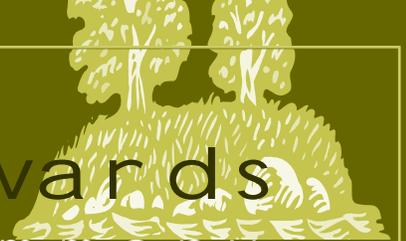


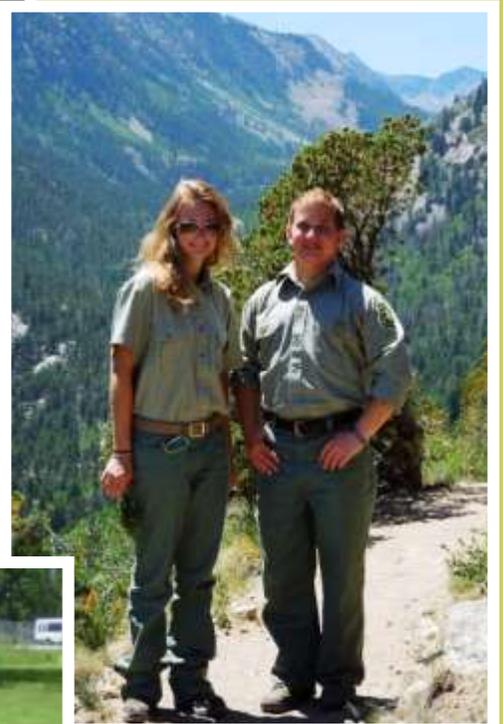
Environmental Stewards

Summer Program Summary



Serving
Communities

Throughout
The United
States



Summer
Edition
2012

Environmental Stewards

Summer Program Summary

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A Recap from Program Management

Summer 2012

In the summer of 2012, the Environmental Stewards Summer Program continued its excellent, ongoing work in environmental stewardship, partnering successfully with the Department of the Interior's Office of Youth, Partnerships, & Service; the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement; and the Southwest Conservation Corps.

Through these partnerships, the Environmental Stewards Summer Program was able to place 52 AmeriCorps Members with community and watershed improvement organizations, and with state, local, and federal agencies.

This report contains inspiring stories about best practices in environmental management, such as education projects and removal of invasive species; and in community revitalization projects such as building community gardens and constructing and maintaining wilderness trails. In their brief ten-week terms, our Members accomplished remarkable things:

1,850 children and adults educated in environmental and green practices

62 miles of trails built, repaired, or maintained

17 acres of invasive species removed

As always, we are ever thankful to our many project partners who create these invaluable opportunities for summer service, and for the AmeriCorps Members who see the projects through to completion with determination and zeal. The Environmental Stewards Summer Program owes its success to them.



We are currently accepting applications for summer 2013. See the new web site www.doisummerinterns.org, or contact us at summerinterns@sccorps.org!

Demographics

Total Applicants	141
Total Members Enrolled	52
Total Local Members*	9

*From within 50 miles of Member's service site

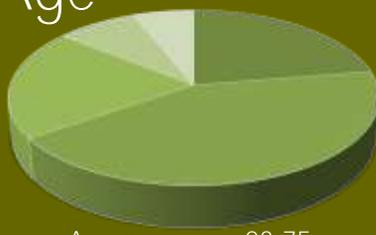


Gender



Females— 63%
Males— 37%

Age



Average age: 23.75

- 18-20
- 21-23
- 24-26
- 27-29
- 30+

Placements



Host	Members	Location By State
Bureau of Reclamation (BoR)	5	NM, CO, OK
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	2	WI
National Park Service (NPS)	11	LA, PA, NM, WV, AZ, TN, NC
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	1	NM
US Geological Survey (USGS)	2	VA
US Forest Service (USFS)	4	MO
Local /State Agencies	6	WV, OH, NM
Nonprofit Organizations	21	CO, OH, NM, WV, MO, PA



Program Accomplishments

The combined efforts of the Summer AmeriCorps Members reflect:



62 Miles of Trails Constructed, Maintained, or Restored

190 Water Samples Collected



28 Gardens Created or Maintained

Provided Enrichment to 1,850 Youth and Adults in Environmental and Conservation Education

Meet the Summer AmeriCorps Members



Katherine Bailey Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Colorado



In the small town of Del Norte, Colorado, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) focuses on the protection of land and water through sustainable agriculture, conservation methods, and environmental outreach. This grassroots organization has been able to make great strides toward a healthier environment, but with the addition of Katherine Bailey, RiGHT has seen great improvements on how the conservation easements process is performed. Katherine records and organizes the post-closing documentations from the easements which establish the conservation duties of the landowners. Comparing the current conditions of the land to the original baseline study, she monitors the changes the landowners have made to the land in the past year and suggests next steps for proper use.

Katherine takes pride in “being a part of an organization that is doing such important work in the San Luis Valley.” Her commitment and hard work to RiGHT led to these comments from Nancy Butler, her supervisor, “When you start with a staff capacity of three people, adding an AmeriCorps Summer Steward who is as competent, proficient and efficient as Katherine Bailey is seemingly quadruples your ability to get things done. The Environmental Stewards Summer program is allowing us to strengthen our organization by adding capacity, which translates into achieving more and better quality conservation.” The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust and other small non-profits appreciate these Environmental Stewards Summer Program members, like Katherine, for their support and ability to make the organization more effective.



Leah Bilski Lake Erie Islands- Black Swamp Conservancy

Ohio



Leah Bilski, who completed her summer term with the Lake Erie Islands Chapter of the Black Swamp Conservancy located in Put-In-Bay, Ohio, spent her summer encouraging conservation efforts and protection of natural and agricultural lands in the Lake Erie Islands for the benefit of future generations. Leah believes her biggest accomplishment is the opportunity to provide educational programs to the public. Through setting up, presenting, and tearing down the events, Leah has obtained the full experience in teaching the community about environmental stewardship. She is proud of the beautification of wildlife preserves owned by the Lake Erie Islands Chapter as well. By maintaining trails and adding amenities such as benches and boardwalks, the community has gained greater appreciation for the natural areas.

Brian Bonnett Webster County Economic Development Authority

West Virginia



Brian Bonnett, a native of Webster Springs, WV, is serving his hometown this summer by partnering with the Northern Brownfields Assistance Center to characterize and document many of the buildings in Webster Springs that are now liabilities and eyesores for the community. Many of them are plagued with asbestos and should be torn down. Others have no environmental or health risks, but pose a problem for economic development because of their perceived threat of environmental or health concerns, and just need to be remodeled. Brian is tracking down and documenting landowners, creating community understanding and buy-in for the project, and preparing for grants to be submitted to remediate many of the buildings.



Shelby Brooks

New Mexico

The Family YMCA— iCARE Adventures Project

The iCARE Adventure Program seeks to engage the youth of Los Alamos, New Mexico in environmental awareness to the land around them. During her time as an Environmental Steward Summer Program Member, Shelby Brooks taught the participants of this program about the various examples of biology in nature. Collaborative efforts from the YMCA Earth Service Corps and Pajarito Environmental Education Center help Shelby's programs manifest into fun-filled days that have an impact on the children. "Some of the participants don't want to have a desk job when they grow up because they enjoy the program so much," Shelby reports. The gardening project that she conducts is one of the highlights of the program, which she hopes to improve by building an awning to provide shade for the gardeners.



Because of her creative thinking and desire to educate youth on the environment, Shelby organized sixteen service learning and community education activities for a combined total of 50 participants on topics ranging from conservation and environmental responsibility, to recycling. However, the participants are not the only ones benefitting from the programs. "Every



week, it seems like I learn something new, not from the adults, but from the kids," Shelby notes. She is amazed at how the children transition from not wanting to be outside in the beginning to not wanting to go home at the end. This is truly a testament to Shelby's passion of educating the youth, the next generation of responsible citizens and environmental stewards.

Madeleine Brown & Josh Triebel

New Mexico

The Family YMCA— YESCorps Project

Joshua Triebel & Madeleine Brown, Environmental Steward Summer Program Members, led the YMCA Earth Service Corps (YESCorps) program in Los Alamos, NM, where they encourage youth to become more environmentally-conscious through exposure to nature's beauty and community service.



Between the two of them and with the help of volunteers, Madeleine and Josh constructed 2,000 feet of new trails, created and maintained four neighborhood gardens, restored 4,000 feet of trails in the area, and preserved 16,000 feet of local park trails. They also conducted an environmental educational seminar with 26 students. Madeleine reflects on her AmeriCorps experience saying, "What I am most proud of is my role in helping the children [get] involved in the [YMCA Earth Service Corps] program to overcome their weaknesses...and become passionate contributions to the program."



2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members

Kaitlyn Campbell

West Virginia

PUTNAM FARMERS' MARKET

This summer Kaitlyn Campbell served the Putnam Farmers' Market, which has struggled to maintain a strong customer base due to not having any staff person or volunteer dedicated to publicity. Prior to this summer, vendors

were dissatisfied with sales and participation in the Market was declining. "I have succeeded in developing a relationship between the Market and local media outlets which has increased their customer base and helped increase people's knowledge about the benefits to their community when coming to a market that sells foods grown in their home state," says Kaitlyn. She has been coordinating with four television stations, as many as ten newspapers, and posting on Facebook several times per week about the availability of fresh, local produce in Putnam, West Virginia.

Kaitlyn explains the issue saying, "There is a strong public drive to buy local, fresh produce but people need to know where to go to buy that produce. I have helped connect the public with the Putnam Farmers Mar-

ket and as a result they have recruited several new vendors and sales have increased."



Wendy Carbone

Colorado

Western Hardrock Watershed Team

Wendy Carbone began her term in the Durango, Colorado, office for the Western Hardrock Watershed Team in late June 2012. The organization is a coalition of community and watershed improvement groups that combat the effects of historic mining in the West. By addressing issues such as environmental degradation and community impoverishment, the organization provides rural communities the capacity to make their neighborhoods and watersheds a better place to live. During her term, Wendy familiarized herself with the numerous sites that the Western Hardrock Watershed Team serves across Colorado and New Mexico. Her work as the Support Coordinator for the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) allows Wendy to create outreach for the organization through website and opportunity announcements.

Wendy believes her most rewarding work is meeting the OSM/VISTA Volunteers during visits to various sites that host OSM/VISTAs. During these visits she explained the value of

hosting a National Civilian Community Corps project to accomplish large-scale environmental and community development work. Her short visits at each site concluded in seven sites in Colorado and three in New Mexico to commit to apply for the NCCC.



Casey Carrigan

Colorado

Lake Fork Valley Conservancy

After serving two consecutive terms as the OSM/VISTA for Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, Casey Carrigan elected to stay an additional summer to complete ongoing projects he began while in service and to pass the torch on to the next OSM/VISTA. Over the summer, Casey developed the Hearts and Spades Community Garden, improved outreach for LFVC's new river restoration survey, created marketing materials for the "build a trout a home" campaign, and more.

Casey's work on establishing the community garden has been years of effort. Casey talks about the opportunity it creates for local high school students saying, "The garden certainly addresses a community need, and with the increased participation of the [local high] school, the project will be maintained and the students will get one more outdoor classroom to add to their repertoire."





2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Rebecca Casto

West Virginia

NPS—New River Gorge National River

Rebecca Casto, worked in West Virginia using a GPS to map trails in the New River Gorge park area. The mapping points will be used to determine where trails should be constructed and whether the trails will disturb wildlife habitat or sampling sites. After a derecho blew through town and thousands lost power, Rebecca contributed to the clean-up efforts after the storm. “I believe that I am most proud of the fact that I was able to help assess and cleanup and that I played a role in restoring the park to normalcy.”



In between the trail assessments, Rebecca assisted on water quality sampling with the water technicians and on a bird netting and banding expedition with the field biologist. Later in her term, she assisted with electro-fishing and insect collection and with the wood rat population assessments.

Olivia Charest

Arizona

NPS— Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

This summer Olivia Charest combined her love for archaeology and the environment to educate others on the historic plants and structures in Casa Grande Ruins. Olivia “believe[s] that working in the NPS setting has shown me that land management and public outreach are definitely where my interests lie.” She planted a cactus garden with the Youth Conservation Corps students, planned and scheduled field trips for students, and preserved the lower walls in Compound A, a historic landmark in the area. She loved her experience so much that she created a PowerPoint presentation for local youth about different internships through AmeriCorps, the Southwest Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association in hopes that their experience with these organizations will be as influential to their career paths as their experiences of this summer.



Gerald Cleary & Maggie Sullivan

Wisconsin

BLM—Milwaukee Field Office



The BLM-Milwaukee Field Office serves twenty northeastern states with a dedication to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands. Gerald Cleary and Maggie Sullivan have had the privilege of serving Bike Path Island in Grafton, Wisconsin. In addition to working on Bike Path Island, Maggie and Gerald conducted invasive species control on Clam Island in Grafton, Wisconsin, and Party Island in Waukesha County. They worked to weaken Buckthorn and Dame’s Rocket populations so the species will be more vulnerable to herbicides sprayed later in the year. Through this clearing

process, they have interacted with several community

members to learn more about the island and how the community is connected to it. A path around the island was constructed to prepare for a large community event that celebrated the area’s waterways.

Maggie and Gerald also conducted island inventory in the North Woods north of Milwaukee in Eagle River, Wisconsin. The purpose of the inventory is to check for evidence of flooding and human use, identify vegetation, clear invasive species, and map the islands. The final product will give the community more information about the area in which they live. According to Gerald and Maggie, “Throughout this experience, we both have worked hard not only to accomplish the tasks set ahead of us but also to understand the importance of the work we are doing.”





Summer Program AmeriCorps Members

Mary Dalton

Ohio

Madison Soil & Water Conservation
District

This summer Mary served in London, OH working with farmers and growers. Mary accomplished three major projects including:

- Maintenance of the rain gardens at the Prairie Grass Trailhead
- Youth Education Event at Vineyard Church
- Land and Water Tour

Mary was most proud of the maintenance of the rain gardens. "There was a great deal of organization, time, and effort that I put into the project before it had even begun. It was also a learning experience for me because I gained insight and was able to practice being a leader especially in terms of instructing and managing the volunteers that were involved with the project." Mary found her involvement with Madison Soil and Water Conservation so inspiring, that she plans to volunteer on their Earth Team to learn more about soil and water conservation districts and agriculture.



Julie Danfora & Laura Mays

Virginia

USGS Library

Julie Danfora and Laura Mays have been avidly working to inventory and reorganize the Library's vast collection of surveys, maps and folios. The objective of their efforts will reduce the USGS Library's carbon footprint, which Julie says creates "multiple projects that must be completed accurately and efficiently in order to accomplish this goal."

Over the course of their 10 week terms, Julie and Laura have inventoried over 6,000 maps for digitalization, journals, river surveys, and more. They have also directly contributed to reducing the Library's footprint by reorganizing the Topographic Map Archive. Through their efforts, much of this information can now be made available to the public.

Because of their diligent work this summer, both Laura and Julie have been offered the opportunity to extend their service with the USGS Library to see many of the inventorying and digitalization projects to completion. "Participating in the AmeriCorps program this summer has led me to this wonderful opportunity that will most certainly benefit my future," says Julie.



Jackie Davis

Missouri

Friends of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Jackie Davis has a passion for wildlife protection and improving their habitat quality. She conducted marsh bird surveys every week and collected data on nest type and composition, eggs, and habitat. The Massasauga rattlesnake surveys were important to Jackie as well, so the predator-prey composition within the habitat could be assessed. She captured and marked over 80 turtles of several species, providing a clue of the health of habitats in the refuge. Jackie also conducted dragonfly, bee, frog call, bat, and mussel surveys. Jackie states that she was "most proud of the work I have done with dragonflies and mussels. I have listed many species that have not been previously listed on the refuge."





2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Travis Deere

Tennessee

NPS— Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

Serving in Chattanooga, TN, this position with RTCA was Travis's first real brush with having an eight hour per day office position. Travis worked with nonprofit organizations and contributed to the National Database on Water Trails for the entire RTCA branch. This required contacting employees around the country to retrieve their information. Travis read and sorted all of the documents into different groups, relabeled information appropriately, and uploaded all of the data and gave descriptions for each document, trying to make the database as user-friendly and organized as possible. Travis also updated a database for American Trails, a nonprofit organization that inventories trail across America. Lastly, Travis worked with the Lookout Mountain Conservancy which allowed kids to build trails as part of their mission work.



Breanna Dodge & Jack Morris

Colorado

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Breanna Dodge and Jack Morris served their summers with the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association in partnership with the San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District. Both conducted environmental education and safety demonstrations for the public. They created and presented to 4H clubs, Chaffee County Mentors, and a five-part weekly Boys & Girls Club program.

"The programs with children have a clear impact that is easy to see and quite rewarding," says Jack. Breanna and Jack educated over 500 youth and adults. They also installed about 300 yards of fencing and closed illegal trails that were unmaintained by the Forest Service.



Mikeala Fell & Tejahna Hayward

N. Carolina

NPS— Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Mikeala Fell and Tejahna Hayward served in their hometown of Greensboro, NC this summer working to beautify the grounds and educate the public about the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. The two have been working on several projects including improving and maintaining the gardens and grounds. They maintained a community garden, landscaped and beautified a public space, removed litter from the park, cleared debris from the garden, and removed between 10 and 15 pounds of invasive plants.

During the Colonial Carnival, they taught visitors to make soap and corn starch dolls, and educated visitors about traditional garb worn during colonial times including how clothing was made and the materials used. They have also distributed and collected surveys from park visitors, created service learning and education projects for 67 participants, and gathered 35 wildlife and plant surveys.



2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members

Bernadette Fontenelle

New Mexico

BoR— Four Corners Construction Office



Bernadette Fontenelle served in Farmington, NM with the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) with the overall objective of providing interpretation services to allow complete, clear, and open communication between BoR officials and the Navajo people. Bernadette received permission to survey two portions of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project and learned about the three types of land status: tribal trust land, tribal fee lands, and allotments. Bernadette must explain the project in Navajo to gain permission for a right-of-way application through a majority-supported process. “I am most proud of the ability to speak and translate the Navajo language for the Bureau of Reclamation about the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project to the Navajo people, especially to

the elders,” said Bernadette.

Bernadette also helped with outreach by translating an informational brochure into Navajo and collaborating with others on the translations. She attends Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Post-Construction Committee meetings. Because of her success this summer, Bernadette was offered a longer-term AmeriCorps position with the BoR.

Kaci Fisher & Brittany Harris

Louisiana

NPS— Jean Laffite National historical Park

Brittany Harris spent her summer serving at the Jean Lafitte Historical Park and Preserve in New Orleans, LA alongside Kaci Fisher, a fellow Summer Program Member. Together, they have developed a plan for the bio-control of an invasive aquatic fern, Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and made significant advances in research and community outreach about the Giant Salvinia and predatory weevil (*Cyrotobagous salviniae*) issues facing the preserve. Together they developed a protocol for sampling the Giant Salvinia at 21 sites, created a method to quantify the weevil populations living in the plant, and assessed the canals and bayous for mobility. “An ongoing problem is the accessibility of the waterways,” says Kaci, “which is why the Salvinia is a problem in the first place.”

They created maps and other educational products for park visitors who were interested in accessing non-trailed areas like the channels and bayous within the preserve, and worked with professionals from the National Wetland Resource Center (NWRC) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on old-growth cypress tree and Mangrove swamp research. “[We built] our own Berlese funnels from recyclable parts to isolate the weevils from the Salvinia samples from the field,” says Brittany. These funnels are beneficial because they can be used by future researchers and the preserve staff for further samples and analysis.

She expanded her research to include variables in the waterways, such as canopy cover, Salvinia growth stage, wind movement, and temperature that affect the success of the weevil and Salvinia relationship. Because of their important work at the Jean Laffite National Historical Park and Preserve, Brittany and Kaci have been invited to present their bio-control research at the Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists Fall Symposium, an opportunity they would not have received without the Environmental Stewards Summer Program.



2012

Summer Program AmeriCorps Members

Julie Glass

Pennsylvania

NPS— Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site



Julie Glass served in Elverson, Pennsylvania and is most proud of her work removing an invasive plant species referred to as “mile-a-minute.” She led Student Conservation Association (SCA) crews that are stationed at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site on work days dedicated to the removal of this plant and on trail building projects. Julie also worked on projects to rehabilitate Hopewell Furnace’s historic apple orchard, which is suffering from disease and mortality issues and updated the orchard map labeling tree varieties and locations. She assisted with the park’s summer camp program hosted by Cultural Latinos Unidos, an organization dedicated to helping Hispanic families adapt to U.S. society while maintaining their connections to their home countries. She helped draft the program’s curriculum by researching the ecology and history of the park.

Zach Guy & Louise Nelson

Colorado

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

This summer, Zach Guy researched and reported on the progress of the overall health of the watershed for the CCWC. He implemented procedures that assess the water quality impacts from three mines in the region and maintained best management practices to reduce the amount of sediment influx into the creek from Kebler Pass Road. Zach also contributed to the current and historic data to upload to the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System database. He states, “I’m most proud of my work on an abandoned mines assessment project in the Coal Creek Watershed.” His work with CCWC developed an Arsenic Sampling Project, a Fen/Gossan Tree Characterization, a Slate River Sediment Modeling Project, and a network of 30 water quality testing sites.



Louise served with CCWC on summer outreach and education projects.

Louise accomplished a multitude of outreach and education projects:

- organized information booths at local farmers markets to educate the community of its mission and recruit volunteers
- provided educational and outreach opportunities for more than 160 community members
- partnered with local libraries and summer camps to teach topics such as the water cycle, how watersheds are connected to our oceans, and how to care for the community’s watersheds.

Louise said, “I am most proud of my growth and exploration into being a representative of something bigger than myself, namely the organization and its mission.”



Katie Harris

Missouri

USFS— Mark Twain National Forest

Katie Harris served her summer at Mark Twain National Forest working on trail maintenance for an equestrian trail including installing signage and clearing debris. Katie designed a brochure and travel guide for the main waterway through Mark Twain National Forest. She also helped with cleaning and maintenance work on recreational sites and campgrounds managed by the Forest Service. These projects include taking water samples for the Department of Natural Resources, cleaning restrooms, shower houses, and pavilions, and general trail work on walking, ATV, and equestrian trails.



2012

Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Michael Henry New Mexico
BoR— Albuquerque Area Office

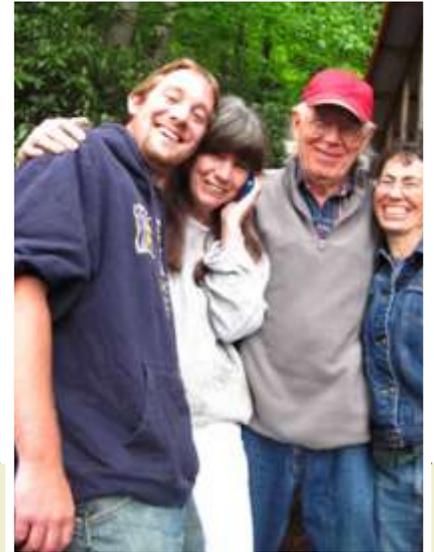
Michael most enjoyed the event that the Albuquerque Area Office held for Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. Secretary Salazar traveled to the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque on July 11, 2012 to receive a report on the Middle Rio Grande Conservation Initiative. In preparation for the **Secretary's visit**, Michael compiled lists, scouted for a site location that included outdoor and indoor areas, and corresponded with the Fish and Wildlife Service, which whom the Bureau of Reclamation partnered to host the event.



This event boasted an impressive cast of presenters, consisting of Secretary Salazar himself and his staff members, who spoke before an audience of over 140 guests on the issues associated with the conservation of the Middle Rio Grande. During the event, Michael was responsible for setting up for the event and escorting and directing guests as they arrived. Michael also conducted an economic analysis of the Middle Rio Grande and worked on acquiring data sets and developing a potential regression analysis to determine if water levels were correlated to site visitation.

Andrew Herrmann West Virginia
Friends of Blackwater,
North Fork Watershed Project

This summer in the North Fork Watershed, Andy Herrmann built and constructed trails, monitored flow to see how much water moves through each particular cell or part of the stream, removed ten hazardous trees and over 200 pounds of brush. He also learned a significant amount about the challenges associated with remediating Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and the various methods applied to remediate AMD, such as lime deposition. Andy most enjoyed the outreach aspect of his position and says he values the relationships he formed with the locals from the community. During his term, Andy reached out to more than 300 people and provided educational enrichment to 200 people, to increase local knowledge about the watershed and the environmental issues there.



Alexandra Hill Colorado
Western Hardrock Watershed Team



Alex Hill served in Durango, CO this summer with the Support Office of the Western Hardrock Watershed Team (WHWT) in a summer outreach blitz effort to promote WHWT and its partnering organizations. Alex travelled with support office staff on site visits all around Colorado and New Mexico to learn about WHWT's OSM/VISTA placements with watershed and community development organizations.

Alex made connections with media contacts across the two states and some larger regional news outlets and submitted press releases, pitched her stories to reporters and invited them on site visits, and some published her write-ups verbatim. In total, Alex's efforts resulted in the publishing of four articles. Alex also contributed to the development and design of WHWT's first-ever annual report.

2012

Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Lora Hoopes & Kevin Pickard

Colorado

BoR— Denver Technical Service Center



This summer, Lora Hoopes and Kevin Pickard served with the Bureau of Reclamation in Lakewood, CO. Lora Hoopes assisted geotechnical engineers with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Lora's main accomplishments were performing soil tests, such as gradations and Atterberg limits, on several projects. These tests are important in order to properly identify the soil since different types of soils will have different properties and these must be known in order to properly design, construct, and maintain dams and other structures. Lora's core assignment was analyzing soil samples from the Arkansas Valley Conduit Project. This project consisted of an underground water pipeline spanning 300 miles from Pueblo, CO to Lamar, CO.



Kevin's main projects included testing the integrity of a newly-developed polymer to protect fish grates in dams from invasive mussels, which attach and can completely clog water flow. He has also assisted with testing anchors of dams with a team that rappels down the dam on ropes to make sure the structure is solid. "The AmeriCorps program has enhanced my future career outlook considerably," says Kevin.

Bryan Kessler

Colorado

Town of Vail, CO



Bryan completed numerous projects including planting trees after a recent drought and educating the community about public lands in their area. Bryan replanted willow, dogwood, and acacia trees that did not survive last year's drought. Once he replanted the area, Bryan was able to get a Public Works crew to install wire fencing so dogs using the park do not damage the newly planted trees. Due to the drought in the area this summer, the lack of a proper root system made it harder for the vegetation to grow, but Bryan is optimistic. "From all of my supplemental watering I have seen lots of the half-dead plants revive back to life and they have been getting greener every day!"

Bryan is most proud of his work educating the community about a recent designation of Gore Creek located in East Vail. The area was recently classified as an impairment for aquatic life under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This designates the water in the area as too polluted to meet the water quality standards set by the state. The presentation showed people which bugs live in the area and which ones are vital to maintaining a healthy fish population. Bryan's efforts greatly improved the area and made it safer for people and wildlife.

John Lafferty

New Mexico

USFWS— Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

John (pictured on left) served with Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge as the crew leader for a five person youth crew. Their focus was fence maintenance and they spent the majority of the time repairing, removing or installing new fence at various locations on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, spending hundreds of man-hours on each project. Some additional tasks they accomplished included cleaning vehicles and buildings on the refuge, assisting with capturing wolves in the captive facility, and taking part in prairie dog reintroduction.





2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Jane Rittenhouse

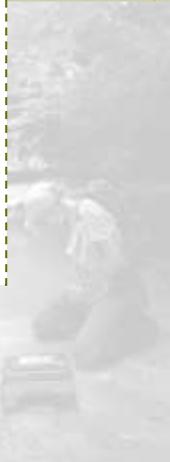
West Virginia

Friends of the Cheat



Jane Rittenhouse served in Kingwood, WV educating the public and raising awareness about issues regarding Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) within the Cheat River Watershed. She created a factsheet template and completed four individual fact sheets regarding AMD in the watershed. The template and fact sheets easily translated to the public the negative impacts of AMD. Jane also completed another template for incident reports that will be critical to the watershed's ability to prioritize and organize pollution events.

Jane designed two logos, one for the Preston Rail Trails and one for the Cheat River Water Trail, and worked on a contact list for potential partners that the watershed could work with to propel their conservation efforts. During her time at Friends of the Cheat, she maintained nine acres of park trails and wild land areas, restored or improved 50 acres of habitat, collected over 50 water quality samples, and removed over two tons of trash.



John Rufo

Ohio

Erie Soil & Water Conservation District

The Erie Soil and Water Conservation District works to minimize and prevent soil erosion, improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater supply, and restore and preserve valuable wildlife habitat in Erie County. John contributed to their efforts by monitoring local streams to test water quality. He installed a pilot wetland restoration site at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve. The project included installing one hundred feet of coir logs and 300 native plant plugs at the wetland edge of the estuary. "It felt great to be carrying out a goal of the district and the Reserve to assist in the restoration of our natural resources," said Rufo.

John also created a rain garden, which allows rainwater runoff to flow into a garden and prevent it from entering the sewage system. John created waterways to allow the flow of water from downspouts to enter into a garden, helping to conserve water.



Emily Stevenson

Tennessee

NPS— Fort Donelson National battlefield

Emily Stevenson, working at Fort Donelson National Battlefield this summer, assisted with several monitoring surveys including: dark sky monitoring, bat species echolocation surveys, arthropod sampling, soundscape monitoring, documenting and cataloging fossils found on the property, tree identification (45 species), and water sampling for hardness, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphate, chlorine, copper, and pH levels.

One of Emily's major assignments this summer was to create a Natural Resource Junior Ranger Book, which required creativity and adaptation of material for various age groups. "Working at Fort Donelson National Battlefield I was able to walk away with a lot of new knowledge I didn't have before," Emily said.

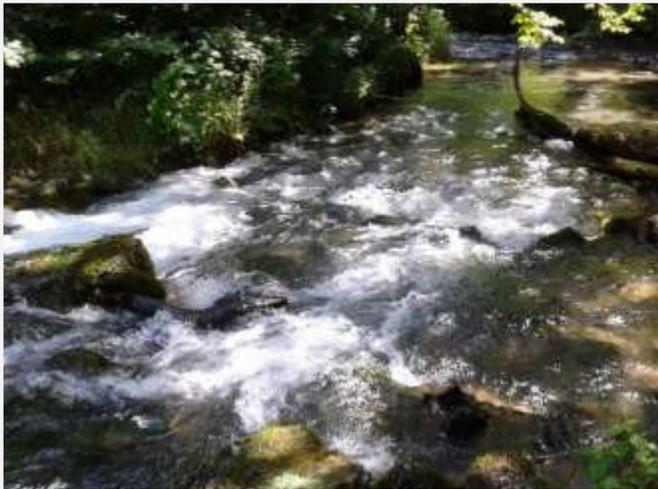


Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Joe Sellers, Daniel Stilts & Kyle Young
USFS – Mark Twain National Forest

Missouri



This summer, Joe, Daniel, and Kyle were involved in many recreation projects for the Mark Twain National Forest near Rolla, Missouri. They were tasked with designing an informative brochure for the Eleven Point River, as well as documenting camps along the river. To accomplish these tasks, they spent a week floating and visiting campsites along the river to gain a greater understanding of the resource. Joe explains, “One of our more important jobs has been to float down the river and document and maintain primitive float camps on the river. This has been, without a doubt, the most difficult part of working thus far, because these float camps are not accessible by the road, making materials very difficult to transport.”

Joe, Daniel, and Kyle were also kept busy this summer with other projects to enhance the visitor experience. They built fire rings, picnic tables, installed signage and campsite marker posts, and helped maintain clean recreation areas for visitors. The AmeriCorps members also completed routine maintenance on recreation areas along the 44 miles of river managed by the district.

Trail building and maintenance was another large component of the summer at Mark Twain National Forest. Despite the hard work involved in hauling rocks, clearing trail, and laying gravel, they could see the impressive results of their labor each day.

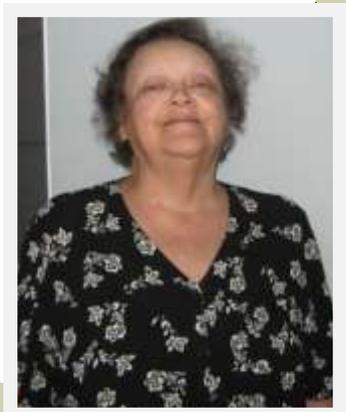
Of his experience, Joe says, “I met many amazing people, made great friends and learned more than I could have ever imagined (much more than I would have in a classroom, without a doubt!).”

Linda Stump

West Virginia

Groundwork Wyoming County

Linda served this summer in her hometown with Groundwork Wyoming County, an organization whose mission is to revitalize Wyoming County through increasing recreational opportunities, redeveloping underutilized land and Brownfields, implementing environmental education and job training programs, developing strategic partnerships, and empowering communities and individuals. Linda focused primarily on recruiting volunteers and developing resources for one particular property- the Itmann building. Linda recruited volunteers to help with a trash clean-up and solicited supplies and equipment like tile, cinder blocks, rebar, and other yard maintenance tools. Because of Linda’s work on the project, doors were installed, old walls were torn down and repaired, and landscaping began.



2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Tawny Taylor

Oklahoma

BoR— Texas-Oklahoma Area Office



Tawny Taylor served at Lake Thunderbird State Park in Norman, Oklahoma, through a placement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Texas-Oklahoma Area Office. Tawny worked at the Park's Nature Center, which offers recreation activities, educational displays and nature tours to community members. Her main responsibilities were caring for the small animals; maintaining a 50-square foot garden that surrounds the center; and educating visitors about the different wildlife that can be found in the park and in the region.

Every Saturday, Tawny helped Kathy Furneaux, a naturalist at the Center, create presentations on environmental stewardship and conservation, wildlife at the park, and endangered species. Tawny provided service to over 100 community members. Taylor enjoyed conversing with visitors about the environment and increasing their understanding and appreciation of nature, something she hopes will spread into the larger community.

Greg Tenn

Pennsylvania

Schuylkill Headwaters Association

Greg Tenn is working on the conceptual design for areas being treated for Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) in Pottsville, PA. He is planning for two communities near Pottsville where the Schuylkill Headwaters Association has established AMD treatment facilities. Greg's objective was to create design plans that effectively create "recreational and pedagogical landscapes" from sites that are being remediated due to the harmful effects of AMD.

To accomplish this objective, Greg "focused on becoming familiar with the region's culture, history, environment, and with the processes associated with coal mining and subsequent mine land reclamation." He is also forming relationships with various stakeholders, which allowed for "preliminary site designs to take shape." By the end of his term, Greg completed a conceptual design.



Heather Toman

New Mexico

Bernalillo County Open Space



Bachechi Open Spaces, located in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, works to provide environmental education programs to students throughout New Mexico. The organization strives to teach children environmental issues in their community in a fun way that is enjoyable for parents as well. Heather Toman's biggest accomplishment this summer was creating nature backpacks that foster children's discovery and appreciation of nature. The packs are filled with exciting activities such as animal and insect identification worksheets and a bug trapper, which allows children to get a firsthand look at nature.

Heather also developed two pilot programs. The first project involved developing lessons for fifth grade teachers to take their students to Bachechi Open Space and learn about the environment. Heather also worked on plans for a Junior Naturalist Program for middle school students that will be modeled after the Master Naturalist program she participated in. Both of these programs will further expand the organization's mission to bring knowledge of the environment to the community.



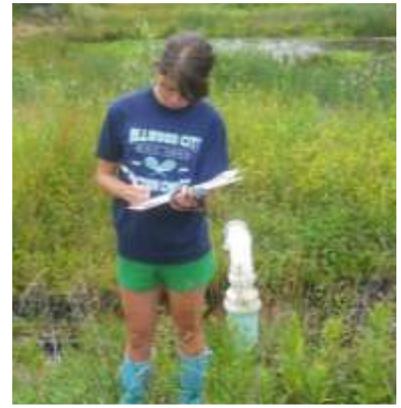
2012 Summer Program AmeriCorps Members



Andrea Varrato Guardians of the West Fork

West Virginia

Andrea Varrato, a native West Virginian, recently graduated from Allegheny College in northwest Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. Guardians for the West Fork, located in north central West Virginia, works to restore water resources through the development and implementation of passive treatment systems to reverse decade's worth of stream impairment caused by Acid Mine Drainage (AMD). Andrea completed numerous tasks to increase awareness of the organization, including updating their website. The new website informs the community of the dangers of AMD and sewage treatment issues in order to improve the ecosystem within the West Fork River watershed. In addition to updating the Guardians for the West Fork web site, Andrea conducted several water chemistry samplings in various locations to secure potable water resources for human use.



Tibor Vegh NPS— North Central Arizona Monuments

Arizona



Tibor Vegh contributed to the removal of over 1,000 invasive plants this summer — work he is most proud of — in an attempt to control invasive species at all three Flagstaff Area Monuments. The objective was to “preserve and restore native plant communities at the Monuments to provide the possibility for the public to enjoy a well functioning ecosystem,” Tibor said. Tibor manually removed invasive plants and applied herbicidal sprays so that areas can be cleared and native species can be replanted.

Another project that Tibor undertook was a survey of the Arizona walnut tree at Walnut Canyon National Monument. He helped surveyed over 750 walnut trees in an effort, he explains, “to monitor the response of Arizona walnut to drought stress in the upcoming years.” During his summer, Tibor made a significant impact on the area as he removed over two acres of invasive species and surveyed almost 800 Arizona walnut trees.

Richelle Weller NPS— Chaco Culture National Historical Park

New Mexico

Richelle Weller, inspired by the scenery at the park where she served, removed 400 lbs. of plants and brush and 30 ft of invasive species, maintained ten acres of park trails, and renovated three historic buildings. One of her major assignments involved GPS mapping of Fajada Butte carsonite markers around the border of Chaco Culture National Historical Park and site assessments of all trail signs. This assignment allowed her to hike the front and back country trails and discover even more reasons why she enjoys her work.

Recognizing that this program only selects those with a passion and commitment to environmental preservation of our nation's treasures, Richelle feels “honored to have both the AmeriCorps and National Park Service badges on my uniform every morning while going to work in some of the most beautiful and ancient places in the United States.”



2012

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Summary

www.sccorps.org

www.osmre.gov

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