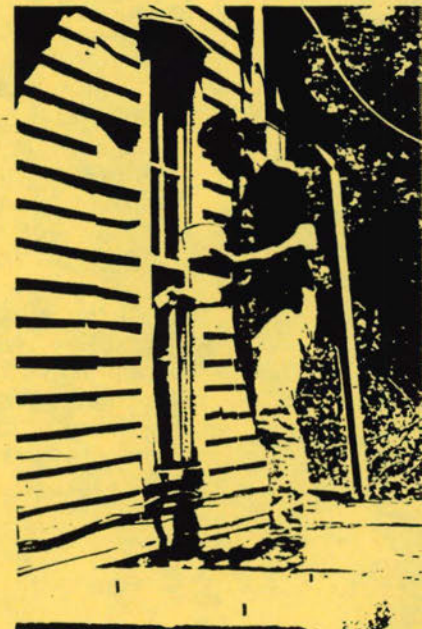
Painting The Elk Falls Visitor Center



Dale Sparks



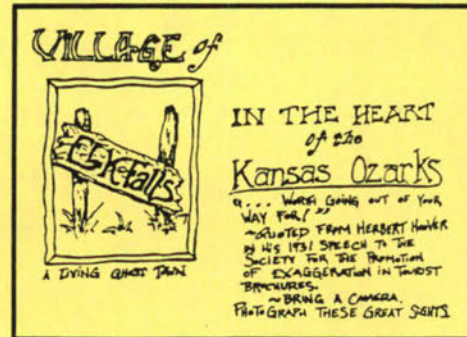
Paula Meek



Rick Henry

Images Of The Elk Falls/Sedan Special Project

A KANSAS ALTERNATIVE FOR FOOD STAMPS.



by Meilyn Kreusser's, Bridges Across the Heartland, Kansas City, Missouri

Official Photographer



Krista Dome

Members at The Hollow



Riding Mules



Barry McQuire's cat Groucho

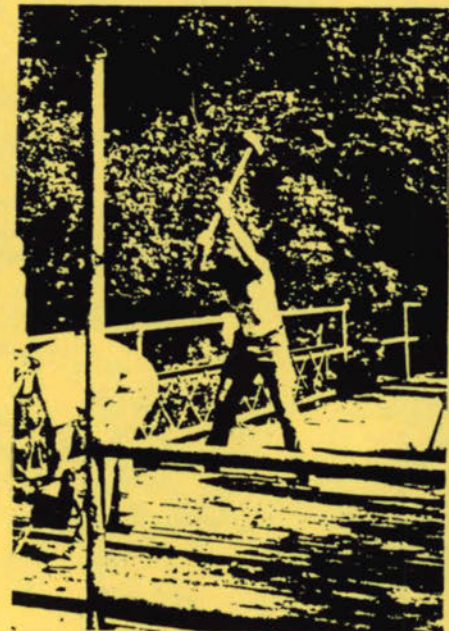
The Techniques Of Removing Asphalt On Bridge at Elk Falls



Judy Logback demonstrating use
of a sledge hammer



Brock Rogers showing Neil Bass and Judy Logback
how to fill a wheel borrow



Neil Bass



Scott VanGieson demonstrating fishing technique



Shana Martin helping bait a hook



Members thank you to sponsors



Shana Martin removing a hook

Look what I found Near Big Creek!



Andy Burr and a bull snake

Planting On Big Creek In Hays



Plantin' time

TRACY L. ALBANO / HAYS DAILY NEWS

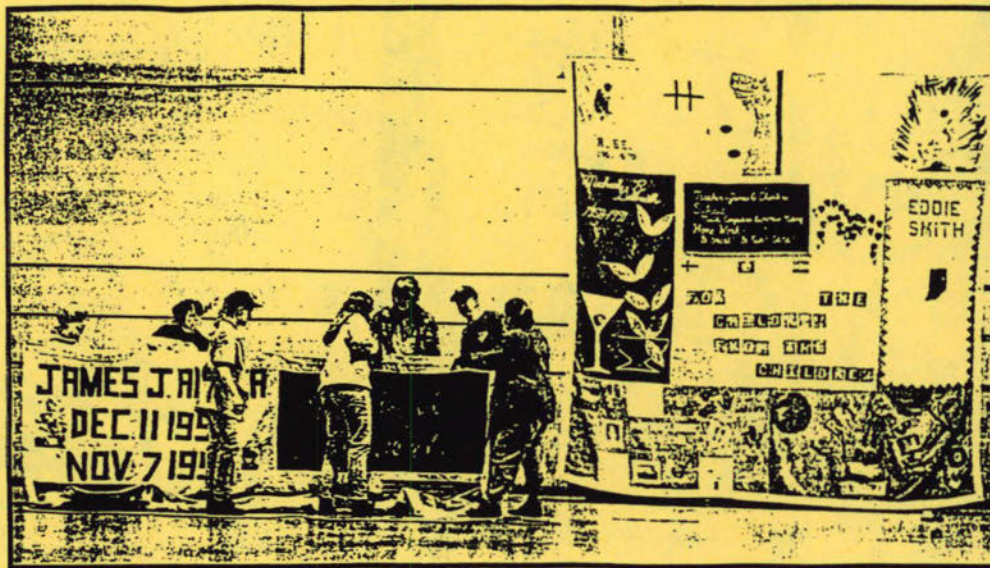
Lisa Mermis (in foreground) and Melody Meek (in background) planting

Aids Quilt Exhibit in Topeka

Pollution Control



Jennifer Halstead and Bree Enderle



Kimberly Rose and members of Bridges Across the Heartland



Oklahoma City memorial

Scott VanGieson securing a park bench



Judy Logback speaking for the corps

Perry Team Members Pouring Concrete



Betty Mills and T.J. Wahlmeier



T.J. Wahlmeier, Perry team

Service At Hadley Day Care Center, Hutchinson



Shana Martin



Bad River Water Quality Project Newsletter

Spring

1996

Phase II Concludes

Phase II of the Bad River Water Quality Project was completed in April of 1995. Major emphasis for erosion control was placed on the Plum Creek Watershed in Stanley County. Sources of funding allowed us to treat areas of the Bad River Watershed of Stanley County that were outside the Plum Creek Watershed.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) were applied to the land with cost-share and incentive payments to the cooperators funded by:

Environmental Protection Agency
Nat'l. Resc. Cons. Serv.
USDA - CFSA
WQSP-Water Quality Special Project
WQIP-Water Quality Incentive Project
ACP-Agriculture Conservation Prog.
SD Dept. of Env. & Nat'l. Resc.
SD Dept. of Ag., Div. of Resc. Cons. &
Forestry
SD Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks
SD Wheat Growers

A summary of the BMP's applied under Phase II in the Bad River Watershed of Stanley County are:

Practice	Amount
Planned Grazing Systems	5,511 Ac.
Proper Grazing Use	72,794 Ac.
Deferred Grazing	7,397 Ac.
Cross Fencing	48,787 Ft.
Wells	8 Ea.
Pipelines	218,480 Ft.
Tanks	64 Ea.
Livestock Ponds	7 Ea.
Livestock Windbreak St.	15 Ea.
Range Seedings	210 Ac.
Riparian Revegetation	2 Ea.
Water Spreaders	3 Ea.
Eros. Cont. Structures	16 Ea.
Farmstead & Feedlot W.B.	1,589 RR
Wildlife Habitat Development	10,191 Ac.
Stripcropping	4,113 Ac.
Grassed Waterways	3 Ac.
Cropland Windstrips	400 Ac.
Conservation Tillage	16,878 Ac.
CRP	22,169 Ac.
Conservation Compliance	76,641 Ac.

The efforts of you the Cooperators have resulted in a significant reduction in sediment delivered and measured at the mouth of Plum Creek.

Dam Repairs

The spring snows of 1995 damaged numerous dams in Stanley County. Upwards of 150 dams breached or were severely damaged by the storms. The Stanley County Conservation District initiated action to secure financial assistance for dam repair. They requested ECP funding through the CFSA program. CFSA funds have paid for 64% of the cost of approved repairs in the county. The Stanley County Conservation District is paying an additional 11% of the cost on those approved dams that are in the Bad River Water Quality Project area. This practice will continue until ECP funding is exhausted.

Riparian Demo Project

The Stanley County Conservation District has received an AGRO-FORESTRY Grant. It will be used to establish two riparian demonstration sites with commonly planted tree species, using different vegetation control methods.

The sites will be located on Willow Creek with one site along Bad River Road on the Shanard Husted Ranch and the other along Highway 14-34 on the Bunn Cattle Co. Ranch. The sites will be established this spring with signs erected to identify the sites

Conservation Tillage Demo

Many of you were aware of the Conservation Tillage Demonstration Project we completed in cooperation with Rex and Leon Haskins. It demonstrated maintaining a minimum of thirty percent old crop residue after planting a new crop. It also involved four different crop rotation scenarios. The crop rotations selected were the same as some that showed promise in SDSU Test Plot Trials. Unfortunately, we were not able to duplicate their economic success in our field trials which contained individual plots in excess of eight acres each. Canadian Thistle control became a concern as we were not able to control them to the extent we desired. The winter wheat / fallow rotation was the best rotation we had in the plots. The continuous cropping rotations did not fare well for us at all. The weather conditions of the past three years were not favorable to the milo we had in our rotation or for the safflower in another rotation. Hopefully SDSU can show you where we went wrong. As an operator you should carefully consider any new rotations. Increased residue in a winter wheat / fallow rotation can work if one is observant of potential weed and disease problems that can occur.



Pictured left to right: Joe Nichols - Pierre, John Neff - Claremont, Matt Blumer - Pierre, Paula Hoerner - Aberdeen, Pat Buscher - Pierre

(cont. from prev. col.)

Center, various projects in coordination with the SD Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks, and projects working with Pierre and Fort Pierre city governments along with their duties with the regional Natural Resources Conservation Service (SCS) office in Pierre.

The AmeriCorps Team will be in the Pierre / Ft. Pierre area until the fall of 1996. The Bad River Project may assign them to some activities on your property if we have a contract with you on that property.

AMERICORPS JOINS BAD RIVER PROJECT

This Spring and Summer the residents of Pierre/ Ft. Pierre area may see the AmeriCorps team providing assistance on the Bad River Water Quality Project. The Ft. Pierre AmeriCorps is a five-person team of college graduates providing their time and energy to community organizations. The teams office is at the Bad River Water Quality Project Office in Ft. Pierre (223-2253).

On the Bad River this coming Spring, the AmeriCorps members will devote their time and talents planting trees, constructing fence, conducting rangeland inventories, and helping in the construction of low-cost sediment retention structures. The establishment of new woody vegetation, sediment retaining structures and the development of deferred grazing riparian pastures will ultimately reduce the delivery of sediment to the mouth of the Bad River.

Currently the AmeriCorps are involved in many projects throughout the surrounding communities. Members are organizing an in-school stream table demonstration for area schools and teachers that will show the need for proper land management practices within the Bad River Watershed. Other projects include: assistance with the Oahe Wildlife

(cont. next column)



New Bad River Project

The Stanley County Conservation District submitted an application for a new 4 year EPA 319 grant that would allow for continuation of erosion control work on the Bad River Watershed in Stanley County. The District was notified in December of 1995 that the grant was approved.

The target area for Phase III is all of the lands draining into the Bad River from Ft. Pierre to Willow Creek along the North and from Antelope Creek to War Creek along the South.

The Phase III Project began implementation in May of 1995. All initial funding for the project has been obligated to date. Additional funding may become available as an appropriation from the state legislature. If this happens, ranchers and farmers in the target area who have not signed a contract and have expressed an interest in the project will be contacted by project personnel.

Practices applied to date are:

- 1 well
- 17434 ft. of pipeline
- 9 water tanks
- 3 new rangeland dams
- 22 rebuilt dams
- 71,065 ft. riparian fencing
- 9 stream crossings
- 5000 ac. riparian deferred grazing
- 8377 ac. planned grazing systems
- 14 livestock windbreak structures
- 2 farmstead & feedlot windbreaks

This makes for good start. Keep it up!



H₂O



Maine USDA AmeriCorps

January, 1995

Member Updates

Forestry / Water Quality Coordinator Jane Lamson has been working cooperatively with Michelle Grant, Washington County Watersheds Coordinator, on the Washington County High School Environmental Newsletter. The first newsletter was published in December and will affect 1500 students at nine area high schools. Jane has also compiled an Environmental Education Resource Directory in cooperation with Diane Collar

at the Hancock County Soil and Water District. This directory will be published bi-monthly and will reach 71 schools.

Cranberry Water Quality

Coordinator Charlie Armstrong has started gathering the materials (and insects!) for a cranberry-specific weed and insect collection. Charlie is also in the process of building a library of resources for cranberry growers including a listing of cranberry diseases and descriptions of cranberry specific weeds. These resources will aid the 26 area cranberry farmers in using BMP's including Integrated Pest Management.

Camp Road Water Quality Coordinator Andy Reid has already performed a full evaluation on one camp road surrounding Sand Pond in Litchfield, ME and devised a plan to deal with erosion. Andy has also edited the "Camp Road Manual" and added two additional sections.

China Lakes Water Quality Coordinator Joel Stetson is preparing a database for all of the volunteer watershed surveys done in the past on China Lake, Webber Pond,



Charlie Armstrong

and Three Mile Pond. He is also preparing educational materials for the community and school groups. Elizabeth Frederic has returned as the **MACD Conservation Education Coordinator** and has taught 100 fifth graders at the University of Maine at Orono Water Festival, 80 fourth graders at Bates College, and 15 sixth graders at Sebago Elementary School. Liz also helped to plan an Interactive television broadcast from University of Maine at Augusta that addressed the MACD Poster Contest theme 'How People Live in Harmony with the Land'.

The newly titled **Washington County Watersheds Coordinator** Michelle Grant has begun compiling a library of resources for Washington County dealing with economic development through agriculture. Michelle has also been working on the Downeast Regional ENVIROTHON and currently setting up a pre-event workshop for the ENVIROTHON.

In Houlton, the **Water Quality / Rural Development Coordinator** Heidi Nelson has completed an evaluation of water quality, crop, and soil benefits from farm based demonstration soil samples. Heidi has also organized four workshops for science teachers that will take place in January and affect 170-200 teachers



Jane Lamson at the Downeast RC&D



Holly Sheehan

and 3200 students indirectly. Heidi has compiled two directories; a district code enforcement officer and plumbing inspector directory and a district science teacher directory. **Damariscotta River Watershed Coordinator** Alecia Damon has designed a display board which will be built and placed in seven town offices in the watershed. General summaries and inspection reports have been carried out for two conservation easements in conjunction with the Damariscotta River Association. Alecia has also given a presentation about AmeriCorps and Water Quality to 22 students and their teacher.

The **Environmental Education Circuit Rider** position has been filled by returning member Holly Sheehan, and WOW has she been busy! Holly has educated 1218 students, 78 teachers, and 30 volunteers about

various environmental topics including Adopt-A-Stream, the food chain, Project Wild! lessons, forestry and, of course, water quality.

Holly has also been actively pursuing schools who have not participated in ENVIROTHON and trying to get them to participate this year. She thinks she has had success with two already!

Casco Bay Watershed Coordinator I alias Wayne Davis has been networking all over Casco Bay! Wayne, with Martin Kraemer - AmeriCorps, has organized a facilitated meeting between the 36 water quality organizations in the Casco Bay Watershed to discuss the feasibility of a central lab. Wayne has also helped 10 miles of stream improve one class in the "State Water Quality Classification Standard".

The Sebago Lake Water Quality Coordinator a.k.a. **Casco Bay**

Watershed Coordinator II a.k.a. Martin Kraemer is working with two elementary schools and one high school to create outdoor classrooms. This project directly involves 110 students and 9 teachers but will affect 600 students once completed. Martin has also organized a Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop for 25 teachers.

Kate Sullivan and Desiree Bethune are both **Mid-Coast Fisheries Coordinators**, although neither is located on the mid-coast. Desiree has been providing technical assistance to twelve groups in Southern and mid-coast Maine. She and Kate, along with Sherman Hoyt - AmeriCorps, helped organize a Clam Management conference that affected approximately 170 harvesters, water quality monitoring volunteers, fisheries managers, and others. Kate and Desiree also presented water quality curriculum at the Maine Children's Water Festival in Orono to 116 students and 19 adults.

Penobscot Bay / St. George Estuary Coordinator Sherman Hoyt helped organize the statewide Clam Management Conference and helped coordinate 8 working groups, comprised of 75 people, that were formed at this conference. Sherman has also been facilitating weekly meetings with the 5 towns, represented by approximately 75 people, sharing the Georges River and helped launch the Georges River Clammers Association on 1/16/96. In addition to all this, Sherman initiated LD 1717, an act that allows towns to form regional shellfish committees.

In Northern Aroostook county, Amanda Smith-Hatch, the **Fish River Lakes Water Quality Coordinator** has been busy! Amanda has developed 10 environmental classroom programs and has already educated 65 students. Amanda has also organized one workshop and scheduled four schools for her programs. Even further north, Gary Marquis, **Caribou Trails Coordinator**, has rip rapped 105 culverts, redecked 7 unsafe timber bridges, put up 35 gates to keep vehicular traffic off the trails. Gary has also recruited 40 volunteers who have built 3 timber bridges, made and placed countless signs, and donated a total of 180 hours to Gary's project.

The four **Marine / Shellfish Education Coordinators**, Mark Chellis, Rob Klimas, Denise Michaud, and Teresa Simeone, have given presentations to 50 students, job-shadowing tours to these same 50 students and 6 others, and involved 22 additional students in hatchery operations.



Martin Kraemer

The Beals crew continues to help the Jonesport-Beals High students with their water quality testing efforts as well as carrying out everyday hatchery functions.

Robin Brown, **Water Quality Management Coordinator** for Somerset County, has interested 4 farmers in Integrated Crop Management and two families in the Farm*A*Syst farm water quality assessment program. She has also given a presentation to 30 students and is planning to do many more!

Rob Campbell, the **Water Quality Management Coordinator** in Androscoggin County, has helped 7 farmers with issues such as soil analysis, waste storage, and dairy cattle nutrition. He has conducted the Safe H2Home program with four individuals and the Farm*A*Syst program with one. In addition, Rob has given a presentation about Farm*A*Syst to 60 individuals and sent out newsletters to 560!

Michael Johnston, Hancock county's hard working **Water Quality Management Coordinator**, has been working with 11 farmers and has convinced them all to sign up for Integrated Crop Management. This is a total of 402.3 acres in the Bagaduce Narrows and Orland River watersheds that will be managed in a more environmentally and economically sound manner!

The **Water Quality Management Coordinator** in Aroostook County, Denise Perry, has recruited 20 farmers to participate in the ICM program. Nine of these farmers are already collecting ICM data and have also participated in the Farm*A*Syst program. Denise has also identified other needs in the farming community and is responding to them. She has provided information on silage, nutrition requirements, licensing for pesticide application, and livestock ration balancing.

Oxford County has its own **Water Quality Management Coordinator**, Anne Wilson.

Anne has visited 13 farms, taken 10 soil samples, and completed one forage test. Anne has also made plans with a local school to teach on a weekly basis in a community garden.

In addition, 494 volunteers donated their time to Maine USDA AmeriCorps projects during the first quarter.



The Hatchery Crew



Water Quality Managers Anne Wilson and Rob Campbell at the Ag Trade Show in Augusta

MAINE AMERICORPS TEAM USDA



Dinner is Served!! Charlie Armstrong and Wayne Davis



Karen
Malley
learning
to spin wool
at the Ag Trade Show



Southern Cluster L to R Front: Desiree Bethune, Alecia Damon, Liz Frederic, Holly Sheehan, Robin Brown, Anne Wilson. Back: Andy Reid, Sherman Hoyt, Joel Stetson, Martin Kraemer, Forrest Bell, Wayne Davis, Wayne Munroe (cluster coordinator) and Rob Campbell.



Martin Kraemer, Elvis, Karen Malley, and Desiree Bethune

L to R: Andy Reid, Sherman Hoyt, and Desiree Bethune listen avidly to Joel Berg during the conference call on January 11.



Aroostook Cluster L to R: Heidi Nelson, Denise Perry, Gary Marquis, Amanda Smith-Hatch, and Dana Wright, cluster coordinator.

TRAINING UPDATE

THE FEBRUARY TRAINING SESSION HAS **NOT BEEN CANCELLED!!!**

Some of you may have heard that this training was cancelled, and for a while, it was. Here is the story: Every year, the State Commission for Community Service staff (Maryalice Croften and Anne Schink) have to apply for training money from the Corporation for National Service. This money is referred to as P-DAT money and a portion is specifically set aside for AmeriCorps training. This year, because of the government shutdown, the Corporation was behind in approving the P-DAT applications and the commission staff did not think we would be able to have the training. However, the Corporation employees have been working hard to get the applications approved and they have succeeded! Hence, the money for the training is available and the training will go on as originally planned!

For USDA members, the training will start at 1:00 on the afternoon of Monday, February 26. Each member should prepare a five minute speech on what they have been up to since they started. These speeches will be given to the rest of the USDA group on Monday afternoon starting at 1:00 and ending at about 5:00 P.M.. Monday evening is free, but we will put everyone up at the Black Bear Inn so that they can attend a breakfast with Mike Tardy and Richard Baird at 8:00 am on the morning of Tuesday the 27. This breakfast will be an opportunity for members to voice any concerns they have to the two program directors.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!

It is very important that each AmeriCorps member keep track of the number of Volunteers from the community who donate time to AmeriCorps projects and the

amount of time that they donate! One of the main arguments against AmeriCorps is that it discourages volunteerism. We find that having an AmeriCorps member in a Community to coordinate volunteer efforts actually increases the number of volunteers! However, we need numbers to document this! Included in the pages of this newsletter is a volunteer log to help you keep track of volunteers and their time (you should already have these, but I included it just in case). **Also, you should submit these figures quarterly so we can calculate a grand total of volunteers and hours for each quarter!** If you did not do this in your first quarterly report, don't worry! Just remember to include the numbers in your second quarterly report. Please also record the figures per quarter.

Maine USDA AmeriCorps Exemplifies Community based service!

By Richard Baird

After participating in the multi-state conference call, I was reminded of the uniqueness and diversity of Maine's USDA AmeriCorps program. Maine is one of the only states to have members spread all across the state often as the only AmeriCorps

Maine USDA AmeriCorps Participates in Conference Call with Joel Berg

On January 11, the members of Maine USDA AmeriCorps participated in a teleconference with Joel Berg, Director of USDA AmeriCorps. The states of Michigan, Florida, Texas, and Virginia also joined Joel. Joel gave an inspiring pep talk then each state described their program briefly. Joel also gave some good advice to the members, telling them that they should prepare a one sentence explanation of their project to make things easier for themselves when they are called upon to explain their service work.

Richard Baird and Mike Tardy, Program Directors for Maine, urged the members to write one sentence describing their individual project and one sentence describing the effects that their project will have on the community. In addition, the two directors would like the members to have these ready for the February training where they will, no doubt, use them.

member at a site! Members are backed by a support staff from the community they are placed in and are able to address specific community needs as identified by members of that community! Members also receive the AmeriCorps link by participating in regional clusters made up of a cluster coordinator and AmeriCorps members in the region.

Maine USDA

AmeriCorps is also unique because of the number of community partnerships and the amount of community support it receives. Listed on the next page are only some of the community partners involved with Maine USDA AmeriCorps.

Maine USDA AmeriCorps Community Partners:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery, Beals.
- Blueberry Committee
- Caribou Recreation Department
- Casco Bay Estuary Project
- China Lakes Alliance
- City of Caribou
- Cranberry Growers Association
- Damariscotta River Association
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Marine Resources
- Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association, Presque Isle
- Inland Fish and Wildlife Service
- Maine Forest Service
- Planning Alliance of the Damariscotta River Estuary
- Pleasant River Salmon Hatchery, Columbia Falls.
- Pleasant River Fish and Game Club, Columbia Falls.
- Portland Water District
- RC&D Cranberry Committee, Cherryfield.
- RC&D Forestry Committee, Cherryfield.

"Ironically, the same people in Congress who talk of empowering Americans at the local and state level are willing to end AmeriCorps - which is all about hands-on community empowerment"

-Lansing State Journal, Michigan

- RC&D Tourism committee, Cherryfield.
- Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement
- St. Georges River Association
- Town of China
- University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- University of Maine-Entomology Department, Orono.
- University of Maine at Machias
- The 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- and hundreds of schools, snowmobile and ATV clubs, volunteer Water Quality Monitoring associations, and private citizens.

Although I am sure that all of the members realize what an extraordinary program we have here in Maine, I wanted to refresh everyone's memories as the conference call refreshed mine.



Quarterly Reports

Yes, more information about Quarterly reports! Some of you may have received a fax from Joel Berg stating that the format for quarterly reports has now changed. Well, it has. However, Joel states in his fax that quarterly reports for the first quarter have to be redone--DO NOT DO THIS! I will re-format the quarterly reports that everyone has already sent to me and forward them to Joel to save everyone time and hassle! We have not received word on what the new format will be like, but I will pass it along as soon as I hear because the new format will be the format you will use for the rest of your quarterly reports! Please remember that no matter what format your quarterly report takes, you must include your numbers for volunteers! **The due dates for all quarterly reports will be the same and are as follows:**

Second: April 2, 1996

Third: July 2, 1996

Final: September 30, 1996

"AmeriCorps' budget amounts to about one-thirtieth of 1% of the nation's & 1.6 trillion budget. For those who question the value of the national service program, let them come to Portland."

-The Portland Press Herald regarding 'AmeriCorps works for ME'

Announcing The Maine Event
AmeriCorps MidWinter Training

brought to you by

The AmeriCorps Training Planners



&



The Maine Commission for Community Service

February 27 - 29, 1996
Black Bear Inn & Conference Center
Orono, Maine

Calling all AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps crew
Members, Supervisors, and Program Directors!

Register by February 19

- Workshop capacities are limited so be sure to indicate your preferences clearly.
- All rooms are double occupancy.
- Anyone with special dietary or accomodation needs, please let us know so we can make your participation enjoyable.

Conference registration fee: Waived.

Underwritten by the Maine Commission for Community Service with a grant from the Corporation for National Service.

To register: Complete the attached form and return to your coordinator

(Steve Niles, CCC* AmeriCorps; Josh Bissett, VISTA; Maureen Hanley, Downeast HealthCorps; Suwan Blaisdell, AmeriCorps Works for ME; Karen Malley, USDA* AmeriCorps; Anne Schink @ MCCS for Youthbuild* AmeriCorps)

Daily Schedule

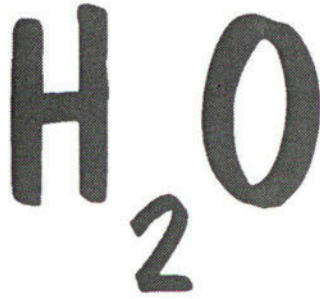
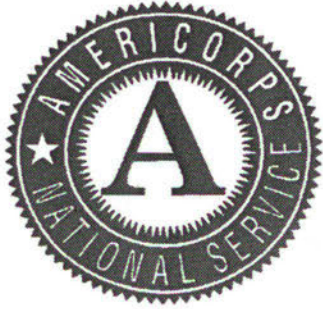
Tues., Feb. 27	General Activities	Option A (Title and Location)	Option B (Title and Location)	Option C (Title and Location)
9-10 am	Registration Lobby, Black Bear			
10-10:30 am	Welcome, Orientation Blue Rm, Black Bear			
10:30-12	Workshop Session 1	Presenting to Children Blue Rm, Black Bear	Navigation in USDA Conference Rm 'til 5:30	
Noon	Lunch Blue Rm, Black Bear		☞	
1-3 pm	Workshop Session 2	Public Speaking Blue Rm, Black Bear	☞	AIDS Awareness Fam. Rm.
3-3:30	Break and Munch		☞	
3:30-5:30	Workshop Session 3	Mediation/Conflict Resolution, Blue Rm	☞	Proposal Writing Fam. Rm.
6:00	Dinner, Black Bear			
Evening	Free Time to Network			
Wed., Feb. 28	General Activities	Option A (Title and Location)	Option B (Title and Location)	Option C (Title and Location)
7 am	Breakfast Blue Rm, Black Bear			
8:30 - 10 am	Workshop Session 4	Facilitation - 'til 3pm Pink Rm A	Planning Events Pink Rm B	Job Seeking Post-AmeriCorps Blue Rm B
10-10:30	Morning Break	☞ 40 people		
10:30 - 12	Workshop Session 5	☞	Grassroots Fundraising, Pink B	Internet UMO Campus
Noon	Lunch Black Bear, Blue Rm	☞		
1 - 3 pm	Workshop Session 6	☞	Media Interaction Pink Rm B	Internet UMO Campus
3-3:30	Break and Munch			
3:30-5:30	Workshop Session 7	Round Table Corps Networking		
6 pm	Dinner, Blue Rm A			
Evening	Free Time			
Thurs. Feb. 29 Leap Day!!	General Activities	Option A (Time and Location)	Option B (Time and Location)	Option C (Time and Location)
7 am	Breakfast			
8:30 - 11:30	Workshop Session 7	Community Building Pink Rm A	Natural Science Wrkshp Pink Rm B	Working with At-risk Youth, Blue Rm B
11:30 - 12	Wrap Up & Eval.			
Noon - 1	Lunch!			

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.



Twenty-one groups collaborating to form central water quality lab

Maine USDA AmeriCorps members Wayne Davis and Martin Kraemer have been spearheading a community effort to form a central lab for water quality analysis and data storage in the Casco Bay watershed. On January 26, 1996, thirty people representing twenty-one groups met in Gorham to discuss the viability of a central laboratory. Mark Hews, Coordinator of the Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Office facilitated the meeting. Martin and Wayne opened the meeting by explaining the results of their survey inquiring about the need

for a central lab. Both did great jobs speaking -- what naturals! Next, the group compiled a list of community needs that the presence of a central lab would fulfill. They also compiled lists of helping and hindering factors to the establishment of a lab. Yet another list was made of what resources the separate groups could offer to the central lab. The list was quite impressive and included money, volunteers, space, boats, in kind support, equipment, and technical support. All the

Continued on Page 3



Community needs fulfilled by a central lab

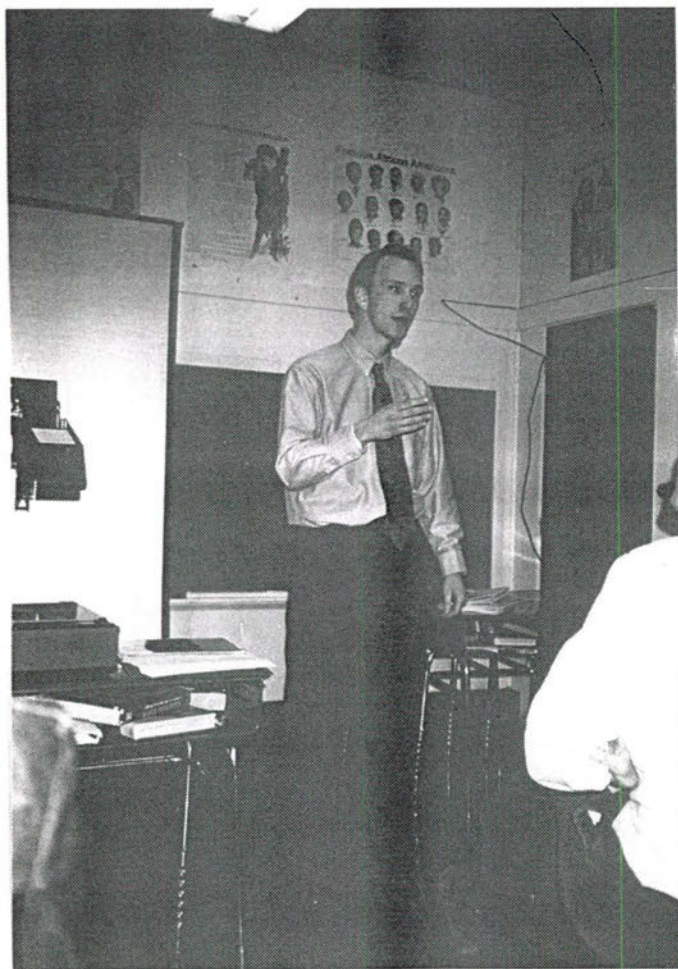
- ★Reliable, well-organized data
- ★Watershed-wide coalition
- ★Public Access
- ★Meets Quality Control / Quality Assurance objectives
- ★Training resource
- ★Pooled equipment and staff
- ★Public awareness and education
- ★Data interpretation
- ★Documentation that supports protection efforts (BMP's)
- ★Coordination
- ★Mentoring of students, scientists, and adult volunteers



Wayne Davis and Martin Kraemer speak to the Casco Bay Community Lab Coalition. Background: Mark Hews.



H₂O



Andrew Reid identifies common camp road erosion problems.

Year of the Camp Road??

You may have heard of the year of the dog, rabbit, or pig, but the year of the Camp Road? Yes, the China Lakes Association has declared 1996

the year of the Camp Road. For those of you from away, a camp road is a road that is owned and maintained by the landowners whose houses it leads to.

The China Lakes Association began in response to the massive algae blooms that occurred in China Lake in the 1980's. Algae needs both nitrogen and phosphorus to grow and reproduce. In a pure ecosystem, phosphorus is in limited supply and thus regulates the algal growth. The massive blooms in China Lake were caused by an overload of phosphorus that had been building

up for many years. Since the start of the Association, 80% of the pollution sources that contributed to the blooms have been remediated. The one major source

Continued on page 2

AmeriCorps expands horizons

AmeriCorps members Desiree Bethune and Kate Sullivan had the pleasure of presenting at "Expanding Your Horizons", a one-day conference that focuses on acquainting young women with opportunities in math and science. The two members spoke about career opportunities

Continued on page 7



Desiree Bethune

Inside

Mid Winter Training, a pictorial essay...3
Casco Bay Coalition.....2

Camp Road Con't

that has not been addressed is the camp road.

In order to kick off the year of the camp road, the Association invited Andrew Reid, AmeriCorps Camp Road Coordinator who is sponsored by the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District, to speak. Andy spoke about camp road maintenance that reduces erosion and thus reduces phosphorus loading into the lakes. He also impressed upon the camp owners that algal blooms in their lakes reduce their property value, whereas good water quality increases property value (see chart). Andy explained and showed slides of good and bad practices and offered remedies to common erosion problems. He also offered to work with any of the road owners who needed help.

Joel Stetson, AmeriCorps member sponsored by the China Region Lakes Alliance, also attended the presentation and offered to help the landowners.

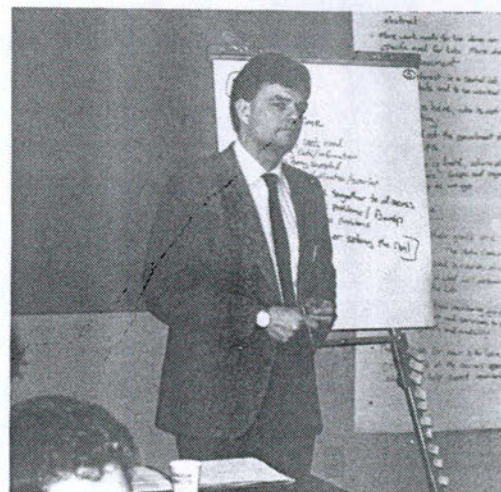
Changes in China Lake property prices for 1 meter change in water clarity

Average minimum clarity	1.9m
Improving price for 1m	\$81/ft
Degrading price for 1m	\$141/ft
Mean foot frontage/lot	129 ft.

Total change in property prices	
Improving	gain \$10,449
Degrading	loss \$18,189

Source: Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, miscellaneous report 398, Feb. 1996

The China Region Lakes Alliance has played an integral part in the remediation of pollution sources in the China Lakes region and may be the most exhaustive lake clean up project in the country, according to George Lord, Project Director. The Alliance was first started by the town of China in response to the algal bloom. Later, the towns of Three Mile and Webber joined the already successful Alliance and the Alliance became a non-profit organization. Good luck to them in their Year of the Camp Road!



Mark Hews of the Threshold to Maine RC & D facilitates the group discussion.

Casco Bay Coalition Meets Again

The Casco Bay Coalition met for the second time March 1, 1996. The group came to the conclusion that a central lab, although it is a possible benefit to their programs, may not be the solution with the greatest benefit for everyone involved. Hence, as the reader may have noticed, the Coalition is now called the Casco Bay Coalition as opposed to the Casco Bay Central Lab Coalition. The group also decided that they needed more input from other volunteer water quality monitoring groups before they could come to any conclusion on what would even be a benefit! Thus, a task force was appointed to visit with volunteer groups in the watershed and identify their needs and limiting factors. The five members of the task force agreed to meet with the groups and have results in two months time. A list of monitoring groups and resources will also be made to facilitate data exchange.



AmeriCorps member Joel Stetson speaks with a camp road owner.

MAINE AMERICORPS TEAM USDA

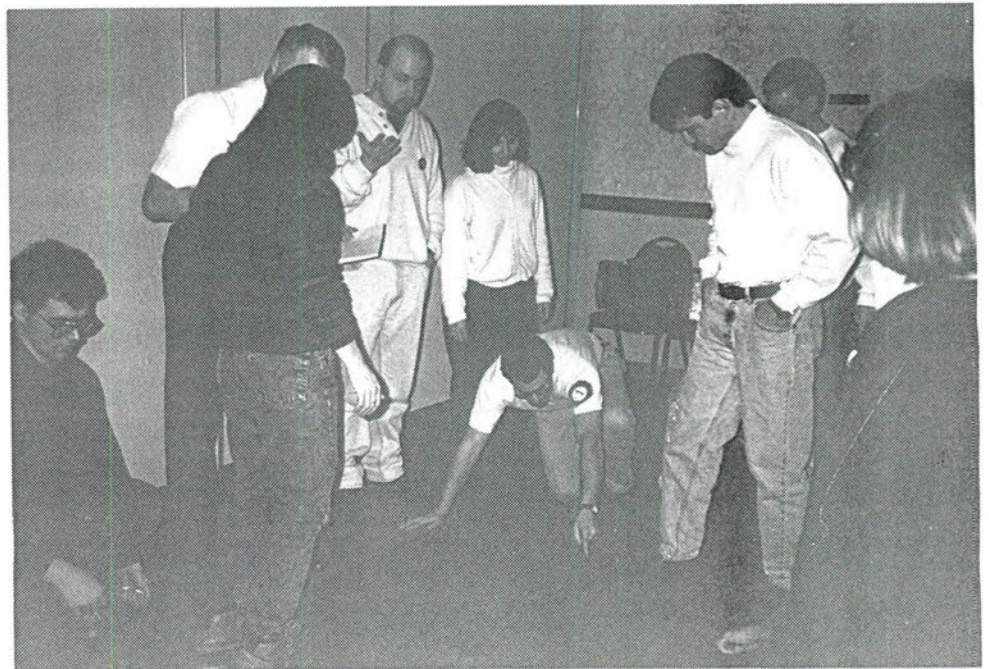


Andy Reid and Joel Stetson



Maine USDA
AmeriCorps
Pre-MidWinter
Training
February 26 -27
Black Bear Inn
Orono, Maine

☞ Maine USDA AmeriCorps
members navigate "The Electric
Maze". ☞



AmeriCorps MidWinter Training

February 27 - 29, 1996

Black Bear Inn & Conference Center

Orono, Maine



Sergeant Jared Smith conducts a workshop on navigating by compass. Participants commented that "it was the best workshop I have ever been to", and "Sgt. Smith was a great speaker!".



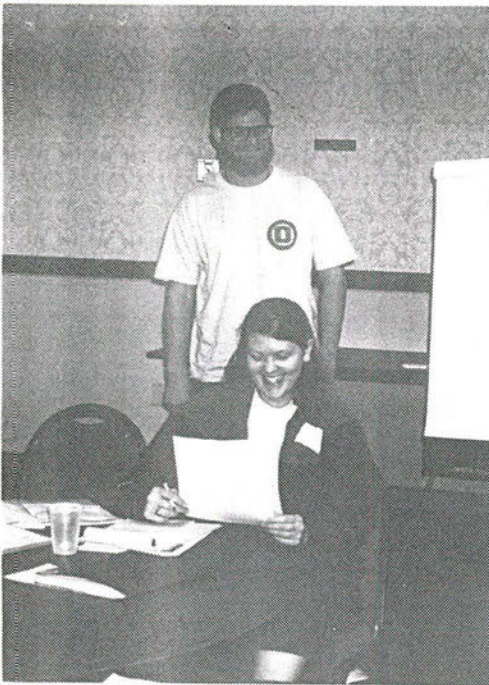
Charlie Armstrong, Maine USDA AmeriCorps member relaxes in between workshops in the lobby of the Black Bear Inn.



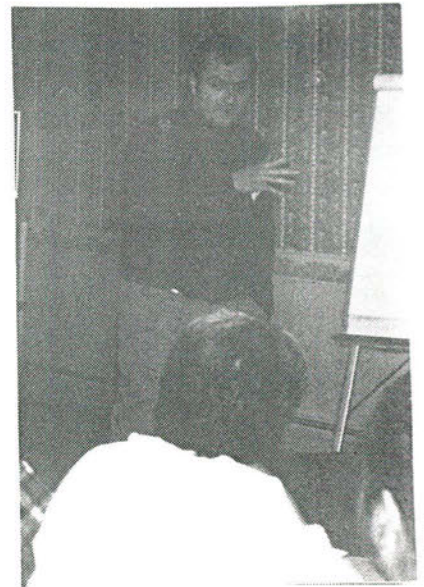
Maryalice Crofton, Acting Director of the Maine Commission for Community Service and MidWinter training planner.



Chris Olson, presenter, interviews members of the College Conservation Corps of Maine in the media interaction workshop. Participants were given tips on dealing with the media and how to attract the media, in addition to the practice sessions.

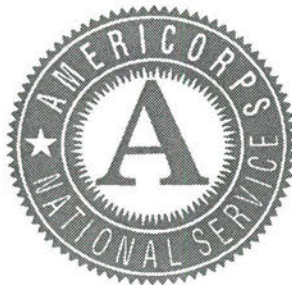


☞ Martin Kraemer uses humor while practicing facilitation in the facilitation workshop. Members learned how to effectively facilitate a group discussion and then each member had the chance to practice their skills. Foreground: Desiree Bethune.



Ed Needham, AmeriCorps ☞ member at AmeriCorps Works for ME, leads the session on public speaking.

Holly Sheehan and Elizabeth Frederic, ☞ Maine USDA AmeriCorps members, give a workshop on how to present to children. **Great Job Holly and Liz!**



☞ Members brainstorm about community fund-raising during the fund-raising session. Members were given ideas and suggestions regarding fund-raising and then asked to fund-raise for an event, real or imagined.



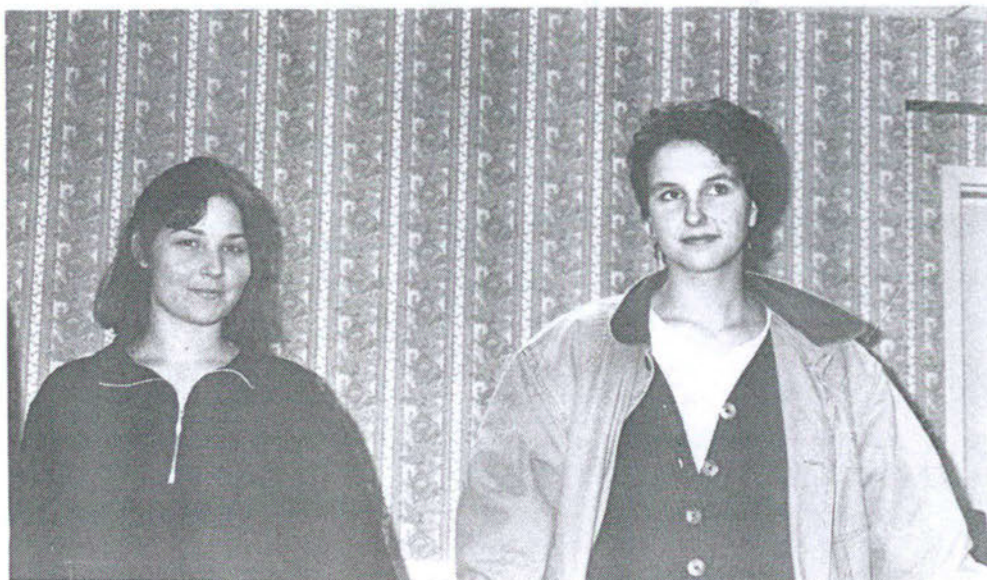
☞ Andrea Walker (L), AIDS Awareness presenter and member of Lubec Community Health Corps, reflects on the training at the closing session. Her husband, Christopher Walker also an AmeriCorps member, their daughter, and fellow Corps member Debora Lavalley stand to the right of her.

Gary Marquis and Alecia Damon, Maine USDA AmeriCorps members, display AmeriCorps camaraderie in between sessions ☞



☞ Training planners Josh Bisset, VISTA, and Maureen Hanley, Lubec Community Health Corps on the last day of training . Tired, guys??

Robin Brown and Anne Wilson, Maine USDA AmeriCorps members reflect on the training session at the closing. ☞



in marine science, as well as sharing their personal stories of how they became interested in science, to 25 seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. Both Desiree and Kate are AmeriCorps members sponsored by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Their objective is to give technical training to, and coordinate the efforts of, volunteer water quality monitoring groups from Kittery to Calais. In addition to this, both members are involved in other community efforts to improve water quality, such as the Casco Bay Coalition, and the Clam Conference. Kate and Desiree also teach students and adults

about water quality. They reached 134 students and 228 adults in the first quarter alone! After explaining their positions and history, they performed a dissolved oxygen test, which is one of the parameters that is measured by volunteer water monitoring groups. A few of the girls were recruited to help with the test to demonstrate that everyone has the skills necessary to do science. The girls received a wonderful presentation that will no doubt spark their interest in Marine science, thanks to Kate and Desiree! Great job you two!



Student volunteers help with a dissolved oxygen test

Site Visits

It is already time to make second quarter site visits! If you have anything interesting planned during March or early April, please let me know so that I can visit on that day!

Cluster Meetings

Everyone should already know that you will be meeting in your clusters during the month of March. The southern cluster is having their meeting at the Water Festival on March 26. Wayne Munroe, cluster coordinator, will be sending you all sheets so that you can sign up for an activity that day. The Down East cluster has already met (March 7). The Aroostook cluster will be meeting on March 29 and will be going to tour Shakaree Red Deer Farm outside of Houlton.

Soil Samples

Anne Wilson, Water Quality Management Coordinator in South Paris needs your help! Apparently, Anne will be helping every farmer in western Maine and their brothers take their soil samples this spring! This will total somewhere around 1,238,748,482,970,492 soil samples that all have to be taken in three hours! OK., you caught me, I am exaggerating slightly, but Anne does need your help! I would like to coordinate our efforts so that we are all there on the same day to help (great picture and media opportunity!). Please call Anne and arrange a time with her if you want to help!

Get Well, Rob!



AmeriCorps member hospitalized!

Rob Campbell, Water Quality Management Coordinator in Lewiston has had his appendix removed! Rob had severe pains the night he returned from the training and found out it was his appendix. Rob is at home now and should be feeling better every day. If anyone wants to send Rob a get well card, here is his work address:

Rob Campbell
Farm Services Agency
27 Westminster Street
Lewiston, Maine 04240

-8-



Maine USDA AmeriCorps
5 Godfrey Drive
Orono, Maine 04473

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Welcome to ... The Maine Event
AmeriCorps MidWinter Training

brought to you by
The AmeriCorps Training Planners



&



The Maine Commission for Community Service

February 27 - 29, 1996
Black Bear Inn & Conference Center
Orono, Maine

Calling all AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps crew
Members, Supervisors, and Program Directors!

Navigating through the conference. This flyer has the schedule of workshops and presenters. Please note, the USDA conference room is across the street in another building. To determine which workshops you are registered to attend, consult the list of names in this packet. A "master copy" of the registration will be posted at the conference check-in table.

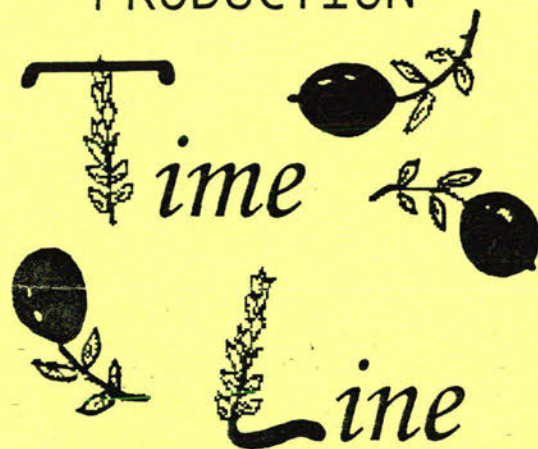
Please honor the fact some presenters have placed limits on how many people attend!

Messages. Any calls or messages or changes in schedule will be posted at the conference check-in table. Please be sure to stop by and scan the center for items left for you.

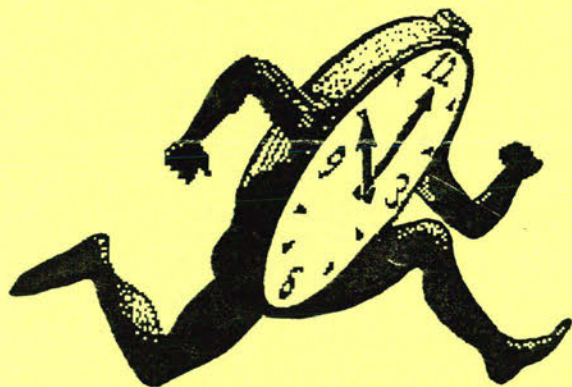
Have Fun! Info. on events and happenings in the Bangor/Orono area will be at the check-in center.

Cranberry

PRODUCTION



A general, month by month,
guide for establishing a
cranberry bed in the
State of Maine



Produced by:
Down East Resource
Conservation & Development (RC&D)
in cooperation with the Maine
Department of Agriculture and
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Preparation Phase

Gather Cranberry Information:

- Visit the major cranberry production areas
- Visit current cranberry growers in Maine
- Locate sources of funding for which you may be eligible
- Talk to cranberry handlers and processors
- Obtain cranberry manuals (such as the Cranberry Grower's Guide from the Maine Dept. of Agriculture)
- Consider joining the Maine Cranberry Growers Association
- Check out and borrow VCR tapes of past cranberry workshops and pest management trainings (see back)
- Attend Cranberry meetings and on-site workshops
- Start a business plan, including such things as: cost of bed establishment, where to market your berries, who to be in production with you, condition of equipment, etc.

Site Assessment:

Try to organize a team from the following organizations to simultaneously visit your site:

- (NRCS) Contact your District Conservationist for a preliminary site investigation. Site review will include information on factors such as water availability, soils, slope and land cover considerations. Note: If interested in receiving or being eligible for USDA benefits, a certified wetlands determination *must* be requested.
- (DEP) to determine if application for permits will be required. Bangor office: (207) 942-4570
- (Corps of Engineers) to determine if you will need Federal permits. Manchester office: (207) 623-8367
- (Local) Call code enforcement officer to determine if local town ordinances will apply. And know your neighbors and what their concerns might be.

Permit Applications:

- Based on the outcome of your site assessment, obtain the appropriate permit application form(s).
- Ask someone from DEP about available pre-application forms.

1st Year: Construction

Jan.

Planning & Design of beds:

A consultant or contractor can assist you in these areas:

- Engineering drawings, surveying and designing
- Development of a more thorough time schedule for the various phases of construction
- Planning the layout of your beds, including size and orientation for best management
- Sediment and erosion control plan
- Help with completing any unfinished permit applications
- Number of acres you have for potentially growing cranberries (often limited by water supply)
- Where and how to develop water sources

Feb.

Mar.

April

Solidly built, erosion-resistant dikes that supply and maintain water levels are *very* important. During and shortly after bog and dike construction is when the cranberry operation is most susceptible to the ravages of erosion.

May

Bog and Dike Construction:

Consider hiring a contractor to aid in the following:

- Removal of surface vegetation
- Creation of erosion and sediment control structures, such as:
 - Siltation fencing
 - Culverts
 - Rocked waterways
 - Staking haybales
 - Drop structure
 - Sediment catch basins
 - Permanent and temporary mulches
- Leveling of soil surface and bed area
- Compacting subsoil
- Formation of ditches and recovery pond

June

July

Permanent & Temporary Seedings:

- Start in July (no later than August 1st)
- Plant seedlings on all bare ground, using the recommended amounts of seed, fertilizer and lime

Aug.

Sept.

Note: From experience, experts agree that it is best to clear and level the land and excavate the drainage ditches the year before the vines are planted.

Oct.

* Maintaining water quality is important.

Nov.

Dec.

- Continue Attending Cranberry Committee meetings and any scheduled workshops
- Order your cranberry vines, which are available from Massachusetts.

2nd Year: Vine Establishment



Jan.
Feb.
Mar.
April
May
June
July
Aug.
Sept.
Oct.
Nov.
Dec.

- More workshops, grower meetings, Ag Trade Show, etc.
- Re-examine your financial situation and predict and prepare for upcoming expenses

Final Site Preparations:

- Watch for uneven settling of cut and fill areas that may have occurred within beds
- Make any necessary repairs or improvements in your planting equipment
- Identify low spots and regrade bed elevations as needed
- Establish irrigation system
- Test pH (Ideal range: 4.2 - 5.5); lower with sulfur
- Apply and incorporate phosphate into the soil
- Install sand growing medium

Plant Vines (May 1st - June 6th)

You must plant *no later than* June 6th.

Ground Cover Maintenance:

- Apply proper rate of Nitrogen fertilizers every 2 weeks
 - Enroll in an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program; contact Down East RC&D office for details: (207) 546-2368
 - Conduct soil and leaf tissue samples in subsequent years
 - Manage your weeds:
 - Perennials (pull)
 - Herbaceous (pull or cut before going to seed)
 - Grasses (herbicide)
 - Rushes & sedges (pull/herbicide)
- Note:** It is wise to draw a weed map to document the type and extent of your weed problem (for future reference).
- Manage your insects in subsequent years:
 - Obtain a sweepnet and scout for various pests;
 - Use threshold tables and other resources found in your Grower's Guide; Save unknown specimens for i.d. by an entomologist

- Cranberry Committee meetings
- Flooding of your bed(s)

People, workshops, resources and organizations:

District Conservationists:

- Washington County SWCD, P. O. Box 121 Machias, ME 04654 tel: (207) 255-4659
- Hancock County SWCD, RFD #5, Box 508W Ellsworth, ME 04605 tel: (207) 667-8663

Maine Cranberry Growers Association:

Workshops and seminars held; Quarterly newsletter available; Contact the Executive Director at 1-800-566-4664

Cape Cod Cranberry Grower's Association:

Established in 1888; sponsors publications on topics such as wildlife habitat enhancement, Best Management Practices, and abutting landowner relations; Contact: C.C.G.A., Box 730, E. Wareham, MA 02538; tel: (508) 295-4895

Maine Cranberry Educational Workshops:

Sponsored by Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension; topics are determined by Maine cranberry growers, occur on-site, and bring in leading experts from major cranberry-producing states; Contact: The Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension's Small Fruit Specialist; tel: (207) 581-2923, or 1-800-870-7270, or Down East RC&D, Rt. 182, P. O. Box 210, Cherryfield, ME 04622; tel: (207) 546-2368

Massachusetts Cranberry School and

Research Update Seminars: Offered through the Univ. of Mass. Coop. Ext. Service in E. Wareham, Ma. Sessions include beginner (or review) and more advanced topics in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and plant nutrition conducted by experts (from the state that leads the world in cranberry production). For more information, contact the Cranberry Experiment Station, Univ. of Mass., E. Wareham, MA 02538 or your local cooperative extension office.

Down East RC&D Cranberry Committee:

Meets monthly at the Down East RC&D office in Cherryfield. In attendance are key people in Maine's cranberry industry, including growers and representatives from the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Univ. of Maine Coop. Ext. Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Meetings are structured to address growers' needs. *All are welcome.* Contact Down East RC&D, Rt. 182, P. O. Box 210, Cherryfield, ME 04622; tel: (207) 546-2368.

Resource Guides:

"Cranberry Agriculture in Maine: Grower's Guide."

Contents include: cranberry industry overview, business planning, permitting process, site engineering, vine establishment, pest management, and sources of assistance. Copies available; contact Down East RC&D, Rt. 182, P. O. Box 210, Cherryfield, ME, 04622 ; tel: (207) 546-2368 or Maine Dept. of Ag. Food and Rural Resources, State House Station #28, Augusta, ME 04333; tel: (207) 287-7620 or fax: 207-287-7548.

"Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Notebook."

Contents include: IPM definition, scouting techniques, insect, weed and disease control, plant nutrition, and water management. Contact the Cranberry Experiment Station, Univ. of Mass., E. Wareham, MA 02568; tel: (508) 295-2212.

Training/Instructional Videos:

There are various videotapes available covering such events as the Cranberry School from the Cranberry Experiment Station, Univ. of Mass. in East Wareham, Ma. This program focuses on advanced topics in cranberry culture, such as the underlying mechanisms of cranberry production and how these relate to successful disease, insect and weed management as well as to one's fertilizer program. Videos of the annual Cranberry Research and Extension Update are also available. Additionally, there are several videos available documenting on-site pest management techniques during four visits by an experienced cranberry entomologist from Massachusetts (1995).

All of these videos are highly recommended and may be signed out. Contact Down East RC&D, Rt. 182, P. O. Box 210, Cherryfield, ME 04622; tel: (207) 546-2368 or the Univ. of Maine Cooperative Extension offices in Orono, Ellsworth, or Machias.

This brochure was constructed (using Canvas 2.0) by Charles Armstrong, Cranberry Water Quality Coordinator with the USDA AmeriCorps Program, positioned at the Down East Resource Conservation and Development office. It is not to be viewed as though there is no other correct way of establishing a cranberry bed in Maine, but rather is simply a set of highly recommended guidelines based on personal experience from both growers and experts in the field.

DOWN EAST RC&D

P O Box 210

Cherryfield ME 04622

Phone: (207) 546-2368

FAX: (207) 546-2369



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

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 AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881, (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

DOWN EAST RC&D
P O Box 210
Cherryfield ME 04622
Phone: (207) 546-2368
FAX: (207) 546-2369



23 February 1996

Dear Cranberry Grower,

This year promises to be an exciting time for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Maine's cranberry beds. But without your involvement, the success of the program will suffer. I encourage you to take advantage of my unique position here at the Down East Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office in Cherryfield by joining forces with many other cranberry growers and participating in the IPM program. As I wrote in the latest issue of the Maine Cranberry Growers Association newsletter, "There is nothing to lose except lots of insects and weeds." That is indeed true! And there is the potential for a *lot* to be gained; namely, the ability to learn yourself how to manage your beds in an integrated fashion long after my year or two with the USDA AmeriCorps program has ended. You will also be able to sharpen your pest identification skills of both insects and weeds. My Master's Degree education and training has been in the former of these two – entomology – but I have taken many plant courses as well and have retained much of what I learned about weeds through my past work as an IPM scout and assistant for Cornell University. I hope to be able to put my skills to good use for you this season and possibly next season as well, so once again, I invite you to sign up for this program.

The program will consist, at the very least, of a weekly scouting visit from myself and possibly, on occasion, Don Mairs, an experienced and well-known entomologist with the Maine Department of Agriculture in Augusta. He will be available to me as a means of verifying insect identification, as well as answering any questions that I may have. And in case you would like to review some of what IPM is all about, I am enclosing a separate page of overview material for your benefit.

To join the IPM program, simply return this form to me as soon as you can, and no later than April 15th, just to allow adequate planning and preparation work. The cutoff date is rather arbitrary, so if you are REALLY eager to join and the deadline has gone by, don't panic! Just give me a call and I'll try to accommodate you.

_____ Yes, I would like to join the IPM program, and would like to enroll _____ field(s) to be scouted, with the understanding that the resulting data will be based on a confidential code/numbering system.

_____ No, I would prefer not to get involved in the IPM program this year.

Your Name: _____ Your Address: _____

Phone: _____

Return to: Charlie Armstrong
Down East RC&D
Rt. 182 P O Box 210
Cherryfield, ME 04622

Please mail before April 15th.

Thank you.

Charlie Armstrong

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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.

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Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to agriculture that balances economic, environmental, and social issues.

Integrated means that many techniques and methods are united in the solution of a pest problem.

Pests - organisms that adversely affect crop production - could be bacteria, fungi, viruses, insects, mites, nematodes, weeds, or vertebrates.

Management is the process of keeping pests from causing economic damage.

The cornerstones of Integrated Pest Management are:

- *monitoring* (scouting), which includes detecting, identifying, and sampling pest populations on a timely basis;
- *forecasting* with available weather data and other information to predict when specific pests will be most problematic;
- *using thresholds* (pest population levels) to determine when pest populations have reached a level that could cause economic damage; and
- *choosing appropriate management strategies* to control pests; biological, chemical, cultural, genetic, and physical controls.

The goal of the Cranberry IPM Program:

The goal of the Maine Cranberry IPM Program is to reduce the use of chemical pesticides whenever possible to the minimum level necessary to produce high quality cranberries and cranberry products that will be competitive in the marketplace, while at the same time protecting human health and water quality.

Cranberry IPM Objectives:

- Minimize crop losses caused by pests
- Make the best use of cultural controls, biological pest controls, and resistant varieties
- Maximize the effectiveness of pesticides when they must be used
- Reduce pest management costs
- Minimize the potential for pesticide resistance
- Minimize harmful environmental effects of pest control
- Educate the grower so that he/she may continue to practice IPM in the future

Dear _____,

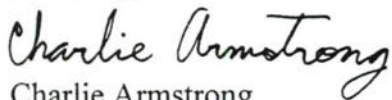
Thank you for enrolling in the IPM program! It is so nice to see individuals looking to improve the quality of both the environment and their cranberry crop. While it is true that significant money is often saved in the process, I trust that the biggest reason for your interest is simply to develop an even closer understanding and relationship with the land you have transformed. There are countless inter-relationships at work in the environment, especially between insects and their natural enemies. The weather plays a major role, too, as you know. Hopefully you will understand some of these relationships better by the end of the IPM program and will remember them for years to come.

Another positive aspect of IPM is the way in which it is viewed by consumers, as this latest article from "IPM Monitor" demonstrates. Rightfully, cranberries taken from growers practicing IPM should go for a higher price. This is something I feel we should raise our voices about. IPM is not equal to "organic," but it frequently uses organic practices. At the very least, it appears that any time you work with me to sharpen your net-sweeping skills and insect and weed identification skills, you can acquire some pesticide recertification - one or more credits.

I look forward to working with you. Please take the time to fill out the "Cranberry Management Practices" form for EACH of the fields you have enlisted in the program. This form should be the last thing you will need to mail back to me for a month or two. One of our restrictions here is that we cannot include return postage, much to my dismay. Just think how much more valueable your RC&D stamps are compared to the ones you have to use on bills. There is little I hate more than having to waste a stamp on top of a bill that I don't really want to pay anyway!

Lastly, I did not include any space for management of diseases. If you had problems with any diseases this past season, please mention that in the "General problems/Comments" section or on a separate piece of paper, as well as any management step(s) you may have taken. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Armstrong".

Charlie Armstrong
Cranberry Water Quality Coordinator
USDA AmeriCorps Member

CRANBERRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (1995-96)

Name: _____ Phone (optional): _____

Address: _____
Box #/Street

Town	State	Zip
------	-------	-----

Common field name: Acres = _____

				AMOUNT
DATE	PRACTICE	TYPE	ACREAGE	PER ACRE
Year 1st planted:	Planting			
19 ____	Variety:			
	Weed Control			
	Herbicide:			
	Herbicide:			
	Herbicide:			
month:	Problem weed(s):			
month:	Problem weed(s):			
month:	Problem weed(s):			
	Hand-pull:			
	Cultivation:			
	Cut/clipping:			
	Other:			
	Insect Control			
	Insecticide:			
	Insecticide:			
	Sanding:			
	Flooding:			
	Other:			
month:	Problem insect(s):			
month:	Problem insect(s):			
month:	Problem insect(s):			

DATE	Fertilizer (type)	Formulation	METHOD	AMOUNT PER ACRE

DATE	PRACTICE	TYPE	METHOD	ACREAGE	YIELD
	Harvesting				

DATE	PRACTICE	Juice?	Fresh produce?
	Processing		

DATE	PRACTICE	Hours water left on?	Specific Purpose
	Flooding	roughly:	
	Flooding	roughly:	

DATE	PRACTICE	Depth of sand?	Specific Purpose
	Sanding	roughly:	

SOIL pH: _____ Month measured: _____ Any adjustment made? _____

Field Map (including sources of water):	General problems/Comments:

Weed map for 1995 (and miscellaneous):

Down East Resource Conservation and Development Council's
Vacationland Resources Committee

presents

The Second Annual
ECOTOURISM CONFERENCE
(Resource Responsible Tourism)

"DEFINING OUR ROLES"

To be held at:
White Birches - Hancock, Maine
April 9, 1996
10 A. M. to 4 P. M.



Recycle the Resource
ReMAINE Sound

Karen, I designed this cover for the Vacationland Resources Committee (saved them a lot of money and spent about 20 hrs. of my time). I just don't know what code, etc. I should use, if any, for the quarterly report. I'll leave it to your discretion to see if it's worth including somehow ???
Charlie

VISION STATEMENT: To preserve and protect the environment (resource) and the experience (jobs, tourism, quality of life) through cooperation, proper planning and management of our resources for generations to come.

Gearing up for IPM

by Charlie Armstrong,
USDA AmeriCorps
(Cranberry Water Quality Coordinator)

**"There is nothing to lose
except lots of insects and
weeds."**

I have noticed lately that it is no longer totally dark at 5:00 p.m. And I am sure many of you have made the very same observation. I agree with the man I heard on the radio the other day who said, "I don't care WHAT the groundhog did or did not see. All I know is that the sun is coming up a bit earlier and going down a bit later each day, and that's good enough for me." Indeed, Spring is knocking on the door, and I am "gearing up" my plans for what I hope to be a really successful Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program this year. I have created a two-page cranberry management form that will help bring me up-to-date on the past year's history of each field that comes into the program. Such information will also prove useful at the end of the season when looking for causes behind pest problems (or the lack of pest problems). For current, or "brand new" plantings, however, there will be little to report for the previous year, obviously, but the pests are sure to move in and attempt to become permanent residents.

I will soon be sending out a form to every grower (or potential grower) on our mailing list that will serve as an invitation to join the IPM program this year. For those who wish to join, I will follow up with the cranberry management form that will need to be filled out for each cranberry bed coming into the program. So far as I know, there is no cost to join, and nothing to lose except lots of insects and weeds.

Speaking of insects and weeds, while conducting my IPM work this year, I will be simultaneously collecting weed and insect specimens from cranberry beds to press and pin, respectively, so that there might be a long-lasting resource, i.e. collection, that anybody could use for a variety of reasons; namely, for identifying an unknown weed or insect or for learning how to best control it. I may be able to supply a small collection of at least the insects for each grower in addition to the main collection that will be kept here at the Down East RC&D office in Cherryfield.

So, not only will I do the best job I can with implementing IPM for cranberries this year, but I will also serve as a good, chemical-free, cost-free, even *fat-free*, pest-control agent MYSELF while working to build the insect and weed collections.

If you have any questions about the upcoming program, please don't hesitate to write or call me: Down East RC&D, Rt. 182 Box 210, Cherryfield, ME 04622 (tel: 207/546-2368, or fax -2369).

This went out in the
latest newsletter of
the Maine Cranberry
Growers Association.
We haven't gotten it
yet.

February 1996



Photo Courtesy of Wells Reserve

Washington County
Environmental Newsletter

On February 10th, we attended a meeting at the Milbridge Town Hall concerning the quality of the clam flats and water of the surrounding areas. Approximately fifteen diggers from Washington County attended, and, as you can imagine, tempers flared. The diggers argued that there simply weren't enough harvestable flats open to them and something more should be done. Dave Dennison of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) stated, rather effectively, that they were doing all that they possibly could.

Although we agree that in some areas more could be done to further the clam industry, Dennison and DMR are not at fault. Due to dysfunctional or outdated sewer systems on nearby waterfront property, surrounding clam flats are being closed. Since DMR has absolutely no enforcement rights, and much less enforcement capacity, only suggestions can be made to town officials. We believe that both Dennison and DMR are doing all that they possibly can to improve flat quality by water sampling, research and public action.

However, we do not think that town managers and local residents have played their part in improving Maine's water quality. For instance, a certain section of clam flats in Milbridge has been open since September of 1995, but local clam diggers did not receive word of the opening until

the meeting. DMR had sent this information to the Milbridge Town Office where it was posted on the door. One would hope that the town officials would know their own state of affairs well enough to realize that clam diggers rarely, if ever, go to the town office. This crucial information should have been sent to a local newspaper or post office.

Matters such as these cannot be taken lightly. Taking away clam flats is as devastating as taking money from someone's pocket or food from their table; and homeowners are as much at fault as officials. Defective or aging septic systems are the major cause of clam flat closure. Many people are aware of the problem, but take no action toward improvement, for reasons of money or personal inconvenience. But lack of money is hardly an argument, since the town of Milbridge has offered to pay 90% of a new septic system and sometimes more in cases of extreme hardship. Reluctant homeowners should think of what an inconvenience it would be to have their jobs taken away. Having a new septic system put in would be a pleasure compared to that.

In short, we realize that there are extenuating circumstances in all cases and much is being done to benefit the diggers, but some events are unknowingly hindering them, too.

Amy Kennedy/Josh Paul

URCHINS

A game warden's job today is very concerned with environmental issues. Most people think that all wardens do is ride around all day when, in fact, they must keep the woods and rivers safe from poachers. Everyday they put their lives on the line by approaching people who are potentially dangerous. A college admissions person said that the job of being a warden is one of the most dangerous in the field of criminal justice. These facts alone show that you must be very tough and very strong mentally and physically to handle such a job. These men and women are also protecting you along with the animals, so if you see one of them, you should take the time to thank them for the hard work they put in every day of the week.

--Lester Look



Sea urchins, once an annoying waste product for lobstermen, have become big business here in Maine. Two years ago, sea urchins were second only to lobsters as a valuable catch. The declining number of sea urchins sold has caused a fear that they're being overfished.

As a result, legislators, divers, and dragger captains have gotten together to propose laws to protect the fishery from being wiped out. Some measures proposed include a closed season, size limits, and restrictions on the number of people allowed to enter the fishery.

--Anonymous

MAN IN THE MOON

The man in the moon
watches Earth mother

He sees the exploitations
that we've evoked

He cries for his sibling
while her skin decays

Leaving her children unprotected.

The man in the moon
watches Earth mother

He sees the destruction
that we've caused

He cries for his sibling
while we cut into her skin

Taking all that she provides.

The man in the moon
no longer watches

He no longer cries for his sibling

For no longer is she there.
Bonnie D.

ZOOPLANKTON

Zooplankton are generally weird-shaped little animals. These creatures must stay in the uppermost part of the sea, because that is where they need to be in order to obtain food. In the plankton group there are the larvae of sponges, corals, worms, mollusks, echinoderms, fishes, and many other smaller and lesser known groups.

The permanent plankton that live in the sea consist of free living protozoans. The permanent plankton which seem to be very large in number, are the principle food source for larger fish, even whales.

--Sunshine

Fish of the Gulf of Maine

The geomorphology, or shape of the bottom of the Gulf of Maine, is its most outstanding feature. The Gulf of Maine is 36,000 square miles of backwater from the North Atlantic Ocean. The bottom is irregular and shallow, averaging 35 fathoms over its great width. Nearer shore, there are numerous banks and ledges. Together, these aspects provide an incredibly varied habitat for fish, such as cod, herring, haddock, and hake, to thrive.

Fish egg survival is greatly affected by this enclosed area since the salinity is high. Reduced salinity makes fish eggs and larvae grow more prosperously, so common breeding grounds lie in estuaries where fresh water mixes with salt water.

In the Gulf of Maine, schooling fish such as mackerel, pogey, and herring are more common than ground-dwelling fish such as flounder. Schooling fish feed on masses of floating vegetable life and on small animals, but each species of fish utilizes different foods. Pogies strain diatoms through filters in their mouth, while mackerel and herring feed on copepods.

In 1816, Abraham Lurvey of MDI invented the mackerel jig, and this way of fishing spread like wildfire for 50 years. The jiggers and elegant mackerel schooners, with their two galf-rigged topsails lightened the bays of Maine in a silver age of fishing.

The most common way to fish for herring was torching. When herring would move into coves at night, they were attracted to light, which was provided by burning kerosene torches. Once they were "herded" together, they were simply scooped out of the water with nets. Fish traps and weirs were also used to catch herring, but these methods were not quite as popular. With more advanced technology, herring could also be spotted from the air and fished accordingly.

Lobstering began merely as a pastime for those too young and too old or weak to fish for groundfish offshore, but today it is the most lucrative fishing industry in Maine. It is rumored that the market for lobsters began in Casco Bay in the 1840's, but many other areas make a similar claim. From then on, pounds began springing up everywhere, and after a decade, declining catches were painfully evident. The Lobsterman's National Protective Association was forced to pass a law against the taking of short lobsters.

Eventually, we were overfishing all fish in the area. Biologists made their case, and the cod quotas were set in 1978. Although these restrictions are helping, people can only speculate on future population levels. Some say the pressure is getting so great, that fishermen are throwing in their "poles" and heading inland.

Resources

Apollonio, Spencer. The Gulf of Maine, Courier of Maine Books 1979.

Conckling, Philip W. Islands in Time, Downeast Enterprise, Inc. 1981.

-Tim Tabbutt

Rob Worcester

Jared Look

Ground Fishing

Ground fishing has been a great business for many people in the past, but now, due to vast fishing, some areas have lost their abundance of fish. Two years ago, fishermen off the shores of Jonesport were bringing in an average of 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of fish per day. But this past summer, most boats were averaging 500 to 700 pounds per day, a major difference.

A lot of studies have been started because of this major drop. Some areas have been shut down. Research is still going on, so there could be even more shut-downs and many more changes.

Some people think of this as a bad move, but I feel it is good. If something isn't done now to let the fish build up, there might not be any ground fishing anywhere in the years to come.

--Angela Fletcher



To Whom it May Concern:

In today's society, we should stop relying on the government to solve our problems. We only make our situation worse by depending upon the government and the tax payer's money to bail us out each time we have a difficult problem in our lives. We should rely on ourselves and the power we have to make a better future for ourselves. It's really not as hard as people say. If you work hard, people will see it and you will be the one to move ahead. This is how I feel.

Sincerely,
James Kneeland

"Apocalypse"

Up in the sky, high above your head
The sky turns a shade of deep blood red
Down in the valley, the valley so low
Time stands still and the winds cease to blow
The sun beats down
Hard and hot upon the dry ground
The match sparks and the fires rage
On the open prairie
Consuming the sage
The vegetation withers and dries
While animals starve, whimper, and cry
The waters recede
While mothers plead
For a drop of rain
To quench the thirsts and heal the pain
Disease and famine plague the land
While pestilence consumes every man
One by one
They fall to their knees
And pray to a god
That has forgotten their pleas
Throughout the inferno the four horsemen ride
And laugh at those who in vain have died
As the earth continues to shrivel
As the sun continues to burn
As a man falls prey to foolish ambition
The gods stamp out a fearful mission
--Marilyn Ortega

ATTENTION ALL READERS!!!

At this time I would like to correct a statement that I made in the Winter edition of the Washington County Environmental Newsletter. The statement read: "Contrary to popular DMR belief . . . can be largely attributed to J-B water testing results." If ever there was a more misleading and incorrect statement, I have yet to see it. It is common knowledge that without the "official" test that the Department of Marine Resources performs, no reopening of clam flats in the Jonesport-Beals area would be possible. Without the "OK" from them, the flats in the Jonesport-Beals area would still be closed. By no means was I trying to imply that the work they do is anything but first-rate. They do a commendable job and I am sorry if I have caused any misconception concerning their work. Once again, I would like to apologize for this error.

Sincerely,

Leigh R. Woodward

J-B Chem. Student

Open House



Pleasant River Atlantic Salmon Fry Hatchery
and Interpretive Education Center
March 29, 1996 in Columbia Falls

50,000 Salmon eggs in house

Recently, Mrs. Lynn Alley, a science teacher at Jonesport-Beals High School was invited to become a member of the Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery Board of Directors. In a subsequent vote, Mrs. Alley was elected Assistant Chairman by her fellow board members. Her job will be to assist the chairman as requested in preparation for meetings and chair the meetings in the absence of the chairman. The Board will meet once a month.

In other good news from the J-BHS Science Department, J-BHS has received equipment from the United States Government to raise salmon in the science lab. U.S. Fish and Wildlife is providing an aquarium, chiller, eggs, and technical assistance; the science potpourri class is providing the "people" power. The fish will be raised throughout the spring and will be released into the Narraguagus River when they are a few inches long, which will be in a few months.

FATE OF THE SEA KING

My world is polluted
By the trash you dump in here.
My land is blackened
And extinction is my current fear
The sharks once so feared by you
Now fall by your hands
Bloody water now red once blue
While oil kills my lands

The whales with their songs
Now vanish before my eyes.
The sewers pollute my water
While another of my children dies.
I see the way you are
And I know it's not right
My world is dying now
Will it last another night?

- Leo Chandler

The "Washington County Environmental Newsletter," is a publication designed by the high school students of Washington County for the publication of student writing and drawings. This student newsletter began last year and was founded by Jane Lamson and Karen Bert, two AmeriCorps members serving in Washington County. This year the newsletter is supported by:

Jane Lamson - USDA AmeriCorps
Down East Resource Conservation & Development
PO Box 210
Cherryfield, ME 04622

Michelle Grant - USDA AmeriCorps
Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District
PO Box 121
Machias, ME 04654



*If you have questions or comments please contact Jane at 546-2368 or Michelle at 255-3995.

-Coming in late February-

"DRAINAGE
DRAINAGE
DRAINAGE"



A SPECIAL WORKSHOP¹
FOR THOSE IN
THE MEDUXNEKEAG WATERSHED

On



THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAINAGE
ON LOCAL ROADS AND WATERS

or
How **You** Can Protect
Roads and Water Quality.

Sponsored by the

HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS

in cooperation with

Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation
District; Heidi Nelson, AmeriCorp; and the
Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition

developed and presented by

MAINE LOCAL ROADS CENTER

¹This is a required ROADS SCHOLAR workshop
for municipal officials

Proper road drainage and maintenance protects roads *and* water quality. Learn how to make your roads last longer and cost less to maintain. Help keep sediments from erosion, litter, applied sand and salt, oils and greases, and other pollutants *out* of streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and wetlands.

HBMI as cosponsor of the Meduxnekeag Watershed Protection Plan with SASWCD and member of the Meduxnekeag Watershed Coalition welcomes the opportunity to support this workshop.



Maliseet Double Curve Design

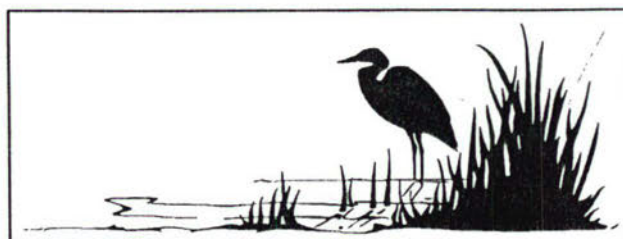
WHO should attend:

- o Landowners who build and maintain private roads including Farmers, Members of Lake Associations etc.,
- o Selectmen,
- o Town Managers,
- o Road Commissioners,
- o Public Works Directors, and
- o Road Foremen and Employees.

There is **NO REGISTRATION FEE**. The instruction, handouts and lunch are free.

Details on **WHEN** and **WHERE** to be announced.

WATCH your mailbox!





UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

MAINE
AMERICORPS
TEAM USDA

District Newsletter Article (1)

Jan. 11, 1996

The new District AmeriCorps Volunteer Member, Heidi Nelson, has been busy as Water Quality and Rural Development Coordinator this last quarter. Top priority has been given to extending the District's involvement with the five local school systems: SAD#29, SAD#70, SAD#25, CSD#9 and Bridgewater Elementary. 114 Newsletters and surveys were drafted and sent to the science teachers, in cooperation with Marc Russell, funded by the 319 Grant. The purpose of the survey was to establish what sort of assistance might be requested of our office on the subject of water quality education and integration into the classroom curriculum. Although this attempt received poor returns, Heidi followed up with four teacher workshops, three of which were facilitated by Liz Frederic, the Education Coordinator for the Maine Association of Conservation Districts. A wide variety of information about District sponsored events, lesson plans, posters and assorted educational materials were distributed and are available upon request from your SASWCD office.

Eighty-four educators attended the SAD#29 workshop for elementary school teachers, thirteen attended the SAD#29 for secondary level, and seventeen were present at the SAD#70 elementary workshop on Jan. 2, 1996. Heidi facilitated a workshop alone on Jan. 3 at the SAD#70 high school for their four science teachers. In addition to these workshops, she has borrowed a \$15,000 watershed model from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Halifax, Nova Scotia that has been rotated through most of the District schools during the month of January and was available for the workshops, as well. The model visited Houlton High School, Houlton Southside, Sherman Elementary, Southern Arrostook Community School, Hodgdon High School, Hodgdon Elementary and may spend a day at the Houlton Elementary School, pending on time and weather. An estimated 3200 students will potentially benefit from the combined experience of the model and the workshops.

Another large percentage of AmeriCorps time has been given in assistance to Matt Williams of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE). Bulk densities of soil samples and statistical analysis have been determined from farm based demonstration project plots. Heidi has spent many hours entering data and devising graphs that will become slides for Matt's presentation at the Potato Conference Jan. 17-18. Work with UMCE will continue throughout the year and growing season to promote land base sharing and on farm demonstrations.

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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.

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●SOLDIER POND
●FISH RIVER
●ST. JOHN RIVER**

BOX 745, PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769 • (207) 764-4126

FRLWQA Newsletter

Issue #30 Fall, 1995

NEXT MEETING

The next FRLWQA Board meeting will be held on **JANUARY 3 AT 6:30 PM**, at **Jim Killarney's** camp (located on Cyr Rd., off of Rt. 161. Call 764-4126 for complete directions). Guests and the public are invited.

THANKS TO DUES PAYERS !

The Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association would like to thank the following members for their recent payment of dues.

CAMILLE G.
BEAULIEU
WRIGHT-PIERCE
GUY CORRIVEAU
ATHILL & LUCINDA
HEBERT
LAUREL R. GREEN
DWIGHT SEWELL
PAUL & PRISCILLA
NICHOLS
RICHARD & LEETA
PELLETIER
REYNOLD MARTIN
REGINALD FRASER
LENORA T. MARIIN
DAVID & SANDRA
SNYDER
LAURINA C. ALBERT

MIKE ST. PETER
DALTON WINSLOW
HENRY & MARY WILSON
WILLIAM & THERESA
CYR
HAROLD DAIGLE
GEORGE PUTNAM
EDWARD DISY
BETSI JANE TAYLOR
ALBERT STEVENS
ELMER & MAYNA
HUNTING
SANDY C. ST. PETER
ROBERT C. SOUCY
BETTE MERSIEREAU &
PETER BRIGGS
MELVIN & RENA LABBE
AMANDA BURGOIN

GORDON
SUMMERVILLE
CARL & JACKIE
WEBBER
ANN SHAW
GILMAN DUMOND
THOMAS GRIFFIN
JAMES ALBERT
MIKE & ELEANOR CYR
RICHARD & CARLENE
DICK
ALBERT & LOUANN
WATT
T. REGINALD SNOW
VAN BUREN TULSA
EBERHARD THIELE
PARADIS FAMILY
SUPERMARKET

WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR POSITION CHANGES HANDS

After an enormously successful year as Coordinator, Nicky Violette has left the AmeriCorps program and moved to Boston, Mass. She has left a legacy of high-quality environmental educational programs, beautifully-crafted newsletters, and well-organized public information programs behind her, all of which have benefitted hundreds of people here in Aroostook County. The enthusiasm and ingenuity she brought to the Coordinator position will be hard to match.

Amanda Smith will be taking over Nicky's responsibilities for the '95-'96 season. Ms. Smith is a returning AmeriCorps participant who was involved in fisheries issues in the upper St. John last year. Having worked closely with Nicky on environmental educational programs and public informational displays, she's familiar with the FRLWQA's mission to protect Maine's priceless freshwater resources. She'll be working out of the St. John-Aroostook RC&D office in Presque Isle, and can be reached at 764-4126.



"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

H.D. Thoreau

AMERICORPS PROGRAM GAINS 2ND-YEAR MOMENTUM

For a second year, the AmeriCorps members are providing a work-base across the nation, taking part in a wide variety of community service programs. 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 are projects designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Northern Maine is fortunate to once again be the project site for four AmeriCorps positions. Working under the auspices of the U.S.D.A., the participants are involved with projects which fall under the broad theme of "Improving and Protecting Water Quality."



Phone 728-7570
543-6462
543-6140

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FRLWQA Annual Tour a Success

A sincere thanks goes out to all of those individuals who helped out with, and participated in, the Fish River Lake Water Quality Association's Annual Tour. From the viewpoint of the Association, it was an especially successful tour, as it brought camp owners together for a common cause: the protection of the Fish River Lakes' quality of water. Resource protection begins with the people who are directly affecting and affected by the resource; campowners are the vital link between the lakes and agencies such as the RC&D, the D.O.T. and the D.E.P. Without the public's input and participation, the vital work of resource protection and conservation simply can't be accomplished.

Thanks especially to Al Cyr, for the use of his camp, and to all of the presenters who provided such a wealth of vital information. And, last but definitely not least, thanks to Nicky Violette, Water Quality Coordinator, who arranged and organized such a successful, well-run tour.

CONSTRUCTED WETLAND TREATMENT SYSTEMS (CWTS)

Natural wetland systems have long provided passive treatment of agricultural runoff, wastewater, acid mine drainage, and other forms of pollution. Constructed wetlands are now being used on a global basis to manage a multitude of environmental concerns, such as municipal wastewater, industrial discharges, landfill leachate, agricultural and stormwater runoff, and acid mine drainage, in a cost-effective manner. The unique physio-chemical and biological properties of wetlands have been shown to significantly reduce levels of nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonia-nitrogen), heavy metals, pesticides, and other natural and man-made organic chemicals in wastewater, stormwater runoff, urbanized areas, acid mine drainage, etc.

Mechanisms of Contaminant Removal/Pollution Abatement...

Wetlands accomplish pollution abatement/renovation through their many naturally occurring physical and biogeochemical properties. These include high plant productivity with metabolically induced chemical conversions, large adsorptive surfaces and binding sites on sediments and plant structures (including the vast underground biomass contained in the roots, rhizomes, and tubers), an aerobic-anaerobic interface, and most importantly, an active microbial population inherent in all wetland systems. Microbial populations play a vital role in the biochemical transformation of wastewater constituents, (cont. on next page)

A-TEAM ENTERPRISE

Septic Service

Professional Vacuum Tank Truck

"Prompt, Courteous Service" - Serving the St. John Valley

Ronald Toussaint, Prop.
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Gilles Dalgic, Prop.
Tel.: 444-4640



Sly Brook Road, Eagle Lake

Below: Butch Thibodeau of the Sinclair Sanitary District accepts a Water Quality Conservation award from FRLWQA President Phil Soucy.



CWTS cont.

the oxidation and mobilization of heavy metals, and the decomposition and immobilization of organic compounds, including some pesticides. Physical removal through sedimentation also occurs because collection basins are an integral feature of all CWTS. An added benefit of CWTS's is the significant reduction of treatable volumes attributable to high evapotranspiration rates. Some of the more innovative CWTS's include zero discharge units which do not require NPDES Discharge permits, and others that use reclaimed water to enhance existing natural wetlands.

It is important to note that conventional industrial/wastewater package plants rely on these same physical, chemical, and biological principles to achieve treatment objectives. The difference is CWTS's use of gravity and the sun to drive the desired reactions rather than energy consumptive mechanical components such as pumps, aerators, batch mixers, blenders, and a host of others prone to breakdown and high maintenance costs. Realize that most CWTS's do not even need electricity!

New Opportunities for Wetland Contractors...

Global problems being successfully managed through the use of CWTS's include landfill leachate, industrial discharges, municipal wastewater, mine tailings wastes, and acid mine drainage. Also being managed are heavy metals contamination (lead, mercury, zinc, selenium, and others), as well as pcb and pesticide contamination at Dept. of Defense Installations.

How Do They Differ From Other Wetlands?

First, a CWTS is an artificial structure designed to last only a decade or two, the time typically required to capture and treat leachate from an older, unlined landfill under a closure plan, or perhaps to treat wastewater in a rapidly developing Third World rural village until long range plans can be implemented. Other forms of created wetlands are considered natural systems designed to be permanent features on the landscape. Another distinction is the use of geomembrane liners, diffuser manifolds, exotic outlet structures, bottom substrates, plant species, and more specific hydraulic requirements for rectrix. Retention time or hydraulic residence is an important factor in the performance of a CWTS. The biological and physio-chemical characteristics of the pollutant(s) of concern and other factors will determine appropriate retention periods.

Important design/build considerations for CWTS include the following:

***Availability of Land...Rule of Thumb for Surface Flow (SF)= 2.178 sq. ft./gallon. Example: 100,000 Gallon Per Day would require app. 5.0 surface acres. Subsurface Flow (SSF) = 0.459 sq. ft. per gallon. In this example only about 1.0 acre is required for the same volume.**

***Environmental Permitting...Stream discharge requirements, wetland encroachments, known archaeological sites in the impact area, zoning, and others must be considered.**

***Treatable Volume...Important for sizing sedimentation basin and treatment cells. Is there sufficient land available at a reasonable cost?**

***Leachate Chemistry...Concentration of metals, organics, pH, and other physical, chemical, and biological characteristics determine design considerations and other factors such as substrate and plant species.**

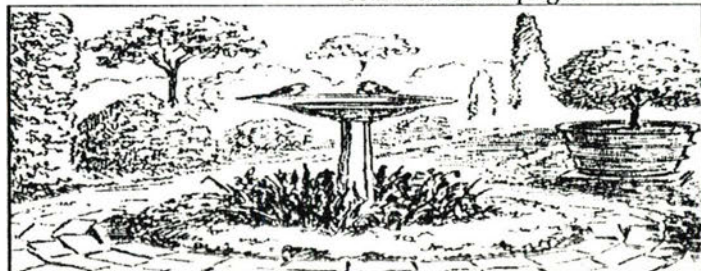
***Hydrology and Geological**

Assessment...Direction and rate of groundwater flow. Has stormwater runoff been isolated and diverted, or will it be the driving force to mobilize degraded water to the CWTS? The importance of hydraulic residence time has been addressed.

***Substrate Considerations...Wetland treatment substrates range from mine spoils, clay-based soils, ground pine needles, various hay/topsoil mixtures, limestone, and others. Sphagnum and reed-sedge peat have proven to be particularly useful for applications such as landfill leachate. Some advocate the use of only gravel/stone substrate systems.**

***Plant Species Selection...Numerous emergent and free-floating plant species have excellent pollutant-uptake capabilities. These include the various species of Typha (cattail), Scirpus validus (soft-stem bulrush), several Pontederia species, including P. cordata and P. lancifolia, water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), Lemna and Spirodela (duckweeds), reed grass (Phragmites communis), and others. Other botanical considerations such as planting density stems (stock per square meter), stock type (tubers, rhizomes, bare root, et.al.) are also important decisions.**

cont. on next page



CWTS, cont.

***Inlet/Outlet Structures and Distribution Manifold...**Critical design features which often determine how well a CWTS performs. Related to hydraulic residence time and the maintenance of uniform solute contact with the treatment cell medium (substrate).

Additional factors including length to width ratios, treatment bed slope, piping and valves for maintenance are also critically important design features.

Significant Cost Savings...

CWTS's can be designed, built, and operated for a fraction of traditional industrial/wastewater treatment systems (usually around 25%). Likewise, Operation and Maintenance costs are nominal (about 10-30% of conventional), and typically administered by local labor. These natural, passive treatment systems are ideally suited for retrofitting and augmenting older systems where sufficient land space is available, and municipal treatment cost options are prohibitive or unavailable. Tremendous cost savings are realized from both a capitalization and expense operating budget.

For comparative purposes, assume treating leachate from an unlined landfill or perhaps an industrial waste discharge with a treatable leachate volume of roughly 100,000 GPD. Design/build costs for a CWTS would range anywhere from \$135,000-422,000.00. Maintenance costs would be expected to be around \$10,000.00. In addition, the entire project from conception to completion would take about 3-6 months.

By comparison, a conventional steel and concrete package system would cost around \$750,000-1,500,000, with O&M annual costs exceeding \$100,000. Likewise, the timeframe to design, transport package plant components, complete site work including electric hookup, etc. and complete construction would require years.

Whirling Disease

Whirling disease, a parasitic infection so named because of the erratic, whirling swimming motion of diseased fish, was introduced to the United States from Europe thirty-five years ago. At first found only in hatchery stock, it was discovered in the wild in Colorado during the 1980s. Since then, the disease has been reported in nineteen states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. All Salmonids are susceptible to the whirling disease parasite, which infects its hosts by invading the gills, or when a fish eats infected tubifex worms. Tubifex worms are the parasite's intermediate host, and become infectious when they consume spores from an infected fish. Fish cannot contract the disease directly from other fish, nor can humans contract it. The disease results in pinched nerves and severe skeletal deformities; at the present time, there is no known cure. Infected salmonids develop a black tail, and show whirling behavior--a direct result of the pinched nerves--at 1 to 1.5 months.

--fact sheet, Trout Unlimited

by Russell James, Pres., Ecoscience, Inc.

10 "Do's and Don'ts" ...for your lake's sake

1. DO keep site disturbance to a minimum, especially removal of natural vegetation and exposure of bare soil.
2. DO seed and mulch bare soil within 2 weeks of clearing and install hay bales downslope of cleared areas.
3. DO leave naturally vegetated areas (buffer strips) along lake shores, streambeds, road ditches, and intermittent streams. Leave at least 25 feet of undisturbed buffer, with more on poor soils or steep slopes.
4. DO plant deep-rooted, woody vegetation along lake shores, streambeds, and road ditches.
5. DO use fertilizer sparingly and in multiple applications, though hay mulch often works almost as well.
6. DO check septic tank sludge level every year. Pump the tank when the sludge fills one-half of the tank (average is every 2-3 years for year-round residents, 5-6 years for seasonal residents).
7. DO conserve water.
8. DO use non-phosphate detergents.
9. Structures (houses, decks, sheds) DON'T belong close to the water. All structures must meet the required setback from the water.
10. DON'T build new beaches (new beaches require a DEP permit). Use temporary docks as an alternative.

--"For Your Lake's Sake", C.O.L.A.

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) 690-1538 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

ANIMALS of the FISH RIVER LAKES

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Black bears are generally solitary animals, avoiding or seemingly ignoring each other's presence. The only social units formed are the mother and her cubs during their first year, and the adult male and female when they are paired for a month or so in the summer. Several unrelated bears may be drawn to a food source, such as a dump, but they will avoid each other. Generally the larger bears are most dominant and feed first in these situations, while the smaller bears may have to wait their turn.

Bears stay within a home range for most of the year, leaving it in the fall only if they are forced to find better sources of food. The size of their home range varies considerably from 5 to 15 miles in diameter. In general, home ranges of males are three or more times larger than those of females.

Within their home range there is no particular place to which the bears continually return. Rather, they are nomadic and wander throughout, moving on well-worn paths that they have created or paths used by a variety of animals. Trails may be used by several bears, for their home ranges often overlap. A home range must include water, for bears drink often and may wallow in muddy shallows, possibly in an attempt to keep insects off. Also within the home range is the winter den, where the bear hibernates.

There are three things that you may see along bear trails: tracks, scats, and what have been called mark trees. Mark trees are created when a bear stands on its hind legs in front of a tree and reaches up to scratch and bite the bark. It also may rub its head and back against the tree, leaving fur and scent. These trees are used by both males and females, and any one tree may be used by more than one bear. The function of tree-marking is not known, but since it mostly occurs in midsummer when the bears are courting, it may be a form of communication between the sexes. Rubbing against trees may also be used to help get rid of excess hair during molting.

Black bears move about during the day and are most active during dawn and dusk. When bears rely on humans for food, their schedule changes. If they are getting handouts they are most active at midday, and if they are feeding at dumps or trash cans they become active at night. Temperature also affects their rate of activity; if it is below freezing or above 90 degrees F, they're less likely to move about.

At various times during the day or night a bear may bed down, usually in a slightly hollowed-out area within dense brush. A typical bedding area may be about 36 to 30 inches and about a foot deep. Young bears generally rest during the day in trees.

Food usually determines where bears are, for they need to eat a tremendous amount, especially in fall, when they have to build up fat reserves. In spring they eat primarily grasses and emerging plants; in summer they eat shrub fruits and berries, and in fall they consume berries, larger fruits, and nuts such as acorns and beechnuts.

Throughout spring, summer, and fall, bears eat insects, especially the colonial species like ants--licking them off their paws as they disturb the nest--or wasps and honeybees, eating both the larvae and the adults, and, in the case of the bees, the stored honey. They also eat grasshoppers in late summer and beetles, either adults or grubs, that they find in rotted logs.

In June, a male bear may begin to follow a female of its choice, and the two move about, feeding and resting together for almost a month. During this time other males may challenge the paired male's right to the female. Most mating occurs in late June and early July. After mating, the male and female go their separate ways.

The egg of the female does not start to develop until about November. Beforehand it remains in a state of arrested development called delayed implantation. Actual implantation starts in November, and from then on gestation lasts only about 6 to 8 weeks. The result is that the cubs are born very small, weighing only 6 to 10 ounces and measuring about 8 inches long.

The young are born in January and February, when the mother is still semidormant in her den. It is not known how aware she is of the birth itself, but she must cut the umbilical cord and clean the cubs by licking. The young crawl up to the mother's teats, feed on milk, and stay warm in her fur. Their eyes are closed, and they have practically no hair. The females's first litter will consist of only one cub, but she usually has twins with each successive litter. There are occasionally 3 cubs and rarely 4 in a litter.

When a black bear enters its den and becomes dormant, its temperature drops about 8 degrees C, its heart rate drops from 50 to 15 beats per minute, and its metabolism is reduced by about 50%. Bears do not go into deep hibernation from which they cannot be roused, like the woodchuck. On the contrary, bears can be roused quite easily. Even if left undisturbed, they may get up, leave their den for an hour or two, and then return. During hibernation, bears shed their footpads and also lose about 20% of their weight.

Adult males are the first to emerge in the spring, followed by the females with young. At first they are sluggish and do not eat much except grasses and a little bark. They continue to lose weight; in fact, weight loss occurs at a much faster rate now that they are mobile again. However, as food becomes more abundant and their digestive systems get back to normal, they quickly recover from the hard winter.

Excerpted from Animal Tracking and Behavior, by Donald & Lillian Stokes

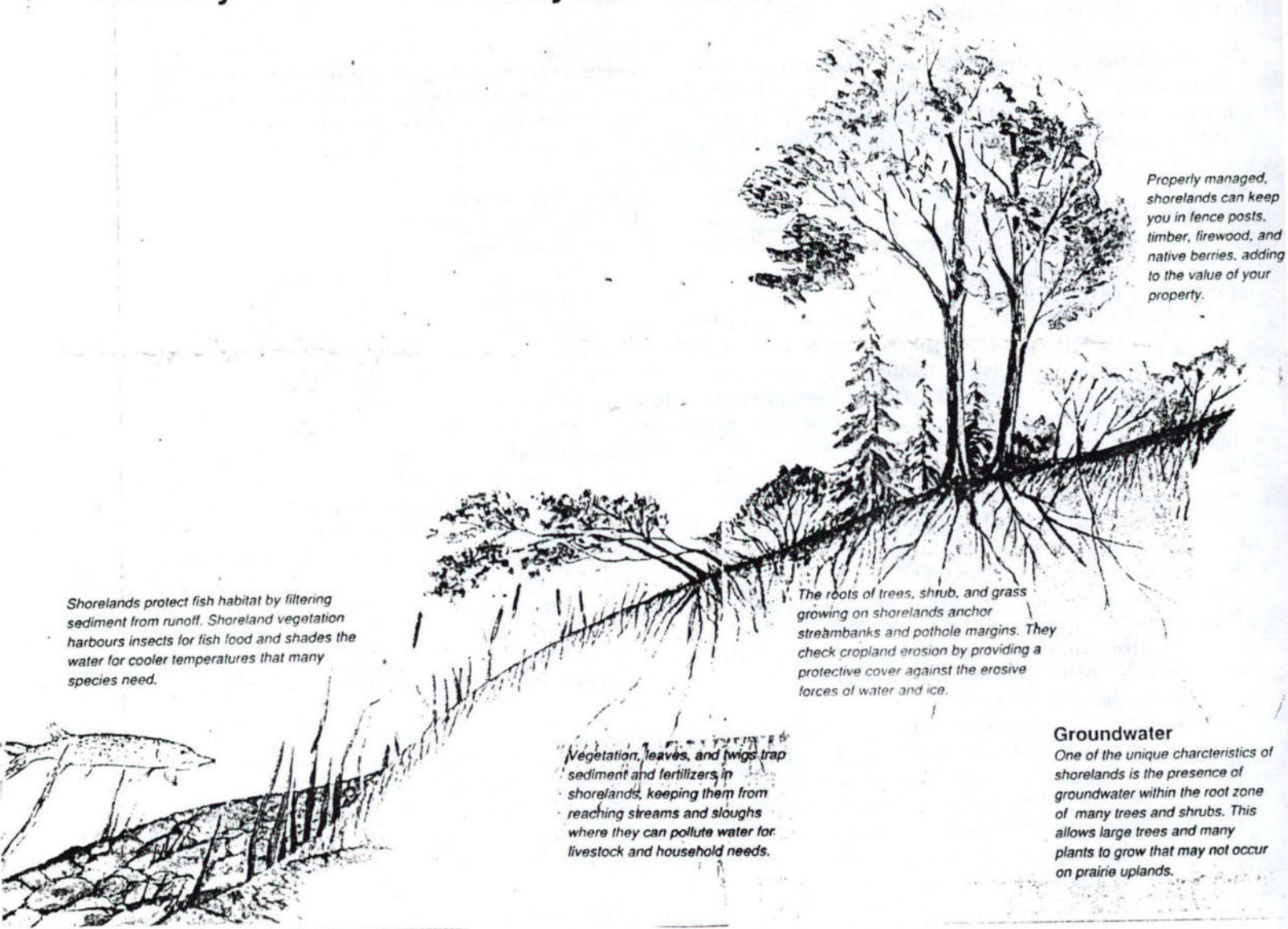
from:

Protecting Your Shorelands

for Better Farming and Ranching, and Healthier Fish Habitat

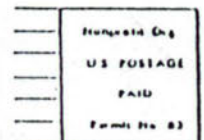
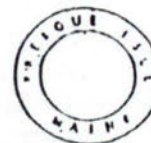
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Central and Arctic Region

Healthy Shorelands - Why We Need Them



**St John
Aroostook
R C & D**

P.O. Box 745
Presque Isle, Maine 04769
(207) 764-4126



District Court

The following cases were adjudicated at 2nd District Court in Presque Isle by Judge David B. Griffiths for the week of Dec. 7-13. Representing the state was Assistant District Attorney Carrie L. Linthicum.

Robert W. West Jr., 31, of Presque Isle, theft by unauthorized taking; jail sentence of 48 hours.

Ernest W. Church, Presque Isle, operating license; jail sentence of 48 hours. Also, one count of Order the Influence (OUI); license suspended for 90 days, \$400 fine.

Charles D. Putnam, Mapleton, speeding in 35 mph; jail sentence of 48 hours, license suspended for 90 days, \$400 fine.

Laurie L. Dyer, 32, of Mapleton, OUI; jail sentence of 48 hours, license suspended for 90 days, \$400 fine.

Kristi J. Sickles, 33, of Presque Isle, OUI; license suspended for 90 days, \$400 fine.

Jeremy J. Libby, 18, of

Mapleton, OUI; license suspended for 90 days, \$400 fine.

Michael J. Fundalewicz, 37, of Ashland, passing a stopped school bus with lights flashing; \$250 fine.

Kary J. Carney, 27, of Presque Isle, criminal threatening; \$200 fine. Also, one count of terrorizing; case dismissed.

records; \$100 fine.

Christopher C. Coffin, 15, of Mars Hill, illegal possession of gift deer; \$100 fine.

Douglas J. Fitzpatrick, 30, of Houlton, illegal attachment of plates; \$75 fine.

Bryan Dittmar, 21, of Southwest Harbor, failure to register motor vehicle or operating on a public way; \$70 fine.

Brian J. Poitras, 22, of Van Buren, failure to register motor vehicle or operating on a public way; \$70 fine.

Troy E. McLean, 21, of Fort Fairfield, Sunday Hunting; \$50 fine.

Long Brook Trucking, Inc. of Monticello, inadequate suspension; \$50 fine.

Demerchants Trailer Park of Presque Isle, no brake action present; \$50 fine.

Benjamin L. Humphrey, 23, of Mapleton, furnishing liquor to a minor; 50 hours of community service work.

Dustin R. Sprague, 19, of Presque Isle, hunting without orange clothing; \$35 fine.

*Amanda's article
20 copies for FAL
25 SCnty, already
done copying.
Return this page
only to Amanda
she needs to keep
originals of articles*

Water quality protection efforts continue

The Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association is well into another year of active service, providing information and education to camp owners. The association is interested in raising the water quality awareness of Aroostook County's citizens; this is accomplished through a variety of projects, including environmental education in local schools, involvement in local watershed projects, lake and river quality monitoring projects, and informational talks and displays. If you want to learn more about what you can do to help protect the health and vitality of Maine's lake ecosystems, call

Amanda Smith at 764-4126.

This year, the United States Department of Agriculture/AmeriCorps program is once again providing the Association with a Lakes Coordinator, allowing the message of clean water and healthy watersheds to be spread to even more people.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an education award, which may be used to pay for college, job training or graduate school, or to pay back 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 Land and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.

Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all are projects designed to get things done, while boosting community opportunity and responsibility.

LEGAL NOTICE

MAPLETON PLANNING BOARD

The Mapleton Planning Board will meet at the Municipal Office Building on January 3, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. On the agenda are:

1. Discuss Report on Zoning Implementation Grant
2. Report on 911E

Any interested parties are welcome to attend.

Per order of the

New Years Tickets
at the
STATE STREET LOFT
Reserved Tickets Must Be

SAVING OUR LAKES

**SERVING
THE FISH RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES:
●FISH ●PORTAGE
●ST.FROID**



**●LONG ●MUD ●CROSS
●SQUARE ●EAGLE
●SOLDIER POND
●FISH RIVER
●ST. JOHN RIVER**

BOX 745, PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769 • (207) 764-4126

December 20, 1995

Mr. David Daigle, Town Manager
P.O. Box 106
St. Agatha, ME 04772

Dear Mr. Daigle,

The Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association acts as an information and advisory resource for camp owners and lake shore residents, as well as providing educational programming and community project assistance. We support whole-heartedly those lakeside communities that choose to implement new and better strategies for water quality protection and control.

Currently, the major detrimental impact on the Fish River Lakes is phosphorus overload, which results in algae blooms, water temperature increases, decreased dissolved oxygen content, and loss of valuable cold water fisheries. If current usage practices continue, the watershed could experience a phosphorus overload of such magnitude that those lakes hit the hardest will become totally undesirable. One of the primary sources of these pollutants is effluent from septic systems, and from straight pipes which dump directly into lakes. Obviously, the sewage line project which the town of St. Agatha is currently planning is exactly the sort which is most needed in this watershed. The fragile ecosystem of Long Lake will benefit directly from the repair and addition of sewage lines along 3500' of shoreline on Route 162. The number of residences which are involved (24 residences, 1 commercial facility) is substantial, and the impact of this project will be visible immediately in terms of improved water quality.

FRLWQA would like to offer our support and encouragement for this project plan. Our Water Quality Coordinator will be available to conduct water quality site tests, if so desired.

Sincerely,

Philip Soucy, President. FRLWQA



Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District
R# 3, Box 45 - Houlton, ME 04730 - Phone (207) 532-2087



Attention Science Educators of the SASWCD:

The Southern Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District (SASWCD) strongly supports and promotes the integration of **natural resource education** into science curricula for students K-12. The SASWCD and US AmeriCorps have combined efforts to further promote and facilitate environmental learning in our schools.

The SASWCD is a legal subdivision of state government, responsible under state law for conservation work within its boundaries just as townships and counties are responsible for road and other services and school districts are responsible for education. The purposes of the district are: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve these problems; to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district's goals; and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activity and the natural environment.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

The US AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from congress that engages 20,000 Americans from diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for educational awards. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The SASWCD is currently involved in numerous projects or programs that promote natural resource conservation and education, including:

- Agriculture in the Classroom-Teachers Institute
- Envirothon
- The Natural Resources Institute (Educational Seminar for Science Teachers)
- MACD Poster Contest (Theme: Harmony with the Land)
- Conservation Education Teacher's Award
- Meduxnekeag Watershed Conservation Project
- Community Education: water quality, composting, recycling, Best Management Practices

We also have direct access to many other natural resource education programs, including workshops for educators, lesson plans, classroom activities, and more.

(over)

The SASWCD is interested in learning how we may help area schools integrate natural resource education into school curricula. We sincerely hope that you will take a few moments to fill out the following questionnaire so that we may know which, if any, educational programs you have used in the past or would like to know more about.

Please note the following dates of upcoming events as they relate to Natural Resource Education programs that are on-going. The SASWCD would be happy to provide further information on these programs and any other upcoming events. For more information, please note the contacts listed at the bottom of this page. Thank you.



UPCOMING !!!

- *Ag. in the Classroom-Teachers Institute training sessions*
Presque Isle (July 24-28)
Auburn (July 22-26) * Scholarships available for tuition
- *Project WET*
Project WILD
Project LEARNING TREE Training workshops are being arranged.
- *Envirothon*
Regional: MSAD #29, Houlton TBA
State: Augusta (May 31, 1996)
National: TBA (July 29-Aug. 2, 1996)
- *Natural Resources Institute* UM Farmington (July 22-26, 1996 tentative)
- *MACD Poster Contest* * Rules and info. enclosed
- *Conservation Ed. Teachers' Award* Nominees due by April 01, 1996



For more information, contact:

Marc Russell, SASWCD Watershed Project Coordinator

RR3 Box 45 Houlton, ME 04730 tel. 532-2087(w) 532-9817(H)

Heidi Nelson, US AmeriCorps, Water Quality & Rural Development Coordinator

RR3 Box 45 Houlton, ME 04730 tel. 532-2087(w) 532-6891 (H)

POSTER CONTEST RULES

1. Posters must not be larger than 24 x 36 inches.
2. Posters should be completed by one student.
3. Any non-electronic media may be used to create the poster (i.e. paint, crayon, colored pencils, charcoal, paper, and other materials.)
4. ALL posters must have the following information on the back:
Name (first, middle initial, last):
Home address and phone:
School address, Grade, and phone:
Teacher:
Social Security # (if possible, we will need this for the prizes at the state level.)
5. Judging will be based on 40% on Educational value and accuracy, 40% for clarity of content and message, and 20% for general appearance. Winners will be picked in the following categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.
6. Materials must follow the theme of the year. This year the theme is : Ways People Can Work in Harmony with the Land: Focus on a message that will help educate other students or the general public on what they can do to work in harmony with the land. Another approach would be to explore the idea of being in harmony with the land while still providing for the materials we need to survive.
7. Disqualifications may result from the following: misspelling, posters too large, theme not portrayed, incomplete information on the back of the poster.
8. The District will retain winning and exemplary poster for one year for promotional purposes. After the year we will return the posters if you so desire.
9. Deadline of the posters is March 1, 1995 at the Southern Aroostook SWCD office, R3 Box 45, Houlton, ME 04730, 532-2087, in the USDA Building on the North Road.
10. All participants will be recognized certificates of appreciation. The top three winners in each category will be recognized at the Annual meeting of Southern Aroostook SWCD. Winning poster will be forwarded to the state competition.

To: All District Science Educators
From: Heidi D. Nelson, AmeriCorps Volunteer, Water Quality & Rural Development Coord.
Marc Russell, Meduxnekeag Watershed Water Quality Coordinator
Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District
R3 Box 45, Houlton, ME 04730
532-2087

CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST FOCUSES ON LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE LAND

The Maine Association of Conservation Districts invites students to participate in their Annual Poster Contest. Each year, thousands of U.S. students in grades K-12 participate in this local, state and national competition.

The goal of the poster contest is to allow every student to have a meaningful experience, and to achieve a sense of accomplishment whether or not his/her poster is selected as a winner. The contest provides students with an opportunity to share their thoughts and creativity about soil, water and related natural resource issues. The activity is one which helps to integrate many subjects-science, geography, math, art, reading, writing and language arts. The theme for this year's contest is **HOW PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE LAND.**

Posters are first judged by individual conservation districts in the following grade divisions: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; and 10-12. First place winners in each division from each district are taken judged at the state level; first place state winners proceed to the national level. Prizes are awarded at each level.

Each of Maine's 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts has poster contest materials for distribution--background information on the theme, judging criteria, rules, etc. A video that addresses the harmony theme is also available on loan at district offices. After the video is presented in classrooms, students are encouraged to make posters. For additional information, contact Heidi or Marc.

The future of our planet rests with the children. The Maine Association of Conservation Districts welcomes assistance from classroom teachers and environmental educators in their effort to teach environmental responsibility and conservation of our natural resources.



QUESTIONNAIRE



1. Do you currently integrate natural resource education into your science curriculum?

yes _____ no _____

2. Are you familiar with or have you participated in any of the environmental education programs listed below? Would you like more information about any of the following?

participated *familiar with* *like more info.*

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

The Adopt a Stream Program
Project Wet
Project Wild
Project Learning Tree
Envirothon
The Natural Resources Institute
Harmony Environmental Education
MACD Poster Contest
Conserv. Education Teacher's Award

3. Is there a particular aspect of environmental conservation that you would like to integrate into your science curriculum?

4. Does your community have any outstanding environmental issues that your students would benefit from knowing more about?

5. Would you be interested in a workshop for teachers on the subjects of watersheds and water quality? yes _____ no _____

When would you be most available for such a workshop? _____

6. Other questions/comments:

Please return questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. Thank you

OKLAHOMA



ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Volume 26. Report No. 48

Thursday, November 30, 1995

Energy/Environment Calendar

Monday, December 4

OK Conservation Commission
9:30 a.m. Conference Room,
Department of Agriculture Bldg.,
2800 N Lincoln, Oklahoma City.

**Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation
Commission**
9:30 a.m. 1801 N Lincoln, Oklaho-
ma City.

Tuesday, December 5

Water Quality Council
1 p.m. Board Room, State Agricul-
ture Bldg., 2800 N Lincoln., State
Capitol Complex, Oklahoma City.
Intended rulemaking action: The
General Permits found in Appendi-
ces A, B and C will expire on June
1, 1996. This rule proposes to
reissue the General Permits with an
effective date of July 1, 1996, and
an expiration date of July 1, 2001.

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation
7 p.m. Kiamichi Vo-Tech, Hwy 69
By-pass, McAlester. Public hear-
ings to obtain comments from
sportsmen on proposed changes to
hunting seasons for prairie chicken,
quail, and deer.

Wednesday, December 6

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation
7 p.m. Lawton Public Library,
Room 1, 110 SW Fourth, Lawton.
Public hearings to obtain comments
from sportsmen on proposed
changes to hunting seasons for
prairie chicken, quail, and deer.

(Continued on Next Page)

CITIZENS' ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON PROPERTY TAXATION

PANEL ADOPTS subcommittee recommendations, draft report 2

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

DEQ MAKING three recommendations for statutory changes in 1996 4
BIOMEDICAL CERTIFICATE of need vote postponed until January 5
FALL FORUM DRAWS variety of environmental issues 8

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

WATER QUALITY implementation designed to protect agriculture 11

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NEW CONSERVATION 'home page' being introduced on the Internet 13

OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION

GROUPS LOOKING at gas allowable legislation 13

RED RIVER BOUNDARY COMMISSION

KERR TO CHAIR Red River boundary commission 14

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

LIHEAP PROGRAM uncertain for this winter 15

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION grants awarded 15

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AMERICORPS PROJECT enters second year, going strong 17

PUBLIC UTILITIES

BOSNIAN OFFICIALS CONFER with one, tour OKC bomb site 19

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

ROTATING GARBANZO beans may lessen wheat expenses 19
NSF GRANT HELPING OU acquire environmental supercomputer 20

GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

SHIFT FROM petroleum-based economy not desirable, API study says 21
ENERGY WEEK '96 focuses on technological advancements 22
HANSEN, HORTON JOIN GRI board of directors 23
IOGCC CAPTURES national communication award 24
MID-CONTINENT issues 1995 edition of petroleum facts brochure 24

NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

APACHE ANNOUNCES third oil discovery in Egypt 24

Permit Status Reports Supplement Page 1

CITIZENS' ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON PROPERTY TAXATION

PANEL ADOPTS SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, DRAFT REPORT

Members of the **Citizens' Advisory Task Force on Property Taxation** Tuesday, Nov. 21, adopted several recommendations from a subcommittee appointed to consider specific issues, such as broadening Oklahoma's tax base, and approved a draft report into which the recommendations will be incorporated, but turned down a minority report.

Eugene Cheatwood, Okemah, Okfuskee County assessor, who serves as task force vice chairman and chairs the subcommittee, presented the recommendations. The first up for consideration was a request that the task force submit a recommendation to the legislature that a more precise definition of public service property be developed to reduce uncertainty concerning what constitutes centrally and locally assessed property.

Jeff Spelman, director of the Ad Valorem Division of the **Oklahoma Tax Commission**, explained that in general public service property, which is centrally assessed by the **State Board of Equalization**, includes property owned by utility companies, pipelines, telecommunications companies, transportation companies and similar enterprises. Public service companies are also defined as those authorized to exercise eminent domain or to use public rights-of-way, streets and highways, or go over or under them, in a manner not permitted to the general public.

This recommendation was adopted unanimously on a voice vote.

Task Force Considers Broadening Sales Tax Base By Including Services

As explained by **Frederick Drummond**, a Pawhuska rancher, the second subcommittee recommendation was to ask the legislature to consider substantially broadening the sales tax base by including services. In a letter accompanying the subcommittee report, Drummond told task force Chairman **Don Davis**, Lawton, president of **Cameron University**, that lawmakers could consider a 2-percent tax on most services, and a 1-percent tax on medical and funeral services, to be used to fund schools and local government. However, most of the discussion centered on just removing the service exemptions from the existing state sales tax.

Because we live in such a service-oriented society, Drummond said Tuesday, it would be foolish not to look at broadening the tax base in this fashion.

"This seems to be the avenue that best solves the problems that we have," said Drummond.

Answering a question from **Forrest "Butch" Freeman**, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County treasurer, Drummond said that how the funds are ultimately used may depend upon how much can be raised by repealing the exemptions. It has been estimated that subjecting services to the state sales tax might raise more than \$300 million.

To Davis, Drummond said that either a new levy or removal of exemptions could work, but the latter might be preferable.

If Services Are Taxed, Rate Should Be Reduced, Says Moesel

Rodd Moesel, Oklahoma City, policy advisor to Gov. **Frank Keating**, said he might favor including services in the sales tax base if the overall tax rate were reduced. Otherwise, he said, merely deleting the exemptions for services could mean a substantial tax increase for businesses and their customers.

The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

Cheatwood then presented a recommendation that the legislature levy a tax on nonproducing severed minerals. He said this idea has been before the legislature once or twice, but without success.

Energy/Environment Calendar

Thursday, December 7

Radiation Management Advisory Council

10 a.m. St. Francis Hospital, Classroom 4, 6161 S Yale, Tulsa. FORM Rule; amendment to 252:400-1-3-5, uniform permitting; amendment to 252:400-17, uniform permitting; and agreement State Status.

OK Water Resources Board

10 a.m. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Auditorium, 1801 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. Intended rulemaking action: Pertaining to mandatory federal requirements for wastewater projects funded by the State Revolving Fund Program.

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

7 p.m. Northwest Electric Co., 2925 Williams Ave., Woodward and OSU Extension Annex, 301 N Main, Guymon. Public hearings to obtain comments from sportsmen on proposed changes to hunting seasons for prairie chicken, quail, and deer.

Friday, December 8

Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

7 p.m. Tulsa Technology Center, 3420 S Memorial, Tulsa and 1801 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.. Public hearings to obtain comments from sportsmen on proposed changes to hunting seasons for prairie chicken, quail, and deer.

sectors of the area vegetation, soil properties, and animal and insect life to look for seasonal changes. The area will also be developed into a bird sanctuary by seeding it with cereal type grains and adding bird houses on posts.

•**Welch Junior and Senior High Schools**, Welch (Sally A. Fenska - teacher) "Connect Three: Environmental Investigations in Chemistry, Biology and Physics," an interdisciplinary program of environmental education, will be funded by the grant. This program is designed to give students a better understanding of the environmental issues that face northeast Oklahoma. Testing kits will be purchased to allow students to examine soil and water samples for possible pollution from agricultural related run-off and from several abandoned coal mines. The project will provide students with relevant experiences in approaching an environmental issue from three different perspectives.

•**Colcord Middle School**, Colcord (Jerry Swank - teacher) A water well testing system will be purchased with grant funds allowing the largely rural student population of the middle school to conduct annual tests

on a number of rural water wells. These wells may be subject to pollution or contamination from a variety of commercial farming operations including chicken houses, dairy farms and hog farms. The community will be able to utilize the middle school science class for annual water well analysis.

Grant winners will be required to submit a report to the committee in December of 1996 outlining their program. The reports will be available at the **Department of Environmental Quality** as a resource to groups interested in duplicating program activities in their community.

Funds for the grant program were generated by the sale of the Environmental Education License Tag. The tags can be purchased through local tag agencies or the Oklahoma Tax Commission. The tags cost \$27 and are renewable yearly. More information about the tags or the 1995 Environmental Education Grant winners can be obtained by calling the Department of Environmental Quality, Public Information and Education office at (405)271-7353. nr

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AMERICORPS PROJECT ENTERS SECOND YEAR, GOING STRONG

Entering its second year, the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps** program is alive and well, reported **Joel Berg**, USDA AmeriCorps national director, Monday, Nov. 27.

Berg was in Oklahoma City kicking off his of tour of the state's USDA AmeriCorps projects. He visited 30 states last year and spent last week in Kansas.

"It is critical for policymakers to get out from behind their desks and see how the program is functioning," he explained.

He noted that AmeriCorps has Oklahoma roots, with former U.S. Rep. **Dave McCurdy** being one of the primary legislative sponsors of the concept of national service.

"It is one of the federal programs that stands up well to scrutiny," Berg said of AmeriCorps. "The closer you look at it the better it appears."

To be eligible for the program, an applicant must be at least 17 years old and a U.S. citizen or legal resident, Berg said. Those accepted into the program are responsible for their own food and lodging, but do receive \$7,945 per year to help offset expenses. Supervisors may receive \$12,000 per year.

In addition, he said, participants receive a \$4,725 education award, which is taxable in the year it is used. This education award may be used at the school of the applicant's choice and is in addition to, rather than in lieu of, any other educational money the individual may

receive.

The vast majority of participants are from the middle class, Berg said. This is defined by the government as earning above \$20,000 per year. And, many are between degrees, trying to raise money to help with advanced schooling. Within the USDA's projects in Oklahoma, ages range from 18 to 42, with the majority in their 20s. By law a participant may only spend two years in the program.

The projects are community-driven in that they meet a particular need of the area they serve and the program is non-regulatory, Berg said.

"We can truly say we are from the federal government and we are here to help you," he explained.

AmeriCorps is about making hard service pay, Berg said, explaining that the number one motivation given for volunteering is a desire to serve the country. Second is the desire to receive an education.

"Last year we had five applicants for each position," Berg said of the USDA's AmeriCorps program's popularity.

AmeriCorps Facing Uncertainty In Third Year Funding

Some rough sledding may still be ahead, Berg said. While the program is set for its second fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, both the House and Senate have "zeroed out" third year funding. However, he said, congressional

leadership has indicated the issue may be open to negotiation.

There are two major means of funding, Berg explained. One-third of the funding comes through national directs. These are projects sponsored by a federal agency. Funding comes from the **Corporation for National Service** and is matched by the sponsoring agency. Grant funds from the Corporation for National Service are from the previous year's appropriation. Consequently, Berg explained, USDA is using FY 96 money to match FY 95 funds from the corporation.

The Corporation for National Service faced a small budget cut as part of the Budget Reconciliation process, Berg said, but generally retained its funds for grants from the FY 95 monies. USDA is one of the few federal agencies to have received an FY 96 budget, with its appropriation bill passing and being signed by the President, although some of the U.S. Forest Service money is subject to the appropriation for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Consequently, funding for USDA's FY 1996 AmeriCorps projects is secure.

Each project is different, Berg explained. In some cases the corporation supplies 80 percent of the funding and USDA provides a 20 percent match. In other cases USDA may be called on to provide the 80 percent.

These projects are very competitive, Berg explained. There is competition between projects as to which ones will be included in an agency's grant proposal. For example, Oklahoma had two of eight proposed projects accepted for the USDA application. Then there is competition between agencies as to which applications receive grant funding from the corporation.

The other two-thirds of the federal funding is awarded through the states. Part of the money comes through formula funding to the states. The rest is based on competition between projects.

Nancy Deaver, executive director Oklahoma Community Service Commission, said that in Oklahoma no state funds are involved. The matching funds are provided through the community service commission, a non-profit organization.

The commission must provide a 20 percent match for administrative funding, which can be services in kind, such as donated office space. The commission must also provide a 15 percent match in cash of the actual cost of supporting a volunteer in the field. On the average it costs \$15,000 per year to keep one of these volunteers in the program, compared to the average \$18,000 per year cost of keeping a USDA AmeriCorps applicant in the field. However, this may drop some as not all members plan to go back to school and use the education award.

To be considered each project must have objectives on community service, community development--something of value which outlasts the stay of the AmeriCorps volunteers--and member development, such as skills training. Each AmeriCorps volunteer must complete CPR

training, and one participant in a USDA project in Kansas is credited with using this training to save a life.

Projects must file quarterly reports showing how they are meeting their goals. Some projects which were not meeting objectives were not renewed for the second year, Berg said.

A side benefit of the USDA AmeriCorps projects, Berg said, is that they may help slow the "brain drain" in rural America by moving people to where the need for service exists and giving them the skills and acquaintances to provide those services. In some cases, he said, program participants may stay in the same area after their AmeriCorps service is completed.

USDA Sponsoring Windbreak, Environmental Education Projects

USDA has two AmeriCorps projects active in the state. The first involves 15 volunteers helping to restore windbreaks in 23 counties of western Oklahoma. The volunteers are divided into three five-member teams with one team each located in Sentinel, Woodward and Cheyenne.

Last year the AmeriCorps volunteers worked on over 40 windbreaks in 10 counties, planting 10,000 trees. In addition, the volunteers planted 4,500 trees in community shelter belts. The projects cross jurisdictional boundaries working cooperatively with the Forestry Division of the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The second USDA project involves a public outreach for environmental education, with five team members working at the Nature Reserve at Rogers State College in Claremore.

In addition to the USDA projects, there are three other direct-funded AmeriCorps projects in Oklahoma.

The **AmeriCorps National Farmer Training and Service Program** helps migrant and seasonal farmworkers reduce their exposure to pesticides and access health, education and support services. AmeriCorps members become state-certified pesticide safety trainers and train farmworkers in pesticide safety as required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standards. The project is in conjunction with the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs.

The **National Community AIDS Partnership** sponsors a program through which AmeriCorps volunteers provide a range of services including delivering meals, providing transportation to medical appointments, educating communities about HIV prevention, feeding and diapering HIV positive infants, and offering crisis support to families experiencing loss from HIV/AIDS. The program is based in Tulsa. Four days a week members engage in direct services with one day reserved for additional training, personal development and a member developed group project.

The **Youth Corps of America** is sponsoring an AmeriCorps project to help develop service-learning partnerships and organize, lead and supervise youth volunteers in service that emphasizes school readiness and crime prevention.

Four other AmeriCorps programs are active through competitive funding with assistance from the Oklahoma Community Service Commission.

Through **Rural Health Projects Inc.** (Oklahoma P.A.T.C.H.) AmeriCorps members are improving health care in medically underserved areas by providing health care presentations, promoting health care projects and school fairs, assisting local health departments, and supporting organizations to help community groups prioritize and address their concerns.

LEADS (Literacy, Education, Accessibility, Diversity, Self-Sufficiency) calls on AmeriCorps members to help improve the academic achievement of low-income students through tutoring. LEADS members will increase the parenting skills of low-income parents through education and support programs for those parents and will assist low-income students in achieving their career goals in school-to-work programs.

The **American Red Cross/AmeriCorps "Help Can't Wait"** program provides education and training to increase public awareness and knowledge of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response. AmeriCorps will recruit volunteers who will be trained to respond in environmental emergencies as part of Disaster Action Teams. AmeriCorps members will also develop community resources that will provide environmental emergency support services to communities with a combined population of more than 2 million.

AmeriCorps VISTAs are committed to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives. Approximately 4,000 AmeriCorps VISTA members serve in both rural and urban areas across the nation, providing employment, training, literacy services, housing assistance, health education and neighborhood revitalization.

Persons seeking more information on AmeriCorps activities in the state are asked to contact the Oklahoma Community Services Commission, 1515 N Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73104; phone: 405-235-7278, FAX: 405-235-7036. lkl

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PUBLIC UTILITIES

BOSNIAN OFFICIALS CONFER WITH ONE, TOUR OKC BOMB SITE

A group of six Bosnian officials planning reconstruction efforts in Sarajevo and other Bosnian cities met with employees of **Oklahoma Natural Gas Co.** Monday, Nov. 27, to learn more about natural gas distribution and how to repair their damaged infrastructure.

The meeting included a demonstration of how ONG employees responded to the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building and the reconstruction activities ONG undertook to repair its distribution system.

ONG personnel discussed the impact of that explosion on the utility's pipelines and how utility service was restored. Included in the discussion was the possibility of using high pressure plastic pipe which can be run back through the existing line to provide a new system that corrects leaks without having to retrench the entire route of the damaged pipeline.

Years of civil war have badly damaged the utility

infrastructure in Sarajevo and other Bosnian cities and the visitors were eager to learn from the Oklahoma City experience. As utility services are restored to the war-torn country, officials are concerned about restoring natural gas heating in a safe manner. One of the concerns is that system leaks be corrected before service is fully restored so that sparks, such as turning on a light switch, do not cause explosions from natural gas leaks.

The Bosnian officials visit with ONG personnel is part of the group's three week training program in the United States at the invitation of the **University of Oklahoma**, in cooperation with the Washington, D.C.-based **Partners for International Education and Training** and the **United States Agency for International Development**. lkl

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COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

(University of Central Oklahoma)

ROTATING GARBANZO BEANS MAY LESSEN WHEAT EXPENSES

Rotating a summer crop of garbanzo beans into the same field may provide a less expensive way for farmers to fertilize wheat acreage, keep cover on the crop land and better protect the ecosystem, according to initial

findings from a research project conducted at the **University of Central Oklahoma** in Edmond.

The three year study of chickpeas and pigeonpeas, generically known as garbanzo beans, was conducted by

James Bidlack, UCO associate professor of biology. Bidlack was approached about the research following his move to UCO from Iowa State University in 1990.

Due to a lack of cropland available at the Edmond school's campus, Bidlack raised the garbanzo beans on the roof of the university's science building, Howell Hall.

The project was joined in 1993 by **Oklahoma State University** and was instrumental in establishing cooperative agreements between OSU and other universities conducting agricultural research.

"In an era of declining resources, the university believes that teaming is an efficient way of preventing duplication of faculty and still accomplishing important scientific research," explained OSU's collaborative research proposal.

The research has shown a better way for farmers to protect their cropland during the summer months, when the fields lay bare or with little wheat stubble.

"During these months there could be a lot of soil erosion, which can result in problems to the ecosystem because there's no protection for the animals," Bidlack said. "And, if a farmer has cattle, there is nothing for them to graze on but the wheat stubble. This type of farming leads to non-use of the soil."

The solution, he said, is planting a cover crop of chickpeas or pigeonpeas.

"A cover crop is established immediately," he said. "And, the big thing about these three-foot-tall legume

producing plants is that they fix nitrogen, so when farmers come back in August to plant their wheat, they don't have to fertilize. That is the biggest selling point."

Nitrogen is the most expensive input for wheat fertilization and after a three-year cycle of planting, harvesting the "fruit" and reintroducing the leaves and stalk from the plant back into the ground, chickpea and pigeonpea plants can provide the minimum amount of nitrogen needed to sustain a winter wheat crop, Bidlack said.

In addition to the benefits gleaned from the plants, UCO reported, the beans can be used to make flour, soup or to top a salad.

The project is now being funded through a \$48,000 grant to UCO from the **U.S. Department of Agriculture**, in which a five-year agreement was formed.

"This allows us to share equipment," Bidlack said.

He noted that nitrogen analysis tests from the garbanzo beans are currently under way at the USDA Grazing Land Research Laboratory in El Reno.

UCO is currently processing data gathered from the past three years of its roof top research.

"We're looking at what other types of chickpea- and pigeonpea-related research we can do," Bidlack said. "But at the Grazing Land Research Laboratory, our work has catapulted their research into a wide-spread project designed to determine what the application of this is to the state." lkl

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(University of Oklahoma)

NSF GRANT HELPING OU ACQUIRE ENVIRONMENTAL SUPERCOMPUTER

A \$580,000 grant from the **National Science Foundation** and \$823,000 in support from the **University of Oklahoma** is allowing OU to bring a CRAY 190 supercomputer to campus, the school recently announced.

Fourteen OU professors representing a variety of disciplines from three OU colleges have joined to create the **Environmental Computing Applications Systems (ECAS)**, which will utilize the new supercomputer. The CRAY 190 represents more than a 20-fold increase in computing power over what is currently available on the OU campus.

And a private-sector transportation company with a crucial need for the storm-scale, weather-prediction model under development at OU is considering a \$500,000 grant to the university which would double the size of the original CRAY system, the university said. The initial CRAY system is expected to be installed at OU's Sarkeys Energy Center in December.

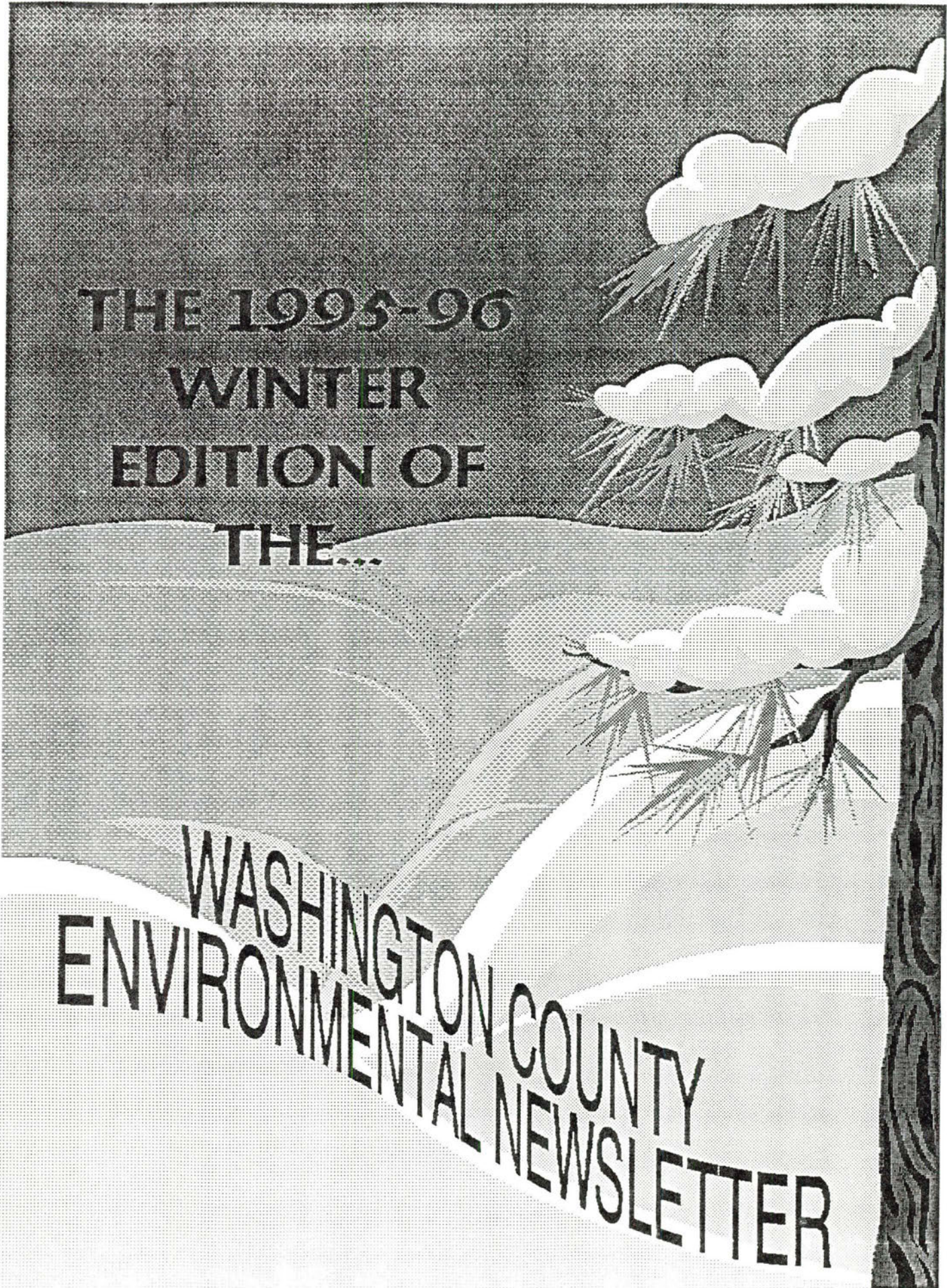
"This new supercomputer will help OU's top-ranked environmental and meteorological programs to reach an

even greater standard of excellence," said OU President **David L. Boren**. "The decision of the National Science Foundation to provide a grant to help fund this project is a recognition of the national stature of our faculty in these program areas."

Addition of the supercomputer will allow researchers to link the complex numerical models developed at OU and, using a variety of data, study environmental phenomena--such as flooding, wind shear, precipitation, severe storms, vegetation levels and groundwater migration--on spatial scales from approximately 1/2 to 60 miles and time scales from one hour to several months.

"We definitely are positioned to make even more significant contributions in environmental science research and education," said **Kevin Droegemeier**, principal investigator of ECAS. Droegemeier is an associate professor of meteorology and director of the OU Center for Analysis and Predictions of Storms.

There is a major real-world benefit to this research, Droegemeier pointed out, most notably in saving lives, crops and expensive equipment by improved environmental forecasting and research.



THE 1995-96
WINTER
EDITION OF
THE...

WASHINGTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

The Water Testing Experience

Our fall water testing experience has come to an end. And from our first-hand view what an excursion it was! Sure, it was a great excuse to get out of class and to tromp around the ocean shore wearing hip-rubbers, but it was also one of the best hands-on projects we've ever participated in. The Department of Marine Resources can say what they like, but the work we have been doing here at Jonesport-Beals has been a great asset to their work. While they test our flats only a few times, we test our flats every week during the fall and spring months. Time after time our results have matched theirs. A few flats have been opened recently in Jonesport and Beals and contrary to popular DMR belief, it can be largely attributed to J-B water testing results. But that is beside the point. The point is that water testing takes much more hard work and determination than many may think. After spending almost an hour and a half on the flats each week, we must process our water samples and test salinity and dissolved oxygen. The processing of the samples takes pretty near an entire class period the day after testing. The following day, our science classes devote our allotted time to a bacteria count. Higher math tells me that this is the equivalent of three hours per week taken from our science classes to test our local clam flats for bacteria. Fortunately, it is time we, as a community, gladly spend. We have a great deal of help from the parents of our students. Without them serving as chaperones, we would not be able to test the number of flats that we would like. Clifford Johnson is a parent that comes to mind

whenever I think of this. For his third consecutive water testing season he has not missed a single trip. People like him make our project a success. I wish that I had a few stories of major mishaps occurring during our testing that I could tell you about. Other than walking out too far over my boots on one occasion, nothing comes to mind. Do not be dismayed, however, because it just goes to show how well we did controlling ourselves on our trips. Don't get me wrong, we had our share of laughs and fun, but when it came to testing, we got serious and did a job that I feel was accurate and one that we can be proud of. To show you just how seriously our students took the water testing project, I have included some of their thoughts in this article:

"I believe that the water testing process is very interesting. I think it shows teens, as well as adults who chaperone, that our water system is only here for a while, so we had better protect it while it's here."

--Darek Merchant

"I think water testing is not only good for the students, but for the community also. Instead of being in a classroom we are learning and doing something for the community."

--Jeremy Alley

"I think water testing is a very good way to help the community and skip class at the same time. Water testing gives a chance for a polluted flat to reopen in a safe way."

--Frank Alley

"I enjoyed the water quality testing project very much. I think it is very educational and should continue in the MCSD."

--Lee Davis

"I thought that the water testing project was very exciting. I liked being in groups doing our tests. It was hands-on and that's fun. We learned a lot about oceans."

--Tammy Alley

As you can see, water testing is not something we have taken lightly. We will continue to serve our communities through this extremely important project. We cannot wait to get back onto the

flats in the spring.

In closing, we here at J-B would like to urge you to help conserve our rivers, lakes, and oceans. They are one of our most vital natural resources. Not only do they provide us with life-sustaining water, but they are a huge source of income for many of Maine's residents. Even the smallest of efforts really do make a difference! Please, won't you do your part?

Leigh Woodward
Jonesport-Beals High
Chemistry Student



We throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour (22 billion plastic bottles a year).

Angela Fletcher
Narraguagus High School

Lobster fishing has been the business for many generations for people all around the coast. But now there have been so many new set laws that it is becoming very hard and discouraging to be a lobster fisherman.

You are now only allowed to have at the most 3500 traps for some who have owned 5000 or more traps this is a major problem. They now have 2000 or more traps that they have nothing to do with. It is hard to sell them because the other people can't afford them or they would have already had them or they are close to their limit as well.

Just recently they have added many restrictions on getting your license renewed. One of the few ways is that you must have held a lobster fishing license for at least the past 4 years, and have owned and used your own boat. You must be able to show proof of all this, including receipts of the pounds you have sold to verify your sales.

If you can prove this or one of the others you will be passed and considered for the years licenses.

Out of all of those who have actually have been considered, if the number is small enough, they all will receive their licenses. If the number is still high they will take only the most worthy.

Many people are helping to pay for a lawyer to stand up for all the lobster fisherman in Maine.

I am glad to see that people are standing up for their rights and the rights of others. This has been the only job that some people know. If you take it away the unemployment will sky rocket. A lot of people are making a clean living out of this, if the state takes it away, this will destroy many lives.

Never Ending Sky

The U.S. creates 19% of the world's garbage, that's 200 million tons of municipal garbage every year — 3 1/2 pounds per person, per day.

Thirty percent of the garbage filling up landfills is packaging.

Each year Americans landfill 10 to 20 billion disposable razors, 1.7 billion pens and 45 billion pounds of plastic.

We are exporting 200 million pounds of plastic garbage each year — mostly to Asia, where it gets landfilled.

E Magazine, July/Aug 1995, Page 28

* Stalking over our land
the darkness engulfs
the sky.

* The earth turns to ice
while the plants and
animals die.

* The air turns to nothingness
and the angels in the
Heavens cry.

* Our oceans will never
bear a wave
and the sun will never shine,
for this is what happens when our
earth begins to die.

* Slowly becoming specks of dust in a
never ending sky.

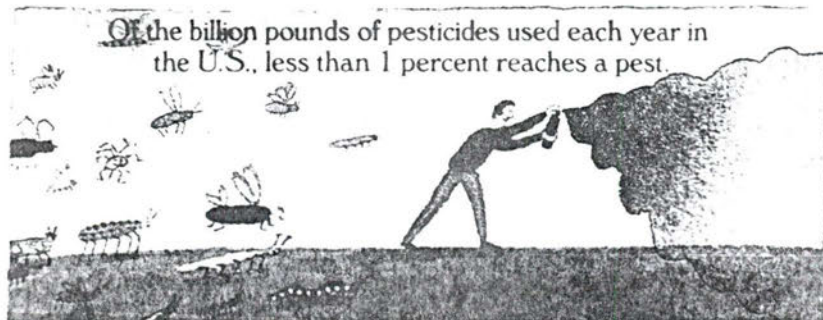
Sam Maurais
Narraguagus High

"Lobster Tags"

During the lobster fishing season there are many controversial issues that come up. One such issue is the way to keep the number of traps, that every lobster fisherman has, low. One way to solve this problem, in the eyes of the government, is to put tags on each trap. The fisherman would purchase the tags from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), for a price that hasn't been mentioned and fill them out for each trap in which they own. However, the majority of the fisherman are opposed. They say that it is too much paperwork to fill out. Another provision is to enforce a 1,200-trap limit by the year 2003. One lobsterman says that the tags were "just the start" of a new plan to force out the independent lobsterfisherman, discourage younger people from at least trying to do it, and regulate it so that the big lobster corporations are the only ones who can afford to stay in the business. Most people who are fisherman tend to agree when they say that the federal government wants to control as much of the industry as is possible.

People in Downeast Maine have differing opinions as would most people in a small area. I think that the majority of the people think as lobsterfisherman do because it is such a big industry along the coast. It is such an issue because we live right along the coast and not further inland. This may be one of those problems that are never solved. You have the one aspect that was just discussed and you have the other issue of the fisherman depleting the number of lobster in the ocean. However the issue is resolved I'm sure the fishing industry will benefit greatly from it.

Lester Look
Narraguagus High School



As you drive along Coastal Route 1 through the fishing town of Milbridge, turn left onto the Wyman Road, the home of Lawrence Ray. For the last couple of years Lawrence Ray has been cornering the fishing industry. Mr. Ray has a dive shop , an urchin market, his own trucking operation and soon to be a "pickle plant" commonly known as sea cucumbers. Doodie and Lawrence Ray, for the past 1 1/2 years, have been planning their pickle processing plant, there is a lot of legal procedures you have to go through to start a processing plant of this size. The innards of the sea cucumbers are very toxic and hard to dispose of properly. Now experiments have showed that the insides of the pickle could be used as a dried additive to salmon food and also they are being used by a company that processes Shitake mushrooms, and they use it in the compost.

That would be great for Lawrence. He can be making money from the dried meats and from the Innards. I hope that the Ray's become very rich on the deal.

By Wade Kearns

Pollution Effect on Climate and Ozone

Surprising new research proves that pollution does, in fact effect the climate, especially in metropolitan cities like New York, San Francisco, L.A., etc. In the colder cites like Chicago, Pittsburgh, etc., it still gets cold enough to snow and freeze. Pollution makes a slight change in temperature of cities almost unnoticeable, but technically it's slightly hotter.

Pollution also eats hole in ozone, and the ozone protects us from about 80%-90% of the UV radiation. If the ozone was totally gone we would have the global warming effect, and that would kill life. Already there are holes in the antarctic, and there is not much life there, is there?

WHEN RECYCLING BECOMES
DESTRUCTION

Recycling has become the wave of the future that almost everybody, from city-dwellers to country ruralists, is sailing upon. It is a heroic attempt to neutralize the growth of dumps laden with reusable materials as well as a crusade against the pillaging of the earth's depleting natural resources. Yet our voracious appetite to reuse materials over and over again can backfire, resulting in the destruction of something that is useful in its present condition. Such has occurred at Narraguagus High School.

Early in the month of November it was decided that a certain storage area, cluttered with a plenitude of books, was to be emptied so that other fundamentals could be stored there. The fate of the books, some which dated as far back as 1898, was determined--they were

to be recycled. Assuming that "recycling" meant donating the books, as they were, to surrounding community organizations, our class dutifully followed to the storage room.

What I witnessed next was atrocious. In an enormous pile there lay the torn pages of desecrated books, their words now only fragments of knowledge. Their bindings were removed ferociously, and they lay exposed to the multitude of trampling feet that nonchalantly abused the great treasures. We were given orders to gather the books and place them just outside the storage room where another group was to tear them apart for recycling.

I gathered some books in my arms and sent them to their fate. Dumbstruck, I watched as a limited edition volume (only 1500 copies ever made) was salvaged within seconds of being destroyed. Yet others were not

so lucky and hardly given any notice as the students crazily tore apart the books. I wondered what the authors of the destroyed books would have thought if they had witnessed this tragic episode, and I realized that this was no more justified than the German Nazis' burning of books during World War II.

What kind of message is being sent to our generation when a school, which is supposedly a safe haven for books, is transformed and no longer retains any respect for great works of literature. And how are we supposed to react when even the teachers, which felt that some of the books could be used in the classroom, were denied the right to rummage through the piles and were turned away empty-handed (for it was assumed that the books would wind up in the storage room again).

This is an obvious lack of

respect for literature, as well as the tax-payers' money. When mentioning this treachery to some of these tax-payers they were outraged and claimed that they were unaware it. Didn't they have a right to know how their money, in a sense, was being torn up and cast out?

There are other solutions to the recycling of these books, other than mutilation. They could've been donated to local libraries, which are always eager to collect more books. There is a recycle shop in Cherryfield that offers clothing and other necessities to low income families that gladly would have accepted the offer. Another solution could've been to hold a book fair and use the profits to fund class trips or other committees--anything but destroying them, and then claiming it is recycling!

--Bonnie D.

WREATH-MAKING IN MAINE

Wreath-making has become one of the most valuable and popular businesses in Maine. These wreaths are made from Balsam fir tips, and the demand for them rises each year. In fact, there is such a demand for them that "wreathers," as they are called in Maine, have resided to Canadian brush sources.

The parts of the balsam fir tree that are used for wreaths are at the end of the tree limbs (the last 15-20 in.) and are called "tips."

Tippling season begins in Maine in the late fall, after the needles have "set," which means the tree has become dormant and stopped growing for the season. At this time the tree covers its needles with a waxy coating. If the tips are gathered before this time, the tips will lose their leaves a very short time after harvest. This "setting time" varies every year, and this time depends on the yearly climate along with the growing year. The typical times for areas in Maine are: November 10-15 in Southern Maine, November 7-10 in Eastern Maine, and about November 1 in northern areas of Maine. The season then lasts until about mid-December.

As stated above, Maine wreaths are made from Balsam fir tips. These trees are identified by their dark green, blunt-ended needles, usually about 1-inch long. Balsam fir may sometimes get confused with spruce, but the spruce needles are easy to identify as well, due to the fact that they are shorter and "prickly" to the touch. Hemlock trees may also be easily mistaken for the Balsam, but it can be identified by its short, blunt needles, and the two unmistakable white stripes on the underside of the needle.

Tips gathered for wreath-makers should be that of top quality, as this is one of the major factories determining the quality of the finished wreath. The needles should be dark green, not yellow or brown; and should be disease-free.

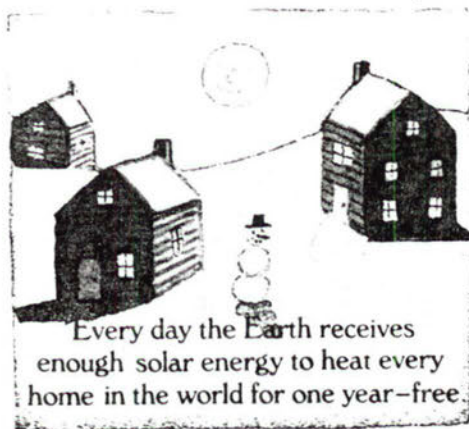
Tips are usually gathered from the middle of the young tree as these are usually the best-quality tips. The top part of the tree has branches with long stems, and the bottom part of the tree may have branches with needles on just one side. Both are unsuitable for wreath-making. To remove tips, the "tipper" grasps the branch between the thumb and forefinger and snaps it off with a quick downward motion. Generally 12 to 20 inches of the branch is removed. The last major set of stems should be left, as this allows the tree to grow back fully in about 3 years.

Once the tips are gathered, they are then stacked on a stick, which is a small tree that has been cut down and stripped of all its branches except the last set, which is used to stack the tips on. The tips are stacked on these sticks in a criss-cross manner which keeps them on the stick for easier transport. A finished stick usually

weighs between 40-75 pounds.

After the tips have been harvested, stacked and transported to a dealer, they are then ready to be sold. Individuals can sell these tips to local buyers, which most people do, who specify the tip length, stacked method, and quality. The tips are sold by weight. In 1987, the price of tips per pound ranged between 22 to 32 cents per pound.

The people of Maine should feel very fortunate that they have the natural resources to make these beautiful crafts. Not everyone is that fortunate.



By Lee Davis

BODY HEAT

You might be surprised at how much energy you can save by dressing more warmly to retain your own natural body heat. For women, slacks are warmer than skirts. For men and women, long-sleeved sweaters can add between 2 and 4 degrees in added warmth; and two lightweight sweaters add about 5 degrees in warmth because the air between them serves as insulation to keep in more body heat. During the summer, save on air conditioning in the same way: Wear short-sleeved shirts and blouses, skirts and shorts, and light fabrics.

The science potpourri class at JBHS went tipping Monday, December 11. The students were able to get a first hand look at the harvesting of one of Maine's own natural resources. Kathy Nitschke from the Maine Forest Service accompanied the class on their trip and informed them of the right and wrong ways to tip. Lee Davis, one of the participating students said, "We all had a lot of fun. It was interesting to learn what the wreath companies want and don't want. I think every science potpourri class should go. It should be an annual thing." From the brush collected, the science potpourri class made the wreathes that are hanging in the lobby at JBHS.

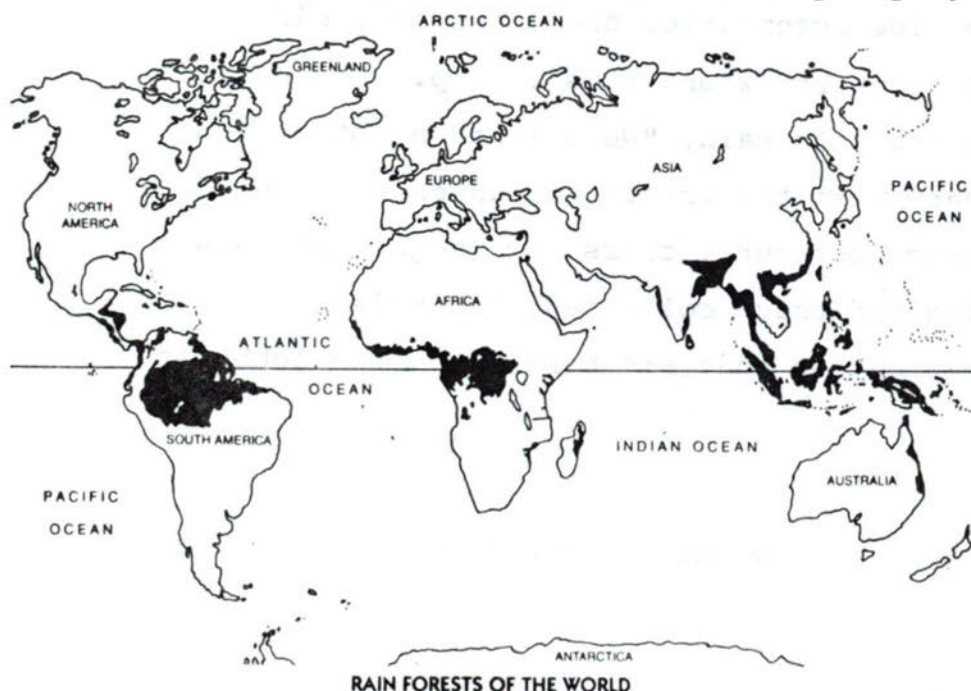
By Jan Beal and Stacey Beal

Physical science students at JBHS recently went on an "incredible journey", a simulation exercise in which students "became" water molecules. Following are recaps of some of their adventures.

MY DAY AS A WATER MOLECULE

I'm floating lazily on a salt molecule, all of a sudden I feel like I'm on an elevator going up, up, up from the bottom of the ocean to the top. Then something happens, the elevator keeps going up through the surface of the water. I kept going up. I was in a fluffy white bed where I could nap comfortably. I woke up and felt very cold, I started freezing then I started my rapid descent, down to the icy glacier below. I started warming up and went down the slide faster and faster until I was on the river. I tried to grab the bank, on my second try I succeeded, and I went through the tunnel to the warm places beyond. I stayed in the soil for a while to get warmed up then I felt myself sinking in to a place far below the surface it was the groundwater. From the groundwater I was filtered into a lake after spending a while in the lake, I hopped on to one of the plants floating in the water. I was sunbathing there when the world suddenly became very dark, a giant moose had swallowed me. This was where my days journey ended.

--Michelle Alley



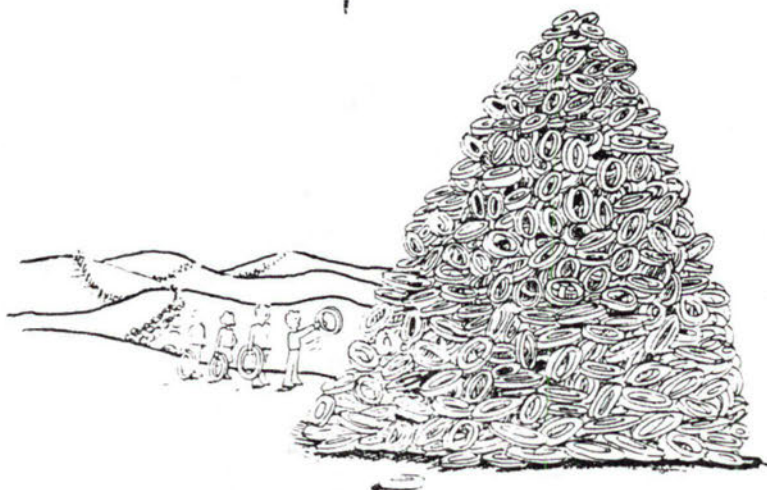
DEFORESTATION

One-quarter of the medicinal drugs prescribed in the United States today are derived from natural compounds, many of which are found only in tropical rain forests.

The Trip of a Molecule

I am a water molecule and I'm going to take you in an adventure. We will start in the ocean but soon we'll be invisible to the human eye as we evaporate into the air and will be floating in the clouds. We are now going to join other molecules as we drop as rain into the river. It's getting cold and all of us water molecules are freezing and forming a glacier. But soon the sun will come out and we'll melt to form a lake. An animal coming straight for us, he tips his head down and starts to drink. OH, NO! We're inside the animal. Soon the animal will have to urinate and we will fall to the soil. Now we are being pulled lower into the ground as we become groundwater when we join other molecules. Now we'll finish our journey as we're sucked into a beautiful flower's roots.

--Misty Alley



We throw away over 200 million tires every year (one for every person in the United States).

YOU CAN'T SEE THE FORESTS OR THE TREES

- Between 50 and 100 acres of tropical rain forest—an area the size of ten city blocks—are destroyed every minute.
- An area the size of New York's Central Park is destroyed every sixteen minutes.
- Every hour 3,000 acres are demolished.
- Every day, an area the size of Philadelphia (74,000 acres) is lost.
- Every year, an area the size of Pennsylvania (27 million acres) is ruined.
- Every ten years, we lose an area the size of the northeastern United States.
- Every fifty years, we lose an area the size of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains.
- At the current rate of deforestation, there will be no intact tropical forest left within one hundred years.

A WATER MOLECULES JOURNEY

I am a water molecule who is about to go on a journey. Right now I am a part of a big chunk of ice in the ocean, a glacier. As the sun shines, me along with my fellow molecules melt into the ocean. Now I am a part of a river, and I know I am on the surface because I can feel the warm sun shining down on me. I can feel myself and see the other molecules floating up, up and into big white puffy clouds. I start slowing down and feel many other molecules grabbing on to me as we fall down to a plant's roots. WHOA! I think I just got sucked up by the plant's roots. Along comes a deer! I think he's going to eat the plant along with me. AHH!! He did! The deer is going to get a drink in the lake and while he is there he feels he needs to use the bathroom. There I get dropped into the water. I am down quite far, so it will be a while until I go for another journey, because I will have to rise to the surface. GOOD-BYE! Come and share another journey with me soon around the water cycle.

Grow, Don't Mow

According to Yale University, lawns cover more than 23 million acres in the U.S., that's equivalent to the size of Pennsylvania. Ten times as many chemical pesticides per acre are used on lawns than on farmland. Add in the pollution emitted from a power mower in just one hour (equal to driving a car 350 miles!) and your yard can become an environmental mess. A free publication from Gardeners Supply illustrates the many benefits of having less lawn and shows how a backyard can become a haven for wildlife.

"Be A Grower, Not A Mower" is available from:
Gardener's Supply Company
128 Intervale Road, Dept 1017
Burlington, VT 05401
800-863-1700

Nikki Centanni

The McToxics Campaign

Polystyrene plastic cups and food containers from one day's sales at McDonald's take up 50,000 cubic feet of landfill space.

Styrene plastic is nonrecyclable and nonbiodegradable. Hazardous wastes are produced during its manufacture, and when it is incinerated, it releases the pollutant carbon monoxide and could release carcinogenic styrene oxide. In almost all cases, paper packages are sufficient substitutes for styrene plastic.

Getting McDonald's 10,000 restaurants to stop using plastic burger boxes could have a stunning domino effect on the rest of the fast food industry. With this thought in mind, the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes (CCHW) launched a national campaign to get McDonald's to "Hold the Toxics!" Waving signs, posters, and fliers, CCHW supporters picketed various McDonald's outlets to emphasize their demand for all-paper packaging. In California, Concerned Neighbors in Action placed orders for McNuggets and burgers wrapped in paper. When the servers wouldn't oblige, the bulky plastic boxes were left on the counter and people carried away their food in napkins.

Based on the public uproar, McDonald's decided to recycle something—its corrugated cardboard. The company also announced plans to begin a trial recycling program for styrene plastic (which CCHW says can't be done) and launched an educational campaign on waste reduction. But it's still serving coffee, burgers, and other meals in plastic. For more information, get the "McFact Pack" (\$5.00) from the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, Inc., P.O. Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216. And the next time McDonald's (or any other fast food restaurant) serves your order in plastic, leave the packaging on the counter.

"Earth Mother"

Tears are falling rapidly
From the many dark gray eyes.
Mother Earth is crying
As she watches her children die.
They know their turn will come soon
Yet, they can't run & hide.
Animals in danger
Know their time will soon be done.
(Hear the Eagle Mother cry
For her only son?)
All this life is mourning
As the days pass by,
Because they've been forgotten
And soon they all will die.
Their guardians have forgotten
The job they were to do.
They have become too lazy
To care about the land.
So, tears are falling rapidly
From the many dark-gray eyes.
Mother Earth is crying
As she watches her children die.

-Stasha

Mandatory Aeration Systems In Lobster Pounds

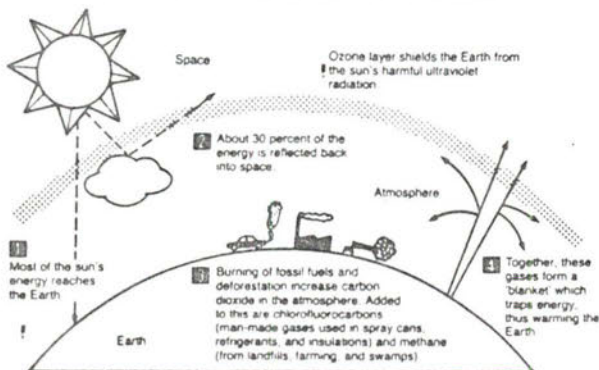
*I think, from what I know
about lobsters, that aeration systems in
lobster pounds would make quite a bit
of difference. When my aunt
purchased her aeration system, she
said it cut down on kills in the pound.*

*The air circulating around in the
pound decreases after awhile. With
each tide change, the water that
fluctuates in and out of the pounds
becomes "stale". Aeration systems
cause a good circulation of air
throughout the pound.*

*Once my aunt bought the system,
she found an immediate change in
shipping to other people. The culls do
not die as easily and the younger
lobsters survive better.*

*I think that if people were made to
put aeration systems in their pounds,
they'd find a difference in the way their
lobsters act and feed.*

HOW THE "GREENHOUSE EFFECT" WORKS



Colon Haskell
Narraguagus High

WORD SEARCHES

L A L M Y B O O Q M C V
O E D E Z X U P S A O E
B O A T O C E A N I D N
S S I I C R A B U N T T
T M D D V M P M R E R R
E N E E A T E R E G A I
R P B X L I N S I O P A
B U S D R I V E R A Z S
N H S F I S H Q A Z X L

T R U S L O B S T E R W N P U T R Q
M R T R P O U Q R S T U V W S P T S
E A T C B T E M E H E L F S Q U P B
D Q G F O W O A R S H R I M P O O O
S T E S W D G I R S I T S L L A P S
O R W C C G H N I J K L H L M N O N
T U V W L X Y E Z B A D A A J V B A
E T B H A D D O C K A C L C V A R T
B J F K M T H T O R S J L O R R W R
C H K G S A L T W A T E R L L S F A

WORDS

1. LOBSTER
2. BOAT
3. TIDE
4. CRAB
5. OCEAN
6. FISH
7. MAINE
8. COD
9. TRAP
10. VENT

WORDS

1. LOBSTER
2. FISH
3. COD
4. HADDOCK
5. SHRIMP
6. CLAMS
7. SALTWATER
8. MAINE
9. SCALLOPS

ROBBIE WORCESTER
TIM TABBUTT
JARED LOOK
NARRAGUAGUS HIGH SCHOOL

MY JOURNEY AS A WATER MOLECULE

I start my journey as a water molecule in the soil stage. Gravity suddenly pulls me down below the soil and into the earth where I join the groundwater. From the groundwater I get sucked into a plant's roots. Along comes an animal and eats the plant. I am in the animal's stomach. The animal goes to the ocean to get a drink and has to go to the bathroom. I am urinated into the ocean. Before I know it I freeze and now I am part of a glacier. I sublimate and go into the clouds where I come together with other water molecules to form rain. I drop into a river where I flow into a lake. Here is where my journey is completed.

I have been through the nine stages of a water molecule. The soil, groundwater, plant, animal, ocean, glacier, cloud, river, and finally the lake stage.

Nathaniel Alley

I am a water molecule. I am floating high in the sky with many other water molecules holding on to me. It's very cold up here. Oh no! I'm being dropped. I'm falling . . . falling . . . I'm on a huge chunk of ice. I'm a glacier. The sun is shining brightly on me. I'm loosening up. I'm slipping. Ahh! I'm in the ocean! The wind is blowing hard now. I'm being slashed around. Up in the air I go. Now I'm being dumped into a river. The hightide brought me in. Quickly I'm moving quickly now. Woah, here I go I'm, I'm, I'm in a lake! The wind is blowing gently. I'm in the soil. I'm getting sucked in. Gravity is pulling me down. I'm in the groundwater. Wow, this is fun I'm being lifted. I think I'm getting sucked up! I am. I'm in a plant. It's awfully dark in here. Here comes a dog. I think he's . . . yup he did . . . he ate me. My journey has ended for awhile.

Lauren Woodward

My Life As a Water Molecule

I started my life as a water molecule in the ocean, which is where I stayed for a very long time.

As time went by, I found myself being sucked up into the clouds. I did not stay there as long as I had stayed in the ocean, because soon there was what the humans call a rain storm.

I then found myself falling downward onto a very cold glacier. Soon, I was frozen, and became trapped in the glacier.

Over time, the glacier melted a little bit-- just enough so that I could become free.

Soon, I was washed away by a near-by river. Then, that familiar feeling of being sucked upward came to me again. I soon found myself to be in another cloud.

After that, another rainstorm occurred. This time, I landed on the ground, and became trapped in some soil. I soon became a part of the groundwater below the soil, which is where I stayed until I moved to a near-by lake. Soon after this, an animal came and drank the water in the lake, including me.

Right now, I am still inside of this animal, but I don't expect I'll stay for long.

Although it seems as though I've been around for a long time, I am actually still a very young molecule. I am sure this is far from the end of my journey.

Oceanside

The wind, the weather
The sun, the sea
The breeze, and me
The flowers, the birds
The grass, the trees
The honeybees and me
The hugs, the kisses
The wishes, the fishes
The glee and me
The earth, the world
The universe
The poems, the verse
The rhyme, the time
The key, and me

Marilyn Ortega
Narraguagus High

The world I know
The things I see
Another torn country
Another burned tree.

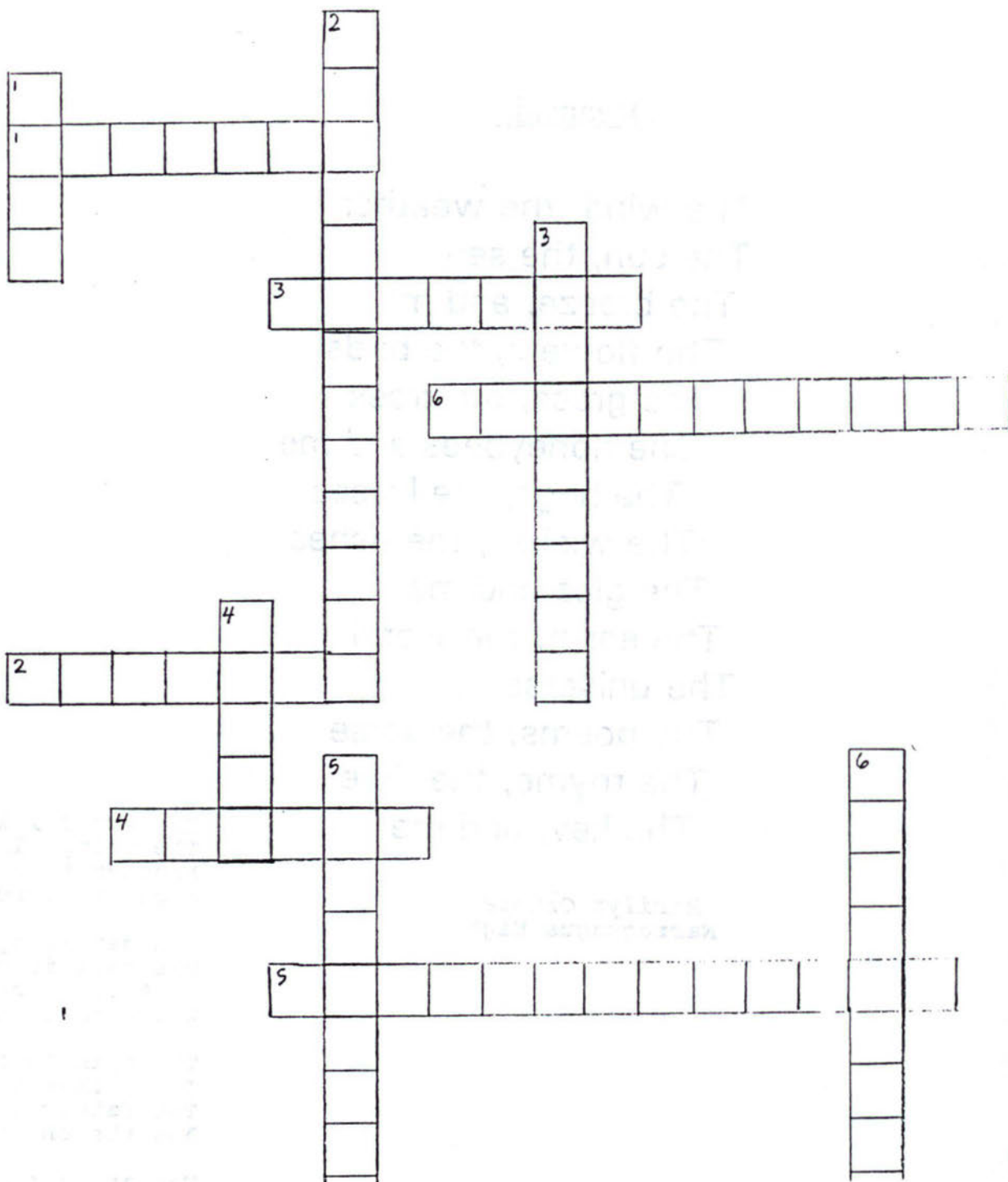
The sea is dying
The soil is gone
So tell me now
Where have we gone wrong.

The animals are killed
The mother's are crying
The father's are dead
And the children are dying.

The animals are killed
The mother's are crying
The father's are dead
And the children are dying.

I see he reason
For the world to be this way
I see no reason
To live this way.

Why must he live
In so much pain
With burning forests
And acid for rain.



1. A hard-shelled arthropod with claws
2. Temperature, etc., in a certain region
3. The condition the atmosphere is in
4. Adjective for ocean
5. Rain, snow, sleet, etc.
6. Sedentary, filter-feeding bivalves; like a clam

1. Animal in a hard shell that lives in muddy areas
2. The study of marine life and weather conditions
3. Spiny, small sea animals, delicacy in Asia
4. H₂O
5. The surroundings around us
6. Body of water off the coast of Maine

answers are on next page

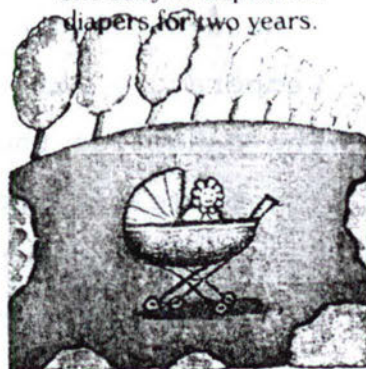
ACROSS

1. lobster
2. climate
3. weather
4. marine
5. precipitation
6. blue mussels

DOWN

1. clam
2. marine science
3. sea urchin
4. water
5. environment
6. Gulf of Maine

It takes twenty trees to keep
one baby in disposable
diapers for two years.



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Cherryfield, ME 04622

Michelle Grant - USDA AmeriCorps
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PO Box 121
Machias, ME 04654



*If you have questions or comments please contact Jane at 546-2368
or Michelle at 255-3995.