



**AmeriCorps Cape Cod**  
**PO Box 427**  
**Barnstable, MA 02630**

PAGE 12

THEWAYPOINT

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

## Top Ten Ways to get AmeriCorps Members Together

1. Watching Tony bring the house down as he sings every note to Cameo’s “Word Up” at Gov. Bradford’s.
2. Witnessing the spectacle of Eric doing “the Worm” in public.
3. Mandatory dress-up marathons of “The Office” featuring Peaches as Three Hole Punch Jim.
4. Free anything.
5. Herring Runs, Bonfires, Thompson’s Field, Prescribed Burns. Anything that gets the pyros fired up and Dana looking like she overslept in a tanning booth..
6. Filming an upside-down face Zombie Movie.
7. Anything involving competition, from sports rivalries to MarioKart to watching Dave and Jae have a syrup chugging contest.
8. Mandatory house meeting (although your audience will flee as soon as humanly possible).
9. Discover a flying squirrel somewhere in your house, begin screaming, and flap your hands wildly.
10. Watching Peaches get out of his waders.
11. Any excuse to hang out will bring members flocking at the beginning of the year, by May you’ll need a required service project.

# AMERICORPS CAPE COD THEWAYPOINT

Volume 8, Issue 3

Spring 2007



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## Honk If You Love The Canal!

By Molly Kitchel

At 11:00 am on April 21<sup>st</sup>, the date of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Canal Clean-up, Laura Rooney and I prepared signs to attract more volunteers, aptly saying “Honk if you Love the Canal,” which we held high for all to see at the stoplight along Route 6A, the Scenic Highway. The signs, though they created a nice symphony of honks throughout the late morning, were not needed. By the end of the 9:00 am – 1:00 pm clean-up, we had successfully recruited 103 volunteers and covered the entire western side of the canal. Volunteer groups included a group of employees from Shaw’s Supermarkets, various boy scout troops, volunteers from LIFE (Living Independently Forever), and students from the People to People organization. It is an understatement to say that the day was a resounding success.

By 7:30 am AmeriCorps members and Red Cross volunteers were arriving at the Herring River Recreation Area to set up. On my way from Wellfleet to Sagamore, I made a stop at Panera Bread to pick up some of their day-olds which they had generously donated to the event. Little did I know that I would



Volunteers showing off their bags of trash.

literally be filling my car full of baked goods. This seemed to be the theme for the day as both the sponsors that donated food and prizes, as well as the volunteers who provided the much-needed labor, went above and beyond expectations. Taylor Rentals, who donated a tent and a popcorn machine went so far as to come and set up the tent free of charge on Friday night, and then dismantled it on Saturday afternoon. Our Red Cross volunteers not only arrived at the site bright and early to help us set up, but also brought their ERV (Emergency Response Vehicle) and helped serve breakfast and lunch. One volunteer was even so generous as to offer up her fam-

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## First Annual Alumni Weekend Approaches

By Chelsea Clarke

There is something poignant about looking at the faces in pictures around the AmeriCorps Cape Cod office. In these frames and albums, in event planning guides, educational curricula, and intangibles such as relationships with service partners, lies the evidence that staff and members have dedicated years to laying the groundwork for this program.

It is with this realization, that AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) is so much larger than the experiences of one year or individual, that Year VIII enthusiastically announces an ACC Alumni Weekend, scheduled for

Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10.

The weekend will include opportunities to connect with staff and service partners, tour the current residences, attend an informal barbeque and bonfire, and, in quintessential ACC fashion, roll up the sleeves for some good old service and invasive species removal at Saturday’s Cut and Run event. Saturday evening will involve a more structured dinner, complete with slide show, some words from program founders Darlene Johnson-Morris and Gretchen Glaub, and a presentation of the puppet show in its current incarnation.

Sunday will feature the trail race portion of the Cut and Run event.

We want to thank our predecessors and put faces to all of the AmeriCorps pictures, anecdotes, and service that have left such a positive mark on Cape Cod. Alumni Weekend 2007 signifies that the service of current and future Corps builds upon the AmeriCorps legacy left by pasts members, and we hope that members past and present will strengthen bonds and connections over the weekend which will allow us to accomplish even more in the future, for

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# Life After AmeriCorps: Myth or Reality?

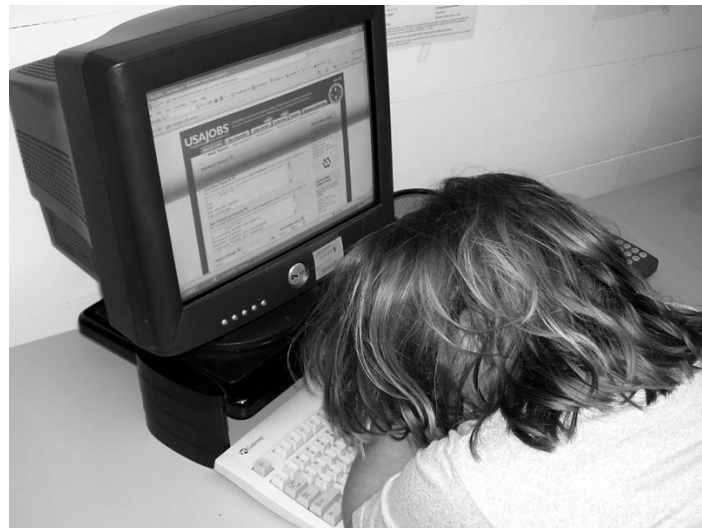
By Ben Gildehaus

WANTED: Young man with promising prospects of long-range maturity seeks gainful employment in the real world, main objective—planet-saving.

Life after AmeriCorps—what shape will my future take? Graduation looms in just two short months followed by a big, blank void thereafter if focus isn’t achieved posthaste.

I’ve subconsciously avoided this issue. No, to be honest, there is nothing subconscious about it. I know I must face reality, but I don’t want to. Life as a Corps member has become routine—get up in the morning, save the world (well, at least the Cape) all day long with friends and fellow coworkers, come home and chill. How nice is that? It’s never difficult to find someone to go out on the town with, and, though privacy is sometimes hard to come by, the companionship is gratifying.

But on July 26, most of the folks I have come to know as family this year will scatter to the four winds. So I dread this day as I dreaded graduating from college all over again. It will once more be time to move on.



Kat Beauchamp looks optimistically towards the future.

As a mid-twenty-something, searching for a long-term job that I care about and the security of a home that accompanies it is an unsettling proposition. I’ve spent the

past two years singing a Willie Nelson anthem—“On the Road Again” —moving from St. Louis to a little Idaho mountain town in the shadow of the Tetons to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. I definitely have wanderlust in my blood, and though it has been amazing to see so much of this country, a little stability is now something for which I yearn.

In the pit of my stomach, along with the dread of decision-making (and the undigested remnants of last night’s culinary experiment), are also anticipation and a hint of excitement for what lies ahead. I could move in with my brother back in Mizzou tiger country—a thought that has “relative” appeal since I haven’t actually cohabitated with family in over six years. Another AmeriCorps position is a possibility there, organizing stream and river cleanups for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Being in a major college town like Columbia would be inspirational for scoring well on the GRE and pursuing a Master’s degree.

Or I could start the application process for the Peace Corps and take my desire to serve to a more international level. I could pack up my meager savings along with a wing and a prayer and travel hand to mouth around Europe, maybe lead paddling trips in New Zealand, tame wild grizzlies on Kodiak Island or join the circus...well, maybe not join the circus. I’ve always been spooked by clowns. Nevertheless, I’m placing no limits on my imagination.

I’ll be 26 this month, and I’m definitely trying to balance a need for that go-off-

on-your-own-and-see-the-world independence with a desire for relationships that don’t disappear after a year. That’s the downside of a residential program like AmeriCorps. You meet great people, get to know them and their passions, enjoy

### Need a Little Help?

Check out these websites...

[www.usajobs.com](http://www.usajobs.com)  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)  
[www.ecojobs.com](http://www.ecojobs.com)  
[www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)  
[www.ejobs.org](http://www.ejobs.org)  
[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)  
[www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com)

And of course, if you’re interested in another year of service...

[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

the fun moments, and then bam!—it’s goodbye. You muster up some courage and move on down the road in search of new experiences, taking bits and pieces of people along with you.

Over the past year, I have learned so much—about coastal ecology, about Cape Cod’s shorebirds and invasive plants, about living up close and personal with 13 new friends. I have helped to educate several thousand youngsters about the joy that nature can bring us all if only we take good care of it. I’ve become fascinated with renewable energy, and I have seen the best and worst sides of me in action at work and at home.

Society dictates how most people live their lives. It is normal to go where the career is, often leaving behind the people who mean the most to you. If you are lucky, you find both in the same place—and that is when you know you are home. That is the journey that I will continue after AmeriCorps, when I leave my new home in Bourne, Massachusetts just when I was getting comfortable, and continue the search for home somewhere else.

# Profiles in Courage: Amber Stonik

By Jae Demers

It’s an unbelievable accomplishment to pull 161 volunteers together from several different organizations and schools, plan and organize equipment, transportation, organization, delegation, and even frustration for a week long invasive plant removal event. This event, the sixth annual Blitz Week at Thompson’s Field, drew AmeriCorps members and the community together for a total of 933.5 volunteer hours under the direction of the Harwich Conservation Trust, where Amber serves her individual placement. In addition to their timely removal, all of the invasives were piled in a central location where a massive burn marked the culmination of another year of service in Harwich. Amber did it all herself, and this is but a glimpse of the credit she deserves.

Here’s to you Amber Stonik...

I remember the exact moment when we as a house first realized the embodied fury of Amber’s work ethics while sitting down to lunch one snowy day on the Herring River in Wellfleet, Saturday, January 29th, 2006. Year VIII AmeriCorps members had lived together in their respective houses for four months, but, by all accounts, there was still a lot we didn’t know about one

another. That day we were working with the National Seashore to clear, cut, pile and burn a swath of invasive plants along the banks of the Herring River in Wellfleet. As we sat down by the fires



for lunch, complaining about the scratches and cold, blustering, snowy weather, Amber continued to work, gathering invasives and throwing them on the fire. At that moment several present remarked on her quiet acceptance; Amber endures work without notice, acknowledgement, or complaint.

Since that time I have often stopped to admire her exertion while on group service projects. She works continuously, passionately accomplishing her work. She is, in fact, so humble that she declined to write about the grand project she accomplished at Thompson’s Field.

Amber is of undefined age (to me), and has, from the beginning, embodied grace in the Wellfleet house, being the only vegetarian/vegan among 13 carnivorous tyrannosauruses! Originally from Washington, DC, she moved to the west coast for a degree in Environmental Politics and Planning at Western Washington University. Amber then began an internship in environmental non-profit organizations to supplement her education. Afterwards, she headed to AmeriCorps Cape Cod to become the force that she is today.

Although it has taken many trips to the end of the driveway and discussions/moral debates about eating meat or what she eats for breakfast in order to exist and maintain her composure within the Wellfleet house, with end in sight she still presents herself as calm, laid back, and hard working towards the AmeriCorps’ mantra of ‘Getting things done’.

## Zombie FAQ cont.

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### How and why do zombies find people?

For some odd reason, zombies rely on their sense of smell more than their living counterparts when it comes to finding free food. If they still have eyes, they can also see you. Their hearing, if intact, will also guide them to any sound they may hear. If no people are around, zombies generally walk around and decompose. Zombies are going to go after people because they really like the taste of your flesh.

### How do zombie invasions start out?

Ideas include radiation, a virus, biological weapons, and food poisoning. Once

it starts, an incursion is almost impossible to stop due to misconceptions about the undead and human feelings such as love.

### Why brains?

Depending on what you watch or read, zombies want human brains or they want whatever is in a hot dog. If zombies did nothing but eat brains, there would be no more zombies to join their undead ranks, so most schools of thought believe zombies don’t care about brains.

### Do zombies evolve?

We can predict that if zombies stick around long enough, they will adapt to

their surroundings of sand, sand, and more sand and maybe feel feelings, which I think is super scary. Other than that, zombies are doomed to walk the earth thinking of nothing but eating free food until they are put out of their misery or completely decompose.

One final thought: it is important to remember when reading about zombies, watching movies of zombies, or looking at your backyard full of zombies that they are analogous to society. Be careful: try to do something different each day. Stop watching television, put down your video games, and take a walk. We should be ever vigilant for zombies attacking our culture.

# Point/Counterpoint

By Mike Platt and Matt Honoré



**Point:** Loppers, while larger than handsaws, are a cheap, effective way of cutting an assortment of vines, small tree limbs, and shrubberies. The design of loppers makes it easy to simply pull your arms together and the blade does the rest. Also, the length of loppers makes it easier to reach those hard-to-cut invasive spots.



**Counterpoint:** Handsaws are excellent tools for cutting a variety of invasive species. They cut a wider diameter than loppers yet are more compact and easy to carry. They come with a sleek leather carrying case that fits easily onto most outdoor pants.

**Point:** Waders are the ultimate protection against the raging sea, pond, or stream. The *Thinsulate* boots provide a snug fit and snowshoe-like protection in colder weather. Due to their design, one needn't worry about an arrant wave splashing over and ruining your day, and the shoulder straps ensure that those waders aren't going anywhere in a mucky area. The pouch on the chest also is a great place to store gloves and/or a snack for later.

**Counterpoint:** Hip boots provide superior waterproofing and comfort for use in shellfishing, clearing herring runs or simply skipping merrily through a soft rain. Their simple design allows for easy removal (unlike waders, which are frustratingly difficult to remove). Hip boots are more stylish than waders, as if saying "I don't want my legs to get wet, but I also don't want to look like a Mario Bros."

**Point:** The Bronx is the best place on earth. The Train and subway ensure a quick and carless ride to wherever you want to go in the Big Apple, as well as opportunities for networking and/or one-sided apocalyptic talks. Woodlawn Cemetery hosts the final resting place of Herman Melville, author of *Moby Dick*. Don't forget the ever elusive CHUD, and all the great, safe places to live or hide. Go for a swim next to the Bronx River Parkway!

**Counterpoint:** Disney World is a place for a magical and memorable family adventure. There is no crime and it is widely considered to be the happiest place on earth. Its plethora of theme parks, resorts and restaurants ensure never-ending pleasure. Wait! Did I say pleasure? That's right, Disney World even offers superior nighttime entertainment at "Pleasure Island".

# Zombies in AmeriCorps? A Brief FAQ

By Matt Honoré

*AmeriCorps members have been hearing a lot about zombies in the past year. Mass emails, random questions, and deep conversations have taken place. In order to prepare the corps for the inevitable, several common questions about zombies have been posed.*

## What is a zombie?

A zombie is a dead human, yet it moves and hungers for human flesh. Terms such as the living dead and the undead, couch potatoes, nomenclature like zombers and zedheads, and zombie (derived from a similar voodoo experience) all describe these creatures. Zombies have no memory of being alive, and are unable to develop new memories. The only thing that zombies think about is eating at house dinner. In most stories, zombies can only come from humans, but there have been noted stories about zombie animals.

## How do I kill a zombie?

The only way to kill a zombie is by causing trauma to the brain. A zombie cannot bleed to death because its blood has been coagulated. A zombie does not feel pain

as its nervous system doesn't work, it and will not stop until its brain has been smashed. One or two stories about zombies imply that they are afraid of fire, but I wouldn't put that to the test, as numerous bonfires have proven otherwise. The thing to remember is that one zombie is not necessarily scary. Zombies are scary because they come in hordes and are considered unstoppable because of their sheer numbers.

## My loved one has been bitten by a zombie, what do I do?

There is no cure. Run away. If you do not, she or he will turn into a zombie, and eat all your food at house dinner. Depending on where he or she was bitten, you have a certain amount of time to say your last goodbyes. The closer the wound is to an artery, the faster your loved one will eventually want to eat your Ethiopian food. Transmission can be through the bloodstream or any infected bodily fluid that comes into contact with your bodily fluids. Watch for spittle and allergy-prone members.

## How do zombies move?

Though a zombie preserves no knowledge of its previous life, it still retains basic motor skills. It is able to walk, use its arms, and eat food in your fridge. Despite what inferior Hollywood movies show you, a zombie cannot run or climb (though they can use stairs), and does not have the capacity to use tools unless it evolves (more on that later). Zombies are also immensely strong, as they will push themselves to the limit of their body's capacity, sometimes breaking tendons or bones, to feast upon your bananas you forgot to put away. Zombies will continue to drive their bodies until they completely fall apart.

## Can zombies procreate?

No, and stop asking. Zombies are dead, and don't think that hard. They eat the living, who in turn become zombies assuming their brains weren't eaten or smashed in the process. That's how zombies make more zombies. It is not self-sustaining, but neither is polluting the earth. Think about it.

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# A Growing Experience

By Jess Staubach

Since joining AmeriCorps, I have become more interested in plants and started to dabble in a bit of gardening. I decided to combine service with a side project of my own. My individual placement is at the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and provides a great resource for teaching. I talked to one of the extension educators, and we formulated an idea for an after-school program, "Seeds to Weeds," an introduction to gardening and plants. It seemed like a great idea to provide kids with a free activity to participate in after-school and also captured my love of plants in the teaching. I thus embarked on a five-week adventure with a group of eight second, third and fourth graders from Otis Memorial Elementary.

**Week 1:** We made journals to track the progress of our plants' growth and to keep any interesting cuttings we might have found in our outdoor adventures. In our journals, we discussed basic plant needs and basic plant structure. Then we went on a nature hike in some nearby woods, and I taught them how to identify some of the more common plants, trees,

and insects. We also discussed the difference between plants and weeds.

**Week 2:** I have a *pothos* plant at home and decided to use it to teach the class about rooting plants. I brought a cutting in for each kid to track its rooting progress in water over the remaining weeks, and at the end they kept it to grow into a whole new plant. They each planted two pots of seeds (marigold, lavender, cilantro, or sunflower) of their choice in peat cups to be planted into their gardens after sprouting.

**Week 3:** We made seed cards out of recycled newspaper. The newspaper was blended up into pulp, and the seeds were placed in the middle of cookie cutters which were then filled with the pulp. After the seed cards solidified, they could be planted in the ground and would grow from there. They were potential mother's day gifts, so ribbon and bags were available for decoration.

**Week 4:** I brought in the AmeriCorps worm farm to teach the students about

recycling, composting and vermicomposting. My original plan was to follow up the lesson by having the students make their own mini worm farm, but, after several of the kids wanted to use the magnifying glasses to "burn holes in the worms," I thought it would be unethical to send our worm friends into a guaranteed annihilation. Needless to say, they did not get to make their own worm farms but still enjoyed learning about compost.

**Week 5:** Our final week consisted of painting pots to bring their *pothos* plant home in. Afterwards we went around the school and planted leftover marigold and sunflower seeds in the gardens. It was a nice day so we took another walk on the perimeter of the forest and identified more plants that had newly sprouted.

All in all, the "Seeds to Weeds" program was a big hit, and, although there were no worm farms made, the kids went away with gifts, potted plants and some start-up knowledge so that they can have their own gardens someday!

# Honk If You Love The Canal!

*Continued from page 1*

ily's vacation home as a raffle prize to generate seed money for next year's Canal Clean-up!

By 12:30, most volunteers had returned to the tent for a final trash collection, a big thank you, and a fabulous more-than-you-could-ever-eat lunch. At final tally, the volunteers had collected over 758 pounds of trash, from styrofoam coffee cups to discarded fishing line to an old life preserver. Of that total, careful sorting produced a Volkswagen Golf-full of recyclables including bottles, cans, and monofilament.

With the sun bright and hot and the good moods infectious, AmeriCorps members packed up and cleared out with boxes of leftover bakery goods for local food banks and the legacy of a cleaner canal for next year's corps.



*7 pounds of monofilament line ready to be recycled.*



# Behind the Plate: The Umpire Strikes Back

By Wes Court

Ahh, the beauty of laptops. As I write this article, I’m relaxing in our sweet recliner AND in front of a pleasantly roaring fire. The only major downside is that *Erin Brockovich* is on TV as I wait for the Red Sox game to come on. And for a baseball fanatic of my stature, sitting through another Julia Roberts movie is a small price to pay to ensure a front row seat (via the magic of television) for a prime performance by the Sox.

In a related matter, the subject of this article is umpiring. Have you ever watched a game where the home plate umpire shanks a call? Do you ever think to yourself ‘Man, I could do a MUCH better job than that fool?’ Recently, three lucky Wellfleetians got the opportunity to umpire little league games. However, it’s not all sunshine and roses. Even at the little league level umpiring is difficult. Below, I present the five trickiest aspects of being behind the plate.

5) **Resisting the urge to throw out annoying parents.** I’ll be honest – I’ve wanted to do this since Roger Clemens got thrown out of a little league game a few years ago. How can you support a guy who signs with the Yankees for \$28 million? Maybe Clemens will magically appear at one of my games in the near

future. He’ll take a seat, expecting to be adored and maybe to sign a few autographs. Instead, all the parents will drag him flailing out of the ballpark while the little leaguers chase after him simultaneously carrying torches, throwing rocks, and screaming, “Kill the monster! Kill the monster!” Wow, that escalated quickly. Is it evident that I watched Van Helsing last night?

4) **Keeping track / score.** When each half inning goes on for an average of half an hour, it becomes extremely difficult to remember how many outs there are or what the score is. With an average of 17 passed balls and 3 hit batters per inning, one can get lost. Luckily, we have small pocket counters that remind us what the count is, how many outs there are, and even what inning it is.

3) **Getting a mind for the strike zone.** Those little leaguers are small, and so are their strike zones. The hardest part is trying to see the ball when it crosses the plate. It’s easy when there’s a 10 year-old on the mound who throws over 70 mph, because the ball just goes straight. But when little Johnny’s out there throwing fastballs that resemble Jose Canseco’s knuckleball, it can get frustrating.

2) **Actually calling balls and strikes.** Know how all major league umpires have very enunciated ball and strike calls? I still can’t work up the courage to step back, point randomly, and yell ‘STRIIIIIKE!!’ It just seems too crazy for little league - even crazier than an angry mob dragging an aging traitor down Route 6.

1) **Not flinching.** If an umpire flinches, it can affect his call. Somehow, though, I can’t help doing this after I saw our own beloved Mike Platt get hit awfully close to the family jewels by a sliced foul ball. To answer your next question – no, we don’t get cups.

And those, my friends, are the most difficult aspects of being an umpire. I urge you to show compassion to the next umpire you see. Go up to him after the game, thank him profusely, and maybe offer him his pick of what’s available at the concession stand. But on a more important note, *Erin Brockovich* is over, and the evil baseball gods have decided to block out the Braves vs Red Sox game. Looks like it’s off to the Bomb Shelter for me. At least there I’ll be able to heckle the umpires in good company.

# Herring Run: The War Has Just Begun

By Kyle Koch

Loppers? Check. Handsaw? Check. Rake? Check. This is war: a war for herring. *Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*, both species of river herring that have lived in Cape Cod waters for thousands of years, are in need of our help. AmeriCorps Cape Cod has been clearing herring runs from Falmouth to Wellfleet since fall of 2006.

Consider the “mighty” Herring River of Wellfleet. This slow moving, nutrient loaded stream used to be linked directly to the sea and was naturally flushed by the tide. Years ago a dike was built, changing the ecosystem for the worse. Because the water is no longer running as fast, natural succession is occurring, and debris is slowly filling in the river. This

is a problem for the herring, which are anadromous (living in salt water, but returning to fresh water to spawn). Each year fewer and fewer herring are returning to their freshwater homes to spawn, and this year is no exception.



Becca shows no physical limitations at a run

We rake out sticks, leaves, and other trash, while cutting back brush and branches hanging over the water. In some cases we have to resort to shoveling out mud, which is back breaking and smelly work. Herring run cleaning isn’t all blood, sweat, and tears. Many other organisms live in the healthier streams, and we often find critters such as isopods, caddisfly larvae and eels, which are finishing their migration across the Atlantic.

Herring run clearing is often tedious and sometimes seems futile. All of our hard service appears to be paying off. An anonymous but reliable source sighted at least seven herring swimming up the Herring River on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>. Once again, AmeriCorps prevails.

# Two AmeriCorps Houses...Doing the Best They Can

AmeriCorps Cape Cod has been getting around the past 5 months. While the list below is in no way a comprehensive summary, we’ve listed off a number of projects that we’ve been a part of since January.

The houses were happy to serve together on a number of projects, including Blitz Week at Thompson’s Field, Canal Clean-up, and a prescribed burn or two.



Mel , Erin, and Shane in some classy waders



Hauling future firewood at Thompson’s Field



Kelly O’Neill takes care of a tough root



Molly, Meredith, Amber, and Dana at Tern Island in Chatham.

## If You’re Fond of Sand Dunes and Salty Air...

Thompson’s Field  
Prescribed Burns  
Herring Runs  
Tern Island Habitat  
Eastham Energy Fair  
Beach Clean-ups  
Puppet Shows  
Restoring Heathland Habitat  
Shellfish Cage Construction  
Cape Wildlife Center Demolition  
Bourne Bogs Clean-up  
Falmouth Playground

Rabies Baiting  
Oyster Culling  
Highlands Center  
Earth Celebration  
River Days in Marstons Mills  
Canal Clean-up  
WET fests  
Plover Fencing at Sandy Neck  
Flex Bus Surveys  
Restoring Quashnet River  
Trail Clean-up at WBNERR  
Junior Solar Sprint



Wellfleetians pose with their puppets



Jess and Dana tend the fire at Thompson’s Field

# Summer Servin', Had Me A Blast

## Cut and Run 5k Race and Trail Clean-up

**June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>:** Join us for the first Cut and Run weekend! Help your community by clearing public trails, and then run to your heart's content while raising money for a Cape-wide trail system.

On Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am volunteers are welcome to help clear nearby trails. Volunteers also will be able to pre-register for the race at a discounted racing fee (\$5).

Register on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am (\$10 fee) at the parking lot off of Goodwill Park Road (see directions below) for the 10:00am starting time, 5-kilometer run along scenic Long Pond of the Moraine Trail. The trail is fast and well maintained. Official *Cut and Run* T-shirts are available and will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Be sure to attend the Pre-race Clean-up event to make sure you get one! All proceeds from the event will be used to support the Cape Cod Pathways project, which seeks to establish a cape-wide trail system.

**Directions:** <http://www.cctrails.org/falmmmap.htm>



## Alumni Weekend

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life inside and outside ACC.

The AmeriCorps Cape Cod Alumni weekend promises to be one of nostalgia and reunion, meeting new contacts and reconnecting with old friends, stories shared and remembered, and commonalities discovered across the different Corps. As different as various individuals are, all alumni will share at least one thing—a passionate vitriol against inva-

## American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

**June 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>:** Play funky beats, meet new people, and walk for this worthy cause!

Relay for Life will take place at the Dennis-Yarmouth High School the entire weekend of June 15th and 16th. Teams “Bourne to Run” and “Franklin and the Rippers”, primarily made up of members of both houses, will both walk to raise money for cancer research, as well as support services for those going through treatment, and their families.

If you would like to be support the cause through a donation, you can do so directly by sponsoring a team member or through the website by clicking on a team name and following the instructions.

If you have questions, would like to join a team, or send a donation, please call Melanie Richmond (617) 512-5728 or Amy Usowski (508) 246-3728.

Interested? Go to: <http://www.acsevents.org/relay/madennis>.



## Second Annual Highlands Fest 2007

**July 7:** Join for a celebration of the arts and sciences while learning about the largest and most exciting collaborative redevelopment project the Outer Cape has ever seen!

Highlands Fest will take place on Saturday, July 7, 2007 from 11 am to 5 pm at the Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore (Truro). The day will feature a storytelling performance for all ages, art projects and water conservation activities for kids, lunch, scientific presentations, a children's puppet show, educational green displays, and interpretive tours. All activities are free!

Presented by *Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Cape Cod National Seashore, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Highlands Center, Incorporated, Payomet Performing Arts Center in Truro, and Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill*

For directions or more information about this event, contact the park at (508) 349-3785 x 208.



**Friday, June 8th:**  
4:30-7:00pm BBQ @ Wellfleet House  
7:30pm Bonfire at Cahoon Hollow  
**Saturday, June 9th:**  
8:30am-12:00pm - Cut and Run Service  
12:30-3:00pm BBQ @ Goodwill Park  
5:30-9:00pm Coonamessett Farms  
**Sunday, June 10th:**  
10:00am-11:00am Cut and Run Race  
12:00-2:00pm Lunch at Bourne House

All the Details!



sive species with thorns....or rather, a commitment to service and fond memories of a year (or more) well spent joining and serving the Cape Cod community.

# Mmmm....CLAMS

By Mike Platt

Do you ever get the urge to watch “Inspector Gadget”? I know I do. And no, I’m not talking about the hack-job of a film starring Matthew Broderick. I’m talking about the original cartoon. Recently, I discovered the series was released on DVD. My journey to acquire this once-in-a-lifetime DVD facilitated my first experience with the CLAMS system, an Internet library catalog employed by Cape Cod libraries. Fortunately, I kept a journal of my adventures for your info-tainment.

Friday: I discover that “Inspector Gadget” has arrived on DVD. 22 episodes on 4 discs, packed with special features. (For those who haven’t caught on yet, “Inspector Gadget” is a metaphor for my childhood. I’m trying to reconnect with my childhood. This metaphor will be a recurring theme of the article).

Saturday: I spend a 45 minutes poring through Best Buy, looking for the DVD. No luck. And to answer your question:

yes, this is what I do in my spare time.

I arrive back the at the Wellfleet house, dejected. Go-Go Gadget Sadness. I overhear a few of my roommates discussing how they ordered a VHS copy of “The Lost Boys” from CLAMS. Slightly confused -yet intrigued- at the prospect of

[www.clamsnet.org](http://www.clamsnet.org)

my housemates obtaining random 80’s movies from mollusks, I inquire further. I learn that CLAMS is actually an acronym for Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing, an online catalog containing every item available at Cape Cod libraries. Anyone with a library card can log-on and reserve an item. CLAMS also meets the requirement that any Cape business or government entity must contain some reference to marine ecology.

Sunday: I log onto CLAMS, hoping to find the elusive DVD (childhood). Success! But wait...It’s in Marstons Mills? It might as well be on the moon guarded by Dr. Claw himself. But as Bo Peepers would say, “No Worries!” I learn that I can have the item sent to the Wellfleet Library, saving the pilgrimage to Exit 5.

Tuesday: I get a cell phone call (not during service hours, of course) from the friendly people at Wellfleet Library telling me that my DVD (childhood) has arrived. I immediately jump in my car and head over to the library. After long days of anticipation, I finally have a copy of “Inspector Gadget”.

I get one week, with the option to renew it for another. The friendly librarian also informs me that I can return the item to any other library on Cape Cod.

Amazed by the ease and flexibility of the system, a thought occurs to me: Maybe now I’ll actually read a book.

## Together At Last...

**AP** - Dave Keeney has made many friendships in his tenure as house supervisor of Le Hac, but none as strong as that with Franklin the Puppet. Dave and Franklin immediately hit it off when Franklin was brought in from the Red Cross this fall, and he was rarely seen away from Dave’s hand.

Sometime later, however, Franklin mysteriously disappeared. Members searched in a desperate manhunt over the next several months but to no avail. Dave was devastated. Recently, Franklin was found in a cabinet facing the wall during a routine cleaning of Le Hac. Though his kidnapper remains at large, Dave is ecstatic to have Franklin in his life again. We wish the happy couple many more years of friendship.



Wellfleet Supervisor Dave Keeney



Honorary Member Franklin Delano Bluth

# Getting Things Done in New Orleans

By Rebecca Wolfson

Souvenirs from my spring break trip to New Orleans: a handful of cultural postcards, a book of short stories, a pop-out map of the city, a fleur-de-lis pendant, a home burned CD of the *Soul Rebels*’ “Rebelution”, a small white scar on my right forearm between my third and fourth freckle, a few pictures, and memories. Lots of memories.

When we left for our trip to New Orleans, all I was prepared to do was “hard manual labor”. Kelly O’Neill, Erin Baker, Courtney Howard, and I arranged to make a service trip to New Orleans to help with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts over our AmeriCorps spring break. We were able to arrange the trip with a cousin of mine, who had been volunteering with the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana (EDOLA) as a volunteer crew leader. During our pre-trip planning talks, I demanded of him that we put our AmeriCorps service strength to good use on our trip and be placed on projects where we could do some rough and tough labor.

Yet I wasn’t prepared for what was in store. The work didn’t do as tough a number on my biceps as it did on my heart. The four of us worked together all week in various neighborhoods, gutting homes damaged by floodwater. The homes we were assigned were damaged to different degrees. Some of the less fortunate had

been filled with over ten feet of floodwater for days; others were luckier. As we tore through houses and took crowbars to kitchen sinks, bathroom walls, and bedroom floors, there was usually a somber sentiment in the air, broken sometimes by a hopeful, almost happy vibe.

At some of the locations we were joined by the homeowners. On these occasions we were able to smile as we worked. One couple cooked our work crew a fresh pot of seafood gumbo. They told us horror stories of wild goose chases they had been sent on while trying to get help to fix their home, but shed tears of joy as they professed their gratitude towards us and other volunteers who had stepped in to help when it was needed most. An elderly woman paid us a visit from the FEMA trailer in the driveway next to her home, as we were helping to empty and gut it to a point where it could be rebuilt. She laughed and expressed the “humor” of her situation, in which she, “a woman over seventy who was set in her ways”, was going to deal with the modern remodeling job the architects had recommended she treat her house to as they work to rebuild the interior. All of the folks we talked to were able to find a silver lining, or were at least trying to. The hope and courage in the city of New Orleans was remarkable, and I will never forget it.

As for what I took back with me, the memories, though I cannot hold them in my hand, are the most vivid. Thinking about the trip floods me

A pile of debris lies outside a gutted house in New Orleans



with all of the emotions I felt while there. The physical souvenirs provide me with triggers to go back in time to specific moments of the trip. The postcards give the feeling of the New Orleans culture – so rich, and so free, even after all the New Orleanians have been through. The book, *I Dead in the Attic*, is a collection of stories by Times-Picayune columnist Chris Rose, recounting the first four harrowing months of life in New Orleans after Katrina. It’s a beautifully tragic collection, and I recommend that anyone and everyone read it – I may even let you borrow mine if you ask. The pop-out map was bought for its three dimensional cleverness, though we ended up taking it everywhere to navigate the city and understand its layout. The fleur-de-lis pendant is not something bought to wear, but to have a personal copy of the city’s classic symbol to hold in my hand and close to my heart. The CD was something I could not leave the music club without, after witnessing a performance by the Soul Rebels, a funky local brass band that was as fun to watch as they were to listen to, on our last night in New Orleans.

Proceeds from the t-shirt went to help EDOLA, the organization we volunteered with, continue their operations, and the t-shirt provides me with the comfort of knowing I helped an amazing organization keep doing great things for a city that needs its aid. The scar on my arm has



A team of volunteers works to remove the ruined interior of a house with flood damage

maintained the same dull intensity for the past two and a half months and will likely remain forever, a trigger of memories of pulling homes apart so they could be put back together.

As for the pictures, there are much fewer than anticipated. Each time I saw something that I wanted to take a picture of, it was much harder to take out my camera and press the button than one could imagine. The contrast of a bright red Lego, or a little mermaid figurine poking out of a pile of debris would have been just as moving a picture to share with others back home as it was a striking mental image, but I could never bring myself to take those photographs. There was a struggle of not wanting to minimize the seriousness and sadness of the state of the

city by taking pictures of the wash-away remnants of people’s lives.

**“The memories, though I cannot hold them in my hand, are the most vivid.”**

While gutting these homes, it helped to hold in mind that tearing the insides out

was a critical step in helping the people of New Orleans to move forward. Homes could not be rebuilt, or even demolished, until all of their contents were removed. As sad as the destruction was, it had to be finished off in order for the city to be reconstructed. We did our part, or at least a part, and I will always have that with me. Hopefully, I’ll go back. And perhaps some of you will be inspired to go and give a bit of yourself to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. They would be thankful to have you, and you will be more than happy to have gone.

*After spending her Spring Break serving in New Orleans, Erin Baker has decided to devote another year to service. She will be assisting EDOLA in its continuing efforts to aid the people of New Orleans and Louisiana in the post-Katrina recovery process.*

## Gimme a Break!...

...Where AmeriCorps Members Spent Their Spring Vacations



For an exclusive, interactive web-based map, log onto [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com) and search for “AmeriCorps Cape Cod Spring Break 2007” (including quotes!) to click your way to members’ destinations!